

## Josselyn Diary

From California State Library, P O Box 2037, Sacramento, California, to Mrs. Arthur L. Bonnewitz, Research Chairman, Raytown Historical Society, 9717 Brook Lane, Raytown, Mo 64133, Nov. 10, 1966:

Enclosed are two facsimile prints from the typescript copy of Amos Piatt Josselyn's JOURNAL, 254150 qCB J84 copy 2

The original PAPERS OF AMOS JOSSELYN consist of his journal, April 2 to September 11, 1849; South Zanesville Company accounts; and an emigrant guide. The guide contains no references to the Raytown Area. (Rice's campground in Raytown).

The Library has a circulating copy of the typescript journal which we will be glad to lend to your local library through interlibrary loan channels. Your request should be made through your local library.

Sincerely yours,  
Allan R. Ottley, California Section Librarian  
ARC:eh

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### JOURNAL OF A FORTY-NINER

The "South Zanesville Company" of '49's was composed of 10 members as follows:

	Birthplace	Age
Simon Ewing	Ohio	21
Amos P Josselyn	Ohio	29
James McDonald	Ireland	24
John Carrington	Ohio	30
Wm B Harris	Ohio	22
Wm Hobbie	Ohio	40
Wm Owens	Ohio	22
Wm Gattrell	Ohio	22
Jeff Mechlin	Ohio	21
Nelson Williams	Ohio	20

This group left Zanesville, Ohio, in the spring of 1849. Each of the ten put \$200 into a pool for expenses; also each furnished a team of horses and a wagon, fully equipped with camp utensils, beds, wagon tools, etc. They went westward over Ohio's roads to Cincinnati, thence by steamboat to Independence, Missouri, then to the Platte river route. Amos Piatt Josselyn was secretary of the company, and the following pages are the notes of the

journal made by him until their arrival in the Sacramento Valley September, 1849.

Josselyn returned to Ohio in 1852 via the sea route and Isthmus of Panama, and died in Ohio in 1885. Carrington died shortly after their arrival in California. Nelson Williams died in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1883; also Wm Harris at a later date. Wm McDonald returned to Ohio in 1851, but later became a resident of California. The original papers and private correspondence concerning the voyage of these '49's are preserved in the California State Library at Sacramento, California (95809).

THE SOUTH ZANESVILLE COMPANY  
Organized in 1849 at Zanesville, Ohio

		MILES
1849		
April 2 Monday	Left S.(?) Zanesville at 8 1/2 o'clock A M and got but two miles when mule team ran off the road and capsized the wagon (which) detained us about one hour, drove 23 miles and put up at H. Willson's 1 mile west of Jackson.	23
April 3 Tuesday	Left H. Willson's at 8 1/2 o'clock and drove to Columbus and put up. Weather clear.	30
April 4 Wednesday	Left Columbus at 7 o'clock and drove thirty miles and camped in the woods. (Rained all day)	30
April 5 Thursday	Left camp at 7 1/2 o'clock and drove thirty miles and camped at the road side. Clear and fine all day.	30
April 6 Friday	Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove to Cincinnati by 12 o'clock, it being 17 miles, and shipped on board the steamer Enterprise.	17
April 7 Saturday	Left Cincinnati at 1 o'clock AM and passed Louisville at 4 o'clock PM. The boat ran the falls but the passengers walked round.	
April 8 Sunday	This day was passed on board boat. Showry all day.	
April 9 Monday	Had to lay up last night on account of fog but today the weather is fine.	
April 10 Tuesday	Last night it was verry winday and some rain. The day is fine but quite windy. Arrived at the mouth of the Ohio at 12 o'clock.	
April 11 Wednesday	Winday and cool; but clear.	



April 12 Arrived at St. Louis about day light. Weather  
 Thursday clear and warm

April 13 Left St. Louis at 12 o'clock last night. This day  
 Friday fine but cool.

April 14 Windy and quite cold.  
 Saturday

April 15 Some snow in the morning and cold; in the  
 Sunday afternoon the weather moderated. Passed Boonville  
 at 5 o'clock PM

April 16 The morning cold; but moderate in the afternoon.  
 Monday

April 17 Cold and windy.  
 Tuesday

April 18 Arrived at Independence Landing at day light and  
 Wednesday spent the day in getting up the Bluff. Camped  
 just up the hill. (Day fine.)

April 19 Spent the day in packing our goods  
 Thursday (Weather fine.)

April 20 In camp all day putting things in order.  
 Friday (Weather fine.)

April 21 Left camp and went into Independence and found  
 Saturday it to be quite a business place. (Fine weather.)

April 22 Stayed in camp all day (Weather fine.)  
 Sunday

April 23 Rain nearly all day which prevented us from  
 Monday but being in no hurry put it off until next day.

April 24 Left camp at 8 o'clock and drove 6 miles  
 Tuesday and camped three miles S W of Independence.  
 Fine day 6

April 25 Left camp at 8 1/2 o'clock and drove to Mr. Rices  
 Wednesday (6 miles) where corn was plenty at 1.25 per bll  
6

April 26 Drove back 1 mile to a smith shop and got our  
 Thursday tyre cut. Fine day.

April 27 In camp all day working at wagons, fixing ox  
 Friday tongue, etc. Fine day.

