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Concordville Jan 7

Robert Purce
Great Salt Lake city
California
by way of ^Wainesville
Iowa

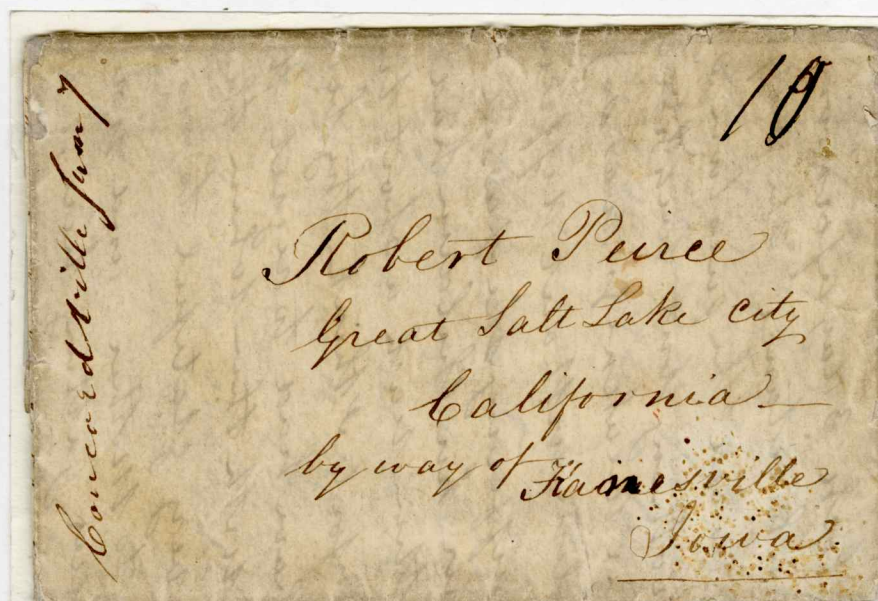
The Mormon Trail

Although a few trappers and scouts had gone west generally along the Central Overland Route, the Mormons were the first to establish it as a “route.”

The Mormon Trail, with some extensions and variations, was part of “The Central Overland Route”, “The Oregon Trail”, “The California Trail”, as well as “The Pony Express Route”. Although the trail had been used for a few years, with the aid of calculations made by Willam Clayton’s The Latter-day Saints’ Emigrants’ Guide, the Mormons were the first to know where they were situated.

To Great Salt Lake City, California

June 7, 1850



Concordsville, Pa. - “by way of Kanesville, Iowa” - “Great Salt Lake City, California”

As no transcontinental mail contracts yet existed, almost all westbound overland mail moved on wagon trains. Some was carried by Mormons via Kanesville, Iowa. At this time, Salt Lake City was within the boundaries of the California Territorial lands recently ceded by Mexico.

Hillston 5th mo 2d 1850

My very Dear Brother

Day after day and week after week my mind has turned towards you with feelings of tender affection and I have intended to write but indeed I have felt so little ability to do it must plead my excuse for I feel it was due, it has now been one month since the final close of our beloved Mother, little did I think when thou left us in the second month I should so soon have to record the sad intelligence but I think her health was declining then she had not been so well since she was in Philadelphia in the early part of winter her appetite had failed though she did not complain but from the time thou left her strength very perceptibly failed she did not complain of any thing but weakness general ability she had very little appetite and such food as she used to enjoy did not suit her she would be sick after eating when the doctor was called he thought her liver was diseased was the cause of her stomach being so disordered no doubt her liver was affected but I think it was a gradual decay of nature she had Doctor Harvey she continued through the third mo increasingly feeble but so she kept about and walked from our common room to her own, except lying down a little while in the day she sat in the room with us and continued to work a little (which she had better have given up soon but thou knew her industrious habits) ^{till} within a few days before she went to darwins they had got moved to his Fathers place and it was arranged that she should go the first of 4th mo to stay a few weeks with them but when the time come she was so feeble I was concerned about her going but Sarah was anxious to have her and they thought the change would be of use she herself thought so and wished to see how

