



RIDGE PRAIRIE ILLINOIS SEP 13 franked "Free/G.Churchill P.M..Located in St. Clair County which is opposite to Saint Louis. The postmaster writes a great letter on the railroads and the political situation in 1838, following the financial panic of 1837. The Central R.R. mentioned in the letter was the Illinois Central R.R. SEE content of the letter on the opposite page.



JO SMITH WHIPT A COLLECTOR OF TAXES.

The following extract is taken from this letter, under date of "Ware City, Missouri River/Sept. 23d, 1843", simply signed "W.R." and post-marked INDEPENDENCE MO. SEP 30.:" I believe I have no general news of any importance only that the Wyandot Indians that came on from Ohio last summer are encamp't twelve or fifteen miles above here and I understand have a grate deal of sickness among them and a large number of the children are dying - The Steam Boat Oceana that run in the Missouri trade last summer was sunk a few days ago near the mouth of the Ohio [river]. JO Smith the Mormon prophet whipt a collector of Taxes at Nauvoo the Mormon Citty most d\_\_\_\_\_d nably." From the content, the writer must have been a son of J. D. Norcott, to whom the letter is addressed.

THE WESTERN MAILS



SALT LAKE CITY U.T./ JULY [1,1851]. The rate "5" in red and "6" in black?

Folded letter below with the same postmark dated "Nov.1" 1851. The rate of "5X" in black has not been determined. Irene Hascall writes a long letter on personal matters. Here are a few extracts from the letter : "The mail leaves this city for the states every month and arrives the same once every month....Mr. Pomeroy [Francis M.] is not altered much excepting older. He has been through a good many hardships in traveling. He has been to the coast [and] to the mines [California]. He says it is perfect confusion. Drinking, gambling, cursing, swearing, murdering, burning and he would not stay there for all the gold there is there.....he understands the Spanish [language] and was requested to go by the church [to] trade with the Spaniards..... Irene".



Letter No 20.

Addressee; Samantha O. Andrews  
North New Salem  
Mass.  
Franklin Co.

Postmarked; Salt Lake City U. T.  
Nov. 1.

Handstamped straight line in black  
Handstamped rate marks 5 X in black

Great Salt Lake City Oct. 29th 1851

Dear Aunt I have neglected writing too long but I hope you (will) be more rejoiced to receive one after looking so long in vain. Mother received a letter from Ophelia not long since but they are so long coming. We have never received one less than six months. Mother has not answered it, she say I must write for her. She will write soon but her eyes trouble her some and we are about building a new house and we have hired men and three children and meetings. I tell you we have never a leisure moment. If we do we are too tired to write so I think you must excuse not writing often. The mail leaves this city for the states every month and arrives from the same once every month. I should have written to Ophelia but very likely she had ere this left her childhood home. If she will write to me and tell me all about herself I will answer it. I expect my letters will seem as rough to her as Grandmother Hastings old letters did to us when we use to read them to find the mistakes in them. Mother says she liked Ophelia's letter, it was just such a one as she wanted. It told about every body and everything and that was the sort she wanted to know how we all looked. Mother looks the same except she is more grey and looks some more wrinkled. He(r) humor does not trouble her at all except her eyes by spells but not very serious. She does a great deal of work but can stand nothing hard. We have a maid considerable of the time and should all the time but mother says as long as she can than to have one around in her way. Thales is a young man. He is very steady. He is now putting in wheat. He has a team of his own, a span of mules but he says he does not like farming much. He thinks a good deal of travelling to see the world. Hiram Clark has gone to the Islands Sandwich I think. He writes fine stories. Thales is taller than Mr Pomeroy. He thinks of attending the High school this winter under the direction of Professor Orson Pratt. He has never been to school since we left but has studied at home. I think we shall keep him until he is a little older and he will not think of going. He likes the valley. He would never think of leaving it only for a season. He often says he is going back to make a visit. My ink is so poor (but) if I stop to get any more I shall have no time to write. You wished to know how we all looked. Mr Pomeroy is not altered much excepting older. He has been through a good many hardships in travelling. He has been to the coast (and) to the mines. He says it is perfect confusion. Drinking, gambling, cursing, swearing, murdering, burning and he would not stay there for all the gold there is there. As regards his own personal feelings he understands the spanish (language) and was requested to go by the church (to) trade with the Spaniards. Well Irene - Thales says she isnt at all as she used to be. You know when a person changes from a wild rude girl to a mother of three she must be somewhat changed. I asked him if I was better or worse. He said he did not know but he thinks nobody can make or do anything right for him but Irene. Any little puzzling job - wher's Irene she can do it. Now the children I expect it will not do for me to discribe them. Francelle is a little girl of six. She is a fine scholar. She reads in the third class and spells in the second. She will take up any book and read all the people from New Salem say. She looks like Ophelia, she does except her eyes are black. Her head is just the shape of Ophelia's. I never comb her hair but what it reminds me of old times. There is a lady waiting for me to go to

meeting. Francis Ashbell looks some like his father but he is tall and slim. Thales says there isn't a child of his age in the city knows as much as he does. He will ride a horse on the trot with no one to hold him. Now the youngest. He is the smartest of the whole. Little Elijsh we call him. He is a great noble fellow. A very high forehead - a deep dimple in his chin - features like Uncle Green - complexion like mother - black eyes, sandy hair - but not as red as mothers. I think when he was eleven months he would ride a stick around the door yard with his brother.

The people from New Salem are all well. Mother Woodbury is dead. Father Woodbury married again a woman from Westfield. Catherine is well - has another child - a little girl - calls it Maria Catherine. Emeline has two little girls. Her husband died one year ago - she sends her love. Brother Pond had a son born the other day - all well. Tell Grandmother how glad I would be to see her. Love to all

Irene

P.S. I want you or grandmother if she is living to get all the names and ages of all our friends or near acquaintances and the time they died, day, month and year. (Get) all that you can. I mention Grandmother because I knew if she had her usual health she would love to do it. Our Grandparents Grandfather and Grandmother Hascall and their parents if you can their names if nothing more as far back as you can trace it on every side. I will be very much obliged if you will ask Uncle Jacob. I want to know when Aunt Lidias children died. Wilson Hascall, Silas Harding and every body you think I would be interested in. I received a letter from Augustus after it had been round by California. Was very glad. Tell him to write again. I think they come quicker now



EMIGRANTS TO THE WEST.

Letter No 19.

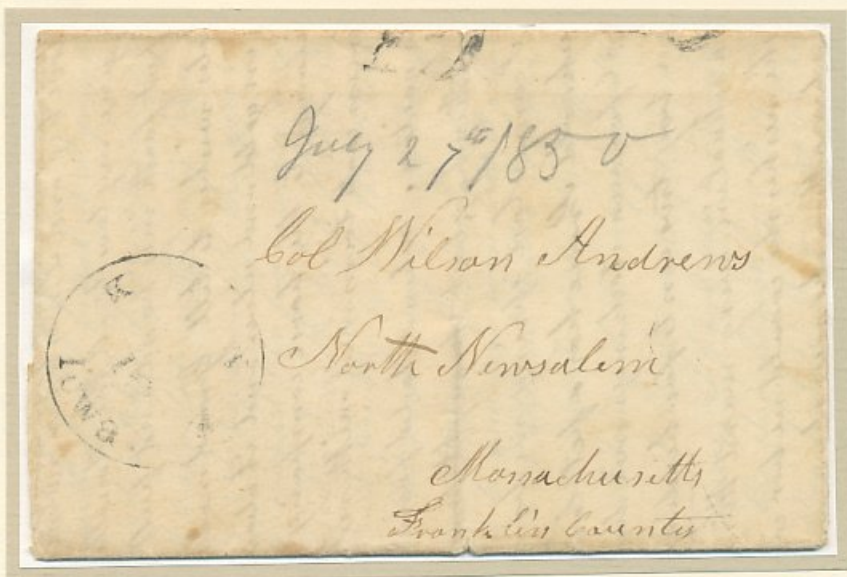
Addressed; Col. Wilson Andrews  
North New Salem  
Massachusetts  
Franklin County

Postmarked; KANE Iowa 16; handstamped black circle (faint)

Great Salt City July 27 1850

Dear Sister, have you forgotten your sister or is it because she is a mormon in the rocky mountains or have my letters been destroyed by some evil hand that would still persecute the best people on earth if they had an opportunity. That I have not received an answer to my two last letters, one dated July 49, the other Feb, 1850. We received your letters by the politeness of Brother Patrick. There was much in them that we had not heard. I'd like to have you write about all my acquaintances and relatives. I do not know why it gave so unpleasant a sensation to hear (of) the death of Mrs Brooks as I never expected to see her. I always loved her and felt to mourn. I am glad that your family are well. I am not surprised to hear you have failed the most. I know very well the hardship and trials of body and mind. I think by this time your children can help themselves and you too. It is remarkable that mother is so well. I always wish I had brought her with me. There are a great number of aged people here. Not but one died in consequence of the journey. She caught cold carelessly. We are getting along first rate. Since Francis left Irene has another son with blue eyes - looks like Aunt C Carey - born June 26, weighed 10 pounds. She dreamed she should have a son and call his name Elijah, and so it is. She says she never combs Francelle hair but she thinks of Ophelia - just such (a) head. I suppose you are grandmother by this time. I wonder if George is married. Tell him to come here and be a mormon and live with the saints and be happy. How is Waldo. Is he able to come. Thales would like to see him here and take each a horse and scout the valley. No woods in the way. We have to draw wood from six to twelve miles. It is a perfect meadow one hundred and ninety miles long, twenty broad, interspersed with creeks, one river named Jordan. The mountains look like snow drifts from the City except they are green (and) all sizes and shape. Thales is now harvesting his wheat although he hires gold diggers to do the heaviest part. (He) pay(s) in wheat as they are out of flour when they arrive here. Our city is thronged with them. We can see the waggons pouring through the mountains into the city. They look like ships at sea. We look at them with pity. Gold is their God of course or they would not all (come) for it. Sometimes I think Samantha is among them (and) going (to) stop with me. O how gladly would I embrace her. Shall I ever. O yes. I will crush the idea however vain. It is not in my power to convince you of the truth of the gospel but if it is in the power of my heavenly Father with (whom) I will trust it. I grow stronger and stronger the more I learn. Sister Akin has not apostatized but she has left her husband and has a lot in the city. Lives with Po and Fanny. Brother Akins has a lot (and) lives by himself. The greatest difficulty I can find out from her is he married her for money and he is willing to own it. She is called Sister Smith, but I think she is Nancy Lozell and she shows it out pretty well. The Woodburys are well, raising heavy crops of wheat and everything else. We have five acres of wheat. Twenty five (bushels) from an acre at smallest calculations - flour as good as any fancy brand you ever saw. I should like to have you eat some of my nice bread and butter together with every thing else the valley affords. There is quite a supply of goods here. There are merchants on the way with heavy laden waggons. I have a new summer dress. I will send a piece. I am going to get me a winter dress like yours when the goods arrive. I have seen a number of the sisters that came with Grun in the ship Brooklyn. They were on the way here with him to this valley. He

THE WESTERN MAILS



told them a great deal about his wife and children (and) made them promise to visit us on his account. They tried to make him think he would live to get here but he said you do not know how I feel. They brought me a dress pattern and some other things that were his. We keep them as choice memorials. You say you do not know why you did not say more against my coming here. I do not know as you said a thing. Mother never objected but appeared perfectly willing. She knew I was doing right. She was mormon enough to know that by the spirit that was in her. I have always wanted to write to Mrs Whittaker as she was once an orthodox sister and tell her that system of religion will never save her. Give my love to her. As she lives alone and has much time to pray, tell her to go in earnest prayer to our Heavenly Father and plead with him to show her the true and only way. Where are our Amherst kindred. Tell me about them. Some of them are not satisfied with the religion they profess if I may judge from what I saw and heard when I was last there. Where is Whittamore. Tell mother I do not think he ever sent her letter he wrote for her. Tell Eliza I love her and wish her name was numbered amongst the saints. Give my love to all the Hascalls and every body else. I feel as if I wanted to put forth my hand and pull them into the ark of safety,

Thales wishes to tell Grandmother that he sold his oxen for ninety dollars in gold and silver and it about fills his purse she knit him. He belongs to the horse company of the Nauvoo Legion. (They) dress in uniforms, green coats trimmed with red, white pants, blue caps and green gaiters. When I started from Nauvoo I did not expect to ever see another hog but they brought quite a number here when I came. Last spring we bought a pig - gave four dollars for it (when) six weeks old. Irene has a pet lamb named Billy that furnishes wool for our stockings. We have sold all our cows but three. Pay a boy two cents for herding them on the prairie. There has been a school in every ward this summer. Francelle learned finely. She wishes she could see her cousins in Massachusetts and greatgrandmother. She says she must keep her little doll until she can get it (a) mother. Our children look a at Gleason did as if they were imported. I (would) like to show them to you. I expect we shall have to live in our cabin with one room until Mr Pomeroy comes home or sends. Irene has some new bed curtains, very handsome. I have my old ones. Thales sleeps in the tent. He says it (is) (the) best place to sleep he ever saw. So much written for mother.

Your affectionate sister  
*E. B. Marshall*

# Temple reflects Mormons' early times

By Peggy Fletcher Stack  
Religion News Service

NAUVOO, Ill. — It was almost impossible for curious visitors getting their first peek inside the reconstructed Mormon Nauvoo Temple to resist the building's tactile enticements.

