

*Letter from Uriah W. Oblinger
to
Eliza Cook and John Cook
December 3, 1872*

December 3, 1872 Original letter handwritten by Uriah

2

Transcript

6

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L085

December 3, 1872

Page 1

Direct to Sutton
 Clay County
 Nebraska
 Dear Uncle & Aunt
 I guess I had better write
 pretty soon or you will think I have
 forgotten you, but I have not. the reason
 I have not written sooner is because
 I have not had time I have been on
 the go almost ever since I left Ind
 till recently & I had to take time to
 collect my thoughts before attempting to
 write. At present my health is good &
 has been ever since I left Ind. just now
 I have a sore leg. one of my mares fell
 on it two weeks ago Sunday & hurt it
 pretty bad as the ground was frozen.
 and Sunday evening I was feeding
 a mans oxen for him and as I went in
 the stable to give them the feed one
 kicked me on the sore leg so it is quite
 sore again. well I suppose the first
 question you would ask me now would
 be how do you like nebraska. well I

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L085

December 3, 1872

Page 2

like it well & the greater part of what I have seen can nearly all be cultivated here if we are a mind to we can start & plow entirely round a quarter section and not break a furrow for there is not a stone nor twig to hinder. there is less waste land here than I ever saw in so large a body and the soil is all of the best quality and very even all being about alike. the only pick there is some places there is a little more sand than I like but this is mostly along the streams but it is not any more so than your own El River bottoms. I will have traveled about 500 miles in the state & what I have seen I did not pass by in a hurry but took time to look at & inquire about it I entered the State at Plattsmouth and drove from there to Lincoln and for the most of the way the country was as pretty & good as any that I ever seen. (for ~~beaty~~ beauty I do not think Neb can be excelled by any country)

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L085

December 3, 1872

Page 3

but it was all taken up by rail road
grants or speculators consequently a poor
show for me, and it was thinly settled
after getting a few miles back from the
Missouri River until we got to Lincoln
from Lincoln we traveled almost di-
rectly west into Hamilton county before
we found any government land and
the country for the most of the way
was nice. in Hamilton Co we looked 4
days but found nothing to suit us
as it there was not much gov't land
to select from. we then started south
into Clay & Fillmore counties here we
had more to choose from & made our
choice and went to Beatrice to the
U.S. Land Office to Homestead I had
2 pieces picked & did not care which one
I got but when we got to the Office both
of them were taken only the day before
so I had to come back & look again and
it was no small job as it was about 70
miles. the piece I have taken this time
is in the Lincoln District and I have to go

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L085

December 3, 1872

Page 4

there to get it. It has been taken by another man but he has been away from it more than six month and has never done anything on it so I ~~jumped~~ jumped his claim the trial comes off the 30th of this month I have to prove by 2 witnesses that he has never done anything on it & his claim will be set aside and then I can Homestead it there has been one or two shot not very far from here for jumping claims but I thought I would try it as the claim suits me & the man has not fulfilled the law as he has been off from it more than six months without doing anything on it. It is just one mile East of the Clay Co line in Fillmore Co & is just in the centre of the Co North & South & 7 miles from two R.R. Stations South and 11 miles west of the centre of the county, Every foot of it can be plowed I can plow round the entire 160 acres and not find a stone on the whole piece and can stand almost any where on and see a rabbit run all over it from Giles Thomas claim we can count some 30 different Huses I never tried how many could count from mine

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L085

Transcript

(Edited slightly for grammar and sense.)

Dec 3rd 1872
Fillmore County Neb
Dear Uncle & Aunt

I guess I had better write pretty soon or you will think I have forgotten you, but I have not. The reason I have not written sooner is because I have not had time. I have been on the go almost ever since I left Indiana till recently & I had to take time to collect my thoughts before attempting to write. At present my health is good & has been ever since I left Indiana, just now I have a sore leg. One of my mares fell on it two weeks ago Sunday & hurt it pretty bad as the ground was frozen. And Sunday evening I was feeding a man's oxen for him, and as I went in the stable to give them the feed one kicked me on the sore leg. So it is quite sore again.

Well I suppose the first question you would ask me now would be, How do you like Nebraska?
Well I like it well . . .

(Page 2) . . .for the greater part of what I have seen can nearly all be cultivated. Here if we are a mind to we can start & plow entirely round a quarter section and not break a furrow for there is not a stone nor twig to hinder. There is less waste land here than I ever saw in so large a body and the soil is all of the best quality and very even all being about alike. The only pick there is some places there is a little more sand than I like but this is mostly along the streams but it is not any more so than your own Eel River bottoms. I have traveled about 500 miles in the state & what I have seen I did not pass by in a hurry but took time to look at & inquire about it. I entered the State at Plattsmouth and drove from there to Lincoln and for the most of the way the country was as pretty & good as any that I ever seen (for beauty I do not think Neb' can be excelled by any country).

(Page 3) But it was all taken up [claimed] by rail road grants or speculators consequently a poor show for me, and it was thinly settled after getting a few miles back from the Missouri River until we got to Lincoln.

From Lincoln we traveled almost directly west into Hamilton county before we found any government land and the country for the most of the way was nice. In Hamilton Co we looked 4 days but found nothing to suit us as it there was not much gov't land to select from. We then started south into Clay & Fillmore counties here. We had more to choose from & made our choice and went to Beatrice to the U. S. Land Office to Homestead. I had 2 pieces picked & did not care which one I got. But when we got to the Office both of them were taken only the day before. So I had to come back & look again and it was no small job as it was about 70 miles.

The piece I have taken this time is in the Lincoln District and I have to go there to get it.

(Page 4) It has been taken by another man, but he has been away from it more than six months and has never done anything on it. So I jumped his claim the trial comes off the 20th of this month. I have to prove by 2 witnesses that he has never done anything on it & his claim will be set aside and then I can Homestead it. There has been one or two shot not very far from here for jumping claims but I thought I would try it as the claim suits me & the man has not fulfilled the law as he has been off from it more than six months without doing anything on it. It is just one mile East of the Clay Co line in Fillmore Co & is just in the centre of the Co North & South & 7 miles from two R.R. Stations South and 11 miles west of the centre of the county. Every foot of it can be plowed. I can plow round the entire 160 acres and not find a stone on the whole piece and can stand almost any where on and see a rabbit run all over it. From Giles Thomas Claim we can count some 80 different Houses. I never tried how many could count from mine.

(Written on the top left corner of Page 1)

Direct to Sutton Clay County Nebraska
Uriah

Love to all inquiring Friends write soon as I am here without my woman & baby I like to hear
from Ind or I mig get home sick