

LETTER FROM WILLIAM J. ROUNTREE

July the 18th 1865

Forte Riley

Dear Grandpa we are encamped at the junction of Republican Forke and Smokey forke where they join to make the Carr of Kansas river and about one mile west of Forte Riley I am as well as I ever was in my life and have stood the march well the march has been nice and the wether is fine and we have passed through some of the finest country I evry saw we have had no trouble at all except at the crossing of the Osage River where the boat was lost as we crossed over Co F and Co E wnd all the waggons except one when the boat sprung a leake and they could not stope it so they had to leave it and let it sirk and so it left Co H and one wagon to be feried over we brought the saddles and men over in a skiff and the louding of the wagon also then we spliced roaps and tied to the end of the tonge and pulled the other wagon acrossed under water and then swam the horses and after a days hard work we got all across the health of the Company is good . I do not believe there is a man sick in the company there has been two men deserted from the Co and one from Co E and one from H all teamsters there was one man shot from Co E last night he was over in a town about one mile and three quarters from here by the name of junction City he was shot by the Police guard and they was so close to him that they burned his shirt they shot him in the brest and beat his head up with their pistols I did not learn what he was doing we expect to start to morrow or next day and join the regiment which is stoped at a forte about one hundred and fifty miles from here I cannot think of the name General Sanborn and staff are going with us we are going to form a part of an expedition to put down the Indians which are very bad out there and when we start from here we will start on a march of ninty days the River here is shalow and sandy and full of fish Co E caught a cat fish yesterday that weighed eightyfive ponds and last night we lighted torches and took our sabers and went in the river and killed about one hundred and fifty. Four of us killed a cat weighing fifty pounds we can kill just as many as we wond with our sabers we have seen both Indians Mexicans and Bufalows we saw a yoke of Bufalows Hitched to a wagon there was about one hundred and fifty Indians camped at Junction City last night from off the Plains on a hunt they was dressed in Indian fashion which looked rather curious to us I wrote a letter to you at Larince but lost it before I mailed it I must close my letter for I have abad place to wricht for I have to write on the ground you must take care of your self and do not work to hard write to me often and I will write every chance direct your letters to forte Riley Co F 2nd Bat 14th cav movol to follow the regt

William J Rountree

Joseph Rountree

LETTER FROM WILLIAM J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Aug the 5th/ 65

Fort Larned

Dear Grandpa we have been encamped here ever since last monday and I do not know when we will leave the officers are making preparations to leave for someplace as fast as they can but I do not know where we are going we started from forte Riley in a few days after I wrote my last letter and have been on the road ever since untill we arrived here last monday except one day and apiece at fort Elsworth and part of a day at Fort Zarah at fort Elsworth we were water bound we have been traveling in a southwest course eversince we left riley we struck the plains soon after leaving Riley and are now on them several miles this place being about one hundred and twentyfive miles from Riley we have fine sport along the road killing fuffalo they have been plentier than cows in Missouri by a long jump we have marched hours at a time and never be out of sight of bufalo. I have seen herds of several thousand at one time in half a mile of the road and march along the road they would never stop grasing for us pasing no more than if we was'nt there a detail was made every day to kill buffalo for thee company I was on the detail when we camped at Elswaoth ther was twelve men detailed for the hunt we started out and went about four miles from camp before we found many here we began to find them plenty so we let in to killing them the most of the horses charged right up without geting scared very bad but mine I could do nothing with I could neither make him run up to them or hold him either he would run side waays and snort and cut up so that I could not manage him for half an hour at last he got cooled down a little and I got him started seeing a very large one by him self I made fore him he had fell behind the herd and the boys were in the herd shoting among them like forty I kept after the old fellow behind untill I got close up to him which after running about a mile or two at least I began shooting as fast as I could load my gun and after running about a mile further I brought him to a stand and had the fun of seting on my horse and shooting him until he fell which took several shots we killed nine in all that day saw one antelope and plenty of muleeared rabbits we have seen most every kind of game that is to be found on the plains we have about half a dozen prairie dogs in camp that we have drowned out of there holes it has been raining for several days back untill today

Larned is near the Arkansas River and in the nicest place we have come to since we left forte Riley and it is not very nice either. it is out in the open plain with the nearest to no timber that I ever saw we have to get elm logs split them up and kindle them with sticks and cracker boxes. the most of have very good health I have never had better health in my life than I have now I gained three pounds and Ol half since I left Springfield there is some few sick in the company but very few I have not been sick but once since we started and that was only a little spell of the colic I think when we start that we will start a southwest course and take on a round-about course and gradually work our way back to missouri for I know they will not keep as many troops out here as there is now where there is no tember and no ware to get supplies out here except to haul them in waggons the road is bad enough in some places now and in winter it would be imposable so I think you may look for usback by the last of October if not sooner. I want you to send me about a half a dollars worth of postage stamps for I can not get out here and to send the letters without them they are not half so apt to come you must excuse my bad writing for I have to write on a board in my lap and I can hardly write a letter in camp at all for the boys bothering around Direct your letters to

