

COPIES OF LETTERS WRITTEN BY EDWARD HENRY 1850-1853 GOLD RUSH

I, Ethel Graham Taylor found these letters written by my Grandmother Graham's brother Edward Henry. I have copied them as written. f is sometimes written as an s.

St Joseph the 13th 1850

Addressed to Mrs. Mary Henry 10  
Bloomington McLean County Ills

Dear Mother Brothers and sisters

I take this opportunity to note to you I am well at present and have been well and I hope those few lines may find you the same We got here the fourth of this month we had verry good roads all the way it rained a little the last four days on our road here I am in good spirits we calculate to start the fifteenth there is a great many teams here some started last monday week and some have been starting every day since there is about three hundred teams a going to start next monday the streets here is crowded with men from morning til night with emigrants some ~~is~~ buying teams and some selling out and going home when we got here every thing was verry high but now they are about as cheap here as they are in St Louis in about three weeks dry goods groceries and teams will sell for half prise the health of the town is verry good there has been now Colary here yet there has some died here that come up on the steamboats with colersmorbus and diareah there is one man a lying on the wharf know that is dead he got into a spree and took the diareah and died in about five days I expected the colera bad here but it is now such a thing I do not believe there has been a case in town you see money enough Pease and Lee had quite a tare up since they met and I expect they will be worse before we get a thousand miles further I send my miniture with Bill Jones I send my best respects to you and all enquiring friends I look better and feel better as you can see by my likenefs so no more at present Edward Henry

To my friends

Francis M. Rockhold is in good health and feels well and is in good health he sends his miniture by Jones tell his folks he sends his best respects to his Father brothers and sisters and cousin Do not forget to rite the first of June to Sacramento So Fare you well

See Platte River Road Notes  
Entry # 833 [CASL]

Mattas Collection  
Keamey State College  
Center of Arkansas & History

Ft. Kearney

Saturday May the 12 1850

Dear Mother brothers and sisters

I am well at present and hav been well enough ever since I left home to make way with my grub whenever I could get it you can see the list of our company in the paper I sent you wee left the bluffs on the 28th of Aprile and traveled over a verry broken country for about fifty miles crofsed several verry pretty streams and then wee come to as pretty a country as you ever saw with the exeptions of timber the prarie is as pretty dry and as leval as you ever saw there is not much timber from here back to the bluffs as there is on fifty acres in twin grove there is nothing to keepe the cold winds from sweeping the verry grafs out by the roots one night the wind blew so hard that wee could not set our tent wee tride and get it partly set and it come pretty near blowing it away it tore it so that it took us about a day to mend it up again another night it blew down four tents and the poor fellows had to hunt other quarters untill day for the wind and rain was coming down hard enough to blow every thing to pieces wee have had a verry fine time of it there is plenty of game threw here Green Larison and Doctor Lemon killed two buffalows and there is plenty of them threw here but they are sow poor that they are not fit to kil wee have not seen now indians since wee left the mission about thirty miles from St Joseph wee got here on the Platt river today about two oclock wee are now camped about two miles below the fort I have been up to the fort this eavening there is two hundred soldiers stationed here thay live here verry comfortable in sod houses there is two frames and one unburnt brick hous and six sod houses and sod stables for there horses wee leave here tomorrow morning Tell unkel Frank that Milligan is well and has not mifsed his grub mary might nor morning since wee left home he is in good health and good spirits Tell Squire Pease that wee left the old wagon the third day after wee started Lemons wagon broke down and wee let him have owern and he hawled our grain we have had now fuss everything has gon on verry peaceably we hav got ten bushels of corn yet se no more at present I hope those few lines may find you all well

your effectionate son Ed Henry

(The address on the back of the letter is: Mfs Mary Henry Bloomington McLean  
County Ills.)

JULIET HENRY WROTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER. SHE WAS ABOUT 14 YEARS OLD.

May the 10 Julia E. Henry

Away over to eddy in California

Dear brother i now sit down to rite you a few lines to let you now that we are all well at present and hope these few lines may find you the same i get your letter the 9 of may and was glad to here from you there has bin a great deal of sicknefs here this winter and some two or three deths one was Mary Jane Martin arty micy Hinshaw and andy Masons child there was a disease a going about here they called it the Scarlet rash it goes verry hard with some a Mifs Matilda Hiatt hadit and she thought she was well and took a relapse and has <sup>bin</sup> been sick Seven weeks with it not able to sit up but now she is getting a little better Well it is the tenth of May and no corn planted here yet it has bin so wet it rained all last week it has has all appearance of verry poor crops this year well ed pease started to new york Him and his wife they started yesterday and the talk is here that he is a going to california to get his money Uncle franks folks are all well at the present time they have bin a looking for Milegan but he dont come and i am afraide he wont come this spring so turn over and you will see some more (She means turn over to next page.)

