

A282 Scholl, Septimus (1789-1849) JCHS
4F5 Family Correspondence 1836-1897

me the ten dollars. I never owed Will a cent and never expect to see him again and Anderson must pay his own debts. I expect to try and weather out my time in Missouri and all of the rest of the family appear to be well satisfied and if you think you could live here and do any better than where you do live, we would be very happy in seeing you all here and divide with you plentifully for your support until you could provide otherwise. We now have more open land than we can cultivate to advantage. You would be able to make a bountiful support with moderate labor if you were able to stand our climate.

Yours &c
Septimus Scholl

* * *

To Rodney M. Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri
April 8, 1849

Dear children:

I once more send you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at this time, which is a blessing we generally enjoy since our misfortune in '47 which mars the most of my earthly happiness, for every time I pass the spot where Joseph is deposited in the garden or hear his favorite tunes played, it fill my heart almost to bursting and my eyes with tears. I have but little more to write that I expect would be of interest to you, but will give you a short history of occurrences and seasons &c.

We had a little negro boy child of Kit's burnt to death last winter. She went to sleep with him in her lap and he fell out into the fire and burnt his face and skull, then he died in two weeks. Evaline also had a son which only lived a few days. We have three little negro boys lying side by side since we settled here. Our winter set in about the 20th of November last and about the 1st of December the rain, sleet and snow commenced, which continued with very few exceptions until the 20th of March, so that we did scarcely see the ground for four months, it being covered with snow and ice 2 feet deep solid ice, so that stock and men passed over dry shod. A number of horses and cattle were killed and crippled. One of my oxen I got of Silas Evans got crippled and rendered useless. I lost nearly 100 hogs, some calves and lambs. We had to take an ax or hoe to cut our shock corn to feed with. There was a great deal of stock died in the country, particularly government stock and Santa Fe traders, perhaps 75 out of 100. What stock did live is very much injured, some with their ears, tails or hoofs frozen off.

Our city, for Independence is a city, is more than usually thronged with traders and California gold hunters, perhaps 1,000 of the latter. They will average five to the wagon. Their outfits consist of 200 pounds of flour, 200 of bacon, sugar and coffee in proportion and other common necessities, an Indian pony or mule, large rifle or double barrel shot gun, a keg of powder and lead and shot in proportion, a brace of pistols, a six barrel revolver, tomahawk, buther? or Bowie knife and dog. The finest set of looking men I ever saw and the best prepared. Their prospects are so flattering that they appear to reserve nothing they stand in need of. The only object is to get there with a spade, pick, sieve, and bag or box to hold their treasures. All they lack is an outfit in case they should be disappointed. They will be 100 or 120 days on their way. Every later

Watters research

[not in Platte River Road Narratives]

information is still more flattering. Times are very lively now, owing to the California gold. Everything is high owing to the scarcity occasioned by the hard winter. We get fair prices for what we have to spare and have to give tall prices for what we buy. We make fine crops in the summer and have a serious time feeding it away in the winter and our stock not worth as much in the spring as they were the fall before. We may live plentifully here by moderate labor, but make very little money to lay up, for it is like our crops - at the end of the year it is all expended. We know ourselves very little better off than the year before, and a great many worse.

Dr. Combs is not expected to live, perhaps is now dead. Ben Thomson had the misfortune to have his youngest child and only daughter killed by an old sow, literally torn to pieces, dead in a few hours after a most distressing occurrence. Nelson and Eliza and family all well and enjoying fine health.

The last letter I wrote to you was in January past directed you to give the little mare to Eddy and breed her to a horse or jack and raise a donkey for Charlie. I would send him one, only the distance and expense is too great. Tell James O. that it is his turn next.

I had like to forgot to let you know that Milly has a son three months old, a fine fellow. Ev is hired out in town. Betty lives with Eliza, Bob with Nelson. We have the rest all at home.

Grandmother is almost crazy to go to Tennessee.

