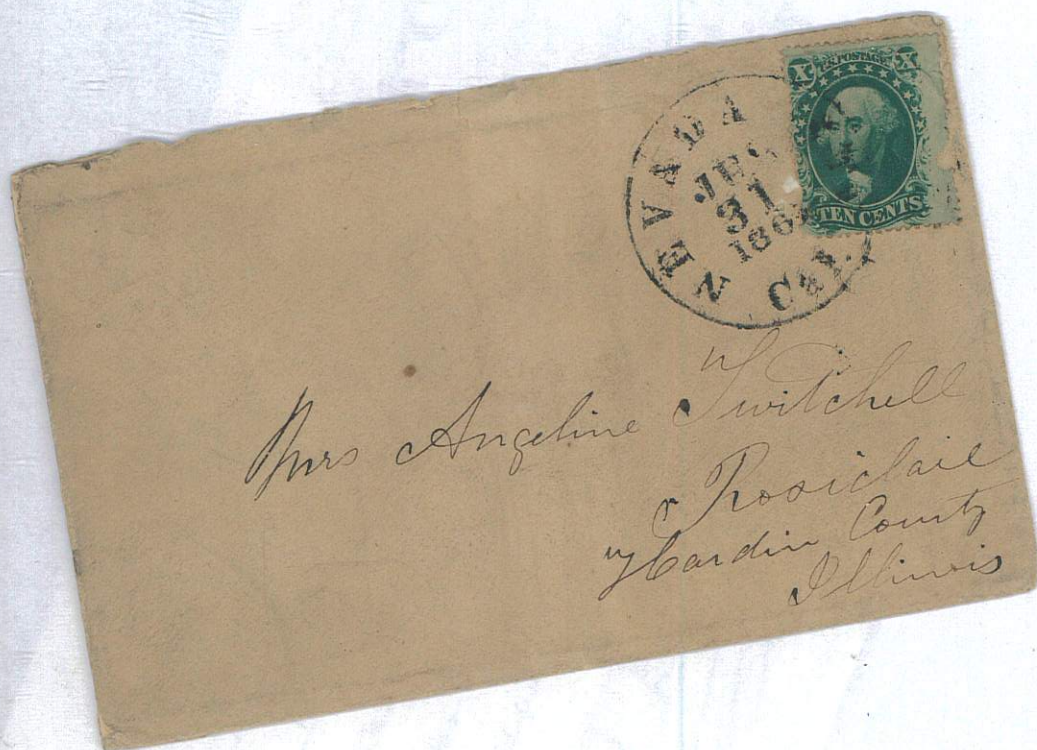


TWITCHELL GOLD SEEKING CORRESPONDENCE BEYOND THIS SHEET

8/22/16

jh

C-LINE #62047
LEGAL SIZE TOPPER



I get to the Peak
 S. F. Twitchell
 I expect it will be 3 or 4 days
 before we leave this vicinity &
 I will write again, by that time
 I think I will get a letter from
 you, if I do, & get my gun.
 I will again start on my way
 rejoicing, we have bin blessed
 so far with good luck & our
 the remainder of our trip bids
 fair to be pleasant & more
 speedy than I expected, our
 stock is all in a little better
 condition than when we left
 home. One goat of the open is a little
 tenderfooted & Kansas pine has
 hit him back from which I think
 he will entirely recover before
 starting from here
 when you answer this direct
 to Denver city Kansas Territory
 my respects & love to all
 enquiring friends, a kiss to Baby
 your affectionate husband
 La Fayette Twitchell

In Camp 3 miles back
 of Lawrence City Kansas Territory
 May 3rd 1889

Dear Angie
 We arrived at this
 place about 3 o'clock yesterday
 evening. I went into the city
 immediately to see if our provisions
 & co. had arrived safe I found
 everything right except my gun
 which I had ordered made (at
 Hawkins & Co) St Louis) & to be shipped
 with our other Bill of provisions
 to this city. I shall look for it on
 my boat, ^{that comes up} but if it does not
 come by tomorrow morning I will
 telegraph back to St. L. & find out
 something about it. I may have
 to stay here several days to get
 it. I found John Kerr & one of
 Capt Shaw's sons here,
 young Shaw is here on a visit

On going to town yesterday the first place I inquired for, was the post Office, & only think how I was disappointed at finding no letter from you. When I made the inquiry for a letter & was answered in the negative I felt worse than I have any time on the trip. I then went to the Commission Merchants & lined my gun had not come; notwithstanding I endeavored to keep cool, & not be bothered about it; when I returned to Camp I was never sicker than I have been since I left home. We intend to drive into the City tomorrow morning & load up our provisions, & drive out, probably 8 or 10 miles where we can find good grass. & remain there. ~~There until~~ 2 or 3 days or until we get every thing fixed up & our stock recruited so that we can go along without any further trouble.

The express arrived yesterday from the Peak, the news they brought was a little more flattering, than what we heard here before. I saw (today) about 40 or 50, dollars worth of Gold dust, from the A.P. mines. it has the appearance of very rich fine gold, but the particles are very fine & scaly, which indicate rather poor mines. it was said to have been dug on Cherry Creek & is about the kind of gold I expected to see from these mines. The rush of emigrants, is not as great as I expected to see at this place ~~neither~~ nor Independence & Kansas City, as not crowded with emigrants as I supposed. I cannot think, that the whole emigration this season will be as great as is generally supposed. I do not think it will get up to an hundred thousand which is the general

estimate.

I was read, or read.

were you write again direct
to Denver City.

I like to forget to say that
Ralph Fellows & Sully Magloth
lin, & Co. arrived here yesterday
on a Steamboat their
teams are in a bad condition
They will have to stop in
this neighborhood, for 2 or
3 weeks & recruit them before
they can go through
I will probably write
again before I leave
good by for the present
my respects to all
Your affectionate

Husband

La Fayette Switzer

Did not get any word
from J. Austin
J. F. S.

1857
Leavenworth City May 4th

I wrote you a letter yesterday
while at camp by which you will see
the conditions of affairs at
that time. This morning my Lucky
Star was in the attendance,
according to my statement yester-
day, we hitched up this morning
& drove into the town as usual
I went direct to the post office
& found a letter from you, of
which I only read a few words.
(for I was so rejoiced I could not
finish it then). I then went to the
Commissioner's warehouse, & found
my gun, in good order it had
been shipped & read, with our other
things but had been over looked,
we have loaded our provisions
in the wagon they started out

about 30 minutes ago on the
Fort Riley ~~road~~ or Smoky Hill
route. It is now $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 o'clock
I am at the Renock ^{House} ~~and~~ will probably
dine here to day, & then overtake
the teams this evening. I feel
perfectly well & in better spirits
than any time since I left home.
The express came in yesterday
brought better news than was
a circular was published
this morning stating the news
~~from the~~ by yesterday express
was that there were making
from 8 to 20 \$ per day.

