

A TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS IN 1862

This is taken from Hamilton Scott's diary with additional notes by Alvin Zaring, one of the party.

I started April 24th in company with Thomas Paul, Rev. Joseph Paul, Alvin Zaring and families from near Freemont, Iowa, for Walla Walla, Washington Territory. We loaded our wagons and drove eight miles. Our teams worked very well. We had three yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows to a team. Our first camp was three miles east of Okaloosa.

April 25. Travelled about 14 miles. Got along very well. Found a few mud holes.

April 26. Travelled 15 miles. Camped at Monroe, Jasper Co. We had good roads all the way today.

April 27. Remained in camp it being Sunday. Went to church.

April 28. Remained in camp. Practised shooting.

April 29. Drove 18 miles passed Prairie City in Monroe County.

April 30. Drove about 13 miles, crossed Des Moines River at Des Moines City. We pulled around and crossed Coon River on a ferry boat the same day and same place.

May 1. Drove 17 miles crossed North River camped in Warren County.

May 2. Travelled about 18 miles passed through Winterset, Iowa.

May 3. Drove 12 miles stopped at noon expecting to lay over Sunday but could not get feed for our cattle. Corn is very scarce here. We camped on Middle River.

May 4. Drove 16 miles stopped at noon passed through Greenfield in Adair County and camped on Nodaway river. Was obliged to travel today for want of feed.

May 5. Drove 19 miles camped at Marysville Cass County.

May 6. Drove about 15 miles and camped on the open prairie. We staked our cattle out.

May 7. Drove about four miles and stayed at Louis on Nishuabotna River and fished but had no luck.

May 8. Remained in camp to rest our cattle.

7 May 9. Drove about twenty miles camped on the River Jordon, a small stream just a good leap for a bull frog.

May 10. Drove about 15 miles, grazed our cattle yesterday evening and this evening for the first since we started. Pasture good in places.

May 11. Ten miles brought us to Mt. Olive, a small town in Mills County 12 miles from the Missouri River. We will stay here several days and lay in our flour and some other provisions. We will also wait until the rest of our company comes who is now somewhere on the road behind us.

May 19. After one weeks rest and our company having arrived we pursue our journey passing through the town of Glenwood. Drove 15 miles and camped.

May 20. Nine miles brought us to Council Bluffs. Four miles more brought us to the Missouri River. We crossed over to Omaha. Here we laid in our entire outfit to last us through to the Pacific Coast. We drove three miles out from town and camped. This is our first camp in Nebraska.

May 21. Drove twelve miles.

May 22. Drove twenty miles and crossed the Elk Horns River, camped on Rawhide Creek.

May 23. Drove twenty miles, passed through a little village called Freemont. One of the small boys got his leg broken by falling out of the wagon in which he was riding and the wheel passed over his leg. Today we get our first glimpse of the great and muddy Platt river and tonight we are camped on it's banks.

May 24. Drove about eleven miles, camped at noon and layed over to allow the women to do some washing and us boys went swimming. We saw our first Indians today. This is our first camp on what we might call the real plains. It is just one month today since we bid adieu to home and friends and cracked our whips for the Pacific Coast or for the gold mines we hope to find beyond the Rocky Mountains.

7 May 25. Started at noon, drove eleven miles, camped on the prairie near a pond of water.

May 26. Drove seventeen miles, camped on Loup River.

May 27. Had quite a storm last night, cattle broke away from the guards, found them this morning not very far away. We ferried the river. There being about sixty teams ahead of us it took all day to get across.

May 28. Some of our cattle swam the river last night. We had quite a hunt for them but finally found them and made a twenty mile drive today.

May 29. Drove twenty three miles.

May 30. Drove twenty miles.

May 31. Drove twenty miles. Camped on Wood River.

June 1. Started at noon drove fourteen miles.

June 2. Drove twenty miles, passed Fort Kearney on opposite side of the river. Found some alkali today.

June 3. Drove twenty miles, camped on Platt Valley.

June 4. Found no grass or water for our stock at noon today. We stopped and ate a bite ourselves. We travelled on until most sundown and camped near the grave where some poor fellow had been buried perhaps years ago. Drove about twenty two miles today.

June 5. One of the men shot a jack-rabbit today. They are larger than our common rabbits. Drove eighteen miles today.

June 6. Passed two graves today one of which there was a large flag waving over and the man's name inscribed on the head board. He had shot himself accidentally ten days ago and lived several hours. We drove eighteen miles today.

June 7. Passed a boiling hot spring. Drove eighteen miles and camped on Platt River swam to an island to get wood. We got some dead willows. We are told that we get no more wood for two hundred miles.

June 8. We had the census of the train taken today as follows: Men 88; Women 46; children 86; total 220; wagons 52; cattle 315; horses and mules 38. We found some mud holes today where our wagons went in over the axle. Drove eighteen miles. We are now on the North Platt.

June 9. Drove about sixteen miles today over sandy bluffs. Camped near a spring.

June 10. Had about five miles of very heavy sandy roads this morning. Drove eighteen miles today.

June 11. Crossed a number of small creeks today. Drove twenty miles camped on a nice creek.

June 12. Passed Ash Hollow on opposite side of the river. Drove twenty miles camped on the river.

June 13. Mr. Delong shot one of his cows this morning. She acted as if she was mad or had inflammation of the brain. Drove twenty miles today and camped on Platt River.

June 14. Some of the men killed a jack-rabbit and an antelope at noon today. Pleasant today, drove twenty miles.

June 15. Had an exhortation from Father Paul at nine o'clock A.M. Started at half past eleven moved along very nicely until about four o'clock when two of the boys laid down by the road side in a ditch and raised up suddenly just as a team of five yoke of cattle were passing. The team took fright and ran off to one

side and turned over the wagon in a ditch killing one ox and hurting one child but not dangerously. The chain broke letting four yoke loose from the wagon. We drove one mile farther and camped making about an eight mile drive today. After we got settled in the camp we decided that we would have fresh beef steak for supper. So a few of us went back and skinned the ox that was killed in the wreck and brought the hind quarters into camp. We sure had beef steak for supper and breakfast.

June 16. Passed Chimney Rock. This rock stands on a sand bar and is thirty feet high and about six feet in diameter at the top. Saw some Indians today the first for about three hundred miles. Drove twenty miles today.

June 17. Tim Bailey's wife brought a new comer into camp last night which caused us to lay by today.

June 18. Passed Scott's Bluffs. Drove twenty five miles today and camped on a small creek.

June 19. Pleasant today drove twenty-five miles and camped on the river near timber the first for about two hundred miles. We have been using weeds and buffalo chips for fuel which answered very well on these desert plains.

June 20. Had a wedding in camp last night at nine o'clock. A Couple from another train came in and had Rev. Joseph Paul to tie the knot. We had an alarm in camp about eleven o'clock last night. The guards called three times, 'Who comes there?' This was followed by about twenty shots in quick succession, at the same time 'Indians! Indians! Indians! Help! Help!' was shouted. The camp was in great confusion, women were greatly alarmed. It turned out to be a white man trying to steal a horse and no Indians to be found. We drove 18 miles today.

Note: June 20. This mention of the Indian scare was written before the true nature of the circumstances was made known. Captain Kennedy thought best as we were getting out among the Indians to test the bravery of the men in the train. He fell upon the plan to have the guards raise an alarm that the Indians were coming and attacking the horse guards. This caused quite an excitement. One old fellow jumped out of his wagon and getting on his knees called upon the Lord for protection at the very top of his voice. Judging from the old fellow's daily life, I would think it was probably the first time he ever prayed.

