

A journal of Mary Susan Bailey
wife of
Dr. Fred. Bailey.

From Chicago, Ill.
April 1st 1852

April 1st
April 2nd

Debit on hand 4.00

May to James Russell

4.35

4.35

4.35

3.18

1.45

2.52

4.85

9.00

14.22

8.47

14.22

1.42

1.42

2.84

2.84

771
480

52.00
41.40

Street 9 9
May 19th 37

Parting Co

Bank 7th 1831

James

George

James

James

James

James

James

James

James

James

James

James

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James

55.7
 55.1
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01.2
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54.8 - 54.8
 2.50
 6.25

1845		Chester & Co Dr		W
Feb	19	to	-----	6.000
Mar	13		-----	3.600
	25		-----	1.
	27		-----	6.200
April	8		-----	2.
	16		-----	2.
May	22		-----	2.
June	3		-----	380
	11		-----	2.
May	24	Visium	-----	3.
June	8		-----	1.620
				<hr/>
				29.300
June	18	Chester	-----	2.
	20	"	-----	11.
	23	"	-----	2.
July	3	Visium	-----	4.
	9	Chester & Hugh	-----	2.400
	"	Delivered	-----	1.376
	"	Taken	-----	2.400
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				3.776
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				54.976

Arrived at Leavenworth about 10 o'clock in a new town built on a high hill. I stayed at a good house for dinner & tea - took the Occident for St. Louis they said they would be in by Saturday night - pleasant company seemed quite like home. Sat 16th passed down the river the prettiest place I have ever seen on the West situated on high bluffs on the west side of the river, the river generally took my broad overflowing its streams. Sunday 17th came into the city of St. Louis which is a very fine place saw the first green grass & leaves here showing that we were in another climate, arrived at St. Louis about 11th stayed at the American. Mrs. Green Allen called on us & invited us to her house - Mrs. Allen & her mother called on us & were cordially welcomed to the city we remained until morning & then left - Mrs. Woodworth's people from Monroe left for St. Jo. that evening Monday 18th went to Mr. Allen to stop a few days & weeks spent our time traveling about the city visiting gardens riding on the omnibus with calls shopping &c. attended a course of lectures at Lyman's Hall from Dr. Lord on the Puffblower with which I was very much interested in the United Church & Sabbath the singing was very fine indeed - good preaching it was a pleasure to hear it. Monday 19th of May rode from the busy city of St. Louis to our dear friends there started for St. Joseph on the Steamer Alton passed a fleet of steamboats on the river the vessel to be seen but Steamboats passed the shot tower the Missouri one of the largest I ever saw flat on top large enough to set a good sized house upon 20 feet high perhaps we could not see Hyde Park a handsome place we had visited at the North of the city on account of the darkness. Tuesday 20th good company enjoy ourselves all day very agreeably from Pleasanton to Green's father's mother's & baby's daughter's son & better when well advised eldest sister Emma & for Sacramento Cal. Wed 21st got acquainted with a fine young

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gentle from Henderson N.Y. Oregon bound full of life & spirits some of whom the storms of adversity have never wounded their hearts for their good company - Thursday 22nd going up the Missouri last night struck a sand bar gave some of the passengers quite a shock I was asked if I did not know it - also struck a snag which is very dangerous it was one that one man jumped overboard - our life is rather uncertain sleeping easily & eating once while we get a run on shore - Friday 23rd did not progress much on account of sandbars we are again several times the Missouri is a bad river to navigate - We stopped at Lexington which is a fine little town situated on a high hill we saw some most beautiful flowers growing there where was the wreck of the ill-fated Saluda 200 lbs were lost a moment as it was - nothing but the bare hull remained - heavy articles were thrown up nearly half a mile from shore they said eyes fingers & of the poor unfortunate sufferers were found on shore & quite a distance. Sat 24th 1852 did not get on much last night on account of the fog. Went at Wayne City had a fine run on the hill some very romantic spots resembling more Walter Scott's descriptions of Ben Hurant in Italy of the Lake. We are now stopping at Pleasant Independence heading the California tents saluted our men. Here we saw Santa Fe traders with their heavy wagons long whip dirty clothes here we saw many quantities of buffalo robes & everything else for commodity. We met with a Mr. Cass formerly of Lyons he is traveling a agent for the Overlanders a very interesting interview had a good visit with him. Sunday 25th did not arrive at Joseph as expected passed Weston a flourishing place early in the morning a Mrs. of Monroe was buried here several years ago - arrived at St. Joseph at evening did not like to leave ^{but} on Sunday, but the Captain did not let us on board, we went to the City Hotel were indignantly accommodated. Mr. Bailey was encamped 3 miles out of town - Monday 26th Mr. Bailey came as we had good bye to our acquaintances we had become quite attached to the boat.