April 28 Hitched up and drove 8 miles to Blue river;  
 Saturday before leaving Rices we bought corn enough to  
 feed our teams for 6 to 7 days thinking that the  
 grass would be good enough for grazing by the  
 time the corn was out. Weather fine. 8

April 29 Remained at Blue River all day (Weather fine.)  
 Sunday

April 30 Left camp at 9 o'clock and drove to Lone Elm  
 Monday 16 miles. (Weather fine.) Good roads but water  
 scarce. 16

May 1 Left camp at 7 o'clock and when three miles from  
 Tuesday camp one of the newark teams got fritened at a  
 man throwing a blanket over his shoulders and ran  
 off; the driver in attempting to jump from the  
 wagon fell and the four wheels of the wagon ran over him  
 which has injured him very much, but it may not be fatal.  
 They not having any convenient way to carry he was put in  
 our wagon. There being no water we had to drive on and it  
 took us nearly all day to drive 7 miles (the nearest  
 watering place), having to stop every few minutes to let  
 our wounded man get his breath. Cold and windy, so cold  
 that every man had to put on two or three coats. The roads  
 the best I ever see. Camped on a branch of Blue River near  
 the place leaving the Santafee Road. McDonald was unwell  
 all day yesterday. Last night and today quite sick. 10

May 2 Spent camp attending to wounded man and preparing  
 Wednesday picket pins. Weather clear and pleasant. MCD a  
 little better.

May 3 Spent in camp nursing wounded man. It rained  
 Thursday nearly all day so that nothing else could be done.

May 4 It rained all the forenoon but about noon it  
 Friday seaced and had the appearance of clearing off and  
 the wounded man appearing to be able to ride we got him into  
 the wagon and drove to Blackjack point about 8 miles. It  
 rained nearly all the time and the roads very bad. The  
 wounded man appeared to stand it very well but when we  
 stoped he fainted away. McDonald mutch better. 8

May 5 The wounded man died at 10 o'clock this morning  
 Saturday and it took us untill 11 o'clock to attend to the  
 funeral ceremonies. We then hitched up and got off at 11  
 1/2 o'clock and drove about 10 miles to a small creek and  
 camped. The roads very bad but no rain. 10

May 6 Hitched up and got off at 8 1/2 o'clock. Got to  
 Sunday the Walkarush (?) about 10 o'clock and there being



several teams ahead of us it took us about three hours to get across. We then drove about three miles and camped where there was neither wood nor water, only what we carried with us. Drove about 7 mles this day. Roads bad but weather clear. 7

May 7 Hitched up and got off at 7 o'clock and drove 20  
Monday miles and camped on a small run. The weather fine and roads good. 20

May 8 Hitched up and got off at 8 o'clock. Drove 15  
Tuesday miles to a small creek and camped where there is a wagon shop and black smith shop established by the government for the benefit of the Potawatamie Indians. This day was fine and the roads midling. 15

May 9 Hitched up and got off at 8 1/2 o'clock. Got to  
Wednesday the Kansas about noon, but by the time we got ferried across it was nearly sundown. We drove about two miles from the Kansas to Soldier Creek and camped where we intend to stay until we organize into a company large enough to go through. The roads this day were pretty bad; drove but 9 miles. 9

May 10 Spent this day in camp working, etc.  
Thursday

May 11 We yesterday lost 3 of our mules and in looking  
Friday for them I got too far from camp and it getting dark before I could get in I lost my way and spent the night in rambling about. I had to move about to keep warm. I tried to sleep two or three times but it was too cold. I got into camp about 7 o'clock this morning and found that the mules were in. They were brot in by three Indians who said they cougth some Indians off another tribe driving them off. They wanted 9\$ for returning them but took five. Hitched up our teems and drove to Turkey Creek about 20 miles where we understood there was some companies waiting for more company but on arriving found none. The weather fine and roads tolerable. 20

May 12 Layed at Turkey Creek all day waiting for company.  
Saturday In the evening a company of 23 came up. We being 18 strong joined them which made 41, which we considered about strong enough and agreed to push on in the morning. The weather fine all day.

May 13 This morning a company of 12 from Stubenville, O.  
Sunday joined us, making us 53 strong which we think plenty strong enough. We drove 20 miles this day; roads pretty good. Water plenty at convenient distances for watering. The weather fine for traveling. 20

May 14 This morning at day light we had a heavy storm of  
Monday wind and rain but it did not last long. Got off at  
7 1/2 o'clock and drove 18 miles and camped 1 mile west of  
Vermillion River. Weather quite cool with plenty of water  
at good distances for watering. 18

May 15 Got off at 6 1/2 o'clock. Passed the Big Blue at 1  
Tuesday o'clock; drove about 20 miles this day. Water  
plenty and roads pretty good. At the Blue there is two  
graves one of which is an old lady from Springfield, Ill.  
(Sarah Keys) buried in the spring of 1846. The other is  
John Fuller who lost his life by the accidental discharge  
of a gun. Buried April 29, 1849; could not learn where he  
was from. 20

May 16 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Passed the junction of St.  
Wednesday Joseph and Independence trails at 7 1/2 o'clock.  
Passed Battle Creek at 8 o'clock and another creek at 12  
1/2 o'clock and another at 5 o'clock and camped. Traveled  
about 20 miles. weather cool and roads good. 20

May 17 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock. drove 18 miles Wood  
Thursday and water plenty. Weather clear and cool. Crossed  
two or three bad chuck holes. 18

May 18 Left camp at 6 o'clock. weather clear and cool.  
Friday Traveled 16 miles. Wood and water plenty. 130  
wagons in train. 16

May 19 Left camp at 6 1/4 o'clock. Weather cloudy and  
Friday windy. Drove about 20 miles up Little Blue. Wood  
and water plenty. 40 wagons in train. Camped on the Little  
Blue with 3 or 4 camps in sight. 20

May 20 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Weather cool and windy.  
Saturday Drove about 20 miles up Little Blue. Camped on the  
stream. 20

May 21 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Rain in the morning before  
Sunday we left. Drove 16 miles and camped about 11 miles  
after leaving Little Blue. Three or four showers of rain  
during the day. 16

