

**Cory Family Letters, 1852-1859**

SC2017.003b

Transcribed by Tom Spain, July 2018

Salisbury University Nabb Research Center Special Collections

Preferred citation: Item, collection name, [Box #, Folder #,] Edward H. Nabb  
Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury,  
Maryland.

CORY FAMILY LETTERS, 1850s  
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Stockton, California Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1852

Well Aunt Lydia I have arrived here and have had a very Short passage only one month from New Bedford and we are all in good health we have been well most of the time Sea Sick one day in each Steamer I had a tuch of a fever two days but was up about the most of the time Now I suppose you want to know how I got along up the Chagres river and across the Isthmas I got along first rate enjoyed it. I got along first rate enjoyed it. It was the most beautiful Senery I ever Saw the trees were different from any I ever saw and then there was flowers in bloom which made the green woods look gay I can tell you. Now about my riding the mule. I rode first reate and never fell off once but all the Ladies cant say that for the one that was with me fell off twice I got along better than I expected I don't like traveling on the water very well long at a time. Now you ll want to know how I like this Country I was disappointed when I got to San Francisco it look so much better than I expected it made me think of New York. I like Stockton what I have seen of it it is very muddy and I have not been about much I am not home Sick nor never have wished myself back since I started I cant say how I may be I like so far Sise has been a first rate girl all the way through she rode on the Natives back on the Isthmas she is now having a good time playing with two little girls happy as you ever saw her it cost us to get here five hundred and twelve dollars but I did not want for any thing that could be got the gentleman I came with is a very nice man and I had the best of care.

Please give my best respects to all my friends and acwuaintances for I Don't think I shall write but this this time you must not forget to write when any of you will write to me I will answer your letters.

Please send this to my Farthers when you have read it So they can here from me and I will write them in a few weeks and send it to Fall River

Yours With respect.

s/ Abby Cory



(single page folded vertically forming four writing surfaces)

Stockton Cal. February 10<sup>th</sup> 1852

Dear Parents

I take this opportunity to inform you of our good healths I am as well as I was when I left New Bedford I have a first rate appetite and Abby Amelia wants to eat most all the time. I expect you have heard from me before this about my passage out here. I like this Country very much it is almost as warm as Summer and has been pleasant the most of the time rained a very little it was quite muddy when I came but the mud has about dried up while you are sitting over a hot fire we are having the windows and doors open and Sis is running out to play. She says she don't want to go back to New Bedford again she says she would like to see grand mar and ?? Hannah but we are as comfortable here as we were there so when you think of us don't think that we are suffering as I used to think about those that were out here we are keeping house and have enough to eat drink and to ware. I often think we are a great ways apart but I am contented and have never been home sick nor wished myself back again I have got acquainted with quite a number of people (reverse page) here in this place we boarded three weeks paid twenty five dollars per week for board. Mr Cory has built a small house and we are living in it. It is a pleasant place the grass is green all around the house we have quite a large garden but it is not fenced in yet. Mr. Cory has set out some trees and grape vines we are not in the thickest part of the City but it is all in sight not far off we have Meetings and Schools as handy as they were in New Bedford. I received a letter from Aunt Leydia Scripp (?)

last Mail saying that Isaac was going to start 13 of January So I shall look for him next Steamer I have not seen any of the folks that went from Liverton but I see New Bedford folks every few days I have not been to the place where Uncle Nathaniel was buried yet I am going soon I can see it from the house it is about half a mile off but the ground is so level (sic.) we can see some ways from us. Remember my love to all my Brothers and Sisters & enquiring Friends. Tell them I am enjoying myself first rate. Tell Margaret & Patience I often think of them and the lonesome hours they have had to pass. Don't forget to write I'd like to hear from you all. Tell Hanner She must write I shall write again soon. I shall answer all the letters I receive

(next page)

we have not got much in the house yet things are high here our Stove cost forty Dollars without the pipe what dishes we have was about eighteen dollars Mrs. Cory had bed and bedding enough so we can make out until ours gets here some things are very high and some are low. Milk is 25 per quart we have a plenty just the same as if they were more cheap. Now I will close by saying good May I think Mr Cory will write a few lines so I will give him a chance.

Fondly yours With respect

From your Daughter

Abby. Cory.

I will write to fill our this sheet that you may know that you are not forgot although afar off. Mrs Cory had a quick passage and a fair time and also Isaac too business is very Dull here at this time a year of all kinds we expect something to do in the spring. I think of giving Issac a job for a while to do some new **xxxxx** which wont pay much to me better than nothing I think he don't think of going to the mountains t dig for gold as I know of so good bye for this time

S/ J K Cory (<?)

