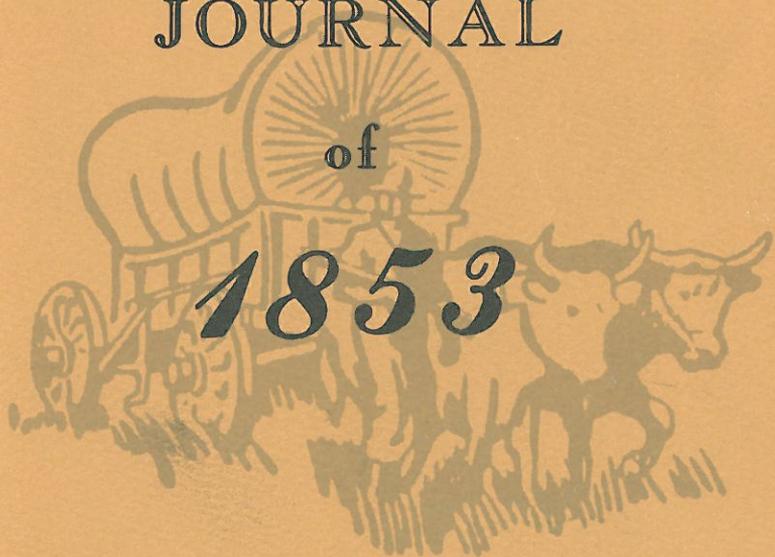


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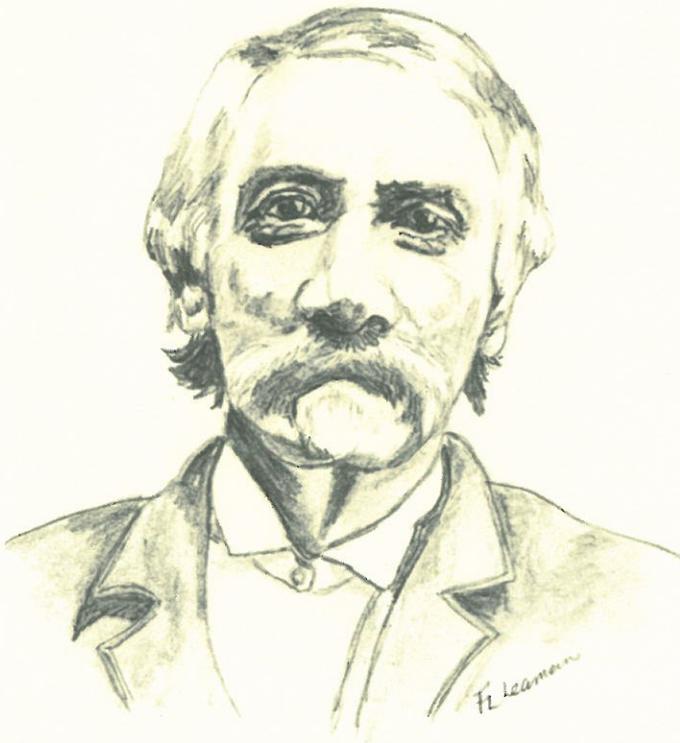


from Indiana to California

written by
William Richard Brown
March 24 - September 30, 1853

With love, respect and wonderment this has been interpreted and typed as accurately as possible from the hand written original Journals.

Barbara Wills, Granddaughter
Barbara Wills



Introduction

THIS IS NOT A STORY. It is a day by day Journal of the proceedings and happenings of my Grandfather, William Richard Brown, while traveling by wagon train from Madison, Brown County, Indiana to Sacramento, California in 1853.

This book has been reproduced as closely as possible, word for word, from the original Journals. Neither spelling nor grammar have been changed. I have tried to make it as authentic as possible in translating his written words into this book.



Thursday, March 24, 1853

After bidding my friends adieu I left the city of Madison about 9 oc in the morning with two ox teams and one horse team belonging to Oglesby in Company with E.C. Meek, J.W. Elliot, G.B. Wallace and W.H. Meek and Mr. Oglesby. We ascended the Michigan Hill and took a farewell view of the City of our Homes. We passed through Mud Lick and Boyantsburgh and stopped for the night at Mr. Mahoney's an old farmer. Eat a hearty supper and retired for the night in our waggons. Weather clear and mild. I was appointed treasurer for the company.
Distance traveled 20 miles.

Friday, March 25, 1853

Left Mahoney's at 7 oc passed through Versailles and Napoleon, camped for the night at Conner's Tavern. Weather clear and cool when we retired for the night but we were soon aroused by a heavy rain and gale almost taking the covers from our waggons but kept dry for our wagon covers were water proof.
Distance traveled 20 miles.

Saturday, March 26, 1853

Left Conner's at 8 oc the roads were very bad. Passed through Greenburgh. We here left the Plank Road and pitched into mud hub deep. One of our teams stalled but we soon got them out. We stopped at St. Omer at Ballards Hotel for the night.
Distance traveled 16 miles.



Tuesday, March 29, 1853

Rolled out early and reached Indianapolis by 8 oc. Found Capt. Meek and family at Father's. Run around town all day and went to Bayores Panorama of a Voyage to Europe at night in company with Miss Jones, Miss Meek and E.C. Meek. Weather clear and pleasant.

Distance traveled 3 miles.

Wednesday, March 30, 1853

We have been all day getting ready to roll out in the morning. Went to the Slangarenn Galry and had our minatures taken in a group for C.C. Elliott. We retired for the night thinking of our long journey.

Thursday, March 31, 1853

We were joined by G.W. Elliott and left Indianapolis and our friends about 10 oc. Passed through Bridgeport, Plainfield and stopped for the night in Belleview at Egan's Hotel where we had a fine supper of ham and eggs. Fetched in the violin and had some fine music by G.W. Elliott. Weather clear and warm. Roads planks all the way. We also bought another yoke of cattle.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Friday, April 1, 1853

Left Egan's at 6½ oc. Passed through Stilesville, Mount Meridan, Westland and Putmanville and stopped for the night at Wm. Helplers half mile from Putmanville. Had a good supper on ham & eggs. We came very near stalling several times today. After supper we had music on the violin by G. Elliott. Weather cloudy and cold.

Distance traveled 23 miles.

Tuesday, April 5, 1853

About day light we were aroused by Em. Meek who had just arrived with the corn. He had wondered around about half of the night hunting for camp when he came to a house and stopped for the night. We pulled up stakes before sun rise and rolled out. After traveling about 8 miles we stopped at Wm. Kents. Took dinner and traded off our yoke of jen and cattle for a fresh yoke of jenny \$40 to boot. We passed through Independence and put up for the night at Wm. Stitese's. We saw plenty of small game while crossing the Prarie. Weather clear and cool.

Distance traveled 14 miles.

Wednesday, April 6, 1853

Left Stitese's at 7 oc. Crossed an 18 mile Prarie and traveled 12 miles of it without seeing a house. Stopped for the night at Wm. Kearney's. Weather cold and windy.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Thursday, April 7, 1853

Left Kearney's at 7 oc. Came to 14 miles prarie, crossed it and passed through Livingston and came to 12 mile Prarie where we stopped for the night at two different houses. One not large enough to accomodate us all. Mr. Flyers and Mrs. Wright were the propriators. Weather clear and cold.

Distance traveled 19 miles.

Tuesday, April 12, 1853

Left Taylor's at 7 oc, had a heavy shower. Roads muddy and bad. Crossed through Jacksonville a beautiful place of some 5 thousand inhabitants and finely located for a city. It contains 2 female accadamies, a lunatic, blind and deaf and dumb assylum's which are beautiful buildings resembling those in Indianapolis. The dwelling houses are neat and are all cottages and erected with beauty and taste. It is the most beautiful village I ever saw. There is also a rail road running into the town. We passed through the town and they congratulated us on our future success. We put up at Squire Deatons 3 miles from town. We are in a neighbourhood of fine farms. Weather cloudy with an occasional shower, roads muddy.

Distance traveled 23 miles.

Wednesday, April 13, 1853

Left Deaton's at 6½ oc, passed a drove of fine cattle destined for the Eastern Market, crossed through Bethel and came to Meridocia on the Illinois River. After waiting there for two hours for the wind to fall we crossed the river on a frail ferry boat. We got over by sundown. We came into a 4 mile prairie crossed it and came to the first house about 8 oc kept by Mr. Humi's. Weather cold and windy. Surrounding country looks very dry and barren.

