

J. L. Johnson

Overland to Oregon

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1851

J. L. Johnson Woodburn Oregon

I first saw the light of day in
 in a log cabin in Pleasant Grove in
 Jasper County Illinois Nov 15 1830 a winter
 memorable as the winter of the deep snow it
 is said the snow fell four feet deep and
 lay on the ground four months the deer and
 all wild game perished the early frost bit
 the corn so in the spring the farmers had to go
 down south to get seed corn so the south part
 of the State was called Egypt and has retained
 the name to this day After a few years father
 bought a home stead on Dillon's creek a mile
 west of the town of Tremont which for years
 was called the Granite Colony among the
 first of recollections was walking bare footed to
 the Pleasant Grove school house three miles
 Most of the way through heavy timber our
 first teacher was a mister Boggs he appeared to
 think that sparing the rod was spoiling the
 child so he determined that there was one child
 that should not be spoiled so he applied the rod
 to my back daily and often two or three times
 but warned the school that they should tell nothing

that hapened is school. So I had to endure it. But one very hot morning my mother found me ready for school dressed in thick woolen pants and heavy winter coat. Mother says why are you dressed in your winter suit this hot day. but I feared to tell as the teacher had warned all the scholars to tell nothing out of school so my sisters said nothing. but finally my mother drew from me that the teacher whipped so hard I could not stand it so she examined my back and found it streaked with black and blue streaks and my shirt stained with blood. My father was called. he says dont go to school to day and I will have that teacher arrested. But that night he disappeared and left the country. He was afterwards heard of in Missouri and in the midwestern part had made a mental resolve that if I ever met him I would give him a horse whipping but by a strange coincidence after near fifty years I met the man in Oregon. But as he was old and poor and badly broken down and had a respectable family I forgave him & I hope to be forgiven. In 1855 my father was elected District Judge of Tazewell County and the County seat was Decatur. Father drove into Iowa daily.

He determined to put the children into the Iowa School. But as there was enmity between the Iowa boys and the Country Boys. We dreaded the change. But on a cold morning father drove to the school house door with four children and met the teacher the late Parson Kelllogg who greeted us cordially and gave us seats and we were soon at ease and from that day we were accepted as Iowa Boys. Among our school mates were some who became prominent in State and nation. Among these was Shelby M. Carlton. After wards Governor of the State of Iowa. P. W. Gary who graduated from Bethany College and became a prominent preacher in the Christian Church and author of tracts in Palestine. And James Gallenstall and Eugene Hunter Bentley of the Navy and others too numerous to mention. My school days passed quite pleasantly for a year or two. Then came my first experience in politics the campaign of Harrison and Van Buren. We knew nothing of Democrat or republican.

one party was Whig and the other Democrats and soldiers got so warm that it decided the war and in some cases families as frequently the wife would proclaim herself a Whig while the husband and father would be a Democrat as the fourth of July approached it was found that the parties could not unite to celebrate the day so the Whig selected a grove a mile and half East of Iowa and the Democrats a grove a mile west. The Whig girls and ladies prepared a splendid dinner and the neighboring farmers of our party furnished teams for transportation to and from the grove. The dinner was served by the ladies and school girls and the speaking and toasts by the boys. We had a glorious time as we returned to town in the evening we met the "free" who were wildly hurraing for Van Buren while we sang "Dixie" and "Tyler too" the Whigs carried the day with song and cheer. These marches were long affairs. Hard cold and pet coons. I remember a large procession from Chicago on way to spring field with four horse teams. Loaded with delegates to a State convention they camped in our town on Saturday night and remained till Monday. One one wagon was a miniature log cabin with

pet coons running over the roof another wagon had a large banner with banners and flags flying while a third had a few barrels marked hard cider. In the eve the villagers visited the camp in large numbers and listened to some celebrated speakers from different parts of the State. While a quartet of young men entertained the evening with song. Not exactly of a spiritual nature. But patriotic. As Old Tip the boys sing the Hail Hurrah. Hurrah. Hurrah. Hurrah. His catch string hangs outside the door. As it has ever done before. Hurrah. Among the speakers I remember David Davis afterwards Lincoln's Chief Justice. My school days passed pleasantly but too rapidly. My father was impelled to stand for a third term but as they down he was defeated by two sides. Then he received an urgent call to become Pastor of the G. P. Church of Mt Pleasant Iowa and accepted it. In the winter of 1847 with horse and buggy he went to Iowa rented a farm returned home crossed the River ^{on the} Burlington Iowa and prepared to move in

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So about the first of April we start to move to Iowa I with Bro Foster and Albert Gorbly started overland with Wagon Buggy horses and cows and outfit we crossed the Illinois River on a new wooden bridge at the city of Peoria and went on a few miles and found the kiskadee and made our first camp Cooked our supper fed our horses and cows with corn and hay brought from home lay down on our blankets and slept good Next day hooked up and traveled over a beautiful Prairie Country sparsely settled we noticed a lone house in the Prairie with a large sign board in front that gave Post Office not a tree in sight But finally passed a little town we wanted a few eggs for supper gave Bro a ten cent coin and a six quart pail and told him to buy a few eggs for supper and he came with his pail as full as it would hold But we got along without accident and the fourth night reached the Mississippi River at Burlington Iowa crossed in a Boat propelled by steam power He expected to meet our parent who

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On Boat by way of St Louis but they had not yet arrived so we drove out west a mile or so and established a camp here we waited several days finally the Boat came with the family and goods all well so we turned and drove down to the landing loaded and the family started for their temporary home twenty eight miles near Mt Pleasant In the mean time our cows had strayed off and Brother Cousin and I were left to find them and come on on foot But here we met a good friend a recent acquaintance of father's who came with horses and went with us to find the cows and when we found them the good man invited us to remain at his home til morning here we met the family of the late Daniel Shantz of Salem Oregon a friendship that lasted for years finally we got on our way and after a hard days walk we arrived at our home and were all together again Our home did not look very inviting a two story log house with kitchen of logs entirely disconnected with the main building but only about twenty feet distant But we had forty acres of very fine land

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We went to work and raised a fine crop of wheat Oats and corn and got our grain threshed all right but toward fall the rains descended and the floods came and the corn fields were deep in mud so teams could not get in the field to gather the corn but the farmers say wait til the ground dries and then you can gather your corn But before the dries came the flat came and broke the corn stalks down flat then came snow two feet deep and lay on til the middle of March But in the early fall father had to return to Illinois to attend the meeting of his Synod and mother went with him and now came the news of the discovery of Gold in California and it was reported that Gold could be picked up by the bushel and every one was talking of going to California in the Spring But it was a hard desire on my part to think of going as I was only a boy But father was a Pioneer of Illinois and Iowa and had acquired a roving disposition and and we realized he

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So in talking with some of his Church People they encouraged him to go to Oregon and as were two Preachers of his Church then he could organize the Oregon Protestant C. Church So at a Family Council it was agreed that we work as well as we could until the first day of April 1857 we would we would start across the plains for Oregon We then moved to a large farm near New London and put in a large crop of corn and after harvest that corn had to be hauled to Burlington 18 miles and sold at 12¢ per bushel made a round trip each day by changing teams occasionally often the money being 0 But as spring approached it was found that it was necessary to make a trip east to Illinois as father had some collections to make and had his Wagon made in Tremont Ill I was loaded with two horses to go back settle up the business and get the wagons so after a ride of three days I arrived at Uncle Juske Scotts found Abigail Jane at other at Mount Grove McLean County Uncle Juske proposed that I should take his business and so attend the

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with Fanny and Margaret attend the Commencement exercises and bring Jerry home and he would settle up my business so I could start home on my return. The next day and I drove up attended the school several days and on Monday took leave of Shelby Chalmers who started that day for Springfield to take a place in the law office of Lincoln and Logan while I started for my home in Iowa to get fit for Oregon (Bigart now Mrs. Dumrey) wept bring tears with heart piercing screams when we got back to Uncle's farm. Father there he had uneasy for fear I would be held up and robbed or met with some misfortune had taken stage coach and to meet me next morning started with two wagons one tied behind the other and after three days came to the River opposite the city of Burlington but the river was so rough the ferry boat could not cross so we camped on the river bank and it was Saturday and Father had an appointment to preach in the city on Sunday he was very anxious to cross about eight o'clock

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a small rowe Boat came over after the mail and Father took passage with them and left me to take care of the horses and I went into the cabin of some wood choppers and took my seat on the floor in front of the fire and soon fell a sleep and when I awoke my boots soles were burnt to a crisp and my feet nearly blistered day came and the Jerry Boat came over and I was soon on the Iowa side and drove out to Father's place and found them preparing to go to town to hear Father preach his farewell sermon and I was invited to stay with the children which was gladly accepted and had a very pleasant day but next morning bid the dear family farewell with the hope of meeting them in Oregon next year. It was now the middle of March and all hands were required to work almost day and night to get ready to start by the first of April we had to make tents and wagon covers and break a lot of wild steers

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Yoke and work and thousand of things to do to get ready to start on time And now we hear of some parties in Iowa that are trying to get ready to start with us
April First 1851

