

The
OVERLAND DIARY
of a
JOURNEY
from
LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MISSOURI, to BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
May 5 to September 5, 1860
By
MARY JANE GULL
(Mrs. John Hudson Gull)

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Mrs. Gull's son, John H. Gull, of Alexandria, Virginia.

California State Library, Sacramento
1949

- May the 5 1860 We left home and traveled 16 miles. Camped on Honey Creek 7 [4?] this side Gallatin.
- May 7 Sunday the 4 We travelled seven miles and lay up for the day Nothing very interesting has transpired yet. Travelled about 15 miles camped on Grind Stone in DeKalb Co on rainy evening
"Guess there will be some cookin done by the Gents"
- 15 m We had quite a storm on the night of the 7
- May 8 Very pleasant morning rather cool. Pies for sale on the road. Passed through the city of Maysville. Very windy through the day. Travelled about the same distance heretofore.
- 16 m Camped in Buchanan Co very blustry cold day. Pass Rochester and cross the Platte river.
- " 9 Pleasant day. lost a yoke of oxen. Cross the Hundred- & Two Creek on a bridge stop for dinner and camped for the night
- 15 " found the lost oxen
- " 10
- 17 m Very dry and warm pass through Savannah about eleven oclock very pretty town camped 9 miles north of town.
- " 11 Warm and dry. Traveled 12 miles and stopt for the night.
- 18 m Sunday cloudy and some cooler. Traveled 5 miles. afternoon pleasant and warm. Wrote a letter home.
- " 12 Very pleasant day. Pass through Maryville in: Hodaway county. holding Circuit Court. Made as think of Uncle Fred. Traveled 20 mil and camped near the Hodaway river. Soca after we stopt we had a stampede of horses run about ten miles and was taken up.
- 12 m Very pleasant day crossed the river Hodaway and several other creeks of considerable note. There we took the plains, no settlers for miles camped in Atchison Co. had a very hard rain about dark.
- " 18
- 5 m Very pleasant. lost two cows. Traveled 7 miles and stopt for the day on the open Pararie
- " 14 Started half after six in the morning. Passed through Linden. there we struck the Council Eluff road. found the lost cows. Traveled 22 miles and camped in the No - bottom. here we saw some very interesting things. The bluffs in particular. We ascended them in the evening where we could see as far as eye could reach. Very pleasant
- " 15 Very pleasant. Still in the bottom The bluffs roll up before us like mountains We traveled about 20 miles There I met with Bothena Worcester she lived 1/2 mile of the road
- May. 16 Leave camp 1/2 past 6 A.M. big gray lane to day some of the effects of the stampede. Travel up the No bottom yet. Country pretty well settled so far. pass some good improvements. travel six miles & stop for diner. Move at 1/2 past 1 oclock, pass pacific city & pass through St. Mary's on the river. 4 wind mills two of them for to make shingles. others supposed to be grist mills traveled
- May 17 Passed through Elpiro &
- " 18

May 20
wrote
a letter
home

• 21

10 miles stop for the night pretty camping place I am under a large elm tree which reminds me of home and of elms there
hard rain this morning. Moved about 8 o'clock. traveled 8 miles and lay by for the day. We are now in sight of Council Bluffs. See the Steamboats passing by us now and then.

Leave camp 1/2 after six traveled about 8 miles We passed through Council bluff city a very pretty town it is three miles from the river. Here we meet with the emigrants. 19 camped in the bottom this side of the ferry, we next came to the muddy surky Missouri. The boat waiting for us. There was 7 waggons on the boat at once one sulky some 5 or 6 loose horses, all of our cattle two of the waggons had four horses in them The old Nebraska was well loaded all Californians, pass through the city of Omaha about as large as the bluff city. The State house was a nice building. Here we see Indians all around us, I have been tormented all day one beggin me for something to eat, even for my comb.

May 22

Lay by, buy our outfits for the plains at Omaha can see emigrants on every side. Troubled by beggin indians country settled very well from Omaha is the military road out to the forts

• 23

Leave camp 1/2 after six and take to the plains. pass waggons and waggons past up

Platte
in view.

Traveled 10 miles and stopt for dinner on very nice but niry creek. 1 o'clock move again. Elk home city a small town. cross the Elk horn river on a very nice bridge traveled 23 miles and camped on the Elk horn no indians about us to night.