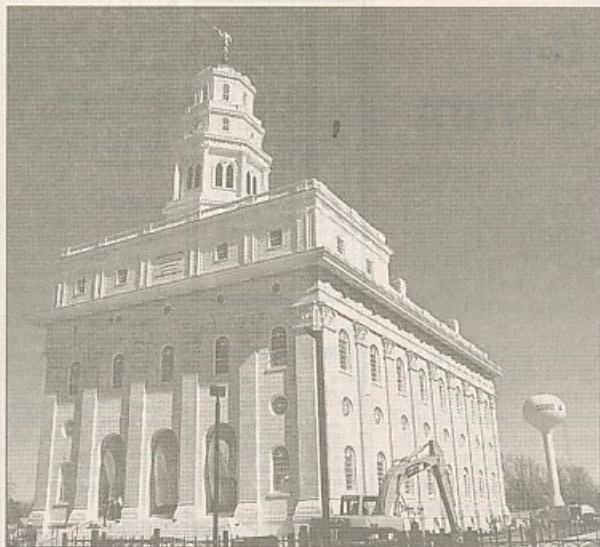
Hushed crowds felt the urge to stroke the swirling dark wood railings on the spiral staircase, finger the exquisite needlework in the bride's room, or kick the stone oxen under the baptismal font to check for sturdiness.

Many who expected the cavernous halls of a cathedral in the 165-foot-high building were taken aback by the feeling of intimacy inside the temple.

"It was much more impressive than I could have imagined," said Kirk Brandenberger, a non-Mormon and director of tourism for Keokuk, Iowa, just across the Mississippi River.

That combination of grand and intimate has been achieved in temples throughout Mormon history, but this five-story building is an especially intriguing amalgam of old and new elements. The temple opened for public tours on May 6, and some 350,000 people are expected to visit it over the next five weeks.

The limestone exterior closely resembles that of the original Nauvoo Temple, but the interior space is more akin to modern temples, in which devout members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints make promises to follow



Seth Perlman/Associated Press

**With the exception of the angel on top of the Nauvoo Temple, the building is an exact replica of its 19th-century predecessor.**

Jesus Christ, participate in ceremonies such as marriage and baptism for the dead by proxy.

These ceremonies were introduced 161 years ago in Nauvoo, where the temple was the apex of Mormon efforts to transform a swamp-infested riverbank into a religious utopia. Mormon settlers in Nauvoo began the arduous building project in 1839 under the leadership of LDS Church founder Joseph Smith Jr.

After Smith was killed by a mob in Carthage, Ill., on June 27, 1844, his anxious followers hurried to finish the temple so they could participate in spiritual marriage ceremonies that would unite them for "time

and all eternity."

As antagonism with non-Mormon neighbors escalated, Brigham Young left Nauvoo with a small group and, within a year, nearly 12,000 Latter-day Saints followed him, forced to abandon their beloved temple. A few loyal members were left behind to try to sell or rent the building. But in 1848, the building mysteriously burned. A May 1850 tornado completed the destruction.

The lot stood empty for years, symbolizing the faith's loss and grief over those early events. In the 20th century, Mormon visitors routinely made pilgrimages to the site to honor their ancestors.

So it was a thrilling moment for many LDS faithful when Church President Gordon B. Hinckley announced in 1999 the church's intent to rebuild the temple as a memorial to those who sacrificed to build it.

The work took 2½ years, the labor of 2,500 construction workers and volunteers and \$30 million.

The church had acquired a copy of William Weeks' original architectural drawings, which allowed modern contractors to replicate exact details of size and materials. The location was determined by an archaeological study conducted in the 1960s.

The exterior is adorned with sunstones, moonstones, and the words, "Holiness to the Lord." With the exception of the angel on top of the temple, the building is an exact replica of its 19th-century predecessor.

Inside, many items have been carefully gathered to give a taste of a bygone era's fine craftsmanship, needlework, oriental carpets, Victorian fabrics and art.

Six Utah artists were commissioned to paint wall murals in the "creation room," "garden room" and "world room."

The culmination of Mormon temple rites takes place in the "celestial room," designed to invoke a sense of heaven and where participants are invited to linger in contemplation.

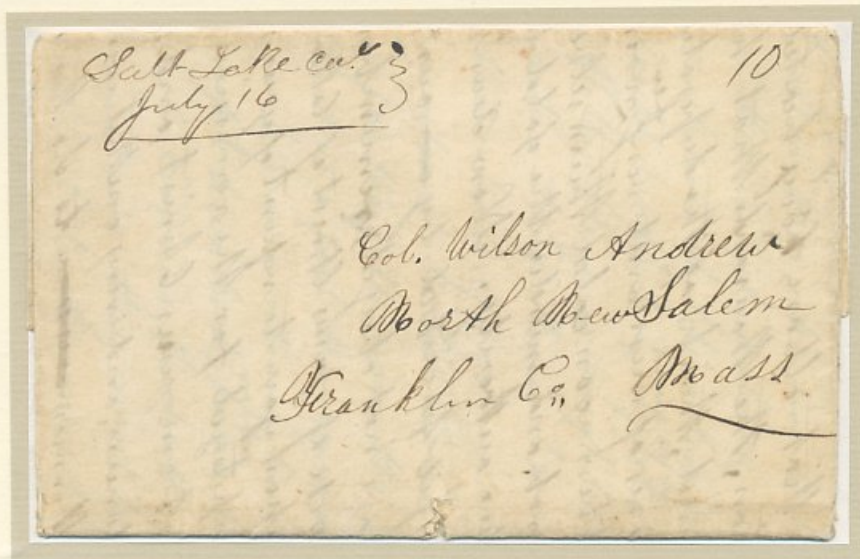
After the temple is dedicated on June 27, only faithful Latter-day Saints will be able to visit.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, CALIFORNIA TERRITORY  
1849

Early in April of 1847 Brigham Young and his Pioneer Company left Winter Quarters and headed west in their search for the new Land of Zion. On July 24th Brigham Young looked down upon the valley of the Great Salt Lake from the Big Mountain and proclaimed "this is the right place". Such was the beginning of the City of the Saints and the kingdom of the Mormons in the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

When the Pioneer Company left the Winter Quarters on the Missouri River they carried their own postmaster, in the person of Willard Richards, to handle and distribute the mail, well before the establishment of the Utah Territory in 1850. On January 18, 1849 the first U.S. Post Office was established under the name GREAT SALT LAKE CITY and attached it to the vast California Territory for administrative reasons. Joseph L. Heywood was the first official U.S. Postmaster.



*Salt Lake Cal* }  
*July 16*

SALT LAKE, CALIFORNIA. When the post office was established by the U.S. Government on January 18, 1849, no expense provision or contract was made to transport the mails.

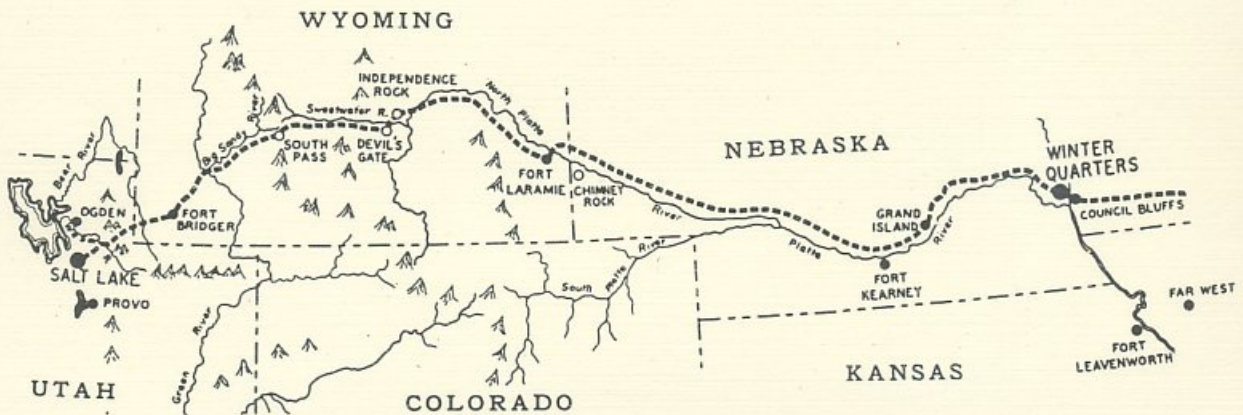
It was left to the Mormons to carry the U.S. mails at their own expense. This folded letter was carried east by a special express headed by Almon W. Babbitt, which left Salt Lake City on July 27, 1849 for Kaneshville, Iowa on the Missouri river.

The letter shown above was written by Ursula B. Hascall to her sister in North New Salem, Massachusetts under date of "Great Salt Lake, City July 6th 1849". The following is from the letter: "The mail will now be more regular but it is impossible to pass through the rocky mountains in winter without people and animals both perishing.... We have moved our cabin from the fort to the lots.... Francis has a carriage and a span of the largest and best horses in the city. We ride to meeting every sabbath." Ursula then relates to personal friends and the selling of livestock; "I kept one yoke of oxen.... that we came into the valley with. I gave forty dollars for them. Sold one for beef (the fattest ox I ever saw) for forty dollars



## THE WESTERN MAILS

in gold dust. I am going to have spectacle bows and thimble made of some of it if I can find a goldsmith....Now for the gold mine, the topic of conversation through out the world. It is a fact the Mormons found a gold mine, not in the rocky mountains, but in California mountains, eight hundred miles from this city and two hundred from the bay of (San) Francisco. The brethren were on their way home from the Mexican war.\* They went back to Francisco and showed the ore to Elder Branan. He found it to be pure gold. They dug each a thousand or so and came (back) to enjoy the way of the saints rather than dig gold when they could dig a hundred dollars a day with ease and already there, and small expense for living. It has made Brannon incalculably rich. The best time is now over as it requires double the labor now that it did then. There is gold enough no mistake... Fifteen thousand have started from the States for the mines. Hundreds and hundreds came through this city worn down with fatigue. Cattle and horses failing on the way. With their burden of clothing and provisions they have been obliged to throw out hundreds of dollars to be wasted by the wayside - when they got here they sell some of their waggons - clothing - provisions &c - pack their mules and horses and proceed on with light loads and heavy hearts - ....think of the desperation of society in such a place with waves of men and very few women - already has small bands of robbers concealed themselves in and about the mountains to rob



and murder the gold digger, this we hear from newspaper authority. Now dear brother and sister you have heard the gospel preached by our elders time after time and have not obeyed - remember that no other elder but those of the church of Jesus Christ of latter day saints preach the gospel - I call upon you to repent of your sins and flee to this city and be baptized for the remission of the same by those who have authority from Jesus Christ, and I call upon all relatives and acquaintances, and every one that ever knew Ursulia B. Hascall was and is a Mormon to do the same. I call upon you thus that you may \_\_\_ rise up and say Ursulia you knew all this - why did you not tell your sister and her family before it was too late. Ophelia did I not shew the prophecy spoken by Joseph Smith by the authority of Jesus Christ concerning the overthrow of the United States - the destruction of the states as a nation is just as sure as the sun will ever rise and set - it is near at hand, it is all ready to burst upon it. May the God of Israel bless and protect you and bring you into his kingdom is the prayer of your sister.

Ursulia B. Hascall

\*The Mormon Battalion. Samuel Brannon Mormon Elder who founded San Francisco's first newspaper the California Star. He was the head of the Mormon Colony in California and was later excommunicated by Brigham Young and the Mormon Church.

Macoupin County Mo April 9<sup>th</sup> 1842

Beloved Brother

Yours of February 24 has come safe to hand and gives us great satisfaction that our tything is exacted in a manner that we can pay it for which we feel to thank our heavenly father as well as our brethren. We are interested in the great work that is now rolling forth

You stated in your letter if the parties named in my letter would pay me the sums specified and I would erase the same on the obligation that I hold against the church that it should be entered to their credit in

I can inform you that the parties named has made me full satisfaction to the amount entered to their names and I have endorsed the same on the obligation that I hold against the church with my own making in all \$305.00 and send you a receipt for the same and want you to credit it to the persons here in manner as tything to the temple of the Lord

Loel Richs	\$15.00
James Oliver	50.00
Wm Stule	20.00
Moses Bailey	7.00
Matilda Bailey	3.00
George B. Singer	50.00
	<u>\$305.00</u>

George B. Singer

~~\$305.00 Received on an obligation which I hold against the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints under obligation is assigned by Joseph Smith Oliver Cowdery Sidney Rigdon and Hyrum Smith~~

I can inform you that we are still preaching round about us here but the prejudices of the people is so strong that we have to contend with the people priest and deacons all at the same time in success

places but we hope we will be able to plant the standard  
of truth in some of our places of preaching but there  
is considerable of the mob spirit around us. we have  
made an addition to our official members since writing  
you last I have ordained James Olive and elder and  
Loel Hicks priest Brother Olive has an appointment to  
morrow we think there will be a large congregation  
of people the little hand full of saints here is still  
in good standing and is still receiving gifts and strength  
from the Lord.

I want you to give me notice either by letter  
or through the medium of the Visitation and Peace  
when you visit this as there is so many letters  
mislayed we will not know whether we get it or not  
by so doing you will oblige your brethren in the bonds  
of the ever lasting gospel.

G. B. B. 1840

This Indenture Made and entered into this  
 25<sup>th</sup> day of January in the Year of Our Lord one thousand  
 eight hundred and forty one between Joseph Smith  
 Hyrum Smith Peter Haws Vinson Knight and George  
 Miller of the First part and Edwin Guthrie of the  
 Second part Witnesseth that the said parties of the  
 first part for and in consideration of the sum of  
 twelve hundred and twenty six dollars and six cents  
 to them secured to be paid as follows to wit eight  
 hundred and eleven dollars and six cents on the first  
 day of May next and four hundred and fifteen dol-  
 lars on the first day of November next following  
 have this day bargained and sold the one undivided  
 sixth part of the Steam Boat Nauvoo together

SIGNED BY JOSEPH SMITH THE MORMON PROPHET

NAUVOO. No listing of this boat has been located. It apparently  
 was owned and operated on the Upper Mississippi by the Mormons.  
 This Indenture is for the sale of 1/6th interest in the "Steam  
 Boat Nauvoo", along with two keel boats and a small yawl. For the  
 sum of \$1,226.06 Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum, Peter Haws,  
 Vinson Knight and George Miller execute this document in favor  
 of Edwin Guthrie on January 25, 1841.

