

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

JOHN E. DALTON

Diary, April - October, 1852.

BEGINNING

October 23rd, 1926.

The following information was given by  
his daughter, Mary E. Benton

John E. Dalton was born May 27th, 1801 on a farm near Warner,  
N. H.

When fifteen years old began to learn the carriage makers  
trade. Worked at that three years.

Taught school in Gloucester, Mass. and other towns summers  
to pay his way to go to Penbrook Academy during winters for three  
years. Then entered Dartmouth College. There a full course.  
Graduated with honors as a physician and surgeon.

In 1831 went to southern Ohio - settled in Martinsville.

In 1832 married Clarisa L. Cossitt in Bloomingburg. She  
died July 12th, 1835.

Married second wife January 21, 1835 - Elizabeth Ruth Cossitt -  
sister of his first wife.

Moved to New Vienna, Ohio, in 1838. Lived there sixteen years.

Left for California April 7th, 1852. To go by an Overland  
Route, went to Cincinnati, where a company of fifty men met with  
Capt. Stevens, who furnished horses, oxen, wagons, blankets and  
provisions - everything necessary for the trip. Each man paid  
him \$50.00 to take them through to Sacramento, Calif. They  
made the trip in just six months enduring many hardships - many  
sick - two died on the way. No one was allowed to ride unless  
sick or lame.

Dr. Dalton was the physician and surgeon for the company, also  
for companies ahead and behind. At last they reached Sacramento  
where they disbanded - each standing in line to receive their mail -  
then scattered in all directions, although in going there they said  
they would stay by one another.

One young man stayed with Dr. Dalton. They first went to  
Bidswell Bar where the Doctor had a tent (very few had houses) where  
he had his things, also supply of medicines. One day, when called  
out of town to a patient, returned to find every building in ashes.

He then went to Marysville. Did placer mining on the Feather  
River. Then kept a large boarding house.

Was Secretary and Treasurer of the Feather River Mining Co. two  
years.

Went to Sacramento. Got on board a big ship that took them to  
the Isthmus of Panama. Crossed over on the back of a native coulee,  
where all went to another ship bound for the City of New York. They  
were many days on the Ocean. It was very stormy. Many times the  
boat would pitch and toss and stand on end, so no one but a sailor  
could keep their balance, but they landed in New York harbor all safe.

There he changed his gold dust into money.

Came home by The Marietta and Cincinnati R. R., now the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. that he worked hard in securing the right of way to be built before leaving Ohio for California.

Arrived in his old home town January 16th, 1855. Was greeted by his family and many old friends.

April 5th, 1855 came west to Wisconsin - Returned - sold his home - Went to Galesburg, Ill. There one year.

Returned to Ohio - the home town - there two years. Built Drug Store. Did good business. Sold out and moved to Onalaska, Wis. on November, 10th, 1858. Lived there many years. Held very responsible positions - Postmaster, Justice of Peace and Town Treasurer.

He was a very religious man. In early days was a strong Abolitionist. Always interested in politics. A strong Republican.

Active in many lodges - was a 32nd Degree Mason and Odd Fellow in good standing.

A very strong temperance man. Member of the order of Good Templars.

Moved to LaCrosse in the summer of 1875.

Died May 6th, 1888 - aged 87 years.

DIARY OF JOHN DALTON

1852

April 7, 1852. Wednesday

Left New Vienna, Clinton Co., Ohio for California. Started on horseback with Philip Shockley at 3 o'clock P. M. Stayed over night at Blanchester.

April 8. Went to Goshen; took the omnibus & Cars for Cincinnati; and P. Shockley returned home. Arrived at Cin<sup>a</sup> and put up with D. Fisher ---

9 Went about the City gathering up various articles as my outfit for California.

10 At half past 4 P. M. shipped aboard the Steamer Hamburg with Capt. E. Stephens company, consisting of about fifty men, and started down the river.

11 Passed Louisville about sunrise and went on down the river ---

12 Continued on down the river and passed Cairo about 4 o'clock P. M.

13 Moved along up the Mississippi.

14. Arrived at St. Louis about sunrise & remained on the Hamburg until evening. She had on board from Cincinnati 196 Cabin passengers and 239 on Deck -- 435 -- and was heavily laden with freight. A good Boat & first rate officers. After supper, shipped on board the Steamer Pontiac for the Missouri River.

15 Still continued at St. Louis and reconnoitered about town making & taking observations.

16 Started at 9 A. M. on the Pontiac up the river. A very slow Boat. Passed into the Missouri about 3 o'clock.

April 17 Continued on up the river. Passed Washington just before sunset.

Sunday " 18 Run onto a sand bar last night about dusk and remained there until this morning after sunrise, before getting off.

" 19 Continued on up the river and passed ~~Jefferson~~ Jefferson City about 1 o'clock -- a poor, broken looking town as seen from the river, but the State House on a high bluff of the river, makes a fine appearance.

" 20 Continued on and passed Boonville about 11 A. M., a pretty tolerably fair looking place and evidently a place of much business.

April 21 Continued on and passed several towns -- the handsomest of which was Brunswick --

" 22 Passed on up the River. The country getting much better Came to Lexington about sundown. A fine town on a high bluff. Saw the wreck of the Steamer Saluda which blew up two weeks ago -- killing about 150 persons -- mostly mormons. --

" 23. Continued on and struck a sandbar about daylight, got fast and remained so till 11 o'clock -- 6 hours -- laying across the River & Swinging one way & the other which came nigh ruining the Boat -- Some fine country and tolerably smart [what?]

*villages*

1852

April 24 Came to Wayne City in the morning & remained there nearly all day. Arrived at Kansas a little before night and worked hard all night, getting our Freight & baggage on shore.

25 Some 20 yoke of Cattle having been purchased near Independence, were brought to Kansas this day -- Hitched up to a part of the Waggon and drove out of town a mile and a quarter and camped. Pitched our Tents -- ~~Prepared our supper~~ Cooked our suppers, and slept on the ground in our tents --

26 Remained at our Camp.

27 Procuring and preparing things;

28 Making ready for our journey

29 Across the plains -- Went to town every day and yesterday saw a part (the Wheel House) of the steamer Pontiac floating down the River. She having been snaged and sunk the day after we left her -- 20 miles this side of St. Joseph. Also saw most of the officers and crew of the Pontiac -- the engines, boilers, cabin doors, blinds &c. on board the Delaware, going down to St. Louis --

30 Still continued at our Camp Ground, waiting for the Grass to grow, & making arrangements -- for our Journey.

1852

Saturday

May 1 Still continued at our

" 2 Camp Ground. Went to

" 3 Kansas every day and

" 4 purchased something thought necessary for our

trip across the plains.

" 5 Started on our ~~xxx~~ Journey; passed through Wes Port, a very handsome & flourishing village -- Traveled about 7 miles and camped in the open Prairie near Judge Yager's --

" 6 It having rained hard last night remained here all day.

May 7 Started early this morning and crossed the Missouri state line into the Indian Territory -- Traveled about 10 miles and camped on Indian Creek -- One of the Ponies got away and run back 7 miles -- Three persons went back and got them --

" 8 Continued our Journey and traveled 10 miles and Camped on Cedar Creek --

" 9 Went ahead; traveled 18 miles and camped on Little Wakarusia at Black Jack point having passed Bull Creek where the Santa Fee road branches off 10 miles from Cedar C. about 2 o'clock -- a long drive for Sunday --

May 10 Started early and came to Big Wakarusia about 2 o'clock the water being 10 feet deep, laid by and camped for the night. C. Smith, very sick with the measles.

" 11 Started about 1 o'clock -- came to the Creek; raised all the Waggon beds about 6 inches with blocks and rails, and with some difficulty crossed the Creek -- got over about dark, traveled one mile to the Prairie & camped -- having broke the hounds of one waggon, and a standard in another -- all caused by awkward driving --

May 12 Mended up our Waggon and started about 12 o'clock traveled about 10 miles & camped in the open Prairie, a tremendous wind gust came up just before night, with considerable rain which prevented getting supper.

" 13 Started early & traveled hard all day over muddy roads and against a very strong head wind, and camped in the open Prairie, no wood. Each one took one & a half hard biscuit for supper -- and went to bed. C . Smith still sick but getting better.

May 14 Started at sunrise & had a race with and passed a train of 12 waggons bound for Oregon, which had camped one mile ahead of us -- took no breakfast -- came to Kansas River 6 miles, about 10 o'clock -- and soon commenced crossing the ferry (Papins); got all over about 4 o'clock; went on two miles and camped -- Just before coming to the River a Darkey calling himself George Berryman came to us and wished to get into our waggon & ~~cross~~ the River -- said he was the Slave of another Negro who had bought him & promised him his freedom after working two years for him in California but slaves being high, he was about to sell him to go down South. He got into the waggon, crossed the river, and next day commenced driving our <sup>team</sup>.

