

April 9th 1849

In Camp within one mile of Fort Smith
My Dear Wife

I now address you for the first time by letter I am lying flat down in a waggon for the horses are full and it is raining hard and there is not room to set up in the waggon. I have been in good health since I saw you and I sincerely hope you are enjoying the same good health we have been here for days and I was in hopes I should receive a few lines from you but have been sadly disappointed, we leave here for California tomorrow if the weather permits & if I could get one look at you before I leave I could be content but that is impossible & therefore I must be contented by seeing you in imagination there will be it is supposed two thousand people for California we are surrounded by Camps waggons, oxen, mules & horses & people the most of them that I have seen are very respectable people we met with no accident on the way here & I am in the hopes that we will have having some good fortune throughout the journey I have been trying to get some money from the Company to send to you but they have not got one dollar to spare so you must try and live as well as you can and the first money I get shall be sent to you if you have your health I feel in hopes that you will not suffer I put every confidence in your being capable of making your own support & if God spairs my life you shall have my assistance I think I am doing quite in going when I can get the means of more

(if I succeed) is independent and we will not regret this
this separation, it comes a grate deal harder on me than
expected but the one grate thing encourages me. that the
making our self a home where we can enjoy our
homestead over ~~the~~ three dollars and five cents fifty five of it is
Beef and the balance he owes me in Memphis if you can
get any thing from him to keep I send you the bill of sale of
some timber on black river if you can get any one to go
out on Strawberry to John Taylor on Newman Place or
Mr Eagle they will then I will it is sell it for some
thing if Mr Eagle has been it he will pay you for the
34 Year which is worth fifty dollars but take what you can
get give my respects to John & Mary Jane and all the
Forthers family & ~~my~~ friends Not forgetting Nancy &
I must now close I wish you health & happiness and you to
make your self as happy as possible so I remain your love
and affectionate Husband until death parts us,

Your Ever friend James G. Malcolm

April 17th 1844

Dr Elizabeth

I did not mail my letter when I wrote it on
account of rainy weather it has ben raining for some days this day
is very pleasant we are drying our clothing to day and to
morrow we leave think of me often and me Good Bless you
I feel in grate hopes of making a fortune so you must keep
up your spirits you shall hear from me as soon as possible adieu
yours affectionately J. G. Malcolm

April 20th 1849.
Chocklaw Station in Camp on the Samboy River
forty two miles from Ft Smith
Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I have ~~not~~
found an opportunity of sending you a few lines
to inform you of my being in good health at this time &
have had two or three chills last week Dr Pelham
nocked them. ~~Let~~ William Hughes & John Stone
come up with the Company two days ago and br
letters for every man of our Company. Excepting
myself it hurt my feelings verry much William
Hughes told me that he sent word to you by your
father to have your letters ready and saw you and
Mr Dewer the same day he left and you sent no
word not one word not even said you was well
but I cannot be so with you so I will forgive
you this time and hope you will not neglect to
write to me every opportunity if it is not more
than one line if you knew how much I want
to receive a letter from you you would go
and see Mr Swinell or Mr Pelham and get
them to send you word when there is an
opportunity and send yours with theirs write
to me how you enjoy your self write every
thing that concerns you & myself This is an
opportunity we did not expect and I am in
hopes it will not be the last and I shall
write every of time it happens we have had

a great deal of Rain and Cold weather which
has closed the Roads to be very bad Roads we
have none for we have cut the Roads from Ft
Smith to this place in Prairie the waggons
more down to the axels and in timber there are so
many waggons that they cut the Roads up so bad
that we ~~at~~ travel very slow some times not
more than ~~three~~ ^{three or four} miles per day the weather
has ~~been~~ very pleasant for two or three days
and the ground is drying up very fast
and we shall travel faster I am very anxious
to get there we shall leave here tomorrow and go
four miles to get better food for our oxen & horse
here was a waggon broke down last Evening and the
company are waiting for it to make a new
one we have not met with any accident yet Except
Sandy turning a waggon over but done no damage
give my respects to Mr Dewar and his family &
every man is writing so I feel late to a very long
pen my trunk being at the bottom of a waggon
so that I cannot get one of men to excuse my
writing at nearly night and the man that took
the letter is to leave soon very writes me

Respectfully
from your husband James J. Melhorn

In Camp Camanche Nation May 15th 1848
Dear Wife

I embrace this opportunity to inform you that I am enjoying good health and I hope you are enjoying the same good health. We are 250 miles from Fort Smith. Mr. Hughes Mr. Word & Jo Woodward came up with the Company yesterday evening and I was very much gratified at receiving a letter from you it relieved my mind very much to hear that you are contented at Mr. Quers. We are traveling very slow the roads from Fort Smith has been very bad on account of rains we have had delays from waggons breaking. Our waggons has not met with any accident yet excepting turning over two or three times we will now travel faster for we have the open Prairie. There are now about 100 to 120 waggons in the Fort Smith Company with the Government which are about 25 we have not seen any Camanche Indians as yet excepting two but we have come through the Choctaws Cheasaws Creeks Ochataws Muskogees & Seminoles which are all friendly we do not expect any danger from the Camanches we overtook the government troops this evening and we go

B

George Donnelly and tell him I wish him much
joy with his son Give my love to Mary Ellen and
Farrhen and all the family likewise John and his
wife and tell him I will write to him as soon
as I get out to California fare well Dear Lizzy
and take good care of your self and we will be
happy yet if I could think you happy I would
be so to so try for my self it is dark or I will
write more adieu love my only love No more
from your friend ~~and~~ husband

