

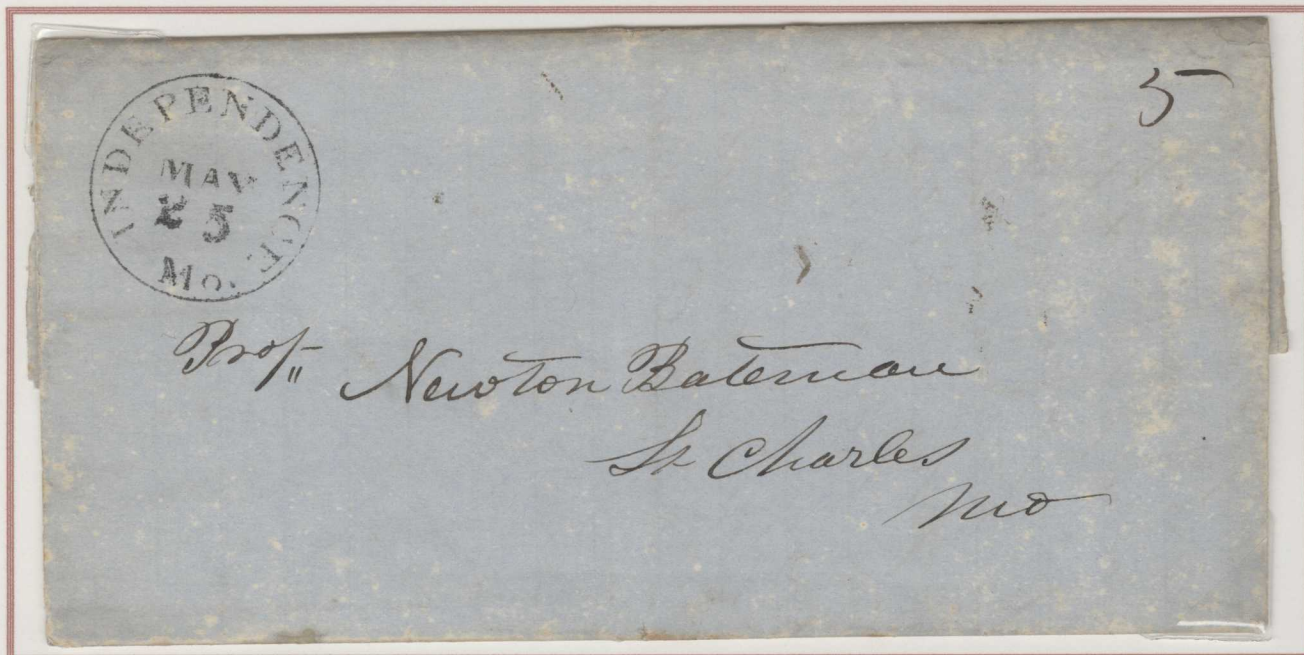
# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Santa Fee, N. M. April 4<sup>th</sup> 1849

Dear Brother Newton

The night of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult' brot us mail from the states, the first we have had for more than four months & with it your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> Dec last & from that, back as far as the early part of September some four or five in all. Also the one from father, forwarded by you, it has come of heartfelt congratulations once more to hear from you all & unfeigned gratitude to heaven that you were all the alive & enjoying usual health.



Mailed at Independence, Mo. ~ May 25<sup>th</sup> 1849

The reception of your last letter just as this particular time is well fitted to my purposes & feelings, for I was almost on the point of starting for California. I have nearly completed by arrangements & expect to start in a day or two in company with about forty others. We take two or three wagons with provisions for 60 days about which time we expect it will take us to perform the trip. It is from here by the practicable wagon route not less than 1200 miles, are only half-way from St. Louis. I presume the excitement here concerning the Grand El Dorado (*Great Gold Discovery*), is at best as great as anywhere in the states, everybody is going that can get off & many who cannot runaway, some start of foot & risk getting a mule by trading with the Indians.

Our party expect to follow generally the road laid down on the Maps by Coln. Cook, from this place we go down the Chiwawa (Chihuahua) road within about 60 miles of El Passo, thence strike across to the Gila (*River*) a little below the "Copper Mine" down the south side of this River to its mouth, then either cross the Colorado (*River*) or make a raft & go to its mouth there take shiping. The object of all is to make as straight a coat-tail for the Gold Mines as possible to get there as quick as possible & to get as much as possible when we do get there. I am anxious to get home this fall, and hope I can collect a few hundred pounds of Gold which, when I arrive at New Orleans can change off for coin & have something to bring home with me. I cannot tell where to write me with certainty, but it is quite probable letters addressed to San Francisco or Gold Mines, may reach me.

Forever your devoted Brother  
E. B. Bateman



Santa Fee, N. M. April 4th 1849

Dear Brother Newton

The night of the 30th ult' brot us mail from the states, the first we have had for more than four months - & with it your letter of 28th Dec last & from that, back as far as the early part of September some four or five in all. Also the one from father, forwarded by you, it is come of heartfelt congratulations once more to hear from you all & unfeigned gratitude to heaven that you were all the alive & enjoying usual health.

The reception of your last letter just as this particular time, seems opportune & well fitted to my purposes & feelings, for I was almost on the point of starting for California when it came, having concluded sometime since to go there. I have nearly completed by arrangements & expect to start in a day or two in company with about forty others. We take two or three wagons with provisions for 60 days about which time we expect it will take us to perform the trip; for it is from here by the practicable wagon route not less than 1200 miles, are only halfway from St. Louis, but I think we can get there before they all do, although some must beat us! I presume the excitement here concerning the Grand El Dorado (Great Gold Discovery), is at best as great as anywhere in the states, everybody is going that can get off & many who cannot runaway, some start of foot & risk getting a mule on the way by trading with the Indians.

It is so all the way down to Chiwawa & from every point in Mexico of which I hear: Santa Fe will soon be nearly deserted of its Am. population consequently business must continue very dull until arrivals from the states begin to come in. - Our party expect to follow generally the road laid down on the Maps by Coin. Cook, from this place we go down the Chiwawa (Chihuahua) road within about 60 miles of El Passo, thence strike across to the Gila a little below the Copper & Gold Mine" - down the south side of this River to its mouth, then either cross the Colorado or make a raft & go to its mouth & there take shipping. - The object of all is to make as straight a coat-tail for the Gold Mines as possible to get there as quick as possible & to get as much as possible when we do get there. I am extremely anxious to get home & intend to take water for that place this fall, but as I return by way of California I shall probably stop there a few weeks while I can collect a few hundred pounds of Gold wh'c, when I arrive at New Orleans can change off for coin & have something to bring home with me. I cannot tell where you may next write me with certainty, but think it quite probable letters addressed to the Town of San Francisco or Gold Mines, would reach me via New Orleans.

The Indians have broke loose open & war again rages round about us, a Battalion of volunteer troops has been called out the last company of which takes the field tomorrow, it would do you good to see with Avidity these Mexicans flock to the standard & how awkward they appear with Arms & uniform - all the Coin's but one use composed of. I could have had a commission had I wished our arms & wished but my ardor is somewhat abated in that line.

It is now after one o. c. night & I have been working hard packing up by things for a start so I beg you will excuse all deficiencies - I shall write you as often as I have opportunity. - You might address me general letters as before indicated wh'c if they did not come would not matter materially. I expect to be in the before mentioned place & from what I can learn the going & coming will be principally from that quarter with interest. Remember me to father & sisters when you write I must now retire to rest for the Chicks are crowing for Day.

Forever your devoted Brother  
E. B. Bateman