

1819-1820

THE JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN JOHN R. BELL

Official Journalist for the
Stephen H. Long Expedition
to the Rocky Mountains, 1820

Edited and with Introductions by

HARLIN M. FULLER
Attorney at Law, Los Angeles

and

LEROY R. HAFEN
Professor of History, Brigham Young University



THE ARTHUR H. CLARK COMPANY
Glendale, California, U.S.A.

1957

in the vallies is a small growth of timber principally of oak - from them, we took to the bottom, in the direction of the mouth of the Platte, or nearly so - when our course soon became obstructed by the Musquetoe river,⁸⁰ running diagonally across, or rather more parallel with the Missouri about two miles distant from it - we changed our course for the bluffs again, where we found an Indian trace leading along at the foot of the hills - we followed it to the crossing place of the Musquetoe, when we arrived about 12 oclock. It was not more than 25 or 30 yards wide, the Major swam it, found a log on the opposite side, made one end of it fast, and passed the other across the river, which being secured, served as a foot way for us - carried over our baggage and swam our horses, it was with great difficulty the could ascend the bank, it being steep and very muddy - halted to feed, and gather wild onions which we found very abundant here. In the afternoon, followed the Indian trace until it was lost in the Missouri river, that is, the bank where the trace was has fallen into the river, and we was obliged to travel thro' the sand hills again, the Missouri for a great distance washes their base - from the tops of some of these knobs we had grand views of the Missouri, the mouth of the Platte, and the surrounding country - encamped at the foot of a valley opening into the hills from the prairie bottom - the Major shot a racoon on which we feasted for supper. Courses - N. 55°W. 4 m. - North 11 m - N 50°W. 4 m - N 60°W. 8 m. - total distance today 27 miles.

SATURDAY, MAY 27th. Marched at 7 oclock a.m. taking our course on the prairie bottom, and was soon

⁸⁰ Mosquito Creek enters the Missouri a few miles below the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

in sight of Fort Lisan,⁸¹ which cheered us with the happy prospect of soon arriving at the Engineer Cantonment⁸² where we should meet the other members of the expedition – came to a creek, the banks of which was high and steep, the bed of the creek was clay, we crossed it with much greater care than we had anticipated – we next came to the river Boyer,⁸³ which is about 40 yards wide, water deep and muddy, the banks was nearly filled by the back water of the Missouri – constructed a small raft, on which, the Major crossed over with his baggage, his horse swam over, and he set out for the Engineer Cantonment distant about 2 miles, leaving us to wait until some men arrived to assist us in crossing – presently we heard the discharge of ordnance announcing the Majors arrival – the report of the guns produced in us very pleasing sensations – it reminded us that we were yet in the land of civilization, and for a moment we forgot our fatigues & provocations. I was particularly gratified on an other account, it demonstrated the attachment, the members of the expedition had for their commander, it was a proof of their respect and esteem after having served with him one season. We soon had the pleasure to see arrive on the opposite bank, Lieut. Swift⁸⁴ and Mr. Peale⁸⁵ with

⁸¹ Fort Lisa was located about five miles below old Council Bluffs, and about twenty miles above the present city of Council Bluffs. It was established as a trading post by Manuel Lisa in 1812 and was occupied as late as 1823. During these years it was the most important post on the Missouri River, commanding the trade of the Omahas, Pawnees, and Otoes.— Chittenden, *op. cit.*, p. 926.

⁸² Engineer Cantonment, situated half a mile above Fort Lisa, was the winter encampment for the scientific party of the Long Expedition in 1819-20.

⁸³ Boyer River enters the Missouri River on the Iowa side, at a point opposite the boundary between Washington and Douglas counties, Nebraska.

⁸⁴ William Henry Swift was born in Massachusetts in the year 1800. He entered West Point at the age of thirteen, but was not present to graduate with his class as he was away on the Long expedition. The map of the

three men, they set to work and soon completed a raft, which took us and our baggage over perfectly safe and dry — our horses swam across. We then travelled about two miles, much of the distance thro' willows or a young growth of cotton wood, and arrived on the bank of the Missouri river opposite to the Engineers Cantonment, here a boat was in waiting to take us and our baggage across — our horses swam along side of the stern of the boat by our holding their heads above water by the bridles. Before we left the shore, I could not forego the pleasure of observing the most prominent objects in the surrounding scenery. It was a truly interesting view — a mile below us on the opposite bank stood Fort Lisa a large and extensive Indian trading establishment of which Mr. Manuel Lisan⁸⁶ is the principle proprietor, who has long been an enterprising trader with the Indians of the Missouri, and is mentioned by most of the travellers who have ascended this river. Opposite to us is the Engineer Cantonment consisting of log buildings, handsomely situated on the bank of the river, over which a flag was hoisted. The steam boat "Western Engineer" was lying in the stream in

exploration, found in the first volume of James' *Account* and in *EWT*, xiv, was prepared by him. In later life he played an important part in the building of forts, railroads, and canals.—*EWT*, xiv, p. 41, and R. G. Wood, in *The Journal of Transport History*, II, p. 123.

⁸⁵ Titian Ramsey Peale (1800-1885) came from a family which produced many excellent artists. His interests lay in the fields of art and natural science. Peale wrote *Mammalia and Ornithology* (1848), and was an officer of the Philadelphia Academy. During the years 1838-42 he took part in Lieutenant Charles Wilkes' exploring expedition to the South Sea; from 1849 to 1872 he was an examiner in the patent office.—*EWT*, xiv, p. 40. For an account of the Peale family and some of its paintings in color, see *American Heritage*, April, 1955.

⁸⁶ Manuel Lisa, born of Spanish parents, came as a young man to St. Louis in 1790. After organizing an expedition, he ascended the Missouri and established posts among the Indians living along its upper course. From 1812 to his death in 1820, he was the principal member of the Missouri Fur Company.

front of the quarters decorated with all her colors set, in honor of the arrival of the commanding officer — the day was fine, the young foliage of the trees in rear of the cantonment, to the summit of the hills was beautiful — the waters of the Missouri seemed charged with less sediment than usual — the small cotton woods bent gently to the breeze — all nature appeared to harmonize with our feelings — may it augur well, for the success of the expedition. We landed and was met on the bank by Doctr. Say,⁸⁷ Lieut. Graham⁸⁸ and Mr. Seymour,⁸⁹ to welcome our arrival, these gentlemen with Lieut. Swift & Mr. Peale had been here 8 months, secluded from the world — they was dressed in leather hunting

⁸⁷ Thomas Say (1787-1834) was one of the founders of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia. Before the Long expedition he had taken part in a scientific exploration of the coasts of Georgia and Florida. In 1821 he was made a Professor of Natural History at the University of Pennsylvania. He accompanied Major Long in the exploration of St. Peters River in Minnesota in 1823. In 1825 he joined Robert Dale Owen's colony at New Harmony. He was primarily interested in entomology and is said to have discovered more new species of insects than any man before him. For a biography see H. B. Weiss and G. M. Ziegler, *Thomas Say, Early American Naturalist* (Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas publisher, 1931).

⁸⁸ James Duncan Graham was born in Virginia, April 4, 1799, graduated from West Point in 1817, and served as first assistant to Major Long on the expedition to the Rocky Mountains. This scientific work interested him greatly and perhaps was responsible for his later work as a topographical engineer, astronomer, and surveyor for the United States. This work made it necessary for him to spend most of his life on the American frontier. He died in Massachusetts, Dec. 28, 1865.—*Dictionary of American Biography*, VII, p. 476.

⁸⁹ Samuel Seymour, artist, was to make the first paintings of scenes in the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, most of these have disappeared, but some were reproduced in the American and the English editions of the Dr. James *Account* of the expedition published in 1823. The Coe Collection of Yale University has ten of Seymour's originals. A biographical sketch of Seymour, with a listing of his known pictures is by J. F. McDermott, "Samuel Seymour: Pioneer Artist of the Plains and the Rockies," in *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, expenditures, and condition of the Institution for the year ended June 30, 1950* [with 16 plates] (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1951), pp. 497-509.

shirts & leggins – which appeared to me, as if they had assumed the dress and appearance of the hunter from choice or singularity.

SUNDAY, MAY 28th. Major Long and myself rode to the Cantonment "Camp Missouri,"⁹⁰ the garrison consisting of the 6th Infantry and Rifle Regiment – distant from the Engineer Cantonment 8 miles. On our way, we crossed the plain named by Captains Lewis & Clark "Council Bluffs" from the circumstance of their holding a council with some of the chiefs of the Otoes and Missouri Indians on the 3rd of August 1804 at this place – the lower prairie, or plain, is about 100 feet above high water mark, the base next the river is circular and washed by the water, in length, about 2 miles, extends back about one mile to a ridge rising about 80 feet on which is a second plain extending a great distance to the inundating prairie. From the bluff is a most beautiful view of the river above and below and of the country on the opposite side – subsequent to Lewis & Clarks visit, a trading house was erected here, some pieces of the building laying about mark the place where it stood. After passing the Bluffs and descending to the first bank or river bottom, but little above high water mark, we arrived at the cantonment, which is situated near the margin of the river, and having in its rear a pond or small lake of water – this bottom was heavy timbered with cotton wood, which was convenient in constructing the cantonment, consisting of officers quarters, barracks for the soldiers, and store houses. It is on a square, without defences at the angles, the exterior revetment or wall of logs is carried to a height, to admit the slope of the roof of the quarters

⁹⁰ Camp Missouri was the cantonment or encampment for the troops under Colonel Atkinson of the Yellowstone Expedition of 1819-20. They never moved beyond this point. — Chittenden, *op. cit.*, 926.

which are erected inside and against the wall, to be inwards – the object of this is in case of a siege by Indians, to fire from the roofs, protected by the wall. In the center of each face is a gate, on each side of the gate is constructed a projection into which cannon may be placed, so as to []⁹¹ the half faces. The work is altogether different from any heretofore constructed as a defence against Indians and may possibly be an improvement – the site on which it stands is a bad one in every point of view, and I have no doubt will soon be abandoned⁹² – a great number of deaths occurred among the troops during the last winter, from the scurvy, and convalescent are now fast recovering, and no new cases.⁹³ Lieut. Col. Morgan⁹⁴ of the Rifle Regiment, the commanding officer, Major O Fallan Indian Agent,⁹⁵ Capt. Riley⁹⁶ & Lieut. Talcott⁹⁷ of the Engi-

⁹¹ Word not decipherable.

