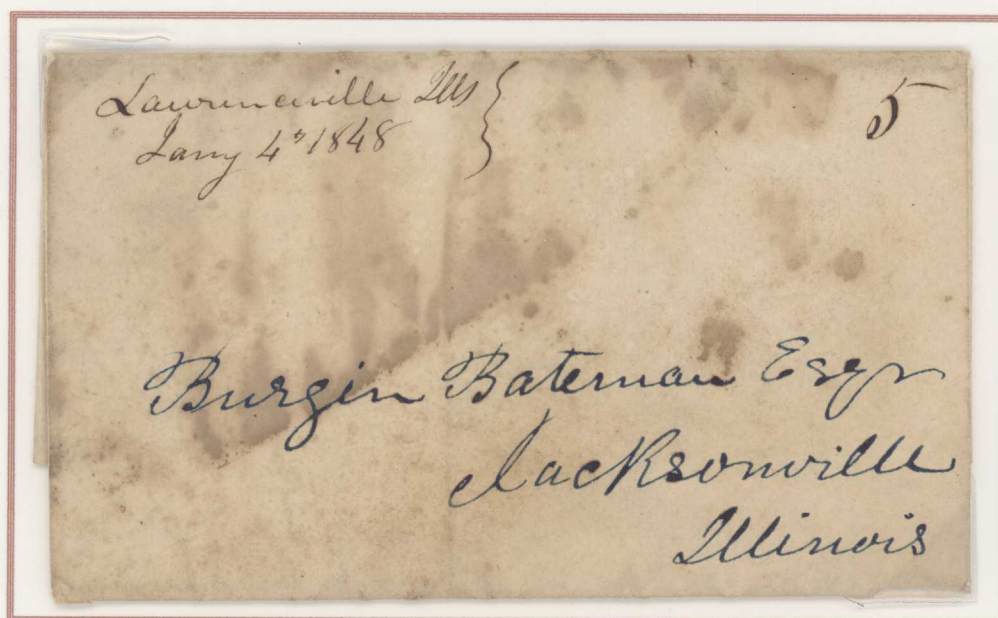


# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

## *Origins of the War with Mexico*

The passage, by the American Congress, of the Resolutions of Annexation, by which the Republic of Texas was incorporated into the Union as one of the States. Thus having merged her sovereignty into that of our own government became the prime cause, which led to the recent war with Mexico. It was shortly after this event that Mexico was prompt to manifest hostility towards this government, and sought the earliest plausible pretext for declaring war against the United States. The declaration of war by the Mexican government was issued in April 1846. The United States passed an act in the middle of April 1846 authorizing the President to call into the field 50,000 volunteer troops. It was this very important act that the "Army of the West" came into being with Stephen W. Kearny acting as Colonel in charge, and directed to march upon the city of Santa Fe.



Lawrenceville, Illinois ~ January 4<sup>th</sup> 1848

Dear Father,

I have thus long delayed to write hoping to be able to send you some money, but at length not being able feel it incumbent on me to write anyhow. Should have done so before but for the fact that I have no doubt you have heard from me indirectly thru Newton & Jane.

I have been traveling about for the last two months or better & occasionally lecturing, but the weather has been very bad so that there has not been much chance to do anything. My health is gone & I have some thought of commencing the practice again in a county adjoining to this being very strongly urged to it by an old class mate in this place with whom I am stopping & who promises to do all he can for me. We are now entered upon a new year & I hope it may be a more prosperous & happy one to us than the last. I cannot now tell where you may write to me but hope to soon when I will again write.

