

THE
KILGORE
JOURNAL

OF AN OVERLAND JOURNEY TO
CALIFORNIA IN THE YEAR 1850.

Edited by JOYCE ROCKWOOD MUENCH
FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
JOURNAL OF WILLIAM H. KILGORE

HASTINGS HOUSE · NEW YORK

1949

COPYRIGHT 1949 BY
HASTINGS HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC.

F593
K37

66668

Editor's Note

When William H. Kilgore started for California in 1850 with "four good middle Sized Horses and one mule, with a good new waggon" plus "about a thousand pounds" of "everything in the way of an outfit prepared" he was going in the best American tradition and at a moment of high promise.

This young man of thirty-two came from Virginia stock, of pioneers born to the land. He and his father, Matthew, had freed their slaves because of a deep conviction that no human being had the moral right to own another human being. Since a large plantation could not be maintained without slave labor, they sold the land and headed west. Indiana, Ohio, and finally Iowa were successively home until in 1850 they decided to go to California. Leaving their families at Keokuk, they made the long trek into the unknown. Matthew returned by way of Panama and in 1852 brought the others over the earlier route.

While the promise of gold may have partly influenced their decision, it was evidently not the prime reason for the move. Throughout the journal, the author is alert to mining activities but his real enthusiasm is for the beautiful pasture lands and the possibilities of cultivation. When he rode through fields of wild oats in the Sacramento Valley the grain was so high that it could be tied over the top of the saddle! This was the land of promise to which their strenuous trip had brought them. Its golden beauty appealed more to the farmer in them than did the inexhaustible mineral wealth over which men were already fighting. Consequently, they never went into the mining district.

The tale of how people left everything they held dear; the friends of generations, the security of civilization and its most elemental creature comforts, has been told many times and perhaps more colorfully. But with the passing of almost a hundred years, we have all too easily forgotten the heroic basis of our present western affluence. There is an austere pleasure in reading, without sugar-coating, the day-to-day account, told without sentiment or complaint, of how our streamlined highways and prosperous cities had their hard beginnings.

Whatever the ultimate reward, the path to California was not paved with gold.

No one, perusing the incredibly fine handwriting of the original manuscript with a reading glass (as he must) would have the temerity to criticize the punctuation, irregular though it is. It was accomplished in ink when that must have involved a quill pen and a carefully husbanded supply of fluid. Sometimes Kilgore's desk was the saddle, and he wrote once in a cave, and at other times on the shore of some dangerous, soon-to-be-forded stream. Only such changes have been made as seem necessary to keep the even flow of the story.

The journal was written so that his family might have some knowledge of the experiences of the small company on the journey. It was preserved by his grandchildren as a family relic without the realization that other people might be deeply interested in it as an historic document. To Mrs. Mattie Ashcraft of Santa Barbara, granddaughter of William H. Kilgore and great granddaughter of Matthew, we are indebted for the use of the original manuscript and for permission to present this volume.

The reader will feel the deep sympathy which Kilgore records for the German woman who begged to be allowed to join her

THE KILGORE JOURNAL (Note

husband as she saw him drowning "from the fact of her being left entirely alone among strangers and at the same time being Pregnant." Indignation, which is not even hinted at by the journal's author, must rise at the account of men first in the field, fencing off the desperately needed grass and selling it to wearied travelers, many of whom were destitute, for "three hundred Dls a ton." The casual mention time and again, of "we see near this a fresh grave" or "we see a dead man, laying by the Road Side. He was left here yesterday by his Company and Died last night" suggests in the text, neither callousness on Kilgore's part nor inhumanity in those who so left him, but rather, the harsh realities of their condition.

It is regrettable that one page at the very end of the journal has been lost through the long years. It would have completed the list of mileages from point to point, the cost of "ferriage" and the names of Indian tribes with whom they met. But we can be grateful that the rest of the manuscript has come down in excellent condition. It is now in the collection of Carl Schaefer Dentzel of Northridge, California.

