

Sullivan Aug. 26th 1849.

Honorable & Venerable Father

Dear Sir, the time is, & doubtless appears long to you, since you have received any communication from me direct; but it has been for the want of an opportunity — True I have written a few lines to Newton at the great uncertainty of his ever receiving; but in case he does, with special request, he will advise you of the same immediately.

I arrived here on the 20th inst, after a very tedious journey of 135 days from Santa Fe. Our route was down the Rio-Grande 150 miles to Socorro, thence across the Mountains to the head-waters of the Rio Gila, thence down that River to a point six miles below its Mouth where we crossed the Rio Colorado of the West; thence across the Great Desert & through the Mountains again to the Pueblo Las Angeles, or "city of the Angels," thence on & near the coast northward about 250 miles, thence Eastward across the Mountains again to the head of the

Tulaloe Lake in the Tulare Valley, thence
across & up the Rio del Rey, or Kings River
to the point where it emanates from the
Base of the Sierra Nevada, thence a
northwesterly course ^{up the valley & across} the Merced, Tuwala-
mie, Mokri-posas, Starish-Lob & a branch
of the Sanjoaquin Rivers to Stockton;
thence to this place 75 miles; which is a
small stream emptying into the Tuwalamie
twelve miles distant. From the point where
I last struck into the mountains you will per-
ceive a great depression from the ordinary
route, this was owing to our having fallen
in with a Detachment of Oroquos dis-
patched to the head of Kings River to
chastise some Indians who had recently killed
a party of Americans & we thought it a
good opportunity to penetrate where others
had failed & have the first chance at
the Gold which is said to exist there
in great quantity, but owing to our dis-
appointment on arriving in about two days
travel of the designated point, we learned
the Indians had fled far into the Snowy
Mountains - Our Nations falling short &
animals broke down, the commanding officer
determined to proceed as fast as possible
to the neighborhood of Stockton; where he

was ordered to report. - consequently I was
some twenty days longer in reaching my journey
end than otherwise would have been the
case. The Gold region as far as discovered,
you will perceive has two great natural divisions
by the water-courses they contain, the one with the
Sacramento & the other the Sanjoaquin & its
tributaries; I am in the last-mentioned
region, which generally is about 100 miles
from & southward of the central portion of
the other; after I get rested I intend to pre-
tend medicine & what leisure I may have
spend in picking up the loose Gold
scattered about the surface where the
Miners have been at work, already in my
rambles I have collected a little more than ~~one~~
ounce, but it lies very deep & those who oper-
ate have very hard work; still there is abund-
ance of it here & large quantities are taken out
daily. Owing to the lateness of my arrival you
will hardly look for me home the present year.
I am surprised of Cholera in the states, but not to what
extent; & have just rec^d report of the death of Exe-
cutive Post, Col^l Benton, Gen^l Worth & other noted
persons, also of a destructive fire in St Louis & the
overflow of N Orleans - Please send me Papers
& Letters directed to "Stockton Upper California."
General good health prevails in this section of the

mining region; I am heavier & more fleshy
than I have ever before been. That the
blessing of Heaven may rest upon you & graciously
spare our lives until we meet again is the earnest
prayer of your anxious & ever affectionate son. E. B. Bateman

12
E. B.



Burgin
Bateman Esq
Jacksonville
Illinois
U. S.

R151018
1-27-10
2500

Board 24 \$ Per week. Flour, Sugar & Coffee each .50^c to Port
Ward Bread & Barley .75^c to 10am 1.00^p or Corn .50^c to
Freight from Stockton, 30. \$ Per cwt., Mashing Per doz 12 \$
Wages of a cook Per month 300 \$ Wages for labor generally
Per day 10 \$ to 14 \$ Wire, Wheel-Barrow, Per hour 1 \$ Pump
Per day 8 \$ to 10 \$ Fresh Beef .25^c Per lb Lard 1.25 \$ Per lb

