

HAUN DIARY BOOK 1, #2

June 23
1854 -

Mar 31
1855

JUNE 1854

Friday, 23rd - Fine weather. We made nothing but the Johns made \$2.50. One ought to see me making mush to eat out of kiln dried meal. I was well aware today that I was forty-three years old today. I often thought of wife today & expect she did the same of me & wondered what I was at. I read Revelations Twenty & to bed.

Saturday, 24th - We got \$19.50 of gold today. We've done but little owing to lost time & the break up with Hawkins. The Yankees wont do.

Sunday, 25th - We four have been fixing up our grub bills so as to have it easier to understand. I read the first chapter of Matthew this morning. We all went down to the Point [Nelson Point] P.M. I got a letter from H.P. Haun on business. I sent for waterproof gum clothes to work. Paid for sharpening picks, \$3.75. For the company, I * bought a bottle of bitters for \$1.50, & 5 lb meal for 75¢. Dobson stabbed a * man down at Rich Bar four times. [any history of this??] The miners went down to see about it.

Monday, 26th - We got Billy Lane, an English sailor man, to come & sew our hoses again, they keep a-bursting. Shaw & I have been hewing out some slabs at the mill for sluice boxes. The Johns were digging & got gold, \$7.50. Considerable freeze last night - the leaves were stiff this morning.

Tuesday, 27th - The Johns got gold, \$13.50. I & Shaw got our pipe & hose to work again. The bank caved in & caught my legs under the dirt but I was not hurt.

Wednesday, 28th - Cool nights & warm days. We all got gold, \$11. The Johns got about one dollar. I dreamed last night that I was in Georgetown & that my wife put her arms around my neck & kissed me, but oh, the next moment, how sad the disappointment, sleep had left me & I lay alone in my bunk considering my disappointment.

Thursday, 29th - Fine weather. We all worked & got gold, \$40. We sit around our cabin doors as if we were exiled. That still small voice that speaks within us tells of better days that I hope may come soon.

Friday, 30th - We got \$9. All's well. The coyotes have commenced to howl again. Our ravine is still hard as cement.

JULY 1854

Saturday, 1st - Me & Shaw, we got gold, \$38.50. We seem to be getting along peacable & quiet.

Sunday, 2nd - Lloyd, Shaw & I went down to the Point & had 3 picks sharpened for \$2.75. I paid Thompson \$75 & sent \$42 to H.P. via Snell & Co. for five gum coats & three pairs of boots & paid freight, \$2, & a bottle bitters for \$1, meal 75¢, a newspaper for 50¢, nails 75¢ for the company & I offered \$2000 for my diggings. After supper I read the thirteenth chapter of Matthew.

Monday, 3rd - Shaw & I got gold, \$14.50. The Johns are fixing to try a new place below us, in the same ravine that we are at work in. Dr. Vaughn had an attachment & summons served on me today. Shaw has gone down to the Point to let Hawkins know whether he will sell out to him or not.

Tuesday, 4th - John & I went down to the Point. I settled with Dr. Vaughn for his medical bill, \$15, & Vaughn then paid John \$20 for five days' work. I wrote a letter to H.P. Paid \$1 for twine to sew our hose with & then followed the ladies and the Russian * Army with brass music up to Independence Bar to a celebration & ball. [describe this event??] & saw my old claim and the place where I laid on the ground. Quite a large crowd of men & some twenty-five ladies. Shaw, John & I left before they commenced dancing & got home by sunset. Paid 25¢ for a letter & 75¢ for liquor.

Wednesday, 5th - We went to work & got gold, \$16.50. After supper Shaw & I went down to the Point. They had a dance at Lewis & Root's. This is the 5th or 6th night in succession - that & tomorrow & the night following, at the American Valley [Quincy]. That is the way they go at it out here. I did not get a letter. I saw quite a number of the fair sex this 4th.

Thursday, 6th - We got gold \$11 & the Johns have not made any for some days.

Friday, 7th - We made nothing. But the Johns got \$2. Lynch stayed with us all day & night. He is a broken-down miner of '49, from Kentucky.

Saturday, 8th - We got gold \$9.50. The Dept. Sheriff attached my diggings & stopped me from work. I & the Johns went down to the Point & had the case tried before six jurymen. As the Squire would not let me have time to get counsel, the jury gave a verdict against me. I have five days to take an appeal in. I spent \$1.75 for liquor.

Sunday, 9th - Early this morning I & John started for the American Valley up to * Sister Betsys [Elizabethtown?]. I saw Tom Cox, the lawyer, & made an arrangement to take an appeal to the County Court. I then went in to hear a Methodist preacher, the first of any kind since I've been in the country, & that in my patched shirt & with holes in my pants! No coat or vest or handkerchief of any kind, my old gum slippers & mining hat, and my butcher knife at my side. But every chap threw in his 50¢ when the hat came around. There were four ladies present. His text was Exodus ('keep the Sabbath holy'). I read the twentieth chapter of Matthew. After service was over, I and John *started for Bradley's Ranch * [identify location??]. We took dinner & started for home. \$2 for dinner & 50¢ for the preaching. We arrived at home in good time. John Lloyd had been down to the Point & got a letter of date May 26, '54, to John, giving an account of Tom Johnson's return to Georgetown. The letter is from my wife.

Monday, 10th - I went over to Onion Valley to serve a process on the Squire of an appeal & to give bond & pay the \$80 cost. Dinner & whiskey \$1.25, & \$1.25 for a camp kettle. Got no gold.

Tuesday, 11th - The Johns got \$23.50, & Shaw got \$20.50. I was making some new sluice boxes, as the bottoms of the old ones are quite worn out, having been in use almost a year. These I am making now I intend shall last me as long as I mine here. I've been putting false bottoms in them as they wear out. I'll put in others.

Wednesday, 12th - The boys got gold, \$16. I was still at work making boxes. In the P.M. went down to the Point to get some nails & grind my plane. I then helped Shaw to set up a new sluice box. John has been playing the fiddle tonight while his bread is baking.

Thursday, 13th - We didn't clean up for gold. I, John & Shaw have got colds & Lloyd has a sore finger. The weather is fine.

Friday, 14th - Lloyd didn't work today on account of his finger. We got gold, \$11.50.

Saturday, 15th - I have the piles so I could not work and Lloyd can't work on account of his finger. John & Shaw got gold, \$39.

Sunday, 16th - Lloyd has a very sore finger with a felon, & I am not able to go to work either. John washed some shirts for us. I wrote my 12th letter to my wife. My lesson was the sixth chapter of Mark.

Monday, 17th - I & Lloyd went down to the Point. I got 5 pounds of meal for 75¢ & mailed a letter to my wife, 25¢. John & Shaw got gold, \$4.

Tuesday, 18th - I mended two shirts & a pair breeches for myself & a shirt for John & Lloyd is got a bad finger. John & Shaw got gold, \$19. I & Lloyd are still on the sick list.

Wednesday, 19th - I cut out a lining for my new pants & sewed it almost all in. Lloyd & I went up to the ditch & let in quite all the water there is. Three men are at

work just below the dam. They said I must leave them a sluice head of water. The boys got no gold to day.

Thursday, 20th - I finished my pants this morning. Lloyd & I walked out to where the boys are at work. On the other side, we found a rattlesnake with four rattles & a button, the first I've seen this summer. P.M. I went down to the Point & paid Doosley \$5 for attention to my lawsuit, & paid \$18 to Lane for mending the hose. Shaw & John got gold, \$33.

Friday, 21st - Shaw, Lloyd & I went up the ditch. Some men at work below the dam turned the water through the dam & out of the ditch to work the ravine & said they would do it again. Shaw & John got gold, \$32.50.

Saturday, 22nd - I went down to the Point & got a letter for Lloyd from his wife & was told the bank caved in on a man by the name of Douglas & two others yesterday. Douglas was drowned in the mud, but the other two got out. Shaw & John got gold, \$38.

Sunday, 23rd - We all four took a stroll in the woods & up a ravine toward the American Valley. We saw the greatest quantity of honey dew on the leaves & ground, drops on the leaves quite as large as if it had been dripping out of the comb and just as sweet. I tasted a number of them. My lesson was the eleventh chapter of Mark.

Monday, 24th - I went to work today. John had to work by himself. We got gold, \$9. I & Shaw went to the Point & hired a man to work in Lloyd's place until his felon gets well.

Tuesday, 25th - We got gold, \$24.50. John had the man to help him that we hired in Lloyd's place.

Wednesday, 26th - The weather was quite warm & somewhat cloudy. The mosquitoes & flies are some troublesome. We got gold, \$18.

Thursday, 27th - I & Shaw were cleaning up bedrock all day & got gold, \$65. John & his man got \$5. After supper Shaw & I went down to the Point. There I saw Green Mc Hatton, an old '49 miner from Illinois. *[this apparently written to his wife]* He said he knew your father's sister in Illinois by the name of Mrs. Clark & four children, grown, & that she favors the old Captain very much. While in the gambling room, my friend Shaw struck Abbot on the head twice with a revolver, hurt him badly.

Friday, 28th - We cleaned the bedrock that we had worked over the last five weeks, & we are not done going over it the second time. John & his man got gold, \$17.

Saturday, 29th - I & Shaw got gold, \$12.50 more by noon, cleaning up the bedrock. P.M. we were setting boxes to wash again on Monday. John & his man got no gold to day. After supper I & Shaw went down to the Point to hear the news. The first * house we stopped in was a billiard saloon. A woman was there dealing * Causkinnett [describe?], & at least a hundred men. 1/2 dozen gamblers went through with an Indian song & dance, then turning summersets. We next came to the Abbot house, playing cards * there. At the Thompson house * [location?] nothing was doing but trade. At Fagan's saloon a woman was there to draw custom with card playing, a few songs & summersets, and * making love to the lady * [define?] as they call it. I tired and went home.

Sunday, 30th - One of the Sterlings came up to see our fixtures for catching gold. He said it was the best he had seen. We had a settlement, the first since Hawkins left. We had \$195 to divide. P.M. we went down to the Point. I saw two women, one in each house, dealing Causkinnett & lots of men to bet at her bank. My lesson was the XIII chapter St. Luke.

Monday, 31st - Shaw & I got gold, \$19, & John Cook, the man that works for Lloyd got no gold to day. Lloyd's finger is getting well fast. I bathe every night.

AUGUST 1854

Tuesday, 1st - I am still living on milk & mush, molasses & light bread. I feel quite well indeed without any kind of meat, & I work hard every day. Marysville has been burned twice. The first fire about six weeks ago swept three squares. The last one, four.

Wednesday, 2nd - The nights are cool & the days warm. We got gold, \$23 the last two days. Shaw & I went down to the Point after supper. A third woman has made her appearance at the gambling table, to help out with the gambling.

Thursday, 3rd - Quite warm. Cloudy in the afternoon with thunder but no rain. Lloyd took Shaw's & my pick down to the Point to have them sharpened & he brought me a letter from my wife of date May 10th, '54. This is the fourth week since John received a letter of date May 26th from his ma, a difference of five weeks. My letter gave an account of James Toppass being shot by Glass. We got gold, \$25.50.

