

A3.31 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca (DeWitt) Jack, 7 December 1872. Transcribed 13 February 2016 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page one of four

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Sutro Tunnell No. 1 Shaft  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 1872

My Dear Sister Becca,

I today received two letters by the postman from Virginia City, one from you and the other from Sister Hattie saying that you had news of Brother William that he was sick & very hard up & that you had all contributed something towards helping him, also that the sum of \$100 coming to him from the estate of poor old Father & Mother. You will please tell Andrew to pay to Brother William for me the sum of \$25 being my contribution towards helping him for the present hoping that with care he with God's blessing he may be restored to health. I was very sorry that I did not get the letter a day sooner as I was up in the City of Virginia & posted letters to you & Andrew last night & returned during

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the night. If Andrew will pay the money or invest it in such a way as William only shall benefit by it, that is to say, it is my very particular request & desire that in case any thing happens that John can not by any means lay his hands on it. If William is able to go out I trust that Andrew will buy him good winter clothes with the money

& when pay day comes say the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day of Jan'y 1873, if Brother William writes me, I will send him more and I will send Andrew the \$25 on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> of Jan'y so that he may not disturb the money in the Montreal District Savings Bank of mine. My dear sister Becca, I do not wish to recapitulate the mean dishonourable treatment which I received at John's hands. But I shall never forget it, and

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it behooves me to be on my guard and when I received word that Brother William was to receive \$100 as his share of the estate, I felt grieved to think that Andrew had written to me along with that fellow John appealing to my sympathy in favour of our two poor Sisters, Hattie & Chattie saying that the remaining members of the Family had consented to the arrangement & that it would not leave our two poor sisters to the cold charities of this world. now it is not the poor mean \$100 that I care for but Andrew knew well enough that if his name had not been attached to the missive that never in this world would I have consented to signing that document & leave my sisters to the tender mercies of that wretch.

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My very Dear Sis, I trust that you will not feel bad over this as I will do any thing in this world for you that I can consistently do. And I trust that Andrew has not allowed himself to be made a catspaw of by that fellow and if there is anything coming to me I trust in God's name that Andrew will let me know of it and that my confidence in him will not be broken. Trusting that our kind and Heaven[ly] Father will keep you all in his kind & protecting care and that you may give up that place of worry called the Portage for a quiet & comfortable & peaceful home of enjoyment in this unhappy world.

I subscribe  
my self your ever loving &  
confiding Brother,  
Jabez D. DeWitt

P.S.  
Love to all &  
please answer on receipt of this and  
let me know how William is. JD

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Dear Becca,  
If I am at all successful by  
the spring I will with the Divine Will  
pay you a visit and see if you can be  
peaceable & comfortably settled & then  
return to this coast.

This photograph is for  
little Dolly & Fred.

ever affectionately  
J.D. DeWitt

Estro Simell W.C. Craft  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 1872

My Dear Sister Anne.

I to day received

two letters by the postman. from  
Virginia City. one from you and  
the other from Sister Mattie. saying  
that you had news of Brother Willie  
that he was sick & very hard up &  
that you had all contributed some

of your money towards helping him. also  
that the sum of \$100 coming to him  
from the Estate of Poor Old Father  
& Mattie. You will please tell Andrew

to pay to Brother William for me  
the sum of \$25 being my contribution

towards helping him. for the present  
hoping that with care he with Gods  
blessing he may be restored to health.

I was very sorry that I did not get the  
letter a day sooner. as I was up in the  
City on business & posted letters to you  
& Andrew last night & returned Sunday

the night If Andrew will pay the  
money or miss it in such a way  
as William only shall benefit  
by it. that is to say, it is my very  
particular request & desire that  
in case any thing happens that  
John can not by any means  
lay his hands on it. If William  
is able to go out I trust that  
Andrew will buy him good  
winter clothes with the money.  
When pay day comes say the  
\$<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day of Jan<sup>r</sup> 1873. If Brother  
William writes me, I will send him  
more, and I will send Andrew  
the \$25 on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup> 70  
that he may not disturb the money  
in the Montreal District Savings  
Bank of mine. My Dear Sister, please  
I do not wish to recapitulate the  
mean dishonourable treatment  
which I received at John's hands.  
But I shall never forget it, and

it behoves me to be on my guard  
and when I received word that  
Brother William was to receive \$100  
as his share of the Estate, I felt  
grieved to think that Andrew  
had written to me along with  
that fellow John, appealing to  
my sympathy in favour of our  
two poor Sisters. Mattie & Chattie  
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this world. now it is not the  
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but Andrew knew well enough  
that if his name had not been  
attached to the mission, that  
never in this World would I have  
consented to signing that dis-  
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my very Dear Sir I trust that  
you will not feel bad over this  
as I will do any thing in this  
world for you that I can con-  
sistently do. And I trust that  
Andrew has not allowed himself  
to be made a catspaw of by that  
fellow and if there is any thing  
coming to me I trust in Gods name  
that Andrew will let me know  
of it, and that my confidence  
in him will not be broken.

Trusting that our kind and Heavens  
Father will keep you all in His  
kind & protecting care and that  
you may give up that place of  
worry called the Portage for a  
quiet & comfortable & peaceful  
home of enjoyment in this  
unhappy world.

I subscribe  
myself Your ever loving &  
Confiding Brother,

Joseph B. Smith

P.S.

Love to all &  
please answer on receipt of this and  
let me know how William is.