

Stephen O. Lane letter (MSC 212:12)

Mountain View July 12<sup>th</sup>/60

Brother Seth

Seth, I am in California once more and I never was more contented in my life. I feel well, hearty, saucy and am fat. I came down here and staid one week and then I started in search of Asel. I went to Marysvill, from there to Rabbit Creek. So on to Jemmison Creek and Asel had gon to Washo Utah Teritory to the silver mines. He went last September. I went to Jemmison you no to get some money that was due me. I got part of it and it was onley sixty miles from there to Washo so I kept on. I went most all the way on snow-shoes. They have them up there that is ten feet long and turn up at the end like a sledge runner and rite in the middle there is a pease of lether nailed across for your toe and fastens on like a skate, four inches wide and plained as smooth as glass and you can run like the devil.

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I went through Beckwiths Valley and crossed the Siera Nevadia over into Long Valley and so on to Truckey River. When I got within ten miles of Washo I came on to some Boiling Springs. There was a hill I should think of ten acres and was covered with hot springs. They was in size from your hat up to a colendar cettle, as hot as watter could be. I got to Verginnia Citty about noon. Got some dinner and then went a hunting of Asel. I found him in about ten minutes. You bet he was wide awak for a while. He was well and making money. Some time before I got there A. sold one clame for two thousand Dollars and got his money and had other clames worth more. He said he would come down and slay with us this winter. I was seven days going from here

to Washo and was gon from here five weeks and it cost me seventy five Doll. There has ben Indian trouble there since I came away and I fere something has happened him but hope not I have not heard from him since I come down.

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Since I come back I have ben at work at two dollars per day and can get it all summer. Isabell makes most as much as I do sewing, making butter, rasing chickings, and soon she has got sixty chickings and in a fore-way for more.

We ar raising our own pork and are in a fore way to like how thick the Rabbits are here. Tell Osman if he was here he could have lots of fun shooting them. Seth I can make more money here in one year keeping hens than I could make there in five, to work hard at any thing that hapnes to come along.                    Stephen O. Lane

As Steve has left a place for me I will write a little. I expect Bell is at your house about this time. Lira wrote me she was going to spend vacation. I wish she was here. I know it will be better off there for a while. How does all the children get along at Osman's folks. It would just sute Os to live here. He had better give up going west. I know anyone can get a living here

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easier than out west. We milk nine cows belong to Rich and Dixon. They bought 60 hed of cattle with the ranch they bought this spring. Butter is not but 25 cts, lb. potatoes are cheeper than at home, meet the same, flower is cheeper and wages a great deal better. Steve seems to be perfectly happy. Willie grows, beets your boy out and out. I do not like well enough to spend my days here. Can stay four

or five years for the sake of making something.  
I want you to answer this when you get it.  
How is mother. Lib wrote to me she was better  
a great deal. I am glad of that. Tell Ann  
to write me. Steve puts this piece of Rock  
he brought from Washoe in for you to give to  
Mr. Tinkham, If you want a piece to keep  
he will send another after you answer this if  
it gets through safe. Write all the news. Go up  
and see Bell often.

from your sister Isabell L. Lane

Seth Wood  
Taftsville

[Transcription by Marjorie J. Strong, 2010]