May 22 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Weather quite cool. Drove  
Monday about 15 miles to the Platte where we arrived at 2  
o'clock and camped for the day, and night. 15

May 23 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock. Passed Fort Kearney at  
Tuesday 11 o'clock. Weather cold and windy. Roads level  
but very tough. Drove this day about 18 miles and camped on  
the Platte. 18



May 24 Hitched up at 6 o'clock and in driving out off the Wednesday corrale one team started too soon and ran against the wagon ahead of it and pulled the spindle off of the axletree. We then turned our teams out again and sent a man back to Fort Kearney for an axletree, and on his way to the Fort he found one in the road that had either been lost or thrown away. As soon as he returned, we went to work and got it in by 3 o'clock. We then hitched up and drove 6 miles. It commenced raining soon after we started and rained hard all the evening. 6

May 25 It rained and stormed all night verry hard, the Friday hardest I ever saw. It sounded like one continued roar of thunder and verry cold. Some of the guards say there was hail, but I suppose they were mistaken, but the rain drops came with such violence that they were taken for hail. We got off at 7 o'clock and drove 22 miles and camped 1 mile west of Ash Creek. Showery and windy all day and verry cold, so cold that we suffered with the cold though we had our overcoats on and walking, the wind blew so hard that it was hard work to walk against it and keep up with the wagons, it being against us all day. 22

May 26 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 18 miles. Cold Saturday and windy but not so bad as yesterday. The roads were tolerable and would have been good had it not been for the recent rains. 18

May 27 Left camp at y6 o'clock abd drove 25 miles. The Sunday roads pretty good and weather clear and pleasant. 25

May 28 Left camp at 5 3/4 o'clock and drove 20 miles. Monday The roads good and the weather clear and pleasant. This morning Hobbie left camp before the train to take a hunt, intending to come into the road ahead. 9 o'clock PM Hobbie not yet in. 20

May 29 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Hobbie not yet in. Tuesday 12 o'clock heard that Hobbie was below waiting for us to come up thinking that he was above us. Camped at 5 o'clock having drove 25 miles, the roads being verry good. 9 o'clock PM Hobbie not yet in. 25

May 30 4 o'clock AM Hobbie not yet in. Last night we had Wednesday a verry severe storm of wind, rain, and hail. More severe than any we have yet had and at this time it is raining and blowing hard. Last night our cattle got off and strayed away. Several of the men are starting out to search for them. 6 o'clock. About a dozen of the cattle have been found, two of ours and 9 or 10 more. It is still storming and the men concluded not to search for the cattle

untill the storm is over. 8 'clock. Storming yet. 12 o'clock M. it has broke away a little and the men are starting out again in search of the cattle. At 6 o'clock a part of the men has returned with some of the cattle. All of ours are in. Verry cold and windy all day. Hobbie not yet in.

May 31 Cold and windy all day. Hobbie returned about 2 o'clock PM He had got ahead of the train. Between 8 and 9 o'clock the ----were drove in.

June 1 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Drove 25 miles on good roads and the weather clear and pleasant. 25  
Friday

June 2 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Drove 4 miles up the Saturday river to a ford; got over by 11 1/2 o'clock; drove 10 miles across to the North fork and camped, making 14 miles drive this day. Roads middling and weather clear and pleasant. 14

June 3 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Two of the Newark teams Sunday remained in camp. Drove 20 miles over verry sandy. Weather clear and pleasant. Camped 3 miles above the North fork of Ash Hollow. 20

June 4 Left camp at 4 1/2 o'clock and drove 5 miles to Monday good grass and turned out 2 hours to graze. We then let the train go ahead and we drove off the road to recruit our stock. Weather clear and pleasant; drove 18 miles. 18

June 5 At 2 o'clock PM the Stubenville Company came Tuesday along and the newark teams along with them. They agreed to stop early if we would come up with them. We hitched up between 4 and 5 o'clock and drove on. We found the Stubenville and Newark companies 5 miles ahead. We scarely got unhitched untill a verry heavy hail storm came up. The day was clear and pleasant until a short time before the hail storm. Roads sandy. 5

June 6 We left camp at 7 o'clock and drove 15 miles and Wednesday camped at 4 o'clock. The forenoon was clear and pleasant, but we had indications of a storm all afternoon; at 4 o'clock it came in earnest, a tremendous hail storm. It lasted about 30 minutes. The roads were pretty fair. Camped between 2 small creeks, they being two miles apart. 15

June 7 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 25 miles to Thursday within 5 miles of the Chimney Rock. The roads were good all but the last 3 or 4 miles. The day clear and pleasant. We crossed no stream but a small one in the morning. 25



June 8 Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove two miles until Friday we got into mud up to the axle, and did not get the wagons all through until 12 o'clock. It took 18 yoke of cattle to pull our mule wagon out. It was a mile through the marshy ground. As soon as we got through we turned our stock out to graze and in 1 1/2 hours we hitched up and drove 10 miles, making 13 miles this day. We had a hail storm about 11 o'clock. Crossed no stream today. 13

June 9 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove 18 miles Saturday to Scott's Bluff's. Here is a trading house kept by a white man who is married to a sqaw. The roads were good. We left the river after driving 5 miles. There is a blacksmith shop here also. The day was clear and cool. We camped at 4 o'clock and at 6 we had a heavy shower of rain. 18

June 10 Lay at Scott's Bluff's all day. Clear and warm Sunday untill 6 o'clock PM at which time we had a storm of wind and rain. At this place is a trading house and blacksmith shop.

