Amos Weeks

J. D. Moore
Amos Weed
Geo Little
Hannah
Maria
E W Huntington
&c

1852
1853
1854
1855
1856

1852

Sonora California March 12th

Friend Morse

Excuse me the liberty I am taking in again writing to you without having Received an Answer from my last; (written I believe in October) I have been waiting patiently to hear from you by every Mail - But thought perhaps that you might have Departed from S. Diego I heard by Mr Campbell that you had gone home the last Summer to get Spliced, So I supposed that this letter will find you in the Richest enjoyments of Married life; May your greatest expectations be Realized is the sincere wish of your Obt Servant In Relation to that Trunk of mine I wish that you would keep it in in some secure place out of your way, although there is nothing in it very valuable except some letters & Papers which I would not like to lose or be lost I think that I shall be down to San Diego between this date and July but cannot say positively now I hope so at least, as I am anxious to see how the things move at this time

I suppose that you are making A fortune now, I wish that good luck to you at any Rate Please to write by the first Mail, and give me all of the News how the New Town flourishes &c with all of the particulars what, and how, you are doing as it will be perused with pleasure by me If I come down there, the coming Summer If I can find any business which I could engage in at profit I would Remain there if not I should take up some Stock to those Parts By the way, I wish that you would ascertain whether Stock such as mules & Cattle are held at A high price now or are they Cheap - inform me if you can at what price they could be bought by by the hundred head, that is Cattle, and what price good used Mules bring &c - Is business good there, or is it as dull as when I left - is the market Regular - or does it fluctuate with the San Francisco Market - could A man bring any thing from the latter, that he could make any profit on - or is business overdone by competition Excuse these many questions and the trouble that I am giving you

I am still at work at Mineing Near Sonora I have done tolerable well when I have worked But have necessarily lost much time. Through the Fall for want of water for the last two weeks from to much having just had A tremendous Rain - which has damaged us about three or four hundred dollars. having washed away the washing dirt which we threw up last fall, we can make with Regular Steady work from 4 dollars to eight dollars not often less than 4 - from this the Expenses & losses Cut A large slice I lost about three hundred in the Quartz Mines on commencement - which was Rather A hard begining - Tell Mr Slack to write to me - also - give my Respects to him and all enquiring friends - Please to direct letters to Sonora - as that is the nearest Regular Post Office Receive with this my best Regards for you (and yours)

Very Respectfully yours

Seth B. Slack

To E. W. Morse Esq.

Thos Weed

March 17th 1852

E. W. Rice Esqr

San Diego

Cal

Amos Moore
Nov 14 1852

San Francisco November 14th 1852

Cousin Ephraim

I do being some time since I have received a letter from you I thought I would imploy a few moments in writing to you that you may know hough I get along I am still living with Mr. Mowry yet but as those rains make the dirt so muddy it is very bad to work now and I think of going to the mines next Monday I shall go up in the neighbourhood of Sanora and when I get stationed there I shall write to you and let you know hough I get along and if there is any thing to be made there I shall want you by all means to come up there and join me so that when we get our pile we can go home together and if our pile we cannot obtain while a good resolution we are bound to sustain and all bad habbits thank god we shall refrain; then with a pure hart and clear conciance we will together go to a better land. and bear, our disapointments like a man.

I shall leave my chest with Mr. Mowry and if it be so you come up before you go home I want you to bring up all of our things my chest rifle lock's shells and all the

curiosities which we had there, I hope I can get a good chance at the mines to make something as I want you to come up here so we can start from this place together,

The last letter you wrote I received September 23d and the last letter I received from home was ~~September~~ October 7th stating that our folk at home were all well, but Abby's health was very poor she has quite a lame knee so bad that it is hard for her to walk.

William Nichols has come out from the state has been here about three months, has been at the mines once took up some claims and returned again, to go up again as soon as the rains sets in about one month ago he and Mr Pickney went to napa to press hay at 10 Dollars per month but I expect he will return again soon Pickney wants me to go to the mines with him but I shall not as he is a regular sucker and does not like to work as you knowed in the States,

I shall probably see Blake somewhere up in the neighbourhood of Sonora as you say he is there,

I went up to see Daniel Kimble last night he is well, and has bought a grocery store and is going to trade it this winter. Tarry good by, and ~~please~~ soon write

Your Friend Wm C

Sonora July 18th 1853

Cousin Ephraim

I saw Spring at the fourth in Sonora he is now here seling at auction he told me the other day he had a letter from you a short time since and said you were in San Diego yet, of which I supposed you had gone to the States long ago and have been waiting to receive a letter from you and was surprised to hear that you were still there. I wish when you receive this you would write me and let me know when you intend to go back and what you are now doing. I came up here last Novem— and here I still remain when I first come up it commenced to rain and snow and storned like the Devil all winter nearly every thing in the way of provisions throughout the mines demanded from 75 cts to the Dol— per lb— I have mined it since I have been here all the time but have not made much more than expences, but now provisions have come down to their old Original prices again I now stand in hopes of making something this summer. I sold a shair in my old claim yester— —day I then went over to columbia and ingaged to go at work nexet week for five Dol's per day which I think wil last me untill nexet fall.

I receive a letter from home the other day the old folks were getting along pretty much after the old sort and old Amesbury was flourishing the same as ever Mother wrote that Abby had got a boy but a few weeks previous had been quite unwell Father had been sick and would not be able to do much this summer

I do not think of any thing more to write now so I will let Spring fill up the rest

Your sincere Friend

Amos Weed

Friend Morse

By request of Weed and my own desire I take the opportunity offered of writing you a few lines. Since I saw you last I have seen the Elephant and felt of his Trunk, but found it Empty. I have Travelled some made money and lost more but Will make my Independant Eight Infantry Yet if the Devil does not Stand in my Way. By the by do you See I am in the mines right Where the gold is obtained Walk over Millions of Dollars daily. ought I not

to be happy. Yes of Course. I am. I always was Gold or no gold. But. There is one thing that would make me more so that is my Bill ——— Excuse the Shortness of this letter as we have no news of interest up here But what Weed has written With one Exception Jan Sunday we Saw a Prize fight One fellow Got Terribly Jammed and the other Got Lost — Weed looks the same old Sixpence So does the Orderly Excepting he has Obtained the long Coveted Goatee. Height Heo I can think of nothing Else at present Tell Sergt Kerven I want him to write me a long letter and let me Know all the news if he will I will send him the first piece of Gold I dig Good by my respects to all Enquiring friends if I have any

Hoping this will find you Enjoying all that is good and Glorious both Celestial & Terrestial

I Remain Spring of Old

Hon E W Morse
San Diego
Cal

Amos

July 13 1853

Amos
Oct. 1853

Columbia Oct-7th

Cousin Ephraim

I received your letter on the second of this month and was much pleased to learn that you intended to remain in San Diego some length of time yet and also that your wife was coming out which I think is a trip almost imposable for the West Amesbury Ladies, yet although, moreover, nevertheless, notwithstanding, it was the wisest plan you could have made for the Ladies of our native soil will not believe that this Country is the most healthyes Country on the globe; but by little, experience they will acquiess with us; probably by the time you receive those lines your wife will be at your arms, once more, where you can injoy the soled comforts of life once more. I am now liveing in columbia about two miles from Sonora, I have bought in to a claim here and payed two hundred and fifty Dl there are four of us in the claim two frenchmen and one American from Baltimore by the name of Palrimple; Our claim is a very rich one and soon as we have water we are going to make our pile; the prospect on our claim is from 50 cts to 16 and 20,00 to the pan Onego our partners went father up in the mountains where there were some frenchmen killed by the Indians last year to prospect a gulch he sunk a number of shafts which proved to be very rich and all coase gold there is no one knows where it the place is but

Sanfrancisco November 13th 59

Cousin Ephriam

I came down to Sanfrancisco last week I am at work for Mowry again as I can not do any thing more at the mines untill the rain sets in. While here I thought I would drop you a line I shall probably remain here till last of the month and per haps longer. Cousin Ephriam you would oblige me much if you will send that rifle that I left with you. in the first Steamer. in charg to your friend Raimonds. where I can get it and take it to the mines with me. You will please to send your bill with it as I have your other in my chest in the letter that Slack sent me while you was at home which was fifty seven 57,00 and this winter I will send you the

money togather with that of the
rifle. Please to hasten it along as soon
as you can for I dont know hough
soon the rains will set in.
If I had time I would call down
and see you. but it is so late in
the season that I shall not be able.
If your wife has arived please
give her my best respects. Yours in haste

From Your Sincere Friend and
True Cousin
Amos Weed

P.S. Spring is now in
his old place at San frisco

Amos Weed
Nov 13th 1853

Columbia Feb 19/54

Cousin Ephraim

Your letter dated Jan 2d came to hand the 15/ I was pleased to learn that you & your wife were well & injoying the comforts of a matrimonial life.

I was also pleased ~~to~~ with the information you gave me in regard to my rifle, after receiving your letter I wrote an order to Mr Raimond for it which he forwarded by Adams & co express arriving the 29/ in safety. Since that time I have been on a hunting expedition twice the last time I shot a Deer which kept me & my partner in a good supply about one week

I received a letter from home Jan 29/ stating that our ~~four~~ folks there were all well & that the young boyes & girls which were school children when I was at home, are now getting married & helping to increse the population of old Amesbury &c, and may they succeed in all their undertakings.

Ellen Sargent they say is married to a man by the name of Cole. & has now got a smart little Boy, if so, May high hopes bright prospects and happiness undiminished into the

close of life be theirs, is the wish of a sincere friend & true cousin.