they were fixed she was then able to walk to the carriage and get in with some assistance and bore the ride very well and perhaps it was all right, it was no doubt a satisfaction to Sarah to have her cousin Alice Mendenhall was there to be with her but she grew worse ever after going and I think was never out of her room more than once or twice after wards till she was brought home, at the end of the first week she was so poorly I felt very anxious to get her back John and myself went over prepared to bring her with us that day she was better and the weather was so cold they did not seem willing she herself was not quite prepared but looked towards being better Doctor thought when the complaint was removed she would recruit her strength but before the end of another week she herself was anxious to get home but she was so poorly and the weather so cold it did not seem prudent we still thought she would be better able to bear the ride in a few days to come she remained three weeks from the day she went and then we had the seats taken out of Darwins waggon and a bed ^{and pillow} placed on the bottom when she was helped out to it and Brother Thomas took her in his arms and lifted her in like a child the tail board was down thou may have an idea how she was reduced she appeared to ride very comfortable so much so she got a nap on the way when we got home she was lifted out bed and all laid on the floor till we could get her fixed on her own bed cousin Alice came over with us and staid till 3rd day when she returned to Darwins it was 1 day she remarked next morning that mother seemed more cheerful and like herself than she had done for a week past and said ^{honestly} she felt very thankful she had got home she was always pleasant and took an interest in what was passing she continued till the next 1 day to sit up at times every day and when she would lie down it was surprising to see how comfortable she would slip she never suffered much pain she generally sat up

a while before retiring for the night and then lie down and sleep very comfortable I staid with her at nights but did not sit up till the last two nights on first she was taken with hemeage of the bowels which soon wasted her remaining strength I sent next morning for Cousin Alice again she was very weak but sat up some that day it seemed a change she had taken very little nourishment for some time third day morning she remarked when something was offered her she did not want any thing more but a little cold water to wet her mouth saying she was done with every thing here she continued entirely sensible to the last and knew us all seemed sensible her stage was near she passed away ^{peacefully} and sweetly about 5 o'clock 3 day afternoon 30 of 4 we so trust to a better inheritance she suffered very little pain at any time when asked the question she would say she had no pain nothing but weakness to complain towards the last her weakness was so great she could not raise the phlem without difficulty which I think was the greatest suffering she passed through it was a great favour her children had all been here that were within reach a short time before which I believe was a comfort I think thy being here was a ^{great} comfort to her I have had to regret that sister Betty did not try to come with thee when thou was here it would have been very grateful to us and no doubt a great satisfaction to Mother and now we can hardly look towards her ever getting here, Mothers cousin Phib Middle ^{thou} thou will perhaps recollect thy ^{uncle} uncle I Trumble and she died on 2 day mother 3 day and uncle George Williams on 4 day so thou may see what a sad inroad has been in our own circle in a very short time and dear aunt Ann who has been so feeble for more than 18 months she could not wait on herself is left to survive them she seems wonderfully supported some of her friends thought her feeble frame could hardly sustain the shock I have been thus minute knowing you would be interested in knowing the particulars our other relations as far as I know are generally well Brother Thomas has got moved to his farm and seems disposed to do the best he can

I very much hope he may be able to succeed he had a
severe attack of illness after thou left us which seemed
discouraging but he is now recovered from it they
have got a little son too since thou was here

I hope you will have got to the great valley in this
reaches you please give sister Fletty the intelligence
if thou receives it first we intend to write to her
I hope when you get to your own home you will
write and let us know how you have ^{along} got and

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Robert Purce

Great Salt Lake City

California

by way of ~~San Francisco~~

Utah

JUNE 20 1850

HILLSTON

containing June 20 1850

Bowditch & Co. New York

KAMEE
20/20/50

whether you get our letters we shall still feel
deeply interested in you and yours I hope you
will write soon with dear love to thy own family
sister H and the children each and every one as of
named and sister Fletty and all her children
I bid you affectionately farewell in that love which
nether distance nor time can ever efface thy ever
attached sister Phoebe Buntington