Washington and Susan are both well at the present there a looking for a Mary binkly from Indiana They started to rite a letter to you but i rote one and they thought they would wait and then rite one i am a going to rite one evry two weeks Caroline and her old man has gone to knox county to live they live in a house to themselves i have never bin evere there yet they went away the 9 of february William and mary and the children are all well they are a doing well out here elly and bub says they would like to see ed Sam and margaret still live in town they talk of going back to Indiana but he gets so much work to do i dont reckon he will go til fall if he does then Mary and Brown are well and are doing tolerable well Mother says you must not stay there til we are all dead you say you are a coming home this coming winter or spring nowstick to your promise you wont now Bloomington when you come home they have got a railroad they low to have it a running in a week or to Evaline and Bury and the children are all well franklin has bin very sick but has got well well i expect to go to school this sumer Mifs barber keeps school up to the enlow School house



( Juliet Henry letter continued)

We have got our sunday school commenced again Orin Curtis is the Supereten-  
and the Cambelites have got one to All of Masons have gone to Oregon  
but andy and Solomen They was three of them sick but have got well since  
they started Josuways child died out in iowa Jo deacon run away after  
they started and got as far as pekin So i must bring my scribbling to  
a close i must go eat my supper ^wont you come to ed but i guefs you  
wont this time

So good by from Jule Henry to Ei Henry

Wes is as bad a boy as ever he leaves us alone evry night and goes off  
somewhere where he can get with some boys you come home as soon as you  
can Now do ed Mother says you must not let pease have a cent Tell cary  
i send my best respects to him i cant get wes to rite a bit and he is  
always a talking about you he wants you to come home So well come as  
soon as you can I got two papers from you i was very glad to get them  
Jule henry mary henry edward henry john henry Aunt Caroline Lee is dead.



Weaver May the 16 1851

Dear mother brothers and sisters

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well at present and hope those few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing often have looked and sent for letters but have not received none since I left St Jo I have written to you but received no answers I do not know whether you are dead or have forgotten me I wrote when I left Stockton and I suppose you received the letter I will tell you of our mishaps since wee left Sacramento City on the 22 day of February wee started for Scots river and wee landed at Weaver on the eighth of March making the time in fourteen days two hundred and fifty miles north of Sacramento City never have I done any work since I left the harvest field that is half as hard as packing my pardner and I packed nine mules all the way but when wee got here wee heard such discouraging news that wee sold out our load here wee had two hundred ofra mule our stuff consisted of flower bacon beans sugar coffee salaratus salt potatoes and some mineing tools wee was so discouraged when wee got here that wee did not know what to do so wee concluded to go to Samnow river so when wee got ready to leave here for Samnow as good luck would have it there came some men just from Samnow that wee was acquainted with and they told us that provisions was know higher their than here so wee concluded that wee would sell our stuff here every thing was down here so that wee did knot get but twenty five dollars a hundred on a average for our stuff wee was so down at the heel that wee would have sold our mules for fifty dollars a head if any boddy would have offered it to us but no one here wanted to buy so wee concluded wee would make one more trip to the citty so wee left here on the tenth of march for the citty once more and returned on the tenth of april when wee got back here wee was so worn out traveling all day and watching our mules all knight that wee concluded wee would sell them wee sold them for eighty dollars a head Frank came up with us last time and know we are a working here in the mines together wee are not a doing verry well now but wee are expecting every day when wee will do weel mining

(continued)

here is verry dull the watter is a failing so I expect to stay here untill fall and then go to Shasta and stay this winter I have got some little money know and if I have good luck I am a going to send some home to you tell Squire I am well but not doing verry well I would have sent him some money when I sold my mules but I have not had a chance since it is running a verry great risk in sending money from here but I will send him some the first opportunity Tell uncle frank that Milligan and I is a mining together and that he is well it is a raining here and snowing on the mountains just in sight so I believe I will wind up my catalogue give my best respects to all enquiring friends and do not forget to wright for Frank and I have not received a letter since wee have been in California Direct your letters to Sacramento if you should happen to think enought of me I send down from here by the express it gose from here to the citty twice a month

