



9-26-1854

Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Sept. 26

John W. H. Baker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/grcc>

Recommended Citation

Baker, John W. H., "Letter from John W. H. Baker to Julia Ann Baker, 1854 Sept. 26" (1854). *Gold Rush Life*. 88.
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/grcc/88>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Americana at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gold Rush Life by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

Mokelumne Hill, Sept 26, 1854

My dear Wife

I have just finished a letter to go by the Express to you, but as you wrote me that you were in the receipt of letters sooner by Mail than by Express I conclude to write a few lines by mail. I enclosed a draft in my express letter on Adams & Co. drawn for \$500, payable at Boston to Mrs. Julia Ann Baker, as my drafts have usually been. I wish you to take \$100 for your own use and deposit the remainder in the Bank as I suppose you have done with the \$300 which I sent you in July--I recieved a letter from cousin Edward D. Baker, Esq. yesterday, for which favor I am very thankfull and may endeavor to return the favor tomorrow. But if not then by the next mail. I believe I have one or two other letters which I ought to write but my unsettled condition for the past month has caused a delay in almost all of my writing facilities and therefore I have not been very communicative even to yourself. We have succeeded very poorly in the collection of debts, having collected but very few. Many of them make good promises only to break them. But I am very thankfull that I have never reckoned much upon our book accounts. Still there is a few hundred dollars which I think we shall get by and by. I will postpone the finishing of this letter untill tomorrow, so good night.

Wednesday morning, Sept. 27th. Well! after a comfortable night's rest I must endeavour to finish my communication. I ought to have written to Father this mail but I shall have no time and if you see him tell him I will write him soon. How does Father get along? do you know whether he is doing much business or not? I should like to have him write me how he gets along, or if you can ascertain you write me. I have thought a little more upon the subject of depositing the whole amount of the draft which I send you and think you may deposite the whole and I will send you a smaller draft in a few weeks for your own use. Still if

you need any of that take it and use it as you like. You speak of the scarcity of Potatoes. I will suggest to you the idea of getting Oliver to send to the city and purchase a few barrels for your use if they cannot be obtained more reasonable elsewhere. I think you could obtain some good ones there at pretty reasonable rates. and when they arrive at Lebanon have some teamster bring them down. I always hold to plenty of good potatoes, and should have them if they could be bought. We have very nice ones here, only 4 cents per pound. "Very cheap". Apples, Pears, Oranges and Peaches are plenty here at 12½ cents each. Very nice Grapes at 50¢ per pound. I indulge but little in any such luxury as it tastes a little too strong of money. Still I must have a bite of some of them occasionally when I can earn from \$3 to \$5 by extracting a tooth. We could hardly buy a single pound of grapes with the amount received for pulling a tooth in N. H. while here for the same service we can purchase some 6 or 8 pounds. So after all it is not so extravagant for us to indulge in a little of such fine things occasionally--

Edward Fifield remains at this place yet. I saw him a few days since. He said he was chopping wood again, has agreed with a man to draw his wood into town at the halves. If he chooses I think he can do very well the coming winter with his wood. Hosea Couch is now quarrying Stone for building houses. The quarry is near the village, and the stones are excellent for building purposes, as they are entirely proof against the action of fire, and work almost as easy as wood. Some of our inhabitants are erecting some noble Stone buildings, most of which will be finished before the rainy season sets in. I should like to see Cousin Oliver smashing round here among these rocks. A common Stone worker gets \$8 per day and Oliver could do as much as any two men that I have seen work. But the opportunity will have passed for doing much here in about 2 months more, unless others build the

Mr. Sawyer who wrote you was a blacksmith here with whom I was well acquainted. He owned about \$4000 worth of Property here which was destroyed by the fire and will undoubtedly leave him in rather diminished circumstances. But he will probably gain it once more after he gets at work again at his old trade-- I shall expect him to arrive by the next Steamer and I hope he has seen you that I may have the pleasure of having a word direct from some one who has seen you--
~~the~~

We have taken \$25 this morning for extracting teeth, medicines &c which will do very well to begin the day with.

You never mentioned Oliver Huggins marriage before your last letter although I had heard that he was married by way of the Dudleys-- I suppose he will probably visit you with Harvey when they come to Meriden. I would like to hear how they get along while there, and whether O. will or does go South with H. If you see Oliver tell him to write me.

I do not remember whether I spole in my last letter or not of a Mr. Folsom, who used to board at Uncle Spauldings about the time I went to school. Lucie will remember him. I believe his initials were J. L. He is considered the richest man in San Francisco--(Uncle S.) will recollect him. He is thought to be worth Three Millions--Thomas Freelon, an old roommate of mine is county Judge at San Francisco. In fact there are many men in the country with whom I have been acquainted in times past. But I must close with my usual

Affectionate Regards for
yourself and the children,
From your husband
John W. H. Baker

Mrs. Julia Ann Baker
Meriden, N. H.