June 21. Ten miles brought us opposite Fort Laramie. The river forks here and the Fort stands in the forks of the river. Here we ate dinner and watered our cattle. There being no grass we drove three miles up the north fork and struck camp. The women did some washing here.

June 22. Captain Kennedy went over to the post office which was on the opposite side of the river. He got a great many letters but none for me which disappointed me very much. We remained in camp all day.

June 23. Drove fifteen miles over the Black Hills. About as strange and stony road as I ever travelled. There are some scrubby pines scattered over these hills. Camped on the river.

June 24. Quite hilly today but roads good. A sprinkle of rain fell last night which was gratefully received both by man and beast. Drove sixteen miles camped on small creek, grass not very good.

June 25. Good roads today drove eighteen miles, grass not very good.

June 26. Pleasant weather drove twenty miles, camped on the river, grass no good.

June 27. Bad roads in forenoon good in the afternoon. Drove eighteen miles camped on the river.

June 28. Laid in camp set wagon tires and shod cattle today.

June 29. Drove eighteen miles roads rough. Camped on river, grass very poor.

June 30. Roads sandy drove eighteen miles camped on river.

July 1. Seven miles brought us to lower Platt river bridge. Seven miles more brought us to upper Platt river bridge. Camped six miles above making twenty miles.

July 2. Left Platt river after travelling two miles. Drove fifteen miles more and camped at Stage Station. Have spring water for cooking and sage brush for fuel.

July 3. Having no grass and scarcely any water for our stock, we drove seven miles by nine o'clock last night. Finding good grass and good water we stayed here until one o'clock today. We then hitched up and drove nine miles making sixteen miles today. Camped on a small creek.

July 4. Drove twelve miles camped at noon having to bury one of our company boys here. Bovee's death was accidental and was a very sad affair. While he and another man were hunting wolves in the bluffs about two miles from the train, Bovee shot one. The wolf fell down a crevice between the rocks. When Bovee stooped to scalp the animal, his revolver fell from the holster hitting a rock and shooting him through the heart. He lived only a few minutes. He leaves a wife and two children. Poor woman, it will be hard for her. Thomas Mackay the man who was with him came running in and related the accident. Captain Kennedy sent one of his horse teams which he had hitched to a spring wagon and brought him in. The train moved on a couple of miles to Independence Rock on Sweet Water. Here we struck camp. This rock is one fourth of a mile long, two hundred feet high and three or four hundred feet wide at the bottom and is rounding from the ground up. It has several ponds of water on top.

July 5. We laid in camp until one o'clock on account of Thomas Paul's wife being sick. She was better at noon so we hitched up. We have about eighty wagons in the train now. About five miles up the river we crossed, swimming our stock and pulling our wagons over a shaky bridge by hand. Drove three miles more up the river and camped near the Devil's Gate which the river runs through. Travelled eight miles today.

July 6. Drove about twenty five miles; No grass at noon. At four o'clock P.M. passed two trains camped who informed us of a murder committed near them today. Two men quarrelled about a team, one shot the other, took his team and money. We travelled late, found no grass; cattle suffering for feed.

July 7. Started at sun rise travelled four or five miles and found grass on river bottom. Several trains were camped here so we drove in and camped too. We are informed that the murderer is camped here. By request of some men from another camp, Captain Kennedy of our train ordered out twenty men well armed to surround and take him which they did. With court organized and jury of twelve men selected, he was given a fair trial and a twelve to one verdict guilty of willful murder. The prisoner kept under guard, we hitched up at two p.m. and drove eight miles. Grass and water good. A large train was camped here. Captain Kennedy called their whole company together and laid the case before them. They decided that the prisoner be executed tomorrow morning.

July 8. Gave prisoner his choice to be shot or hanged. He preferred to be shot. Twenty five armed men marched him one half mile to where his grave had been prepared. Fourteen of the guns were loaded with bullets and the rest were blanks. When the signal was given they all fired the prisoner falling backwards and dying within one minute. It was a sad sight to look upon. We immediately laid him in his grave without even a rough box. As soon as our work was completed we moved on toward the setting of the sun. Drove twelve and camped on the river.

Note: This party was from Pikes Peak mines on their way to Powder River mines in Oregon. A man by the name of Young and one by the name of Scott were travelling together with a party of about three wagons. Young and Scott had a quarrel about their team. This dispute was settled between themselves. Scott with another man took the team and went on ahead. Young was encouraged by one of the other men to follow him and kill him. So they overtook Scott and Young shot him and killed him. Young shot him from the back of the wagon in which he was riding. They buried him in a three foot hole in the dust without a box.

July 9. Passed the warm springs. The water was about blood heat. Drove twenty miles camped on a creek, drove our cattle about three miles for grass.

July 10. Drove seven miles camped at another spring. Drove our cattle about three or four miles to grass. There is about two hundred wagons camped here and some soldiers who protect the emigrants.

July 11. Drove twenty miles camped on Sweet Water close to a large snow bank.

July 12. Laid in camp for the purpose of setting wagon tires and shoeing cattle etc.

July 13. Six miles brought us to Landers cut off road. Drove twenty miles camped on the Sweet Water. The grass and also water is good. Crossed from Nebraska Territory into Utah

July 14. Laid in camp. E. E. Ellis's wife brought a new comer into camp last night.

July 15. Drove eight miles camped at eleven o'clock on account of sickness in the train. Some of the men shot an antelope which seemed to be the best meat I have ever eaten.

July 16. The party which was sick is able to travel this morning so we moved on once more. We crossed the summit of the Rocky Mts. this morning. Five miles brought us to Little Sandy Creek and five miles more to Big Sandy. Drove fifteen miles today and camped on Big Sandy.

July 17. Nine miles brought us to a spring where we took dinner. Sixteen miles brought us to Green River where we camped it being dark. Made twenty five miles today.

July 18. Unloaded and corked five wagons making two boats of them. We got twelve wagons ferried over this evening.

July 19. Swam our stock over this morning and by dark we had the wagons all over safe without any mishaps. The river was very high and running very rapid. We had considerable trouble in swimming our stock over. We put our horses in three times and they would go about half way across then turn down stream and drift back to the same side that we put them in on. We finally had to lead one beside our new constructed boats and the rest followed after him. It seemed almost a miracle that we got safely across.

July 20. One of our cattle missing this morning. Thomas Paul and A. Hunter started on the search for him. We hitched up the rest of the teams and drove six miles camping on a branch of the Green River. We will have to ferry this the same as the other river.

July 21. There was an emigrant ferry boat found yesterday evening which our company bought for five dollars. Will get possession of it at three o'clock this evening. The party which went to hunt the ox has not returned.

July 22. All ferried over by ten o'clock and our men came in with the lost ox about that time. We drove about ten miles this evening and camped on a creek. Saw some squads of Indians at a distance. We put out picket guards tonight. The Indians have been attacking the emigrants and stealing stock along here. They killed one man a day or two ago. His grave is close by our camp tonight.

Note: When we passed by, his little dog was lying on the lonely grave.

July 23. Ten miles brings us to a creek where we ate dinner. Several trains camped here. They had their stock stampeded but have them about gathered up now. One train had their cattle corraled and they ran over three wagons and broke them down slightly wounding two men. We drove three miles farther camped on another creek. Put out picket guards tonight.

