DRAFT

A Letter from Allen Varner



to His Brother, Elias Varner and his sisters

Independence, Missouri April 29, 1849

A Letter from Allen Varner, from Independence, Missouri, 1849

Charles H. Dodd, editor

At the end of April, 1849, Allen Varner, from Indianapolis, Indiana, was encamped near Independence, Missouri, preparing to join the gold rush to California. Though busy with preparations for his journey, he took time to visit Independence, and recorded his impressions of that visit along with news of family friends he had visited, in a letter to his brother, Elias.

The letter is of no great importance to those who write histories of great and grand events such as the California gold rush and the overland movement of the thousands who crossed the plains from the Missouri River to California, Oregon, and the Salt Lake valley in the middle of the nineteenth century. It is, though, a good example of what those letters were like, and it includes some interesting and amusing comments on the overland migration of 1849, the cholera pandemic that struck the country at that time, and vices and virtues that were to be found in Independence.

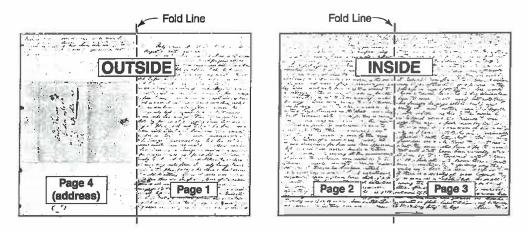
The Letter

The letter itself was written on a single sheet of paper approximately 16 inches wide by 12½ inches tall. It was folded once to make four pages, each sized 8 by 12½ inches. Allen wrote his letter on the first three sheets. Then, apparently, he added a report about his visiting Adam Reyburns and his family (Varner family friends), writing it across the full 16-inch width of the second and third sheets.

Allen then folded the letter to make its own envelope. Finally, if one can be allowed a little creative visualization for this process, Allen added a last-minute note to the top of the fourth page before sealing and addressing the "envelope" (folded letter). The letter bears an Independence postal stamp showing a date of May 1.



The letter was written on a single sheet of paper approximately 16 inches wide by $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall folded to produce four 8 by $12\frac{1}{2}$ inch pages. The fold is vertical, through the center of the paper, as shown below, with the address on the outside.



Note the writing Allen added to the address page; when the letter was folded prior to posting. Also note that Allen wrote some information to the inside, evidently after he had finished writing pages 2 and 3, this time writing continuously across the top of the paper.

Sternation in the first to the a harris for houses horne hurde 1ª Matti 14 binnerthe The suppice source " 171 07 4 7 . tAT 50 miles i one the word of inmedies on the testes. Sin passing along the wind and had to gotting in the Ate treats this morning & saw is many of a cards therewer and the the streets any of 18 that had encamp

As indicated above, the paper was folded once to give Allen four pages on which to write. The last page became the outside of the letter after it was folded for mailing, and the address was written close to the center of that page.

The first two folds that transformed the letter into its own "envelope" were along the A and B lines shown in the "fold lines" illustration (next page). The letter was folded along line A first, then along line B. All folds were made to keep the address on the outside.

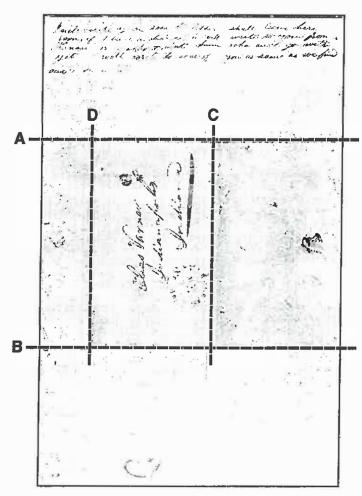
After the A and B folds, the letter was folded along line C, and finally along line D. The edge was then sealed with wax, postage was paid at the post office, and the letter was delivered.

Some Characteristics of the Letter

2

Allen wrote with the formality that was characteristic of his time, as indicated by the letter's greeting: "Respected Brother and sisters." His handwriting also shows the practiced artistry that few of us today take time to learn. Note the flourishes in his capital letters and the leftward swoop of the letter "d" when at the end of a word.

And pendence Mr. April 29th 1849 Respected Brother and sosters This will inform you that I am well



Fold Lines

As was typical of his time, he frequently (but not always) used the ampersand instead of spelling out the word "and" but his ampersands were written in different ways.

to Elias & Merey . Patsy & The Boys

His signature shows a particular flourish on the "V" of his last name that is so different than the "V" in the letter's address one wonders whether the address might not have been someone else.

Elias Varmer Alen Verna

Allen, again as was typical of the time, used little punctuation, and he used it inconsistently. He spelled better (more as we do today) than many of his contemporaries but he used "there" for "their" in places, and differed from what we think is right in others. His capitalization followed common usage of his day, which means he usually did not capitalize the first word of a sentence, and didn't always capitalize words we capitalize today ("methodist" rather than "Methodist"), and he capitalized words we today do not capitalize ("fresh Pork" rather than "fresh pork"). In

those days, the rules we follow when we write well today didn't exist, and many of the people were illiterate or barely literate. Allen did very good for those days.

What the Letter Says

4

A transcription of the letter is provided below, followed by images of the letter at about 70% the size of the original.

The transcription is as close to the way Allen wrote the letter as possible, with a few exceptions. A couple of periods have been changed to commas. Extra spaces have been inserted to indicate the end of sentences. (Allen ran everything together and frequently used no punctuation to indicate when a sentence ended.) To make the transcription a bit more readable, some punctuation and a couple of words have been inserted. Square brackets have been used to identify the inserts; a question mark in a square bracket indicates that it was difficult to know, from Allen's handwriting, what a word was. Also, it seems clear that he wrote "josy" in one place, but the meaning of "josy" is not known to the people who worked on this letter.

Allen Varner's Letter of April 29, 1849:

Independence Mo. April 29th 849. 1 oclock Pm

Respected Brother and sisters

This will inform you that I am well at present and entertain a sincere regard for your welfare you doubtless entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholera. & I think I should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are. the Cholera is here, but not as had been represented to us before we reached here. we arrived within 6 miles of town Thursday. Friday moved to within 1 mile of town where we there is a company from Mississippi encamped on the opposite side of town of whom now are 2 were buried Friday. 6 more were then sick 1 of which was buried yesterday & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St Louis. the man who had come with him told me yesterday that they put up at a boarding house here where they ate fresh Pork and that all the family were taken with Diarrhea, his friend was taken soon after supper and lived till the second morning 7 Oclock & he thought if medical aid had been called sooner would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very common in Lexington through which we passed a few days ago. & in which I found Adam Reyburn & family he told me that it was doubtless the Cholera but in a very mild form, there only having been 2 deaths in the place 1 a negro the other a boatsman it would be nothing curious if more were sick or dying than there are for of all places of dissipation I have never seen the equal of Independence I saw yesterday & to day men lying on the pavement perfectly lifeless to appearance, from intoxication there is at least a dozen bars which are all the time crowded with topers. the[y] keep up a continual jingle you cant pass along the streets without hearing the clank of money in the upper of glasses rooms & the scrape of knuckles on the tables. & in passing along the streets this morning I saw as many old cards thrown out by the side of 1 coffee house as would pave a room 10 feet square I have been informed that numbers have lost all there money and are compelled to return home but from the ridiculous to the Sublime, I was at church this morning[,] the methodist, heard good music a feeling prayer & good Sermon the ladies present with few exceptions seemed to be votaries at the shrine of fashion for taste & elegance of fashion they are not to be surpassed if equaled by any I have ever seen. the rage of the present time is changeable silk the color of a

doves neck with 2 large flowers on the skirt a white silk bonnet trimmed with Ostrich feathers or red and blue artificials hung in clusters from the point ribbons are generally suspended. those who cannot afford this attire dress variously except that the josy [?] is invariably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress, generally white the men dress more for business than appearances but you will see several dandies with their kid gloves on. while singing at the commencement of service the audience were waited on by two splendidly dressed men with golden watch chains swinging at their sides[,] handsome withal[,] each carrying a small black velvet sack suspended upon a plain fine stick of sufficient length to reach the most distant in the The most reasonable estimate of the number that are here is 4000 pew. but to return. including those that have already gone some to rendezvous 12 or 15 miles above on the Kansas [River] and some still further some went 15 days ago on the Platte 50 miles above here they exhausted there feed and had to return with there stock another company of 18 that had encamped west of St Joseph on the Indian lands contrary to the orders of the agents had all their mules & horses stolen by the Indians [They] have returned to their homes [and] given up the gold and if it had not been for a late letter of exGovernor Boggs of this state who is now in the gold region near 2000 that are here would have returned. he writes to his son-in-law here to come by all means but not bring his family he says gold is plenty and easily obtained another man of Lafayette county which joins this by the name of Mclelland advises his friends to says there are no poor men in California Both he and Boggs are men of stern integrity come as I have been told by men personally acquainted with both about ¹/₄ that are going here are the number that will start have mule teams the rest oxen about the same ratio from St. Jo. been variously estimated from 20 to 50 thousand But I believe 15,000 a fair estimate from there 2 honest men acquainted with the journey say the mules will beat the oxen 3 weeks so that if there is a scarcity of grass beyond the pass as we all anticipate I hope we shall be among the first a great many no doubt will return after starting a great many would sell out now if they could our lame mules have got well our others have recruited in flesh. mules & cattle are low now. Respects to friends and best wishes to Elias & Mercy, Patsy & the Boys

Allen Varner

[On the address side of the paper, folded to the inside:]

I will write again soon to Father shall leave here soon, if I have a chance i will write to you from Kansas or westport. dont know who we'l go with yet will write to some of you as soon as we find out, in a hurry

[Across the top of the inside of the paper:]

I was at Adam Reyburns he was standing in the store of his oldest son a very intelligent good looking man a good store John was there preparing for California. has been in the cavalry [?] service in Mexico some taller than me but not so heavy was invited to dinner by Remp [?] but had not time Ann is married Mary a very pretty girl. Bill & Jo in Boonville. the old lady looks better and talks as lively as ever comfortably situated very neat house of 3 rooms well furnished remembers her best respects to all and mother in particular

Independence S? 1. April 29th 1843. 1 Colock Pm Respected Brother and sosting This will inform you that alam well at pre ent and entertain a sincise regard for your welfare you doubtless entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Choles a. * I think I should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they as a, the Pheters is here, but not as had been represented to us before we seached here. we aprived within 6 miles of town Thursday, Friday moved to worthin I mile of town where we now are there is a comp any from Measure for Encamped on the opposite side of town of arhow 2 were buried Riday , 6 onore were thing sick I fro bick was bured questinctor Varather man from Chicago who had also come to war of St Louis. the man who head come with him told me questinday that they put up at a boarding house have where. this ale presh Porch and that all the family were taken with Dearshing his friend was taken soon after supper and live dell The seame morning & Oclock. I he thought if medical aid had been called somer would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very common in Leavington through which we passed a few days ago. I'm which of found Adam Reyburn & family he told one that it was doubtless the Cholera but in a very mild form there. may having been 2 de attes in the place I a negro the other a boetsonam it is mald be nothing regions if more were sick or dying them there are for of all phases of discipation we nevel seen The equal of Independence I some ress for day to day men i ging on the pavement perfectily lifelies to appear once from intoscication These is at least a dozen bars which are all the tome crowded with topers. He keep up a continual juigle of glasses you can't pass stong the streets without