Your most disobedient son

Ed Henry

French Gulch 220 miles north of the City

July the 9 1851

Dear Mother Brothers and Sisters

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well at present I received your letter on the 7 day of July You cannot imagine the pleasure it gave me it is the first letter I have received from you it seems from what you write that you have ritten to me before but somehow I have not got them there is a great many here that is in my fix some that has been here for two years and have not received one letter You wished to know how things is going in California so I will tell you in the first place diggings is not so good as ite is represented in the papers there is thousands here that is not making their board hardely and some that is doing verry well all of the hard working chaps is a making from two to eight dollars a day clear of expences when thay get a claim that pais this well thay think that thay will make money enough to pay there way home by next fall or spring so thay work verry hard thinking how soon thay will get home the Indian is verry trobelsome steeling and killing men every day on the third of July their was a company of men fifteen in number went out to give them a chase thay hunted in the mountains three days so last sunday thay got over on Pit river and thay came acrofs three squaws and one pappoose thay took them along a short distance the Indians saw them and thay gave the boys a brush thay commence holowing like a parsell of kioutas and then gave a war hoope and on thay went thay surrounded them thay had a pretty good Captan who understood the Indians and got his men on a little hill so that the Indians cood not get above them there thay stood and fought them about one hour the Indians feeling satisfied stopped their yelling and fled leaveing about thirty of the wariers behind to join the majority there was but two of the boys wounded one in the hip and one in the shoulder.

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the boys made their way to the springs Shasta City with their squaws on Monday last the citizens of Shasta maid up fifteen hundred dollars for volunteer to go out and fight the Diggers on Tuesday thay made up forty two men out thay went to give them another chase thay have not got back yet so wee dont know what thay have done thay will be back next monday if thay do not have bad luck I think thay will have a pretty hard fight before thay get back the Squaws has been fetched here when thay brought them here the Indians watched them on the road here one of the Squaws got away from the men last night and the night before the Indians came here and shot some arrows through some tents but happened to not hit no one I expect every night thay will come here and kill some poor fellow to avenge their Squaws today there was some Indians come close by here slipped in a tent and stole out ten pair of blankets the men was working about two hundred yards from the tent as thay went off thay got on a high point and shot down at the men it is no use to try to hunt them when thay are out on their look out you might as well try to ketch a deer on the prairie as to ketch them the chaperell is so thick on the mountains you might go in ten steps of them and you wood not see them When the men is out a burning their ranchories thay are here a steeling mules and shooting men you wanted to know what I am a doing I am traiding and mining a little occasionily to keepe up I do not know when I will be home know I can make a little money here yet next spring I think if I can make a few scads I will come home If I had what I wanted I could not think of coming back to that cold place to winter if it was not for friends and good society I cood not think of leaving here but wee have to live here like the wilde savage lay out cook our one grub and stop wherever wee can make it pay I want you to next time you write let me know what you are a doing and what is going on and so forth

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I hope those few lines may find you all enjoying good health  
so no more at present

Your affectionate son Ed Henry

Do not forget to write often direct your letters to  
Sacramento City Here is a small peace of gold

French Gulch Oct the 5th 1851

Dear Mother Brothers and sister

I take this opportunity to inform youu that I am well at present and I have been well ever since I have been here I hope those few lines may find you enjoying the belfsings of life I do not know what to wright aboutto make my letters interesting to you when you get ite Times is verry hard here know Wages is five dollars per day board if a man boards by the week he has to pay sixteen dollars per week if he byes his grub and cooks it him self it costs him six and eight dollars per week miners is making from two to twelve dollars per day last week there was a peec taken out of the Gulch that weighed four pounds and two ounces and there has been a good many nice peaces taken out lately when this Gulch was first discovered men just worked in the bed of the creek when they worked that out thay thought that thay had worked it all out but they have found themselves mistaken they left ite and other o nes has come in and is doind better than the first thay are working in the banks and finding a great deal of coarse goald men is now looking for winter diggings buildind cabins and lays in their winter provisions I dont expect their will bea verry many stop here this winter I for my part I shall stop here I think I can do about as well here as any wheir I know of I think I can make my board here this winter and next summer I expect to do well I shall live in hopes any how I have got to use to liveing in the mountains that I can say that I think I enjoy life as well as any boddy Indians is thick around here and have been all summer but I have not seen them thay prowle around in the mountains like woolves when you get up in the morning you can see their tracks in the roads wheir thay venture