Fort Larned Co F 14th
W J Rountree cav mo vol
To Joseph Rountree

LETTER FROM WILLIAM J ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Forte Larned
Aug the 11th/65

Dear Grandpa

we received your kind letter Tuesday and was glad to hear from you but was sorry to hear of your getting hurt and I am in hopes that by the time this reaches you you will be well again. we are still encamped at forte Larned and I do not know when we will leave here nor do I know where we will go when we leave here but it is supposed that we will go in a southwest course to the witchataw mountains but I do not know for certain where we will go. I think if we go there we will be back to Springfield by the last of October and will be mustered out and if we do not come to Springfield we will come back somewhere in the State to winter for I know they cannot winter as many troops out here as there is for wood is so scarce out here that we would freeze to death besides they have no means of transportation except in wagons and that would be almost impossible for the road is so long and so bad in wet weather so you may look for us all home this fall sure and you must have about half a bushel of apples and the same amount of potatoes and two big fat hens and half a dozen heads of cabbage apiece for I think it will take about that amount to do me if I feel as I do now about this time and I think that much and a big mince pie will do for one time so you may know by that, that I am in pretty good health and I think the most of the boys are in the same fix. you gave me some very good advice which I am very thankful for and which I will try to profit by and now I will tell you what I think you should better do provided I do not come home this fall. I think you had better break up house keeping for unless you make some other arrangement you cannot stay there for wood is so hard to get that as old as you and old Stephen is you could not do the work that is to do. besides I think you have worked enough and you could afford to spend the rest of your days in idleness and then have done more than your share in this world. I am most out of the notion of going to California when I am mustered out and think I will stay a little while longer in Missouri. I sent to you for some postage stamps in my last letter please to send me some if you have not before you receive this.

William J Rountree

Joseph Rountree

LETTER FROM WILLIAM J ROUNTREE

Fort Larned Kansas
Aug the 20th/65

Dear Grandpa

We are still encamped on Pawnee Fork near Fort Larned and it looks like we are going to stay here untill our time is out from the way we are laying around here. I am getting tired of inactivity and want to be on the move for laying around dont suite Soldiers espesily in such a place as this is where there is nothing to be seen but the endless plain and nothing to be had but Soldiers rations of flour & Bacon and crackers and some times a little beef and about two thirds rations of them we want to be on the move and get some more buffalo there is none near enough here to kill. I received your letter of the 27th and 28th yesterday and was glad to hear that corn crops was so promising but was sory to hear that so much small grain would be spoiled by the wet but I think you have not had any rain at all to what we have had out here. I have heard that it was dry on the plains but I cant see it. it rains every day and twice of a Sunday almost and some of the hardest storms I ever saw. it blows our tents Skyhigh some times I think it would be a good idie for every body to come out here just to see one storm.

I am glad to here that you have got such peaceable times in your contry I think if nothing hapens ther will soon be plenty again. I do not know where we are going or what we are going to do yit but I hope we will know before long the Pay master is here and we will be paid of this week. Gen Sanborn has left here and it is reported he has gone to the mouth of little the Arkansas to make treatties with the Indians but I do not know whether he has gone ther or not. we are all well or nearly so. I think when we are paid off that we will make a move some where. we have drawn about seventyfive pack mules which looks like we was going some wher also a considerable amount of Ammunition.

I would like to be at home this fall so I could go to school and I think if I was at home today I would get something good to eat. we do not get nothing in the fruit line at all and I think some apples would go very well about this time. tell Worth and Renty to write direct your letters to Fort Larned Kansas. write as soon as you receive this. no more at present.

William J Rountree
To Mr Joseph Rountree

LETTER FROM WILLIAM J ROUNTREE

Ft Wine Coupe

on the Arkansas River neare the Colorado line September the 4th/65

Dear Grandpa

I take this oportunity of writing to you we were paid off on the 25th of last month at Forte Larned and started on 24th for Ft Dodge distance 65miles all the Regiment except Co I and CoG we arrived at dodge on the 27th and lay over one day and then Uncle Luceus was put in command of three Cos and was orderd to this place we started here on the 29th arrived here this eving we had hardly got Camped before a sargent and ten men came up with orders to evacuate the post and join the regiment at Ft Riley it is going back imeadiately the regiment is ordered to concentrate at Riley and march from thence to Leavenworth Citty and I expect we will be mustered out there there is a order to evacuate all the Forts but three on this line Fortes that will be kept up are Ft Lyons in Colorado Ft Larned and Ft Riley and all the troops are ordered backthat is out here except the 3rd Ho the 15th Kansas and the 2nd Colorrado Company I was escorting a train to Ft Lyons and are about a days march ahead Sargeant White and ten men started with orders for them to come back and we will start back day after to morrow and I think we will be home by the middle of November