On June 27, 1844, while in jail at Carthage under the protective  
 guarantee of the Governor of Illinois, Joseph and Hyrum Smith  
 were murdered by a mob.

... and appeared that day and  
 gave above written

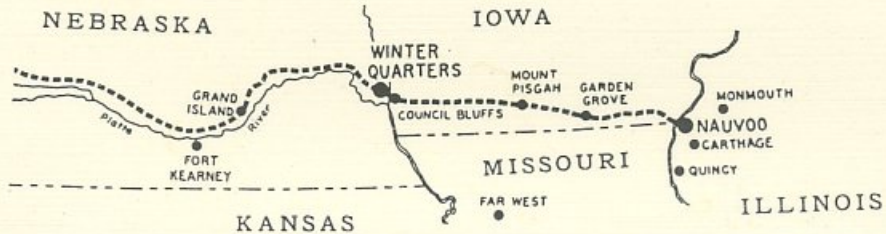
Joseph Smith  
 Hyrum Smith  
 Peter Haws  
 Vinson Knight  
 George Miller

Jan 25, 1841

## THE WESTERN MAILS

### CAMP OF ISRAEL, WINTER QUARTERS INDIAN TERRITORY 1847

When the Mormons began their exodus from Nauvoo in February of 1846 they established camps across Iowa, such as Mount Pisgah, Garden Grove and Winter Quarters on the west side of the Missouri River, near present day Florence, Nebraska. It was from Winter Quarters that Brigham Young led the Pioneer Company of 143 men and 3 women in 70 horse drawn wagons in April of 1847. Letter below relates the departure of the Pioneer Company and the ones that followed in which the writer traveled. An excellent letter on the hardship and suffering of the Mormons and life at Winter Quarters.

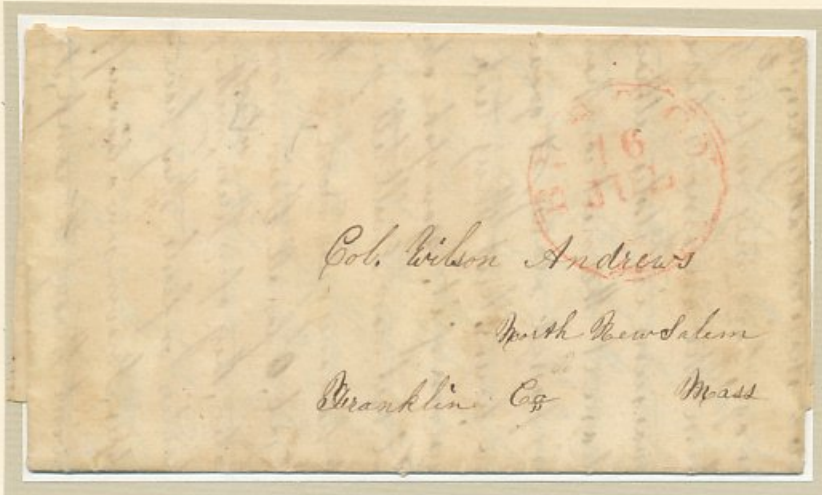


Ursulia B. Hascall writes under date of: "Camp of Israel, Winter Quarters Indian Territory April 1847.... I assure you the time has now arrived that we are preparing to pursue our journey. (We) expect to arrive at our place of rest (Salt Lake Valley) before we stop again, only for repairs &c. About two hundred pioneers started two weeks ago. They calculate to get there and put in seed of various kinds long before we get there. The teams were mostly mule and horses. Francis was among the number and Thales is to be our teamster. He thinks he can manage three yoke of oxen. Irene (Ursulia's sister) says he is a young man, he has grown tall and stout, his flesh is hard and health good. If he only had Albert here to go hunting with him he thinks they should kill lots of prairie hens, wild turkeys, geese, ducks and maybe a deer or buffalo. His business this winter past has been chopping the wood at the door and the care of one cow. Our other cattle have wintered on rushes, forty miles up the Missouri River with five or six hundred others. There was ten men chosen to herd them and keep the indians from killing them. Francis was one of the ten - had 2 dollars per head. We have lived in our log cabin through the winter very comfortably. We have a brick chimney and hearth (two thirds of the people have them made of sod and they do very well), a window with four lights of glass 10 by 12 gave eight cents a light. The furniture consists of sacks, barrels, chests, trunks and two wild bedsteads with curtains from eaves to floor, my chest for a table. We have had plenty of provisions except vegetables. We have had beans enough and some potatoes. This spring there is (an) abundance of wild onions and artichokes first rate. There is a store opposite of us with necessary English and West India goods, coffee, sugar, salarutus all fifteen cents per pound. First best sugar house mollasses one dollar per gallon. I think we shall get along first rate. There is companies organized of hundred and Captains of fifties and tens. We are going in brother Wallace's Company of fifty. The Woodburys are going with the same company. They are twenty miles from here. Thomas has been here and staid over night. Where William is they do not know. Brother Aikins family are at Garden Grove (Decatur Co. Iowa) some distance back. Samuel came on with brother Pond's family and died here away from father and mother. I suppose you have heard of the deaths in brother Ponds family. The children are all dead but Elizabeth Loenza. When they were on the way here they turned from the main road into a settlement where he and Samuel could earn two dollars per day with their teams. It proved to be an unhealthy place. They were all taken sick and they came away as soon as they could, but they were unable to take care of themselves on the road and suffered for the want of care. Lowell died before they arrived, the rest lived to get here and then dropped away one after another. Sister Pond has not recovered and I fear she never will. Brother Ponds health is very poor. Sister Clark died on the way here. She wore her self out with hard work. I think I never saw a female that could live and do as she did. The children came on with P. Rockwell (Orrin Porter) they have the first rate families to live in. Hiram lives in the same family with Emiline. She thinks them the best people in the world. She is happy as a queen.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

*Camp of Israel, Winter quarters Indian Territory  
April 1847*

Has everything to eat, drink (and) wear. She instructs the children, has the care of their clothes and does as much or as little as she pleases. Tell mother Sister Murdock is here with her family. Where brother Harris is we do not know. Sister Brimhall is well. She did not grieve much for the Richards loss. We have now and then a newspaper from New York. Shall we believe the cracking a sunder of the Union of the United States. Yes, sooner or later the Lord will avenge the blood of his martyred Prophets and persecuted Saints, unless they repent and restore their rights. Irene read President Polks message - it is as harmless as milk and water. I think he is as Eliza Smith said about my going to singing school - I should not do any hurt if I did not any good. The ship Brooklyne has landed we hear and printed a paper. I suppose Uncle



Carried overland from the Winter Quarters and placed in the mails at Boston as per postmark "16 Jul", 1847. About three months in transit. See end of letter on this page.

Sam has received one by this time. I expect Francis will see husband before we shall." Ursulia then asks about various people back home and "How is mother. Has she had one of her hard colds. If she has I fear she had not recovered. How is her lame toe. Tell her to enjoy herself and be prepared for a part in the first resurrection and live with Christ on the earth a thousand years. Is it not worthy of our whole time and talent?.. ...Give my respects to Grandfather and mother Andrews. Tell them the Mormons have built one of the best grist mills that ever was run in the States. Although this is Indian Territory when they leave it the next company (of Mormons) will use it and so on until all the Mormons have passed along. It ground twelve bushels of corn an hour the first few hours but they took it down to six bushels when they made a business of it. You spoke about dancing. I filled my other sheet before I thought of it but now I will tell you. The Mormons (as they are vulgarly called) do not have any guess work in their exercises. They have a rule and the order of God for all their movements. Thales attended dancing school this winter. They open their school with prayer and so they always do at their dancing parties and feasts. They have all the good and fat things they can procure for supper. I never saw a larger supply at any place. Each grade had a feast until they went through the camp. I went with the wives of the elders that were sent on missions, widows and soldiers wives. There is some of the smartest and best men and women here there is in the world. They dress superior to your New Salem people (even) if they have had to winter in log cabins. I send this (letter) by a sister that is going to Boston to visit her friends. (She) returns in October. Her name is Sabra Granger. Direct your letters to Francis M. Pomeroy Huntsackers Ferry, Austion postoffice, Atchinson County, Missouri, to be forwarded to the Camp of Israel. Your affectionate U B M I send you a piece of my new bonnet the handsomest one you have seen."

The BROOKLYN

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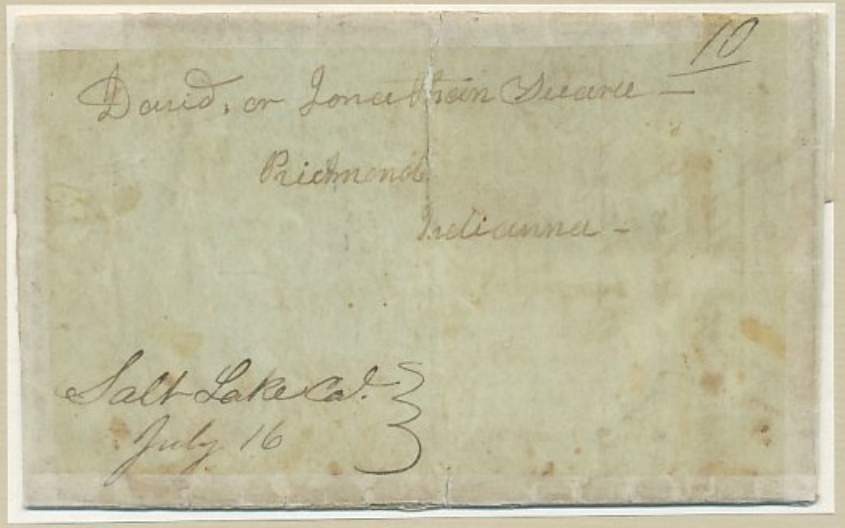
The BROOKLYN landed a company of 238 Mormons at Yerba Buena in San Francisco bay on July 31, 1846.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Great Salt Lake City Upper California July 14<sup>th</sup> 1849

Dear Children as the mail will leave in few days I have thought it prudent to let you know that we are all yet in the land of the living and by the blessing of our father in heaven; we are in the enjoyment of first rate health and have been so since we have been in this place with the exception of a few weeks last winter I had a touch of the mountain fever as it is called and <sup>the</sup> my health was generally in good health I have not wrote to you since last January was a year or have as yet received any letter from you; but our mail from the bluff has not yet arrived this season; but we are looking for it in a short time; you can write to us now and it will come direct as there is a post office established here and contract for the mail through to the bay once in three months our first winter here was quite mild and our hearts there all the winter but this last winter was much colder but we

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Salt Lake Cal. }  
July 16 }

This letter was carried east on the same Mormon express as the Hascall/Andrews letter - July 27, 1849. The writer states "there is a post office established here and contract for the mail through to the bay once in three months". The reference to "the bay" must be San Francisco, but this letter was carried EAST to the Missouri river. The first westbound contract was awarded to Absolom Woodward and George Chorpensing in 1851. SEE Chorpensing Route Via California in this exhibit.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

"GREAT SALT LAKE CITY UPPER CALIFORNIA JULY 14th 1849!"

Dear Children as the mail will leave in few days I have thought it prudent to let you know that we are all yet in the land of the living and by the blessing of our father in heaven; we are in the enjoyment of first rate health and have been so since we have been in this place with the exception of a few weeks last winter - I had a touch of the mountain fever as it is called and the inhabitants are generally in good health - I have not wrote to you since last January was a year an have as yet received a letter from you; but our mail from the bluffs (Kanesville on the Missouri river) has not yet arived this season; but we are looking for it in a short time; you been write to us now and it will come direct as there is a post office established here (U.S.Post Office established January 18,1849) and contract for the mail through to the bay (Kanesville) once in three months (see below) - our first winter here was quite mild and our hearts thrive-all the winter but this last winter was much colder but we got through it first rate - last year we raised aplenty to have done the inhabitants plentifully but the soldier boys comeing in from below (Mormon Battalion) has made provision scarce & high - wheat has been worth five dollars & corn and buckwheat thus we have sold near a hundred dollars worth of grain and a hundred & fifty Dollars of Beef - it costs nothing to fed them - only a cent per day if you put them in herd; our crops this year are much more promising than they were last year - the City has the appearance of a garden more than City - it is enclosed in wards by a fence & all in cultivation - it contains at present nineteen wards & each ward nine blocks & each block 72 lots - each lot one acre & a quarter & the streets eight roods wide (16.5 feet X 8 for a total of 132 feet) and in addition to this each man can take as much land in the country as he can cultivate; the streets extend into the country as far as the land is laid off for cultivation; so much for the mormons; now for 'the gold digers it is about five weeks since the first train arived in the vally - Since which time they have been ariving nearly every day and not more than one out of twenty comes this way - the others going by the way of Fort Hall; poor fellows they are learning very fast & the most of them have learnt so much that if they were at home again they would stay there; as many of them have expressed them selves;well they are right glad to get once more into Civilization where they can get good butter & cheese & vegetables & exchange their wagons & some of their bacon & flour & coffee & sugar & clothing & implements for gold diging - for horses & mules & pack saddles & lassoes - thus equipt they go on to the great theater where will be acted many new senes of inequity; on the east of this they have thrown away & destroyed thousands of dollers worth of property in their rage to exceed others in their travel to the gold digings and this is not the worst for many lives has been taken by powder & Ball; oh my god thare hast truly made the people drunk but not with wine - and the scenes that are begining to be acted on a small scale will shortly be caried out by Communitys and Nations and happy will they be that are out of the midst there off - these are true sayings for the mouth of the Lord hath said it;Several merchants who were taking goods to the digings are now selling out here at auction or other wise as they can; well we needed some goods here - they Mostly go at or less than cost & the barigan thrown in - So you see that we ( are well) supplied with all things necessary on good terms whether it was so assigned or not.....So I will close my letter with the blesing words of Almun Babbts (A.W.Babbitt who carried this letter in the mails that left Salt Lake City on July 27,1849) Sermon to day - save your selves from this untoward generation save your selves in the Kingdom of God - Amen.

