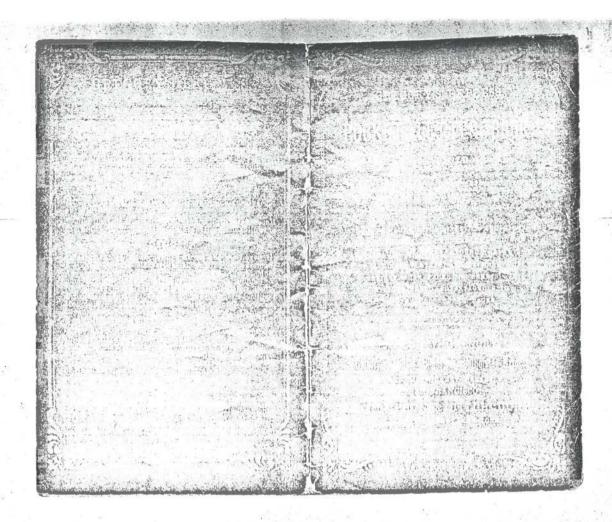
3 J sent mn a Hieina Gillam 0 wes -0 c a To my absent Wife Lucina Gillum Ever yours Samuel Gillam Houddel wood hund , at , wet

5=18 i have. laken , he Shid you abe that i on no and hoping these you in Joying The Same i am at . he leave heare the marrious laring morning had been will ent-cep contrany - disentary it lasis of en. at preasant. The plat over i havent Seen well now gravel on This Side of see two men rover i. that come Side of the river the South's Are Sead Seen one thousand. net. had. hundred milds ligh Inse day night lait ant or The disenta han e have had verily good luck horses were haven't lost abors aur

Dated July the 5 18 (letter corner missing, was 1850 or 1851)

i have taken the oppertunity to send you a few lines from mee to let you no that i am well at preasant and hoping these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing i am at fort larima wee leave heare to morrow morning The company has been well except fir a few casis of the disentary but all well at preasant wee came on the north side of the plat river i haven't seen but three new graves on this side of the river i see two men that come on the south side of the river he sead he had seen one thousand new graves with in five hundred milds eighteen did (died) by last tuesday night out of one company with disentary wee have verry good luck with our horses wee haven't lost a horse



In the 1850's letters from California to points East in the U.S. most often came by an express company who sent them by boat around Cape Horn. The express companies provided small booklets in which to write. Above is a copy of the small booklet provided by the GREGORY EXPRESS to Samuel Gillam to write his letter in 1852. It is shown face down, opened up, to show both the front and back cover.



This shows the letter folded up with the address and postmark, Note that while the letter was dated July 5, the postmark shows Oct. 29. The corner of the letter is missing and we can not be positive of the date but it would have been 1850 or 1851. The letter is sent to Ingham, Michigan which is not shown on present day maps but was near Fowlerville, Mich.

GREGORY'S CALIFORNIA EXPRESS. THIS LINE, one of the oldest established in the business, dis the messengers TWICE EVERY MONTH, by Steamers leaving New-York and San Francisco, in charge of Letters, Parcels, Packages, Gold Dust and valuables, for distribution through-out the United States and Colifornia. BEING INVARIABLY and the United States and Colifornia, BEING INVARIABLY out the United States and Colifornia, BEING INVARIABLY out the United States and Colifornia, BEING INVARIABLY and the United States and Colifornia, BEING INVARIABLY out the United States and Colifornia, BEING INVARIABLY and the prompt dispatch of correspondence. If possible, letters should be directed to the care of mercantile parts of California, by which means their earlier delivery may be usured. Letters directed simply to " California," or " at the mines," will note forwarded, as little probability exists of their reach-ing the persons so vaguely addressed. After addressing the letter, enclose it in an envelope, and direct to J. W. GREGORY, 149 Pearl Street, New-York ysteamer, for San Francisco, with letters, small parcels, and reaching the Delivery who has every facility at hand for their immediate delivery to the consignees in Fan-Francisco and various parts of California. The arrangements of this Express being of the mission factor description, no deliver which the Express being of the mission factor description, we delivered whill the morning of the mission factor description, and delivered whill the morning of the mission factor description, and delivered whill the morning of the mission factor description, and delivered whill the morning of the day of sailing, where goods awaiting at eaching the being of the mission factor description and delivered whill the morning of the day of sailing, where goods awaiting at our office prior to the day of sailing, where goods awaiting at mit by F. M.; Pacchy et all do satarded description and delivered at our office prior to the day of sailing. Where goods awaiting at mit by F. M.; Pacchy masim agan 21:0 e circusts () THOMPSON & HITCHCOCK, MANAGERS & AGENTS, 149 Pearl Street, cor. Wall ) and incle P. S. Shippers by this Express, can avoid the annoyance and expense of clearing their goods at the Custom House. Terms reasonable. Tickets for the different Steamers can be procured at the Offices of this Express in Now-York, San Francisco, or Sacing Tin Information concerning the forwarding of goods, or the dev parture of the different lines of Steamers, furnished to applient Same blissing Komeen 1850 and in the south

