

[Undated letter from Ernest Drinkwater to Arno Knight, likely in 1884]

Freceses Gulch

Sunday afternoon July 29th

Dear Old Friend: I rec'd your welcome letter in due time. was very glad to hear from you. was sorry to hear that your health was poor. you must take good care of yourself (or find some good girl that will do the same better than you can.) Times are very dull in Colo. and wadges ar very low. I would not advise you or any one elce to go to a mining Country for a few years. as mining has a black eye. cannot tell how long it will remain so. but Colo. is the poorest Country in the world for a poor man now. would advise you to stay whear your at present.

I am working up here on the Ingersoll mine for three Dolars per day. we ar batching so I make about 2.50 per day. I rec'd word that the Dillon had been pumped last wednesday night. I went to Maysville that night. got a horse in the morning and went to Han-back [?] and to the Claim. then to the [??] mine I found it had been pumped by too Dance-hall men backed by too Store-keepers in Aconsock [??] we run them of up the Hill. They have don \$126.00 worth of work. Made a Patent [??], and applied for a Pattent.

I told Ed Hurley he could make them three offers. The Store-keepers say they got into it insently and ar anxious for an interest in the claim. and want us to let their Pattent go through. (that is) give them an Interest in the claim for getting the Pattent. Ed thinks we better do that but I do not favor that way. I told him if they would pull up stakes and drop it whear it is we would give then \$100.00 (that is) if they would give us an afadavet of labor don on our Claim for 1883. the same as if we had hired them to do the work. if not to file an adverse to their Pattent right away. and if they go on to the Claim to let me know and I would go over and we would [cause] hell out of them. will write again and let you know how it is settled.

By the way is Lew and Nellie going to hitch up.

Write soon and write all of the knews. Give my regards to all. Your Friend Ernest