

Josh Simpson
INFO 256 Archives and Manuscripts
Cataloging Assignment
A. Harris Letter
May 16, 2020

(Make allowance for }
poor spelling } La Porte Feb 17" 1914

Dear Madam

Mrs M L Savett

Yours came to hand. Also the memorial and clippings.

Yes I sympathize with you and your family. Of the loss of so good and kind a man. As was Mr Savett. And all that knew him, will join in with ours And I one of his first scholars. Linking back for years. I as well as all the ~~sch~~ scholars in that school we all loved him, dearly. As he made ours happy, while at school. That we all loved to go to the school. As he was so kind to ours all. And I was in hopes to get to see him. So as to talk of early days in school.

I only as a one turrner. of five months or six. And only in that short time. Talk to my friends ^{a dissent off} I handled my affairs And gave me the knowledge of several Patents. of value to the people. And my name is recorded on the books in Washington. All that belong to the knowledge. I learned ~~from~~ ^{and} that king, Nobel teacher Mr Savett. How can I ^{help} but to give him the credit of my success in life.

I only wish that I would have knowing of his wair abouts years sooner. then I did about a year ago. Many thanks for your invitation to visit, yours. I certainly will. when I get down that way. As I enjoyed my visit

with yours. when I was their. And seeing the Man
I thought of all of. from my boyhood. And many a time
I would speak of him in later days. So I mourn the loss.
Now Mrs Swett. Remember you cant see things now
that you was able to see. in your young days.

So you should reframe your self. Of over taxing your
self. As the Old say. Dont leave unto to Morrow. wat
you can see to day. Now I think in your case. Dont
see all to day. But leave som for to Morrow.

As for the pin Mrs Swett. I gave it to Mr Swett
the love I had for him. ever since my boyhood. Now it
belong to you. To see with it. as you think best. I have
no say in it. And wat ever you see. it will be satisfactory
to me.

Well I must tell you how I came to find yours. About a
year ago or a littel over. I saw ~~an~~ artikel in the paper.
Som ting about earley days scholars of the Rinon School.
I wrote to the one that had his name sined to the paper.
and about three weeks later. I received a latter from Mr
Turrill. And we wrote sevel latter to each others. And he
asked me sevel questions of earley days. And I told him that
if Mr Swett was in this state. And could be found. he
would rock of wat I say. And sure the first latter I
got. he told me he want and saw Mr Swett and had

a long talk with him. And gave me the address.
 I was onley to pleased to heard that.

So I wrote Mr Swett a letter that day. And got a
 anser. I was pleased of it. And was pleased to have seened
 him and his famley,

And with your invation. Shuld I ever get down that
 way I sertenly will call.

Thair has been a few fotos taking this winter. And I
 sent some to Mr Yerrill to print som for me. So as
 soon as I get them. I will send you som.

Well that writing of Mr Chamberlain. will say that
 intersted me. wat he said of Mr Swett.

And his Mining on the river. I worked close by. It a ruff
 life. But I like it. Onley we get imbarice when we get
 in the city. At lease I feal that way. in the city. I want
 to get back. As I dont like City life.

I must tank you for sending me the Memorid and
 the clippings. As I take good cair of them. and also the
 book Mr Swett sent me. Wich I let all my friends
 read it.

Now I have a book given to me By Mr F Plum of
 Memorid of Col Plumb of Chicago Ill. Only three
 of the ase books wair given to his friends in the Stato, two
 besides my self
 x So I will send it to you to read. And it will

interest you. Or any one that will read it.
And telling the case Carnegie makes gifts of books
for library. And his up start. As they youist to be
in partners. Som wat, Yes I was perenley a quiented with
the Plums. And attened to som of thair affairs. for sevel
Years. It is very interesting.

We are having a snow storm. for sevel days. And
it is coming down heavy. at the time of my writing. So soon
as it- quits I will send the book. As I like a grate deal
of it. As I due the Book Mr Swett sent me

Also it is snowing hard. It is a pleasant storm,
as the wind dont blow much.

Remember me to your family.

Yours Truly
O. Harris

Morning of Feb-20th Snow is coming down in good
shape. We have about on the level say 8 feet. I head
it- all been snow since it- started to storm. we would
have about between 25 and 30 feet of it.

All the young folks. having good time show showing
and roll and tumbel in the snow. They have a
grate time with it. at recess of the School. this Morning the
Mail will be carried out by men on snow shoes.

If not delivered in 10 days, return to
A. HARRIS
LA PORTE, Plumas Co., Cal.

Box 188

Mr John Smith

Marketing

Wentworth & Co

Cal



The Snow-tunnel
I have to go to
my place or Building
I am right in front of
the tunnel in shirt
sleeves

Taken Jan 21st 19

POST CARD

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

CORRESPONDENCE HERE



090 BANC MSS 2001/1221

1XX A. Harris

245 A. Harris letter to Mrs. John Swett: La Porte, Calif. : ALS, 1914 Feb. 20

300 4 p. (There is what appears to be a page number – 2 – at the top of the third page, so it's possible, even likely, that the scan of the original letter broke 2 paper pages up into 4 digital ones).

500 Includes envelope and postcard (The content is somewhat ambiguous. There are at least two possible scenarios: 1) the postcard is made from a photo of seven men, one of whom could be John Swett though this isn't stated (I don't think he is but I can't be positive), or 2) we're looking at two objects: a photograph and the back of a postcard. While working on the Subject heading (genre) section of this catalog I discovered "Real photo postcards," a service created by Kodak in 1907 that allowed people to make postcards from photos. This seems to me to be the most probable explanation for this item.