" 15 Started at 7 o'clock; about 1 it commenced raining very hard with wind, hail, & heavy thunder; rained most tremendously until nearly night, we however traveled on, a great part of the way through water half knee deep; ~~crossed~~ <sup>over Cross</sup> Creek on a Bridge traveled 1 mile and Camped on a Branch called Soldiers Creek was cold and hungry -- I had taken a wrong road and went 6 miles out of my way; took shelter in a Indian Wigwam [?] during a heavy shower [Ms. illegible]

Amos Hinshaw very sick -- with the Cholera morbus --

Good Camping here --

May 16 It being Sunday, laid by and stayed at our Camp all day -- very cold; A. Hinshaw very sick --

" 17 Started early, took the hill road and traveled 21 miles, & made only 11 by the old road, Camped on Lost Creek, Good timber -- Good wood and water, & grass -- Excellent camping ground --

" 18 Started half past eight. A. Hinshaw being very sick traveled 4 miles and crossed Vermillion Creek -- bad crossing. broke the hounds of a waggon -- mended it up, and traveled on 6 miles <sup>further</sup> ~~from there~~ and camped in the open Prairie.

" 19 Started at 1/2 past six and traveled hard all day except one hour, when we stoped to mend up Waggon No. 10, which got the hounds broken, caused merely by the awkwardness of Wm. Conley, a green Irishman as driver -- went about 20 miles and camped on a branch of Vermillion Creek (A beautiful C. place.)

" 20 Started 1/4 before seven & in 1 mile crossed Big Vermillion Steep banks, but good gravelly bottom. Just before night crossed Big Blue River -- Good Crossing & camping on the East bank of Big Blue River. saw the grave of John Fuller from Willmington O. under a large oak tree -- Passed up a small branch & camped having traveled about 15 miles -- met a man going back with his team, having been taken sick, got discouraged had been 30 m. [ms. illegible] [Friday:]

Friday

" 21 Raining hard all the morning; Started about 12 o'clock -- Went about 10 miles & ~~xxxxxx~~ Camped on a small Branch.

" 22 Started early and traveled about 20 miles & camped just after passing the junction of the St. Jo. & Independence roads, on Turkey Creek (Good <sup>Camping</sup> ~~camping~~)

Sunday

" 23 Stayed camped all all day --

May 24 Started early; about 10 crossed Rock Creek and traveled about 20 miles & camped on Little Sandy Cr. or rather on a branch 1 mile ahead.

" 25 Started at 1/2 past six, and 14 miles crossed Big Sandy; a dry creek -- went on crossed several small draws and drew off one mile from the road and Camped on a branch; having traveled 16 miles. A henshaw very sick --

" 26 Started about 7, and traveled 10 miles to Little Blue River noon; having crossed The <sup>?</sup> Creek 5 miles back moved on 7 miles & camped.  
a. Hinshaw not expected to live --

May 27 Started at ~~the~~ 1/2 past six followed up the river several miles, then took across the prairie to the River again & camped having traveled about 20 miles -- Good Camping all along on this River which is a beautiful clear bluish swift running stream the water cool & wholesome. About 4 P. M. overtook a train from Kentucky camped on the Open Prairie with two men very sick with the Cholera being attended to by Dr. Snelling -- On request, examined ~~the~~ patients held a consultation with Dr. S. made out a prescription & passed on.

" 28 Started at 7 o'clock and kept up the river -- a train of only two waggons from Erie Co. Pa: camped near us last night who buried one man yesterday and another this morning both of whom ~~xxxxxx~~ died of Chdera -- Kept on up the river traveled about 16 miles & ~~we~~ camped. Saw a Grave where a man had been murdered & left on the plain.

" 29 Started at 1/2 past six; passed up the river two miles, then struck across the Prairie; in about 6 miles crossed a Branch, and 4 miles further another; here took in wood and water for the night; traveled on about 10 miles & camped on the open prairie; having traveled about 20 miles. A. Hinshaw still very sick.

" 30 Sunday. Started at 7 and after traveling~~x~~ about 2 miles, observed A. Hinshaw to be getting worse very fast; stoped the train, which after waiting 1 hour passed on, all except our waggon & six men, who stayed with him until he died, which was at Eleven o'clock A. M. after a while moved on & overtook the train camped on the Plat River about 10 miles ahead; then moved on up the river to a high swell of ground on the south bank of Plat river 10 miles below Fort ~~Kearney~~ where we dug a deep grave and buried Mr. Hinshaw, wrapped up in his blankets in a neat & decent manner. moved on up the river two miles and camped, having traveled about ~~12~~ miles.

May 31 Overhauled all the provisions and found them all in good condition. Reloaded and started at 11 o'clock. arrived at Fort Kearney at 2 stayed 3 or 4 hours. Then passed on about 4 miles & camped -- Fort Kearney is beautifully situated on a large plain or bottom land on the south side of Platt R. about 1 mile from the river where the bottom is 5 or 6 miles wide -- There are some half a dozen very good buildings, & several others made of sod -- there is a well only eight or ten feet deep of most excellent cold water. For everything sold here they charge extravagantly high -- There about 75 soldiers here.--

(Tuesday)

June 1. Started at 1/2 past 5 and moved on up the river over the most beautiful bottom land I ever saw but perhaps a poor soil being very sandy, about 25 miles and camped. No wood but plenty of Buffalo Chips --

" 2 Started 1/4 before six and passed on up the river; traveled about 20 miles & Camped, near the River (No wood, but good grass & Water) having laid by over three hours at noon and traveled very slow on account of its being extremely warm. It being nearly sundown, and no chance to get wood for cooking, we soon fixed up and dispatched our suppers, pitched our tents and prepared for rest. But soon after we had striped off all but shirt and pants, and laid down, there came up one of the most tremendous thunder storms I ever witnessed -- the wind blew a perfect gale the rain poured down in torrents, the thunder rolled & the lightning flashed, almost incessantly: which rendered the scene, if not sublime, at least somewhat terrific. At nearly the first the wind came whistling & knocking our tent into a cocked hat. tearing up the pins and letting the cloth right down upon us, when the rain came through as though there was nothing over us and it required all our exertions to keep the whole concern from blowing away. In a few moments where we lay the water was over shoe mouth deep; & there we poor monomaniacal gold hunters had to lay, sit, or stand and take it for three long hours. As soon as the wind slacked a little I drew on my overcoat which having laid inside up was ~~not~~ dripping wet, went out and repined down the tent while others, inside held the cloth in its place; it still raining quite hard -- I then went to hunt a light and on returning with one, found the boys had all left the tent and crawled into the wagon with the darkey. Found everything in the tent as wet as

a soaked sponge. Threw the bed clothes aside, hunted the higher spot of ground without a dry thread of clothes on me laid down and tried to go to sleep. Got up at day light still wet and shivering put on some dry clothing, it having turned very cold -- roused up the boys, cooked a little breakfast, the best way we could boiling our coffee with a few little sticks we had brought along with us, struck our tents, packed our wet clothing into the waggon while the oxen were being yoked, and soon found ourselves again on our wending way -- plodding along in fine spirits, with lighter hearts and strong hopes, determined, like true hearted Yankees, not to be skeared at trials but to brave all difficulties, and yet see the Eléphant on the other side of the Siera Nevada.

June 3 Started at 1/2 past six, traveled about 20 miles & Camped -- Good grass a little wood, but no water-- I started toward the river for water & after traveling a mile & a half and not getting half way to it, gave it up, diped up half a bucket full out of a slue, nasty, filthy stuff & returned, which water we were compelled to use in making tea for supper & drink.

" 4 Started at 6 oclock, continued on up the Platt River; wide bottom and high, broken & picturesque bluffs on both sides of the river about 2 oclock drew down 1/2 a mile toward the river where in a deep ravine we found a most excellent spring of Cold water. A messenger came for me to go in haste to see Capt. White of No. 6 miles ahead. Found him nearly gone with Cholera & 12 others in the same train sick most of them with the same ~~XXXX~~ complaint; some very bad; did all I could for Capt. W. but after reviving a little, he sunk very fast, and died in about two hours -- Capt. W. was said to be a very fine & most excellent man. He had a very intelligent wife & family of six children, who took his

death very hard, though they behaved with much propriety. Indeed, the whole train had looked up to him as a father & ~~xxxxixned~~ consequently were grieved exceedingly. He had been to California, was largely engaged in Quarts mining, had done well & was now moving his family there -- I <sup>prescribed</sup> ~~xxxxixned~~ for the others sick and about 10 oclock started to hunt our train which had past, found it about 3 miles ahead 1 mile from the road camped -- having traveled about 18 miles --

June 5 Started about 6 -- I went back and visited Capt. White's train, found the sick all better -- but many of them were much frightened and talked of turning back -- came on & overtook the train at noon. passed on by the lower crossing of the S. Fork of Plat R. near the foot about 2 miles and camped, having traveled about 22 miles --

Sunday

" 6 Being camped on a high bluff with wood, water & grass not far off, and some of the Company being sick laid by all day -- Saw vast herds of Buffalo, Deer & Elk -- also some antelopes, Wolves & Bears.