up whin a hundres yards of your tent and then stop sometimes they will venture up and steel an ax or soap or any thing that will do them any good one good thing thay wont steel any mining tools they being no use to them and thay do not cair for any thing onely what thay want to eat and wear thay cair for nothing else thay are getting pretty sascy here of late their was about forty seen a mild below here last night a man came up last night and told about them being their and it did not create no more excitement than if their was one or two woolves seen their the grisley bares is a beginning to come down out of the high mountains thay are thick here their is one killed here every once and a while I will tell you the prices of some things here Liker the staff of life is worth twenty five cents a drink flour twenty two dollars a hundred Pork thirty three coffee forty five sugar thirty tea one dollar and a half molafses four dollars per gallon beens thirty cents per pound and other things in proportion Clothing is tolerable cheap coats from four to ten dollars socks one dollar and pants from three to eight shirts from two to three boots from five to ten and other things in proportion now you can see how things rates here if a man can make his five dollars a day here he thinks he is doing nothing do not think if you could be here and make five dollars a day you would soon make your fortune and return home know I do not want to see none of my friends leave their comfortable homes and come out here and live a dogs life like land thousands of others has for a little gold. If a man will look at ite right he will find he is verry foolish for doing so I am here know and have become accostomed to the costomes of the country and climate and have almost forgot that I ever lived in a civilized country and it suits me so well that I think I will not come home untill a year from next spring Frank says he is bound to come home next spring he is working for one hundred and twenty dollars a month he is packing from Shasta to Weever I saw him last



friday and he told me that he was agoing to stay with this man all winter I advised him to do so I am well acquainted with the man that he is working for and I know him to be honest I have had a good deal of dealings with him and have allways found him honest I will send some Specimens home to you by Sherrod Brock from Old Town timber he is to leave on the fifteenth of this month I expect he will be home the first of December next let me tell you what is the facts I have not received but one letter from Mclean county since I have been here rite to me often direct your letters to Shasta City Shasta County Cal and they cannot help but come safe Send some Bloomington papers once in a while I have almost forgot I ever lived in Ill Tell all of my friends to rite if I have any left and I will answer them all So no more at present give my respects to all my enquiring friends

Your most disobedient son Ed Henry  
Dont forget to wright and send some papers soon

French Gulch Nov the 3 1851

Dear Mother Brothers and sisters

I take this opportunity to right to you to inform you that I am well and hope that these few lines my find you enjoying the best of health I received the letter that Juliet and Caroline rote on the 4 of August I was in Shasta after a load of provisions and I got my mules all packed up when the stage came in from Sacramento as I passed the Post office the postmaster hollowed to me that there was a letter just came for me You better believe that I lit from my mule and grabbed it more eager than if ite had been a chunk of gold and when I came to open ite found that Juliet and Caroline had rote ite that pleased me better It was a verry good letter July I want you and Cally to rite me once every two weeks if you will when I come home I will fetch you two gold rings speace If I dont come home next spring I will send them to you and thay shall be worth an ounce apeace Mary whear are you I have not seen a word about you in neather of the letters I wish you would rite to me and let me know what all the young folks is a doing my thoughts wander back verry often and I wish to know what you all air doing but it does no good John I think sir if you will work away on the farm and keepe things up pretty well I will send you some money to you before next Aprile so that you ccan lay ite out in stalk I do not expect to come home next spring if I should do well this winter probably I shall if I do not I wont I have done tolerable well this summer I am in partnership wit another fellow wee commenced together the 4 of august

the very day July rote to me he is a baker wee are baking and keepe a good assortment of provision and goods on hands also Wee have commenced mining operation also which is a going to cost us three hundred dollars before wee can get to washing wee are a putting in a dam in Clear creek thear is six shears in ite wee are putting ite in for to rase the watter up on the bars in order to sluice wash them I am paying two hands each five dollars a day ite costs me ten dollars a day besides thear board If ite does pay well this winter and I can sell oute next spring I shall try to sel some of the sucker chaps I cannot leave now like some fellows can My self and pardner has got some property here and wee calculate to have the worth of ite or the use of ite untill we have made something or loose something wee are laying out all the money and credits we can get now for provisions for this winter wee are now getting ite in when the ranes come I dont expect wee can get to Shasta verry well One or two thousands of dollars here dont go verry far towards getting a stock of provisions for the winter This is a great country for a young man to come to ite will trye his pluck if he calculates to stay here until he makes his fortune or a good rase he has to set him self down some where and nock away if things turns against him he must rap away and stick to what ever he commences at lat ite be what ite will he is bound to make some money there is some young fellows that has come here and has got home sick but ite does no good thay cant jump on a steamboat and toddel home for ten or fifteen dollars thay find that thay have got two fare from home ite makes them fill up in the craw and grit thare teeth stamp thare foot and look around for something to do If a man will stop here and content himself he can make a good rase in three or four years but if he comed here and keeps a running around he becomes discontent and puts off for the states and curses the verry day he started for this country wages ~~ixxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ here is five dollars a day and why is it that young men will run off and go to the states where he cann ot get but fifty cents simpletons thay are wages is bound to come down before next spring diggings is getting poorer and hans plentier I think by next spring wages will be about 2.50 per day every thing is coming down here verry fast I have been from the Maryposa to the Trinity and I have not seen no land that is fit for a farm there is some places that is verry good for gardens but that is all and that you have to irrigate it but there is some of the greatest ranches grafs and oats is abundant in the Sacremento valley from one end to the other I have a notion to go out next summer down in the valley and make a claim I think ite will pay Wash I should like to know what you are doing the letter you rote to me you did not tell me what you was a doing or what you was a going to do the next time you rite to me tell

