

JESSE APPLGATE TO LISBON APPLGATE, "FORT HALL, SNAKE RIVER,"

AUGUST 9, 1846.

Dear Brother:

I arrived here yesterday alone and on foot from the Willamette valley at the head of a party to meet the emigration. We left our homes on Willamette the 22d June last to explore a Southern route into that valley from the U. S. — After much labor and suffering we succeeded in our object tho it occupied us so long that a part of the emigrants had passed our place of intersection with the old road before we could possible reach it.

The new route follows the California road about 350 miles from here, it then leaves Ogdens or Marys river and enters Oregon by the way of the Clamet Lakes, Rogue river, Umpqua and the head of the Willamette valley—it shortens the road—avoids the dangers of Snake & Columbia rivers and passes S. of the Cascade Mts.—there is almost every place plenty of grass and water & every wagon ox or cow may enter Oregon.

I would give you a more lengthy description of this road if I had time or opportunity but I cannot escape the importunities of the emigrants who are pursuing me into every room of the fort and besieging me with endless questionings on all possible subjects—so much am I confused that I scarce know what I have written or wish to write—Suffice it to say that we fully succeeded in our object tho not a man of us had ever been in the country before—of your acquaintances, Lindsay [Applegate], David Goff, B.F. Burch & Wm. Sportsman were with me. I am pleased with Mr. Burch he is a good boy and of correct principles—as he may not reach here in time to write tell his father that he is well and well pleased with the country and if the opportunity presented itself intended coming on to Missouri after him this fall—but as his horses were very tired when I left the balance of the company and I hear of no party going back I expect he will return with us to Willamette.

I met Larkin Stanley going to California & Oregon who told me you were coming to Oregon next year, if it is so I am glad to hear it—and gladder still that I have assisted in finding a new route. —I believe I have no reason to change any part of the directions I gave you last Spring—it is a pity you have not come sooner to Oregon—Gov. Boggs and almost all the respectable portion of the California emigrants are going on the new road to Oregon—and nearly all the respectable emigrants that went last year to California came this Spring to Oregon—and as long as you are actually coming I venture to say that "*you never will regret it*" I am better pleased every day I would write and wish to write much to you but at present I have no opportunity the emigrants will give me no peace Capt. Grant has done his best to give me an opportunity to write but all in vain.— Speaking of Capt. Grant reminds me of a favor I have to request of you and Betsy.

Capt. Grant the gentleman in charge of Fort Hall has two sons and a daughter at school in Canada he wishes them to come to Fort Hall next year with the emigration. He says his

son a young man of 20 or thereabouts with little experience in the world, is his only dependence to bring his daughter a girl of 15 and a younger brother over the Mountains—He appears anxious to place his daughter in the care of some respectable lady who is coming to this country—

Now if Betsy will take the girl under her protection and you will see to the comfort and safety of the sons, you will confer a great favor upon me, and serve a gentleman to whom I owe many obligations, not only for kindnesses extended towards myself, but for the assistance he daily renders to the emigrants to Oregon. If you are coming next spring to Oregon and will take charge of these young people,—write to Richard Grant Jr. (Care of Phillip Burns esq. Three Rivers Lower Canada--) when and where to meet you which it would be better probably your own house before you leave—as in that case you could see that they were properly prepared for the journey.

If I have the opportunity I will write more.

Jesse Applegate

(source - Morgan, Dale Howell, *Overland in 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California-Oregon Trail, Vol. II*, Talisman Press, 1963. Pages 634-636.)