

Fifteen Miles East of Fort Laramie.

To be mailed at the Fort.

Dear Wife and Father:

I now probably write for the last time until I reach the Sacramento Valley, where you will direct your letters to Sutter's Fort to San Francisco. Write as soon as you receive this. I am anxious to hear from home. It will now probably take us, with good luck, twelve weeks to reach the Sacramento Valley. We have seen several guides for other companies that tell us the roads are not as bad as we expected. Our cattle all look well with very few exceptions. Our men are well. I have not had a half hour's sickness since I left home. We have had several hail storms, some very hard hail stones, in one instance as large as hens' eggs. Some companies have lost a great many cattle in such storms by not attending to them. At one set of encampments we found they had lost about four hundred head of cattle. Some corral their cattle. Others let them run loose. Others pickett. The latter is our plan. We have never lost an hour in looking for cattle. The rains are so frequent this season that grass and water are plenty. The guide of another company told me today that in passing this road three years ago he never had rain from the time he struck the South Platte till he reached the Sacramento Valley. We have passed some curiosities, but I will try to describe them as well as I can in my log book. We have now been following up the Platte for some two weeks, and all the road bears great similarity and of course becomes tiresome, but as soon as we leave Laramie we have a change. We come to the Black Hills, then the Rocky Mountains, which we have already seen. The Platte is generally not more than from six inches to two feet deep and from one to three miles in width. We have passed only fifteen graves since we left the Missouri River, the deaths mostly by accident or consumption. We have concluded, some of us, that our wagons are coupled too long.

I have not much to write that will be of interest. The camping and traveling I like, but I have something more to contend with than this. It is to see my spiritual matters. All the companions included use most wicked profanity. Gambling and other vices common as stops on the road, but it seems to me I never in my life felt Christ more precious to my soul than I have on this trip. It seems necessary to set a double watch against the temptations of the devil. I have more pleasure in contemplating things of a divine nature, loving to read God's word than here. I miss the means of Grace more than I expected when Sabbath came, and I feel as though I was doing wrong though we seem almost obliged to travel. Dear Jane, you have an interest in Heaven, where if we should not be permitted to meet on earth, we may be permitted to meet where your and my Redeemer lives. I always remember you at a Throne of Grace, my dear, remember.

Your Husband.

Dear Father:-

I hope your early instructions to me are not lost. I often think of them. I hope I may have good luck in this trip that your last years may be made easy, and may we all, if not permitted to meet on earth, be permitted to meet in Heaven, is my prayer.

Give my love to Addeline, Louisa, your Ma and Mr. Carter. Yours in love.

George Abbott.



FORT LARAMIE

Albumen 27/3/1868/1871

Fort Laramie image from the [Wyoming Photographs website](#).

Watertown Californians.

During the past week, letters have been received in this village from Messrs. **GILMAN, STIMPSON, STECK** and **GLINES**, dated June 19th, at Fort Laramie, the last fort they will pass before reaching California. These letters were more or less blackened and charred by fire, having been recovered, according to a printed endorsement of the Postmaster at St. Louis, "from the wreck of the steamer **Algoma**, burned at the wharf at St. Louis July 29th — said boat having a large California mail, a large portion of which was entirely consumed."

From the letter of Mr. **GLINES** we learn that the Watertown boys still remain in good health and most of them in good spirits, and that their oxen are all in "better heart than when they started from St. Jo." But other emigrants had been less fortunate, "You cannot imagine," says **Mr. G.**, "the suffering and distress on this road. Men, women, children and teams are giving out and dying every day. The road is lined with dead oxen and mules."

For 75 or 80 miles before reaching Fort Laramie, **Mr. G.** says the roads were "very heavy and sandy, water scarce and bad, and no whisky!" He concludes his letter by saying: "I would never advise any one to take this route for California."

Judging from the rate at which the company have traveled since leaving Fort Kearney, they will probably reach the 'diggings,' if no misfortune befalls them, early in September. But the worst part of the route is yet before them, if we have anything like a correct knowledge of the country. The desert portions of it have still to be passed. — Heavy wheeling and scarcity of water, food and fuel, are in reserve for the company. — But stout nerves and a determined spirit can triumph over all these; and the next intelligence we receive from our "boys," will doubtless be to the effect that they are "feeding in tall clover," with both pockets rapidly filling with "the rock."

The Great Fire at St. Louis.

Destruction of a Mail with Official Despatches and Letters from California Emigrants, &c.

ST. LOUIS, July 30.

The value of the boats and cargoes destroyed by fire yesterday is estimated at \$148,000, and the aggregate insurance is believed to be \$130,000.

