

TALES FROM THE TRAIL

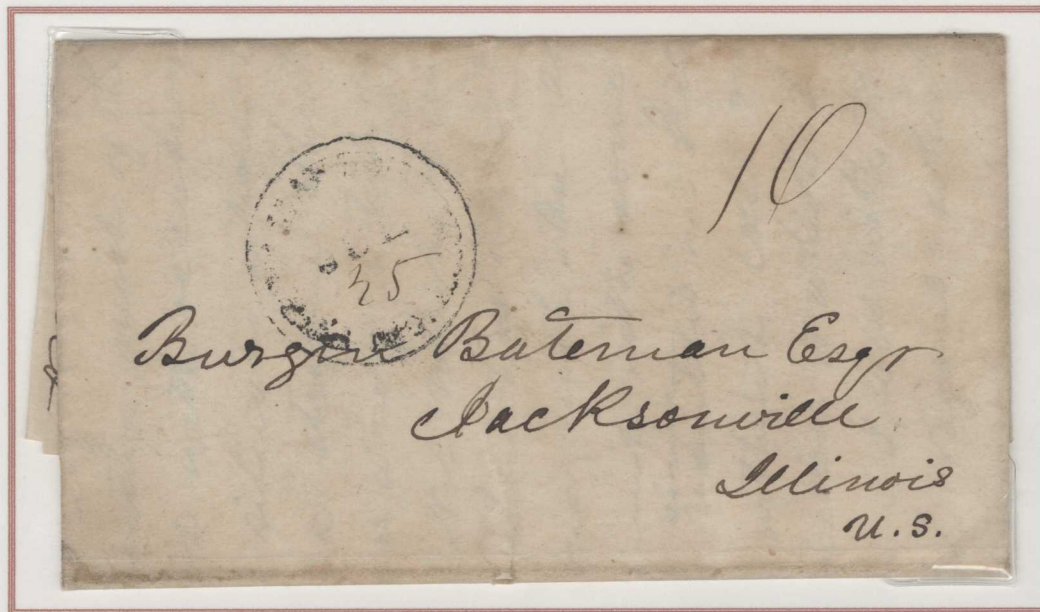
1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

*Fort Man. Indian Territory
halfway to Santa Fee July 2nd 1848*

Fort Man. Indian Territory Half way to Sante Fee July 2nd 1848

Dear Father

We arrived at this place on yesterday after a toilsome march of 400 miles from Fort Leavenworth. The weather most of the time has been cool & pleasant with occasionally a refreshing Shower. This is situated upon the Arkansas River a beautiful stream which has its rise in the mountains & which is truly refreshing to the weary traveler. Not much of importance has occurred on our journey there has been considerable sickness but no death. An advance company had an engagement with some Comanche Indians a few days since which resulted in killing several of the Red-skins without loss on our side the particular division to which I belong was some distance behind & I was with them in charge of the Hospital Wagons which place my duties require me to occupy.



Letter mailed at Fort Leavenworth, Mo. ~ July 25th 1848

We have a report in camp that peace is made, but have recd. No counter orders & after a day or two's rest will resume our march the probability is in any case that we will go on as far as Santa Fee tho we may not. I was much disappointed in not getting a letter from you & others by the rear division of our Troops which left Ft Leavenworth about 10th of June & which overtook us two days ago. The entire force & trains are now all here (with the exception of one small company & its train) & looks large, about 400 wagons & near 1000 men in all including Teamsters. We have plenty of Buffalo meat of which there are countless numbers upon the plains, Also Elk, Antelope & Hare. I must close here for my duties are arduous & leave me very little time for anything else. I write as usual upon my Knee in Tent siting up on a Knapsack.

*/Your ever aff. Son/
E. B. Bateman*

Fort Man. Indian Territory
Half way to Santa Fee July 2nd 1848

Dear Father

We arrived at this place on yesterday after a toilsome march of 400 miles from FortLeavenworth. The weather most of the time has been cool & pleasant with occasionally a refreshing Shower. This is situated upon the Arkansas River a beautiful stream which has its rise in the mountains & which is truly refreshing to the weary traveler. Not much of importance has occurred on our journey there has been considerable sickness but no death – An advance company had an engagement with some Comanche Indians a few days since which resulted in killing several of the Red-skins without loss on our side – the particular division to which I belong was some distance behind & I was with them in charge of the Hospital Wagons which place my duties require me to occupy. We have a report in camp that peace is made, but have recd. No counter orders & after a day or two's rest will resume our march – the probability is in any case that we will go on as far as Santa Fee tho we may not. I was much disappointed in not getting a letter from you & others by the rear division of our Troops which left Ft Leavenworth about 10th of June & which overtook us two days ago. So that I have never recd but one (your first letter).

The entire force & trains are now all here (with the exception of one small company & its train) & looks large, about 400 wagons & near 1000 men in all including Teamsters – We have plenty of Buffalo meat – of which there are countless numbers upon the plains – Also elk – Antelope & Hare (Rabbits?) – My health has materially improved & is not good. I must close here for my duties are arduous & leave me very little time for anything else. I write as usual upon my Knee in Tent siting up on a Knapsack. I sincerely hope this may find you enjoying health & the other blessings of life that you may be preserved in peace & safety by a kind Providence & are permitted again to meet at no distant period - Please give kindest regards to sisters Brothers & frinds & write to me soon.

/Your ever aff. Son/

E. B. Bateman

I wrote to you at Council Grove/
Direct to / E. B. Bateman M D / Missouri Infantry Volunteers / Coln Eastons Battalion
/Santa Fee New Mexico