Yr Aff Son

E. B. Bateman

# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

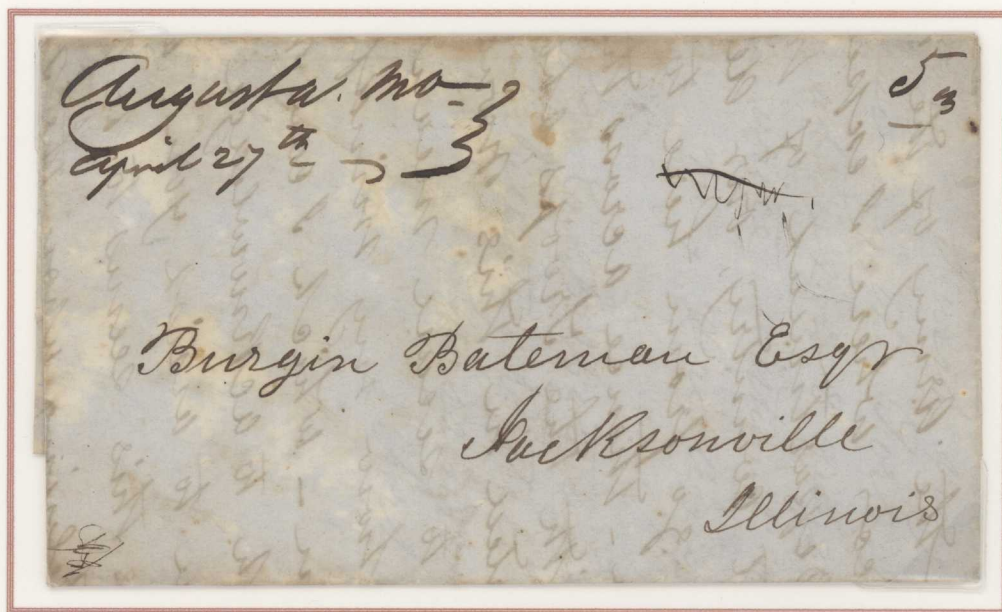
1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

St. Louis April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1848

My Dear Father,

I am sorry have not been able to hear from you for so long a time. I have written twice since I have rec'd any answer. I now belong to the Army of the U. S. and start to day for Mexico where I expect to be attached to the Medical Department of the Army when arrived in that country, our destination if Chiwawa (Chihuahua). We go from here to Fort Leavenworth by water – thence across the Plains through Santa Fee & with the Troops about 700 strong.

I am actuated in this movement by sincere desire to secure means by which I may be at least show my mindfulness of my obligations to you – which I can never cancel; but which I wish to acknowledge by my exertions to do what I can to assist you, and under all the circumstances this seems to be the best chance now offered. Relying upon the same Almighty power which has hitherto sustained me, for future defense and support I go; and ask of Him who holds the destinies of all in his hands to be with & sustain us both & of you a remembrance in all your prayers at the throne of grace.



next spring. I wish very much to hear from you before leaving the Fort. where we expect to remain only about 8 days which will afford time if you write without any delay ~~but~~ but not otherwise. My directions are as follows.  
Viz.  
Dr. C. B. Bateman  
Infantry Battalion  
Missouri Volunteers  
Fort Leavenworth