July 24. Stayed in camp on account of sickness in the company. We are now camped at the entrance of a canyon in the Bear River Mountains.

July 25. Our cattle stampeded twice last night. We found them all by ten o'clock this morning. Drove eight miles up the Canyon through mud and water knee deep.

July 26. One mile farther put us through the canyon. Drove fourteen miles and travelled through some very tall pine timber.

July 27. We remained in camp all day. Thomas Paul's wife died about nine o'clock this morning. She died in childbirth. She has left an infant. She has been very poorly for some time. We buried her this evening under a large pine tree and put a post and paling fence around her grave. Our cattle stampeded last night about eleven o'clock. One hundred and fifty got away. We found all but fifteen near.

July 28. There were ten of the men started out this morning to hunt for the missing cattle. We hitched up at noon and drove ten miles camping in the timber. No grass for stock. We have our cattle under yoke and chain them to trees. The men haven't come yet who went to look for the missing cattle.

Note: The writer of this note was one of the company who went after the cattle. In the stampede, the cattle went north of the camp. About one mile from the camp, a large grizzly bear got after them which caused them to run over a very rough mountainous country for about fifteen miles. We did not realize how perilous the undertaking to regain the cattle was as the Indians were exceedingly hostile in this part of the country. We arrived in camp about eleven p.m. with four head of cattle. After we had travelled about three hundred miles another train overtook us returning the rest of the stock which had wandered back to the road.

July 29. The men came in last night about ten o'clock. Found four head of the cattle, that leaves some eight head that we will never get. Drove eighteen miles found fair pasture. The first since yesterday morning.

July 30. Drove twelve miles camped on a nice stream of clear cold mountain water. We are in the Wind River Mountains.

July 31. Drove Fifteen miles. Have several sick oxen this evening.

August 1. Left three or four dead cattle this morning. Drove fifteen miles got through the Mountains today.

August 2. Between eleven and twelve o'clock our cattle scared at some loose horses belonging to another train. About twenty five teams ran away upsetting and breaking wagons, running over men, women and children. Mrs. Townsend from Monroe, Iowa was dangerously wounded. Wilson Scott had a broken leg. Mrs. Hoover's head was bruised. We struck camp when we got straightened up, making only eight miles today.

August 3. Thomas Paul's child died last night and Mrs. Townsend who was so seriously hurt in the stampede died about twelve o'clock today. We buried them this evening. The others are all getting better.

August 4. Our cattle being so unsafe to travel all together we divided the company in four parts and travelled some distance apart all camping together at night. Drove twenty miles and camped on a branch of Snake River.

August 5. Drove twenty miles camped on Snake River.

August 6. Drove sixteen miles and camped on a small stream.

August 7. Eleven miles brought us to a branch of Snake River which we had to ferry costing us one dollar and fifty cents per wagon. Drove one mile more and camped making twelve miles. I gathered some very nice currents this evening. We will have some pies. We are now opposite Fort Hall eight miles distance.

August 8. Drove about eighteen miles very dusty roads.

August 9. Passed the American Falls on Snake River. This is one of the natural curiosities. The water falls forty or fifty feet over rocks and makes a great roaring noise. When we stopped for dinner there was a man came riding back and told us the Indians were then robbing a train about four miles ahead and they wanted assistance. Some of the men started immediately the rest hitching up without finishing our dinner and drove on as fast as we could punch our teams along but before we got there the Indians had driven the emigrants away and had taken all their stock and provisions, clothing and everything. They had gone leaving the empty and naked wagons even taking the covers off the wagons. It was only a small train of eleven teams. There were not less than two hundred Indians that made the attack. There were only twenty five men in the train and a few women. They killed one man and wounded another in the arm and seriously wounded one woman who was shot in the neck. We took them in and hauled their wagons to a suitable camping place about four miles away. We will make arrangements to take them along with us. Here we found a horse train of about twelve wagons that was attacked at about the same time that the other train was. Eight of their horses were stolen and two of their men killed. The next morning Sunday, August 10, Captain Kennedy with thirty five armed men started in pursuit of the Indians to recover the stolen property. When about nine miles from camp a band of Indians came on their horses meeting the party. The Indians at once raised a white flag. One of the boys shot at them. The Indians immediately raised a Warwhoop and began circling our boys. They fought them for about three miles killing two of our company and wounding several others.

Captain Kennedy mortally wounded, shot through the side just above the hip bone. Tom Newman and one other missing supposed to be killed. There is now four or five trains camped here.

August 11. We have buried five men side by side. We think it is not safe to go back to hunt the other two men for fear we lose more. Newman was seen to fall in the battle. We hitched up and drove thirteen miles and camped on Raft River. Captain Kennedy very poorly. The loss of property and money was today estimated to be fifteen thousand dollars.

Note: The first train of eleven wagons had sixty five head of cattle and twelve head of horses saving only one horse.

A better and more correct description is given in a letter written by John C. Hilman to a friend in St. Louis. In this letter he explains in detail this trouble with the Indians.

The letter is as follows:

Snake River, August 11, 1862

Mrs. Brenson
Dear Friend:

On the 8th of this month I wrote you and sent the letter by a Mormon to Chandler Co., Salt Lake to be mailed.

That was the first opportunity I got of sending a letter since the upper crossing of the Platt. I little thought when I wrote you on the 8th that an occurrence was to take place next day and the day following, and which will long impress itself upon my mind, and that we were in the very midst of a great danger and seemed to be almost entirely unconscious of it. I will relate what happened as nearly as I can: On Saturday about 5 p.m. I was riding ahead of the train a mile or so in search of grass and a camping place at which we might remain over Sunday. On looking up the road ahead of me I saw a horseman coming towards me in a hasty manner.

This was a rare thing to see any person coming eastward, and especially in so hasty a manner. On his approaching me, I discovered that it was a man belonging to our wagon, and who had left us on the day previous to overtake a friend of his who he learned was in a train two days ahead of us. The first thing he said to me was 'My God, John, the Indians have massacred a train and robbed them of all they had and they are only a short distance from us.' I at once became conscious of our extreme danger and turned back to inform the train and bring up the wagons which were lagging behind and I expected an attack to be made any moment. Learning that two ox trains were ahead of us and going to camp at or near the battle field, we pushed on to overtake them.

In an hours driving we came to the place where the horrible scene took place, but found the Indians had run off the stock, taking the provisions, clothing, etc. of the train, but left the wagons which the ox trains ahead of us had taken and gone on in pursuit of grass. I found quite a quantity of blood, and fragments of such things as emigrants usually carry with them, and it was evident that the Indians had done their hellish deeds in a hasty manner and left.

The place selected by them for the attack was the best on the road and not far distant from the road which turns down to Salt Lake, which I learned is 175 miles south of us. Here we pushed on endeavoring to overtake them, but only got a short distance on account of the darkness and were obliged to camp on the very ground where the Indians had, a few hours previous, made ring with their pandemonium like shouts, and red with the blood of innocent men and women. We at once put out a strong picket guard on the surrounding hills, got a hasty supper in the dark, staked out mules in the sage brush and hoped the night would be a short one. Nothing happening, we pushed on at daybreak for the ox teams and grass, which we found in a camp five miles distant, and here we camped during the day.