Now I will give you a short account of what I am doing, I have but one claim now & that is paying from five to sixty Dl^rs per day to the sha share I have three Partners two French men & one American by the name of Dalrymple from Baltimore he arived in 47 just after we did went on to the Mokelomne River & with a company of ten took out fourteen thousand Dl^rs each he then went to the States remained there a short time & then returned home again to California as he called it, last summer he came over to try the southern mines, the place where I first fell in with him was at Columbia where we formed our company and bought our claim & here we intend to hang & stick untill we make our "pile," which will take us about one year from this time, so you see I shall not get home as soon as I expected, Hence I shall work with energy through seasons dry & wet,
I'll work till I shall make my "pile,"
For I will make it yet,

I am happy to learn that you are injoying more pleasure, now you are united in marriage than when single. Since my stay in California I have often wished that I had a sweet heart to pass my leasure moments with & to cheer up dull cares, after doing a poor days work; and you I suppose can better describe than imagian, after havering some little experiance of the fact. But cheer up, for notwithstanding all my ups & downs in California, my "pile," I'll have it yet, then I will enter into a matrimonial life & there, have one to shair my joys & comforts through life

Your letter you was going to write next mail under cover to Mr. Raimond has not arived yet & I think it has been miscarried or lost, if so I wish you would please to write me again informing me also of the man I wish to learn from there as I stated in my last letter.

Please give my best respects to your Wife an ask her how she likes "Cal"

Yours Respectfully

Amos Weed

Amos Weed
Feb 19 1854

Columbia Aug-11/57

Friend Ephraim

Your letter of the 1st came to hand on the eve of the 4th. I was pleased to learn You & your Wife were well and injoying the pleasures of life in so far a distant clime, and may it long continue the same

My health this summer has been very good. I am still at mineing yet & intend working the same until my return.

The water has now left us in Columbia on nearly all of the claims, concequently the miners will have to dry up till the comeing winter. My intention was after the water failed to have come down & made you a vis - but now I will not be able as I have bought in to a river claim & shall probably work there until the water drives us out.

You have provably learnt before this of the conflagration of our town Columbia, it being the first time that this town was ever laid in ashes most of the buildings were built of light lumber which caused the fire to rage with great rapidity.

The fire was supposed to have been caused by an incendiary. The vigilance committee however may be asleep but not dead.

I have seen a good many bad people since my stay in Cal — & for the last four years I have watched people comeing in to the country fast; & for a time they went out ~~out~~ of it fast. But now there are so many who like the fast place, that they have determined to sendin fast in it for life. & If an hombre gets tired of his fast life, just let him steal something, & he can get a free passage out of this fast world on the California Lynch & Co.'s fast line.

In regard to those men who lived in San Diego when I was there I have not seen any of them with the exceptions of George Buck he is keeping store at Jamestown & was the last time I saw him which was about one year ago.

In regard to the wages now payed by the Quarter Master's department I wish you would please write me immediately informing me what men are getting in different branches of business especially the teamsters as there are a number of men who are out of work & wishes very very much to know, & I will guarantee them to be just what or rather just the kind of men they want as they are used to hard ships & can turn their hand to allmost ~~to~~ any thing, And you will oblige me by answering this immediately.

I have not received a letter from home for four months the last Mail hower has not arrived yet it is supposed to have been lost or mis carried elsewhere

This is all I can think of at the present.

Please give my kind regards to your Wife & tell her I should be most happy to receive a line from her.

Yours Sincerely, & in haste

S. Weed.

Amos Weed
Aug 11 1854

Columbia Cal. 31st 11/55

Cousin Ephriam.

It is no small degree of pleasure that I now imbrace this opportunity in writing you a line to let you know that I am well & still living in the land of Gold hoping I shall get enough soon to go home or rather back again to my native land, as I can hardly call it home for California seems to me more like home now than it ever has before. but still there seems to be something that recalls my recolection homeward & I think in one year more I shall be ready to return, eather (in a vulger way of espression) dead broke, or with some of the heard cash. I am still at mineing yet & doing pretty well although we have not got but little water at present, but soon we shall have plenty when the snow melts in the mountains, the miners around about Columbia are doing pretty well as a general thing.

Old Columbia has become an incorporated town of late & is now improveing fast.

I received a letter from Judith the 18th she said she had concluded not to write me any more, as I did not care enough about them to come home, they probably would not think so if they had any idea of the ups & downs in California. I own that I could have made more there than I have here up to the present time but you well know that if we had known when we first came out to California, what we now know, we could have been at home long ago with a "pile," that would have carried us the other side of Jordan, in good shape, but now, owing to my present circumstances I am resolved to make something here. so that when I do return I will not be obliged to work from day to day for a living. is not that a good Idea!

Judith said that E. Morse has returned the one that came out from Haverhill with us she said he did not make any thing out here she also hopes when I return I will not look so bad as he does! Cant a man go home in disguise after residing in the mountains two or three years & having a Grizly Bear for your nearest neighbor. As for myself I think I have not changed much since I left Boston. though ~~pretty~~ probably they could see a vast change in my countenance. I think of nothing more at present. Please give my kind regards to your wife, & drop me a line as soon as convenient. It is now past the hour of retirement & I will close, by subscribeing myself your sincere Friend.

Amos Weed

Amos Reed
Jan 31st 1888

Columbia April 15th 1855

Friend Ephraim

Your letter of March 10 & 21st came to hand April 5th. I was much pleased to receive a letter from you as it has been a long time since I have heard from you. In regard to the diggins at Kern River all reports seem to be pretty much the same, however old Columbia I think will go ahead of them all yet. I will now now try & give you a short account of our late strike for the reduction of water by the miners of Columbia & its neighboring towns. In the first place the miners got up a petition in order to reduce the price of water to $4,00 per day, insted of $6,00 which the miners have been paying previous to the strike. I will give you the petition as it is printed.

To the Trustees of the Tuolumne Water Company:

Gentlemen: The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth: That they are large sums of money into your treasury for its use. The aggregate sum they have paid, they are confident, has bee sufficient to liquidate the whole capital stock of your company, and besides give a fair remuneration for the outlay of the money.

During the infancy of your company, and when extraordinary demands were made for repairs, & to put your enterprise in proper condition, they made no objections to the price of water, but cheerfully looked forward to a period

when your finances would permit a reduction of tolls.

Your petitioners believed that the time has arrived, & that the cost of water should be reduced to four Dollars per day for a full sluice stream. By an accurate calculation made it has been ascertained that a majority of those using your water from the excessiveness of the tolls, do not realize for their labor an average of $2 per day, and the difference between this sum & the price of labor per day, is paid to your company, in opposition to the wisest rules of trade.

The general distress throughout the community – the lack of paying earth as compared with former times, independent of the arguments given above, are forcible and cogent reasons for an alteration of your tariff of prices. Your petitioners therefore pray that the trustees will take some immediate action for the reduction of the price of water to four dollars per day for a full sluice stream. This is the petition got up by the miners & signed by over 1500 honest miners. After our petition was filled up we held a meeting & chose a committee of four to wait on the Trustees of the Tuolumne Water Company which they did on the evening following, but to no success. Now what is to be done, the miners swore they will not pay 600 dollars per day any longer & I am one of those kind that always glory in such kind of spunk, & now you see the only way to put down monopoly is for the the miners to start a new ditch, which we have already done & if our lives are spared one year longer we will have a 30 Cubic feet of water flowing through our mining reagons by an other year. After the old company concluded not to put their water down to four dollars per day, the miners all nocked of work & commenced their strike to $4.00 per day, by firing the big gun & ringing of the bell, formed themselves into a possession accompanyed by a band of music, & marched from camp to camp the miners & merchants all taking a active part with us & saying God speede the new ditch, we continued the march for one week & have had some very influencial & able men to keep the ball in motion. The old company thought they could laugh us to scorn but they found them selves mistaken; soon as they found out their mistake however they coolled down & Mr. Mills, one of the largest stock holders telegraphed to San Francisco to the stock holders there, as they found the miners would not nuckle, they then printed a placard & distributed them to us as we came in to town after returning from James Town after a days march

I will send you the Tuolumne Water co's Placard so you can see for your self how the miners have been cept down down by cursed monopoly.

March 15 The Tuolumne Water co reduced their water to $4.00 dollars per day, then as you will see the miners after fighting so hard for the reduction of water became excited to such a degree they swore revenge which we will have by bringing in a new supply of water as we are all bound to do as we have commenced it & will carry it out to its full extent or Bust. The old company have been getting rich fast their Stock has been paying them

from eight to ten per cent for the last year their whole work cost them five hundred & fifty thousand dollars. while this work of ours is estimated at three hundred thousand, there is fifteen hundred shares in our company each share of two hundred dollars each.

I have subscribed for 6 six shares & intend to work them out I have just come down from of the ditch have been at work three weeks & have become a stock holder of six shares, I came down to day to attend the meeting as there was a meeting called to day to choose officers

I believe there are 300 shares more to be taken & if you wish to subscribe you can do so through me as I think this stock will be the best for investment of any in the country, there will be one advantage to the old ditch we will have plenty of water the year around while the old company only have it about one half of the year leaving the miners destitute of water the best part of the year. therefore I think this stock will far exceede the other in value. I will now close by sending my kind regards to your wife & subscribing my self your sincere Friend

Amos Weed

April 15 1855
Amos Weed

Columbia May 24th 1853

Friend Ephraim

I now take my pen in hand once more to inform you that I am well, & hope these few lines may find you & your wife enjoying the same. Your two last letters came to hand the twenty fifth; I was not much surpised at what you stated of Kirn River. as to the mines being worked out, as I had expected it for a long time; owing to the papers, as they have given such unfavourable accounts.

I am now about twenty five miles from Columbia at work on the new ditch; & the way we make the dirt fly is a caution; we have got fifteen miles dug allready, & by the first of July will have it completed to the north fork of the Stanish Lough River. distance of about thirty miles. Soon as this ditch is completed, it will make Columbia like San Francisco in her younger days: & in regard to the mineing section of Columbia I am positive it can not be surpassed to any other camp in the country.

Miners have now began to open their eyes, & reflect on days gone by; {where they could have made their "pile," like you & I} never the less, soon as our work is finished, then we will put down monpoly; & not only have water of our own, to seperate the earth from the gold, but I intend making proposals for a union store in Columbia. a capital of twenty thousand dollars. Shares one hundred dol's each, & the principle part of them to be Honest Miners.

I should like very much to have you come up here & take a look at Columbia, & see if you think you cant make two dollars here where you can make one there. as I should like very much to have you come up here & settle down, during your stay in California. I wish you could but drink a cup of this mountain snow water, that we use here, & eat some of the brook trout that we catch in the River, it would do your soul good. as to myself; I have got so fat since I came up here that my chums dont know me, & also I have become so attached to a mountain life that

I think I shall not go down to Columbia again for one year.