Distance traveled 21 miles.

Thursday, April 14, 1853

Left Humi's at 8 oc, passed through Versailes and Mt. Sterling very pretty little places, traveled on and put up at Mr. Johnsons. Weather in the fare most of the day windy and cool but becomes mild and pleasant.

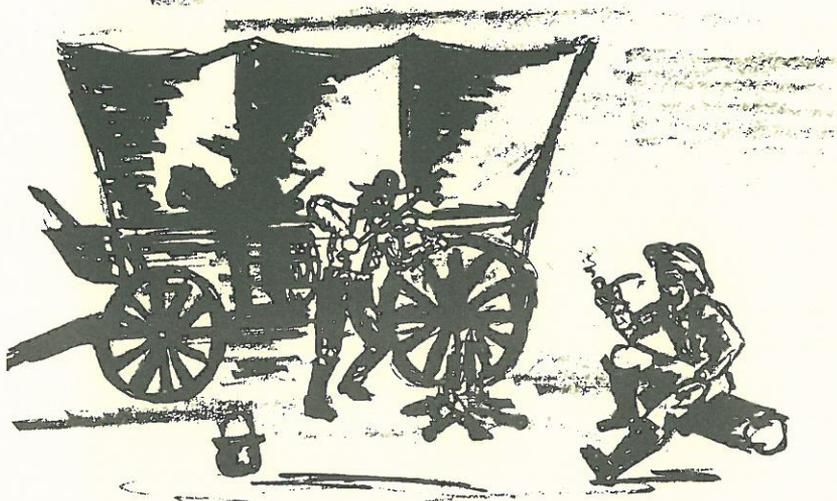
Distance traveled 18 miles.

Tuesday, April 19, 1853

Left our camp ground at 8½ oc. Passed through Laysange, shot some game during the day. Camped for the night near Lz Lasd's house. Left our dog. Had a good supper on ducks and squirrells. Roads bad, weather cloudy & cool. Distance traveled 17 miles.

Wednesday, April 20, 1853

We tried to purchase some cows to take along with us but failed. Left our camp at 11 oc. Passed over some large praries, passed through Monticello, came to another prarie and camped near Mr. McKays. After eating supper we were visited by a host of young ladies who came to hear Tom play the violin. Passed a pleasant evening. Roads good, weather pleasant. Made a distance of 11 miles.



Monday, April 25, 1853

Left Doner's at 8 oc, passed through Tippecanoe and Lancaster. Got some more provisions at the latter place. We then traveled on to a large prairie and camped. No houses in sight. Had to carry corn for our oxen on our backs 2 miles, we began to think that a trip to California overland was hard. We were wet and had to sleep in wet blankets. Weather cleared up in the evening.

Distance made 16 miles.

Tuesday, April 26, 1853

Left at 6, crossed more prairie which was very marshy and bad. Stopped at noon at Mr. Rawlins to feed our oxen for they had no breakfast. We drove on and stopped at Mr. Stiles in Iowa two miles from the line between Missouri and Iowa. Roads bad, weather clear & pleasant.

Distance traveled 16 miles.

Wednesday, April 27, 1853

Left Stiles at 7 oc, took the old BuTrace Road and over took a drove of cattle and 12 waggons bound for Oregon. Passed over 3 miles of swampy prairie roads. Awful. We bought corn and hauled with us. We camped on the prairie. We passed 3 waggons bound for California. We passed also the old Morman Trail about noon and some 2 Mormon waggons bound for Salt Lake. Weather clear and warm.

Distance traveled 17 miles.

Thursday, April 28, 1853

It rained hard all night, wet as usual. Rolled out, soon found awful roads. Camped at Mr. Kinleys. Rained all day, went to bed on wet blankets after taking a little of the Creative.

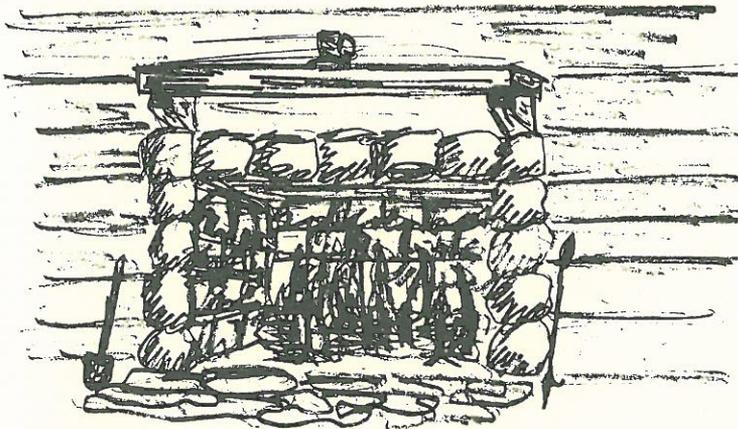
Distance traveled 15 miles.

Tuesday, May 3, 1853

Left at 7 oc in company with a number of California and Oregon bound waggons. Traveled over more prarie. Left the other waggons near a grove where they intended to camp. We encamped for the night near 6 California bound waggons. Road good with the exception of a few very bad chuck holes & slues. Weather mild and pleasant. **Distance traveled 18 miles.**

Wednesday, May 4, 1853

Rose early, raining hard, yoked up & rolled out soon to cross Grand River before it raised. Passed Mt. Posgary an old village of several houses, formerly occupied by Mormon's but now unoccupied. Still raining hard, half soaked and our whiskey nearly out. Crossed the river without much trouble and encamped on its banks in company with 6 other waggons. We formed into a company and concluded to travel together. They were owned by Mr. Tripp and Cathy from Illinois. Here where we camped is a small Ilaggey which we gave the name of Little Red. We went in and dried ourselves by a big log fire, which felt very comfortable. Only 12 voters in this county and 40 acres of Useable land. Roads bad. **Distance traveled 3 miles.**



Saturday, May 7, 1853

Rise early, found it very cold, rolled out and crossed over more prairie and encamped on a prairie twenty six miles from timber. Grass scarce, roads tolerable good, weather cold and cloudy and windy.

Distance traveled 12 miles.

Sunday, May 8, 1853

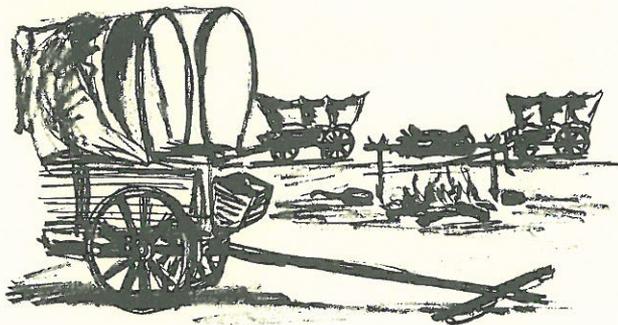
Rolled out at 8 oc, passed over some awful mud holes where we had to double teams. One of our company teams stalled and we had an awful time to get it out. Bridged another creek and hauled over by hand. Camped in a grove for the night. A house is visable ahead, the first one we have seen for 3 days. There is also 10 waggons encamped close by. Weather cool & cloudy.

Distance traveled 13 miles.

Monday, May 9, 1853

Slept cold last night. Rolled out soon and drove until noon and camped close by two houses. Some 40 waggons passed us while we were camped. Some of the boys went out hunting. They could not find any game of account so they killed a fine shoat an fetched into camp, and we had a hearty supper on roast pig. After supper we visited some Californians camped close by. There were a number of girls present dressed in the bloomer style. Weather cool and windy.

Distance traveled 6 miles.



Friday, May 13, 1853

Left at 7½ oc, we were passed by 14 horse teams, crossed over a fork of Nishnabotna River on an old bridge which was a tole bridge but we declined paying tole by threatening to thrash the tole keeper. Saw 3 Indians which were friendly and begging.

Saturday, May 14, 1853

It rained during the night, cool and windy this morning. We yoked up and rolled out at 7½ oc. Crossed Silver Creek. It continued so windy that we encamped in a hollow at one o'clock. Wood and water plenty. Spent the afternoon betting some Indians who came to camp, shooting with their arrows at set pieces. Roads tolerable good, weather cool cloudy & very windy.
Distance traveled 8 miles.