⁹² Within two weeks of Bell's arrival, Camp Missouri was completely inundated, through the rise of the Missouri River. This flood caused the removal and rebuilding on a new site atop the Council Bluff, 1½ miles ssw of the river-bank location of Camp Missouri. The new post, named Fort Atkinson, was abandoned in 1827.

⁹³ In the winter of 1819-20, over 300 of the soldiers, gathered at the cantonment near Council Bluffs, were attacked by scurvy and about one-third of them died.

⁹⁴ Willoughby Morgan, Virginian, served as an officer in the war of 1812.

⁹⁵ This was Benjamin O'Fallon. His father, Dr. James O'Fallon, had served in the Revolutionary War; his mother was the youngest sister of George Rogers and William Clark. Benjamin was a prominent Indian Agent, who had been especially helpful to the Yellowstone Expedition during the winter of 1819-20 in dealing with and obtaining information from the Indians. He became colonel of the 1st Infantry in 1830, and died in 1832.

⁹⁶ This was Bennet Riley, who was born in Maryland, Nov. 27, 1787, and began his career in the army in 1813. He served in the War of 1812 and the Arikara campaign of 1823. He led the first escort over the Santa Fe Trail, in 1829, served in the Mexican War under General Scott, and was Provisional Governor of California in 1849. He died on June 9, 1853. For a sketch of his career see Otis E Young, *The First Military Escort on the Santa Fe Trail, 1829*, etc. (Glendale, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1952), pp. 54-56, 172-75.

⁹⁷ Andrew Talcott graduated from West Point in 1818. After resigning from the army in 1836 he engaged in railroad construction and mining. He died in 1883, aged 86.—*EWT*, xv, p. 140.

neers, received and treated us with great hospitality and attention.

MONDAY, MAY 29th. We remained in camp during the night – this morning Major Long made the necessary arrangements with Col. Morgan relative to men, horses and indian goods, conformable to instructions from Col. Atkinson, which we were to take with us on our tour – this done, we set out for the Engineer Cantonment accompanied by Major O Fallan and Col. Morgan as far as to show us the land under cultivation by the troops, consisting of extensive gardens in which are cultivated all kinds of vegetables – next is a piece of ground containing near 300 acres, planted with corn and potatoes – this is on the bottom land about a mile & a half in rear of the cantonment of a most luxuriant soil. The commanding officer is entitled to great credit for his exertions and good management in the agricultural department, when we take into view his scanty means and the sickness that has prevailed among the troops. Capt. Magee⁹⁸ of the Rifle Regiment was absent with a detachment in pursuit of party of Indians that had attacked a trading party some distance above on the Missouri, had killed one or two and wounded several – we are informed that we must have narrowly escaped falling in with a large war party on our way from the mouth of Grand river – as such a party had but a short time before been on the Missouri at a short distance below the Bluffs and had committed depredations – we no doubt crossed their trail on the prairie, and it was observed by the Major at the time, that it was the trail of a war party on horses. Arrived at our canton-

⁹⁸ Matthew J. Magee was captain of a Pennsylvania company of volunteers in the War of 1812. He was present to open a route from Camp Missouri to Fort Anthony on the Mississippi. He died June 29, 1824.—Heitman, *op. cit.*, I, p. 684.

ment, and was occupied during the remainder of the day in making arrangements for our journey, such as estimating the quantity and kind of provisions to take with us—preparing leather dresses and mockinsons, examining our arms and equipment—the scientific gentlemen packing the collections they have made to send off by the boat.

TUESDAY, MAY 30th. On refering to Lewis & Clarks map of the Missouri, I find that the principle rivers we crossed on our route from the mouth of Grand river to the Musquito river must have been the Little river Platte—the Nodawa river and the Nish na ba to na river—and perhaps the head waters of the Tarkio river. Lieut. Fields⁹⁹ of the Rifle Regt. sometime last autumn, marked a trace, by order of Col. Atkinson, commencing from the Boyer river 8 miles from the Cantonment and run a course South 60° East and struck Grand river about 60 miles from its mouth. It appears from his notes and survey that crossed a great number of streams—to all of them he gave names. Since our arrival here, the waters of the Missouri have been gradually rising, in all about six feet—the traders say, it will rise eighteen inches, or two feet more—however it appears this morning to be at a stand—the banks in many places along the river are falling in. At Camp Missouri they have removed some buildings, erected between the cantonment and the margin of the river—the whole site of the cantonment is not only threatened with inundation, but of being carried off by the current—the surface of the water presents a curious and inter-

⁹⁹ This was probably Gabriel Field, graduate of West Point in 1817. His "Trace" from near the mouth of Grand River to Camp Missouri, is shown on the map accompanying the *James Account* of the Long Expedition. The map is reproduced in this volume. The Trace ran nearly parallel to the route taken and described by Bell, being a few miles to the northeast of Bell's course.

esting sight – interspersed with small islands of floating trees and drift logs intermingled – trees with branches and roots entire – logs divested of them and floating separately – buffaloes, that have fallen through the ice – all brought down the rapid current, taking different directions in their passage by the power of the whirls, is altogether a scene beyond my powers of description. Of the Indian traders at our cantonment, is Barany Vasqueze who accompanied Pike as Indian interpreter to the head of the Arkansas river – was with the party taken prisoners by the Spaniards – he does not seem to be now, to the active and interprising man, he was when with Pike – he trades with the Mahas.¹⁰⁰

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31st. This day about thirty of the Chiefs and warriors of the Otto nation of Indians who reside on the river Platte, halted at our cantonment – on the way to visit the Indian Agent Major O Fallan at Camp Missouri. They are well mounted on horses or mules, some carry fire arms, all carry bows and arrows – they are fine looking men of large stature – dresses not highly ornamented except some of the warriors, who had the tufts of hair of the scalps they had taken worked into the seams of their leggings – one of them had two scalps fastened to the curb of his bridle, and wore them suspended under his horses head. They all wore buffalo robes or blankets, one had a fine spanish blanket – another was dressed in a Uniform coat and cap of the U.S. Corps of Artillery, purchased from a discharged soldier – two others had on Uniform coats of the Infantry. I am told they are extremely pleased

¹⁰⁰ A. F. "Baroney" Vasquez was the son of Benito Vasquez (Spanish) and Julia Papin (French). After his return from the Pike expedition, he served in the army until 1814; then he became a fur trader and an Indian Agent. He was agent to the Kaws when he died of cholera on August 3, 1828. – Vasquez Papers in the Missouri Historical Society Library, St. Louis.

with wearing the uniforms of our troops – the chiefs had suspended from their necks, medals, bearing the impressions of the likenesses of Jefferson and Madison – their nation is said to be brave in war, are friendly towards the Americans. Major O Fallan last year brought about a peace between them and the Pawnees – they are all very fond of whiskey – Messrs. Staniford and Talcott from Camp Missouri visited us to day.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1st. This morning the following orders of the Commanding officer, was promulgated, assigning to individuals of the expeditions, their respective duties, as well as for the information and government of the party during the tour --

Engineer Cantonment Council Bluffs June 1st 1820
ORDERS, Agreeably to instructions of the Honble. Secy of war, the further progress of the Exploring Expedition up the Missouri is arrested during the present season. ✓

By the same authority an excursion by land to the source of the river Platte and thence by way of the Arkansaw & Red river to the Mississippi is ordered.

The expedition will accordingly proceed on this duty as soon as practicable and be governed by the order of the 31st March 1819 issued at the U.S. Arsenal near Pittsburg so far as it may be applicable – The duties therein assigned to Major Biddle will be performed by Capt. John R. Bell of the Regiment of Light Artillery attached to the expedition by order of the war department, with the exception of those parts which relate to the manners & customs, and tradition of the various savage tribes, which we may poss. The duties thus excepted will be performed by Dr. Say.¹⁰¹

Lieut. Graham will take charge of the Steam Boat "Western Engineer" and proceed down the Missouri to the Mississippi with

¹⁰¹ The following is included in James' version and omitted in Bell's: "The duties assigned to Dr. Baldwin and Mr. Jessup, by the order alluded to, will be performed by Dr. E. James, employed for these purposes, by the sanction of the secretary of war. In these duties are excepted those parts which relate to comparative anatomy, and the diseases, remedies, &c. known amongst the Indians; which will also be performed by Mr. Say."—*EWT*, xv, p. 189.

the remaining part of the crew originally attached to the boat on the performance of duties assigned him by special order.

The detachment from the Rifle Regiment attached to the expedition by order from the commanding officer of the 9th Military department will accompany the expedition in their route from this place to Belle Point on the Arkansaw under the immediate command of Lieut. Swift who will inspect daily their arms and accoutrements and report the condition to the Commanding Officer. He will receive such instructions from the commanding officer as occasion may require in relation to the discharge of his duties.

Guides, interpreters, hunters and others attached to the expedition will perform such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Commanding officer.

The duties of the expedition being arduous, and the objects in view difficult of attainment, the hardships and exposures to be encountered requiring zealous and obstinate perseverance, it is confidently expected that all embarked in the enterprize will contribute every aid in their power tending to a successful and speedy termination of the contemplated tour.

S. H. LONG Major Engineer
Comdg, Exploring Expeden.

The following is a copy of the order issued at U.S. Arsenal near Pittsburg alluded to in the foregoing order.¹⁰²

ORDERS -

Pursuant to orders of the Honble. Secy of war, Major Long assumes command of the Expedition about to engage in exploring the Mississippi, Missouri, and their navigable tributaries, on board of the U.S. Steam Boat "Western Engineer."

The Commanding Officer will direct the movements and operations of the expedition both in relation to military & scientific pursuits. A strict observance of all orders, whether written or verbal emanating from him will be required of all connected with the expedition.