I saw Jo Huls and Joel Collins yesterday in fine health and spirits for California. No more, but remain

Yours till death
Septimus Scholl

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To Rodney M. Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri
June 18, 1849

Very dear and affectionate children:

I have the pleasure of informing of you that we are all well (except Maria's baby eight weeks old is very unwell and certainly die before tomorrow morning), a blessing we generally have enjoyed ever since we saw you, but there are many occurrences transpired since that time it would be painful to relate, but I will venture to inform you that Marcus started to California on the 1st day of May in company with Cyrus R. Scholl of Callaway, Daniel Muir, Sylvester Muir, Boone Hays, Amazon Hays, Linville Hays, Upton Hays, Gud Combs, Fielding A. Combs, Sr., Dr. Caldwell, together with a number of our acquaintances. Marcus, Cyrus, Daniel and Sylvester fitted out a wagon with four yoke of oxen, 800 pounds of bacon, 800 pounds of flour, 200 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of coffee and three year clothing, good rifles, guns, pistols, knives, cooking utensils and all the necessary tools thought to be wanted in mining, tents &c. They went in company with Boone Hays which consisted of 19 wagons and 60 men forming said company and do not expect to return before fall 1851 and not then if they think it their interest to remain longer. Of such occurrences I am hardly able to bear, let alone write or express my feelings more fully than to quote Nicholson on grief - says it is one of the most violent emotions experienced by man and the most difficult to conquer. An injury may be forgiven an enemy converted into a friend, but grief seizes upon the soul after the loss of a relative with irresistible power and exerts herself

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in vain to shake it off because the loss cannot be repaired and the mind is compelled to wander in a desert where its searches are in vain for its departed friend. The unhappy wandering sufferer lost in misery goes from place to place. The unhappy person seeks retirement to weep, loses his appetite, is careless of dress and views the grave and the gay with equal indifference. He walks without consciousness and reposes his limbs when fatigued by the mere impulses of nature. The brilliance of the sun has lost its charms. The pride of spring and the rigor of winter pass in their fascinating varieties before him unnoticed (may the Lord avert me from such evils). I have heard some of my friends say when it was their misfortune to have an unfortunate child to say they had rather follow them to their grave. Oh, what frail mortals we are. I have followed some of mine to the grave. I have followed some to different countries. I have seen others depart for different climes and every one appears to go the hardest with me, but on mature reflection, let the grave be the last, for as long as there is life there is hope, but when the grave is once closed, all hope is lost and prospect blasted. I flatter myself that possibly some day I may see Marcus, but for poor Joseph all hope is lost and I am an unhappy wanderer and that when I am only able to see one-half of my poor children. Oh, that God give me comfort and fortitude to bear with those occurrences as they transpire.

I flattered myself to pay you a visit next fall but all such hope is at an end for the present, but I hope to live to realize all enjoyments. I am placed here with a large and troublesome family. We have five negro women. They have ten children and the oldest hardly able to feed itself and poor old Jack and nobody to plow but Charles (except poor Cyrus who is almost heartbroken and alone). Mother still continues to be as blind as ever and causes your mother many a sorrowful hour, but she performs the duty of a child cheerfully. She has to be fed and led entirely, but her health and strength is better than it has been for ten years and her appetite and lungs are uncommonly good for a person of her age. Easy pleased as to diet or attention.

We have had a great many deaths in Independence and its suburbs with cholera mostly confined to the California emigrants. Though several of the citizens have fallen victims to the disease, it has almost entirely abated. The Californians have all left and they left the cholera behind them, but few deaths after they left the state.

