

Letter dated 1860 02 09 item letter 6

Items of interest in letter

- Samuel Gray is on jury duty even though he just describes it as a land case.
- He is asking Mr. Morgan to send Lucy the dividends from his Galena RR stock and money he will get from his Uncle Edward Powers estate.
- He went to Fairfield, CA to visit Mrs. McMurtine (sp) but didn't make it because of a busy schedule.
- On Monday, he did call on Mrs. Waterman, whose husband, a sea captain has brought back many oriental decorations from his travels.
- He tries to convince his wife, Lucy, to return to Benicia from the East with someone. He suggests Rev James Woods who is visiting there but will return in August. He also suggests several of their nieces I guess because of the legal trouble their father, Lewis W. Wells, is in. Lastly, he suggests her bring back an orphan to travel with her and that they can take care of.
- He mentions a change in the commander at the Benicia regiment from Col. Hoffman to Col. Anderson.
- He mentions her brother, Henry Wetmore's grain harvest. He had 2,300 bushels he is disposing of and another 700 bushels he fed to his livestock.
- Henry also has a case pending against Watermen which has been referred to Judge Whitman.
- Ms. Swasy is renting a room in Samuel's house while Lucy is away. (Samuel and Ellen Swasey are in the 1860 Federal Census dated 07/20/1860. He is a painter age 33 and she is age 32, both living in Benicia.)
- Samuel mentions a lunar eclipse on a night when he played Whist with Scott and Danforth, Bryant, Kimball, Miss Watkins, and Houghton.
- In family news he comments on his sister Mary's husband George Morton giving up his position on a river boat in Columbus, GA.
- He is concerned about the trial of his brother-in-law Lewis W Wells and the impact on his children. He expresses special concern over his son Lewis G Wells and Florence. (This is where he suggests Lucy bring one of the children with her or an orphan.)
- Samuel spends a lot of time talking about the problems his wife's brother Chauncey has had with his lumber yard in Pacheco. He explains why the rift between Chauncey and C.E. Houghton.
- Lastly he describes all of the places in Benicia that are buying more lots and fencing them in, such as DN Hastings and the public school.