(next reverse page)

Stockton Cal Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1852

Dear Parents I write you a few lines to let you know that I have arrived in Stockton I am in good health I like the Country very much it is very smooth land some large trees I have not much to write this time I had a good passage to California. I arrived to this place this morning I want you all to write when you can. Farther Mother & Hannah I will write to more nex time

Truly yours With restect

From your Son

s/ Isaac C Cory

Stockton, Cal. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1852

Dear Farther

I have again seated myself to commence a letter to you it is not near time for the Mail to go but I want to be doing something this afternoon. we are all in good health we received a letter from you last Saturday and was very glad to hear that you were all well and thought of us enough to write us and poor Harriet Grinnell she is gone she will be missed how that family have died of it has been quite Sickly here with Small pox but believe there are not many cases now I have not felt at all alarmed we have not had eny one sick very near us except Sises dog it had fits this day it died and abby amelia cried about it we have had some quite warm weather here and the ground is getting to be dry we have to water our garden every day it grows well we have beans and Cucumbers fit that Sage and Summer savery seed I brought from home come up and grows first rate one Safron seed came up and one or two of the catnip seeds think we shall get the seed again we have a xxxx well of water and Mr. Cory has bought a pump so we can get water easy. we have Some hens & chickens hens are four dollars a piece eggs one dollars & half per dozen new butter \$1.50 cents per pound. Some things are most as Cheap as they are in the states I am contented here like as well as ever I don't know where Isaac will write this time or not but think mr. Cory will I will put this away now until its most time for the Mail to go

June 10<sup>th</sup> I will write a few more lines there is something new to write we all remain in good health. the Small Pox is all over with no new Cases for some time it is healthy here now I believe Abby Amelia Says tell Hannah she is here in California and can sew and has made her a rag baby to day and tell her she has not been to the mines yet when she Does she is going to get Hannah a lump of gold She says if she could write she would write you all a letter she has learn't to read some but don't go to School this Summer Schooling is \$1.50 per week for each Scholar so I read Her at home I suppose when this gets there it will be most xxxxxberry time there is none here in this Country and I cant come this summer to go with you to pick them I have had Some Strawberries & black berries last week none grow very near us I expect Mother is grieveing about us but she need no do it for we are comfortable as we were there although we are separated far from you all you said Joseph Stafford was sick but did not say what the matter was with him. give my love to Mother and tell her I would like to see her and all the rest of you but I am just as happy and contented heare as I was there I would like to hear from you often all of you tell Mary Cory to

write me a letter and I will answer it I would write to her this time but I cant put it in xxxx this and she would not be looking for one to the office so I will let it go this time remember my best wishes to all the neighbors and enquiring friends I will close by wishing you all much joy and comfort

Yours from your Daughter

Abby . Cory

Stockton May 13<sup>th</sup> 1853

Dear Sister

I shall write you a few lines this time we are all well and hope this will find you enjoying the same I believe I don't owe you any letter we got one from Isaac last mail and that was all we did get our chest has got here in good Shape nothing broke or hurt Sis was so Disappointed she cried awfully she expected a doll and some play things Isaac told her he would get her some I believe I told him to buy her some to I would rather have given considerable the not had him sent her something I should sent and had you brought a lot of things if I had known Aunt Leydia bought the Calico I believe. One of the bills Spook (<?) of some french prints 33 cents per yard but I don't see any thing that looks like the french but I had just as fine (?) have any thing else as french the Spxx Gun I see has not come I never thought to speak of it in Isaacs letter I wish Mother would go and take them things from Uncles Roberts for it seems to bad to have them all broke up and not Do any one eny good tell her to get them and have them to use for I Don't suppose I will ever want any of them I believe I wrote you that I received your miniature I look at it and wishe I could see you I often wish you was here for I think you would like here we have plenty of green stuff such as Peas lettis Beets turnips raddish es we have peas most every day I can go to ride just when I like the horse don't do any thing. only what we ride I can ride horse back first rate we got a good open Buggy but I don't go in that unless Mr. Cory goes we went out 8 miles the other day and the ground was covered with flowers and I did not know but Abby Amelia would try to kick them all or fill the Carriage I bought me a new brid-le a few weeks ago and the other night some body came and stole it from the wood house I paid \$650 (?) so now I have got another

This is Saturday and I cant stop o write much more this time my work is not done up yeat and sis has not got up yet Mr Cory has gone over to the shop Sis is a Hollering now say she wants to send Aunt Hanna A love and some flowers and wants to kiss you and Hannah very much I am much Obliged to you for the seeds that came in the chest Mr Cory is going to plant them to morrow some that come in letters don't come up yet we have morne than twenty fruit trees now we have grapes on one vine several bunches set Mr. cory has mad a beautiful Arbor from the back house to the house and painted it white we have had a rain Storm one day this week which was

uncommon for this season of the year but it is beautiful here now give my love to all our friends and much to yourself.