Though this may all be gas
however I ~~am~~ the demand for
horses & mules is greater this
morning than I have seen before
Aug¹ don't say you cannot ^{write} a
good letter again. Your letter
that I got & read this morning
is undoubtedly the best that

Fort Riley May 14th 1857

Dear Angie

I take another opportunity of writing
you a line. We have arrived safely this far
this fort being 130 miles from ~~Sturgesworth~~ ^{Sturgesworth} city.
we have had no trouble, or mishaps all well. &
getting along fine. we are in Co with
6 other waggon, & number 30 men 1 woman
3 children, & 5 dogs we will lay over
tomorrow it being Sunday. Monday we
will be in the Buffaloe range, then
expect to realize ~~the~~ a portion of the
glories of the trip. we have better accounts
from the miners than ever before (that is)
that the miners are making from 8 to 14
per day. I feel that all will turn out
well yet. we will cross the Kansas River
at this place & continue up the South Side
for 60 miles. Morgan has the agree over &
a while the Ry Boys are still with us
nothing more this time write & direct
to Denver City write very week as I
shall always be anxious to hear from you
My respects to love to all
yours as ever in haste
La Fayette Switzer

that they were doing about the same as at Buckeye. I then felt pretty well satisfied that we could make something & started yesterday morning back to this place or to meet the balance of the Co. which we found here. we are all resting & writing letters today to morrow we will start in to the mines, with one or 2 wagons & teams with provisions sufficient to last 4 or 5 weeks & in that time we can learn to a certainty what we can do. The mountains are very high and steep worse to travel over than California I am not certain where we will stop I expect however a part of us will go to stop some where on Clear creek as there are a great many bars unoccupied.

I have not seen a single person that I was acquainted with I heard that the train of hand carts from Mt Vernon ^{turned back before} ~~the~~ reached here

June 19th/59
Cherry Creek 3 miles
South Denver City

Dear Angie

I got in to the city of Denver 3 days ago. together with 2 other Boys, i.e. Willis Threlkeld and a fellow & another of the train from Northern Col. I went to the postoffice & found your favour of May 18th which I do assure you, ~~it~~ could not have bin seen & read in a more propitious time, being worn down by the fatigue of a tedious trip, & hearing as we had, along ^{last part of the} the road, ~~the~~ City, (from those that said they had thoroughly prospected the country) that there was not gold, to pay 50^{cts} per day to the hand, no where to be found. There acts corresponding ^{also} with what the told ~~of~~ ^{humans} were preparing and starting every day for the State

Three things combined, had reduced
me in mind; to ~~that~~ a condition
bordering on ~~the~~ a horrible attack
of the blues, in which a man
looks on the past with regret
& the future, with suspicion.
your letter came like a ray of
sunlight, bursting through dark
and angry clouds, instantly dispe
ring the gloom, that was fast gather
ing around me, & pointing out
the advantages of perseverance &
energy. we stopped in the city
but an hour, then pushed on to
the mountains a distance of 12
miles there we stopped for the
night. The next morning we started
into the mountains, & after a hard
days travel (some times on foot & some
time on our horses) we reached Grego
ry's diggings a dis^{ance} of 20 miles, there
we found thousands of men some

walking around with pick & pan
& shovel on the shoulder. Some pros
pecting some laying in the shade sleep
ing, others playing cards for amusement
(having no money to bet), & a small
portion of them digging & washing
gold, & making as near as I could
learn from 5 to 20¢ per day, so
taking every thing in consideration
it presented a poor appearance
for making a fortune, we staid
there until 11 o'clock the next
day I could not help feeling a
good deal discouraged, we went
from there to Buckeye diggings
about 5 miles. South on a ^{stream} creek
called Clear Creek. There we found
but a few men, they all at work
& from the best I could learn was
a making from 4 to 7¢ per day to the
hand, we heard also that at Jackson
& Spanish diggings on the same creek

I have got Kansas Jim. & long
card paper get both partly thin
in order, I must give a ~~some~~ sketches
of our trip in the mountains. Willis
Shalkell, was carrying our sack of
provisions & on the 2 day he got
lost from the other man & myself
& turned back, we found Camps
however, & something to eat when
we reached it & did not suffer
from hunger, yesterday as we were
returning by way of the Gregory
diggins road, we were interrupted
& almost surrounded by fire
burning in the pine trees
for a few moments we thought
our chance for escape all most
fruitless, we were in a little spot
that was burnt of about 30 yards
around, there was about 20 other
persons with us, there was a wagon
then burning in sight of us

& the fire burning on all sides
The flames were coming ~~from~~^{from the ground}
the South Side & curling far above
the tops of the trees, for a some
were commencing to spray, the
wind changed & checked it.

My partner & me made a brake
through the coolest place in
sight, & in a moment the balance
followed, & by a general stampede
we all made it through safe
~~that~~ a man came through betw
us said that there was another
wagon burnt, we had
also there there was 15 men
burnt to death, the day before
about 6 miles back of
the diggins. men didn't know
the danger of the fire in this
& exposed themselves in prospecting
& travelling through the mountains
I think that after this they will
be more careful, ^{be on the look} for one will ^{out and not}

& not let it get me in as
close a place again.
I did not give Sam H the money
to pay for the malases.

Noa is as fat as a ~~Pais~~ Austin
& Jacob, & are hasty & will
Morgan has a chill once in
a while but is in better health
than when we left. Noa and I
lost old Roll about 10 miles
from Equality & have not seen
him since we thought he
would go back to Equality & go
home with you.

Argu I am in good health
& better spirits than ever before.
I think now that I can make
6 or 7 dollars pretty certain.
Thoug I can tell better in a
week or two. By that time I
will write again. Tell
all the balance of my
relations & friends that I will
employ my next lachure hour
writing to them. Remember
me to all. My kindest regards to your
mother & Sarah & the children.
Tell baby that I will bring him a pony
your affectionate Husband L F Switthill

I did not think Ira C. or R.
Rogers. would have give it up
but I can not hear a word of them
here. I have not herd of D. M.
Clothman, & R. Fellows since we
left them on Salt Creek 6 miles
from Livensworth. I expect they
turned back or stoped ~~the~~ in
the territory then other side of
Fort Riley. I thought I would
give you an account of our trip
from Livensworth through. But
I will postpone to some time
I have more leisure. I will.

Say however that we had a very
pleasant & prosperous trip, we
found & drove through 30 head
of Cows young cattle & work oxen
& one horse, we found owners for
the horse, & one goat of ~~cattle~~ ^{oxen}
we sold 16 head for 190\$ & have
3 head of oxen left.

