

A Letter to Miss Lizzie Nicks, Woodstock, Wisconsin

NM Mine File No. 501

Elizabethtown, New Mexico
April 26, 1868

Dear Friend Lizzie:

Your highly esteemed favor dated April 6th came to hand last week and was read with pleasure. Was delighted to hear from you again and to learn that you were still enjoying health which enables a person more fully enjoy life. I have thought the time a little tardy since I had the pleasure of reading your letter written at Iowa until I received your last letter at home. Owing perhaps to the fact that I have learned to look for and expect letters from you with as much interest as though we were old and familiar acquaintances. A friendly correspondence does much toward relieving the monotony that always hangs around a camp like this where the ladies have scarcely a representative in society. You have done much toward helping your humble correspondent out of the cloud of monotony. Though we have never met I see no reason why we should not be friends. I am one of those persons who esteem friends very highly and love to converse in a plain and friendly manner. By the way, I think your name is prettier and more familiar like trimmed down as it is to Lizzie, Think Frank is more convenient also and will answer all purposes. Mr. is so formal like and seems so reserved to one accustomed to western life. But enough of this, perhaps too much. If so, the only excuse I can frame is a poor pen and confused ideas. By the By, I must answer your enquiries regarding my partner, Fortunately, so he says, the scamp, He is a single man, a native of York state. He has spent some time in California and many other parts of the west in search of adventure, also a fortune. The latter he is still looking for. He is a very agreeable person, a little strange, seeing he is a bachelor. Have only been acquainted with him four months and have had no reason to regret as yet our acquaintance. When I tell you that I am a very awkward person with cooking tools, you can easily imagine that I am not sorely grieved that partner has assumed the responsibility of handling the kitchen furniture. We have had some fine spring weather of late, though yesterday we had a light snow. But the sun came out bright and the snow soon vanished. Mining has commenced briskly in most of the districts. I believe they are generally doing well considering they are just opening their claims and ^{new} have as yet struck upon the main paying streak. These mines are like most all gold mines. Some spots are amencely rich and others are well calculated to make a rich man poor, but think there is enough good and average to pay all that may come here liberal wages and make some rich. We will probably commence sluicing this week on our claim and see if there is not a small portion of the precious metal allotted to us.

N.M. Bureau of Mines
& Mineral Resources
Socorro, N.M. 87801 File Data

Confidential

Open Courtesy Tom Tolsen

There has been some trouble about the ownership of claims, one party trying to supplant another in rights, titles, etc. to certain portions of mining property. One man was shot and kild, but this trouble has about subsided now and business is done in a more sivalised way.

Emigration is on the increase. Teams are coming in every day, notwithstanding the bad roads and high waters. A few of the fair ones have arived lately which gives to the place a more sivalised and animated appearance. Hope to see more of them before a month.

Hope you are enjoying yourself very much since you returned home. Wish you may have a pleasant time teaching this summer, should you take the school, but I think I should find it not overly pleasant ware I to undertake it.

Would like much to hear from Hugh Spencer. Sorry, too, that he is not married. Some flaw in the article of agreement may have caused a nonsuit.

It is now getting late and you must be out of all patience by this time trying to patch up this scrawl so as to make it readable at all. So I will close hoping to hear from you very soon.

With best wishes I remain your friend.

Very respectfully,

Frank McCollum
Elizabethtown, Moreno Mines
New Mexico