

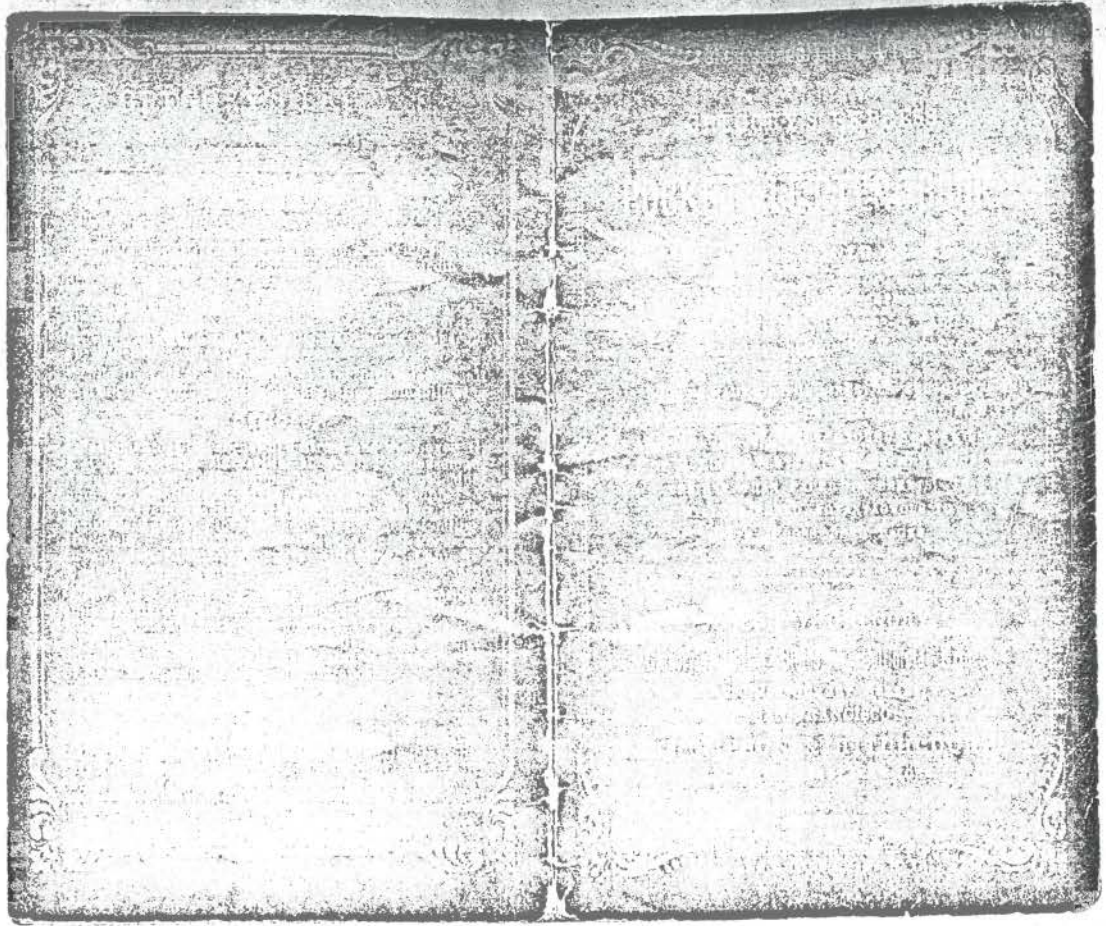
Dated July the 5-18

i have taken the opportunity
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 ting
a few casis of the disentary but all
well at preasant wee came on the north
side of the plat river i havent 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 die last tuse day night out of our
company with the disentary
wee have had verry good luck
with our horses wee havent lost a horse

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

i have taken the opportunity 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, dispatch messengers TWICE EVERY MONTH, by Steamers leaving New-York and San Francisco, in charge of Letters, Parcels, Packages, Gold Dust and valuables, for distribution throughout the United States and California. BEING INVARIABLY AHEAD OF THE MAILS, the best medium is presented to the public for the prompt dispatch of correspondence.

If possible, letters should be directed to the care of mercantile houses, or well-known residents, in San Francisco or other parts of California, by which means their earlier delivery may be insured.