The long looked for day arrived. A great many of our friends came to see us start and to help us yoke our oxen and get after all was ready we all assembled in the house and after a brief Sabbath Father all knelt down and he prayed and there was much weeping and leave taking but I looked out and saw our friends from town passing so with whip in hand I started and in passing through the gate a large locust tree well loaded with seed pods I pulled a few and put them in my best pocket and after some six months found them and planted them and now some of the trees can be seen in P.L. Kendall's back yard) but finally we got under way with ten yoke of oxen three cows three horses and three mares nine mules brought

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us to the Ferry on Skunk river at the town of Rock but we got across before dark and our first camp set up our tent unyoked and tied up each animal to a separate tree feed with corn and hay which we brought from home mother and the girls got supper prepared the beds and was ready for our first camp but soon there came a terrible storm thunder lightning and wind and rain but we were all very comfortable slept soundly till daylight
April 2

Hacked up and got off in good order and as our oxen were fat and fresh we traveled quite lively and about 7 o'clock came to the little town of Washington Iowa but now as we had exhausted the feed brought from home we had to lie up the stock and go to a farm and buy feed and carry it on our backs to feed when I came to the wagon found little sister Jane who had just waked from a sound sleep crying like her heart would break

April 14 Page

Why I am what's the matter oh we will never get to Oregon if we come back and camp in the same place every night but we assured her that we were at a new camp and she was soon satisfied and finally on April 3.

Started early 16 miles brought us to here city of Keosauqua on the Des Moines River here we had to ferry and as they could take but one wagon and one yoke of oxen at one time and as we had five wagons and used about twenty yoke of oxen it took us all the after to get across but some of the wagons went on three or four miles and camped in the timber had a good camp I was the last to get across the river and it was after dark when I got to camp found them picketing and drawing in Starkey's camp.

April 4

Started early and the rain came down in torrents and continued nearly all day. But towards night we came to a grove of oaks and oak leaves still abundant wood scarce.

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after we camped we were overtaken by a young man carrying his rifle he came to join and help us on the way to Oregon. He had met Bro Lynn a bit previous and learned that we wanted a home to help us so he got a letter of introduction from Bro Lynn picked up his rifle and started to overtake us he had walked two days in the night the rain turned to snow the tent covered in under the weight of snow our clothes and bedding all wet but we managed to get a breakfast and the ^{April 5} Mr. Starkey got on his horse and rode four miles to Bloomfield found a transient house with a good bunk fireplace bought a lot of dry wood and we all went in to look our stock to a feed yard fed them and returned to the house and as it was Sunday we were very comfortable while here we were visited by two gentlemen living in town by the name of Trach from the South part of Illinois who had been acquainted with my mother when they were young we were greatly disappointed when we found no more wood in town.

April 6 Page 16

So we had to yoke up and go on to the country where we could get feed after several miles over a beautiful prairie we bought feed then went on several miles and found a beautiful grove of chestnuts and camped dry for the night clear bright day cool frosty night beautiful country.

Cool frosty morning six miles brought us to New Mills on the Chautauque river one small boat for ferrying we turned the oxen in with the yokes on and they swam across the river as right as then hooked up and went on three or four miles to the prairie and then very cold so we concluded to camp in the timber plenty of corn just across the road but the man beyond to the Election and will not be home till night and the woman can not see a grain of any price so Harry Green Lyons and I took horses and went down three miles into Missouri and bought corn at a mill on a dirt road and took it to camp. Hard frost ground quite rough in the morning but showed out by noon we traveled near 20 miles.

April 8 Page 17

There traveled about 20 miles over a beautiful prairie country near the Iowa line on the Iowa side there appeared some kind of a homestead shack on nearly section hills on the Missouri side no sign of improvement. After a good night's rest we resumed our over a prairie similar to yesterday and after a tramp of 20 miles came to the town of Johns of which we had been hearing for several days as the County seat of Dodge County Mo. and we expected to find quite a city. But only a log dwelling log court house and a blacksmith shop we turned out and our oxen soon went to the creek and found several stumps of wood hay without any protection and they were quite happy. We traveled near 20 miles and camped on small creek in the prairie. About 12 miles brought us to Baker's Ferry on middle fork of Grand River the boss had gone hunting and as we were in a hurry we turned the oxen in with their yokes on and they swam across we then ran the wagons on the boat by hand and

about sun down the Boss came home and wanted us to pay full ferriage which was refused he got quite angry but soon got calm and started in peddling butter milk We had good camp on the Bank of Grand river

12 traveled about 17 miles and came to Bethany the County seat of Harrison County To day Wagon ran over Miller James Leg but as the wagon was light it did not break it She says she is so glad it hapened before we got the load in the wagon and she will be more carefull in future But she calls me of saying it hurts so bad that I feel like I can't stand it but I know I have to and id just be cheerful about it will make me careful in future

13 as this was Sabbath we remained in camp all But was busy tending and feeding our stock

14 about 20 miles brought us to Gentry mill where we camped after supper we were visited by a crowd of strangers who gave us their sympathy and a great deal of advice which was received with thanks

15 traveled all day over a beautiful country with but few settlers and and camped on

camped on a creek in the Prairie

16 this morning traded oxen with a teamster traded our smallest yoke for a larger yoke gave 15 dollars to boot a few miles brought us to the town of Savannah on hundred Star here we found a slowmy mill with slow parked in 50 pound sacks the first I had ever seen we bought 40 sacks to use on the trip this morning a man came to the road leading a beautiful red cow and wanted ten dollars for her so we bought her In the after noon we were nearing the city of St Joseph I met a native and asked him how far to the city he not exactly far was the reply and as we neared on we soon saw in sight of the city and found a good camp in the suburbs a great many Indians around they had been a hunting in the Grand river country and from their peculiar smell it appears that their principal game was Skunks a great many emigrants arriving here by land and water here we met a young man who had left his home in Ohio and wanted to

work his way to Oregon as he was alone and out of money and desperately home sick we enlisted him under the name of Earl Crosby But as we have come to the verge of civilization It is time to introduce our Company Jim Orread and J. F. Starkey Geo Starkey and a McKinley one wagon and four yoke of oxen Doc McCall and wife with 2 men a mule, 3 carts and a Mr Morrison one wagon and four yoke of oxen Hon Ker Will Johnson and wife and 7 children five boys and five girls aged from three to twenty with three wagons ten yoke of oxen 3 mares 4 cows and 2 hired men Harry Green and Hart Crosby

18 went into the city Bought Bacon Bean Sugar Coffee Tea Rice Crackers Dried Apples Peaches & with needles thread pins matches and other things too numerous to mention

19 took in our supplies and got ready to cross the River There is two small Boats propelled cars and poles and can take but one wagon with one yoke of oxen at a trip so it took us all day to cross on the west side the bottom for several miles is covered with thick

mostly cotton wood so after crossing we got up and started for the Prairie

In the meantime Mr Starkey got on his horse and rode out to the Prairie to find a camp but just as dark he came rushing back and met us in the dark woods says he yoked and tie up to trees and place a guard around the camp There is a large band of Indians out in the Prairie and some of them appear to be drunk They stole my spurs off my boots and tried to get my gun but I got away and they threatened to visit us before morning we beat up got our guns and kept guard all night some of our camp were badly frightened But we got through the night all right but two of our cows got away in the dark

20 yoked up got breakfast and drove on to the Prairie turned out to grass the first time since we left home

21 Mr Green and I went back to look for the last cow Indians all through the timber Father unloaded our light wagon and with the mares went back to the

April 22 Page 22

city. To make some purchases we had forgotten

April 22 Mr McKinty, Foul and went back to the city on some errand and the teams went on to day found the lost cows. The teams went on about five miles and camped at a small creek in the prairie. Here we were joined by a family or a Mr Jones son of a Missouri man of middle age with wife and her sister Mrs Ballard who husband is in Oregon. Then a most beautiful young lady of about 16 years of age and a girl of eleven and a boy of about 8 and a and a little three year old girl who was a cripple she could not stand on her feet. Then three young men with wagon and team mostly cow who were to help with the camp work and drive for their cooking and washing. Charles McPherson, Will Lewis and John Morgan the first two splendid young men the latter no good no good.

23 This morning found one of Starkey's lost oxen lying dead near camp supposed to have been killed.

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~~April 23~~ after good night rest we started over a high rolling prairie to Wolf creek 15 miles. Good grass and fine camp here we were joined by several wagons bound for Oregon with two families and several young men one of the families was John Johns and a Mr Swadko.

24 This morning there was a discussion as to our next camp and creek some miles the next twenty some miles. But without a decision we started in two miles we came to the Saw Indian mission a school house kitchen and several houses. Here we met Capt Kennedy with twelve wagons and several families who were rounding up a large drove of cattle en route for Oregon. Part of our company had gone on to try to reach the twenty nine mile creek and we could not see by the dust that they were several miles ahead and it would take us till after dark to get to camp. We turned out and camped in the prairie a large fresh pond afforded us water and large coarse grass feed. Some of the boys gathered the weeds while others

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eat and lured them into the store so we baked our bread made our coffee, fried our bacon and had a good supper well seasoned with good appetites had a good night's rest and was ready for another day's travel.

