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NASH, MARIE

DIARY

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DIARY OF
MARIL NASH

Michigan to California
April 29, 1861--May 31, 1861;
July 22, 1861--August 12, 1861

Part One

Original diary gift of John Alaric Fairchild, 1917.
Typewritten copy of Part 1 made, 1961.
Typewritten copy of Part 2 made, 1967.

Diary of
MARIE NASH
April 29, 1861 - May 31, 1861

Monday April 29th 1861

Tecumseh Michigan

I awoke this morning with this thought I am going to start this day for California. It is rather cloudy Have a great many friends call a little after two start for the depot find a great many friends there--bid them all good bye and strange to tell I did not cry. All arrive safe at Adenar (?) stay until 11 O c, 19 leave for Chicago, ride the remainder o f the night. Tuesday mo. arrive in Chicago at eight O'clock feel very badly this morning take a good dose of gin which my dear Sister prepared for me ride all day nothing of importance has happened. We called at Mendota for a cup of tea paid 80 cts. for each cup. Meet Sister Carrie at Lararie City arrive at Quincy at about nine O'clock feel very tired find a very nicehouse a good accommodations, feel much better.

Wednesday May 1st

We left Quincy this morning at nine, take the steamer Black hawk for Hannibal. I have enjoyed it here exceedingly. Oh; there is so much in this world that is beautiful. I have seen plainly the works of the Almighty Missouri Missouri I love thy cloud capt hill thy richly waving forest lashed by a thousand rills. We have passed over a lovely country and through some pretty villages and finally arrived at St Joseph at ten in the evening. Stay at a miserable hotel, Thursday, 2nd

We all feel as though we had been rather poorly stuck [?] with this morning. Brother feels quite bad after breakfast All go up to the Allen house find Mrs. Henderson quite sick This afternoon Carrie Tom and I go down to the Dentist, come home have a very nice dinner at the Allen house. Then take the ferry boat and go over to Elwood write a letter to my friends Oh this is my birthday and how little I thought I should spend my this day in St Joseph This

evening we had a very pleasant time in the parlor.

Friday May 3rd

I arose just in time to go down to breakfast have a slight headache very fine refreshments this morning Sue and I went over to St Joe accompanied by Spenser, one of the boarders at the hotel. Saw Mrs. Black and Henderson and Lemon returned to the ferry boat just in time to be set across in the afternoon went over to our camp saw various articles for use across the plains This evening seems a little colder Hear the Ladies play the guitar about nine retire

Saturday May 4th

Quite chilly this morning, do not like the idea of tenting out. Mr. Mudget brought in the tent to be finished. I do not altogether like some of our company. Helped Mrs. Shoules fix her dress in the afternoon. Carrie Nelly and I went over to St Jo stayed a short time and came and was late to supper found the Landlord rather surly. Mrs. Lemon is very sick, it is some warmer this afternoon.

Sunday May 5th 1861

This is a cold rainy morning It seems so queer not to hear any church bells in so large a place as this. We are to stay at the great Western in Elwood until tomorrow. The girls have to work some to day This afternoon we have to call with Brother at Mrs. Moonays find her quite intelligent. I feel quite well to day am anxious to start Monday May 6th

Arose quite early this morning a clear rather cold one We all leave for the store house where our things are in order to pack them. This morning, put on our bloomers fore the first time. This afternoon leave with our wagons and teams for the plains, go about four miles and pitched our tents for the night. Set up our stove, bake warm bread fry bacon and eggs. It seems ^[word undecipherable] indeed arranging our beds for the night. Carrie and I sleep with our feet towards the east and Sue and Neal with their to the west Tuesday May 7th

Arise this morning just after the peep of day, find our selves in our waggon very comfortable except the clothes are slightly disarranged. Arise, proceed to

cook our breakfast. Braton is quite sick and Patter very quite lazy after the work is done Carrie and I take a stroll up the prettiest hill I ever saw, about 120 feet high, covered with trees and shrub from its banks. I see our tents and on its carpet I sit me down to write for thee my Journal. Near me is Sister Carr also writing, I would like to have our folks at home know how happy we are this beautiful morning. About 12 O'clock leave, go about 12 miles and pitched our tent again. Braton is quite sick, so that we have to give up our bed and sleep in the tent. I stay with Dow. Wednesday May 8th

