

Mr Mason Dobbin

Maumee City

Lucas County Ohio

Written On the Way to California

Mailed from Ft. Laramie

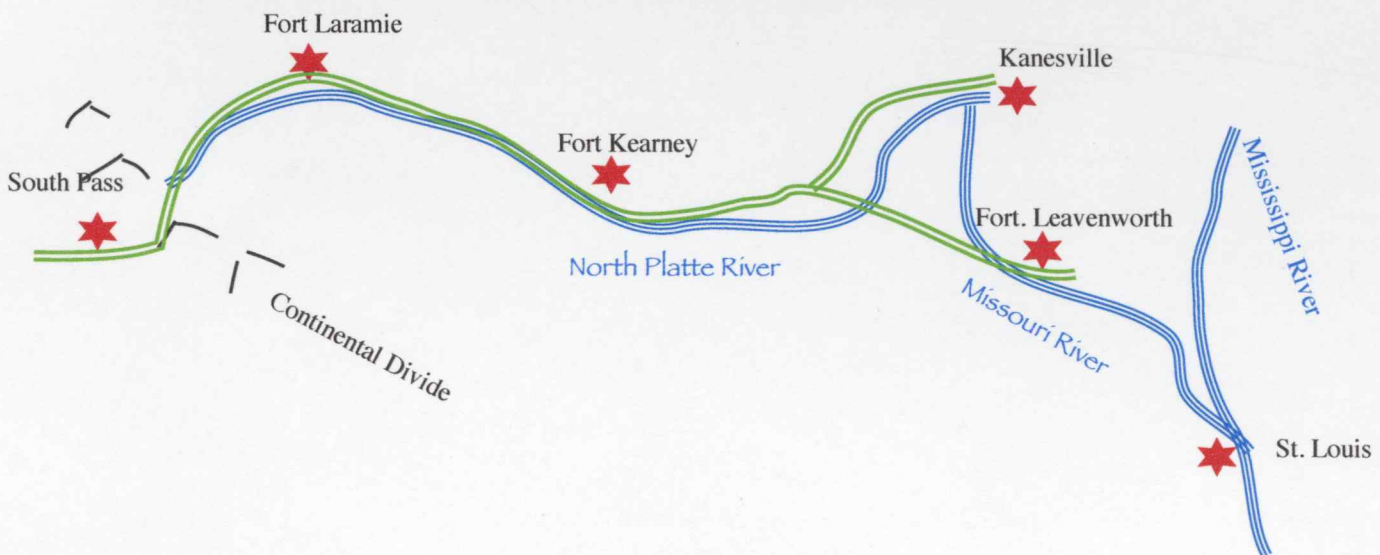
dated June 30, 1849



Ft Laramie - Ft. Leavenworth
Missouri River Steamboat - St. Louis
U.S.P.O. - Maumee City, Ohio

STEAM 10

On July 30, the Daily Missouri Republican reported: "MAIL FROM THE CALIFORNIA EMIGRANTS ----The two bags of letters brought down on the *Algoma*, and which were supposed to be lost in the fire, were found yesterday in a damaged condition... if any portion can be made out, will be forwarded by Capt. Eaton through the mail.



"I am now at this date at Ft. Laramie ... so many on the road that no danger is apprehended from Indians. ... wagons loaded too heavy. ... things have been scattered about the road to lighten their loads. ... there has been a great deal of sickness and a good many deaths. ... "