Friday, 4th - I have commenced taking a cold bath every morning. We got gold, \$38.50. Shaw & I went down to the Point after supper. I paid \$3 poll tax & \$1.50 for a bottle of brandy for John. I saw a woman try to get a revolver from her paramour to shoot a gambler for breaking a lamp & spilling grease all over her & the cards. She would curse him & then cry. 1/2 dozen China women came to the Bar today to set up trade.

Saturday, 5th - We got out of the hard cement where Shaw & I are at work. We all got gold, \$84. After supper Shaw, John & I, and Cook, who is working for Lloyd, went down to the Point. The women are gambling as usual, with music to draw the crowd. The China women are camped on the sand bar of the Feather River to sleep.

Sunday, 6th - We all started for the American Valley with seven picks & a broken hoe to get Black Hawk to fix them. We went over to Sister Betsy's, we then went back to Bradley's & got dinner, \$1.75. We got 5 picks & paid \$7. It was cloudy all day & rained a sprinkle - something to be wondered at! On our road home we picked & ate some ripe thimbleberries.

Monday, 7th - Shaw, Lloyd & I took down to the Point, 3 axes & a hatchet and ground them. Shaw and I came back to dinner & Lloyd stayed all day. P.M. we went out to make a reservoy to catch water over night, as it is getting too scarce to work to any advantage. John & Cook got gold, \$5.50. Paid Cross \$5 to sharpen picks.

Tuesday, 8th - All four of us at work on the reservoy. Lloyd came home last night but went back again this morning. Now it's late at night & not home yet.

Wednesday, 9th - All four of us worked at making the reservoy. Lloyd not home yet - - -

Thursday, 10th - We went to mining but the water soon failed. Shaw & I went up the ditch & cleaned it out considerable, but the water has failed us. Lloyd got home before dinner, not pleased with himself. John & Cook got gold, \$7.50.

Friday, 11th - All five of us went to work on the reservoy, throwing on more dirt. With Lloyd malling it together, we built it a log higher. We concluded it was done at quitting time, after a hard day's work. I washed three shirts for myself.

Saturday, 12th - All five went to mining & got gold, \$49. Shaw & I went down to the Point after supper. I got a letter from the wife of date, June 24th, '54, giving an account of Thomas Atwell & Matilda Stevenson getting married. Thornton & Marg Smart running off & getting married. Old Brother Smith wants me to write how much gold I've got, that he may tell me when to come home. I paid \$3 for poll tax & \$1 for the letter. I am now & have been for some time, taking a cold bath at day-light.

Sunday, 13th - Friday night I washed two cotton shirts & one hickry. I've had no washing done for a month or more. We settled up for expenses & then divided our gold. After dinner Shaw, I and John went down to the Point. John mailed a letter to Frank

Rankin & I one to H.P. Haun. John did some washing for himself. My lesson is 1st chapt. St. John. I paid Thompson \$104.50. That pays off his bill entirely he had against me since last fall.

Monday, 14th - Lloyd & John went to work at there place, Shaw & I at our place. We got gold \$27.50. They got none. Our water has failed so much we can't half work.

Tuesday, 15th - I & Shaw got gold \$40. The Johns are stripping off the top dirt. Our water has improved some today, owing to the reservoy having got well soaked.

Wednesday, 16th - Warm & sultry. I & Shaw got gold, \$22. The Johns have set up there boxes to wash for gold tomorrow. Our water was very weak this evening, I hope the weather will change soon. I & Shaw went down to the Point after supper. I got 5 lb meal 75¢.

Thursday, 17th - We all got gold, \$38. The weather is warm & dry, our water is failing fast.

Friday, 18th - We got gold, \$39. After supper Shaw, John & I went down to the Point. I told Freer's agent, Root, that I had no use for his water & that it was ready for him at all times & to take it & use it, for I did not want it. I saw Green McHatton & had a long chat with him. There was a stag dance came off, of seven men. The other happened to be a gambling woman. It kept up for some time. Old married men engaged in the sport, but their wives & children in the States. Dr. Vaughn is one of them sort.

Saturday, 19th - We got gold, \$97. I gave \$1 for whiskey on Friday night. Shaw, John & I went down to the Point after supper. The China women have left the Point, but there are many men here that would do well to leave also.

Sunday, 20th - I read the XI chapter of John & finished my 13th letter to my wife. Mailed it today 25¢, whiskey 50¢. I got acquainted with W. R. Dickson of the sunny South. He says he went to Havana with W. G. & helped him build a race track there. He has a wife & four daughters living in Wisconsin. He has been better raised, I've no doubt, than he now lives. He says he will come & see me soon.

Monday, 21st - It was cloudy this morning & rained some. The sun showed out again from the middle afternoon till sunset. I & Shaw got gold, \$45. The Johns got gold, \$14.50. In all, today, \$59.50 - - -

Tuesday, 22nd - It rained considerable last night & was foggy this morning, but clear & pleasant all day. Shaw & I got gold, \$97.50 & the Johns, \$20. We can pick the nuggets up off the bedrock. We are close to the place where another company took it out at \$308 per day.

Wednesday, 23rd - I & Shaw went down to the Point last night after supper. I understood that Cross took out \$2200 in Feather River just below the mouth of Nelson Creek in two days. I & Shaw were prospecting the 3rd channel, got some gold. In consequence, we only got \$21. The Johns got gold, \$15 - in all, \$36. Quite cold last night, almost frost.

Thursday, 24th - I & Shaw got gold, \$92 & the Johns \$33.50 - in all, \$125.50. Shaw and I were stripping off top dirt nearly all day. We got the \$92 in 2 1/2 hours. After supper we went down to the Point. I was introduced to Gildersleeve, the celebrated race man. Dr. Vaughn said "How do you do, Mr. Haun." [to me]

Friday, 25th - Shaw & I got gold, \$70. Moved our hose & pipe. The Johns got \$19. They had to strip P.M.

Saturday, 26th - I & Shaw got gold, \$58.50. The Johns are stripping off the top dirt. I & Shaw went down to the Point after supper. I received a letter from H.P. advising me to pay the suit with Vaughn to save cost.

Sunday, 27th - All four of us went up to our reservoy & cut a small ditch to run the leakage water through the pipe. While up there, Green McHatton came to us & stayed

with me all day & night. The rest of the boys went down to the Point. J. Lloyd got drunk, he did not get home until the next day P.M. My lesson is Acts V chapt.

Monday, 28th - Shaw & John went out to work. I & McHatton went down to the Point. We talked about all the people we could think of in Kentucky while together. I got 8 lb meal \$1.25 & my pick sharpened & came home to dinner. I tried to get Lloyd home but he could not make it there. I frequently thought of you [to his wife], as it was your birthday, wife. We were cleaning up bedrock & got gold, \$44. It rained here Saturday night last & snowed at Onion Valley. A frost Sunday night following.

Tuesday, 29th - My potato tops have been frost bitten. Shaw & I got gold, \$29. The Johns are stripping. After supper I & Shaw went down to the Point. I loaned Green McHatton \$100 & partly heard Able make a Democratic speech. I saw a mob pull a China house or rather upset it, and the China woman boohooing & old army coming along just at the moment, a crash of the house & a yell of the mob. She sang out "Oh, Lord!" and fell in the arms of her paramour. She soon recovered again & went to her cabin I suppose. I paid \$1.25 for the sharpening pick.

Wednesday, 30th - Shaw & I are still cleaning up bedrock. We got gold, \$42. The Johns are digging up a big pitch pine tree and stripping. Shaw & I went down to the Point after supper. I paid \$2.50 for half-soleing my gum boots.

Thursday, 31st - I & Shaw are working over the ravine that paid us so well last fall, as just yesterday we finished up to it. We got gold, \$32 & 23 of the \$42 we got the day before was out of the ravine where it had been worked before. I laid in bed so long last night that I have the back ache this morning.

SEPTEMBER 1854

Friday, 1st - 23 years ago I was married, my prospects were bright & flattering & I had a young wife to cheer me on & give me that pleasure that no other life can afford. Oh, what a change a short period of 23 years can make in human affairs. I am now sitting in my cabin, all alone in a pine forest & surrounding mountains, in Plumas Cty, Cala, near opposite the mouth of Nelson Creek, & my wife in Georgetown Ky. May we yet live together a score & three years to help each other while passing the downhill of life & finally to put our trust in Him that is able to help in time of need. I gave lawyer Able \$25 to assist in my suit with Vaughn. We got gold, \$10.50 - - -

Saturday, 2nd - I & Shaw are working the same spot of ground that I & John worked the 9th of last Sept, alongside two pitch pines, one large. I cut the small one down last Sept & the large one blew up by the roots last winter. So we work under the roots of the large one today & got nearly all the gold of \$81 one piece weighing \$31.50. The Johns got \$16, the first they have taken out in 6 1/2 days. We divided out \$58, 62 1/2¢ apiece, after paying \$22 expenses.

Sunday, 3rd - My partner, Shaw, left this morning to go down to his ranch. I & the Johns took 3 axes to grind and a pick to be sharpened, down to the Point. I got a letter from my wife of date June 31st, '54, & July the 24th, '54, as the figures indicate, and she received a letter from me of date May 28th, on 28th June, '54. Her letter giving an account of Tom Johnson & Laura Miller running off & getting married, & many other things too numerous to mention. My lesson is Acts 18th chapt. I now shall retire to bed, but the thought of seeing my wife in the mountains is what I cannot understand. I paid \$1 for letter and \$1 for axe handle for the company - - -

Monday, 4th - The Johns went to work as usual. I knocked to pieces 3 old sluice boxes & made a trough for them & took it out before noon. After dinner I went to work with them. We got gold, \$29. After supper all 3 were in my cabin, & John playing the fiddle, the tune, 'Old Folks at Home'.

Tuesday, 5th - I was at work all alone. Got gold, \$24. The Johns got \$38, making in all, \$62. John forked out among the rocks a piece that weighed \$24.50. He saw it when he threw it away with the rocks & went and picked it up. It was flat & rough, a nice specimen. After supper I & Lloyd went down to the Point to hear the news. All is quiet except the candidates.

Wednesday, 6th - I got gold, \$5.50 by noon. The Johns got \$18.50 all day. After dinner I went down to the Point to the election. Late in the evening two gamblers went into a vegetable store & took a W. melon without the consent of the owner. They then went back to get another, but the owner struck one of them on the head with a rock & knocked him down. He got up again & got a butcher knife & ran the proprietor out & off - - - The two gamblers then turned & tore down the store house & threw all that was in it into Nelson Creek & then dared anybody to pick it up. I've not seen anything to equal that. There was at least a hundred men looking on.

