

Typ.
Typed

ORIGINAL ENVELOPE.

1949
April 5 to
October 7

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 31 -

appearance at a distance but now little done there it is situated in a beautiful Valley as far as you can see and very rich in soil but no rain falling here at present in the Year it becomes very dry and dusty at this Season of the Year, the is so bad the people of the city look as dirty mostly as teamsters who are as dirty as if you were to shovel dust on them for a day when they were wet with perspiration. It is impossible for a person here to be clean even for an hour.

Friday 28th. We took our teams into the city Mr. Wilson sold two yoke of his cattle for 90¢ I sold an odd steer for 12¢ and old bill for 20¢ he was just able to walk and walk for ten Dollars my wagon and three Yoke of cattle for \$22.50 removing three yoke of our best cattle and Mr. Wilson's wagon which we are jointly interested in which we loaded with 3 barrels flour at \$15 per barrel, 1 of pork \$15 D, 14 Gal Molasses at 37 and a half cents per Gal one grind stone at \$6 and a few other small articles having some good to take back which we had intended to store away.

Saturday 29th. Drove our team to grass by 3am we then wrote home and then went on to our camp and started at mid day a cross the Valley we traveled half the night and stopped (it) 30 miles across to grass and water, but level and fine as a black floor, and slept till morning then

Sabbath 30th. Went on to grass and water on Feather river up near the mountains some day

Sunday 1st. This day I am 54 years of age. God for wise reasons are still lengthening out my days so that he would make me useful while I am spared here on earth and say it be my constant desire and aim to honor and glorify him all the days of my life. Started on early went 15 miles and camped on bear river.

Tuesday 2nd. Went ten miles on our way good road passed Yaldels ranch early left old wife with him to recruit. Mr. Yaldel is keeping a ranch herding cattle and horses and keeping Wagons and baggage for others and

Pinck
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Typ.
Typed

ORIGINAL ENVELOPE.

1949
April 5 to
October 7

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 32 -

doing well living in his tent under a large oak tree which along these Valleys are scattered they are from 30 to 40 feet high and they cover a space with dense shade of from 100 to 150 feet across which is a very grateful place to rest in a hot day.

Wednesday 3rd. Traveled 22 miles and camped on deer creek 5 miles of which is very bad road.

Thursday 4th. Went on to our boys about 3 miles and found them all well it was just like getting home they had a tent in the wild woods on a creek and were busily engaged in mining with but moderate success.

Friday 5th. The boys went to their digging and I went and found some ash timber on the creek and made some saw filve and saw for picks and other little matters.

Saturday 6th. The boys as Yesterday I looked up our cattle and purchased a good lot of cattle and ground some for our use on the way to the city on Sunday.

Sabbath 7th. Spent the day in conversation reading and writing Oh that we could have some religious service on the Sabbath many here would gladly attend preaching here and such good might be effected. I greatly regret the failure of gaining the books Dr. Robinson obtained for me of the tract Society such are very much needed here and would be very useful.

(Copied from typed manuscript in possession of Dr. Tate L. Brey of
Lincolnton College.)

(The original diary of Col. James Tate is owned by Dr. Alfred E. Reed,
720 East Belt Avenue, Phoenix, California.)

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 29 -

Thursday 15th. Moved over the worst road I have ever seen very rocky and steep in two places the waggons had to be let down by ramps and the cattle unyoked and drove down an other way all this country is full of timber and many lakes high on the mountains and scarce of grass all summer before us we hunt and find it off from the road. We made 12 miles.

Friday 16th. Travelled still down the Uba road still had we crossed the dividing ridge on toward the Bear river, and camped in a Valley and sent our cattle 2 and a half miles to some grass.

Saturday 17th. Made 10 miles over very bad road and on a branch of Bear river the upper Valley on its waters road still bad and difficult.

Sunday 18th. Made 15 miles camped at a spring and cut oak timber down and our cattle eat the leaves a species of the pin oak.

Monday 19th. Went on about 8 miles to deep hollow the roads have less rocks but deep hollow has very steep and long hills on both sides and Very difficult to get up or down Here the are getting gold in abundance many are here stopping and sending their teams on we rose the hill and camped on the top no grass on Valley or hill timber is our dependence for our stock.

Tuesday 18th. Crossed deer creek in 4 miles a Very steep hill here at ascent, riding here, many persons, went on to a small Valley of grass drove our cattle to grass 2 miles down the grass is very dry and our stock eat Laurel and sickened many of them much stock is lost along here in that way.

Wednesday 19th. Went 7 miles and camped at a spring and used timber for our stock.