me what you done with the old mashine and what <sup>luck</sup> you had with the stock. If the horses has died if so and what had become of old Charley and all about it. I hope thay get it done by the time I want to come home and I will come a kiting when I do come. Tell Sam and Margaret to try and right me a few lines. I would like to here from Thomas and aunt Betsy and my cusins that is coming out to spend the winter with you but it is as it is and it cant be helped while you are spending your time pleasuring I will be trying to make some money. Tell Will to rite to me. I wood like to here what he is a doing and how he is a getting along with his farm. Tell unkel Frank that Milligan is well and doing well at present. I expect him here in a week or two. if my claimes will pay I shall hire him all winter. he says he is a coming home next spring. if the sites is good here next spring I will persuaude him out of the notion for it is no use to leave here to go home and leave a good prospect behind. I believe I will bring my letter to a close. I received your letter the 30 of October. I send my best respects to all enquiring friends. Mr Fowler and all others. send me some Bloomington papers direct your letters to Shasta city here is a bit of gold. ite ways 45cts. Edward Henry

Shasta City Apr the 11th 1852

Dear Sister

I received your letter that you rote on your birthday just a few minutes ago and you said you wanted me to rite to you. I had or to directed some of my letters to you before being as you do most to me. I am well at present and hope those few lines may find you all well also. I am now out of businefs my partener and I have sold out our store wee have got out mules yet. I dont know hardly what to do. I think I will try mining for a couple of months. I have an old acquaintance that offered me one hundred dollars a month but I dont think that I will take it. I never worked for wages but once since I have been in this country and then I got one hundred and fifty dollars a month. that was when I first came in the country. if I had staid down in Stockton last summer I might have been home now with a tolerable good rase. but so ite goes. I cant come yet. Charles Stine and some more of the boys from Old town timber is going home. Thay are a goin to start the first of June and I expect my pardner will leave to. If he does he will call by and see you. he lives in Wisconsin seeing so many of my old chums leaving allmost puts me in the notion to leave to. but I think I cant leave until I trye ite one year longer and perhaps more I cant tell. I think there is going to be a good chance to do well on stock here this fall when the emigration comes in. If I should get some stock on hand this fall I will have to stay here a couple of years. I should like to be at home this summer. I should like to see some of them pretty girls that you speak of just tell them to wright to me. maby that thay can entice me to come home. I wish I thought I could content myself there. I wood soon leave here. I tell you this country agrees with my health so



well I think if I can get things to work right now about ten months I will make a break for home you allways tell me who John is a going to see but you dont tell me who is your beau This letter that you sent you did not sign your name to ite tell unkel Frank that he better stay at home if he should take a notion to come here he will curse the day he first thought of ite Miligan is a sawing for six dollars a day and board he talks a good deal about home I have a good many hearty laughs at him he is bound to come home next spring he is afraid he will loose deal so no more at present

I remain your affectionate brother Ed Henry

Shasta City Shasta County Calli June 12th 1852

Dear Mother I have not got time to write you a long letter I here send you a draft of two hundred Dollars I sent Pease some you can get the money any time in Bloomington for ite Take ite and pay your Debts if you have any if not use ite in any way you like I am well at present Frank is out to the Gulch he is well to I got a letter from Sam don up in a newspaper today I will answer ite in a few days so no more at present

Ed Henry

French Gulch Shasta County California  
June the 24th 1852

Dear Mother Brothers and Sisters I received your letters last night one dated Apr the 11 & one Apr the 19th Thay still bore the news that yoy all was a getting along pretty well in regard to health I hope that thay will always bring such news thay found me in verry good health I wrote Sam and Wash a letter a few days ago and I dont now hardly what to rite Julie Isee thinks that she and mother will soon be left alone if that is the case I expect I shall have to come home and take care of them John must think he is some pumpkinfs I think he had better hold a few days I dont think ite wood set him back anny and Cally the saim There has been four weddings in the family and I have not seen one of them yet go on if you think there is no stop-ping place Julie says she is a going to wate untill I come home that is you Julie ite wont be long untill I make a start for old Mclean I want to see one more drift of emigration come in I am looking every day now for some poor weary worn hombrie to come toddling in Mothere I sent you a draft on Adams and Co at St Louis for two hundred Dollars and the old Squire the same you can get ite cashed in Bloomington any time I sent ite on the 12th of this month ite is far the safest way to send money to the States I promised to send Cally & Julie a ring apeace and neglected ite untill now and I have no chance C Stine and H Cline started from here on the 21st for old Mclean thay came along where I was at work & I had but one ring & I gave ite to Stine to give ite to you I have been offered \$25 for ite

