

Bernard & Louise Knapp

Family History

Letter from Albert Knapp

FROM THE FILES OF BERNARD ELDEN KNAPP

Soonzob, Valey, Dec,
the 11th, 1863,

(The date is accurate, quite sure. Place--a puzzle)

Dear Daughter

I received your kind Letter last Saturday while on my way to the City on Business, it found me in better health than I have been sinc (since) last January, the cause I will tell you before I get through, I saw Survina and John, she and little Johney were well but his Father had been verry sick, but he was getting better, they have yet plenty to eate and drink and to wear, you say you are all well and are gowing to Chool and your Stepp Father is kind to you I tell you I was truly glad to hear of that and to get those little tender Lines ritton by my own Daughters Hand, can I read it == Yess I can and I could read it if there was not A word between two thoughts nor an eye doted in the whole letter, I can read it as well as I can your mothers know and I wante you to right as often as you can and I will answer them, you say have I forgot the Ear Rings I promised you and Armina==Have you got the Coleydonies I cent by Hiram Judd to make setts of to put in them, if you have keep them until I see you and I will purforme my promace., Again you aske did I think that your Mother would robb hur children of the Money I cent, I will tell you I did not know what to think for she never sayed thank you and I find that she and Mr. Francis had a bigg Spree when they got that Money and further she had broken hur vow with me, and taken another and Survina told me that she never yoused to mention my Name in your presance because it maid you feel so bad, these are the reasons for my askeing but I do not think your Mother is as much to blame as others are, for if Survina tells me the truth Brigham has leyed to hur and influanced hur against me, and further, Bishaop Hess and Lott Smith promasied me before I left Home that my Famaley should not suffer while I was gon, but Survina tels me that they left you to Poverty and wante and your Mother worked verry harde to get along and things looked pretty darke about the time she got Married, which was abought two Months before I had the Money placed in my hands to helpe my Family with, Your Mother Worked verry harde I have know dought, but what do you think my feelings were and what was I A dooing I will tell A little I was A prospecting for Money to cend to you and to helpe my self with I was A traveling the furst summer after I left home amongst the savage Indians where my life was in danger all of the time and maney and maney is the day I had to go hungry and without Wother to drink and A traveling over those hott deserts and sum times I would get A Rabbit and sum times I would not, Thuss I passed off the time when John Hoss and I discovered the furst Gold and Silver leads in Eldorado Canion, Wee located them Leads for ourselves and others and formed ourselves into cumpanus so as to get enough means to geather to prospect and prove our Leads so that Men of Money would by A parte of our claims and give us Money so that we would have enough to helpe our selves with and to get up mosheanary to get oute the Mone with, Thus I worked the next Summer all summer from fourteen Hours to Sixteen Hours A Day and

I wrote to your Mother every opportunity and told her that if she could get along a couple of years longer we would have a plenty so we would not have to work so hard and while I was riding to gather grass for the Mules I received a private injury that will last me as long as I live, and I have not done a days work in the past year.

One Year ago the Eighth of this Month I sold to Levi Parsons twenty five Hundred Dollars worth of Mining Ground and started with him for San Francisco to get my Money and send for my family to come and enjoy it with me, after I had made all the preparations for them to come I find your Mother was married to Mr. Francis and she declined coming, Thus I am bereft after all my suffering and toil and who cares, Kind Providence has seen fit to lead me to its Treasury and I am now in possession of means to help myself and children I have got it by the hard licks the same as I always got any living and I intend to enjoy some of it myself, I can get with it every thing that I want but the society of my family and connections, and when my children see fit to come and live with me they can help me enjoy it while I live and after I am gone, Tell Silas I am glad that he is mindful of his Father, O I wish I could see you all and talk with you I could tell you better how I feel than I can write, but there is one thing that I want to warn you against if you want to live happy don't you ever go into polygamy nor get married until you are old enough to choose for yourself and know how to keep house if you were here I could give you a better education than it is possible to get there, There is many a young lady here of your age and older that have a good education both in reading writing and music and they can sit down and take the cordian the flute and the piano and entertain her guests, and they can have an agreeable passed time to gather, with every thing else around them to make them happy.

O my children I can not explain to you the beauties of this country and climate, it is now raining a slight mist and it is warm and the grass is just beginning to start and people are beginning to plough, I do not know that you will believe the half I have written so I will quit so good by children, right, I want to hear from you all, Malinda will write it for you. good by. This from Albert Knapp to Malinda, Armina, Silas, Justin, Willis, and, Morgan, Knapp