Soon as we get this section done which we are now on we shall move farther up in the mountains at work on an other section

Dont you think when we were on the Yuba River in 47 that if we had only stayed there we might made our "pile" I think my self that when we were there we left many things undone which we ought to have done; but owing to our past circumstances, & at the time while there, things looked, probably to me rather more blue than they did to you.

O! that California could but recall her past days once more; & that we could have known then what we now know of her, couldent; we have been gliding o'er land & sea to our far off Atlantic home long, long, ago.

Mr Coffroth, the president of our company, has now gone to San Francisco to get provisions & have them sent up from Stockton by the large teams; to our store house; we pay two & one half cts per lb; the roads are so bad that they cannot haul but very little at a time.

I should like very much to have you subscribe for one or more shares, & if there is any probability of your coming to visit our town; I will try & get you in to an office in the company, where you can get good pay; or, I will try & get a birth for you in the store, which I am bound to get in to operation as soon as this work is completed. There is three ways of subscribeing for shares; One is to work & provision themselves, while the other, is to have the company, furnish them with provisions. & the assesments on cash shares are ten per cent per month. Shares are two hundred dollars each. There are quite a number of shares that are not yet taken up, & if you wish to subscribe please send me the documents where with I may act for you.

According to the report of the company; on the fourth of July next, we will have two Bullocks roasted, roasted, whole at the head of Woodses Creek, the place where our ditch branches; wont we eat, drink, & be merry? yes we will, that, if we know our selves; but not only that, but will reflect on early days; when we used to chew Oak chips, as a substitute for heard bread; & when we were attacked, with the fever, & ague, which made us look like like the past fifteenth, generation, who have just arisen from the dead.

May 25th Then again after preparing in different ways a miners supper, on slapjacks, pork, & beans, & once in a while a delicate dish of trout, I thought I would sit me down & finish my letter, ah! while writing the above, my partner has just returned from the store house with a piece of Grissly Bear, meat; which a man by the name of Lyons; shot, while hunting for Deer; this Bear weighed, six hundred & fifty lbs; Mr. Lyons is hunting for the company, & furnishes them wholly, with fresh meat; he takes his pay in stock; one week he made over one hundred dollars by shooting Deer; he has quite a number of Bear traps, set, made of logs with a door made of slabs, & inside there is a trencher bated with fresh meat & a string attached to the door, & when he goes in & hauls on the meat the door drops down & there is Mr Grissly sagura.

To night it begins to snow & rain; the clouds look thick & heavy & as though we were going to have a big rain; The river is very high now & probably will remain so until the snow melts in the mountains.

O! Did you learn of Mr. Mowry's death in San Francisco, the one I used to work with when I was there; he was shot by one of his men, an Irish man; probably owing the scarcity of money, with him at the time; Lyman was owing the Irish man, some eight or ten hundred dollars, & could not pay him quite so soon as he wanted him to, & one Sunday, on going to ask him for it, Lyman told him that he could not pay him that day but would pay him sometime during the week; upon that Blake, the Irish man, hauled a revolver & shot him through the head; Lyman did not live but a few days after; That is the stamp of the Bloody Irish man Blake has had his trial, but I have not learnt how it went with him yet. Ephraim if you see any thing of a man down there by the name of Marshal Stevens please write & let

me know what he is doing & whether he has got any property or not; if he is there you will oblige me by so doing.

Mr Coffroth has arrived here to day; stating that the old water company have been circulating false storys about us; saying, our company were about bursting up; & that we were ten thousand dollars in debt, &c. but that is all false; The company is not in debt one red cent; these storys have been circulated through out the County & in San Francisco; these storys have had such an effect on the people below, that Mr. Coffroth could not get so many subscribers as he intended; there was a number of men came up with him, to look at the ditch, & see for themselves, how the work is progressing.

The trustees think of no other way than to call a mass meeting; & make out a report of our works, & the amount of money now in the treasury. For my own part I am very glad to have them run down the new company, so that when they find out that they have been deceived by them; & the report of our co stating the true facts of our works; will have a more tendency to get subscribers for the new.

Soon as the report comes out I will send one to you.

I received a letter from Hannah the last mail; our folks are all well, as usual; she did not write about your folks; probably however, they are well or she would have written.

Hannah stated that Robert talked some of coming out here, he requested Hannah to ask me what I thought about it; I think I shall just say to him, that if he is a farming with the intencion of making a fortune to come out here immediately if not, & he knows himself, to stay where he is.

This is all I think of at present.

Please give my regards to your wif, &

I will close by subscribeing myself, your

Sincere Friend,

Amos Weed

Amos Weed
Nov 26 1855

Columbia October 15/ 55

Dear Friend.

It is with regret that I have delayed so long in making a reply of your last & now I will try & give you a short history of business affairs through out our mineing precincts.

Relative to our new ditch it is getting along finely we will have it completed soon as the rains sets in & this winter will have plenty of water throughout Columbia & its neighbouring towns We have got along remarkably well thus far considering the means the company had to do with our officers have had to make up all sorts of faces in order to get or keep the ball on a move but now assessments are comming in faster then ever & in fact we are driveing business now, I think by the time we commence selling water next winter our stock will sell at par

I am still at work on the ditch, have been in Columbia but once since last April but will go back this winter & work at mineing

I have made up my mind to go back soon as this ditch is accomplished which will be some time in fifty sise, or seven, therefore I wish you to write ~~which~~ when you intend on going back as I would like to have company

The last letter I receive from home stated that my help is very much needed as Father is getting to be very feeble, he is now past age of seventy & I feel that it is my duty to return to attend to things there for a few years, but as I have become so attached to this climate that it will be almost imposable for me to remain there long & be obliged to work like thunder from year to year & make nothing more then a liveing

You know very well how it is there some think that if you can get a farm then you are all right but you can planely see how many people there have broke themselves down by hard labour & when they arive at old age with out being much better off then when they first commenced in life & to the best of my belief if a man is going to work for a liveing I think that California is the place for any man. I think of nothing more at present, Please give my regards to Mrs. Morse & I will close by subscribeing my self.

Your Sincere Friend

Ames Weed

Ames Weed
Oct 15th 1858

Columbia Feb 4th 1857

Friend Ephraim.

I now sit myself down to make a reply to yours of the 5th of november last hoping to be excused for my absence. In regard to business & mining matters it has been, & is as yet very dull in & about Columbia the past year has been the dryest yet known by the Pioneers of the West but the snow capt mountains bids fare fair to afford an abundent supply of water on the present year. The old water company have inlarged their ditch this summer & have run themselves in debt 15000 dols but till yet they have not had much water as it has been so cold this winter where they take their water out, conequently you see that they do not get much the start of our company & if they do not this spring I am quite positive that they never will. Our company have now got the ditch that is to say the excavation all completed as far as Sonora & Columbia but we have some flumeing to be done yet in Col ~~yet~~ which I am now at work on which we shall finish in about four weeks. We are now getting from the South Fork of the river about 15 Tom streams but it will take one week or so to stay the banks in order to keep them from breaking & then we will be ready to dispose of our water in large quantities

Ephraim I tell you what it is, this new Water co. Just lays over the world in fact it beats anything that has ever taken place in California & it is one of the safest investments yet known since the emigration to california. I have cleared five shares since I have been at work on the ditch & to day I would not sell out for 300 dols per share. early in the spring I intend on makeing a big contract for building flume on the upper works between the place where we take our water out now & the main branch to the place where the works will be extended next summer. Mr. Wilson our assist'nt engineer has surveyed a new line to the main branch & by Tuneling the dividing ridge he reports that it can be built within half the distance & at 50000 dols less than that of the old line & of the original estimate this of which the trustees have consulted & readily agreed to except. & are makeing hasty preparations to work the same of which undoubtedly we will be able to complete the works by the time the old company's water fails next summer.

Nothing more of importance at present.

Please give my regards to your wife hopeing those few lines may find you as it leaves me enjoying good health. Write soon

Yours Truly

Amos Reed

P.S. There is a man here by the name of Frank Burke that you used to know when he lived there he says he used to drive a Mule Team for the government. He sends his kinds regards to you & requests me to ask you to write a line to him & inform him of matters & things in & about San. Diego, he also wishes to know where Mr. Conroy & J. B. Collins is & what they are driveing at now he also sends his best respects to Mrs. Curley & wishes to know if Miss Delores is married yet he says that after arived to San. Francisco he went thence to Mokelumne Hill where he met with quite a misfortune by loosing 1500 dols & while imployed in the loging business he fell from off a side Hill & had a large log rolled over him which layed him up quite a long time, he says if he had succeded in his last contract that he would have been back before now to San. Diego but his imployer got in debt mortgagued the Mill & run away concequently throwing him out of imploy. he then heard of the miners Strike over here & left to seek imployment on the new ditch which after ariveing here readily obtained he brought over two yoke of oxen with him & hauled timber with them awhile & then sold them to the Co. Com

and is now driving Mule Team for the company

Yours With Respect

H. H. Burk

Amos Wood
Jan 7th 1856

Columbia May 10/ 1859

Friend Ephraim

Your letter of March 18th came to hand on the 29th inst. I beg to be excused of a delay in making a reply as my time has been so much taken up in fluming on the new ditch that I have not had even time to send a communication home. Received a letter from Judith by the last Mail She says hough much longer have we got to send letters to California for one have done looking for you she furthermore states that if I do not come home soon the little Boy will be grown up & run off with the farm

Pretty Bout That. The works of the Company are in fine proggress our water is now running & they have collected some eight thousand dolrs & the company are now about to send below for an engine to run a saw mill on the upper works between the two rivers.

George Kimble & N. Morrill are both liveing in Colum and are at work at mining. Ephraim what is your opinoin in regard to settleing down in California I wish you would give me your idea relative to the matter. I for one have partly made up my mind to take Columbia as my residence for a number of yrs after returning in a short time to see my folks. I must now close, hoping to receive a line from you soon. You will please give my regards to your wife.