25 Traveled over a beautiful prairie country timber in sight and left but none on the road. We camped on a creek half mile south of the road good grass and water. We are now traveling in company with the Jones outfit.

26 Traveled over a beautiful prairie country similar to yesterday and camped on the ^{remains} of a beautiful stream skirted with fine timber of various kinds and great numbers of wild turkeys. We made up a fine log fire and with axes for seats had a fine singing, talking and telling stories and sat until a late hour and all retired quite happy.

27 This being the Sabbath day we concluded to remain in camp but our cattle were restless and our mares got on the road and started. Jack Phaul and I followed them several miles caught them and returned to camp found

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the camp deserted they had yoked up and gone. We followed on several miles and found them camped at some large springs in the prairie beautiful country wild turkeys, geese in in all directions.

28 This morning started early and to day passed Lone peak creek a large rock near the road with several graves near by. Mr Starkey tells me of a trader that arrived here last year as we were on our way to California. There was a whiskey seller here and we had a man with us who was a very quarrelsome man and dangerous when drunk. He got drunk and made an attack on Starkey who shot him as he was thought to be fatally wounded. We met several mule teams on their way to Itkewing so they took board with them. He soon recovered and took steamer for San Francisco. Next into a gambling saloon found a table loaded with gold which he raked off in his hat with gun in hand he made his escape to the steamer and returned home. After a good days travel we came to the Elm fork of the Big Blue river a large number of large Elm trees lying on the ground.

all straps of limbs and Bark so I was very scarce here we came up with a man traveling west and alone said he was on his way to Oregon said he lived on wild Onions here we met several other teams on way back to McCarney they tried to get the man to go back with them but no he was bound to Oregon the ministers told us that the team that had left us was waiting for us on Blue River some twelve miles ahead so Jos and Ben took horses and went on to their camp and we were to follow on in the morning but after dark there came a terrible storm thunder lightning wind and rain our cattle broke away from the guards and ran from the storm our tents flew over and scattered our clothes and bedding in all directions towards morning the rain turned to snow and it fell so thick and fast that we could not see as far as across the street.

April 29 we managed to get a little breakfast and about ten o'clock the sky cleared the sun came out and the men started to hunt the cattle keepers camp was only a short way

they had a large round tent with a cork stove in the center the center pole well secured with Guy ropes so it withstood the storm and they had a good supply of wood in their wagons they invited our women and children to spend the day with them in the tent as their men had all gone to hunt oxen about sundown the men all came back had found all the cattle in the timber of so we yoked them and led them up to the wagons so as to have an early start in the morning about 10 and Green returned to see what was the matter on their return they had been surrounded by a large band of Indians who came rushing on them from every direction and surrounded them the boys were terrible frightened but soon found the Indians were only jollying.

May 1st April 30th

Started early the ground very rough and drove hard but by ten o'clock we reached the river found our friends gone but had left a large log fire still burning we drove across and turned out to camp

May first

We took a yoke of oxen and hauled a big pile of logs and had a big fire of logs dried our clothes and bedding and spent the day in rest and social amusements

May 2

Started early and traveled near 20 miles passed Myth creek and camped on a small creek in the prairie good grass and water but no fuel

This morning a hard storm wind and rain

May 3 our cattle scattered in all directions

and mare missing fear she has been stolen by the Indians children and Crossy crying with cold but the sun came out and we were off lively as ever we traveled near 20 miles and

we traveled near 20 miles and camped on dry sandy we came near having a tragedy to day while sitting at table eating dinner Crossy got up and walked over to fire table and John Morgan was sitting at table had a belt around him with two small pistols Crossy slipped one of the pistols out of the belt and was looking at when Morgan drew the other one and snaped snaped at him across the table Sister Sarah says Morgan had did not know but it was

he says it was loaded and I tried to kill him some of the boys wanted to hang him on the spot but he begged and promised to get away his \$1000 so we banded him to day saw the first Antelope

May 4

This being Sabbath we remained in spent the day reading and writing and carrying names on trees while some of the boys were hunting antelope

May 5

To day past several graves which had been dug open by wolves one a lady with long curling hair Jane Jones found a long strand of beautiful Amber Beads which she kept as a souvenir we traveled all day and came to the little Blue river and camped on the bank the water was quite rocky and appeared deep but our cattle soon crossed over and we were at a loss how to get them back so Charley McCline and I proposed to swim over and so we pulled off our boots threw them over and plunged in found the water but the feet

May 6

To day traveled up the river 12 miles and camped on the Bank good camp

May 7

It was my time to drive the cow so I proposed to the girls to go with me ahead of the wagons. Mary, horseback and Sarah and Jane on foot as we neared the river we found ourselves several miles ahead of the teams then suddenly came up the hardest rain that I ever saw in my life and we were without wraps and when the teams came up we were nearly down we took a yoke of oxen and drove a log together and soon had a roaring fire. Warmth we dried our clothes and then yoked up and drove several miles and on the river again.

8 Started early and traveled about 18 miles and camped on Prairie creek. This afternoon had an exciting chase after an antelope. Harv Green shot and broke a leg it ran across the road ahead of the wagons and every man Boy and dog gave chase and soon caught it and dressed it for its dinner.

May 9

traveled near the great Platt River we traveled up the valley several miles before we discovered it as the banks are low and not a tree or shrub to mark its course we camped on the bank a hard wind and rain came with thunder and lightning we staked our wagons down to keep them from upsetting. But had a good night rest.

May 10 This morning we learned that we had an addition to our company as a friend Mr. Jones entered our company and took his place third Terrence Breast works in the wagon and claimed the protection of the company. To day passed I Kearney a collection of small wooden buildings as Barracks for a company of soldiers we went on about five miles and camped on the river about sun down went to drive up the cattle they were all gone out of sight and hearing. Charly and I took horses and soon found their trail going up the River. we rode till dark and found them mixed up with a large drove of his poor oxen and as it was dark we could

see to separate them so we took down our horses and with our saddles for pillows lay down to try to sleep. But the wolves came up so close and set up such a howl that we had to get up and guard our horses till morning then rounded up our cattle and drove to camp and made hands happy.

May 11

traveled up the river and camped on the Bank. To day met the Roubidoux team loaded with robes and furs on way to Dixon they had wintered at Scotts Bluff the old man was entirely blind. To day a great deal of Buffalo sign but saw no Buffalo.

May 12 traveled 20 miles and camped on the River Bank.

May 13

Had some difficulty in finding our cattle but got started by ten o'clock and camped on the River.

14 This morning there was two buffaloes in with our cattle but we failed

May 15

We traveled up the River ten or twelve miles and stopped for noon lunch saw great many Buffalo on the north Bank. So Father and some of the Boys went across the River to try to get some meat. The river was full a mile wide but only deep the game ran off. But the Boys came back with the notion to drive over to the north side as it was said to be the best road and we had a guide Book to tell the road and all the best camps and crossed the crossing of the Larima and the north fork of the Platt. The women were badly frightened but we put them all in one wagon with eight yoke of oxen two drivers on each side and two boys a head to find the best trail. We arrived safely on the north bank then had to return and get the other wagons and we were all over on the north side in mean time Crosby killed a large Buffalo within half mile of camp. To see it and the gnats were so thick we could scarcely see and the camp

and made life almost unendurable. But we finally all got to bed except Joe and Green who went on guard til midnight then they were to come to bed and Char, McClure and I were to get up and take the places but they failed to wake us or we failed to get up so in the morning 15 This morning we discovered 16 of our best oxen gone and 14 of Jones hunted all day and late in the evening found their trail going north we followed it several miles night canyon and we returned to camp as the trail led through a Prairie dog village which was a level piece of ground nearly a mile in extent without vegetation and thousands of Brown of the dogs we could not find where the trail led it as we approached the village the dogs would come out and set up a fine barking but on a nearer approach they would dive into their holes we found a great number of holes that appeared to be living. Place with the dogs also a great many dirty looking Brown-ants appeared to be at home

to day Keeneys large train passed us and went on some miles ahead and camped 16. Continued search for our cattle without success all heart broken and discouraged. Father and Jones concluded to go on to Keeneys camp and try to get some of his wild steers to break in to work they took lantern and started after dark then came up a terrible storm wind thunder and lightning with rain and hail we staked our wagon down then it required all our strength to hold the tent down. Father and Jones returned at daylight walk all night with wolves howling at their heels they report Keeneys has lost 150 head of his cattle and is going to send teams to move our camp up there camp and join us in the search. Have Green, Will Lewis, Charles McClure and I concluded to take a few days provisions with two horses and go out East and probably find another stream of water and find the oxen we traveled all day through sand, brisky, sea Horned Frogs and seals towards