many times & I woud not take ite I gave two hams four lbs of sugar four lbs of coffee I 10 lbs of potatoes for ite I see John and Adolfus Brocus is a coming to this country poor fellows I am afraid thay will have a hard time of ite as well as many others I dont know ehether I will be here when thay come in or not if I dont I will be down at Sacramento I am a going to leave the mines in a short time I am getting sick and tired of them I long to see the old Frarias of Ill you neede not be afraid but what I will come back & stay when I get there if I keepe my stomach & heels a while longer yes me July I want you to keep old Tup & and the pet deer untill I come back Ed G.W. You seem to think I dont now or care about you & your Lady I am shure that I wrote a part of a letter to you and also Mary since I got the news that you was married I got the news of both of your Weddings in one letter & I sent all of my great begest wishes & love to ydu & sister Susan & also to Brother Brown & Mrs Mary Brown so no more of this tell unkle Frank that Milligan is well I believe that I have received a letter from everry one of the family but Will & Mary & John Write as soon as you receive this yours Ed Henry

Yolo County Oct 5th 1952

SH. Henry

Dear Brother & sister I have received two letters from you & have neglected riting to you as I shood have done I have been running around so much that I could not take time to rite I left Shasta the last of July & Have been down here ever since I came down to buy some cattle but thay was so high that I thought that I could not make nothing on them I bought some horses and was ficing to start back & while I was out here I made a trade with Asron & Elias Harley I bought their interest in a ranch & every thing here now Cary Barney & I has got the hole of ite to ourselvex wee have got two hundred acres of land fenced a good frame house eight hed of horses harnefs & wagon farming utencils pigs chickens & we are a going to put in two hundred acres of barley this winter wee have sent after a Traveling Thrashing Mashine which will be here by next June wee sent to Racine for ite wee have rented our house here to a couple of young men that has got wives thay have the use of ite for six months for Five hundred Dollars & wee board ~~with~~ with them wee thought that was better than cooking for ourselves thay are verry nice folks wee have nothing to do now wee have got twenty five hundred bushels of barley to sell ite is worth four cents a pound now but wee are a going to hold on to ours for six cents I think wee are a going to get ite if not more before next spring I got a letter from Frank the other day he is up to French Gulch Frank and I has got one third of a saw mill up there Frank is up there tending ite

he was well when he wrote I shall go up there to see how he is getting along shortly I swan I am surprised at how things is a going on at home I expect that I shant now half of my Brother and sister in laws nieces and nephews if I dont hurry home Say Wash what do you mean got to be a father already Surprising I expect I will be left to dance in the hog troft yet I look for to hear in the next letter that John & July is married & then Mother will be left alone untill I come home then you better believe I will spung off from you I will shore so hold

your affectionate brother Ed Henry

PS Carry sends his respects to you and Mrs. H.S. Henry

Dear Mother You said that you wanted me to say when I was a coming home I should like to say next spring but I will say that if I live I will wind up my businefs here in California & return in one year from next Aprile I have got in the way to make something & I dont like to leave now I do want to come home as bad as any fellow you ever saw I expect to rite often & the time will seem short so no more at present

Your obedient son Ed Henry

Juliett you must not get married untill I get back by hokey I got a letter from you today but I did not answer ite I was agoing to but I lost ite give my respects to them ladies that sent theirs to me and also to others that is there

Caroline I wish that you & your Husband wood rite, me a letter here is my wishes that you will live a long and agreeable life together so no more at present (Part of this page is missing)