Thursday, 7th - I & John started to the American Valley to see after my lawsuit with Vaughn. By staying all day I found out that by consent of the lawyers that my case would come off on next Tuesday at 10 o'clock. So John & I started from Bradley's Ranch late in the evening for home. I've walked several miles in the dark. I had been all day on my feet without eating any dinner. I went up to Sister Betsy's to see my lawyer, found him sick in bed. He could not tell me when the County Judge would hold court, though Abel, my other lawyer, told me. On arriving at home McFall told me the miners rose up & took the two gamblers & was trying them for tearing down the fruit store. The sheriff had come over & demanded the outlaws but the miners did not like to give them up. Lloyd came home from the trial & said that the sheriff had got them from the miners. One is by the name of George Asbury from Ky. The other is called Buck, from the East. I saw a piece of gold taken out at Sister Betsy's today weighing 8 ounces & \$14, with a hole in the middle of it. The diggins I took up last fall up there is very rich. I was trying to get some of them back again, but did not see how I was to go about it. So I concluded to hold off for the present.

Friday, 8th - McFall, the man I hired for Shaw & I went to work and got gold, \$14. The Johns got \$20.50. The sheriff took Buck & Asbury over to the American Valley. They were tied on mules' backs as they passed the Willow Ranch this morning.

Saturday, 9th - I & Mc got gold, \$10.50 & the Johns got \$19, in all \$29.50. After supper I & Lloyd went down to the Point. Great excitement among the miners on account of Buck & Asbury being turned loose again by the civil authorities, as they have been making some threats.

Sunday, 10th - I wrote my wife my 14th letter & sent her a \$200 bill of exchange by Adams & Co Express payable at New York. I was down to the Point & mailed it. The miners met & appointed a committee to look after depredators. My lesson is XI Chapt of Paul to the Romans.

Monday, 11th - I went up to Independence to serve a subpoena of Pat Curley for a witness in the case of Freer & Vaughn. He refused to go. I made him a tender of \$8. He was afraid not to take it. I put in the day in looking around. I hired old McFall to work in my place. Shaw went up the ditch. The three got gold, \$13.50 - - -

Tuesday, 12th - John & I & McFall went over to American Valley. In due time, court was opened, Ward the Judge. Pat Hunley undertook my case in the place of Able. Tom Cox is sick. The plaintiff filed five different objections but was overruled & the case tried on its merits. 4 witnesses against & 2 for me. The witnesses heard & case presented, decided against me. I paid for dinners & whiskey \$4. At sunset I & John, * after paying Black Hawk \$5 for 2 picks and hoe, we went four miles * to Illinois Ranch [tell where it is?] and stayed all night. I am to pay \$29.50 for company goods.

Wednesday, 13th - Paid 50¢ for our lodging & went six miles home to breakfast & then out to work. I & Shaw, & the Johns & Mc dug down there big pine tree today. We all got gold, \$30. I dreamed I was in Georgetown & went with my wife to her rented house & we got in bed together & that Sam was killing hogs.

Thursday, 14th - I & Shaw got gold, \$19.50, working in the old ravine that was so rich last year. The Johns got gold, \$34. Mc not at work.

Friday, 15th - I, Shaw & Mc were at work in the old ravine & got gold, \$34 & the Johns got \$38. The water is so weak we don't use the hose & pipe. It threatened rain yesterday & last night but none fell.

Saturday, 16th - I & Shaw went to work in the old ravine for the last time. We was at it till noon & got gold \$5. The Johns were mining all day, and Mc with them till * noon. P.M. we three went to the Willow Ranch [locate?] to help raise a barn. After supper I & Mc went down to the Point. I paid Thompson \$4.50 for beef and Green McHatton had left me the \$100 I loaned him. The Johns got gold, \$44.

Sunday, 17th - I & Shaw & McFall after settling for the past week's work, we started for Sister Betsy's. We took dinner at Russell's in the American Valley. We then stopped at Bradley's & saw my lawyer. He told me the Judge had granted a new trial with Vaughn. Late in P.M. we landed at Betsey Town.

Monday, 18th - We started out a-prospecting & put in the day & did nothing of importance. My back paid the penalty for sleeping on a hard bed last night.

Tuesday, 19th - We bought a claim of Asa Mac Adams for \$150, & put McFall to work our interest.

Wednesday, 20th - There was two old tars a-prospecting at the foot of Sister Betsy's Ravine. They asked me to take an interest with them.

Thursday, 21st - I & Shaw set in with them & sunk it to the bedrock 24 feet, and 16 feet under water. We got no gold.

Friday, 22nd - We were examining our diggings & took up two claims adjoining the ones we bought last night. There was a ball at one of the hotels. I was looking out to see how they done up things of that sort in Cala. Old married women of all ages up to 5 & 40 was on the floor all the night. Scarcely 1/2 dozen girls at the ball.

Saturday, 23rd - After breakfast we paid our bills, mine was \$9.50. We started for home. I stopped at Bradley's some time & then went to Russell's, took dinner. P.M. went by Myers', saw a quarter race & a fist fight. I then started for home with Shaw. I had not slept in the same bed two nights, in consequence I was lousey. We got home in good time for supper.

Sunday, 24th - I took off my duds last night & laid them aside & took a cold bath, put on a clean shirt & to bed & slept comfortable. Got up in the morning & bathed again. Breakfasted, settled our affairs. I & Lloyd went down to the Point. Got some dust changed & sent Lloyd back with the money for Shaw, as he was going back to Sister Betsey's to work our interest. I stayed till late and saw a fight in which Pat Culley, one of my old partners got whipped quite easy by Jim Pike as they call him. We got no money in our new claim. The Johns got gold, \$62.75. My lesson is 12 Chapt 1rst Corinthians.

(April 1954: Directions by Givens, To see that portion of Calafornia which is desirable to settle in, start from the Mission of San Jose, and travel on horseback to Monterey, passing by the Mission of Santa Clara, up the Paeble Valley, to the Mission of San Juan, then to Monterey.)

Monday, 25th - I & the Johns went to cleaning out the ditch by stopping out the water & cutting out the roots & shoveling out the bottom. We have not got water sufficient to wash for gold.

Tuesday, 26th - We three are still at work on the ditch P.M. McFall said he would help us, & did so. I have a very bad cold. Last night I lay with a wet towel on my forehead, to ease the aching.

Wednesday, 27th - I, the Johns & McFall stayed at work on the ditch.

Thursday, 28th - We four cleaning up our ditch.

Friday, 29th - We four finished cleaning out the ditch shale. Came home because we had to quit working the claim we bought at Sister Betsey's. Other men claimed it than those we bought of. So they had to fork over our money again, at least \$90, and the \$60 on Sunday next.

Saturday, 30th - After breakfast I and Shaw started for the new diggins near Snake Lake. I rolled up two pair of heavy blankets, a towel & tied on a tin cup. My rifle & ammunition & butcher knife hanging at my left side. We stayed all night at Sister Betsy's after a travel of only 12 1/2 miles. Our dinner 75¢.

OCTOBER 1854

Sunday, 1st - We stayed all day in town. Tonight was preaching by a Methodist by name of Willanot, & Parson Bonner to assist. Squire Stark had to go in his ten pin alley to stop them from rolling while preaching was going on as the houses were joining together.

Monday, 2nd - The Johns finished working on the flume. They had also worked on Saturday on the flume. I, Shaw & others started for the Snake Lake diggins, a distance of 4 miles from Betsey Town. My bill at Barney's \$8. There is 8 of us in the company. All went to work sinking holes but me & old Davy. We went 5 miles after an oven & coffee pot & pan.

Tuesday, 3rd - Well, last night Lawrence, Shaw & I spread some of our blankets down on the frosted fern and other vegetation. Down we lay for a snooze which we relished quite well, but for the back ache near morning. We partook very hearty of our meals without table or plate. Late in the evening John came over as he could do nothing for the want of water - - -

Wednesday, 4th - All eight to work two holes sinking and one drifting in. Old Davy & I went after a wheel barrow. I told John to take my gun home, as we had no use for him nor it. So night came on & with it rain. They took a pair of my blankets, nailed each end to poles & made a kind of tent, & under we crept but our feet would get outside in the rain.

Thursday, 5th - We are still pushing our work ahead. The weather unsettled.

Friday, 6th - Still going deeper into the mountains & no prospect yet.

Saturday, 7th - Some of our company begin to weaken, rather gloomy.

Sunday, 8th - Early 5 of us started for Betsy Town. Many of the folks had not breakfasted when we arrived, I the foremost. We ran a part of the way. I took dinner at Varner's - \$1. Old Davy did not go back again.

Monday, 9th - All 7 of us was at our post till noon. One other concluded to leave so we held a counsel & counted up the costs & each one's portion, \$6.25. So we all paid up & 6 of us to work. Still raining some today.

Tuesday, 10th - Two holes had got down to water. All agreed it was no use to go farther as they could not be drained ordinarily. So Shaw said I must go home & buy grub for the winter & fix up for mining at home. So I drew the nails out of my blankets, rolled them up, and tied on my tin cup & off I started for home. I stopped at Bradley's & give Pat Hunley \$25 for attending to my lawsuit with Vaughn. I then went to Illinois Ranch and took dinner \$1, & then home. Two more left when I did & only left Shaw, Lawrence & Berryhill.

Tuesday, 10th - On arriving at home John had got a letter from his ma of date August 21st giving an account of Sanna Shepherd & young Ross getting married & the election of M. Price, G. Topp & Bill Bradford, & a one for me from my wife of date August 29th, '54, giving an account of T. B. White's failure & the great drouth in Ky & high price of provisions.

Wednesday, 11th - I & John went out to work. We set the boxes & shoveled in dirt till noon. I started to the Point to see about buying grub for winter. I met Lloyd at his cabin door trying to open it, he was too drunk. His nose & eyes bruised & black from falling down, having been drunk all week. P.M. John got gold \$4. I got the price of provisions of all the trades and came home. Lloyd was in his bunk all evening. I told him we could not work together in this way. I would not work with a drunken man.

Thursday, 12th - Up before day & read some in N.Y. Tribune of Sept. 5th '54, giving an account of the drouth in the northern states & fires in the woods with great destruction of property. & [to his wife?] examined your letter over again to see if you had got them all, the ones I wrote. I & the Johns went to work, we got gold \$32.50. It being cloudy all day & at dark it commenced raining, but only moderate.

Friday, 13th - It continued all night, with some snow this morning. Continued cloudy all day with light showers occasionally. We got gold, \$18. I went down to the Point this morning. The folks were making great preparation for a ball, tickets \$10. The dance is to come off in a gambling & drinking saloon & to supper in Louis & Root's tavern. The ladies had some idea of not attending, as there had been two Public Women had been gambling there some time back. But they came & danced till 5 in the morning.

Saturday, 14th - I was down again this morning for the purpose of getting out a warrant, & did so & took the Constable down to Rich Bar to serve it, but the man, Gootshall, had left this morning for Poormans Creek. So I went home & will have the cost to pay on my return home. The Johns got gold \$13.50. Tonight a concert is given in the ballroom. A beautiful sunny day.

Sunday, 15th - Cold last night but a beautiful day. I was getting wood & poles to fix a prize. I wanted to cut a tree down that leans over my cabin all this forenoon. In the P.M. I finished my letter, No. 15th to my wife & mailed it, 25¢. I paid \$12.25 for the company, & bought two hickrey shirts, one for John & one for myself, paid \$2 for them. Shaw came home & a man by the name of Lawrence with him late this evening. My lesson first chapt Phillipians.