Wm Suceree



## THE WESTERN MAILS

### THE STATE OF DESERET

With the end of the Mexican war, the area west of the Rocky Mountains, which included the present state of Utah and parts of California, Nevada, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, which had been claimed by Mexico, was ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

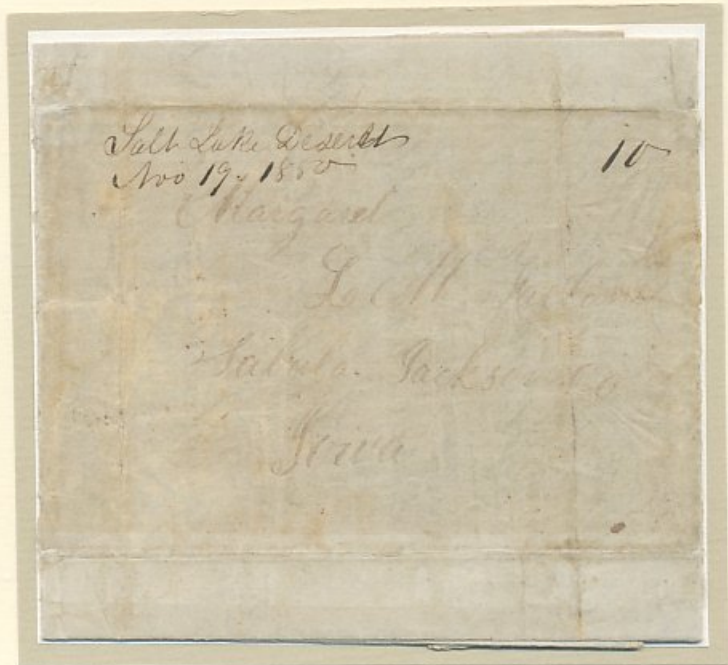
Early in March of 1849 a constitution was adopted and a provisional government was organized under the name of the State of Deseret with Brigham Young as governor. The new government then sent a memorial to Congress for statehood and then on May 4, 1849 sent a second request for territorial status. Actually the Mormons wanted statehood in order to reduce federal influence from Washington. It would be forty-six years before Congress granted statehood on January 4, 1896. The word Deseret is taken from the Book of Mormon meaning honey bee.

On September 9, 1850 Congress created the Utah Territory dashing all hopes for a State of Deseret. Early in 1850 Samuel Woodson and James Brown were awarded the mail contract from Salt Lake to the Missouri River to begin July 1st of that year. However the first mail did not reach Salt Lake until early in November. The mails were so slow and irregular that the official news that the Utah Territory had been established the year before did not arrive in Salt Lake City until January of 1851.

*Salt Lake Deseret  
Nov 19 1850*

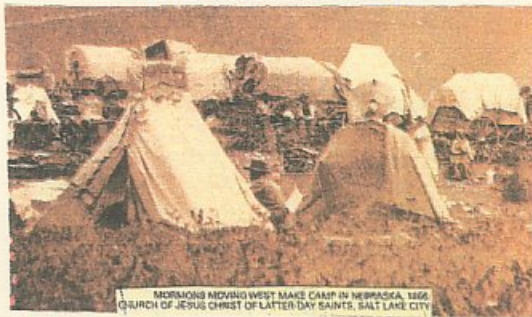
The cover shown is one of three or four known to bear the designation of "Deseret" in the postmark. It is rated "10" cents in manuscript for over 300 miles.

It was carried by Woodson with the first official contract mail eastbound in late November of 1850.

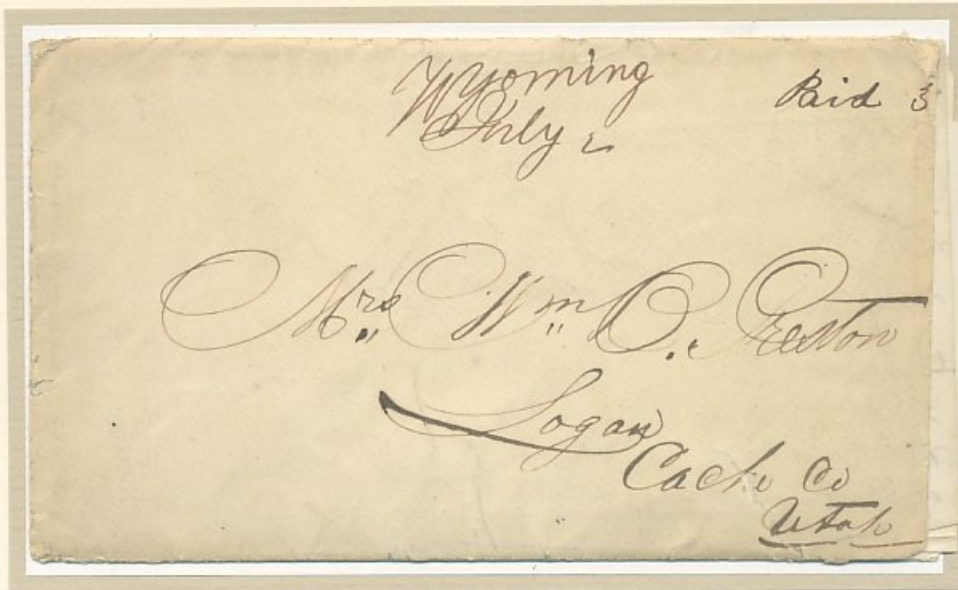


This letter was written by Andrew McFarlane who had stopped off at Salt Lake City on his way west to the gold mines in California. He writes in part " I started about the 10th of April from Independence with the express to Ft Laramy and intended going to California from that point with pack animals but mules and ponies cost so much here that I concluded to come back to Independence and take a fresh start. When I got back to Independence again about the first of June when I got a chance to drive a mule team back again to Ft Laramy for 25 dols a month - arrived at Ft Laramy again about the tenth of August when I got a chance to go throw to the great salt lake valey among the Mormons whare I arrived on the 23 day of September ad 1850 and calculate to stay here to about the first of April when I intend to go to Calafornia by the way of the cut off (Hastings ?) with pack animals. I am living among the Mormons about as a hospitable a set of people as I have been among since I left home."

## THE WESTERN MAILS



MORMONS MOVING WEST MAKE CAMP IN NEBRASKA, 1866  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, SALT LAKE CITY



postmarked "Wyoming July 2 [1864]. "Paid 3".

**WYOMING, NEBRASKA TERRITORY.** Post Office was established in Otoe County November 21, 1856. It was a Missouri River steamboat landing and staging point for Mormon emigration and freighting operations to Salt Lake City in 1864/66. Those in charge of operating the wagon trains waited at Wyoming for steamboats to bring the passengers and supplies before starting overland to Salt Lake.

The following extract is by Wm. B. Preston, captain of a wagon train, to his wife in Logan, Cache County, Utah: "Wyoming, July 2, 1864... I have been here eleven days... am waiting for the boats with supplies to come up the river... I have loaded about forty wagons with from fourteen to fifteen hundred pounds and ten to twelve passengers and packed most of the wagons to the bows for the trip to Salt Lake... No chance to ride this time... All Danes, Swedes and a few Dutch for Providence... The Sam Pete [leader of another wagon train] teams take English, Welch and half Americans, Jolly crowd that.

His wagon train was delayed until September before starting for Salt Lake City. Wyoming continued as a starting point for the Mormons until August of 1866. In all twenty-two organized companies started from Wyoming during the three years of operation.

"Willard, Box Elder, Co. Utah, T.  
April 24th 1863

Dear Uncle: . . . . . The Past winter has been rather Sevear but Spring has Set in with all its welcome charms, and already nearly all the field work is got through with, and Small Grain is up and looks well. On the 19 instant My Father, and Several Promenint Citizens Started on a Pleasure Trip to the Southern, Part of our Territory a distance of 400 Miles from this Place, To what we call our Dixie, that is we have comenced to Raise Cotton in our Southern Settlements. The Difficul-tes in the States have given us little Hope of obtaining Much Cotton from that Once Happy , But now distracted Country, and as Nessity and other Causes, have Com-peled us to produce Articles for our own Consumption we are fast drawing around us Articles That will Make us Independent of imported Goods from the States, we live in the Northern Part of the Territory, There is a very large Emigration pass-ing at present to the Salmon River Gold Mines, Salmon River is about 200 Miles North From this place, the Indians are very troublsome on the Road to the Gold Mines - On the 22nd Feb, last some of the California Volinteers [Army of the Pacific]\* fought A Battle with the indians about 60 miles North East of This place. The indians were worsted in the fight, and They are now Egar fōr Revenge . So that Traveling in Washington Territory is very dangerous at the present time." . . . . . At this point the writer mentions a letter from her family back home, but does not say what it is about and in reply says "But such is the allotted span, that the al-mighty has decreed that man should occupy in time. Tears nor Friendship cannot wavyd off the hand of death. But that it is the privelege of man and wemon to know in this life that they are living in Accordance with the Laws and Commandments of God it is a Comfort that Death nor the Grave Cannot take away. In times like the age that we live in we are lead to enquire what will be the consiquence of the presant war in our beloved Country, and when will it case are questions that present them-selves to the Mind of every thinking. . . . person. Every day brings forth new troubles altho the Government has to all apperances Adopted every plan that man could Do under the circumstances, to end the rebellion. Still matters Are becoming worse, and Civil War and its Terrores are made Manifast in the midst of the land. We are Certainly blessd in this territory with pease and Plenty. our men are at home pur-suing the domestic duties of life and our Mountain Country is fast assuming the apierance of an old Settled Country, altho when our People first Settle here to all apperances it was a Desaret land. Altho our enimies Mob and drove us from our Lawfull possessions in the States it Has resulted for our good we are here in these peacefull vales - Free from war and strife. This Season we are sending Five Hundred Waggons with. . . . , four yoke of Oxen to the waggon To bring some of our People from Florance, Nebraska, Territory. We expect that our Emigration to this territory this season will exceed eight Thousand Souls. Our territory has proved to be a very healthy Country, we live near the North [East shore] part of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, The Country is divided in numerous Vallies Average-ing from 60 Miles long to 40 Miles wide. They are very fertile and most land Turns of better crops then the states with the exception of corn - However that does very well on some lands, The Sceanery of the Country is very Romantic every thing is on a very Gigantic Scale, especially the Mountains - Nearly Every Summer there is a incrustation of salt formed on the Banks of the salt lake which supply us with any amount of Salt, The Country as a General thing may be said to be a good Grazing Country - The water is very Good. We have little or now rain in the Summer, so that some of the land has to be water by irrigation However there is a good supply of water from the Mountain streams in the watering Season. The most of the wheat that we raise in this Country the seed has been brought from South America. It turns off from 20 to 75 bushell per Acre, according to the Kind of land, Potatoes, do very well. Sugar Cane nearly As good as it does in Iowa, My father raised as good flax last season as ever he did in the States it makes excelant thread . . . . . We have

Welland. Box. Elder, Co. Utah T.

April 24th 1863

Dear Uncle

I take the privilege of writing to you.  
Your letter Nov: 23. 1862 came duly to hand some time in  
the latter part of December,

My Father answer your letter in a few day afterwards,  
and after waiting up till the present we have receive no answer  
from you As Newspaper has come to hand as yet,

My Father's Health is good at Present. all the rest of our  
Connections are all well at ~~Texon~~ since My Father wrote to  
you My Sister Op ha has had a daughter They are both doing well,

The Past winter has been rather Severe but Spring has  
set in with all its welcome charms, and already nearly  
all the field work is got through with, and Small grain  
is up an looks well

Commenc to Manufacture Cotton yard - We raise 100,100 bls Cotton in our Dixie  
last Season - Our Settlements are commencing to make Considerable Progress in  
fruit Growing - Yesterday George S, Masons, wife Gave birth to a Girl - My Brothers  
and Sisters Join Me in sending our love To you, also My Husband, Robert Hend-  
erson..... I will send you a Newspaper with This ,we should like to see  
Some of the Iowa Newspapers....your affectionate Nece Harriet D. Henderson"

Harriet D. Henderson

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No envelope or address, but it can be assumed that Harriet is from Iowa, from the  
last sentence of the letter.

\* Battle of Bear River, about 19 miles west of that lake near Franklin, Idaho, just  
south of the state line in Utah, This was a detachment of California volunteers  
and cavalry, under command of Col. Patrick E. Connor, whose promotion to Brig. Gen-  
eral is dated the day after the battle - March 30th.