JOYCE ROCKWOOD MUENCH

Santa Barbara, California

The Kilgore Journal

Lee County Iowa, April 10th 1850

Matthew Kilgore, R. D. Kaylor & myself formed in company for the California expedition and after every thing in the way of an outfit was prepared viz

Four good middle sized Horses, and one mule, with a good new wagon, harness, 160 lb Hard Bread, 200 lb Bacon, 25 lb Coffee, 25 lb Rice, 400 lb Flour, with the expectation of getting a greater supply of the latter at the Missouri River, Sugar, Tea, Tobacco, Cheese, Brandy, Wine, Lard, Matches, Salt, Butter, Seeds, guns, &c. amounting to about one thousand dollars.

This morning the 10th one of our Horses are taken sick, 11 o'clock we started drove 1/2 mile our horse became unable to travel, consequently we remained in order to doctor our horse, 10 o'clock, our horse was dead.

The morning of the 11th we left our horse dead, we drove 23 miles, mended the right log in our wagon, the wind blew hard cold & some rain.

12th we started the wind blew hard & cold with a mixture of snow, we passed through Winchester, Burnside, & Libertyville, we have stopped for the night & it being so cold we have to lay in a house, near Oats, is worth 35¢ per bush, 40¢ very scarce. 20 miles for the day.

13th the wind is so high & so cold that we have to lay by all day, my family & with us they are going on a visit to Lake County, to my Mother-in-law, my wife & 3 small children & a little sheep. The ground froze 3 inches deep.

14th the wind has laid, the weather a little more moderate we again start go through Agency City, here we disposed of our hard bread, in order to lighten our load we pass on through Delong, & put up for the night 16 miles for the day.

15th we started again pass through Parkville, a small village, stopped for the night after driving 25 miles. we have passed a great many California wagons that are waiting for warm weather & as soon as they are ready to start. we are not able to get any more team to night.

16th we this morning pass through the town of Pella, this place was founded in the year 1847, by a colony of Hollanders, it now contains about 250 houses, it has a high & pleasant location & a salubrious atmosphere and must be a healthy place, it has also a beautiful surrounding country & a great portion of it in a high state of cultivation every thing seems to bid fair for prosperity among them. The prevailing religion Protestants we have this evening a very severe snow storm, put up for the night after traveling 27 miles.

17th 18th morning the weather being a little more favorable we set out again, our course is at first an open prairie the most of the time renders it very disagreeable for us & especially my family, we pass through Holts Point through Monroe City, a place once designated for the seat of government of the State, nothing has been done at this place more than being surveyed & staked, we pass Mitchell Point and stopped in the evening at the Harbor, (my Mother-in-law) this is 3 miles east of St. Des Moines, we found grain very scarce we have the price of 5 lbs at \$1.25 - 1.50, the weather a little warmer 31 miles today.

12th We Started the wind blew hard & Cold with a mixture of Snow, we passed through Winchester, Birmingham, & Libertyville, we have Stopped for the night & it being So Cold we have to lay in a house, hear oats is worth 35 Cts Corn, 40 & verry Scarce. 20 miles for the Day.

13th The Wind is So high & So Cold that we have to lay by all Day. My Family is with us they are going on a visit to Poke County, to my Fatherinlaw's, My Wife two Small Children & a little Neace, the ground froze 3 inches Deep.

14th The Wind has laid, the weather a little more moderate we again Start go through Agency City, here we disposed of our hard Bread, in order to liten our load we pass on through Delonega, & put up for the night 16 miles for the Day.

15th We Started again pass through Kirksville, a Small village, Stopped for the Night after driving 25 miles. We have passed a great many California Waggon that are waiting for warm weather & grass as Corn & hay are verry Scarce. We are not able to get Hay for team tonight.

16th We this morning pass through the Town of Pella, this place was founde, in the year 1847, by a Colony of Hollanders, it now Contains about 250 houses, it has a high &

pleasant location a Salubrious atmosphere and must be a healthy Place, it has also a beautiful Surrounding Country & a great portion of it in a high State of Cultivation every thing Seems to bid fore prosperity among them, the prevailing Religion Protestant. We have this evening a verry Severe Snow Storm, put up for the night after travelling 27 miles.

17th This morning the weather being a little more favourable we Set out again, as our Course is N.W. & an open Prairie the most of the time it renders it verry Disagreeable for us & especially my family, we pass through Fools Point, through Monroe City, a Place once Dissignated for the Seat of government of the State. Nothing has been done at this Place more than being Surveyed and Staked, we pass Michaels Point and stoped in the evening at Mr Hanlon's (my Fatherinlaw,) this is 7 miles East of Grt Desmoins, we found grain verry Scarce we have the promise of 5 lbs at \$1.25 per lb, the weather a little warmer. 31 miles today.