I found three men killed and several wounded, one woman mortally wounded and the wagons which the Indians had looted. Two of the men killed were from Iowa City, A.J. Winter and an Italian whose name I did not learn. The other man was from New York City, Bulwinkle was his name and it is said he had some \$6000.00 which was taken from him. All were buried here but the affair did not end here.

Some thirty men from the two ox trains and the trains attacked the previous day, started out in pursuit of the Indians and their stock. After travelling some seven miles in the direction in which the Indians went they came suddenly upon them and

a fight immediately commenced. At the first fire three fourths of the white men ran and the red men pursued, and after a running fight of some three miles, the Indians ceased their pursuit.

In this fight, three of the whites were killed and five severely wounded, one I think mortally. After we learned of the fate of the last party the greatest excitement prevailed in camp and a small party went to their assistance to recover the dead and wounded, one of which was not found and one had been scalped, the first scalped man I ever saw. Late in the evening both parties returned and two more ox trains came into camp making now some two hundred wagons and 400 men and 300 women and children.

This morning we all started together after burying the dead and came 13 miles to Raft River where we all encamped for the day, and where I am writing this.

Here the road forks, one for Oregon and Washington, and the other for California.

Truly your friend
John C. Hilman

P.S. The Indians I have alluded to were Snakes, and it is thought were in large forces.

List of killed: A. J. Winter, Iowa City, Masemo Lepi, St. Paul, Minn., Charles Bulwinkle, New York City, George Sheperi, Iowa City, George W. Adams, Iowa City, Italian, name unknown.

Missing and supposed to be killed: William Motes, Thomas Newman.

Wounded: Captain Kennedy, Miss Elizabeth Adams, Thomas Bradford, James Crawford, T. I. Adams, John Walker, I. I. Cassady, E. O. Sullivan, John Miller, John Patterson, Ephram Taylor.

August 12. Miss Adams the lady who was wounded in the fight with the Indians died last night and was buried this morning. Some of the trains take the California road this morning. We keep the Old Oregon Road. Drove eighteen miles camped on a creek.

August 13. Captain Kennedy not able to travel today, so we laid in camp. Our cattle have become peaceful and healthy.

August 14. Drove seventeen miles, roads good, camped on a small creek.

August 15. Drove twenty miles camped on a small creek.

August 16. Drove ten miles camped at noon to wait for a horse train which has been travelling with us since the Indian fight, until noon yesterday. They stopped on account of sickness.

August 17. Laid in camp today. Had preaching at eleven o'clock by Father Paul. The horse train has not come up yet.

August 18. Still laying in camp. The horse train rolled into camp this evening and was pleased we had waited for them. Their sick lady is a little better. Had a fine little shower this morning.

August 19. Camped on the same creek.

August 20. The stock were herded on a branch of a creek in a deep canyon last night. There being a great many willows on the creek one of the guards belonging to the horse train was shot in the arm by an Indian with an arrow. He was concealed in the willows. The men surrounded him and kept him until daylight then they routed him. He made good use of his legs while the bullets whizzed after him. We ran him nearly two miles when he was shot down. I being shorter of breath than some others, fell behind about a half of mile. I did not go on to see him but one of the boys gave me a piece of his scalp. The sun was now perhaps nearly one hour high and as we were going on our way back to camp we discovered what we took to be a heavy dust rising east of us which we concluded was a band of Indians who were coming to the rescue of their unfortunate comrade which had fallen in our hands and whom was slain. You ought to have seen us go. I think we went back to camp in less time than we went out, however as we neared the camp, we got brave and slowed down to a brisk walk. A little later we discovered that it was only a fog or mist raising from the water pouring over a falls on the Snake River. We hitched up and drove eighteen miles and camped on Snake River.

August 21. Friendly Indians came to camp this morning with fish to trade also some came at noon. They tell us that we are out of the Snake tribe. We did not find any grass until noon. We drove fifteen miles camped on the river, grass not very good. We are near Salmon Falls.

August 22. Started at eleven o'clock drove eighteen miles before finding water. This took us 'til nine p.m. and then found no grass. Cattle very tired and some of them gave out.

August 23. Found some grass this morning. We will stay here until Monday morning.

August 24. Had preaching at three o'clock by a Captain of the house train who is camping near us.

August 25. Drove sixteen miles camped on the river.

Note: It was at this place that we met the U.S. Troops coming out to assist the emigrants to a settlement as was customary each season.

(a week of the diary is missing)

September 2. We made a brush drag today and caught some very fine fish.

Note: We caught enough salmon at two or three drags to supply the train. I never saw finer fish. I think some of them would have weighed forty pounds. The writer of this note will never forget the time and day we caught the fish. In the forenoon another man and I took the cattle out to a feeding place. While guarding the cattle my gun was accidentally discharged and nine buck shot passed to near my head that I fell to the ground. In the afternoon while dragging for fish I was helping to hold the drag down. I found the water was getting too deep for me as I could not swim. I turned to go back but there was a swift undercurrent that took me down in deep water. I sank and rose the fourth time before I was taken out.

September 3. There was another train came in last night. They tell us that there is a large emigration coming behind us. Drove fifteen miles and camped on the river. The roads were so dusty that we could scarcely see the teams part of the time. Grass not very good, plenty of sagebrush here.

September 4. Drove fourteen miles camped on a creek, fair grass.

September 5. Drove sixteen miles grass short. Went two miles for water after night it being dark when we stopped.

September 6. Six miles brought us to the river and seven miles more brought us to a creek where we camped. Making thirteen miles today, good grass here.

September 7. Drove twelve miles camped on Snake River. Grass fairly good. We passed two hot springs today. They were so hot that I could hardly hold my hand in the water. The trains that were with us today laid by.

September 8. Drove twelve miles. Camped on the river at the mouth of a creek. Fairly good grass, roads very sandy and heavy.

September 9. Drove sixteen miles very sandy roads. Camped on Owyhee River. Good grass here.

September 10. Having fifteen miles to drive without grass or water and our stock being very weak, we thought best not to drive in the heat of the day. We hitched up at five p.m. and drove until twelve o'clock. We then made a dry camp that is without feed or water.

September 11. Started at sunrise reaching Malheur River at ten o'clock a.m. We will stay here until tomorrow morning.

September 12. Drove twenty miles camped on Birch Creek. It was after dark when we camped and our overcoats did not come amiss.

September 13. Drove eight miles camped on Burnt River at noon. Captain Kennedy

resigned this morning and the company is well pleased because he did. He and his men that he furnished with teams oamped by themselves this evening. We understand that we have been in Oregon for forty five miles but we are sixty five miles from settlement yet. The first settlement is on Powder River. They are gold miners.

September 14. Drove ten miles up Burnt River. There is some birch and cotton wood on this stream. The first we have seen excepting some willows since we left the bear Mountains. Our principal fuel was sage brush and willows.

September 15. Drove twelve miles camped still on the same stream. There were high mountains on both sides of us. We have now twenty-one in our company. We have elected Mr. Hall for our Captain.

September 17. Drove fourteen miles camped at a spring but no water for our stock.

September 18. Five miles brought us to where the roads part, the leading to Fort Walla Walla and the other to Powder River gold mines at Auburn, Oregon. I, with a number of others took the latter road. Camped on Powder River ten miles from Auburn.

Note: After the last date mentioned, September 18, there was no diary kept while on the road to Walla Walla. We had nice weather, good grass and water. We passed through LaGrande, Oregon which had only a few houses. I paid 10¢ a pound for potatoes here. We had no accidents or trouble from Powder River to Walla Walla which took us nine days to travel. On the 27th day of September we struck our last camp six miles southeast of Walla Walla on Cotton Wood Creek.