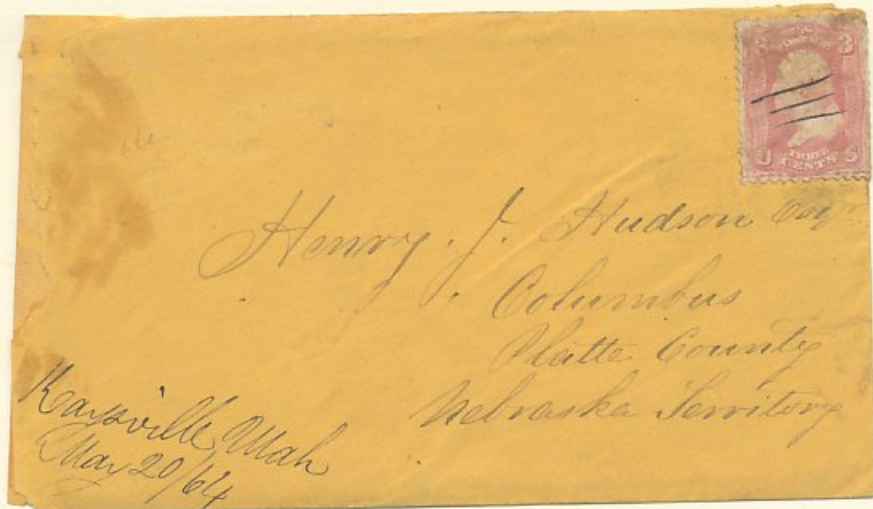
Harriet mentions the Idaho gold rush and the large emigration passing through  
on the way to the Salmon River Gold Mines and that they expect over eight thou-  
sand Mormon converts. That they are sending back 500 wagons to the Missouri  
River to help bring them to Utah. Also comments on the agricultural development  
of what was once "a Deseret land", while America is in the dark days of its Civil  
War. A great letter

GOLD MINES - MORMON WAGON TRAINS - BRIGHAM YOUNG

"Kaysville, May 18th /64" Michael Pilling Jr. writes to H. J. Hudson, at Columbus Nebraska, about the great immigration to Montana/Idaho gold mines and a train of 300 wagons bringing Mormons and merchandise from the Missouri river, as well as an address by Brigham Young. THE following is from the letter: "We had a short address on the 16th here at Kaysville from Brigham Young & [Heber] Kimball - Brigham spoke on the duties of the church to be faithful & live their religion of the peace that is in the Mountains while the nations is at war one with another. He also spoke of the people of Jackson & adjoining counties now receiving their pay, over 100 families having been burned to death inside of their houses. I have never heard a man qualified to speak with Brigham - You mentioned in your letter of the vast immigration that would arrive here this season, that it would cripple the influence of the church. Kimball said the other day that there would be all of 100,000 men come & pass through here this season, further he said there has not been a move that the Gentiles has made for the overthrow of this people, but what has ended for their good [Mormon]. He referred to the war of Utah in /58 - the vast amount of money wagons & other useful things that was left here when the soldiers abandoned Camp Floyd. He says this grand force of Genl [Edward P., Cal. Vol., Army of the Pacific] Connor will end in like manner - men will come here spend their money, go on to the [Montana/Idaho gold] mines, curse the place & the Mormons and never wish to step their feet on Utah soil again - This is no place for Gentiles and we are glad they have no desire to stay with us. Still they must come here from the Mines for provisions. Flour is at present \$16.00 per hd Oats \$3.00 per Bushel and will be a deal higher before harvest. I am glad we are as well situated for bread as we are. Our crops looks well so far, though the streams is low for watering the land, and if we do not have rain soon, the prospects is, crops will be not so good as expected, but we are going to bring out a part of Weber River and if it is finished soon, we shall have plenty of water in this place. I can do better in this country than in Nebraska. I can get \$40.00 per month in greenbacks & board for one year, at the place where I have been working. The church trains will be down as far as Columbus in about 3 to 4 weeks from now. There is 300 church wagons. Give my respects etc..... Michael Pilling Jr."

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SEE Wm. B. Preston letter of July 2, 1864, for more on the 1863/66 wagon trains.



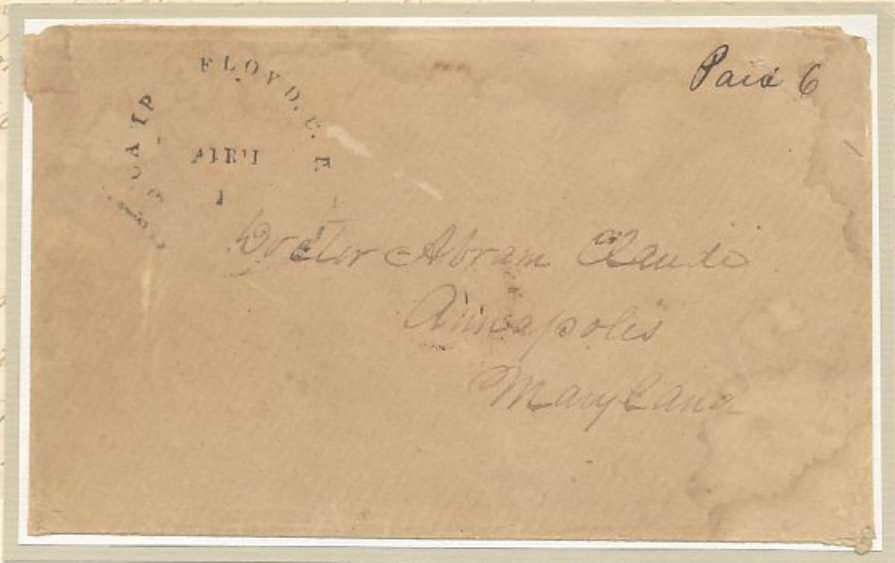
KAYSVILLE, UTAH TERRITORY post office was established in Davis County on April 12, 1854. Cover above is postmarked in manuscript "Kaysville Utah Mar 20/64", addressed to Columbus Platte County Nebraska Territory.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Army of Utah  
Camp Floyd, Cedar Valley, U.T.  
March 31<sup>st</sup> 1859

Mr. [unclear]

I wrote you quite a long letter after my arrival at Camp Floyd, since which time so little of interest has occurred that I had scarcely anything of interest to write about: but as times are now getting a little more stirring...



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CAMP FLOYD, U. T. APRIL 1 1859. Cover bears the type I postmark of Camp Floyd, apparently used only in 1859. Charles Brewer joined the army as an assistant surgeon on August 29, 1856. He was a southerner from Maryland and on May 7, 1861 resigned and joined the Confederate States Army with the same rank - 1861-1865. Brewer was a member of the 10th Infantry that had come out in 1857 with the Army of Utah. See Army of Utah letters in this collection.

CAMP FLOYD, U. T.  
APRIL 1

## MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE

Historic letter written by Charles , a surgeon with the Army of Utah expedition, relating to the Mormons and the massacre of the emigrants at Mountain Meadows, Utah in the fall of 1857. The following is from the letter under date of: **"Army of Utah/ Camp Floyd, Cedar Valley U.T./March 31st 1859.** Dr. Doctr. . . . as times are now getting a little more stirring I communicate the outlines of general matters & from this out shall keep you "au fait" upon affairs pertaining to Utah. In the first place I must presume that you are already aware of the horrible state of morality among these people. If not let me say I can call by names individual cases of men marrying (an outrage upon the service) a mother & her daughters. A man his own 5 & 6 [years old] nieces & even horrible to relate living with their own children: This they do they say to propagate rapidly & make Tabernacles for souls which they suppose to be flying about in the air like nats looking for an abode. You doubtless heard of the horrible enormities and yet hardly credit them. Were I in the states I should hardly do so myself & yet the tale is hardly half told. By means of the Courts evidence of murders too horred to be told & perpetrated by the authority of the Church are becoming unravelled & every day brings to light some deed of crime still more terrible;



MOUNTAIN MEADOW MASSACRE—132 EMIGRANTS KILLED BY MORMONS AND INDIANS.

It is now proved that at the Massacre of the emigrants at the Mountain Meadows, after the men were murdered by the Mormons, the Indians were called in to do the bloodier of the butchery, and Mormons (once) have told me that defenceless women & children clung in numbers around the legs of the brutal savages in vain imploring mercy and offering themselves as slaves: they were not only scalped but according to Mormon custom their throats cut from ear to ear & heads severed from their bodies. The details of other private murders are equally as horrible. Well! what is to be done? Courts of Justice! The Juries & grand juries are composed of Mormons. The qualification of a juror as prescribed by the last legislature make the matter still worse; this too sanctioned by the Governor [Alfred A. Cumming] who is the pot companion of the Traitor [Brigham] Young & whose private secretary is married to a mother & her daughter. Judge [Charles E.] Sinclair with volumes of evidence of crime before him was forced to adjourn his court as a failure. Judge [John] Cradlebaugh is now using his strongest efforts in his dis[charge] and we shall see with what affect. He too has evidence of the foulest character of crime here committed by those in authority & by the sanction of the church: Criminals themselves were upon the grand jury: This jury therefore were obliged to be dismissed refusing to find bills or indictments against their own kind. There is evidence to prove that the bishops of Provo, Springville & other cities were engaged in the murders efforts have been made to

## THE WESTERN MAILS

arrest them & guilt has driven them to the mountains. Officers of the law have been prevented from performing their duties, as they approach a city to arrest criminals, the alarm is sounded from the walls with a bugle & the criminal is shielded & is assisted to escape when the officer[s] retire, the bugle again announces their departure. Some criminals are however arrested - how shall they be secured. The legislature have in every way attempted to [block?] the executions of Justice: There is no provision made. At last the Judiciary have been vested with the power of calling upon the Commander of the forces of Utah, independent of the medium of the Executive, for troops to act as a "posse comitatus". Judge C. calls for one company. They are with him in Provo & act as a guard to culprits who would otherwise escape. This calls down the indignation of our Patriotic Governor & lo! his Proclamation! (I enclose it) to the people. Judge C. has replied from the bench: let the judgement be with the public. It cannot but be acknowledged the Mormons are in a state of rebellion, but restrained from overt acts by an arm[y?] which can appose them. In their Tabernacles they pray that pestilence & famine may destroy the Army & foreign powers subvert the Government: They preach & practice excommunication against those who sell to the army & threaten them with severe chastisement after its departure. Such are the people just pardoned from Treason & that as I have heard them say unmasked. Are they not Traitors still? They say we will wait & hoard up our indignation, in 10 years we will defy the Government [U.S.] It is True: They will be a formidable body. I have been thro [to] many of their settlements. I believe they can furnish at least ten thousand armed men: This whole summer they have been occupied in the manufacture of arms. Upon their Religion they are fanatics. There leaders will excite them upon this subject and make this the great handle by which they will turn men to their own diabolical purposes. They can & may resist the Government. I am anxious to learn from my friends East, is there a President to this Republic? has he like other men a head? has he eyes, ears & understanding. Why is such a man left here in the Gubernatorial chair - The expenses of a standing army here are formidable; the duty to the last degree disgusting. But patience, " nous ". You see Doctor when I commence talking upon the subject my tongue goes at a canter. I now draw rein - We have out here quite a pretty little army, in a fine state of discipline with no stag for a leader, but alas as bad his hands are bound, fettered with instructions. The curb which chafes must be loosened nearer you than me. Not with standing the merets of our little force it is not too great to cope with our wiley advasary. Wiser heads than mine have said that even now with regard to sustenance it may before next spring be in a state of jepardy. I might mention other dangers but we are surrounded by traitors - They are even in our camp...". Brewer then mentions the names of doctors and officers in the regiments and "Several nights ago I rode twenty three miles thro [threw] the snow & cold between 12m & daylight on an erand of mercy to a Mormon, who had his cranium driven in by a blow from a musket in the hands of a soldier whilst in the discharge of his duty: the fracture was large & about the center of the temporal bone. Without waiting I immediately applied the trephine[surgical saw to remove tissue and/or bone from the skull] with the best result & left him after 48 hours doing well...". The balance of the letter is about relatives and friends.

P.S. Write to Army of Utah/Camp Floyd/U.T. [signed] Chas. Brewer."

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**MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE.** In September of 1857 a California-bound party of about 140 emigrants were attacked by some Mormons at a place in southern Utah known as Mountain Meadows. After a stand-off of several days the party was promised safe passage if they gave up and surrendered their arms. They agreed and the small children were put in a wagon and followed on foot by the older children and women. The men followed in single file with each guarded by an armed Mormon. On a given signal the men were killed by the white guards and the Indians were called in to slaughter the women and children. Only 17 children survived. The Mormons blamed the Indians, but the facts clearly show that it was planned and carried out by the Mormons under the leadership of John D. Lee. In 1877 Lee was brought to trial and convicted. On March 23rd Lee was brought to Mountain Meadows and executed while sitting on his coffin by a firing squad. He had become a scape-goat to history.



## THE WESTERN MAILS

### JUSTICE IN THE LAND OF THE MORMONS!

Lieut. Benjamin Wingate, 5th U. S. Infantry comments on Mormon justice following the Mountain Meadows Massacre in September of 1857. He complains of not getting letters from home and that they have had no mails recently because of the deep snows and cold weather in the mountains. Also, that the 5th infantry will be ordered to New Mexico or Arizon and hopes it will be New Mexico:

"for I have seen enough of Mormonism - they are a set of damned Sons of bitches and if justice could be done all the head devils would be hung higher than heaven but justice cannot be had - there is not the slightest possibility of the judge being able to inforce the laws. Judge Cradelbough\* convened his court about two weeks ago at Provo City and day before yesterday he discharged the grand jury telling them at the same time they were a set of perjured damned Scoundrels. The only bills they could find were against two Indians not withstanding the judge in his charge to them pointed out several cases of murder and informed them where they could find evidence but no, they could find no bills against Mormons. The judge I believe intends to adjourn his court to this place [Camp Floyd] and make an other effort to have justice done ,but you can judge what success he will likely meet with! But I can see no show myself I consider the Mormon difficulty no more settled at this time than it was Eighteen months ago. The only difference is that there is a considerabl force of United States Troops in the Territory ,but I tell you they would settle the hush very soon if the government would only say the word for us we are almost spoiling for a mess with the heathen devils...." Datedlined at "Camp Floyd U. T. /March 24/59" [1859].

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Judge John Cradelbough was sent out to Utah to investigate the Mountain Meadows massacre and to collect and bury the bones of the slain emigrants and return the surviving 17 children to their relatives in the east.

Benjamin Wingate rose through the ranks from a private to a lieutenant as of the date of this letter. He was promoted to captain Aug. 22, 1859 and to Bvt. Major for gallantry at the battle of Valverde N. Mexico where he was wounded February 21, 1862 and of which he died June 1, 1862. SEE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Camp Floyd U.S.

March 24/57

Dear Hardy

The mail got in this  
week it being the first that  
we have had for three weeks.  
but much to my surprise  
I received nothing from any  
body in Scott. I have had  
but one letter this year  
from any of you in Ind.  
The one that I have recd  
was from father. I hope  
you have not all forgotten

down paper to father. one of them I wish  
is to have after you all have read it.

A. L. Hardy

Lexington Scott Co

Indiana

CAMP FLOYD  
U. S. F.  
MARCH 26  
IND.

CAMP FLOYD,  
U. S.

