My Dear Brother,

Your kind and welcome letter came to hand on the 21st inst and is the only one I have read. I have resented the post office twice upon since we have been here in vain of all the men in Independence the old fool of a postmaster leads the worst life he is beyond torture by the Calis, who were determined to get letters from their friends by some means or other, he has been put to write out a list very usual and beg them on the out side of his office to help from being snatched, the first time I went in it was half an hour before I could get up to ask for a letter, it takes forever and a day for letters to reach here from Canada your two weeks days on the road.

I was glad you did not come with us as we got down to the river very comfortably. I had a pleasant walk to Beamevil which had the effect of me leaving my spirits and I was down long before our party were ready to start. We have had nothing but good luck and good health since we started and we were nearly done over on the road from Elin to Pittsburgh. 60 days and nights and half the time with a rail on your shoulder is no joke. I don't wish to experience another week of such hardships between this and California. I hope you have read the letters I wrote you and those from Cincinnati and that I shall get along to them before we leave for the gold diggings all the reports we have received from theirs since our arrival here are very favourable. we have a map and directory for the journey by an old mountaineer, I wish I could send you one. he gives this route the preference over all others for safety and health, the route by Panama he describes as almost certain death especially if detained at the isthmus. I am not able to tell the number of men and teams that will be on the road they are coming from this to St. Louis, and many into start directly from their own homes in this part of the country. we have our team and dog nearly ready and shall leave this in the course of a week, Mr Graham and you can have both written us that they will be here to join us but we have seen nothing of them yet neither have we heard from them. Since our arrival here we are making our preparations for one team with nothing of open
with the names of those I love and respect and would wish to be kindly remembered to but will leave it to you my dear brother to make out the list but first to dear olive i pray that the good god will not deny me the joy of again seeing his dont smile and kindly hearing eye and hearing his gentle voice and kissing his sweet lips and sharing his Sisterly love.

I had forgotten all about leaving an open letter to miss richardson containing compliments for miss stowes I was always a careless dog but that is rather too bad.

The boys have now come in and sam says I must tell you that he and charley have just been delivering corn for corn cake on the road to cat corn is worth one bit or $1 for bushel and they say that is rather high. They generally let by the Bell containing 5 bushels or two bushels in the car it is often sold here for 50 or 75 but then they raise great crops with little labor and most of the farmers have more or less niggers and some of them large stocks they are worth from five to seven hundred dollars a piece that is good sound built niggers the ones not quite as much as they are rather inclined to look too easy they are valuable too for raising stock as little niggers are worth at weaning two hundred dollars they have none when we are off the old chap says he prefers raising steers and horses.

Shelby will write you before he leaves and in a day or two or after the arrival of the next mail I shall write William again which will be the last I shall have the pleasure of writing for a long time however I shall write soon after we arrive at the diggings.

With best wishes dear Walter I remain ever your affectionate brother.

[Signature]
My dear brother

Your kind and welcome letter came to hand on the 21st Inst and is the only one I have recvd. I have ransacked the post office twice a week since we have been here in vain. Of all the men in Independence the old fool of a post master leads the worst life. He is to death by the Cals who are determined to get letters from their friends by one means or other. He has been obliged to write out a list of every new mail and hang them on the outside of his post office t keep from being smotherd. The first time I went in it was half an hour before I could ask for a letter. It takes forever and a day for letters to reach here, yours was 24 days on the road.

I was glad you did not come with us as we got down to the river very comfortably. I had a pleasant walk to Beamsvilu(?) which had the effect of enlivening my spirits and I was down long before our party was ready to start. We have had nothing but good luck and good health since we started altho we were nearly done over on the road from Erie to Pittsburg, six days and nights and half the time with a rail on your shoulders is no joke. I do not expect to experience such hardships between this and California. I hope you have recd the letters I wrote you and Will from Cincinnati and that I shall get answers to them before I leave for the gold diggings. All the reports we have recievved from ther since our arrival here are very favourable. We have a map and directions for the journey by an old mountaineer. I wish I could send you one. He gives this rout the preference over all others for saftety and health. The rout by Panama he describes as almost certain death especially if detained at the Istrous. I am not able to tell the number of men and teams that will be on the road. The are strung out from here to St Los and many will start directlt from their homes in this part of the country. We have our team and load nearly ready and slahh leave this in the course of a week. W. Graham and young G have both written us that they will join us here but we have seen nothing of them yet. Neither
have we heard from Hewit since our arrival here. We are making our preparations for a team with 4 yokes of oxen with the names of those
love and respect and would wish to be kindly remembered to, but will leave it to you my dear brother to make out the list but first to
dear Olivia. I pray that the good God will not deny me the joy of
again seeing her sweet smile and "kindly beaming eye" and hearing
her sweet voice and kissing her sweet lips and sharing her sisterly
love.

I had forgotten all about leaving an open letter to Miss
Richardson containing compliments for Miss Stevens. I was always a
careless dog but tat is too bad.

The boys have now come in and Dan says I must tell you that he and
Charlet have just been shelling corn for corn cake on the rout to
Cal. Corn is worth about 1/ for a bushel and the say that is rather
high. The general sell by the Bbl containing 5 bushels or ten
bushels in the the car. It is often sold here for 4/ per Bbl but they
raise great crops with little labour and most of the farmers have
more or less niggers and some of them large stocks. They are worth
from five to seven hundred dollars a piece, that is a good sound
buck niggers, she ones not quite so much as they are inclined to fat
to easy. They are valuable for raising stock as little niggers are
worth at weaning two hundred dollars. The have none where we are
stopping. The old chap says he prefers raising studs and horses &c.

Skelly will write you before he leaves in a day or two after
the arrival of the next mail I shall write William again which will
be the last I shall have the pleasure of writing for a long time,
however I shall write soon after we arrive at the diggings.

With best wishes dear Walter I
remain ever your affectionate
brother

Cyrus Sumner