I feel verry tired and weary, It rains a little; prepare our breakfast. Braton is some better start earley, I ride with Charley, on horse-back until noon pass over some of the most lovely places I ever saw. We are now stopping to rest at noon. Went on a few miles further and stopped for the night in a very pretty place where there is good water Thursday May 9th

Had a pretty good night rest it was real cold this morning, start as soon as we could in morning meet three Indians. Had quite an adventure with some dogs nothing dangerous Leave and go about a mile and put up on account of a storm which proves to be a very sever one We lose one of our horses storm ceases towards night do not get very wet feet for the night Friday May 10th

Have not found our horse, yet are obliged spent the day here Brother left earley this morning, but has not returned yet We were all very much rejoiced to see Hendersons company come, find them all quite well Towards night Dow returned with the horse stay here again.

Saturday May 11th A nice morning start earley, find the roads very bad in the afternoon it begins to rain, camp early, in a very nice place, sixty miles from St Joe good road and water. Sunday May 12th

What a place to spend the sabbath It rains very hard I did not get up very much before noon, wish I could be at church I see every person at work. I am afraid I shall forget what civilization is Does my folks think of me today Monday May 13

This is a pretty morning and we are all glad to take up our bed and start which we do about noon Pass through the village of Grenada and pitched our tent a little beyond the village Dow is real sick. Tuesday May 14th

Start this bright morning have some trouble with one of the horses I ride on horse back until pass through Senaca a nice little place and Ash-Point not much of a place. Pass over a very pretty country and encamp in a beautiful place with plenty of wood and water at night build pleasant camp fire and prepare for to retire to my buffalo bed & to think of the loved ones at home.

Wednesday May 14th [15th]

We all arise early this morning get ready for our tramp It is very clear but cold I forgot to note that yesterday we saw a band of 20 Soldiers The girls all go to sleep while I drive I saw a emigrants grave this morning, it looks as if there Rest might be quiet indeed, two simple white boards mark the spot the inscription is entirely obliterated so we could [not] know who was left in that lonely spot go on another half day drive, stop in pretty place.

Thursday May 16th

Arise earlay, Carrie feels some better we get breakfast and start Sue is not very well Cow is sick I have a slight touch of the blues stop at a place where there is willow and water The most singular I ever saw look like soap suds We have made a good drive today, about 25 Miles Friday May 17th

I have had a capital time last night sleeping in a feather bed, this morning waked [walked] about four miles passed a toll bridge folk? We pass through Marysvill yesterday and camped on the big blue To night we camp on the little sandy a beautiful place. Saturday May 18th

A cloudy morning get breakfast some of the horses put off and the boys are in pursuit return about 9 A. M. All get ready and start, cross the big Sandy a pretty stream go 6 miles and camp on the little blue in one of the sweetest places I ever saw I would I could sketch it we are in a basin surrounded and all side by

hill the river winds along on its banks are nice trees with deep green, which contrast prettily with the bright green of the grass. I can but think of my home to night. I sigh to hear the voice of those at home. Mother would you not love to see your Marie to night. We are now in Nebraska. I sleep with Carrie to night.

Sunday May 19th

A cold rainy, sky get breakfast and start does not seem much like Sunday. ride almost frozen about 20 miles, camp on a beautiful place on the little blue. See another grave after coffee. Com Sue, Amelia, Nellie and I have a pleasant walk. Continues cold have a nice fire. Mr. Stoner burns his feet badly. Monday May 20

Arise very early, cold and dreary [Blank pages]

This evening came through Ft. Kerney, a miserable place, build of mud and filled with Soldiers, walk from there to Kerney City about two miles West camp on the suburbs or some city stop on the Platte have a regular stampede with the horses they run 20 miles from camp in about ten P. M. Friday May 24th

Get up and get breakfast, the folks are not well this morning, start on our tramp again very warm in the afternoon. Nellie and I wash our feet at noon go about 20 and camp on the banks of the Platte go in bathing in the evening Mrs. Shoules, Nellie, Sue and I

Saturday May 25th

Arise at 4 o'clock start early. Carrie, Neal and I walked about 4 miles see nice little brook one such as I have read of clear as crystal a strange sight on the plains as all the is muddy. I saw six Antelopes this morning they fired at them but could not kill them. I am glad. This noon we thought to walk up the hill and kept going for a mile but did not reach it at last looks very much [rain] go a few miles and camp on the Platte. It blows very hard so that we can hardly get supper.