" Great Salt Lake City July 21st 1859

Dear Sister

We passed through the City this morning and camped three miles west at Hot Sulphur Springs. These Springs are quite a curiosity. There is some eight or ten of these rushing out of the mountains and forming a lake below. One surpasses all the rest both in regards to Strength and hotness. This rushes out of the rock half as thick as a flour barrel. And so hot that a person cant hold their hand in it for a second. And the strengest kind of Sulphur .The City is situated on the eastern bank of Jordan And about five miles North east of the mouth of emigration Canyon. The city covers probilly nearly the same extent of ground that the city of Zanesville does. But the houses are very mutch Scathered. They are built mostly of adoba ( Sundried brick ) The city is regularly laid out and beautifully ornimented with shade trees. The water from the Canyons are carried through canals above the city. On each side of every street in the city is a beautiful clear rivulet rushing rapidly down. We entered the city on the South east corner And traveled through in a north westerly direction until we came to a street runing east and west on the north side of thatand facing the South stands Brigham Young's houses two in number - one small one between with Sign above door Tithing office. Before one of his houses is a portico runing up square at the top And on that lays a lion hewn out of a solid rock. Emblem of strength perhaps .These houses are said to be divided into sixty eight appartments and each appartment is said to contain a wife. Brigham's family is said to consist of himself Sixty eight wives and a hundred children. On the same side of the street and close by Brigham's house on a corner stands the Desert Store viz The Lords Store house where the people are required to bring their tithes and store them up for the church. This building together with Brigham's buildings are all enclosed with a stone wall. The church is also enclosed by means of a stone wall. I got a glimps of it at one place. I dont think it very far exceeds the Presbyterian church in Senicaville [Ohio] in beauty And probably near the same size. There is no temple in the city yet. There is nothing very extravigantly grand in the city. Brigham's houses exceeds all the rest in grandure And they would be considered plain houses in our Atlantic City. People here dress plain there is no display of Silks and Satins nor hoop Skirts. All the ladies wear Sunbonnets. I should like to remain here over Sunday and attend church. I understand that Horace Greeley \* is in the city And attended church last Sabbath. They honored him with a seat among the elders and while elder Pratte was delivering his discourse H G [Greeley] went a sleep. Write to me at Sacramento City , Cal. via New York City.

J. C. Lowrey "

\*\*\*\*\*

J. C. Lowrey a west bound emigrant stopes off on his way to California. He writes an excellent description of the Mormons and their city on the shores of Great Salt Lake in the days of 1859. Of historic note he mentions that "Horace Greeley is in the city and attended church last sabbath". That he fell asleep while Elder Pratte gave his sermon. Greeley was the founder and editor of the New York Tribune. On his return to N. Y. C he published a book on his trip west "The Overland Journey to California.



Great Salt Lake City July 21<sup>st</sup> 1859

Dear Sister

Tuesday

We passed through the City this morning and camped three miles west at hot Sulphur Springs These Springs are quite a curiosity There is some eight or ten of them rushing out of the mountain and forming a lake below One Sur passes all the rest both in regard to strength and hotness This rushes out of the rock half as thick as a flour barrel And so hot that a person cant hold their hand in it for a second And the strongest kind of Sulphur The City is situated on the eastern bank of Jordan And about five miles North east of the mouth of emigration Canyon The city covers probably nearly the same extent of ground that the city of Zanesville does But the houses are very much scattered They are built mostly of adobe (Sun dried brick) The city is regularly laid out and beautifully ornamented with shade trees The water from the canyons are carried through canals above the city On each side of every street in the city is a beautiful clear rivulet rushing rapidly down We entered the city on the South east side corner And traveled through in a north westerly direction until we came to a street running east and west on the north side of that and facing the south stands Brigham Youngs houses two in number one small one between with the sign above the door Titling office

Before one of his houses is a portico running up square at the  
top And on that lays a lion hewn out of a solid ~~rock~~  
rock Emblem of strength perhaps These houses are  
said to be divided into sixty eight appartments and  
each appartment is said to contain a wife  
Brighams family is said to consist of him  
self sixty eight wives and a hundred children  
On the same side of the street and close by Brighams  
house on a corner stands the Desert Store viz  
The Lords Store house where the people are re-  
quired to bring their tithes and store them up  
for the church This building together with Brighams  
buildings are all enclosed with a stone wall  
The church is also enclosed by means of a stone wall  
I got a glimpse of it at one place I dont think it  
verry far exceeds the Presbyterian Church in  
Savannah in beauty And probably near the  
same size There is no temple in the city yet  
There is nothing verry extravagantly grand in the  
city Brighams houses exceeds all the rest in grandure  
And they would be considered plain houses in  
our atlantic cities People here dress plain there is no  
display of silks and satins nor hoop skirts All  
the ladies wear Sunbonnets I should like to remain here  
over Sunday and attend church I understand that Horace  
Greely is in the city And attended church last Sabbath  
They honored him with a seat among the elders and  
while elder Pratte was delivering his discourse He went  
a sleep White to me at Sacramento City Cal via New York City  
Yours as ever J. C. Lowrey

THE WESTERN MAILS

Camp Floyd U.T.  
August 17<sup>th</sup> 1860.

Major  
to be  
2 days  
Wash  
2 of  
letter

written to  
the men  
and until  
you from  
this day  
ate  
come



CAMP FLOYD, U.T. TO FORT LARAMIE, N.T.



CAMP FLOYD U.T. August 17, 1860. The 3 cent stamp of the 1857 issue is tied by the Type II postmark. Thomas Barrett [sargent ?] forwards letters to Lt. Francis J. Shunk who is enroute to Fort Leavenworth. He reports that "Lieut. Perkins [Delavan D.] had a fight with the Indians. 3 men of the Artillery wounded and 12 Indians killed and wounded". The action referred to took place at Eagan Canyon & Deep Creek with troops of Co. B 4th artillery.

by Capt. Henry S. M. Sept.

Lieut. Perkins had a fight with the Indians, 3 men of the Artillery wounded, and 12 Indians killed & wounded.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully your obedient servant  
with my best wishes for your success and happiness.

Francis J. Shunk  
1st Lieut. Ordnance U.S.A.  
Fort Saramie U.T.

Thomas Barrett

## THE WESTERN MAILS



### THE ARMY OF UTAH

*"Head Qts Army of Utah  
Camp on the three Crossings of  
Sweet Water 13th Oct. 57*

*"Major -*

*To night two men who live at Fort Laramie & who had been sent on express to Col Alexander arrived at our camp on their way back - From them I learn that the Mormons having a force in rear of our troops, then encamped at Hams fork of Green River, succeeded in burning three supply trains with their contents - A message from Col Alexander was sent by them to Col C. F. Smith instructing him to protect the trains in the rear, which contains the clothing, Sibley tents subsistence & etc - The orders with regard to the march of the Cavalry & companies of the 6th having been countermanded leaves Col Smith with only 22 men, 47 of his command were left at Laramie as part of the Governors escort - Lieut Smith of Dragoons, the 47 men of Col. Smiths command & 25 dragoons of my escort who were left at Laramie to come on with Lieut Smith, his command will number about 200 men - I have ordered him to hasten forward & join Col. Smith's command - We will march in the morning and expect to encamp with Col. Smith tomorrow night - The express man says Col Alexander would attempt to reach the Valley of Salt Lake by the Bear River, it is much farther than by the usual route, and why he selects it I could not learn unless from the probability of the grass being burnt by the Mormons on the direct route - These men say that it is certain that they will burn the grass on the route they are about to pursue - Under these circumstances, if I could communicate with Col Alexander I would direct him to take up a good position for the winter at Hams fork - The road is beset between this & Hams fork with companies of Mormons so that it is doubtful whither I shall be able to communicate with Col Alexander -"*

*"Major*

*Irwin McDowell  
act. adj General  
Head qt of the Army  
New York City*

*with great respect  
yr. ot. svt.*

*A. S. Johnston  
Col 2nd Cavalry  
Comg. Army of Utah."*

50  
Head Qrs Army of Utah  
Camp on the three crossings of  
Sweet Water 13<sup>th</sup> Octr 57

Major

To night two men who lived  
at Fort Laramie & who had been  
sent on express to Col Alexander  
arrived at our camp on their way  
back - From them I learn that the  
Mormons having interposed a force  
in rear of our troops, then encamped  
at the same fork of Green River, succeeded  
in burning three supply trains with  
their contents - a messenger <sup>from Col Alexander</sup> was sent  
by them to Col C. F. Smith instructing  
him to protect the trains in the rear,  
which contain the clothing, Sibley tents,  
subsistence &c - The orders with re-  
gard to the march of the Cavalry  
& companies of the 6<sup>th</sup> having been  
countermanded leaves Col Smith  
with only 22 men, 47 men of his com-  
mand were left at Laramie as  
part of the Governor's escort -  
Lieut Smith of the Dragoons is  
four days march behind us  
with two companies of Dragoons



1674 P. 57. 1837

Army of 1837

Wagon, October 31, 1837.

No. 2102

Abraham Lincoln

Secretary of War.

Reports of supply train have been forwarded by the Provisional Government to the Secretary of War. The Secretary of War is hereby informed of the same.

Headquarters of the Army  
Washington, Nov. 16, 1837.

Respectfully forwarded

for the information of the

Secretary of War.

By command of Bvt. Maj. Genl.

Samuel McKim

Adj. Genl.

Asst. Secy of War, 1837  
Headquarters, November 16, 1837.

1837 = Nov 18 - 1837

Respectfully sub-

mitted to the Se-

cretary of War.

Abraham Lincoln

Nov 17/37

Sept 1837

Confidential

Report 1837. —

Fort Kearney  
Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 57

Major

I have the honor to report my arrival at this post to day, having made <sup>the</sup> journey from Fort Laramie in seven days. Our march was retarded during the first two or three days by bad roads, made so, by frequent showers of rain during that time. Since it cleared off, there has been an unclouded sky and the weather is very fine; at Coalsacks this morning the thermometer <sup>stood at</sup> 54 at 11<sup>1/2</sup> p<sup>m</sup> 83. The grape is fresh & abundant on the route to this place and I am informed that it is excellent to Laramie. There is no indication of an early winter and I see no reason to apprehend it.

Beyond Laramie Capt. Van Fleet writes from <sup>150 miles west of Laramie</sup> Butte that the grape is bad beyond belief, this timely notice will prevent any delay in the march of the six Companies of the 2<sup>d</sup> Dragoons under Col Cook, I have directed twenty five strong teams & wagons to be

1010  
J. P. 403  
1007

John Henry  
Sept. 24, 1897

James A. Johnson  
Baraboo, Wis.

Reference is made to  
this Henry's arrival at  
made, this far by the  
under his command of

Have by of the army  
M.J. Oct. 27, 1897

Respectfully promised  
to the extent for the  
information of the  
well.

By command of Miss Emma

James MacBarnet

Oct 24 1897  
Miss Emma  
Baraboo, Wis.

845- Oct. 28, 1897

Respectfully submits  
the heading of the  
at the  
Oct. 28, 1897

24

Sept 24

Head Quarters, Army of Utah,  
South Pass - Enroute to Salt  
Lake City, October 18, 1857.

Major:

Accompanying this communication I send you two letters from Col. Alexander, the commander at present of the main body of the Army of Utah. In his letter of the 8th. Oct. Col. Alexander questions, by the hesitation with which he assumes them, his right to exercise fully all the duties of commander. His authority to exercise them without restriction is clearly granted by the 62<sup>d</sup>. Article of War - moreover General Orders, No. 12, Head Qrs. of the Army specially directs who shall command in the absence of Genl. Harney, or to be inferred, any other named commander and sufficiently explains the objects of the Expedition, and no question for the decision of the commander, beyond his ordinary military duties could arise before the arrival of Governor Cumming.

Misapprehending the authority with which he is invested by law and the orders of the General-in-Chief, that portion of his letter respecting command, would be, if he was correct in his view of his own position, a merited reflection upon his superiors and it is therefore that I have adverted to it. Pursuing his design indicated in his letter of Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> he, you will learn from his letter of Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> (herewith) has advanced up Ham's fork of Green river 35 miles above the crossing (see map herewith) and there

In five or six days I think we will have  
all the force available here for a forward movement,  
By that time the trains will all be up, - they should  
be here sooner - In twelve days from this time I expect  
to join Col. Alexander at or near Fontenelle Creek.

The General may be assured that no retro-  
-gade movement will be made by this force.

With great respect,

Your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

A. S. Johnston

Colonel 2d. Cavalry,

Commanding the Army of Utah.

To

Major Irvin M<sup>r</sup>. Dowell,  
Asst. Adj<sup>t</sup> General,  
Head Qu<sup>r</sup>s. of the Army,  
New York City.

Head Qrs Army Attach  
Camp Scott Blacks funk  
of New River 13<sup>d</sup> Decr 57

Major

I have the honor to report  
that two additional companies  
of volunteers have been mustered  
into the service of the United States  
for nine (9) months, making in all a  
battalion of four companies of men  
for nine months with a few exceptions  
in Capt. Mc Graves Company number  
ing in the aggregate ~~three hundred & twenty five~~  
a term of six months would be  
without utility, as in that case the  
men would be entitled to their dis-  
charge in the midst of active  
operations - a term of 12 months was  
objectionable, as it would bring the  
period of discharge at so late a  
season as to make it impracticable  
for the men to return to their homes.

They have been organized into a bat-  
talion and having unanimously elec-  
ted Capt. B. E. Rice 10<sup>d</sup> Infy to Com-  
mand with the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Colonel, I have  
directed him to be placed in command

be required to pay to each company  
the value of the five ounces now  
necessarily withheld by the Govern-  
ment

With great respect

Yr Obedt Servt

A. S. Stephens  
Lieut Colonel  
Army of Utah

Co.

Major J. McDowell  
Asst Adj't General  
Head Quarters of the Army  
New York City.

Head Quarters, Department of Utah,  
Camp Scott, U. S. April 22<sup>d</sup> 1858.

