

Note: The following letter was provided by Stafford Hazelett for use on

www.oregonpioneers.com/ortrail.htm Stafford has been researching the 1846 emigration on the Southern Route/Applegate Trails for many years and is in the process of compiling information for a book he will be publishing in the future. The letter was obtained from the Jesse Looney Papers, OHS Mss 2263, original letter, not a photocopy. The letter is presented as written with some clarifications in brackets by Stephenie Flora and Stafford Hazelett.

JESSE LOONEY LETTER TO JOHN BOND - FEBRUARY 25, 1847

Oregon Teretory Febery th25 - 1847

Most enor'd [honored] mother brother and sisters I take my pen in hand to let you now that we ar all well and hope these few lines will find you all injoying the same blessing I reseved your leter and that you was all well and we ar in hops that we shal see som of you in this contry I will in form you that we have had acold winter the old setlers say seven yer agoe was acold winter about like this the snow was about fore inchis deep in the low valis and on the high land hit was deeper and the snow laid too weeks in the valis and on the high land hit lade longer The pople is not got much wheat sode [sowed] wheat does as well sode in the spring as hit dose in th fall -- The last year Emegrason [emigration] almost got defeted thare was too thouson dolers subscribe if any man wold find a good rout through the cascads mountain an Applegate pute out to find the rout and he went to fort hall an thare met the Emergrason There was one hundred wagons had past be fore he got thar they got to the valy [valley] the first of September an the balanc all folerd [followed] Applegate an he told them that he wold bring them anew an beter rout an he taken them round The south end of the cascads an thare the most of then went to Californy as tha was in that contry then tha was about ahundre wagons that tride to get to the setlements tha got

in about crismus [Christmas] an sone taken up winters quarters on the rode and them that got in left ther wagons an pack in [end page 1]

an tha lost the most of ther property and tha had agood deal of sickness an a grate meny death amonks them the people from the settlements went an hope them in I am in hopes that you will reseve this leter on the rode an if I was on the rode I would come as far as the deels [Dalles] an thare I wold stop to stay that is the best contry hit is the best climent and the best to rase horses an catle an sheepe an as good to rais all cinds of grain and this valy[valley] is settled thirty mils south of me that is the chois placis takin this valy is so situated as hit will be all settled -- the land is all fit for cultivason When hit is all settled the grass will be eate out thare is aheepe of catle her now for the setlers. the Delse [Dalles] is soe situated as to be at th hed of navigation on clomby [Columbia] rever hit is agood rever all but one place that is th cascads falls thare has to be a portage made thar by boling [boating] the place will be fixed in time hit is aslip in th mountain an filled the river with loos rock March 28 the ship henry from the united stats loded with gods and the ship Tulon has [indecipherable] from Californy bin loding was flower [flour] tha sold at fifeen dolers abarel and cone fone another lode that brot bad news Thare was wone comptny of the emegrants that started late in the seson from the stats an was not none [known] of eny of the compeny tha went to Californey and tha found the Californa mountains covered with snow an tha most all perished with hunger about the war in Californey iexpect you now all about hit the people sold doe well to folow the old rode for tha can get somthing to eat on that rode. when tha get acrose the blue mountains tha can get plenty of pervisons [end page 2]

I will in form you that iwas in the legislater 19 days and provisional goverment under which we now live with that anomaly of an oath to which all of our executive officers ar obliged to subscribe as folows I do solely sware that I will support the organic laws of the united states or

a subject of grate Britain and faithfully demean my self in office so help me god there was 16
members from 8 county I live in champoeg county Ruby wishes to be remberd to all her
brothers an sisters an her mother an that she has another sone an he was born the [4 or 7] of
march an cald his name William Vather this leter will be faverd by Co Finley he will bring afile
of papers from this contrey I have not the chanc to send you eny papers one leter is as much as I
can get taken so nomore as present

/s/ Jesse Looney [to] John C. Bond

an rite every chans you git

Jesse Looney, Sr., letter to John C. Bond, Feb. 25, 1847,

Jesse Looney Papers, OHS Mss 2263, original letter, not a photocopy