The boys are all glad that we are going back for they did not like idea of wintering here this winter where wood is so scarce and so far to haul it we have come out here and seen all that was to be seen and now we are willing to go back I have never had better health than I have had since I started on this trip the health of the company is good there being only two or three sick men in the Company but I expect if we had to stay out here this winter we would all be with the scurvey for we do not get any vegatables at all

Unkle Lucius and Walter are well it is geting so near darke that I will have to quit writing you need to answer this letter untill you hear from me again

no more at present

William J Rountree

Joseph Rountree

LETTER FROM W. J. ROUNTREE

Camp Harney Mouth of
Little Arkansas

October the 8th/65

Dear Grandma

I received your letter of the 24th just now and was glad to hear that you was better. We are Camped at the mouth of the Little Arkansas about one hundred and forty miles South of Fort Riley. We are here to attend the Indian Council which is to be held at this place as quick as the tribes comes. We came in from Ft. Union. When we was ordered to Ft. Dodge and when we got about half way back we was stoped and ordered to await further orders. We Camped on the Arkansas River two days and then we receive a letter partially mutilated - orders to move on to Dodge as soon as possible when we got to Dodge we got orders to move to Larned and join Major Payn and four Companies that had allready gone there. We stoped long enough at Dodge to get dinner and draw rations and then started. We arrived at Larned the third day from the day we left Dodge and started the next morning on our march to Leavenworth to be mustered out as we thought and the Collonel had told us we would be. We got along very well untill we got to Riley and there we was Stoped and had to come with General Sanborn to this place to attend the Council instead of the four Companies that staid back at Dodge as they could not be releaved in time to get here. Against the 4 of October which was the time set for the council but from some cause it was delaid. I do not know when it will take place the treaty is to be made with the Comanches the Osages the Appaches the Rappahoes the Shians the Kiogas Kaws.

The commissioners are comissioned to buy all the land north of the Arkansas River and buy land from the Comanches and settle the tribes that is on this side of the river. Now if none of the tribes have arrived except apart of the Osages but I expect they will come in in a few days. We will hardly get away from here before the 25th of the month.

General Sanborn and staff are here. Old Gen Harney and the famous old Colonel Kit Carson. He is now Colonel of the first New Mexican Regt. Colonel Gravely with the remaining four companies was ordered to march on to Leavenworth. A sutler got in from Dodge day before yesterday and said he had been releived and he is now on his way to Leavenworth. I think that as quick as the council is over we will go there and be mustered out so you may look out for us about Christmas. I want the cider. We are well.

W J Rountree

Joseph Rountree

LETTER FROM W. J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Ft Riley November the 1st/65

Dear Grandpa

we are again at Ft Riley we left the little arkansas on the 25th of last month and got here the 29th the weather has been so bad ever since that I could not write no sooner it is the first bad weather that we have had it commenced raining the night of the 24th and rained all the next day we started in the rain and rode all day in the without any overcoats we had not drawn any clothes in so long that some of us was very near naked and barefooted we kept thinking that we would be mustered out in a few weekes and would not draw any clothing but when they marched us down to the counsel and had to stay so long we concluded to draw some clothing as there was none there Lt Fisk had to go to Riley to get them we met him the day we left and as we was cold and wet they come in very good time we drew them and put them on and done very well considering we had to camp out in the prairie with out any wood except one craker box full to the mess and that we had to hall all day in the wagon we had to stay here untill the last of the month to muster for pay we mustered yesterday eving and will leave here in the morning at seven o clock for leavenworth if we have no acident we will be in leavenworth in six days from to morow the rest of the regt are all ready mustered out I think you may look for us home in about four weeks and maybe before Uncle Lucius and Walter are well there is no sickness in the company at all I must close my letter for my hands are so numbed I can hardly write direct your letters to leavenworth tell Jennie and Fuss to write to me for I will not have time to write to them before I get there

W J Rountree

LETTER FROM W. J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Ft Leavenworth
November the 12th/65

