

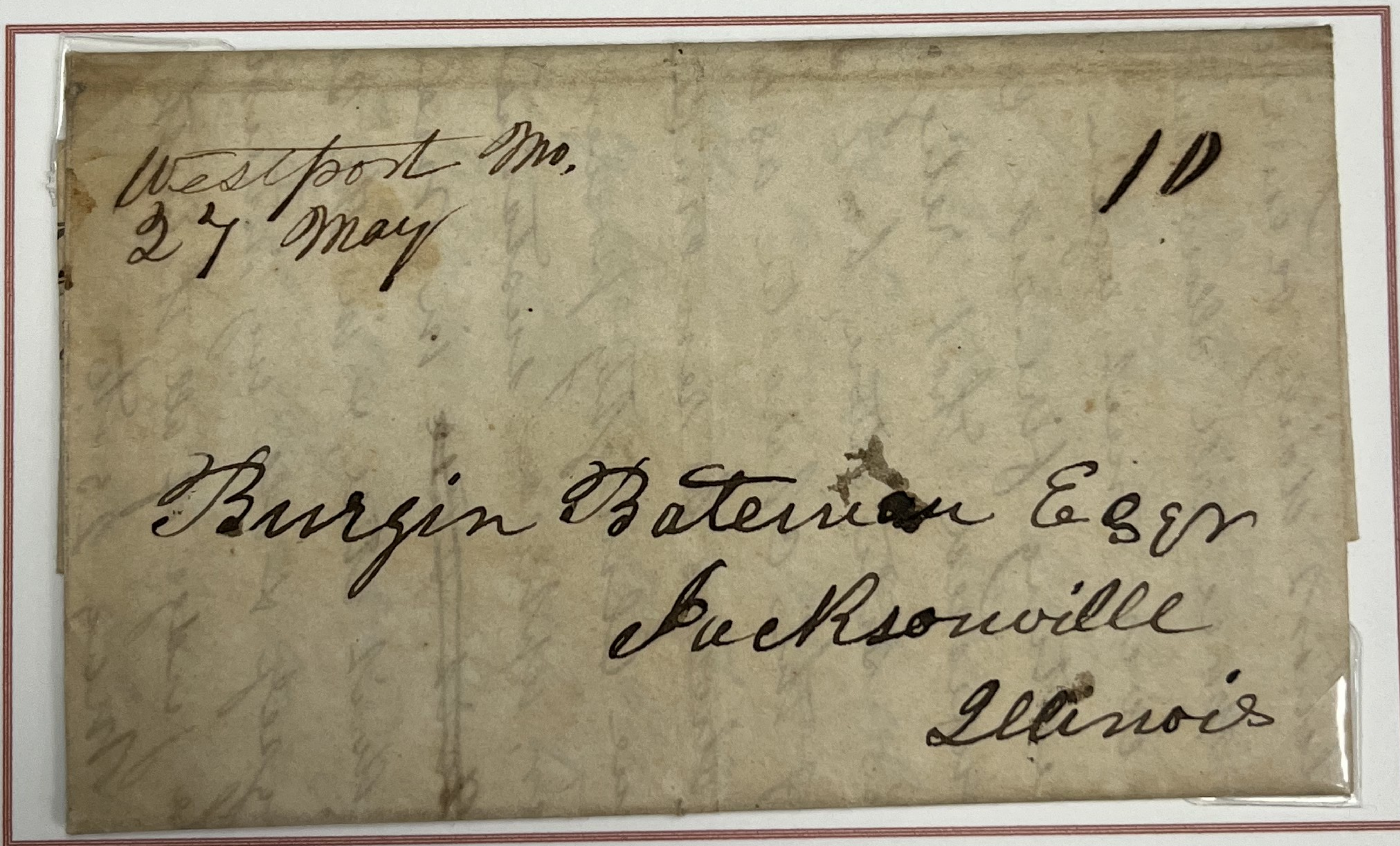
TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~ 1849

Dear Father

Your letter of the 5th instant was received yesterday 8 days after it was mailed. It was a great relief to hear from you once more after so long a silence. You do not speak of your own health but I venture to hope it quite as good as usual if not better. Mine is a real camp life now with the exception that we are quartered at present in Barracks in place of Tents. I bathe in the Mo. River almost every day & use such other means promotive of health as I can. The weather since I arrived here, which was on the 28th of April, has been cool, but pleasant had a severe frost on the 10th just.

This Fort is beautifully situated on the left bank of the Mo. River 482 miles from St. Louis & 993 miles from Santa Fe. The "Great Plains" which intervene & which we have to cross come up almost in sight of the Fort; a vast amount of Government stores are collected here of almost every kind in the way of transports provision munitions of war & men. The first train is expected to start on tomorrow & the last about the 20th of May following; in it I expect to go; there are 6 or 7 hundred men Infantry and cavalry quartered here & some 6000 oxen & about 700 heavy wagons.



Fort Leavenworth, Missouri Territory May 14th, 1848 ~ Mailed at Westport May 27^t

The Trains are drawn by Oxen 12 to 15 miles per day is all they expect to make. I do not think we can reach Santa Fee much before the 1st of September & our final destination before 1st of November. The Indians are round about us on our three quarters here, but are entirely peaceable and have made considerable advances in civilization.

Direct to (Dr. E. B. Bateman
Col^l Eastons Command
1st Infantry Battalion
Missouri Volunteers
Santafee
Via Fort Leavenworth)