Monday, 16th - Four of us went to work. Lawrence, in the place of Lloyd complains of pain in his side. I & Shaw was moving our hose & pipe & fixtures down to where the Johns has been at work & now is. We helped them some in A.M. In the P.M. we were cleaning off the brush & burning it. They got gold \$99.50.

Tuesday, 17th - All four was mining, we got gold \$66. I, John, Shaw & Lawrence went down to the Point after supper. We made out a bill of provisions Oldridge and Timberman to fill for us to live on this winter. Fine weather.

Wednesday, 18th - Cool night & pleasant day. Four of us at work. Lloyd does not go out to work as a hand but does a little. We got gold \$56.

Thursday, 19th - Frosty nights & warm days. Cloudy P.M. There was a portion of our winter's grub brought up. We got gold \$91, one piece that weighs 2 1/2 oz.

Friday, 20th - Cloudy in the fore & after part of the day. Eight more sack loads of grub & 12 yesterday. We got gold \$28.50. At bed time commenced to rain, but light.

Saturday, 21st - Did not rain last night of consequence. I went down to the Point to pay for what grub was delivered to us amounting to \$439.11, for whiskey, 50¢. The three got gold, \$32.50. The wind is blowing softly through these tall pines - indication of rain. Quite warm.

Sunday, 22nd - It commenced raining early this morning & continued all day. Though Nelson Creek & Feather River had not rose but little, the creek & river flumes were still standing when I left late this evening. All five went down to the Point this forenoon. I paid McFall 1/2 oz. for work done for the company. I paid Buck at the Willow for milk \$15 for the company. My lesson, the E.P. to Timothy, the second.

Monday, 23rd - Did not rain last night & but little today, some sunshine & warm. I was down to the Point A.M. P.M. I was fixing to make leading troughs. The Johns were preparing to work at there same place. Shaw & Lawrence was cleaning off a new place to set up sluice boxes for mining near the Willow Ranch.

Tuesday, 24th - Rained all last night here & snow can be seen on the high mountains all around. The Johns were sluicing off the top dirt. Shaw & Lawrence were setting up our sluice boxes near the Willow Ranch. I was hewing out some plank out of slabs to make leading troughs A.M. P.M. made two.

Wednesday, 25th - Raining & snowing some this morning. The Johns & Lawrence was ground sluicing all day. I & Shaw was fixing boxes & cutting a ditch to let the water in so as to mine in our new place. I had some words with a young man this morning about a claim. I told him that he should not work it. I told him I could whip him. He said I had better not try it. I started toward him. He drew a revolver & said I must not come too close to him as I had a hatchet. Cloudy & drisley all day - - -

Thursday, 26th - Rained all night last & snowing & raining this A.M. In P.M. we went to work but drisling rain. I was hewing out slabs to make boxes, the 4 ground sluicing.

Friday, 27th - I told the men we must set up hose & pipe, up it went but we did not have it high enough to get a good fall. P.M. we put it higher. It worked very well. Later the hose bursted a little. Mended & went on again till night. A clear day. An Indian told Shaw that it rain 5 days it would snow 4 feet deep next.

Saturday, 28th - A beautiful day after a cold frosty morning. I was making sluice boxes for Lawrence. The 4 was sluicing down with the pipe & hose. The hoses busted twice today. They got gold, \$18 - - - John did some baking tonight & I washed 2 hickrey shirts, 1 pair socks & towel & then washed myself & wrote this. I dreamed last night that I was in company with Elizur Jenkins & my wife. I talked with some.

Sunday, 29th - As usual I was in my bunk awake some time before day light thinking over things. Among the rest I had dreamed of Alvin Duvall and wife. I thought they were living about wife's house & I had just got there. I thought wife had not much to say to me. After breakfast I had many little turns to do, one was to cut down a good size spruce tree that stood near the south corner of my cabin & bent over it. Shaw helped me. It fell in one foot of the west corner. P.M. I & Lawrence took 3 picks down to the Point. I paid \$2.75 for the company to have them fixed. I gave \$3 for two lbs quicksilver for the company, for twine 50¢ and a tin bucket, \$1 for company. I then gave \$1 for a letter for John from wife of date Sept. 3rd '54, giving an account of Thomason's trial for killing his brother & a long yarn about coming to Cala and what Tom Johnson says you ought not to do. My lesson 9th chapt Hebrews. I gave John 1 of the three linen towels I had left. Had not been used since wife gave them to me.

Monday, 30th - Cool & clear last night & today the wind from the north. I was fixing riffles & false bottoms. The Johns got gold \$10. Shaw & Lawrence starting a new place.

Tuesday, 31st - The weather is cool & clear, last night all were in their bunks but me. I sat up late patching my pants my left knee had wore out the lining. I patched inside. I then put on a cotton patch on the top of a blue linsey patch on my right thigh & sewed up many other little holes. I then turned in & took a short nap & dreamed I was in Geo. Town, in front of Pratt's bar room & little Press West told me that wife & his ma

had gone out to Hutchcraft's funeral. I thought that wife knew I was in town. I woke up in the act of leaving Georgetown without seeing her, did not like the treatment. The Johns got gold, \$15.50. Shaw & Lawrence got \$1.50. I was tinkering as usual. I put a cotton patch on the seat of my pants tonight. All have gone to their bunks some time ago. I suppose I had as well close this sheet & turn in too.

NOVEMBER, 1854

Wednesday, 1st - Cool & clear. I & the Johns got gold \$35.50. Shaw & Lawrence got in the last three days \$5. They are going to move their boxes in the morning to a new place.

Thursday, 2nd - I & the Johns got gold \$77.50. Shaw & Lawrence is at work in the foot of the same ravine that we are. They are running a cut in to strike the bed rock. The weather is clear & not so cool as it was and very pleasant indeed & calm.

Friday, 3rd - Delightful weather. I & the Johns got gold \$199.50. One piece with a hole in it that weighs 5 3/4 oz, and 50¢. That will do good enough. Shaw & Lawrence is still working at the foot of the ravine. They will put in boxes tomorrow to see if there is gold to be had.

Saturday, 4th - Warm & clear, very pleasant. I & John were sluicing off. We got gold \$2. Lloyd rocked out the box at the house that we pan out in P.M. and got gold \$29.50. We washed out the sand bottle & got \$6.50, in all \$38.50. Shaw & Lawrence has run a deep cut in the same ravine that we are at work in down at the foot. They got some gold but it was not weighed.

Sunday, 5th - Early Shaw & Lawrence went over to the American Valley. While there, they saw a Mexican that had helped to kill 3 Chinamen on Friday night last. The other Mexican got away. I & John fixed up our fireplace & daubed some of the cracks. Late in the evening big Davis came by to sell me the sawmill. He said he was a-going to start home in the morning. I did not buy it. Was divided out \$97 to the share. My lesson 5 chapt first Gen of Peter.

Monday, 6th - Before day I & John started to the American Ranch to attend Court. The sun had just rose before we got there. The Court was in session. About noon my case was called, but laid over for Vaughn & finally until tomorrow for his witnesses. John & I went over to Sister Betsey's, stayed all night. For supper lodging & breakfast \$4.

Tuesday, 7th - We went back to court early, but it was near noon before court opened. Five witnesses examined for Vaughn & one for me. The case was argued & submitted & a verdict brought in against me. I & John then started for home, the sun had quite set. We travelled most of the way in the dark, as the moon had not rose. We put ourselves through in good time. I paid for our dinners on yesterday \$2, & Buck for milk \$1.50, a balance for company.

Wednesday, 8th - Up before day as usual did some mending on my pants, called up John, got breakfast & to mining again. Warm pleasant day. John & I went to piping, we got gold \$28.50. Lloyd & Lawrence has been at work since Monday in the foot of the ravine & have not got but little gold. Shaw started below on Monday about noon on business. I put on the foot of my socks a piece of blanket to make them stand the winter use.

Thursday, 9th - I & John had to reset our boxes & fixed up the riffles. It was near noon by the time we got ready for washing. After noon we let on the water. I was washing away tailing. We got gold \$22. Lloyd & Lawrence done better, the gold is not weighed yet.

Friday, 10th - Last night I dreamed that I picked up a quantity of gold, several large pieces until I had filled my pockets & some in my vest pocket. The weather is delightful. I've not experienced a solitary gale of wind, say nothing of a storm since I've

been in Cala. It is calm & still. John & I got gold \$37. Lloyd & Lawrence is not weighed. Cool nights & warm days. A man wanted to sell turnips at \$8 per hundred, cant afford it.

Saturday, 11th - I & John cleaned up the boxes and got gold \$9. We then fixed for sluicing off the top dirt & tailings. After noon the Dept. Sheriff, Neal, came & levied on my diggings & tools. But he left without taking any of the things away by my saying that Shaw would take charge of my share of the money that would be taken out for a few days. One of our boxes got injured by a fork breaking down, from the weight of rock & gravel stopping in them.

Sunday, 12th - Early after breakfast Lawrence & I went down to the Point to see if there was any letters, we did not get any. We came home to dinner. P.M. I did some mending on John's pants. I suppose it is near midnight. Last night I dreamed that my wife had come. I thought I said, I did not expect you so soon. John mailed a letter to his ma this evening. My lesson first chapt of Revelations. Letter 25¢, black thread 25¢.

Monday, 13th - I & John were out sluicing off. Just at noon the hose bursted. P.M. I went down to the Point & got two needles gave to me. I went home & mended the hose & to work again. I am up late tonight. I've just ate supper. I was mending John's pants he brought from Ky. I lined them & put two large patches in front & one behind. They have all gone to bed & had a good sleep. I eat & sleep when it suits me & no one to complain.

Tuesday, 14th - Shaw came from Onion Valley, a distance of seven miles before sunrise. I, John & Shaw worked together & an Englishman that came up with Shaw worked with us. P.M. he said he would work for us for grub. We got gold \$6. I sat up late mending my shirt, the sleeves & put a cover on the back all over.

Wednesday, 15th - Beautiful weather, cool nights & warm days, though it was some cloudy today. I, John, Shaw & the Englishman got gold \$33.50. We have been stripping off. Lloyd & Lawrence is still getting gold - they don't weigh.

Thursday, 16th - I dreamed last night of asking Susan Wallace if she would not marry. I thought she told me there were too many pains & aches in a married life. I then dreamed of kissing another woman that I had met in my travels - I forgot who she was. Four of us got gold \$60. Lloyd & Lawrence is stripping. Beautiful weather.

Friday, 17th - Four of us got gold \$99.50. Lloyd & Lawrence were stripping.

Saturday, 18th - I, Shaw & Lloyd started for the American Valley early this morning, for the purpose of taking an appeal in the suit with Vaughn, & Shaw & Lloyd as securities. We took 5 picks along & had them sharpened. Cost \$2.75. I paid my lawyer \$25 more. Lawrence & the Englishman worked together - did not make much. John was at work by himself & took out \$97.50, one piece that weighed \$55. It clouded up this morning, but the sun shone at intervals all day. Commenced raining about sunset, though but light. I & John are sitting in the cabin taking our ease. He is trying to play a new tune on his fiddle & I've wrote this down.