18th We are resting and visiting toDay, we are at a Sugar Camp where they are making sugar, we think it late in the Season for Sugar making.

19th This is one of the trying mornings with me as I now have to leave my Family,

THE KILGORE JOURNAL (Note

husband as she saw him drowning "from the fact of her being left entirely alone among strangers and at the same time being Pregnant." Indignation, which is not even hinted at by the journal's author, must rise at the account of men first in the field, fencing off the desperately needed grass and selling it to wearied travelers, many of whom were destitute, for "three hundred Dls a ton." The casual mention time and again, of "we see near this a fresh grave" or "we see a dead man, laying by the Road Side. He was left here yesterday by his Company and Died last night" suggests in the text, neither callousness on Kilgore's part nor inhumanity in those who so left him, but rather, the harsh realities of their condition.

It is regrettable that one page at the very end of the journal has been lost through the long years. It would have completed the list of mileages from point to point, the cost of "ferriage" and the names of Indian tribes with whom they met. But we can be grateful that the rest of the manuscript has come down in excellent condition. It is now in the collection of Carl Schaefer Dentzel of Northridge, California.

JOYCE ROCKWOOD MUENCH

Santa Barbara, California

The Kilgore Journal

Lee County Iowa, April 10th 1840

Matthew Kilgore, R. K. Kiley & myself formed in company for the California expedition and after every thing in the way of an outfit was prepared viz

Four good middle sized Horses, and one mule, with a good new Wagon, Harness, 160 lb Hard Bread, 200 lb Bacon, 25 lb Coffee, 20 lb Rice, 100 lb Flour, with the expectation of getting a greater supply of the latter at the Missouri River, Sugar, Tea, Pepper, Cheese, Brandy, Vinegar, Pills, matches, Lard, Powder, Lead, guns, &c. amounting to about one thousand dollars.

This morning the 10th one of our Horses are taken sick, 11 o'clock we started drove 1 1/2 miles our horse became unable to travel, consequently we continued in order to Doctor our horse, 10 o'clock our horse was dead.

The morning of the 11th we left our horse dead. we drove 23 miles, encumbered for the night lay in our wagon, the wind blew hard cold & some rain.

12th we started the wind blew hard & cold with a mixture of Snow, we passed through Winchester, Burmington, & Libertyville, we have stopped for the night & it being so cold we have to lay in a house, near Oats, is with 35 lb Corn, 40 lb very scarce. 20 miles for the Day.

13th the wind is so high & so cold that we have to lay by all day, my Family is with us they are going on a visit to the County, to my Father-in-law, my wife & 3 small children & a little black, the ground froze 3 inches deep.

14th the wind has laid, the weather a little more moderate we again start go through Agency City here we disposed of our hard Bread, in order to lighten our load we kept on through Delongez, & put up for the night 16 miles for the Day.

15th we started again pass through Kirksville, a small village, & stopped for the night after driving 25 miles. we have passed a great many (all) wagons that are waiting for warm weather & grass as corn & hay are very scarce. we are not able to get any for team to night.

16th we this morning pass through the town of Pella, this place was founded in the year 1847, by a colony of Hollanders, it now contains about 250 houses, it has a high & pleasant location a salubrious atmosphere and must be a healthy place, it has also a beautiful surrounding country & a great portion of it in a high state of cultivation every thing seems to bid fair for prosperity among them, the prevailing Religion Protestant we have this evening a very severe Snow Storm, put up for the night after traveling 27 miles.

17th this morning the weather being a little more favourable we set out again, our course is N. W. & an open Prairie the most of the time, the roads are very disagreeable for us & especially my family, we pass through Shols Point through Monroe City, a place once designated for the Seat of Government of the State, nothing has been done at this place more than being surveyed & platted, we pass through Point and stopped in the evening at Mr. Hamilton's (my Father-in-law) this is 3 miles East of St. James, we found grain very scarce we have the price of 10 lbs at \$1.25 - 1.50, the weather a little warmer 31 miles today.