A Trip Across the Plains in 1862

(This is taken from Hamilton Scott's diary with additional notes by Alvin Zaring, one of the party.)

I started April 24 in company with Thomas Paul, Rev. Joseph Paul, Alvin Zaring and families from near Freemont, Iowa, for Walla Walla, Washington Territory. We loaded our wagons and drove eight miles. Our teams worked very well. We had three yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows to a team. Our first camp was three miles east of Oskaloosa.

April 25 Traveled about 14 miles. Got along very well. Found a few mud holes.

April 26 Traveled 15 miles. Camped at Monroe, Jasper Co. We had good roads all the way today.

April 27 Remained in camp it being Sunday. Went to church.

Monday April 28 Remained in camp practiced shooting.

Tuesday April 29 Drove 18 miles passed Prairie City in Monroe County.

April 30 Drove about 13 miles crossed the Des Moines River at Des Moines v. We then pulled around and crossed C oon River on a ferry boat the same day same place.

Thursday May 1 Drove 17 miles crossed North River camped in Warren County.

May 2 Traveled about 18 miles passed through Winterset Iowa.

May 3 Drove 12 miles stopped at noon expecting to lay over Sunday but could not get feed for our cattle. Corn is very scarce here. We camped on Middle River.

Sunday May 4 Drove 16 miles stopped at noon; passed through Greenfield in Adair County and camped on Nodaway River. Was obliged to travel today for want of feed.

Monday 5 Drove 19 miles camped at Marysville, Cass County.

Tues. May 6 Drove about 15 miles and camped on the open prairie. We staked our cattle out.

Wednesday May 7 Drove about four miles and stayed at Louis on Nishuabotna River and fished but had no luck.

Thursday May 8 Remained in camp to rest our cattle.

Friday May 9 Drove about twenty miles camped on the River Jordan a small eam just a good leap for a bull-frogg.

Saturday May 10 Drove about 13 miles grazed our cattle yesterday evening and this evening for the first since we started. Pasture good in places.

Sunday May 11 Ten miles brought us to Mt. Olive, a small town in Mills County 12 miles from the Missouri River. We will stay here several days and lay in our stores and some other provisions. We will also wait till the rest of our

pany comes who is now somewhere on the road behind us.

May 19 After one week's rest and our company having arrived we pursue our journey passing through the town of Glenwood. Drove 15 miles and camped.

Saturday May 20 Nine miles brought us to Council Bluffs. Four miles more brought us to the Missouri River. We crossed over to Omaha. Here we laid in our entire outfit to last us through to the Pacific Coast. We drove three miles out from town and camped. This is our first camp in Nebraska.

May 21 Drove twelve miles.

May 22 Drove twenty miles and crossed the Elk Horn River camped on Rawhide Creek.

May 23 Drove twenty miles passed through a little village called Freemont. One of the small boys got his leg broke by falling out of the wagon in which he was riding and the wheel passed over his leg. Today we get our first glimpse of the great and muddy Platt River and tonight we are camped on its banks.

May 24 Drove about eleven miles camped at noon and layed over to allow the women to do some washing and us boys went swimming. We saw our first Indians today. This is our first camp on what we might call the real plains. It is just one month today since we bid adieu to home and friends and cracked our whips for the Pacific Coast or for the gold mines we hoped to find beyone the Rocky Mountains.

May 25 Started at noon drove eleven miles camped on the prairie near a pond of water.

May 26 Drove seventeen miles camped on Loup River.

May 27 Had quite a storm last night cattle broke away from the guards found them this morning not very far away. We ferried the river: there being about sixty teams ahead of us it took all day to get across.

May 28 Some of our cattle swam the river last night. We had quite a hunt for them but finally found them and made a twenty mile drive today.

May 29 Drove twenty three miles.

May 30 Drove twenty miles.

Sunday June 1 Started at noon drove fourteen miles.

June 2 Drove twenty miles passed Fort Kearney on opposite side of the river. Found some alkali today.

June 3 Drove twenty miles camped on Platt Valley.

June 4 Found no grass or water for our stock at noon today. We stopped and ate a bit ourselves. We traveled on until most sundown and camped near a grave where some poor fellow had been buried perhaps years ago. Drove about twenty two miles today.

June 5 One of the men shot a jack rabbit today. They are larger than our common rabbits. Drove eighteen miles today.

June 6 Passed tow graves today one of which there was a flag waving over
He had shot himself accidentally

n days ago and lived several hours. We drove eighteen miles today.

June 7 Passed a boiling hot spring. Drove eighteen miles and camped on Platt River swam to an island to get wood. We got some dead willows. We are told that we get no more wood for two hundred miles.

Sunday June 8 We had the census of the train taken today as follows: men 88; women 46; children 86; total 220; wagons 52; cattle 315; horses and mules 38. We found some mud holes today where our wagons went in over the axel. Drove eighteen miles. We are now on North Platt.

Monday June 9 Drove about sixteen miles today over sandy bluffs and camped near a spring.

June 10 Had about five miles of very heavy sandy roads this morning. Drove eighteen miles today.

June 11 Crossed a number of small creeks today. Drove twenty miles camped on a nice creek.

June 13 Passed Ash Hollow on opposite side of the river. Drove twenty miles camped on the river.

June 13 Mr. DeLong shot one of his cows this morning. She acted as if she was mad or had inflammation of the brain. Drove twenty miles today and camped on Platt River.

June 14 Some of the men brought a jack rabbit and antelope into camp at noon today. Pleasant today drove twenty miles.

Sunday June 15 Had an exhortation from Father Paul at nine o'clock a.m. Started at half past eleven moved along very nicely until about four o'clock when two of the boys laid down by the road side in a ditch and raised up suddenly just as a team of five yoke of cattle were passing. The team took fright and ran off to one side and turned over the wagon in a ditch killing one ox and hurling one child but not dangerously. The chain broke letting four yoke loose from the wagon. We drove one mile farther and camped making about an eight mile drive today. After we got settled in camp we decided that we would have fresh beef steak for supper. So a few of us went back and skinned the ox that was killed in the wreck and brought the hind quarters into camp. We sure had beef steak for supper and breakfast.

June 16 Passed Chimney Rock. This rock stands on a sand bar and is thirty feet high and about six feet in diameter at the top. Saw some Indians today the first for about three hundred miles. Drove twenty miles today.

June 17 Tim Bailey's wife brought a new comer into camp last night which caused us to lay by today.

June 18 Passed Scott's Bluffs. Drove twenty five miles today and camped on a small creek.

June 19 Pleasant today drove twenty five miles and camped on the river near timber the first for about two hundred miles. We have been using weeds and buffalo chips for fuel which answered very well on these desert plains.

June 20 Had a wedding in camp last night at nine o'clock. A couple from another train came in and had Rev. Joseph Paul to tie the knot. We had an alarm in camp about eleven o'clock last night. The guards called three times "Who comes

there?" This was followed by about twenty shots in quick succession, at the same time "Indians! Indians! Indians! Help! Help!" was shouted. The camp was in great confusion, women were greatly alarmed. It turned out to be a white man trying to steal a horse and no Indians to be found. We drove eighteen miles today.