Sunday May 26th

The wind still howl drearily but thanks to thee kind sun for thy genial rays to-us poor wanders on our lonely way. Yes this is Sabbath but no church bell

do I hear I long oh! how I long for home to day. I visited Mrs. Shoules to day. I heard her play on her Guitar and her sweet voice This evening one of the Hons is sick. Mr Mondget's folks came over and sang and played for us Monday May 27

Four weeks ago to day we left friends home and Kindred for the land of gold and stranger This is a beautiful morning we start earley I walk some 5 or 6 mi This noon have washed my dress and stockings whil the girls were bathing and am now seated on the grass writing by the sid of the Platte river Every now and th watching is dark water and listening to their gurgling notes as they sing the so of passing away Nothing of importance until we get to our camping ground We are in the midst of a thieving tribe of Indians the Sioux a great many of them come to see us Tuesday May 28th

A sweet morning. come up to the encampment see their mode of living, do not fancy it much my mind is changed with regard to this class of people since I came on the plains very materially We see some nice bluffs this day one was grand in the extreme Pottor reached its summit and planted a dime Feel very well to day the air is nice See one curiosity viz. an Indians burial it is some 20 ft high made of stick on the top of which is placed the corps wrapped in his blanket exposed to the view of the passers bys to me it was a sad sight To night we camp with the red man. David looses his hat, taken by some of them.

Wednesday May 29

Cold and rainy Hurry and leave their ranch buy some to take with us see some Antelopes nothing of importance untill noon continnes cold see some picturesque scenery this afternoon see another Indian grave encamp again on the Platte River are not disturbed by the Indians

Thursday May 30

Cold again rains some until noon one of the horses ran away this morning with the saddle turned fear it will kill itself, We find the horse by the assistance of Charley one of the best boys there is not very badly hurt Camped again on the Platte. Friday May 31st

Farewell sweet May we love this as the day of thy death We pass over some
beautiful country gently undulating See some nice flowers The Indians are
moving their wigwams it is some curious

Lovely Titella whither away
Loves ritternella list while I play
Know I have lingered to long on my way
Night is advancing the brigand's abroad
Lonely Titella has too much to fear
Loves ritternella she may not hear

Charming Titella why shouldst thou care
Night is no darker than thy raven hair
And if thy bright eyes the brigand should see
Thou art the robber, the captive is he
Gentle Titella banish thy fear
Loves ritternella tarry and hear

Simple Titella beware ah! beware
List ye no ditty grant ye no prayer
Your light footstep let terror add wings
Muccerrouin himself who now sings
Gentle Titella has too much to fear
Loves ritternella thou may not hear

DIARY OF
MARIL DASH

Michigan to California
[Monday, July 22 ?]-August 12 [1961]

Part Two

[Five lines, beginning in middle of sentence,
precede first dated entry of Tuesday July 23.]

Original diary gift of John Alaric Fairchild, 1917.
Part Two typewritten copy made, 1967.

(Marie Nash Diary, Vol. 2)

to see her, think there is no chance for her recovery, poor child to leave her home
hopes of and find a grave on these lone plains

Tuesday July 23

Do not arise very early this morning feel sick am very all day oh! it is
so tedious to ride when one feels so bad camp at night in the Humbolt have good grass

Wednesday July 24

Feel very well today climb a very high hill walk a long way with Charley & Mel [?]
go all day up over hills & through valleys do not stop for the night until after
dark find a beautiful spring & good feed are all very tired got to cook a supper

Thursday July 25

Since morning pass through a canon very stormy get a head of the train think of
the poor girl who if alive must pass over this rugged hilly road camp at noon on
gravel ford find some of Monday Delegation resting for the other part of the train
camp down in the valley on the Humbolt ~~Ford~~

Friday July 26

Have a nice meal of fish for our breakfast spotted Trout we all enjoy it but Sue
make a long drive camp at night on the hill side Two men come up and camp at night
with us bring the news of the death of that poor sufferer she died at ten last
night [not decipherable] very willing we all drop a silent tear over her hapless
fate she was buried this morning at ten at grave ford there may she be at rest,

