

**JESSE APPLGATE, OPEN LETTER “TO THE FUTURE EMIGRANTS TO OREGON, FORT HALL, SNAKE RIVER,” AUGUST 10, 1846**

Gentlemen:

The undersigned are happy to inform you that a southern route to the Willamette, has just been explored, and a portion of the emigration of the present year are now upon the road. Owing to unavoidable delays, the exploring party did not arrive at the forks of the road until some of the front companies of the emigrants were passed, perhaps eighty or one hundred wagons.

The new route follows the road to California about 320 miles from this place, and enters the Oregon Territory by the way of the Clamet Lake, passes through the splendid vallies of the Rogue and Umqua rivers, and enters the valley of the Willamette near its south eastern extremity.

The advantage gained to the emigrant by this route is of the greatest importance—the distance is considerably shortened, the grass and water plenty, the sterile regions and dangerous crossings of the Snake and Columbia rivers avoided, as well as the Cascade Mountain—he may reach his place of destination with his wagon and property in time to build a cabin and sow wheat before the rainy season. This road has been explored, and will be opened at the expense of the citizens of Oregon, and nothing whatever demanded of the emigrants.

Gov. Boggs and party, with many other families of respectability, have changed their destination, and are now on their way to Oregon. Some of the emigrants intend stopping in the Umqua valley—which, tho’ not so large, is quite equal to the Willamette for fertility.

A way-bill, fully describing the road, will be prepared and sent to the United States, or to Fort Hall, for the use of the emigration of 1847, and no pilots will be required.

The exploring party left the upper settlements of the Willamette on the 25th of June last,--crops were most promising, and farmers in high spirits. They met a large emigration from California, consisting of the Hon. Felix Scott; late of St. Charles county, Missouri, and many others who left the United States. They give a decided preference to Oregon over California

The exploring party consists of John Jones, John Scott, Robert Smith, John Owen, Samuel Goodhue, Henry Boggs, Wm. Sportsman, Jesse Applegate, Levi Scott, David Goff, Lindsay Applegate, Moses Harris, Wm Parker, Benj. Osborne, Benj. F. Birch.

Editors in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa, friendly to the prosperity of Oregon will please insert the foregoing communication.

Jesse

Applegate

(source - Morgan, Dale Howell, *Overland in 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California-Oregon Trail*, Vol. II, Talisman Press, 1963. Pages 637-638.)