

# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

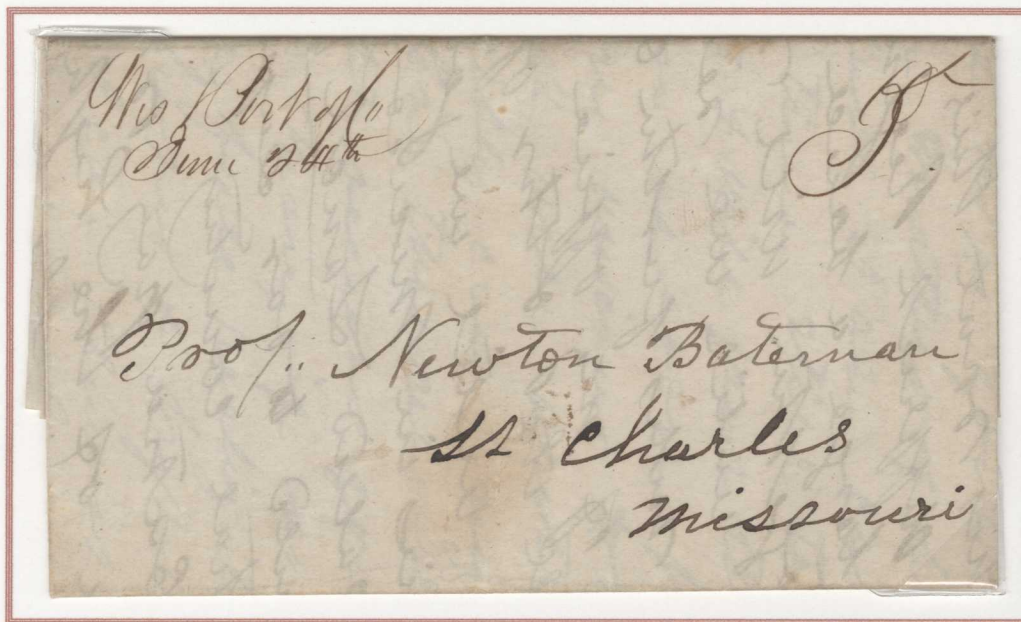
1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Council Grove, on the Santa Fe Trail

June 13<sup>th</sup> 1848

My Dear Brother

We have passes through the "Stockbridge, Delaware, Shawanee & now among the Kansas tribe of Indians, which last gave their Big "War Dance" a few days since, & such a sight as mortals could never conceive or much less believe, except it could be see - I will not attempt a description but if ever Providence permits us to meet again of this & many other things I will give you a full acct. We have lain at this place Eleven days & take up the line of march tomorrow. There is about Nine hundred Troops moving to Mexico on this route this spring, all recruits for different Regiments & Battalions, how large a band of us will finally be together will not probably be determined until we reach For Mann, 250 miles further on.



Letter mailed at Westport, Mo. ~ June 24<sup>th</sup> 1848

Rated 5 Cents Collect

The tenure of my office is in common with all the officers except one or two (until we join our respective bodies in Mexico), we are what are called Lanch Officers, subject to yield to our superiors in office in the country & whether we get any extra pay or not if in the discretion of the high functionaries of Government in that country, but expect for myself I intend to have it. The duties are not very arduous at present having but about 15 patients to attend daily. I ride in the shade & of course have nothing to do with any other duties than those pertaining to my calling - I have no time to add more, write as often as you can every time you can snatch five spare minutes for it costs nothing & you cannot conceive how cheering it would be to hear from you often. I get no news of any kind neither can get any.

Your aff Bro. forever

E. B. Bateman

We have had an abundance of strawberries & mulberrys of the finest kind!



Council Grove June 13<sup>th</sup> 1848

Dear Brother

I snatch a few moments from other urgent duties in order to inform you again of my whereabouts. We moved from the Ft (Leavenworth) on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult, & arrived as above on the 1<sup>st</sup> – distance 150 miles. – The country we have traversed is beautiful in the extreme, but not sufficiently timbered for purposes of general agriculture & improvements. We have passes through the “Stockbridge, Delaware, Shawanee & now among the Kansas tribe of Indians, wh(ich) last gave their Big – “War Dance” a few days since, & such a sight as mortals could never conceive or much less believe, except it could be see – I will not attempt a description but if ever Providence permits us to meet again of this & many other things I will give you a full acct. We have lain at this place Eleven days & take up the line of march tomorrow. The weather has been cool & pleasant most of the time – the climate very salubrious – I am in good health & more fleshy than when I left home. I was disappointed in not hearing from you a second time before leaving the fort, but hope you will write as often as you possibly can (my letters come free) – Ere this reached its destination the thought occurs, you may be a married man, if so I wish you & yours the full realization of all your fondest hopes & brightest anticipations – Me thinks I can almost see & love her now & I can love her who loves my brother & forever, & such event will feel that I have not lost a brother---- but gained a sister.

You will be pleased to learn that I have an appointment. I was appointed Assistant Surgeon on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst of Detachments on one Battalion & two Regiments – some 300 or 400 men at present, but wh, when other Detachment now on the march join us will probably amt to several hundred more. There is about Nine hundred Troops moving to Mexico on this route this spring, all recruits for different Regiments & Battalions, how large a band of us will finally be together will not probably be determined until we reach For Man, 250 miles further on. The tenure of my office is in common with all the officers except one or two (until we join our respective bodies in Mexico), we are what are called Lanch Officers, subject to yield to our superiors in office in the country & whether we get any extra pay or not is in the discretion of the high functionaries of Government in that country, but expect for myself I intend to have it. The duties are not very arduous at present having but about 15 patients to attend daily. I ride in the shade & of course have nothing to do with any other duties than those pertaining to my calling – I have no time to add more, write as often as you can – every time you can snatch five spare minutes – for it costs nothing & you cannot conceive how cheering it would be to hear from you often. I get no news of any kind neither can get any.

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