I was at Adam Sughurus he was standing in the sh mon a soort sore form was there preparing for call. heaving the client of money in the upper soornes of the weap of muchles on the table. I'm passing along The streets This morning a saw as many old cards therein out by the side of I coffee house as would pave a room 15 feet square & name been informed that numbers have lost all there money and are empeted to return home , at from the ristinulous forthe Sublime, I was at church Tis morning the meth. - dist, heard good music a felling prayer & good deman the ladies present with fire receptions seemed is Se votaries at the shrine of festion for tate Poligance, they are not to be surpassed if equaled by any I have mer seen. The sage of the prisent with a large flowners on the skirt a white silk formet trimmed with Patrick feathers or red and the estificials ming in ilusters from the paint ribbons are generally suspended, Those who cannot affort This attice treas variously escept. that the fory is invariably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress, generally white The men dress more for business then appearance. but you will see several dandies with their kid gloves on, while sugging lat The connencement. of service The undience were waited on by two splendidly creased men with golden watch sharing swincong at Them, sides for doome withal. each earning a small black veluet sark matheman upon a flow fine stick of suf--fierent length to reach the most distant in The part, mit, To revery in most reasonable estimate of the number that are here is 4000 including those that have already gone some to rendynous 12 02 15 miles above on Mon Howsing and some stills further sime were 15 days ager

The store of his oldest son a ving intelligent good looky & california, has been in the smally similation officier agen-ity some but had not time thing at the stick want a gen-attend on the miles were the part to make the manual period in the Matte so miles some are the is harded There few and had to gotter in the there stock in another empary of 18 that and encamped west . of St loseph in the Indian lands contrary to the orders of the same had all their muly in thorses stating of the Indians have seturned The to their homes given up the gold and if "so it had not been for alart letter of ese Some Temmor Bogas of this state who is now in the gold rigion near 2 too that are here would have returned, he writes to his somer law the \mathbf{O} here to come they all micais but not bring sur his famely he says gold is fluty and easity obtained mother men of Sofayette ilk country which yours this by the name of in Melelland advises his friends to come To says there are no hoor men in Califor a Both he and Boggs are men of stern integ - rity as I have been too by min personally acquainted with both about 1/4 that are going To from here are mule teans the rest orech wis about the same ratio from stefo, The number that will start have been variously estimat ent - ed from 20 to 50 thousand Suit & believe in men acquainted with the fourney say the much will beat the oseen S we for so that If there is a searcity of grass beyond the pass as we all a rimpote I hope me shall be S. among the first agreat many no doubt well no seturs - after starting agreat many would sell 30 out now if they could males & cattle are low a now our love mules have got will our others have where recruited in flish, Respects to triends and best quicke 19 oto Elias & Merey . Patry & The Boys Allen Yarna

Privite averate again soon to Pather shall leave here soon of I have a chainer i will write to your from . Ranaas or weather to don't form who well go writte. yet will abrile to some of you as soon as we find write i a 1.1.1.1.1

VARNER, ALLEN

1

1

Allen Varner's observant eye gives us excellent descriptions of life in Independence in 1849 as he gets ready for his trip to California.

He was successful in his gold mining on Rector's Bar in the middle of the Sacramento River. His brother, Elias, followed him in 1850 but died in 1851. Allen apparently remained in California.

BLUE MILLS (OWENS) LANDING

Blue Mills Landing on the Missouri River about 7 miles east of Independence was the Independence LOWER landing. This view of the track leading from the landing is facing south from the river.

som to Prite, shall leaver here Savile rosate again. Soon of I have a choise i will awaites to gave from . Ranaas is encollers 7 tent to a who music yo will. yet will wish to some of you as soon as we find) Kanaas surt Out 1 10 \mathbf{C}

Ondependence Mo, April 29th 1849, 1 Colock Br Respected Brother and sosters This will inform you that I am well st pres ent and entertain a sincere regard for your welfare gove doubtess entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholesa, & I think I should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are, the Chelera is here, but not as had been represented to us before we seached here. we asserved within 6 miles of town Thursday, Friday mound to within I mile of town where we now are there is a comp my from Mississippi Encamper) on the opposite side of towns of whom 2 were buried Friday , 6 more were this sick ! of which was buread quester chang & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St hours. The man who had come with him total me gesterday that they put up at a boarding house here where. taken with Dearshea his friend was taken soon after supper and live till the seamed morning & Oclock. I he thought if medical aid had been called somer would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very common in Leasington through which we passad a fin days ago. I'm which I found Adam Reyburn & family he told one that it was doubtless the Cholera. but in a very mild form there only having bein 2 deaths in The place I a negro the other a boatsonan it is mold be nothing entres if more were sick or dying than there are for of all places of dissipation we nevel seen The equal of molependence I saw auterday to day men bying on the pavement perfecting lights to appear ences from intorescation These is at least a dozen bars which are all the tome crowded with topers. The key up a continual juigle of glasses you can't pais along the streets without

in)

I was at Adam fleyburns he was standing in the it. the wing of knowles on the tables. 'S in passing along the streets This morning " saw as many old cards thrown out by the side of I coffee house as would pave a room 10 feet square & have been imformed. That numbers have lost all theer money and are competed to return home put from the ridiculous forthe Subline, was at shough This morning The metho dist, hard good music a felling prayer & good Leman The tadies present with few esceptions seemed is be votaries at the susine of fashion for teste & slegance, they are not to be suspassed if equale by any Those and seen. The sage of the present time is drangeable sill The color of a down neck with a large flowness on the skirt a white silk fornet trimmed with Betrick feathers or redams blue estificials hung in dusters from the paint ribbons are generally suspended. Those who connot afford this attice dress variously escept. that the fory is inversiably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress. generally white The men dress more for busines than appearances but you will see several dandies with their kid gloves on while singing at the connencoment. of service The undirence were waited no by two splendidly dressed men with golden watch sharing swinging at Their, sides handsome withal. each earning a small black welfut sack antiperided upon a flow fine stick of sup--ficient length to seach the most distant in The pere. but to return, The most reasonable estimate of the number that are here is 4000 including those that have already gone some to rendynous 12 12 15 miles above on the Rousing and some still further since went 15 days ag the

The store of his oldese son a wing intelligent good to California has been in the doughy service in offerer a part is any but had not time transis married wird a function is and tothes as lively as over important well formula to momente on the Matte so miles about here They is handted There few and had to getter with the stock un inother company of 18 that had encamped west of st looth on the Indian lands contrary to 2.... the orders of the agent had all there muly in Thorses stating by the indians have seturned to their homes given up the gold and if The the it had not been for a late letter of ensone gold region near 2000 that are here would have returned, he writes to his someinlaw. the _) here to some by all means but not bring ant his family he says gold is pluty and with obtained mother men of Jofayette country which yours this by the name of ilk. Melelland advises his friends to come m says there are no poor men in Califor. a To Both-he and Boggs are men of stirn integ. - rity as I have been too by min personally acquainted with both about 1/4 that are going I from here are mule teans the rest oneen wes about the some ratio from stylo, The number that will start have been variouslie estimat ent -ed from 20 to 50 thousand but believe 15:000 a foir estimate from these 2 hours 0 men acquainted with the fourney say the mules will beat the oseen & we go so that 47 If there is a searcity of grass beyond the æ fass as we all articipate I hope we shall be ha among the first agreat many no doubt will 16 seture after starting a preat many would sell "I out now if they could makes & cattle are low now our lance muches have got well our others have 14 sus seconted on flish, Bespects to friends and best prishy to Elias & Mercy . Patsy & The Boys Allen Varna

Independence Mo. April 29th 1849. JO.clock Pm Respected Brother and sisters

This will inform you that I am well at present and entertain a sincere regard for your welfare you doubtless entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholera. & I think I should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are the Cholera is here, but not as had been represented to us before we reached here. we arrived within 1 mile of town where we now are there is a company from Mississippi Encamped on the opposite side of town of whom 2 were buried Friday. 6. more were then sick 1 of which was buried yesterday & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St. Louis. the man who had come with him told me yesterday that they put up at a boarding house here where they ate fresh Pork and that all the family were taken with Diarrhea his friend was taken soon after supper and lived till the second morning 7 O clock & he thought if medical aid had been called sooner would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very common in Lexington through which we passed a few days ago a in which I found Adam Reyburn & family he told me that it was doubtless the Cholera but in a very mild form there only having been 2 deaths in the place 1 a negro the other a boatsman it would be nothing curous [sic] if more were sick or dying than there are for of all places of dissipation I have never seen the equal of Independence I saw yesterday & today men lying on the pavement perfectly lifeless to appearances from intoxication there is at least a dozen bars which are all the time crowded with topers. the [y] keep up a continual jingle of glasses you cant pass along the streets without hearing the clank of money in the upper rooms & the wrap of knuckles on the tables. & in passing along the streets this morning I saw as many old card thrown out by the side of 1 coffee house as would pave a room 10 feet square I have been informed that numbers have lost all their money and are compelled to return home but from the ridiculous to the Sublime, I was at church this morning the methodist, heard good music a feeling prayer & good Sermon the ladies present with few exceptions seemed to be votaries at the shrine of fashion for taste & elegance of fashion they are not to be surpassed if equaled by any I have ever seen. the rage of the present time is changeable silk the color of a doves neck with 2 large flounces on the skirt

a white silk bonnet trimmed with Ostrich feathers or red and blue artificials hung in clusters from the paint ribbons are generally suspended. those who cannot afford this attire dress variously except that the josy is invariably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress. generally white the men dress more for business than appearances but you will see several dandies with their kid gloves on, while singing at the commencement of service the audience were waited on by two splendidly dressed men with golden watch chains swinging at their sides handsome withal. each carrying a small black velvet sack wuspended upon a plain pine stick of sufficient length to reach the most distant in the pew, but to freturn, The most reasonable estimate of the number that are hear is 4000 including those that have already gone some to rendezvous 12 or 15 miles above the Kansas and some still further some went IS days ago on the Platte 50 miles above here they exhausted there [sic] feed and had to return with there stock another company of 18 that had encamped west of St. Joseph on the Indian lands contrary to the orders of the agent had all their mules & horses stolen by the Indians have returned to their homes given up the gold and if it had not been for a late letter of ex Governor Boggs of this state who is now in the gold region near 2000 that are here would have returned. he says gold is plenty and easily obtained another man of Lafayette County which joins this by the name of Mclelland advises his friends to come says there are no poor men in Califor. Both he and Boggs are men of stern integrity as 1 have been told by men personally acquainted with both about & that are going from here are mule teans [sic] the rest seen [sic] about the same [sic] ratio from st. Jo. for the number that will start have been variously estimated from 20 to 50 thousand But I believe 15,000 a fair estimate from these 2 points men acquainted with the journey say the mules will beat the oxen 3 weeks so that if there is a scarcity of grass beyond the pass, as we all anticipate I hope we shall be among the first a great many no doubt will return after starting a great many would sell out now if they could mules & cattle are low now. Our lame mules have got well our others have recruited in flesh. Respects to friends and best wishes to Elias & Mercy. Patsy & the Boys Allen Varner

[Written across two of this three page letter and squeezed between the body of the letter and the top of the page is written the following comment]

I was at Adam Reyburns he was standing in the store of his oldest son a very intelligent good looking man a good store John was there preparing for California. has been in the cavalry service in Mexico some taller than me but not so heavy was invited to dinner by Kemp but had not time Ann is married Mary a very pretty girl. Bill & Jo in Boonville. the old lady looks better and talks as lively as ever comfortably situated very neat house of 3 rooms well-furnished remembers her best respects to all and Mother in particular.