Note

This mention of the Indian scare was written before the true nature of the circumstance was made known. Captain Kennedy thought best as we were getting out among the Indians to test the bravery of the men in the train. He fell upon the plan to have the guards raise an alarm that the Indians were coming and attacking the horse guards. This caused quite an excitement; one old fellow jumped out of his wagon and getting on his knees called upon the Lord for protection at the very top of his voice. Judging by the old fellow's daily life I should think it was probably the first time he ever prayed.

Saturday June 21 Ten miles brought us opposite Fort Laramie. The river forks here and the fort stands in the forks of the river. Here we ate dinner and watered our cattle. There being no grass we drove three miles up the north fork and struck camp. The women did some washing here.

June 22 Captain Kennedy went over to the post office which was on the opposite side of the river. He got a great many letters but none for me which disappointed me very much. We remained in camp all day.

June 23 Drove fifteen miles over the Black Hills. About as strange and stony road as I ever traveled. There are some scrubby pines scattered over these hills. Camped on the river.

June 24 Quite chilly today but roads good. A sprinkle of rain fell last night which was gratefully received both by man and beast. Drove sixteen miles camped on small creek. Grass not very good.

June 25 Good roads today drove eighteen miles, grass not good.

June 26 Pleasant weather drove twenty miles, camped on the river grass no good.

June 27 Bad roads in forenoon good in the afternoon. Drove eighteen miles camped on the river.

June 28 Laid in camp set wagon tires and shod cattle today.

June 29 Drove eighteen miles roads rough. Camped on river.

June 30 Roads sandy drove eighteen miles camped on river.

July 1 Seven miles brought us to lower Platt River bridge. Seven miles brought us to upper Platt River bridge. Camped six miles above making twenty miles.

July 2 Left Platt River after traveling two miles. Drove fifteen miles more and camped at Stage Station. Have spring water for cooking and sage brush for fuel.

July 3 Having no grass and scarcely any water for our stock we drove seven miles by nine o'clock last night. Finding good grass and good water we stayed here until one o'clock today. We then hitched up and drove nine miles making sixteen miles today. Camped on a small creek.

July 4 Drove twelve miles camped at noon having to bury one of our company boys here. Bovee's death was accidental and was a very sad affair. While he and another man were hunting wolves in the bluffs about two miles from the train Bovee shot one. The wolf fell down a crevis between the rocks. When Bovee stooped to scalp the animal his revolver fell from the holster hitting a rock and shooting him through the heart. He only lived a few minutes. He leaves a wife and two children. Poor woman it will be hard for her. Thomas Mackey the man who was with him came running in and related the accident. Captain Kennedy sent one of his horse teams which he had hitched to a spring wagon and brought him in. The train moved on a couple of miles to Independence Rock on Sweet Water. Here we struck camp. This rock is one fourth of a mile long, two hundred feet high and three or four hundred feet wide at the bottom and is rounding from the ground up. It has several ponds of water on top.

July 5 We laid in camp until one o'clock on account of Thomas Paul's wife being sick. She was better at noon so we hitched up. We have about eighty wagons in the train now. About five miles up the river we crossed, swimming our stock and pulling our wagons over a shaky bridge by hand. Drove three miles more the river and camped near the Devil's Gate which the river runs through. Travelled eight miles today.

July 6 Drove about twenty five miles! no grass at noon. At four o'clock p.m. passed two trains camped who informed us of a murder committed near them today. Two men quarreled about a team, one shot the other, took his team and money. We traveled late, found no grass. Cattle suffering for food.

July 7 Started at sun rise traveled four or five miles and found grass on river bottom. Several trains were camped here so we drove in and camped also. We are informed that the murderer is camped here. By request of some men from another camp Captain Kennedy of our train ordered out twenty men well armed to surround and take him which they did. With court organized and a jury of twelve men selected he was given a fair trial and a twelve to one verdict guilty of willful murder. The prisoner kept under guard we hitched up at two p.m. and drove eight miles. Grass and water good. A large train was camped here. Captain Kennedy called their whole company together and laid the case before them. They decided that the prisoner be executed tomorrow morning.

July 8 Gave prisoner his choice to be shot or hung. He preferred to be shot. Twenty five armed men marched him one half mile to where his grave had been prepared. Fourteen of the guns were loaded with bullets the rest were blanks. When the signal was given they all fired the prisoner falling backward and dying within a minute. It was a sad sight to look upon. We immediately laid him in his grave without even a rough box. As soon as our work was completed we moved on toward the setting sun. Drove twelve miles and camped on the river.

Note This party was from Pikes Peak mines on their way to Powder River Mines in Oregon. A man by the name of Young and one by the name of Scott were traveling together with a party of three wagons. Young and Scott had a quarrel about their wagons. The dispute was settled between themselves. Scott with another man took the team and went on ahead. Young was encouraged by one of the other men to follow his party.

So they overtook Scott and Young shot him from the back of the wagon in which he was riding. They buried him in a three foot hole in the dust without a box.

July 9 Passed the warm springs. The water was about blood heat. Drove twenty miles camped on a creek, drove our cattle about three miles for grass.

July 10 Drove seven miles camped at another spring. Drove our cattle about three or four miles to grass. There is about two hundred wagons camped here and some soldiers who protect the emigrants.

July 11 Drove twenty miles camped on Sweet Water close to a large snow bank.

July 12 Laid in camp for the purpose of setting wagon tires and shoeing cattle.

July 13 Six miles brought us to Landers cut-off road. Drove twenty miles camped on the Sweet Water. The grass and also water is good. Crossed from Nebraska Territory into Utah Territory.

July 14 Laid in camp. E.E. Ellis's wife brought a new comer into camp last night.

July 15 Drove eight miles camped at eleven o'clock on account of sickness in the train. Some of the men shot an antelope which seemed to be the best meat I er have eaten.

July 16 The party which was sick is able to travel this morning so we moved on once more. We crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains this morning. Five miles brought us to Little Sandy Creek and five miles more to Big Sandy. Drove fifteen miles today and camped on Big Sandy.

July 17 Nine miles brought us to a spring where we took dinner. Sixteen miles brought us to Green River where we camped it being dark. Made twenty five miles today.

July 18 Unloaded and corked five wagons making two boats of them. We got twelve wagons ferried over this evening.

July 19 Swam our stock over this morning and by dark we had the wagons all over safe without any mishaps. The river was very high and running very rapid. We had considerable trouble in swimming our stock over. We put our horses in three times and they would go about half way across then turn down stream and drift back to the same side the we put them in on. We finally had to lead one beside our new constructed boat and the rest followed after him. It seemed almost a miracle that we got safely across.

July 20 One of our cattle missing this morning. Thomas Paul and A. Hunter started on the search of him. We hitched up the rest of the teams and drove six miles camping on a branch of Green River. We will have to ferry this the same as the other river.

July 21 There was an emigrant ferry boat found yesterday evening which our company bought for five dollars. Will get possession of it at three o'clock this evening. The party which went to hunt the ox has not returned yet.

July 22 All ferried over by ten o'clock and our men came in with the lost ox about that time. We drove about ten miles this evening and camped on a creek. Saw some squads of Indians at a distance. We put out picket guards tonight. The Indians

...ve been attacking the emigrants and stealing stock along here. They killed one man a day or two ago. His grave is close by our camp tonight.

Note When we passed by his little dog was lying on the lonely grave.