Mountain Camp July 3rd 1859
According to promise I now drop
you a line, that you may know something
of the times & fashions, of the rocky Mountain.
We arrived at the City of Denver on the 15th
of June, & on the 20th we started up into the mountains
we were 2 days getting to this place a distance
of about 24 miles, here we staked our waggons &
teams, left 8 men with them & the balance of the
party consisting of 15 men packed 3 horses & ourselves
with provisions & mining tools, & proceeded on to the
mines, a distance of 5 to 20 miles, we prospected 5 days
& found no place that we had much confidence in
paying to work, but concluded to go to work on a
bar on Clear Creek any how, so we sawed
some plank made 2 machines dug a ditch &
commenced work, worked 2 days, did not make 20
per man a day, at this, the majority of the Co. below
discouraged & 10 out of 18 decided on going back
home, those that think of staying are Austin
Kear, Morgan, & myself & one of the company from
Northern Ill., the balance consisting of all
of the Ransell Co., Jacob Drumer, & 4 Marshall Co
Boys, are preparing to join in the general Stampede
that has bin going on for the last 4 or 5 weeks from
this, once glorious Pike's Peak Gold Mines.
The present appearance of this country is indeed discouraging

Excuse the bad writing & this dirty sheet, if you could see me in the position I am
occupying you would say well don't do that

I have not determined positively whether I
will stay here this winter or go on to California
I think however that I will ~~buy~~ a Claim & go to
work for a few ~~more~~ months, & see how things goes
they & if I can see any prospect that I think will
justify I will stay this winter I have an idea that
next summer will probably, present a good opportunity
for making money if I continue to think so. I will
stay through the winter, I cannot tell anything
about what extent the mines are yet, consequently
am not able to write anything positive concerning
them, I have not time to write as much as I would
like to, the Boys are all in an uproar dividing
out their thing & squaring up accounts. The one party
to start back home the other to go up into the
mines, I will write again soon as we get to work
& give you a more general descrip^{tion} how of the Country
& its prospects, & by the way I shall expect to hear
from you often soon as you need this write often
Send me some new paper let me hear ^{how} things
are going on generally in Old Betsey town
from all my friends. Austin & Noa, C. are
both as fat as Bares, I ~~was~~ received one letter
from Angie Sin I ~~to~~ bin here which I answered
immediately. I write to her again to day
do not fail to write for I am more anxious to
hear from home than ever I was before
my respects to all inquiring friends
yours, sincere friend La Fayette Twitchell

let me hear from everybody
& every thing of interest
give my love to your
mother & all, & kiss Lucy
Willy & Bob, tell them to be
good children
Your affectionate husband

La Fayette Smith
at present. I have
not time to write over this
D. L. S.

Mountain Camp.

July 4th 1857

Dear Angie

I again steal a moment
from the bustle of the Camp to drop you a
line. We left our encampment on Cherry
Creek, the 10th the next day after I wrote
to you, & started up into the Mountains
We arrived at this encampment the
17th. We left 3 men at the waggon
& the balance 10 in all, with 3 horses packed
with provisions, & mining tools. Started
on to the mines a distance of from
1 to 20 miles we prospected five days
with out finding any thing that
we thought would pay, we thought
we would work some anyhow
so we sawed some lumber made
some machines & went to work
on a bar on Clear Creek
after 2 days the with out making any thing

The most of the Co. become discouraged
& decided on going home. So yesterday
and to day we are all in an uproar
for dividing out the plunder & prepa-
ring to start home, & back to the
mine from the prospect^{post} this morning
I think Austin Morgan & myself
& perhaps Jas. Watson of the 1st Co.
will stay. Noah, is trying to get
a chance to go on through to
California. It will leave about
10 or 12 of the crowd that came ^{out} together.
that will start back to-
day. I have not time to write you
a letter this time. I will write again
in a few days, but I will say this, that
at this present time the prospect
is pretty gloomy but I do not feel
discouraged in the least. & I think
I will stay until fall any how
& probably all winter though I have
not made any thing yet. I still

believe that I can make some
money & probably a pretty good raise
by staying 1 or 2 years ~~for~~ I can
tell better when I try it a little
longer. for the present I am all
rite & feel first rate. when I can
hear from you & Boby that you
are both well & agitating a letter will
write to ~~you~~ after. & I will so. the
same to J. & family here from
me. also to my An. tell them I will
write to them all so soon as I get
settled down & have time. I have
just finished a letter to W. Warrick
at & to Sumner, which I will send to
the post office with this from home.
After you can hear something more than
from this. My respects to all. tell
Alex to write let me know if
you have heard from Sam.
tell all my that my friends that
I will write as soon as I get
time

Tell all my friends that
I cannot, thus a satisfactory
letter about the country &
mines until I am more of
it myself. ~~I am~~

My respects to all my friends
My love to your mother
Dallie kiss the children tell
Baby to be a good Boy &
obey his mother, & I will
bring him the money when
I come home, you must
keep in good spirits. I think
I will stand a pretty good chance
to make some money yet I
believe the chance & better than I thought
when I left. for the present
good, - by, Take good care of
yourself & Baby.

your affectionate husband
La Fayette Twitchell

Bushy Bar Clear Creek
July 10th 1839

Dear Anna

As I have an opportunity
to send you a line, or send a
letter to Denver at the foot of
the mountains (the only method we
have of starting a letter home)
I again write a line to let you
know I am getting along
I wrote to you, Warren & Turner
on the 4th but I understand
that the letters have not yet
left Denver City in consequence
of the Express charges not being
paid, tomorrow, I will send the down
& pay the charges so that they
will be forwarded, since
I wrote Noa C. started to
California, & myself together
with Austin Morgan & I started
of the Ky Co. came up to this
place

I have bought a claim for which
we are to pay \$100 ~~++~~ when we get it
out, & have went in company
with 4 others, who owns an claim
joining us, & have put in a
sluce, have only worked ~~off~~
part of 2 days, & have made
about 20¢, altogether, making
\$2 ~~++~~ each, we have not got
quite to work yet, I think
we will probably make 3
or 4 dollars per day a piece
when we get properly to
work, we are all in good health
& I feel pretty well satisfied that
I can make it pay by staying
until I get use to the country
I think that next summer will
present a good opening for mak^{ing}
money if a man is stays this winter
so as to be ready to get an early
start in the spring

We ~~got~~ built us a little
cabin, & covered it with pine
bark, which makes a bad
roof, it is raining this evening
the first of any consequence since
I have bin in the mountains.
& our cabin leaks so that
I can scarcely find room to put
my paper without getting it
wet. Angie I am getting anxious
to hear from you again, this
is the 3rd letter I have written
since I rec^d. yours of May the 13th
& I have bin expecting to get one for
some time, it is raining harder
& I will have close, I will try &
have time in my night to give you
an full acct of our trip & thing^s
generally. you will find ^{see} well
a few particles of dust which
I send you as a specimen of
the gold ~~run~~ in this region of
country

then a grate many starting home
very week. though. I think there is
about as many coming in as there
is going out. There is about 100
families in this place, & I think
the most of them. I think will
stay through the winter.

every body is in a hurry building
there are 2 saw mills one ^{other} ~~being~~
running about a week. The ^{other} ~~start~~
to day. The timber is inconvenient.
It is to fall about from 5 to 8 miles
hands wages. range from ~~15~~ to
15 dollars per month to \$150 per day
carpenters wages 25 to 30 per day
up in the mines wages are a little
higher, & among the miners there
is a few that are making from
8 to 16 dollars per day but a grate
majority that do not make over
3 or 3 ⁵⁰ that is of those that are to

1869

Colan City Aug 3rd

Mrs Anne Sartwell

Dear Wife to day

I recd. 2 letters from you, one of date
the 3rd. & the other of 15 of July I also recd.
yours of June the 17th which I have not
yet answered. I was truly glad to hear
from you of your being best with
good health. however I cannot boast
of that blessing at present. ^{though} I feel
that I am decidedly better since I
recd your letters this morning.