June 7 Started at 1/2 past six and traveled about 22 miles and Camped. Good grass, slew water, but no wood; any quantity, however, of Buffalo Chips, which answer a very good purpose for fuel --

" 8 Started at 6 and traveled about 24 miles and camped Just below the middle crossing of Plat River -- Good grass & water but no wood. B. Chips in any quantity. The water of Plat R. is very muddy but the best than can be got; as the water in the slews is badly impregnated with alkali --

June 9 Started at 6 and crossed Platt R. which took until 2 oclock to get all the teams over -- the river being very high -- The water most of the way was about 3 1/2 feet deep; three quarters of a mile wide, and running very fast; and the bottom full of holes and quicksand -- Saw several who got their provisions wet -- Traveled on about 6 miles & camped in the open Prairie No Wood No water & very poor grass --

" 10 Started at 4 oclock & went to Plat River for breakfast about 8 miles, passing through Ash Hollow, a very rough rugged & picturesque looking place & a very bad hill, a mile & a half long to go down. Just as we started O. Claygert broke the fore axel of his waggon -- No. 12 -- Took out the load, divided it around; fastened the waggon, with a pole underneath to our waggon & drove on -- stayed here all day and mended up the broken waggon --

" 11 Started at 1/2 past 5 and drove on up the river, over a very deep sandy road, about 20 miles and camped, near the river; good grass & River water, but no wood --

" 12 Started 1/4 before 6 and traveled about 20 miles up the river & Camped near by a very good spring, being in a high sandy prairie bottom; with no bluffs in sight -- Good water, tolerable grass, but no wood -- the road quite sandy --

" 13 Started 1/4 before 6 and traveled until 11 -- laid by till 3 -- Just as we were starting a Messenger came for me to go 4 miles ahead to see John Jeffries, partner of Capt. Roberson of Franklin Co. Mo., who were taking over a large drove of Cattle to California. Found him very bad with the Cholera. Stayed with him till after dark. Then rode on & found our Co. Camped about 3 miles ahead, having traveled about 18 miles. On arriving at Capt. R. Camp found a Mr. Walker dying with the Cholera --

Dr John Dalton 52

He lived only about 30 minutes after my arrival -- had been sick three or four days -- Mr. Jeffris was taken bad about noon--

X 14 The Ponies having got away started and walked back ~~1 1/2~~ 2 miles to Capt. R. train; found Jeffries better. Our train started 1/2 past 5 -- made out my prescription then walked on about 7 miles & overtook the train. Just opposite the Chimney Rock, Past the Court House Tower yesterday -- passed on to near Scotts Bluffs 25 miles & camped -- Scotts Bluffs; this is one of the most singular, grand & sublime spectacles I ever beheld -- The bluffs are 3 or 4 hundred feet high above the bottom & also the prairie back of them. They are eminencies of marl & limestone rock, around which the wind has whistled and worn them away, until they now have all kinds of shapes & forms; resembling Pyramids, Obelisks, Towers Parapet Walls and all kinds of Architectural structures -- on them are scattering Cedars & P. Pines --

15 Started at 1/2 past 5 & traveled over a good road about 20 miles & Camped -- just after crossing Horse Creek. Good grass & water but no wood --

" 16 Started half past five and traveled on up the river about 20 miles & Camped. Poor Grass, River water, and a few scattering Cotton wood trees & bushes -- The road tolerably good --

" 17 Started at 1/2 past 5 and arrived at Fort Larimie about noon; some 10 miles. This is an old French Fortification and trading post on Larimie River about 2 miles from Platt R. 337 miles above Fort Kearney and 700 above Independence. There are some half dozen buildings here, two of them pretty good ones, and one Company of Soldiers -- The country around is rough

and broken -- after stopping awhile we passed on up to the top of the hill 2 miles and Camped -- having to carry our water up a tremendous bluff nearly half a mile --

18 Stayed Camped all day. Overhauled the Provisions; appointed a Committee of One from each mess to ascertain what was wanting and the Captain went back five miles below the Fort and bought them of Mr. Campbell -- a freighter who had traveled along with us, with six waggons having 6000 lbs. in each wagon. Stayed about Fort Larimie all day -- took dinner on Buffalo meat, Bread & Butter, Coffee &c -- at 50 cents -- All things kept for sale here are extremely high -- Coffe & Shugar, 75 pr. pound. Tea 2.00 -- Rhubarb, <sup>red</sup> &c. 1.00 per ounce -- A Big Indian (Louis the brave) came to the Fort to see the Capt. with two wooden pins stuck in each arm; having killed his Brother in a Spree <sup>A</sup> 19 Reloaded the waggons and started at 1/2 past 7. took the road through the Black Hills in 14 miles came to a large warm spring went on eight miles further & Camped on Bitter Cotton Wood or Wild Sage Creek; a most beautiful stream of Cold water. The Black Hills are so called from the dark Pines & Cedars with which they are covered -- Good Camping here --

Sunday

✓ 20 Started at 6 and traveled eight miles up the Creek, which exactly resembles a New England Brook -- then struck off through the hills and in about 20 miles came to another beautiful swift running mill stream, called Mad Creek, & Camped -- Good grass, wood & water --

June 21 Started at 6 o'clock and traveled over the most hilly & broken country I ever witnessed -- down one hill and up another continually 20 miles to Buffalo Creek or La Bonta River -- a fine large swift running stream -- Wood & water plenty, but poor grass. Camped just after crossing the creek. Saw here the graves of Miller & Tate -- Tate had killed Miller while his brother & M. were fighting, stabbing him with a knife & then cutting his throat; and consequently Tate was then hung by his, the Woo, Haw company & both buried.

22<sup>d</sup> Started at 6 o'clock & traveled about 15 miles to Lapal Creek & camped tolerably good road plenty of Wood & Water but poor Grass -- Ever since the 15<sup>th</sup> not two days before reaching Fort Larimie, we have been in sight of Snow -- on Larimie Peak; which mountain is 60 miles above the Fort and 7000 feet above the sea. The weather for the last two days has been quite cold, with very chilly wind requiring good warm clothing; --

June 23<sup>d</sup> Started at 6 o'clock and crossed several small streams a few miles apart; Spring Branch, Little Deer Creek, &c. came to the North Fork of Platte River & in 5 miles crossed Deer Creek a beautiful large mill stream; & Good place for camping-- plenty of wood water & grass -- went on 3 miles to Deep Ravine and camped, having taken in wood & water at Deer Creek and traveled about 16 miles Water, but no wood, & poor grass. A cold cutting east wind --

" 24 The cattle having strayed off during the night while it was raining; collected them up and started about 7 o'clock -- It soon commenced raining quite hard -- drew up at 10 and laid by

till 2 o'clock crossed Muddy Creek and in 6 miles Snow Creek, went on 2 miles & Camped at a bend of the River, having traveled about 14 miles Water, some grass & no wood.

25 Started at 6 & traveled on about 10 miles & within two miles of the Ferry & Camped. Water, some wood & grass. Stayed here over night -- giving the cattle a good chance to feed.

June 26 Capt. S. last evening made a contract with a man 2 miles below here to take us across the river on a boat made of four Canoes fastened together and let him have for so doing Waggon No. 10 -- At the upper Ferry are three good flat Boats run across with ropes wherthey charge \$5 per Waggon & 50 cents a piece for men and Cattle; while at the lower ferry it is \$2.50 per Waggon & nothing for men & cattle. the men, however, have to take themselves across, waggons across & swim the cattle Gathered up the cattle & got ready to start at 7 o'clock when Turner led out for the upper Ferry & our teams all followed him, considering it dangerous to cross at the lower Ferry -- Capt. S. was a good deal chagrined at this course of the men but submitted. paid the ferryage for Waggons and men & swam the cattle. This is a good ferry; 2 waggons in each boat, making 6 waggons across in two minutes -- Here is a trading post. Passed on about eight miles further and Camped -- No wood, grass or water.

27 M. Simpkins & myself walked ahead, passed mineral spring & Lake, Avenue Rock, Alkali swamp, a clear brackish spring on the left and went to the Willow Springs a number of springs of good water This is an old celebrated Camping Ground -- we found the willows nearly all cut down, and the grass any where near all used up; When our train came to Alkali swamp, where from the late rains we found a small stream running into

it from across the road very poisonous, Capt S. ordered them to stop and turn out which was done when in a few moments the man discovered that the water was poisonous, and ordered the cattle to be drove up and yoked which was immediately done, & went on to Willow Springs, wattered the cattle & drove on over Prospect Hill 4 miles to a small Creek & Camped, where there was a most beautiful spring of good clear water -- having traveled about 24 miles -- The Capt. manifested much uneasiness on account of the disaffection among the men advised him to have the arrangement of some system adopted in the morning.

