

1 Monday April the 2d struck our tent about 12 o'clock after being in camp 9 days and moved up the river 5 miles with 4 mules, 6 horses, 2 cows, 3 wagons, our tent on the bank of the river 50 wagons ahead of us to ferry before our turn.

Tuesday, April 25th. This morning killed a veal, jerked the stake.

Wednesday, April 26th crossed the river last night at 12 o'clock, after breakfast hitched up and moved out to Mascetto Creek 15 miles and struck our tent to wait for the Ellisville boys. Pleasant day high wind from the south and cool, but just started, weather has been very cool for the last 4 weeks.

2 Hemenway just got in Peoria boys in sight, will camp with us tonight.

Thursday, 27th, Ellisville did not get in last night. Hemenway starts back after the boys. Tent struck and under way by 6 o'clock. Weather fine and roads good except the sloughs. Drove 30 miles today. camped without timber, during the night a thunder storm.

Friday 28th. Traveled 30 miles in company with the Peoria boys without wood picked up red roots to bake bread and make tea. The roads improve as to sloughs. 3 men in camp with us tonight, 2 of them packing one on horse and the other on a Jack. Rather a hard bargain they have of it to. The wind rose and blew very hard. A light shower during the night.

3 Saturday, 29th. The morning very cold, not having any wood we made breakfast on milk panolid meal, parched corn ground. Struck our tent and commenced our journey west. Came to Blue River about 10 o'clock, here we let our wagons down into the stream with our picketing ropes. All over and being somewhat fatigued we turned out for dinner. The road today has been as good as I ever saw it between Farmington and Peoria, no sloughs. The soil very rich, timber very scarce. This a beautiful stream of water runs quick with rocky bottom. The weather continues quite cold. Here we found some of the Vermont boys.

This afternoon we broke out another wagon tongue, being handy to timber we spliced it with pole. This evening we find ourselves about 100 miles from St. Jo. This evening another shower. Men and animals are well.

4 Sunday 29th. This morning did not forget to shave and was on our journey by 6 o'clock. The prairie is as handsome as I ever saw. Drove about 15 miles and took dinner on bread and milk. This evening about 5 o'clock came to the Big Blue River, this is a very handsome stream, about the size of Spoon River, clear water and good current. Here we found encamped some 60 or 80 teams, amongst them Mr. Bostwick and company. Crossed over went about a mile up at evening and encamped for the night. Today traveled about 30 miles, met 4 men on their packers, that is on their own backs, and taking the back track they intended to get supplies at the forts, but the forts had not got it. We are now in the Pawnee Country, quite a number seen on the bluff above us this evening. 3 of the boys went a fishing after supper but no success, took none this morning the 29th 1/2 4 o'clock all moving at 5 o'clock traveled 33 miles and encamped on wood creek. This has been very unpleasant traveling on account of the dust and wind which has been very strong. There has been traveling in company about 25 wagons, 5 Peoria, some Vermont and some Warren teams.

5 No grass yet and many teams are nearly out of grain and they cannot travel without it. I have a good supply at present, many started with so light wagons that they cannot haul grain enough to last any time and to be without it or grass is to suffer. I took the precaution to sell my light wagon and purchased a heavier one. My wagons are none too heavy for my load which was between 75 and 80 H.H.L. which requires something more than a common buggy to haul it on. The wind shifted around into the north very cold

this morning. Started on our journey by 6 o'clock. I think that I have suffered as much today as any time last winter with the cold. Traveled today between 25 and 30 miles, and encamped on Sandy a poor show for grass as yet. The roads continue delightful, we pass more or less teams every day.

Wednesday, May the first, today at 12 o'clock we struck the little Blue, traveled up it 15 miles and encamped for the night.

6 Met 5 men today on their return packers. This is a beautiful stream, not so large as Sealer creek with a valley from 1/2 1 mile in width we saw some buffalo today for the first time on the opposite side of the stream. We saw during the day several horses left, some dead and some to die. We passed this after noon 13 ox wagons encamped. It is sorry times for those that have no grain for it is all that animals can do to live on the bottoms and a very poor living. The boys all keep well and in good spirits. Have not seen anything of the Ellisville boys since we started. This evening while I was shaving in the tent, there came a man footman on his return he wanted lodging. He had been up to the fort and could not get any supplies. So he had to return, he came on foot from Millwakey and had to return against his will. He said that if he could get 40 lbs of hard bread he would go on. I proposed to give him

7 10 lbs. if he could raise the balance. Our time of starting is six in the morning, stop one hour for noon and put up at five in the evening which gives us 10 hours to travel in. This morning Thursday 2nd, started as usual. Mr. Lily crossed over the creek in search of game. He overtook the teams in about two hours. He saw 11 buffaloes and several antelope just above where we encamped. About 11 o'clock one of the men belonging to another wagon came in with the saddles of a buffalo calf. Today several on their return one a soldier from Fort Hall left there the 14 day of March, he said that would find good grass in 90 miles. He gave us some good information if correct. He said that there were only 300 teams ahead of us, if so we will not lack for grass on account of there number. This afternoon we came to some 50 Indians on the creek side of the road with there poneys. They appear to be very friendly

8 but they would like some of our horses. Tonight passed up the stream some 3 miles and encamped. It looks like a terrible storm whitched and turned out and pitched our tent just before the storm although it now thunders lightens and hails and rains. We are as comfortable as we should be in many a house this storm is a very good introduction for the first, more especialy for the gaurd.

