

R1217

LETTERS FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOLD FIELDS

Abstracted from letters in the family files of
Betty Ammerman, 2331 S. Virginia, Springfield, MO 65807

From a letter dated 13 Nov 1849, California Gold Diggins, written by Thomas Foster LAYTON to his parents, Charles & Sarah (FOSTER) LAYTON in Springfield, MO; the complete letter was published in White River Valley Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 7, No. 5, Fall 1980.

"We arrived here about Oct. 13th after a long and tiresome trip. We had a hard trip of it at best. I advise all who come here to come by the Isthmus of Panama; time saved would more than pay the difference in the fare and pack mules, to start early in spring with 100 days provisions, but I don't recommend the route across the plains at all (as we came).

"James MYERS died on Oct. 29th after a long illness of typhoid fever. The Doctor, Dutchman and myself are well. Tell Messrs. LAIN and KIMBROUGH they are doing a good business. I have taken John KIMBROUGH's advise.

"I will write Capt. BEDFORD and Mr. FARMER when I can. Tell Capt. BEDFORD I don't know where Thomas BEDFORD is.

"Archibald [LAYTON] is in Calif., but I don't know where he is. Dr. PERHAM has seen him when he was going up the Yuba River. I do not know where John FOSTER is. I wish Wm. _____ (?) LOWRY and yourself were out here and John [LAYTON] also.

"I have enclosed an order from Dr. PERHAM on Thomas TILLER. I wish Sarah to pay Mrs. FARMER."

* * * * *

From a letter dated 31 July 1856, Poker Flat, California, written by Thomas Foster LAYTON during his second trip to California, to his wife Julia Ann in Springfield; complete letter published in White River Valley Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 7, No. 7, Spring 1981.

"I received a letter by Mr. KIMBROUGH dated 29th May . . . you had been in the store.

"I have made a sure (?) sale of the shop to SAMPSON and WARD. I bought one of the shops from SAMPSON. PAGE made the sale.

"MOREHEAD drove up the last trip. He said Archibald [LAYTON] was nearly over his sickness. Tom JEFFRIES was going to Shasta to see about the reward for arresting CARTER. Last Sunday, Lambert WHITLOCK, Hollett HOLLINGSWORTH, Marion FULBRIGHT and Calvin and Taylor BEAL were here. WHITLOCK has not sold all his cattle yet [either] and stock are still falling.

NL19
WR219

"I enclose duplicate ___ for \$2750. . . please hand to S [SHEPHERD?] K [KIMBROUGH?] and MOSS.

"After getting through here I have some horses and old cows to sell and perhaps may have to stay until the 20th of Sept. It will be more healthy on the Isthmus then. I will go by New York, as that is the most certain route. I wish you were all in Va. again that I might go through that way . . . but I shall delay no time in getting to Springfield when I start."

* * * * *

"There is properly no history, only biography." Ralph Waldo Emerson