

TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

This letter carried by a returning wagon train was placed in the mails at Independence, Mo. August 19th, 1848, then sent to St. Charles, Mo., and on to Jacksonville, Illinois. The letter was rerated to 10 cents. The small town of Wagon Mound is one historic landmarks on the Sante Fe Trail.

Wagon Mound 120 Miles from Santa Fee July 23nd 1848

My Dear Brother

I seize a few passing moments, as we have just met a Train for the States, again to inform you of my whereabouts we are still on the great plains slowly wending out way to the point of our destination have been among the mountains several days & enjoy a delightful cool atmosphere, nights very cool we cross a branch of the Rocky Mountains runing down into Texas, in which State we have been traveling since we left the Semirone (*Cimmaron River*) but are now within 25 miles of the Mexican line & 40 miles from the first & most northern Spanish settlement called "Bagus" (Las Vegas)



Letter mailed at Independence, Mo. ~ August 19th 1848

Our march has been tedious & toilsome one the extreme, lack of the quality than quantity as it has often been so highly impregnate with mineral & Earthy solutions as to be positively Medicinal, we have however lost but one man who died of "Congestive Fever" and buried at this place today. This is a beautiful romantic place 120 miles from Santa Fee in a mountain pass & finest springs I have ever seen, and now we begin to come to little grove of Pine, and last night the men cooked supper with real old fashioned Pine wood. We have heard of the ratification of the Treaty of Peace at Fort Man but had not there nor have we yet any counter order which must come to us through the commander of our Battalion who from last accounts was in Chiwawa (Chihuahua, Mexico) we will go to Santa Fee at least & there probably either to be dischd or marched to Fort Leavenworth nearly all the men wish dischd there & I would much prefer it myself.

I have not heard a word from you nor any one else since leaving the Fort but recd (very thankfully) the Paper (*newspaper*) sent at Ft. Man, it passed round camp & was read with great egerness. Shall not probably write again to you before I reach Santa Fee.

Forever you aff, Brother
E. B. Bateman

And my health is good.