Thursday 20th. Here we determined to stop and mine it believing it best from the information received sent one wagon back 6 miles to a more favorable situation with food and clothing to last us several months and John Baker James Walker will remain with Mr. H. Wilson and Joseph

Panack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 30 -

Formerly untill we return from the City of Sacramento near 100 miles distant the mountains have leveled down here very much but the streams still lie deep in the earth the timber is lower and more oak rather scrubby and much warmer.

Friday 21st. Started on with our waggons to the city made 15 miles camped at a spring but very little grass road tolerable good.

Saturday 22nd. Made 9 miles found water and some grass road good timber becoming scarce and low with large tops.

Sabbath 23rd. 5 miles to Johnston ranch on Bear river crossed and went down 5 miles and camped good grass timber only the river

Monday 24th. Passed on to Nicholas ranch 2 miles below good grass on further river here is the mouth of Feather river a fine large stream and now but little current being very low.

Tuesday Wednesday the 25 and 26. The time here till late in the evening then set out and for the city 30 miles distant no grass nor water to do us any good stopped half way.

Thursday 27th. Went on to American river 2 miles from found grass and water plenty and stopped in the Evening cross American river on our way to the city it is a handsome stream here quarter of a mile wide here south sandy bottom the tide rises here in it about 2 and a half feet and unites into the Sacramento two miles from this we then went on to the city and found it large business place to be no substantial buildings a few debt houses and houses but the great part are temporary frames enclosed and covered with common cotton cloth. The City is stored with Supplies in great abundance and many things Very reasonable but mostly they bore with a large eager extravagant prices the City is half a mile in length and half as wide lying of the Sacramento and extending back is lined with ships full of goods and fitted up for sailing in any they can as the goods cannot be stored even in tents at from 4 to 5 dollars per month. Sutter's Fort is 2 miles up above the city on the American fork has a good

Panack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Mary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 27 -

Waggon this barren wast is 75 miles in length and wholly destitute of grass and the little water on the way is very bad and of but little value to man or beast.

Sep. Saturday 1st Sept. Rested all day grass not very good but fine water the river here is about 40 yds wide and 2 feet deep and some timber scattered along its bank

Sabbath 2. Rested all day some indisposed myself

Monday 3rd. Started up the river went 15 miles and camped the mountains are high and naked and rocky. The Valley is narrow and affords but little grass and now all eaten off up to our encampment here the Valley opens out some, we crossed 12 times up to this point. Scattering timber on the river all the way up.

Tuesday 4. Made ten miles good grass all day.

Wednesday 5. Travelled 6 miles and came into a very large and fine Valley abundance of grass it has the appearance of once being a lake it is ten miles across the road leaves the river here and after crossing a barren place very rocky it strikes the river and no grass here the first large pine made its appearance on the bank of the river 15 miles.

Thursday 6th. Made 12 miles up the river crossed it 5 times there several and a very bad and stony way scattering cotton timber on the river but at the last crossing a heavy growth of pine timber in the Valley and on the Mountains passed 5 miles over the mountain gentle ascent and good road all the way the finest timber I ever have seen near 200 feet high straight and large some of it 6 feet in diameter went down a very steep mountain into a small Valley of open land fine grass and water, camped.

Friday 7th. Turned to the left through a timbered Valley in 6 miles we found 2 small Valleys of grass and water 4 miles further a fine creek and grass 5 more a fine Valley and water good grass camped.

Saturday 8th. Cross a creek in 5 miles good grass in ten miles came

Pack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline Cty., Mo.

(over)

Mary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 28 -

the river again and named but little grass it is here a flowing torrent the road here turns off here to the right through a narrow Valley and leaves the river for good passed by the Donner Cabin in a Valley up this Valley is truckys Lake where the old road went but we turned to the left and crossed a ridge to a second Valley where we camped but little grass fine timber all the way, at the Cabins we passed many of the trees had been cut ten feet high showing the great depth of snow then on the ground. The upper cabins have been burnt down human bones are to be seen at both these cabins although most of them have been buried.

Sabbath 9th. Started rose on a bench of the mountain and past up a ridge 4 miles and came to the foot of the Serranada Mountains unexpected to us for we did not know that we were on a new road that none of the guides spoke of, but we pushed on and soon were at the top of a fine road right readily be made here to pass this mountain, We went 5 miles down a pretty good road to a fine little Valley of good grass and water and camped to rest for a day or two. Had frost and freezing on Sabbath night and mostly for the last week timber plenty on Mountains and Valleys snow plenty on the main Mountain which we have seen for several days these mountains are fearfully sublime and grand reaching almost to the heavens, bald and naked near the top and is covered of ashes and rocks of various kinds mounted together plenty of game here but difficult to get.