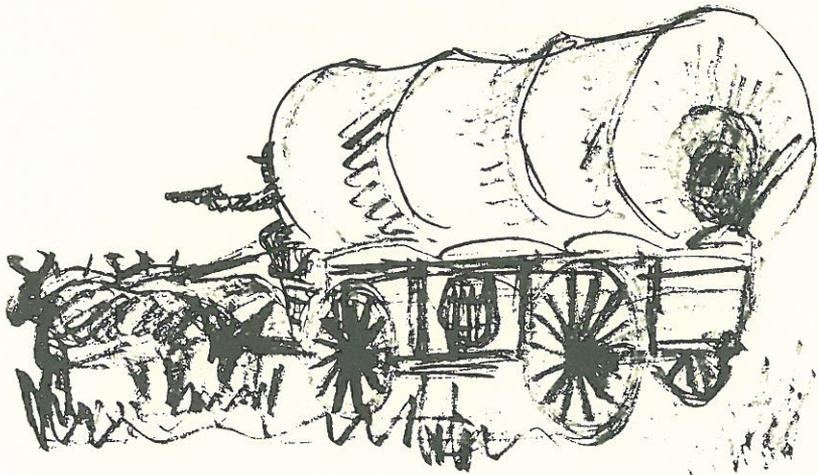
Sunday, May 15, 1853

Another sabbath has rolled around and found us within 2½ miles of Council Bluffs. We rose early, washed and put on clean apparel and rolled out. I started on ahead of the teams to go to Kanesville to get letters and register our names for crossing the Missouri River. The teams traveled on and encamped below the village on the River bottom where there were some 300 waggons and thousands of head of cattle. Roads good and the Bluffs in the distance gave a very picturesque scene. I returned to camp about dark and found all things right and we amused ourselves reading letters that we had received from home. Wood and water plenty.
Distance traveled 10 miles.

Thursday, May 19, 1853

We arose early, had some trouble in finding our cattle. Yoked up and drove into town, bought a few more articles and proceeded on to the River. There were over one hundred waggons waiting to cross ahead of ours, but by cunning management we got aboard of the steamer Hindoo, and were ferried over before our turn. Passage \$4 a waggon and 30¢ a head for stock. We landed on Indian or Nebraska Territory. We traveled up the river one mile through heavy sand and thickets of willows. We turned out from the river into the bottom and encamped on a slue of clear water. We came near having a rowe before crossing the river with some emigrants. They wanted to cross before us, which we refused to let them do. Pistols were drawn and hard words passed but no one hurt. We all had the blues very bad as we looked at the out posts of civilization which we had just left. Wood & water plenty. Grass scarce, weather clear and pleasant.

Distance traveled from the landing 3 miles.



Sunday, May 22, 1853

Rolled out at 9 oc. Crossed a small tole bridge over a slue kept by some Omaha Indians. We paid 10¢ per waggon to the chief. He had a picture likeness of himself and a white man which he said was Fillmore and took great delight in showing it to the white man. We passed by an old decayed Fort around which were a great many graves of emigrants. We passed over some rolling land and encamped in a hollow. Grass scarce, water plenty. Wood very scarce. The weather in the morning was cloudy with rain but cleared off by noon. Just after camping two California bound waggons came up and camped with us. We visited them and had some music on the violin. They concluded to travel with us. One of the waggons drawn by cattle belonged to Mr. Richardson with his wife, child and a couple of young men. The other a horse team belonged to Mr. Poke with his newly married wife and one man which took charge of his horses, he traveling by horse power. It came my turn to stand watch.
Distance traveled 12 miles.

Monday, May 23, 1853

We all rolled out at 8 oc, passed over another tole bridge kept by Indians. Paid the usual tole. We here had to haul our waggons over by hand as the bridge was very narrow and the banks of the creek steep. Came to a beautiful prairie, saw a grave to the left. We entered the Elk Horn River bottom, came to another bridge and found some emigrants crossing. One of their waggons run off the bridge and they had to unload to get it out. We repaired the bridge and crossed over safe. We then ascended a small hill and came onto a level prairie. We encamped in a small grove to right of the road. The Platt and Elk Horn fork to our left which looked beautiful. Roads good weather clear & pleasant. Water & wood plenty. Grass scarce.
Distance traveled 20 miles.

Wednesday, May 25, 1853

Left at 8 oc, we traveled some three miles up the Horn and then left it. We continued to travel around the foot of the Bluffs next to Platt River bottom. We here had beautiful roads with the exception of two or three very bad slues. In one there were 3 stalled waggons. They put on 8 yoke of cattle and broke two yokes before they succeeded in getting out. We passed over without much trouble if we did have small scrub Indiana cattle. Weather clear & mild. We camped on the prairie. Grass tolerable good, water plenty, wood none. One of our oxen lame, got hurt on a snag swimming Elk Horn. We had to take him out of the yoke.
Distance traveled 15 miles.

Thursday, May 26, 1853

Rolled out early, kept up the bottom, roads good and level with the exception of some slues, in one there were some waggons stuck. Waggons in sight before and behind us as far as the eye can reach. We camped on Shell Creek for the night among willows and scrub trees. Grass not very good, weather clear & mild. Had a good supper on batter cakes & molasses.
Distance traveled 22 miles.

Friday, May 27, 1853

We rolled out early, crossed Shell Creek and came onto the banks of Platt River. Some Emigrants camped on the other side of the creek had 6 head of cattle stolen from them during the night by the Pawnee Indians who came across Platt River onto the Omaha's territory to commit defraudations. Roads tolerable, had some bad mud holes to pass through. Camped near Platt. Wood scarce, grass tolerable good, water plenty. The Platt is very swift and always muddy. We formed a corral of our waggons and staked our cattle down in side of corral so that we could watch them securely. Weather pleasant.
Distance traveled 16 miles.

Tuesday, May 31, 1853

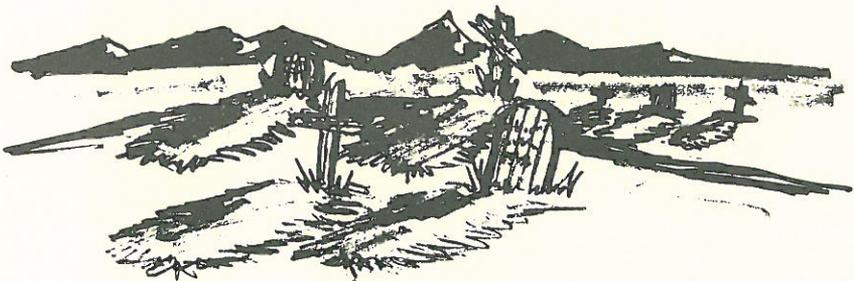
It rained all morning, rolled out at 11 oc, passed over a bottom & camped near the Loupe Fork on the right of the road near a slue or pond of clear water. Grass good, wood plenty, mostly cottonwood. Water in abundance, weather cleared off at 12 oc but has the appearance of rain tonight. Saw a large grey wolf. Capt. Meek shot at him but without effect.

Distance traveled 9 miles.

Wednesday, June 1, 1853

It rained & thundered and stormed all night. We awoke up and found the water pouring through the tent which completely drenched us wetting the bed clothes so much that we could ring the water out. We rolled out early, traveled over a sandy bottom land, crossed about 20 slues and a number of creeks. Mud was very deep and up to the waggon beds in the slues. We had to double team to haul them out. Encamped on the bottom. We passed a small grave yard. Roads awful wet & muddy, weather showery & cool. We are still in sight of Loupe Fork. Water plenty, wood none, grass good.

Distance traveled 15 miles.



Sunday, June 5, 1853

We traveled over to Wood River, we kept up the north side to head it and avoid ferrying. It runs a due east course the same as Prarie Creek and in a parallel with Platt River. We came to the conclusion that we would gain time by this route as we were not detained by ferrying. We passed through Prarie Dogtown. We saw lots of the inhabitants who stood by their holes barking at us. They are about the size of a half grown cat and resemble a puppy. This river bottom is wide and forbid. Sand bluffs to the right. Roads swampy in places, weather pleasant camped near the river. Water good and grass plenty.

Distance traveled 15 miles.