Mailed from Augusta, Missouri August 27th, 1848



# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

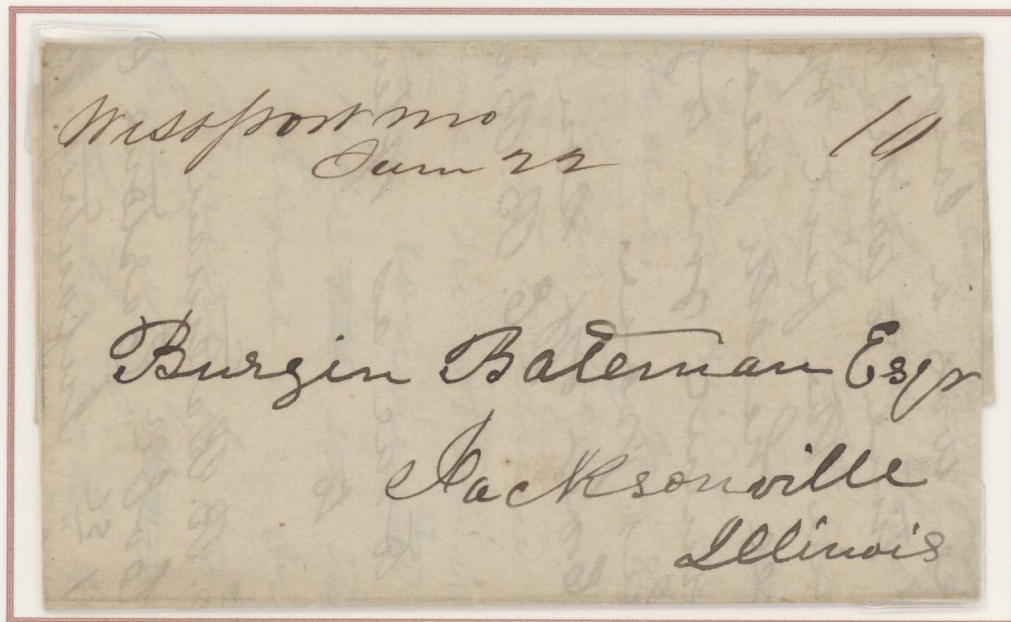
1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Plains – Council Grove,  
One hundred & fifty miles  
from Ft. Leavenworth June 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear Father,

We left the Fort on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May & arrived as above on the first of this month having been out twelve days & as you perceive averaged but little more than twelve miles per day. The country between here & fort is without exception the most beautiful I have ever seen, but timber is scarce we generally had plenty of water of good quality weather I have ever breathed.

You will be pleased to learn that I have rec'd. an appointment. I was appointed "Assistant Surgeon" to Detachment of one Battalion & two Regiment in all numbering about 300 men. My duties at present are not hard having only about fifteen Patients to attend to daily



Letter mailed at Westport, Mo. ~ June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1848

It is 650 miles from here to Santa Fee & much include both the hot & dry season. This has been a pleasant encampment, good water & bathing, plenty of fine Mulberries & Strawberries & surrounded by Indians (Kansas) whose character I have had a good opportunity of studying. They gave their "War Dance" a few days since at which there was a large assemblage.

Wishing you all health peace & prosperity I commit you to God & the word of his grace.

Your Ever aff

E. B. Bateman

Dr. E. B. Bateman  
Col. R. Easton Command  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion  
Missouri Volunteers, U.S.A.  
Santa Fee  
New Mexico

# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

*Santa Fee Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1848*

Dear Brother Newton,

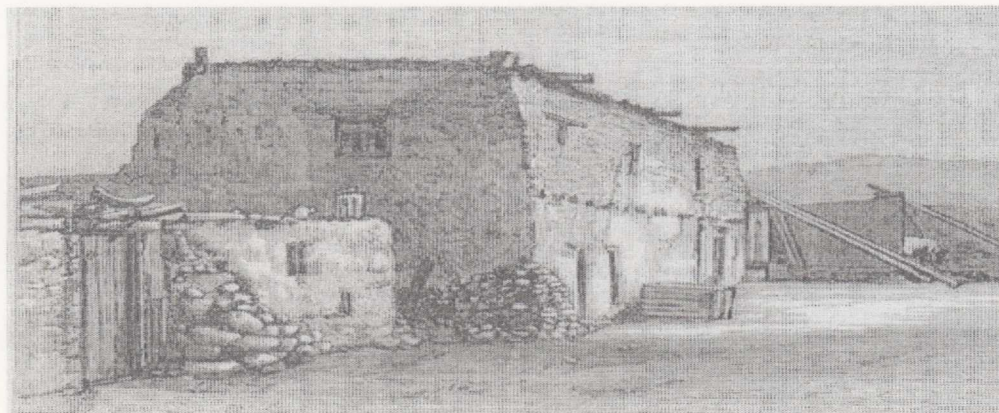
A Mr. Bullard leaves to day by whom I send this, he may get in before a Mr. James Finley, by whom also I have sent several letters, two of which are to you on important business. My main object at this writing is to get some things sent out if possible this fall by Mr. Finley. He has gone in to buy goods left on the 30<sup>th</sup> about, and expects to be back with his goods by November. He has a large House at Independence, and his family live at Westport.