June 11 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 30 miles and Monday encamped near the river on a stream of clear water which was full of fish. We crossed three small creeks, one of which was Horse Creek. Warm and pleasant all day, some rain in the evening; roads good. 30

June 12 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 20 miles and Tuesday encamped on the Laramie fork of the Platte 2 miles below the ford and close to a pen built of poles. At 2 o'clock today we had a severe storm of hail and several small showers of rain from that until night. 20

June 13 (? Fort Laramie or old Fort Bernard) Left camp at Wednesday 6 1/4 o'clock and drove to the ford where we had to raise our wagon beds about 5 inches. We then went through safe. We got to the fort at 8 o'clock where we tarried one hour. We then drove one mile west of the warm spring making 18 miles drive on good roads. Weather clear and cool. 18

June 14 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove 17 miles and Thursday encamped on a stream of water. We came to a stream of water about 11 o'clock and travailed up it all day. Weather clear and cool. Roads verry solid. 17

June 15 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 25 miles and Friday encamped on a small stream of water. We came to a large creek at 1 o'clock. Weather clear and cool. Roads solid but hilley. We passed Laramie Peak today, the top of which is covered with snow. 25

June 16 (Labonie La Prele) Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock. We  
Saturday came to a creek at 11 1/2 o'clock. Here we took  
dinner. At 3 o'clock we came to another creek where we  
filled our water kegs and drove 4 miles over the red hills  
and encamped, making 19 miles drive today. The roads for 3  
or 4 miles are covered with a red sand that looks just like  
the dust that gathers at a brick kiln. This day was rather  
warm for comfort. 19

June 17 Left camp at 7 o'clock; at 11 1/2 o'clock we came  
Sunday to Lassarell (?Creek). Five miles from this is a  
branch of the same with steep banks. From this we drove 8  
miles drive. Weather cool and pleasant. 18

June 18 We drove 9 miles to Deer Creek and encamped on  
Monday good grazing. Weather clear and pleasant. Here we  
borrowed a sein belonging to the Government train with  
which we caught about 4 bbls. of fish. 9

June 19 We drove to the river 2 miles above Deer Creek  
Tuesday and went to work to make dug-outs to ferry across.  
We worked all day in company with another company and got  
three dug-outs into the water by evening. Weather clear and  
pleasant. 2

June 20 Got our dug-outs lashed together and found that  
Wednesday they were not sufficient to carry our heaviest  
wagons, and while a part of us were ferrying the light  
wagons, the balance went to work at another dug-out, and  
got it into the water by the middle of the afternoon. We  
then found our boat sufficient to carry any of our wagons.  
We got 10 wagons over today. Weather clear and cool.

June 21 We got our wagons over and drove 6 miles and  
Thursday encamped. Weather clear and pleasant. Roads sandy. 6

June 22 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove 23 miles and  
Friday encamped one mile above the old crossing, and five  
miles above the new crossing. weather clear and pleasant.  
Roads verry sandy. 23

June 23 We this morning lightened our loads by throwing  
Saturday out 200 lbs of baconb and 1/2 bbl buns, etc. We  
left camp at 6 3/4 o'clock and drove to Willow Springs,  
a distance of 28 miles; but two watering places during the  
day, one at Mineral Spring and Lake and one at a small stream  
2/12 miles from Wllow Springs. Weather hot. 28

June 24 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove to Independence  
Sunday Rock, a distance of 21 miles. Weather warm and roads  
sandy.



June 25 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove 17 miles and  
Monday encamped on Sweet water. Roads tolerable and  
weather fine. Today we traded two mules for 2 yoke of  
cattle and got twenty dollars boot money and ten dollars  
for harness. 21 17

June 26 This day we drove 20 miles. The roads were sandy  
Tuesday and weather fine. 20

June 27 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 21 miles and  
Wednesday encamped 2 miles below ford No. 5. The first 8  
miles of the road was sandy but the balance fine. 21

June 28 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 12 miles and  
Thursday encamped where the road leaves the river. 12

June 29 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove to Strawberry  
Friday Creek (10 miles), and nooned. After dinner we  
drove 9 1/2 miles farther to Sweet Water making 10 1/2  
miles today. Roads good and weather cool enough to be  
pleasant. This day I walked on snow 10 feet deep. 19 1/2

June 30 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove to the crossing  
Saturday of Pacific Creek 14 1/2 miles and encamped. This  
morning we did not take the old road, but followed the  
Sweet Water about 7 miles before leaving it for the road.  
Roads good and weath cool and pleasant. 14 1/2

July 1 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 22 3/4 miles to  
Sunday the Little Sandy. We found no water today for our  
stock. We crossed the Dry Sandy but the water is brackish  
and not good for stock, though nothing suffered for water  
as it was cool all day with 2 or 3 showers of rain and  
hail. The roads excellent. Today I counted 18 head of dead  
cattle, killed by drinking alkali water. The Stubenville  
Company remained in camp on Sweet Water to recruit their  
stock. By dropping off our company was reduced to 14 men  
and 4 wagons. The roads were excellent. 22 3/4

July 2 Left camp at 3 1/2 o'clock and drove to the Big  
Monday Sandy (8 1/4 miles) before breakfast. After  
stopping 2 1/2 hours we drove on to where the road strikes  
the Big Sandy again (17 miles), making 25 1/4 miles today.  
Weather cool and roads excellent. 25 1/4

July 3 (Old Lombard Ferry) Left camp at 6 1/4 o'clock and  
Tuesday drove to Green River (10 miles). We found the river  
too high to ford, but there is a ferry, kept by Mormons.  
There is about 20 wagons ahead of us, we will not get over  
before tomorrow forenoon. Weather cool and pleasant. Roads

excellent.