Fare

February the 1852 first 1 my dear wife and friends i have taken my pen in hand aigain to inform you that i am well at preasant and sincerly hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing

must give Michard > sto itch dais 0022 minma Mary res some a main 1 had AGO rom our ouncis in deniace mine hour acic Anne DOCA houch a rived at ediforma camp an i mici

I must give you a sketch of Californa mining in eightteen hundred and forty nine a man could make from to to four ouncis a aday the summer of forty nine the mining was verry good untill the great emigration had a rived at Californa

2 - 1

i got into weever
on the 12th day of
September when
 i arived at that place
i had one dime
i got their a bout
ten oclock in the
four noon allobk
ing the rest of
 the day for
work without
success when
night came on i

Service States Still back the dime Sound thing. To sleptimit hat to down shart sthey to tonos acould the disme ancos so " 12 Britte te o R.G Shor ofmane al hart lar and a half Sare accords of young To a trading bread which much Hostrand told there mee arriver good hat si mas horiging supper so the we semted the diare ne let m Tobeld gat. mas all dell i had and i man markelez Seven

2 2.0

still had the dime left what to do so i did not no i could not get abite of super shor of one dollar and a half So i went to a trading post and told them that i was hungry i presented the dime to them i told them it was all i had and i wanted some thing to eat they took the dime and with a quite liberal hart they gave me a card of ginger bread which made me a verry good supper so the next morning i got work at to dollars a day i worked seven

the star

malen in wes where allean seen Takin Sick i mas to my allotte failland nothing sonter inter no -shart a s monton .1 une C. Wat is i bay for rerry isupper on three months that sh.act no Mision indane got of forom under sill but out the bed only as blanket inthen a - 1. may helped of 1 lan Sie & on min when sigot able bunck and Sel to walk my bles fare or six corps

(days) when i was taken sick i was all the fall and winter i had no friends nor money no one can tell wat i suffered i lay for three months that i never got of from the bed only as i was helped of when i got able to walk my flesh was all calised to my bones i had nothing to lay on but a split out bunck and some of the plank lay verry oneaven i had nothing under mee but one blanket i then lay sick on my bunck and see five or six corps

beca o the Ulidy say ong parant: nasse wer in en Show Nh ising to main and supplied long: Somies tri Caib 51 \$25schip lin 1.1 i Mas Sie Sto tre icoll you en days Conv. francy 12 rais. With their is walnut

a day agoing to the grave yard i expected every day when i should haf to go laying so long sick and suffered so much that i had rather dy than live i was sick some on the plaines the reason that i left the company was

because i had ben sick so long that i was not able to walk i payed a man fifty dollars to bring mee to californa the fellow was taken sick i had to to stop at fort hall with hall with him ten days at ? their is a beutiful

a ki

<u>ې</u>،

wally as even Their mas agreat No. Found 9 uanty. CL 0 Auch indel cis antilo moun he cen conf m CIM: P you 97 outh lou a. ut ina vas. 0 toon one alo 1. Chen drove. le and herses a great sight to behol many Ca

vally as ever 1
see to familys
had livid their
fifteen years
among the indians
they ware emploid
by the english
in the north west
fur company their
time was out in a
bout to years
they had a great
many cattle and horses

their was agreat quanty of deer elk antilope mountain sheap and buffalo wee see in the vally after wee got of of the black hills in one drove about seven or eight thousand buffalo in one drove they ware a great sight to behold