May 17 The whole country covered with Buffalo as far as the eye could reach towards evening we came to a pond of rocky water and as we were thirsty and very tired we concluded to camp we took a blanket and spread on the ground and gathered Buffalo chips and made a fire made coffee and fried our Bacon then then picketed our horses and with our guns layed down to try to sleep but we got so cold we had to get up and gather chips and make up our fire we laid down again we soon heard the tramping of hoofs and thinking the Indians had seen our fire and were coming to attack us but it was a band of Keeneys heifers running from wolves we thought they were some of our lost oxen they came up to us and laid down til light we knew them by the Brand (K) now we turn our course towards the Platt River driving the heifers with us

18 Came to the road from Kansasville met many teams on their way to Oregon but heard nothing of

May 19 returned to camp found it deserted Keeneys had sent teams and moved our camp up to his we followed around that his men had fitted out and gone down the river to find the cattle and left word for us boys on our return to stay and help guard the camp til he and his men get back

20 Did not remained in camp heard nothing from the hunters

May 22

Captain Parson came along with a train of about 30 wagons and a number of families Father interceded him and he proposed if Father would leave one of his wagons they would divide his load up among them and turn out a few yoke of oxen and help him through I told him that I was opposed to the plan as Keeneys men had nearly all gone to try to find the cattle and depended on us to stay til their return if we left it would take five able boddy men and weaken the guard to that extent I told him that I proposed to

to wait til we heard from the hunters and I was sure we would get some of our oxen He turned on me I thought rather severely says I know what is the matter with you you are in love with that girl and don't want to leave her I think she is a nice good girl but I cannot endure the old man I replied that is part of it but I feel in honor bound to stay here til we hear from the hunters he says I feel that this is a providential opportunity to get help and I am bound to accept it and you can stay to day and keep the young ones and come on tomorrow oxen or no oxen so we parted that same evening two men came in with a large band of cattle among them 8 of ours and 7 of Jones' and said they were found on the south side of the river near fifty miles below they said the men were on a fresh trail and thought they would be in the next day with another band so my friends would not let me start on alone I would be taken in by Indians or stampeded by Buffalo but wait another day and we will join teams and go on together

May 24 The last of the winter came in Keeney still has about 50 head gone while we have four yoke of our best oxen gone and Jones and the Boy that started with him left their wagons and found places with other families while Mr. Jones was left without help but we joined teams and started at first camp found the bins of our wagons that Father had decided to leave I knew it by the flat bands

25 We made a good drive and found a good camp and while Jones and the children were setting up tent and fixing camp I was busy unyoking the team when I came to the wheel oxen dropped the tongue and released the rear ox the off ox took fright and ran off dragging the yoke and started the whole band I followed and as I came near them they would start again by making a large circuit I got around them but was lost on the prairie but they at the camp started a fire and began to shoot off their guns to guide me home and I

May 24

I got back to camp found the oxen had had all come back and were led up to the wagons I was tired and hungry but Jones set me out a good supper and I was refreshed

May 25

Started early in about a mile came to an Indian camp a dozen or so of large tents made of Buffalo skins as we neared them the Indians came pouring out by the hundred women and children men and boys they surrounded us and commenced to beg for flour sugar coffee tobacco and every thing they could think of but as we had no surplus we had to refuse and get away from them as quick as possible So day met two men on way from Ft. Saring to Kearney and they were enquiring for a Mr. Jones family and a young man by the name of Johnson I told them that I was probably the party they were looking for they said my father's family was camped on the river two or three days ahead waiting for me to come up

May 27

I noticed that it was a great disappointment to the Jones family as they had hoped to have my help and company at least til they got thru and adopt me into the family so after two days travel without any incident of importance we came to Father's camp on the bank of the Platt River they had been waiting several days for me to come up they received me joyfully and the Jones family civilly the Indians had killed a Buffalo in the river near camp striped the hide and left the meat for the use of the camp Father's folks had been left in the hills several miles back with out water or fuel the Company had been quacking and mad about trying to help Father along til he says just set my things out by the road and leave us and I will trust to Providence and (probably a young man he had left behind some time ago) to get through by getting a few oxen and cows to use

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wagon and all walking they reached the River then the boys returned got the other wagon and were comfortably camped as it was after noon the Family had their dinner over, but all went to work and soon had a splended dinner set out for us after which we divided up the oxen and started on traveled on ten m and camped opeside Chimney Rock good grass but no water Jos and I took our kegs on horses and went to the river filled them and returned to camp here trouble commenced that was to embler my life for years to come Mr Jones went to Father and wanted him to let me go with his family in future. Father naturally I have two young men with me and you can have either of them but Mr Jones says I dont want either of them John is familiar with the Family and the children all like and the Oxen all know him Father says well we will all travel on together and John will help you just the same and we will get along but here commenced conspires to

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But Here was hatched a conspiracy to get me away from the Family which I was too stupid to discover It at the time June 3

To day traveled near 20 miles and camped opeside Shells Bluffs To day some men on the south side of the River driving a band of oxen that looked like some of ours so Hart Green and swam over and found a man who had lost his team and had found them some fifty miles below and was on his way to his camp We traveled about 20 miles and camped on Spring creek good water but poor grass

June 4 traveled near 20 miles came to timber on Platt the first we have seen for 200 miles good camp dry timber pine for fuel

5 June traveled near 20 miles camped two miles below Ft Loring good camp this afternoon had a terrible hail storm it came up very suddenly just gave time to drop the wagon tongues and set the teams

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Free the Hail came down in torrents and covered the ground then came on and washed the hail into the gulches till it was half deep to the wagons We all saved our scalps by getting in and under the wagons

6 of June two miles brought us opeside the Fort a great many Indians around and were very annoying by their begging and trading Missions to the children Here Father made an excuse to cross over to the Fort to get some ox shoe nails I did not realize that it was part of the conspiracy we went on 8 or ten miles and camped at some mud springs here we were joined by several families from Missions after supper the cattle got into the spring and spoiled the water so Mr Green and I took pails and went to the river to get water for breakfast after a long tramp we got to the river filled our pails and returned to camp found all in bed except the guard and the young lady who

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who was standing behind their wagon and crying like her feet had break I went to her and says what the matter Jane and she says there is a conspiracy being planned to get you to go back to the Fort tomorrow and while you are gone your folks will drive off and leave us to separate us Oh I says you must be mistaken as we have got along so well the last month She says I have been over hearing enough to know it is so your Father says he is to send you back to the Fort to get some ox shoe nails which he can not get to day and if you go a way we will have no help and it will give you folks a good chance to drive off and leave us well says I if I knew that was the plan I would not go a step well send Jos says she well now dear go to bed and have a good sleep and in the morning we will make it all right in the morning but in the morning I found that I must go back myself

as Jos made excuses so will Lewis said he would go with me and Father says we will make a short drive and you can get up with us easy to night so we started when we got back to the Fort the smith had not got the rails made as he had promised so we did not get away till near sundown and started and rode till near midnight Lewis got so sleepy he could go no farther so we turned our horses out to grass and Lewis went to sleep but about sun up we started again soon we saw a lot of men coming down towards us Lewis says they are Indians we are unarmed but we got down filled our pockets with rocks determined to make the best defense we could when they came up we found they were soldier working at a saw mill and had come to the road to try to use us but as we had none we left them and rode on till about 3 o'clock when we came to Jones camp but my folks had carried off their conspires and left them

Jane and the children were all crying and said my folks just drove off and left them and I was tired and hungry but they set out dinner but my appetite was gone and I had to leave them but Jane says we will get together again and as the road is strewed with Buffalo heads you white and smooth suit you write me a letter every day and sign your name Laurie and if we get a head of you I will do the same so we parted sadly about sundown I came up with my folks camped with entire strangers I was tired heart sick and disgusted.

9 of June For Journal see page 28

Today traveled about 20 miles and on the north Platt our Company consists of Elias Keeney and Family Mr Brown and Family a Mr Foster and Family and Mr Pillsbury who is driving Brown man Keeney's team and Fathers Family and several young men

10 traveled over hilly dirt roads and camped

camped on the river again 18 miles
11 Traveled over rocky dusty hilly roads passed the bridge on North Platt it is a poor temperance affair not used much Today Elias Keeney killed a porcupine found a good camp on the river

12 traveled about 20 miles passed the ^{Groceries} Ferry on north Platt but as we had some 200 miles below we saved \$20

13 hid a deer to the Platt and hunted through access to sweet water passed the mineral springs said to be good to cattle if allowed to drink it after a long drive after dark came to Wilson creek a great many emigrants are with cattle green willows for fuel good water but no grass

14 started early to find grass after 8 or ten miles we came to a small creek and turned out on good grass but no fuel except wild sage the first we have used but have seen plenty for the last month

June 14 Today passed the Saleratus Lake some miles in extent the ground covered with Saleratus fine and white and the ground soft and mirey about 3 o'clock we started for sweet water which we reach after dark good water but little grass wild sage for fuel the first we have used but have seen plenty for the last month
June 15

about two miles brought us to the Is the famous Independence Rock it is a large rock entirely disconnected with the surrounding mountains near the bank of the river just room for wagon to pass between rock and river the summit covered with names of adventures some put on with paint of different colors and some cut with chisel or jack knife and others with tar from the wagon wheels here the wagons had to go up the river to cross but Jos and I concluded to wade the river and walk on to the Devil Gate and wait for the wagons to come up we found the water quite cold and deep