28 The Capt. called the attention of the Company to the subject of conducting the train; when it was moved that a Committee of one from each mess be appointed to report to the Co. what should be done; carried. The Committee reported that that a Committee of two should be appointed by the Co. who, together with Capt. S. should make all necessary arrangements, settle all questions in controversy, and conduct the train through to California, and recommended that W. L. Beatty & Nathan Webber be appointed said Committee for two weeks; which Report was accepted and unanimously adopted by the Company -- Started at 1/2 past six & called up at 1/2 past 10 on Greasewood Cr. passed on & in 17 miles came to Sweet Water R. went on 1 mile further to Independence Rock and Camped -- Good water, but no wood or grass. Drove the cattle three miles N. toward the Bluffs where we found tolerable good grass. Sweet Water is a beautiful, clear & swift running stream. Walked all the way today & spent 1 1/2 hour on Independence Rock --

29 Drove the cattle in & started 1/2 before eight; traveled about 16 miles and camped on the banks of sweetwater -- Good grass and water, but no wood -- Got some dry Cedar from the hills a mile before camping Walked on in the morning 5 miles to the Devil's Gate, a notch in the Rattlesnake mountains, through which the Sweetwater tumbles, & the Rock rises on each side 400 feet perpendicularly -- This day came to two graves where Horace Dolly had killed Chas Botsford yesterday by shooting and for which the Company killed said Dolly today, by hanging. Said Dolly had a wife and two children along in the train and was the principal owner of the train. When on Independence Rock yesterday, counted 200 waggons in sight and today, when on the high Bluff at Devils Gate saw them each way on the road as far as the eye could reach almost in close solid column. Snow cap mountains may be seen all along on the south of us. We had quite a shower of hail, snow and rain today -- Passed yesterday from the top of the cliff down through the Devils Gate, (a difficult & dangerous operation,) but saw nothing of the Infernal Regions, Old Smut Face, or any of his imps --

30 Started at 6, and traveled on 16 miles over a very sandy road to the river; called up 2 hours; then started again, crossed the river three times in 2 miles, passed on 4 miles making 20 & Camped near the river -- Good grass & Water dry Cedar wood on the bluffs -- Solid Granite Ridges from 2 to 5 hundred feet high seem to rise out of the ground all about in this section of country.

(Thursday)

July 1<sup>st</sup> Started at 6 o'clock and crossed the river in 5 miles & again in 16 miles -- passed on to the next ford 4 miles making 25; and Camped. Good water tolerable grass, no wood, but plenty of Wild Sage. -- All the way a very sandy country & roads heavy -- A large Buffalo came out near to us, and several men from different trains took after and killed him -- a man on horseback shooting him down with a Colt's Revolver. Very large Mountains are seen ahead, all covered with snow, & white as a sheet -- Heavy thunder; Some rain; quite cold --

July 2<sup>d</sup> Started about 6 & passed up the river 6 miles, then took across the hills, & ascended one of the longest & steepest hills I ever went up; at the top of which are three rough rocky ridges stretching across the road -- went on & crossed Strawberry Creek to Quaking Asp Creek, 20 miles and Camped; Wood water & some grass -- Very cold this evening; an overcoat feels quite comfortable. Some small banks of snow laying about on the hills --

3<sup>d</sup> Started at 6 o'clock and in 2 miles came to *1. Atkinson* Creek and in 5 more to the last crossing of Sweetwater R. Walked over banks of Snow ten feet deep; & took a game at snow-balling -- in 7 miles came to the Kain Mounds; one on each side of the road, between which the road passes; Walked over the southern one, which placed me higher than I ever was before or ever expect to be again. in 3 miles further came to the Summit of the South Pass. went on 3 miles to Pacific Springs where we expected to camp, but found the grass all gone & passed on 2 miles to Pacific Creek, no grass. went down the Creek 2 miles

making 24 miles & Camped --Muddy water (the cattle getting into the Branch) No wood & poor grass. The large mountains covered with snow, near by on the North, reminds me of a New England winter -- Cold chilly wind constantly blowing.

Sunday

4 Laid over this day & in the afternoon drove the Cattle 6 miles out under the bluffs of the mountains on the S. E. where we found good grass and a good spring -- Rode out with the boys to examine the water of the spring & see if it was poisonous; found it good; and rode back against a very strong chilly wind; got very cold -- Just after dark a tremendous squall of wind, snow & rain came up which sent some of our tents whirling across the Prairie. Ours being well fastened, remained firm. Very cold; had to draw on my overcoat to keep from shivering.

" 5 Remained camped all day to recruit the Cattle. Last night we had quite a snow storm and this morning ice was found frozen in our vessels over half an inch thick. The ascent to the summit of the South Pass is remarkably gradual from the East; but the descent to Pacific Springs is more steep --

July 6 Drove in the Cattle & started about eight o'clock -- This morning Mess No 1 consisting of W. L. & J. Beatty J. Randall J. Clark & E. Chaney and Mess No 6 consisting of 3 Webbers D. Hall & Letsinger, purchased of Capt. E. five yoke of oxen & Waggon No. 1, took their portion of the Provisions, their Tents & Cooking Utensils, and in Company with L. Turner, Cutter G. & A. Rankin Mess N. 13 drove out and left the train; paying for the waggon & oxen \$400.00. Came on the Little Sandy 17 miles & Camped -- Good water, some grass, & willows for wood-- Commenced raining just before sundown and rained quite hard nearly all night.

" 7 Started about 7 o'clock and came to Big Sandy 6 or 7 miles and Camped. Good water, some grass very little wood -- Cut up and burnt for fuel waggon No. 10; dividing its load out into the other waggons & W. & Margaret Conley went into mess No. 9 -- Very Cold -- another Snow Storm

July 8 Started at half past six; filled all the vessels with water; Called up one hour at noon & again at night to rest the cattle and get dinner & supper. started on & traveled till 12, stoped one hour & then drove on till five in the morning.

9 Started at 7 and arrived at Green River at 11 -- crossed by a good rope ferry and after a little passed on over a very high bluff 8 miles from the River to Lost Creek & Camped; a very good place for camping; having traveled in the last two days fiftytwo miles, by some authors & by others, sixtyfour, over a hard & solid road, with some bad hills -- Green River, when high, is a very rapid & dangerous stream, but being low, we swam our cattle very handy, as they charge one dollar a head for ferrying & six dollars for a waggon. This is a very rough, sandy, barron country with a climate in July cold enough for winter -- Mountains covered with snow may be seen on every side of us -- while banks of snow lay about on the hills here --

Went down the Creek 2 miles last evening to see a sick woman & walked back about midnight passed a party of Indians camped on the Creek; and although alone & no weapon but a penknife, not a whit alarmed or afraid -- although their dogs made quite a fuss.

July 10 Found good grass 2 miles down the river -- Drove the cattle to it & remained camped all day.

" 11 Drove in the cattle & started at eight o'clock; passed up the creek 3 miles & crossed; then traveled over a mountainous country 17 miles making 20 to a Spring branch and Camped; tolerable good grass excellent water & wild sage for fuel -- Passed the grave of M. Beal, from Boone C. Ky. who was shot the 12 of June by J. Balsley --

" 12 Started at 7 o'clock & traveled over a hilly country 13 miles to Ham's Fork on 2<sup>d</sup> branch of,

Green River; excellent grass; stoped 3 hours; Crossed & then ascended the longest & steepest hill yet; went on 7 miles making 20 to a small grove & camped -- good grass, some wood & water A large number of Indians (the Shoshones) were camped on the Branch, who all appeared quite friendly --

13 Started at 7 & in 3 miles came to Quaking Asp Grove & good spring and in 4 to a most beautiful Fir Grove, thence up a long steep hill <sup>& thence down a very steep hill</sup> 2 miles to a brook, thence up a very steep hill 1 mile to a spring with grass on the right, called up for dinner then went on 7 miles,

making 21 miles to Thomas or Smiths Fork in the valley of Bear River & camped! Good grass & water & Sage for fuel. A large No. of Indians camped here. The Shoshones & Black Feet -- Snow on the mountains all around us -- Cold showers of rain --

July 14<sup>th</sup> Started at 1/2 past six crossed the Creek on a New Bridge and traveled down Bear River; one of the most beautiful valleys I ever saw 15 miles to Thomas' or 7 Fork of Bear R. ~~xxxx~~ crossed on a Bridge at \$1.00 per waggon & went up a steep hill & down again 4 miles to Brookheart's Creek

& camped. Good Grass; & water & Sage by going  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile for them.

" 15 Started at 6 o'clock & went up a long steep hill & down again 5 miles to the river again; thence down the river, through a very handsome valley; where the grass and weeds for miles along the road was literally cut up by the Crickets & Grasshoppers -- the former a large yellow cricket nearly as large as common Frogs, & which the Indians eat for meat -- crossing several beautiful mountain Branches of clear, pure water 14, making in all 19 miles to a beautiful small Branch & Camped -- Good grass & water fuel very scarce. We had a fine shower of rain today -- last evening & this morning & evening from 6 till 10 -- the muskeetoos were almost unin-  
urable.

July 16 Started at 6 o'clock -- passed down the river bottom 6 miles & entered between the high bluffs 3 miles, thence over the low bluffs 14 miles making 23 miles to near Soda Springs ~~and~~ & Camped near a small grove on the right -- Beautiful springs bursting out from the marl and lime stone rock & running a few yards, then sinking into the ground again, all around us -- a good place for camping -- most excellent grass, wood and water -- We had two fine showers of rain today -- Large banks of Snow are seen near the tops, on the North side of the mountains, on the South side of Bear River valley, all along the valley.