¹⁰² A copy of these orders may also be found in *EWT*, XIV, pp. 40 ff.

The prime object of the expedition being a Military Survey of the country to be explored, the commanding officer will avail himself of any assistance he may require of any persons to aid in taking the necessary observations for an astronomical & Barometrical survey of the country. In this branch of duty Lieut. Graham & Cadet Swift will officiate as his immediate assistants.

The Journal of the Expedition will be kept by Major Biddle, whose duty it will be to record all transactions of the party that concern the objects of the expedition - to describe the manners, customs etc. of the Inhabitants of the country thro' which we may pass - to trace in a compendious manner the histories of the towns, villages, & tribes of Indians we may visit, to review the writings of other travellers & compare their statements with our own observations, & in general whatever may be of interest to the community in a civil point of view, to record, not interfering with the records of the naturalists attached to the expedition.

Doctr. Baldwin will act as Botanist to the Expedition, a description of all the products of vegetation common or peculiar to the countries we may traverse, will be required of him - also the diseases prevailing among the inhabitants, whether civilized or savage and their probable causes will be subjects for his investigation, any varieties in the anatomy of the human frame, or any other phenomena observable in our species will be particularly noticed by him. Dr. Baldwin will also officiate as physician & Surgeon for the expedition.

Mr. Say will examine and describe any subjects in Zoology and its several branches that may come under our observation, a Classification of all land & water animals, insects etc and a particular description of the animal remains found in a concrete state will be required of him.

Geology so far as it relates to earths minerals and fossils, distinguishing the primitive, transition, secondary and alluvial formations and deposits, will afford subjects for the investigation of Mr. Jessup. In this Science as also in botany and zoology facts will be required without regard to theories or hypothesis that have been advanced on numerous occasions by men of science.¹⁰³

¹⁰³ James gives the following paragraph which Bell has omitted here: Mr. Peale will officiate as assistant naturalist. In the several departments above enumerated, his services will be required in collecting specimens

Mr. Seymour as painter for the Expedition will furnish sketches of landscapes, whenever we meet with any distinguished for their beauty or grandeur — he will also paint miniature likenesses or portraits if required of distinguished Indians, and exhibit groups of savages engaged in celebrating their festivals or setting in council, and in general illustrate any subject that may be deemed appropriate in his art.

Lieut. Graham & Cadet Swift in addition to the duties they may perform as assistant topographers will attend to drilling the boats crew in the exercise of the musket, and field pieces, and the sabre, their duties will be assigned them from time to time by the commanding officer.

All records kept on board of the Steam boat, all subjects of natural history, geology and botany, and all drawings, also documents of every kind relating to the expedition will at all times be subject to the inspection of the comdg. officer, and at the conclusion of each trip or voyage will be placed at his disposal as agent for the U.S. Government.

Orders will be given from time to time whenever the commanding officer may deem them expedient.

Pittsburg 30th March 1819. S. H. LONG
Maj. Topl. Enr. Comdg. Expen.

Then it appears my duties are reduced to this — first — “To record any transactions of the party that concern the objects of the expedition.” It must be evident that to do so, I must be indebted to the commanding officer for information, or my record will exhibit no more than the remark of an observer accompanying the expedition. In the second place to record, “whatever may be of interest to the community in a civil point of view, not interfering with the records of the *naturalists*.” I am some loss how to construe this — and must leave to time and circumstances to more particularly define my duties, in the mean while I will continue to make my

suitable to be preserved, in drafting and delineating them, in preserving the skins, &c. of animals, and in sketching the stratifications of rocks, earths, &c. as presented on the declivities of precipices.”— EWT, xiv, p. 42.

notes as usual, observing all men and all things as they pass before me.

All the party employed in making preparations for our journey. Six Soldiers of the Rifle Regiment and Six horses arrived from Camp Missouri with the Indian goods and other articles furnished by order of the Commanant for the expedition. In the afternoon, the Ottos returned from the Agents - passed our Cantonment to Lisas, the trading house. I remarked that a number of them had supplied themselves with worn soldiers clothing, some with Sergeants knots, of these they seemed extremely well pleased - very many of them was intoxicated, of the number was the the Chiefs - they was noisy, but civil to the whites - two Kansas was with them, who remained with us during the night. Lieut. Fields visited us, with an invitation to dine with officers of the Rifle Regt. tomorrow - accepted.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2nd. Major Long, Lieut. Graham, Doctr. Say, Messrs. Peale, & Seymour & myself attended the dinner given by the officers of the Rifle Regiment to Major Long and the gentlemen of the exploring expedition. Dr. James declined going altho strongly solicited by the commanding officer. Lieut. Swift remained in command at the Cantonment. We arrived at Camp Missouri about half past 12 oclock - at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 oclock p.m. - the officers of the 6th Reg. of Infantry, who was also invited, assembled, and together we proceeded about a mile from the cantonment to a superb bower, erected on an elevated point of land projecting from the hill ascending to the prairie - the vallies and sides of this eminence was covered with a luxuriant growth of timber and grass - the far end of the arbour opened to view a garden laid out and cultivated with great taste - the whole seemed more

the effect of enchantment than of art, when we consider, we are near four hundred miles from white settlements – at 2 p.m. we set down to an excellent dinner – consisting of almost all the varieties of tame and wild meats and fowls – and garden vegetables except potatoes – pastry pies, of dried apple and gooseberries – of liquors we had Medeira wine, brandy, rum & whisky – no person could hardly suppose a table could be furnished with such a variety in the wilderness 600 miles by land west of the Mississippi river. Col. Morgan presided assisted by Major O Fallan and the greatest order & harmony prevailed – after the cloth was removed we had some good songs, patriotic toasts & sentiments from the officers, accompanied by the music of the excellent band belonging to the 6th Regiment. We returned in the evening highly gratified with business of the day.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd. Major Long is authorized by the Secty of war to engage volunteers, not exceeding a certain number, who are to accompany us as interpreters, guides, hunters, and engagers – but, our party is likely to consist of so small numbers, that good and useful men will not engage to go with us. The Major however, has succeeded in hireing some young men from Kentucky who lately arrived at the trading house on board of a boat from St. Louis. The people are employed in making up the packs, and arranging the horse equipments – we have some expectation in being off on Monday next. Major Humphrey, Capt. Bissell & Lieuts. Staniford & Scott from Camp Missouri visited us today – they amused themselves in firing at mark – Bissell & Scott are great marksmen with the rifle – Staniford & Scott are great shots with the pistol. Mr. Julian and one of the soldiers, in endeavoring to

catch a mule and not likely to succeed, attempted to crease it, by firing a ball through the upper part of the neck, in doing which, the soldier fired too low and killed the mule on the spot.¹⁰⁴ Messers. Pratt & Vasquez¹⁰⁵ proceeded in their boat for St. Louis.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4th. Lieut. Swift with a party of men detached to Camp Missouri for the purpose of bringing down our provisions. Lieut. Scott and a party of men arrived from the Camp, to take up the keel boats that have been lying in harbor here during the winter – the object of taking them up at this time, is to remove the powder & amunition from the magazine and flour & other articles from the store houses – the whole cantonment is surrounded by water, the interior & parade ground nearly overflowed with water – the bank between the cantonment and the river rapidly falling in, and every expectation that the side of the cantonment next the river will be washed off. If the water continues to rise, the garrison will have to abandon the cantonment and bottom land, and go on the Bluffs for safety, where I imagine they will erect permanent quarters. Capts. Hamilton, Bliss & Magee Dr. Gale & Lieut. Pentland visited us. Col. Morgan sent a note to Major Long, stating the threatening disposition of the waters, as the reason why he could not do himself the pleasure of calling on us before we started.

MONDAY, JUNE 5th. Lieut. Swift & party returned from the Camp with the provisions, consisting of hard bread, etc. Lieut. Graham, had during the winter prepared a quantity of parched corn meal, an article of

¹⁰⁴ "Creasing" was a recognized way of catching wild horses. For an account of a successful creasing by Andrew Sublette, see *EWT*, xxi, pp. 87-88.

¹⁰⁵ This was most probably Bernard Pratt and Benito Vasquez, Jr., who had a trading post above Camp Missouri.

provision well calculated for easy transportation and convenient sustenance in the wilderness. The men employed in examining & fixing the pack saddles—in the afternoon, the Major had the horses brought up and those for the saddle selected by those who were to ride—and in order that there should be no delay tomorrow, the packs was arranged and placed upon the horses & mules that were to carry them, and assigned the men who were to have charge of them. Capt. Martin & Lieut. Conant of the Rifle Regt. arrived in sight, with three boats having on board a detachment of troops from Fort Osage.¹⁰⁸ As I furnish myself with the means of transportation, a special order from the commanding officer, is necessary in the final settlement of my accounts, the following is a copy of the order—

Engineer Cantonment near Council Bluffs June 5th 1820

SIR, you will accompany the exploring expedition from this place westwardly to the Rocky mountains, thence Southwardly to the Arkansaw river. Thence down said river to Belle Point and thence to Cape Gerardeau on the Mississippi—in the performance of such duties as has been heretofore assigned you by the Commanding officer of the expedition.

I have the honor to be, Sir, & c t a

S. H. LONG Major U. S. Engrs.

Comdg. Expg. Expedition

Capt. J. R. Bell Lt. Artillery.

¹⁰⁸ Fort Osage, or Fort Clark, stood on the Missouri River near the site of Sibley, Missouri, about forty miles below the mouth of the Kansas. General William Clark passed this point in 1808 with a troop of cavalry on his way to make a treaty with the Osages. He selected the site for a post and it was established that year. It was abandoned on the founding of Fort Leavenworth in 1827.

