

Letter

Dear Wife

Platte River 11m from Ft Laramie June 8th 8 oclock AM 1850

Once more I try to communicate a few words to you by writing our health is good hoping these few lines may find you & Emma enjoying the same blessing - we get along first rate having come 603 miles in 32 days or by night it will be 617 m in 33 days on very poor grass most of the time and our cattle gaining if we have our health we shall with decent luck get through safely - we have 1/3 of the distance from the Missouri River there are a great many on this road see lots of teams all the time in one place we saw as much as 300 wagons and 3000 oxen mules & horses & 1200 men - have seen some indians all friendly and they dare not be otherwise for there is men enough on this road to use up all the indians in the world the indians may steal if the emigrants dont use proper care we have guard night and day there has no great wonders happened on the road yet we hear a great many bug bear stories but they turn out lies - one good joke a fellow played on many he stuck up notices that the Cholera was coming behind in a mule train that some had died and many had it and advised all to hurry along to escape its terrors so many believed it and pulled ahead accordingly there are more sick with measles than any thing else some have had ? the diarrhea lightly - we have plenty of first rate greens and they seem to set good [?ig Need] we can cook to a charm so we dont miss the women in all respects. Holmes is now shaving with the shears so that he can get at the scales with soap and viley water we find fair water river water it is healthy have seen 3 good springs - had some antelope & venison we had a fine storm a few nights I happened to be standing guard so that I had a fine chance to feel the critter the wind blew so that I thought the tent would blow over and the boys were sleeping in the wagon and they thought that that would blow away it rained first then hailed then sleet and many a poor devil like myself that might have been snug at home felt its influence it thundered and lightened in a way that Tophet could not beat - at about 2 or 3 in the morning 3 fellows came to our camp for shelter it being in the sleet part of the storm the day before being very warm they had been out hunting and nothing on but shirt & pants they were about used up so I let them in the tent and covered them up to those that go a hunting frequently get lost I went out among the bluffs once and that was enough for me - I see many woman and some children on the road I am satisfied that on this road is no place woman and children but men get along well enough - it is generally warm days and cold nights all the difficulty I apprehend is on account of grass we started so early that we have been ahead of the grass - there is plenty of old grass so that it grew here last year - we tried but dont catch any fish and dont believe there many in the Platte but we shall soon find some according to the mormon guide - I have seen lots of squaws and many poppooses half white so that white men are not afraid of old copper sides there are some white men among them mostly French -- I hope that you have written by this time I guess I shall go by the Mormons if I do I may may be a little and turn mormon a while for I have great faith in some part of their doctrine especially the spiritual wife System the road is first rate - I hope you & Emma get along comfortable I guess I shall begin to think that there is something in this world besides gold worthy of pursuit by then I get back from California nor [?] apt to when they have but what they are going to get is the great good - so that contentment is almost a bye word in those days - we are now under the shade of a tree for the first time for 200 miles I shall write again at salt lake or Ft Bridger if there is an opportunity to send it and I guess there will be we met some mormons from Salt Lake - you need not be concerned but what we should get along in some shape [?] for you know that where there is a will there is a way - tell Cornelius Dow that he is better off with his woman and babies than on this pilgrimage for gold - for its tiresome

any how that you can fix it so must now close this for we shall soon start for
Ft Kearney and I shant have time to write any more now so accept these few lines
from your far distant but ever faithful husband kiss Emma for me --
Mrs. Linda Broughton

Aaron Broughton

[In pencil at bottom of 3rd page (rest has been in ink):]

8th crossed Laramie fork safe and sound we thought it was 8 m and found it 4 &
specimens of Artemisu [?]

Envelope

Mrs. Linda Broughton

Albany

Green Co

Wisconsin

Weston, Mo.
Aug 30

Letter in possession of Mr. Donald Jones, 1270 North Main Street,
Apartment 8, Rockford, Illinois

Mr. Jones is maternal grandson of Broughton

Copied by John D. McDermott - November 1960

Aaron Broughton
Letter