July 17 This morning visited the Soda Springs -- There are a great number of them and they cover some forty or fifty acres of ground -- They boil up precisely like a pot over the fire, and produce each a large quantity of water. Some of them boil up a kind of red earth & are called Beer springs -- others are as

clear as crystal -- some are very cold; others warm and one, below the road, on the bank of the river, is nearly boiling hot -- and the water is constantly thrown up about four feet -- which makes a beautiful appearance. They deposit around the cavity a hard white substance, until they raise a mound some 20 or 30 high. & then burst out in other places. Started at 6 o'clock & after passing through the springs where there is an Indian village (the Shoshones) by a beautiful Cedar grove & crossing a large stream & several small ones, in 7 miles came to the Junction of the Oregon & California roads. Took the ~~Former~~, which is called Meyer's or Bear River cut off -- About one mile south of this point is the Crater of an extinct volcano some 200 feet high & about one hundred yards across, and the cavity 100 feet deep; passed through it, and gathered up some of the lava. The country around for several miles shows unmistakable evidence that the volcano has here once had its day of triumph. Passed on 9 miles to the foot of the mountains and thence up between & over the hills about 3 miles, making 25 to a large brook, running down from the snow covered mountain a branch of Pannack River & Camped -- Good water & wood, & tolerable grass -- Crossed last evening a rapid stream as cold as ice. Nine miles from the Junction the road leaves Bear River Valley. Never saw the like of Grasshoppers --

Sunday

\* 18 Laid over this day to recruit the cattle & rest -- This is one of the most mountainous & broken sections of country I ever saw -- Large banks of snow lay about near the tops of the mountains while some of the valleys below are quite fertile -- The streams here are well stored with beautiful Trout -- The

water here flows into the Columbia River

July 19 It being some time before all the Cattle could be found, Started at 8 o'clock -- Crossed the Creek & went down the valley of Pannack R. 4 miles; turned to the left & passed over the hills 8 miles to Fall Creek -- stopp[ed] for dinner & the boys wishing to go over the mountain 9 miles to a beautiful spring Branch, drove in the cattle without orders from the Capt. at which he was tremendous wrathful, and vented his spite upon some of his best men by most awful oaths & curses -- Went on to said spring, where we found every convenience for excellent camping -- Good water, wood & grass --

July 20 th. Started 6 o'clock & passed on over a good mountain road, crossing Willow Creek, about 17 miles to Big Spring Creek, & camped one mile & a half below the spring half a mile from the Creek -- willows & water half a mile off & tolerable grass -- This is one of the largest & finest springs yet seen on the rout and the Branch is said to be full of S. Trout

" 21 st. Started at 6 & traveled over a mountain road eight miles thence down a steep, rocky precipice one mile thence over a good road 16 miles, making 25 miles to Spring Creek & Camped Excellent water; Good Sage & Grass. There had been no water on the last 25 miles -- A Bailey has been sick 4 days with M. Fever.

July 22 Started at 7 and traveled over a good mountain road, passing several springs & small streams about 18 miles to Deep Ravine Spring, which flows out from under the North side of a Bluff nearly perpendicular several hundred feet high -- Stream large and water cold as ice -- and camped -- an excellent camping place. Good water, wood and grass -- About 10 miles

from Spring Creek the road turning to the left, took a foot path, straight forward up a Ravine, supposing it to be a cut off; but found it to be a road leading to the top of a high mountain from which there is a fair view of Salt Lake; followed on & came to the road in about six miles; being about two miles further than the road --

July 23 Started at 6 and followed the Branch down about 9 miles, crossed -- then went over the bluff & across a sandy plane 11 miles making 20, to East Branch of Raft River and crossed; good grass but poor water & a few willows by going one mile.

" 24 Seven of the Drivers this morning refused to drive any longer; asserting that Mr. Stephens promised to take them through to Cal. in 30 days, and that length of time being up, their labours were ended -- Four waggons, ours among the number, started out at 1/2 past 6 & drove on about 6 miles, one mile beyond the West Branch of Raft River & stopped. The Capt went back & got hands to drive the other teams up to where we were, and carilled A proposition was made to divide all the provisions giving to each mess its proper share of everything; which was put to vote & carried without opposition from any one except the Captain and his boys. They were then accordingly divided; each mess taking its share -- Several of the men refused to stand Guard for the cattle any longer -- and many others declared that they would not stand Guard unless all the others did -- Stayed here from 9 A. M. until next morning -- Good grass, wood and water. A vote was passed that no team should drive out without the consent of the majority of the Co.

July 25. Started at 6 and traveled over a good road, crossing several spring branches, 20 miles to Rapid Creek, and Camped -- Excellent water & grass & Sage.

" 26 Started at 1/4 past 6 and in 4 miles came to Pyramid Circle & Steeple Rock -- The Circle within the Rocks resembles the Crater of a Volcano, which it doubtless once has been -- The Rocks all around the circle and some a little distance off and many scattered about within the circle, seem to stick up out of the ground like very picked Hay stacks, in all kinds of shapes; from 10 to 200 feet high The circle is about 5 miles across one way & 3 the other; with only a narrow passage into it from the East 20 yds wide & another from the West 10 yds. wide; the road passing through it -- Within the Circle is one of the coldest springs seen on the route -- and the Circle is surrounded on all sides with lofty mountains, covered with ever green Cedars; rendering the whole one of the most beautiful ~~grand~~ <sup>que</sup> pictures & delightful scenes I ever beheld -- In 1 mile further passed the Junction of the Salt Lake Road, traveled on over a very mountainous and bad road 15 miles, making 24 to Goose Creek and Camped -- Good grass, tolerable water, & plenty of Sage -- This afternoon walked up to the top of one of the highest of the Goose River Mountains, which is said to be as high as the South Pass at its summit From this mountain could be seen the surrounding country in all directions, which was truly wonderful to behold; presenting nothing but hills & hollows, lofty mountains and deep valleys very rocky and partly covered with Cedars and Sage --

July 27 Started at 7 o'clock & passed up Goose River ; Good level road with the exception of crossing several bad sloughs, 18 miles and Camped -- Good grass, tolerable water and plenty of Sage Detained 1 hour this morning by a fuss among the drivers -- They not being willing to drive further without pay in advance -- We had a fine shower of rain today. The Goose Creek mountains are composed mostly of Flint stone of all shapes and sizes -- The descent from the mountains to Goose River is very steep and very long -- The water is quite warm rendering it a fine place for Wild Geese which we have seen in great abundance --

July 28 Started at 1/2 past 6 & in two miles entered a canyon; went through it on a branch of Goose River 4 miles; thence over a tolerably rough & stoney road 12 miles to thousand springs & Creek; went one mile further & Camped -- Good water at the Spring no grass & sage for fuel A good deal of grumbling among the men on account of the poor plan for camping.

" 29 Started at 6 and traveled down the valley 13 miles, thence up a dry branch 11 miles; 3 miles beyond the first, to the <sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> spring & Camped Good grass & water; some Sage -- Much growling & grumbling among the men against the Captain --

July 30 Started at 6 o'clock and in 2 miles came to the Boiling Springs which are a great curiosity -- The water boils up (strongly impregnated with some sulphurous mineral, & smelling very bad) in some 20 or 30 places, over about a quarter of an acre of ground; is boiling hot and smokes like a kettle boiling over the fire -- The water forms quite a large stream, in which we took a good wash and bathed -- About 50 yards West of where the water comes up boiling hot; there is a good large spring of clear, cold water, -- very cold -- Passed on & in 6 miles came to Big Cold

Spring -- here we left Thousand Spring Valley, went over the mountain & in 10 miles came to Humbolt Springs; went down one mile making about 20, and Camped -- Good grass & water. Sage for fuel Roads good ~~was~~<sup>h</sup> fine shower of rain.

July 31 Started 1/4 before 6 & passed on over the ridge and down a valley leading into Humbolt River about 20 miles and camped -- most excellent grass, good water & Sage one mile off. Last evening Waggon No<sup>s</sup> 11 & 12 drove on ahead of the others & camped; all the rest however followed up and camped with them -- and today at noon they done the same; the others not coming up; a vote was passed unanimously appointing A. Bailey a Committee of one to inform Nos. 11 & 12 that they must not draw out without the consent of a majority of the Company -- which raised quite a breeze on coming up to them; it evidently being their intention to drive out, go by themselves, & appropriate the property to their own use -- this they had told to persons in other trains -- They, however, seemed to knock under. We had a heavy shower of rain this evening -- A large mountain is near to us on the South, on the top and North side of which there is an immense quantity of snow.