10

July 4 By 10 o'clock they got ready to cross our wagons Wednesday but being hindered by wind and rain we did not get over much before night. We, however, hitched up and drove 8 miles and encamped below the point where we arrived at 11 o'clock PM. Roads good. 8

July 5 Left camp at 6 1/4 o'clock and drove to Black's Thursday Fork and nooned on good camping ground. After stopping three hours we drove to Ham's Fork and encamped on first-rate ground, making 19 1/4 miles today on good roads. Weather clear and pleasant. 19 1/4

July 6 Left Ham's Fork at 5 3/4 o'clock; drove 3/4 miles Friday to Black's Fork which we found too high to ford. Consequently we kept the north side of it and encamped 7 miles from a stream that empties into Black Fork about 23 miles from where we started. Roads a little heavy. Weather clear and pleasant. 23

July 7 (Fort Bridger, Wyo) Left camp at 6 o'clock and Saturday camped 7 miles west of Fort Bridger. Roads a little heavy. Weather clear and pleasant. 23

July 8 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 19 miles Sunday encamped about 2 1/2 miles from Sulphur Creek. Roads rough and hilly. Weather clear and pleasant. 20

July 9 Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove to a spring 2 Monday miles south of the road and encamped., making 8 1/4 miles today. We were hindered in fording Bear River which is a very rapid stream but we got over without injuring anything by raising our beds 8 or 10 inches. Weather clear and pleasant. 8 1/4

July 10 Left camp at 4 1/2 o'clock and drove to a cold Tuesday spring on the south side of the road and nooned (14 3/4 miles). Roads good. After dinner we drove 19 miles down Echo Creek and camped. The roads this afternoon were good with the exception of the crossings of the creek which were bad. Weather clear and pleasant. 25

July 11 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove to the Red Wednesday Fork of Weber River, 10 1/2 o'clock and turned out for dinner. The roads were the worst we have had being narrow and crooked and several bad crossings. Only 7 miles this forenoon. At 1 o'clock we hitched up and drove 4 miles to the ford which we found pretty deep. We carried our goods over on a raft and lashed the beds fast to the wagons and pulled them through. We got our goods all over and all of the wagons but one. The roads up Webber River are pretty



good. Weather clear and pleasant.

11

July 12 We got the other wagon over and got our loads Thursday packed by 10 o'clock. We then hitched up and drove 3 3/4 miles (to Bridge) and nooned. In the afternoon we drove about half a mile up Kenyon Creek, making 7 1/2 miles this afternoon and 11 1/4 miles today over verry narrow, crooked and hilley roads. Weather warm and very disagreeable traveling on account of the dust. 11 1/4

July 13 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 15 3/4 miles to Friday a spring on brown's Creek. Roads narrow, crooked, sidling and mountaineous. Weather warm. 11 1/4

July 14 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove to the City Saturday of the Great Salt Lake (13 1/2 miles) over the worst roads we have yet traveled until we got within five miles of the City. 13 1/2

July 15 We lay at the City all day, it being warm. During Sunday the afternoon we had a little sprinkling of rain.

July 16 We lay at the City until 1 o'clock PM when we Monday hitched up and drove 8 miles to Mr. Baldwin's and encamped. Roads good. Weather pleasant. 8

July 17 Left camp at 7 1/2 o'clock and drove 14 1/2 miles Tuesday and encamped on a creek. Grazing good. Weather warm and pleasant. 14 1/2

July 18 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 22 miles and Wednesday encamped on a small creek 6 miles from Weaver River. We had to raise our beds 5 or 6 inches. Weather clear and warm. 22

July 19 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove 14 miles to a Thursday large creek for dinner. Roads good. After dinner we drove 8 miles to Box Elder Creek making 22 miles today. Weather verry warm. We layed by 3 1/2 hours at noon, it being too hot to travail. 22

July 20 Left Box Elder Creek at 5 o'clock and drove 15 Friday miles to a spring left of the road and took dinner. Roads good. After dinner we drove to Bear River which we found too high to ford, but we found a man who had a skiff for carrying goods over. We crossed our goods over in the skiff, and by tying kegs to our wagons we floated them over. By the time we got all over it was dark and the wagons being wet we did not pack our goods untill morning. We drove 20 miles today. 20

July 21 We packed our goods and got off at 7 o'clock

Saturday and drove 22 1/2 miles we found a small spring some distance from the road to the right which was all the water we found until we got to the 22 1/2 mile and it being pretty warm, our stock suffered some for water. About the middle of the afternoon we had a shower of rain which refreshed the stock considerably. This warm spring was salt water, and tea or coffee made from it did not go down very well. 22 1/2

July 22 We left camp at 7 o'clock and drove 12 miles to a Sunday spring in the mountains which is good water. Some rain fell this forenoon. We remained here until 5 o'clock PM when we hitched up and drove 6 miles to Deer Creek. Roads good and weather warm. 18 miles today. 18

July 23 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove 6 miles down Monday Deer Creek and turned out until 12 1/2 o'clock. We then hitched up and drove 11 miles to a spring in the plains. Roads good and weather warm. 17 miles today. 17

July 24 The grass being slim we left at 4 1/2 o'clock AM Tuesday and drove 6 miles to a spring on the side of the mountain and turned out three hours for breakfast. We then drove 8 miles to a spring on the left of the road. Here we stopped 2 hours. We then drove 3 miles and encamped on a small creek. Good grass. We here found where some emigrants had broken their wagon and left it. We picked up their wagon cover, tent, gold washer, medicine, etcetera. 17

July 25 Left camp at 8 o'clock and drove 10 miles to Wednesday Cajing Creek. Here we turned out 2 hours. We then drove 8 miles up the creek and encamped, making 18 miles. Roads good and weather pleasant. 18