(Written on the back of the last page are further comments.)

I will write again soon to Father shall leave here soon. if I have a chance i will write to you from Kansas or Westport. don't know who weel [sic] go with yet will write to some of you as soon as we find out. in a hurry.

The envelope is addressed to:

Elias Varner Indianapolis Indiana

Transcribed by Pauline S. Fowler 3122 Santa Fe Road Independence, Mo. 64055 10 March 1989 Original in the Jackson County Historical Society Library & Archives Courthouse on the Square Independence, Mo. 64050

CREDIT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

Andipendence In May 16 " 1829 Dearest Mary, -I wrote your lass Thestay merely a few riches to tele you if my arrival here and that I was sacle, I well que yun non more particulars Our Brat the St. Ange was as your may be aware of, unwith with pafaringers bained for balifamicas, afranz a great minister of people from different parts of the U.y and dibelien as usual much drinking of liquars iften to habilang eichent , your may be sine & Kept myself alist; and was sometimes banesame. I repaired havever that my room mater was a Baptain Kirker A real yentelmain and senerble man , an old mountencer and quide who had been riving in the fair well west for the last twenty eight years, and was also quite to and unterpreter to beloval Demphin's army through Mexing to N. Onlivens . He is well arguanted with and family in Sa Lains and Watking he Rome mideo, A. m. , your mays be sine his conversations were very interesting to and instruction to me. In Independence I was lacky to meet what is considered here with very good unaminations, a room and part of a bed, a tuble what is good enough for me at 75 cents of Day board, the last two nights in order to around Late: sime of my soon makes friends , we have been sleeping 6 paranis in a small room with two bests unopfust of unive was unt of the question, and I Avak the precention to have the window haisted, when

and is havelling he must forget the completes of have and put up with the best he can get " The tawn is much up and full of people & believe from every took of the Union, all Irefand in the difference equipments for balifornia , inteed it looks more , what I have imagined , like a Meerian town , many are old having mumbersens that go as quides and teamshers to the different companies , Besites the hatelo being very nowned the daily influce of people from their Sufferent incomprisents around the city which schend for miles, is very great, maily & believe to complete their outfit or prichase what has bein forgotton. Coffee numes and grocences are rowsed, and the many interestions & meet with is really tritrefing to a great extent in This place all have been subjected to , an account the weather having been long and very colde, and the grafi not the 10 th of many , Whether there are not many here who will ever or at least with great difficulty reach Califurnia, an ananot of much mereperience I hear much talked abant . as to the Proneer Line my mund is at ease and I am mule takisfied of shall rearly California save and speedly the owners and their beamsters are repersented with the uninfry and its hardships, their principal quite especializ is and of the best that leaves here, his name is Harris , appearently half Indian. , he has been and old

I commenced this letter on Saturday , in the evening of that day our Harris on if an quites was approximiting well, secret morning early he was taken with the Cholica and in a comple of hours a curps this is a bad lafe to the Princes Line , it will human not detain no ; they have good quives besides . Several Seath by Cholica have ainvied in some comps; and indentand news from But leavenworth is in tarin that there formy Seath amongst the broops have taken place from that fatal desease Minten maning yestering about binnertime une of un papoenjers a Mr Moheen from Billeville Ill. a minister who was with his brother a vailar on his way to belificia, was endering taken with the Cholen and in a few hours a corps . Last night Ar Newhall, who is a reporter here for some recompaper in It towns, a wild gentlemanly man, ment to bed in good health, and this marning was in the againes of the Cholera and is not imperted to recover thead this momant a me Johnson a Dequisityping had this morning The people have are unsiderably fightener; as to might of an not frightened, an however very wieful in my made of living; as & promised you', yesterday & put a flannee thirt on , and to more or day after I shall go and to bamp. How is in miles from here ; and where

a good many have gone this morning clear weather and will no bult decreas the cholera. The sine books "Monto Christs" will be left by Mr Rogers from It Souris, who roomed with me here, at Mr Menther Hore I wish you will take care of the green Porket back of left there, amongst the papers is one, the list of my Selfs. I vive East, I mention this because I might some day want to refer to it . _ . Tuesday May 8 " 1849 The weather Reeps Velightfull, and I hear for nem cases of kholera. Our paperagers are many all your and to the bamp and I think I have yo wit to bany but may not har to marrow thelien I have nothing further to ummunisely, having love to all, the the children to resident metter in this proyers and kips them and especially moder little Sta for me, I with you now a force at least for a while , let us times in god , he will propert no all. yun affectionate housband And Duhning I shall take ivery upportantly to get you be frame me, we might meet perhaps persons coming in to the Makes, and an inch in section I shall write a few lines

Independence Mo May 5/6. 1849

Dearest Mary

I wrote you last Tuesday merely a few lines to tell you of my arrival here and that I was well. I will give you now more particulars.

Our Boat the St. Ange, was, as you may be aware of, crowded with passengers bound for California, of course a great mixture of people from different parts of the U.S. and I believe as usual much drinking of liquors, often to distressing extent, you may be sure I kept myself aloof, and was sometimes lonesome. I rejoiced however that my room mate was a Captain Kirker a real gentelman [sic] and sensible man, an old mounteneer [sic] and guide who had been roving in the far wild west for the last twenty eight years, and was also guide and interpreter to Colonel Doniphan's army through Mexico to New Orleans. He is well acquainted with our family in St. Louis and Watkins LeRous in Taos N. M., you may be sure his conversations were very interesting and instructive to me. In Independence I was lucky to meet what is considered here with very good accommodations, a room and part of a bed, a table what is good enough for me at 75 cents pr day board, the last two nights, in order to accommodate some of my room mate's friends, we have been sleeping 6 persons in a small room with two beds, compfort [sic] of course was out of the question, and I took the precaution to have the window hoisted, when one is traveling he must forget the compforts of home and put up with the best he can get.

The town is mixed up and full of peopel [sic] I believe from every state of the Union, all dressed in the different equipments for California, indeed it looks more what I have imagined, like a Mexican town, many are old hardy mounteneers [sic] that go as guides or teamsters to the different companies. Besides the hotels being very crowded the daily influx of peopel [sic] from their different incampments [sic] around the city which extend for miles, is very great, mostly I believe to complete their outfit or purchase what has been forgotten. Coffee houses and groceries are crowded, and the many intoxications I meet with is realy [sic] distressing to a great extent. This place must reap a great harvest from the long delay all have been subjected to, on account the weather having been long and very cold, and the grass not sufficiently grown to justify any to start before the 10th. of May. Whether there are not many

here who will ever or at least with great difficulty reach California, on account of much inexperience I hear much talked about. As to the "Pioneer Line" my mind is at ease and I am well satisfied I shall reach California save [sic] and speedily, the owners and their teamsters are experienced with the country and its hardships, their principal guide especialy [sic] is one of the best that leaves here, his name is Harris, apparently half Indian, he has been an old mounteneer[sic] for about the last 30 years, he is a fine old man and well known in St. Louis. A sudden death took place here, night before last. M^rCh. D. Gillespie, who I believe is partly connected with the "Pione er Line", at least he was going out with them, died suddenly after less than two days sickness, at times I believe rather too much addic ted to liquor, he got on Wednesday night into a spree and got so drunk that he was taken to bed with "delirium Trimens." [sic] and ended his earthly career in that state. You must reccollect him for he used to live in St. Louis and I believe was subsequently Captain in our Army in New Mexico.

--Oh! liquor, how distressing are the consequences in thy indulgence.

It was raining here all Friday and nearly Saturday, the streets. of course are horribly muddy, the atmosphere is warm, and with almost constant change from the hot sun, damp ground and a drissling rain has brought an increase of Cholera.

I have said nothing of our passengers, they number One Hundred & Twenty, and no more will be taken, with scarcely any exceptions they are a gentlemanly lot but very few from St. Louis. As more passengers than One Hundred have been taken I have made particular inquiries whether all can be well accommodated, and I am well assured that wagons and very thing else has been increased in proportion, and no ground for complaint shall exist. I have chosen my Mess with care.

I commenced this letter on Saturday, in the evening of that day old Harris one of our guides was apparently well, next morning early he was taken with the Cholera and in a couple of hours a corps (sic]. This is a bad loss to the Pioneer Line, it will however not detain us, they have good guides besides. Several death by Cholera have occurred in some camps, and I understand news from Fort Leavenworth is in town that there fourty death amongs the troops have taken place from that fatal desease. Monday Morning

Yesterday about dinnertime one of our passengers a Mr. Moheen from Belleville Ill a minister who was with his brother a doctor on

his way to California, was suddenly taken with the Cholera and in a few hours a corps. [sic] Last night Mr. Newhall, who is a reporter here for some Newspaper in St. Louis, a mild gentlemanly man, went to bed in good health, and this morning was in the agonies of the Cholera and is not expected to recover. I hear this moment a Mr. Johnson had this morning a sudden and violent attack and is dying. The people here are considerably frightened, as to myself I am not frightened, am however careful in my mode of living, as I promised Yesterday I put a flannel shirt on, tomorrow or day after I you. shall go out to camp which is nine miles from here, and where a good many have gone this morning. Since yesterday afternoon we had here beautiful weather and will no doubt increase the Cholera. The two books "Monte Christo" will be left by Mr. Rogers from St. Louis who roomed with me here at Mr. Menkens house. I wish you will take care of the green Pocket book I left there, amongst the papers is one, the list of my debts. I owe East, I mention this because I might some day want to refer to it.--

Tuesday May 8th The weather Keeps delightfull, [sic] and I hear of no new cases of Cholera. Our passengers are nearly all gone out to the Camp and I think I shall go out to day but may not till to morrow. I believe I have nothing further to communicate. Give my love to all, tell the children to recollect me often in their prayers and kiss them and especially our dear little Ida for me. I wish you now a farewell at least for a while, let us trust in god, and he will protect us all.

1849

Your affectionate husband And^W Duhring

I shall take every opportunity to let you hear from me, we might meet perhaps persons coming in to the States, and on such an occasion I shall write a few lines.

The envelope is addressed to Mrs. A. Duhring care of Mr. A. H. Menkens St. Louis Mo.