I came down from the mountains
about a week ago where I had bin
to work at mining ^{some} 3 weeks or
rather trying to mine. There were 8 of
us in co. Austin & J. Warton, & the
balance of who you are not acquainted
our claims were on Clear Creek a
stream of considerable size & very rapid

So in the first place we were both ⁱⁿ about getting the water on high enough to run on to the machines, about the time we accomplished that. The rains began to come & we had a fresh in the creek, almost regular every day, which prevented us working to any advantage. So taking it all round we did only about ^{much} expenses. While, then I was at ^{work} the most of the time in the water & in rain. & the last week I had a very severe attack of the flu: from which I was not entirely well when I came down here. I am now in co with Mr. Glothlin we have taken up a ranch about 8 miles north of this place with the intention of herding cattle this fall & winter we have also a lot in this place which we intend building on as soon as we can

I came down here about a week ago since then I have bin up at our ranch. until this morning, I have not bin able to do much. Morgan is also sick. So we have not made much progress towards fixing up our ranch or getting out house logs. I came down here this morning with the intention of staying here until I get able to work which I hope will not be long. your letters had the best effect of any thing I have met with, I have a kind of intermittent fever. have pretty high fever every evening & am better in the morning. I think now that weakness is the ^{part} ~~primary~~ difficulty with me ~~now~~. & I think I will be able to work in a few days again. There is a good deal of sickness up in the mine & a great many getting sick out in consequence. & going home

Climate, & Country, are, & if I get
into any business that I think will
justify living here a few years.

I can make necessary arrangements for
your comfort ~~here~~, & come home &
bring you & baby, out, I still think
in the course of a year or so I can find a
chance of making some money though I
do not expect to much more than make
expenses this fall & winter,

Austin is up in the mountains still
at work mining. he sometimes talks
of staying all winter. he has been
anxiously looking for letters from
home, but has not yet received any.
I have not heard from Noa since
he left for California, he left in good
health & spirits & I hope by this time
has pretty well accomplished the work
of the ^{trip} I think he will get through about
the last of September. if no bad luck

I wrote to you & Warren & Lurman
on the 4 day of July, & I wrote again
about the 15 or 20, & sent you about
30 ^{to} worth of dust. since then I
have not had an opportunity of
writing until now, but for the future
I think I can write as often as once
every 2 weeks, in your letter of June
the 17th you spoke of your mother
wanting your part of the estate
during her lifetime. That matter
is with you alone ~~to settle~~ & whatever
you chose to do with it, you may be
assured I will be satisfied.
(however there is one thing that I would
remind you of) to have it arranged
so that at her death it will fall back
to yourself or heirs, without further
difficulty, you are there & can see
how things are done, & consequently can
know more about it than I do ~~but~~ ^{besides it}

Aug. 5th 1869
Augie. I feel a general better
this morning. I will start up
to the ranch. I think I will be
able to go to work in a day or two
take good care of yourself &
Baby & let me hear from you
as often as you can, I will
send you a paper if I can

to get on. I must
close my respects &
love to all.
Tell all my friends
to write
your affectionate
husband
La Fayette Switthell

must you make will be entirely
satisfactory with me,
Write often again, let me hear
how Aziel is getting along tell
him to write, & where to direct
to, tell Alys to write, let me hear
how every body is getting along
how crops are, & when you
hear from Sam, & all the news
generally, Tell father Austin that
I wrote to him about 3 weeks
ago, directed to S. J. Co. tell him to
write to me tell Warren to
write, & send me some late
papers, I would like to see them.

Goconda Herald,
My love & respects to all
inquiring friends My love to
your Mother Salie & children
kiss Boby & tell him that I don't
forget the pony, as ever your
affectionate husband La Fayette Switthell

August 4th I did not have
time to finish my letter last night
so I shall continue it this morning
I feel some better this morning than
yesterday, & I think in a day or 2 I will
be able to go back to the ranch to work.

The prospects in this country
are not very flattering for making
a rais. very soon, but still I think
there is better opportunities than
at home. Consequently I have made
my mind to stay here this fall &
winter, (if I have my health) &
see what the prospects are in the
spring & next summer. I think by
so doing I will have an opportunity
of going in to the mountains early
in the spring & getting a claim
that will pay, & an other object is
that by staying the year out, I will
know all about what the seasons

I will write to him next week,
Isaac came through by Railroad &
Stage, & made good time all the way.
I have nothing more of interest
I will write again next Sunday
I think by then I will hear from J. Cooley.

Litchell & W.D. Gathlin & Ranch
August 7th 1859

M^{rs} Anne Litchell

Dear Wife, I wrote you a letter on the
4th also one to Ujial, & when I went to mail them
I found 2 more from you, one of date June the 1st
& the other of June 5. I was surprised that I had not got
them before. Though I found that they had been overlooked
in the office at Denver. Anne allow me to say a few
words, with regard to my own good fortune in one particular
i.e., when I get discouraged, ~~the~~ or have blues, house sickness,
or any disease that I have yet experienced, I find a
certain remedy, viz at once, by applying to the
Post-Office, I will, thus receive, if (slightly ailing) a letter
from you, which invariably produces the desired effect
& sets me all right again. The more serious or obstinate
the case may be, ^{more be} the ^{will} the amt. of Sourin Balm
awaiting my order. The other day, I went down to the
Town with the idea that I would have to call on a
Doctor & take a regular course of medicine, but fortun-
ately I called at the post office first, & there I found
2 letters, ~~from~~ which I grasped with an eager hand, &
after ^{reading} them I felt a good deal better, in place of buying
phases I bought writing material, and answered them
the next day, & the 3rd morning I went to the office to
mail them, & I found 2 more letters from you, which after
reading, I felt my health improving, & so rapidly, ~~that I got over~~

Give my respects to all inquiring
friends, My love to your Mother
Salud, & the Children
Your Affectionate husband
La Fayette Twitchell

my horse came up here & done a pretty good $\frac{1}{2}$ days
work the same afternoon & have bin getting stouter
ever since so you see that the remedy is equal to
the disease, in all cases, but enough of this
Austin was down here last night from the
mines he came to get my mule to go to South
Park which is about 100 miles South west from
here, it is reported that there is good mines discover
at that place & hundreds are preparing
to go, Austin & an other man are going & if it
will pay Austin will come back & him & I will
take our wagon & provisions & go immediately
The most reliable report that we have is that a
man can make from 20 to 15 dollars per day, though
So there is one yarn afloats that a man
that has bin there & returned & says that if he
cannot take a man to where he can make a
pound a ^{day} he will give him liberty to kill him
I have no idea there is any truth in the yarn
if I had bin able for the trip I would have bin on my
way now, but I will know all about when Austin
returns when I will write again, Austin has not yet
got any letters from home, I have got nearly one a week
ever since I got here, all from you, I must close
Give my love to your Mother ~~all the~~ Sarah & the Children
My respects to all my friends, Kiss Boby for me
Tell him I would be as glad to see him as he would me
Your ever Affectionate husband
La Fayette Twitchell.