August 1852 (Sunday)

1<sup>st</sup> This being Sunday, started at 7 o'clock & in 5 miles came to Humbolt River; (or rather a branch of it) went down it one mile and camped; Tolerable good wood & water, & most excellent grass. Hot days & very cold nights --

August 2<sup>d</sup> Started at half past 5 and traveled down the river 17 miles to a Branch of H. River; crossed, & then over the bluffs three times 5 miles making 22 to the River & Camped Excellent grass. Good wood & water --

" 3<sup>d</sup> Started at 6 o'clock and passed down the River valley This certainly is one of the most beautiful valleys I ever beheld The large, luxuriant green grass near the water resembles Oats just heading; very thick & ~~rather~~ rank -- while the large rank wild wheat grass over the bottom looks precisely like wheat, just before harvest when beginning to turn its color. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of this kind of Grass -- and also much of a finer and better quality for stock; though they eat this coarse grass very well -- Along on the South, there are high Mountains, covered with snow -- indeed we have not been out of sight of snow since the 15 of June -- Traveled very slow all day, went about 14 miles and camped near the river; Good grass, wood and water -- Being called to see some patients ahead, I went on to the ford 15 miles and stoped from half past 3 until half past 6, & the train not coming up went back 1 mile and found them Camped Stoped on the way & took supper with Wm. Thompson who was in a train from Oscaloosa Iowa -- In this train was a man very sick, who had got his spine injured in a fight; the other man throwing him and falling upon him -- a fine [shower] of rain this evening --

Aug. 4 Started at 6 and in a few miles crossed the river four times. About 3 o'clock there came up a most tremendous shower with heavy thunder & sharp lightning and rained very hard for two hours. We stoped awhile for the rain and soon after carilled; having traveled about 17 miles -- Tolerable mountain grass, plenty of sage but no water -- only what had rained & that was very muddy -- About 1, passed a cold creek, and although all the rest drove in I made our team stop, & went back & filled our keg with good water so when we stoped for night no one else had any water, divided to exha coffee pot full & they got

supper I knew it was 18 1/2 miles from said Creek to the next water -- The lightening as seen here does not look red, but of a silvery whiteness --

August 5 Started at 1/2 past 5, without breakfast, having no water, and drove on to the river about 12 miles. I, however, having water made us a cup of coffee before starting -- Crossed the river & drove down about 13 miles making 25 & Camped Good grass wood and water -- Several of the boys got some Mormon Whiskey, just before stopping got tipsy & crazy and cut up most scandalously

August 6; Started at 6, and in about 2 miles came to the bluffs, where one road crossed the bluffs & on to the bottom again; the other crossed the river; C. Smith & myself, kept on down the South side, while the teams crossed the river & went down on the North side -- We traveled down about 15 miles. crossed over and waited for the teams which came up at 4 o'clock -- went on past Stony Point to the River making about 27 miles & Camped Good grass -- poor water & wood. Arrived here at eight o'clock

" 7 Started at 1/2 past 6 & traveled down the river, (passing it just before night) about 20 miles & Camped; Good grass, poor wood and water.

" 8<sup>th</sup> It being Sunday morning started at 7 o'clock & went down the river 12 miles & Camped. Good grass; poor wood & water. The water in the Humbolt getting quite warm & slimy

Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> Started a quarter before 6, and traveled over a rough ridge & thence a good road about 20 miles & Camped on the river. Good Grass, poor wood & water. On last evening, as the cattle had not been guarded since the division of the Provisions at Raft River when the drivers threw up a determination (the Guard refused to stand any longer) was expressed by many that

the same should be done. When the Company passed a vote on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July that no team should drive out without the consent of the Company Capt. Stephens then promised that if the Co. would all keep together, he would hire men & guard the cattle himself & ask no one to assist him -- Not having done so; & the Cattle being a good deal scattered last evening; a meeting of the men was called; when at the suggestion of Capt. S. a Committee of six; 3 selected by the Co. and 3 by himself, were appointed to say what arrangements should be made with regard to watching the cattle; and also for conducting the train; as it had for some time been conducted at random; the Company starting & stopping wherever and whenever they pleased. Said Committee consisted of E. Smith, A. Bailey, J. Davis, J. E. Dalton, T. Hart and J. Iogenbeck; who after consulting together, Reported the following to the Capt. & Company

That Captain Stephens should guard the Cattle; that if he could not hire men to do it; and should so report to the Company; then each man, ( except Drivers) should stand his regular turn of half a night, for which he should receive one dollar. That the Company should appoint a Committee of three men to conduct the ~~the~~ Train; to say when they should start, when & where they should stop &c. and decide all other questions -- that the Capt. should deposit money with said Committee to pay the Drivers, and also the Guard, (if necessary for one week in advance as the men were unwilling to drive or guard without such an arrangement --

Said Report was agreed to by Capt. Stephens and unanimously accepted and adopted by the Company. The Company then appointed J. E. Dalton, Asa Bailey and John Davis, said Committee

to conduct the train.

Aug. 10. Started 1/4 before 6 and drove on over very dusty roads, down the valley sometimes on the bottom & sometimes over sandy ridges, about 20 miles & Camped. Good grass, poor wood & water Quite windy & tremendous dusty; the dust flying like snow in winter -- Hot days and cold nights-- The water in the river being quite warm, it smokes in the morning like a Coal Pit -- By setting water exposed to the air through the night we have cold water all the fore part of the day --

11<sup>th</sup> Started at 6 and in 8 miles crossed the river on to the North side -- Came up to & stoped at noon with Nos. 1 & 13, Traveled on down the river & over a barron plain 12 miles making 20 & Camped. It being eight o'clock -- Good grass; poor wood & water.

Aug. 12. Started at 1/2 past 7, and came up again at noon with Nos. 1 & 13 -- No. 1, having concluded to go the Lawson Route; or rather Noble's Cut off, or route; six persons from our Co. viz. Dudley, Simpkins, Brown, Hawlet, Kite, and Kenworthy, left us to go with them; taking their portion of the rations and a few cooking utensils. Started again at 2 & past over a barron sandy plain and river bottom. 12 miles, making 20 to the river & Camped; Tolerably good grass; poor wood & water -- Very sandy roads & the dust tremendous bad -- Some snow on the mountain

Aug. 13 Started at 1/2 past 6 and traveled over a very dry, barron & sandy stretch of 12 miles to the river; where we found good grass; stoped three hours; then went on across another barron dusty stretch of 10 miles to the river & Camped -- Tolerable good grass, poor water & no wood --

Aug. 14 -- Started at 7 & traveled over decidedly the most dry dusty & disagreeable road yet found; resembling precisely a bed of ashes; & 8 miles to the head of the great Meadow; went two miles down and Camped -- Good grass; tolerable water and poor wood -- Nothing but a little greasewood & sage -- About 10 o'clock I started from the waggon; saw ahead the point of a low mountain running down from the North and Capt. Stephens told me that we passed over that hill, and that when upon it we could see Humbolt Lake, which, & the meadow, lay right beyond, on the other side of it. The Guide mentioning a spring of good, cold, water at the head of a slough, supposed to be not far ahead; & getting very tired of the River water, I pushed ahead, bearing to the left & in about 3 miles struck the slough; & the water looking very bad, went up to its head in search of the Spring, across decidedly the worst spot of ground over which I ever traveled -- It was baked & cracked on a magnificent scale -- the cracks being from 12 to 15 feet deep & nearly a foot wide; and to make it worse, the fire had burned over it, leaving ashes & cinders at least a foot deep so that a person would slump in nearly every step half way to his knees; and on I trudged about five miles, sweating like rain; and getting most tremendous thirsty; and when I arrived at the head of the slough, there was a first rate place for a spring, but not a drop of water could be found; saw the road 2 miles ahead, passing over the bluff; went up on to the high part of the hill; saw Humbolt Lake which looked but a little ways ahead; pushed on & traveled about eight miles; when concluding I had taken the wrong road, I turned square to the left & in about 2 miles came to an other road -- went up one mile & suffering intensely with a raging thirst, I broke across

for the river; & after going on, on & on, through the rushes, I found there was no river, nor a drop of water there; it having sunk above; returned to the road; went up one mile & met some Packers, who told me that this road came down on the North side of the river, that it was about 14 miles to the head of the meadow up that road -- It was now nearly dark; pushed on & in 5 miles came where two waggons had camped, but had no fire for want of wood -- got of them a drink; which though Humbolt River water, warm and slimy; yet under the circumstances, I thought it the best I ever tasted -- went up one mile further & found others camped with a fire got of them a cup of coffee; & a blanket; after drinking the coffee, wrapt myself in the Blanket and laid down in the open air; but I was so tremendously fatigued that I could not sleep a wink all night; rose early, and after getting a little breakfast & paying them one dollar, started up the road and after traveling 7 miles came to our train; right glad to get at my old quarters again -- I thought I had heretofore suffered from fatigue & thirst; but never before did I ever suffer so much in any one day; nor the fourth part of it, as on the 14th of August, 1852; in tramping through the Humbolt valley in the manner above described -- The Indians, which were to be so tremendous dangerous & bad gave me no uneasiness; but to add to my other miseries, the muskeetoes last evening were twice as large, numerous and venomous, as I ever knew them before in my life --

Aug. 15 (Sunday) laid by all day to rest & recruit the cattle; and right glad was I, also, to get to rest -- Some of the Company went to work & cut some grass to take along on to the Desert.

Aug. 16: After cutting & filling our waggon with hay; and our vessels with water, started at 3 P. M. & went down the valley about eight miles & Camped. Good grass poor water & no wood -- This morning Geo. Hopkins Clemons Smith & V. Ludlum packed their provisions and a part of their baggage on a Poney & started to go through by themselves -- We then burnt up another waggon, and remodified our messes -- taking I Davis J R Davis & L. Stonebreaker in with us --

Aug 17: started at 7 and traveled down around and about two miles beyond, the Lake & Camped, on the Slough -- Good grass, no wood and very poor water; it being quite warm & brackish -- Waded into the Lake as we passed it, and got some better water a good piece from shore to fill up our vessels that had become empty. Overtook Clem Smith who had got tired of packing stoped of us and again joined our mess --

Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> Started at 7 o'clock and passed around the slough and on to the Desert-Stoped one hour at noon, one at night and one about midnight to feed the cattle a little, let them rest, & take some refreshment ourselves; came to the Boiling Springs at 6 P. M. & arrived at Truckie or Salmon Trout River at 7 A. M. on the 19<sup>th</sup> [sic.] having traveled 43 miles in 24 miles -- Excellent water, & tolerable good grass and wood -- The Boiling Springs on this route are a great curiosity -- There are 10 or 12 of them & 3 or 4 of them throw the water up about two feet and sometimes fifteen boiling hot, smoking and foaming, & producing a noise that is distinctly heard 3 or 4 hundred yards; and when at them, reminding one of being in a Steam Mill with a large furnace under full blast. In the lower part of Humbolt ~~xxx~~ Valley the days are extremely warm and the nights very cold -- The mornings are

generally still; but from 2 P. M. until about night, the Wind blows from the West a perfect gale -- which, coming from the snow capt mountains, soon makes it very cold.