Monday 10th. Rested all day. The boys went hunting killed a Grizzly Bear and old she and cub there was great rejoicing over them in camp we divided largely with others and had considerable left which we enjoyed very well.

Tuesday 11th. Rested all day and the boys hunted again but no game. Hard frost and froze at least half the nights.

Wednesday 12th. Started and went 8 miles over very bad road, found good grass a mile from the road.

Pack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline Cty., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 25 -

grass generally good all the distance and dangerous for looseing stock by the Indians.

Sabbath 19. Started ourselves and stock.

Monday 20th. Crossed the river proceeded down 18 miles. Very good road and grass the most of the travel having passed on the right hand side.

Tuesday 21st. Travelled 18 miles. Good road and grass.

Wednesday 22nd. Travelled 18 miles this day grass and water scarce Valley narrow and confined.

Thursday 23. Left the Valley early rose on the table land by a gentle ascent made 18 miles two thirds of it being on the upland, and frequently fell into the Valley then leave it through the day grass is very scarce comes out, and dried up, though stock look well and travel well, the Willows afford some food they are numerous.

Friday 24. Set out early crossed in 2 miles 8 further recrossed 3 further we ascended the road here leaves the river to the left we turned to it in 7 miles and camped the Valley is very narrow and affords little or no grass they have to camp 1 mile from the water and drive your stock here to be guarded on the river. Headquaters now cut off turned to the right, it will take off a large amount the travel.

Saturday 25th. 18 miles and camped on the river the road has continued off from the river all day several miles the Valley that the river runs in is only a few miles wide and affords but little grass and that all comes out, some Willows that now afford food for us the only chance.

Sunday 26th. The road continuing off the river for 13 miles when it turns suddenly to the left crossed the slough where we found water passed on south reached the river and went to a slough where we found plenty of grass and water making 21 miles this day.

Monday 27th. Went down the slough 6 miles cut as much grass as we wanted and packed our wagons as full as we wanted of hay started at 4 o'clock and went ten miles and camped on our hay no grass water or

Pumuck
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 26 -

vegetation of any kind.

Tuesday 28th. Started and went 3 miles past the sink to some sulphur wells day by sulphur water very bad for man or beast very unwholesome and injuriously affecting both. Here the road fork the left is a road the Indians have traveled back on they represent as grass and water being good but the mountains are worse on this side but better on the other and 30 or 40 miles further. We took the right to the Hot Springs where we camped 8 miles from the springs the distance from Sulphur to Hot Springs at least 25 miles.

Wednesday 29th. Went on to the hot springs and remained there until 3 o'clock cooled water and watered our stock they are better than common boiling water and unpleasant to the taste and unwholesome to man and beast. It is 25 miles to trucky river this evening we went better than half way and rested several hours.

Thursday 30th. Started several hours before day and came to a considerable elevation in our road we rose it and went better than 1 mile and stopped doubled our team left one wagon and sent all the stock on to the river they arrived there about 9 o'clock many of the cattle giving out by the way and had to be left but after being rested were gotten to the river where they got water and some grass which began seem to refreshen them, one ox was left near the wagon soon after we went to drive him on and found he had been shot by some packers, who are in the habit of doing so for amusement this is the first ox I have lost on the trip where thousands are lying dead all along the road.

Friday 31st. Remained on the sand hill with my wagon until after sundown when I came with a strong team and took our wagon on to the river where we arrived about 10 o'clock this last ten miles is a sand bank where the travelling is of the heaviest description and very laborious to walk over numbers were compelled to do as we did send on their stock to grass and water and recruit them, and go back after their

Pumuck
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 23 -

and has kindly directed us the way that will best promote our happiness through life and through Eternity. Then when we see the wisdom, and goodness of his works, why then do we hesitate to receive his counsels, and heed his entreating Voice. Oh the strange infatuation which leads us so far from God which inclines us to grasp at the bubble, and forget the substance. It is strange to me that I have torn myself from friends so dear to me and am here in this wilderness mountain land 1500 miles from them striving to get six hundred more, then how long will it be before I shall retrace my steps, if ever. May the Lord preserve us and then and privilege us again to see and on their society once more before I die is my prayer through Christ Jesus my redeemer and my hope.

Monday 5th. Set out 11 miles to hot springs 10 to mountain and 2 miles up the mountain to a fine spring and good grass from our camp in the morning 15 miles up the Valley is very well covered with good grass and 2 miles wide 5 miles of the upper part grass is scarce.

Tuesday 7th. 1 mile to top mountain easy ascent and decent fine road 7 miles to first waters of the Humboldt 3 miles to the canyon fine grass 3 miles through cross creek 9 times bad crossing 1 mile very bad road rocky, crumpled, and adding 2 miles down water and grass plenty. The mountains on each side the chain stand very high and snow is seen on the top of some nearby here the Valley opens out wide and the greatest abundance of grass appears and a wide desert to the sight of wild sage.