Credit the JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES Courthouse on the Square Independence, Mo. 64050

Transcribed by Pauline S. Fowler, 10 March 1989

Independence In May 16 " 1849 Dearest Mary, I wroke your lass Triesday merely a few rises to Sele you if my arrival here and that I was racle, I will gue you now more pointerelans Our Bout the Is ange was as your many be aware if, inwher with papengers burns for balifamica, af can a great mineture of people from different parts of the U.S. and & believe as usual much inking of liquars iften to habieform eichent , you may be sure & kept myself aliof, and was sometimes lonesame . I refaced huwever that my woon make was a Captain Kirker a real yentelmain and senseble man, an old mounteneer and quide who had been riving in the fair nuld west for the last twenty eight years, and was also quide to and interpreter to beland Demphain's army through Meens to M. Onlivino. He is well arguanted with and family in the farm and Watking he have milag A. m. yun may be sure his conversations were very interesting to and instruction to me. In Independence I was lacky to meet what is considered here with very grust unanidations, a room and part of a bed, a table what is good enough for me at 75 cents p. day board, the last two nights in order to anomo take sime of my sum makes friends, we have been sleeping 6 parano in a small room with two bed impfust of unive was int of the question, and I Avak the precention to have the window haisted, when

Vertexne Ou Hist. Soc.

une is travelling he must forget the comptants of have and put up with the best he can get with The town is much up and full of people & believe frans every trate of the Union, all Inefeed in the differen equipments for balifornia, inteed it looks more, what I have imagined , like a Meerian town, many are old harvy mumbereers that go as quides and reamshers to the different companies, Besides the hatelo being very wounded the daily influie of people from their different incomprisents around the city which extend for miles, is very great, maitly & believe to umplete their onlych or punchase what has been forgatton. Coffec number and gracences are crowded, and the many inturnations & meet with in is realing distreforment to a great extent in This place all have been subjected to , an account the weather having been ling and very cald, and the grafs not sufficiently grown to justify any to start before the to " of many. Whether there are not many here who mill ever in at least with great difficulty reach Califurnico, an amount of much mereperience I hear much talked about , as to the Pioneer Line my mund is at ease and I am much takisfied of shall reach California save and speeding the anners and their beamsters are experienced with the campry and its hardships, then principal quite especially is one of the best that leaves here, his name is Harris, appearently half Indian. , he has been unk old

in mumbeneed for about the last 30 years, he is afine ald man and well known in SA Lamo. A suddown death Anik place here, Knight before last Mr Chr. D. Gellespie, who I believe is partly connected which the tioneer line , at least he was going and with them, died suddenly after less than two days sukness, at times I believe rather too much evented to liquor, he gat an minesting might into a spree and gat so thunk that her was taken to bed with "delinions " Simens" and ended his earthly career in that state . you must sciallest him for he used to live in It Lines , and I believe was subsignently baptarn in our army in New Merica - Oh: leques . how Instreforing are the consequences in thy insulgance . ____ It was raining here all triding and nearly Saturday, the streets of came are harribly musity the admosphere is warm, and with almost constant change from the hot som, damp ground and a Tripling roin has brunght and mirease of thalers I have said nothing of our passengers, they number One Hundred & Twenty, and no more will be taken; with scarley any exception they are a gentlementy set , unt very few from Is Lunio . les more papengins than One Handred have been taken I have made particular inquiries whether all can be well anominorated, and I am well afamed that wagons and every thing else has been mucased in proportion, and no ground for complaint shall exist. I have shown my Mep with care.

I unminent this letter on Saturiting ; in the evening of that day our Harris one of an quides was appearently well, seerest morning early he was taken with the Cholerse and in a comple of hours a curps . This is a bail lafs to the Proneed Line , it will have not detain no, they have good quindes besides. Several death by Cholera have ainvier in same comps, and a inderstand news forum but Leavannerth is in town that there foundy Seath amongst the trops have taken place from that fatal desease Munday Maining yesterday about binnertimo one of our pafoenjers a Mr Moheen from Billeville Ill. a minister who was with his brother a dartan on his way to California, was entrenty taken with the Cholen and in a few hours a corps .. Last night Mr Neuchall, who is a reporter here for some norming was in the agained if the Cholera and is not repeated to recover Thear this momant a m Johnson a Dequisityping had this morning a endlaw and violant attack and is bying . The people have are unsiderably fightened as to myself I am not frightened , am however very careful in my mode of living; as & promised you vesterday & put a flannel shirt on the

a good many have gone this morning clear weather and will no bould decreas the cholera. he sind books "Monto Christo" - will be left by Mr Rogers um It Louis, who roomed with me here, at M Menker Hore I with you will take care of the green Pocket back of It there, amongs the papers is one, the list of my Febto. I vive East. I mention this because I might some day want to refer to it . _ Tuesday May 8 " 1849 The weather Reeps Velightfull, and I hear for rem cases of Cholera. Our papengers are marly to out to being but may not ha to marrow believe I have nothing further to unmunicate , he my love to all, the the children to recollect methen in this proyers and kips them and especially moder stree da fm me. I with you now a forene at least for a while , let us trust in god , and he will probert no all. Man affectionate hinsband And Duhning I that take every apportantly to set you ber fran me, we might meet perhaps persons coming in to the Makes, and an each meeting I shall write a few lines .

Independence May 1" 1849 I arrived here last night in good health and spints and find that our hain we w not heave here til night Sanday or Monday, the weather being web windy and Insty inter extremity I the sovery wanded, and anominortimes bad, I have been however lucking in getting a good leed, and under all innumerances and satisfied . On the Boat we had been cases of tholes und und buch , un the algune who left a day before us, and which we have bried inderstand funi have dried, here I unterspand few ceises have origined, and a great apal is balked abount it. you prost evenie me of I write but a few lises to day, there is a crowd about me it is impossible to worke. Hip am dear children for me und remen Take my love for yourself be and and believe my traly yum affectionate husband And Duhung

[Transcriber's comment: Someone in whose charge this letter was at some time or other did everything one should NOT do to an original:

They kept the letter folded; They showed it often thus increasing the pressure on the folds; They then mended the torn - or about to be torn - folds with an improper tape which discolored; And finally, someone wrote in ink on the original letter "108 yrs old 1957."

Independence May 1st 1849

Dearest Mary

I arrived here last night in good health and spirits and find that our train will not Leave here till next Sunday or Monday. the weather being cold windy and Dusty, indeed extremely disagreable. [sic] This place is very crowded, and accommodations bad. I have been however lucky in getting a good bed, and under all circumstances am satisfied. On the Boat we had two cases of Chrlow [sic] and one died, on the Algoma who left a day before us, and which we passed , I understand four have died, here I understand few cases have occurred, and a great deal is talked about it.

You must excuse me if I write but a few lines to day, there is a crowd about me it is impossible to write

Kiss our dear children for me and remember me to all. Take my love for yourself be in good spirits and believe me truly Your affectionate husband

And/^W Duhring

Envelope addressed to Mrs. A. Duhring care of W. A. H. Menkens St. Louis Mo.

Credit to JACKSON COUNTY (MO.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES Courthouse on the Square Independence, Mo. 64050

Transcribed from the original letter by Pauline S. Fowler 3122 Santa Fe Road Independence, Mo. 64055 10 March 1989 [Transcriber's comment: Someone in whose charge this letter was at some time or other did everything one should NOT do to an original:

They kept the letter folded; They showed it often thus increasing the pressure on the folds; They then mended the torn - or about to be torn - folds with an improper tape which discolored; And finally, someone wrote in ink on the original letter "108 yrs old 1957."

Independence May 1st 1849

Dearest Mary

I arrived here last night in good health and spirits and find that our train will not Leave here till next Sunday or Monday. the weather being cold windy and Dusty, indeed extremely disagreable. [sic] This place is very crowded, and accommodations bad. I have been however lucky in getting a good bed, and under all circumstances am satisfied. On the Boat we had two cases of Chrlow [sic] and one died, on the Algoma who left a day before us, and which we passed , I understand four have died, here I understand few cases have occurred, and a great deal is talked about it.

You must excuse me if I write but a few lines to day, there is a crowd about me it is impossible to write

Kiss our dear children for me and remember me to all. Take my love for yourself be in good spirits and believe me truly Your affectionate husband

And/^W Duhring

Envelope addressed to Mrs. A. Duhring care of W. A. H. Menkens St. Louis Mo.

Credit to JACKSON COUNTY (MO.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES Courthouse on the Square Independence, Mo. 64050

Transcribed from the original letter by Pauline S. Fowler 3122 Santa Fe Road Independence, Mo. 64055 10 March 1989

One page only

Acc: 74-164 Loc: -257 A175/1F19 ALS

Varner, Allen Independence, Mo. to Varner, Silas Indianapolis, Ind.

April 29, 1849

This will inform you that I am well at present and entertain a sincere regard for your welfare you doubtless entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholera. & I think I should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are. The cholera is here, but not as bad been represented to us before we reached here. we arrived within 6 miles of town Thursday. Friday moved to within 1 mile of town where we now are there is a company from Mississippi encamped on the opposite side of town of whom 2 were buried yesterday & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St. Louis the man who had come with him told me yesterday that they put up at a boarding house here where they ate fresh Pork and that all the family were taken with Diarrhea his friend was taken soon after supper and lived till the second morning 7 o'clock & he thought if medical aid had been called sooner would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very mixis common in Lexington through which we passed a few days ago. & in which I found Adam Reyburn & family he told me that it was doubtless the Cholera but in a very mild form there only having been 2 deaths in the place 1 a negro the other a boatsman it would be nothing carious if more were sick or dying than there are for of all places of dissipation I have never seen the equal of Independence. I saw yesterday & today men lying on the pavement perfectly lifeless to appearances from intoxication there is at least a dozen bars which are all the time crowded with topers. they keep up a continual jingle of glasses you cant pass along the streets without hearing the clank of money in the upper rooms & the wrap of knuckles on the tables. & in passing along the streets this morning I saw as many old cards thrown out by the side of 1 coffee house as would have a room 10 feet square I have been informed that numbers have lost all their money and are compelled to return home but from the ridiculous to the Sublime. I was at church this morning the methodist, heard good music a feeling prayer & good sermon the ladies present with few exceptions seemed to be votaries at the shrine of fashion for taste & elegance of fashion they are not to be surpassed if equaled by any I have ever scen. the rage of the present time is changeable silk the color of a dove's neck with a large flowers on the skirt a white silk bonnet trimmed with Ostrich feathers or red and blue artificials hung in clusters from the paint ribbons are generally suspended. those who cannot afford this attire dress variously except that the josy is invariably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress. generally white the men dress more for business than appearances but you will see several dandies with their kid gloves on while singing at the commencement of service the audience were waited on by two splendidly dressed men with golden watch chains swinging at their sides handsom withal, each carrying a small black velvet sack suspended upon a plain fine stick of sufficient length to reach the most distant in the pew.

NOTE: According to a letter of historian Merrill Mattes, March 24, 1982, the original of the May 2 Varner letter is in the Huntington Library. They have a facimilie of the April 29th letter which is credited to the Jackson County Historical Society. It is not known if the Huntington has either the originals or copies of the remaining letters.

Credit should be given to the Huntington Library when citing the May 2nd letter. Permission to cite must be given by the Huntington Library.