July 26 (Maybe Fort Hale) Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and Thursday drove 12 miles to a spring on the Fort Hale Road. Here we stopped 2 hours. We then drove 5 miles to a small creek over some steep hills and encamped making 17 miles today. Seven miles from where we started we come to an old road. After we got on the old road we found it very disagreeable traveling on account of dust. Weather warm. 17

July 27 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove eleven miles Friday and stopped on Goose Creek for dinner. We then drove eleven miles up the creek and encamped, making 22 miles. The roads were good with the exception of the last 2 miles which was rough. Weather clear and warm. 22

July 28 Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove 15 miles to the Saturday Hot Spring Valley, the first water after leaving Goose Creek. Before stopping for dinner a part of the road was pretty rough. After dinner we drove 7 miles



and encamped one mile west of the spring. Good roads.  
Weather cool and windy. 22

July 29 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 22 miles up the  
Sunday valley. The roads were good. The weather in the  
morning was cold (ice an inch thick) but by noon it was  
pretty warm. 22

July 30 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 22 miles and  
Monday encamped on a branch of Mary's River. The roads  
were good today with the exception of a pretty hard hill  
after leaving the Hot Spring Valley. The weather in the  
morning was cold but by noon it was pretty warm. 22

July 31 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 22 miles and  
Tuesday encamped on the same stream we encamped last  
night. The roads today were pretty good, the last ten miles  
very good. The morning and evening cold. The mountains all  
around us are topped with snow. 22

August 1 Left camp at 5 1/4 o'clock and drove twenty miles  
Wednesday and encamped on Mary's River. Roads good and  
weather cold in the morning and warm in the middle of the  
day. 20

August 2 Left camp at 4 1/2 o'clock and drove 23 miles and  
Thursday encamped on the River. Roads good. Weather warm.  
This day Brown joined us. 23

August 3 Left camp at 6 1/4 o'clock and drove 18 miles and  
Friday encamped on the river. The roads in the forenoon  
were good, but in afternoon they were hilley and rough in  
passing through a kenyan. Weather clear and warm. 18

August 4 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove twenty-five  
Saturday miles and encamped on the river. We drove the  
whole day without water for the stock. We crossed a creek  
about 7 o'clock but it was so early that the stock would  
not drink. Soon after crossing the creek we went over the  
hills, through the kenyan where it was twenty miles before  
we came to the river again. There was a small spring in the  
kenyan but there was so many waiting for a chance that we  
drove on. The roads were rough, hilley and dusty and the  
day hot. See Thos. Nash today 25

August 5 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove seventeen  
Sunday miles and encamped on the river. We layed by 4  
hours in the middle of the day as it was very warm, but  
about three o'clock we had a little sprinkling of rain.  
After that it was cool and pleasant. Roads excellent but  
very dusty. 17

August 6 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 23 miles and  
Monday encamped on the river. Roads good. Weather warm;  
in the afternoon we drove over a stretch of 10 miles  
without water or grass. 23

August 7 Left camp at 4 3/4 o'clock and drove 18 miles  
Tuesday and encamped on the river after driving over a  
neck of land five miles over where the roads are sandy and  
heavy. Weather warm, very warm in the middle of the day, so  
warm that we lay up from 10 AM to 3 PM 18

August 8 Left camp at 5 o'clock, and drove 17 miles and  
Wednesday encamped on the river near to where the road  
leaves the river again. We lay up four hours at noon it  
being too warm to drive cattle. Roads good but very dusty. 17

August 9 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 20 miles and  
Thursday encamped on the river. Roads good and weather  
warm. Lay up 4 hours at noon. Late evening a train of pack  
mules came up and encamped near us. They had come by the  
way on account of high waters and the scarcity of grass.  
Gov. Smith's staff of California was in this train. Owens  
was their guide. 20

August 10 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove 16 miles  
Friday on the sand bluffs just above the river. The  
roads for the last 6 miles were sandy and heavy. Weather  
warm. Lay up 4 1/2 hours at noon. 16

August 11 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 26 miles and  
Saturday encamped on the river just after driving over 11  
miles stretch without water, or grass. We drove 10 miles  
and then lay up until dusk and then drove over the desert  
in the night. We got over at 2 o'clock AM The weather today  
is very warm. 26

August 12 There being no grass where we camped last night  
Sunday we hitched up at 7 o'clock and drove 4 miles to  
grass and encamped to remain all day. The weather today was  
hot. At 3 o'clock the thermometer stood at 106 in the sun  
and 98 in the shade. 4

August 13 Left camp at 6 o'clock and one mile from where  
Monday we were we left the old road to make a cut off  
to Feather River. We understand that three years ago there  
had some 3 or 4 wagons started through here but could not  
learn anything about the road. There was 8 wagons started  
yesterday led by Magee. We drove all day and untill one  
o'clock at night and found no water or grass except a small  
spring about 14 miles from the river. Here we could not get  
water for our stock. At 1 o'clock we stopped to let the



stock rest.

August 14 At 4 o'clock we drove on and about one mile  
Tuesday farther on we passed a small spring and if we  
had stopped long enough we might have got water for our  
stock but the country looked as though it was watered and  
we drove on in hopes of getting water and grass, but we  
found it 20 miles from the spring before we found water,  
making fifty miles over a barren desert that we drove our  
stock without water or grass. Here we found the wagons that  
started out the day before. This day was very warm and both  
man and beast suffered very much for water, but our teams  
stood it better than any that was on the road. The Newark  
men left 3 cattle on the road that they could not get  
along. (Milligan 2 and Patterson 1). In a couple of hours  
one of Milligan's cattle came on. Milligan then filled a  
couple of kegs of water and took them on horse and went  
back to water the cattle that were left. He found  
Patterson's ox coming in. He gave some water and let him  
come on and then went after the other. When he found him he  
gave him some water and drove him 3 or 4 miles and could  
get him no further. There was about 50 teams behind us and  
their stock suffered wonderfully. 52