Council Bluffs to the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River

TUESDAY, JUNE 6th. At 10 o'clock this morning our party set out, announced by the discharge of a piece of ordnance from the Steam boat "Western Engineer" — a number of Indians of the Otto nation were present, and remarked that our party was too small, that we would be destroyed by the Indians of the mountains or perish for provisions & water on the prairies.¹

The party is organized as follows and their several duties specified, viz:—Major S. H. Long, Topographical Engineer, Commanding officer — Capt. Jno. R. Bell, U. S. Light Artillery, Journalist — Dr. Say, Zoologist — Dr. James, Botanist & geologist — Mr. Peale, asst. naturalist — Mr. Seymour, land-scape painter — Julian, French & Indian interpreter — Adams, Spanish interpreter — Dougherty, hunter — Wilson, Duncan & Oakley, engagee — Soldiers of the Rifle Regiment, Verplant & Parish — hunters, Foster, Nowland, Bernard & Myers — and Sweeny of the Corps of Arty — in all twenty persons² — each furnished with a riding horse

¹ James says: "Baron Vasquez, who accompanied Captain Pike, in his expedition to the sources of the Arkansas, assured us there was no probability we could avoid the attacks of hostile Indians, who infested every part of the country."—*EWT*, xv, p. 193.

² His figure is correct, but he has failed to include Lieut. W. H. Swift. Two others were later added, at the Pawnee villages — Joseph Bijou and Abraham Ledoux. The Muster Roll submitted by Major Long to J. C. Calhoun, Secre-

or mule – a rifle or musket – and in addition, the officers & scientific gentlemen with each a pair of pistols – the whole with a supply of ammunition – of instruments etc, we have one sextant 5 inch radius – artificial horizon – a pocket sextant – three pocket compasses – two pocket thermometers, a measuring tape & Pikes map of the upper part of the Platte, Arkansas & Red rivers – of Provisions, we have about 450 lbs. hard biscuit, 150 lb. parched corn meal – 150 lb. of salted pork, 5 galls. whiskey and some other small supplies³ – for

tary of War, from Philadelphia on Feb. 8, 1821, listed 22 men, with their positions and pay as follows:

	per day	per mo.
"S. H. Long, Maj. Com'd Expedition	1.50	
J. R. Bell, Capt. L. A. Journalist	1.50	
W. H. Swift, Lt. Art. Ass't Topographer	1.50	
Thos Say, Zoologist	2.20	
Edwin James, Botan. Geologist & Surgeon	2.20	
Titian Peale, Assistant Naturalist	1.70	
Samuel Seymour, Landscape Painter	1.70	
Stephen Julian, French int. & Engagee	1.00	
Joseph Bijou, Guide & Interpreter	1.00	
Abraham Ledoux, Farrier & Hunter	1.00	
Han [?] Dougherty, Hunter		25.
Zachariah Wilson, Baggage Master		25.
James Duncan, Engagee		15.
James Oakley do		15.
David Adams do		15.
John Swaney Priv. Corps Artillery	.15	
Jos. Verplank do Rifle Regt	.15	
William Parish do	.15	
Robert Foster do	.15	
Mord Nowland do	.15	
Peter Banard do	.15	
Charles Myers do	.15	

Whole number 22" – War Records, National Archives.

³ Dr. James in his *Account* (*EWT*, xv, pp. 191-92) says 500 pounds of biscuit. He also enumerates the following: "25 lb. of coffee, 30 lb. of sugar, and a small quantity of salt, 5 lb. of vermilion, 2 lb. of beads, 2 gross of knives, 1 gross of combs, 1 dozen of fire steels, 300 flints, 1 dozen of gun worms, 2 gross of hawk's bells, 2 dozen of mockasin awls, 1 dozen of scissors,

the transportation of these, the Indian goods & ammunition there is of horses & mules six. The Steam Boat is to proceed down the river in five days under the command of Lt. Graham of the Artillery, with special orders from the Commanding officer of the expedition. She is to be at Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi river on or about the 1st Septr. next, there to wait our return. On leaving the Engineer Cantonment, we took, the Indian trace leading to the Pawnee villages on the Loup fork of the Platte - After ascending the hill distant from the Missouri half a mile we enter the prairie which is undulating and entirely destitute of timber - from the hills of the prairie we had a beautiful view of Council Bluffs and the country on the opposite side of the river - varigated with wood and meadow land. Lieut. Graham accompanied us a short distance. Lieut. Talcott met us - they took leave and proceeded to the Cantonment. Our men not being very expert or skillful, we are obliged to travel slow and occasionally to halt, to give them time adjust the packs on the horses - we halted for the night on the bank of a small stream called the Puppillion⁴ or butterfly river - it is about 20 yards wide deep and muddy discharges into the Missouri about three miles above the mouth of the

6 dozen of looking glasses, 30 lb. of tobacco, and a few trinkets, 2 axes, several hatchets, forage-bags, canteens, bullet-pouches, powder-horns, tin canisters, skin canoes, packing-skins, pack cords, and some small packing-boxes for insects, &c. . .

"The hunters, interpreters, and attendants, were furnished with rifles or muskets; the soldiers were armed exclusively with rifles, and suitably equipped. Our stock of ammunition amounted in all to about 30 pounds of powder, 20 pounds of balls, and 40 pounds of lead, with a plentiful supply of flints, and some small shot."

⁴ Papillion Creek roughly parallels the Missouri River. Farther down the creek there is now the town of Papillion, seat of Sarpy County, Nebraska.

river Platte – a small growth of timber on the islands in the river marks its meandering course through the prairie. The Major assigned to me the duty of selecting the ground for our camp, to superintend the placing of the packs according to their number and the squads having charge of them, the pitching of the tents and collecting fuel for the purposes of cooking. An Indian trader & one man accompanied us today on their way to the Ricara Indians, from them we purchased two small brass kettles, for which we paid 6 dolls.– having brought with us but two old iron camp kettles – hobbled or tied our horses to stakes near our camp during the night. Course N. 75°W – 9 miles.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7th. The hunters was out last evening, on their return, they reported, that they had seen elk & deer – and wounded a large buck, but night coming on they did not take him. At 6 o'clock a.m. our party proceeded and travelled 8 miles, when we arrived on the bank of the Elkhorn river,⁵ it is a beautiful stream, about 40 yards wide; grand bottom and discharges into the river Platte – here we were obliged to use our buffalo skins, as canoes, for transporting our baggage across, and found them safe and convenient,⁶ the whole party was across & ready to

⁵ The Elkhorn is the first large affluent of the Platte encountered. It rises in Rock County, Nebraska, not far from the Niobrara River. They reached the river near the site of Fremont, Nebraska.

⁶ Dr. James explains: "Our heavy baggage was ferried across in a portable canoe, consisting of a single bison hide, which we carried constantly with us. Its construction is extremely simple; the margin of the hide being pierced with several small holes, admits a cord, by which it is drawn into the form of shallow basin. This is placed upon the water, and is kept sufficiently distended by the baggage which it receives; it is then towed or pushed across. A canoe of this kind will carry from four to five hundred pounds. The squaws, who are exceedingly expert in this sort of navigation, transport not only their baggage, but their children, and sometimes adults, across large rivers, in these canoes, and with the most perfect safety. They

move in an hour and a quarter. The morning was disagreeable from a light rain that fell, but, the weather cleared toward the middle of the day and was pleasant. In approaching the Elkhorn, the bluffs are high, from them, we had a view of the sand bluffs on the opposite side of the Platte distant about 8 miles—in that distance and direction the country appears perfectly level—the margin of the banks of the Elk-horn are timbered. The river is called by the Indians Watalunga. After allowing our horses to feed, and taking a bit of cold victuals ourselves, we resumed our march over a level prairie—halted for the night, and encamped⁷ in the bend of a small creek where we found water standing in puddles—the place is little to the right of the trace, and from its being the only timber in sight on the creek, is called *la talls de bois*—or bunch of wood. A shower of rain passing over at the time we formed our camp, gave us wet tents and jackets for the night— one of the party caught a young antelope and brought it to camp. Mr. Peale made a drawing of it & let it run again. Courses West 7 miles—No. 85°W. 9 miles—total distance 16 miles.

place their children on the baggage, and convey the whole across the stream, by swimming themselves, and urging their charge before them to the opposite shore. It is rare that any unpleasant accident occurs in this primitive mode of ferrying."—*EWT*, xv, pp. 195-96.

⁷ Dr. James describes their camp: "In our encampment we observed the following order. The three tents were pitched in a right line, all fronting in the same direction. In advance of these, at the distance of four feet, our baggage was arranged in six heaps, one at the right, and one at the left of the entrance to each tent, and protected from the weather by bear-skins thrown over them. This disposition was made, not only for the convenience of the party, but that our baggage, in case of an attack of the Indians, might serve as a kind of breast-work, behind which we might be, in some measure, sheltered from danger. At any rate, having our baggage thus arranged, we should know where to find it, and where to rally, in any emergency by day or night."—*EWT*, xv, p. 197.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8th. The hunters was out last evening but killed nothing, saw a number of antelope that were so wild, they could not approach near to gun shot of them – discovered a party of Indians passing down on the trace near the river Platte – the commanding officer ordered the horses to be fastened to stakes driven in the ground for that purpose, close around our camp – and a guard stationed to watch them during the night. We are apprehensive of falling in with Indian war parties, that may be out from the nations at war with the Pawnees. Proceeded⁸ at 6 oclock a.m. and travelled to the Coquille river⁹ before we halted, in consequence of a very heavy shower of rain passing over between 12 & 2 oclock, accompanied with the most vivid lightening & heavy thunder I ever witnessed – we moved in Indian file on the trace, and after the shower had abated, an enquiry passed along the line, if all was present, and not injured by the lightening – we crossed Coquille or shell river and encamped, it is a crooked stream about 20 yards wide, muddy bottom, timbered on the margin of the banks, on the west side, the bluffs are high at the place we crossed it – it discharges into the river Platte. Course S. 85°W. 24. miles.

FRIDAY, 9th June. A very heavy rain fell during the night, our arms, blankets and many articles in the packs are wet – in the early part of the evening we was much annoyed by immense swarms of musquitoes. Pro-

⁸ Dr. James wrote on June 8: "In all our marches we observed the following order. Capt. Bell, mounted on a horse whose gait was regular and uniform, and well calculated for the estimation of distances, preceded the party, attended by our guide.—The soldiers and attendants, formed into two squads, for the better management of the pack-horses, followed in single file.—The scientific gentlemen occupied any part of the line that best suited their convenience."—*EWT*, xv, p. 198.