Dear Grandpa

I wrote you a letter dated November the 1st when we was at Ft Riley we started next morning for this place we arrived here on the 7th being six days on the road we got here about one Oclock and turned over our Horses before night the next day we turned over our arms and equipment then Uncle Lucius and Billy Vir-milion went to worke on the musterout Rolls and they have been busy ever since They are geting along very well I think we will be mustered out by the 22nd of the month we will be mustered out here but will have to go to St Louis to get our pay and finel discharge I think that we will start for St Louis by the 25 any hoy you may look for us home by the 1st of next month may be sooner we are camped due west of the Barracks about a gun shot from the outside line of buildings and Uncle Lucius says it is just opposit where you were camped when you were here the ground where you were camped on is now a solid block of buildings the place has improved since you saw it it is now of considerable size it is half as large as Springfield all Government Buildings the barracks are not as rice as the barrack at Riley they were built of Stone these are fraimed I have not been down to the Citty yet but I think I will before I leave the weather has been fine ever since we left Fr Riley almost like sumer about the time we got to Ft Riley we had some very bad weather at least bad to us for we had no tents we turned over our tents before we went to the counsil and had to lay out and take it as it came it snowed alight snow the night we got to Riley and the next day was prettie cold I am in hops that the weather will stay good untill we get to St Louis for we will have to to ther on a boat and as there is five companies of us you may guess that we will be prettie much crowded and good many of us will find a berth on hurricain deck which if the weather is bad wont be a cery desirable place

Walter told me to tell you that he was right side up Uncle Lucius is well and I have been as well ever since I left home that I have give out the idie of ever getting sick again you must have the Cider on hand for we are dry you need not answer this letter

Good Bye
W J Rountree

LETTER FROM W. J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Ft Leavenworth Kansas
November the 18th/65

Dear Grandpa

I have nothing hardly to write only we were mustered out yesterday eving and will start for St Louis this eving on a boat we have turned over our Camp equipage this morning and will turn over our tents in a few minutes it will take about four days to go down to St Louis and then we will stay there about three days then away for Springfield I think I will be at home by the last of the month

I am well good bye

W J Rountree

LETTER FROM W. J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Santa Cruz Cal
Aug 30th 1869

Dear Grandpapa

I arrived yesterday and found the folks all well and very glad to see me and I was equally as glad to see them and to get home I will only at present give you an out Line of my trip out here and after I become some what rested and get through seeing the sights around Santa Cruz I will give you a full history of my travels I arrived in Sedalia on fryday evening about five (torn) o'clock took the 2.20 for Kansas city arrived 7.30 A.M. took the 8 oclock train to St Joseph arrived 11.30 a.m. Staid there untill 1.40 next morning Started for Omaha missed the connection with the nine o'clock train on Sunday Stayed at Omaha untill 9 o'clock monday went through to San Francisco in little less than six days arrived at twelve oclock Friday night took the 8.20 morning train for San. Jose lay over there one day Took the Stage for Santa Cruz yesterday morning (Sunday) I had telegraphed to father and he met me out about ten miles with a buggy I saw him seated out by the buggy at the stage stand and knew him in a moment he saw me stick my head out of the stage and knew me also Father is runing for sheriff of the county and it seems that all Santa Cruz knew that he had gone out to see me and when we arrived in town we were Saluted with cheers and swing of hats and the remark that father was bringing up his own voters I was according introduced to the democratic party in mass meeting assembled which "by the way" was assembled at the grocery (the usual place) we were asked to take a drink I declined
Mother send her respects

I will write again in a few days give my respects to all

I remain

Your Grandson

W J Rountree

LETTER FROM W.J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Santa Cruz Cal.

Jan 10th 1869 (? must have been
1870.)

Dear Grandppa

I received your Long looked-for letter more than a week ago but have been delayed by one cause or another from answering it I was glad to learn that Mr Bird had arrived and was going to live with you, I hope he will remain with you for some time to come for I do not think you can get a better man, nor one that will suit you as well as he does I suppose he thinks now that he went on something of a wild goose chase Give him and his family my regards Mr Cox and family also I wrote to Newt that I had got into business; but neglected to state what kind of business I have been engaged for the last two months in keeping book for Father and his Partner This at first was a place which I was hardly competent to fill; but with the knowledge I had gained of Book keeping while with Massey McAdams & Co and a months study which I devoted to it after I came Together with the assistance which Mr Besse, fathers partner, rendered me I was enabled to do very well for the last two months I have attended to all of the business without any assistance. The Market business which at home was held as one of the least as well as one of the poorest business that a man could follow ranks here as one of the first In fact there is probably more money made at it than any one business It is a business that one can know just what they are doing at any time without going to the Trouble of a week or more of invoicing and to show that it pays well I will mention the fact that for the last three months The firm has made clear of all expenses over nine hundred dollars a month and that while opperating on a capital of not more than twelve Thousand dollars The profits are not less than 50% I am getting Seventy five dollars per month this in the States would be considered big wages here it is only medium I am getting acquainted with the people here and am getting to feel like this place is home I am charmed with the country and particularly with the climate I do not think the country is any better than Southwest Mo. but it is as good and the climate far surpasses it It has rained scarcely any this winter or at least so much of it I do not call what Californians call winter but only pleasant spring days I suppose Uncle Lucius has gone to Jefferson and Aunt Rebecca is having a lonesome time again How is Uncle Wm s family and Uncle Bucks? I would like very much to have been back and spent Christmas with you all and drank some of that good old cider which you have stored away and have eaten a turkey or two not but what I have had both Turkey and cider plenty since I have been here; but then I think home cider and Turkeys would last better than any other. Father and family are all well the children have been sick with the measles but have got about well again I have not had an hours sickness since I came I am glad to learn that your health holds out good this winter I noticed in your last letter was more nervous than usual It is growing late and I will close for this time and will write soon again give my respects to all and believe me

