



2-9-1854

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker and children, 1854 Feb. 9

John W. H. Baker

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Recommended Citation

Baker, John W. H., "Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker and children, 1854 Feb. 9" (1854). *Gold Rush Life*. 66.
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Letter 16

Mokelumne Hill Feby. 9th, 1854

My Dear Wife & Children

I make another commencement of a letter to you this evening. I have just recieved your wishes to myself of a do me very much good and with the same Happy New Year. Those wishes ~~I have long ago had for~~ desire I have long ago had for you to have a happy new year I wish you a happy year. I had some fear that I should not recieve your letter this mail on account of the severe storms about the time you would be likely to send your letter to N. Y. But it was detained two days between this place and San Francisco and thus was that time behind the first mails into this place. I always feel anxious to hear that you continue well during the cold and stormy season of your N. H. winter. I am always rejoiced to hear that you are no worse with illness than bad colds. You say in your letter which I have just received that there are two letters due you that you have not recieved. I was fearfull the letter sent by me at the time the Winfield Scott was wrecked would fail to reach you. But that any other should fail to arrive at Meriden is something I cannot account for. for I have been very punctual in writing long letters at the sailing of every mail Steamer. and I can but think you will receive them all but one in the course of time. they may have been sent to Meriden Ct. instead of N. H. and if so would be forwarded to you. A. P. Dudley Esq. arrived in this place yesterday as likewise R. Thompson, his brother-in-law. They came by Panama. said they saw father in Chesterfield when he visited that place last thanksgiving. they are in good health and are ready for business. I finished the payment of my inter st money here last night and am feeling that I can now soon send you a little money. I think I shall be able to send you a drauft for \$50 by the next steamer after you recieve this, which will leave San Francisco on the first of March and arrive at Meriden on or about the first of April.

Letter 16

-2-

I do not promise positively but if convenient I shall do so. I will write you and if the draught is not sent then letter will explain the reason why. Edward Fifield is in the place and I have the fact before me daily of my being a good prophet as I said in my last he would probably see the time before he reached this country that he would wish himself back to old N. H. he has seen some hard times since he came as he has been sick and unable to labor much he is trying to do a little work now and if he is not too unwell he will obtain a little more than his board. He came here the first of this month and up to the time he saw me had seen no one that he had ever seen before since he left home

Letter 7

Mokelumne Hill Feby. 11th 1854

My Dear Wife & Children

I once more commence my semi-monthly communication and although I regret to hear you are so disappointed in not receiving my letters regularly I cannot account for thier failure unless it may be the one sent by the Winfield Scott, which should have arrived in N. York the 5th of Jany, that letter I more than half supposed would be lost, but any other I can think of no reason why you should not recieve as regular as the Steamers arrive in N. Y. I acknowledge the receipt of you letters in due season. the one dated Jany. 1st coming to hand day before yesterday, I am glad that you write every mail whether you recieve my letters or not. I assure you that I have done and shall continue to do the same. Although news may be scarce yet the fact of hearing from your good health is a matter of great satisfaction to me. I am interested you know by the small matters that I can learn from Meriden and any change or contemplated change in affairs there can be written and I shall be quite happy to hear of them. All news from