• 24

A pleasant morning rather warm; beautiful grass we are in Douglass Co Nebraska Leave camp 1/2 after six. Twenty one waggons in sight drove ten miles and stopt to dine. Move again. Pass through Fremont city, a name with out a town. drove ten miles and camped on the platte river, wide but shallow. Appearance of a thunder storm, raining very hard now. some fish for supper but the rain has spoilt it.

• 25

Move 1/2 7. Mr Guill sick this morning. drive 10 miles and stop in north bend and take dinner. fear we shall pass throug town and not know it. move at two o'clock. Very pleasant day stock travels well bought some corn and butter on the road not far from town Traveled 8 miles and camped on the Platte river. I have seen twenty indians this evening. They are at our camp now part of them. pay fifty cents for corn & twenty five for butter

26

Leave camp at 7 o'clock Travel ten miles. Stop for dinner. have seen 40 indians this morning Move at two o'clock. Travel 5 miles and camp in The Platte Valley off from the river some distance. very good settlements yet.

• 27
wrote
a letter
home

Sunday. Move a 1/2 past 7 pleasant day rather dry Meet 18 indians this morning part of them squaws. Traveled 8 miles and stopt on the bank of the South fork for our dinner. Crossed over in the evening. had to ferry part of the way over. Judge the stream was half a mile wide & forded our cattle, move about a mile and camped.

May 28

Left at 7. Traveled 10 miles and stopt for dinner. Windy day, beautiful grass. Swampy country sandy, verry sandy. Move again half past one, beautiful country, fine grass. Cross Prairie Creek the best water for several days, a good spring & fine grass. a good place to camp but not in the right for us, travel eleven (11) miles & stop for the night near stage station. fine grass The Boys have to wade on an island to get wood. Had a wind storm during the night almost blowed us off.

May 29

Drizzly, blustry morning. The boys had the work all to do this time. 22 waggons camped around the State station this morning. all sharing our fate. Travel 13 miles and stop for dinner, still blustry and stormy good grass.

Getting out of the settlements almost except the stage stations. Travel 22 miles and camped near Stage station

• 30

Travel 10 miles and lay by the rest of the day to sun our flour one lane cow. beautiful grass and plenty of water.

• 31

Left camp 1/2 six and traveled ten miles and stopt for dinner close to Grand Island City. small town on the Flatte. Houses covered with hay. saw the remains of some which had been burnt down. plenty of cotton wood timber. Some elm willow, and cedar. Moved at one o'clock. Traveled ten miles and stopt for the night on Mud creek about three miles from Crockers. grass not so good here as it has been.

June 1

Leave camp 1/2 after six. Very blustry day. get some Buffalo meat. pass wood river and call a one story hut. Three rooms in front. about a half dozen sod houses around. Buy some papers from the office here which is something new to us. There is a paper printed here called the Huntsman's Echo. Very nice little paper for the plains. Saw three Buffalo this evening. Great curiosity to one for they are the first I have saw on this trip. Travel twenty one miles and camp on a plain.

send
one
number
home

June 2

Leave camp six o'clock. buffalo meat for breakfast very good. plenty of grass and water. Travel 10 miles and lay by for the day 19 waggons behind us and 7 before; all in sight. The boys gone buffalo hunting this evening. did not kill any come home tired almost starved for water.

June 3
21 miles

Sunday morning start to look for a better camp ground but alas we never found it grass all burnt up with the drouth except in sloughs where the grass is very good. Travel about Twenty miles Victor, and I have to turn have to travel back hate to turn back, being it is the first time on this rout that I had to retrace my steps, we camped on a slough some distance from the river

June 4

Leave camp at 7 o'clock, Travel several Miles and meet some Buffalo coming along in the road, Mr Guill give chase after them on Abba run upon them and fired several times with the revolver and in revolving the pistol he caught the ball of his thumb and lacerated it very bad did not get a buffalo at last. Travel 15 miles and camp had to dig for water.

• 5

Move at 7 Strike the bluffs on the foot hills.

