

FEBRUARY.

The following is copied from two diary books, a small one of 1847 and a
larger one of 1849. In the larger
the writing is on the inside of the cover. Copy of the same and all other is given to be
of the same.

JUDGE CHARLES F. LOTT'S DIARY starts under the printed

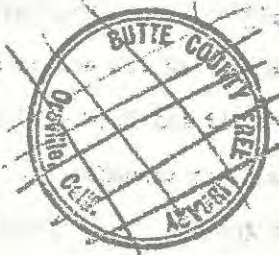
date of Nov. 1 - 1849 but the printing on the cover has no meaning, they are just
of

His Overland Trip From Quincy Illinois to Long Bar, California.

Left Quincy, Illinois May 1 - 1849.

Arrived at Long Bar, California Oct. 9 - 1849.

by Mrs. Ene Rasmussen
and
his son-in-law Jess Sank



Oroville, California

March 1954.

PREFACE.

The following is copied from two diary books, a small one of 1847 and a larger one of 1849 written by Judge Charles Fayette Lott. In the larger book the writing under the printed May 1 - 1849 and all after it seem to be under the proper dates. Except as noted below. The writing starts under the printed date of Mon. Jan. 1 - 1849 but the printed dates have no meaning, they are just notes. This book has "DIARY 1849" stamped on the outside of the front cover. From the printed date of Thur. May 10 to Fri. May 18 inclusive it is about the country much farther ahead on the trip. This account is written as though traveling east from Green River Valley, Devils Gate, Sweet Water River, Sweet Water Mts. to Independence Rock where it states "camped near it July 12 - 49. Then the account in the beginning of the book-Printed dated Mon. Jan. 1 - 1849 starts with Independence Rock and goes to the Ft. Hall, Idaho road.

The smaller book has the date in front cut out as noted in the writing but by reading the almanac portion it is found to be 1847. No printed date in this book means any thing but the month of May and the days of the month-the day of the week is written in to correspond for 8 days which are of the trip from Quincy, Ill. to Kirville, Mo. and they just say they got to Trenton, Mo. Tue. 15. May 15 - 1849 was on Tuesday. Can think of no reason for two accounts of this part of the trip but the notes are somewhat doubled up also. The account of the first 8 days from Quincy, Ill. is much more detailed in the small book.

When Cornelia and I were packing up the things from the old office bldg. on Bird St. to bring down home we found a shiny black book about as long as the larger book but not so wide. It was written in ink and just read enough of it to find that it was of Judge Lotts overland trip to Calif. in 1849. Now think it was a copy of these books and probably additions from memory written some time after he arrived in Calif. After more than 25 yrs. can not remember a thing I read in it. We had planned on reading it some time at our leisure but in unpacking the things at home were never able to find it again.

Tues, May 1 - 1849
Camped on bluff back from rever-(rain)

Wed. May 2
Arrived at Palmyra & camped by and (rain)

Thur May 3
On road through Missouri to St. Joe.

Fri. May 4
As yesterday (rain)

Sat. May 5
As yesterday (rain)

Mon. May 7
On road

Tues. May 8
On road.

Wed. May 9
On road (rain)

Thur. May 10 & 11 to 18

(These dates have no meaning and the writing some places is lengthwise of the page). In coming through Green wood cut off you are expecting to see the river from the summit of every hill or mountain you cross - but alas hill after hill & mountain after mount you cross & still the same high rolling country is before you with the mountains for a background - there has been much travel by this route this season & I may say nearly all have been mistaken as to the cut off. The green river valley is a mile & over broad & presents a rather luxurious appearance to one who crosses the desert - so called. - There is wood & grass plenty - current of the river very rapid - water cool & good - An old man 88 years here, trader. Marian co. is a joint stock co. got up by Mr. Muldron & Thomas Anderson of Palmyra - The co. is provisioned with every thing for mining purposes - There are partners & half partners in it - Geo. is a half -

Devils gate is the passage of the sweet water. Through a spur of the Sweet water mountains - It is a wild & rather romantic place, - The tumbling of the water over rocks together with the wild scenery is truly a sublime & imposing spectacle - none other than foot man can pass & not without crossing the river & very rough climbing over rocks of immense size - In making the passage I re-crossed the river but found that I could not get around the point on the side I crossed to - The rocks on each side of the passage are said to be from 3 to 400 feet perpendicular the mountains near are bare rock -

Independence Rock is a large body of granit & stands isolated on the north side of the sweet water - about one mile after you strike the river - It is the general register of all travelers & thousands of names - male & female stand there for the benefit of coming emigrants & for the glory of having it recorded - in so noted & conspicuous a place - some of the names are painted some etched & others carved - the dates run back to 1840 - 1 - 2 &c - The rock is of oval elongated shape & has probably been separated from a similar mass near the river - camped near it July 12 - 49 to dine and grass.