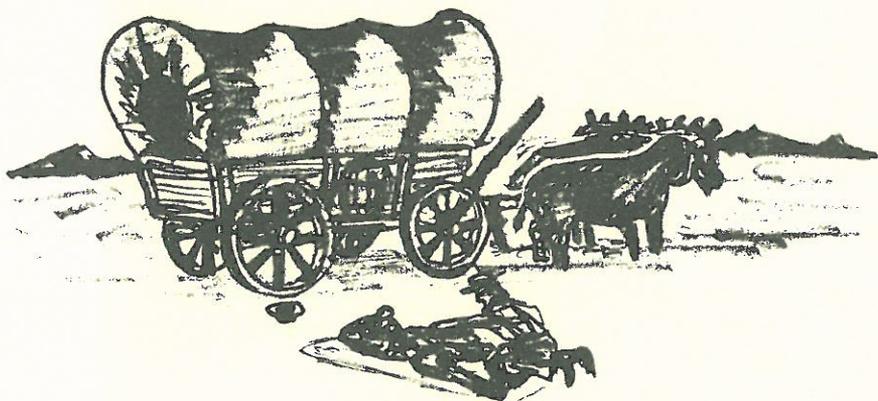
Monday, June 6, 1853

We still continued to travel up the river, the bottom gradually getting narrower until we ascended the bluffs where we had the river for a short distance. A level plain before us we traveled on and crossed some branches of the river. We found one of them bridged which we gave the name of Ador Creek. We crossed it and camped on its banks. Weather clear & pleasant, wood, water & grass in abundance. Five men came to camp hunting stampeeded cattle. They took supper with us and proceeded in search of their cattle & Prarie Dog town close by.

Distance traveled 18 miles.

Thursday, June 9, 1853

We left early, weather clear & warm. We had not proceeded far when Tom Elliot who was driving the provision waggon slipped down under the waggon and both wheels passed over him breaking his collar bone and injuring his ribs. We immediately bled him and gave all the medical aid that lay in our power. We then rolled out, saw a lame ox left by someone. We crossed Buffalo Creek on a bridge and encamped on its bank. Wood, water and grass plenty. Roads bad in places. Had ham & plover eggs for supper. The Mosquitos are very bad and in immense numbers. Distance traveled 20 miles.



Friday, June 10, 1853

We rolled out early, passed over a bottom between Buffalo Creek & Platt some 10 miles wide. The mosquitos were so bad that you could hardly breath without having them into your mouth and they came very near eating us all up. We saw a number of waggons on the south side of Platt winding their way towards Calif. We passed a good waggon that had been left by some emigrants. We camped near a slue, no wood, water plenty, grass scarce, weather clear and warm. Roads full of mud holes. Distance traveled 21 miles.

Monday, June 13, 1853

We rolled on and within $\frac{1}{4}$ miles we found another spring which is opposite the Junction of the North & South Forks of Platt River. We traveled up the North Fork, the road ever near its banks. River high & muddy. The bottom is low muddy sand and hard on teams. Some few small willows along the banks. This is the last piece of timber that we will see for 200 miles, so says the guide. Crossed Wide Creek, crossing good. We also crossed another creek not named. Weather clear & pleasant, roads bad, grass scarce. We camped near the river. Caught some drift wood to cook supper and if the river continues up we can probably have drift wood all the way over the 200 miles stretch. We had batter for supper.

Distance traveled 17 miles.

Tuesday, June 14, 1853

We left at 7 oc, passed the last timber that we shall see for 200 miles. Crossed two muddy creeks and the Bluff Fork of Platt River, a small stream some 40 feet wide and from 3 to 4 feet deep. The roads in the fore most of the day were awful. We had to wade swamps waste deep and the mud over the hubbs. We came to better roads after dinner which were very good but they did not last long before we came to sandy bluffs. We camped in a small valley between the bluffs some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Bluff Fork. Grass & buffalo chips plenty, water scarce. After camping I ascended one of the highest bluffs to take a view of the surrounding country. It was covered as far as the eye could reach with small bluffs interspersed with small valleys which looked beautiful. Saw buffalo, antelope and wolves in the distance and the wolves we saw them everywhere that we could look, these and numbers of them all along the route. Weather clear & warm, very tired and have to come on watch to night.

Distance traveled 16 miles.

Friday, June 17, 1853

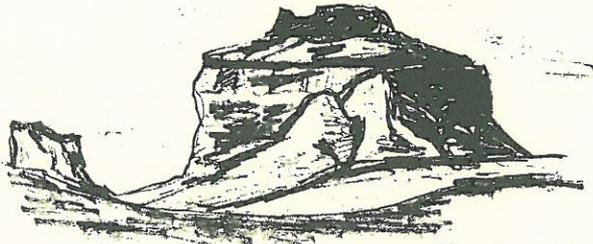
We rose early and after calling all of the company together to settle a difficulty between Mr. Tripp & Eastwood the difficulty was this. Eastwood was an old man who started for California with Tripp. He was to work his way through. Mr. Tripp borrowed \$125 from him and would not return it saying that he would charge Eastwood \$150 to take him through. We expressed our opinion & decision and he soon refunded the money and Eastwood left his waggons and joined one of the others belonging to George Athey. We then rolled out all together but there was an ill feeling existing. The roads the most of the day ran along the foot of the bluffs and were very good. We crossed some sand and encamped some 4 miles west of it on Platt bottoms. Water, grass & buffalo chips in abundance. We crossed Sandy Creek, Wolf Creek & some small branches. Weather clear & warm.

Distance traveled 18 miles.

Saturday, June 18, 1853

We pulled up stakes and rolled out at 7. Crossed the spot where the lone tree once stood. Also Ash Hollow & Castle Bluffs, the two last named were on the opposite side of the river. Castle Bluffs have the appearance of an old decayed castle & woods. We passed a group of emigrants who were burying a fellow man. We crossed a small creek & Quick Sand Creek and encamped on a small branch. The roads were level and along the river bank with the exception of 1 mile sandy bluffs. We also passed a wagon in which was a sick woman. No other wagons were about and there she lay not expected to live with no one to attend to her wants save her husband who was hardly able to get about. Their company had left them there to get along as well as they could. One of our company killed an antelope today which we intend making a supper of. Weather clear & very warm, grass tolerable, buffalo chip & water plenty.

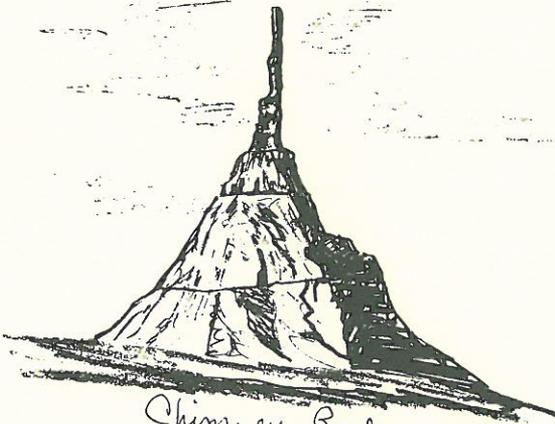
Distance traveled 18 miles.



Court House Rock

Tuesday, June 21, 1853

Left at 6 oc, the roads most of the day were good and as level as a floor with the exception of some sandy places. I shot a Hare to day which is as large as 4 common Hares of the States. We camped $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the River and about 2 miles east of Chimney Rock and opposite Court House Rock. Chimney Rock has the appearance of once being a large mound and gradually washed away by rains. Court House Rock has the appearance of a large building. Water & grass plenty, buffalo chip scarce. Mosquitos were very bad last night and by their overtures they appear as if they intended troubling us tonight. Distance traveled 23 miles.

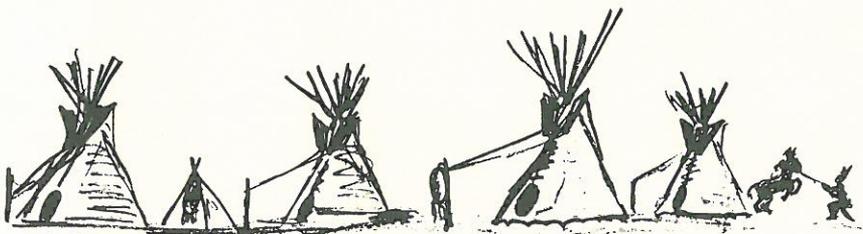


Chimney Rock

Friday, June 24, 1853

Rolled out at 7 oc, traveled on a few miles and passed some wigwams of the Sioux Indians. The Indians came out to meet us on their ponys. They had some 200 fine looking ponys. They were very friendly, the men, women and papooses all gave us a shake of their hands. The roads most of the day have been good with the exception of a few sandy places and were at the foot of the bluffs. Just before camping we crossed over some white sand bluffs which were entirely destitute of vegetation and looked beautiful. We camped near the river where we got a little wood off of an island. Just after camping 3 Sioux Indians rode into camp & contemplate staying all night. Laramie Peak still in view. Good water, scarce grass, tolerable wood a little.

