

See memoir of mother

Platte River Road Narratives

Entry # 874

May ~~the~~ 25 1858

My Dear Mother

I have seated myself this evening for the purpose of writing to you for the first time to inform you where, and how, your lost son is getting along. You would have gotten a letter from me before this but opportunities for writing are but few. I have written several letters but did not see any person on the back track until too late. We are about thirty five miles from Blue river and one hundred and fifty from St Joseph. We have been here about two hours and from two to three hundred where passed some full of women and children. Mr Russell bought three yoke of oxen for one in St Joseph and also one hat, one dollar, four shirts, 62½ cts each the rest of the clothing. Mr Russell says he can furnish. I would not have left in the manner I did but I thought that this would be the best chance I would have. I saw one of Mr. Spence's sons and James Persinger yesterday they were all well. I have been well with the exception of one day. We will start ~~about~~ now in a few minutes.

and go on until about 10³⁰ at night. All the
rest are well. Give my love to all and kiss
the children for me. And now my good mother
farewell, farewell

Helena

May 25. We are all well

Free Territory May 28. 1850.

My Dear Mother

I have again seated
myself to write a few words to let you
know that I am well and enjoying myself more
than I expected. We after an long days journey without
any water that was fit to drink or scarcely any
grass, we reached the Platte river, any angry looking
stream without any wood scarcely to cook with. This
is only a branch of the Platte; the grand bend is
just opposite us, on which we drove our cattle and
horses. We left St Joseph on the 17 and we are now
three hundred miles from St Joseph averaging
twenty four miles per day. We are now surrounded
by several large droves of cattle. I have seen
but few Indians now but friendly. I have seen
no buffaloes yet but I have seen some antelopes
and the ^{print} of buffaloes feet. All have been well
but Mr Rochford and a few cases of diarrhea.
We will get to fort Kearney to day about 12⁰⁰. We
are now about to start and I must stop here.
Order that I may send it back from the fort.
Give my love to all I don't know when I will
have another to write. Now my dear mother once
more good bye

Colonia. Sept, 18, 1860

My Dear Mother

Once more I am permitted
to sit ~~down~~ down to write to you. After
a long and tedious trip we reached River on the
8th of Sept. and from there to Haysdown, here we stay
three days. I believe about every third man
Haysdown and River. Persons just from the plains
who had to travel a hundred miles, or two, on a pond
of flour or a few crackers; come in and stuff
themselves till they are taken sick; and the water
alone is enough to make a person sick, but one
will brack and that is always kept healthy
by the miners. I never saw such suffering in my life
as I saw from the time we struck Chazy's river
till we got to Carson river, when we would come
to our camp and beg us for something to eat
and Russell sold and gave away all we had to spare
I knew several instances where men have been
found dead by the road and some were found
drowned in the river. There was also a good deal
of sickness on the Platts; sometimes we would
see eight or ten graves in a day. There was hardly
a train of a ten men crossed without the ^{low} of the
river. I watched along the road to see if any of my friends
had been put in their narrow beds. A many the number

was Robert Orner, George Nelson, and James
Perringer was left on Carson river very sick,
and also Riley, and Robert Spence. I have heard
since that James Perringer died and that Riley, and
Robert Spence were better and were coming on.
We are now near Colama on the South fork.
We have been here, after a week and have
not ^{but little} more than our bread, and a good many
say that they are not doing that well. Mr. Russell
and Dr. Bennett have gone to Sacramento. Edwin
Jennings is left back on Carson river with another
H. H. and broken down cattle and horses.
I look for him now every day.

Will do I remember when I took that foolish
decision inviting my heart to come to California.
But I believe what I have seen on the road has
paid me. But I do not believe that money could
induce ^{me} to try it again. I was greatly disappointed
when I found that Brother Hot had gone home.
A great many have gone home, and ^{many} would go if they
could, and many are waiting till the weather
gets a little cooler. - For Parker Wat. Wilson and Fields
I understand will start home in a few weeks.

I don't think Dr. Bennett will stay
here long. If Dr. starts home in a few weeks
I don't know but that I go with him. I will
come home with Frank if not before. Here is a
very old and a little paper, some of my first work.

Miners are not doing much this season, some are ^{doing} well
some have taken out fortunes in a little time.
But the most are ^{not} much more than clearing
expenses. I have my oxen and my horse with Mr. Russ
on a ranch. Cattle and horses sell well. Flour
25cts per pound potatoes 20 beef 25 pork 25 molasses
from 2 1/2 to 4 dollars a gallon sugar 30 to 40 cts per pound
butter 1,00 per pound and so on. Give my love to
all kids the children for me. Tell brother Walt and sister
Lena to write. Now my Good Mother good
goodbye, and all meet again is the prayer
of your
I

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There was also a good deal
sometimes we would
say. There was hardly
any within the low
to see if any of my friends
had. A many the members