⁹ Coquille, or Shell, river flows from the northwest across Platte and Colfax counties and empties into the Platte.

ceeded at 8 a.m. after ascending the hills, the prairie is undulating the Indian trace no longer discoverable. Mr. Julian was in front as guide – at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 o'clock p.m. we halted on the bank of the Coquille, to let our horses feed and to open our packs and baggage to dry – weather extremely warm. In the afternoon, we took a course to the left, in order to cross a dividing ridge of the prairie, and to arrive on the Loup fork the river Platte – met two Pawnee Indians on horse back on their way to the Maha village, to attend some ceremonial dance, their dress consisted of moccasins, breech clout and buffalo robe – body & legs naked, but clean. They had heard of our coming, and was pleased with having met us – crossed Grape creek, or as it is called Rivire a Raisine, a small stream of clear water, hard banks, and gravel bottom¹⁰ encamped for the night on the bank of the Loup fork, on a beautiful spot of ground, a few old cotton wood trees only is standing – opposite our camp is an isleand, so that I cannot estimate the width of the river – the extensive prairie bottom continues. Course S. 65° W. 21 miles.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10th. Proceeded at $\frac{1}{2}$ past o'clock a.m. [sic] – hunters having been sent out early in the morning, joined us on the march, having killed a deer, the first of any game we have taken – at the distance of 7 miles crossed Beaver river¹¹ and halted to secure our baggage from the rain – this is a small crooked, muddy stream, some of our horses was near sticking fast in the mud. Mr. Seymour was thrown from his horse, into the water, he carried the air gun which was

¹⁰ The description of Grape Creek corresponds to a small stream now known as Looking Glass Creek. The Pawnee Indians called it the "water that reflects your shadow." *Ibid.*, 201.

¹¹ This northern tributary enters Loup Fork near the site of the town of Genoa.

recovered from the bottom, but injured – while here three frenchmen,¹² Indian traders & two half breed Indians came up, they were from the Missouri going to the Pawnees – they stated to us that they had not eat food during the last three days – we furnished them with provisions. In a short time, it ceased raining, and they proceeded, Major Long requested them to inform the Chiefs of the Villages of his approach and the probable time his party would arrive at the Village of the Grand Pawnees – that he expected Long-hair the Chief of that Village would receive him & his party with friendship and hospitality – at 3 p.m. resumed our march, crossed two small creeks,¹³ and encamped on the bank of the 2nd for the night, it was showery at intervals during the whole of the afternoon. In crossing the 2nd creek Dr. Say was thrown from his horse, suffered no injury, but lost some articles, which was not recovered. Course S 55°W. 12 miles.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11th. This day we are to arrive at the first Village of the Pawnees – the commanding officer intended to have set out early in the morning, but a number of our horses stayed off during the night & to bring them up, delayed some time, however the party proceeded at 20 minutes past 6 oclock a.m. and moved on in Indian file, each of the party having had his place assigned him in the line, when in that order, by the commanding officer – our colours displayed, consisting of a small American ensign, and one repre-

¹² One of the Frenchmen had with him a letter for Major Long from Lieut. Graham, and a box containing vaccine virus, which had been carried to the party for the purpose of introducing vaccination among the Indian tribes. Unfortunately, the virus had been water soaked and completely ruined, when a keel-boat carrying it had been wrecked in ascending the Missouri River.—*EWT*, xv, p. 202.

¹³ The first creek was Plum, so named because of the wild plum trees growing along its banks; the second was Council Creek.—*Ibid.*, 203.

senting the sword and war pipe, and the hands of a white man & Indian in the act of shaking hands – a signal of peace & friendship on our part with all the Indian nations. Arrived at Willow creek¹⁴ a beautiful stream about 15 yards wide, low banks, gravel bottom and clear water — and fordable – a short distance from the creek, we met a party of squaws, going out to their daily labour of cultivating their corn, beans & pumpkins¹⁵ – or collecting fuel for their fires – a young man was with them, armed as a sentinel, to guard them from attacks by war parties, or hostile Indians, wandering about watching an opportunity to take scalps or steal horses. About 11 o'clock a.m. we arrived & halted before the Village of the Grand Pawnees,¹⁶ and not withstanding the display our party made in the exhibition of flags, the slow and regular order of our march, no apparent notice was taken of us by the indians of the Village, until we halted, when some of the men, squaws & a great number of children came out, as if to gratify a mere idle minority – a Frenchman, trader – came up and spoke to Major Long, the Major enquired of him, why the American colours was not set in the Village, in compliment to the approach of his party – the trader replied that the Chiefs and head men of the Village

¹⁴ This is apparently Cedar River of today, a branch of the Loup.

¹⁵ Manuel Lisa the Indian agent, fur trader, and trapper, wrote in a letter dated July 1, 1817, to Gov. Clark of Missouri: "I appear as the benefactor, and not as the pillager, of the Indians. I carried among them the seed of the large pompion, from which I have seen in their possession the fruit weighing 160 pounds. Also the large bean, the potato, the turnip; and these vegetables now make a comfortable part of their subsistence, and this year I have promised to carry the plough." Chittenden, *op. cit.*, 885.

¹⁶ The Grand Pawnee village was on the Loup Fork, a little west of the site of Fullerton. Indian Agent Benjamin O'Fallon and a party from the Yellowstone Expedition had visited the Pawnee villages in the preceding April. Interesting information obtained on that trip was incorporated in the *James Account*, as published in *EWT*, xv, 136-65. Zebulon M. Pike also had visited the Pawnees on his trip into the Southwest in 1806.

were at a medicine feast, could not be interrupted, and would not be disengaged for at least an hour yet. One of the Chiefs not attending the feast came out and shook hands with the Major. The Major stated to this Chief, that he had travelled out of his way, at the solicitation of their Father (the agent) to show to Long-hair¹⁷ their first Chief his respect and friendship, and that he expected to be received with hospitality and treated with civility & friendship. But as the Grand Chief had not appeared to receive him and take him by the hand he should now pass around his Village, and encamp at some suitable place during the remainder of the day & night – that if Long-hair wished to see him, he must invite him to an interview. The order was then given for the party to march, after moving a short distance, two american ensigns was hoisted in the Village, great numbers of the inhabitants began to show themselves from the tops of the lodges. The party was halted and the Major, Drs. Say & James Messrs. Peale & Seymour, Julian, Dougherty, & one of the men, returned and went into the Village – in order to have an interview with Long-hair if possible, as on that might depend the safety of our party, from molestation by their war parties. Lieut. Swift & myself by direction of the Commanding officer continued on a little to the right of the Village, distant about 2 miles, and encamped on the bank of a small rivulet – and in sight of the Village, a few Indians only assembled about us to look at our horses. Between 3 & 4 p.m. Major Long and the gentlemen of the party joined in from the Village, with out having had the pleasure of an interview with the Chief Long-hair. In about an

¹⁷ Long Hair, or Tarrarecawao, notable chief of the Grand Pawnees. For a description of him and an account of his speech, see *EWT*, xv, pp. 145-48, 204-206, and 347-48.

Abandoned

hour after Long-hair accompanied by two principle Chiefs, was discovered approaching our camp on foot – we set up our colours – and the indians about the camp set themselves down on the spot where they happened to stand when they first discovered his approach, Major Long standing in front of his tent, to allow Mr. Long hair to be the first to offer his hand in token of friendship – which he did with an air of dignity and manner becoming a Chief and a great man – it was such as to destroy all idea of condesantion and to make him appear more like a distinguished chief of polished but dignified and commanding manners in civilized life. The officers & scientific gentlemen of the expedition were introduced to the chiefs, we were then seated and the pipe of friendship and good will was lit and smoked by the assembly – the Indians appear to draw the smoke quite into their lungs, and puff it off thro' their noses – on taking the pipe to smoke the first puff of smoke is thro' the mouth & directed up to the great Spirit, the second is down towards the earth for a blessing and a plentiful crop of corn etc. – and the third in front for a blessing on their friends. Major Long stated to them the objects of our journey & the route he intended to take – that it was his desire to meet the Indians in friendship & civility at their Villages, and to presume it in relation to their war parties that we might fall in with etc. Long-hair replied “it is a long journey you are taking and thro' a country that requires stout hearts to accomplish – but that god who protects us all, may preserve you free from harm” – and stated that four of their war parties were then out, that if they fell in with us, they would offer their hands in friendship – that it would be well for us to eat with them – and then went on to inform us of the country

through which we must travel – to describe the rivers & their several forks – the Rocky mountains and their appearance in approaching them. The Major presented to each of the chiefs 5 twists of tobacco & a biscuit – about sun set they left us & returned to the Village – without inviting us to call on them. The village, is situated on a 2nd bank, north side of the Loup fork of the Platte, which is a level prairie for nearly two miles from the river – when it becomes undulating – of rich soil producing abundance of grass – which serves to feed a very great number of horses – for I am told, there are many individuals who own each from 20 to 60 horses – by the number of horses a man possesses, is estimated his wealth – but not his standing in society, his elevation there, is from acts of distinguished conduct and bravery, in war and in the pursuit of game. The village contains about 160 lodges, so arranged as form nearly a square, altho' they do not appear to have been placed with a view to any regularity, so as to form streets or avenues – these lodges are erected, & the whole labour I am informed is performed by the squaws. Lewis & Clarks description of the Ricara lodges, answers also for those of the Pawnees which is as follows – “form circular or octagonal and generally about 30 or 40 feet in diameter – they are made by placing forked posts about 6 feet high around the circumference of the circle – these are joined by poles from one fork to another, which are supported also by other forked poles slanting from the ground – in the centre of the lodge are placed 4 higher forks, about 15 feet in length connected together by beams – from these to the lower poles the rafters of the roof are extended so as to leave a vacancy in the middle for the smoke – the frame of the building is then covered with willow

branches, with which is interwoven grass, and over this mud and clay – the aperture for the door is about 4 feet wide, and before it is a sort of entery about 10 feet from the lodge – They are very warm and compact.”