To Sarah C. Malcolm

James G. Malcolm

Gillette's New Mexico July 2^d 1849

My Dear Elizabeth

I cannot miss an opportunity of letting you know of my whereabouts and of my good health which is good at this time and I sincerely ~~trust~~ hope that you is the same I am within twenty five miles of Santa Fe and have been for the last four days we are resting our oxen and laying in some more provisions and expect to leave here tomorrow or next day for California which is about two thousand miles farther which will take us four or five months longer it seems an age to me ^{to get there} we have come eight hundred and twenty miles from Ft. San by Measurement which makes me one thousand and four miles from my dear Wife who I wish twice as many times away was with me. I long this separation wears me out but I hope through the Blessings of God keeps me up we will meet in about a year and be happy so Elizabeth courage I have had every long & tedious time of it in getting here which is not half way we saw a great many Indians but had no difficulty with them. Dr. Stone and Magruder had their horses stolen by them or some Mexicans that was trading with them William Hughes and myself have been hunting Gold this morning and found great quantities of yellow stuff that resembles Gold but is not their are gold mines within eight miles of this place Mr Hughes & Magruder went out there yesterday to examine them and have not returned yet and I am in ~~great~~ hopes

that they may find them rich enough to induce the Company
to stay here for I have gone for a long time from home and my
Wife before I had a wife I cared not when I was but
now it is very different but to return to the gold mines
there are a number of men at work at them Mexicans &
Americans and the report is that they are making from three
to four dollars a day but they are not good miners Mr.

Hughes thinks he can make double as much as them which
would induce him to stay here for a time I am in hopes he
will return before I send this letter to Santa Fe but
if we stay here I can write to you once a month
by the way of independence Missouri there are a great many
of the Emigrants that will not go to California some remain
here and some return home to the States it would
not take much money to make me one of the latter
but as I have none I must go on here comes Mr
Hughes & Loyal I must go and see the prospect of Gold
They have brought with them some Rocks with a quantity
of Gold in them but Mr Hughes thinks that it would be
to expensive to work as the Rocks must be ground
fine and the gold washed out so that decides
I have to go further, Gods will be done there
another place about five hundred miles from here
reported to be gold we will stop and examine it
and if we find it rich we stop there which will
make a great difference in our journey I love my
it grieves me to the heart to be away from you knowing
that you have to depend upon your self for support

but I have every confidence in you if you have your
health when I left you I ~~thought~~ thought I could send you
some money in six months Now it will be ten I expect
however you shall have the First I get. let it be when
or when it will so Dear Wife do not blame me for
I am trying to make you happy and you shall see me
if we both live next Summer never to part again but
for a very short time until death takes one of us for
I live for you and nothing else you are the only one
one on the Earth that I do sincerely Love and I think
that you love me in return, you may say that if
I loved you I would not have left you but it is from
your sake that induced me to take this trip that I will
make you a happy home and I will do it yet it
may cost us a year and a half separation but you are
thought all the time therefore your dearest I can me
give my love to all the family John & Mary Jane
tell John I will write to him as soon as I get to the
gold diggings, and have an opportunity of sending a
letter do not forget to remember me to Nancy, Ellen Miles
to give my respects to all Enquiring Friends tell Mr Dyer
it will be longer than I expected before I can send him
any Money but he shall be paid good interest if he
come to California next Spring you must come with
him I will have you the means by that time. Dear wife
I could still keep writing to you if I had pen but I have not
God bless you and may you be happy and do not forget -
your Ever loving Husband

James J. Malcolm

San Diego December 6th 1849

Dear wife

I meet with another opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that I am well and I do hope you are the same I am. Keeping a family going at this place and doing better than two thirds of the Emigrants that came out at the same time with me we all suffered very much on the Road and the greater part suffer more here than the Blessing of God. I am doing well making from ten to fifteen Dollars per day and will remain here until February or March then go to San Francisco and remit you all the money I can spare or if I am very lucky I shall come home after you if there is any family coming ^{out by water} before you receive any money from me and they will bring you I will pay them. Doubtless I want you here with me and I cannot stay here long enough to get rich without you. A Gentleman going home from San Francisco staid with me last night and will mail this letter on the boat I cannot remit money from this place on account of not being any convenience but I shall go to San Francisco on purpose to send you some money and I hope I

can send you enough to bring you out here
if not I will have to go after you when I do
get enough I had not time ~~when~~ I wrote to you
before to about any thing of our Palesville friends
I left them on the Lila River 300 miles from its
Mouth all in good health but the Company had
split in three parts Pelham & McGrunder in one
two Clacey & Stone second two Muses & Duwiel
third but still traveling to get their teams hauled.
I heard of Pelham & McGrunder passing this place
for Los Angeles which is a 150 miles from here
on the 5th Nov but I could wheather the rest of
the Company crossed the Desert with their
teams or not, Give my Love to all tell John
Mates wages on board of Steam is 250 Dollars per
Month hands \$1.50 Sailors on ships \$1.40 and if the
can possibly get out here he can make a fortune
I intend to have one, the men are waiting for
my letter the steamer is ready so I must close
tell Mr Duver to have patience for a couple of
Months, Blacksmiths earn Gold at San
Francisco my Dear Elizabeth may God
Bless you if not so soon as we expected
we will meet and be happy so no more

Yours Affectionate Husband
P. LeFebvre

It wrote all the time
John