

HMC-1192

[Elmer Smith letters](#)

Letter no. 1

Stickin River 3/25  
12 miles above line

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Father and Louise,

This is a sort of circular letter to be passed around, thus the heading.

We left Wrangle the night of the day we got there, Thursday, came up to Cottonwood island by flat bottomed steamer. The distance is about 8 miles, here we stayed one day, and bought horses. We were unable to get just what we wanted but they answer the purpose. They were little high in price and feed is worse than it was on the trip to Mexico. We have had several stormy days and haven't made very good headway. We reached the line day before yesterday & yesterday morning, one of the men in the party that we have dropped in with was sick with cramps & homesick and we sent him back. The Dr. went back to Wrangle with him. We pulled through the line and came 12 miles. We have a good camp & will wait for the boys.

We have lightened our load and will go right ahead. It has been snowing all day, not hard but it is still at it. The weather is not cold, I don't think ice has frozen over  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. any night yet. One day the sun came out very warm, I was in my shirt sleeves all day. The snow is very deep about 4 ft. on the level. The crust is hard so that in the morning horses can go on the crust most anywhere. There are air holes in the river quite often but we have had no trouble so far. The fact is that thus far the trip has been just a fine camp trip. I am entirely over my cold that I got on the boat and am feeling fine except for being a little stiff from a fall I got. I am doing the cooking and I have to get up a 3 A.M. when we are on the move. I am thinking of taking a bath today but don't know whether I will or not. I don't think it is necessary.