Pleas write often

From your Affectionate Sister

Abby Cory

(on reverse of page appears someone practiced forming cursive letters and something else)

Stockton June 13<sup>th</sup> 1852

Dear Farther

I am again before your again with but little to say our health is good we wrote the last mail but as yours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April came to hand after we wroteso here we are as usual with unanswered Business is quite good I have no one but Isaac to work for me at present I shall be able to make something if I am well this summer I think business is not as good as last summer. We have been mowing all this and part of last month began last week to cut Barley xxxx Now we will just look at the market. Flour is \$12 per barrel Meal 12 ½ per pound Corn 6 cents per# wheat 6per# Barley 2 cent per pound salt pork 20 cents. Now for vegetables green peas 25cts # Bean 50cts Onions 25cts turnips 6cts ? cucumbers37cts a piece Fresh meatsBeef stock 18 cts per pound Pork 50 cts# mutton 75 cts# poultry none in market at this season our poultry is mostly sofas <? With game. Such as geese Ducks ???????? and other small game. Elk & Deer Antelope we have some of in the market. Good American Cows are worth \$200. Calafornia Cows \$50. Oxen from \$150 to 200 per yoke. horses from \$25 to \$500 as a matter of fancy. Shotese are from \$10 to \$20-a peice &c

Isaac wont write this time there seems to be a good many coming to to this country yet and some going. I am very well pointed I ?????? think it worth while to move again soon. I want to pay my Debts this season And have a Fare start another year.

My Experiences this past year has been large House and lot Cost \$1300 and that worth getting out and family here would be quite a little sum but there is a good prospect of paying up this season now.

Good health and hard knocks will Do it I think.

So I will bid you all good bye

for this time

Yours ??

s/ JBCory

(two messages on a single folded piece of paper)

Stockton Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 1853

My Dear Sister

I have set down this afternoon to write a few lines to inform you of our good health and some other things. I received a letter from you last mail and one from Isaac and was very glad to hear from you all. I am sorry you did not get no letter from me in so long a time. I received one from you the first part of Summer and answered it the same week. I directed it to Fall river. I wrote you all the news then every thing I could think of and sent Mother some of Abby Amelias hair and some of mine. We have sent Farther papers a good many times. Maybe the same I am going to direct them to head of Westport now and see if you get them. We get all of our letters that come here for we have a box in the Post Office. Now what shall I tell you about Sis. I expect you want to hear she has cone to School to day has been goijg one week and likes it so I shall let her go awhile before it rains she has learnt to read and Spell in ??? Sylables. She reads in a second reader she is a real traner her time is all taken up with something. Saturday she went and spent the Day to the Methodist <?? Ministers. Yesterday she went to Sunday School. She can ride on horse back alone side ways and is no more afraid than I am and if you was here you could ride all you wanted to on the horse or in the carriage the horse don't work any at all only what we ride. I have rode as much as I wanted to this Summer. Mr Cory Speaks about sending for you some times to come out here to make us a visit a year or two but it is a great ways to come visiting then I should like very much to have your company here if it wernt for the coming and going and you could make money here by taking in work 5 or 6 dollars a week I do and more to besides doing my work you say Howard and Isaac is coming here I shall be glad to see them. Howard I want to see very much for it is a long time since I saw him. I should not mind staying here a long time if I could only see you all but tell mother we talk of coming back some time if nothing happens. Mr. Cory has done quite well this Summer when he gets his hay. You said Mother was going to send me some Silver Spoons tell her I would much rather she would send me her minature then all the spoons she can buy. I would like to have the whole familys. I want you to hve yours taken. Tell Farther if he will have his taken I will send him the money to pay for it. I sould send some in this but perhaps you wont get it. I am

glad Mother got them things tell her to use them by to keep. There was two Steam Boats bilers bursted last week on the river 25 miles for Stockton coming from San Francisco and it killed quite a number and scalded a great many very bad so they think they cant live. I don't think of much more this time Sis has got home from School. She sends her love to all and would like to kiss Hannah and gron mar she says write she has some little white Ducks. Yours with much love to all s/ Abby Cory

(a ps: I will put some of Sis hair and some of mine in this letter)

(Continuing on the same piece of paper, folded as the last page)

Well Hannah

I don't know that I can say much that will b interesting to you. I would like to have you come out here and stay next summer. Come when Isaac comes. What do you think of it suppose the where with should come to you would you come if you wanted to work here you might get from \$20 to 50 pper month or stay with us here so long as you please and we would see you have the means to back with when you want to. Write as soon as you get this and let me know so that we can calculate accordingly

Yours &c JA Cory

PS As the health We think it is healthier here than tis there

We have had good health most of the time we have been here

JAC

To Hannah L Cory

Tiverton R.I.