Fort Laramie June 30th 1849

Dear Brother, as you will perceive by the Captian I am
now at this date at fort Laramie, about 700 Miles from Independence
on the road to California. We arrived here 4 days ago. having made about
the usual progress & time, on the road. Making from 20 to 25 Miles
per day, and rather more than the average of the trains, having
passed a great number on the road, and there are so many on
the road that we were scarcely ever out sight of one. Either
in advance or in the rear... (a train consists of from 5 up to 40
Waggons, but mostly from 15 to 25. So many being on the road
that no danger is apprehended from the Indians, with even 5 or 6
Waggons (only) so far we had got along very well, the grass
having been sufficient, by taking some extra trouble in going
off the road a distance at times, but still it has been hard on
the teams, it has been a universal thing that all have loaded
too heavily, and the whole distance through things have been
scattered about the road thrown away from Waggons to lighten
their loads, and we have done the same, and here at and about
fort Laramie, heaps and piles of tons of provisions and all
other kind of valuables are thrown away, and great numbers
of Companies, are throwing away their Waggons, and everything but
what can be packed and their Mules, and we of course have
now done the same thing, having thrown away everything but
what we can pack on one Mule, and the the animal we ride to
Cash Man, which is about 200 pounds, the reason for taking
this course are from what we hear here of the road
in advance, there are so many trains in advance that
there is such a scarcity of Grass that our teams will fail
so on the way. Unless we took pains to go far off the road for
feed, which would cause us great delay, and cannot at
all times be done, and in packing as we do is in our power
to go nearly twice as fast, go off the road where please,
and, as our start was 10 or 15 days later than it should have been
and account of the lateness of the season for grass, and now
look forward, to the delay we should suffer, to remedy

Our animals, an Act of the Scarcity of grass on parts of
the route, we feared if we went the North our Waggons
we could not get to California till late in
the first of October, we arrived at the Conchovine
that it was best to adopt this Course, and pack through
and think we can go through from here in that
made in about 50 days, and we are now all ready
have our packs Saddles made and packs fitted
and shall start this afternoon, in 3 or 4 hours from
this writing, I cannot undertake to give you much
of the road or Country or Incidents by the way
for want of time and convenience for writing, and can
only speak briefly of the most important matters, I am
myself opposed to this packing and much preferred that we
should have gone on with our Waggons, and taken care to be
chose with thousands of others, but as all others of our
party were in favor of it it was adopted, the road to this
point has been good open plains and rolling prairies
clothed with grass and wholly destitute of timber
we have travelled the usual route that travelled
by Fremont also, following the Valley of the Kansas
and Platte rivers and are now across the great
plains stretching from the feet of the Rocky Mountains
to the Mississippi and have now some of the hills
and ridges and peaks in sight and our future
travelling will be amongst them, we shall now
probably take the Salt Lake and Mormon City
and Humboldt River route, but most of the
Emigrants with Waggons do not consider it safe
for them to trust it and go the old route by
Hart Hall, which is some 200 miles longer
than the other, there has been a great deal of
sickness and a good many deaths amongst the Emigrants
along the whole route, Char up to this point

and here seems to be its limits as we can hear
of none in advance, there has been none with us
and we are with a train of 15 Waggons with 4 men
as a Universal thing in breaking up and from Waggons and
dissolving them and packing through, the animals
are skinned and new associations are formed very frequently
and the horse and animal in the same way but shall
still travel together, at least myself and Tinton and
Nelson Waterbury Hill, Fitch Dewey and Russell had
some slight difference which may lead him to
forming another Association in travelling but I hope not
as he is a man I respect highly, the difference was
between ourselves as the rest of others, in
making a horse I was not willing to yield up what I
considered opinions and conclusions to the
of the moment I am sorry it so happened, but we are
now only friendly and that warm cordiality that
I should wish, as a part of the Company are ready and
are going this afternoon and a part that till tomorrow
may remain and go with those tomorrow including
some of the Missouri, and the Toledo men, I am
sorry to say that Nelson Waterbury's health is very
poor, he took cold from exposure in wet weather
which induced a very bad cough and has suffered
a good deal with it for 3 weeks, as it seems to wear
him down much but he has gained for the last
5 or 6 days and is better, I tried to prevail with him to
stay at this place which is now occupied by U S troops but
he prefers going on, and I shall do the best I can for
him, as to my own health, I believe I have worn into it
again and can stand as much hardship on any other way
on the route, Tinton is, also quite well, I have not written
half I would like to, but have neither room or time
for more now, Now for the Rocky Mountains J J Dobbin