The Kilgore Journal · 1850

Lee County, Iowa, April 10th, 1850

MATHEW KILGORE, R. D. Kepley and myself formed in Company for a California expedition and after everything in the way of an outfit was prepared viz Four good middle Sized Horses, and one mule, with a good new waggon, Harness, 160 lb Hard Bread, 200 lb Bacon, 25 lb Coffee, 25 lb Rice, 100 lb Flour, with the expectation of getting a greater Supply of the latter, at the Missouri River; Sugar, Tea, Pepper, Cheese, Brandy, Vinegar, Pills, Matches, Caps, Powder, Lead, Guns &c &c amounting to about one thousand pounds.

This morning the 10th one of our Horses are taken Sick, 11 O'clock we Started drove 1½ miles our horse unable to travel, Consequently we returned in order to Doctor our horse, 10 o'clock, our horse very Bad.

The morning of the 11th we left our horse very Bad. We Drove 23 miles encamped for the Night lay in our waggon, the wind blew hard Cold & Some Rain.

12th We Started the wind blew hard & Cold with a mixture of Snow, we passed through Winchester, Burmingham, & Libertyville, we have Stoped for the night & it being So Cold we have to lay in a house, hear oats is worth 35 Cts Corn, 40 & verry Scarce. 20 miles for the Day.

13th The Wind is So high & So Cold that we have to lay by all Day. My Family is with us they are going on a visit to Poke County, to my Fatherinlaw's, My Wife two Small Children & a little Neace, the ground froze 3 inches Deep.

14th The Wind has laid, the weather a little more moderate we again Start go through Agency City, here we disposed of our hard Bread, in order to liten our load we pass on through Delonega, & put up for the night 16 miles for the Day.

15th We Started again pass through Kirksville, a Small village, Stoped for the Night after driving 25 miles. We have passed a great many California Waggons that are waiting for warm weather & grass as Corn & hay are verry Scarce. We are not able to get Hay for team tonight.

16th We this morning pass through the Town of Pella, this place was founde, in the year 1847, by a Colony of Hollanders, it now Contains about 250 houses, it has a high &

pleasant location a Salubrious atmosphere and must be a healthy Place, it has also a beautiful Surrounding Country & a great portion of it in a high State of Cultivation every thing Seems to bid fore prosperity among them, the prevailing Religion Protestant. We have this evening a verry Severe Snow Storm, put up for the night after travelling 27 miles.

17th This morning the weather being a little more favourable we Set out again, as our Course is N.W. & an open Prairie the most of the time it renders it verry Disaggreable for us & especially my family, we pass through Fools Point, through Monroe City, a Place once Dissignated for the Seat of government of the State. Nothing has been done at this Place more than being Surveyed and Staked, we pass Michaels Point and stoped in the evening at Mr Hanlon's (my Fatherinlaw,) this is 7 miles East of Grt Desmoins, we found grain verry Scarce we have the promise of 5 lbs at \$1.25 per lb, the weather a little warmer. 31 miles today.

18th We are resting and visiting toDay, we are at a Sugar Camp where they are making sugar, we think it late in the Season for Sugar making.

19th This is one of the trying mornings with me as I now have to leave my Family,

or Backout, Suffise it to Say we Started. We passed through Gt. Desmoines this place is Cited in the forks of Rivers Desmoines and Rackoon Fork, is a citely place & has about one hundred Houses. We ferried both forks of the river here went 14 miles further to the wright and encamped in the Point of a grove. 21 miles to Day.

20th The morning being fair we again Started Crossed North river a Stream about 4 rods wide, we Cross at Brwns frd. 18 miles for the day.

21st We travel through the Prairie all Day without Seeing a house and stop at middle river here we See a liquor establishment in a little Cloth tent, about 30 California waggons Encamped here I went to hear a Sermon at the dore of a tent two families at Camp. 25 miles to Day.

22nd We have a Cold North wind this morning we go 12 miles & Cross East Nodaway, 12 miles & we Come to West Nodaway, here we found the hansomest grove of young timber Hickery, Buckie, Elm, linn & Walnut, 25 miles for the Day.