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almost in the water. I have been writing to my Mother how I wish some
of my own relatives could be with me. We passed a place where 13
horse skulls all laid in a circle, their noses towards the center. I suppose
it to be the grave of some warrior who had killed the horses. They are
very white indeed. It presents the appearance of a flourished from the road.
Friday 4th. Drove rather late to overtake some other team as we were some
what afraid that we might be molested by the Indians, set a double guard
to protect ourselves but were not disturbed Friday. The 4th coat - a horse had
died that appeared fairly very decayed better than any we had seen in black
of white stripes with blue pants of the same a thick mane & a good
for the 4th coat. I wanted to know what fire arms we had. Took his
horse at quite a distance covered it with a blanket - supposed that it
might have been stolen. Sat 5th. We are glad that we are so near a day
of rest & that our horses have all been preserved. This morning we caught
the road that came from Fort Laramie. Saw many quantities of tanned hides & some
mules many women & children all pass through. Fort Hurray (the west) is a
military post quite a strong place the government building
is a double the residents of the officers are very fine some small granary
holding about half of a bushel of corn laid up like brick with windows &
some other things were not so dear but almost everything was so. We went into
the register office looked over the names of those who had passed before us.
Saw 6000 men 4000 women horses cattle & horses oxen & sheep to almost
any amount we saw a great many new made graves - there had been a
great deal of sickness on the St. Louis road - almost every company had
one or more. We encamped 4 miles beyond the fort to spend the Sabbath.
Sunday 6th. The 4th coat had a hard chill & was quite sick all day - we made him as
comfortable as possible in our tent. Most of the company spent a good part
of the day writing letters to their friends at home - What I carried
them to the office as it was the last chance until we get to Laramie.
Towards evening the 4th coat had one of the men take our rig & go to town
as our own horse sick we returned early with the expectation of starting
early. After we had been asleep we heard the sound of a horn & a
cry the same as when he is lost or something they all got down &
goose all started for him & he was coming. Monday 8th. Started early
& went by everything a great many oxen. It does not seem as though
we are out of the world to see so many people more than you would
see in a good city. Eliza is not well to day - we are traveling up the Platte
river. The good water but the river water that is muddy. Tuesday 8th

Eliza is quite sick & the 4th coat has had a hard chill & is sick too
it seems rather hard. we did not drive more than 10 miles stopped
got rested by a frog pond - In the night a Frenchman was watching
the horses & he did something else frightened the horses he began to
talk to Ben Ben the horses were all gone an Indian or something he
driven off the horses - We were all very much frightened I was so
- that I thought I should fly away - Wed 9th. Eliza is better to day
Some of our men went out to see if they could kill Buffalo but
without success. After we started we saw 3 coming down to the river
One of them took horse & gun started off we did see anything of them
until noon: when we saw them coming on the horses we thought they
were making believe they had got meat. When they came near we saw
blood on their hands. They had killed one & brought as much as
could - never saw some more invited - but some of it cooked & they
at night they had jokes to crack & stories of hunters life. They
say that the next time they hunt buffalo I shall take the revolver & kill
Nig. & go with. What cause of gratitude we have that so many of us
will be all spared while we pass so many new made graves.
Every day still we have not seen a dead prairie - Thursday 10th. In
in good season found several openings had passed is also a flock of sheep, we
passed them as often as twice a day for several days since we left. But the
Have noticed a substance on the surface of the earth resembling salt. It
cannot be thick it up: We see buffalo trails every day when they go to the
river to drink. it makes the road rough. Friday 10th. Crossed the South
fork of the Platte safely but were somewhat frightened when
the first team went over. The 4th coat was on horseback the horse fell
him threw him off did not hurt him but got quite wet so he took a
cold. Camped on the bank, the team had to go over twice we got set
ready for them when they got through. Friday 11th. Very warm and
near the south crossing of the Platte. have been traveling over the bluffs
very warm & dry dusty nothing green to be seen excepting on the banks
the river fortunately for us it is not very windy.