Yours truly,

Amos Reid

Amos Weed
May 10th

Columbia Cala
Sept 20th 56

Friend Ephraim:

Your letter of Aug 24th came to hand Sept 10th of which I received with a cordial reception. It has been a long time since I have heard from home, previous to the one I have just received from you, but there was one from home which I received together with yours. All the news news that I learnt from home was that our folks were all well also stating that Grandmother was dead and also that Noys Elliot, John Coffin, & a number of others had run away. Coffin owed Frederic three hundred dollars which he will probably never hear from again. You say you talk some of going home shortly and think of crossing the plains. Please give my regards to your wife, and tell her I should be most happy to comply with her request in regard to crossing the plains. but on your return, I would advise you by all means not

to cross by land as it is so tedious especially for females. There is a company of us have been talking of crossing by land nesct year but it will be very doubtful wheather we do or not.

When I return I probably shall not tarry long, as I have mostly made up my mind to end my days in California. There has been long since previous to the present, a dark Cloud hanging over my head wherever I have travelled but of late, times have greatly changed and brighter prospects then ever are daily visiting me and I hope that they may remain so into the close of life; and now there is but one thing needed to make me happy through life & that is a Sweet Heart.

O! you wrote that Oak had ran away, can it be posable? I have not heard the first word relative to it, If you have learn the particulars you will please inform me in your next letter.

I am now in company with nine me and have taken a contract to build three miles of flumeing about thirty five miles from Columbia on the upper line of our works we have it about half completed and shall probably take three more miles and then that will leave four more miles to be completed which will be all under contract soon and anticipate on haveing the work accomplished by the fourth of July nesct. I commenced work ~~the~~ up here the tenth of July and have cleared over eleven dol's per day since that time and intend to keep the wheel a rooling until the whole work is accomplished. then and not until then I shall make all speedy preperations to return.

Miners around about Columbia have been doing very well this summer now the old ditch is dry again and the miners have all gone on to the rivers and some are doing well. You will please excuse my scrawl, as I have had to write this in the midst of fire & smoke

Yours Truly

Amos Weed

A. McReed

Sept. 20th 1856

our company and in the spring we inte-
-nd to go there and rush things.

Friend Blake has gone to Oregon
he went there last winter just before
I came at the mines; Spring was
here a short time ago but now I believ
he has gone to Mariposa how long
he will remain there I cannot say, I can
-not give you any more peticular's about
mining now but soon as we commence
work I will write again and give you
the mining life in full. O! I want
you to keep that rifle that I had when
I was there in good order so when I
go father up in the mountains I will
send for it. HA.

P.S. Do you know A man down
you way by the name of H. D.
Barnard he lives at San Dieg or Los. Angles.
if you can learn any thing about him
let me know what prospect there is
of collecting A debt of him of 4 or $5 00 $
if he has anything concatable so as to
collect or be made out of him if he should
not feel inclined to pay it.

Please write me immediately.

Your Sincere Friend,

Amos Weed

Columbia Jan 8th 1857

Cousin Ephraim

Received your letter on the first, but was very much surprised to learn of your sad fate and sympathize with you, you know we have had a great many down falls in California all of which we have rode, like the gigantic Ship in all her magesty has scaled the waters of the great deep. I know tis hard for you to part with one who is near and dear to you but you know whatever our fate may be we must bear it with patience, we are all borne to die rather sooner or later just as the Devine Providence sees fit to call us away consequently as such is so ordained we should not take it hard if such should be our lot. Ephraim if you should make up your mind to go home with not the intention of remaining there, I think that you could not find any better place to settle down then it would be here in Columbia and should like very much to have you come up here and take a look at this place which I think it will better suit you by far than, then, at the place where you are now, or have been living, I need not say anything more to you as you probably know better what to do than I can tell you, But if you should ~~so~~ return you will please give my well wishes to all that

may inquire of me. I am now liveing in Columbia Capt Morrill, George, Kimball, and myself have taken up a claim and are now making preperations to work the same, as I shall work at mining until springs and then shall go to work again on the new ditch as the company are resolved to complete the works by the first of August next. After our work is completed I shall make all hasty preperations to return again to the Atlantic states but not by no means with the anticapation of staying there, though I would if I always wanted to work hard, and always wanted to be poor.

You will please accept this from your sincer Cousin.

Amos Weed

P.S. On your Departure to the Atlantic States you will please write me before leaving. Ephraim, if you have that singing book that I left there, Mason's Vocal Class Book, I would be pleased if you would send it to me, by the Pacific express.

Amos Weed
Jan 8th

Ansd Mch 29th

Columbia April 4th 1857

Cousin Ephraim,

It is no small degree of pleasure that I now imbrace this opportunity in conversing to you once more the silent medilation of the pen; hopeing that if you are in the land of the liveing you will make a reply stating how you are getting along down there. Business here at Columbia is quite brisk now and bids fare to become a great place, people from the east are comeing out here in every Steamer and old residents are constantly sending home for their families Society has become more refined than heretofore and as population increases California will in the course of human events, become itihy of America.

Ephraim what think you of making Cal— our residence for life, does it not make you shudder to think

of such cold weath as they have had there this last winter, it does me; and I think the North pole must be a float. In the cours of a few years Cal a will do her own manufacturing, concequently there will be a stop put to so much exportation, and times will be come much more easier for the mechanic, and also, the labourer, what think you

Ephraim I should like to have you take a trip up here and see for you self what this place is to title down in I think if you would come you could never have cause to regret of so doing. you would have a good chance to make money here by starting a school in this place, and also in one year from this time by having an interest in our water cons you could get a birth in the Company and make good salery yearly

Our work is going on rapedly the Tunnel a distance of about one half a mile is completed with the exceptions of about 400 feet which will be completed in a short time, our meeting for the election of officers takes place on the 14th of this month but there will not probably be much alteration except a superentendant and some of the trustees. our president of the company is liked by all and say tha had it not been for him; the company would have had a hard struggle to have got along so far as they have at present. The old water company have tryed to ruen, and break up the new, but as yet with out success and finding that they cannot do it some of them have sold out and have gone to the states; purfect used up men.

Our Company are now collecting some two thousand dollars per week and soon as we get one more plank on the flume in the mountains we can run as much again water, the men that we have up there are now putting them on and will finish in about three weeks.

After the election our fluming company will make all posable hast to go up in the mountains as they are resolve to finish the work by nexet September

I have been trying to rais some money from home in or to get hold of some twenty shares as I have not the least doubt that the stock will pay from three to four per cent per month, but father has not as yet complyed with my request he said that money was very scarce there and thought it would be almost imposable to rais it but would try and do so. (the cold weather there raises the deuce at home, some say that the thermometer stood as high as forty and in New york the whisky barrels frose up and burst open & they were obliged to deal it out in chunks.

Write soon.

Ever yours in hast.

Amos Weed

Amos
Apl. 4 1860

Columbia April 25th 1863

Cousin Ephraim.

It is now Spring up here and the flowers are sending forth their sweet fragrance in the balmy atmosphere around about Columbia which makes it verry pleasent indeed, your letter came to hand April 15th in safety but the singing Book has not arived yet, I sent down to Sanfrisco for it by Dugner the agent of the Wells & Fargos express to see if it had been sent to San Francisco by the P.C.E. but the answer was there had received no such package, but after examinging your letter the 2nd time I see you said you would send it but did not say when Ephraim if you have not sent it as yet, you need not as it costs so much for freight and I shall not need it as I am about to

go up in the mountains to work on the flume again, Ephraim we are going to finish our new ditch by September next, and if you should remain in this country one year or so from this time I should be most happy to accompany you home as I shall go on or about that time. When I get up in the mountains I want you to write me often and I will do you likewise.

Ephriam in regard to those specimens of quartz rock just as soon as I can get time to procure some but I am afraid that I shall not have time collect them before I return from the mountains as the quartz veins are some distance out of town and we have been hurried so much on our flume here to get it done by the time set of going up in the mountains which will be in two or three days.

Ephraim I should be most happy to see you up here by the time we get our ditch through from the Main Branch of the Stanislaus River, will you come; Daniel Morill talks of selling out his farm and come out here to this country as he says that the winters are getting to be to cold there at home for him is it strange. Write often and excuse all mistakes.

Yours in haste.

Amos Weed

Columbia April 30th 57

Friend Ephraim.

I received your letter yesterday together with the singing Book of which I was quite pleased to see again it nearly put me in rembrence of by gone days, Ephraim in regard to the quartz specimens you spoke of I have just been out of town to get some for you and will send them with this letter, I procured them from Mr Heckendorns Claim his claim pays about 50. or per ton of Quartz. you will see that I send you some different kinds which all have gold in them more or less, you will see gold in all of them with a Microcope and some of them you will perceive with the naked eye, all those peces that you cannot see with the eye you will perceive white specks as they have been worked with quick silver. as most of the gold is fine in the quartz you will see that some of it is decomposed and some partly so, the decomposed prospects very well in the pan, Mr Heckendorn says that

the decomposed Quartz generally follows with a the salled in most all veins.

This vein of his commences to the top of the ground and goes down in different directions of an angle of about 45 or 50 degrees.

This vein of his runs down in under the Slate ledge on one side and around and on the is inter mixed with different strattas of earth and clay. This is all the information I can give you in regard to the Claim, for further information you will please write to Mr J. Heckendorn of Columbia and he will give you all the information you ~~want~~ need. I had a letter in the office for you before I received your last. so you can receive these two as one

Yours Truly.

A. Weed

P. S. Ephraim I have set my time for going home in June 1858 which can and will not fail will you go?

Amos Weed
Nov 28 1857

J. Merrill
May 31st

Columbia, Cow Creek May 31st 1857

Friend, Ephriam.