Ondependence Ma: April 29th 1849, 1 Colock Pm Respected Brother and sosters This will inform you that I am well at pres ent and entertain a sincise regard for your welfare gove doubtess entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholesa, & I think I should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are, the Chelera is here, but not as "had been represented to us before we reached here we assured within 6 miles of town Thursday, Friday moved to within I mile of town where we now are there is a comp -any from Missessippe Encamped on the opposite side of town of avhour 2 were buried Friday . 6 more were then sick I of which was bured yesterday & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St Louis. The man who had come with him told me gesterday That they put up at a boar ding house here where They ate frish Pord and that all the family were taken with Dearshes his friend was taken soon after supper and live till the seamed morning & Oclock. I he thought if medical aid had been called somer would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very common in Leasington through which we passad a five days ago. I'm which I found Adam Reyburn & family he told one that it was soultless the Cholera but in a very mild form there only having bein 2 deaths in The place I a negro the other a boatsman it is would be nothing equine if more were sick or dying than there are for of all places of dissipation The nevel seen The equal of molependence I sand mesterday to day men bying on the parement perfecting lifeless to appearance, from interescention these is at least a dogen bars which are all the time crowded with topers. The key up a continual juigle of glasses you can't pass along the stricts without

in

I was at Adam Supported he was standing in the stor hearing the clank of money in the upper rooms a the work of knowles on the tables. "I in passing along 1. 2. . The streets This morning " sam as many old cards thrown 1.1. out by the side of 1 coffee house as would pave a of room 10 feet square & me been informed that The state Ŷ numbers have lost all fores money and are competed To return home what from the ridiculous forthe ; · · · · Subline, was at aburch This morning The methy .12 - dist, heard good music a felling fragers to good Server -1.1. the tadies present with fine escaptions seemed to 91 be wataries at the stisine of fashion for taste p. & sligance they are not to be suspised if equale - he by any I have en seen. The sage of the present h time is changeable silk The color of a down neek chi with a large florners on the skirt a white silk Cor fornet trimmed with Batrick feathers or redand cle blue artificials , hung un ilusters from the paint 20 ribbons are generally suspended, Those who Br cannot afford that attere dries variously escept 200 that the tosy is invasiably worn by the young ati in the absence of a new dress. generally white fri The men dress more for busines than appearance. aly but you will see several dandies with Their hid gloves on, while singing bet The conveneement Aha -ed of service the audience were waited on by two 15. splendidly dressed men with golden watch chain mi swinging at There, sides handsome withal. mi each earning a small black velut sack 4 with which upon a plain fine stick of sup 1-0 ficient length to reach the most distant in 271 The per , but to return , The most reasonable seti estimate of the number that are here is 4000 out including those that have already gone some non to rendymous 12 12 15 miles above on the Rousing re and some still further since wen is 15 days as to El

Le store of his oldese son a my intelligent wood hi california, has been in the and the service in Hilsser son to any but had not time for the situated ward a for a dand the so lively as over the best respect of the Mother on the Platte so miles about here they escharsted there year and had to seture with there stock inother company of 18 that had encamped west 22-22 of st looth on the Indian lands contrary to the orders of the agents had all their muly and & horses station by the indians have seturned to their homes given up the gold and if The. it had not been for a late letter of engone the Lemmon Boygs of this state who is now in the gold rigion near 2000 that are here would pour returned, he writes to his somenlaw E here to come by all minis but not bring ' and his family he says gold is pluty and easily obtained mother men of Jofayette country which yours this by the name of ilk. Melilland advises his Friends to come n says there are no poor men in Califor. a T Both-he and Boggs are men of stern integ - rity as I have been too by min personally acquainted with both about 1/4 that are going from here are mule teans the rest oneen 2 we about the same ratio from stefo, the minks that will start have been mariously estimate ent - ed from '20 to 50 thousand But I believe 15.000 a foir estimate from these 2 hours -19 men acquainted with the fourney say the mules will beat the oseen 3 we go so that w if there is a secrety of grass beyond the pass as me all anticipate I hope we shall be R les : among the first agrest many no doubt will siture after starting a great many would sell out now if they could makes & cattle are low A. to Elias & Merey Patsy & The Brys Allen Varna to Elias & Mercy . Patsy & The Brys

I will avsite again soon to Forther shall leave here soon if I have a chance i will write to your from Kanoas or excellent, don't some who well you will: you will write to some of you as soon as we fin you as soon as we find un a haisi our

Sordiependence Mo. May 2nd 1899 Respected Jarento This will inform you that I am well except my eyes are very sor and have been for the last 2 days caused by the wind and dust I hope you are well, we reached here Friday & wrote to Elias sunday we had good soads dunce I wrote, crossed the misson river a glascon on my bisth day. had squalls of snow on the two preceding days, since then dry weather but quite cool, com is generally linch high an best country detween glascow and here a distance of go miles evere sam. stopped at attam they have in Lessington all well and very comfortably situs to send These best respects to all , and other to Mother in he . timber. Lesengtoniquite a bisines place But didependence takes the lead the square not quite so large as your init house squere has horses and miles hiteled around it as Thick as they can stand the streets are pouled in The side walks erounded like Indianspolis on The lie. dogs 4 or 5000 persons will have This form a great many are returning . and had it not her for the litters m' exgonernor Boggs and Mc lellow 2000 more would have followed their woomple, I wish they had, For the probability is that there will be a searcity. gives through the south pass and some distance and But as me go with mites and shall be among The 152 about one fourth how muchs, much are gardenill low here now, our smallest as seascely was the so muy here as can faid for them, but we twere questinday " Speciel \$350.00 for our Stest; wagous are low in could have fitte out cheapest here Brow 5- ats

Nov 12th 1849. Section 1 B. Rectors Bar; north branch of the middle fork of the Lacromento good health night on a floor for smonths Rispected Brother & friends There Shall continue to sirile so you will hear from me unliss there is a miserable state of affairs in the Til department 56 weeks ago I come here, have worked 24 days at an owner a day to board 12 days ago to commenced raining and has rained ago to commenced raining and has rained three fourths of the time since the stream three fourths of the time since the stream is chigh river operations suspended of course so grother man & myself commenced in a bank to between showers we have been nicte breky the first half day we took our the miset worked an hour at non Two other days we made Ho apiece each they and to day while my partner was day and to day place to our cabin I went building a fire place to our site solution alone and dug and washed out \$108,00 coarse gold before noon But I worked all afternoon and got but & and must all afternoon and got but & and must that we worked hard one day and sai that we worked hard one day and had but twenty dollars to divide at night Bit S. Churn you another leaf

If your had been here for a week you might have seen is trying in our tent or cooking our grick in the sain which by the by Not us four dollars a day 10 the man we have dried fruit which which i worth \$1.50 to per pound flows \$1.10 Pork 1.25 Beans 90 Sugar from & 1. of to 125 Potatoes and Carons are \$ 2:000 pes pound there are no bushels here to it a man eat he must work as the interest molustrious persons average "about hurles dollars sondustrious persons average "about hurles dollars have board on this stream." which is better that they do as most places which is better that they do as most places te difficult transfortation arrow the sugged The diff sather mountains between here and shiples or Bis of sutters Mill' which lies 35 milis you thank from hire hould come to California They will find me here neset season mothing happens as the gold is in large pieces of placeties here than any place of anon I will send enclosed on average sized fier I have taken out a considerable nin piceis weighing from from two to each there is searcely any fine to such as desint in a former me gold here ali work hard live rough (For there is no Asistocra to contrad with here for 10 or 12 dellars a de let him come for he can generally make the

But after meset season it will be less The mines are on the decrease tolerably rapid But will not the eschausted in a century But the reason so many get tited and lieve is because they have not energy anough luck or because they have a few days good luck and after that will not work for common I have about \$800,00 for which I could get a I have about do not for would only get 16 Check It send it home But would only get 16 dollars per ownee that way It the gold I have will be worth for 21 at the Rew Orleans mint or any be worth the states so shall try to bring some other in the states so shall try to bring some not be disappointed The have health I think I shall not be disappointed The have had no enno yet here but there is snow on the mountains not yet here but there is snow on the mountains not 4 miles distant grizzby bears are there but an in a Bar fight that suits me better, them & the had mule drivers for it they have a contest occasion . ally we have a tolerable comfortable but & The wolves will steal no more meat from as but They got & pounds last night after at an Hrenes, They got & pounds last night after at an Hrenes, "This letter will be mailed perhaps, at an Hrenes, "This letter will be mailed starts in the morning "Jhis letter point a friend starts in the morning "for which point a friend starts in the morning "for which point a friend starts in the morning for women place one at that place one to sacramento sty. another to Colours as soon as you receive this Postage will be nothing compa as you receive this Postage will be nothing compa and with the satisfaction it's would give mic. Give my bestrespects the my friends Tell there and as storet & hearts as a over was The and have not seen a sick man, that a woman the sick or well in 6 weeks with due respect yours Allon Terner

Van Francisco Aug 29th 1851 Respected Sister I now write To you lender different , feelings from what I ever have, it is now mearly a month since we have lost? all that? -has made -life in California agreechte to me you have no doubt already heard the Lad news of Elias death He particulars of his sidenes I have written in two litters, O Pater you -know what I feel, The manner in which he tore his sad fat was his From the time he was taken worse. (which was between 3 you weeks before to deed) the seemed to think his recovery. doubtful, yet he said he was annious To live to see his friends, in still. continued the have hopes until 6 hours tegore he breathed his last, people that saw him two weeks before Thought he could not him. town a few days I mener gave up hips until 4 days before I had tried to appear chinful until then; The then asked me my opinion, I had noticed him look inquiningly it me before, I then told him I had but little hopes_

The Da had directed that he should take. Cerjenne pepper any Two hours co a stimulus He was avers to liking it I had bound great defficilty in getting him to Take as man as the In directed The De Then told one The to willow gave him more he could not here 24 hours, I told him so, He This said he would take every thing I wished But it would not all do, he asked me hourly how his puber was It said it all depended on me The said he thnew I was doing all I could & colat I thought best, & would do almost energetting I wished I told him that he could not live I that god alone could spechim The seemid to know it of the called on his Lord & Maker said he was sorry he had been a dinner said he wished to meet his friends in Flacen he danced the last as a last as a person could be that sugaring as made frain he was prefection destand to the last the fait depart find his feel gitting cold at sure list begin to such them he would say

Hurry Thing it all depends on you I had neve left him searcely an how in two weeks & for 10 days. had hardly slept that many hours you I fill as though I could stand any Thing intil the night before he died when I sow him going so fast I could not help giving way to any feelings, He said, don't Allen its no rise to do so, many sim speak so calm & rational I third to nerve myself + kept turning him alwoot continual until he know as well as I that his last how was come he took my hand in his I held it till his heart was still in death his last, look was at me he looked tike was aslells when his ages were closed, But fromthe Tome when he breathed his last It semmed to me I could not stay I som came back, list it seemed take he was gome, his countinance looked actural but at did not seem the him The was huried at Mappa in a decent colour lined with white I covered with black carth I am going to get a marble Similatione but all this is no satisfaction the me