Sunday, 19th - Clear & warm. I went down to the Point early & got a letter for John from John Stevens of date Oct. 2nd, giving an account of Thomas Ridsdale going crazy & death. Also the starving condition of the poor in the country & cheapness of young hogs. For letter \$1. We divided our dust for the last two weeks & we got \$211 to our part. John washed 4 shirts and 1 pair drawers. My lesson Revela. chp. 15.

Monday, 20th - The weather is delightful. Four of us were working together. We've hired 'John Bull' at \$2 per day. We got gold \$58.50. Lloyd & Lawrence is not making much as yet.

Tuesday, 21st - Warm & pleasant. We are in the habit of breakfasting by light & at work by sunrise. 4 of us took out \$60.50. The other two are stripping.

Wednesday, 22nd - It commenced drizzling before daylight this morning. We were at our work quite early & got gold \$82.50. It continued to rain a little all day. At 8 o'clock tonight the stars are shining out again.

Thursday, 23rd - Cloudy all day, but no rain. Four of us got gold \$62.50. Lloyd & Lawrence has not made anything this week. The weather is quite warm.

Friday, 24th - Cleared off this morning, warm & pleasant all day. We had the balance of our grub sent to us, that we had engaged, in the amount \$98 worth. We got gold \$54.50. After supper I & Shaw went down to the Point, but did not get any letters. Something wrong.

Saturday, 25th - Clear & pleasant. We get to work before sunrise, as the days are quite short. Four of us got gold \$98.

Sunday, 26th - Up before day. Cloudy & rained a little, but a beautiful day. After breakfast Shaw & I went down to the Point. Paid Wm. Timberman \$98 for the balance of our grub, that was brought up Friday last. We then divided out \$83.50 to the share after paying expenses. I paid my lawyer \$25 more. In all \$75 to Hunley. Horatio Cross came home with me. We took dinner & then walked around our diggings. After he left we got some wood. My lesson, 1st chapt Matthew.

Monday, 27th - Clear & delightful weather. We all was at work before sunrise, cutting a ditch to catch seepage water to fill our pipe, all day, & setting boxes A.M. & P.M. Four of us got gold \$21. After supper Lawrence & I went down to the Point, I to see if my papers had been sent over by the county clerk, in case with Vaughn for an appeal. They have not been sent. For whiskey \$1 - - -

Tuesday, 28th - I started for the courthouse of Plumas early. On my arrival I found that my papers had been given the evening before to Sam Russell. I left the seat of court at noon & got home sometime before sunset. Shaw John & Englishman got gold \$52.50. They found out a channel of gold on the left bank as we go up. It seems to be quite rich.

Wednesday, 29th - Up before day. Washed my socks & feet, they being a little sore from yesterday's walk. I am making arrangements to be off to Sacramento before sunrise this morning. The Englishman in company, we stopped at the Point, got my papers & paid the clerk's fee bill of \$32 to Roots. I then paid Squire McNabb \$5 for his hiring a warrant against Gootshall. We then started up the hill & made Grass Valley, took dinner at half past one o'clock. Dinner \$1. We then stopped at Freese [?], a distance of 33 miles. I did not take supper. Hailed some before I went to bed. Quite cloudy.

Thursday, 30th - Breakfast \$1. Took dinner at Nye Ranch & left my Englishman there. This afternoon I saw the pine tree that I, John & my Virginia friend slept under the night of 19th June, 1853. I put up at the Stanfield ranch. A distance of 35 to 40 miles today. Supper 75¢ - - -

DECEMBER, 1854

Friday, 1st - Breakfast & lodging \$1. Before sunrise I was on the road for Marysville, a distance of 19 miles which I made before noon. \$1.50 for whiskey as I had a mule ride of 6 miles. I then went to Row & Haun's office & had a consultation about my suit in which they both said there would be no difficulty in gaining it for me in the Supreme Court, only I had to send back the papers & have them made out anew on paper of a certain kind before they would be admitted in that court. I paid \$1.50 for paper & \$1 for the express to take it back, then went to the stable to Derick. He did not know me for some time. I went home with H.P. Cath is not well, quite feeble & little Cath has got the chills & the nurse. H.P. is not in good health. Derick is well. Cloudy the last two days.

Saturday, 2nd - H.P. & I went to town. Stayed all day. I gave 25¢ for grapes to eat & got acquainted with Bob Bowen that Dave called 'Little Bub' in Iowa. So we two went home with the Judge at dark. Cloudy.

Sunday, 3rd - Rained all day. Bowen asked me to loan him \$100 at 3% a month & he would make me safe by mortgage. I agreed to send it down as soon as practicable. We stayed all day at Judge's.

Monday, 4th - Bowen started home. I & the Judge went to town & then to the post office. I got two letters, one from wife date Oct. 18th, '54, giving an account of old Ben Ford's death & the reception of a bill of exchange for \$200 & her determination to remain in Kentucky for the present, & one from Lizzy of date 25 Oct. & says she wants us to come home in the spring if we could. I stayed in town all day. After dinner Jack came in. He did not know me at first conversation. I went out with the Judge at dark - -

Tuesday, 5th - Jack came out before breakfast. I & Judge went to town, he on the hunt for beef cattle & I to getting 2 gum coats white \$16, and two pair of gum overalls \$6, one cover to hat \$1, two red flannel shirts \$3.50, four pair socks \$2, one pair gum boots \$7, and five fiddle strings & pair tweezers \$1.25. I left Row \$30 to pay the entrance fee of suit to the clerk of the Supreme Court. For grapes 25¢. I slept in the stable; was quite sick all night.

Wednesday, 6th - Paid \$10 to ride up to the Columbus House in the stage. Cold & foggy at Marysville. Dinner \$1 at the Oregon House. We got to the Columbus at 8 o'clock, P.M. Took supper \$1 & bed 50¢.

Thursday, 7th - & breakfast \$1. I gave \$6 to ride a mule to Gibsonville & got my dinner there \$1, at 2 p.m. & then had to foot it 12 miles home, which I did a little after dark & carried quite a pack. Spent 50¢ for whiskey at the Point.

Friday, 8th - We all went to work, including Cook, a hired man, to cleaning of tailings & top dirt. We did not clean up our boxes. All well. Weather clear & cool. The moon has just rose above the hills & the men have turned into their bunks & I will soon.

Saturday, 9th - Quite cool of nights & mornings, so much so that our water in the ditch is nearly blocked up with ice till noon, the sun melts the ice some. Shaw, John & I & Cook, a young man that we hire was stripping today though we got gold \$2.50. Lloyd & Lawrence stripping.

Sunday, 10th - Cool & clear. We divided our dust of the last two weeks, getting \$111.50 to the share after paying \$23 for the company for hired help, 'John Bull', my lost time amount to \$28. For 2 pair of gum gloves \$3.50. I wrote a letter to H.P. & sent him a check for \$1500 by F.D. Everetts & Co. Express, to be loaned at 3% a month. I bought an axe & handle for \$3 and whiskey 50¢. My lesson, 10th chapt Mathew.

Monday, 11th - All six of us at work on the ditch covering it to keep it from being filled up with snow & breaking the levee as was done last year. John is 20 years old today and John Lloyd, 50.

Tuesday, 12th - The nights are quite cold, so much so the water is froze considerable in the ditch. Where it is covered it does not freeze.

Wednesday, 13th - Still putting brush over the ditch. The nights cold & days warm. The yellow jackets are flying about at noon. The wind does not blow the least bit, only in clouding up for rain or snow.

Thursday, 14th - We finished covering the ditch with brush. Delightful sunshine, very pleasant to work. Six men at work on the ditch 4 days each.

Friday, 15th - I & Lawrence was cleaning out the ditch till noon of rocks, and the other 4 was setting up the boxes & hose & cutting down some small trees & brush off the diggings. After dinner 4 of us got gold \$44. The sun shines warm & pleasant. 25¢ for paper tax - - -

Saturday, 16th - I, Shaw, Lloyd & Levi, Lawrence gathered up six picks and each one of them, their gum boots and I took John's, 4 pair in all, over to Betsey town, had them half sold with leather. Cost \$2.50 for John's & 5 of the company picks, \$5 for steeling and sharpening. I met a woman in company with a man dressed in men's clothes & riding straddle. She is quite common stock. Another woman left her husband, one of the proprietors of the N.S. Hotel in Betsey town, gone with her lover. This took place some 3 weeks ago. My dinner & supper \$2 and lodging. 2 men, 1 day each work on ditch, 2 men 1/2 day each on the ditch.

Sunday, 17th - After breakfast \$1, we started for home & arrived at 1 o'clock. Took dinner & went down to the Point. The county clerk had made out the papers again on the right kind of paper, my suit with Vaughn. I sent them by Everett's Express to Marysville to Row & Haun cost 50¢. My lesson Math. XXI chapt.

Monday, 18th - Four of us went to work at our diggins. Levi & Lloyd at their place. The water soon run out of the reservoy, on account of its being checked up by the cold. No rain or snow to raise the creek. The nights cold & freeze the water & days dry & pleasant. We had to stop work till noon, we then had water till night & made \$28. Levi & Lloyd does not weigh their gold till close of the week.

Tuesday, 19th - We was as usual ready for work betimes but no water to work with. Shaw, Lloyd & Lawrence went up the ditch to the bar trap and took out what is called a cat. His front is gray & the hinder part of his body grows gradually black & his long bushy tail, also his legs & feet. His head, eyes, ears and feet are in resemblance of a bar. They lassoed him in the trap & choked him till quite dead, then tied him before he came to again. We got some coarse wire & made a chain. I paid off Cook for 12 days work \$24. I went down to the Point with him. I returned at noon. After dinner I & John cut & split some wood as none of the company worked in the diggins.

Wednesday, 20th - After breakfast I, John, Lloyd, Shaw & Lawrence and two other men that is prospecting near our cabins, all concluded to go down to Rich Bar & cross over Feather River & up Winters Creek. We tied up some bread & meat in a knkerchief to eat. We went right over Slate Mountain, very difficult to get down - had to hold on to the rocks & bushes. We went up Winters Creek & was at the place where crystalized quarts had been got. I picked up a piece & took it to my cabin. We spent the day in climbing over the mountains & ravines. Lloyd went up the river to the Point & got a letter for himself & one for John of date Oct. 25 '54 from his ma. She said a great deal about our coming home in the spring & a conversation she had with Gettiss. Also one letter for me from wife of date Nov. 13 '54, giving an account of her unhappy situation being separated from us & wants us to come home in the spring any how. Well we have not worked any today on account of the water being froze up. The nights cold but the days is so delightful.

Thursday, 21st - Cold nights & pleasant days. The first thing we done was to plage our pet until he broke the chain & none of us could catch him again. He is free again except a collar on his neck & some little chain to it. We did nothing at mining. I & John was getting wood. We cut up the tree that lay just behind our cabin & split some of it.