Urbanity of Mr. Bullard

Mailed at Lexington, Mo. ~ September 30<sup>th</sup> 1848

The best shape to have Baggage is in the form of Trunks of which my large Leather at Salem would be just the thing, and in the event of your coming you will need at least two or three Flannel shirt & Drawers two Blanket & a Buffalo robe for sleeping on the plains, a set of Firearms & a Knife tho with these men are usually doubly furnished & you could probably get the use of some on arriving at Independence. You can use a blanket by cutting a hole in the center large enough to put your head through. Purchase Good Buckskin Gloves, a cap for your head is all the outfit you will need.



The Oldest House in Santa Fe



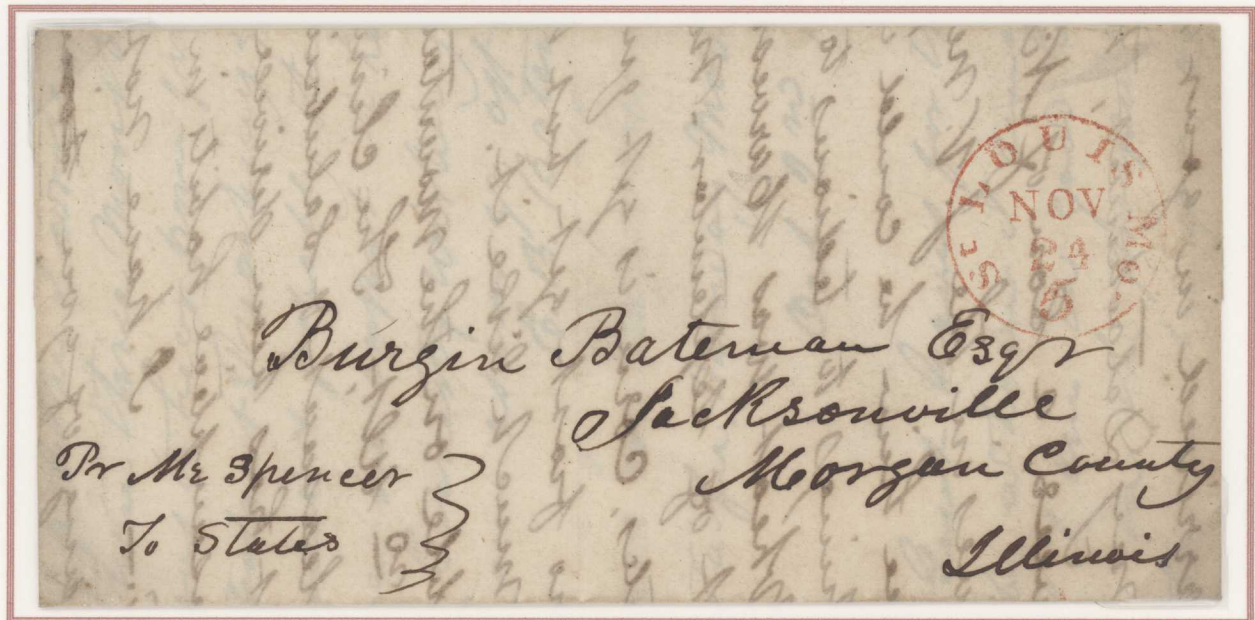
# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Santa Fee, Monday Morning  
Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1848

Dear Father,

A Gent leaves for the States this morning by whom I send a few hasty lines I am in good health & feel encouraged in the prospect of doing well before this reaches you, one will probably have arrived in your neighborhood who belongs to my Detachment, his name is Cornelius Dewees, a Son of Nimrod Dewees, who lives in the J. V. Neighborhood. Should you see him he could inform you of many things to tedious to write in a letter.



