

KANSAS TERRITORY

Letter from Cherry Creek

Letters mailed during the early gold rush days was often hand carried east to Missouri River towns by travelers going home. It appears from early records that W. D. McLain, and his group arrived at Cherry Creek area around November 2, 1858. They started west from near Omaha going through the small towns of Florence, Fremont and Elk Horn City. He traveled with a small group of men that included the "Sternberger Boys", and after arriving they settled at Sander's Ranch for the winter.

The rest of his journey is unrecorded, however, Will does request that his friend direct all his mail to "Cherry Creek Quarter, Via Fort Laramie."

Dear Dell, Enclosed you will find a letter to our folks which you can read and forward to them. Sweeney and Rube Wood come up to Florence after me I saw them but they did not see me. I took over the hill and went out the first. Then Pappillion stayed all night at the old Mrs. Kelley and went on to Fremont and Elk Horn City in the morning with Sternberger boys.

Will have to close now, Give my love to Dr. Seymour and Sady and all my friends.

Truly yours, Will



Letter to J. D. Briggs, Omaha, N. T. (Nebraska Territory) with manuscript pen cancel on three cent red Nesbit entire. During the early days before mail service was established Will Smith operated a express mail service between Cherry Creek and Fort Laramie, Nebraska Territory.