Much excitement and disturbance was kept up all night and most of yesterday, but there has been no serious fighting since the date of my last despatch. The firemen are now in the ascendancy, and there is no collection of Irishmen in the city at present.

Forty-eight arrests have been made, and the rioters will be examined to-day.

There was a mail on board the *Algoma*, containing several thousands letters from California emigrants; also important official despatches. The mail pouch has been found in a greatly damaged condition, most of the letters being destroyed.

The latest dates brought by this mail are to July 4, and from a point sixty miles below Fort Kearney. The emigrants generally were getting along very well. The roads were strewn with three-made graves of those who had died on the way seek for gold.

The cholera had broken out among the Indians, alarming them to such a degree that they had fled from the trail of the emigrants. The Sioux, Pawnees and Cheynees, had all disappeared.

Capt. Morris, in command of U. States troops, Dr. Birdsall, and Gen. John Wilson, were of the party. Mr. Fables, the botanist, has returned, losing most of his outfit.

Among the emigrants who had died on the route is Fanny White, daughter of D. White, of this city.

ST. LOUIS, July 30—6 P. M.

A portion of the California mail lost in the steamship *Algoma* has been recovered in a damaged condition.

In the course of yesterday five groggeries kept by Irishmen were completely robbed. No lives were lost, but several were badly injured, though none seriously.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

News from the Salt Lake--Indian Outrages.

St. Louis, July 27.

Capt. Hughes, who was at Salt Lake, left on the 18th June to come back to the United States. On his way from Fort Kearney, which he left on the 7th, when thirty miles this side, his party was surrounded by 500 Cheyennes and Sioux, who robbed the party of their teams; provisions, and everything they had. The Indians were in pursuit of the Pawnees, for the purpose of giving them battle. Two days afterward they met the Pawnees, numbering 700 warriors, ready to encounter their enemy and confident of destroying them.

A company of emigrants from Dayton, Ohio, was attacked a few days previous, by the Pawnees, on the Platte Bottom. A fight took place in which five Indians were killed and one Buckeye wounded, when the Indians, having had enough, withdrew, leaving the whites masters of the field.

A Mr. Williams with a party left Salt Lake for the United States on the 6th May last. When they had come to about 300 miles the other side of Fort Laramie they were attacked by the Indians and robbed of horses and outfit.

The Washington City Company of California Emigrants was within 40 miles of Fort Laramie on the 15th inst., all well.

FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENIGRANTS.—The following letter has received by one of our citizens yesterday. It was much blackened and charred by fire, having been recovered, according to a printed endorsement of the P. M., at St. Louis, & from the wreck of Steamer Algoma, burned at the wharf at St. Louis, July 29th—said boat having a large California mail on board, a large portion of which was entirely consumed." The letter, tho' very brief, brings good tidings as to the health and progress of "the Badger Rangers."

Fort Laramie, June 19th '49

Dear Brother :—We—the Badger Rangers—are all here, in good health and spirits, not having met with a serious accident or loss. The Rocky Mountains are in sight. Ho! for California.

Yours, truly,
FREDRICK.

St. Louis, July 29th.

A fire broke out at 3 o'clock this morning, on board of the steamer Algoma, that had just arrived from Missouri, with a full freight, burning her, the Mary, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Dubuque. The San Francisco was also just in from Missouri, with a full cargo of hemp, tobacco and bacon.

A tremendous riot occurred at half past five this morning, between the Irish and the Firemen. The Irish assaulted the Firemen, and drove them from the engines. Pistols were fired first by James O'Brien and ——— Lynch, from an Irish boarding-house on the Levee, upon the Franklin Engine Co. The firemen rallied, and riddled O'Brien's and seven other houses, part on Morgan street and part on the Levee. John Grant, of Missouri Co. was shot in the face, and a number of Irish badly wounded. The Missouri Fire Co. broke open the armory of the St. Louis Greys, and took their arms by force. The Mayor ordered out the Greys to suppress the riot, and sent to Jefferson barracks for troops.

JULY 30th.—Great excitement prevailed through night and most of the day, yesterday; but there has been no more fighting. The firemen were finally in the ascendency, and no collection of Irish in the city. Forty-eight arrests have been made. The accused will be examined to-day.

The mail from the California emigrants was on board the Algoma, containing several thousand letters, including important official despatches. It has been found in a damaged condition; most of the letters are destroyed. The latest dates are July 4th, from a point sixty miles beyond Fort Kearney.—The emigrants were generally getting along well.—The roads are strowed with graves of those that died. The cholera had broken out among the Indians, alarming them so much that they had fled from the trail of the emigrants. The Sioux, Pawnees and Choynees had all disappeared.