Pr. Mr. Spencer to States  
Mailed at St. Louis, Mo. ~ November 24<sup>th</sup> 1848 ~ Paid 5

Wheat was harvested here about the first of September. Much later than in the States. Corn is yet quite green. We have had no frost yet but the air begins to feel much like it. Snow was visible on the mountains about the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. The climate is exceeding pleasant & salubrious. The greatest benefit has been derived by persons of weakly & consumptive habits in coming to this country. I have not heard a word from any of you later than a reply to a letter I wrote in Council Grove more than three months ago. I feel very anxious to hear from you all.

I attended Protestant Preaching yesterday by one just arrived & probably the first ever held in Santa Fee. We expect it hereafter every Sabbath. Earnestly wishing you health & peace. I remain as ever

yr. Aff son.  
E. B. Bateman

Santa fee, Monday Morning  
Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1848.  
Dear Father,  
I Gent leaves for the States

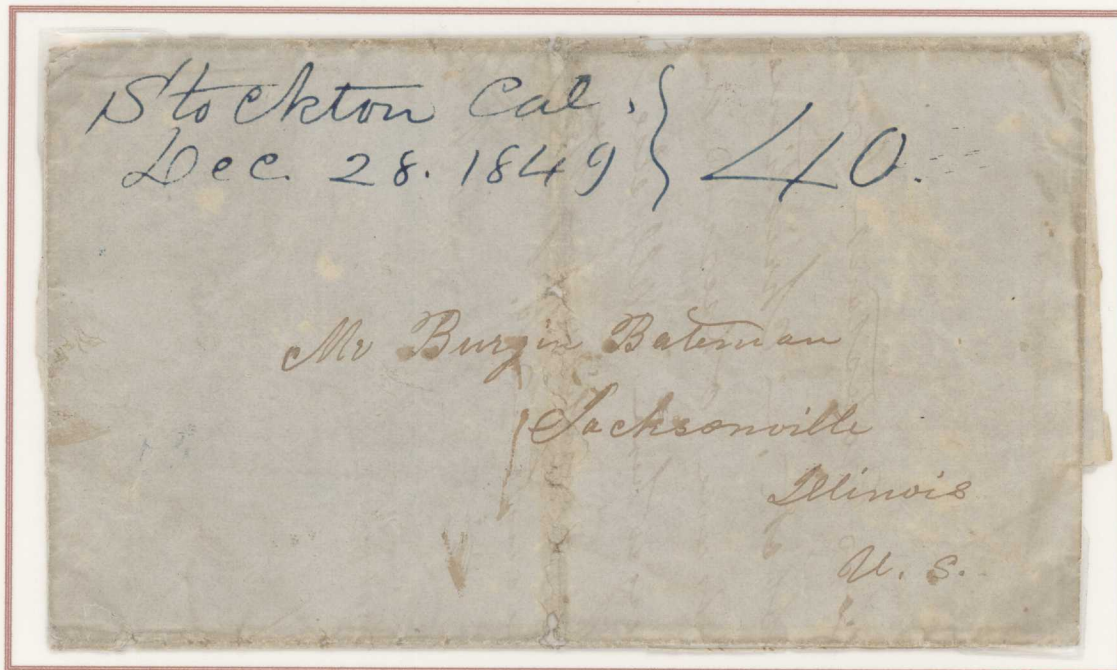
# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Stockton Alta Cal.  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1849

My Dear Brother Newton,

It is scarcely necessary for me to write more than a line, advising of my whereabouts & that I am yet alive, not having heard a word from you nor any of our family, nor indeed from any one in the States, for about nine months. I almost despair of ever again establishing anything like equisitory intercourse. Now to account for all this, or to imagine any valid reasoning for such dereliction is past my pen. Whatever the influence may be upon myself, morally or otherwise, I hesitate not to mention that it is a course calculated to ruin many a young man in this country.



