

Lane S.A. "Diary of a trip  
Overland from Akron to Sacramento"  
[1850] - from photocopy

**STEWART'S  
DIARY**

**1850:**

**DAILY REGISTER,**

FOR THE USE OF

**PRIVATE FAMILIES,**

AND

**PERSONS OF BUSINESS;**

CONTAINING

A BLANK FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR, FOR THE RECORD OF  
INTERESTING DAILY OCCURRENCES AND  
FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS.

PUBLISHED BY

**R. WILSON DESILVER,**  
No. 18 South Fourth Street,

AND

**HYMEN L. LIPMAN,**  
No. 139 Chestnut Street,

PHILADELPHIA.

Saturday, March 23d, 1850.

Yesterday made some preparations the ship  
having on board about 100 California and  
a number of other passengers - Stopped several  
hours at St. Louis, which was my first  
visit to the s. Col. & old Dominion. Took  
on several more Californians from Ohio.  
Arrived at Cincinnati about 8 past  
Eleven O'Clock P.M.

Sunday 24th.

Went up into the City after breakfast, but  
Shaw and called upon W. J. Coyne all  
and crisp the boat with J. J. Taylor on Sunday  
Shuts all sail. Made several calls on  
Office during the night - Went with C. to the  
Cathedral, Burnett Room & Alton's Office  
where got a stack of reading matter.  
at 11 O'Clock for Louisville

Monday, 25th.

Took our boat leaving at the  
Wharf in Louisville this morning.  
Remained in Tennessee near, went  
into the city and made some  
preparations. City very much  
improved since I was there before  
some 15 years ago.

Tuesday, March 26th, 1850.

Most pleasant but a la. vapor  
air, kept in the cabin only which  
obliged to get out to find the fresh air.  
In evening, Perry made a Temper-  
ance speech and I opposed him, made  
a good deal of sport for the passengers.  
Entered the Mississippi on the night

Wednesday, 27th.

Entered the Mississippi during  
the night. Have made slow  
headway to day - but heavy load  
315 passengers & about 115 loads  
for California. Also a large  
bar of metal & some mostly belong-  
ing to the Southerners

Thursday, 28th.

Arrived at the wharf of Cahoon  
and Sharps, <sup>at 11 O'Clock</sup> about 11 O'Clock  
Bought 4 Mules this evening  
at \$8 each. Got our things on board  
the wagon and took our teams to  
James Slevin's Table on Market  
St. and put up at the Broad Street

Friday, March 29th, 1850

Spent this day in making purchases and preparing for a land journey to St. Joseph's. Found every thing much higher than in Ohio, and dealt into a perfect set of goods. Saw some six or seven to a man who were down to attend the trial of a chief for murder.

Saturday, 30th

Left St. Louis about 2 o'clock P.M. and came about six miles, to the plantation of Mr. W. P. Fenn, who generously invited our whole company to spend the Sabbath with him. Mr. F. was originally from Tallmadge, and is a cousin of Genl. F. Fenn's + keeps a dairy.

Sunday, 31st

After breakfast gave myself a thorough scrubbing up and changed clothes - The Company held a meeting in Mr. F.'s house which was conducted by Messrs. Spry, Ashman & Fenn. The day has been warm & pleasant. Slept in Mr. F.'s house. He lives & family in the city & has a

Monday, April 1st, 1850

Company started on, while I went back to the City for some articles we had forgotten. Overtook the train at St. Charles just as they were crossing the river, the pole to our wagon was broken, and I and myself stepped to the side while train went on, went back there but about 5 miles at 11 o'clock or before. The rest in train

Tuesday, 2d

Left in wagon. This morning cooked our first meal. Commenced raining this afternoon, and we are now encamped at a tavern, looking under an old shanty, and for a distillery and pig pen and sleeping in the barn. The rain & wind very unpleasant. Traveled about 20 miles today.

Wednesday, 3d

Stormy cold disagreeable weather on traveling horrible. Made some 11 or 12 miles and are encamped at a tavern, occupying a blacksmith shop for kitchen and living room. Even day and quite warm, some and high for 2 miles & beyond. Plenty

Thursday, April 4th, 1860.

Slept first night last night in the Smithy, though it was rather snug, as the wind blew a perfect hurricane.

Roads very bad to day. I see very difficult to find. Encamped in Coan Tavern, using "saddles" rather to Cook in and sleep in the house on floors.

Friday, 5th.

Very lame with Rheumatism in right knee. I had to drive all day. Came about 20 miles. Weather more pleasant, roads bad. Am encamped over a creek cooking our dogs, and sleeping on the floor of a farm house near by. Part of the Company tent out. Saw no poles for our tents.