(two messages on a single folded piece of paper)

Stockton Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1859

Dear Sister

I will try to answer my letter but I don't know where to begin. It is so long since it is so long since I have written to you. I think it is about a year since I have had a letter from any of our family we are all well now but have had quite a sick time with Amelia had a fever and was quite sick for a week or so before she got well. Nellia was taken with a fever and was left with a cough which has lasted her two months. I have company most of the time. Mrs. Nicholas Bromnell has been here now for two months from San Francisco visiting she was here last Spring and stoped with us five weeks. I suppose why she stays so long her husband is in business in Stockton he comes and stays nights.

I suppos you want to hear about Howard and and what he is doing well I have just come from his house he is well and harty we all took dinner with him. I do some of his cooking he is harrowing to day he has one man to work for him Mr. Cory finished sowing the wheat to day he has got in all he is going to except 2 or 3 acres of rye. Howard had ought to do well this year. I told him he must go home after harvest which will be in july he said he don't know. I see him every few days when it is pleasant. Two of Philip Devall boys is in Stockton they want work George is going to work for Phil Graves when he has work for him. It is Dull times for wok at present. Howland was in to see me the other day.

I thought he was going to work in our gardeng but he has not been yet he has got to changing about I don't think he will make much he has latly come from Over ville. I enquired after your husband but he did not know him he said. I cant hear nothing from Mr. Bromnell only that you write me. It has been sickly here last summer and fall but I think it is quite healthy now it is pleasant and warm to day.

This is Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> I will write a few more lines this day for I expect I will go to the ranch in the morning and see Howard and I have just had company to dinner Mrs. Hickcock & Mrs Snow from out in the country and they have gone. Amelia has washed her dishes and gone out to qalk. Ada has gone over the other side of town with Mrs. Bromnell to spend the Dan. Nellia and I are all alone.

I got a letter from Sister Mary last mail and was very glad to hear from her she said Samuel was hurt baaad do write and tell me if he has got over it whe said one of Isaacs children was sick and did not think it would live long what is the matter

with it write me as soon as you get this all the news I have no more time to at present give my love to all.

I will write Very soon

Good by for this tim

From your ever loving Sister

s/ Abby Cory

(overleaf)

Dear Farther & Mother

I must write you a few lines and let you know I have not forgotten you if I have been away seven long years and I still live in hopes the time is not far Distant when I shall see you again I am in hopes they will get the cars and reduce the fare. I will try to get Howard to come if I can he looks well and seems to enjoy himself I wish you could go and see him keeping house he has three dogs and four hogs he has killed one hog and salted it and has one more to kill. We had quite a lot of fruit last year several bushels of grapes some large Peaches weighed a half pound a piece and had 2 or 3 bushels of pairs ver few apples.

Mr. Cory (illegible. . . .) don't make much money in these days but we get a good living but I want to see him get enough ahead to come and make you a visit the children all talk about going to the Staes to granma & pa. I don't think Amelia remembers any thing about you she has grown to be a large girl and is some help

I have not heard from Mary Elizebeth? for some time she was well last I heard I don't think she likes the mountains very much she would liked to lived in Stocikton she said

(on the side) This is bad writng but I have written in a hurry

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of Jan: 1859

I will write a few lines more this day I was out to Howards yesterday he had company Philip Devoills two sons they all went out gunning. Howard shot a large wild goose. I cooked them some dinner and made bread and cookys enough to last two or three days. I always carry him something when I go. He can cook very well himself.

Abby Amelia has gone to school to Day. She has not been for two months she has not been well enough. I have plenty of work to do the children being sick so much we milk two cows all the time I sell some milk and make some butter we have two more cows coming in this Summer. Farther you must be sure to write and write Howard to he feels hurt to think our folks writes no more I asked him to write he says no one writes him what is the use to write.

I will close by wishing you all good health which much love to you all. Give my best respects t all inquiring friends. So good by for this time.

From your Daughter

Abby Cory

(Single sheet of paper written on and folded to form an envelope. To: )

Mr. Benjamin Cory

Tiverton

R.I.

---

To Mr (Tripp??)

Sir I have no news to write you more than Mr. Cory has written But will what I can. Think of and also what to do wsith some of those thing in your care please pay the insurance policy and take your pay for your trouble and Mrs. Corys loan and let me know how the account stands and I make up what more of the ????? I ??? have sent in my next

Yours & cet

John ? Cory