We got a letter from Marcus 15 days after he started. They had got 200 miles going on in fine health and spirits. There was at the time he wrote 200 wagons in sight bound for California. There were 500 wagons and 300 pack mules fitted out from this place from almost every state in the union and would average about four to the wagon and two mules to each packing and are certainly the best equipped with wagons, horses, mules, oxen and camp equipage, together with fire arms. Many of them could make ten fair fires without reloading. Knives, dirks and one year's provision and three years' clothing and the finest looking men I ever saw, the larger portion enterprising, intelligent men. There was good order and fine discipline continued up to our last report. There was an equal number fitted out 70 miles above this at St. Jo and some large trains out south and a large number by way of Santa Fe. Our last account that could be relied on was from ex-Governor Boggs, late of this place who married a cousin of ours, and his brother-in-law Alphonso Boone who say from the discoveries that have been made, the gold appears to be inexhaustible. The more they get only opens the way to a larger amount &c &c.

We have had a severe winter and backward spring. Our corn came up badly so we furrowed it out and planted the second time. Corn that stood out all winter will not grow. We got corn that was gathered last fall that comes well. Our corn

stands well now, though be very late, say the 1st of June. We have tolerable prospects for wheat.

Nelson is living in the pretty prairie south of us one and one-half miles - Eliza about the same distance, one-half mile of Nelson. Harriet has six children, three oldest are girls, three youngest boys, all healthy children. Eliza has one daughter going on three years old - calls her Mary Catherine. She is a beautiful and smart child.

Kit's child died that was burnt last winter. Kit lives with Eliza. Mil has a young one, a fine yellow boy. Maria waits on mother when your mother wants.

----- Evaline is hired out in town. We have a perfect drop? shot gang but I think we are able to support them if life and health permit.

If I live and retain my health and strength I intend to pay you a visit as soon as possible. It was my intention to winter in Kentucky and Tennessee next winter but Marcus going away has blasted that prospect and when I will have an opportunity I cannot tell - for I am now sixty years of age (November 21, 1849) but retain my health and strength as well as I could expect. We cannot leave home on account of grandmother. She is still anxious to go to Isaac's and he has promised to come after her - I have my doubts.

Your mother says your things are all here yet and in good order and she flatters herself that she will still be able to bring them to you yet, for she has been afraid to send them in the way you propose, and if she should not be able to bring them herself, she will certainly meet with a favorable opportunity before long. I have little doubt that if we live I will be able to come and see you in the course of 18 months &c &c.

Evaline and Maria have both had children and Kit since we came here, but they are all dead except Ry which certainly will die before tomorrow morning.

Septimus Scholl

The baby died since writing the above. We also have heard from Marcus, 300 miles on route, all well, May 22.

* * *

To Catharine Hinde

Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri
July 2, 1849

Dear Sister:

Your welcome letter came at hand a few days ago and found us in the enjoyment of good health, a great blessing. I am now at daddy's. The men are harvesting today. Daddy's harvest hands are few to what they used to be. Nelson, Cy and Charlie are all of his family he has now to go to the harvest field.

Daddy wrote to you a few weeks ago informing you of Marcus' departure for California. He has been gone two months yesterday. We have received two letters from him. They were all well and getting along as well as they could wish. He said that they met a gentleman just returning from California that said that he gathered \$700 in one day. They were at Fort Kearney between 300 and 400 miles from home. His letter was dated the 23rd of May.

You spoke in your letter about us all enjoying ourselves so well, but I tell you that everybody knows there their own shoe pinches worse. It is true I enjoy myself at times but I have trials here that I never knew anything about. Kitty, it was heart-rending to stand and see Joe's last expiring breath and then Marcus

me the ten dollars. I never owed Will a cent and never expect to see him again and Anderson must pay his own debts.

I expect to try and weather out my time in Missouri and all of the rest of the family appear to be well satisfied and if you think you could live here and do any better than where you do live, we would be very happy in seeing you all here and divide with you plentifully for your support until you could provide otherwise. We now have more open land than we can cultivate to advantage. You would be able to make a bountiful support with moderate labor if you were able to stand our climate.