Distance traveled 18 miles.



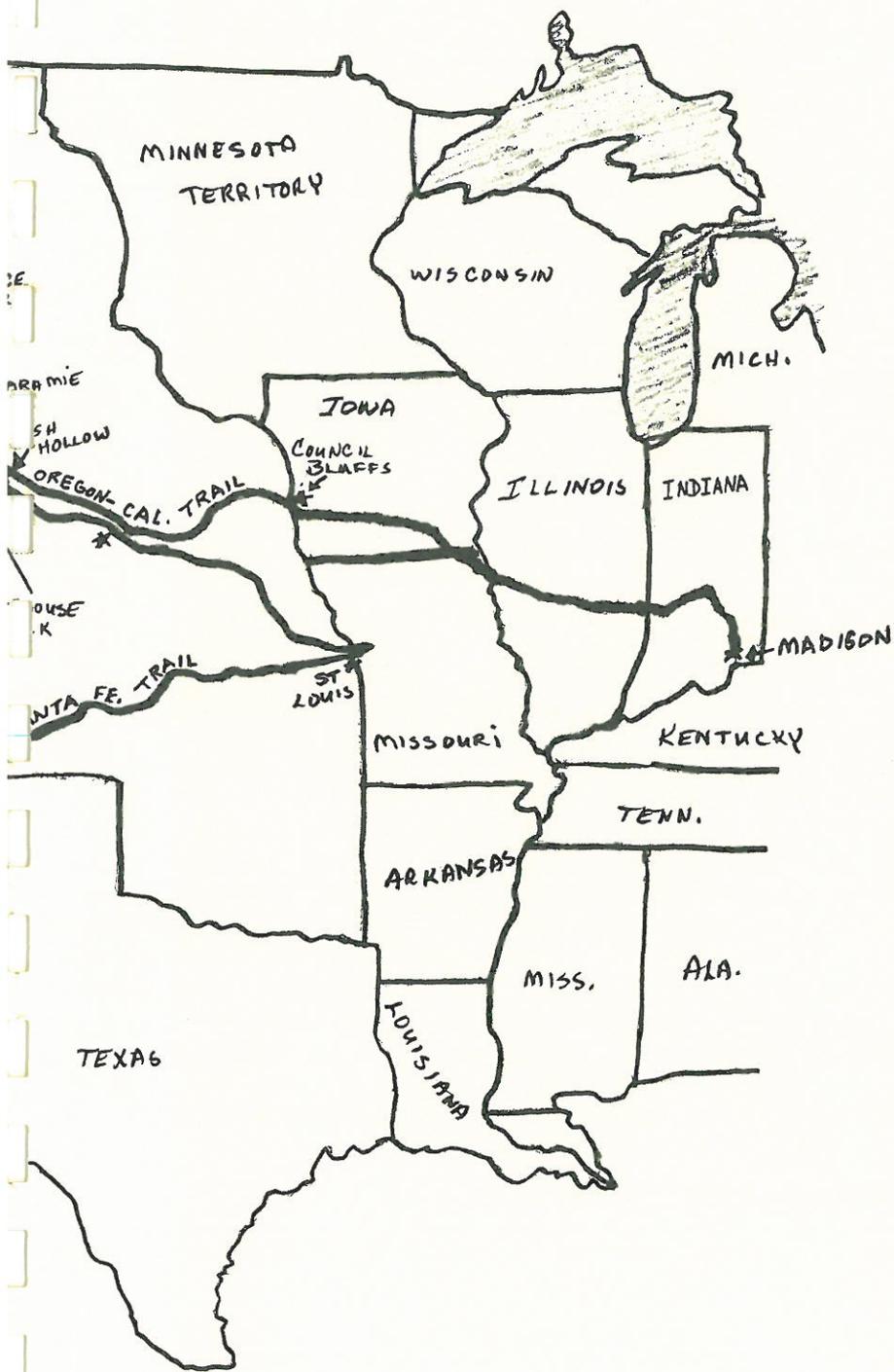
Sunday, June 26, 1853

We laid by today to rest our cattle, wash, write home and wait for some more Emigrants to come up and join our Company for the Commanding officer at the Fort advised the Emigrants to travel in large Companies for a while as some of the soldiers had shot several Indians who had taken the Ferry Boat by force and the Interpreter says that they will have revenge from the Emigrants if they cannot get it from the soldiers at the Fort. There is a large village of the Indians 3 miles east of us, the same that we passed yesterday. We hear them plainly beating their drums and singing & dancing their war games continually. Another Company joined us today to travel with us on account of the Indians. The women folks are very much frightened. We are now 40 men strong all well armed & equipped. We found some good grass, weather clear and warm. We shod some more of our cattle.

Monday, June 27, 1853

Left at 7, passed Fort Laramie which is on the south side of the Platt & the junction of Laramie River with Platt. There were a number of Trading posts, both sides of the River. It is a beautiful place. We saw the skull of a human being laying in the road just before we got opposite the fort. We camped at noon near the Platt and at the commencement of a spurr of the Black Hills, which are on this side of the River. The wind is blowing a perfect gale and is the cause of our camping so early. We are some 4 miles west of the Fort. Weather clear & windy, grass poor, wood & water plenty.

Distance traveled 9 miles.

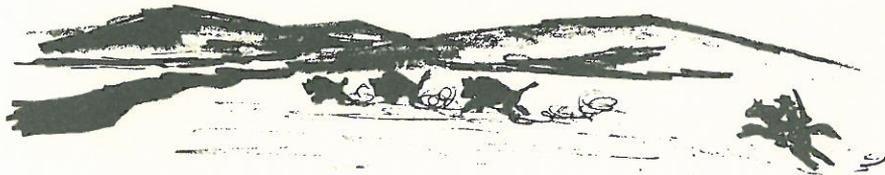


Thursday, June 30, 1853

Left at 8, roads rolling & hard. Crossed 2 creeks & came to the River about 2 oc P.M. Kept up it a short distance & camped in the bottom about 1 mile from the river. Wood none except what we hauled with us, water scarce, grass good, prickly pears in abundance. Weather clear & comfortable. Shod another ox. We are nearly opposite Laramie Peak. Distance traveled 15 miles.

Friday, July 1, 1853

Left at 6½ oc. Our road was up the river bottom which was level with the exception of a few small hills and sandy places. Saw some buffalo gave chase, they swam Platt and the fun ended without getting one. We had a shower at noon & it commenced raining as we were camping. Passed another trading post, weather cloudy & warm. Camped near the river, grass scarce, wood & water plenty. Distance traveled 17 miles.



Monday, July 4, 1853

We arose early, fired a few rounds and enjoyed ourselves by repeating what we knew of the Declaration of Independence. We concluded to lay by today to give our cattle more rest & food. We had a good dinner of antelope, biscuit beans, sweet milk pies & C. We passed the day some of us sleeping and others went hunting & killed several antelopes. Weather clear & hot, all well. Leave tomorrow.

Tuesday, July 5, 1853

Left at 7, traveled near the river, roads in afternoon sandy, camped 1 mile from river. Grass, wood & water scarce.
Distance traveled 14 miles.

Wednesday, July 6, 1853

Left at 7, the roads in the forenoon were mountainous but dry & hard & good. Roads in the afternoon were sandy & heavy on teams. Our company killed a buffalo today, after shooting him 8 or 10 times. Also a company just ahead of us killed one. We stopped for dinner in a grove on Platt & had roast buffalo which was excellent. We drove on & camped on the bank of Platt. Passed another trading post and a Ferry which ferry Emigrants from the south to the north side of Platt. All along here is where the Emigrants cross from the south to the north side of the River to get into the road. Mosquitos very bad, weather clear & warm, water plenty, wood & grass scarce.
Distance traveled 16 miles.