I enclose a snap to Regal
send it to him soon as you can conveniently, I just finished a letter to

all yours

we think of burning some
lumber, which is worth at this
place from \$1.25 to \$1.52 per bushel.
I have a good prospect for a
coal vein within 4 miles of
this place if it opens out well
it will pay for wood is very
inconvenient so taking things
all round I think there is a
chance of making some money
during the winter & in the spring
I can be into the gold
in the mountains as soon as any
body & will start a good chance
of getting a paying claim.
I do not know but I will take
a trip to Laos, New Mexico this fall
after a load waggon load of
flowers. I could make the
trip in about 4 weeks & I
think it would pay well though
I cannot ~~what~~ yet whether
I will get time to go or not.
I have got my open mule & horse
yet though I expect to sell some of
them this fall.

1851
Golden City Sept 11th
Mrs Angie Sutcliffe
Dear Wife,

Your favours
of the 7th & 15th of Aug. came to hand
in the 3rd. I was truly glad to hear
of your good health & the good
spirits which seemed to be upraised
in your letter. Yours of the 7th seemed
to indicate that you were low
spirited, that your mind was
brooding over the mishaps of the
past & at the same time peering into
the darkest realms of the future.
These feelings we should endeavour
to banish, by doing good to our
lost & fellow beings, endeavouring to
maintain a clear conscience, &
cherishing the hope that all is
for the best.

Ought to have that Alex &
wife has been talking hard of
me to Sam, not that it may degra-
de me in Sam's estimation, & ~~that~~ cause
hard feeling between us, (for I trust
that Sam is as well acquainted with
my principals as they are) but
it shows a malice or a dislike
on their part, (towards me) that
I feel that I do not merit, & I
did not think they entertained.
I have always believed Alex to be
a sincere friend of mine (& I hope
have always treated him as such)
& consequently thought he would
be the last man, to speak hard
of me or publish what he considers
my faults, ~~however~~ although
I cannot help feeling that they
have somewhat loosened the
ties of friendship. I shall consider
it the effects of an unguarded tongue

more than a desire to do me any
injury. However be that as it
may it can all pass, & as there
is no profit in quarreling I am
opposed to retaliating in any way
but enough of this.

I am, still at this same place
from where I wrote last &
engaged in the same business.
My prospects are some better.
Austin & I are now having
building 2 houses in this city
which will give us employment
the most of the fall & winter
if we finish them both off.
I think at all events I can
make my board through the
winter & will have my house
& lot in the spring which will
be worth something. The size
houses we are building would sell
now for \$500 or 600 dollars.

Now you spoke about the
probability of Sidney Mrs.
having to put out her children
& that she wanted us to take
them. This I would be glad to do.
& I want you to be certain to get
her if you can. I would be glad
also to raise one of the boys if she
was disposed to let us have one.
I think I will write to the Lady concerning
the matter & also to Sidney Mrs.
I witnessed the most horrible
accident, that could be imagined
it was the death of a woman & her
wife which occurred by the accidental
firing of a gun. The circumstances
exactly as they existed you will
see in the newspaper I sent you
a week ago. There was a man
hanged by the citizens of this place
about a week ago, his offence was

Shooting at an man & threatening
the lives of others, they hung him
in less than 30 minutes after
they caught him.

I believe I have nothing much
of interest to write, if you
have written as often as once
a week there is 4 or 5 letters that
I have not read.

In your letter of the 7th of August
you spoke of the probability of
an invasion in the family. That
is all right, though I regret that
it will occur in my absence
& I do sincerely hope that you may
get along with as little difficulty
as possible. I would be truly glad
to be with you, though I know you
will be attended to & very certainly
sundered that can be. I must close
my love to your mother & all the family
and a kiss for Bob.
Your affectionate husband
Castroville, California

I am poorer in flesh than I
have bin in 8 or 10 years—
Give my respects & love to all
Tell Sam that ~~I think~~ if
he is going back to California
that I think he can make it
pay to wait until Spring &
come by this way.

My love to your mother Salie & the
the Children. & a kiss to Baby
till him to be a good boy & that
I will not forget his Pony with
a new saddle & bridle — write often
your affectionate
husband La Fayette Shorttall

Golden City Nov. 2nd /57
Mrs. Angie Shorttall

Dear Wife, your favour
of Oct. 9th came to hand on the 27th
I was then up in the mine at Russells
Gulch. I had not bin well for some
days. & the next day after I got your
letter I started down here. I was a foot
& it took me two days, a distance of
30 miles. I got here yesterday, last night
the mail came in again, & I recd another
letter dated the 9th of Oct. I am truly
glad to hear from you so often & to
hear of your continued good health &
spirits. Angie, since I have got
those interest in the Mining Claims
on Russells Gulch. & have bin at work
there I have found out a good deal
concerning the mine, that I did not
know before. Consequently I ~~think~~ like
this Country a hundred percent better