June 15

We went on to the Devils Gate and while waiting for the wagons to come up we amused ourselves by climbing among the rocks and looking down at the roaring dashing Cataract as it had cut its way through the soft rock some hundred feet below through an narrow crevice I cut my name on a pine tree high up among the rocks and then returned to camp we had a little excitement this forenoon as a Mr Scott came up behind us with a large drove of loose cattle and tried to pass our teams the drivers came up whooping and yelling and started our teams to running and it was with some difficulty we got them checked as this was Sunday we got a good well seasoned with appetites

June 16 just as we were starting Scott's teams came along and in crossing a sandy gulch two of their wagons upset one was Sweet Sallic ^{Wagon}

June 15

We went on a few miles and camped on sweet water good water and Grass and Sage for fuel

June 16

As some of our oxen were lame a Mr Henderson volunteered to nail some shoes on them so we laid by and the company all went on except Mr Foster's family after dinner went on several miles and camped at high bluff on sweet water I amused myself by climbing a high bluff and rolling rocks down

17 Nine miles brought us to the seventh crossing of sweet water the river is enclosed by high rock walls with hundred of names put on with Lar Little Sister Rosa wanted to have her name put on higher than any one so I prepared my Dope and climbed up and put her name in large letters that could be seen from the road (Theresa Johnson)

June 18

2nd day made about 15 miles First ten miles without water then strikes the river again today Past the Ice springs as they are called a small valley with good grass but no water but by digging a foot or so we find clear and pure ice today crossed the Sweet Water the sixth time and camped at the seventh crossing good grass and water and sage for fuel

19 crossed the river the seventh time and in half mile crossed again Our road today a succession of rough rocky hills Had a fine view of the wind River mountain to the apparently but a few miles but said to at least thirty saw a great deal of snow Our wagons crossed a snow bank probably twenty feet deep after a hard drive of twenty miles camped on willow creek Cold night hard frost but we all sleep comfortably

June 20 Cold morning ten miles brought us to the long looked for rough pass We have been climbing the mountain for the last month but almost imperceptibly but have now reached the summit it is rather hard to find the exact point that divides the waters of the Pacific from the Atlantic But finally I found where I could stand with one foot in water running to the Pacific while the other foot was in water running to the Gulf of Mexico Six miles brought us to Pacific creek good grass but very mirey quite a number of emigrants here most of them quite cheerful as we are now in Oregon and all our troubles are over Started once more in company of Keeney Brown Foster's James & Gould traveled to dry sandy then six miles then six miles brought us to the forks of the road the left hand going to Salt Lake city and the right the blue and green we cut off

June 22

Here we met some mormons with a drove of large fat oxen on way to meet a train of wagon from Salt Lake City six miles brought us to Little Sandy here was a white man with a snake sign selling goods his stock consists of buck skin pants and coats eight miles brought us to big Sandy here we found the creek quite foily and it appeared to be rising so we thought it safe to cross before the water got to high we drove to the west side and turned out to get dinner as we are to start on the great desert without grass or water we filled our kegs cans with water which in a few hours had become clear and cold and as the sun was quite warm we concluded to wait till after noon to start on the Desert so about five o'clock we yoked up and started on the fifty mile drive. The first few miles was level as a floor without vegetation except Sreess wood and sage and the

Dust full six inches deep and fine as and it would rise so thick that the driver walking at his wheel oxen could not see the leaders and the sun the two hours high looked like the full moon. But came on and all hands crawled into the wagons to sleep leaving one man to each team and two boys to drive the cows as we advanced the night grew darker and the road more hilly and less dust but before day light we were arrested by my team (as I was in the lead descending a very steep hill but we stoped locked wheels got the folks all out and drove down a long dark hill all safe here we found a little brush grass so turned out to rest and get breakfast after which I gave my whip to my partner Harv Green and Joe and I started with the cows to go on to Green River so we started a head of the teams and about noon came in sight of the river our cows started a run

June 23

we followed slowly on reaching the River we filled our canteens and started back to meet the wagons and assist them in descending a very steep and bad hill found Sister Sarah driving my team and Green very sick in the wagon we got down safely and came to the Ferry here two boats one run by mormons the other by mountain men they wanted ten dollars a wagon for crossing but would not cross a single head of oxen but agreed to take the yokes and chains so we ran the wagon in by hand and were soon on the west bank of Green River got dinner then used boat to try to swim the cattle but they would swim half way across then turn around and come back on the same side we tried till dark then driving them over a high spur of mountain and driving them down a steep narrow rocky gulch we got them on good grass and left them until morning and returned to camp then the farmers refused to cross us but finally

June 24 Arose Corley and went back to try to swim the cattle but failed in the mean time our company was increased by new arrivals a company of mormons came well mounted and saw if we would raise fifty dollars for them they would cross our cattle for us by a close canon the money was raised then they drove the stock all down the river where the water was divided by Island into four channels by driving onto the first island they rode over and put them on the second then on the third and finally all landed on the west side then came a man and claimed an ox that belonged to our company but as we had known the ox for a thousand miles we refused to give him so it was finally settled without blood shed We yoked up and went on six miles to Fontanelli creek found good grass and water Green still quite sick

June 25

traveled about ten miles good Road but quite hilly camp on mud

June 25 creek good camp night rather cool Green still sick

26 This morning found one of our best oxen lying dead near camp

27 Three miles brought us to the

Fork of the Colorado a great many Indians here. We made no halt but started up the longest hill we have found on the road after reaching the top we came to a long level road through young green timber wood from the north and very cold snow in sight all around it appeared more like January than June we camped in a deep ravine on a small creek a large band of Indians just above us

28 as we started a mob of young Indians with long-willem in their hands took places on each side of the road and as the teams entered they commenced to flourish their whips and yell we saw Red Daws but they appeared to enjoy the sport and so did we we started up a long rocky hill

June 29

For a mile or two after reaching the summit we had to descend a long steep rocky hill we rough locked the wheels and started down further in the lead I went then a long string of wagons coming along behind. We had nearly reached the bottom when we heard that one of the hind most of the wagons had upset and rolled down the mountain so after a climb of a half mile or so we reached the wreck we found the wagon had upset broke the tongue and rolled over and scattered the load in its trail which consisted principally of old iron and trash he had picked up on the road after a while we got the wagon righted and on the road and finally got down the mountain and found ourselves in the beautiful Bear river valley after lunch we prepared to resume our journey but Mr. Gould declared he would not go on with the company and as he

June 29 And as he had procured a revolver in some way he pulled up his yokes and stood by them and swore he would shoot the first man that tried to yoke one of his oxen but one of the boys grabbed a yoke and started to put in on the ox the old man dropped his gun and picked up a long whip and commenced to flourish it around which made boys laugh but we went on the old man finally cooled down and we all camped at the narrows of Bear river good grass but no wood

30

Sabbath we laid by Father Breach in Kearney's tent

July 1 to day we traveled about 16 miles and camped to day traveled about sixteen miles and camped on a small creek in the mountains good grass but no fuel but we could see a grove of quaker asp some distance up the creek so some of us went to get some wood but at the first strike of the ax the

axis ketoes rose till the air was black with them then they followed us to camp and made life almost unendurable till cold and dark drove them away to day passed Thomas' fork of Bear river here some traders had put in a bridge and wanted a dollar a wagon for toll but by driving up a half mile we found a good ford and crossed safely to day traveled over some high steep hills to big timber on Bear river then down the beautiful valley and camped on a small clear cold creek no wood except green willows

July 2 traveled up the valley fine roads hundreds of Indians in all directions some appear to be moving the men ride the best horses ahead and leave the squaws to pick up and follow on they first part all they can on the horse then take their long tent poles on each side of the horse and let them trail on the ground behind them by piling tents behind they make

July 2 they make a platform behind the horse on which they pile their children pups and miscellaneous trash. Today saw a live calf packed on a horse. We found a good camp on a spring branch but we are so worn down with anxiety and standing guard every other night that we are lonesome and lifeless.

July 3

Seven miles brought us to the famous Steam Boat and Soda Springs. The Soda Spring is a gusher and flows in a continuous stream while near by is the remarkable Steam Boat Spring it alternates rises and falls in a natural tube emitting puffs like a steam boat the water rises up puffs till it runs over the top then quietly sinks out of sight and heaving but shortly it comes puffing to the top and discharges again. The country around is level and well appears quite rich a great amount of wild currants growing around which are quite delicious. After resting here a few hours we hooked up and went on over a level

Country to the Soda pool which is a round pool of water something like fifteen feet in diameter enclosed in a natural cement wall about a foot above the surface of the ground the water has disagreeable taste cattle will not drink it good grass but no fuel.

