

# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Santa Fee New Mexico  
August 26<sup>th</sup> 1848

Dear Brother Newton

I seize a few moments at ten o'clock this evening to write a few lines as opportunity offers to send it to the States, & perhaps directly to you be a gentleman who leaves in the morning. Our Battalion arrived from below about a week ago. Detachments of which, however have been arriving every few days for about two weeks & I understand all are now up from that region & the last of which took their departure for the states a few days ago. This leaves but a 150 men to garrison this place.

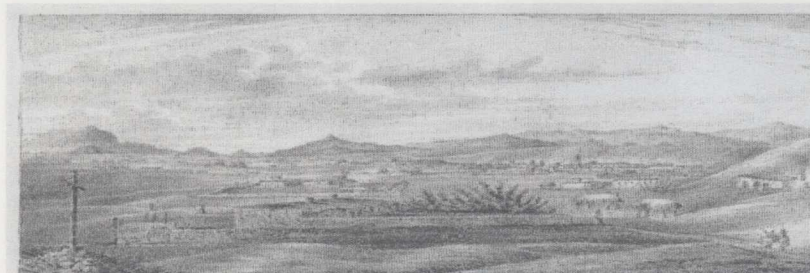


Urbanity of Mr. Cutler to States  
Mailed at Independence, Mo. ~ September 29<sup>th</sup> 1848  
Rated 5 Cents with black stamp

I believe it is owing to the wanton abuse of the American soldiers, otherwise the mass are unquestionably satisfied with their present situation, for all know & admit the war has been money in their Pockets, even to the very making of many. About 40 of our detachment took their discharge here, some to remain & others to go home on their own hook; the remainder are to be disbanded at Independence I received mine on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (1848) just, have taken an office & commenced the practice of medicine with fair prospects of doing well.

Forever your aff Brother

E. B. Bateman



Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe, N. Mexico Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 1848

Dear Brother Newton,

I seize a few moments at ten o'clock this evening to write a few lines as opportunity offers to send it to the States, & perhaps directly to you be a gentleman who leaves in the morning. Our Battalion arrived from below about a week since together with other troops. Detachments of wh(ich), however (I understand) have been arriving every few days for about two weeks & I understand all are now up from that region & the last of wh'c took their departure for the states a few days since leaving about 150 men (Draggoons) to garrison this place, a number far too small, it is expected however the Coln Washington (the Governor appointed) with bring with him three com's of regulars – meantime, & without delay, an effect will be made to embody some com,s of citizen soldiers with a view to our mutual protection & safety, as rumors of a contemplated revolution are already rife in the city causing some to feel ill at ease & others perhaps to leave – it cannot be denied that ill feeling has been engendered in the heart of some Mexicans, but with few exceptions

I believe it is owing to the wanton abuse of the American soldiers, otherwise the mass are unquestionably satisfied with their present situation, *for all know & admit the war has been money in their Pockets, even to the very making of many.* About 40 of our detach. Took their discharge here, some to remain & others to go home on their own hook; the remainder are to be disbanded at Independence – *I received mine on the 23<sup>rd</sup>* just, have taken an office & commenced the Practice of Med – with fair prospects of doing well; I deliberated much before forming this conclusion but finally concluded I was ought to be better paid for the trouble & labor of the campagne than I have yet been, (as I rec'd no extra pay) & believe by judicious management it can be made to come in course of no great while. The fact is, this is a great field, comparatively unoccupied, all professional men & mechanics by good management can do well, there are several Lawyer some of wh'c are young & green, but all are making money, but the field most ample of all & the one to wh'c I have an eye in reference to future is matrimony - any genteel well behaved man, possessing common sence can marry rich, if he is mind to take one of Castellian Blood & I must say those who are unmarried are equally as fair & generally much sopierior in feature & form to the quality of (Americano's). I could mary almost any day one with five thousand in gold & silver, but she has one child & besides I can do better, for I have in view, a days ride distant wh'c I am go to see at leisure who has twenty five thousand ready money. A Dr. left here for the states a few days since who had recently arrived from Chiwawa (Chihuahua) where he went as assistant surgeon about a year since – bringing with him a beautiful wife & 60 Thousand in specie and besides a large real estate left in that place, & he is not extra ordinarily smart either.

The last letter I recd. from you & by wh'c I learn you have not rec'd several of mine, is dated July 7<sup>th</sup> & reached me on the 19<sup>th</sup> just, 42 days. Also rec'd one from father same day dated June 19<sup>th</sup> Sixty Days out. I was greatly pained to hear the death of my Niece, I felt much attached to her & her loss will be long & deeply felt by me. Also you are in trouble about matrimonial matters, but it was too aggravating not to tell what it is, when you know how anxious I am to hear anything concerning; but now that those ties are broken, I would suggest, tho I do not wish to urge) that you come out here. I honestly believe all things counted you would like it & could make a future, in a short either at Law, Matrimony, or Politics, for myself I do not contemplate returning until I have given it a fair trial, but this you need not name to father - & the other secrets of course you will not divulge.

Altho the adjacent country is poor & barren, yet & even the Town looks (queer) yet there is something that strongly binds one here – as for money I had so much I my life & nothing but gold & silver all kinds of Fees & for most provision are abut ten times as high as in the states, but clothing & some other things are cheap one here – as for money I had so much in my life & nothing but gold & silver all kinds of Fees (and about) & most provisions are abut ten times as high as in the States, but clothing & some other things are cheap I spent the 4<sup>th</sup> of July crossing the Big Arkansas, it is about half a mile wide but shallow & you would have laughed to see an Army of men wading it some naked, some in short tails et etc. I rode!

Please write at once. Forever your aff Brother

E. B. Bateman

Excuse this hasty scrall, have had interruptions & close at 12 oclock. he letter you have written to Independence & Leaveanworth will be sent here as promised

A Mr. Finley of this place will be in St. Louis in about 40 days & will have dispatched back again a chance to forward letter if you happen there & can find him E. B. B.