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Friday May 3. Rained so much last night that/is quite slipry traveling this morning. Today had a long days travel 12 hours in order to reach the Platt river. We have traveled up the little blue 60 miles then crossed over to the Platt over the ridge. We did not cross the little blue atol. We have traveled up the Platt about 6 miles, the road running about three miles from the river. To night we camp without wood and very poor water, we are in sight of wood, but it would not do to

9 reach it to night, as we have all ready drove to far, 35 miles. We have seen a number of antelopes and wolves as thick as dogs around a poor mans door. We encamped within 8 or 10 miles of Fort Kerney, we will reach there tomorrow by 8 or 10 o'clock. I am on watch to night. It has been so cold today that we could not keep warm with our overcoats on and ride. The grass on platt is very scarce. There is encamped within a mile or so of us I suppose a hundred wagons and but few of them any grain. The platt bottoms are as baren as mid winter unless it is some sloughs. Mr. Bostwick did and company encamped with us to night. We use old grass for cooking to night, it answers very well in our stove.

10 Saturday May the 4, arrived at the fort at 9 o'clock, not being allowed to encamp within one mile of the fort the grass being reserved for public animals, we passed on a couple of miles and encamped for the day here, turned out our animals to graze what they could and devoted the balance of the day to writing home and airing our things.

Sunday Morning May 5th. This morning commenced our journey as usual, today drove

11 hours and found quite good picking for our animals much the best that we have seen and expect to find better as we advance. I suppose that we have traveled all of 20 miles today.

Monday May 5th. Quite cold this morning froze water to some thickness. Today a bright one. We saw a buffalow at a distance a number of men started in pursuit and it was with the balance before he got there he had been shot 3 times, he roared up and sunk fired and the buffalow fell. The ball passing through just below the hart. We did not take any of the meat it being a bull and not very fat, but there was a nough there that stood ready to carry him all off tonight we are obliged to encamp without wood. In its sted we use buffalo chips which answer a very good purpose when dry - crop very scarce. Tonight we did not travel quite as far as we should on account of a prairie fire a head supposing that the crop would be destroyed.

Tuesday, May 8th. Today the boys killed two buffalow and mop went ought with two or three others in pursuit of five. They got a heifer. They did not get up till we had encamped and Mr. Roberson help kibl a bull near the road. We have tried some of the buffalow meat for supper and found it to possess the same flavor of beet [sic] but more tender and coarser grain than beef.

Wednesday, May 8th [sic]. Today traveled as usual and encamped on the bank of the south fork of Platt some 33 miles up from Forks. Tonight we got a few dried willows for to cook with. Buffalow very plenty today. We killed none as we had plenty of meat. We traveled up in 18 miles of the ford and encamped again on the banks of the river without wood but there being plenty of buffalow chips we can make it do when dry. Tonight we have gathered in some, it looking like a storm today. We saw a herd of buffalow today for the first time on the opposite side of the river of about one hundred althow we had seen and killed them in smaller numbers.

Friday the 10th. Last night we had a hard shower. This morning after a scanty breakfast we started for the ford and arrived there about 11 and found the river in good stage for crossing it not being over 2 feet in the deepest place to cross. The bed of the river is all sand and the current very swift which washes the sand in gulleys and a team cannot haul or load but a short distance before stopping to rest. All got over safe except my two horse team when about in the middle of the river the dubeltry broke drawing me ought into the river. All over we fed ourselves and teams before starting for the north fork which is 22 miles when we got within 8 miles we met a Frenchman that Chief of the Sioux Indians who was encamped on the north fork of the platt and wanted presents, anything that we chose to give. I gave them some bacon dried beef and a few bous of lead and some of the boys gave them some shirts. Here we encamped. Night, the days are quite pleasant and nights are very cold. It freeses quite hard the morning.

The 11th day of May we arrived at the Indian village about. I stoped there about an hour to view ghe people. I found the village to contain 40 loges and some 400 persons and half as many gos all friendly even to the dogs which were wolves tamed. After viewing their curiosities we passed on and encamped some 25 miles from where we started and near some Indian traders who had some Indians in his employ hunting, etc.

14 Sunday, the 12th. We were in no way disturbed last night by the Indians. This morning I stopped at the traders lodge and purchased 4 buffalow robes to add to my stock of bedding. We traveled 25 miles today and encamped on the bluffs near an excellent spring of water the best since I left home. We turned out our animals to graze and some of the boys went in search of brised bache for a fire. We have found heavy roads since we left ash hollow being very sandy in places. Seen no buffalow since we came on the north fork.