Wednesday 8th. Down this beautiful Valley 19 miles and camped at this bank of the main branch of the Humboldt river it comes in on our right the greatest abundance of grass all the way the grass Valley over 1 mile wide the stream of water some times disappears by the way on the left the mountains are near, high and topped with snow, fine roads, frost this morning and ice.

Thursday 9th. Proceeded down the 16 miles and camped at a bend where the river approaches the right hand of the Valley good grass all day and

Paruck
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., So.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 24 -

fine roads the grass Valley is from 3 to 5 miles wide all day a large branch comes in from the left mountains high with snow tops.

Friday 10th. 3 miles to a large branch coming in on the right just where the river turns short to the right and enters a narrow canyon the road crosses a ridge and strikes the river and small Valley then crosses another ridge and strikes the river again and small Valley and again crosses another ridge and falls on the river 1 mile down the Valley 8 miles through then down 5 miles and camped 1 and a half miles wide good grass Mountains not so high.

Saturday 11th. Went down the Valley and camped 12 miles in a bend in the river Valley about 2 miles wide grass good all day abundance of Willow for cooking all along this stream Mountains becoming Lower frost this morning and ice.

Sunday 12th. 5 miles down to the Canyon cross 4 times good ford and road and some grass eaten out 6 miles through to tollerable grass camped down 1 mile this is a cut off the old road passes over a ridge and is worse road and Larger Very hot Springs on it. It intersects this road 1 mile below this the mountains are becoming lower. Frost last night no timber to be seen on this stream yet Willow bushes along its banks it is here about 40 feet wide gentle current gravelly bottom and from 1 to 4 feet deep and no fish of any value the sun is very hot nights cool and the roads very dusty and much of the low land very springy letting you sink 12 inches but becomes firm by use.

Monday 13th. 3 miles down to a fine branch coming from right 2 miles you begin to ascend a high ridge, about ten miles you fall into a deep ravine where several small springs make there appearance some little scattering... may be found there, a rocky rough road from these springs to the river 20 miles through to the river found good grass.

Tuesday the 14th, to Saturday 18th. I rode in the Canyon Very small these 5 days I estimate our Travell at 16 miles per day total 80 miles

Paruck
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., So.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 21 -

ing to a sermon delivered by Fr. Ish of Saline City to the train from that City is encamped about 1 mile above it was interesting to hear God's word proclaimed in this far of wilderness. His texts, Verily he must be born again, It seemed like a message just from heaven proclaimed by the eternal to the transient traveler along this wilderness way man's true condition where ever he may be placed in this life if he could but realize his true condition. 4 small companies of emigrants one in one mile of each other and all that could attend came so and listened with attention to the heavenly message a proclaimed by the young servant of the Lord he was solemn and sensible in his remarks. It is pleasant to find so many moral and religious men along this road. May the Lord God be with them to strengthen and polish them for his service and make them very useful in this wilderness trip of danger toil and privation and from the nature of the trip its continual care, vigilance and fatigue men have but little time to reflect, but are hurried on like the waters above the cataract with increased speed and thoughtlessness until it is too late. Will the Lord help us to consider our ways and cleave to him, so do O Lord.

Monday 30th. Passed up the Valley of the river 18 miles and camped near the foot of the mountain at a fine spring on the right hand side good grass all the way. The Valley is from 2 to 4 miles wide.

Tuesday 31st. 4 miles brought us to the junction of the head spout creek (it is said to be a good road good grass and water and is from 20 to 25 miles shorter than by Fort Fall. Here the road turns up at branch of the river to the right for ten miles then went through a beautiful pass 2 miles wide and fell on the head waters of a branch of Bear river fine grass water. It is an extensive and beautiful Valley surrounded by sand. Some Mountains topped with snow made 18 miles today. Wednesday 1 of August. Then turned to the right through a narrow low gap and passed into a small beautiful Valley 2 miles square of the most remarkable character surrounded by monumental pillars of rocks of every

Passack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 22 -

size and dimensions from 20 to 150 feet high enclosing the Valley close to the foot of the Mountain it rising much higher and topped in the same pyramidal form a small range all round they are composed of friable granite having a very white appearance the Valley is rich and well clothed grass a fine spring rising at one side and passing to the other finds vent by a very narrow chille. We pass on by another low narrow gap into an other Valley something larger of the same character the Pillar are not so numerous but larger and some of them rising to upwards 200 feet high passing in the same way into more extensive plains. Made 18 miles and camped at the foot of the mountain where we found water and good grass, water scarce for 12 miles back grass good.