Travel 16 miles can see any amount of waggons on the other side of the Platte campers around us to night, near the Platte

June 6

Move at 1/2 past 7, pleasant day. had quite a turn up this morning. The horses was hitched to the waggon and they got frighened at something around, upset Charles William waggon but no person hurt. The waggon that Barney Cooper was riding in come very near upsetting. buck was hitched to it, rather frustrated our company for a while, the waggon was soon lifted up and repaired for starting not much injury done. Travel 14 miles and stopt for the day on the Platte 5 of the cattle Range. Mr Guill's hand on the mend some, though it is a very bad wound. dig our well and fix for cooking

Finish my letter home

June 7

pleasant day, moved at 7 oclock killed a Jack rabbit when the Train started, our travel to day is throu h sand, hills. Saved pulling for the freight waggons. Travel 14 miles and camp. The boys go huntin see several Antelopes. killed two Rabbits. had a storm at night which made things howl. Things got wet some in the waggon. Storm subsided in about an hour it hailed with the wind but did not rain much

8 rain & hale

Very cold morning Traveled 8 miles and lay up for the day. had two calves in the evening. two of the boys out late hunting.

9 rain

raining this morning Move at 8 oolcock, travel 9 miles and stop for our dinner Cline capt close to us. leave camp. 2 Oclock P.M. some said & more mud travel 9 mile. & camp in sight Sioux village no wood cold & disagreeable

10

Sunday very disagreeable day. showery all day, first day we have been bothered with rain since we left, some mud holes to day. wood scarce, travel 7 miles & camp on good grass in sight of two Indian towns (Soux)

11

Leave camp half after six pass over the mudiest road we have had yet. a great many sloughs. Verry miry. good grass & water. about ten miles boggy country here. mire down two or three times leave the for some four miles strike it agan & camp on the river on good grass. traveled 20 m

12

Very good day. Seares of wood nothing but willow brush to cook with travel 20 miles. Sandy country. plenty of water. 33 Mormon waggons passed us this evening.

13

Thunder storm last night our waggon did not leak much, started at 7. Waded a creek. Travel 20 miles. plenty of water and grass capt close to a spring. Swapt Buck of for a grey billy.

14

Moved 1/2 past 5 traveled several miles and strike the sand hills very hard pulling. about 1 mile across. as we left the hills we met a company of Sioux indians moving. several dogs pulling carts of poles with their blankets on them and one load of pups. G-t some mountain currents, to make some pies. Willow brush to wash with. This evening Travel 15 miles. and camp for the day to do up our washing clothes dry very quick good grass & water. a clear stream of water

June 15

Leave camp at 1/2 past six. travel over a very good road. good grass scarce. pass another Sioux village of some doz. wigwams. one white trader with the Indians. Clinos behind. Old man Monroe half day ahead. travel 25 m. and camp on a slough near the river. good grass. nothing but weeds for fuel.

16

Leave camp half after six pass over some very nice road. Three droves of cattle before us and three behind all in sight. Travel ten miles and stop for dinner move at half past one. cross some sand hills very hard pulling The hills look grand some of all shape resembling houses, Sugar loaves and ruined cities campt near the bluffs. Get the first wood here that we have had for a long time

17

wrote letter home

Sunday. Move at half past six travel ten miles and lay by for the day. grass not very good. use the Platte river water

18

sold a cow

Leave at 1/2 after 6. Mesquite very bad, dined at on the Platte river travel 30 miles and campt opposite the Chimney rock. Get grass for the stock on an island.

19

Leave camp 1/2 after six verry nice road to travel use the Platte river water. Travel 18 miles and camp on the Platte

20

Move at 1/2 after six Travel 18 miles to day camp on the Platte very pretty weather need rain here. nothing interesting transpired to day good grass and water.

21

Move at half past six beautiful road to day except dust. 5 droves of cattle together grass not very good. travel 20 miles to day in sight of Larrinie's peak We are now in town here the fiddle below us at one of our neighbors we have campt in a very beautiful place close to the river. one preacher in our crowd.