Major:

I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter with its enclosures, from Governor A. Cumming dated 15<sup>th</sup> inst. in which he announces that he has been received and recognized as Governor of Utah, and also, a copy of my reply, with copies of papers accompanying it.

Having no other information in connection with his reception and recognition, than that contained in his letter, I am bound to presume that there has been some stipulation or promise on the part of the Mormons to disband in obedience to the Governor's proclamation, as I do not perceive how the position of affairs here would be changed in a material point of view without such immediate action on their part. If such promise has been made by Mormon leaders, there had been no compliance up to the date of my last information from their camp - three days since they were still encamped in the Cañons, on the route to the City, in considerable force and, I have reason to believe, in other positions not remote from the City. I have requested information from the Governor on this point.

I have no information which would induce me to found any action upon the expectation of any immediate final settlement of existing difficulties - It would give me sincere pleasure to be able to do so. I send copies of the Deseret News - You will see the effort the editor makes to inflame the people against the Army and more directly against me.



1838  
No. 35  
Wm. A. Schermerhorn  
Acting Agent of Wm. A. Schermerhorn

Bank Note, No. 1  
April 22, 1838  
The note is \$1.

Wm. A. Schermerhorn of  
No. 110 of Broadway, New York

Stamper's letter, with enclosures, from Wm. A. Schermerhorn & copy of his reply, and accompanying my papers, upon having no information & advice from him to forward any action upon the application of immediate issue, under terms of the Secret Mess to show spirit of the provisions of the

to enclose  
(Wm. A. Schermerhorn)

No. 35 & 36 Philadelphia

Washington, June 19, 1838.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, Wm. A. Schermerhorn.

Recd. 1838/6/19, June 11, 1838.

Printed - See House  
No. 110 of Broadway  
35<sup>th</sup> Congress page 7

To  
Lieut: Colonel Lorenzo Thomas,  
Assistant Adjutant General,  
Head Quarters of the Army,  
New York City, N. Y.

Head Quarters Department of Utah,  
Camp Floyd, U. S. November 2d 1850

Colonel,

I have the honor to transmit, Major Lynde's report of his march from this post to near the mouth of the Humboldt river, whether he had been ordered to escort a party of emigrants from this territory, and to give protection to the emigrants generally on the route. It also embraces a report of his operations with an additional force in the region between Bear and Snake Rivers in Washington Territory.

The troops under his command consisting of three companies of Dragoons, and three of Infantry, were kept actively employed during a part of August, September and October in scouting on the emigrant route, and I do not doubt, vigilantly and faithfully exerted themselves to find and punish depredators.

I have ascertained that three parties were robbed and ten or twelve of their members, comprising men, women and children, murdered; one of these parties was plundered before and two subsequent to the arrival of the troops. The perpetrators of the robbery of the first party were severely

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. Johnston

Colonel 2d Cavalry,

& Part. Brig, Genl. U.S.A.

1849

By Alfred Cummings  
Governor, Utah Territory.

A Proclamation

Whereas, One Company of the U. S. Infantry, under the command of Captain Felt, is now stationed around the Court House at Provo, where the Hon. Judge Cradlebaugh is now holding court, and eight additional companies of Infantry, one of Artillery, and one Cavalry, under the command of Major Paul, are stationed within sight of the Court House; and

Whereas the presence of soldiers has a tendency, not only to terrify the inhabitants and disturb the peace of the Territory, but also to subvert the ends of justice by causing the intimidation of witnesses and jurors; and

Whereas this movement of troops has been made without consultation with me, and, as I believe is in opposition to both the letter and spirit of my instructions; and

Whereas, General Johnson, commander of the Military Department of Utah, has refused my request that he would issue the necessary orders for the removal of the above mentioned troops;

Now therefore, I, Alfred Cummings, Governor of the Territory of

of troops, it is proper to say that many of them are very much annoyed by their being here at this time, but those who seem to be stricken with terror have fled the country on account of crimes committed by them and the fear of just punishment for their offences. Among them are to be found several of the jurors, Presidents of "Stables", Bishops and also civil officers of the Territory.

It is perhaps proper to say that the Grand Jury was selected by the County Court under a recent act of the Legislature of this Territory, which was signed and approved by the Governor and that several notorious criminals were members of it.

That none but those who are conscious of guilt are under the influence of fear is manifested by the fact that at all times when the Court is in session, the Court Room is crowded by hundreds of Citizens.

It is also to be said that witnesses and jurors are or have been

Great Salt Lake City, the twenty seventh day of March 1850

in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and

signed the seal of the Territory to be affixed - Done at

which Governors of the Territory of Utah

the instructions received by me from government for my guidance

comparable with the letter and spirit of the annexed extract from

military movement, and also against all movements of troops in

Utah, do hereby publish this my solemn protest against the presence

Estimate Continued

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 3   | Rabbit Hanes Assorted   |   |
| 1   | Revel Large   |   |
| 1   | Sgt. Gouges Assorted  |   |
| 2   | Clamps Iron Carpenters  |   |
| 1   | Polishing Machine With complete sets of Wheels and Belts for small Arms. Constructed so as that the Wheels can be set in proper motion by hand power, |   |
| 200 | Combs Gunny   |   |
| 200 | Horse Brushes   |   |
| 200 | Hose Bags   |   |
| 4   | 50  | Company Medals designed in Hacks Sargate Practice |
| 40  | 50  | Regimental Medals                                 |
| 40  | 50  | Stadia - Camp prizes                              |

Camp Floyd No. 1,  
December 22<sup>d</sup> 1858,

J. S. Reno  
Capt

4 - Stadia, Regimental prizes  
40 - do, Company

1858  
Estimated of Ordnance and Artillery  
Items required for the supply  
of March up to the year 1864

Camp Floyd No. 1  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 1858  
The postmaster forwarded  
to the General Command for  
his approval -

J. S. Reno  
Capt

J. S. Reno  
Capt

A. J. Johnston  
Lieut 2<sup>d</sup> Co 5<sup>th</sup> Reg 1<sup>st</sup> Div

2000 lbs of Flour & 2000 lbs of Rice

### MORMONS - PLURAL MARRIAGE - SLAVERY

A great letter written by John G. Hoagland, probably a Scandinavian convert, who had come overland a year or two before this letter. The following extracts are taken under date of "Salt Lake City Utah Territory/March 11 1860":

... Uncle Sams army is with us yet located about 45 miles South of this City at Camp Floyd - a useless expenditure to the govt I think - there never was any use of their coming here in the first place & had this people have seen fitt to do so could have cut them all off with five times their number in Echo Canyon & you would agree with me could you but see as I did how this people was fixd there - the only benefit that I can see that it has been to any one has been to line the pockets of a few contractors in the way of freighting supplies from the states & c - there is one firm that has made a fortune at their freighting - they have been as high as 28cts pr Cwt & never less than 20cts, but it is let this season to another firm at 18cts - the price is the same wether delivered here or left at forts Bridger, Laramie, or Kearney - I mean that portion of it that is designd for those places - but the army are all to leave here in the spring, but about 500 men. We have had a cold hard winter but not very deep snow in the valley - some six weeks of it there was not a day but the thermometer was 12 to 15 degrees below zero some portion of the day - Unless my prospects look much better I shall not winter here more than another winter - the customs & manners of the people are so different to what I have been accustomed and it is not to be wondered at when one takes into acct. the kinds of people of which society is found here - there is over 100,000 persons thrown together from all nations almost upon the face of the globe - I dont believe there is another man living that could keep this people together & harmonize all the different elements of the different nations so well as **Brigham Young** - you will hardly hear of an instance of one going contrary to his counsel & all go to him for counsel & their affairs - there is no appeal from the decision of him & his councillors of which he has two viz Heber C. Kimball & Daniel Wells, & **plurality**... exists almost to a man hardly one of them but has 2 wives & many of them from 4 to 6 & 8 but none can have more than one without the consent of Brigham & from his decision there is no appeal in matters of matrimony or divorce - in the latter case if a man & woman cannot agree to live together all they have to do is go [to] him & state their griveances & if he thinks them of sufficient import he at once dissolves the marriage covenant between them when each one goes their own way & if at a future time they should find other partners go to him & he is just as ready to unite them again & so on to the end of the chapter & all this without fee or reward - very magnanimous! ..... I dont know but little of what is going on in the political world outside of these Mountain bound vallies but I am with you heart & hand in extending the blessings of freedom to all but I am afraid that many of our friends at the North & East are to zealous - perhaps you will say that can not be but I have my reasons & I think they are good ones for we must grant to each state her own rights & privileges ( I am a state rights man) & one of her own rights is to make her own laws So far as they do not interfere with the constitution of the U.S. so that when ever a strong move is made by Northern men against Slavery it wakes up the ire of the hot headed Southerners & they in their State Legislatures pass laws that is still more stringent upon the Slave & binds the chains of Slavery so much the tighter - am I not right - would it not be well as the constitution of the U.S. by its silence upon the subject virtually permits Slavery to exist - to let it alone where it [is] but admit no new Slave States - in my humble opinion it would with many a thinking man - at the South Slavery is becoming unpopular & compared with our free white labor unprofitable - This letter comes to you by a pony express mail that leaves here every Friday [March 16, 1860 the day the envelope was postmarked] & goes through to St. Joseph in 6 days it is carried on pack animals & carries letters only - it is a recent thing & I hope it will be continued although U.S. [Uncle Sam] dont seem to be very favorably disposed towards a mail this way... John G. Hoagland"

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE.** The first Eastbound trip of the Pony Express left Salt Lake City on April 7th and was 6 days in reaching St. Joseph on the Missouri - April 13, 1860 Apparently, Hoagland decided against the PONY, when he was told the rate was \$5.00 p. ½ oz.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Salt Lake City Utah Territory  
March 11 "1860

J. B. Howard Esq  
Hendrysburch Ohio

My Dear friend

Your thirce welcome letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup>  
was rec<sup>d</sup> last monday I have read I resem<sup>ble</sup> it with pride  
I the greatest of pleasure

I in  
letter  
forget  
a portio  
that you  
that she  
the pleas  
regain<sup>d</sup>

J. B. Howard  
Salt Lake City  
March 1860



John B. Howard Esq  
Hendrysburch  
Belmont Co.  
Ohio

as we that  
that my  
shall  
it was  
glad  
to hear  
story  
she has  
my little pet came

through an  
train side is the song goes most of the time she was the only

Central Route  
1860

Interesting letter and cover postmarked "SALT LAKE CITY, U.T. MAR. 16, 1860". It tells about Camp Floyd and the U.S. Army Expedition to Utah — "a useless expenditure", also comments on Brigham Young, polygamy and the Mormons.

The letter ends with the following: "This letter comes to you by a pony express mail that leaves here every Friday and goes through to St. Joseph in 6 days — it is carried on pack animals and carries letters only — it is a recent thing and I hope it will be continued although U.S. [Uncle Sam] dont seem to be very favorably disposed toward a mail this way." End quote.

This letter was posted about two weeks before the Pony Express began operating.

to you by expresp although I do not know as you have an expresp

THE ORIGINAL IS IN THE PONY EXPRESS SECTION.



THE WESTERN MAILS



SALT LAKE CITY UTAH.T. This is the Type II postmark which comes in black, blue and red..The one above is a green shade of blue. Cover used to Honolulu in the Sandwich Islands - Feb.1 to April 14,1856.

Cover below bears the same postmark in blue used to Scotland via Liverpool, where it arrived Oct. 28, 1855 thence to AYRE the next day. The numeral 3 in red is the British share of the "24 PAID"..



THE WESTERN MAILS



THE CITY OF THE SAINTS TO IMPERIAL RUSSIA.

Cover above, bearing a pair of the 12¢ stamp of the 1851 issue, originated at Salt Lake City, Utah Territory on November 1, 1856. It arrive at New York on April 4, 1857 after a long delay in transit. Thence Via "U.S. Pkt." to England where it was forwarded to St. Petersburg, Russia via Aachen, Germany. It was rated 21¢ by British Open Mail via U.S. Packet, thus it was overpaid 3¢. The postmaster at Salt Lake City may have charged the sender 3¢ for the overland rate to New York, although the 21¢ rate was from any point in the U.S. From England the postage would be collect to Russia. Cover is addressed to "Madlle Ludert at the Establishment Galvanoplastique" care of "La Grande Duchesse Marie Nicolaovna St. Petersburg Russia". A rare use of a pair of the 12¢ stamp of the 1851 issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

During the winter of 1856-7 no regular mail service was performed, because of the deep snows on the plains and in the mountains. It was one of the worst winters in the Rocky Mountains. From September 10th the mail piled up at S.L. City until the postmaster contracted with Feramorz Little and Ephraim Hanks to carry the mail to Independence, Missouri. They left on Dec. 10, 1856, performing the service under terrible conditions, and not arriving at Independence until February 27th - almost eighty days in transit.

THE WESTERN MAILS



SALT LAKE CITY Utah AUG 1. This is Type III postmark. No year date, but this type was used in 1854-55.

SALT LAKE CITY U.T. FEB 19. Type V postmark. No year date but this type was used in 1859-1864.



## THE WESTERN MAILS



**CARSON CITY, U.T.** The Post Office was established November 18, 1858 in what was then the Utah Territory. On March 2, 1861 it became part of the Nevada Territory in Ormsby County. Cover above was used about 1859.

**CARSON VALLEY, U.T.** The Post Office was established December 10, 1852 and changed to Nevada Territory March 2, 1861 in Douglas County. It was discontinued March 20, 1863. Cover below was missent to CARSON CITY, thus the Carson Valley transit postmark - "July 5" 1861.