As I have a few leasure moments I thought I would write a line to you once more. My health is good and hope these few lines will find you and your child enjoying the same great blessing. I left Columbia on the first of May arived at Cow Creek on the second, the place where we are now at work. our company consists of ten men most of them are firstrate fellows. last year we had a contract of three mile fluming. this Spring we have added two more mile to our contract which in all probability we will accomplish some time during the month of Septem-. Our Tunnel through the dividing ridge will be through in about ten days, this of which is supposed to have been the greatest barrier upon the whole works, but now the old Water Co

sort o cave on that and now say that our flumes, it will take one year from this time to construct, it surely is a great undertaking to be sure and I do not wonder why they think as they do. And the boys of our company have come up this Spring with a resolution to complete this great work before they ever go to Columbia again, the work is all under contract now and undoubtedly the whole work will be accomplished early next fall. When the flume is in all good runing order, I then shall go up to the head waters (to the place where we take our water out of the river, and make a boat and come down with the water in the flume as far as the tunnel a distance of about twenty three miles, from thense we will go to Columbia a distance of twenty five miles farther, then, when the water from the main river comes rolling down our mountain sides into Columbia it will be one of the most glorious days to the mining population that they ever witnessed in this country or ever will.

Before I left Columbia the young Ladies were round with a subscription paper to get signers in order to build a new church, I believe they succeeded very well with the exception of the new ditch men they found most all of them (as we use the old and familiar phrase) heard up of, cours, they say we are very excuseable as we have been imployed on the new ditch since its commencement and they look forward with high hopes, and bright prospects, to the young men of the C, S, I, R, Water co that they will son come forward and help support the great moral reform which is now fast spreading throughout the country.

Ephrain you will please write often and keep me posted in matters about San Diego and also when you think of going home and if so when you will return again to

this Country, if so where do you think of residing. I think of returning fast as soon as this Company gets out of debt and the script is payed up but I cannot say hough long it will take to comence striking dividends but hope that it will not take more than one year from this time.

Should I meet with good success in this Country, and in this enterprise enterprise, which I am now engagued in I shall return, take unto me a wife and return again to this clime and end my days in peace, I would be willing to remain at home if it were not for the cold winters there it is enough to make me shiver to think of it, but it might not have ay effect on me, if not, with a consociate partner, I think I could live and die perfectly happy and without heard work, but to go back there and be obliged to work hard on the farm fast for a liveing I would sooner live a life of a hermit. How is it with you.

Yours with resp.

A. Ulreed

Columbia August 30th 1857

Dear Friend.

Your letter of July 8th came to hand on the 25th of which I should have answered before had I not been so busily engaged. We are getting along very well on our ditch this year. I tell you we are now making things hum our company have now three miles nearly completed and the ballance of our contract will have two and one half miles more to be constructed which we anticipate will finish by the last of November if we are not delayed for lumber which I think we shall not be. Ephraim I have made up my mind not to go home until one year and half more, or, two years and hope by that time you may be ready to go along with me as I would like to have the pleasure of going together as we came to this country.

I congratulate you upon your visit to San Francisco, but would like to have had you

called on me, only a days ride, from Stockton, however as you were there on business you probably did not have time,

I hope you may succeed in your in your Copper mineing, and hope it will pay better than gold mining,

I am very sorry to inform you that Columbia is all burnt to ashes again and the fire was so exceedingly hot that quite a number of brick buildings have gone in Donell & Parsons have been burnt out and I have a great deal of sympathy for them, as they furnish us with provisions, and have a large interest in the company. though quite a number of them, the buildings were owned by indigent people. We are now about to have some help from some of the bankers of San Frisco to carry on the works as they have sent Agents up here to examine the whole line which proved favorable to their satisfaction. Since writing the above I have had more particulars in regard to the fire, there were five men burnt to death part of them caused by the blasting of powder and some were caused by the falling in of roofs. Donell & Parsons store was burnt through the cause of thirty kegs of powder in an adjoining brick building, it made such an explosion it stove every thing all to pieces.

What little I had deposited with Donell I lost all such as clothing and books together with all my Certificates of Stock and some nine hundred dollars worth of ~~Stock~~ Scrip; but such as that, I suppose, can be reissued. but that which I feel worst about is the minature of my Sisters. which I left in care with them. they, also burnt those of Sister Abbys which were taken before she died, but they will not feel so bad at home about it as I had them retaken before I came up here and sent home,

Ephriam please excuse me, as I have written this in great hast. Write often.

Yours most Respectfully

Amos Weed

Amos Weeds
Aug 30th "

Amos Sept 30th "

Columbia Oct. 8th 1857

Cousin Ephraim,

It is once more I take my pen in hand to converse with you in silent conversation, hoping on the reception of this you will let me know how you are getting along at Copper mining, and also what is the extent of Gold mining, have you made your "pile" yet? if so when do you think of returning? as for me, I am makin my "pile," slow but sure, I am still at work fluming and are getting along very well, we now have got four miles of flume up, and probably will have our contract finished by the last of November next, which constitutes in all six miles, it is getting to be so late in the season it will be almost imposable to finish the whole flume through to the dam unless the winter should prove to be so mild so that the men on the line could work on their contracts the whole winter, if so they can complete the whole line by spring. Our engineer has run another line a distance of four miles to the South

work below the old company's works and will work at that another year I think if we get our contract done in season up here that we will carry in proposals for the fluming below which is a distance of five miles and that which is the most of it is a true grade and will be easy flumming in comparison to what we are now building.

On going home; I do not expect to get away for two years yet but before going I should like to come down and spend the winter at San Diego and go a hunting at the bay, if the game is as plenty now as it was when I was there before; I could enjoy myself greatly. Ephraim did you receive those specimens of quartz rock I sent you at the time I wrote you last May I sent them by Wells & Fargo's express, as you did not mention about them in your last I did not know but that you might have not received them. Please answer this as soon as you can, and if it is not to much trouble I would like to have you send me a sample of your Copper by inclosing a small piece in the letter.

At the time the fire in Columbia I lost every thing I had such as clothing and that little Desk that I brought from home which was filled up with natural curiosities such as I had collected in different parts of the State and at the Sand Wich Island all of which I lost did not exceede over seventy five dols but of such I valued more than double that amount those minatures containing the one of Sister Ashys was also burnt all of which were stored at Donnell & Parsons Brick Store. The last news I received from home here was on the 20th of last month all the folks were well and in fine spirits. This is all at present.

Write soon and receive this from your

Sincere friend

Amos Weed

Amos Weed
Cal
Ohio Nov 6th

Columbia Feb - 8th 1858

Cousin Ephraim

Your letter of Oct 29th was duly received Dec - 14th I was in the mountains at the time and had no way of conveying an answer to you before. I am now in Col - it came down last week. I was also down last Novem - but returned again immediately with the expectation of remaining there all winter but the snow became so deep that we were obliged come out until Spring and then resume over again We have our contract nearly finished it will take some six weeks longer. The company intend on having the whole work completed by the first of July next. We have had a gentleman to visit us this sumer, which is now about to take up his departure, I hope, to parts unknown. He has probably ~~has~~ been at your place, as he has traveled all through the United States and in the principal parts of Europe his name ~~is name~~ is one which I have been quite familiar with for some time past

his name is "Light. Fines".

Ephraim: when this new ditch first started I was quite sure of being at home before this time but you are well aware that it takes time to go into business of this kind. I have done verry well since the ditch first commenced during which time I have scarcely had a cent of money, as the pay has been in Scrip and Stock consequently I will be obliged to remain here until it is cashed which will probably take some two years or more

I should like verry well to come down there and go across the plains with you but, I think I shall not be able to. if you go in the Spring, on your arival home please give my kind regards to all. and keep me posted in matters and things about old Amesbury; especially Marriages. I suppose you have learnt before this of Uncle Weed's death and also Uncle Quimbys, this is all the news from home, nothing more at present, Please write soon

Yours truly,

Amos Weed

Amos
Feb 8 11

Ans'd Apl 7th

Columbia June 10th 1858

Cousin Ephraim

Your letter of April 5th came to hand the 18th. You must excuse me for not making a reply before, as I have been so busy, in fact I have not had a moments time to write till now. I have been at work mining since the first of April since that time have cleared four dol's & fifty cts per day, expect to get our claim worked out by the first of July next.

I have had a man at work in the mountains this summer in my place on the flume they expect to get the water in sometime in Sept if good luck attends them.

I expect to go up again as soon as the water fails if if it would not be so I could get another claim that would pay me as well as now and one where I could use the A. T. C. Water co's water as they will run a few streams a good part of the year, I think it will take me till next winter to clear up my cash debts, and relative to

what scrip, and stock I have we will settle up that this coming winter, it will be so long before the scrip is payed up I think I shall have to leave it behind until it becomes payable. Not long since I received a letter from home, they are well as common but Father has a lame knee, not able to do much and wants me to come home verry bad, which I should be most happy to comply, but the question is, have I got money enough to go home with? in answer, no, I have not. Then again, the question arises, where shall I make the rais, shall I work here for two dol's and one half per day, or must I go to Frasers River, where hundreds are now flocking from week to week. Some pretend to say that the new diggins are all humbug, but everybody who has gone there say that the mines are as eaquelly as rich as Cal^a was when we arrived which I have no reason to dispute, as everybody who has gone there says they are eaqually the same, and you know what every body says has been universally received as an indisputable testamony.

If I should not make a rais in the Spring to go home, I think I shall go to the new diggins for a short time, if so, will not you go along with me I believe we could make a few thousand in a year or so and then go back for good.

You say that Warren talks some of coming out. I would not advise him to come here for the purpose of making his "pile." but I think he could soon do well at Frasers River.

In reply to this please let me know what you think about going to the new diggings, if reports remain good till Spring, I think I shall go as I do not know of any other way get home in circumstances, such as I should wish, than by going where gold is more plentiy than here.

This is all at present, Please write soon and I will close by subscribeing myself

Your Sincere Cousin

Amos Wood.

Amos
June 10th

Columbia June 20th 1858

Cousin Ephraim

Your letter of June 6th came to hand last night, I answered your letter previous to this, about two weeks ago which you have probably received by this time I will now make a reply to this one as I have a chance to send it to San F. tomorrow by some partys that are going to Frazier's River

I think some of taking a visit up there my self to see what chance there is for putting up a saw mill, or going into the lumber business of some sort, If I go I will be in San-frisco on the 25th of July and should you not have correspondence with me before that time, please leave a word with Charles Maine, what time you will be there and where I can find you, but should you receive this in season please send a line to Columbia, I should be pleased to see you at Columbia before the

twenty fifth, if you can come before that time you can find me by inquiring of A. C. E Goodrich at the C. & S. River Water co's office on Jackson st, & the corner of Main.