23rd We have Come about 20 miles & I set on the prairie, writing where there is about 20 waggons & Some Packers. Now is slight ice this morning one ½ inch thick. 13 miles

& we Cross East Nishnebotony, a Stream about 5 Rods wide & 2 ½ feet Deep. Two miles below the ford & at the junction of this & the Eddyville roads, is the old Indian Village, no Indian there now but about Six families resid their, they live in miserable huts & have no land in Cultivation. We passed on to Pilate Grove & encamped for the night. We had 65 miles without a house before we Come to the village. 27 miles for the Day.

24th We proceded 5 miles & Crossed the West Nishnebotony a hansome Stream Six rods wide and 2 ½ feet deep. 10 miles further to Silver river, this is a Small Deep muddy Stream. We See here about 14 Families living in log Cabbins, forming a Sort of village. Those people are Mormons. We have encamped for the night. There are about 45 waggons here in Camp. 15 miles for the Day.

25th To Kegs 5 miles, to Cartersville Eight miles. Here we have Encamped. This 3 miles from Kanessville, the Mormon town or what is known as the Council Bluffs. Kanessville has about 350 houses principally of logs. A great rush of Emegration at this place at this time. Provisions & grain verry high & no Steam Boats running to this place as I expected, only been two Boats up this Season. Some Smallpox here among the emegrants. We have to pay here two Dls for Corn & Nine Dls a hundred for hard Bread Six Dls a hun-

dred. Kanessville is Cited four miles from the river.

29th We have thought proper to Start on our journey. We went up the river 12 miles to the Ferry. They were very throng[ed?] but Succeeded in getting our horses across but Could not get our waggon across. This evening Kepley and myself crosse[d] with the team, we went out a half mile to a Camp that we expected to join. It dark by this time & the wind blew a perfect hurricane, whirled the tents topsie tervy an the fire Came in flames & Sparks filling the whole heavens. This Came from an old Mormontown that was on fire. It had been built of Cottonwood logs had stood long enough to get thoroughly Dry and then evacuated and on fire. The town Contained about Six hundred houses and nearly all on fire. This was Called winterquarters. It is Cited on the west Bank of the Missouri and is as handsome a Cite for a City as I have ever Saw. The wind Continued and after we got to Bed it turned Cold & began to raine the Storm was so violent that it blew our Tent down and we lay there in the Cold and the wet tent Slaping on us all night. I think I never Suffered So much from the Severity of the weather in all my life.

30th The morning verry disagreeable. I recrossed the river got my Breckfast and the wind raised So the Boats were Stopped untill

evening when we Succeeded in getting our waggon over. The river here is about four hundred yds wid & has a Current of twelve miles an hour. This is a very Sickly place from every appearance. There are a Considerable number of inhabitation on the East Side of the river. They have a very Sickly appearance.

1st May We this morning leave the States and all white Settlements and Start on our arduous journey westward. We go 19 miles and Cross Pappes Creek, 8 miles further to Ekhorn, here is a ferry. The Stream is about Six Rods wide & 3 feet deep. We Crossed over and encamped on the West Side.

2nd We See to Day about forty Pawnee Indians. Traveled 27 miles and encamped.

3rd We have good roads, except Some Bad Sloughs, high wind & Cold. We Came to the Platt river & encamped. This river is from one to two miles wide & two feet deep. 29 miles for the Day.

4th Heavy frost this morning. We went 12 miles & Came to the Loup fork, a ferry here and one hundred waggons waiting to get across and we have thirty in our Company. Some Smallpox in Camp. There is wide fertile bottoms on those rivers but no timber except Some Cottonwood on the Streams.

5th We lay here all day waiting to get over, this river is a half mile wide & three feet deep.

6th Frost this morning, high wind & Cold. We crossed the river to Day. This Stream is verry difficult to Cross on the account of it being verry Sandy. We forded our horses. We camped on the Bank.

7th We traveled up the Loup. We had good road level wide bottom & rich Soile, Some game, Deer, Antelope, & Elk. 28 miles for the Day & venison for Supper. Some grass.

8th We leave this river & Cross over to the Platt. We have 20 miles through a miserable Poor Sandy region. Some Rattlesnakes and lizard is all that Can inhabit it. We camped without wood and verry Poor water.

9th We Started at Sun rise went two miles to get good water but no wood. Here we found Some grass for our horses we drove to Wood Creek and Camped. Here our Company parted leaving us Seventeen waggons & 60 men. We passed three graves to Day of white men. 15 miles for the Day.