Yolo County California  
December the 6th 1852

Mrfs Mary Henry

Dear Mother Brothers & sisters I have not received no dates from you since August the first I dont know why I cant get no more letters from you when I was up at Shasta I could get a letter almost every mail but since I have come down here I cant get none I am well at present My health is not as good



since I came down into the valley as it was up in the mountains we have been plowing some we have got in forty acres of barley what we put in week before last it rained all last week & our horses run of a week ago yesterday we hunted for them all last week and today we found them today about fifteen miles from here tomorrow I think we will go to plowing we run four plows we have one man hired at fifty five dollars a month & one at two dollars & a half a day & board we want to get in two hundred and fifty acres which I think we will do if the weather is favorable the rain that fell last week raised Cach Creek higher than it was last winter I have not heard from Frank for about four weeks he was well at that time and doing well he said he was coming down Christmas Cary and I live here in the greatest of still we have not sold our barley yet it is worth five cts now we are holding ours for six which I think we will get by Christmas Provisions is high at present Flour is worth twenty two Dollars a hundred and other provisions in proportion the fire has caused a little advance on Drigoods & Groceries I was down to the City the next morning after the fire when every thing was smoking I saw several human bodies that was burnt there was a good many men burnt in it it being the night after the Election there was a great many men laying around dead drunk I hardly know what will be interesting to write to you I have answered all of your letters I think there is some letters in the City for me Altho I have sent several times I have got none the office is crowded so that a person cant get no letters unless they go themselves I got a letter from John Brocus in October he was in Hang town he did not say anything about Adolfus I answered his letter told him where I was & what I was doing he has not ritten to me or if he has I have not got it I am afraid he has been chucked under or I wood have heard from him I dont know what Cary & we'll do when our cooke leaves it will be maihty hard for us to go to keeping Bach after having such nice housekeepers for six months they are going home next spring they live in Pike County Ills.

Cary swears if wee get seven cts a pound for barley he is coming home next spring to get him a woman he is mighty taken up with this country a great deal more than I am when I get ready to leave I am a going to bid ite farewell forever I think I ~~can~~ find a country I think that will suit me better than this does One year from next spring will find me on the way So good by untill next time My respects to all so no more at present Ed Henry

P.S. If Pease has not received his draft tell him to tell me and I will send him the second one

Yolo County California

Mar the 24 1853

Dear Mother and July

I was truly glad to get a letter from you ite found me enjoying verry good health It bore the date of January the 25th ~~from~~ The last letter I received previous to yours was dated Aug 28 52 from Samuel Letters I get from you is few I have ample time to ruminate over the few lines that I get from you before I am disturbed with another I think you are getting along verry well you need not be verry lonesome if you have so many near neighbors as you speak of You certainly must be calculating to have a good deal of Company from the quantity of pork you put up last winter I was glad to hear that money came in good play You need not give yourself any uneasinefs about returning ite I was gratified to here that the Squire had received his I was up to Shasta the tenth inst and I got a receipt for ite so that htere wood not be no trouble for me to get ite when I wood present the second draft I saw Frank when I was up he is not coming home in the Spring as he calculated if he gets home next Spring he will do well he is coming down here in a few weeks I took nine tun of  $\frac{1}{2}$  barley up to Shasta the first of this month and lost money on ite wee have about twelve tun left yet I fear wee have kept ite too long That wee sowed looks fine

July I wood be verry happy to enjoy some of them Candy pullings gum sucks and Dances that you speak of but so ite is I cant at present there was a ball here on the 9th inst but I was up to Shasta and I did not get to go there was twenty Ladies there and onely four that was single all the rest married Great times here with the women ten dollars a couple and no whiskey onely what they wood pay two bits a drink for Grub verry inferior No peice handed around through the night but when they got hungry thay could go to the box and get a black eyed biscet and a chunk of jurked Beef Hard times for them that had no teeth Two Ladies there sixty od years old Danced

like troopers give out got hungry could not chew beef and went to bed As for John Brocus I dont know what has become of him I got a letter from him last fall and have not heard from him since He was then up to Hangtown Carlisle is on the Micosmias he has bought in a place there and has gone to farming I have not seen him since he was here last fall the last I heard from him he was at Sonora Thay was sick of this country I expect Carlisle wished himself hom many a time this is a hard place for boys that was never away from home Thay cant go when thay please I want to come home some time this coming winter or spring When I come I am coming to stay shore the next time you go to a party just eat a turkey leg for me and a hat full of cakes John W what are you a doing old boy why dont you say something have you forgot how to write or dont you want to say ~~an~~othing if you dont speak it loud I suppose you are a going to get married from what July says if you are just ask me wont you if you dont I will shivaree you shore now look out July says you are always talking about coming to this Country you be shore and always let ite be talk for if you come here ite wont be like going to Spring Bay you cant go home in a day neither can you get grub whenyou want ite and if you are in a strange place and without money you are in a hard place you wood have to go to work for Board and when night comes lay down on a blanket on the hard flore think of those things before you start think of the comforts of home and compare them together that is the way and then if you wish to swap your bearth then you can start off if you do start to come here remember that you never get no encouragement from me I wood like to have you here if you wood be contented to stay four or five years I think that you could make ~~a~~something for yourself But I dont think that you would be contented to stay If you are serious about coming and want to come let me ~~now~~ and I will do the best I can for you I am bound to come home next Spring But if you want to come I will keepe my interest in the Ranch and you can go to work as soon as you get here Yesterday wee had several races here one for a Thousand Dollars and others from ten to a hundred the tracks is close to our house I can stand in the dore and see the races there was a great many men here and some ten women wee had a fine time the women appeared to enjoy the fun as well as the men the folks that wee rented our house to is a going home the fifteenth of Aprile then Cary and I will be left to keepe old Bach it will go rather hard after having such good times this winter I have been wanting Cary to get married but he says he wont do ite he say he is going to old Mclean to get him a woman you may