Your Grandson

W. J Rountree

P.S Father Requested me to ask you to send him some Blackeyed Pease he says he never saw one in the state

LETTER FROM W. J. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Santa Cruz Cal

Dear Grandpa

Feby 17th 1870

I received and read with pleasure your kind letter of Jan 29th and I thank you for the kind advice and council which you gave me and shall endeavor to heed the admonition it affords. You have been long on the river of life stemming its rugged current. You know from experience where the quick sands are and where to shun the breakers. You know the needs of old age and how they are best to be met and I shall certainly remember your advice. It seems that you have had just such a winter as the last one I passed there and I am sure that was disagreeable enough to suit almost any one (torn) had no winter here not a (torn) could enough to chill the tenderest feet of Clay and is as I believe the best country and the loveliest climate in the world I admit that Southwest Mo is a good country as good as any east of the Rocky Mountains but it will not compare at all with Cal and Santa Cruz is the best part of California. I have often wished this winter when thinking of home and of the disagreeable weather back there that you was here to enjoy this winter. I remember how the cold weather chills you up and if I did not know that it would be of no use I would insist on you coming here.

Father used to write to me of the climate of perpetual spring and I did not believe him; but I find that instead of exaggerating he fell far behind the reality and I often think it would be a bad idea for every one to know of this climate and country for they would all be here; but every country has its drawback and this is not an exception to the general rule. This country has its bugaboo. It is earth quakes and today for the first time I had the pleasure of feeling one. I was seated at the table at the hotel with some forty or fifty others quietly enjoying my dinner. Then suddenly a rolling rumbling sound was heard like some muffled Thunder and soon tables and their contents began to dance a lively jig upsetting glasses and caster in a jiffy the house swayed and creaked like some mighty engine was exerting the power to pull it down. It didn't take the old californians more than a second and me more than an instant longer to realize what was the matter and then the rush came for outdoors. Chairs were kicked over and general rush made for the doors. I started with the rest and when I made the attempt to walk I found the floor was swaying so that I had to walk pretty much as you do when walking through a car when it is going very fast. The quake occurred at just 18 minutes past Twelve o'clock and lasted some 15 or 20 seconds. The wave passing from South east to North west. No damage was done here. Though they say it was a severe shock I was not scared a particle but did not care to stay in the house while it was dancing. I have seen storms back at home that were much more fearful than this much branded earthquake some faces I saw white with fear but it was over so quickly that I didn't have time to get scared.

We have just received a telegram from San Francisco and although it was very severe no great damage was done. I would like very much to take mess or so of spare ribs and hominy and try some of that good old cider. I am glad to learn that Springfield is improving so rapidly. I received that sack of Pease when I received your letter and am glad to know that I will have my usual supply of them as usual.

Everything here looks like June. The grass is several inches high. Flowers of all kind are in full bloom. Oats, Wheat and Barley are away up around your ankles and could you be placed here tomorrow you would think you had been asleep for three months.

Give my respects to all inquiring friends and among the number old Suky and Steve and believe me

Your Grandson
W J Rountree

LETTER FROM A. L. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH AND NANCY ROUNTREE

Horsetown June 8th 1855

Dear Father & Mother

I recd your letter of the 15th April which gave me great pleasure in hearing that you was both yet in the Land of the living but was very sorry to here that Mother was still so unwell but I am in hops that as the weather gets warm she will recover I feel very anxious about her and would like to re oftener from you I have not herd from any of you since I recd your & Almarinda letters last January until I recd your letter that I speak of above and as for the boys writting to me I have given that up and have quit looking or expecting letters from them as it seems that they are indisposed to corre= spond with me on any terms which causes me a menny hour of trouble and deepe study thoug there is a time I hope when my minde will be at rest though probly not on this side of eternity I am verry anxious to see you all and particularry Willy Jones but there is some uncertanity about when I can come but as soons as I can accumulate enough to pay my debts and get me and my boy back in to this Country I will be their to take the parting had of friends the last view of old home the home of my boyhood days wher I have spent many happy hours thou at the time I did not know what true enjoyment was I am anxious to take one more surway of that old place and then I must be satisfied let my fate be what it may for I never can stand the thought of living in that Country below the Common level of sosity I mean in regard to ability of means and this is a good Country and I think I can make a respectable living heare and probly something for other purposes and I will Content my self to my fate and as soone as I am cleare in this world I am determin that if life last that I will bring my Children together the loss of my little girl I cannot stad this is enough on a subject like this