hunt every where prowling about seeking what they may devour with
dangerous Antelope are very plenty but seldom caught. Camped at noon
10 large wagons filled with buffalo robes for the states do not feel well to dig
rather hard for me to ride in a wagon I feel the want of a chair when
we stop I like my sleeping even very well - that is the tent Oct 12th
Called on the Miners people they had lost their Mother after they
left St. Lo. Very interesting family we got acquainted with coming down
the Missouri river. They crossed the Platte at South crossing - wanted us to
stay with them. I stayed at noon to work & attend to other matters Frank
all is quite sick he has not been well for some days it was really coming
the men stand in the river to wash & they all acted so awkwardly
14th How thankful I was for the Sabbath some but and in
the evening could have foreseen the absolute necessity of our
staying here for rest to man & beast - I never realized the good
Monday do much before. Monday 14th We are on the south side
of the Platte or Nebraska the wind is perfectly still not a word
here. We have our own mess that is Mrs. John Landon Ben Yarnall
Mrs. W. W. Taylor Sarah & myself. We enjoy ourselves much better
It rained all the afternoon Frank Yarnall rode with us as he
is quite sick. We feel quite independent as we can what we want
to eat & eat it without jumping. Tuesday 15th Our own mess
began to get started & get milk after it seems good to have it
for coffee. A drover came along & saw some beef east saying that
called one out to tell them how it was made & told him he offered
me some mutton & called one of the boys & sent me a sheep. We were
on still we came to the end of the road when we had to cross the
Platte river had to raise the bed of our wagons got over safely but
were somewhat frightened when we saw them go into the water. The
drover for his part, we were very much frightened. But were very

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thankful to get over safely - we got everything ready for supper for the
men when they got the goods all over - went back & traveled between the forks of
the Platte some of the most romantic scenery I ever saw one mass of
rocks all worn into every fantastic shape. In the deep ravines were
large trees - noticed a stone that resembled a bust of an old lady
sitting alone looked as though she felt lonely. we came to Ash hole
& good spring. Plenty of wood & seemed good to see trees - we were
hardly 17th Crossed Ash Creek never saw sand so deep it
seemed so hard for the horses I walked some distance in the
sand very fatiguing. At noon we took the Patterson with a long
train bound for Salt Lake. The Dr. stopped & prescribed for them as
I have seen them often for 2 weeks passed although they drive open
heavy loads & we have horses. Friday 18th Very heavy sandy roads made
up our minds to dispose of everything we can spare to make our freight
less. am writing to my dear Parents for I will know how anxious they
are in our absence. Sat 19th Left our trunks - Passed Court-house
It look like a large public building of stone but the fact is it
mostly composed of earth, the surrounding soil having been washed
away leaves them is about very steep. Are in sight of Chimney Rock
it looks very like the shot tower in St. Louis. Sunday we have
camped near Chimney Rock. Weather fine grass good some rich distance
from Platte river - Mountains among rocks up to the west left our
horses at the ~~chess~~ walked or rather strolled up about 100
to 300 feet - the material of which it is composed is so soft
that mules that could not be mounted have been left there
It was so late before we left we had some difficulty finding our
way back. Monday 21st Crossed Scotts Bluffs some of the most
- and the scenery I ever saw. It would not require my great imagination
to think it some Ancient City with high walls, gates, towers
& every prerequisite to it. really I could not compare it to anything.
- Would like to have spent days there. What a store for the world.

X
our road passed between the bluffs ¹⁰ crooked except that still back
the sand - you could not see the road unless in 10 or 20 small cañons
at the summit & in the cañons. Camped on the riverbank Tuesday 22
Passed a Frenchman's blacksmith's shop his wife is a square of soap like
she sat at the door of their log hut with dust rolled in a scarlet
blanket. looked rather sober, but well, another square was on horse
back chasing a drove of horses & mules half dressed - but still
on the flat the cattle little it really seems as though the whole
country is alive with them. Horses, mules, cattle, & sheep with
small sprinkling of children. In 2 1/2 hrs near Fort Laramie more
down. till well it has been a very cold morning. passed over trees
the first for some days - our men go back to the bluffs & get
ready to burn buffalo chips answer a good purpose - here stone
country little looks like Vermont - crossed Laramie river on a
very rough bridge for 2000 a wagon. At Laramie it has a
Post established by Government to trade with Indians. White
man too if his necessity compels him to give 50¢ a pound for
beaver skins, 10¢ for salaratus, 50¢ for a paper of tobacco, &c. &c.
We traveled 10 miles to Horn spring which runs out of the rock
It is very enough to drink the horses drink it well as 10 miles
The water the longest stream they have had without water.