Yours &c
Septimus Scholl

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To Rodney M. Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, State of Missouri
April 8, 1849

Dear children:

I once more send you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at this time, which is a blessing we generally enjoy since our misfortune in '47 which mars the most of my earthly happiness, for every time I pass the spot where Joseph is deposited in the garden or hear his favorite tunes played, it fill my heart almost to bursting and my eyes with tears. I have but little more to write that I expect would be of interest to you, but will give you a short history of occurrences and seasons &c.

We had a little negro boy child of Kit's burnt to death last winter. She went to sleep with him in her lap and he fell out into the fire and burnt his face and skull, then he died in two weeks. Evaline also had a son which only lived a few days. We have three little negro boys lying side by side since we settled here. Our winter set in about the 20th of November last and about the 1st of December the rain, sleet and snow commenced, which continued with very few exceptions until the 20th of March, so that we did scarcely see the ground for four months, it being covered with snow and ice 2 feet deep solid ice, so that stock and men passed over dry shod. A number of horses and cattle were killed and crippled. One of my oxen I got of Silas Evans got crippled and rendered useless. I lost nearly 100 hogs, some calves and lambs. We had to take an ax or hoe to cut our shock corn to feed with. There was a great deal of stock died in the country, particularly government stock and Santa Fe traders, perhaps 75 out of 100. What stock did live is very much injured, some with their ears, tails or hoofs frozen off.

Our city, for Independence is a city, is more than usually thronged with traders and California gold hunters, perhaps 1,000 of the latter. They will average five to the wagon. Their outfits consist of 200 pounds of flour, 200 of bacon, sugar and coffee in proportion and other common necessities, an Indian pony or mule, large rifle or double barrel shot gun, a keg of powder and lead and shot in proportion, a brace of pistols, a six barrel revolver, tomahawk, buther? or Bowie knife and dog. The finest set of looking men I ever saw and the best prepared. Their prospects are so flattering that they appear to reserve nothing they stand in need of. The only object is to get there with a spade, pick, sieve, and bag or box to hold their treasures. All they lack is an outfit in case they should be disappointed. They will be 100 or 120 days on their way. Every later

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Septimus Scholl

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June 13, 1849

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Septimus Scholl

The baby died since writing the above. We also have heard from Marcus, 300 miles on route, all well, May 22.

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To Catharine Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri
July 2, 1849

Dear Sister:

Your welcome letter came at hand a few days ago and found us in the enjoyment of good health, a great blessing. I am now at daddy's. The men are harvesting today. Daddy's harvest hands are few to what they used to be. Nelson, Cy and Charlie are all of his family he has now to go to the harvest field.

Daddy wrote to you a few weeks ago informing you of Marcus' departure for California. He has been gone two months yesterday. We have received two letters from him. They were all well and getting along as well as they could wish. He said that they met a gentleman just returning from California that said that he gathered \$700 in one day. They were at Fort Kearney between 300 and 400 miles from home. His letter was dated the 23rd of May.

You spoke in your letter about us all enjoying ourselves so well, but I tell you that everybody knows there their own shoe pinches worse. It is true I enjoy myself at times but I have trials here that I never knew anything about. Kitty, it was heart-rending to stand and see Joe's last expiring breath and then Marcus

going away was nearly as bad, for I have my doubts whether he ever lives to return. There are so many going to the gold region that they must undoubtedly suffer. When Marcus wrote, he was then in sight of between 200 and 300 wagons. I was at church yesterday in Independence the second time this spring. There has been a good deal of cholera there. When I read your letter I was in a great way to come to see you, but yesterday after church I went down to the river to see it, as I never had been there. The river looked so frightful that it almost put me out of the notion of coming. Ma says that if she and daddy live, they intend coming to see you. They intended to come this fall if Marcus had not left home, but they intend to come as soon as they can, and I would come with them if I was not afraid to travel on water.