10th We traveled until now. Stopped to graze when one of our men Came up with a good venison. We went on and encamped on the Prairie, went $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the Platt river & found some dry wood, here we Stopped

near a Dog town it is about three miles in length & half mile wide. 24 miles for the Day.

11th. We went 12 miles and Stopped to lay ove[r] Sunday. We passed one grave to Day. It was of last year. Here are a great many Buffalo and a great many of them are Burned to Death, by the Burning of the Planes. Here Browning and I went out to a dog town to amuse ourselves with our guns. We could [see] a hundred at one Sight. At Sight of us they Set up a most hideous Barking. We Stormed the town, killed five of the inhabitanance, enjoyed ourselves for about two hours, really f[o]rgeting our families & our homes, for the time. Those animals burrow in the ground. Rattle Snakes & owls live in the Same holes. Those owls are of a yellowish Coulor & are about as large as the Common Small owl. Those Dogs are about the Size of a muskrat, or a Small house Cat & are of redish or Clay Color. They Bark very mutch like a Smal Fiste. We are at the head of grand Island oposite Fort Kerney and two hundred miles from the Bluffs. This Island is 45 miles long. Some of our Boys went over to the fort, 7 miles Distant. They waid the river. It is two miles wide. We passed a grave to Day of last year. Twelve miles to Day.

12th It is to Day (Sunday) in Stead of yesterday that the Boys went to the Fort. We

have Sent letters with them. We are laying over to Day resting.

13th Lite frost this morning. Roads, good, we See Deer, Woolves & Buffalo laying on the plains Burned to Death. We See a great many Big yellow rattle Snakes to Day. Our horses here refuse to lick Salt on the account of the Saltpeter that is on the Surface of ground. 25 miles to Day.

14th We went three miles & Stoped to graze. Rather a bad Chance to keep a journal as I have to Do all of my writing on the Prairie, where I am hurding the horse. This evening we See a hurd of a hundred Buffalo, on the Planes, near the Road. We encamped at Petah Lake. Twenty one miles for the Day.

15th Some of our Boys went out killed Some Deer, two wolves & one Buffalo. Some other Boys of another Company, but in train with us went out on the Sand hills. One Shot an old Buffalo Bull and wounded him. This set him in a rage. He Started towards the man. He reloaded and fired again. The Bull Caught him on his horns, threw [him] in the air. When he fell on the ground the Bull Pitched at him again & got over him but could not injure him. The man drew a Pistol and Shot him but without effect more than to agravate. A Second man, hearing the re-

ports ran to his assistance and hav[ing] a Double Charge in his gun, when it fired it burst & whirled him Topsy tervy. A third ran up and fired and burst the tube out of his gun. The three then wholly unarmed. By this time the Bull Saw fit to crawl off. They took themselves up and left. When they got in they looked like the latter end of hard times, though their wounds were not Serious. Some other men killed the Same Bull after Shooting him three times. We have some heavy [?] this evening. We encamped without wood. Here we have to use Buffalo Chips for the first time. 23 miles for the Day.

16th Warm and Clear, Heavy Sand this forenoon. Afternoon we have good roads. The Bottom here is two to five miles wide and the grass is getting good and I see more Buffalo this afternoon than I had any Idea of Seeing on the whole trip. They extend the whole length of our afternoons travel and they are not in hurds but in Solid falanx. We have encamped and we See thousands of buffalo, laying tonight in Sight of us. 20 miles to Day.

17th We Started again. C. Crippin and I went out to the Bluffs to take a little [tour] among the Cattle of the Planes. When we got near the Bluffs we Came among them. They were as thick as Sheep on a pasture. We broke in on them, Started a lot and pursued them to Sand hills and there we found the whole

hill Country alive with Buffalo. They are very Poor just now. We have Shot at Some & chased Some to try their Speed. Here I see a Mexican or English rabbit or hare, we are mounted. We pursued an[d] overtook the train at Noon. Here we pass the Buffalo herd. I am not able to [make] anything like a Satisfactorial estimate, but I have no hesitation in saying I Saw two millions. This forenoon we passed the mouth of the South Platte. Afternoon, we have heavy Sand. 27 miles to Day.