Sat. May 19

Come into the town of St Joe & left team 12 miles out - it came within 5 miles the next day - mountainous - St Joe is a small place, for a county seat - & outfitting post. rained today

Sun. May 20 (In this book the Sundays are in the back of the book)
(Until Sunday July 15 - 1849 they are written in the texts of the diary).

Saw Mr. Whitney & George -

Mon. May 21

Team came in about noon & camped in town tonight - was busy collecting little things for the journey & for repacking - repacked the waggon(?) this afternoon - caught in a hale (P) & thunder shower had company - wrote Peter from St Joe.

Tue. May 22

Left St Joe at noon & went 5 miles up the river to a ferry - crossed before night & camped on the bluff - Our load will be too heavy I fear - if so we pack - we hear of the emigrants dying with the cholera -

Wed. May 23

Wed. May 23

Left the bluff late in the morning & traveled 12 miles by noon, passed the see & fox village before night & camped 1 mile short of the agency, distance 30 miles from St Joe - Helped Hawlett out of a creek, he had too much load - Prairie country rolling but short of wood.

Thur. May 24

Joined Mr. Whitney this morning at the agency, traveled 18 or 20 miles & camped in a storm - Laid by for Mr. Howlett of Cin. Ohio.- High prairie country, scant of wood.

Fri. May 25

Laid by all day aired & fixed up waggons(?) & cooked some victuals(?) - high rolling prairie

Sat. May 26

Left camp ground early & being very cold traveled about 25 miles, overtook a large organized company & camped near them without wood or water.

Sun. May 27

Left for a camp ground 10 miles ahead on the Nimihaw (Nebraska) river. many camped here today. wet cold raining

Mon. May 28

Left camp this morning & traveled about 8 miles & met some of the Quincy packing company. & learned that Mr. Dunham was sick with cholera, not expected to live - Whitney, George, Ed met all went to this camp - left some medicine - I could not leave the team - About 4 o'clock found a sick man (Waring) left on the prairie to die with cholera took him in & camped.

Tue. May 29

Left camp early traveled 20 miles to big blue, crossed & camped 4 miles beyond on prairie -

Wed. May 30

Left camp & traveled 22 miles & crossed little blue, the Independence road intersects the St Joe road about four miles ahead - large train on it in sight - rained all day -

Thur. May 31

Left camp traveled ahead about 20 miles & camped near a stream with wood - rained nearly all day -

Fri. June 1

10 o'clock we lay encamped on account of rain & disagreeable weather & bad roads - Pleasanter we will move on in an hour or two - Heard that Waring died the day but one after he was taken up - Left at 12 noon & went 15 miles to a small stream & encamped

Sat. June 2

Traveled today about 22 miles, camped on Republican forks -

Sun. June 3

Traveled 10 miles today & remained the rest of the day in camp -

Mon. June 4

Traveled 22 miles today up the valley of the Republican forks -

Tue. June 5

Crossed today the plain between the R. fork and the Platte and camped near the Bluff without wood & little water -

(On this day he had no campfire to look into and dream. If had he could have truly dreamed something like this. "In a few days more than 3 months I will cross a boundry not yet made of the State of California in which in two years I will be a State Senator and in 20 years I will be judge of a court whose jurisdiction was the present Counties of Butte, Tehama, Lassen and Plumas which consists of practically all the country I will travel over on entering California and going to Long Bar at the end of this trip."

"In "In 2 days less than 4 months I will cross the corner of a ranch I will own in a few years and be within a mile of a road that will bear my name in 70 years. That in 78 years from this day my daughter (Cornelia) will marry a man (Jess Sank) who in 105 years will copy this diary with the help of the youngest daughter (Ena Branns Rasmussen) of the man (Joe Branns) who will run this ranch for me for 45 years without a word of writing. In about 20 years or more my name will be given to one of Californias most beautiful lakes and when this trip ends at Long Bar Oct 3 - 1849 I will be just about 25 miles due south of that lake and in 57 years just across the river will be a street bearing my name.")

Wed. June 6

Started this morning without breakfast & reached fort Kearny at 2 P.M. & camped for the day - repaired wheel went to fort, looked around - rained this afternoon - not a good spot for a fort

Thur. June 7

Left Ft Kearney at 10 a m & traveled 15 miles up the Valley of the Platte camped on the bank - The route now lies up the Valley of the Platte & the South Fork as far as Larimie 350 miles - Ft. K was located last year - Magor Bowneville in command

Fri. June 8

Traveled 20 miles up the P. valley & camped on it there is a great firing of arms opposite of us & suppose a party of emigrants has been attacked by Indians - tonight a man brought news of a great fire in St Louis -

Sat. June 9

Traveled today nearly 30 miles camped in evening - no wood poor grass.