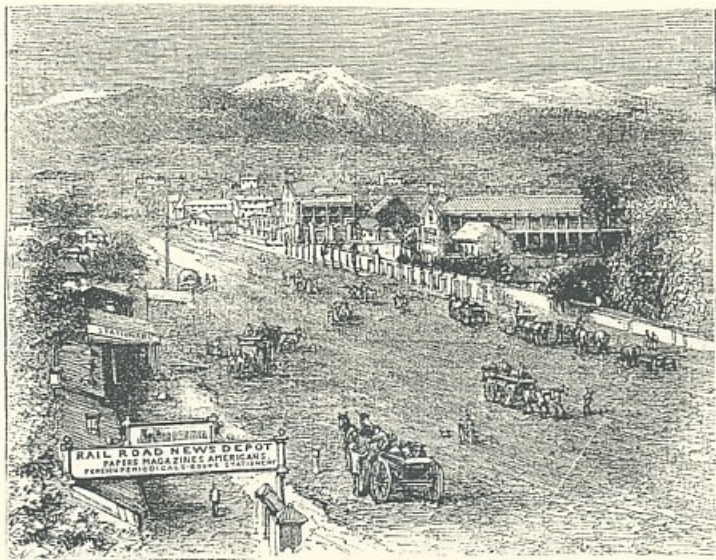


THE WESTERN MAILS



CARSON CITY, U.T. Cover above used September 10, 1861 while the post office was in the Utah Territory. Cover below used November 10, 1862 while in the Nevada Territory. Postmarked CARSON CITY NOV 10 1862 NEV T.





**MAIN STREET SALT LAKE CITY**

Newspaper clipping showing Salt Lake City in 1873

Leather post card bears a one cent stamp of the 1802 issue tied by machine-cancel postmark - SALT LAKE CITY/UTAH DEC 24 PM '07, to Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**THE TRUE**  
**Latter Day Saints' Herald**  
 Semi-Monthly, 32 pages,  
 One year \$3; Six months \$1.50;  
 Four months \$1.  
**ZION'S HOPE,**  
 For Children and S. Schools,  
 One year 50 cts.; Six months 25 cts.  
**Joseph Smith, Editor.**  
 Book and Job Work promptly executed.

E. BANTA, *President.*  
 L. L. ROGERS, *Treasurer.*  
 DAVID DANCER,  
 JOHN SCOTT,  
 JOSEPH SMITH.

BOARD OF PUBLICATION OF  
 THE REORGANIZED CHURCH  
 OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

JOSEPH SMITH, *Business Manager.*  
 JOHN SCOTT, *Superintendent.*  
 ROBERT WARNOCK, *Secretary.*

**Herald Office,**

Plano, Ill., Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 1843

Mr J. C. Johnson,  
 Downer's Grove, Ill.

I have never had the honor  
 of a communication from President  
 B. Young; except a letter of thanks for  
 a book once sent him by a committee,  
 of which committee I was chairman,  
 and that letter was signed by an  
 amanuensis for him.

Should opportunity serve,  
 with your permission, I would

If not called for in Ten days, return to  
**JOSEPH SMITH.**  
 Box 82, Lamoni, Decatur County, Iowa.



PLANO, ILL., DECATUR CO., IOWA.

Mr C. L. Kelley  
 Kirkland  
 Lake Co  
 Ohio

## THE WESTERN MAILS

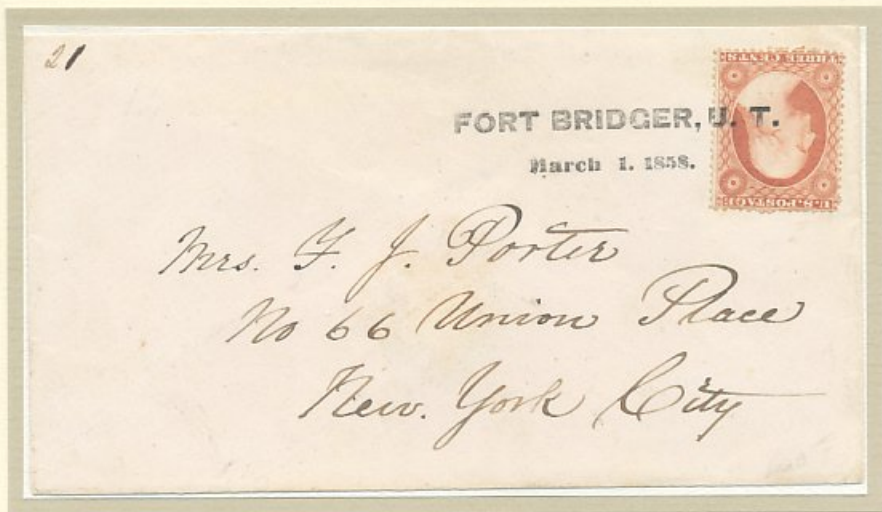
**FORT BRIDGER** In December of 1843 Jim Bridger dictated a letter to Pierre Chouteau Jr. in St. Louis in which he stated: "I have established a small fort with a blacksmith shop and a supply of iron in the road of the emigrants on Black's Fork of Green River ... In coming out they are generally well supplied with money, but by the time they get here they are in need of all kinds of supplies, horses, provisions, smithwork etc. The fort is a beautiful location ... receiving fine, fresh water from the Utah range ..." In 1845 one westbound emigrant wrote: "It is built of poles and dogwood mud. It is a shabby concern." Another observed: "This is not properly a fort, but several adobe buildings arranged for the purpose of defense." The government had purchased Fort Laramie in 1849 to guard the Oregon Trail and serve as a supply depot for the emigrants. By the time they reached Fort Bridger the majority were in a hurry to get across the deserts and over the Sierra Nevadas before the snows blocked the way. That is probably the reason so few letters were written from Fort Bridger in comparison to Fort Laramie. In fact letters written along the way from points other than Forts Kearney, Laramie and Bridger are scarce.

The cover shown below once contained a letter from Capt. Jesse A. Gove of the 10th U.S. Infantry to his wife. It was written on November 30, 1857, mostly about personal business matters, but concludes with: "It is now 7 P.M. Mail starts at daybreak tomorrow." - December 1, 1857. It was received January 16, 1858. Gove was killed at the battle of Gaines Mill in the Civil War on June 27, 1862.





## THE WESTERN MAILS



**FORT BRIDGER** This fort was established by James Bridger, the well-known fur trader, explorer, army scout and emigrant guide, and his partner Louis Vasques in 1843. It is located on Blacks Fork of the Green River, at the present town of Fort Bridger, in southwestern Wyoming. Fort Bridger and Fort Laramie became the two most important trading posts on the overland trails to California and Oregon.

During the so-called Mormon War in 1857, the Mormons burned the original fort to keep it out of the hands of the federal troops. Shortly thereafter Col. A.S. Johnston seized the burned out fort and took possession in the name of the U.S. Government. Previously Bridger had sold the fort to the Mormons, but after they burned it he ignored the sale and offered to lease it to the U.S. Army with an option to buy. The government declined the offer on the basis that he could not establish ownership and proceeded to construct a new fort on the site and establish a large military reservation. After Bridger's death a settlement was made with his family on his claim.

The Post Office Department records indicate that a Post Office was established at Fort Bridger on August 6, 1850, while in Nebraska Territory although this territory was not officially formed until 1854. The Post Office was discontinued June 9, 1857, probably because the fort was destroyed, but it was reopened on August 6, 1858 under Utah Territory. It continued in operation at the fort until about 1900, when it was moved into the town of Fort Bridger.

The cover shown above bears the first handstamp of this office. It was applied to all mail going out on March 1, 1858 and therefore some have claimed that it is a "precancelled" postmark. The facts do not bear this out. Note on back of cover reads in part "Straight Line Army Postmark - Johnston's Utah Army" signed "Stanley B. Ashbrook".

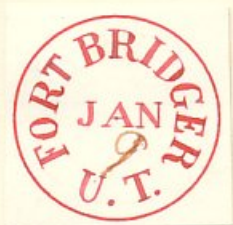
THE WESTERN MAILS



**FORT BRIDGER** This is the second handstamp used at this office and the first circular type. Covers shown were probably used in 1859.



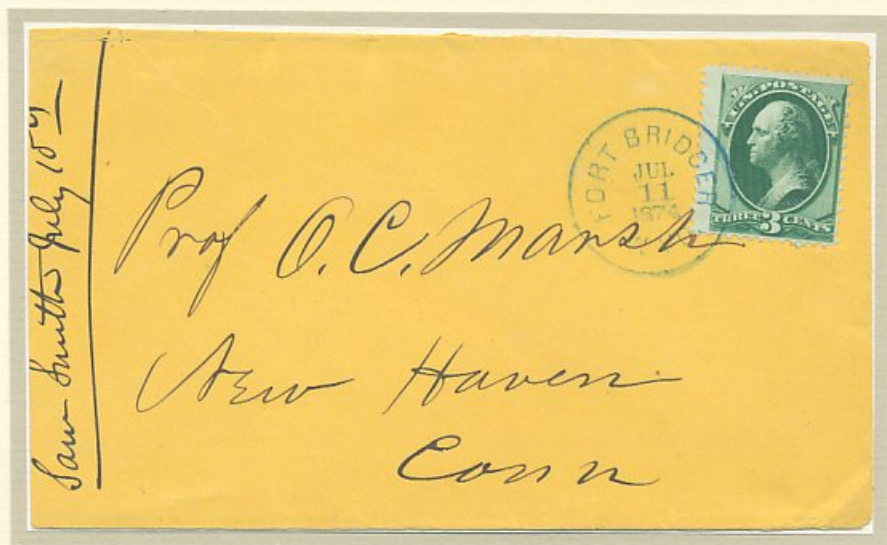
THE WESTERN MAILS



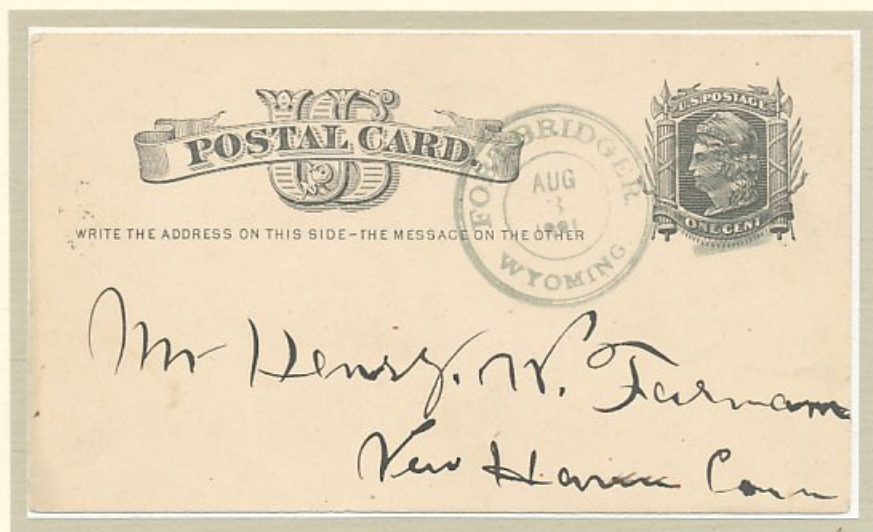
**FORT BRIDGER, UTAH TERRITORY** The cover shown *above* bears the Type II postmark in red. The cover *below* is the Type III postmark used November 5, 1865. Wyoming became a territory July 29, 1868.



THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT BRIDGER The cover shown above was used on July 11, 1874 and the one below on August 3, 1881.



THE WESTERN MAILS



*Recd at Reno  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1877*



*Lieut Butler D. Price  
4<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry  
Cantonment Reno  
Via Fort Totten  
Wyo. Ter.*

FORT BRIDGER



*L. Wm. Granger  
Cmde J. G. Inspe & Bns.  
311 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
St. Louis, Mo.*

THE WESTERN MAILS



UTAH TERRITORY

**AMERICAN FORK UTAH.** Post Office established in Utah County Dec. 19, 1851. Letter dated February and the cover FEB 20 - no year date. The most probable date is 1877. The writer mentions "all in bed hired girl gone out sunday evening" and also mentions Brigham Young "has given it in to the hands of the women". Young died Aug. 29, 1877. The 3¢ stamped envelope is of the 1874-76 issue and "sunday" is on the 18th of February in 1877. The writer states that there is "plenty of snow in the valeys but none in the mountains for iragation next summer....had they heeded the presidents council they would have plenty of grain savedup....Brigham has been talking a long time about it ...now he has given it in the hands of the wimen.....Mary E. Smith."

**SPANISH FORK, U. T.** Post Office established as PALMYRA Sept. 28, 1853 and changed to SPANISH FORK on Dec. 27, 1856. Cover postmarked **Spanish Fork U. T. Dec 29/67** and prepaid with the 3¢ stamp of the 1869 issue.





American Lith. City Brooklyn, NY

STREET IN GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, LOOKING EAST

From the desk of  
SCOTT R. TREPPEL  
strepel@siegelauctions.com

Re lot 330 -

Floyd. This is the  
only Hascall letter  
in the lot.

- Scott

Robert A. Siegel

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

60 E. 56TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022 • TEL. (212) 753-6421 • FAX (212) 753-6429

as with your of my thoughts  
of one who was good  
#1  
quint. 29, 9 1958 1853

I want to see you in this valley and  
happiness that can be enjoyed, this  
I was born to live in this age  
in people of the most high God and  
mouths of his servants the prophets,  
not go to meeting, if fast, and pray  
doing on so many days out of  
the corner stone was laid, the wisdom  
was a time of great rejoicing, wherever  
taken back, where we hold our meet-  
ing every sabbath, the valley and full  
ought beyond commenced, consider  
it of it, as a person filled with  
fly out, and if you do not believe  
it to say as it says in the bible, it is  
to open a space for the Holy Spirit  
dice that is so interwoven around you  
in of Jacob that was sold into Egypt  
the blessings that men pronounced  
regularly and see if it is not most likely  
the cities south of us far three hundred  
is a city for an hundred and fifty

men to assist them in bringing them into subjection, Thales was one of the number, he has  
gone about five weeks, he is all engaged in military business, it does not give me any uneasiness  
at all, I think he will be called where he can do the most good, and that is what I wish him  
to do, I expect him home every day, tranquility is restored, and the men are returning to the  
city, Loria, and Thales bought an hay lot that produces abundantly fifteen mips from the city,