Saturday, July 9, 1853

Rolled out at 6 and bid old Platt farewell, roads good but somewhat mountaneous. Passed a trading post and also over the stretch of alkali country. Passed alkali Springs which are between two large hills. We saw some 20 head of dead cattle along the alkali country. We also passed Willow Springs and went over Prospect Hill. From the summit we could see the Rattle Snake Mountains, crossed 3 creeks and camped 6 miles west of Prospect Hill. The scenery was beautiful from the hill. Saw another human skull in the road. The rest of the company has not yet caught up. We had a fine shower this evening. Mrs. Meek & Bridget are both sick with fever. We cooked for the first time with wild sage which makes a splendid fire. Weather cloudy with rain, water plenty in the creek near by. Grass scarce. We saw more packers returning to the States.

Distance traveled 25 miles.

End of
Volume First

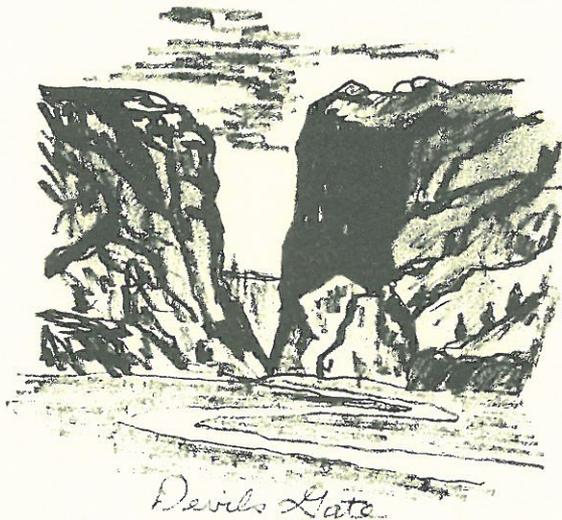
A
Journal of Each
day's Travels and
Proceedings whilst
Crossing the Plains
in 1853

by
W. R. Brown

Volume
I

Sunday, July 10, 1853

Rolled out at 7, crossed Harpers and Grease Wood Creeks. Passed several trading posts. Saw some more Packers returning to the States. We passed Independence Rocks which is some 300 yards long and 100 feet high. It is a specie of granite. Numerous names are cut on its surface. We came to Sweet Water River one mile from the rock and camped. Roads sandy in places and heavy on teams. Grass tolerable, wood none, buffalo chips plenty, water good. Weather clear and warm. We saw several large alkali lakes north of river and numbers of dead cattle.
Distance traveled 18 miles.



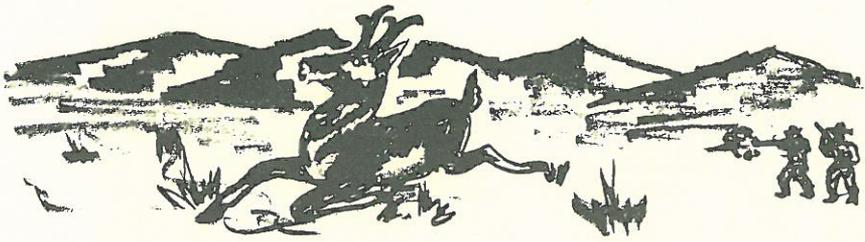
Tuesday, July 12, 1853

Left at 7 oc roads rough, saw more snow caped mountains to the west country. Barren for the first 7 miles. Passed a trading post kept by Gus Nickolet an old Madison chap. We camped on Sweet Water between 2 mountains. Wood & grass scarce, water plenty, weather clear and warm. **Distance traveled 18 miles.**

Wednesday, July 13, 1853

Left at 6½ oc, we concluded not to take the old road as we would have to cross Sweet Water 3 times within 2 miles and crossings were very bad. We kept on the south side and near the river, roads long and heavy on teams. We camped at noon on the river bank to give our cattle a rest and good grasing. For the last week we have had to aside 2 or 3 miles of the road to get grass. Weather clear and cool and very cold after night. Mountains all around us and numerous alkali pools. Wood scarce, grass tolerable, water plenty.

Distance traveled 12 miles.



Saturday, July 16, 1853

Left at 7 oc, passed Cool Springs, crossed Strawberry Creek and branch of Sweet Water and Willow Creeks. Here we found Tom and Warren, they camped all night here with some Emigrants. A little way east of here we struck the main road, we drove on to Sweet Water, crossed it and camped on its banks. This is the last time we camp on Sweet Water according to the guide we leave it here. Near us are some traders and Snake or Shosshonee Indians Lodges. We saw numbers of dead cattle today, some of the boys found two head of lame cattle. Today they drove them to the traders and sold them for \$14. Grass tolerable, wood scarce, water plenty. Weather clear and cool.

Distance traveled 18 miles.

Sunday, July 17, 1853

Left camp at 8, passed through south pass in the Rocky Mts and camped at Pacific Springs. Here is some 90 waggons camped. Water is cool and good but very swampy. About the springs the road through the grass is level and good and we should not of known that it was the south pass if we had no guide. Grass tolerable, wood none, wild sage for fuel. Here are two Blacksmith Shops kept by Mormons. We here found Tripp the half of the old company and also Mr. Burlingame an old Calif. friend of Capt. Meeks. Weather clear and warm.

Distance traveled 15 miles.

Wednesday, July 20, 1853

Rolled out at 7, crossed Big Sandy and traveled over a level country to the ferry on Green River. The roads were very dusty. Here at this ferry is a blacksmith shop and a doggery where they gamble day and night. We here came onto the old Salt Lake road. We camped near the ferry where there were some 70 waggons. We saw numbers of dead cattle all along the road today. Weather clear and warm, grass scarce, wood scarce, water good.

Distance traveled 25 miles.

Thursday, July 21, 1853

We ferryed our waggons and swam our cattle over Green River. Ferriage \$4.00 per waggon. We got them all over by 9 oc. We rolled on and kept on down the river and camped near where the road leaves it. We drove our cattle 4 miles to grass, wood plenty, water good, weather clear and warm. Roads dusty.

Distance traveled 10 miles.

Friday, July 22, 1853

We all rolled out at 8, ascended a small hill and left Green River. Came to Blacks Fork of Green River 15 miles from our last camp. Traveled up it a short distance where Athey Richardson and Howards teams camped. Tripp and us drove on and camped on Hams Fork of Black River. Grass good, wood scarce, water plenty, weather clear and warm.

Distance traveled 19½ miles.

Monday, July 25, 1853

Left at 8 oc, passed over a mountaneous country near to snow capped mountains, descended a long rough steep and stony hill, crossed a creek and two small streams and camped on Muddy Creek. We are completely surrounded by high Mts. We had some rain and hail this evening and it has been raining on the mountains all day. The mountains that we are about to go over are called the Bear River Mountains. No more water after we leave here for 18 miles. Grass good, water plenty, wood none except what we hauled, weather variable.

Distance traveled 12 miles.



Tuesday, July 26, 1853

Rolled out at 7, roads mountaneous, we ascended and descended long and steep mountains and passed through narrow valleys with lofty mountains on each side. Todays travel has been the most picturesque scenery of any days travel since we started. Saw several Snake Indians on ponys and on a hunting tour. Crossed several small branches and passed 3 or 4 springs of good cool water. We crossed a large creek just before reaching Bear River and at the crossing a little way to the left is a large cool spring. Traveled on and descended a small steep and rugged hill and came to Bear River, crossed it where it is split up into several streams and camped on its banks. Grass, water and wood, weather clear and moderate, the mountains that we have been crossing are the Bear River mountains.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Saturday, July 30, 1853

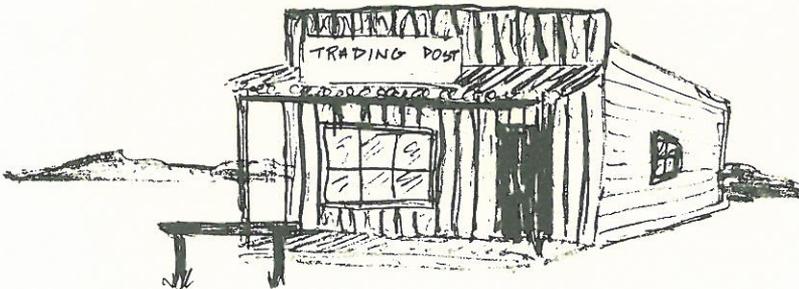
Rolled out at 7, came to Weber River, kept down it some 3 or 4 miles and then forded it, then turned to the left and traveled up a kanyon between two mountains and through which a small stream flows. We traveled up this stream several miles, crossed it a number of times, crossings bad, we left it by ascending and descending a long hill. We then turned to the left and traveled up Big Creek which also runs through a stone kanyon. Crossings very bad. We crossed it twice and camped about 3 miles from where we struck it. Crossed several springs, grass and water good, wood plenty, weather clear and warm.