506 Open to the public without restrictions.

520 Letter and postcard sent by A. Harris to Mrs. John Swett (aka Mary Louise Tracy Swett) dated Feb 20, 1914, offering condolences for the death of her husband John Swett. Harris knew John through the Rincon School in San Francisco, where John was the principal starting in 1853. Harris is evidently a miner, or had been one, a profession that Mr. Swett had assayed for a few months before deciding to become an educator. Harris reminisces about his brief period ("one summer as five months or six") as one of John's early pupils – he uses the term "scholar" – and explains that he and the other scholars loved John dearly and even loved to go to school because John was always "so kind" to them. Harris mentions "[several Patents of value to the people (?)]", which may have some relationship to "the books in Washington" that Harris appears proud to have signed. The book(s) is a bit mysterious, and it's not particularly cleared up by Harris' claim that "[All that belongs to the knowledge I learned from that king (misspelling of kind?) and noble teacher Mr. Swett]." In keeping with the tone of the letter so far, Harris then says "[How can I help but to give him the credit of my success in life?]" Harris mentions his regret at not knowing of John's whereabouts until the past year. Apparently, he has been in touch with Mrs. Swett before, as he thanks her for her invitation to him to visit her (for the second time). He makes the somewhat melancholy admonition to "[Remember you can't see things now that you was able to see in your young days]." He follows that advice up with another reflection on time: "[Don't leave unto tomorrow what you can do today]," and then seems to contradict himself by adding "[Don't do all today but leave some for tomorrow]." Harris mentions a pin that he gave "in love" to John that he now wants her to keep and do with

as she wishes. He then tells the story of how he came to find out Mrs. Swett's current address. He describes finding an article in a newspaper "about early days scholars of the Rincon School." After exchanging letters with the author of the article, a Mr. Turrill, who is interested in hearing about Harris' experiences at the Rincon School, Harris recommends that Turrill track down John so that he might "[vouch of what I say]." Turrill evidently took Harris's advice, and in his next letter to Harris, reported back of his meeting with Swett, and provided a current address for him as well. Harris promises Mrs. Swett he will send some photographs that he gave to Turrill for printing. Harris mentions a Mr. Chamberlain who apparently also wrote about John Swett and his brief spell mining for gold on a certain river, which is close by the spot where Harris mines. It's a "ruff life" he admits, "but I like it." He explains that he gets embarrassed when he goes to the city and doesn't like the city life. Harris thanks Mrs. Swett for sending the "Memoir" (?) and clippings and alludes to a book that John sent him which he let all of his friends read. He also mentions a book given to him by a Mr. J Plum of memoirs (?) of Colonel Plumb of Chicago, of which there may only be three copies in the state of California, all sent to friends. The memoirs talk about a gift by Carnegie (presumably Dale) for a library, "[as they used to be partners somewhat]." Harris promises Mrs. Swett that he will send her the book, which he thinks she will find interesting. Concluding the letter, he mentions it's snowing hard and that the snow is piled up 8 feet deep. He describes the fun that the "young folks" are having as they "roll and tumble" in the snow, and notes (wryly?) that the mail will be carried out by men on snowshoes.

524 A. Harris letter to Mrs. John Swett: La Porte, Calif. : ALS, 1914 Feb. 20, BANC MSS 2001/1221, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley,

540 Inquiries concerning quoting or reproducing from this collection should be directed, in writing, to the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library.

541 The letter and postcard were donated to The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley on January 4th, 1990 by Conrad Knoll on behalf of the Plummer and Knoll families, descendants of John Swett.

544 John Swett Papers, BANC MSS C-B 352, The Bancroft Library, The University of California, Berkeley

544 John Swett & Son records, BANC MSS 99/175, The Bancroft Library, The University of California, Berkeley

544 Tracy Family Papers, BANC MSS Z-Z-107, The Bancroft Library, The University of California, Berkeley

544 California agricultural cooperatives: typed transcript of interviews with Frank Tracy Swett, BANC MSS 69/37 c, The Bancroft Library, The University of California, Berkeley

544 Helen Swett letters to her fiancée, Charles E. Schwartz, BANC MSS C-B 353, The Bancroft Library, The University of California, Berkeley

544 Materials relating to the Swett family: Wilbur M. Swett earthquake letter, BANC MSS 95/123 c, The Bancroft Library, The University of California, Berkeley

545 A. Harris, birth and death unknown, was a “scholar” (student) at the Rincon Grammar School where John Swett was principal starting in 1853. Mary Louise Tracy Swett, 1839-1919, was married to John Swett, 1830-1913.

600 Harris, A., n.d.

600 Swett, Mary Louise Tracy, 1839-1919

600 Swett, John, 1830-1913

600 Turrill, Charles Beebe, 1854-1927

600 Plumb, Colonel Ralph, 1816-1903

600 Chamberlain, Arthur Henry, 1870-1942

610 Rincon Grammar School

650 School children

650 School supervision, Primary

650 School principals

650 Elementary school principals

650 School principals – United States

650 Education--California

650 Education and state—California

650 Educational change—United States--History

650 Educational change--California

650 Gold mines and mining

650 Newspaper clippings

655 Letters

655 Condolence notes

655 Postcards

655 Real photo postcards