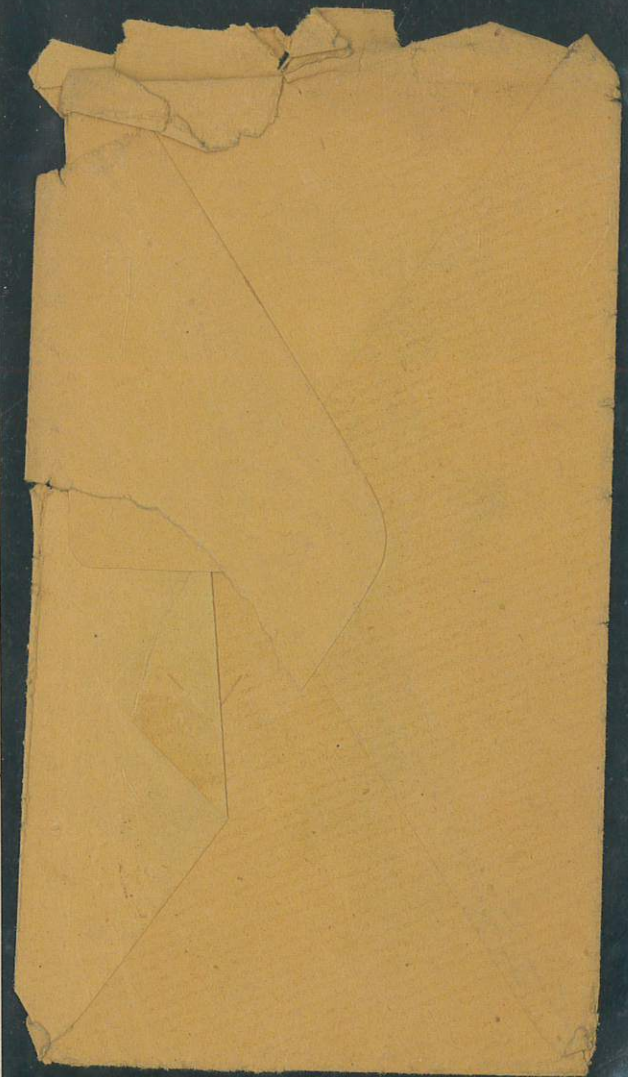


than I ever did before in fact I
begin feel like another man. Now
I think I have a good show for making
^{money} in the spring & if attend with health
& good luck I will be able to come home
next fall, with means enough to do
a while, at all events.

Austin had not heard of the death of
his child until I told him yesterday
he took it very hard, he has not got a letter
from home for some time, he & Mary
are still on the mountain & miles from
this place a getting out & hauling saw &
house logs. They are both in good
health. This town is improving rapidly
& I think it is destined to be the largest
town in the country if so my lots will
be worth something next summer. The citizens
of this place are building a road through
the mountains to South Park & Blue River
which are considered the best mining spots
of the country that has been discovered. The
road intersects the plat road below
Denver City. So in order to bring the

Emigration into this place first
custod of Denver which if they
succeed will, build this place up
up. Angus. in your next letter I
want you to tell me of all the persons
that you know of getting letters from
me, I have written to Warren, Turner
Capt Wm. Alf Wood, Thomas Alex Stuel
Sams, Dieter, & Uzial, & have not
rec'd. a scratch from any of them
I have only rec'd 2 letters since I have
been in the country except from you,
& they were from Jas Austin & Willis Thel
kill. now I want to know what ones of
these letters have been rec'd in order to
avoid a waste of time & money in
writing to those, ^{that} will not answer my
letters. Let me hear also how & when
the farm will be sold & how
our stock, is doing how many mares
are with you & co.

I must close I will write again
soon. Morgan, has got fat at last
he weighs 1170 lbs & only weighs 163 -



Well Angus, There is one thing
certain, that ^{when} I do get home
I will know to appreciate good
living; My appetite has improved
about 50 per cent, while out in
the mountains hunting we got
out of flour, & lived on venison
& Coffey for nearly 2 weeks, there
was a time that I thought mines pie
peaches & cream and all the good things
of life. I must close for I am getting
out of paper, I will write as often
as I can, & you must do the same. I may
not have opportunities attending letters
very often when I get up in the mountains
tell Dr Jones that I would like to hear from
him, that I will mark him out if he does
write before long, when you write let me
hear the condition of affairs generally,
I have just finished a letter to Jas. Austin
& am going write to Sidney, & Uziel & one
to Ben Kimball, Ky.

Give my best wishes to your Mother
Salie, & Sam. My love to the children,
Let Bobby take good care of his little brother
& not let any body take him a tie pa home
take good care of yourself & the children
Your Affectionate husband
La Fayette Switshill

July 17th 1860
~~Thursday~~ Friday I rec'd a letter
from Austin, he spoke of being around
to Hardin, he seems to think of
coming out here in the spring
provided Sam, stays at home, I would
not like to advise any one to come out
here, although I am pretty well convinced
that this will be a good country for making
money. The mines are sufficient to justify
the immediate settling up of the country
& I believe it is as healthy as any country
I ever was in. Calfra, not excepted
There is also a good portion of good farming
land, & soon next summer there will be
a good deal of farming done. The towns
have improved very rapidly this winter
Denver & Auraria are getting to be
pretty considerable cities. ^{this} town

is next in size. & contains about 500
inhabitants & about 125 pretty respectable
houses. I think this is destined to be one
of the first towns in the country.

Austin, an I, have got one of our houses
up & are living in it. I sold the other
house before I got it finished.

The weather for nearly 2 months past
has bin very mild & pleasant here
in the valley. in the mountains there
has bin a good deal of snow. ~~There~~ has bin
no mud, during the whole winter
Taking the whole winter together it
it has bin more pleasant than I ever
experienced in Ill^o.

I Sam has not started back to Calfr^a
& is bound to go tell him to come this
way & I think he will stop here I think
he will find it better mining country
than he expects

I expect to go into mines next
week, & stay there until the weather
will admit of working which will
be about the first of April.

I expect I will leave Austin
and Morgan here. Morg is sick
got the Scoury but is improving
at present. Austin keeps well
& hearty. Sam. a little thin in flesh
in consequence of my having bin laid
up with my sore arm. Otherwise I feel
all right & hearty.

If I can get to work in the mines
early & make some money & the
prospects are as good as I expect
I think will come in the summer or
fall after you & the babies. & make
this country our home for a while
at all events. Thoug I cannot tell
how thing may turn out (at all events)
I intend coming home next fall. if not
before. Austin talks some of bring-
ing his family out next year

C-LINE #62047
LEGAL SIZE TOPPER



1860

Russells Gulch, Feb 11th
 Mr. Angus Switchee

Dear Wife, I rec^d yours of the 5th & 10th of Feb. I was indeed glad to hear from you, to hear of the improvement of your health, which I have experienced much uneasiness about since I heard of your illness you must be very careful, & not expose your health until you get entirely well, I am much astonished to learn that you have not rec^d any letters from me since Nov 15th for I do assure you that (since that date) this is my 6th letter, I sent them (as I have all my letters) by Jones & Russell, Express so it seems strange that you have not rec^d them I have rec^d your letters regular, & I expect, all or about all you have written. I have but little to write about, as my last was of the 3^d of this month (written at Nevada Gulch). Since then I have commenced work ~~on~~ with Crockett & Work, (the Co. I was with last fall) we commenced washing day before yesterday we took out, in the 2 days 195 pennyweights, or 156^g The one sixth was my part, being 26 dollars for the 2 day work, I do not expect to do that well every day, but ~~I think~~ in consequence of the ground being frozen which makes it inconvenient working, though I think that I have a pretty certain thing of from 6 to 10^g per day as long as I ~~am~~ wish to work with that Co. Times are improving every day, the weather continues open & pleasant & the men from the valley are flocking into the mines by hundreds, & many are commencing work with glorious expectations a grate many. Consider this ^{the} richest mining country in the world, but I cannot say that I

have arrived at that conclusion, although I am
very favourably impressed with the country &
its mining facilities. There has been a great
number of leads discovered this winter

if they all should prove to be as rich as some that
have been opened (& thoroughly tested,) they will
undoubtedly, yield fortunes for thousands

If ~~a majority~~ ^{a majority} of the persons (now in the mines) realize
the one half of their sanguine expectations, I think
that I shall be well satisfied with the country.