If I go up north I shall go with a friend of mine from Salem Mass, I should like to see you here before that time so I can accompany you to San-Frisco. should I make up my mind to go. I wrote you in my last letter what I was doing I shall work my claim out in about two weeks more and then will go to Columbia and "pitch" in to something

Times is tolerable lively around about here now to what they have been previous that is in mining and hope to see them more so as soon as the new ditch gets in which I think will be early this fall, This is all at present,

Yours in hast.

A. Weed

Amos
June 20th

S. Sanfrancisco July 3 1858

Dear Cousin

Received your letter last Monday. I came down here day before yesterday with the intention of going to Fraser River, but I think I shall not go until about the first of August. I should like to see you here about the 20th of this month if you should arive here before I go you can find me by calling at the House No 121 Pine st between Montgomery & Kerney next door to Columbia Hotel as I have rented a room there until I go.

Ephraim I should like to have you bring up one of Colts sevolvers if you can get one second handed they charge for the medium size here thirty four dollars and the small size twenty seven dollars. I should like to have you come and go along with me if you could.

Business is very dull in San-co just now but the excitement is awful Steamers are

leaveing here every day and sailing Vessels loaded with passengers, I think of nothing new please write me to Wells & Fargos here what time you will be at this place

Yours in hast, with great respect

Amos Weed

Amos Wood
July 3d

Amos Blake Sept 4 '59

Rogue River Oregon Sept. 4th 1859

Friend Ephraim.

Your letter of July 20th came to hand Aug 6th being so busy have not had time to answer before now of which I will give you a short acount of the precincts of Rogue River. It is a very healthy climate in this section of country the only objections I have to living on the beach is to the constant cold and disagreeable winds, but on going up the river some two or three miles we can find a shelter from the winds This section of country around about here is verry mountainous it is nost imposable to locate land around here for agracultural purposes, to any extent say from 10 to 20 acres but for stock raising its good, and that alone seems to be what the country was made for, The grass in low grounds remains green the whole year and some places on high rolling land, we do not have much rain in the summer months this season however we had one storm which raised the creeks somewh which came some three weeks since and lasted about 3 day There ar now some 400, head of cattle about here of which our market market is furnished with and the only fault I find with the beef it is to fat to eat. I will omit those questions relative to stock and land as Seth is better posted then I am and will get him to write you Climate. Climate on the beach is nearly the same in summer as in winter but father back in the interior it is verry hot in summer and cold in winter

Wages miners on the beach are paying three dols and one half per day 7,00 per week board. Carpenters 5 dols per day I have now just got three building a store for Blake and he is now moveing in it the Rambler has just arived from San Frisco with a load of goods and he has now a good store full.

According to the account you give of your section of country I think you can doe much better there thener here especially if the overland mail continues running I should admire to live down there if I could make a liveing as that is all I ever expect to make now I think some of remaining here until the Pacific Railroad is commenced (and that may be the remainder of my life) before I take up my abode in a more southerly clime

I have just located about 6 acres of good land on the beach, inclosed from the winds and intend to build a house on it this winter next spring shall put in a small crop and mak myself content for a while which I could doe undoubtedly if I had a partner for life which I intend to do soon as as I can see one I think I could love but you can rest assured that now when I love it will be to suit myself and no one else, many a life has been made unhappy by marrying to please others, If you should go home this fall I would like to have you bring me out one Blake talks some of going home this winter and perhaps you and he might go together though Seth is not sertain wheather he will go this fall or not if he goes he will go what we all would like to go for to get a wife

There is but one store of any acount in this place and that is Blakes and he is doing verry well but there are so few inhabitence here I a competetion would not pay it costs so much to import here from Frisco and vessails cannot run on this coast in the winter to any advantage

Taxes are two per cent in this County.

Ephraim I think if several hundred head of sheep could be driven in here it would pay first rate as there are no sheep here and even the home consumption would amount to considerable though sheep here would have to be corraled at night and housed a good portion of the winter Conveyances for stock by water is verry in convienant This is a verry good place to make a liveing here owing to the natural production such as berries of different kinds in quantity and in quality also salmon running in the river from now till the first of January without number There is a firm in San Francisco by the name of Walton & Strong who have lately bought out a fisherman formaly doing business on this river

this firm above salted have gone to about $5000 dols expences in building and other outfits I have a Schooner running here all the time from below called the Kate Addams They are commencing to fish now They pay fishermen fifty dols per month and board they expect to put up about twenty five thousands dollars worth annually. I expect to put up some for my own use consisting of belys alone which are rich you better believe (in answer to this please give your directions and I will send some to you this fall) and also tell me if James Neal is keeping house if so I will send some to him

Yours Truely

Amos Weed

Mr Powell wishes me to answer some of your inquiries in regard to this section of country — In regard to rain we have considerable up to the 1st of June and then accasionly through the summer so that the grass-seeds sprout about the roots the whole season unless it is on the dry hill sides there is no such thing as irrigation known here we raise all kinds of vegetation without it though the farming country is not so extensive as you might imagine there is here & there very rich bottom land but so generally hilly and covered with patches of timber & black hills covered with grass It is the best range I know of in the country there is no Spanish cattle here there is some that is little mixed American cows range in price from 30 to 40 dolls per head stock in the thickly populated valleys north they are about 1 third cheaper Hogs there is but few here but a good hog country and they could be shipped to S. F. at 50 dolls per head is a splendid opening for sheep here there is not a flock within 60 miles, with 500 head of good sheep or south good bucks could sell all of his increase twice at 1 year old for six dolls per head at least for three years to come right on his ranch and all of his wethers at 1 years by the 100 the whole circuit — I have set the lowest possible figures as a base there is no stock sheep here, and cannot be got without going 200 miles at least — there is plenty of men who would buy a few if they could get them here at a reasonable price and there is any quantity of public land which is good range unoccupied the sheet is full accept both this my best respects

Yours truly
R. M. B. Blake

Mr wife has slapped

San francisco Sept 26/1858

Dear Cousin

I take this opportunity to let you know how I am getting along, I have been at work most of the time since you left "am now at work repairing vessailes and scows will probably have work all of the time now I have about fifty dol's due me which I have to wait some five weeks for pay as soon as I get some money (I will send that borrowed from you) by the purser of the Senator, Ephraim when you receive this please write to me here as I shall make this my residence as long as I can do well at my work.

Mr. Blake, received your letter in safety, the next day after he you letter he left for Oregon, he reg-

nested me to write to you and state that in the course of a few weeks from the time he left which was on the 15th he would write to you and let you know what the chances were up there for money making,

Blake told me before he left if it was not for one thing he would go direct to San Diego but owing to the present prices of stock there he thought it would not be prudent to go down at present, he told me however that he thought he should go down before long his wife is stopping here awaiting his return, I heard from the mountains yesterday the news in regard to the new ditch and its flowing waters is favourable.

Alphecus H. Randell, that came out to this county with us in Div. 1851 has lately returned from the east, and has gone to the mines, Yours truly

Amos Wheed

Amos

Sept 26 do

Rogue River Oregon Nov 20th 1859

Dear Cousin

As I have not received any answer from you of my last letter, I thought I would imploy a few moments of my time in writing to you.

Today it is a raining and blowing like fury and God only knows how long this weather is a going to last. Day before yesterday I went to the mill and rafted down 5000 feet of lumber to put up a carpenter shop which is to be 18 = 30, one end of which I shall run a petition for a place to live in. carpenter work here this season has been tolerable good, hope it will be better nexet. The saw mill has not had any water to saw till now but before spring they will probably saw out 3 or 4 hundred thousand feet. I have made or worked out about $500,00 since I came up here but have had to buy so much such such as tools and clothing I am nearly flat broke now. I have been building a sail boat which by the time it is competed will cost me $150,00 I have taken up a ranch this summer close to town, which I can get some 50 acres to ultivate the land of which is verry rich black soil. I intend to fence it this winter and in the Spring put in a crop of vegitation, so I can live without paying out money for every thing I want; like I always have done and especially up here where everything is so high.

I have had to pay $7,00 per week for board this summer which eats up the proffits like thunder. but that is as cheap as people can take boarders here, as provisions and groceries are so high.

Ephraim! I tell you what it is it is wicked to be obliged to pay such prices as they are askin now Blake & Prat are making from one hundred to one hundred and fifty per cent on every thing they sell and people are complaining bitterly for it takes everything a person can make to pay expences, you bet, before long there will be some one that will sart an opposition to them and the sooner the better all around. Ephraim now if you are keeping Store and are not doing well and making big proffits I would advise you to charter a schooner (one that would not draw when loaded over 10 feet) in the Spring and come to Rogue River where, I can assure you, you can get a large share of Prat & Blakes custom by selling at a good living lay. At any rate come up and take observations.

At the head of rogue river there is some beautiful timber such as sugar pine, and yellow, and another season there has been some talk of putting up a Steam mill, and rafting sugar pine down the river of which I hope some enterpriseing men will go into it, but there is One, man I know of that will not go into it, until he gets payed for the work he has done high up in the mountains in California,

Mr. Walton and Strong of San— have stopped operations in fishing this fall, the run of salmon have been very short this summer but antisipate a bigger run next year I was in hopes that I could have put up some for my own use this fall but will not be able to do so now as the water in the river has become so much riled that the Salmon have all gone up in to the head waters of the river.

On your reception of these lines, please answer as soon as you can.

Yours, Truly,

Amos Weed

Amos Weed
Nov 20th

Ansd
Jany 3d

"

Rogue River Oregon Jan 10th 1860

Dear Friend.

As there is a chance for conveyance to Crescent City I thought to imploy a few moments in reply to yours of Oct 21st which was duly received. I am well as usual and very this may find you the same. We have had a very mild winter thus far although it commenced very early much unexpectedly. Those salmon I mentioned in my last letter I should have sent you before now, but the salmon stoped runing at the time of the first rain concequently did not have time to put up those salmon I intended to have sent you but now I will send them in the spring at the time of the first run.

I have been building a shop this winter 18=30. soon as completed I had it lined on the inside for the purpose of having a ball on new years eve - and anticipate on having another 22nd Feb - I have petitioned off 8 ft. in one end and am now bourding myself which makes it much cheaper than paying seven dollars per week for board.