19 Stayed here all day to rest & recruit the cattle; right glad to find ourselves across the long and much dreded Dessert. In crossing the cattle stood it very well. Our team went through without any difficulty; Some 5 or 6 steers, however, belonging to other teams gave out and laid down. Capt. S. went back -- this evening and got them. We have never yet had a steer die -- Several, however, got lame and Capt. S. sold them.

✓ Aug 20 There are two trading posts here & Capt. S. sold 700 lbs of flour at 12 1/2 cts per lb -- and bought some shugar at 50 cts and coffee at 25 cents -- Called yesterday & today to visit a lady & little boy who were both very badly scalded on last Sunday night by falling into the Boiling Springs -- Started at 12 o'clock and traveled about 12 miles up the river & Camped -- Good grass wood & water. Lloyd Stephens met us here --

21 -- Started at 7 o'clock and traveled about 16 miles and Camped at a ford about two miles this side of the Meadow, having passed over a very hilly, rocky & sandy road; and it being nearly dark -- No Grass, good wood and water. Bailey & myself had walked ahead & passed up the meadow about 2 miles, to where a No. train had camped. We tried to get supper & lodging with them but they refused; and we started after dark to go back & meet the train, our way being along the side of the river opposite that of the road & on the side of a tremendous mountain partly through the willows & very rough and rocky -- After walking about a mile we discovered several Indians sculking about in the bushes,

they came into the road after and followed us a piece but as we had no weapons we walked tolerable fast and soon left them in the rear -- I had no fears of their hurting us; but have no doubt that if they could rob or steal any thing or everything from us, they would be certain to do so -- although the many foolish, alarming & bugbear stories about their being so dangerous & bad, is all Humbur.

Aug. 22<sup>d</sup>. Sunday: Crossed the river at 6 & in 2 miles came to the Great Truckie Meadow; soon crossed a slough at its mouth on a willow bridge, thereby saving 12 miles of travel, passed down about 4 miles, crossed the river and Camped. Good grass, wood and water -- It being 10 o'clock; laid up the balance of the day -- This is a large beautiful meadow, with an abundance of excellent grass, & first rate water; surrounded on all sides with very high snow Capt mountains --

Aug. 23<sup>d</sup>; Started at 7 & traveled across the meadow & thence ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ over a rough mountainous road 13 miles to Pass Spring; thence over a hill; across a meadow by a lake; & over another bluff to Big Spring Valley, 6 miles & Camped. Excellent grass; tolerable good wood and water -- Cold nights --

" 24 Started at 7 and traveled down the valley 8 miles, thence 3 miles to the Summit of the Siera Nevada, & thence down Beckworth Valley 8 miles to Dunn's Ranch & Camped. Excellent grass, good water, but very little wood -- The Pass over the Siera Nevada on the this route is extremely easy; the ascent & descent from & to the meadows on each side are very gradual indeed, hardly any hill at all. Much like the South Pass, of the Rocky Mountains -- We have hot days & very cold nights. This morning spongy ice was found in our dishes frozen over an inch

thick --

Aug 25 Started at 3 o'clock and traveled down Beckwith's Valley 16 miles to War Horse Ranch and camped -- Excellent grass wood and water -- This is a very large & beautiful valley with an abundance of excellent grass, surrounded with high mountains covered with Evergreens, very large Pine & Cedar; the tops of which are covered with snow. We here strike the timber & pass through thick pine & cedar woods for several miles -- The fuss and jangling between the Captain & his boys, and several of the Company, which has been kept up for a long time, about the Provisions, is still getting worse; & this evening came very near a fight. When the Capt. sold the flour at Truckie River he promised to buy whatever provisions the Company needed according to Handbill, and as for security for his doing so, he promised to put up into my hands the Cash received for the flour, Not yet having done so, the Company this morning were about to pass a vote allowing any team to drive out when they pleased if he did not put up the money; he immediately put the amount not expended \$70.00 into my hands -- We then purchased 10 1/2 lbs. of Sugar, at .75 cts.

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> The jangling about the Provisions & the laziness of the Drivers caused us to get a very late start this morning; which was not until near 10 o'clock. Traveled on through heavy pine and fir timber & several small prairie valleys about 16 miles into Grizzly valley and Camped. Excellent grass, wood & water. The Captain refusing to buy any provisions this morning the Committee bought 20 lbs. of Sugar at .50 cts. & 1 Gallon of Vinegar at \$4.00, which was paid for out of the money deposited with me -- James Beckwith, (The Old War Horse) has a light frame

house about 50 by 20, the roof covered with pine boards & the sides with muslin; and well divided into four rooms; a Bar room, store room, dining room & Kitchen. It is the first house, we have seen, covered with boards, since leaving Fort Laramie. He is a dark swarthy, keen looking, shrewd old fellow; 54 years old & is of four different Nations: French, English, Indian & Negro or Mexican -- says he has traveled across the mountains 14 times, and expects to live to cross them 24 times more -- He gave us a diffinite discription of the route where the Rail Road would have to be located from the Atlantic to the Pacific

Aug. 27 This morning, threw away Waggon No. 12 & put the Men & Baggage into other waggons -- Started at 7 o'clock & in 2 miles came to the Mountain, which is very steep and covered with heavy Pine & Cedar timber; the Cedars & Spruce Pines are the most beautiful, & the Pitch Pines decidedly the largest I ever saw. Passed up the Mountain 4 miles, & then down 6 miles into Willow Spring Valley & Camped. This is a mountain what is a mountain -- the ascent and descent most of the way is just about as steep as the roof of a house & in some places quite rocky. It far exceeds any hills, over which I ever saw a road pass -- The Wolves & other wild animals kept up such a tremendous howling that I scarcely slept a wink last night; while others say that they were kept awake by its being so cold --

28<sup>th</sup> of Aug. Being now in the immediate vicinity of the Gold Diggins, twenty four men and one girl left the train, to go to Nelson's Creek, 6 miles on the South of us --

Started at 12 o'clock and traveled over a very rough and bad road 6 miles to Carter's Ranch & Camped Tolerable fair grass, good water & plenty of wood --

Aug 29<sup>th</sup> It being Sunday, laid by to rest & recruit the cattle -- Some of the boys went over 2 1/2 miles North to see where they were digging gold; & brought back some small specimens -- Saw a great number of persons today acquainted with the country and heard all kind of tales about the prospects for gold digging; most of them, however, quite discouraging -- saying that if we made our grub this winter, we would do very well --

~~April~~ <sup>Aug</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Started at 9 o'clock and passed down the branch over a tolerably good road 6 miles to the American Ranch in American valley and Camped Good grass, wood & water -- Among those who left the train day before yesterday was J. W. Davis, one of the Committee & A. Bailey refusing to have anything more to do with the business, threw the entire management of the train back into the hands of Capt. Stephens; here the cause of our progressing so slowly. Needing some provisions, and Capt. S. refusing to get any I purchased 17 lbs of Beef at 30 cts. 6 lbs of Sugar 2 lbs of Coffee at 35 cts. & paid for the same out of the money placed in my hands -- This is a beautiful Valley 5 or six miles long & two or 3 wide -- Excellent grass & water.

Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> Started at 8 o'clock and in 1 mile came to another Ranch Greenwood's where Capt Stephens sold three Waggon for \$10.00 each, (having sold one last night for the same) and thirty head of Steers for 920 dollars; leaving but three Waggon and thirty Steers; four Cows and twenty men -- Rearranged our men into three Messes; loaded up accordingly and passed on 1 mile to the mountain; thence 2 miles up a very steep mountain & thence down 8 miles, quite steep but smooth road, to the Spanish Ranch & Camped. Tolerable grass, good water & wood. Gold Diggings all around us. Visited one on a Branch carried on

extensively --

(Wednesday)

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Started at 8 o'clock, & in 2 miles came to Meadow Ranch; & in 1 further to the Mountain; which we ascended 6 miles, very steep, but not rocky; & thence down 6 miles quite steep, to Rich Valley Ranch, and Camped. Good Grass, wood and water --

" 2<sup>d</sup> Philip Linthicum being very sick, laid by all day on his account -- This is a very rich valley and fine grass -- The water, all through this section of country, is very clear, cold and excellent -- hence, it is very healthy --

Sept. 3<sup>d</sup> Started about 8 o'clock & passed down the valley to where we leave it & ascend the mountain about 4 miles & Camped in order to cut some grass to feed along the road on ahead; and also on account of P. Linthicum, who was still very sick; not expected to live; also to recruit the cattle Good grass, wood and water.