July 23 Ten miles brings us to a creek where we ate dinner. Several trains camped here. They had their stock stampeded last night but have them about gathered up now. One train had their cattle corraled and they ran over three wagons and broke them down slightly wounding two men. We drove three miles farther camped on another creek. Put out picket guards tonight.

July 24 Stayed in camp on account of sickness in the company. We are now camped at the entrance of a canyon in the Bear River Mts.

July 25 Our cattle stampeded twice last night. We found them all by ten o'clock this morning. Drove eight miles up the canyon through mud and water knee deep.

July 26 One mile farther put us through the canyon. Drove fourteen miles and traveled through some very tall pine timber.

July 27 We remained in camp all day. Thomas Paul's wife died about nine o'clock this morning. She died in child birth. She has left an infant. She has been very poorly for some time. We buried her this evening under a large pine tree and put a post and railing fence around her grave. Our cattle stampeded last night about seven o'clock. One hundred and fifty got away. We found all but fifteen head.

July 28 There were ten of the men started out this morning to hunt for the missing cattle. We hitched up at noon and drove ten miles camping in the timber. No grass for stock we have our cattle under yoke and chain them to trees. The men haven't come in yet who went to look for the missing cattle.

Note

The writer of this note was one of the company that went after the cattle. In the stampede the cattle went north of the camp. About one mile from the camp a large grizzly bear got after them which caused them to run over a rough mountainous country for about fifteen miles. We did not realize how perilous the undertaking to regain the cattle was as the Indians were exceedingly hostile in this part of the country. We arrived in camp about eleven p.m. with four head of cattle. After we had traveled about three hundred miles another train overtook us returning the rest of the stock which had wandered back to the road.

July 29 The men came in last night about ten o'clock. Found four head of the cattle, that leaves some eight head that we will never get. Drove eighteen miles found fair pasture. The first since yesterday.

July 30 Drove twelve miles camped on a nice stream of clear cold mountain water. We are in the Wind River Mts.

July 31 Drove fifteen miles. Have several sick oxen this evening.

August 1 Left three or four dead cattle this morning. Drove fifteen miles got through the mountains today.

August 2 Between eleven and twelve o'clock our cattle scared at some loose horses belonging to another train. About twenty five teams ran away upsetting and breaking wagons running over men women and children. Mr. Taunsand from Monroe Iowa

ised. We struck camp when we got straightened out. Making only eight miles today.

August 3 Thomas Paul's child died last night and Mrs. Tounsand who was so seriously hurt in the stampede died about twelve o'clock today. We buried them this evening. The others are all getting better.

August 4 Our cattle being so unsafe to travel all together we divided the company in four parts and traveled some distance apart all camping together at night. Drove twenty miles and camped on a branch of Snake River.

August 5 Drove twenty miles camped on Snake River.

August 6 Drove sixteen miles and camped on a small stream.

August 7 Eleven miles brought us to a branch of Snake River which we had to ferry costing us one dollar and fifty cents per wagon. Drove one mile more and camped making twelve miles. I gathered some very nice currants this evening. We will have some pies. We are now opposite Fort Hall eight miles distance.

August 8 Drove about eighteen miles very dusty roads.

August 9 Passed the American Falls on Snake River. This is one of the natural curiosities. The water falls forty of fifty feet over rocks and makes a great roaring noise. When we stopped for dinner a man came riding back and told us the Indians were robbing a train about four miles ahead and they wanted assistance. Some of the men started immediately the rest hitching up without finishing our dinner and drove on as fast as we could punch our teams along but before we got there the Indians had driven the emigrants away and had taken all their stock, provisions, clothing, and everything. They had gone leaving the empty and naked wagons even taking the covers off the wagons. It was only a small train of eleven teams. There were not less than two hundred Indians that made the attack. There were only twenty five men in the train and a few women. They killed one man and wounded another in the arm and seriously wounded one woman that was shot in the neck. We took them in and hauled their wagons to a suitable camping place about four miles away. We will make arrangements to take them along with us. Here we found a horse train of about twelve wagons that were attacked at the same time that the other train was. Eight of their horses were stolen and two of their men killed. The next morning Sunday August 10 Captain Kennedy with thirty five armed men started in pursuit of the Indians to recover the stolen property. When about nine miles from camp a band of Indians came on their horses meeting the party. They at once raised a white flag. One of our boys then shot at them. They immediately raised a war hoop and began circling our boys. They fought them for about three miles killing two of our company and wounding several others. Captain Kennedy mortally wounded shot through the side just above the hip bone. Tom Newman and one other missing supposed to be killed. There is now four of five trains camped here.

August 11 We have buried five men side by side. We think it not safe to go back to hunt the other two men for fear we lose more. Newman was seen to fall in the battle. We hitched up and drove thirteen miles and camped on Raft River. Captain Kennedy very poorly. The loss of property and money was today estimated to be fifteen thousand dollars.

Note

The first train of eleven wagons had sixty five head of cattle and twelve head of horses saving only one horse.

A better and more correct description is given in a letter written by John C. Hilman to a friend in St. Louis. In this letter he explains in detail this trouble with the Indians.

The letter is as follows:

Snake River, August 11, 1862

Mrs. Bronson,

My Dear Friend:

On the 8th of this month I wrote you and sent the letter by a Mormon to Chandler Co., Salt Lake, to be mailed.

That was the first opportunity I got of sending a letter since the upper crossing of the Platt. I little thought when I wrote you on the 8th that an occurrence was to take place next day and the day following and which will long impress itself upon my mind, and that we were in the very midst of a great danger and seemed to be almost entirely of it. I will relate what happened.

On Saturday about 5 p.m. I was riding ahead of the train a mile or so, in search of grass and a camping place at which we might remain over Sunday. On looking up the road ahead of me I saw a horseman coming toward me in a hasty manner.

This was a rare thing to see any person coming eastward, and especially in so hasty a manner. On his approaching me I discovered that it was a man belonging to our wagon, and who had left us on the day previous to overtake a friend of his who he learned was in a train two days ahead of us. The first thing he said to me was, "My God, John, the Indians have massacred a train and robbed them of all they had, and they are only a short distance from us."

I at once became conscious of our extreme danger and turned back to inform the train and bring up the wagons which were lagging behind and I expected an attack to be made any moment. Learning that two ox trains were ahead of us and going to camp at or near the battlefield we pushed on to overtake them.

In an hour's driving we came to the place where the horrible scene took place, but found the Indians had run off the stock, taking the provisions, clothing, etc., of the train, but left the wagons, which the ox trains ahead of us had taken and gone on, in pursuit of grass. I found quite a quantity of blood, and fragments of such things as immigrants usually carry with them, and it was evident that the Indians had done their hellish deeds in a hasty manner and left.

The place selected by them for the attack was the best on the road and not far distant from the road which turns down to Salt Lake, which I learned is 125 miles south of us. Here we pushed on endeavoring to overtake them, but only got a short distance on account of the darkness, and were obliged to camp on the very ground where the Indians had, a few hours previous, made a ring with their panedmonium like shouts, and red with the blood of innocent men and women. We at once put out a strong picket guard on the surrounding hills, got a hasty supper in the dark, staked out mules in the sage brush and hoped the night would be a short one. Nothing happening, we pushed on at daybreak for the ox teams and grass, which we found in a camp five miles distant, and here we camped during the day.