Thursday 2nd. Passed over the mountain. Very bad road for ten miles sideling and steep in places and rough brought us to good river it has a fine Valley of good grass camped up its Valley 8 miles the mountains here are less elevated and no snow to be seen and less grass on these sides and base.

Friday 3rd. Passed up the Valley 10 miles and camped for the day.

The grass along this Valley is very much grazed down as it is a kind of resting place we expect to leave this before day as we have a stretch of 18 miles most of the way without water and all the way without grass.

Saturday 4th. Started 1 hour before day. 15 miles to warm spring no grass. 5 miles down to a fine spring, grass all eaten out and very scarce mountains low scattering cedars in places.

Sunday 5th. Started before day found good grass and water in 12 miles road very good a fine Valley arrived here at 10 o'clock rest the remainder of the day water and grass the last 8 miles. After an other weeks hard travel over 100 hundred miles of very dusty road, an other Sabbath has come to rest our weary frames and give us a little repose and relaxation. How wise are the arrangements of God, He know us altogether he made us, and all the beasts of the field, and has kindly provided for our wants,

Passack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 19 -

will most rapidly and is a matter of much interest to all who pass by, and the most part partake freely of the water. Cedar and Pine grow over this volcanic Valley and gives it a pleasant appearance, snow is seen on the mountains and also considerable timber the place is so remarkable that I will not attempt a description (at present) made 16 miles today.

Saturday 21st. Rained all day west the soda spring caught plenty fish.

Sabbath 22. Went 4 miles then left the river turning to the right up a side beautiful ... Passed a soda spring 3 miles up 2 miles further a noble spring of good water, made 16 miles this day camped on a small brush grass all day splendid, Valley from 4 to 8 miles wide mountains high snow on the tops.

Sunday 23rd. Ten miles brought us to a ore soft banks which run down the west edge of the Valley to Bear river, then turned up to a gap in the mountains which separates the valley of the Salt Lake from the Valley of the Columbia a high mountain but good road camped 2 miles from the summit in a fine valley good grass wood and water. Passed the very fine springs as we came down the mountain a most beautiful view is presented from the top of the mountain of the Valley of the Columbia within for ten miles before you.

Tuesday 24th. Traveled down a Valley a long a small stream gradually widening to a very wide spread Valley with several round mounds at a distance rising very high, the land is sandy with thin grass made 15 miles today.

Wednesday 25th. Continued down the Valley ten miles to Fort Hall situated on the left bank of the Snake river on main branch of Lewis fork of the Columbia. The low land appears to be some ten miles wide good grass and considerable timber for a considerable distance above and below. The whole valley is very wide from 30 to 50 miles at this place the fort is mostly constructed of dried brick and covered with the same. It belongs to a private company but government is now about establishing near the

Panack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 20 -

same site. Camped 7 miles below on Snake river crossed fort Leaf river half way between our camp and Port, it is Fifty Yds. wide and the Panack 100 Yds. wide, both beautiful streams and deep to ford at this time.

Thursday 26. Crossed the river and ascended the High Land of the Valley and continued 18 miles and camped in the edge of the bottom 2 miles below where the road descends into the Low Land. Water wood and grass plenty crossed a small stream 5 miles after starting in the morning grass scarce and dry on the up land, the Low Land is becoming narrower about 4 miles wide there is much wet land all over these Low grounds and innumerable multitudes of muskrats to harass every living thing that comes near the river the nights are very cool and days hot. Fine fish here and easy caught with hook.

Friday 27th. 4 miles brought us to the American falls of Lewis river the descent is about 50 feet in a very short distance rushing and foaming in wild confusion presenting a sublime view of beauty wildness and horror. Rushing down for 30 miles frequent rapids occur high walls and narrow channel. As we proceeded down we crossed some small creeks of fine water and many steep and deep ravines to cross mostly near the river grass indifferent and cedar. Camped near the river having made 16 miles in the day. Very dirty and disagreeable.

Saturday 28th. Wind very high and dust very bad all day, had to cross steep on both sides Fall creek very old Beaver dam on it petrified it is 4 miles from our encampment 4 below we leave the river and ascend the high table land to Raft Creek 6 miles a good road camped 2 miles up a fine Valley of good grass. The original road turns off 1 mile below as the road here turns considerably South.

Sabbath 29th. Rained had good grass. Heard a sermon from Dr. Ist.

Sabbath 29th July, 1849. West river 55 miles South west of Fort Hall we have rested this day here in this pleasant Valley of fine grass and water and what has given it more than usual interest we have been listen-

Panack
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Mary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 17 -

be between two low hills about 40 feet high, 13 miles to dry sandy where
we camped the road is very good all day grass scarce and indifferent snow
on the mountains.