Saturday July 27

Nothing of importance occurred this morning as usual we get breakfast pack up start
went about 20 miles and take our mooring go about four miles further and stop for
the night in a meadow with mosquitos as thick as toads after a shower Sunday July 28

A warm pleasant morning arise early have a long tedious drive over sand hills
that are very deep at night find ourselves 80 miles from where we camped last night
our poor horses much fatigued another Sabbath on the plains camp on the Humbolt

Monday July 29

Up and off on our tramp again find road quite sandy walk a good deal get so tired of going but hope soon to rest at noon some Indians came to our wagon talk good English have some fun Sue named one of them he said he had our name in the afternoon very sandy camp on the Humbolt on a sand bluff Tuesday July 30

Pass over some of the worst sand hills I ever saw walk almost all day am so tired at night that I can hardly step stop on that horrible Humbolt.

Wednesday July 31st

Next month we shall be in California if notly twelve weeks to live in the wilder-ness Oh I am tired of it Dow saw Gilm [Gilen] at noon we saw a house & felt that we were through with the worst of our journey We camped on the Humbolt

Thursday August 1

Tramp tramp I hoped before this to have been through have some high hills to pass over see where old John died camp on the Humbolt go [undecipherable] and hear then [undecipherable]

Friday August 2nd

Go on within 2 [?] miles of the Humbolt sink get there about noon stay there until the next morning cut hay for the Desert The large trains over take us there ~~the sink~~

Saturday August 3rd

Go to the sink of the Humbolt got there about five good roads but awful water camp by the side of the Humbolt slue I shall never see the river again I am glad

^R
Saturday Aug 4

Commenced our tramp at mid night last night came 26 miles to Pintas [?]

Sunday Aug 4th

Find ourselves in the midst of a barren treeless plain with no water but salt the wind blows the sand into our faces and it is very unpleasant eat our supper in the wagon I ride Lewez tonight start at nine o'clock for to finish our desert trip

Monday Aaug 5

Get into camp about six in the morning and we are away from the Humbolt & across the desert with all of our horses camp on the Carson river very good water start at eleven go eight miles camp on the Carson for the night pleasant but for the stench of the Carcasses which are left here

Tuesday Aug 6

Go this morning about eight miles and camp on the banks of the carson the shade of some nice large trees in company with several other The Governor with his retinue came saw a nice horse die Towards evening start for the desert I ride Nelly go twenty miles

Wednesday Aug 7

Feel so tired but stir around & feel better walk some see the waters that come from the mines also some miners cabins and huts pass through China town see 2 natives camp on the Carson an ^[in] Empire City a small place Go over to be weighed go 97 Have a fine sing in the evening

Thursday Aug 8

Leave Empire City with The Stoners Rapps Potter Lyons Wingen Downer [?] Bell Cook Dumphrey Sweeds [?] reach Carson City Mrs. Shules finds her friends stops with them See Miss Clapp Go on as far as Genoa and camp there for the night Dow sees some of his old mates

Friday Aug 9

Again we commence our journey a few of us pass through ~~and~~ some beautiful country commence to ascend the mountain see more grandeur than I ever im[-]agined immense mountains covered with evergreens with clear water leaping down its sides Dow sends our baggage on makes ever load lighter camp on a trout Creek in a pretty place

Saturday Aug 10

Get a very earley start go 15 miles over hills on this grade camp at night on nice little spot near a blacksmith shop good water eat off from a large rock

Sunday Aug 11

The first news I have this morning is the Eliza is sick we wait for her some time

ally fasten her to the back of the wagon and drag her along for about 2 miles
when she could do no more stop for a short time see her fall and after a great
deal of suffering expire all feel bad to have the faithful old creature on the
road come to a hotel where the Land lady treated us to fruit & eatables go on to
the next hotel for now [?] where a gentleman treats us to vegetables very nice
stop near Cox's station for night

Monday Aug 12

Get up this morning and perceive that the hogs have eaten up my bread finish
the mountain road to day now stop at the Union house Sue is very sick camp
a nice place Ogelby every thing nice and clean