you may bet your buttons that if I wanted to get married I would not go to the States to get a wife for I could go down in lower California and get as nice a little Bute as ever the sun shone on so no more of that It commenced raining gently last night about twelve oclock and it is raining yet every thing looks fine the planes is covered with fine grafs and flours stock is getting in fine order horses still keeps at a high price wee sold a pair of nice match horses a short time ago for five hundred Dollars Wee have a black pacing horse which wee hold at five hundred Dollars all along he looked so fine that yesterday wee had to raise a hundred more he is thin yet when he gets in order I am a going to take him to the Bay I think I will get eight hundred for him so no more at present your affectionate brother Edward Henry

P S I am a going to the City tomorrow to see if I can get some letters from some of you write soon and dont forget to write every two weeks if you dont put nothing in ite

The following letter is from Martha Ann and Elizabeth Mary Rockhold to their brother Francis Rockhold

Bloomington Illinois July 18th 1853

Dear Brother

I after a long time undertake to write to you that I am well and am growing much larger than when you left here This leaves us all well nocking around as usual we have some pleasure here with our little Play mates and School mates who have grown up since you left here Some that were small have almost grown to men and women The boys and girls frequently talk about you that they would like to have your company with them The boys and father are farming this season on a large scale They have got their wheat cut and it is rather an unusual crop Things look well here such as corn and all the other kinds of grain We have plenty of apples and peaches this season and if you was here you might enjoy all the luxurys of the Season Father and all the family sends their love to you and wished to see you You wrote us that you did not expect to come home before Spring If you think best do as you please But you had better come this winter on account of your health I want you to write to me as soon as you get this letter and be assured that I remain your affectionate sister Martha Ann Rockhold to F.M. Rockhold

Dear Brother I have got permission to write a few lines to you to inform you that I am well and have got lots of beaus and if you dont come home soon I expect I shall get married in your absence this leaves us all well Harriet sends her love to you



and wished to be remembered to you I want you to send me a piece of Gold when you write and Martha Ann wants you to send her a peace of gold and be assured that I remain your G.C.

Mary E. Rockhold

Sacramento July the 26th 1853

Mifs Juliet Henry

Dear Sister I received your letter of May the 10th on the 25th of June I was taken sick with the feever the day before I received ite and have not got well yet I had the feever about three days and then got ite broke and got to nocking around to soon and brought ite back again the second attack was worse than the first I have got the feever broke again but ite seems like I cant get my strength I left home a week ago yesterday and have not been back I shall go up tomorrow I left home to go to San Francisco to stay their for a few weeks thinking the Sea breeze would help me but ite was so cold there that I could not stand ite I saw a man just from French Gulch this morning he said Frank was well he rote to me he wood be down the first of July but he is not come yet the reason why I did not answer your letter sooner is I wanted to get well I am now so I can go around & eat my three meals a day but I am verry weak I onely way 120 pounds my standing weight is when I am well 150 I expect to get a letter from some of you when the next mail comes in which will be in a day or two If I should get one I will answer ite immediately you must excuse this I will try to do better the next time I hope these few lines will find you all enjoying good health Give my respects to enquiring friends

Your affectionate bros Edward Henry

The following letter is addressed to Mr. Carter Mansion House  
Honolulu

Sacramento City Dec. 1st 53

Mrs. Carter You will please allow me after so long a silence to introduce to your kind attention, a young gentleman Mr. Edward Henry, who is visiting Hoholula for his health. Any attention you may extend to him as in former days will be most gratefully appreciated by him and duly acknowledged by one ~~xjpp~~ who had been and ever will be your true friend

Great haste compells me to close this short epistle

My regards to my friends in the Islands

Most respectfully  
R.H.N Saunders

(Note by Ethel Graham Taylor: "My grandmother Juliet Henry Graham always said her brother Ed died in the Sandwich Islands, and that he had sent her a pair of cameo earrings. He died February 2, 1854 at the age of twenty four. He is buried in Liahana, Hawaii.