Mailed at Stockton, Alta Cal. ~ Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 1849 ~ Manuscript 40

I have written to you many times, as also to Mother & sister but no answer as ever been returned, or received. I am now residing in the above place and doing well. When I shall return to the States, I do not know & perhaps it does not made much difference. This is Christmas night, the weather is very heavy & the streets in a miserable condition. We are now in the midst of our rainy season.

It appears strange to me that a young, enterprising man like your self; who could come here be immensely useful and make a princely fortune in a few years. You'll perish in remaining where you are, no matter what (affairs of the heart) you may or may not be enjoying in, let them be consummated, deferred or dissolved & not prevent you from coming to this "Land of Promise".

As for my Dear Father, I have scarcely any more hope of ever seeing him again on Earth! Venerated & beloved Parent – pure and honest man! How my heart yearns while these thought press upon me. Heaven only knows its our decrees. One thing I am sure of & my only consolation, what may be my irreparable loss, I know will be his eternal gain.

Forever your Faithful Brother,  
E. B. Bateman



# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Stockton Feby. 14<sup>th</sup> 1852

Dear Brother Newton,

I have mailed you a very long letter this day also some papers, at the same time got your letter from J. V. But did not open it until I returned home, it was then too late to get them out & re-direct them, so they stand addressed to St. Charles, as formerly, and as they contain matters I am anxious to lay before you at an early Day.

I have thought the best & speedish way to cancel the mistake would be to write you direct to J. V. advising you of the facts so that you may write to the P. M. or some friend in St. Charles & cause them to be forwarded to you immediately. I send this by the Express, which will probably reach you soon, or perhaps two or three days sooner than they will reach St. Charles.



Mailed at Stockton, Cal. ~ Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 1852 ~ Blue Paid 6

We were very happy to hear from you again and that all were well, especially dear father. I am somewhat surprised to find you in your present location & fear by that change the great object set forth in my other letters will be defeated.

My kind regards to dears & other your dear wife & all friends.

Forever the same

E. B. Bateman

*The end of twenty letters from the E. B. Bateman correspondence.  
January 4, 1848 to February 14, 1852*

# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Fort Leavenworth, May 18, 1848

Dear Brother,

I forgot in my last to give any further directions in regard to my address but presume you will have replied to the address already given ere this reaches you. — I wish now to continue a statement of my business matters herein that began for it is proper in any case I should leave such a statement & there is no one but yourself to whom I would be willing to entrust it! In regard to them all you can exercise your pleasure, except otherwise especially requested. Anderson talked of quitting the Hotel & place. If the property were put in motion it would be proper to have the “common store box” filled with straw in order to carry without breakage. If you wish to inquire by letter whether Anderson is there or not write to William Peel, Post Master Edwardsville, Ills, & tell him it is at my instance or on my account & he will answer you.



Part two of this letter written at Santa Fe ~ August 11<sup>th</sup> 1848  
“Posted Steam 10”

I also left a small Box at Clarks Hotel (kept by Clark; given name not recollected, at Vincennes Indiana containing sundry articles & various printed Documents, worth perhaps five or six Dollars I owe nothing there but left it because I could not conveniently take it with me. Its worth the Fare to St. Louis & when I am able to return with means, intend to reclaim it as I do not wish such things strolling about it is not full & would have to be packed for transport. The foregoing includes all my scarred property the result of last winters campaign, any or all of which if you choose to reclaim you will please apply to your own benefit or dispose of in any way shape or manner you see proper. This sheet embodies the business long since referred to & as you perceive begun at Leavenworth, but what until now I have not had time to finish. Our Battalion has not yet arrived nor have any obtained their discharges at this place as all who wish it can do when it comes and the Col. gets here. I have pretty well decided to take mine & remain during the winter. We are yet in camp for want of better quarters.

Forever your aff Brother

E. B. Bateman