I am still Butchering in Company with Capt Neaves he is well and sends his Respect to you we are doing tolerable well for sumer business I have got a good show for doing well and my pardner takes great pleasure in assisting me he takes as mutch interest in my wellfare as if I was his brother I am trying to do the best I can and I hope to be yet in better circumstances sometime I have given up ever being worth more than a good living I am in as good health as I ever was in my life and work as hard as any negro though It agrees with me beef is selling for $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts oer kb on foot in the mines flower at \$6.50 \$7 bacon 20 to 22 per lb hoses is low for this Country hogs about 15cts per lb neat we are Retailing beef at 18 and 20 cts per lb and kill 4 cattle per weeke that weighs from 600 to 700 lbs I rote a letter to you by Thos Price and I never herd whether you recd it or not give my best respects to all my brothers and sisters and their families I rote to Almarinda some time since tell her to be sure to answer the letter as soone as she gets it I am trying to get reddy to come to the States some time next year if I can but it is uncertan if I get along with my busness tolerable well I will come if not I cant you will see me when I get their if you are alive tell willy to be a good boy and see how much he can learn against I do come home write on reciept of this and as often as you can the wether is verry warm here at this time the miness in this part of the Country are doing tolerable well wages is about \$3.00 per day in the mines Write all about the R.Road etc the crop on my Rancho is said to be very fine this year I have not seen it since last (faded) as I am living about 100 miles above it I have got a great many friends in this Country and no enimys

I must Close My letter By Subscribing myself
Yours Truly&C
To the Old folks at home

A L. Rountree

LETTER FROM A. L. ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH AND NANCY ROUNTREE

Horse town Cala Nove 28th 1855

Dear Father and Mother I have delayed much time in answering your last letter on account of a pressing business the last was a letter from mother Something that I feared I would never see again but thanks to kind Providence who has spared her frail limbs to perform an act so thankfully and greatfully Receive it is my great pleasure to me to receive letters from you all and hope you will write as often as you can I have in general had good health this fall except a few chills I was in the vally a few days since and saw Jno R Perkins and Thos Bedford and family they are all well and Doing well I rented my Ranch to Thos. Redford this year it and his boys joining each other I am doing well though Money is scarce I am killing 7 and 1 Cattle per weeke with 4 to 5 hogs My Cattle Costs me 11 cts per lb and I sell for 18 and 20 cts per lb My hogs Costs $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts and I sell at 25 cts per lb I bought from one of my friends in the vally 92 head of as splended Cattle at 76 Dollars per head they are large and fat I have also 65 head engaged which will do me untill Spring and then I may wind up and come to see you all once more and probly for the last time I shall come pre-parrid to settle the Business that requires me and then for the Remainder of my life in the peacefull and quiett vallys of the Golden Stat I am decidedly satisfied with this Country and think that is is the best Country in the world and the easest Country for a man to make living on top of the soil and the raising of stock a matter of nothing all that is requird is to keepe them to gather and they will grow faster and larger in this Country than any place I ever saw a man with 100 head of good cows and take care of them in a few years is bound to make a fortune the buety of stock raising in this Country is that you do not have to worke hard 6 month in the year to make provision for yard stock and then work hard the other 6 months to feede it out and then get such a small price for them when you have Raised them I will be able to send some money home as soon as it Rains so I can collect up I expect Mr Neaves has returned home before you will get this letter He became verry much dissatisfied in this Country Give my Best respects to all the Connecton tell Willy Jones to be a good Boy and that I want to see him very much and will Come after him by and by I have never recd a line from Lucius since I have Been in Cal but have anxiously looked for a letter Mrs Bedford send her best wishes to you all I have a large cirkle of friends in this Country that seames to be willing to do anything for me Though not just like the friends at the Old home of my boy hood days But this a subject that I dair not speak of for it lades me into Melancolly and then I Could write a weeke on it write all the news on Recept of this I remane your Son

A. L. Rountree

LETTER TO MR WILLIAM J ROUNTREE SPRINGFIELD MO FROM A L ROUNTREE

Los Angeles Cal June 21th 1858

Dear Son

I was much pleased to Recieve the little note you sent me in your Grandfathers letter & am proud of the progress that your are making in your education & my advice is to be studious & improve each hour for time is money

I cannot say when I will come to see you but I am very anxious about your wellfare though be a good Boy & do the best you can treat every one with respect boath old & yong Rich or poore & you will not fail to gain the good will of all that is good.

