

BHM 2019 021 15

San Francisco, Dec 22, 1854

Capt. C.P. Stone

U.S.A.

Benicia

Dear Fri.

Mr. Larkin has found it impossible /he says/ to get ready in the matter of U.S. lands at Benicia, this week, but will certainly be so in time for the next Steamer of 1s prox. He ____ Capt. Keys & his clerk to look at the improvements, I rather think he is trying to arrange matters with Gen. Vallejo so as to be released from the effect of the conditions in the deed of the latter to him & Semple.

Mr. Hawes whom I saw early in the week, said he could not give me an answer till today, when am calling at his office I find he is sick at home & given word to his clerk not to suffer any person to call on him at his house, & the Clerk therefore refused to tell me where I could find him. Col. Hays has refused to give me any positive certificate other than the one already given, as he says it is impossible, no surveys having yet been made by him of land about Benicia, for him to state that none of the Several hundred grants lying in his office do not touch or refer to the land occupied by the U.S.

Mr. Hawes has promised that I should have a release from Mr. Vallejo; the only question is as to its form.

Truly Your

Sydney V. Smith

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Sydney Vannxem Smith was born in Philadelphia, PA about 1820. He died on 09/25/1885 in San Rafael, CA. He was an attorney from a very prominent San Francisco family.