July 4 the nations holiday which our friends are preparing for the annual Feast and festival of the day we a small company of pilgrims a thousand miles from home surrounded by wild beasts and wild men trying to make our way to the far Oregon country. After a hearty breakfast of hardtack Bacon Beans and Coffee we took our march through sage and came to Portneuf Creek where we found a good camp. Today we killed a Badger the first we have seen. After a hearty supper seasoned with good appetites and was enjoyed as well as any fourth of July as I ever had access to BUT in order to give a proper finish to the day all the

Suns and pistols were brought out and a line formed we fired a fusillade which must have made the Indians tremble then there was another train on the opposite of the creek that load up and fired and with a great hurrah closed the festivities of the day. But after a good night rest we prepared to resume our journey but a some of Keynes cattle were sick so we went on and left them and went on with James Soules and Foster.

July 5 Started a long hill through some of quakenasp and were surprised to find the ground covered with large Brown Bristle ticks near as large as a mouse so thick that they crushed under the feet of the oxen and under the wagon wheels in places so thick that we could scarcely see the ground. The Indians eat the say they are good. We traveled near twenty miles and camped on a small creek good camp. 6th Sabbath remain in camp.

7 Keynes Company passed us in the night

July 7

Keynes Company passed us in the night but in about two miles came up with them they had to stop on account of a horse falling down with one of the Boys so we went on together and soon came to a level sandy sage plain some some six miles in extent no vegetation except sage then came to a fine level. Plain covered with fine grass and some timber then three miles brought us to Hall on the north bank of Snake River then three miles to Bannock Creek to a good camp. Today met a man hunting horses supposed to be stolen by Indians People at the Fort say watch your horses but the Indians will not steal oxen.

July 8

Crossed Bannock Creek and in two miles came to the crossing of Portneuf the banks steep water deep and swift I got in the wagon to draw a cross Our old dog started in alone to swim

across but the current was so swift that it carried him down against the wheel oxen and secured them till they cramped the wagon and came near upsetting. I applied the whip to the dog and in trying to swim up stream he failed and came down under the leaders and turned them down stream. I jumped out on the off side water up to my shoulders and got them turned to the landing and we got out all right we traveled down Snake River to the American falls here we found acres of wild currants which were good eating and here was a meadow of fine grass and as an oxen had been in short rations for several days we turned out to grass. Then there was a discussion arose as to whether we should guard our cattle at night some said no use to guard as the Indians would not steal cattle but some said it was as necessary as it had been so we agreed to put it to vote shall we guard our oxen to night Affirmative John

James Foster Goulds and all their men negative Keney Browns Huntly and Jates so Huntly proposed to divide the camp so they ran their wagons by hand about a hundred yards and established a camp about sundown he went to drive up our oxen to the corral when some of our men followed don't drive up any of our oxen we want them to stay on the grass our cattle all laid down quiet after dark some of the Huntly party came down to see if we had any of their cattle with ours I on cutting them out they got one of ours one of Grants one of Fosters and one of Goulds. At daylight we turned our oxen out to graze and after breakfast looked up and started as a few of our oxen were missing we left some boys to find them and come on after us but before we got a half mile we met some of our neighbors in great dole they said the Indians had stolen all of their cattle they had followed their trail several miles found some of their oxen dead

July 10

They begged us to turn around and come back and camp with them and we would fit out a company to follow the Indians and try to recover some of the oxen so we turned around and went back to the camp and soon had a company of eight or ten well mounted and armed to follow and try to recover some of the property but says some it will not do for all the men to leave or I with some of the old men were left to guard the camp when the men left the Indians commenced to collect on the opposite of the river they set up a pole with a hawk they supposed to be scalps and they were singing and dance around it a while then and then with an ear splitting whoop rush down to the water edge like they were going to try to cross but we stood with gun in hand and they did no attempt to cross as it might the south river had followed the trail to where they had swam the river then gave up the chase and came

In the mean time the Indians that threatened the camp all left the boys report finding five head of oxen dead on the road shot with arrows our party lost the oxen that the Huntly party drove from our corral after dark twenty two head stolen

July 10 By leaving one wagon and pulling horses to the other keeping red brown doublet up and we Gould turned his ox team over to Huntly to be delivered to him in Oregon. Gould then took one man Sid Giles with him and with his six snags started to push through the equip we started once and traveled some fifteen miles camped on Snake river and as no one objected to standing guard we made a list of all able men and boys and put two on guard til midnight then two others took their place til day light

July 11 15 miles brought us to Cassie Creek here the California road turns to the left here we halted a few hours then started and traveled til after dark

made a dry camp in the hills good grass

July 12 we started early and eight miles brought us to Swanp creek here we were visited by three suspicious looking Indians with two horses we took them to be spies which admonished to be on guard continually after dinner we moved about ten miles and camped on the River no grass except a long coarse wild dog grass July 13 four miles brought us to Goose creek here we passed Rev. Chandler's train saying by as it was sabbath day but we made no halt but went on ten miles as we came over from Goose creek our mule or dropped dead in the yoke here we found a species of grass grass it looks good but it is so salt the cattle will not eat it here we found an Indian who said he lived in Oregon but was afraid to travel alone as he feared the bad Indians would kill him we showed him where to spread his Blankets and charged the guard don't let him leave in the night

July 14 we started early over very rough Road to Rock Creek Bail had not gone far when Mrs Keeny was taken very sick and could not go on and as Keeny wished to wait a few days for his Brother to come up they insisted that we go on and leave them so we went on and left Keeny and Brown and ~~in about fifteen miles came to Rock Creek~~ In about fifteen miles came to Rock Creek here we found a beautiful grove of willow with a good spring near the center of it we drove up through our oxen set our tents got supplies then we noticed a great many fires started around on the hills some sayed that was a sign of hostilities and it was a signal to call the Indians together so some said we are too near the willows let us run the wagons back by hand to open ground but we had our tent and beds so we refused to move but went to bed and slept soundly til morning then hooked up ~~and~~ and started down the creek over a terrible Rock road and camped on a high

July 15 last night a few miles north east of our camp heard the great falls of Snake River they make a great roaring but not visible from the road We are now surrounded by the most Savage Indians we have encountered on the whole road and some of our dear mothers and sisters who a few months since declared they could not sleep for fear now appear to have lost all fear of Indians and will walk fearlessly ahead or behind the wagons for hours without fear but this morning after a good breakfast hooked up and started down Rock Creek the roughest road we have found about four o'clock

July 16 camped at a high bluff near the creek turned our oxen down to feed among the willows as it is said they cannot get out any where except where we turned them in here Harry Green found a horse that had been stolen from Rev. Chandler's train near 31 Halls he was nearly run down his ears nearly cut off his mane and tail highly ornamented with red flannel strings Ghy young and came on guard and towards mid night the

alarmed the camp by shooting at an imaginary Indian but with no other purpose we arose and after a good breakfast we resumed our journey down the creek some hot enough to roast eggs over a log laid down hoully under a sage bush we came to the river and after watering our teams we went on Old man James had traded for an Indian pony and assumed the roll of Capt. so he rode on to find a good camp and we were all mourning for our poor old dog so Father says I will take a can of wash and a old kit and go back and try to find him but after a few miles he thought of the danger he was in he turned around and came back to the train and we were all in mourning for poor old nig after passing some eligible camping places we turned out with but little feed and a number of dead cattle all around us and we were mad at the old cap but ~~not~~ sit down we saw the old man coming as fast as his horse could run and hollering Old man I have been on to Adley's camp and the

July 16 Higgins stolen some of their
orses and the men followed the
trail and in a few miles saw an Indian
coming to meet them riding the stolen
horse and they gave chase and were
nearly up to him when he left the trail
and jumped down a bank and disappeared
and while the boys stood looking another
Indian shot a man Hadley through
the body. The boys carried him to camp
supposed to be mortally wounded.

July 17 We were glad to get up and leave the
dirtiest most miserable camp we have
found on the entire trip. But were all rejoiced
to see our poor old dog come limping into camp.
on examination we found his feet unwell. One
of the girls made him a mask of buck skin which
he wore over a week or more till he was well we went
on a few miles and came to Hadley's camp found
the wounded man resting quietly after a brief halt
went on passed Salmon Falls and the Gibberon
river which appears to be a large stream flowing
into Snake River from under ground and falling
into Snake River with a deafening sound.

July 18

camped at a high point on
Snake River as we turned our oxen
out they rushed down the hill to water
near half mile we all followed then filled our
pails and climb back to our wagons and
camped good bunch grass and spent
a comfortable night.

July 19

Started before breakfast and in
about twelve miles came to three Islands
of Snake River the stream is divided into
four channels by three Islands and good food
on the Islands we turned our oxen on the
first and cooked breakfast and as this
was Saturday we concluded to lay by till
Monday. Sunday twentyeth had a good
rest.

Monday 21

after breakfast as we were ready to start
our old friends the ponies drove up and
halted for breakfast and as our next camp

21 as our next camp was to be on the
River only three miles ahead Father says
we will drive on to the next camp and wait till
you come up and we will go on together. But they
all claimed that John must stop and eat with
them so we had a joyful reunion. Jane says
there has not delay passed since we parted
but what I have found a letter signed by Lawrence
I know just where you were and was sure
we would overtake you and we had a good
time talking of incidents of the road since
we were forced to separate more than a month
ago I slept and ate breakfast with
my old friends then went on three
miles and camped on Snake River.