Thursday 24th The scenery is ever varied as we pass over the
black hills as they are called from the dark pine with which
they are covered - have not seen scenery to compare with this
since I left the. We enjoy ourselves better as we get used to
this way of traveling & living out of doors we have good appetites
& plenty to eat - although we sit down & eat like the Indians.
Friday 25th Passed an Indian village have a great many horses &
make some cattle & sheep. A Frenchman lives with a train too.

They were well dressed with blanket tunics all out every after which
look not the least notice of us - Friday are still in our winding way over
the hills & far away out of any civilized community where every one
"death that which is right in his own eyes" It has been well said that
this road the best passions of men show themselves. Sat 26th
are on the black hill yet the south scenery is not to be seen many
times in a mans life time I had almost said it was well worth
the journey. ascended the hills to the Pontre creek where we find a
large Indian village - Sunday 27th Spent the day in camp as we had
some very good game very pleasant surrounded with trees & would be all
did not so many others share it with us. About noon Mr. Giff's
company from Pontre creek came out they had business here on
the plains where we left him I have said what sad feelings to
his poor wife at home - toward evening we rode over to see his
neighbors the Indians it was really a great curiosity to see so many a
home - they are very odd but healthy looking hardy & capable
enduring fatigue should think they were 200 years old the
woman to a little baby not more than 4 days old all sorts of
a trader lives with them will not let them sell a pony without
his consent - one old man had been to Washington they all were
on their wrists & on every finger - some of the children were
enough to belong to any white family. My heart aches to think
of their extreme ignorance & as many white men & Christians for
them without once thinking of doing them good - Our government
very strict in regard to selling their ardent spirits Monday 28th
are the red hills the don't looked like powdered brick. Saw
Laramie's red & white chalk - a dead - Tuesday 29th Started
from the banks of the Sapahé for another made a short run
crossed the deer creek & stopped 3 miles up it to stay a day or two

too many are here already & have been - Wed 31st It is not all day pleasant. Heavy horses baking getting restless all but the rest. It went to be going "binned" is my motto on this trip - We have a new horse friend P's. the dr. bought him on a emergency who got him of an Indian - the hall in Sioux - Thursday July 1st Started in good season early on horseback most of the morning with the dr. - my plan could keep out of the way of the dust. Saw a good many stones that resembled old brick blocks, I am now sitting a rock on a high one some 50 feet high composed of sand stone quite soft but still hard enough to stand & walk on - some bushes on the top they are high enough to give a good shade. I am reminded of the "great rock in a weary land" I think this land must see many prospects resembles Palestine - the country is barren & the crickets are as large as the end of your fingers. At each city here the street to be sure are rather irregular but the rocks resemble the workings here & some like Combsboro & other edifices - It is really a curiosity to know how they are formed they evidently show a fracture of water - we are near the river, but such piles are to be seen all through the country. One of our men found a Mocking birds nest, took 2 of the young ones - Friday July 2nd Crossed the North Fork of the R. R. in safety the horses had to swim. We were somewhat frightened as usual but thankful no accident occurred. Met a Spane who seemed to be very intelligent is living on the plains for the present. He told us that he had an Indian wife bought her while he staid here for a pony & two blankets - I was somewhat shocked to think of such a loose state of morals. He said it is nothing more than the Yankee men do - after passing over a high hill sandy & hard we camped on the sand had to take the horses 12 mile to grass. Sat July 3rd Started on a long hard drive 26 miles without grass

