

Valcano Aug 15th 1852

Dear Bro & Sister

With pleasure I seat myself to let you know that I arrived in California safe after a trip of one hundred & three day my trip was no harder than I expected it would be but it was hard enough I was with the of team 78 day's when I got tired of them I traded my share of the team for Jacob's horse & gave him a cow, & 5¢ to Boot which was 110¢ for the horse, I had a mule with me that I got in the state before I left with the two I took my clothes & some 70 lbs of provisions & left the way on on the 12th of July I hundred miles from California I made the same in 27 days mule rested 3 days which was 80 days the horse that I bought I lost in ^{summer} ~~the winter~~ I was aying to leave him when a man came up and gave me ten dollars for him I was then nearly to the desert and was a little afraid that my mule would not take me in so there was a trader at the edge of the desert with some fresh mules so no time to be lost I traded my mule for a fresh one and paid 35¢ to Boot I threw my saddle and clothes on and started in the desert at 8 o'clock in the evening, I road 20 miles

came to a trading post where they keep water
& hay I paid 50 cts for galon for water & for
my Mule some hay & water filled my canteen
with water and got across safe, at 12 o'clock
PM, I think that there is no less ^{than} 10 thousand
old waggons or rather the remains of them
on the desert? dead stalk with our ^{mines} ~~mines~~
nearly all from 1850 well after I got across
the desert to Carson River I found among
trading posts. Toped the rest of the day found
good grass for my Mule, next day being Aug 5th
I renewed my journey traveling about 30 miles
per day crossed the Nevada Mountain on the
9th, on the Summit of the Mountain I traveled
over snow 5 feet deep, arrived in Valcano
the 11th, and found Robt Linger who was glad
to see me, he has a ranch 4 miles from
Valcano & a good house on the ranch, I can
not tell you any thing about the country or
mines now as I am unacquainted with
the same yet, the Boys will ~~will~~ not
get in with the team for 20 or 25 days
yet I had good health all the time. But was
reduced some in flesh I had 64\$ in money
and my Mule saddle & bridle when I
arrived and all well I have not yet determined
what I will do I will write to you in the
course of 2 months again please answer this
letter immediately on its arrival and give me

all of the news of it Mary as I long to hear
from there and home this is the dull time
of year in the mines on account of no
water to water wash the dirt I will now
bring this letter to a close give my love
all in guiding thanks till Alice I will
write to her after a while till her to
write a few lines and put in your letter
Wilson give my love to John Keller &
then Bliss I will write to Keller after
while, so for the present good By

Respectfully Yours

A. S. McKee

Give to your letters to
Dalearns

U. S. if or via

Adopt

Amey

S. L.