

Russell Cigging H. T.

Monday noon July 25th 1859

My Bel. M. Clemens

Dear cousin

I presume you have long since come to the conclusion that the Indians have taken my "scalp" or that I have but little regard for friends or promises. But I feel satisfied that ^{when} one so kind and generous as yourself bears my reasons for not writing sooner you will change your opinion and grant the pardon that I now ask for, and not be "huffy" but answer this as soon as you conveniently can — — —

I believe the last letter that I wrote to you was written on the little Arkansas R. from that date untill the 16th May nothing ocured more than the usual "ups and downs" attending a trip on the plains. on the 16th we encountered an alarming hail storm it lasted more than one hour and two of our men were seriously injured by the hail. From that day untill the 25th May we had beautiful weather indeed. the morning of the 25th was very beautiful and we left the waters of the Arkansas to cross the divide on to the waters of

Let me know where your friend Hudson's address is have forgotten it

Platt River. Our little party was in good health but in rather low spirits for at this time we had and were daily receiving the most discouraging accounts from these mines. About noon the wind commenced blowing from the West and in a short time shifted to the N. W. and rain began to fall but soon changed to snow at this I became alarmed and told our men the dangers that hovered around us that we were 12 miles from timber and that our camp that night must be made on the same ground where

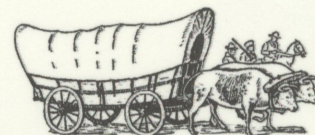
Capt Macey from the 24th of last May in a storm lost 15 men and nearly 200 animals by the frost that afternoon was one that shall long be remembered by me. The violence of the storm rather increased as night drew on but thanks to a kind providence I had the satisfaction of seeing (by the time it was fairly dark) our little party as comfortable as could be expected under the circumstances. at least I felt satisfied that we all should "weather the storm". About 11 o'clock that night a young man came into our camp almost froze and reported that his companion was about three miles back on the plains and

that he was entirely exhausted we gave him dry clothes and something to eat and went in search of ~~him~~ ^(the lost man) but the night was so dark and the violence of the storm so great that we were compelled to return without him as soon as we could see next morning three young men from Ohio and myself took a pack animal and started in search of him and about 3 miles from our camp we found him - he was dead - we took him to our camp and buried him - his name was Jacob Heft and was from Penn. But from what part I could not learn. About noon on the 26th the ^{sun} shone bright and the afternoon was delightful and on the 27th we arrived on the head of Cherry Creek. (here I saw the first indications of a gold region except float indications) which is about 100 miles South East of here and on the 29th we arrived in the fair-famed City of Denver the retreat of Locomotives and "hanger ons" of the omnibus administration. I had no inclination to remain here long therefore I urged our party to push forward to the foot of the

Mountains that we might test the
Country as to its minerall wealth and
satisfy ourselves for at that time the South
platt river Gold mines had been pronounced
a humbug by thousands and on the first
day of June we arrived at the foot of the ^{mt}
which is 25 miles from here and on the second
we arrived in these diggings we left a part
of our company and our teams there for at
that time there was no road that was
pasable for wagons and barely pasable for
pack animals. after prospecting here one
week and satisfing myself that there was
rich gold mines here I returned to the
Cabin for my provision and traps. and
then I became aware that all my Books and
stationery was gone and many other things
of value to me. therefore I was without any
writing materials and could procure none.
and this is one reason why I did not write
sooner, another reason was that until recen-
tly from where I am located I have had no
facilities for sending letters to the post office
which is forty miles from here. now when you
take these things into consideration I am sure
you will not blame me for not writing sooner
but you will set down and write me a very
long letter for I do want to hear from you so
bad Direct your letters to Denver City K.T.
I wish you to write to "Ike" tell ^{him} where I am
and David and John and family and give
them my respects my love to uncle ^{John} and give
them my respects my love to ^{very} ^{truly} ^{your} ^{friend} D. L. Clemens

The Auraria Story

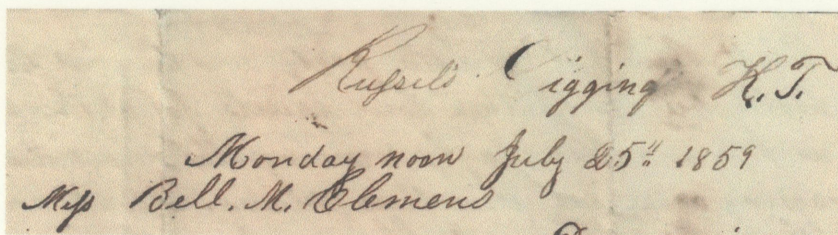
Auraria, K. T.
Arapahoe County
1859



AURARIA K. T.



August 19, 1859 Auraria, K. T. To Miss Bell M. Clemons and Mrs. Anna E. West Alexander. Washington Co, Pennsylvania with large Paid 3 and black straightline type set handstamp with an exciting letter from her uncle D. L. Clemons



Russel's Diggings Located in Gilpin County

Russell Diggings
Monday noon July 25, 1859

Miss Bell M. Clemens

Dear Cousin I resume you have once since to those conclusion that the Indians have taken my scalp" I have but little regard for friends or promises, But I feel satisfied that when one so kind and generous as yourself learn my reasons for not writing soon will change you opinion and grant the pardon.

Attending a trip on the plains, on the 16th we encountered an alarming hail storm it lasted more then one hours and two of our men were seriously injured by the hail. From that day until the 25 May was very beautiful weather and we left the waters of the Arkansas to cross the divide on the waters of Platte River.

Mr. Clemons further states in this letter he has taken up several mining claims near Russell's Digging's in one of the richest gold areas near Central City. The story he writes about his trip from Pennsylvania reads like it must have been one of life's great adventures.

To Miss Bell M. Clemens West Alexander, Washington County Pennsylvania

Mailed from Auraria K. T. Aug. 9, 1859

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(One line upside down "let me know your sister and husbands address I have forgotten their name)

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Mountains that we might test the country is to its mineral wealth and satisfy ourselves for at that time the South Platte river Gold mines has been pronounced a humbug by thousands and on the first day of June we arrive at the foot of the mountains which is 25 miles from here and on the second arrived in these digging's we left a part of our company and our teams. There for at that time there was no road that was passable for wagons and barely passable for pack animals. After prospecting here one week and satisfying myself that here was rich gold mines here I returned to the valley for my provisions and "traps" and then I became aware that all my books and stationery was gone and many other things of value to me therefore I was without any writing materials and could procure none, and this is one reason why I did not write soner another reason was that until recently from where I am located I have had no facilities for sending letters to the post office which is forty miles from here now when you take these things into consideration I am sure you will not blame for for not writing sooner you will set down and write me a very long letter for I do want to hear from you so bad.

Direct Your letters to Denver City, K. T. I wish you to write to Ike tell him where I am and David and John & and family and give them my Respects to my love to Uncle & Aunt

Very truly yours D. L. Clemmns