From what you write you think that I have nothing to do but pleasure about, but you are mightily mistaken for I have lots of work to do. I have woven me 20 yards of table linen and 20 of counterpanes and have between 60 and 70 pounds of rolls to spin and weave and as to my dressing, I do not outdress the Jews, although we had the Jews to dress us as we had a Jew store in town. I pay for nearly all mine and Catherine's clothes by marketing. I have my butter engaged the year round at 10¢ per pound. Ma says that she has been plentier of milk and butter this winter and spring than she ever was in her life. She sold 41 yards of jeans last fall and has not taken it up yet, so you may know that she is not very hard run. I sold 30 and have 20 pounds of brown this year to make a piece to sell. Ma has 17 pounds of mixed rolls ready to spin. She has 30 yards of table linen in the loom now. I wish you were here to work with us. You can live here as well as you can there.

It is strange that people will impress it on children that if they come to Missouri that they will die. The human family are liable to disease and death in all parts of the world. I do not know that they are more liable to die here than they are there. If I thought so, I would say so, but I do wish you would come and spend one summer with us. I think you might if you would.

Grandma says that she is well but not satisfied. She is very hearty. She says that she thinks of you every day and night. Harriet has six children, three girls and three boys. She calls the youngest James Harvey. The four oldest go to school. Ira Boone is living between my house and daddy. Betsy has five children, one about six weeks old. Phoebe Wallace, Phoebe Muir as was, has a little daughter a year old. James Muir's little daughter died this spring. I want you to write to me when you receive this and let me know where all of Cousin Joe's and Cousin Gillum's children are and what they are doing and what has become of Ed Hinde. Tell Ed that Mary McIntosh has two children.

Daddy has bought a sawmill, a circular saw but has not got it home yet. He intends moving it as soon as he can. You must come out and he will saw you timber to build you a fine house. I think I will make trial for one. You must come and see us all if you will not move to this country. Ben Thompson starts to Santa Fe in a day or two. He is going a trading.

Daddy has got a place picked out for you to build you a house if you will come. It has a first rate spring on the place, but I do not want you to move against your will. I will not persuade you to come if you do not want to come. Rod, Ma says she has not forgotten you and that you do not know how hard it is to have your children scattered over the world. It is true that you cannot help Boone being in Tennessee and Marcus going to California, but you might bring Kitty here if you would. I shall not say anything more to you about coming, for I know you are tired of hearing it.

Catherine has come and got up in my lap and says that I must tell you that she has been stringing peas for her grandma. She will be three years old the 7th of

this month. Rod, you all made a wrong guess when you guess that there was another son or daughter. There is no likelihood of any such thing. She can talk very plain and talks a heap about her Aunt Kitty in Kentucky. She is quite small of her age but talks very plain and she is like Jimmy, her tongue and feet scarcely ever still.

Ma says she has not forgotten Eddy, Charlie and Jimmy. She wants to see you all very bad. She says she is fixing to come to Kentucky. She says she is determined to come as soon as they can get ready.

I have written till I have run out and have not written much either, but you know that I am not smart and it is not worthwhile to make any apology.

We have a quarterly meeting commencing in Independence the 14th of this month - our Presbyterian camp meeting came on in September. You must stop over and see how we all carry on here. Nelson lives in a quarter of a mile of the camp ground. Cousin John's family is all well and none of the children are married, but Jim, Phillip, Dan and Sylvester are gone with Marcus. Cousin Viny can talk as much as ever. She has told since Marcus went away that he is never coming back. The cause is that we all treated him so badly. We all did all we could to get him fixed, for it was only two weeks from the time that he took the notion till he started and daddy furnished him with what he stood in need of, but it is not worthwhile to mind what she says. I do not mean that we wanted him to go, far be it from any of us. He was determined to go and we did the best we could for him. I must come to a close, but before I close, I must say some for the negroes. Evaline's child died in the last of October. It was only three days old and she expects to be confined in August or September. Maria's child is dead. Kitty sends her love to you and Nan. You must give my love to all inquiring friends and receive the same yourself.

Eliza Wallace

You must write soon.