Rectors Bur, North branch of the middle fork of the sacramento Dec 16the 1849. Respected Parents I am glad to tell you, that I am well in doing well; & days agod received! & your letter mailed August 19th it being. the first time I have heard from you since Slift glad to hear from you all well S Although your crops were blighted I am now where one found of flour will sell for as much money as 100 of yours yet I am in no danger nor fear of starring I have got one thousand dollars in gold dust and three hundred los of provisions notich are worth fire hundred dollars here; I live in a comportable cabin with two messmates one of achine avork with - he has been in the mines since carly last spring is a stort indus trious olever fellow Samalie boys for 3 months . K. Downard D flenny Got were then some what univell I have not sier a sien man since & left this This postion of the country is remarkable I am told the searny is quite prevalent in some parts of the mines; but one of my meanmates being quite a hunter we have

have had plenty of ficsh verison and are as healthy as need be I sleepson a bedite The cords of which are boards The herdeling a buffalo robe & blankets we have good flour Posk remison bearis rice sugar coffee tea & dried Finit: Provisions are high now on account of evetra demand for winter stock but large quantitus are as runing from Orregon Chili & the state, more men are leaving than coming, wages are gracheally on the decrease throughought the mine Though There are still some lucky fellows though let on say I have made more for the time than the mast of Them there is money to be made here but I would not adviseany one who is pond of comport to barter it for what he can make here it will cost amon \$600,00 to come & setus - in the cothing and that is more than some would make here without they were compelled to let no friend of mine come by any other route unless they come in a party of sor 10 ship to sera trug there but a horse Lach take one change of light slotting by way of Messico city Inatelaharro To San Blas or Mazattan There reship for Francisco This is a good route in the winter of the comp have an Interpreter bordes & traveling expenses are cheap but the time saved by the isthmus outweights the exchance

mother you reproached me for not writing at It Lasami, I did write to postpay the -letter for without I could not scritt it thanks to you for Post paying the one you sent me you need not dy so any more postage is no offsot north me I don't pay for those Novsite it is anough for those Reed how those last it appears you have usitten one to me before sohich & have not sied I norite to you one a month besides to others the mails are so irregular you roray not receive Them if you don't do not be uncarry for my a messmates know your address and will write to you it my accilent should veree and spend the time in noriting & methat you wood lot & pind in gloomy reflictions about my suclfare direct your letters to Goloma constationarrante city an 35 miles Northeaste of Goloman shall remain here till neset fall and if I have as good lick as I expect shall start home late in the fall or first of dee. so that I hope to be nome in two years from the time & left one half of which will have elapsed by the time you receive This Hos lack of 2000 concest subscribe my self ... with due respect your son To his parents Allen an my lest richerts to friendy; glad to hear of your having my caterned friend to teach School,

fore of his oldese son a very intelligent good to formia has been in the sought service in Albaco son formia has been in the sought is married hard a very sent but had not time ton is situated very alet how that so lively as over apportant well fremented some man in the Matte 50 miles above here They escharstad This few and had to setter with there stock un inother company of 18 that had encamped wist of St Joseph on the Indian lands contrary to the orders of the agents had all their mu To their homes ain up the gold and to their homes given up the gold an to had not been for alate this of the gold rigion near 2,000 that are here moule have returned, he waits to his son int here to come by all mining but not bring his family he says gold is pluty and easity obtained mother men of Sofayith country which joins this by the name of Melelland advisio his friends to come to says there are no poor min in California Both-he and Boggs are men of stern in rity as I have been told by men persona acquainted with both about 14 that are gon from here are mule teams the rest one of about the some ratio from stefo, The sum to that will start have been variously estimo und ed from 20 to 50 thousand but thehem 15000 a fair estimate from there 2 hours min acquainted with the fourney say the mules will beat the oseen S we for so that if there is a searcity of grass beyond the fass as we all articipate I hope we shall be among the first agreat many no doubt will seture often starting a great many would sell Do out now if they could mules & cattle are low now our lane mules have got well our others have seconted on flish, Bespects to friends and best wishe Elias & Merey. Patry & The Boys Allen Varne

Junes of Adam fleyburns he was standing of the ca sorap of knuckles on the tables. I in passing along a streets This morning I saw as many old cards thrown out by the side of I coffee house as would pave a. norm 10 feet square I have been informed that numbers have lost all there money and are compete to return home that from the ridiculous tenthe Sublime I was at shurch This morning The metho dist, heard good music a felling prayer & good dem chadies present with fin escaption seemed to. be votories at the shrine of fashion for taste Feligance, they are not to be suspeased if equaled by any Thome wer seen. The sage of the present Time is changeable silk The color of a down neck with a large flowners on the skirt a white silk the ortificials hing in elesters from the paint. riftons are generally suspended, Those who connot afford thes attice dries variously escept. that the fory is invariably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress. generally white The men dress more for busines than appearance but you will see several dondies with their hid gloves on while singing be the commencement of service the andience were waited on by two splindidly dressed men with golden watch shair swinging at There, sides handsome withal. " each earning a small black welput sack mithended upon a plain fine stick of sup -ficient length to seach the most distant in The per but to return, The most reasonables. estimate of the number that are here is 4000 including those that have already gone some to rendeznons 12 02 15 mikes above on the Ravie and some still further some went 15 days age

in their def asside with a res. il ane not secre " ve seened. Them you the Danville boys since I left them youch's ago at the Big lear

Preceived your - Cetter thursday mouning under rather scrious execumistances I had sent agamen to Francisco for provisions & letters he was bringe to Francisco for provisions menergy a musical provisions for himself & others had hired turn min north & mules to hack for him they camped at the top of the mountain fastened their males their males the rout a fire and lay clown & slipt a bout Hoeles They were attacked by a party of Digger onching They were attacked by a party of Digger onching They first alarm was poor an astron stroking one . 1." the. Stimulated then the The ast source evel let eas aread wirds hal - taking out the theme brog amiles where the Micoursia only a ship he wind in tast such the my is not En tree וביבר ארביארה cles autile . Areau of barrie man alisang up he was קלות זרקה DINZELLOUT here in the د، بد - دمد در مربع المن مازمد مازمد ماسده Jamo C Emplumon - the sets of call all the the

I will write to some of you as soon as we find Dut I VA & duss.

Nov-12th 1849. . Riedors Bar, north branch of the middle of the Lacromento good health good lick & fair prospects & my first on a ploor for simonities sugh Rispected Prother & friends I have Shall continue to write so you will hear from me unliss there is a micerable state of affairs in the I. D'department. 6. weeks ago I come here, have worked 24 days at an owner a day 85 board 12 days ago to commenced raining and has rained ago to commenced raining and the stram three fourths of the time since the stram inree ouries operations suspended of cou is high river operations suspended of course a bank to between showers we have been a work liceky the first half day we took quicte first dollars apiece the next day gel cach, the neset worked an hour at non and got 27 the next day we got any other days we made 40 aprice cash day and to day while my partner was building a fire place to our cabin I went alone and dug and washed out \$108,00 ld before noon But prosked coarse gold before noon But I worked all afternoon and got but 4 and must all afternoon and got but 4 and must all afternoon and got but 4 and must that we worked hard one day and sail that we worked hard one day and But S. Chim you another leaf y nya si ya si

If you had been here for a week you might have seen is lying in our tent or Scostous four dollars a day to the man we have dried fruit which which is worth \$1.50its per pound flour \$1.10 Pork 1.25. Beens 10 Sugar from \$1.00 to 1.25 Potatoes and Carons are provides found there are no bushels here so of a man eats he must work or The on his money and not the interest which is better than they do as most places which is better than they do as most places which is better than they do as most places which is better than they do as most places which is better than they do as most places which is better than are cheaper in the at makes the difficult transfortation across the sugged shills or sather mountains between here and Batama as sutters Mill' which lies 35 miles youthwest from here hould come to California "They will find me here next season in mothing happens as the gold is in larger " fices of planties here than any place I nois will send andosid an average sized field have taken out a considerable me her of pices weighing from from two to sport at there in ch as sent in a former letter Now any person that can afford to come here; Now any person that can afford to come here; work hard live rough [For there is no Asistocraay to contrad with here] for 10 or 12 dellars a day to contrad with here] for 10 or 12 dellars a day let him come for he can generally make that they make that let him enp et, da e Gierden is 1

But after meset season it will be less The mines are on the decrease tolerably rapid. . But will not the eschausted in a century A great many leaving in dorgiust. But the reason so many get tirel and liane is because They have not energy awough or because they have a few days good luck. and after that will not work for common I have about \$800,00 for which I could get a Check to send it home But I would only get 16 dollars per ounce that way & the gold I have will be worth 1002 21 at the Ker Osleans mint or any other in the states so shall try to bring some to the states; It if I have health I think I shall not be disappointed the The have had no snow yet here but there is snow on the mountains not 4 miles distant grizzly, bears are there but I am in a Bar fight that suits me better, them & the had mule drivers for it they have a contest occasion ally we have a tolerable comfortable but & The wolves will steal no more meat from as but They got & poweds last night after at Son is but "They got & poweds last night after at Son Francis "This letter will be mailed for hafter at Son Francis "This letter will be mailed starts in the morning "for which point a friend starts in the morning "for which point a friend starts in the morning While & direct a letter to me at that place one to Sacramento sity another to Colonna ais soon as you receive this Postage will be nothing compa-and with the satisfaction it would give mic. Yive my bestrespects to my friends The my thanks to my Ennies if a have any tell them I am as stout & hearty as I over was the or well in 6 weeks with due respect yours Allow Varmer - 197 18 A 6 2

ing in their de assincel 17Mille a pias musellan quere mules or beis of not secre of the Danom Micho ago of the may niles lectore the making. Allacese lettic

Rectors Bar, North branch of the middle fork of the sacramento Die 16the 1849. Respected Parents I am glad to tell you, that I am mell in doing well; I days ago d' received your letter mailed August 19th it being the first time I have heard from you since Politiglad to hear from you all well Although your crops were blighted I am now where one pound of flour will sell for as much money as 100 of yours yet and in no danger nor fear of starring I have got one thousand dollars in gold dust and three hundred los of provisions notice has costh. fire-hundred dollars here; I line in a compositable; cabine north Two mesamates one of arhom Suronk with the kes been in the mines since casey last spring is a stout indus Trious olever fellow A have not seen or heard from any of the Danarelle boys for 3 months ? K. Downard D flenny Got were then somewhat unroell I have not seen a sien man since & left this This postion of the course is remarkably I am told the seuron is quite prevalent in some parts of the mines; but one of my meannates being quite a hunter we have 14 - 14 Marine 11.

vare wird Mentag of prish reprison and use as healthy as need be I sleep on a hedsten The cords of which are boards The herdding a buffalo rove & blankets we have good flour Pask remison beans rice sugar copper tea & dried & mit, Provisions are high now on account of eretra demand for winter stock but large quantitus are asrening from Oregon Chili & the states more more are leaving than coming, wages are grachially on the deercase A STATE OF A throught the mine Though There are still some lucky fellows though let m say I have made more for the time than the mast of them there is money to be made tiere but I would not adviseany one who is conder comfort to barter it for what he can make here it will cost aming \$600,00 to come + setus in ing the estimus and that is more than some scould make here without they were compelled to let no friend of mine come by any other route unless they come in a party of sor 10 ship to sina truggethere but a horse Lach Take one change of light elothing by way of Mercico city Jucatela harro To San Blas or Mazattan There reship for Francisco This is a good route in the winter of the commun -have an Interpreter bordes & traveling expensed are cheater but the time sand by the isthmad outweights the exchance

mother you reproduced me for not resiting) at Her Lasanic, I did avrite in postpay the letter for another & could not scitt it thanks to you for Post paying the one you sent me you need not do so any more hostinge is northjart. "north me I dont play for those I sugite it is enough! for those Reed & not those but it appears you have nositten one to me before which I have not such I write to you over a month hesides to others The mail's are so creege las you rozar, not section -Them if you don't do not be uncarri for me. e messmates know your address and will nosite to you of any accident should veril not spend the time in writing Fine that you avoid let spend in glooming reflictions about my suclass direct your letters to boloma For ter saeramento city Nam 35 miles Northers Ca of Goloman shall remain here till nest tall and if I have as good lick as I separt shall start home late in the fall or firstoff deen so that I hope to be nome in two years from the time sleft one half of which will have clapsed concert subscribe my self with due respect nour son To his pasents Mulen arner My lest richelts to pready; glad to hear of m

ing up to callecter to his companions and as he raised another assore struck him in the side as the of presite man spirong up he was arounded achievely in the shoulder while the man who had slipt - between the Two had Fled taking anoth them two mules which they would eat and which them two mules which they The act sould which stimulated them the marched. 120 . . 3 99 -הד להיסך סרסיות טורסי אישור כיור סון עור שרוו ארושל mis of theme ding were allacted by having of aller fursty of allered - مرتبط و مردور مردم ورمان به م (/ 2 0 pan () ال و م ניר עבלר כל יותר ישעות היו לעי לעי וויר אוריור שוורקרי שוור ליי m 717200 unall & others -have -hered here feroussors for . to Francisco for premiaren to letters the render קרות היה הרברותורה בטווברי, קרטין אכווך יהא נריעותי Railier קבין לידי ארחר זעקטים אוו עואררוום קראותקרו ין צרבהוזיברך 372010 . . . (2)