no water, it seemed hard to drive so far. We took water in our casks for the horses, at noon we gave them some they did not have anything to eat until dark. We camped on the sand beside the water & had to go a great way to get a little grass to feed out. got a sleep such a noise I never saw - Sunday 4th Started 3 or 4 miles off the road. found water at good grass camped on the sand. says roots for fuel - It is windy cold & somewhat inclined to rain. not pleasant rather a dreary sad day. We speak of our friends at home. We think they are thinking of us. "The sweet home" I dare not think of it while so far away. the hundreds of these friends so dear to me from whom I have been a long long time separated. they now find an easy access & a grateful admission in my heart - It is sad to think that every day takes me farther from Monday 5th We are staying in camp today the sand blow say I can scarcely write have to blow my paper every minute to see the men are fixing the wagon the horses eating good grass - we start on 12 miles this afternoon - camped without water but grass very sandy and tired of camping in sand - Tuesday Started early came to Independence rock about noon. We had water to be there on the 4th but were behind our time on account of by to summit. It is a massive rock entirely naked many mountains are on it. we did not stop long as we were in a hurry to get to Sweet Water a heavy stream of pure water which was truly refreshing our horses. we drove through it. P. as the ground was not very hard continued to drive passed Spencer as a dip. out is called through which the river runs - It is a great curiosity resembling the outlet the White Mountains excepting the road there. we saw several peaks at the left. It is an level ground some 4000 feet high. The aspect of fossils called P. racibit. most upon

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A company passed us from Cold Water Mich. we left there 3 1/2
miles a lady with the Mink was so sick that she could not
travel the 30 miles she came on, to overtake us but did not
the ladies left her at Willow Springs to die. How sad, they could
have found us in 2 or 3 miles of them, where we stopped part of two
days. Wed 12th Had a good camping ground last night we the
very cold this morning with difficulty we can keep warm with
difficulty. Good road some grand Mountain scenery. At noon
descended the Sweet Water on the opposite bank is one of a
long range of the rattlesnake mountains composed entirely
of naked rocks a very few trees sticking in the fissures of the
rocks 800 feet high some of them are in grotesque shapes
noticed one crowned with a coronet. Have had a mountain
squirrel with corn & hail. Thursday 8th Camped without much grass
crossed the Sweet Water 3 times traveled 10 miles found grass in a
marsh alkali. saw the wind river mountains covered with snow
by hand some roads sandy & hard, very many high rocky bluff barren
We will have to go 14 miles to the river. Camped late without much
grass. Friday 9th Feel very tired such long drives are hard for
man & beast. Started in the morning intending to drive untill
we come to grass. At noon stopped at the river side to rest.
Had to drive on the Rocky Mountains 9 miles to find feed, intend to
lay over Sat. & Sunday to rest our horses. Sat. This morning found
our best horse had a lame shoulder so that he could not walk
he is one of our best horses, do not know what we shall do without
him. Sunday 11th We camped on the rocky Mountain near a ice
cold spring, dug out a spring it is just like a mineral spring we
are in sight of the Snow Caped Mountains - very beautiful scenery
It is very cold & windy our horse is not much better now afraid we
will have to leave him.

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Sunday 11th Remained by a good cold spring of water, enjoying
a day of rest. Although it is some trouble to take care of the
horse Monday 12th Stayed in camp another day to get our horse
better, is much improved, it is cold enough. Washed in the morning
It had the sick headache in the afternoon. Tuesday 13th Stayed
this morning very pleasant indeed, are able to get the horse along
by leading. The horses begin to fail, it look discouraging out
way through yet. Crossed the Sweet Water for the last time, the
snow banks in the bank of the stream it looks odd enough, the
mountains covered with snow & evergreens look most beautiful.
Wed 14th Our man that looks for feed missed us & staid out a
night we drove untill dark stopped beside the road, tired and
hungry. Very pleasant morning shall cross the South Pass to-day
we have had fine roads & generally level although we are crossing
Rocky Mountains. Thursday 15th Traveled only about 4 or 5 miles
stopped only untill night let our horses eat through the day
at night we started to travel 20 miles without water
some in our casks, rode all night it seemed rather hard
I slept but it was hard for the men to drive & ride &
a horse that was sick. Friday 16th Camped on little sand
crossed the big sandy, & 17 miles desert to go over, arrived at
found good company, although Mr. Bailey's people went by the
up. Sat 17th Drove up the Big Sandy, crossed the desert to the
River 10 miles - good roads when we got to the ferry we did not
Mrs. Bailey's train, about 20 or 30 wagons stood along on
after the other we drove out one side while standing the
was out of the wagon our teamster was sick on the bed -
heard a noise some of the ox teams were frightened started
when it started the rest they all began to run, the oxen
will have to leave him.