June 22 wrote to Isobel

Very pleasant day. cool this morning. travel 15 miles to day. grass not good here. close to an indian village, some lame stock. brindle has got a calf she had it about twelve, move this evening 3 miles and camp two miles from Larinie in a very pretty place and good grass as could be expected

23

Cool this morning. We went over to Larinie this morning Mr Guill and I. The town is in a low valley on the bank of the Lairmie river. Some very nice houses for the plains one store ~~Some~~ Several blacksmiths shops, had some shoes made for the oxen. swept off Hughes' lame ox for another in his place give some boot. crossed the Platte in a canoe. a swift stream some indian wigwams along the bank. The town of Larinie is full of indians their Wigwags all through town except on main street. The soldiers was some curiosity to me. We visited the post office put some letters in the office one to George Williams and home. No letters here from home. move this evening travel 7 miles and camp, still on the Platte. Very good grass and water here

24 wrote

Sunday lay up this morning very pleasant. Move at at one oclock. had a very nice rain on this evening

letter
home
June 25

pass over 7 miles of the black hill quite a curiosity.
we went up on one of the hills.

had a rain last night. Move at 1/2 past six. very rough road steep hills and rocks. walked Several miles this morning. climbed one hill to gain on the waggons broke Charles' waggon. travel 8 miles and dine close to the Platte. Move at one oclock Still rough in places. Hail storm have to stop now a hail storm in the black hill is enough to scare one badly. I think the rain is about over now not of long duration. Well they are not, because everything would get wet. it blows right through our waggon, camp again in the black hills in a little narrow valley Gun coats of good service out here especially in a storm. To night we camp in dry place no water around us. but as He who ruleth all seeing our need caused the clouds to pass over and the rain poured in torrents on us. The creek below us dry was in a few minuits a booming stream. Thus supplying all our wants

June 26

Moved at 7 oclock A.M. Travel 10 miles. Very good road for the hills. pass by a trader with some indians several wigwags. crossed a small creek and camp for the day. have no wood close to us except sage brush. plenty of cedar and pine of at some distance.

27

Leave camp 1/2 past six very nice road to day. 12 miles to water this morning dine on the Platte river in nice shady grove of large Cotton Wood trees roses plenty here. the air is rendered fragrant with their perfume, grass very short. move at three again travel over good road with the exception of washes camp at some distance from the Platte. have to carry our water from it and wood too, give our steak to the river to water. the boys has come with a fine load of wood. travel 2 1/2 miles to day. Storm coming up how black the clouds look prepare our waggon for it

28

Mr Guill
brought
me in a
harned
frog

Move at 1/2 past six. rain this morning still distilling very nice road no grass on not much the grass hoppers had. travel 7 miles this morning. dine on the hills here Pa struck out for himself and left us & our alone our road this evening was over very rough ground over washes and hard banks. Travel 9 miles and camp in a very nice grove on the Platte grass not very good. ~~Have alone to night~~

29

Camp alone to night it is very cold this morning. A shall hardly feels comfortable. We have a big log heap fire on and rained a little last night. travel over rugged road this morning over one clift and up another travel three miles and stop to graze on very good bunch grass. Moved again at 1/2 7 stopt to dine on the Platte no grass here to do very good Travel 12 miles this morning Move at 7 oclock again had some sand this evening pass through prickly pears in abundance all bloomed out looked very pretty pale yellow flower resembling the doubled yellow Holly hock. Travel 6 miles and camp on tolerable good bunch grass. The preacher is camp below us Child's above

30

Move at half past six. very pleasant day. More sand hills hard pulling. past the rest of our company this

morning Travel 18 miles. Stop for dinner in grove on the river a very nice place, and tolerable grass. Move again 1/2 after one very rough road this evening deep sand. No good grass yet. Travel 9 miles and camp on the bluff. Some bunch grass. enough to stay the hungry stocks stomachs probably fill them up some. The horses have had

July 1

wrote a letter home to day
Jul 2

Sunday. Move at 1/2 past six travel 4 miles and stop to graze stopt in one of the most beautiful of places drove under a very large Bals of Gillead tree to nice that I hate to leave it Lay up all day. Preaching in the valley to night. not going this time

Very pretty day rather cool a shawl. hardly warmer enough. pass the bridge on Platte. Travel 9 miles. Mr Guill bought me a pair of moccasins. Move at one again. More sand hills very steep. Travel 9 miles. camp on the hills above the Platte. Can look down on it below us

July 3

cool this morning Shawl comfortable Move at 1/2 after six. Travell about 4 miles and bid farewell to the Platte river and strike across to sweet water. here we have an stretch of 18 miles. not entirely destitute of water either, because there is plenty of alkali here to much for the good of stock We see ever now and then a cowbrute that has been alkaliied Traveled 25 miles to day to get to water very nice gravelly road to day. but it is hard on the cattles feet. to night we have camped at the willow springs. a very nice place and tolerable good grass considering that it has been camped on so much still if affords some yet. There is several nice springs here good cold water.

