July 4/73 Franktown Nevada

Dear Becca,

The day I left

Virginia I called at the Post Office & received two letters one from sister Carrie and other one yours also a letter from sister Chattie stating that she left her place through ill health. I am very sorry for the poor girl. I hope that quiet and rest will restore her. Hattie seems to stand it well. It was so long since I had heard from you that I began to wonder whether you had changed your residence again. I saw young Henry McMartin from Beauharnois a day

A3.40 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt at Franktown, Nevada to Rebecca (DeWitt) Jack, 4 July 1873. Transcribed 15 February 2016 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page two of four

or two ago, he was on the tramp for work. I directed him to Capt. Haynie my employer he must have failed to get work for I have not seen him since. I am doing carpenter work for Capt. Haynie & Mr. Pennington in connection with the Bank of California at this place. I have been at work up in the mountains building flume for same par-

ties the prospect is if I have health that I will have work all summer at \$5 pr day in Gold coin. There was a terrific accident occurred in Virginia since I left. General Van Bokelan & J.P. Smith (Hardware Merchant) occupied rooms in the Bank of California Building V. City and the former

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had been experimenting with Giant powder & Nitro Glycerin. a monkey belonging to the General got loose & caused the ignition of the glycerine which blew up three Houses killing J.P. Smith, Van Bokelan, Mrs. A. C[?] a lady & little daughter and also driving an iron shutter across the street killing a man in a livery stable. I was acquainted with Smith and had worked on a new Building for him this last spring. I am stopping at the Post Office & Hotel kept by F.A. [Ent?] so that I will have no trouble sending you word except when I go into the mountains to work. The woods men set fire to, and I had to go up to help check the fire with about 150 others. there was about 2000 cords Burned men get from \$2 to \$3 pr cord for chopping.

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There is a saw mill up in Little Valley. The wood is sluiced by flume down the canyon by water the cars are run along side of the flume at the foot and either [?] [?] tree or cordwood is shipped on to Ophir Washoe or Reno in one direction or to Carson Carson River, Empire, Dayton, Suto Tunnell, Silver City, Gold Hill, or Virginia City. There are very fine houses in this Town but it is one of the prettiest places 'in the state, with a good many shade trees about and Washoe Lake within almost a stone's throw & the mountains rising abruptly immediately behind it and also on the other side of the lake and valley outside of the wood

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it is a [?] place as soon as the wood is cut out, the mountains which will be in two years at [?] [?] this place will dry out except as a watering station for the V & T R.R. The water here is excellent, coming from springs in the mountains. Write soon and let me know how you all are. With love to all.

I remain

Yours most affectionately,

Jabez D. DeWitt

Franklown Nevada July 4/13 Dear Recen The day Ilega Virginia & called at the Jose Office I received two letters one from sister Carrier and other one yours also a letter from Sisen Challer Clatter that she tegs her place through ile health. Jan very sorry for the poon guil. I hope these quies and less will restor her, Halles lums to stand it bell Ih was so long one o'had heard from you that legan to wonder whether you had charged your Usedoner agano, Van young being me martino from Reachancois. aday

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