You Mus write me often & let me know how you get along be a good boy to your pore old grandfather who has been so Kind to you

So Farewell Willy

From A L Rountree

This must have been enclosed in a letter to Joseph Rountree as no stamp or envelope is evident.

LETTER FROM ALMUS L ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Santa Cruz Feby 17th 1867

Dear Father

This is to inform you that we are all well and hope that it may find you in alike good health I have not recieved a letter from you for along time thoug I have ritten often I recieved a letter from Willy Some time ago that is Since his return from Insedant I was truly Sorry to here of his misfortune in being recieved though is probly for the best the wa to is I am still in the butchering bussiness during this Winter. I have had the Market all alone as all the Butchers in the place failed but mySelf and I have done a large business and mad Some money out of it Times are flourishing in this Country money is plenty and all Specia and gold No Such thing as Green backs or black Republican money to be Seen here it is all the old Democratic Kind Silver and gold. We have had one of the wettest wintters that has ever been Since in this County though for the last ten days the wether has been fine it rained the most of the time throug December and January vegetation is up and looking well Stock isdoing well on the grass now evry thing looks here now about like it does in Your County about the middle of May there has been but two frosty mornings Seen here this winter and then there was leaste enough frost to be Seene the health of the Country is good I Should like to get a Springfield paper occasionally please answer this imediately and let me Know how the Election went also inform me where William C Price is and Marcus Boyd I recieved a letter from Cooper B Rountree a few days Since he Speaks of moving to this Country by the way we have got another boy the finest fellow you have Sean his name is Thomas Hildreth he is neare five months old is very Straight and healthy tell Willy to write to me oftener as he has more time than I have I Shal write to him in the coarse of a month

give my compliments all and beliveve me as ever Your Son

Almus L Rountree

LETTER FROM ALMUS L ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Santa Cruz Jan 23rd 1868

Dear Father

by thes few lines you will find that we are all in the land of the living and in telerable good hcalth I have been very negligent about writiting to you but I hope you will forgive me for it and I will do better in future the onely excuse I have to make to you is that I have been thronged in buisn-ness but even that is a poore excuse for a man should never neglect his parents on account of buisness but you Know how Such things can be passed off from time to time until it runs into pure neglect but I now you will forgive me I have sold out my interest in the butchering business and have but little to attend to now untill Spring opens then I expect to do Something in the Cattle buisness and probly will go into the Butchering busness next winter I have done quite well Since I have been here and am well Satisfied with this part of the Country I have the most valuable tract of land to the Size of it that there is neare to this place and it isincreasing in value very fast we have had a great quanty of rain this winter there is but little going on in this Country on account of the rany Season which has been almost Constant for six weeks the ground is so wet that you Can scarsely rid a horse over it in Most places without Bogging down thog vegetation is growing and looks well Eliza-beth and the children all Send there love to you and are very anxious to here from you our last boy Thomas H is the most Sprightly child we have his eyes are as black as a crow he is trying to talk now I wish you could See them all but wishing dont do much good when we live 2000 miles apart I wrote Willy Some three weeks Since and Sent him \$250 Dollars in Post Office orders which I hope he has got before now, please write on recpt of this

Farewell

Almus L Rountree

give my love to Will and tell him to write imediately if not Sooner

LETTER FROM A. L. AND ELIZABETH E ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE

Santa Cruz Aug 11th 1870

Dear Father

Yours of the 11th of Past Month was reced and we was glad to here from you and glad to here that William had got home Safe we have also recieved a letter from him Since that of yours came to hand which I will answer Soone we had another boy borned on the 24th day of July and have named him Richard Henry after Mr R H Hall a friend of mine that William is well acquainted with but the boy is Known about thishouse by the name of Dick even to little Jo calls him by that name there is but little news aflote here that would interest you times are dull in this Country this yeat on accout of So dry a Season Money never was So Scarce Since the days of Mexican Rule but it Is all owing to the drouth what produce has been raised in this Country this year is commanding a fair price Stock of all Kinds are low because there is So little feed in the Country that people are afraid to invest in that article So fare as I am conserved I am pretty well fixed with boath Stock and feed Tell Will that every thing is moving along about as it was when he left tell him that Rhos Hildreth has been over here a few days and that we are about purchasing the Market and Stock of J D Chace & Co their effects will cost us about \$10,000 they have on hand a large lot of cattle that they purchased Since he left but Old Tom has made them mighty Sick Since he been over So Much So that J. N. B is going to the Warm Springs for his health they have finished their Market up in fine Style Since he left and we have concluded that we will run boath Concerns the District Court is in Session this week and we have had a busy time but the most of the busness is disposed of now I Should like to pay you a visit but Cant now but I think I will next Spring if nothing happens past common I have a large family and you Know it is hard to get off I wish you to write Sone and give me the general News