22 Started early and in company of
the Jones family. I volunteered to drive
their team and let the old man have a
rest. But after our noon lunch Jones and
started to walk ahead of the teams and
as we as we walked slowly and carefully
along we came in sight of our camp we were
startled to see a large party of Indian in
the road appeared to be holding a war dance.

July 22

we started early and fooled it
along down the river high
mountains on the left and river on
the right we came to a large bottom near
the river with scattering willows and
good grass so we turned out to get lunch.
But I was so worn and sleepy that I dropped
down in the shade of the willow and was
asleep as soon as I touched ground and in
the meantime the company yoked up and
started. I finally got up rubbed my eyes
and went to the road to see which way
to go. I started to follow on but in a short
time I looked towards the river and saw
a horse with saddle feeding around
and I noticed it was a horse that Hatty
Jones had been riding for the last
month my first thought was the Indian
has carried off the girl and left the horse
for a later trip. But I determined to get
the horse or die in the attempt so going cautiously
I caught the horse and was slowly leading
him to the road I found the little girl.

July 22 fast & sleep in a bunch of willow taking her up says Harriet the folks have gone and left us we are now alone surrounded by fierce savages get up and let us get out of quick as possible. I set her on her horse and we started walking fast as I could and she trotting along at my side soon we came to a wide valley could see by the dust that they were winding their way around by the foot hills back to the river I noticed a plain trail to our right going directly towards our next camp on the river by taking the trail we would head off the wagons and lead them to camp. But we soon found our mistake for we had led down a long steep hill then in a short distance another then and as we reached the top of a long dark hill we were suddenly surrounded by a dozen or so of most cruel looking savages on the whole route they caught the horse by the bit and by their clatter appeared to be consulting what they would do with us. I came close up to the horse on the near side while they were on the off side. I quickly jumped up behind the

Saddle and out gave step to the horse and ran for half mile or so came to another deep dark canon the Indians following and yelling behind us. I jumped off and ran down the hill near a rock at a step while the girl galloped behind me. By this time the sun was quite low and it was quite dark in the ravine. By this time the train had camped and the inquiry was going around where is John dear. Know have not seen since dinner no one has seen him just then it was discovered that Harriet and the Pony was missing and the camp was quite excited and anxious when we came into camp and rehearsed our experience and Mother declared she would never again leave camp till the children were all rounded up we had a good camp and slept well after our exciting experience.

July 23 Started early and traveled slowly a long as our teams were hardly worn and some of our oxen quite

lame and all hands appeared almost dumb as if they were expecting some great disaster. But towards night we came to the base of the Owyhe river found good camp grass water and fuel.

It renewed our slow monotonous tramp down the Owyhe to near Old St. Bois and camped on the river splendid grass and all accessories to make us happy.

25 as our next camp was to be at the crossing of the Snake some thing like 10 miles ahead and start said to be quite deep and save quite hot. I started ahead with some of the children to drive some loose cattle we were soon joined by a band of young men from another camp all on horse back and they lattered me to join them but I plead that I was on foot and could not join but a young fellow knowing my timidity and awkwardness told me to take his horse so I accepted and started with them and soon found myself along side of a fine jovial young lady and as we rode slowly along we soon found our way

of the wagons but behind our own company suddenly a young hard lam came galloping up behind us and as he passed the young Ladies horse he struck her horse with his whip her horse jumped like the saddle girth and and a young lady saddle and all was lying in the dust and sand near knee deep but as she was laughing I knew she was not seriously hurt I jumped down pulled her up caught her horse tied up the old girth and was now ready to proceed but how will we get aboard the girl was quite large and heavy not a tree rock or stump with in miles of us. I finally got down on my hands and knees she stepped up on my back and as I arose she grasped the horns of the saddle and and as I arose she lit on her horse and we were off gazas parks and went on to the river found our but the teams were far behind but we find good camp and had a good rest.

26 Our next camp was to be at Willow creek road quite dusty and water quite scarce and but little feed.

27 went on to Brant river found good feed and

Incl some of the Boys amused them self by making brush skins and trying to catch fish but with little success we came near having a serious tragedy here a Mr. Ab. Taylor with wife and daughter from Missouri hired a young married couple to cross the plains with them he to drive team and his wife to cook and help around camp. the wife had a little Brother about seven years old that was to have his board and transportation free but some time back Taylor got mad and threw their clothes and bedding out and left the man wife and little boy by the roadside but some kind hearted Emigrants came along took the women in and let the man drive the team but left the little boy to walk but we had a little lame cow that her feet rosted and her hoofs grew out long and turned up like sled runners and as we could not sell her for any thing and she was giving milk we brought her along for milk and intended to give her away when we got to the Missouri River but she when

to enjoy the trip so well she would get behind the wagon and march along all day without any trouble that we enjoy seeing so patiently marching along so some one proposed that the little boy should try riding her so they put him on her back and he would ride along till he was tired or sleeping then he would get off and walk awhile then climb on and ride but at this first camp on Bunt river Taylor came up with us and as they had not met since Taylor had left them by the side they met and after some words Taylor struck at Jim with a drawing knife he had in his hand then both men rushed for their guns but friends rushed in and settled the fuss without bloodshed July 29 after a good night rest we started up Bunt river crossing it several times we came to a large level Bottom with good feed and fuel and had a splendid camp and rest July 30 Traveled up the river and camped similar to last night this morning

this morning two of our oxen were missing so Brother Chybranus and I sloped back to look for them as we were riding around we were suddenly surprised to find ourselves in company of two had looking Indians the first seen for several days they rode along with us without a word but suddenly disappeared in the brush we soon found our oxen and went on and overtook the train we camped again on the River

July 29 Started up a long hill without any timber as we reached the summit Little Sister Rose was sitting down in front she jumped up in great glee and called Young I see the Sea Mountains And looking towards the north and west the blue were in plain view we could draw the outlines for many and to our unseasoned usage they appeared to be covered with a thick growth of small pines and in the state of the atmosphere they appeared a beautiful blue. Our next camp was to be at lone tree on powder river slough the

road very dusty and hilly we did not stop for lunch but coming to the slough found good grass and Incl we turned out got supper then yoked up and drove on to Powder River found a good camp and a good night rest July 30

Our next camp to be at the Grand Round valley we started Mr. Williams took his gun and horse to try to kill a deer about two o'clock we came to a very long steep hill overlooking the beautiful valley it appeared the most valley that I ever looked upon the dressed in green with springs of water issuing from the hills with groves of willow and cotton wood and thousands of ponys grazing and Indians driving in every direction as we started down the hill Mrs. Jones called Game come and take Sammie and carry her down the hill to relieve the young lady of the burthen I went back took the little cripple on my back and carried her down the the long steep hill to the disgust of some and jealousy

of others. But we arrived safely at the Bottom and found a delightful camp. Mr. Williams came in with a wild goose he had killed and we feasted on wild geese.

August 2 drove across the valley to where the road leaves the valley and stopped for dinner. Here we were surrounded by hundreds of Indians all quite jolly. But all wanted certificates of good character. One old fellow approached me and said, "Can you make paper talk for me?" Then he took from under his blanket a large package of papers carefully folded. "You make paper talk as I would had them," he would laugh gleefully. "Good paper."

Finally came to one who says, "Give this old devil hell if he comes around you, he is an old thief at which he joined in the laugh." Good paper says he. Here some Indians blamed they had made a good road down the hill to Grand Round River and wanted a dollar, a wagon, tool and a certificate. Father gave them a pair of brass stirrups that he had picked up as tool and wrote, "I am going to try it and if good will give a certificate but we found the worst hill on the whole route. It took us till after dark to get down to the river, found a good camp. Here we met Capt. Grant with a large pack train loaded with Hudson Bay goods for Ft. Hall."

August 2

Here we met some Indians who claimed they had made a good road down the mountain to Grand Round River and wanted a dollar, a wagon, tool and a certificate. Mr. Father gave them a pair of brass stirrups he had picked up and wrote, "I am going to try it and if good will give a certificate but we found the worst hill on the whole route. It took us till after dark to get down to the river, found a good camp. Here we met Capt. Grant with a large pack train loaded with Hudson Bay goods for Ft. Hall."

Aug 3 Got a late start as some of our oxen had strayed and it took us a long search to find them. As our road was narrow and hilly, then heavy timber and we had plenty of help and Mr. Jones had no help except his daughter. I volunteered to drive his team for him much to the disgust of my parents and jealousy of some others. We found it would take till after dark to

our camp (less encampment) some of the boys rushed on a foot and made a fire on the bank of the creek. We drove up and turned out our stock to graze. The girls were busy getting supper. Mrs. Blanchard in walking around the fire fell into the creek. The banks were low and the water not deep. She was badly frightened and cold and wet but we made a roaring fire of logs and were quite comfortable.