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To Rodney M. Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri
September 16, 1849

Dear Brother and Sister:

Your letter of date the 1st instant came safe to hand on yesterday which was thankfully received and perused and I embrace the earliest opportunity of sending you an answer. You requested in your letter of date 1st instant whether our father made a will or not. If he made any I have not seen or heard of any. I was with him all the time during his last illness. I don't think he made any or I should have heard of it. He talked about his concerns a good deal but never mentioned a will once. He made several requests in presence of mother, Eliza and myself, but there is nothing on paper except a bill of sale for Kit's oldest child to Eliza which she is to be charged with. There has not as yet anything been done or said concerning the estate, and I don't know when there will. As soon as anything is done you shall hear from me again.

We have not had any news from Marcus and the boys since I wrote last. The news from the gold diggings is very promising. I mean they are getting along finely, good health and fine spirits.

The health of our country is generally good - no cases of cholera for a month.

There have been some cases of flux and some deaths since the cholera disappeared. I think we might call our crops nearly an average one. Corn has come out beyond expectation, hemp generally good, wheat crops not so good as usual. Our market for oxen and mules is not so good, the fall traders are nearly all gone. Good horses are scarce and held at high prices.

John Wallace, myself and Cyrus have been engaged in sawing planks on a circular sawmill. We can make \$100 per month clear including our labor by sawing timber on the halves, and we expect to continue this fall and winter. We have just blowed out to cut up corn and sow some wheat and then we shall go to sawing again. The piece of land I am a living on father never made me a deed to it (it contains 80 acres). He said on his dying bed I was to have it at what it cost, as he intended to make me a deed to it for what it cost, as I had made all the improvements on it and you and Kitty could get your share in the other land or negroes if you are willing to do. I should be glad to hear from you soon as I would like to put up some buildings this fall. The rest of them are willing to do so. Let me hear from you on this matter.

Grandmother has got the Tennessee fever and has written to her son Isaac to come after her this fall. She has not received an answer from him yet. She enjoys good health but appears to be very much dissatisfied, but I see no reason why she should be so. She is very childish.

Old Mr. Henry and family is in good health. Dr. Henry got a very extensive practice. He could not attend half the calls he had during the cholera. He was very successful. He tended on father. He is a favorite of our family. He is doing a good business - he stands high as a physician.

No news from Boone for some time. The children are all well. The four oldest are going to school. Boone learns very fast. George and Rough are fine boys. Mother and family are in good health. Cousin Vinia and family are in good health, in fact all our connections and acquaintances so far as I know.

Write me an answer soon. Give my respect to my old friends, your father and mother, and all inquiring friends. We are in the enjoyment of good health, hoping these few words may find you all in the same enjoyment, a blessing which we ought to be thankful for. My sheet is full - no more at present.

Nelson Scholl

* * *

To Mrs. Catharine Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri
January 15th, 1850

Dear Brother and Sister:

I have taken my pen in hand to let you know that we have not forgotten you. It appears from Rod's last letter that you think we have. I know that I ought to have written before now, but I will try and do better for the future. We all are well at present. When I say all, I mean all of our relations.

I suppose you would like to know how things are going on in regard to our father's affairs. I do not know whether you know who are the administrators or not. I will tell you as much as I know about what is going on. Nelson and Mr. Wallace are the administrators. They have had a sale and sold what things there were to spare. Ma kept all of her bedding and bed clothes and furniture and what stock she thought she could keep well. Kitty, Mil and Charles are hired out. Kitty and Charles live with me. Ma keeps Harriet. Ma intends to apply for her dower

of the land at March Court but whether she will get it or not is more than I can say, for things have been managed quite different from what I expected. I thought that Ma was to keep everything until her death but the law would not allow it. Ma gets along as well as can be expected. Cousin Louvina Scholl came up in the fall and intends spending the winter with Ma. Grandma enjoys better health than she has for many years. She is quite fleshy and right full of her jokes. She wants to go home with Cousin Lou in the spring. Uncle Isaac wrote to her that if she would go to Callaway that he would come after her and take her home with him. She is quite anxious to go.