Friday, 22nd - Last night a man came up after Shaw to go down to his ranch, accordingly this morning he started. Hannibal Bray came up according to appointment. Two others & myself took a tramp over the mountains but made no new discoveries. At home 2 P.M. ate dinner & split wood until night.

Saturday, 23rd - I & John, Lloyd & Lawrence was all at work, had plenty of water. J & I got gold \$7.50. L & L's was not weighed. Some cloudy.

Sunday, 24th - Warm & cloudy, wind blowing from the south. I split some wood that lay near my door & piled it up in anticipation of rain & snow. I finished my 16th letter to my wife & went down to the Point & mailed it, 25¢, & got a letter 50¢ from

H.P. acknowledging the receipt of a check for \$1500. Got John a hickry shirt \$1, & then got drunk & went home. For whiskey \$3.50. I did wrong I own up, and I ask forgiveness.

Monday, 25th - Christmas morning up before day. Built on a fire. Would like to catch my wife again in a Christmas gift - a little too far off. Cloudy & wind blowing from south. My lesson 8th Chapt of Mark. All four went to work. I & John got gold \$57.50. Rained some in the forenoon. In the afternoon some cloudy, at intervals sun shine. All clear at bed time.

Tuesday, 26th - Cold last night. Charles Allen came to my cabin after dark - one of Shaw's friends. I hired him to work for Shaw while gone. So we three got gold \$21. It snowed a little, P.M. & after dark the ground is a little white.

Wednesday, 27th - Cloudy last night, but no snow fell of consequence. Some cloudy today but quite cool. We three got gold \$10.50.

Thursday, 28th - Cold last night. Froze up the water entirely in the ditch. I, John, Charles was cleaning off the ground of brush & small trees & burning some heaps that we made last winter. Lawrence & Lloyd was at the same. A.M. they went up to the trap before dinner, another cat in it. After dinner they & John went up to get it out, but choked it to death, it's no account - - -

Friday, 29th - Cold, the water is still froze up in the ditch. I & John were getting wood today.

Saturday, 30th - Last night cold but warm today & some cloudy. We made a finish of cutting & splitting wood - done up in good style. We went out & mended up our log heaps. John washed 3 shirts, towel & pair socks for me & some for himself. He had cleaned the table & furniture before so we are in good shape for the new year. After supper I washed myself & then a pair of socks & then to bed. Lawrence & Charles went over to the American Valley after his blankets & other fixtures. Got back a little after dark.

Sunday, 31st - Warm & cloudy & snowing, commenced before day. Some time after breakfast I, John & Lawrence went up the ditch to look after the water. It was making its way down slowly. While up there it commenced raining & left off snowing. After returning we took dinner & supper at the same time. Lloyd went down to the Point & has not returned. It continued to rain all day & late at night, with thunder. My lesson the first chap of St. Luke. I read four chapt & did some mending to my old duds.

JANUARY, 1855

Monday, 1st - Up before day, the snow is falling in large lumps off the trees on my cabin roof & makes the boards fairly crack as it is raining again, & wind blowing, & trees falling. After breakfast, thunder & lightning. I started John & Charles up the ditch. They found three large trees had fallen across the ditch & the brush had stopped the water some. When opened it came down with a rush. I & Lawrence went out to the diggins. While out there, it changed to snowing again & continued all day. After dinner, John went up the ditch to cut some limbs out of the way. I & Lawrence went out to the diggins to see after the water, but it had decreased very much. We went up the ditch & found the snow had choked it up, we threw it out again.

Tuesday, 2nd - The snow 1 foot deep. Four of us cut down a large pitch pine on the shares. By noon we had the limbs about our cabins. After noon I, John & Charles cleaned up our boxes & got gold \$28, & set them over again. Lawrence & Lloyd cleaned up theirs. Cloudy somewhat & inclined to storm. Our neighbors have been compelled to stop mining, Hardin & Comp. The water is needed on the other side of the creek, says Clark - -

Wednesday, 3rd - Snowed last night & all day. It is between 1 & 1/2 & 2 ft deep at our cabins. We did not attempt to work. Four of us went down to the Point. All the ditches & flumes is snowed out as well as us. Lloyd stayed at home. John got a new hat \$4. Still snowing at late bed time, moderate.

Thursday, 4th - Still snowing & was at it all night & all of today quite late. Bedtime the moon is shining out bright. All 5 went up the ditch to see after the water, but it was nearly all taken up in the snow so much so that it did not show itself 50 yards from the head of the ditch. We could do nothing with it. We turned about & came home. The snow is between 2 and 3 ft deep & hard to get threw.

Friday, 5th - Some cloudy & snowing at intervals today. All went down to the Point except John. I & John fixed a tung in our sled, ready for carting - - -

Saturday, 6th - Clear & cold this morning. The sun shone bright all day & the sky never seemed to be bluer. I & John was shoveling the snow away from the door & cutting some wood that had been covered up. Lloyd went down to the Point, came home after dark.

Sunday, 7th - Cold this morning, but clouded up & continued more or less so all day. It got warm enough to soften the snow a little. I wrote a letter to H.P. & one to Dave.

Monday, 8th - Rained a very little all day. Lloyd went down to the Point P.M. The express had got no letters. He brought up the N.Y. Herald of Dec 5th that had the president's message. We did no work. My lesson, 21st Chapt Luke.

Tuesday, 9th - Warm all day & sunshine most of it. Cloudy & quite foggy this morning. 4 of us went up the ditch & cleaned out the snow where it was not covered with brush & got the water running down to where it is covered.

Wednesday, 10th - Clear & warm having had fire day & night. The rocks [got] hot and set logs outside fire place afire yesterday that I did not get it out, so this morning I & John took out one round of logs & built up with rocks. John sent a letter to his ma. I, one to Dave & H.P. We went up the ditch this evening. The water is nearly down to the reservoy, the snow has settled down very much.

Thursday, 11th - Shaw came home last night. The weather is warm & pleasant. The snow melted off the trees made it so heavy on the ditch that some of the cross timbers broke in two & let the covering down in the ditch. 5 of us hoisting up & putting new timbers today. Not done.

Friday, 12th - All 5 at work putting new timbers to hold up the brush and made a finish. The sun shines pleasant. We set the trap last evening. Today we took out another kangaroo, or something else of his kind. I know not, but we have him chained to a block between our cabins - - -

Saturday, 13th - Cool nights & pleasant days. We all was getting wood till noon. After, we were idling our time away. The animal slipped the halter last night.

Sunday, 14th - Fine pleasant weather. Nights cool, the snow melts but little. I went down to the Point but no letters. My lesson, 10th Chapt John.

Monday, 15th - We had a general settlement. I then went down to the Point & loaned two of the Shults \$173 for five months - to have \$10 per month for the use of the money with good security. Lloyd paid me \$155 for the use of one of my interests from 21 June last, to 1st Jan 1855 - - - The nights are cool & days pleasant. I paid \$4 for the company & \$1.75 for ourselves for small items.

Tuesday, 16th - We all, 5 of us, concluded to get out some lumber for sluice boxes. John went & got a whip saw. By that time the rest of us had a log cut, hewn, lined, and up to the pit, ready for sawing, but it was work none of us had done, so we all tried, but I & Lawrence could saw the best. P.M. I sent John down to the Point after a file to whet the saw. Cost \$1 for the comp.

Wednesday, 17th - I whetted the saw, & at it went, but my arms is very sore. We have made 4 planks in two pieces of days sawing. The weather is still delightful. Lloyd & Shaw went down to the Point after another saw, but got none. Lloyd stayed all day & came home after night, some drunk.

Thursday, 18th - Some cloudy & wind blowing indicating failing weather. We all had a good time making our arms sore from working Bray's whip saw - - -

Friday, 19th - Cold last night & clear, some windy & cool today. We finished sawing one log A.M. P.M. 3 of us cut & hewed another. Put it on the pit & lined it, & moved the pit near the log. Late bed time snowing.

Saturday, 20th - There is but little new fallen snow this morning. Cold & clear. I, John & Shaw did some sawing today - got along quite well. Lloyd started for Marysville, say the boys. Lawrance set in the cabin nearly all day. Fine for sliding down the hill as the snow has a crust & will bare a man. Warm & pleasant all day.

Sunday, 21st - Last night I washed myself all over, & a pair of socks & towel, put on a clean shirt, the first for 3 weeks. I am 2 & 3 times up in the night. When cold I build a good fire & lie down again. I had John to trim my hair. After dinner I went down to the Point. The express had got in, but no letters. Several drunk & more gambling. Came home, ate supper, red the 5th Chapt of Acts Apostles.

Monday, 22nd - Cold nights. Up before day. It was some cloudy yesterday. I dreamed my wife & I was coming to Cala. I thought we were on a steamer not far from the isthmus. Several times I thought I was travelling in that way & appeared I was in great danger of being drowned. Shaw & Lawrence went out to hew a log to saw in planks. John & Allen to sawing. I went down to the Point, stayed all day & got another whip saw. Everett came in, but no letters.

Tuesday, 23rd - I dreamed last night that I was at the old mill & my mother was living. I thought she said that my wife was over baring & told how I thought I had told her that we would not be long with her that we were going to Cala soon. I thought my wife came in just then. It was warm & pleasant today. The boys went 1/2 mile put a log on the sled, hauled it down to our cabins to saw in planks. It is 14 ft long, 16 by 12 inches. We lack 4 pieces of lines of having it sawed.

Wednesday, 24th - It is warm & some cloudy all day. We finish the 3rd & got the 4th nearly done. P.M. John, Shaw & Charles was setting the penstock anew etc. We have sawed 834 ft of plank in all when we finish 4 pieces of lines - - -

Thursday, 25th - Last night all asleep but me, there appeared like distant thunder. Soon the cabin shook the boards cracked - an earth quake - it's over. We hewed out 2 small sticks to make false bottoms. Sawed one into slats 2 by 2 1/2 inches broad & 7/8 inch thickness, the other to be the same. It is warm & pleasant, the ground begins to show itself in places.

Friday, 26th - We finished sawing the slats for false bottoms & nothing to do. The weather is pleasant enough, but we can't mine for the want of water.

Saturday, 27th - The weather is so pleasant, the sun shined out warm so much so that the green flies were flying about. We did not work. I pack up some wood A.M. P.M. went down to the Point & took Sterling's saw home & got 23 lbs beef cost \$4.50.

Sunday, 28th - Up before day & red the 1st Corinthians to 10th. After breakfast I went down to the Point, the rest of the boys came down but I did not see them. P.M. I went down on Columbia Flat and stopped at Dover's a while and then to Bass's till sun set. Got acquainted with Mrs. & Miss Bass. Stephen B. wants to sell out his diggins.

Monday, 29th - I & John concluded to hew a log. It was after noon before we got it ready to hall down to the pit near the cabin. It was quite as much as we could do. We lined & had them all ready for sawing tomorrow.

Tuesday, 30th - I dreamed last night that some man, hearing my name mentioned, said that he would make me a present of the finest coat that could be had in Georgetown. I thought that Lyson Bell made it & old Rankins sold the goods, cost \$480. I & John was at work soon whip sawing. By 1/2 past 10 a.m. we had finished the log of 120 ft inch plank. I cut some dry wood before dinner, & then went down to the Point after dinner.