And believe us as ever your Son and Daughter

A L Rountree

Elizabeth E Rountree

My family is as follows
Emphy J Rubottom Step Son
Mary E Rountree
John A Rountree
Susan J Rountree
Thomas H Rountree
Joseph Rountree
Richard Rountree
pretty good lot to look out for

out of all the black eyed peas I planted there is onely one Stock growing there was but four came up I want William to Send me a Small box of the fine Kind of potatoes he spoke of Send them before cold wether Sets in pack in wheat chaff

A L R

LETTER FROM A L ROUNTREE TO JOSEPH ROUNTREE CARE OF W J ROUNTREE

Battle Mountain Nev Jan 8th 1873

Dear Father

I recieved a letter from Will a few days Since and it brought the news of your being in ill helth which I was very Sorry to here and it also contained the Sad news of the death if Sister Almarinda which is very Sorrowful I have hoped to have been able to See all of the family as the were Situated at there own homes in that old neighborhood of my boyhod days but death has removed Several of them forever

I am here trying to Secure Som Land for the purpose of Setling on it and raising Stock there is fine chances here if I can just manage to Secure Some of them it will give me a good chance in future for my little boys to get a home I have been some what unlucky in California since Will went home from their I (torn) with a loss of nearly \$6,00 (torn) that has redused me to poverty (torn) So sorry that I ever let him go home for if I had Kept him their I never would have lost a cent but it is gone and there is hardely a Shadown of a Show to get any of it back thoug I may possibly get a bout \$1800 of it Some time though the chances are bad even for any of it I have been away from my family about four month and am anxious to get home but I do not know when I can go Elizabeth has got another little girl born since I left home that makes a family of eight Children five boys and three girls My oldest daughter Mary is 13 years old this month and the youngest is one month old . My health is very good and I am as Straight and active as I was twenty years ago and not withstanding the many reverses and troubles that I have had my will is just as good as it ever was to make another Start in the world though I never can place so much confidence in men as I have don from this time on I will work for my own interest and that of my family and they are all willing to help me this is a fine Country and if I can just get another little Starte I can Soone Come up again thog at preasant it looks like going very Slow

I am going home just as Soone as I can get my land Secured So that I can leave it but just now I cant leave it as thorepohers that would jump it the moment I would leave this is the finest Country for Cattle and Sheep that I ever Saw the grass grows So thick and high on the bottom land that their is often as much as 4 tons of hay cut to the acre and the bottoms of the Humboldt is from five to twenty five miles wide I am located on the bank of the Humboldt five miles below the town of Battle Mountain in Lander County I hope you are in better health and will be able to answer this on receipt thereof Farming is very profitable in this County there is a great many very rich mines in this State probly the Richest Silver Mines in the world. and the most of them the land that I have taken up is 2 miles from the Central Paciffic R R hoping to hear from you Soone I remane your Son

Almus L Rountree

P S Give my best wishes to all my Brothers and Sisters and to Will
A L R

LETTER FROM JENETTA MITCHELL

PROBABLY ALMUS L ROUNTREE'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

St Louis May the 26th 1853

Mr Roundtree Dear Friend I write you a few lines in tears and with an almost broken heart

I will inform you that almus left a few weeks since for California as you have heard before this reaches you he told us he was going to Springfield but wrote back that he had gone to California he stated in his letter that he had written to you and some of you to come down and take us out to that Country & expecting as I thought we would to your country preparations has been making for the trip but alas worse than all the troubles I have ever had in my life has came on me last Monday Delilah went off with a man by the name of Bill Thane and took the dear little Rozey with her and left little Willey with me they didnot tell me where they were going nor have I any idea where they will go but they promised to write to me and let me know all about it but God only knows what will become of them if I had the Child I would be greatly releived it is as it is and I cannot change it but it does seem to me I will never git over it an see any more satisfaction in this world in Conclusion I will just say that if you all wish me and wiley an think it best for us to come out there I am ready at any time that you could make arrangements for me to go I can have the Black out here and make enough to Support wiley and me will you please let me know from you all as soon as you get this I would write more but I cannot write now even talk I get my friend Mr Rubey to write for me I close by Subscribing myself your disconsolate friend

Jenetta Mitchell