The gratist our company shot currosity that i Jag seat many sort have seen yet is They The plaines The burning volcano The rocky on The Abolt which is about The rock snown lainey Sicity milely as bore The Syminada The head waters of mountaines mart fether river it is avery great curiosity in a very deep The aminican falls commion it ly placeds was gigneat sight in to diffrant in the They wars on the different plases on head maters of The left hand side the calimby river,

our company shot a great many of them the plaines the bluffs the rocky the rock mountaines the Syrinivado (Serra Nevada ) mountaines ware a verry great curiosity the american falls was a great sight they ware on the head waters of the calumbia river the gratest curiosity that i have seen yet is the burning volcano which is about sixty milds above the head waters of fether river it is a verry deep cannion it exploads into diffrant plases on the left hand side

of the rancen their it is the finist masabig boiling spring cuntry normorm and on the other side for fish and game about forty feet killed to i have it through inf grisly bare and the larry the holes and one brown bare where it explodes and one god dd vas about Arenty bair necked indian fect a cross mel he was asteeling therem Some: Stone. our horses it was in their it thrown about michnight their up in a short he had out the Time in Small precies halters of six

of the raveen their was a big boiling spring and on the other side about forty feet it throwed up the lavy the holes whare it explodes was about twenty feet a cross wee threw some stone in their it throwed them up in a short time in small pecies it is the finist cuntry now nown for fish and game i have killed to grisly bare and and one brown bare and one god d--d bair necked indian he was asteeling our horses it was about midnight he had cut the halters of six

beour isee him traise most butifi he lan a crambing the ranceshort lat on his dis tance and fell. when i first. This was neer the him with Sink of humbold ihaild alo vois he herd river . The ensignanty dis not but lost ugreat deal whare it came from of their stock und being taken on agreat many of suprise he starter them was killed und ran right the incliants way Towards mee' shot murse This season it him he yelfed that they had

beour (before) i see him he lay a crawling right flat on his belly when i first haild him with a lo vois he herd mee but did not (know) whare it came from being taken on suprise he started and ran right towards mee i shot at him he yelped twise most butiful he ran a short distance and fell this was neer the sink of humbolt river the emigrants lost a great deal of their stock and a great many of them was killed the indians was wurse this season than they had ever ben

their has been more do not forge yrach or less plople murdered The re that you Sen almost even week " me in tilaring So 1.ha ras kilch. n courage e and fourter Ming siL J Ju, hosed Anould to of ben dow by hapen mericans on Shou . .. 58 k ishali house 1. This once The 1 An End man nou Scan monly

their has ben more or less people murdered almost every week in hearing some weeks as many as twelve and fourteen it is suposed to of ben don by mexicans i think i shal bee to home the first of may do not forget the re quest that you sent me that is to keep up good courage if any thing should hapen that i should not get home then i will send you some money

Think insill hardly one a be at home by month the melle Time surely marmand pleasant dense inote you , thave received last letter all of your letters mile have had . That you have Some very heavy sent and one from raines but the mother ireserved most build ... your letter clated wither inverse sept last i had mee have hear looked for some the sky to clear time be four igot notacland To beesen it

i think i will be at home by that time surely sense i wrote you the last letter we have had ' some verry heavy raines but the most butiful wether i ever see wee have hear the sky so clear not a cloud to bee seen hardly once a month the wether (is) warm and pleasant i have received all of your letters that you have sent and one from mother ireseived your letter dated sept last i had looked for some time be four i got it

you must not. : athink inill. thinck Midilia ve bee athome to see becaus to thing you so longaray be four agalat no mhat a not while could a bused Tell margre if he had that is end ijou 1000 any thing aganst respects to is should you mu Viraza had the Chink The little gir to do , for me lithin k misyouse you of them a great deal

you must not thinck that i have forgot you becaus i stay so long away i do not no what reeves could abused you for if he had anything aganst margret i should think he had little to do to misyouse you i think i will bee at home to see to things myself be four a great while tell margret that i send my respects to her you must kiss the lettle girls for mee i think of them a great deal

("reeves" is apparently some acquaintance that the family has had problems with. Margret is Samuel's sister)

and full sad much ido not have about you ido any hing mo Sleep more to Tele you at Avilas of the Than iden'd my n Mal Tince thinking respects a apple emile 1 eliancit about house. and chill drew you must not torite to and friends one and all ten us mile as yocan non must give wh Ting to me until home No.et

and fill as (feel so ?) much about you i do not sleep more than half of the time athinking about home you must not forget to rite to mee as often as you can you must not give up riting to mee until i get home

i do not have anything more to tell you at preasant than i send my respects to my affectionate wife and chilldren and friends one and all

yesterday tell all of the foks it is a hard road to californa rele & pecti trace would cile of you and the children my love to you as a faithful hus basic Samuel gillan Sacramenta city in calaforna

i put aletter in the **post** office yesterday tell all of the **foks** it is a hard road to californa i must bring my letter to close. gave my ree spects to one and all

i have often thougt of you and the children my love to you as a faithful husband

S'amuel Gillam

dyrect mee aletter to Sacramenta city in calaforna