August 15 At 9 o'clock we hitched up and drove 2 1/2 miles  
Wednesday to another patch of grass and lay until 6  
o'clock PM. We then hitched up and drove 4 miles to good  
camping, good water and grass. weather clear and warm. 6

August 16 We lay untill 3 o'clock PM when we hitched up  
Thursday and drove 15 miles, and encamped where there was  
no water or grass, only what we had in our wagons. We cut  
grass before we left camp expecting to find none for some  
distance. Cold nights and hot days. 15

August 17 At 4 o'clock AM we hooked up and drove to water  
Friday and grass (5 Miles). We lay untill 2 1/2 o'clock  
PM when we hooked up and drove 12 miles and encamped 2  
miles up a kenyan. The roads this afternoon were hilley,  
being as hard 1/2 days drive as we have had on the road. 17  
miles today. 17

August 18 Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove 16 miles up the  
Saturday kenyan. Roads good. Cold night and morning. Warm  
in the middle of the day. 16

August 19 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 14 1/2 miles  
Sunday and encamped on a small stream. The roads were  
good with the exception of 2 1/2 miles through a kenyan.  
Last night was very cold. There was about 2 inches of water  
in the wash pan and in the morning it was solid. In the  
middle of the day it was very warm. 14 1/2

August 20 Left camp at 6 o'clock and at 1 o'clock we got  
Monday to a small mud lake. Here we stopped 2 1/2 hours  
then drove up a hill to a spring. Good camping, making 15  
miles drive today. 15

August 21 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove to a warm  
Tuesday spring and stopped for dinner. After dinner we  
drove to the foot of the mountain, making 22 miles today;  
in the forenoon the roads were rough; in the afternoon they  
were good. Weather pleasant. 22

August 22 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove 8 miles to  
Wednesday a spring on the side of the mountain for dinner.  
Roads good. After dinner we drove over the mountain to the  
first good camp, four miles, making 12 miles today. 12

August 23 The stock being verry tired on account of the  
Thursday hard pull up the mountain, we did not start  
until 3 o'clock PM. We then drove 7 miles to a creek. A  
part of the roads tolerable rough. 7

August 24 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove to Goos Lake 3  
Friday miles and 9 miles up the Lake before dinner, and  
after dinner we drove 10 miles farther to a creek which we  
take to be a tributary of the Feather River. Weather clear  
and pleasant. 22 miles today. 22

August 25 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock abd drove 18 miles  
Saturday down the branch and encamped. Weather clear and  
pleasant. 18

August 26 Spent the day in camp cleaning up and recruiting  
Sunday the stock. Weather clear and pleasant.

August 27 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove 20 miles  
Monday down the stream and encamped. Roads pretty good.  
Weather pleasant after the sun got up but cold morning and  
evening. 20

August 28 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and after driving 3  
Tuesday miles we came to a kenyon where the creek passes  
through the mountains. We drove 7 miles into the kenyon.  
The roads very rough in the kenyon, making 10 miles in the  
forenoon. After dinner we drove but 2 miles when we capsised  
our large wagon, but there was nothing broke. We set it up  
and drove on, but when Milligan's wagon got on the ground  
the spindle of his hind axletree broke off. We then struck  
a camp and went to work to repair damages. By 10 o'clock  
we were as good as new. 12 miles today. 12

August 29 Left camp at 6 o'clock and drove 10 miles before



Wednesday dinner. Roads rough in the afternoon. We drove 8 miles farther. The greater part of the roads pretty good. This afternoon got out of the kenyon. Drove 18 miles today. Weather cold in the morning and evening, pleasant in the middle of the day. We came to a road leading from Oregon City to San Francisco 11 miles back. 18

August 30 Left camp at 6 1/2 o'clock and drove 18 miles Thursday down stream and encamped where the road leaves the river. Roads good and weather clear and pleasant. 18

August 31 Left camp at 5 o'clock and drove 10 miles before Friday we stopped over the worst roads we have yet travailed. It took ox teams untill 2 1/2 o'clock to get through. We stopped two hours and then hitched up and drove 8 miles farther over roads as bad as they were in the forenoon. It took untill 9 1/2 o'clock PM to reach the water. 18

Sept. 1 On account of our late drive last night, we did Saturday not start untill 9 o'clock AM. We then drove 6 miles to a spring right of the road and nooned. In the afternoon we drove in an easterly direction to a spring in a large valley 12 miles. It took untill 9 o'clock PM to reach the spring. There was no water untill we got there. The roads were rough in the forenoon but in the afternoon they were pretty good with the exception of a rough hill coming down into the valley. 18 miles today. 18

Sept. 2 On account of our late drive last night we did not Sunday start untill 8 1/4 o'clock. We then drove 11 miles before we found water which is 1/4 mile to the right of the road. Water and grass good. We remained here 3 hours. We then drove 4 miles to a lake 1/2 mile from the main road and encamped making but 15 miles today. Roads rough. 15

Sept. 3 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove 20 miles over Monday rough roads before we found water, a large creek left of the road. We then drove 3/4 of a mile farther before we found grass, making 20 3/4 miles today. 20 3/4

Sept. 4 Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove 23 miles to a Tuesday creek. There was good camping at short distance all day except the last 8 miles. Then there was no water or grass untill we got to the creek. We crossed a pretty good sized river 10 miles back. The mule wagon got to camp before night but the ox teams did not get in untill 2 o'clock. They had to stop in the woods untill the moon raised. 23

Sept 5 Left camp at 7 o'clock and drove eight miles up the Wednesday creek and nooned. We then drove 4 miles farther

and encamped, making but 12 miles today. Roads pretty fair.  
Weather clear and pleasant. 12