Sun. June 10

Remained in camp till 2 P.M. & then traveled 10 miles to Mr. Churchhalls camp & we expect to travel with his com. rained hard tonight -

Mon. June 11

Traveled 20 miles today & camped about 2 miles from the river Platte no wood & poor water - there is plenty Bois de Neche - Saw buffalo for the first time - Gallaker killed a hare this evening -

Tue. June 12

Traveled 20 miles today & reached the South Fork of the Platte at 6 P.M. crossed half way & a violent storm came up we left our waggons in the river & went ashore wet & cold. had a hard time of it indeed river shallow -

Wed. June 13

This morning pleasant doubled teams & pulled our waggons out of river & camped the rest of the day - to air & dry up things - man sick with cholera - Buffaloes killed today & plenty of meat - camp tolerably good -

Thurs. June 14

In camp at 9 AM no certainty of going ahead for today - Some one of the camp killed a buffalo near by we jerked some of the Beef - pretty good. Left about 5 oclock PM traveled about 6 miles to Capt Radfords camp & stand with him -

Fri. June 15

Left in Radfords company & traveled nearly 30 miles camped on bluff no water nearer than river several old school mates in camp with us - Broadwater, Estes, Kemmerly - Buffaloes camped near us - Road leaves the river & the bluff for about 8 miles.

Sat. June 16

Left late & traveled nearly 20 miles & camped on the river again at an early hour, on guard Sunday.

Sun. June 17

Left camp reached Ash hollow about noon & camped at its mouth we struck the hollow $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from said mouth -

Mon. June 18

Left camp early & had a hard days travel over heavy sandy roads they last for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days march - traveled about 20 miles two of our lead miles giving out -

Tue. June 19

Left camp very early & traveled nearly 30 miles - Left early on account of mosquitos - we intend to go no further with our present company but recruit our miles, & make short marches - we camped about 4 or 5 miles from Court house rock

Wed. June 20

The company left us about 6 oclock this morning & we remained till 9 & are now camped with Mr. Chapin & company of Merritts Ohio (Harlow Chapin) we intend going with him.

Thur. June 21

Left camp early & traveled nearly 20 miles - came in sight of Court House & Chimney rock yesterday noon & camped near the former - Got Chapins mile -

Fri. June 22

Left camp which was about four miles of chimney rock, near several good springs of water & marched to rock about 9 oclock A.M. went up - good springs in the bluff near it - traveled 23 miles -

Sat. June 23

Left camp, which was still in full view of Chimney rock & traveled 12 miles to Scotts Bluff to noon - good water - Here we first had a view of the Rocky mountains. Sunday traveled all day & came to near 5 miles of Fort Laramie & camped -

Mon. June 25

Lay encamped all day. Cap. & others went to Fort - wrote to Peter - washed & fixed up waggon & s.

Tues. June 26

Left camp & crossed the Laramie River, came to Fort about noon, could get nothing fixed so went on - found a wheel - took it to camp & fitted it - traveled 15 miles - Ft Laramie is a mud fort & rather a poor establishment - over four company -

Wed. June 27

Left camp early traveled till afternoon, & camped on a small stream for the rest of the day - traveled 10 miles - Gerry came up to us -

Thur. June 28

Left camp early & traveled to near camping time in evening, & brought up on Horse Creek for the night - good water & wood - & grass -

Fri. June 29

Left camp very early & traveled all day over broken country north edge of Black Hills - by the road 20 miles -

Sat. June 30

Left camp came into the upper road & camped about 18 miles from last camp ground Sunday 1st July My birthday (25) left camp early & traveled nearly 20 miles to a stream to camp - 4 miles from the Platte - no grass for 2 days -

Mon. July 2

Left camp early, reached the Platte in about 2 hours travel, went a few miles along the banks & bought 3 canoes for a ferry boat - & ferried all 4 waggons over today & night. Oxen & mules 9 miles out to grass -

Tue. July 3

Lay by all day to let our animals graze on Deer Creek on the opposite side of the river & to rest our men, who worked hard to ferry over & take apart & put together the waggons -

Wed. July 4

Lay by all day to graze & spend the fourth which the boys did by eating a great deal & drinking a little - I am not very well. Roe & Ed both over the river - we are 8 or 10 miles below the upper ferry, old ferry, 30 miles