July 4.

Moved at 1/2 past three A.M. Travel 7 miles and stopt to graze on a small creek. beautiful clean water cook our fourth of July dinner dinner. What an excellent dinner have got. got some fresh peaches to day a jack rabbit, and some apples. What eaters we are at eleven we struck out again The little creek we dined on was called fish creek. Traveled 6 miles over gravelly road and come to horse creek about the size of a large spring branch Nice water and grass. Traveled 8 miles further over gravel and heavy sand find some Saleratus lakes to night We have camped on Sweet Fater 4 miles below Independence rock

5

Move at 1/2 past 8 oclock this morning Travel about 4 miles pass Trading station near Independence rock Mr Guill got a pair of hobbles made for Corie paid 3 dollars for them quite an excitement raised by a company of emigrants before us they had all passed on had got as far as the rock 1/2 when 5 of the boys went on top cut up a gal many extras. Then coze down and went back to the stree and went into the black smith shop and two of them rogues - one stole a pair of ox shoes the others a bucther knife. The frenchman followed an over took them shot at them 3 or 4 The first shot took effect in the foot of the one who stole the shoes. The company all was from Wisconsin. a very rough set too. and dont no yet how it will terminate. We moved to Independence rock to day a beautiful place here. Mr. Guill and I went on top to take a look at the country. could see the Saleratus lake, very plain close to us. There

is names wrote all over it but coming down rather got me mockising kept slipping and I thought that I would roll down but by the help of Mr Guill I got down at last. Traveled 12 miles to day and camp above the mouth of Devils Gate The gate is a great curiosity to see a river winding its way through a solid mountain of rock. save one space through which the river wound its way. The rocks were perpendicular on either side. some of the boys went through it twice the water is very low now in the river. Jack rabbits for supper to night.

July 6

Move at 7 oclock. We are now in the rocky Mountains. though we have not had to clime any of them yet. We are travelling up Sweet Water yet. Plenty of alkali along here, not so much I guess as there is of a wet season. Travel 18 miles to day and camp on very nice grass and plenty of water

• 7

Leave at 1/2 after six very good road for the mountains. dined in the same botton with Child's. They was some distance below us. Ma came up to see us to day 27 waggons moored in the same botton 7 miles to grass and water and now we are at it is not very good grass. Traveled 15 miles to day.

The 8

Sunday. Very pleasant day Move at 1/2 after six oclock Travel 9 miles and lay up the rest of the day. We lay up in a very nice place to day on Sweet Water. close to the mountains. Very sublime. Several campers besides us in the valley to night. Good grass

Wrote a letter home

The 9

Leave camp 1/2 past 5. Cross the river this morning. Travel 17 miles without water (except alkali) till two oclock crossing over cross the river twice this evening. Travel 4 miles this evening and camp on Sweet water. The valley is full to night 50 or 60 waggons in the botton to night. dont guess indians will pester us to night

The 10

Leave camp at 1/2 past 7 travel 2 miles & leave the river. take the much talked of Rocky ridge not so bad as we had expected. travel 7 miles farther & come to good water & grass. pass several spring branches this evening. Pa camp in fifty yards of us to night all well travel 20 miles & camp on a mountain spring branch.

• 11

had some snow today

Move 1/2 past six. Very nice road. past over the summit of the mountain. Travel 22 miles and camp on Pacific creek 1 mile below the celebrated Pacific spring tolerable good grass only poor camping place generally but the only chance had a nice rain to day Something that I did not expect on the rocky mountains

• 12

We are now on the Salt Lake road

Lay up this morning on account of a sick ox he is on the mend now Leave camp at one P.M. Traveled 17 miles this evening and camp on a dessert no water here some grass. dark when we got in to camp

13

Leave our dry camping place 1/2 past three and drove 6 miles and stop to get our breakfast on the Sandy. plenty of water but no grass here eat our breakfast and drive on down the river 2 1/2 miles. stopt to graze on some better grass Move again at one oclock Strike across to big Sandy a distance of 5 miles nice road with a gentle slope to Sandy. camp on Sandy two and a half miles above