Sept. 6 Left camp at 5 1/2 o'clock and drove 8 1/2 miles  
Thursday up the creek and nooned. We then drove 5 miles  
to another small stream and encamped, making 13 1/2 miles  
today. Roads rough and hilly. Weather clear and pleasant.  
The camping poor. 13 1/2

Sept. 7 This morning our mules were missing. We tracked  
Friday them and found they had gone back on the road. Mac  
and I followed them and found where we nooned yesterday. We  
brought them back and got off by 8 1/2 o'clock and drove 15  
miles before we found water and it was 1 1/2 miles left of  
the road and very little grass. The roads bad all day, the  
last 1 1/2 miles very rough. 15

Sept. 8 Left camp at 8 o'clock and it took us until 12  
Saturday 1/2 o'clock to get the first half mile, as it was  
a very steep hill. After dinner we drove 4 1/2 miles over a  
very rough road, to water 3/4 of a mile left of the road  
and encamped. No grass. 5 miles today. 5

Sept. 9 At last we are in the great Sacramento Valley. We  
Sunday left our camp this morning at 8 o'clock and drove  
8 miles to water 1/2 mile right of the road, but it was too  
steep to drive the cattle to it. We carried some to them  
and cut some oak branches and let them browse a little. We  
then drove 3 miles to the valley and encamped on a small  
stream where there was but little grass. 11 miles. 11

Sept. 10 Left camp at 8 o'clock and drove 5 miles to Deer  
Monday Creek and encamped. Grass pretty good. Here we  
remained all day, washing, etc. 5

Sept. 11 Left camp at 9 o'clock and drove 3 miles to  
Lawson's and went down below on the creek 1/2 mile and  
encamped here to remain and recruit our stock and determine  
which course to take, whether up the Sacramento or down  
the Feather River. We have flattering accounts from both  
directions. 3

Total 2152 miles

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Platte River May 23rd 1849 (Tuesday)

Dear Wife

We arrived at the Platte River about 2 o'clock today all  
well, and concluded to lay up until tomorrow morning as we  
have drove our teams pretty hard for 8 or 10 days back. We  
will reach Fort Childs to-morrow and I can leave a letter  
there to be sent to the State by the first opportunity



which can not be long. We have had no sickness in our company since we left home accepting two or three days sickness that MacDonnald had after we left Indipendence but he has now entirely recovered & as harty as any of us.

We have had no difficulty in getting along whatever although we have had some pretty bad roads to travail over we have not capsized since the day we left home neither have we broke anything about our wagons but we have passed a great many wagons on the road that were broken down and I am in hopes that we will not break anything between this and Calafornia, but if we do, we are the Boys that can patch them up. Nelson is at work now putting some false spokes in Mr. Millilgan's wagon. Simon & John J. Corrigan have gone to the river to fish McDonnold & Harris have gone to hunt some wood but it is doubtfull about their getting any unless they swim the river for there is none in sight on this side of the river. Hobby is washing the dishes & preparing to do some cooking (he is our cook) and after I write all that I am agoing to wash some shirts & as I have done nothing of the kind since leaving Indipendence. We left McCadden at Rice's 9 miles from Indipendence and heard nothing from him untill 3 or 4 days ago, when Lippett passed us. (he travells with pack mules) and told us that McCadden was dead and that he had died with the cholera, and there had been a great many deaths since we left. He told us that Burris Hall layed at the point of death when he left, & that Howard was nursing him (this was at Rice's 9 miles from Indipendence where McCaddon's company layed for 12 to 14 days and wanted us to lay there and wait for him but we were too anxious to be moving to lay in one place so long, and it is a fine thing as there was a great many encamped there, & Lippitt tells us that there was about 40 deaths at that place. But you must not be uneasy when you hear of so many dying at Indipendence & near there for we are some distance from there & I have heard of no sickness on the road and we are all firststrate for we have pleanty of exercise in the pure air of these high planes. We have seen no Indians since we left the Kansas river.

In the last letter I wrote you I informed you that I had been told that the country was settled for 200 miles from Indipendence but I find that to be a mistake, unless the Indians can be called settlers, the last white families that we found were about 17 miles from Indipendence untill we came within 7 miles of the Kansas river & there we found a Black smith in the employ of the Government working for the Potawatttamic Indians, he was living there with his familyy (from kentucky) And at the Kansas there is quite a village with 7 stores owned by white men, the most of whom are married to Indian women.--I will write no more today but will add a few more words to-morrow before leaving the letter---

Fort Childs 23 May at 11 o'clock

We are getting along finely, the only difficulty is the number of teams on the road for they are a hindrance to each other they say that the number of teams that has passed is fifteen hundred & about 300 to pass today, this fort consists of about a dozen shanties built of poles and turf.

I suppose there is about 200 soldiers here---Our wagons have gone ahead and I must not remain here too long or they will get so far ahead that it will take all day to overtake them. Tell Sarah Brooke that I fell in with Thomas Nash today and he is well. The soldiers from Fort Kearny on the Missouri River at the mouth of this River. The Roads today we found nearly as level as a house floor. We met four wagons today loaded with Furs from Fort Laramie and they say that the roads are just as good all the way as they are along here which I suppose must be true or they could not have got along with the loads they have, they could not begin to go The Road to Independence, but they follow this River all the way, & if I was to go the road over again I would take the Missouri River as far as Fort Kearny.

I know of nothing more to interest you but I will write again from Fort Laramie. I wish some of you to write immediately to California so that I may receive it as soon as I get there. Tell all the Folks that the Boys are all well and in good spirits.

Affectionately yours,  
A. P. Josselyn