I have taken up a small place (on the school section) for a garding spot and shall soon commence to get out fenceing to inclose it. This place is real

thy but windy cold and disagable and I cant say that I like the place at all, but I suppose I must be content until I can better myself else where I think this place will not be much of a place farming however a person can make a good living here by raising his own produce You say you do not understand about it. I can now inform you that Mr Blake was never married to her Mrs Blake so called her first husban was killed in the Indian war since that time Blake has been living with her until of late finding Blake would not marry her she proposed getting married to some one else which she did some months since to a man by the name of Dimes That is the history of the quonder.

Seth has been in Sn frisco this last three months but his Brother espects him up next month. Ephraim I think of remaining here a short time try and collect a few dimes and then would like to inbark to a warmer clime say at your place or at Mexico. write often and receive this from your cousin.

Amos Weed

Am. Last.

Amos Weed
Jany 10, 1860

1860

Rogue River Oregon June 10th

Cousin Ephraim,

Your's of Jan. 3d came to hand the 30th owing to the late arival it was miscarried together with two letters of Blakes to Jacksonvill. According to your instruction in your last, I presume I have received all of your letters.

Now then, by not answering your last letter until this late hour, I have no excuse to offer; and hope you will pardon me for my negligence.

Since my arival at Rogue River I have been busy most of the time and have scarcely made more than a liveing, livein out of the Store altogather (paying the proffits of a hundred per cts) it is utterly imposable for me to make more than a liveing. in fact I am satisfied that Rogue River never can become much of a place, I belive " " precinct never can exceed a population of four or five hundred voters. the greatest obstacle is there is no back country. and what little there is raised, there is no market nearer then San Frisco. I have tried farming here this summer on a small scale a garding spot of 200 ft. sq. I find that potatoes is the only vegetable that will thrive here on the coast, owing to such severe winds which blow tremendous about three days with an intervening space of the same.

I have a shop here worth about 300. dols. which I shall dispose of as soon as I can find a purchaser. I also have a sail boat which cost me some two hundred dols all of which I shall pocket the cash for as soon as I can and leave for some warmer clime where I can sit under my own vine and Fig tree where there is none to molest or make afraid.

There is some little carpenter work to be done in this place this season (but out side of the fishery) it is easier to get blood out of a turn-ip then get money for serveses rendered.

There was to be and there may yet be considerable work done at the fishery this summer but as yet the proprietors ~~are not~~ are all at the Mashoe Silver mine and will not probably be here to doe any thing very extencively

You wish me to write the particulars relative to Blake & his wife or supposed to be the same, which was not nor never will be, you know such was the introduction by him with her to us in San Frisco which was not the case, The way he came by her was at the time of the war her man she was liveing with previous to the war was killed and this women was liveing at a house & Blake was doeing thing up brown on a sly at last it got out finally thought they might as well live togather first as last which they did without being married and continued to live the same untill I came up here with them and while I was up in the country at work on the Mill she wanted Blake to marry her which he refused to do of cours and knowing the position she was in and Grand Juror was about to play the "Devil" with them she jumped out of Blakes bed one mornig went to the Justice got married and slept with an other man the next night of cours and since have lived together in blissfull ignorence ever since and that is all which has come to my knowledge during past events. Mr Blake is now going to San Francisco (will bear those lines) and as near as I can judge to obtain a consociate partner. which we all stand in great need of you Bet.

Ephraim I am sincere in what I say about this place and I have made up my mind to leave in the fall. I have have given up the idea of ever returning home again and I wish to get married for bette or for worse and move to the southern part of California or Mexico a place where I can be comfortable have a ranch to rais any thing I want, get a few head of sheep and cows and make a good liveng which is all I ever took

Yours Truely

Amos Weed

Write soon Direct as usual
Port Orford, Oregon
in care Pratt & Blak Rogue River

Amos Weed
June 10. 60

and July 7th

his address

Dear Cousin

I have written a letter to brother Amos & not knowing where to direct, I have sent it to you asking if you will not be so kind as to direct it to him, as I have heer that you know where he is. Perhaps it will go more directly than if it was sent from here, we have not received a line from him ~~since~~ fore more than a year & did not know as he was liveing, but have through your Father heard that you know where he is, And you will greatly oblige us if you will take the trouble to send the inclosed to him.

Yours truly

H. Weed.

Aug 29th 1860

P.S. Mother Aunt Weed & myself were up to your sister Hannah's last week, they are all well.

Much love to you from Father Mother & myself.

Hannah

Hannah Weed
Aug 29, 60

Rogue River Sept" 12th 1860.

Cousin Ephraim.

Your letter of May 20th mailed July 7th was duly received, of which you must excuse me for not answering before. day before yesterday another came to hand dated Aug 24th of which I received with a cordial reception. Ephraim! I am very sorry to learn that you have got into trouble by being so confiding, as such may be the case there is but one course to persue and that is to put your property out of your hands as soon as you can but be sure and do it legally and confidentially the last mentioned may be the most difficult. I think the best way would be to sell out to Chase in San Frisco as you are owing them, an it would seem more to be a true sale then to sell to any one else. and you can still keep possession by getting a power aterney from him dont you think that would be the best way. Ephraim as you stat in your letter if I am discontentated and not making only a living better come to your place. Ephraim now I should be most highly delighted to come and come immediately if it was so I could posably leave, it is imposable for me to do so at the present time. Since last I wrote you I have put up several small buildings but have not as yet received any pay for them from the fact

there is no money at the present on the Beach owing to the scarcity of water for the miners but they are all looking with an edger eye for the rainy season now is the season for me and I wish to improve every moment of my time for I have two more houses to build this fall for familys that are in the Stock raising business both brutal & human the last of which I am looking forward for part pay as rather parties are good but the hard dollar is scarce with them all just now. As you say your partner wants to sell his interest I am only regret that I have not the money to buy him out, as I should like verry much to have an interest with you as it would be so much more agreeable to live with one who has ever been so near and dear at home then to live amonkst strangers however agreeable they may be Now Ephraim if you can save yourselfe from your property being slaughtered I wish you could manage with your partner until Spring and by that time I think we can manage to buy him out as I think I can send you three or four hundred dollars by Spring I have been trying to sell my building and my sail boat which I have offered for three hundred dollars which is verry cheaf which I think I can sell out to Mr Sutton from Port Orford as he thinks of comeing down here to trade this winter in opposition to Pratt & Blake. my shop is just the thing he wants for a store it is all lined inside which we did last winter for the purpose of holding a having Balls an evening parties

I think as soon as the rain sits in there will not be much doeing at my business, if not I shall hire out mining and make too, or so this winter

Seth Blake has gone to San Frisco to get a wife so says his Brother Harry. but I think he has gone to New Hamshire to his native State and when he returns will pbably have a little house to keep a little wife.

When he went home he said he would he would bring out one for me now if he dont I will pitch in and get his away from him sure that is if I do not make the riffle else where as I must have a little wife to share my fate through life

There are some 15 familyes around about this place mostly western people what they call Tarters about as good as no association at all notwithstanding all that they get up some 4 or 5 balls in the course of a year.

Ephraim now I want you to keep none posted in your matters as soon as you get you self secure and towards Spring if you should want any money write me and what I can rais I will send to you by Wells Fargo & co

Please writ as soon as ~~so~~ you receive this
And direct as usual

Port Orford
Rogue River
Oregon

Yours Truely
Amos Weed

Amos Weed
Sept 12th 60

Rogue River Dec 2nd 1890

Cousin Ephriam

Yours of Oct 27th came to hand Nove 22nd and also one from Sister Hannah.

I will now give you an acount of what I am doing since I wrote you last I have been at work carpentering have built four houses this year in fact, have all the work I can lay my hands to, but money at the present time, is scarce but it is good by waiting a short time and can get my pay.

When last I wrote you I said I thought some of going ~~home~~ away but have since had plenty of work and am now in such a fix that it would imposable for me to leave at present. although I should like very much to come down to your place now I would like to ask you a few questions about your place firstly, What kind of lumber is the at your place and what show is the there to put up a sircular saw, is there any streams that afford plenty of water What sort of a place is it to rais fruit such as apples &c In answer to this please give an acount about your property in question.

I think you have a very good thing in grain raising and if I was in your place I would put in a large quanty next Spring and hold on to your Stock for it will bring a good prise some time.

Hannah writes that Father and Mother wants me come home I know that I ought to go home and have felt it my duty to go home for a long time but oweing to my misfortune I could not have the face to go and even if I had I think I could not live long as I have been accostomed to this climate ~~so long~~.

I am now building a house out in the country to day have been at horse raseing and am now in town, have but a few moments to write and must be short. Ephraim I would be pleased to go home with you to see the old folks if I was able to go and come back again but I cannot tell when I will be able to go but you can bet your life that I make every cent count. Ephraim write often and excuse all mistakes

From your Cousin

Amos Weed

Amos Weed
Dec 26 1860

Rogue River Oregon Dec: 27th 1860

Cousin Ephraim.

As I have received nothing from you since last I wrote, I though I would imploy a few moments of time with the pen and inform you what I intend to doe in the first place times is very dull and money especally is very scarce and you can bet where a person works heard and does not make more then a living its time to think to think of emigrateing to a place where there is little less labor and a little more compensation and that to be delivered or value received, such is not the custom here, for when I work here it takes about five times as long to collect the money as it does to doe the work and sometimes it is next thing to a dead horse. I now have a contract on hand which I respect it will be my last for this place all my work of which I respect to collect by the first Feb: and my boat and shop I think will have to leave with P. & B. until there is a sale for them. How is it now: is there any pleasure or use for a sale boat in the harbor of San Diego. Mr. Walton's Schooner is expected to leave here to day and will probably ~~leave~~ return again in about one month: by that time I respect to be ready to leave on her to some other quarter of the globe. I respect to hear from home the next mail as I wrote when I received one the year

Ephrain I must now close as the schooner is leaving
write soon as you receive this.

Yours in haste

From your Cousin
A Weed

Ann Weed
Dec 27, 60

Amos West
Feb 6. 61
for expense

Rogue River Febuary 6th 1861

Cousin. Ephraim.