Distance traveled 18 miles.

Sunday, July 31, 1853

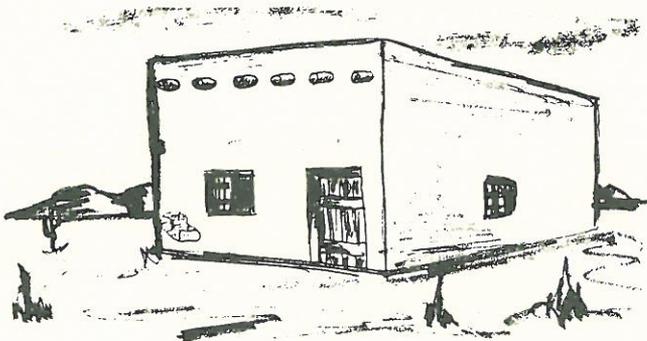
Rolled out at 6½ oc, kept up Big Creek for 5 miles, had many bad crossings, we then turned to the right and kept up a small stream and kanyon for four miles to the summit of a mountain. We then descended along a stream through a kanyon until we struck Browns Creek and kanyon. We kept on down the creek and camped near a cool spring where the road leaves the creek. There is some 200 teams camped along this creek, also several trading posts and vegetables plenty. Grass tolerable good, water good, wood scarce, roads dusty, weather clear and warm. We are about 12 miles from Salt Lake City.

Distance traveled 15 miles.



Tuesday, August 2, 1853

Went to the Theatre last night which was very good for the wilderness. The play was called Nevadans. We took a stroll around the city today. It is situated at the foot of the Waschataw Mountains in Utah Valley, some 20 miles N.E. of Salt Lake. The city is well laid out and on each side of every street there is a clear cool and swift stream of spring water runing through the city and there is also a large creek that passes through the city runing from north to south. The houses are principally built of Adobe brick. The Court or State House is situated near the center of the city and near the residence of Brigham Young. They are at present laying the foundation for a large Temple which will cover 10 acres of ground. The Gathering House and Brigham Youngs residence are neat Houses and have a very imposing appearance. The city has about 6000 inhabitants. There are also 12 other incorporated towns in Utah Valley. Walker a Pauvan Indian Chief is at present making war with the Mormons and have already committed some depredations. The Mormons keep a guard out in the Valley and mountains day and night. Weather clear and warm. Mr. Pomroy the gentleman that we are staying with has two wives and they are in favor of him marrying a third.



Adobe House

Saturday, August 6, 1853

We laid by today also for the rest of our company to shoe their horses and fix up for traveling. We were joined by another horse team who concludes to travel with us. A large oat stack caught fire from the Blacksmith shop. By great exertions we saved it for the Mormon. After the fire was out an old Mormon said it was a judgement sent on the owner for selling them to the emigrants. The valley all along is well irrigated and watered by large cool springs that burst from the mountains sides every few hundred yards. Weather clear and warm.

Sunday, August 7, 1853

Fixed up ready to roll out at noon. Howard traded his horses back as they were not sound. Left at 12, traveled along the foot of the mountains and from 4 to 6 miles from the Lake. We camped at a farm house near Ogden City, and near a creek. We had a fine shower this evening. Weather clear and warm. The Mormons are all fortifying up throughout the whole valley and making ready to receive the Indians with bloody hands and hospitable graves.

Distance traveled 19 miles.

Monday, August 8, 1853

Howard again traded off his oxen for horses. Rolled out at 12 oc, crossed Weber and Ogden Rivers, passed through Ogden City and through the Settlements. We camped at a farm house near the foot of the mountains. Roads good, ran near the foot of the mountains. Weather clear and warm. Water plenty, wood scarce.

Distance traveled 14 miles.

Friday, August 12, 1853

Rolled out early, crossed Deep Creek, traveled down to its sink. We then came to Pilot Springs. We crossed them and drove on to Cedar Point Springs, situated at the foot of a mountain covered with cedars. Wood, water and grass plenty. Roads good, weather clear and warm.
Distance traveled 24 miles.



Saturday, August 13, 1853

Rolled out at 7, crossed Story Creek and several small branches. We camped on DeCasua Creek, water good, wood scarce, grass good, weather clear and warm. Roads rough in places, mountains all around us. Saw some Snake or Shoshonee Indians. Since camping we caught some salmon trout.
Distance traveled 22 miles.



Sunday, August 14, 1853

We pulled up stakes and rolled out at 10. We traveled up DeCasua Creek some distant. We passed between 2 mountains over a very sidling and rough road. Passed the junction of Iscot Salt Lake road with Sublette Cut Off. Here the Sublette Cut Off road passes between steppe rocks which afford hardly room enough for a wagon to pass. We drove on and camped on a small stream. Grass tolerable good. Sage for fuel, water good, weather clear and warm.
Distance traveled 15 miles.

Thursday, August 18, 1853

We rolled out early, Steven Hilton and I went ahead in advance of the teams. We traveled 34 miles and stopped at Mountain Springs and waited for the teams to come up but they did not come so we stayed at Mr. Lewise's camp. We passed Boiling Springs which were so hot that you could not bear your hand in them. Our teams camped near the Hot Springs. Weather cloudy and rainy. Grass good, water good.

Distance traveled by the teams 26 miles.

Friday, August 19, 1853

We rose early and waited for the teams to come up. We then traveled on, came to where the roads fork and separate for some 30 miles. We took the right hand road, passed through a kanyon and through which Kanyon Creek runs. This creek is one of the head branches of Humboldt River. We camped near the mouth of the Kanyon. Roads through the kanyon very bad. Saw several Digger Indians, grass good, water good, sage for fuel. Weather clear and warm.

Distance traveled 23 miles.

Saturday, August 20, 1853

Rolled out early, traveled down the creek to its sink and came to the long looked for Humboldt River, sometimes called Marys River. We crossed and traveled down it a short distance on the north side and camped. The river has been very high and the water has just left the bottom lands. The early emigrants could not travel on this side. Grass good and plenty and as tall as your waist. Wood plenty, water good, weather clear and warm. The water here is not brackish as represented. Saw a number of Indians.

Distance traveled 24 miles.

Wednesday, August 24, 1853

Rolled out early, left the river and crossed over two high mountains. Passed several small springs and again came to the river after 22 miles drive. Here is a trading post. We rolled on acrossed another bluff and again came to the river and camped. Grass tolerable, water good, weather clear and warm. Willows for fuel. We passed a number of waggons.

Distance traveled 30 miles.

Thursday, August 25, 1853

Rolled out at 7, traveled down the river, passed some number of waggons. We camped on the river. Willows for fuel, grass good, weather cloudy. This is a great snake country. We killed 4 since camping. We are now near Stoney Point.

Distance traveled 20 miles.



Tuesday, August 30, 1853

Rolled out early all together, Mr. McCullum joins our company. We drove on, roads good. We camped near the river. Grass good, willows for fuel. We were also joined by a large flour train that was loaded with flour to sell to the emigrants. It belonged to Hollaway and Warner of Salt Lake and Sacramento. It started from Salt Lake commanded by Thos. Kelly and traveled by ox power. We all concluded to travel in company as our horses were very tired and we might need their assistance. Weather pleasant.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Wednesday, August 31, 1853

We rolled out early, had some very heavy roads during the day. Sand deep and very heavy on teams. We were detained at a hill by the flour team as they had to double teams to get over and there were some 8 or 10 waggons of them. We traveled on down the river and camped. Grass very poor, water plenty, sage for fuel. Weather pleasant.

Distance traveled 12 miles.

Thursday, September 1, 1853

We rolled out early, traveled over a sandy desert some miles from the river. Road very heavy, numbers of teams on the road. We camped near a trading post on the river. We passed several trading posts during the day. Grass tolerable, good willows for fuel, water good, weather clear and warm, night cool.

Distance traveled 22 miles.

Sunday, September 4, 1853

We all rolled out early. We traveled down the river 8 miles and camped for the day. Grass scarce, grease wood for fuel. Water tolerable good. Thos Kelly killed a calf and we had a fine meal, steak for supper. Weather clear and warm.

