

Joseph Warren Gray

Dear ~~bro~~

not answered

West Amherbury Dec<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1837

Dear Brother

Last week being  
our annual Thanksgiving I  
am at home on a visit for a few days,  
and believing you like to hear  
from Amherbury often as I have  
a good deal of leisure I thought I would  
write to you. We are all well here.  
Sister Laura has taken a school  
in Brentwood to teach this winter  
and it is now in session.  
Little Eddie is doing nicely.

When I first saw him soon after his arrival here with Mrs. Stevens he looked pale and worn out with sickness and fatigue, but now he is as plump, rosy-cheeked curly haired, bright-eyed laughing a boy as you could wish to see, he can almost go alone, by taking hold of ones finger he will walk around the room quite smart.

He can say a few words of one syllable and I think will soon learn to talk. Altogether he is getting on quite well. We are proud of him I assure you and love him dearly. I have been living in Exeter the past summer & Autumn, in a store but business is so dull I am thrown out of employ. Times are very hard indeed, there are hundreds of able-bodied men in this region out of employ at this time, with

no prospect of work this winter and with little money to help themselves.

This is the first day of winter and the weather is very mild and pleasant. The "Old ones" prophesy a mild winter for the present one. I hope it will be for should it be as severe as last there must a fearful amount of suffering among the unemployed unless assisted by the charities of a benevolent public, Eddie has just placed a kiss upon my cheek to send to Papa. Let me assure you he will be well cared for here for his and yours sake and for the sake of <sup>her</sup> whose memory we cherish.

The family all send their love to you and best wishes for your prosperity. Father has just received a paper from you.

Yours with Esteem Joseph W. Gray

P.S. The Trunk you sent ~~has~~  
arrived in due time. the contents  
of which we prize very highly as mementos  
of our dear Lydia.

Adieu.

J. W. G.

W. Amherst Feb 18/58

My Dear Brother

Two Weeks

ago my Father rec'd a letter  
from you dated Dec 16, stating  
that you should that day  
order your agent in S. F.  
to send to his address a draft  
for three hundred dollars to be  
used for the purpose of paying  
my expenses out to you.

The draft he has not rec'd and  
I fear it has been lost, it

being now two months since  
the date of your letter, and if  
your agent sent it immediately  
by on the receipt of yours, it  
should have been here before this,  
Sara got three papers and Father  
one, the last mail but no  
letters.

Should we receive the draft  
which I hope we may, I shall  
be ready and willing to start  
immediately for California or  
await your further orders as your  
letters may imply.

You say in your  
letter that Gen. Sibley is going to  
Cal. and recommend my waiting  
until he goes out, I wrote  
him a day or two after the receipt  
of your letter to ascertain when

he would start and he wrote  
me that he should not be able  
to start before the 20<sup>th</sup> of April.  
but it seems along time for me  
to wait as I have been for  
some time out of employ and  
feel like being to work.

Eddy continues in fine health  
and spirits, can run alone and  
drives about the house nearly the  
whole day. he understands a  
good deal altho' cannot talk  
much as yet. We are having  
the coldest weather of the season  
now and Eddy stands it first-  
rate.

My Mother got a letter  
from Mrs Stevens last night  
which says she is coming to make  
us a visit in a few days and

enclosed the accompanying  
letter which she wished us to  
send to you.

I write this in a great hurry  
as I am on the point of going  
to Haverhill the mail having  
closed here I shall send it  
from N. C.

The family are all well  
business is very dull in these  
parts not much to do and  
wages very cheap

Yours Truly Joseph.

E W Morse

San Diego Cal.

Joseph  
Feb 18 50