Saturday 7th. 12 miles to little sandy plenty of good water but little
grass. 8 miles to big sandy a fine bold stream of good water and good
grass. The stream is 75 yds. wide.

Sabbath 8th. Very windy and disagreeable and drifting in clouds.

Sunday 9th. Remained in camp untill half past 5 o'clock in the evening
then set out on the stretch traveled all night stopping one hour for rest
stopped 2 hours at sun up to grass and rest.

Tuesday 10th. Proceeded untill evening 5 o'clock when we got to Steam river
the first water we came to called 35 miles, but by three railroaders measured
32 and a half miles, here we crossed the river several ferries being kept
by men and charge from 3 to 4 doll. per wagon. Set out your stock. It is a
fine bold stream of fine water about 200 yds. wide scattering cotton wood
along its border a fine valley along its border, and some scattering
dwarf pines along its bluffs mountains in sight with snow on them road
good with some steep hollows grass in some places, and pine on grass river
sun warm at noon and very cool at night clear all the time and very dusty.

Wednesday 11th. Crossed our stock and wagons and camped on its western
bank.

Thursday 12th. Proceeded on our way 5 miles down the river rose a steep
high hill crossed a small branch. Rose another hill and crossed to a
fine long creek 30 feet wide good grass camped on it 15 miles travel.

Friday 13th. Proceeded 15 miles crossed water several times and at the
foot of the great striding ridge between the Colorado and the Salt Lake
there is a fine spring and several others. As you rise the smelt it is
steep and long and we camped 3 miles from the smelt. Good water and grass.

Saturday 14th. Made 15 miles crossed a high mountain and camped on Smith's
Park a branch of Bear River a stream of 30 feet wide bold and very clear

Passes
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Mary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 18 -

and a fine Valley of good grass. Grass and water all day plenty and snow
in piles near at hand.

Sunday 15th. Traveled 12 miles and camped on the top of a very high
mountain we rose a very high smooth steep and long then passed over a fine
road gently ascending up to the summit. Very fine grass and springs,
and snow in drifts all day and thick clumps of timber, pine and cotton-
wood blue grass and white Flax above knee high no shadow in the States
any better.

Monday 16th. Went down the mountain near two miles and very long rose
another steep hill and down another steep hill into the Valley of Bear
river the handsomest I have yet seen and the best grass it is ten miles
from our encampment. Descended the river 8 miles and encamped for the
night grass of the best in abundance.

Tuesday 17th. Crossed Texas Park is 1 mile then down this beautiful
Valley 15 miles to Saline fork both streams are 40 or 50 feet wide and
deep fording all the streams are very fresh from the melting of the snow
it is to be seen all the time. Bear river is a fine stream 75 or 100
yds. across and deep at this time. Saw willow along its banks.

Wednesday 18th. Left the river crossed round the corner rose two
mountains 1 mile to the top. Very steep on both sides ten miles across
7 miles to a small creek and encamped. Some timber along the river
this evening and a beautiful Valley of fine grass and high snow topped
Mountains on each side rising one above another.

Thursday 19th. Left our camp at half past 5 and moved at a creek 10
miles ... went 8 miles to the top, of a hill and stopped near a fine
spring good water grass and wood all day fine roads and similar scenery
to the river above.

Friday 20th. Started early went 12 miles to a fountain of very fine....
200 yds. to the left of the road. Bold stream 30 feet wide and 1 deep
and rapid near by the Bear spring this is a very great curiosity the springs

Passes
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 15 -

a few miles passed several lakes of water strongly alkali in 12 miles a creek of the same character but below the road there is a spring of water which is used and some grass below it ten miles further, there is a wet valley with water crossing the road alkali water unfit for man or beast distraction to both if used freely. 5 miles will bring you to Willow Spring we camped this side three miles at a small spring on the branch of Willow Spring branch. This distance is fine road and very bad grass. Thursday 28th. A mile from Willow Spring to the summit 1 mile and 5 miles came to a swampy slough down it a place there is a spring tinged with sulphur and formed a small stream on our left for ten miles of good water a little brackish and a narrow border of fine grass a little short of that distance another small stream comes in from the right and change their course more to the south. Snow indifferent all day. Made 17 miles today the mountains make their appearance now in every direction. Friday 29th. Three miles to the alkali Pools where abundance of mallards may be obtained. Six...further to Independence Rock. The Sweetwater sweeps along two angles of it leaving a narrow space between. Here a vast number of names are inscribed, it is of granite, it stands in place covered with a coat of fine grass, the rock rises high and is three quarters of a mile in circumference, I have cut my name with Mr. George with a chisel where it will stand for ages the rock is solid and smooth and but few places perpendicular. 5 miles further is Devils gate is five miles further at this place a spur of the mountain projects from the north nearly a cross the Valley and at the north edge there is a chasm through which the river passes. Its walls are vertical and 400 feet high and some 40 or 50 feet wide of solid granite no earth except in some crevices of the rocks occasionally there is to be seen some starved cedar and Pine Bushes this is tree of all the Mountains. Yet seen by us just above the gate is two small creek putting in from the south Sweet water is about 150 feet wide fine bottom and about 2 and a