Saturday, 6th.

Came 27 miles to day, 20 miles of it wet, soggy, clay soil prairie. Too hard a drive, but no fault to be had soon. Weather fell and was quite cold. Encamped by a creek near John Davis 1/2 mile from the train road. Sleep in house.

Sunday, April 7th, 1860.

Train laid by to day. Cleaned our selves up. Had washing done by the "niggers" from whom we also purchased Apples, Eggs, Beans &c. This seems to be their holiday. Seem quite as intelligent as their masters. Bought beautiful mutton and beef much refreshed.

Monday, 8th.

Tuesday, 9th.

Sunday, April 28th, 1850.

Within about 15 Miles of St. Jo. we  
leave by to day. Weather tolerably  
pleasant. Saw many Emigrants  
coming from St. Jo. after noon. Reports  
rather unfavorable about getting supplies  
at that point.

Bore up cooking for the next two or three  
days -

Monday, 29th.

Train leave by this day to pass  
over to take along. paid from  
30 to 60 cents per bushel, and  
had to husk and shell it at

Tuesday, 30th.

Wednesday, May 1st, 1850.

Left the Bluffs about 10 A.M.  
and travelled some 20 Miles over the  
most beautiful country imaginable.  
Rolling prairies, interspersed with  
small strips of timber. Camped  
on Wolf Creek, about 26 Miles  
from St. Jo. Weather warm and pleasant.

Thursday, 2d.

Arrived at the Indian Station  
about 9 O'Clock, distant 30 Miles  
from St. Jo. Tax. Sacs and horses  
about 700 in all. 300 acres of land  
under improvement. Young Indians are  
making some improvement in education. 1  
1.50 scholars in school. Stormy. Made 20  
Miles to day.

Friday, 3d.

Weather changed in night very sudden  
from warm to cold, wind blowing hard from  
the north. Beautiful country, with low timber  
timber. Very hard travelling, wind and  
the rattle caused by the storm very deaf.  
Made from 12 to 15 Miles. are some  
on a small creek with some timber.

Monday, May 6th, 1866.

Asphyxiated *Ulmus* but cold enough at San Jose to keep our our water mostly frozen. A grain rich  
 in a *Spizella* and *Vireo* *cinereus*  
 of the hills of Hancock Co. Ill. died May  
 27<sup>th</sup> 1869. at 29 yrs. Surmounted by a pair  
 of *Ulm* horns. Saw about 11 O'clock. *Schizylax*  
*montana*, but almost destitute of wood. Enclosed  
 by water, without wood. Crook with  
 rap and meadows. *Inca* about 55 miles.  
 Sunday, 5th.

Not having a comfortable place to lay by,  
 it early in the morning, intending to stop  
 again in an hour or two; but the weather being  
 pleasant and the roads fine, we continued on  
 our *Somerville* *Indian*, in a comfortable place,  
 very little sleep. At *Kemp* Creek said to  
 be 91 miles from St. Jo. Saw *granite* *country* of *hazy*  
*pass* on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June.  
 Monday, 6th.

Wolves howled a good deal during the  
 night. Started early and an *encampment*  
 at a fire near some 5 miles from Blue Ridge  
 Having made some 30 miles. *Wolves* & *grains* to  
 along evidently made last year, but *find* *no*  
*traces* upon the bones. Saw several *deer*  
*traces*: *Traces* of *one* *crested* *owl* *to* *be*  
 seen during *evening* *with* *light* *to* *be*  
 seen.

Tuesday, May 7th, 1866.

Rained on the night, started 9 A.M. Camp  
 at Big Blue about 10:00. Found a *box* *by* *us*  
 had one of last year, and the other a *new* *one* *with*  
 J. W. Young of Laurel Co. Mo. died May 11th  
 age 11 years, *England* *from* *a* *Straw*  
 Country more broken with ledges of *lime* *stone* *of* *several*  
 varieties, *White* *Blue* *Red* *Tan*. Encamped on the  
 West Bank of Big Blue. Having made only about  
 five or six miles. Met a *man* *with* *bag* & *horse* *when*  
 returning. *Man* *having* *gone* *out* *65* *miles* *from*  
*St. Jo.* *Traylor* *and* *Taylor* *two* *men* *who*  
*were* *the* *other* *placents*. *Traylor* *and* *Traylor* *slipping*  
*in* *by* *the* *stream* *in* *the* *night*.  
 Wednesday, 8th.