18th Heavy Sands this forenoon. Afternoon, Some Slous, but Roads good, No timber except Some Cedar on the South Side of the River, just now we See Some three white men, Came Booming across the river. They had been out on a hunt & they Came in Sight of five Indians (Sioux Indians). The Indians Came towards them, the men took a fright and boolged [?] the river. When they got over they were entirely exhausted. 28 miles for the Day.

19th Sunday, we are laying by resting. The river here is about three fourths of a mile wide, 2½ feet Deep, Banks two to four feet high, Current Rappid, water verry riley, owing to the Sandy Bottom & Banks. The whole Earth Seems to be nothing but a Bank of Sand, notwith-Standing the Bottoms have Soile and yield great quantities of grass.

20th Some heavy Sand, no timber to Day

on the North Side, an ash grove on the South, a large lone Cedar tree on the North Side. It resembles an old apple tree. I see Some Stone in the Bluffs, this afternoon, the first that I have Seen Since I left the Desmoins. We passed one grave to Day, a man from Illinois, Died last year. We have encamped near Some Nine hundred Sioux Indians. Some of the Chiefs have Come to our Camp, Shown Signs of friendship and Smoked the pipe of peace. They have a very large Pipe with a Stem about two feet long that they use expressly for ocations of this kind. They are large well looking Indians, rather fare Complected, more so than Common among the Northern tribes. They are a verry numerous tribe, numbering about Sixty thousand warrors. They Boast that they never have Shed the Blood of a white man. They had a petition and asked our officers to Sign their names to it, this they intended to present to Congress asking for some remuneration for the rite of way through their Territory. 25 miles to Day.

21st Some heavy Sand. We passed the grave of a woman, Died last August, aged forty three years. Encamped on Crab Creek after driving 25 miles.

22nd. Heavy Sand the most of the Day. In Cite of Chimney Rock this morning, thirty Seven miles Distant. Noon, we Stope to graze, Browning and myself. Here I will

mention that we are messing with C. Crippin & L. W. Browning as may have frequent occasion to Speak of them. We were neighbors at home and got together at Kanessville, went to the Bluffs or Cliffs to examine what is Called the ruins of an ancient Castle, but we could not Discover anything that Shew to us any particular traits of ruins. We assended Some verry high Clifts, when we were on the highest we looked and Saw below in the valley, a Deer, or Antelope and its appearance was about the Size of a Common Rabbit. We Descended, Saw on our return four Antelope. No timber yet we encamped after a Drive of 30 miles.

23rd We went twelve miles and Stopped to graze opposite Chimney Rock. It is on the South Side of the river. I[t] is Cituated about thirty Rods from the river, has a Base of about Sixty Rods in Diameter, it then tapers up about Ninety feet, forming a hansome Space for a walk or Promenade around it. It then has another gradual taper up about Sixty feet, here is a Second offset. It then tapers up again about Thirty feet. Here is another jog. This is the third and last offset. Here this Dome, or Chimney is about fifteen feet in Diameter and extends, or rises from the Center about Sixty feet, retaining about the Same Size to the top. This is only Clay and wearing away fast. We have come to Some Prairie Sage, also Some Prickly pare.

We passed on and encamped oposite Scotts Bluffs. This has the appearance of an ancient Fort and at the East end Stands a rock that has verry mutch the appearance of a Lite house. We have a heavy Storm this evening. The rain lasted about one hour & the thunder and litening Continued about two hours. It was tremendous. This the first rain of any account that we have had. 31 miles to Day.

24th Good roads. In the afternoon we Come in Sight of some Cottonwood timber. Rain this evening. 27 miles for the Day.

25th Sunday. We understand the river is verry high and have thought it best to Drive up to get our turn at the ferry. One man drowned last night by the Boat Sinking. This Fort has one hundred men. It has two good frame Houses, but the quarters are built of Doby Brick and Covered with Dirt. No timber here of any amount. This Fort, in the forks of the Laremie & platte rivers, we are in Cite of Laremie Peak. It is two miles high & Sixty miles Distant and has perpetual Snow on its top, looks from here as white as a Swan. We traversed this river Five hundred & Eighteen miles. It affords a great quantity of water, but can never be Navigated owing to its Sandy Bottom. It has no Channel, has neither Rock, wood or Stone-cole.