No eastern mail in. I could but stand & gaze at two men sliding down the hill on a door to the foot of the bridge. One of them a man of 40 years old & a wife at San Francisco & is a good friend to me - - - but whiskey does its work for many.

Wednesday, 31st - Quite warm & cloudy. It sprinkled a few drops this morning, but cleared off. John bought an axe of Shaw \$1.75 a piece broke out of the edge. We took it & mine down to the Point, ground them sharp. I got a hand saw file 50¢, & John a pair of pantaloons cost \$5. No letters for me, something wrong - - -

FEBRUARY, 1855

Thursday, 1st - Clear & pleasant this morning. I made two pick handles. I then cut & split some dry wood after dinner. I & John split some logs for back sticks. We went up to the reservoy & shut the gate & then down to the diggins & home after cutting an oak stick for pick handles. Cloudy this P.M. and commenced raining at dark.

Friday, 2nd - We fully expected a good rain and snow last night & today, it cleared off at noon without rain to do any good & no snow. We went out to fix for mining as there is water to answer if it will only keep from freezing of nights so hard. We commenced piping P.M. but our hose bursted. We mended up and done considerable work after all the trouble.

Saturday, 3rd - We was piping off tailings and picked up \$6.50, I, John & Shaw. Lawrance is stripping by himself. Lloyd has not got back from below.

Sunday, 4th - After breakfast as I had pulled off my hickry shirt & put on another, of John's washing, I've only wore it two weeks. As I was dressed up & clean, I went down to the Point. I still thought to hear from wife, accordingly I got a letter from wife of date Dec. 22nd, 1854, giving an account of some what her trip to Iowa & the big dinners. And one to John from his ma written from Iowa of date 24th Dec. '54. Cost \$2 the two, giving an account of the Iowa folk - - - I was expecting to hear that she was fixing to travel to Cala, but, O, the disappointment, blackness, darkness, almost ready to give up in dispair. This was one of those still delightful sunny days, warm & pleasant, as is so common. My lesson 1rst chapt Ephesians. I wrote 17th letter to my wife.

Monday, 5th - We was piping off tailings after mending our hose as they were slips off the pipe & needed patching. P.M. a pine burr run in the pipe. It took some time & hard punching to get it out. Pick up gold \$7.

Tuesday, 6th - We was as usual at work be times. We had just fairly got under way, our hose bursted. It took me till noon to sew them up again. I sent my 17th letter to wife by Lawrance to the express office. Cost 25¢. We got gold \$41.50. It was warm all day & cloudy.

Wednesday, 7th - Cloudy, hailed a little at noon & late rained some. We were at work early, but the hose bursted in two places. After dinner I & John took them down to carry to the cabin to sew them over again. Later I went down to the Point to get twine. I see Lloyd has got back but too drunk to come to the cabin. We got gold \$18.

Thursday, 8th - Cloudy weather; it was drisling most of the day, at one time it was mixed with snow. I was sewing the hose and am not done, at work in my cabin. John & Shaw got gold \$32 - - - Lawrance is doing well. Lloyd has not got home yet, I suppose is still drunk.

Friday, 9th - Cloudy this morning but cleared off & was a beautiful warm sunny day. The wild geese were flying north, a yellow jacket flying about in the cabin. Shaw & John got gold \$16.50. I was in the cabin all day sewing the hose, not done.

Saturday, 10th - Clear & frosty last night, but clouded up this forenoon. P.M. commenced raining good & alternately it would snow & keeps at it. John & Shaw got gold \$29 & me to help them from the middle afternoon, as I finished sewing the hose. Lloyd is not at home yet.

Sunday, 11th - Cleared off last night & froze. After doing some needle work this morning we four went out to the diggins to see what harm was done by the rush of water. While out there we picked up \$4. We cleaned out Lawrance's boxes & went to the cabin, ate dinner and went down to the Point. Late in the evening a man by the name of Cook asked me to drink with him & Vaughn. V. said he did not ask Mr. Haun to drink with him. I told V. I did not drink with such a man as he was. He stepped forward one step & said I was a damnd knave. I rose up and stepped towards him two steps, he drew a large Bowey knife & said Draw & come ahead. He was drunk & drinking, he is too cowardly to act so when sober. I felt very much like killing the rogue & murder, but the thought of doing what whiskey will soon do & meet a just God, I paused & reflected. I did not come to this country to fight & stake my life against such great odds. He has nothing to live for but to get drunk. This is the third time that a deadly weapon has been pointed at me, but not much scared - - - I got 1 1/8 lb. sole leather \$1, paper tax 25¢.

Monday, 12th - Cold last night & clouded up this morning. We all four was running tailings off Lawrance's diggins. Took out no gold today.

Tuesday, 13th - I was making false bottoms or Hungarian riffles. I got them made time enough to put them in the boxes. Shaw & John was cleaning up bed rock till noon & got gold \$8. After noon they were setting boxes & fixing on the hose that I mended last week.

Wednesday, 14th - I, John & Shaw was mining today washing down new dirt with hose & pipe. We took out \$118, one piece weighing \$53 & one \$24 & one \$22.50, the balance was small dust. Cloudy or hazy, commenced to rain after dark.

Thursday, 15th - Did not rain much last night. Some cloudy & foggy this morning & turned out a beautiful warm sunny day. We was piping away when the hose split, not the thread but the cloth for the first time. It took me the evening to put on a patch. We got gold \$32.50, if the hose did rip.

Friday, 16th - Fine weather. Today is the first that we have had for a month past to work all day with the pipe & hose, and a good head of water & nothing to break. We took out \$131.50. One piece weighing 5 1/4 oz, or \$84 as we count. Lloyd came home today with Delireum tremors.

Saturday, 17th - Cool & clear. We fixed to clean up bed rock & got gold \$143. This is what makes my time pass off much easier & faster than I want it.

Sunday, 18th - Cold this morning. I made three Hungarian riffles for Lawrance & made a level. After dinner I went down to the Point, mailed a letter for John, 25¢, to Pauline Haun & got 3 box matches 25¢ & hired J. Shults to fill Lloyd's place as I do not intend to have anything to do with a drunkard, than I can possibly help. We had a settlement with Lawrance, he took out \$67.50 in the last 14 days. We had to pay him \$20 out of it for lost time, we then got \$24 out of it to divide in four shares. It has been warm & pleasant today. My lesson, third chapt Hebrews. I had to patch my hickrey shirt, the right sleeve, before I went to bed.

Monday, 19th - Cool this morning & continued to freeze all day. Cloudy, wind from north, some little snow fell. We cleaned up bed rock & got gold \$27.50. James Shults came up & worked in Lloyd's place with Lawrance. I am to give him \$75 per month. Lawrance mended my boots tonight. I paid Shively the constable \$3 for going down with me to Winters Creek to serve a process & attachment & summons witness but Henry Gottshall was gone.

Tuesday, 20th - Cold last night, froze up the water so that we could not work. I, John, Shaw & Lawrance took five picks to the Valley - had 3 sharpened \$1.50 & 2 steeled \$3. Three meals & lodging at Betsy Town \$3 each for me & John, \$6. We then took dinner at American Ranch \$1 each for I & John & then came home before sundown.

Wednesday, 21st - It is cool weather, froze considerable last night. Our water ditch is still froze up, no water to work with.

Thursday, 22nd - I dreamed last night that wife was with me & that John Hurst & his son Albert had come to Calafornia. It had and was snowing a little this morning when I got up. The old snow was quite all melted off & today it is slightly covered again. We can't work in our diggins. I went down to the Point, paid Root & Lewis all we owed them, \$13.50 as \$8.50 was marked paid for John's hat & \$3.50 for whiskey. I gave Mrs. Dousler \$2 for an oven & lid for Company.

Friday, 23rd - Snowing this morning & continued more or less for most of the day. Shaw & I had a settlement & divided out \$64 in 4 shares, he got one & I kept three. I then paid him off 7 1/2 oz in gold dust that I had borrowed, in all 12 oz. I previously paid 4 1/2 oz. P.M. Shaw & I went down to the Point as we can't work. Lloyd is anxious to know whether I will let him work again with us or not. I saw a son of Sam Brown's that Cash Clay had the fight with.

Saturday, 24th - Clear & cold last night. 3 inches of snow on the ground. We are not doing anything like work. Warm & hazy today. I was down to the Point & learned for the first time Adams & Co Banking Express has failed. I had 2 old blue shirts, cut one up to patch the other late at night. The snow is quite all gone.

Sunday, 25th - Cold & clear last night, but warm & cloudy. I finished mending my shirt & read the first & second chapters of the first Epistles General of Peter. After dinner I went down to the Point. I learned from Whitney that the vigilance committy had called a meeting yesterday & had added 10 more to their number making 25 in all & are determined to resist the civil law in the case of Capt. Fagan, as the Grand Jury found a true bill against the vig. committy 3 weeks since. It commenced snowing late this evening & was at it when I turned in.

Monday, 26th - & was at it this morning. 4 of us went up the ditch to put some new timber across the ditch to hold up the covering that had been broke down by the big snow we had at Christmas time. We finished at noon & Lawrance went up again & it commenced to rain & continued all evening. After dinner I & Lawrance went up again & calked the long flume, cleaned out the rocks & snow out of the ditch. As we came home the water was nearly down to the reservoy. 3 days work done on the ditch.

Tuesday, 27th - Cloudy & warm last night, not much rain fell. The snow is fully half gone of 10 or 12 inches deep & is warm & cloudy all day without rain. The water made its way down to the diggins by 1/2 past 1, evening not enough to work with. I, John & Shaw went up the ditch to see what was the matter. All right except the ground soaks up so much water.

Wednesday, 28th - Commenced raining last night after dark & continued all night & all day very quite hard. The snow is quite gone from about here. We all went to work except Lloyd. We got gold \$2.50. Jim Shults is at work for me.

MARCH, 1855

Thursday, 1st - Still raining continued more or less till noon, the sun shone out the afternoon. We got gold \$24.

Friday, 2nd - Cool last night, quite foggy this forenoon. The evening was pleasant with sunshine. We cleaned up bed rock & got gold \$43. Lawrance & Shults cut a ditch to run the tailings by their diggins that they may clean up the bed rock.

Saturday, 3rd - Rained in the night last & this morning, cleared up at noon, sun shone pleasant this evening. We cut 6 small & 2 large trees as we want to wash the ground away where they stood. The large one broke & bounsed on two boxes & spoilt them entirely. We fixed up again in the after noon & was piping down the stumps & bank. We cleaned up & got gold \$68.

Sunday, 4th - A beautiful sunny morning. We went up to the reservoir & let the water run out & run off the dirt that had stopped in it, caused by the rain. I then went down to the Point, no mail. The vigilance committee called a meeting & stated their object & asked to be sustained in what they have done by the miners rather a failier. My lesson first chapt of Revelations.

Monday, 5th - Rained last night & most of the day, but light. I & Shaw were at work as usual & got gold \$17. John commensed at a new place by himself. I refused to let Lloyd work in our company any more, because I had told him that I positively would not work with a drinking man if I could help it.