I here found three men killed and several wounded, one woman mortally wounded, and the wagons which the Indians had left. Two of the men killed were from Iowa City. A. J. Winter and an Italian whose name I did not learn. The other man was from New York City, Bulwinkle was his name and it is said had some \$6000 which was taken from him. All were buried here but the affair did not end here.

Some thirty men from the two ox trains and the trains attacked the previous

day, started out in pursuit of the Indians and their stock. After traveling some seven miles in the direction in which the Indians went they came suddenly upon them and a fight immediately commenced. At the first fire three fourths of the white men ran and the red men pursued, and after a running fight of some three miles the Indians ceased their pursuit.

In this fight three of the whites were killed and five severely wounded, one I think mortally. After we learned the fate of the last party the greatest excitement prevailed in camp and a small party went to their assistance to recover the dead and wounded one of which was not found and one had been scalped, the first scalped man I ever saw. Late in the evening both parties returned and two more ox trains came into camp, making now some two hundred wagons and 400 men and 300 women and children.

This morning we all started together after burying the dead and came thirteen miles to Raft river where we all encamped for the day and where I am writing this.

Here the road forks, one for Oregon and Washington, and the other for California.

Truly your friend,

John C. Hilman.

P.S. The Indians I have alluded to were Snakes, and it is thought were in large force.

List of killed: A. J. Winter, Iowa City; M a semo Lepi, St. Paul, Minn; Charles Bulwinkle, New York City; George Sheperd, Iowa City; George W. Adams, Iowa City; Italian (name unknown)

Missing and supposed to be killed: William Motes, Thomas Newman.

Wounded: Captain Kennedy, Miss Elisabeth Adams, Thomas Bradford, James Crawford, T. I. Adams, John Walker, I. I. Cassady, E. O. Sullivan, John Miller, John Patterson, Ephram Taylor.

August 12 Miss Adams the lady who was wounded in the fight with the Indians died last night and was buried this morning. We keep the old Oregon road. Some of the trains take the California road this morning. Drove eighteen miles camped on a creek.

August 13 Captain Kennedey not able to travel today. So we lay in camp. Our cattle has become peaceful and healthy.

August 14 Drove seventeen miles roads good camped on a small creek.

August 15 Drove twenty miles camped on a small creek.

August 16 Drove ten miles camped at noon to wait for a horse train that has been traveling with us since the Indian fight until noon yesterday. They stopped on account of sickness.

August 17 Laid in camp today. Had preaching at eleven o'clock by Father Paul. The horse train has not come up yet.

August 18 Still lying in camp. The horse train rolled into camp this evening and was pleased that we had waited for them. Their sick lady is a little better. Had

August 19 Camped on the same creek.

August 20 The stock was herded on a branch of a creek in a deep canyon last night. There being a great many willows on the creek one of the guards belonging to a horse train was shot in the arm by an Indian with an arrow. He was concealed in the willows. The men surrounded him and kept him until daylight then they routed him. He made good use of his legs while the bullets whizzed after him. We ran him near two miles when he was shot down. I being shorter of breath than some others I fell behind about half a mile. I did not go on to see him but one of the boys gave me a piece of his scalp. The sun was now perhaps near one hour high and as we were on our way back to camp we discovered what we took to be a heavy dust rising east of us which we concluded to be a band of Indians who were coming to the rescue of their unfortunate comrade which had fallen in our hands and whom was slain. You ought to have seen us go. I think we went back to camp in less time than we went out, however, as we neared the camp we got brave and slowed down to a brisk walk. A little later we discovered that it was only a fog or mist rising from the water pouring over a falls on Snake River. We hitched up and drove eighteen miles and camped on Snake River.

August 21 Friendly Indians came to camp this morning with fish to trade also some came at noon. They tell us that we are out of the Snake tribe. We did not find any grass until noon. We drove fifteen miles camped on the river, grass not very good. We are near Salmon Falls.

August 22 Started at eleven o'clock drove eighteen miles before finding water. This took us until nine p.m. and then found no grass. Cattle very tired and one of them gave out.

August 23 Found some grass this morning. We will stay here until Monday morning.

August 24 Had preaching at three o'clock by captain of the horse train who is camping near us.

August 25 Drove sixteen miles camped on the river.

(A week of the diary is missing)

Note

It was at this place that we met the U.S. troops coming out to assist the emigrants to a settlement as was customary each season.

September 2 We made a brush drag today and caught some fine fish.

Note

We caught enough salmon at two or three drags to supply the train. I never saw finer fish. I think some of them would have weighed forty pounds. The writer of this note will never forget the time and the day we caught the fish. In the forenoon another man and I took the cattle of the train out to a feeding place; while guarding the cattle my gun was accidentally discharged and nine buck shot passed so near my head that I fell to the ground. In the afternoon while dragging for fish I was helping to hold a drag down. I found the water was getting too deep for me as I could not swim. I turned to go back but there was a swift under current that took me down in deep water. I sank and rose the fourth time before I was taken out.

September 3 There was another train came in last night. They tell us that there is a large emigration coming behind us. Drove fifteen miles and camped on the river. The air was so dusty that we could scarcely see the teams part of the time.

Grass not very good. Plenty of sage brush here.

September 4 Drove fourteen miles camped on a creek fair grass.

September 5 Drove sixteen miles grass short. Went two miles for water after night it being dark when we stopped.

September 6 Six miles brought us to the river and seven miles today good grass here.

September 7 Drove twelve miles camped on Snake River. Grass fairly good. We passed two hot springs today. They were about a half a mile apart. They were so hot that I could hardly hold my hand in the water. The trains that were with us today laid by.

September 8 Drove twelve miles camped on the river at the mouth of a creek. Fairly good grass roads very sandy and heavy.

September 9 Drove sixteen miles very sandy roads. Camped on Copee River. Good grass here.

September 10 Having fifteen miles to drive without grass or water and our stock being very weak we thought best not to drive in the heat of the day. We hitched up at five p.m. and drove until twelve o'clock. We then made a dry camp that is without water of feed.

September 11 Started at sunrise reaching Malheur River at ten o'clock a.m. We will stay here until tomorrow morning.

September 12 Drove twenty miles camped on Birch Creek. It was after dark when we camped and our overcoats did not come amiss.

September 13 Drove eight miles camped on Burnt River at noon. Captain Kennedy resigned this morning and the company is well pleased because he did. He and his men that he furnished with teams camped by themselves this evening. We understand that we have been in Oregon for forty five miles but we are sixty five miles from settlement yet. The first settlement is on Powder River. They are gold miners.

September 14 Drove ten miles up Burnt River. There is some birch and cotton wood on this stream. The first we have seen excepting some willows since we left the Bear Mountains. Our principal fuel was sage brush and willows.

September 15 Drove twelve miles camped still on the same stream. There were high mountains on both sides of us. We have now twenty one wagons in our company. We have elected Mr. Hall our captain.

September 17 Drove fourteen miles camped at a spring but no water for our stock.

September 18 Five miles brought us to where the roads part one leading to Fort Walla Walla the other to Powder River gold mines at Auburn Oregon. I with a number of others took the latter road. Camped on Powder River ten miles from Auburn.

Note

After the last date mentioned there was no diary kept while on the road to Walla Walla. We had nice weather, good grass and water. We passed through La Grande, Oregon, which had only a few houses. I paid 10¢ a pound for potatoes here. We had no accident or trouble from Powder River to Walla Walla which took us nine days to travel. On the 27 day of September we struck our last camp six miles southeast of Walla Walla on