Austin & Morg are here on the gulch & have
commenced opening my claim, Morg is not
entirely well of the scurvy yet, though he is
improving & is able to do the cooking Austin
is well & hearty. My arm is still a little lame
but otherwise I feel as well as I have since
I have been in the country. Aug 1 I must close
I will write again ~~in a few days~~ soon. Let me
hear from you often, in your next letter let me
know the condition ~~the condition~~ of your stock
your finances & whether those notes have ^{all} been
paid of or not. Give my best wishes to your
Mother Salis & all inquiring friends.

In my letter of the 16th of Feb I suggested the name of Jefferson
Jefferson for our boy let me know what ~~your~~ name you
have decided on, give my love to the children

Kiss the babies Tell baby I will be at home before long
& that he must take good care of his little brother
until I come.

Your affectionate husband
La Fayette Twitchell

NB, Direct to Mountain City, Arapahoe Co
T.C.S.

KAMCO

ORANGE CA

SPRING

SPRING

SPRING

SPRING

SPRING

SPRING



Mountain
R. J.

No 25 Angelina Switchee
Kosiclan
Hardin Co
Ill

Russell's Gulch May 28

M^{rs} Angie Whitcomb

Dear wife your favour of
the 8 of April is the last word that I have had
from you (that letter) I received on the 28th &
answered it on the 29th of April. So you see it
has bin just a month to day since I heard from
you. This is my first letter since the one above mentioned
I have bin waiting to receive one from you before I would
write, but as I am getting tired anxious to hear from you
& thinking that perhaps when I go to the office to
mail this I will receive one (which has occurred several times)
I concluded to write altho I have nothing of interest
more than that I am well, & am a working man a
claim that Smith & I own, on this gulch, & which
I have mentioned in my two last letters, we are making
very small wages yet, though I think there is a chance
for doing some better in the course of an other week
or two. we have ^{had} several weeks of pleasant weather
until this morning it turned cold & has bin snowing
nearly all day, it was so disagreeable that we could
not work. The emigrants are arriving by hundreds
all or almost all are discouraged at the appearance
of times & a great many are perfectly satisfied
with a few days running over the mountains & turn their
backs upon the once glorious gold region & curse it
& quit it

I have not heard from James Austin since he
started to Arkansas, though I am daily expecting
a letter from him. The reports from that part
of the country are very flattering & I am
in hopes that Jim has secured some good claims.
I expect I will hear from him this week any how.
Then I will write again for I think it doubtful if
Dalie will receive his letters regularly, in consequence
of the express line not being properly established yet.
If I get favorable word from the Arkansas Mines
through Jim I will probably see out here &
go over there. I cannot think of any thing
more this time. I will write again soon as I get a
letter from you, or Jim. You must write often
for I am ever anxious to hear from you, more
particularly so when a whole month rolls around
without bringing me a letter. Let me hear
who if any one has started from that part
of the country to pick up a claim or if you hear
of any one coming at all this season.

Morgan Austin & myself are ~~all~~ well.
Give my respects to my friends. My best
wishes to your mother & Dalie, kiss the
babies. Tell Bob when he gets a chance
at Custer or Muncie pike to eat some
for pa, as ever your

Affectionate husband

Lafayette Swetshoe

California Gulch

July 23rd/00

M^{rs} Angie Twitchell

Dear wife, I rec^d

Your favour of June 28. before
leaving Russell's Gulch. & answered
it the same day. The next day I
started for this place & arrived
here. Two days ago found J. Austin
well & hearty. Since my arrival I have
been looking around through
these mines. Some of which appear
to be paying well, while the greater
in others are small. Sam & I think
of starting on a prospecting trip
tomorrow down the Arkansas River
we expect to go 30 or perhaps 100 miles
& will be out week or two. we think
we can find digins that will
do to work through the winter
which will be an advantage over
this place. it will be so cold here
that there can be nothing done
during the winter



Mrs. Angie Twitchell or
Sarah Austin

Waverly
Harden Co

35 pms

Left Austin Morg & Isaack,
Bassett, at work on the claim
in Russells gulch. I think they
can make some money out of it
I left them all well. Will write
again when we return from our
prospecting trip. for the present
I must close. Give my respects to the
to Calie. Give my respects to
my friends my love to the family
+ a kiss to the Babie. Your
affectionate husband
La Fayette Swickard

Dear Sally Life has just
finished and says I must
write a few lines I am in
a hurry But will write to
you next week and let you
know what I will do
My love to all, and kiss
all the children
Your affectionate husband
Wm James Swickard



1868

Russell Gulch Jan 5th

Mrs. Angeline Twitchell

Dear Wife, I rec^d your favour of Dec 8th yesterday, and as I have leisure time this morning I have concluded to answer it. I wrote you only 3 days ago, & consequently have but little of interest to write at present. The most interesting thing at present is a murder that was committed yesterday evening about one mile from here, by a man by the name of Davis. He shot a man by the name of Rowland. They caught Davis & commenced trying him this morning. It is generally supposed that he will be hung. All of our boys except (Austin & myself) have gone to witness the sight.

Times at present are very dull. The cold weather has finally stopped almost every kind of business, & a great many men cannot get employment for the board. A man just left here who told me he had been hunting for work for more than a week & offering to work for grub but could not obtain it & there is many more in the same condition but all are in glorious expectations of the new Mexican mines. The reports from there are still very flattering but as yet we have nothing that is positively reliable but we are expecting (daily) the return of Fletcher (one of our Co) from that portion of the country, by whom we will get reliable information.

If Fletcher's report of these southern mines is favourable
I think it probable that I will go down there & perhaps
stay a portion or all summer, but if there is no chance
down there I will return home in the spring.
You need not be troubled about my going further
off for it is about the same distance from
the Missouri river as this place it being about
250 miles due south from here, & if when I go down
there in the spring the appearance of things does not
suit me I will most undoubtedly head for home.

Sunday the 6th in the beginning of my letter I
told of a murder, about which I was mistaken. The
man who was shot is not yet dead though they think
his wound mortal. Davis who shot him was tried
& sentenced to receive 50 lashes & his head shaved
& leave the country inside of 18 hours.

The punishment was duly administered this
morning & he ~~left~~ departed for parts unknown.
Angie writes often for I see but little satisfaction
in (any other way) than receiving & answering
your letters. I am getting tired indeed of ^{this} country
& if my prospects does not turn up by spring I will
return, though I may have less than when I left.
Give my respects to all inquiring friends my love to your
mother & all the children & send your own & the
children's health & be assured of the kind regards of
your affectionate husband.