Beautiful day and near better roads. Frost  
 beginning to start soon and offered a little frost  
 through rather a dry pinched soil. Country  
 less broken, but now and then a *mass* *of* *granite*  
 ore, *ledge* *of* *lime* *stone* *and* *mass* *of* *granite*  
 made about 25 miles and encamped at  
 the *river* *in* *the* *evening* *with* *light* *to* *be*  
 seen & *water* *seen* *in* *this* *region*.  
 Thursday, 9th.

Pleasant day, and good roads. Country more  
 broken, with small *mid* *day* *streams* *and* *small*  
*tumblers*. *Found* *several* *specimens* *of* *granite* *with*  
*ca* *last* *year* *"John* *Carroll* *May* *11th* *It* *was* *found*  
*at* *the* *same* *place* *from* *the* *4th* *John* *Carroll* *May* *11th*  
*by* *J. W. Young* *Traylor* *and* *Taylor* *May* *11th* *at* *the* *same*  
*place* *of* *the* *same* *place* *of* *the* *same* *place* *of* *the* *same* *place*  
*of* *the* *same* *place* *of* *the* *same* *place* *of* *the* *same* *place*  
 children & aged among *Emigrants* *with* *light* *to* *be*  
 seen about 30 miles to day.

Friday, May 10th, 1850.

Cold nights; the water in our camp trails  
being frozen over, but the day probably warm.  
Country more level and broad and water  
scarce, though enough to answer  
graze very scarce. Caused by want  
of rain and cold weather. Had a pretty  
severe touch of dyspepsia to day. Camp  
22 miles.

Saturday, 11th.

Reached the Little Blue about 11 o'clock  
and camped upon it about three P.M.  
Took a good trail back from the road  
Met a prairie dog on the return with one or two  
of their nest sites having become discovered by  
severity of frost. Saw several prairie  
doves of this year, and several other  
birds. Made some 21 miles.

Sunday, 12th.

Said by to day, and busied ourselves by  
cleaning up, washing, cooking, and taking  
care of stock. Bright beautiful day.  
Little Blue a clean rapid stream. Several  
Buffalo, Elk, Deer and Antelope were seen a  
little back from camp. But no

Monday, May 13th, 1850.

The weather has been very warm to day,  
and the roads dusty. Our course has been  
mainly along the banks of Little Blue, Found  
several traces leading by to feed their cattle  
back upon the hills. Which, notwithstanding the  
extreme drought afford more grass than the  
bottoms. Seth Sackett, one of them. Made  
some 21 or 22 miles.

Tuesday, 14th.

Started early in the morning, and kept on  
along the Little Blue some 12 miles, and then de-  
rived to the right and travelled some 10 or 12 miles  
further, taking more and more to the right, there  
being but one little muddy stream between the  
Blue and Platte about 6 miles from the former.  
Hot, dry, dusty windy day. Encamped high and dry  
on the Prairie. Buffalo, Elk & Antelope plenty.

Wednesday, 15th.

Nothing very new to day, and the ground  
quite up a point of high land, and the  
rain water plenty. Found water under the  
ground in the Platte a distance of some 16 or 20 miles  
which we reached about 2 P.M. Rain very  
much needed. Grass rather scarce. Though we  
went on Grand Island opposite camp. Had  
a crop of corn, and shot a few quail, and  
had a plate of soup for supper. Platte rapid and  
shallow stream. In evening went  
to be sent from Fort to a camp.

Thursday, May 16th, 1850.

Got Stearns 1/2 mile from River, on a beautiful site, an  
compass of fine Fr. also building and five or six other  
out buildings, 50 Acres & 1/2 of Arable Soil, as well as  
the Fortifications. Strong troops. Maj. Chilton Comd  
176 Men stationed here. Barre Co. July 1849. P.B.  
for sending letters back to the State, May in obtaining  
Kings a reward of Ten and Men. who prof. 1952 Thoms  
and 6122 Men - Could get in chance to repair wag  
Bought light & 10 Hops paid 35 Cents at store.  
about 6 miles in width on an average, good land  
made about 28 miles & 50 Camps on Timmy

Friday, 17th.

Started at 6 O'clock. Weather cool and  
pleasant. road good and in a few  
hours. In camp about 1 mile from River  
crop good. Holmes left the train an hour  
or so before stopping to hunt for Buffalo, and  
getting out of sight of camp. could not find a  
single one until 11 O'clock at night. Could reach  
safety and some search. Came 38 miles.

Saturday, 18th.