Your letter of Nov 17th mailed at Los. Angeles Dec 3d came to hand Jan 20th as the Steemers do not bring the Mail now it was conveyed by land. of cours it will be longer on its way. I wrote you sometime ago when the Schooner was in Some two months or more. now she has arived again and is to leave to day and will bear these few lines to San Frisco

I had made up my mind to leave on her myself until the last moment in order to collect in my debts which I have mostly accomplished with the exception of some fifty dol's that I have to take a note on three months time for building. My Boat and Shop I have not sold yet cannot find any one to buy yet

The Seriff of this County wants me to put up a house for him before I leave and as he is good for pay I think I shall take the contract as it will be about the first of May before I can get away You may rest assured that I am tired of working for most people about here as it will not pay becaus one has to await from three months to a year for his pay and I would not have made a collection had I not persued the course I have

Ephraim you say your mines are getting better I am very glad to hear of it I suppose you have an interest there the same as usual

I hope you will strike some good Gold claimes before long. I would like to be there now to help prospect for some. I hope also soon to learn that the garrison will soon be back to new town

In regard to grain sowing I would put in all I could this year and I will try and be there to help you harvest it.

It is very seldom that I go hunting now except on the River for ducks my Rifle I owned when there I left it in Columbia the barrill had been sprung and it was not much account. I should like much to be with you now to have a good hunt in the mountains I frequently ride horse back now day before yesterday I had a good ride with Blake to drive cattle some that he had purchased or got judgement on from a law suit.

It is a very bad place here to ride it is so mountainous there is no roads nothing but trailes and a great deal of under brush

There is another mail at Port orford that has not come down yet it may be I have some letter from home or from you I am now anxiously waiting to learn the decesion of your trial hopeing you will come out victorious, on receipt of this please write all particulars. When you intend to go home and to get married and return again

I want to go home my self but when I know not. I have been thinking for some time about getting marrad my self and do not know but that I will be by Spring (if things work right) and take up my departure for your place as, I think if we were boath marrad and had a home together the remainder of our lives. doe you not think so Ephraim?

Write Soon

From your Cousin

Amos Weed

E. W. Moore

Dear Sir Weed wishes me to write you a few lines in regard to your Eye from your description they are about the same as mine was Get 2 oz Gmelins Opium and one ounce Rose water seperate and take another vial and put 2/3 opium 1/3 Rose water in, comence with this and after you have used it 2 weeks, use 2 ps Rose water and now opium, apply just on going to bed by throwing the head back and dropping into the Eye lift the lids well with the fingers so it can get under them, this is the best I can use. It is severe when first used but only lasts a few moments – I remain yours as ever

S. B. Blake

Feb. 14th

The Schooner did not get out on the first date of this letter; so I will inclose a line or two more. When you receive this I want you to write immediately and let me know all the particulars in regard to your suit with Bell. How many sheep you have and what kind of breeds you are crossing with them. Whether you intend to go home this spring or not and if you doe, if you will get married and settle down in San Diego.

I have strong notions of getting married this Spring but I shall not settle down here if I can find any better place then this to make money in but God only knows where that place is. I know that California has long since gone up the spout, and I dont know but what if I could learn to have a contented mind but that this place would doe me as well as any where. One thing I dislike this place for that is there is no carriage roads here nothing but trails and not county trails at that.

Yours as ever

A. Weed

P.S. The Steamer does not bring the mail now consequently it comes overland and takes longer to reach here then it it would by Steamer.

Rogue River March 4th 1861.

Cousin Ephraim.

It being a long time since I have received a letter from you (I will scratch another line) the last of which I answered some three weeks ago intended to have sent it by the schooner but she has not gone yet on acount of contrary winds and the bad condition of the bar. I sent it however, last week to San, Francisco in care of a man by the name of Brown that was on his way to california, The storm is now over the Bar or chanel is getting deeper and probably the schooner will start out tomorrow, so I write these few lines and send them by Blake as he will go on her to Frisco. now Ephraim I want you to write as soon as you can and let me know what you are driveing at and in particular about that Trial of yours whether a decesion in your farour or not. Ephraim if judgment should be rendered against you, I would very much like to have you come up here and take a look at this country There is a ranch directly across the river from my shop which is for Sale and if I make up my mind to stay I would like much to have the place it has a splended range for Sheep and Cattle but better adapted for Sheep then cattle it is verry hilly but tolerable good feed a good portion of the year ther is a good house on the ranch and some ten acres inclosed for tilage

There are some thirty head of cattle belonging to the parties now in possession parties which are now some sixty miles from here doeing business they want money very bad and I think the place can be purcha-sed quite cheap I think for seven hundred dollars without the cattle which would be decidedly cheap. now Ephrain if it should be your lot to get cleaned out there ~~are~~ I should like very much to have you come here and take a look at this place and if we can buy this ranch get a few sheep and I think doe better here then those those that are raising cattle and horses. Ephraim have you heard from home lately I have not had a letter since the one came throug you, E, I tel you what it is I would like to go home once more to see my Father & Mother & Sisters but I am afraid I will never be able to go The last letter I wrote home I sent direct from here and sent it to my Mother but have not as yet had an answer dont know what the reason can be unless it has been miscaried or lost on the way.

I think we shall soon have a regular overland mail Mr Ruffner the Post master at Port Orford has just recevied a letter from the postal agent stating that there would be a mail rout immediately estab-lished from ~~Dalick~~ Eureka to Port Orford then I am in hopes we will have communication without delay. March 5th The schooner has not left yet but expects to get out on the morning tide if any wind

What is your opinion of affairs in Washington. I would like to have been there yesterday to have seen old Abe mount the stand. I respect the next news we get to hear they are fighting down South like he-l I think Abe the little giant will have to split a few rails over their heads before he can keep the Southerners from kicking in the traces, anyway I would like to be there to see the sport would not you!

When you write please state whether you have crossed the breed of your sheep and of what kind, did you get those South Downs you thought you thought of getting when I saw you in San Fran.

Seth received a letter today from one of his Brothers in Mexico he said he was working a Silver Claim and doeing first rate. E, by the way are they making anything in your Copper Claim now. and doe you have an interest there yet as usual.

Seth thinks of going home this Spring (and I would like to go with him but I will not be able) if you remain there he may on his way call and see you as he talks some of going acros the the plaines but dont know whether he will or not. I will now close by requesting you to write as soon & as often as you can, Please excuse all mistakes

From your Cousin

Amos Weed

Amos Weed
March 4th

Rogue River Oregon March 15th 1869

Cousin Ephraim.

The last letter I wrote you was dated March 4th Since then have received one from you March 7th dated Jan-28th the last of which I will now answer. I am now at work mining as there is nothing doing in the carpenter line now and there is not much likely hood of there's much doing this summer, even if there is; money is so scarce it would be of no object to me to work at the business. I am watching an opportunity to sell my Shop, and if I should not make up my mind to go to ranching to leave for some other quarter of the globe and look for better diggins. You speak of a Saw mill I will get Mr. Blake to State to you what it will cost as he is better posted in regards to mills. I think myself that a Saw & Grist Mill would be a great help to your country if there was grain raised there to justify the one, and lumber enough used to proffit by the other but I should judge that there was not

If there is plenty of Cedar lumber in your country it will be a fortune to a person some day if the rail road ever comes through that way as Cedar lumber is getting scarce on this Coast. How are all the folks getting along at home it a long time since I have heard from home.

Yours &c Chas Weed,

To E. W. Morse

Dear Sir Mr Bond wishes me to write a few lines in regard to a Saw & Grist Mill – you are mistaken in supposing that a Muley Saw would be the Cheapest Mill you could Build, It would Cost more than a Sash or Circular Mill You could not Build a good Sash Mill for Less than about 3000$ but a Cheap Circular Mill Could be got up for 500 on small Cheap Scale that would saw 1000 feet in 10 hours provided that water power was easily available the only Mill Irons for that would be a 36 inch Cir saw and Mandrill a few Pulleys reg Irons & Belt. probably they would cost in San Francisco about 100$ or 150$ that kind of a Mill would require no frame, only a foundation the bul of the Cost would be Labor and transportation of Iron Work, This is probably the kind of a Mill you would want for a Cheap Concern – But it would require something of a Mechanic to get it up. from my knowledge of the section of the Country you are in, this is the only Mill that would pay, and it would only pay a man engaged in something else. – you could get all the necessary information in San Francisco as to what Irons you would need

I remain yours as ever

Seth Bingley Blake

Amos Weed
March 15th. 61

Sore Eyes &c
Saw Mill &c

Julian City. Feb 24th 1871

Friend Morse,

Received the Box at the Express Office the other day by Hammelton everything in good condition contents of which were clothing such as Vests, Socks, Shirts, Sheets, Pillow-cases and 2 Jumpers. Mother sent me a small cake, Father sent a few apples, some of the apples had been frozen.

Judith sent me some choice beans, also inclosed a small paper of garden seeds for Mrs. Morse, which I inclose in this sheet.

Since I have got able to work little over 2 weeks past we have had such bad weather we could not do much, our lower Shaft is now down about 50 ft the ledge yet is very small but good rock. I hope there will be some purchasers in this spring if so I would like to sell out if I can

get near the money back which has been expended here.

I hope the Rail. Road. Bill will pass if not already, if it has it will make property change in San. Diego. at the rate of 100 per cent in one day. and also all property adjoining the City.

Have you had rain enough there to guarentee a crop if so and you can find any one to plough and plant my inclosure at the Ranch lease it to them on any terms as I will not be able to attend to it myself this year. Next winter we will have rain enough to make up for lost time then I want to start an orchard in my inclosure.

Yours. Truly.

John Wood

Delfina Saturday March 17th 1866

Friend Martin
and
Cousin Weed

I start in a few moments for below, San Fernando &c, I expect it will take me about 20 days to get back here as it is 150 to 200 miles from Delfina. I shall probbally go up with Capt Winder & Genl Rosencrans perhaps sooner. I dont know of any thing particular to say to you, you both know enough about my business to keep things along straight till I return which may not be till about 12th April more or less perhaps not till 22d April. Everything is all right so far.

Yours Truly

E. W. Morse

Martin Turner
or
Amos Weed
San Diego