To compute the number of inhabitants in this Village, I reckon twenty five souls to each lodge, which gives me for the whole number of souls, four thousand.¹⁸ The person of the Chief, Long hair – is about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, rather spare but well formed, has a very intelligent & commanding countenance, and is seldom known to laugh. I believe Mr. Seymour sketched his likeness. Course S. 50° W. 11 miles.¹⁹

MONDAY, JUNE 12th. Proceeded at 6 o'clock a.m. to visit the Pawnee Republics at their Village on the same side of the river, and distant from the Grand Pawnees about four miles. Our party arrived before the village about 8 o'clock and halted – the Commanding officer sent Lieut. Swift into the village to inform the Chief of our arrival. The first Chief, Fool-robe²⁰ came out, followed by a small number of the inhabitants including children – and offered his hand to the Major, who informed him the object of his visit was to show respect

¹⁸ Zebulon Pike on his expedition in the years 1806 and 1807, calculated the number of Grand Pawnee Indians to be 3120.— Elliott Coues (Ed.), *Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike* (New York, Francis P. Harper, 1895), II, p. 580.

¹⁹ Jedidiah Morse has quoted an account of the Pawnee Indians which he says was given to him by Captain Bell. This account contains no important facts that are not to be found in the above entry by Bell for June 11. Although the facts remain the same, the wording of the sentences and the punctuation has been changed. To illustrate this, compare the above description of Chief Long Hair with that found in Morse's book, *Indian Affairs*, p. 238. "Long Hair, the Chief, is five feet, ten or eleven inches high, slender, well-formed, intelligent, of commanding countenance, dignified; he seldom laughs." For the complete account of the Pawnees see Jedidiah Morse, *Indian Affairs* (New Haven, 1822), pp. 237-240.

²⁰ For additional references to him see *EWT*, xv, pp. 162, 209-10, 349, 351.

& friendship to him – and that himself and the chiefs of his party would stop & visit him a short time – that his party would proceed a some distance and halt until they came up. Fool-robe replied, that he was pleased to see him, but that he was not prepared to receive him & his chiefs with that civility he wished at his lodge – and stated, that as the Major had not sent him word of his intention to visit him he had concluded he would pass his Village – that his wives were all out at work, at their daily labours in cultivating corn – However, the Major and the scientific gentlemen stoped with him & I proceeded about a mile, and halted, after crossing a deep ravine, pitched a tent to shade me from the sun – and let the horses feed. The Village of the Pawnee Republics is situated near the margin of the river,²¹ but the sight is not so handsome, nor is it so elevated as that of the Grand Pawnees – it is much in the same form, and contains probably 40 lodges and about one thousand souls.²² The men and women appear to be much inferior, in manners, dress and appearance to the Grand Pawnees. It was a war party from this Village, that robbed Major Biddle, Doct. Say & his party last summer, near the Kansas village – they were detached from the Steam boat “Western Engineer” on her way up the Missouri river – In consequence of that, the Agent Major O Fallan does not suffer any person to trade with them and no trader or white man lives in their Village – many of the young men for the sake of trade and a better reputation have joined the Bands

²¹ The Republican Pawnees are said to have received the name because they seceded from the Grand Pawnees and set up a separate government. Formerly they lived on the Republican Fork of the Kaw, or Kansas. From them the stream received its name.

²² Zebulon Pike in 1806 estimated the number of Indians in the Pawnee Republics to be 1618.— Coues, *op. cit.*, II, p. 590.

of the Grand Pawnees or Pawnee Loups. The Major & the gentlemen joined us from the village accompanied by Fool-robe, three chiefs & two braves. To each of them he gave a small quantity of tobacco, an article of which they all very fond, to use in smoking. At 12 oclock, noon, resumed our march in the direction of the Pawnee Loups Village, distant about four miles on the same side of the river - proceeded about two miles and was met by the Knife Chief, principle of the village,²⁸ on horse back, accompanied by several of his people, to welcome and conduct us to his village. The Chief is a fine looking man, large & fat - with a great deal of goodness & friendship expressed in his countenance. Our party halted and encamped about half a mile in front of the village, on the margin of the high bluff above the confluence of a creek with the river & on a plain with the Village. The necessary arrangements in the camp, and picketing the horses being over - the Commanding Officer accompanied by the officers and scientific gentlemen of the party, proceeded to the Village, where we was conducted to the lodge of the Knife Chief. He received us sitting on a mat, at the opposite side of the lodge from the door, or place of our entrance - on his left was his son, the Young Knife Chief, a Medicine man and a frenchman trader, to officiate as interpreter - our party approached him, shook hands and was seated on cushions laying upon mats, placed on his right - when seated, too large bowls of corn & buffalo guts boiled, was set before us to eat, in the bowls was spoons for our use made of the buffalo horn - this dish relished well & we eat hertily of it - that over and pipe & tobacco was introduced for

²⁸ For additional data on Knife Chief, or Latelesha, and his people see *EWT*, xv, pp. 210-14, 349-50.

100 yards the banks are only timbered in the bends of the river & consists of cotton wood - hills are less abrupt and the soil improving. The hunters was out in the afternoon and killed 3 deer, one antelope, one old & six young turkies. Courses East 2 m - S. 80° E. 8 m - N. 75° E. 1½ m - S. 72° E. 2½ m - in total distance today 14 miles.

SATURDAY, JULY 22nd. Major Long engaged in taking astronomical observations - collecting information from the Indian, (whose name rendered into English, is Buffalo Calf) and making the necessary preparations for detaching a party to decend the Arkansas river, himself and party to proceed on a route across to Red river, which they are to decend to the settlements, then recross to Belle Point on the Arkansas, where the parties are to meet. Two men was sent out yesterday to hunt, they proceeded to near the 1st Fork, distant about 20 miles, they returned today having killed a buffalo at the distance of 8 miles from camp - sent out & brought in the meat - the people employed in jerking it & the deer meat killed yesterday. I traded with the Indian & his squaw for the bay horse, by giving a mule, some Indian trinkets and an old dragoon jacket. The mule Bijeau retained & gave his horse instead, intending to take the mule to the Pawnee Villages for one of the Chiefs, who was very desirious to obtain it when we were there, it was a beautiful female named Jenny, and was purchased at Franklin from Mr. Kinshelo for \$50.

SUNDAY, JULY 23rd. The following is a copy of an order issued by the commanding Officer of the Exploring expedition dated viz.-

Arkansas river, near the 1st Fork July 23rd 1820.

SIR,- You will proceed hence with a detachment of the Exploring expedition, consisting of Dr. Say, Lieut. Swift, Messrs. Seymour

& Julian, and the detachment of the Rifle Corps attached to the expedition, with the exception of Jos. Vaplank, to Belle Point on the Arkansaw, where you will report said detachment to the Commanding officer for duty, and wait the arrival of the commanding officer of the expedition. In the performance of your duties, you will keep in view the objects of the expedition as specified in former orders, and use every means in your power for their accomplishment. In order to avail yourself of any supplies or assistance you may deem necessary for the success of the expedition, you are authorized to draw on any department of the army, agreeably to the instructions given to the commanding officer of the Expedition, by the Secretary of war, extracts of which will accompany this order.

I have the honor to be etc. etc.

S. H. LONG.

Major U.S. Engineers Comdg. Expn.

Capt. John R. Bell Light Arty.

The following are the extracts alluded to, from the order of the Secy. of war to Major Long – dated from the War Department – viz: –

8th March 1819.

You are authorized to make requisitions on any officer of the Quarter Masters, Commissaries, ordinance, Engineer or Medical department for the requisite supplies; and to incur any expense you may deem necessary to the complete success of the expedition, to cover which you will draw on this department.

2nd extract from an order dated 28th Feby 1820:

Major Bradford will also be ordered to furnish all the facilities in his power, and which may be required by you.

The following are the names of the party composing the detachment, ordered to Belle Point, viz: – John R. Bell, Capt. Commanding – Lieut. Swift, Topographer – Dr. Say, Naturalist – Mr. Seymour, Landscape painter – Julian, Indian interpreter – Parrish, Rifle

Regt., acting Corporral – and Nowland, Bernard, Foster & Myers, privates – Bijeau & Ladeau are to accompany the detachment until after we pass the bands of Indians said to be below moving up in the direction of the mountains, where they are to cross the country to the Pawnees.

The Commanding officer selected the ablest and best horses and mules for the party destined to the Red river, believing that party would have a greater distance to travel and over more broken country; otherwise, an impartial division of stock on hand was made, here follows an Invoice of what was furnished the detachment – viz: 14 horses, 2 mules – 6 of the horses private property belonging to Capt. Bell, Dr. Say, Lieut. Swift & Julian – many of them worn out with fatigue & sore back, that could not be used. Indian goods, for presents to the Indians & to purchase from them necessary articles, viz: – 6 doz. knives, 31 looking glasses, 1 tin case, 26 small twists tobacco, 1½ lb vermilion,^o 5½ doz. combs, 115 small bells, 15 fire steels, 6 pair scissors, 3 bunches beads, 9 moccason awls, 4 gun worms and 86 flints – !! what a pitiful stock for an exploring party fitted out by the government of the United States, what a contemptable opinion must the savages form of our nation, it is too bad. Of provisions, we have 9 pints of corn, 3 pecks parched corn meal, 12 lb biscuit, ¾ lb coffee, ½ lb sugar, 1 oz tea, 5 pints whiskey, 4 bottles Lemn Acid – and of ammunition – 2 lb powder & 31 small cans of lead!!! Horse equipments and miscellaneous articles – 10 saddles, 2 bridles, 3 bear skins, 5 provision bags, 1 ax & sling, 2 common tents, 1 flag or colour, 1 melting ladle, packing lines, fishing lines &

^o The brilliant red pigment that appealed to Indians, was always a good trade item.

hooks, a number of packages containing collections made by the party, a small tin case containing assorted medicine, 3 camp kettles,— Our powder horns, recently filled with powder, and we have a small quantity of the jirked meat cured by the party yesterday. Thus have I stated, as correctly as possible the outfit of our detachment, destined to find our way through bands of wandering Savages, war parties, and over a wilderness country, 800 miles to white settlements.