Thur. July 5

Lay by till evening, when the cattle & mules were swam over - they all crossed well except Cola he was drowned - traveled all night over very awful sandy roads up hill & down all the way, camped at sun rise - & went on afternoon - till evening

Fri. July 6

Left camp early & traveled over very sandy roads and camped early on the Platte, good camp ground -

Sat. July 7

Left camp early & traveled till about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 o'clock & camped near the upper Platte ferry after the worst piece of road yet met with. The other side of the river is better all the way - Sunday left camp early - and traveled up the bluff towards the Sweet water valley 50 miles ahead - roads hilly & bad water & wood - laid by part of the day -

Mon. July 9

& traveled all night & got to Willow Springs at about 10 AM remained all day, & left camp at sundown traveled all night & got to Green Wood creek & camped at -

Tue. July 10

10 o'clock A M & lay by all the rest of the day to recruit mules & oxen - lots

Wed. July 11

Lay by all day to recruit. 20 miles to good grass & springs - water good where the road crosses - Churchills co. passed - & camped. Pioneers ahead - determined to pack from Sweetwater & take cut off -

Thur. July 12 (This date mentioned in the notes)

Left camp at day light & traveled $3\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond Independence rock & got breakfast & c (11 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) - on the Sweet water - A nice river & some grass - Came to Devils gate 5 miles ahead & went through Team went around - camped 3 miles past it on river -

Fri. July 13

Left camp & traveled about 20 miles over a hard & heavy road - determined to pack after today. camped on the river near Sage creek

Sat. July 14

The teams left the camping place about 9 o'clock A.M. we (Ed & myself) remained to finish up for packing. commenced making pack saddles & other preparations all day - had company - worked all day - (See back of book) (passed ice bed in afternoon) Ice solid 6 in below ground -

Sun. July 15

Finished our packs & c and left our old waggons & camped about 3 in the afternoon - went about 10 miles & camped with Capt Churchill.

Mon. July 16

Left camp & traveled in co with Churchill for about 10 miles to noon - Left nooning place (Ford no 5 of Sweet water) & traveled 16 miles to ford no 6 of S. water & again met & joined the Harmond Co. Camped with them -

Tue. July 17

Left camp after H. Co. & joined them at noon after traveling 8 miles & remained the rest of the day to rest & feed animals - Saw Pomeroy's train & Pioneers, & Churchill passed -

Wed. July 18

Left camp early & traveled 17 miles to Willow creek - & camped - passed Pomeroy's train & got some cheese & liquor - Pomeroy's is a train of 40 waggons, he & his brother are traders taking goods & groceries to California, & they supply the emigrants with liquor & groceries they have ox teams. Plenty snow all around us.

Thur. July 19

Left camp & traveled to Pacific Springs, fine grass, good water, but the sod around the spring for some distance very miry - we have at last crossed the mighty barrier, the dividing line of the waters of the Atlantic & Pacific ocean - not a tree near the spring - wild sage the only fuel -

Fri. July 20

Left camp at P Springs & traveled 10 miles to day sandy & camped - very sick all night - The Dry Sandy is a poor place to camp - water not good & not much grass. There are three Sandys. Dry Sandy - Little Sandy - Big Sandy.

Sat. July 21

Left camp & traveled to what we were told was the Big Sandy - very sick & rode in the Capt's waggon - we strike the desert of 35 miles in a short time - we have learned that the Big Sandy is 5 miles ahead - This is little Sandy -

Sun. July 22

Left camp on little sandy & traveled 5 miles to Big Sandy & camped the remainder of the day - leave tomorrow evening to cross the 35 mile desert to Green river - I am better today than for the last 2 days - many camps here Churchill also -

Mon. July 23

Left camp on Big Sandy at 4 PM & traveled all night (except while Ed was sick two or three hours) & till near noon next day over Greenwoods cut off. Leaving Subletts to our right in the dark - it being no more than a trail - we traveled nearly 50 miles according to the roadometers & c - it is said to be nearer than Subletts route - (Lost B. Sandy) -

Tue July 24

Reached Green river near noon & ferried over our packs & swam over our miles, there were 3 ferries in active operation all the time - left the ferry towards evening & went between 2 or 3 miles out to graze our mules - Saw Faulck Pearson's old clerk he shod the mules - Day & family here. Green river & valley see notes & c -

Wed. July 25

Awoke early this morning & found every thing covered with frost - Snake Indians camped $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from us - trading Eagle came out to our camp to graze his cattle - We fixed up & left Green River valley at between 3 & 4 P.M. & traveled 2 about 7 miles to a creek & camped.