TALES FROM THE TRAIL

1846 ~ Mexican War ~1849

Sullivan Aug. 26th 1849

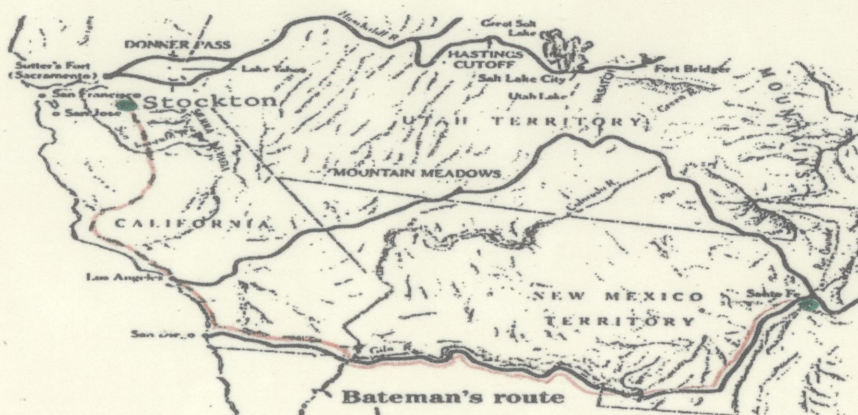
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Mailed at San Francisco, Cal. ~ Oct 1st 1849 ~ Red Paid 40



Bateman Route To California

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Thence on & near the coast northward about 250 miles, thence Eastward across the Mountains again to the head of the Tulalles Lake in the Tulary Valley, thence across & up the Rio del Rey, or Kings River to the point where it emanates from the Base of the Sierra Nevada, thence a north-westerly course up the valley & across the Mercey, Tuwalamie, Merri-posas, Stanish-Low & a branch of the San Joaquin Rivers to Stockton;- thence to this place 75 miles; which is a small stream emptying into the Tuwalamie twelve miles distant. From the point where I last struck into the Mountains you will perceive a great digression from the ordinary rout, this was owing to our having fallen in with a Detachment of Dragoons dispatched to the head of Kings River to chastise some Indians who had recently killed a party of Americans & we thought it a good opportunity to penetrate where others had failed & have the first chance at the Gold which is said to exist there in great quantity, but greatly to our disappointment on arriving in about two days travel of the designated point, we learned the Indians had fled far into the Snowy mountains. Our rations falling short & animals broke down, the commanding Officer determined to proceed as fast as possible to the neighborhood of Stockton; where he was ordered to report, consequently.

I was some twenty days longer in reaching my journeys end than otherwise would have been the case. The Gold region as far as discovered, you will perceive has two great natural divisions by the water-courses they contain, the one with the Sacramento & the other the San Joaquin as their tributaries; I am in the last mentioned region, which is generally is about 100 miles from & Southward of the central portion of the other; After I get rested I intend to practice Medicine & what leisure I may have spend in picking up the loose Gold Scattered about the Surface where the miners have been at work, already in my rambles I have collected a little more than One ounce, but it lies very deep & those who operate have very hard work; still there is abundance of it here & large quantities are taken out daily. Owing to the lateness of my arrival you will hardly look for me home the present year. I am apprised of cholera in the state, but not to what extent - & have just rec'd. report of the death of Ex-President Polk, Coln: Benton, Genl. Worth & other noted persons, also of a destructive fire in St. Louis & the overflow of N. Orleans - Please send Papers & letters directed to "Stockton Upper California, General good health prevails in this section of the mining region. I am heavier & more fleshy than I have ever before been. That the blessing of Heaven may rest upon you & graciously spare our lives until we meet again is the earnest prayer of your anxious & ever affectionate son.

E. B. Bateman

Board 24\$ Pr week Flour, Sugar & coffee each .50 cents lb Pork Hard Bread & Barley .75 cents lb Ham 1.00\$ lb. Corn .50 cents lb Freight from Stockton, .30\$ Pr 100 wt. Washing Pr Doz. 12\$ Wages of a cook Pr Month 300\$ Wages for labor generally Pr day 10\$ to 14\$ Hire, Wheel-Barrow Pr hour 1\$ Pump Pr day 8\$ to 10\$ Fresh Beef .25 cents per lb Lard 1.25\$ Pr lb.