Distance traveled 8 miles.

Monday, September 5, 1853

We rolled out at 7, we crossed a barrin and sandy tract of country and camped on the river. Grass none except what we hauled. Willows for fuel. We passed several trading posts, nights cool, weather warm and pleasant. We also passed a number of waggons.

Distance traveled 27 miles.



Tuesday, September 6, 1853

We pulled up stakes and moved off at 7. We traveled down the river to where it spreads over a large bottom and forms a lake which is filled with large bull rushes and willows. It also runs over small precipices which makes a loud roaring noise. We camped here near a spring. Willows and grease wood for fuel. Weather clear and warm. We here will guard our horses from camp as we have not time to cut grass. This is the Big Meadows and where we will cut grass to take us over the desert.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Saturday, September 10, 1853

We rolled out early, traveled around the lake and ushered on to the desert. We traveled until 10 oc at night and camped on the desert, fed our horses and etc. We passed several trading posts on the desert. Weather clear and warm, roads good and level as a floor.

Distance traveled 32 miles.

Sunday, September 11, 1853

We rolled out at 3 oc in the morning, we traveled 4 miles and came to heavy sand. We traveled twelve miles over heavy sand and came to Carson River. Here is a small town made of tents and called Rag Town. Here you can be accomodated with all kinds of refreshments. one of our teams gave out on the sand and just before we got off the desert we had to put in one of the ponyes and Mr. Meeks riding horse and succeeded in getting over. Mr. Kelly hauled most of our heavy articles in the flour waggons. George Atheys team also gave out on the desert and he had to bring his horses over to water and go back for his waggon. We traveled 4 miles to Carson River and camped. Bought hay for our horses for which we paid 7½ cents per lb. Grass none. The traders have cut it all to sell. Large cottonwood trees along the river and make a good shade. Weather clear and warm. Water good.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Monday, September 12, 1853

Rolled out early, traveled up Carson River 3 miles, left it and traveled over a sandy, rocky and barrin country for 14 miles where we again came to the river. We then kept up it for 2 miles and camped. We crossed our horses over the river to good grass, wood plenty, water good. Weather clear and warm. We passed several trading posts during the day. Geo Athey has not yet came up with us. Flour train with us and are hauling some of our baggage.

Distance traveled 19 miles.

Friday, September 16, 1853

Rolled out early, passed some trading posts. We kept up the river and then left it for 7 miles when we again came to it and camped in Carson Valley, after traveling up the valley for 8 miles and came to Hollady and Warmers Station. We camped near the Station. Weather clear and moderate, pine wood for fuel, grass good, water good.

Distance traveled 20 miles.

Saturday, September 17, 1853

We laid by to day to wait for Kelly to transact some business with his employers and fix his waggons for crossing the mountains. One of our horses is sick and we think will dye. Weather clear and cool, all well.

Sunday, September 18, 1853

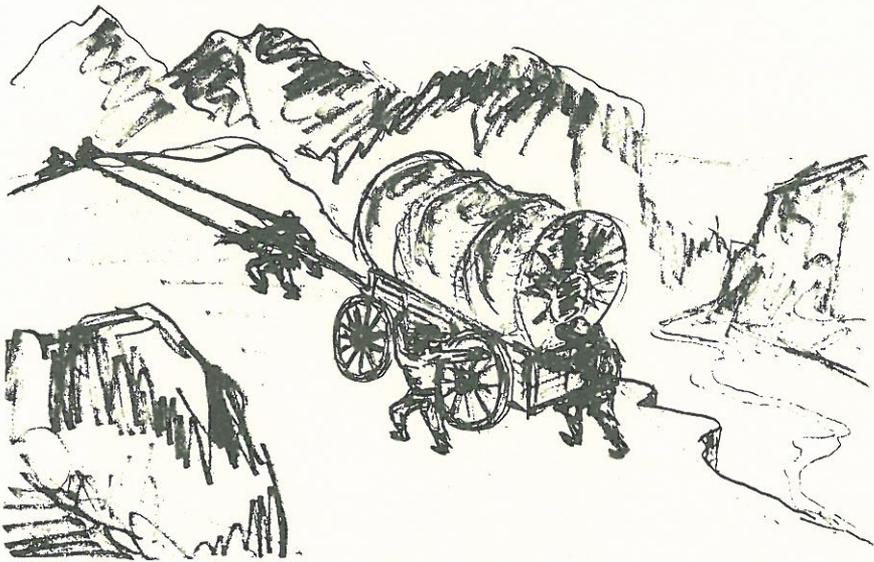
We all concluded to lay by today. Our horse died this evening. Kelly lends us one of the horses in his charge for which we let him have one of our ponys to drive cattle with. Weather clear and warm.

Monday, September 19, 1853

We rolled out early, we traveled up the valley near the foot of the mountains, passed Mormon Station. Fine tall pines on the mountain sides. We camped near a small branch. Grass good, pine for fuel, weather clear and cool.

Distance traveled 15 miles.





Friday, September 23, 1853

We arose early, found our ponys missing. After a long hunt we found them. We rolled out, ascended the first summit of the Sierra Nevada mountains, traveled on over a rough country and came to Casa Valley at the foot of the second summit. Here we found Mr. Hayes, a cousin of Mrs. Meeks. He here had a trading post. We camped here, took our horses 3 miles to grass and guarded them all night. Weather cool and cloudy. Wood and water plenty.

Distance traveled 5 miles.

Saturday, September 24, 1853

We started before day light, ascended the second summit without much trouble. Got over by 9 oc. Here snow was on each side of the road. We traveled on over a rough country and camped near a trading post. It was so windy ascending the summit that we had to take our waggon covers off to keep them from blowing over. Wood and water plenty, no grass. We are now in the State of California having entered it at the last summit. Weather cold and cloudy.

Distance traveled 15 miles.

Thursday, September 29, 1853

We rolled out early, passed over good roads and camped at a ranch. Weather clear and warm.
Distance traveled 16 miles.

Friday, September 30, 1853

Rolled out early, crossed McCoury River on a suspension bridge, passed numerous houses and at last reached the long looked for Sacramento City. Camped in town on an open lot, put our horses in stable care. Weather clear and warm.
Distance traveled 20 miles.

We all look dirty and sun burnt and really feel ashamed of our appearances.

So
Was the Chapter
of Events

End of
Volume
— — — — —

A. A. Brown
1st Division 38, R 9 V Co. C
Capt. J. E. Hinds,
Col B. F. Senter
Entered ^{Thurs} Sep. 1-19 1861 at ~~St. Louis~~ ^{St. Louis} Mo.
Ind.

A. A. Brown left
home to join his
Regiment at ~~St. Louis~~ ^{St. Louis} Mo.
on Sept-23 1861
Monday morning.

These entries are in the back of Volume II
of the Journals. I can only assume that
my Grandfather entered these at a later
date.

YREKA, SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIF.

DEATH OF WM. R. BROWN

Dec 1-10 - 1914
Descendant of Cavalier and Puritan
Joins Famous Ancestors in Yet
a Better Land

William R. Brown, a California pioneer, died in Yreka last Thursday aged 84 years, 2 months and 20 days. He crossed the plains when a boy of 21 years by ox team with Captain Meek's party, the trip taking six months. Many thrilling experiences were encountered with the Indians enroute. They arrived in Sacramento in October, 1852.

Mr. Brown, having served his apprenticeship as a druggist in the East, entered into that business in partnership with Dr. Crews in Placerville. Several years later he disposed of his interests there and moved to Modoc county, where he followed the flour and lumber business until his health failed. He also took an active part during the Modoc Indian war.

The deceased was married to Miss Annie Chappell of Cedarville in 1882. In 1896 the family moved to Yreka where they have since resided. Mrs. Brown preceded him in death on September 9, 1902.

Mr. Brown was a descendant of two of the oldest families of this country. On his father's side his ancestors landed in Jamestown in 1607, and by his mother he was related to John Carver who came over in the Mayflower.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by Rev. E. H. Mackay, and interment was made in Evergreen cemetery.

Besides two brothers—C. E. Brown of Los Angeles and Forest Brown of Indiana, seven children survive—George W. Brown, Mrs. Thos. Spear, Mrs. J. R. Lovelace, Mrs. H. Esler, Mrs. Frances and Annie Brown; and Thomas Brown of Rock