I must now tell you something about Marcus. We received a letter from him the last of December. They arrived in California the 8th of September. They were on the road four months and eight days. They had very good luck in going out, never had one hour sickness from the time they started out. Got all their ox out safe. They have stopped 50 miles east of Sacramento City and intended wintering there. We received a letter from Cousin Boone Hays the same time we did from Marcus, but it was written six weeks after his. Cousin Boone is very much pleased. He says that he does not intend coming back to Missouri. He is keeping boarding house boarding \$3 a day or \$1 a meal. The boys are not satisfied at all. Marcus says that such a road was never traveled by men and oxen. They were not making much. They had been there but two weeks when he wrote. He says that he is going to stay until he pays himself for the trouble he has had. The gold is there but it takes hard digging to get it. Dan Muir says that if the gold was there in stacks as big as mountains and he had nothing to do but to drive his wagon there and load it up, he would not go after it. They have set next fall to come home. Nelson says that he expects to come to Kentucky and bringing his family with him. Ma wants to come with him but she cannot come unless grandma goes home to Callaway. If she goes away Ma expects to come if no providential hindrance. -----

We have had a beautiful winter so far. There have been but few days but what you could work out of doors. Nelson and Mr. Wallace have a circular sawmill down at Ma's. They have sawed all winter. Nelson went to St. Louis last fall and brought it up. The mill that daddy bought from Cousin Boone was sold at the sale at a reduced price. They are making some little at it.

William Leeget? has bought the Staten farm and expects to move in the spring. I must come to a close as my paper is growing short. You must excuse my bad composed letter. Ma sends her best love to you all and says that she has not forgotten you. Rod, I want you to hush saying that we have forgotten you all. It is a mistake altogether. You need not think that I have, because I do not write oftener. You must write when you receive this. Write all the news of the day. Give my love to all inquiring friends and receive the same yourself. -----

Rod, I want you to come too and spend one winter with us anyhow, if no more. Cyrus is nearly grown. He is taller than I am. He is coming with Ma if she comes. Tell Eddy that Ma still has Old Gray. Kitty sends her love to you and Rod and Nan.

In haste, as it is nearly dark.
Eliza Wallace

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To Rodney M. Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri
February 3, 1850

Dear Brother and Sister:

It has been a long time since I wrote you last and must acknowledge that I have been very negligent in writing to you. I don't want you to think that it is in disrespect to you by any means. You must ascribe it to me through my negligence. As to that note of mine, I don't recollect the date of it but as well as I can recollect, you are correct in the amount and the credits that were on it. The time I gave you the note I was living on the Tracy place but the date I can't say. I would send you a new note but I can't give the credits on the note. If you desire a note, I will give you another from the winter of 1840, a blank note calling for \$224 with the credits you speak of on it. I will sign it and send it back to you. I expect to come to Kentucky this fall and if you think proper we can then settle it, as I don't intend to try to avoid paying the balance due on it. If we were together I think we could arrange it in ten minutes, and as to the note you left for me to collect from Ira Boone, it was laid away with father's papers the morning you left there and I have not seen it since. It is amongst them somewhere. John Wallace named it to him and he said as soon as he sold his hemp he would pay it off. The reason why I did not collect it, I knew Ira's inability to pay it off and I hated to push him. I would like to send you the money but I have not got it. Myself and John Wallace bought a circular sawmill last fall for \$500, then the cost of putting it up and the right to run it cost \$100 more, consequently I have not got the money. I may get it between now and fall. If I do, I will bring it to you.

We are doing a tolerable good business. We make about \$8 per day clear of expenses. We can cut about 1,000 feet per day when the days are long. When the logs are fletched up, we can cut 300 in an hour. That is our best speed. We doubt these days more than 500 on an average.