August 4

After a good night rest we started and by noon arrived at the base of the Blue Mountains. We halted to view the beautiful valley of the Umatilla. It looked toward description to the north and east. The valley appeared level and covered with grass as far as the eye could reach. To the west the Cascade Mountains capped by old snow covered Mt. Hood was in plain view. But here we had ascent to the Blue Mountains and descended a long hill to the Umatilla River and camped all cheerful and happy at the thought that in

In a few weeks we would reach our destination and here all our troubles are at an end.

Aug 5 started early and drove to the crossing of the river. Here we met Col. P. and his brother in law from the Council came to meet their families on their way from Mt. They wanted to make up a company to cross the Columbia and make a road across the mountains to Puget Sound. Father was considerably tempted to join them in the enterprise. But he announced that he was not going to travel longer with our old friends any longer. But would stop here till they went on and get out of his way (one fatal mistake). Here we met an old galoot by the name of Jackson who was living with a squaw. He had been to the Dalles and bought a fine dress pattern for his wife and wanted to hire the girls to make it for her. So Sisters Mary & Sarah sat down in the tent

Aug 5 Our company that we had been with most of the time for three months went on and left us and there was a man from Oregon that had a contract to put up a building for an Indian agency he wanted to hire a few men to help him raise the building as he had hewed out the frame from green cotton wood and they had twisted and curled up so that it was quite a job to put the frame together. But finally Harry Green and a Mr. Williams agreed to stop for three days help raise the building. Father says we will meet at Deschutes river. Here is two roads one is called the Whitman cut off and the other down the Columbia river and and as our old friends had taken the Whitman road it was not hard for old Jackson to persuade Father to take the river road. But we went to work at the house it was 2 stories high we put the logs together on the foundation and the boss had some goods to trade to the Indians he hired five Indians to help raise so we

got the first best up and braced and the Indians went back sat down and when ready to raise the second best the refused to help so tired so the Boss had to make a new treaty. Give each a new shirt tobacco coffee sugar and some of every thing he had in store. So with each best a new treaty. But as it was framed in four best we got it all up by sundown and was ready to resume our journey with orders on Dr. Dart at Millwauke for 9 days work each at three dollar per day. Aug 10 as Father had left the two mares with us we started for the Deschutes armed with a supply of jerked beef and flap jacks coffee and bacon as we started we were joined by a young man riding one of those long eared patient animals who has neither pride of ancestry or hope of posterity. He proved to be a young Presbyterian preacher by the name of Robt who was hurried on to Porttown to assist in organizing the

Aug 10 Organized the Presbyterian Prebtery. We rode on to well Spring and after resting a few hours we started for willow creek. reached it after dark found no water at the crossing but by going up the creek and tossing rocks into the willows we found a water hole and camped on the bank. Water very poor stinky and warm.

Aug 11

Started early and rode to the ferry on the Deschutes in the night. I was taken with Diarrhea and in the morning was not able to travel so the boys left me lying in the hot sand and sand and I was very sick. A good woman came along and the ferryman told her that there was a young man lying in the sand and dirt quite sick. She says when we get across I will go and see him. When she came I found Mrs. Williams whom I had met several times on the road. (The mother of Am. Richard and George Williams) She says I will go to the way and get you some medicine that will set you up

in a day or so. But so feedings of our teams.

Aug 12 as I felt some better to day the ferryman proposed he would board me if I would do the cooking. So I started in and took my first lessons in cooking in after two more days our teams were in sight. They reported that they had wallowed their sand nearly hunk deep for about 8 days with little feed and the teams were nearly worn out. While if they had taken the other road with our old and tried friends they might have been nearly across the mountain without a drop of rain or loss of a single hoof.

Aug 14

We were all together again we crossed the river and rolled up a long steep hill and found a good camp with good grass and water. after a good night's rest.

Aug 15

Resumed our journey. we are now rather short of help as Harry Green has left for the mines and Brother Foster has hired to

Capt Keene to help drive his drove of cattle over the mountains. But a young man by the name of Stone who has been with different trains since we passed. He being volent us over the mountains. We started up a small creek they called fifteen mile creek good road grass water and fuel. traveled probably fifteen miles camp on the creek.

Aug 15 Started and in a few miles left the creek and ascended to a high Prairie and traveled leisurely along. For several days came to a few Indians keeping a store of provisions and had a yoke of large fat oxen which father bought for \$125 dollars on year credit.

Aug 16 After miles being left us to a low steep hill which we descended. In high valley a beautiful little valley found good camp with wood water and grass.

Aug 17 Went on a few miles to Barlow. Here it was decided to ferry. By a few days and rest our teams (a great mistake)

Aug 25 Started into the mountains. Road rough and rocky. Camped at white river no feed except willow and alder leaves. Commenced raining in the night and in the morning cold and cloudy. But as we were started out last we concluded to go ahead.

Aug 26 Hooked up and started rain still pouring down had to camp another night without feed oxen getting weak and hungry. rain increasing and very cold. Roads muddy and slippery.

Aug 27 Hoped to get to the summit and find some grass but as we tried to climb the first hill our Smith put (ox) that had like that had always been ready for duty laid down in the yoke and could not get up. But we finally reached the summit and found some bunch grass but no good.

At a family Council at night it was decided to leave one wagon with L. B. and I with the mares and the weakest cattle till father could try to get through and send help.

Aug 28 Father yoked up three yoke of our best oxen and started mother and the girls and children all walking through mud and water. They got down the terrible Laurel Hill crossed Big Rag which they crossed several times still raining. Finally they came to a crossing that was too deep to ford so they were marooned. Two crossings with out any feed except brush leaves and twigs for the cattle. In the mean time an old gentleman from near Salem (a Mr Craft came) came along horse back said he had crossed the mountains expecting to buy exhausted emigrant cattle and keep them until spring but the Indians had burnt off the grass in the valley where he intends to winter so he abandoned the enterprise and was returning to his home. He learned that father was a Baptist preacher he says I am acquainted with some of the members of that church and will hurry home and report and they will send you help and says if you need any money I have some with me and will let you have what you want and you can pay me some in the future if able if not all right. I to return to the family and team father.

a log on which he crossed and walked on to Big Sandy and was allowed to ride a cross in an emigrant wagon then walked on to Philip Fosters the first house he had seen in four months travel. He sat down at table and ate a hearty dinner then joined a group of men on the road who were enquiring for a C. P. preacher by the name of Johnson. Father then admitted that he was the man and here met the late William A. Park and Thomas B. Allen each with two yoke of large fat oxen. It was a joyful meeting and the plan was soon arranged that Mr Park was to go back and meet the family and board them out and Mr Allen was to go back to the summit to meet the boys who had been left with the wagon and some of the weakest cattle. In the mean time I had a few dollars to try to buy some provisions from passing trains. We had the best dried cook store left with us in looking over our provisions we found a few pounds of flour and a small can of tea. Sugar meat or fruit of one kind.

Aug 29 we mixed our Bread with flour and water and made some tea and that was our Bill of fare for several days. In the night the snow commenced to fall and continued till it was six inches deep. Our poor mares came up to the camp covered with snow and shivering with cold we took blankets and covered them but could not save them they both laid down and died. Aug 30

The sun came out bright and clear and in the evening a large train of Missourians came along and some of the Company told me that one old man had a wagon loaded with Bacon that he had hauled from home. But a widowed Daughter heard the conversation and she spoke up and says it is no use to ask him he would sell you a pound to keep you from starving to death as I know him to be the meanest man that ever lived on earth. But says I will try him and I told him I would pay any price he would ask. But says he I will not sell a pound till I get to Oregon City. His Daughter then told a horrible story of her husband with a wagon and four yoke of oxen staying with them and after

after getting out on the Plains the old man trumped up a charge of murder against her husband and ~~him~~ had him hanged then her father took full possession of her team and while out fit and treated her and children like slaves. But the next night Mr. Allen arrived in camp with two yoke of large fat oxen and a variety of provisions on which we subsisted as we had been on short rations for nearly a week that night a number of wagons rolled in this night. In the morning came came we rounded up our poor oxen and cows and started ahead of the wagons and suddenly a large fat Elk appeared with our cows near the road and was looking at me. A man Jo Hunsaker came along with two small pocket pistols in his belt he fired but the Elk only moved a few steps and stopped and was looking at me. A Mr. Asa Spencer came up and as the wagons were rambling along behind Spencer can

Jo get his gun. But he found every gun in the train with a wet lead in it he drew the lead from his gun wiped it out reloaded and came up and shot the Elk. After taking all the meat we wanted we hung the carcass in a tree and went on down the fearful Laurel hill and found a train of Missourians camped at the foot of the hill we told them of a chance to get Elk meat and a number of the men started to climb the terrible hill to get meat here I found my young Brother who had been my only associate for a week but he had left me in the morning and gone ahead. So now we were happy except our dear Cow who had born the yoke every day (that the train moved) this morning she fell into a mud hole and we had to leave her to perish. So we can scarcely keep our tears back when we think of poor old Blanking.