JINO [matter Collichai Jackson County Historical Society, Jakepedines, mo. [A175/1F19] Varner, Allen, Letters to his family, 1849-51. Lac City Dec 12th 1840 Respected friends yours of the 13 " gl ... policied to hear from you old in ma But shall have a mean were " have come less for medicine Fire in in has almost sugar symptom of the se faundice But does not kup his het The cause was cold which he ford rotaile grai to tappier relley " and fund It John Rugh are with as millerer of somewhat compatient about lectors or the nour not dead any 32 mas here " sin days aga got a plough structed (stopked it & they are hloughing non and chance head weet lettle spin de ma me have Potaber worther I fame no Aved a letter too lines from amon's the which says he helends the shart fam in among if so and plan gots a I mile I shall return with fame, But shall not as long as Elias continues unnet the has interests here which he considers demander that the should stay till mesent fait they have a const alle a time to care get our constant man

[NOTE: This letter was only partially copied. We do not have the rest.]



Can Francisco Aug 29th 1851 Respected Gister I now write To you Under deforcent, feelings from which I ever have, it is now mearly a. monthe derace me have taits all mind -has made life in California securi to me you have no doubt - already heard the Lad news of Elios deali He particulars of his sidenes I have written in two litters, O Patters, " Patters -tenow what I feel, The manner in which he tore his sad fat was this From the time he was takin worder. (which was between 3 you weeks before to deed) the seemed to think his secondry doubtful, yet he said he avas inviting To like to see his friends, no shill. Continued the have hopens with Charles before he builded his last legare thought he could not him tride a few days I never your ale wither unity & days before I had third to uppear charful unitil then , He then asked me any comon, I had notherd him took enquiringly at me before. I then total him I had but little hopes

The had directed that he should mell Cerenne peppes every This hours a a stimulus He was avers to the Renny 1.3 I had found great difficulty in getting him to Take as much as the In directed ic Dai Then told me The A conterna some han more he could not here 24 hours, I told him so, The Mun said he would take every thing I wished But it would not all do, he asked me housely how the pulse was It said it all depended on me de vaid he dener Davas, dance all I and & serted I thought hest, & monde do almost angitting I amin I total him that he could not live I that god alone could sque him The seemed to know it of in called me this Lond & Maker raid he was source he had been a dinner and Re. maked to met the prende in The second second second second second second second alle general and the production and the production of the in angenole fairing the rough program the second and the second s مر می از مرکز این این این این این میکند در میکند. این میکن این میکن می ورد میکند در در در این میکند. این این میکن این این این این این این میکند در میکن این میکن این میکن میکند. در میکن این میکند در در در در این م and the provide the second and the second and the second legen to such them be served day

Hurry Thisy it all depends on you I had never left him searcely an mous in two weeks & for 10 days and hardly slipt that maning hours 1900 I feld no though I could stand any Thing instil the night before he died when I saw him going as fasts. I could not help gening way to my feelings, He said, dout Allen its no nice to do no, hearing this speak do calm & rational I third to nerve myady + kept turning him alwood continuals until he his an as well as I that his last how was come he took my hand in his & held it. till his heast was still in death his last look was at me he looked like he was aslers when his ages were closed, But promitice Torre when he breatted his lass It sermed to me I could not stay I down come back dit it seemed the heaves source , his constituence looked natural but did not seen the him The was huried at Nappa in a decinit. coloring lined with white & covered with Black costa I am going to get a markle ismbolience but all this is no satisfaction 10- me

Ondependence Mo. April 29th 1849, 1 Golock Pm Respected Brother and sosters This will inform you that I am well styre ent and entertain a sincere regard for your welfare you doubters entertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholera, & Think should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are, the Cholera is here, but not as had been represented to us before we seached here . we arrived within 6 miles of Town Thursday, Friday moved to within I mile of town where we now are there is a comp any from Mississippi Encamped on the opposite side of town of whom 2 were buried Friday . 6 onore were they sick I of which was bured yesterday & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St Linis. the man who had come with him total me gesterday That they put up at a boarding house here where they are fresh Porce and that all the family were taken with Dearthen his frien was taken soon after supper and live till the second morning & Oclock I be thought if medical aid had bein called somer would have recovered slight attacks were saw to be very common in Levington Through which we passad a fin days ago. I'm which of found Adam Reyburn & family he told one that it was doubtless the Cholica but in a very mild form there may having bein 2 deaths in the place I's neers the other a bootsonan it would be nothing entrue if more wire sick or dying there are for of all places of disspation we nevel seen The equal of Independence I som nesterday to day men sing on the parisment perfecting lifeless to appear once from intose eation There is interest a dogun birs which are all the tom crowded with topers the kip up a contract forge of pleases you can't pass along the streets without

Varner, Allen Letters to his family 1849-SI.

EPIDS/IFIQ

This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

I was at Adam Suphurns he was standing in the sh Talee then me fait not so heavy was there preparing for Ealing pretty girl Bill for in Boonville the old lady looks better that The wrap of knuckles on the tables. I in pasing along the streets This morning I saw as many old cards thrown out by the side of I coffee house as would pave a room 10 feet square I have been informed that numbers have lost all their money and are competed to return home but from the ridiculous forthe Subline I was at shurch This morning The metho - dist, heard good music a felling prayer & good Lemon The ladies present with few escaptions seemed to. be votaries at the shrine of fashion for taste & eligance, they are not to be suspassed if equaled by any I have and seen. The sage of the present time is diangeable silk the color of a down neck with a large flowness on the skirt a white silk bonnet trimmed with Betrich feathers or red and the estificials hing in elusters from the paint ribbons are generally suspended, Those who cannot afford this attire dress variously escept that the fory is inveriably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress generally white The men dress more for business than appearance. but you will see several dondies with this kid gloves on, while singing bet The convencement of service the audience were waited on by two splindedly dreised men with golden walch shaing swinging at There, sides handsome withal. each earning a small black welvit save mithended upon a flow fine stick of supe ficient length to seach the most distant in The first , but to return, The most reasonables estimate of the number that are here is 4000 including those that have already gone some to rendynons 12, 12 15 miles above on the Kan and some still further some wint is days age

store of his oldest son a very intelligent good he Eclifornia has been in the goverly service in Alfredeo so Eclifornia has been in the goverly situated word a lat how is Rempt but had not time fostably well firmished some men in the metry as over comfostably well firmished some men to the Matte so miles above here They escharsted on the Matte so miles above here They escharsted their few and bad to seture with there stock another company of 18 that had encamped west of st Joseph on the Indian lands controry to the orders of the agent had all their muly a phorses stating by The Indians have seturnand to their homes given up the gold and if " it had not been for a late letter of endone mannor Boggs of this state who is now in the gold rigion near 2000 that are here would ipour returned, he writes to his somenlaw here to some by all miais but not bring int his family he says gold is pluty and easily obtained mother men of Joforgette 1k country which fours this by the name of I Melelland advises his friends to come To says there are no poor men in Califord - rity as I have been too by min personally acquiainted with both about the that are going I from here are minte teans the rest oreen vis about the some ratio from stylo, The sumber that will start have been variously estimat -ed from 20 to 50 thousand But defier 15.000 a foir estimate from these 2 hourts in men acquainted with the fourney say the mules will beat the oseen 3 we for so that to if there is a secrety of grass beyond the in among the first agreat many no doubt will seture after starting a great many would sell out now if they could mules & cattle are low 30. ie now our lane mules have got will our others have where sees the merey bats of the koys, Allen Varner

I will avsite again soon to Father shall leave here Soon if I have a chance i will write to you from . aneas or eventhost, dont know m Kanaas you as soon as we find out in a hurs L' Meen S ? Pres 2 12 19 19 and the barries a raids 2.4 all milling on the and the second DECISE DINE TO ADDITIONOLITIKAN apression and a a materia go to ever 1 - see has " produces to a stand and 11 The Criss an So lake of the an and a second and a second they. date with south

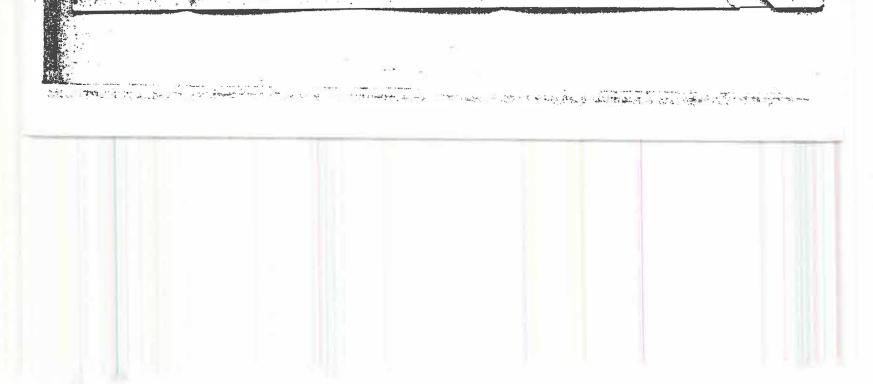
e4-29-1849 fr Indian St. Lehang / allan Vormes Indianapolis/ matter Collector Independence Mo. April 29th 1849, 10, abok Bm Respected Brother and susters This will inform you that I am well at pres ent and entertain a sincere regard for your welfare you doubters extertain some uneasiness with regard to me on account of the Cholera, & Think should do your feelings more injustice to say nothing about it than to state the facts as they are, the Cholera is here, but not as had been represented to us before we reached here. we arrived within 6 miles of town Thursday. Friday moved to within I mile of town where we now are there is a comp any from Mississippe Encamped on the opposite side of town of awhom 2 were buried Friday . 6 onore were then sick I of which was bured yesterday & another man from Chicago who had also come by way of St Louis. the man who had come with him total me gesterday That they put up at a boarding house here where They are frish Porce and that all the family were taken with Dearshea, his friend was taken soon after supper and live till the second morning & Oclock I he thought if medical aid had been called somer would have recovered slight attacks were said to be very common in descington through which we passad a fin days ago. I'm which of found Adam Reyburn & family he too one that it was doubtless the Cholera but in a very mild form there may having bein 2 deaths in the place 10 negro the other a boatsman it would be nothing entions if more were sick or dying than there are for of all places of dissipation have never seen The equal of Independence I saw mesterday & to day men lying on the pavement perfecting lifeless to appearance, from interescation These is at least a dozen bars which are all the tome crowded with topers the keep up a continual jungle of ghasses you can't pass along the streets without allen Varnen, 1849 received for Audicia State Library -Oregal - i Amitig to Lely matta Cleech See enty 663, PRANS Copy also it jack Ct It's, mu.