I will give you some California news. We got a letter from Marcus and Cousin Cyrus a day or two. They got to California on the 9th day of September being on the road four months and nine days, safe and sound without the loss of an ox or anything else. They are in the Sierra Nevada Mountains 50 miles east of Sutter's Fort in a small mining village called Weaversville. The second letter stated they had put up a comfortable cabin and had just commenced regular digging. They had been there two months and done all this work and laid in their winter provisions and had about \$700 betwixt them. They dig the dirt and put it into sacks and then carry it on their backs from 200 to 600 yards and then wash out the gold in a pan. They make from \$5 to \$8 per day. They say it is the hardest work they ever did. They are very much dissatisfied and say if they do not do any better when the rainy season sets in, they will come home this coming summer. They say that what they get will not justify them in staying there. They were in good health. Cousin Boone is keeping a boarding house and grocery. Board is worth \$3 per day at \$1 per meal. Provisions are very high but plenty of all kinds in the country. Gold they say is plenty but takes hard knocks to get it and that everything that shines is not gold.

We had a sale of father's property the 9th of October on a twelve month credit. The Missouri laws give the widow \$200 over and above her thirds and leaves it discretionary with an administrator what household furniture. We gave her all in the house, 30 acres of corn, twelve months' provision and stock hogs for another year. There was only about \$600 worth sold, including the sawmill which sold for \$280, \$120 less than it cost. The man that bought it moved to Platte County. The

negroes are hired out till next Christmas. Ma took Harriet at \$25. John Wallace hired Charles at \$75 and one of our neighbors got Milly and child at \$25. Kit was not in a situation to hire out as she now has a fine boy. She is at John Wallace's. It is likely he will keep her this year. Part of the place will be rented out. The debts of the estate will perhaps amount to \$700. Consequently there will be no money when the debts are paid.

Rodney, still write to me as your letters are gladly accepted and read. I have acknowledged my negligence and hope in future to try to do better.

Father did not make any will, but he gave Eliza Kit's oldest child the day he took sick and said he would charge her \$50 and said you were to have Milly and child and said I was to have the place I live on at what it cost and after Ma had her dowry laid off at the home place, Marcus and Cyrus were to have the balance.

Boone he said had nearly his share. John and Eliza have not had only about \$200. My place cost \$450. This is all I recollect at this time.

We are all well at present. Hoping these few lines will find you all in the same enjoyment. I will try and write every time we get a letter from the California boys and give you all the news. Grandma enjoys good health and intends to go to Tennessee in the spring. All our connections are well and the country generally enjoys good health. My paper is full but I could fill another, but this is the general news - the rest would be nonsense, consequently I will come to a close by subscribing my name.

Your loving brother until death.
Nelson Scholl

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To Mrs. Catharine Hinde
Nicholas County, Kentucky
Moorfield Post Office

Jackson County, Missouri
June 28, 1850

Dear Sister:

I have taken my seat for the purpose of writing you a few lines but my ideas are so scattering this morning that I do not know whether I can collect them enough to write any or not. We are all well at present, hoping these few lines may find you in the enjoyment of the same blessing. I have nothing of importance to communicate but I promised Nelson that I would write to you and Boone. I ought to have written before now but it is such a task for me to write that I put it off as long as possible. If I could write like some people I would not mind it, but I make such a poor out of it that I am ashamed for any person to see it after I am done, but you must excuse me as you know that I am not very bright.

Nelson and family left here the 7th of June for Kentucky. He did not know whether he would land at Maysville or Frankfort but I expect that he will be at your house before you receive this. If he does not, you may tell him when he comes that there is nothing of importance taken place since he left. I have not been to Ira's since he left but I hear of no complaints.

Nelson wishes us to make some agreement about the land on which he lives. It is 80 acres of land which father bought and gave to him but did not make him a deed to it, although it was his wish for him to hold the land. Nelson wants the land at the price which daddy gave. If you have no objection to it, sign the deed and we will do the same. Daddy made Rod the same offer if he would come to Missouri, to 80 acres of land adjoining Nelson's. I do not wish to do anything contrary to daddy's wishes, therefore I think he ought to have the land. Daddy said that he