Land. We gave each a pint and a half of Lard. This Started the Bots to work. We then bathed them with turpentine. They got able to go. We went fifteen miles where we Came to the Sweet water. It is Eight Rods wide & two & a half feet Deep, water good, Current Swift, good grass but no timber. 15 miles to Day.

5th We Came this morning to Independent Rock. This rock Stands alone, is about Seventy feet high, of an oveling Shape and about three hundred feet in Surcumference. Up the Side about two thirds of the way to the top is a Spring of good water breaking out, and near the top is a Cave Sell ten feet wide & fifteen feet long. The whole Rock is literally Covered with names of emegrants. This takes the apelation of Independent Rock from the fact of a train of Oregon Emegrants having a Selebration here Some Eight years ago. It is also remarkable for being the place where Lovejoy was taken prisoner by the Indians. He was made to Set a whole Day on this Rock without being Suffered to move hand or foot. Four miles from here we Came to the Devils Gate, a place where the river Decend through a point of the mountains, distantce about four hundred yards. The river here is Confined a Space of about four rods in width, a great fall, Curent very Swift. The Rocks rise on each Side to the hight of four hundred & fifty feet. The road runs South of this Point through a narrow Defile,

just wide enough for waggons to pass and verry near level. Great quantities of Snow South of the Road. We are now in the rocky mountains. This river emties into the Platte river. 25 miles to Day.

6th Weather pleasant, Some alkali, heavy Sand half the Day. 27 miles to Day.

7th Road good, the assent up the mountains gradual. Snow in great quantities a little off the Road, no timber, massive heaps on heaps of Pure granite. 23 miles for the Day.

8th Snow in abundance. We drove over Bank of Snow four feet Deep where we Stoped to noon. We See near in a ravine Snow forty feet Deep. Game in abundance, Sutch as grisley & Black Bare, Black Deer, mountain Sheep & antelope. 25 miles for the Day.

9th Sunday. We have Come one hundred & forty three miles & are resting to Day. no timber.

10th Here we Cross the Sweet water for the last time. It is ten yards wide & two & a half feet Deep. This is Seven miles East of the Summit of the rocky mountains. We pass the Summit at Eleven oclock. This divides the waters of the Atlantic from the waters of the Pacific. We Stop to noon at what is Called

27th We Crossed over the river, but not without Difficulty. The first trip we made the Boat Sunk with Six of our men on board, My Father & Browning (two of our men) and four other men of our Company. The river here is about two hundred yards wide and the Boat Sunk about the middle. Two of the men went out on horses. Browning and another man Swam out. Father and another went out on the Roap. All got out Safe altho the water was verry Cold, just out of the Snow mountains, the wind high and water high and very rappid. We Camped on the bank near the Fort. We went to the Fort and Bought Some good Bread.

28th Frost this morning. We have Started over the Black Sand Hills. We are Credibly informed that the Big Black woolves here do actually kill horses and Cattle. They do it by cutting the Hamstring. Horses that are fettered are in the most Danger. Roads hilly other way good. Encamped after a Drive of 20 miles.

29th Roads good but very hilly. The river here in places Decnd through narrow passes where the Rocks rise on each Side to the highth of four hundred feet perpendicular. The Current very Swift. We learned at the Fort that there are fourteen hundred teams ahead of us. 29 miles for the Day.

30th All harnessed & three of our horses missing. After an hour the horses found three miles ahead on the Road. Pleasant weather and grass good. 31 miles for the Day.

31st Roads good. Some Cedar on those hills, also Stonecole in reach of the Fort. Snow in Sight to Day. The wild Sage grows large here being four feet high and is used for fuel. 30 miles for the Day.

1st Day of June. The Day unpleasant. Cool, Snow on the South Side of the Road from three to Eight miles Distant. Crossed the river and encamped on the Bank. Great Conveneces for Ferrying here. Men have Come from Salt Lake and prepared Boats. 30 miles to Day.

2nd. Sunday. We are laying over toDay resting.

3rd We here leave the Platte river and Cross over to the Sweet water. We here have alkali water for twenty nine miles. Here we Come to the Willow Springs. Grass scarce. We drove Six miles further and Stoped at a Small Creek. 35 miles for the Day.

4th This morning five of our horses are found to be alkalied. We think they got it from the grass. We hurded them on low