Today the 13th we passed Church rock or Court House. Here we came in sight of Chimney Rock Fremont 30 miles. It has the appearance of a shot tower or steam chimney. We are getting along fine. Today at noon we found quite a good spot of grass to bait our animals on. Today for the first time since we started we have united feeding grain at dinner. Tonight we camped opposite of Chimney Rock. We drove down to the river with our

15 wagons and drove our animals back to graze. After supper drove our animals and picketed and fed them their grain.

Tuesday morn. the 19th. This morning the watched called us up as usual at four o'clock. We drove our animals out to graze before feeding grain. Today we drove 80 [sic] miles and encamped without wood or water but as we were prepared it made no difference today. I suppose we have passed 25 teams. A gentleman that has encamped near us that was one of the first teams out from St. Joseph says that there has passed him about 150 wagons. He is voyaging on to erect a ferry across the north fork of platt 9 miles above Lorine Ft. We have seen nothing of the crowd as yet nor shall we if fortune favors for we shall be with those that are first. We have passed everything that we have come to and that without strife and as I have feed for my animals as far as Salt Lake I think few will pass us. Their grain has

16 universally run out or will in the course of one or two days at most and some have been out two weeks and cannot far in consequences of there being no grass, the country between here and St. Joseph is bottorly dried up not being moist a nough for grass to grow and so there is not much probibility of rain. I think that the emigrants must suffer indeed, those that start without grain let them start when they may.

Wednesday May 15. Nothing of imporfance fspanpired to journal except that we left the river yesterday about 10 o'clock and struck it again today after a travel of 22 miles passed up the river 6 miles and encamped. We drove our animals onto an island to graze. We are encamped near a few traders loges, they are commonly French and have squaws for wives who do their work. We are within 22 miles of Fort Lorinie. We shall get there tomorrow noon.

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16 Thursday. Concluded to remain hear today to prepare for our onward journey. Hear I shall leave one of my wagons, do some washing and break for the hills. The Indians in camp with us most of the day. On reloading found our load to consist of 1,400 lbs. of flour, 200 of punolia meal, 20 of dried beef, bacon, 250 beans, 5 gallons of pickels, 3 gallens of vinegar, 15 bushels of oats, 140 lbs hard bread, 20 belonge sausage and sundry to numerous to mention, making load of some 1,800 lbs.

Friday 17. Last night we had a lite shower much needed. This morning started at 6 o'clock did not pass the fort but went round the point passed within one mile. I went passed the fort saw nothing of much interest, passed on up the north fork of platt some 4 miles found quite good gfass.

18 Saturday May 18. This we tried to break one of my young mules as we only used 4 animals on each wagon leaving two animals/ride if we could. We had our match we was all floord, it was with some difficulty that he could be road at all with two men at his head. Today traveld some 25 miles over a beautiful hilly country and found acelant grass and water.

19 Sunday. Today we traveld through as rough a country as yesterday and after traveling some 25 or 28 miles encamped near the road.

Monday the 20. Today traveld some 30 miles and encamp on a fine stream of water, fine grass as well as wood.

Tuesday May 21. Today killed a fine buffalo very fat. Passed the lower ferry

3 o'clock passed up the river some 6 miles and encamped found good grass on the bottom 1/2 from the road.

19 Wednesday 22. We remained in camp this forenoon to shoe our animals. This afternoon moved to the ferry above some 15 grass short and thin May 23 did not quite reach the ferry last night, encamp on the river bank without grass. This morning moved up to the ferry 5 miles, grass being fine we remained through the day, the boat not being ready. This evening crossed over all Sunn paid ought for - ferry 2 wagons and 10 horses 10\$. Encamped on the bank of the river, filled our water casks ready for an early start, 30 miles without water 24 this evening arrived at Willow springs and encamped a beautiful spring of cold water 25 this evening reached Hells Gate 27 miles this a narrow passage that the best water runs through.

Sunday May 26. Today we travelled 31 miles and encamp in amongst the rocks on a spot of grass 10 rods square, safe from the cold winds. We have been in sight of snow for the last ten days. Grass, Grass, where is the grass, we are too early for its growth. It must be a backward season and woe to those that follow us.

20 Monday May 27 today travelled 25 miles and encamped on the sweet water, grass very scarce. This evening I converted one of my wagons into a cart with the hind wheels.

Tuesday May 28. After traveling eight miles we broke an exeltry left with but one wagon. This evening encamped 25 miles from the summit of the south pass found a wagon and sent 2 of the boys back after cart body not got in yet. Very scarce is grass, plenty of snow near us.

Wednesday May 29. Passed the summit of the Rocky Mountains this afternoon at 3 o'clock, traveled five miles and encamped on poor grass. Mr. Statt this evening quite unwell and one or two others complaining.