Printed
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 16 -

half feet deep low banks and gentle current and fine grass on its low lands where are about half a mile wide. The Valley is from 1 to two miles wide at this place we camped 2 miles above the gate 16 miles today. Saturday 30th. We made an early start. 8 miles from here we left the river bearing south round another spur of the mountain, which projects from the north and which opens a narrow defile to let Sweet water pass 10 miles above the gate, the Valley round rises and is rolling and sandy and there grass grows. 12 miles after leaving the river you come to it again, being not very far off all the time. 1 mile up we camped grass good obtained some wood on the side of the mountain. Sunday 1st. Set out early and traveled ten miles and camped where we first came to the river. Half way we crossed Cotton wood creek considerable heavy sand. Monday 2nd. Crossed the river 3 times in 1 and a half miles the two last difficult crossings. In 12 miles crossed it again. 16 miles without water and very grass we camped half way. Tuesday 3rd. Went on to the ford crossed 5 miles crossed and returned 3 miles above is a good spring a little to the right 1 mile above we camped grass all eaten off. Wednesday 4th. Left the river passed up a long gravelly hill and some ridges of rocks in 5 miles we found good grass and some alkaline Pools some grass and good water 5 miles further where we camped and spent the remainder of the day, washed, cooked and fitted up in a commensurate of that day cooked a fine mutton soup beans, and had a pleasant day. Ice was formed as thick as a pane of glass last night in our pockets and snow shown on the mountains in all directions. Thursday 5th. Made 18 miles. Crossed two large creeks 5 miles apart and 5 miles further to Sweet water the road good and also grass. Friday 6th. 7 miles to the pass 4 miles then to the Pacific Spring the first spring over the Pacific side You come to the Summit is supposed to

Printed
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 13 -

right and Fort Larina is in sight 7 miles above on the Laramie river a beautiful flat extending up both rivers some distance. The main road runs up the Platt, the road by the fort intersects it by crossing the point several miles above this is a beautiful place. The hills have a good quantity of pine timber in sight and good rock plenty. Favorable situation for a military station made 15 miles today.

Sabbath 17th. As there was but little grass we proceeded on 5 miles up the river went down a very steep bluff and soon struck out in the black hills 6 miles we came to a very fine spring of rather warm water though pleasant water. Some good grass on the way. Road some sandy but good. In a mile we ascended a pretty steep hill with some rocks in the road camped 5 miles from the spring in a place of good grass no water. Haled some wood a few miles and water from the spring nothing remarkable today.

Monday 18th. Pursued our way 4 miles to a beautiful little stream of water, Bitter Creek, traveled up it 7 or 8 miles crossing several times then turned up a dry ravine to the right for 5 miles and came to a spring on the right of the road and passed several above that point. Camped on the high road 3 miles above the spring grass being bad since the morning timber plenty.

Tuesday 19th. 4 miles to Beber Spring near Hornsby Creek a small stream of fine water, and a very steep long hill to go up. Then there cross 4 branches of the same Creek in the next 8 or ten miles all having good water and some timber. Continued on. This the road is very rolling and in some places steep 16 miles brings you to La Bonta river a fine stream 160 feet wide considerable cottonwood timber on it and scattering pine on the hills. From the fort 40 miles you go direct to Larina's peak of the Rocky Mountains. We are then near it. We then turn considerably north rather down the La Bonta river until we strike it.

French
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 14 -

Wednesday 20th. Commenced traveling in 5 miles we crossed a branch of the La Bonta the road continues rolling and plains steep all day the Mountain near on the left in 16 miles we camped at a good spring and some box elder timber for fuel. Grass bad all dry, near the road are some large heaps of stone 80 or 100 feet high and resembling a haystack. Thursday 21st. In two miles crossed the La Bonta river a large Creek of fine water nine miles brought us to Platt river crossed two miles up it near some timber roads heavy all dry grass bad except on the stream. Mountain continues near on the left.

Friday 22nd. Commenced preparing for crossing day three came and found a boat.

Saturday 23rd and commenced crossing about 2 o'clock. Crossed a Lagoon at two loads taking the wheels off.