Started at 6 O'clock: road equal to a plank  
road. Weather warm and crops improving. A storm  
of importance occurred to day. Toward stop  
time good feed became scarce, and we camped  
on the banks of the River, on a plot of old crop  
with a small sprinkling of new. Just  
the 1st day a war 35 miles.

Sunday, May 19th, 1850.

Not having a very good <sup>camp ground</sup> and fearing rain and  
fog, began getting through the flats for a short  
bad, bottom, it was thought best to go a short  
distance to day. Started at 9 O'clock, and  
travelled till 1/2 past 12. Distance 25 miles.  
Thunder Show just at night, but another  
it passed round us. Enca of water some  
good find. Beautiful Spring of water on the  
River Bank.

Monday, 20th.

Started at 1/2 past 8. Road good time, and  
the bottoms being so dry, and passed one  
traveller till 1 O'clock before stopping to find 25  
Buffalo tracks, Bones and chips on every hand.  
Stopped at noon on a beautiful creek, a little  
to the right of the road, and as we were about  
killing a herd of Buffalo, some in open air and  
they killed several, though about 1/2 on horns and heads  
were frightened off, in consequence of which one or two  
the night.

Tuesday, 21st.

Remained in Camp to day to look for missing Stock,  
but were not able to find any and Richard's Bones  
and skulls. Filled up barrels and set lines  
on either side of our way, being  
the demand for fuel. Invention being  
the men constantly making them  
and keeping up a fire  
safely saw Stock from day, but still



Wednesday, May 22d, 1850.

Started at 6 A.M. Bryan & Huber, with their 2 remaining horses, & their wives with them. Soon after starting, a small herd of Buffalo crossed the trail, and <sup>10 or 12 or 15 or 20</sup> danced down little dancing among our animals. Took the South Plate in some two or three hours and travelled up the same making some 30 miles and encamping over river with good fences.

Thursday 23d.

Made up the river some 30 miles, and came to crossing about 3 P.M. Bed of river a sort of quick sand, and very bad to cross. Many teams took too low down river, then going over straight across, doing better. All safe across and encamped upon the North bank. Food not very good. Water muddy.

Friday, 24th.

Started at 7 A.M. Steep hill on rising to the Bluffs. Beautiful country some 10 or 12 miles, and very steep patches on getting down into a set hollow and the North Plate 15 miles across. Came about 5 miles having passed an old village of some 10 or 12 wigwags. 3 miles high, clean and bright. This

Saturday, May 25th, 1850.

<sup>Camp or Soap</sup>  
Passed the Indian town, one of about 50 wigwags. They have a great many horses and <sup>some</sup> mules. They will not sell for money, but a small quantity of provisions will buy a good deal from them. Made about 20 miles <sup>over a very rough road</sup> about 5 P.M. with a severe hurry came around us to encamp on rather poor ground.

Sunday, 26th.

Spent the day, though part of it was spent on about 5 miles to find better food. Cleared and repaired up. Bryan & Huber not being able to agree, made a dinner, sawing their wagon in two and making each a cart. Each taking a horse. Some rain and wind in evening.

Monday, 27th.

Road good, overtook train about 11 o'clock within about 5 miles of Comstock Rock. Came to the same. A dirt road to the top; mine to be built over sandstone. Over 1000 feet high. Steep hill. Name dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 1850. About 1 mile across the lake, and about 11 miles across on top. Made 30 miles to day.

Tuesday, May 28th, 1860

The "Chimney" seemingly within a mile of the junction  
between the 1st & 2nd. Some of the boys went out  
to the westward of about 40 miles. Some  
of them went to Bear Camp, 13 miles from  
the Coast House. Encamped under Scotts Bluff 31  
miles from the "Chimney", having made about 88 miles  
of the Thunder storm this eve. Beautiful scenery.

Wednesday, 29th

Left the Scotts Bluff. Spring near top, two miles  
up the hill and a stream of this spring. About 16  
miles to the river. Some good hills and  
they are covered with beautiful flowers. Made  
up to the mountains and encamped near the river  
just past having passed another small  
Indian trade establishment.

Thursday, 30th

Woke on time for breakfast, to find food  
short. Staid 2 hours. Soon after  
starting again, on passing a train drove into  
a gully and broke our wheel. Bought another one  
for the spot for 20¢ and on arrival at Fort 15  
miles. Sold ours for 13.10. Took 2 1/2 hours to  
Camp 3 miles from Fort

Friday, May 31st, 1860

Roads begin to be more hilly though you  
saw a Grizzly Bear this morning 100 miles off  
about 10 miles off. Camp came to a large  
beautiful spring of water called Warm Spring  
Made about 21 miles, and encamped  
a hill with good grass, wood and water in  
abundance.