Letters directed simply to "California," or "at the mines" will not be forwarded, as little probability exists of their reaching 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, post-paid to New-York. Messengers leave this office, by every Steamer, for San Francisco, with letters, small parcels, and packages, to be delivered immediately on arrival at San Francisco, to Mr. JOSEPH W. GREGORY, who has every facility at hand for their immediate delivery to the consignees in San Francisco and various parts of California. The arrangements of this Express being of the most perfect description, no delay can occur that it is possible to provide against. Parcels received until the morning of the day the Steamer sails, and letters until 2 P. M., packages and letters must be delivered at our Office prior to the day of sailing, where goods awaiting shipment are covered by insurance.

THOMPSON & HITCHCOCK,

MANAGERS & AGENTS,

149 Pearl Street, cor. Wall

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 New-York, San Francisco, or Sacramento City.

Information concerning the forwarding of goods, or the departure of the different lines of Steamers, furnished to applicants, by mail or otherwise.

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

Rasmussen
P 117

Kanesville
(May 1850)
Frontier Guardian
May 15, 1850
Departed for Calif

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

I must give
you a sketch of
California mining
in eight teen hundred
and forty nine a man
could make from
to to four ounces
a day the summer
of forty nine the
mining was very good
untill the great
emigration had a
rived at California

I got into weever
on the 12th day of
September when
I arrived at ^{that} place
I had one dime
I got their a bout
ten oclock in the
four noon all ock
ing the rest of the
rest of the day for
work with out
success when
night came on i

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work without
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<p> Still had the dime left what to do so i did not no i could not get a bite 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 </p>	<p> 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 </p>
--	---

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 left what to do so
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 bread which made
 me a verry good
 supper so the
 next morning i
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 dollars a day i
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<p>when i was Taken sick i was all the fall and winter i had no friends nor money no one can tell wat i suffer 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 fles</p>	<p>was all calised to my bones i had nothing to lay on but a split out bunc and some of the plank lay verry on eaven i had nothing under mee but one blanket i then lay sick on my bunc and see five or six corps</p>
--	---

(days) when i was
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 blanket i then
 lay sick on my
 bunc and see
 five or six corps

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
california the
fellow was taken
sick i had to to
stop at fort
hall with him
ten days at fort
hall their is a beutiful

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grave yard i
expected every
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hall with him
ten days at ?
their is a beutiful

vally as ever i
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 a great
quanty of deer elk
antelope mountain
sheap and buffalo
wee see in the
vally after wee
got of of the black
hills in one drove
about seven or
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buffalo in one
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drove they ware
a great sight to behold

our company shot
a great many of
them the plains
the bluffs the rocky
the rock mountaines
the Syrinivado
mountaines were
a very great curiosity
the american falls
was a great sight
they were on the
head waters of
the calumby river.

The greatest
curiosity that i
have seen yet is
the burning volcano
which is about
sixty miles above
the head waters of
fether river it is
in a very deep
cannion it explads
in to diffrant ~~in to~~
~~diffrent~~ plases on
the left hand side

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a great many of
them the plains
the bluffs the rocky
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cannion it explads
into diffrant
plases on
the left hand side

of the raven their
was a big boiling spring
and on the other side
about forty feet
it throwd up
the lavy the holes
whare it explodes
was about twenty
feet a cross wee
threw some stone
in their it throwd
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

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was a big boiling spring
and on the other side
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he had cut the
halters of six

beour 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 whare it came from being taken on suprise he started and ran right towards mee i shot at him he yelped	twice most butiful he ran a short distance and fell this was near 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
--	--

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
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 the indians was
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their has ben more
or less people murdered
almost every week
in hearing some
weeks as many as
twelve and fourteen
it is supposed
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
happen that i
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home then
i will send
you some money

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

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
any thing aganst
margret is shoud?
think he had
little to do to
misyouse you

i think i will
bee at home to see
to things my self
be four a great
while
tell margret
that i send my
respects to her
you must kiss
the litle girls
for mee i think
of them a great
deal

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respects to her
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the litle 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 as much i do not have
about you i do any thing more
not sleep more to tell you at ^{cost} pleas
than half of the than i send my
time a thinking respects to my
about home affectionate wife
you must not and child dren
forget to rite to and friends one
me as often as and all
you can you must
not give up
riting to me until
i get home

and fill as (feel so ?) much
about you i do
not sleep more
than half of the
time a thinking
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 children
and friends one
and all

i put a letter in the post office
yesterday. tell all ^{the} of the folks
it is a hard road to californa
i must bring my letter to close. gave my
respects to one and all

~~often~~ i have often thought
of you and the children my love to you
as a faithful husband Samuel Gillam

dyrect mee a letter
to sacramento city in calaforna

i put a letter in the post office
yesterday tell all of the folks
it is a hard road to californa
i must bring my letter to close. gave my
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