The following description of the Rocky mountains, is copied from Major Long's notes by permission —

The region comprehended within the range commencing on the head waters of the Yellow Stone and extending southwardly to Santa Fee, is made up of ridges of mountains, spurs and valleys. The mountains are generally abrupt, from their bases upward — often towering into peaks covered with perpetual snows, and generally exhibiting crags and knobs, being cut in every direction by deep ravines. The interior ranges and spurs are generally more elevated than the exterior — at least this conclusion is naturally drawn from the circumstance of their being covered with snow, to a great extent below their summits. Altho' the peake which we have denominated James' Peake, is said to be the highest part of the mountains for a great distance around, yet from the circumstance just mentioned, and from its apparent elevation, I should judge, that it is considerably lower than other peaks, particularly, that first observed by us while ascending the Platte on the 30th June. The vallies are uniformly situated on rivers and creeks, and are many of them extensive, being from 10 to 20 or 30 miles in width. These tracts are generally very beautiful, being rolling or moderately hilly — surrounded by gentle slopes leading up the sides of the mountains, and covered with a luxuriant verdure — they are generally clad with a rich growth of white clover, upon which horses and other animals feed with avidity. The soil is rich, and apparently well adapted to cultivation. The Indians that frequent them, being altogether wandering tribes, and having no fixed places of residence, never cultivated

corn or other means of subsistence, to test the qualities of the soil, has yet been afforded. The hills and mountains are generally covered with forest trees and pine near their bases, oak and maple are sometimes found but not in great perfection or abundance – the growth generally is of a scrubby character.

The Indian & his squaw proceeded on their journey to the nation of Crow Indians, residing some where in the region of mountains – there is something mysterious in the conduct of this fellow, why he should be travelling alone with his squaw to join a nation of which he is not a member.

MONDAY, JULY 24th. It rained during the early part of last night accompanied with thunder and lightening, but, the morning proves clear and pleasant. May it indicate a happy presage of safety to both parties of the exploring expedition, may the expectations of the government be fulfilled, in the objects of this expedition, and may all return in health to our friends and land of civilization, when our sufferings and privations will soon be forgotten in the bliss of fraternal affection, if not rewarded with the gratitude of our country. The nation like the information obtained by the tourists, but forget their sufferings.

At a $\frac{1}{4}$ before 7 o'clock a.m. Major Long, Dr. James, Mr. Peale, Adams, Daugherty, Wilson, Duncan, Oakley & Soldiers Verpanck & Sweeney – being the party for the Red river – forded the Arkansas, when arrived on the opposite shore, gave three cheers & took a southwardly course over the prairie.¹⁰ About 10 o'clock a.m.

¹⁰ The course and fortunes of Major Long's detachment are recorded in the James *Account*, in *EWT*, xvi, pp. 56-191. Major Long, upon crossing the Arkansas River, entered Spanish territory. The boundary line, agreed upon in the Treaty of 1819 with Spain, ran along the Arkansas from the 100th meridian to the source of the river. A narrative of the journey of Capt. Bell's detachment, from the pen of Dr. Say, is given, *ibid.*, 192-291.

Humbal

was very vicious, however they succeeded in breaking him, so as to ride him.

SUNDAY, SEPTR. 17th. Belle Point is situated below the confluence of the Porteau river with the Arkansas, about 130 miles from the Osage Village on the Verdegris and 100 above the Cherokee settlements on the Arkansas and 75 miles below the Trading house at the mouth of the Grand river. It was selected as a site for a military Post, by Major Long in 1817, and was immediately occupied by a detachment of the U.S. Rifle Regiment, under the present commanding officer Major Bradford; - Its figure next the water is two sides of a square, a rock precipice of about 40 feet, on which is soil of 20 feet, making its height above the river 60 feet, the waters of the Porteau and Arkansas washed the base the rocky precipices - It is a very commanding position in any direction. After selecting it, Major Long furnished a plan of a work to be constructed of timber, on a square whose sides were to be 132 feet, and two block houses in two opposite angles of the work, the whole to be surrounded by a ditch. The two block houses and two sides of the square next the land are completed - and timber collected for erecting the other two sides next the water. No settlers are permitted to establish themselves above the Porteau, of the Arkansas & Cayamecha of the Red river. I understand a negotiation has been on foot with the Osage Indians for the sextion of country above the Cherokee boundary & below the rapids or falls of the Verdegris river; it is said this section embraces some of the finest lands in the Arkansas country, well watered by a number of streams, on which are mill seats, salt springs and Iron oar. Major Bradford speaks very highly of the general good conduct of the Osage Indians, but nothing in favor of the

Cherokees, very many of them have substituted the vices of the whites for their native virtues, which added to their general disposition of savage, make them bad neighbors. They are constantly evincing a disposition to be at war with the Osages, more for the sake of plunder, than for any just cause.

MONDAY, SEPTR. 18th. This place is remarkably healthy, and I have no doubt, but that the country generally for 100 miles about Belle Point, will prove so to settlers. Its surface is hilly & in many places broken, lime stone is to be found, I am told, and where that is, there is pure water and a healthy country. The diseases of the country are ague & fevers & bellious complaints, which seldom prove fatal, I have not heard of any physician in this part of the country, there is none belonging to the garrison, the Soldiers are all in fine health. Last night a Soldiers wife of the garrison, was delivered of a fine boy weighing 12 pounds & this morning she is about her usual avocations.

Fruit & vegetables of every description grow here with cultivation, in the greatest abundance and of the finest flavor, and perfection.

TUESDAY, SEPTR. 19th. By permission of the Commanding officer of the expedition, I started in advance of the party, at 9 o'clock this morning, for Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi,⁷ accompanied by Oakly & Daugherty, discharged from the expedition. We followed the trace on the South side of the Arkansas river, and at the distance of 12 miles crossed the Wash-grass a considerable bayau which discharges into the Arkansas. Six miles from the Bayau we arrived at the

⁷ The old town of Cape Girardeau was on the west bank of the Mississippi, about 140 miles below St. Louis.

Hamble

- May 5 Drove 20 miles over rough wet sandy road past the two big springs at the foot of the Pawnee Swamp we killed the first hare and had her to Breakfast - on Monday Morning saw one Man coming back he says the Indians had got eight of his horses, plenty of Buffalo we keep a strict watch over our cattle every night and day too, I Camped my Company one mile from the road found first rate grass on the north side we expect to see the last timber to morrow for 200 miles have to carry our wood and use Buffalo chips when dry
- 6 Drove 23 miles bad muddy roads crossed several small creeks water very bad a sickley stinking Country as I ever saw camped on grass creek plenty water but no wood -
- 7 Drove 20 miles very sandy hard roads on
- 8 Drove from Sheperds creek to 4 miles beyond rattle-snake creek and camped half mile from the road near the north bluff came 22 miles good grass and plenty of water but no wood had to cook with weeds there is nineteen waggons in our Company we are one hundred and fifty miles from Fort Tarami we had a heavy thunder storm last night wich Stampeded the Cattle so that we all had to get up and stop them and hold our horses - our horses falls of a little
- 9 Drove 25 miles heavy sandy roads first warm Day since we have left home we are ascending up the plat about 8 or 10 feet per mile we saw Ash hollow on the other side today the Plat is muddy water but pure and tremendous swift currant Alkali ponds ar around every Day crossed quick sandy creek 6 rods wide rather bad crossing Camped 3 miles this side Shoal Creek
- 10 Drove 21 miles good roads crossed three or four Creeks Camped South side near river Cooked with weeds and bits of bark
- 11 Drove 18 miles poor sandy soil nothing of importance to day only I broke my whipstock and no sign of replacing it at presant as there is not a Sapling to be seen we saw Chimney Rock this afternoon Camped south side road plenty of grass & and water but no wood --
- 12 Drove 22 miles roads sandy and heavy upon teams Camped North of the road good grass Alkali ponds all around us no time a heavy gust of wind came just as we had turned out some of them chained there waggons together
- 13 Drove 22 miles good roads took our dinner opposite Chimney Rock a splendid piece of work work of nature, had hard work to keep our Cattle from drinking the Alkali water prickley pairs and wild sage show themselves Camped half way between Chimney rock and Scots Bluffs -

The water is very pure and sweet and we have seen all the time.

May 14

Drove 20 miles good roads poor soil my Cattle is getting lame I have to shoe them with lether some have the foot evle verry bad hand fine to cure different disease to any I ever saw, an object 20 miles of looks like one in lake 5 miles off the air is so clear, a verry heavy storm last night, so that we had to hold every horse by the head I campt the Company near by an Indian town

May 17

good many of them came to our Camp they appeared to be verry clever and not beg but wanted to trade we could get Hockasens for 3 cakes of hard bread I ordered the Company to fire some shots about sun down they soon disappeared Campt South of road on coal creek poor grass good water -

15

Drove 20 miles passed by an Indian Town 42 wigwams and lots of Squas and lots peopusus they was verry friendly four of the teams stampeded at the sight of Indians one ox got loose and run 3 miles before he could be stoppt we stoppt our teams so that they did not do any damage if I had a bag or two of hard bread I could get a good Honey for it they want bread as money is no object at all to them Campt 4 miles from Blue rock South side road by the river good grass some small bits of bark and sticks that drifted down the river one mile from the road -

15

this is the largest company that I have seen nineteen Waggon - 167 head of Cattle and 25 head of Horses.