Tuesday, 6th - Rained last night & all of today. Shaw told me early that Lloyd wanted to have a settlement. I was making a stool when him & Shaw came over. He said he wanted a divide of the money we have taken out while he was on a spree. I told him I would not be bothered with him longer. He abused & threatened so we struck at each other. Shaw caught me & Lloyd picked up the drawing knife that was on the table at his side & made several attempts to strike me with it. I got hold of the hatchett near the door & he then laid down the drawing knife. I then went up to him, said if he would go out & give me a fair fight I would treat him as a gentleman. He then went off & Shaw, Lawrance & the wretch divided the provisions & part of the tools. I, Shaw & John went down to the Point. I got Deusler to write a bill of sale of my entire interest in all my property to John for one thousand doll cash in hand. The wretch is claiming an interest in every thing he wants.

Wednesday, 7th - Rained hard last night & most of the day. Lloyd is moving his provisions this morning, he is still not willing to take what is his own but wants more. I went down to the Point, Nelson Creek & Feather River was higher than I've seen it. Before I came home at evening the mail came in, no letters. I bought 3 newspapers \$1. Shaw & John got gold \$8.50.

Thursday, 8th - I, John & Shaw went mining as usual, several men up from the Point aprospecting. Lloyd was down to the Point to advertise for a miners meeting. Rained some this evening. We got gold \$70.

Friday, 9th - Early this morning Lloyd came to Shaw's cabin & left a written notice forbidding me using any tools that he had an interest in until divided. Like the dog on the hay he won't divide & wants us to keep from work. Rained & sun shine alternately. We got gold \$87.

Saturday, 10th - Frosty this morning & foggy, the air rather cool. We were at work as usual. We got gold \$115. Lawrance & Shults are making wages. Lloyd said to Lawrance that I had Shaw bribed. It made Shaw very mad.

Sunday, 11th - Last night I dreamed of being with wife but do not recollect at what place, though pleasantly situated. I awoke out of those pleasantrys, put on my slippers & walked out of the cabin. Clear & cold with the ground covered with snow that had fallen in the night. Day light was near at hand. I called up the boys, breakfasted, greased my boots & then down to the Point, and this object in view - to stop the miners from coming up to our diggins & holding the arbitration for the benefit of Lloyd which I accomplished in good style, there being but four men came & two of them I sent. I used all the means in my power to accomplish it, nothing done for him yet. Before going to bed I read the five last chapt of revelations.

Monday, 12th - I set up till mid night & then up at day break. The ground was covered again with snow & still falling & continued all day raining & snowing. After dinner I & Shults went down to the Point with two picks to sharpen cost \$1.50 & one yesterday 75¢. I got one steel hoe at \$1.50 & 20 lbs beef \$5. We got gold \$27. Lloyd told Shaw that he was going to the American Valley to try me at Law.

Tuesday, 13th - Rained & snowed all of last night & today, not so much in the after noon. Shults & Lawrance went to work in the P.M. I and John went down to the Point. We met the constable, he read his documents to me a suit for \$200 & damages for \$300 to be tried on Thursday 15th. John bought a pair boots \$4. Lloyd is the plaintiff in the Law suit. John had a fuss with G. Kline he being drunk, several persons kept them from fighting. Then a fellow by the name of Jim Preston pulled off his coat to give John a fight, but when he was ready I was in front of him, he soon left.

Wednesday, 14th - The ground was covered with snow this morning. We finished sewing another seam in our piece of new hose. I, Shaw & John went out to the diggins, cleared away some brush & set up our pen stock again to get more head. We concluded to try the old hose again & brought the new back to the cabin at noon. After, we cut a new leading ditch to run water in the pen stock higher up. We were clearing off some small trees one fell the wrong way & broke 3 old sluice boxes.

Thursday, 15th - I, John & Shaw was clearing off timber this fore noon. The ground was covered with snow & quite cold & frosty. The sun was shining warm & pleasant quite all day. After noon all five including Shults went down to the Point to try another Law suit this time with Lloyd. Before the jury was had some of them expressed a wish the case would be put off untill tomorrow, the court concurred in that wish so there was no objection made. I finished my letter to H.P. & mailed it 25¢. There is a ball to be at the Point to night that is the reason the case was put off.

Friday, 16th - Cold & clear last night. This morning we all went down to the Point, but a short time before that court was called. A jury was had of 12 men. Some half dozen was objected to & others not so good filled their places. Shaw examined at great length by the plaintiff's attorney. Adjourned for dinner \$1 each. Witness stated that Lloyd offered me \$20 to let him continue as he had been working but the Jury brought in a verdict against me for \$300 & restore him again in the company. So I paid one of my lawyers \$25. John bought a judgement against Freer & Vaughn of G. Kline for \$107.50 & some other cost, the judgement is for \$171 with cost & interest. Lloyd was heard to say that Hawkins said I stole gold out of the pan. I then swore out a peace warrant against Lloyd for trying to cut me with a drawing knife. Such is my troubles today & but few to say I am right. These are the names of the jury, Asa Bryan, John Bass, Steve Bass, Beach, J. Cook Smith, Collier, Geo Poor, Kinman, George Runnells, J.H. Smith, Larison & Titus. Has God forsaken me, will the Lord forgive me the wrongs I've done & keep me safe from mine enemies.

Saturday, 17th - Cool last night & this morning. No work today. We was waiting patiently for the officer, finally I sent Shaw & Lawrance down to see what was going on. The constable met them & served a notice on Shaw & came on & took John with him and asked me if I was not going down, I said not. Lawrance came up for me & said the squire was waiting for me. I then went down. Lloyd was in custody. I had swore out a peace warrant against him. I, Shaw & John all testified that he tried to strike me with a drawing knife & said that he had killed a man in Ky in '43, besides the threats & insults he has made. The squire bound him over to keep the peace 6 months & give security for \$250. He is certainly the most wicked & vindictive piece of humanity I ever saw, say nothing of his ungratefulness to me. We & Shaw divided \$512 in four shares one to Shaw & 3 to John including \$50.50 the half that Lawrance made in the last month. Larn paid me \$4 borrowed money. I am not considered quite so bad a man today as was spoken of yesterday.

Sunday, 18th - Warm last night & cloudy this morning. We all went down to the Point this fore noon. Duesler was authorized to give Lloyd a notice that the Mountain Comp'y had no more water running in their ditch than they themselves had use for. I gave Duesler \$35 fees & paid \$4 for beef, comp'y. Big John Davis has got back to the

Point. I stated publickly that he swore to a falsehood in Nove. last for Vaughn, it has been said that he would attack me. He spoke to me & we shook hands. I read this morning 13th chapt Mathew. Shaw paid C. Allen's board bill \$2.50 to our share.

Monday, 19th - The last night was not cold, a very little frosty & today has been quite warm & pleasant. The winged insects were trying their old tricks again, abuzzing & billing. We all five were at work again. I, Shaw & John got gold \$13. Lawrance & Shults about the same but not weighed. Lloyd is trying to get a man to work with us but has not succeeded as yet. We all went down to the Point to hear the case argued for a new trial but the Judge has gone to a ball. Up the creek to Madden's.

Tuesday, 20th - Nights some frosty last & today was one of those pleasant sunny days. The ground squirrels were out today for the first I've seen. We went to work betimes. Lloyd had sent a man by the name of Williams to work in his place, but I told him the comp'y had use for all the water that was running in the comp'y ditch, so he left soon. We got gold \$40.50.

Wednesday, 21st - Pleasant weather indeed. We were cleaning up bed rock P.M. I was splicing the hose. We got gold \$67. Quit early, after supper we all went down to the Point to try for a new trial but the squire would not grant it. So my council gave notice we would take an appeal.

Thursday, 22nd - Beautiful & pleasant morn. After a few hours of broken sleep I was up before day & called up all hands in both cabins to eat breakfast & I prepared to leave for Marysville. I, Shaw & John went down to the Point. I gave Lewis H. Bray & Shaw as security in my case with Lloyd for \$1000 & John was to weigh that sum to Shaw in dust to make the securities good or safe. I then got the squire to make out the costs which was \$49.50 that I paid the Justice & took a receipt for the same. I just then got a letter from H.P. stating that I had gained the case with Vaughn in the Supreme Court. Letter cost 25¢. I bid John & Shaw good bye, they started home. I ate dinner with Lewis, cost \$1. With a heavy heart I gazed at the high snow capped mountain that lay before me & then moved steadily off to climb over its height but before I had near reached its summit I discovered that I had lost my old butcher knife out of the scabbard ascuffling through the bush & snow. As I had no further use for the scabbard I took it off & laid it in between two trees. I made Gibsonville in good time though I would mire down often in the snow. I stopped at the Mountain Cottage 12 miles from home. After dark I passed a large house, it seemed free to enter. In I went & saw four Mexican women & a lot of dirty miners dancing. After the set was out men & women went up to the bar & took something to drink. Next followed a stag dance, that out I left & went to bed. I rested but indifferently.

Friday, 23rd - Fine morning. I could not get a mule hire & I & two other men started for Rabbit Creek. My supper, lodging & breakfast \$2.50. We arrived at Rabbit Creek at 10 a.m. ten miles over the snow & slish. There I saw Vaughn. I got a mule to ride to the Buckeye House 12 miles past the Lexington New York store, American Diamond Spring houses, to the Buckeye. Ate dinner before 2 P.M. cost \$1. I stop here till morning. I went to bed at a late hour.

Saturday, 24th - Up before day. The land lady is a grass widow, one of the partners, the other is a young man, keepers of the Buckeye House. Supper, lodging & breakfast \$2.50 & mule & stage fare \$5 to M ville. I saw a buck Negro wash his face & hands & wipe on the same towell & blow his nose on it, all so that white men used it after he had done this. We started early on a mule's back for the Oregon House 28 miles. Dinner \$1 & then to M ville. Arrived in stage by 4 P.M. I then walked out to H.P. by sun set.

Sunday, 25th - I & Jack went up to Parks' Bar on the Yuba River & was after dark getting back.

Monday, 26th - I went out to the upper ranch with Jack & 4 others to help him finish sewing barley. Got back at dark.

Tuesday, 27th - Went to town with Jack after dinner & back again.

Wednesday, 28th - I went up Ously's Bar with H.P. He had a law suit & gained it, then home again. Arrived at sun set.

Thursday, 29th - I went to town with H.P. He concluded to go up with me in the mountains. We then went out to the ranch.

Friday, 30th - Commenced raining early this morning & quite hard. So we concluded to wait until tomorrow. P.M. we went to town. I bought a water proof hat, pair boots & gum leggins \$7.50 & I received 2 letters from my wife mailed in Iowa of date Feb 12th '55 & Feb 19th '55 stating that she would start home to Ky on the next day also that she would start to Cala by the first May, at farthest. I then wrote my 18th letter in answer & mailed it. We then went out to the ranch again to stay all night. Raining quite hard.

Saturday, 31st - Raining hard this morning. H.P. would not start so we gave it over for the day though the sun shone out at intervals in the after noon.