clint. re C all. net I have a chance, i will write to you from . as a everthost, don't know who we'l go witte will write to some of you as soon as we find Ern out in a huss \$2.3 4 · 5.A

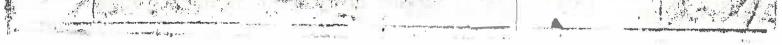


Tore of his oldese son a very intelligent good he liforned. has been in the dowalky service in Alfreder son Remp but had not time Annis married hard a very a talks as lively as over conformed meet fremisted some ment on the Matter 50 miles above here They escharsted There few and had to getter with the stock another company of 18 that had encamped west of st Joseph on the Indian lands contrary to The orders of the agent had all their muly 1. & horses station has the d. Jacks - Comity (mo.) Hist. Soc JCHS to David Vamer See menule matrix Platte Ruis Entry 663 / Roal Harstwes Sadependence Mo: may 2 nd 1849 Respected Parents This will inform you that I am well except my eyes are very sor and have been for the last. 2 days caused by the wind and dust a hope your as a well, we reached here Friday I wrote to Chas sunday we had good roads almee I wrote, crossed the missour, river a glaseon on my birth day. had squalls of snow on the two preceding days, since then dry weather but quite cool, com is generally linch In best country between glascow and here it of go miles I ever sam. stopped at Atam Buy hun, in Leverington all well and very comportably site . send There best respects to all, and Alles to Mother in h. - Troubar. Desengtonisquite a busines place But didependence Takes The liad the square not quite so large as your court house squere has horses and mules hiteled around , t so Thick as they can stand the streets are gow bid and To side walks erouded like Indianapolis no manules 10 yo 1 12 5000 persons will have This point a great income are returning, and had it not her for the letters in exgonermor laggs and Melland 2000 more would have followed there examples wish they had, san had the is that the well for a sign of was brough The south pass and dome bustanne and as more for north mites and shall be among the po cont one foresthe have mucho, mucho are gover. in leve nour, and smallest 12 souscely and the here as the fait the there but mere nor and Apreced 350.08 for nes Sheat; ungors use low no 1011 Pd how fitte out cheapest hore Bavon 5- 0ts

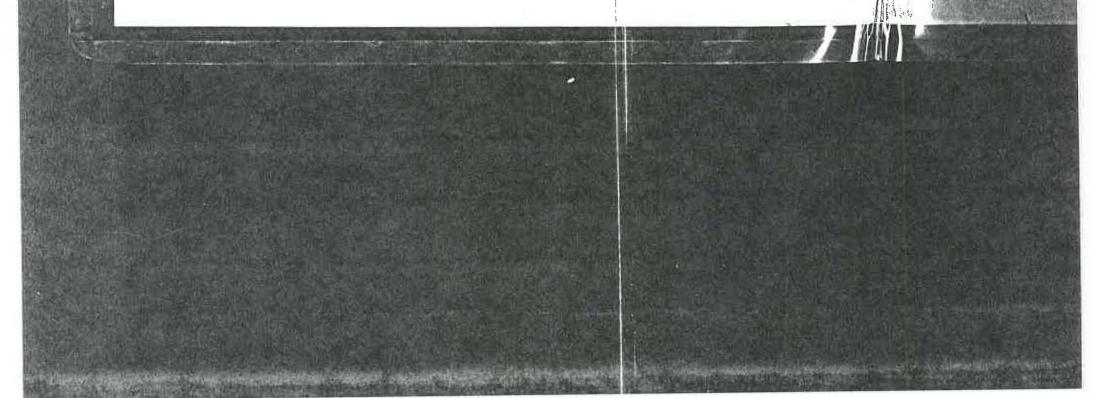
Twas at Adam fugherers he was standing in The manya good store John was There prepareine for pretty gire Bill & for a Boonoilles the old lady looks the E sorap of knuckles on the tables. I'm passing along the streets This morning I saw as many old cards thrown out by the side of I coffee house as would pave a n 15 feet square I have been informed that numbers have lost all their money and are empete to return home that from the ridiculous forthe Subline I was at church This morning The methy dist, heard good music a felling prayer & good Len adies present with few eseceptions seemed to votaries at the shrine of fashion for taste Feligance they are not to be suspessed if equaled by any I have ever seen. The sage of the present Time is changeable silk the color of a down neck with a large flounces on the skirt a white silk fornet trimmed with Ostrich feathers or red and he artificials hing in dusters from the paint ribbons are generally suspended, Those who cannot afford This attice dress variously escept that The fosy is invariably worn by the young in the absence of a new dress, generally white te men dress more for business Than appearon but you will see several dondies with the kid gloves on, while singing bet The of service the andience were waited on splendidly dressed men with golden watch than swinging at There, sides handsome withal each earning a small black velut save anthearded upon a plain fine stick of sufficient length to seach the most distant in - per but to return, the most reasonable estimate of the number that are here is 4000 including those that have already gone some to rendernons 12 12 15 miles above on the Rous and some stills further some went 15 days age



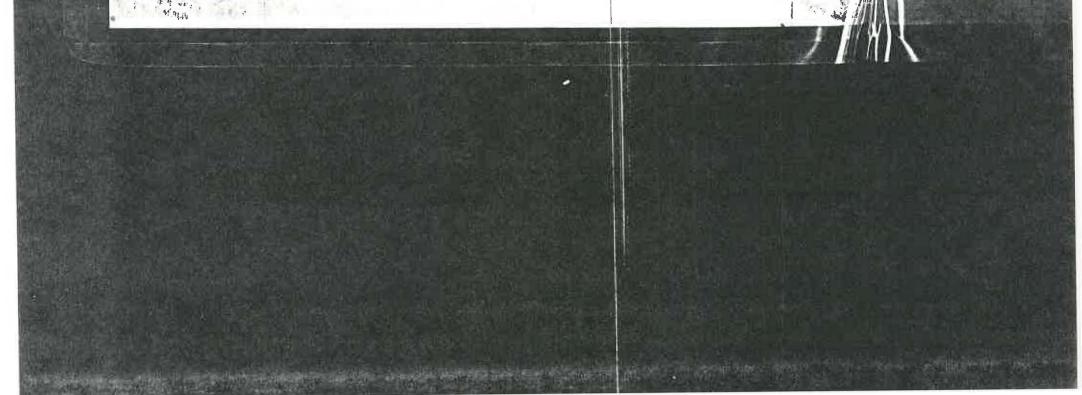
Provide the state of the second second second second and pendence Mo. April 29 and 1 ins ALL . the Choles facts as they are fore we stad sed within re were Total me her on ea red tacks were sa 6 places of - dise olepen ne'd ogen ba a con you cant



I was at Adam Suppurus he was standing in the store of his old Taken a good store John was then pripasing for colifornia has be therety give Bill for a Someries the in the stores to the the has hereing the clank of moves in the upper rooms & on the Matte the sough of smalles on the tables. "In passing along There year a the streets this morning . saw as many old cards thrown another comp out by the side of I coffee house as would power a of st looth room 10 feit square & have been informed that The orders numbers have lost all them money and are ampeled Thorses stole to return home But from the risticulous forthe to Theer . Sublime I was at aburch This morning The metho at had not - dist, hard good music a fetting prayers good des mor Boggs the ladies present with few exceptions seemed to gold rigion be votaries at the shrine of fashion for taste & eligance, they are not to be surpressed if equaled pour setu here to con by any have are seen. The sage of the present his famale time is changeable silk The color of a low neck easily ofthe with a large flowness on the skirt a white silk Country sul bonnet trimmed with Batrick bathers or redain Melelland the ortificials bung on elesters from the paint says there ribbons are generally suspended. Those who Both-he an cannot afford This attice dries variously escept. - ritis as I h that the fory is invariably worn by the young acquainted in the absence of a new dress. severally white from here The men dress more for business than appearance about the but you will see several don lies with their that will . kid gloves on while singing at The convenesment -ed from 20 of service The audience were waited on by two 15.000 a for splendidly dressed men with golden watch chain min dequa swinging at There, sides handsome withal. mules with each earning a small black velut sack of There is mithended upon a flam fine stick of sufpass as me -ficient length to seach the most distant in among the The per but, to return, The most reasonable. seturs ofthe estimate of the number that are here is 4000 out now it including those that have already gone some now our has to rendynons 12 12 15 miles above on Mar Rander recould me and some still further since incon 15 days ag to this show



I was at Adam furthernes he was standing in The tore of his old Taken han me for form the mass there priparing for diformia has be parting give Bills for a Boonville the take leady looks tithe of a tatks as lively hearing the clank of money in the upper rooms of me the flatter the sorap of knuckles on the tables. I in passing along there feed The streets This morning I saw as many old carde thrown another eong out by the side of 1 coffee house as would pave a of st Joseph room 10 fut square I have been imformed that the orders numbers have lost all their money and are ampel Thorses states - dist, hard good music a felling prayer & good Les mor Boggs the have present with few exception seemed to gold rigin to water at the shrine of fashion for teste have set to en & digance they are not to be suspensed if equaled here to en by any There are seen. The sage of the present his former time is changeable silk the color of a down neck easily of the mitted of the second of a down neck easily of the mitted of the second of the with a large florinces on the skirt a white silk Country wh formet trimmed with Betrick fathers or redain Medelland is estificials bung in elusters from the paints says there elbours are genically suspended. Those who count afford this attice drives variously escept both his on that the forsy is investably worn by the young in the elsince of a new dress. generally white from here The mon dress more for busines than appearant about the but you will see several dondies with their that will . hid gloves on, while singing bet The annencement ed from : 20 of since the undience were waited on by two 15000 a for spendidly drived men with golden walch shaw my requar swinging at Them, sides handsome withal. Much will each earning a small black veluit sack for the sup 10 ficient length to seach the most distant in The pure that to return, whe most reasonables when estimate of the number that are here is 4000 but molinding those that have already gone some and to rendynous 12 12 15 miles above on the Rousing and some still further some wend 15 days ag



Le litore of his oldese son a ne oldes d not to ao. on the Matte 50 miles above here They escha There few and had to setter with my along and thrown another company of 18 that had paria: of st Joseph on the eon that this orders of the egent had al to The homes given up the " it has not in mor Boggs of this state who gold rigion have setue ved, he es. To here 10 micas lo is pl to which yours this nd advises his of says there are no poor m i and Boggs are me been told ns. I have ted with both about low here! are mile teans ratio 1 that wi ed from 201 15000 a fair estimate from these 2 min acquainted with the pourney say aich if there is a searcity of grass by out Stantin among the first agreat many no doubt will seture after starting a great many would sell \$ 4000 out now if they could mules & cattle are low mensome now our lane mules have got will our others. How Row recruited in flish, Bestiets to friends and bestquishs shares ago to Elias & Mercy batsy & the Boys, Allen Verna 5 days ago to Elias & Mercy Catsy & The Boys

soon to Father agan some of you as soon as we fin of have a change i will or eventhost dont from a hiss.