" 4 Started at 8 -- passed over a small mountain, thence across a Brook with high banks where Squire Stephens upset the Waggon he was driving in which was Philip Linthicum, and he was hurt very badly -- passed on to a small meadow on a branch at the foot of a very steep mountain, about two miles, when observing that P. Linthicum was getting worse, requested the train to stop which was done & the cattle turned out -- Mr. Linthicum continued to sink very fast and at 12 o'clock breathed his last -- We dug a grave, wrapt him up in his blankets, spread over him a tent & a waggon sheet and burried him in the most decent manner we could in a small prairie meadow a few feet East of a Spruce Pine Tree, on which we cut his name &c. about six miles West of Rich Valley Ranch. Started at 3 o'clock & traveled up the hill and over a

rough road to the top of the mountain about 6 miles and Camped.  
No grass, some wood and water at a distance of half a mile.

Sept. 5 Started at 8 o'clock and traveled a hilly, dusty road, part of it very rough, about 16 miles to the Mountain House & Camped -- No grass, good wood and water

Sept. 6 -- Started at 8 o'clock & passed down the mountain part of the way rough, but generally smooth & very dusty.  
16 miles to Bidwell's Bar, on the Middle Fork of Feather River Here is quite a town of Canvass buildings, and mining is carried on extensively -- Camped on the South side of town -- Bought hay for the stock, water in the River & wood scarce. Several of our company concluded to stop here; among whom were W. & P. Hagermann Kelsey, Wall, & Clemons Smith. Left all my baggage here including a tent, cooking utensils, (bot of Stephens) &c. with the intention of returning in a few days --

Sept. 7 Started at 6 o'clock & traveled over a beautiful, good road about 21 miles to Charleys Ranch, near the River, & Camped Turned the Cattle into the Ranch; good wood and water--  
As Capt. Stephens, Mr. Hart, & some others left Bidwells Bar this morning in the Stage, there were only eight of us left to go with the waggons --

8 Started at 10 o'clock & passed over a good level road about 15 miles & arrived at Marysville about sundown -- Found Capt. Stepehns & his family there. Drove into a large Hayyard & Camped -- Went immediately to a Bath House on the Yuba River (being covered with dust) & washed off clean; then to a Barber's shop & got shaved (paying 50 & 25 cts) & then to the Bee Hive Tavern -- a pretty good House. Found Mr. Hart Mr. Bailey & several others of our boys there. This is a fine flourishing,

business place

9<sup>th</sup> Stayed here & perambulated about town all day;  
Started at 6 P. M. in the Steamer Daniel Moor for Sacramento.

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Arrived this morning at Sacramento in California having been on the Journey since leaving home 157 days; and 129 days traveling by land since leaving Kansas on the Missouri River -- Went to the Post Office & after working hard for four hours, got three letters for myself & several for others. Sacramento is a quit a large flourishing town & a great place for business -- though badly situated being too low ground & subject to overflow -- for which reason I like the site of Marysville much better. Perambulated about town all day --

Sept. 11 -- Started in the Steamer D. R. Page for Marysville, fare each way \$5.00--, passed up the river in the afternoon got on a Sandbar and at night got on another and laid till morning.

" 12 Arrived at Marysville about 9 o'clock -- Stayed all day looking about town --

" 13 Remained at Marysville all day; Visited several places; Mr. Stoner, J. C. Fall and others --

14 Remained still at Marysville.

15 Started in the Stage for Bidwell's Bar this morning & after traveling 12 miles came to Sewell's Ranch He being away from home sick at Dr. Pegrans, by the invitation of his partner Mr. Riece, stoped & went to see him found him quite sick and and app rently very glad to see me -- He invited to come and stay with him several days and thought I would do well to set up the Practice of M'd there.

16 Came to Bidwell's Bar in the stage -- Quite unwell.

17 Prospected to day for gold and went about seeing  
diggings & washing

18 Went up the River in the forenoon & down in the after-  
noon prospecting & digging Almost down sick --

19 Quite sick; Bedfast all day

20 Very sick; (No attendance)

21 Very sick                   "

22 Very sick                   "

23 Very sick                   "

24 Continued very sick all through to the close of the month  
No one to wait on me but John Lytle when he comes in from his work  
-- Took lots of Physic, vegetables, Lee's & Cook's Pills,  
Calomel, Salts, Oil, & more Pills -- which brought away immense  
quantities of Bile -- After which I felt some better -- Being  
lodged in our Tent & sleeping on the ground, I got most  
tremendous tired of laying Sent J. Lytle to get me eight  
pounds of Hay, for which he paid 50 cents.

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1852 (Fryday)

Still continued very sick, confined to my bed -- having  
not eaten a bite of any thing since a week ago last sunday  
morning -- .

2<sup>d</sup> Some better, but still quite sick; tried to eat a little  
continued improving very slowly up to the 6<sup>th</sup> inst when I  
commenced walking about a little --

7<sup>th</sup> Continued to improve very slowly; remaining here at  
Bidwells, worked a little at mining on the Bar for 2 or 3 days,  
making in all \$5.00.

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Rec'd a line from C. Smith stating that he was

sick, and wished me to come down immediately & see him.  
Sent him some medicine.

11 Went down in the Stage to Sewell's -- found Smith a little better, though still quite sick -- Gave him medicine. Next day had another Patient who came here in the Stage sick, & lives 4 miles below here. And next day had another Patient who was at work here; & lately from Marietta Ohio.

Oct. 15. Patients all getting better & the one living near here left for home --

18 Patients all getting well -- Went to Marysville --

21<sup>st</sup> Returned to Sewells --

23 Went up to Bidwells Saw Dr. England & partially agreed to buy him out, as he intends leaving for Vt. in a few weeks --

26 Went back to Sewalls to get my baggage &c.

28 Went to Marysville

30 Returned to Sewells --

Oct. 31 <sup>1852?</sup> 1851. Came to Bidwell's Bar in the stage & put up with Mr. Welch at the Globe Hotel and roomed with Dr. England -- Staid with the Dr. until Nov. 16 when he started for home, & having bought him out, I then took possession of the room, medicines &c. paying him \$32.75. Dr. England was a good natured Jovial fellow: practiced med. on the Eclectic System; & can tell any quantity of good stories, in first rate style.

Cash paid out since leaving home --

April 7	At Blanchester	.80
" 8	" Goshen	.70
" "	Omnibus & Cars	.75
For	Leather Sack at Cin.	3.25
"	6 Shirts (checked)	3.00
	2 Pair Socks	.50
1	" Goggles	.40
2	Shirts	1.00
1	India Rubber Blanket	4.00
M.	Belt & G. E. Cup	1.00
1	Fur Hat	3.50
1	Pair Mac. Blankets	3.00
1	" Wine Goggles	.75
1	Indian R. Bag	3.00
4	Pair Cotton Socks	.50
	Gallowses & 5 [hairing?] Soaps	.20
1	Neck Stock	<u>1.00</u>
		27.35

		<u>27.35</u>
	1 Pair Woolen Socks	.25
	Bill of Medicines	6.38
	1 Thumb Lancet	.50
	1 Testament	.25
	1 Likeness Picture	1.00
	Repairing Watch	1.50
	Dye's C. Detector	1.50
	Oiling Boots	.30
	B. Bill at Fishers (at St. Louis)	1.75
April 14	1 Umbrella	1.25
	1 Colts Revolver (No. 32438)	20.00
	1 Poudrer & Shot Flask	1.50
	1 Canister of Powder	.40
	500 Gun Caps	.30
	2 lbs. Bullets	.20
	1 Pistol Scabbard	.45
	1/4 lb. Powder	<u>.10</u>
		65.28



		<u>65.28</u>
	1 Sachet Case for Med.	1.00
	1 Oz. Quinine	3.50
	1/4 lb. Cit. Acid & 6 Vials	.40
	Comb Brush & Invelops	.30
	1 Canteen & Strap	.40
	1 lb. Citric Acid	1.00
	Spec. Case, glass soap & Purse	<u>.60</u>
		72.48
	Trunk & lock	1.65
	1 Blank Diary Book	.25
April 1967	1 gal Oil & ? [unclear?]	.60
"	1 Stew Kettle.90 (F. Pan.50)	1.40
"	1 Dr. Cooks Pills	.75
"	1 Oz Quinine	5.00
"	2 tannin & 2 Vials Di	2.25
"	1 [unclear] & 1/2 Doz Liv. Pills	2.75
	1 lb. Pain Killer	1.00
	4 qts Mustang Linament	1.00
	1 lb Powder	.50
	[Tacks & Hammer:] [Ms. illegible]	<u>.40</u>
		90.03

	<u>90.03</u>
Bottle Castor Oil	.50
Cork Screw	.40
Syrange	.75
1/2 lb Lip Salve	.50
?	1.25
1	.50
	.10
1 lb Dupont Powder	.50
1 Thin Gauze Vail	.25
1 Brass Padlock	.20
1 Ivory Rule	.75
2 Shiens P. Thread	.20
1 <del>Leather</del> [?] - [Carimeter]	.25
	.90
	.30
	.40
1 Bottle Cholera	1.25
2 Handkerchief 90 x 25 [?]	1.15
1 lb Patent Thread	1.25
Comb +	.95
Pta Molasses	
2 lbs Beeswax	.25
	<u>117.03</u>

JOHN E. DALTON DIARY, 1852.

END