La Fayette Twitcher

C-LINE #62047
LEGAL SIZE TOPPER



Mrs. Angeline Switchell
Rosiclare
Hardin Co.
Ill.

st
Apr 21. 61

California Gulch
Mrs Angie Twitchell

Dear Wife The day after
the date of my letter from Denver.
I proceeded on my journey to this place
& arrived here, on the 17th. I had a pretty
hard trip of it the distance being about
140 miles & the roads muddy. I made the
trip in 6 days, laying by one day in consequence
of sore feet. The last day of the trip
I walked 28 miles. Crossed a high range
of the mountains where the snow was
~~about~~ ^{from} 2 to 7 feet deep. I found Tim,
Austin in good health & spirits & doing
well. I like the prospects here better
than I expected, I think, from appearance
~~here~~ that I can make some money here in
the course of a few months. However
I have come to the conclusion to try it a
while at all events. I left Austin T.
& Morg, at Russell Gulch, Bassett

Starua (The same day that I left) for
Georgia Gulch on Blue river.
The reports from those mines are very
flattering & I hope that Bassett will
make a raise this summer.

Austin & Morg. Talked of going home
soon as they get the claim worked
out on Russell Gulch. I have not
fully decided whether I will come home
in a month or so, or stay until fall.
I can tell more about that in my
next, for I have not bin here long enough
to learn much about the prospect.
Jim thinks that the chances are good
for making money here this year &
next. I find that times are much
more prosperous here, ~~than~~ than at
Russell Gulch, & vicinity.

I have nothing of interest to
write Sam in good health & in
better spirits than I have bin
for some time.

for I feel that a change in location
may produce a change in fortune. I think
I will stay here as long as I stay in the country.
I will write again in 2 weeks at farthest
Jim says he will write next week.

Jim & I will write week about, & if you
& Dallis will do the same, we will ~~write~~
to her from each other every week, which
is as often as we have a mail at this place.

I have nothing more of interest & will
close when you write direct to this
place, & give me all the general news of the
country give my respects to all inquiring
friends my best wishes to your Mother &
Dallis, & a kiss to the children.

Your affectionate husband
La Fayette Twitchell

A.B. Excuse bad writing & mistakes & don't
neglect to write soon L.F.T.

California Gulch June 7th 1861
Mrs Angelina Twitchell

Dear Wife, your favour of May 3rd I rec^d yesterday. I was indeed glad to hear from you. I have failed to write you for 3 weeks past, which was in consequence of being hindered with work. Last week I went to Breckenridge, French & Georgia Gulches, a distance of 80 miles. My business was to attend to some claims, that Jim has over there in French Gulch. I found Bassett, & Jim Smith (J. McClothlin's Brother-in-law) They were a fixing to start on a prospecting trip, & expected to be gone 3 or 4 weeks. I was shown a piece of gold, by a gentleman on Georgia Gulch, that was worth ~~within~~ a trifle of 300 dollars it was the biggest piece of gold that I have seen in this country, business in that section of the mine seemed to be tolerably good. ~~then~~

I heard from the boys, that I left on Russian Gulch. They have bin doing pretty well since I left. Austin intends going home this summer or fall, Mory is here with us. He came down a few weeks ago, in my last. I wrote you that we were building a boarding house, we moved into it last week, we have some 30 men boarding with us, though about 16 are men who are working for us. I cannot tell yet whether it will pay or not.

get for your part of the
land sold to Savats & Mitchell
how the stock is getting along
& how every thing in general
prosperes. I heard Salus
last letter that Alex &
Dallan was blast with another
Boy - of the old sort.

My respects to Alex &
family. Let me hear from
you. how Jimmy are getting along
at all the news generally.

My respects to Pat & my love
to your Mother & kisses
to the children

for this present I will
close. Your Affectionate
husband

La Fayette Twitchell

P.S. I will write again in 2 weeks
more is not so well as when
I commenced writing
yours L.F.T.

July 1st/64
California Gulch
Mrs Angie Twitchell
Dear Wife

I again

Take my pen in hand to address
you a line. I was in hopes to
have ^{you} heard from by our last
mail. I have just returned
this morning. from Taylor Gulch
30 miles west of here where
I have bin since I wrote you
a Co. of six of us have bin
working on the said gulch ~~and~~
about 2 weeks have bin repairi
ng a water race, building
Cabbins & making preparations
for work & consequently have
~~not~~ done but little mining
& think however that we can
make some ~~months~~ money
in the course of a month or
so

I came into this place after
provisions, & expect to start
back tomorrow. Jim has rented
the hotel, & is still working the
claims here on the flats, but
they are not paying much.
Times are getting more brisk
here, & I think there will be
a show for making a little
money between this & fall.

Well Angus since I commenced
writing Jim returned from
the office & brought me
your letter of June the 9th
which I was indeed glad to
read. not having heard from
you for over 2 weeks.

Morg is very sick with the
mountain fever, & am afraid
that he cannot recover.
we have 2 doctors attending
him & are doing all that is
in our power for him.

Angus I am getting very
anxious to return but I
cannot say yet positively when
I can start, but rest assured
that I will delay no time
in making necessary arrangements
to come home.
I have nothing more of interest
to write, I may not start back
to I guess for a day or so in
consequence of Morg's illness
however I will write again
in the course of 2 weeks.
I heard that Austin had
started home some 2 or 3 weeks
ago, I have not heard from
Bassett since I last wrote.
I think he is on a prospecting
trip west of here - I do not know
whether he is going home this fall
or not, when you answer this
let me hear what about you

~~I have written~~

Denver City Sept. 1st 1861

Mrs. Angeline Twitchell

Dear Wife, I wrote you

last week that I was this far on my ^{way} home
(& you will see by this) that I am still
this far, & no farther, I was detained here
for the want of money, I have bin trying
to sell my horse for the past week.
I think I have at last accomplished
a sale, & will start tomorrow morning
with a mule team, it will take about
20 days to get to the river. I expect to
go to Atchison, from thence to St Jo,
& from there take Barro or Steam Boat
home you know not look for me under
20 or 30 days. I have nothing else of importance
I have not heard from Jim since I
left the Gulch. This leaves me
in good health. I will write again
from St Jo, for the present

Good Bye My respects to your
Mother, Dale & the Children
your affectionate husband

La Fayette Twitchell



Mrs. Angeline Twitchell
Rosiclare

Wardin Co

M^{rs}

Cal Gulew Nov 24th 1861
Mr La Fayette Twitchell
Kosciusko Ill

Dear Brother

Your favor
came to hand yesterday. I was sorry to
learn that you was sick. everybody is well
and getting along as well as could be
expected. Smith has just returned from
Gregory. Says times are dull there. I think
I will make some money this winter.
We have 18 Boarders and in a short
time will have 30. I am getting
along very well with my new drain
ditch although it has cost me three
hundred dollars more than I thought it would.
If I was settled up and even, with a
few hundred ^{more or less} dollars to send home I
would be ^{as well} ~~settled~~ in ~~the~~ ^{the} Fremont's
Army. But it is impossible for me to
leave without ^{first} getting all my
affairs settled. You need not be surprised
at any moment to hear from me where



Mr La Fayette Twitchell
Kosciusko
Harden Co
Illinois