Saturday, June 1st

A very severe thunder & hail storm that  
blew through about 22 miles to  
reach us. Hail hit the ground. The  
river about 8 o'clock, some after which  
about two through the mountain pass  
from our view. Passed around the  
hill and encamped on a beautiful  
hill. Wood water & good grass, on the river.

Sunday, 2d

Left by day. Mandan Country  
beautiful. Many water holes, made up  
with milk for the cows. Made 20 miles to  
the next place. Found a horse to ride  
a horse to take a small pack and  
and a pair of white mules. <sup>and horse</sup> <sup>and horse</sup>  
Left at 11. Two Thunder, storm to come.

Tuesday, June 23, 1860

entry assuming a more rugged appearance  
at Madras. Came to a creek of  
water in about 12 miles. Commenced  
going about 2 o'clock and the river became  
shallow we laid up about 3 hours  
at 11 or 12 miles. Home water plenty  
rather scarce

Tuesday, 24th

Very slippery to day and very little  
water, but in afternoon more water  
came. Some lots are comprised  
a mile from Box Hill Creek, there  
are about 25 miles. Very rather scarce  
large enough in spots to cut a few days

Wednesday, 25th

Entered the Sanche River in afternoon  
and came to a place about 2 miles  
from Box Hill, a beautiful clear stream  
about 1/2 mile wide, and after crossing  
Box Hill, a muddy creek, and a few more  
crossed. In the night we are still riding  
96 1/2 miles from the river to the mouth

Thursday, June 6th, 1860

Plowed good (though sandy) by capturing some  
deep ravines, and cropping over cracks to the  
ferry 1 1/4 miles. 5 1/2 mules constantly going from  
Dallas a wagon 21<sup>00</sup> each here of stock. Bunch  
ferry at 10<sup>00</sup> & got a wife about 12, all of  
Barrett boys, smelted three frames 27 & 8  
30th mules from here, and encamped near a  
spring & sale 12 1/2 miles from D. On fence

Plowed to day rough and uneven. Some  
certain hills. Alkali Scraps, box 5 day  
crops. 8 of our stock were in the  
by eating or drinking on one of the mountains  
than some tartness, which appeared  
came 22 miles and encamped on a plain  
100 miles south of Wood. From Wood

Friday, 26th

Rode about 22 miles to day. Camp on Alkali  
Hills. Location very high in mountains. Some  
ferry 12 miles. Bunch of heavy felling. The  
some miles from D. As to the 2 hills of  
Independence Peak 6000 ft high & 12 miles  
high and just high. News from the  
through Jeffersonian. Proch 200 feet  
called "Devil's Gate"

Sunday, June 9th, 1850.

Upaid by the day on the South side of the Sweet  
Water, having crossed a mile above Inaspuan  
River. Clear rapid stream of soft water, now  
high from the melting of snow upon the mountains  
which are covered with it. Had a good show  
last evening. Grasp plenty water, no fuel but  
wild sage. The mountains on the north a solid  
mass of rock.

Monday, 10th. Flare up between  
the hills myself.

Passed over several small streams  
and high bluffs. Roads mostly heavy &  
sandy. Road runs between high rocky ridges  
& rivers. Made about 28 miles and  
encamped on Sweet Water, with very  
low fuel. Mountains on either side  
covered with snow. Weather very cold.

Tuesday, 11th.

Road sandy & heavy. 16 miles north  
Water. Jordan Street Water 26 miles from  
starting point. After passing a high  
hill or bluff 1 1/2 miles to Summit, is quite  
and descended and encamped on the  
with possible fuel on the opposite side  
2 1/2 miles to descent.

Wednesday, June 12th, 1850.

Followed the river about six miles, when  
we struck off our high hills with rocky ridges,  
decidedly the most mountain like of any  
yet encountered, and after crossing several  
creeks, & ramps & snow drifts, encamped  
on Willow Creek about 22 miles from  
starting point. Weather cool.

Thursday, 13th.

Had a cold storm last night. Made  
to sea this morning from Solice, out on my  
water down. Passed Sweet Water for  
the last time 5 miles, and we a short time  
passed 9 1/2 miles further about 30 miles  
on a sandy and heavy. Encamped  
on Pacific Creek, making about 22 miles.

Friday, 14th.

Roads to day have been good, and  
the weather cool. Passed the foot of the  
mountain. Crossed little sandy about 30  
and arrived at Big Sandy about 6 P.M.  
and camped on the west side. Had a  
last and thunder storm & high wind in  
evening. The line was at 23 miles.