

A3.9 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack, 22 July 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page one of four

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Virginia City Nevada July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1871  
My Dear Sister Becca,

I had been expecting word from you for some time when I received a letter from Sister Hattie and also from you. I am or shall be compelled to work tomorrow on account of two of the pairs being idle in the mill, a matter of some \$400 or \$500 in one day & they have been so good to me that I cannot refuse them upon this occasion. I am sorry to have to work but can't help it. I am going to send you some very pretty cards for the little ones. I shall send you two in this letter for Dolly a part of a sett. Please thank Sister Hattie

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For her nice letter and Miss McEachern for her kind wishes. This is one of the worst places in the world, as regards morality. Men are very careless of life. A few nights ago they <sup>^ the vigilance committee ^</sup> hung a poor unfortunate wretch and exhibited the body packed in ice awaiting the arrival of the relatives of the deceased to bury the body. The man's name was George Kirk. I received a letter from Sister Mary Jane and I am very sorry for her loosing [sic] two of her milk cows by lightning. We have had a good deal of rain here latterly and several freaks of forked lightning. Some

of the crimes committed around this coast are appalling. I am saving my money and have saved more since I came here than I could have done in a years time in Canada. You talk of getting Beaus for the girls

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of Canada here. If you knew the Black hearted wretches on this coast you would not talk of getting Beaus here for them. there are a few good men but they are very very few. they would as soon take a man's life as snuff out a candle. I pity the young men that come here as they mostly all get tarred with the same stick. The People say that this town is not one twentieth part as bad as it has been. They drive very fast in this place 6 and 8 horses to a coach fine commodious splendid coaches strongly made they carry so much Bullion. People do not come here about money. this city is virtually a mining city and when evening comes there are any number of young men taking the evening air and examining mining stock reports sitting round news depots, or besieging the Post Office for news. A great deal

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of correspondence is carried on through Wells Fargo & Co's Establishment, one of the greatest institutions in the World.

they have their Bank, Express office  
Newspaper & letter office and fast and  
slow freight office in the same Building  
they carry most of the correspondence  
on this coast and is you may say in  
opposition to the Government in  
the transmission of mail matter on  
this coast particularly, for instance  
if you desire to write to any one here  
~~to my~~ & that you reside any where  
on this coast the charges by Wells Fargo  
mail is 10<sup>c</sup> and they deliver the letter  
to you personally. While, if sent by  
U.S. mail the party must be on  
hand to get it or otherwise it will  
go into the dead letter office. but the  
charge is only the same as in the East  
3 cents. I am sorry that you still  
take it into your head to work so  
hard as you do. You ought to sell  
that big house or else hire servants.  
Only think of women getting from  
40 to 100 per month here, time  
an all consideration. Please give my  
kindest regards to all with much love.  
I remain yours affectionately

J.D. DeWitt

Virginia City Nevada July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1871

My Dear Sister Rebecca

I had been expecting word from you for some time when I received a letter from Sister Mattie and also from you, I am or shall be compelled to work tomorrow on account of two of the pans being idle in the mill, a matter of some \$400 or \$500 in one day & they have been so good to me that I can not refuse them upon this occasion, I am sorry to have to work but can't help it, I am going to send you some very pretty cards for the little ones, I shall send you two in this letter for Holly a pack of a set. Please thank Sister Mattie

for her nice letter, and Miss M<sup>rs</sup> Cannon  
for her kind wishes. This is one of the  
worst places in the world, as regards  
morality. men are very care less of  
life, a few nights ago they hung a  
poor unfortunate wretch and <sup>the Vigilance Committee</sup> ~~exposed~~  
the body passed in ice awaiting the  
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George Kirk. I received a letter from  
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is virtually a Mining City and when  
evening comes there are many numbers  
of young men, taking the evening air  
and examining Mining State Reports  
sitting round news depot: or receiving  
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of Correspondence is Carried on through  
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on this Coast and is you may say in  
opposition to the Government in  
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this Coast particularly, for instance  
if you desire to write to my onchew  
Honey & that you reside my where  
on this Coast the charges by Wells Fargo  
mail is 10 and they deliver the letters  
to you personally, while if sent by  
U. S. Mail the party must be on  
hand to get it or otherwise it will  
go into the dead letter office, but the  
charge is only the same as in the East  
3 cents. I am sorry that you still  
take it into your head to work so  
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only think of women getting from  
40 to 100 per month here, time  
an all consideration. please give my  
kindest regards to all with much Love  
I remain Yours affectionally  
J. D. D. D.