16

Drove 21 miles deep sand and a very warm Day wich made it hard upon my teams passed two or three Indian Villages I had to hunt about one hour for grass so many prickley pairs just has I Campt one or two waggons nows came from the Foot that the Indians had fired on the Sergeant he went and reported the same to the Commanding Officer and orded the Soulders to go and take the Chief Prisoner but when the soulders got there the Indians would not be taken and went to firing at the soulders

May 20

the soulders then commenced upon them and killed five and wounded two more the Indians the took for the hills I then Carreled all the Waggon and called out sixteen men till twelve Oclock for guards and sixteen more for morning guards I then Ordod every man to load every gun and revolver and lay in the canell with there guns beside them and be ready at a moments notice but the red Chaps did not come we could gave them over 100 shots without re-loading, Campt South side road good grass plenty wood & water.

May 21

17

Drove 8 miles got to foote Lavins this made us 525 miles from Council Bluffs in four weeks this I call fast going for Cattle I think I had as good a team as travels the plains I had 8 yolk of Cattle and I workt six yolk at a time I campt then near by the foot I had now under my care twenty six waggons and forty three men wich cept me wide awake all the time.

May 17 I have the Company enrolled and call them out on guard regularly it went by the name of Pelshaw

May 18 I crossed the Flat river and went over to see the foots there is a Post Office and Store and Blacksmith Shop a pleasant looking place some fine large stone Buildings some Soulders on guard all the time, Dried Apples 12 Dollars per Bushels Vinigar 2 Dollars per gallon every thing else in proportion I returned to Camp for the night -

May 19 Drove 20 miles over what they call Black hills the roughest Country I ever saw the Pinos and Cedars show themselves all Around us and high Mountains and rocks We could see snow on Larimia Peak to Day I drove the teams five miles before Breakfast to get to some grass three of my Oxen was quite sick to Day by drinking Alkaly water we reached the Flat river by Sun Down I campd them close to the river and took the Cattle and Horses about one mile to feed and washed them all night I only slept one hour last night I felt well but it is hard fatcege loosing so much rest and Driving the Teams through the Day And to manage so large a Company and get them along as fast as I can -

May 20 Drove 15 miles rough hilly road I could not find any water till late I campd them near a good spring saw one new grave to day heavy thunder storm hail and rain came in torrents after being so hot warmer wether I never felt I had one Cow got lane I sold her to the French Indians for 6 Dollars - You should drive cattle slow through the rough Country

May 21 Drove 18 miles good roads rather hilly grass and water scarce after looking down a great many hills we reached the river and Campd on the left hand side the road half a mile from the road grass very & poor plenty of wild Sage & Prickly pails have to pull them up sometimes to strike our tent -

May 22 Drove 13 miles good roads but ear Cattles feet wares out so that we have to shoe them with lether and not drive quite so fast passed another French & Indian Station they by all the lame cattle they pay from 2 to 18 Dollars for a Cow and as got Brandy to sell and Pickles and a great many mt notions for the trip Mules & Poncys they have Indian Squas for Wifes. I campd the Company one mile left of the road good grass and wild sage for fire wood it burns first rate, we have been in sight of Larimia Peak for one week it seems quite healthy along hear nobody sick but all in good sperits it keeps me quite Buisy to pick out Camping grounds and give orders when to take in wood & water and keep Journal but I feel well except my lips they have been sore ever since I left Council Bluffs but one half of the Emigrants shares the same fate something that I had never heard of before, On account of the Soulders killing them Indians at the Foots I have to Buckle

May 21-on my Belt of Pistols and Knife when I go ahead to choose the Camping places for fear of the red Skins -

Wednes. 22 Drove 12 miles over rough mountainous Country stop to take dinner and Stephen Martins Boy got lost so we all turned out to find him but did not find him till night found him about fourteen miles off so we Camp for the night on the road half a mile from the river another Thunder storm came up from the Mountains which made it so cold that the Boys had to ware Mittings quite a frost this evening -

Thurs. 23 Drove 20 miles 5 miles over rough mountainous ground had to look a dozen times in a mile Camp 2 miles beyond Dry Creek 1/2 mile from Flat river on the right hand side of road up a flat

Friday 24 Drove 17 miles the last of the Day very mountainous some very sandy roads see Antelopes plenty, and hares it took me one hour to choose Camping ground on account of the grass being eat off but I Camp 50 rods from the river wood & water plenty but no Valuable timber in all these miles from Council Bluffs nothing much but scattering trees of cotton wood and no soil fit for the plough or tilling

Saturday 25 Drove 13 miles mostly heavy sandy roads one of the steepest hills to go down since I left home we killed an Antelope this morning first I had ever eat it is very fine meat three or four of the teams took another Stampend to Day but did not do any damage my teams are doing well notwithstanding the rush, every one wants to get ahead I Camp one mile South of road by the river had to carry our wood plenty of good water grass poor

Sunday 26 Laid over on account of a sick Women

Monday 27 Drove 14 miles hard days travel on account of the wind it blew so hard that the Cattles eyes was full of sand had hard work to make them face it Camp near the river south of road plenty wood & water had to drive our Cattle 1 1/2 miles for grass we leave the platt river tomorrow morning to see it no more this trip and go towards Willow springs we dont expect to find any good water short of 29 miles, very cold - on guard again

Tuesday 28 Drove 19 miles left platt river this morning good hard road but no good water for man nor Beast Camp right hand of road 3 miles beyond Alkali lake near a high bluff with Fine timber on it good grass but no good water -

Wednesday 29 Drove 17 miles good roads 10 miles to Willow Springs that is not very good water gave our Cattle a little Drove on to Harpers Creek 7 miles from willow Springs Camp on Harpers Creek good water and fare grass plenty sage for fire wood Camp on left hand side road see 14 Lead Cattle to Pat killed with Alkali

Thursday 30. Drove 16 miles 4 miles from Harpers Creek in greese wood Creek 10 miles further in Sweet water and Indipendence rock road mostly sandy Camp 2 miles from Indipendence rock left hand side road 2 hundred yards passed 3 or 4 Alkali lakes had to keep our Cattle from them -

Friday Jly 1 Drove 16 miles roads rather sandy but good passed another trading station and passed through Devils gate 5 miles from Indipendence rock Camp on Sweet water 11 miles from the gate just this side where the river runs between two large rocks or Mountains drove our Cattle over the river good grass and plenty of fire wood -

Saturday 2 Drove 19 miles good roads crossed sage Creek 5 miles from last nights Camp no grass but good water 4 miles further crossed 3 foot Creek little grass 6 miles from that we struck the Sweet water again I crossed the Company over had to raise the Boxes the ground was covered with alkali it looks like lime on the ground we had to look sharp to keep our loose Cattle from drinking out of the ponds we have saw a great number of them dead - we have head winds every day which makes the dust verry annoying to our teams and ourselves Camp behind a large rock right hand of road over the river good grass plenty of dry pine & cedar - on guard again -

Sunday Jly 3 Drove 16 miles good road, spires of rocks on both sides see snow to day on one for the first time see a(mountain sheeps head to day & a sage hen) camp on the right hand side the road 80 rods up the river just before crossing good grass sage for fuel, expect to be at the South pass in three days see cattle dying on the road with Alkali - Drive slow along sweet water here -

Monday 4 Drove 18 miles road sandy & heavy I numbered the waggons this morning so that each one could have there turn in the load on account of the dusty we went about 3 miles and dug in the earth about 12 inches and found chunks of ice we carried it along till noon and made some lemonade for dinner it relished first rate, the day was very warm so we thought we fared about as well as most of you, got to the river again at night I camp them across the river one mile grass rather short sage for cooking caried our water from river, Poinness water all the way to day till we came to the river see eight dead cattle to day killed with it, we keep ours out as well as we can - Drive slowly along here.

Tuesday 5 Drove 13 miles 5 from our last crossing to 6 struck the river again 4 miles went on the river bottom 2 4 or 5 miles then left it again and Drove over the roughest rocks and mountains I ever saw I went on and found a good camping place

Tuesday 5 about 3 miles after leaving the river, down a
 reviene to the left hand of road about 80 rods
 a good cold spring of water and plenty of grass
 our Cattle look well but there feet gives out
 so that we have to shoe some some of them every
 day the roads is so stony and gravily we shoe them
 with leather. -

Wednes 6 Drove 15 miles 8 miles we reached strawberry creek
 fine little branch 6 feet wide bated our teams
 at noon passed another wading post 6 miles further
 we came to willow creek good grass got plenty of
 snow to put in the river water which made it go
 of first rate see snow to day about 15 feet deep
 Campd on willow creek willows for cooking -

Thursday 7 Drove 23 miles good roads, 5 miles we crossed
 sweet water No 9 for the last time see very large
 snow cap mountains on the right hand about 6 miles
 off 10 miles from the last crossing of sweet water
 we came to the south pass or the deviding ridge
 between the Atlantic and Pacific, Altitude about
 7400 feet - 3 more miles we came to Pacific Springs
 first rate water 2 miles more we crossed pacific
 creek I want to find grass and camping place but
 I found it very difficult grass very scarce I went
 about 4 miles and found some grass 1 1/2 miles from
 the road sage for cooking had to carry our water
 from Pacific springs passed blacksmith shop they
 had 1 dollar to put one shoe on a horse and you
 find every thing Campd 1 1/2 miles right hand of road
 - should carry water from Pacific Springs to little
 Sandy 23 miles.

Friday 8 Drove 20 miles good smooth roads, 9 miles we came
 to dry Sandy creek 3 feet wide had water 6 miles
 further brought us to Junction of great Salt lake
 and Fort Hall roads 4 miles more brought us to
 little sandy creek 25 feet wide 2 feet deep good
 water but not much grass sage and willows for cook-
 ing Campd on the bank right hand side the road
 about 2 miles up the stream see about 15 head of
 dead cattle to day.

Saturday 9 Drove 9 miles to big Sandy creek a fine swift
 current of cold water about 6 rods wide and 3 feet
 deep crossed over went 4 miles up on the other
 side to the right hand of road to lay over and get
 grass fo our cattle as we expect for the next 50
 miles no water and not much grass a kind of Desart,
 I found good grass and campd them 10 rods from the
 river, Emigrants should be carefull here as there
 is alkali on this river I do not recommend stoping
 long where there is much Poisness waters around.

Sunday 10 Lased over all Day our cattle done well expect to
 start early in the morning and make it in two days-