Sabbath 24th. Finished crossing by 3 o'clock all safe ten wagons (crossed our cattle on Friday all safe and found very fine grass on the other shore) The stream is very rapid and deep at this time being swollen considerably and is about 400 Yds. wide. We sold our boat for 20¢ to another company who ever loaded it and sent it with the load.

Monday 25th. Left our encampment and proceeded up the river 15 miles found good grass, but heavy sand most of the way, some cotton wood timber all the way considerable timber drifted on all the low land, showing a very high water mark but little rock to be seen in the bluffs there is a bluff of rocks 1 and a half miles below on the south side.

Tuesday 26th. Traveled up the river 12 miles and camped two miles above the old mormon ferry and in sight of the red Butte above as the red bluffs are called timber and good grass all day but very heavy sand most of the way and several long hills to get round the bends of the river.

Wednesday 27th. Left the river this morning and took the High Lane in

French
Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 11 -

timber to be seen.

Wednesday 6th. Rested this day on account of rain.

Thursday 7th. Started went 5 miles and encamped on account Mr. Thurman illness Cholera and also Friday 8th continued to wait on Mr. Thurman some better today.

Saturday 9th. Traveled about ten miles and stopped on Mr. Thurman account he expired soon after and we deposited his remains at the foot of Castle Bluffs the most beautiful part. This castle is surmounted by small terraces or piles of rocks around the edge on the top and the point below half a mile of is surrounded by scattering sider which is the last of consequence to be found above that point. There he is to remain in that solitary and lovely spot until that great day of God Almighty when at the sound of the Trumpet the dead shall be called forth to the Judgment where they shall receive according to the deeds done in the body whether they be good or evil. This point is about 7 miles above Ash hollow, where the upper road-the Valley of north Platt river we made this 20 miles.

Sabbath 10th. Rained hard last night, a little ahead of our encampment, and 1 mile south of the road stands a beautiful eminence destitute of any vegetation rising 200 feet, resembling a very large Building with a dome on the principle part with an ell extending west of declining height until it suddenly rises in spiral form which resembles a chimney. Near the castle appearance of the bluffs disappear and a beautiful gentle rolling appearance commences, the are much improved for twelve miles ahead. 1 miles from our last encampment is a lone tree on a branch half a mile south of the road. About 13 miles from Castle Bluffs we rise to a low table land putting into the river. Here to the southwest is to be seen a ridge with pine timber pointing to the river above this is common all along the Platt. Made 18 miles today.

Sunday 11th. We traveled 20 miles today road and grass good. Some

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline Cty., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 12 -

water on the ground. Rained very hard with some hail. Saw the court house some ten miles off found it camped opposite this night. Rattlesnake very bad for several days.

Tuesday 12th. Made 15 miles now camped near Chimney Rock. Rained this evening very hard and for four nights past, road good grass also. Visited Church rock 6 miles off the road it is a large pile sandstone seen at a great distance having an architectural appearance and rising some 230 feet. Chimney rock is the same height and rises in spiral column some 60 feet can be seen 30 miles. Some Pine and cedar timber can be seen at a distance today.

Wednesday 13th. Started early very bad roads deep and heavy for 6 miles then very good with 25. Very good grass and water. Past Scotts Bluffs for the last 30 miles the scenery is sublime beyond description of any pen, the whole distance presents the most delightful presentation of Bluffs of every description and form imaginable. At some times you will imagine yourself near the suburbs of some city where the wealthy have retired to fancy situations and built castles for themselves, that they may enjoy life. They are beautifully decorated with pine and cedar in clustera and also overlooking the river here is very full of islands and continuous side.

Thursday 14th. Passed through the Valley at the side of which is a spring of good water and timber and fine road to Horse Creek 12 miles thence opposite to the Yellow Bluffs on the north side of the river 10 miles making 22 miles this day.

Friday 15th. Continued 12 miles and grazed where the river comes near the bluffs 14 miles. We camped where came up to the bluffs the roads have been very good and plenty of timber.

Saturday 16th. Reached the Larion river in 5 miles it is a very rapid stream about 100 yd. wide and from 3 to 4 feet deep. We... near the mouth. Fort Bernard is near Junction about a mile from the ford to the

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline Cty., Mo.

(over)

1849
April 5 to
October 7Mary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 9 -

buildings, but there is no rock near and cotton wood the only timber on the Island, which will be great difficulty to encounter, this Valley is very beautiful and is from 6 to 8 miles in width the bluffs are low and are a range of sandy knobs, grass is short on the bluffs, and not very long in the Valley but the grass is very nourishing and stock are very fond of it.

Sabbath 27. We traveled 8 miles this day where we could get better grass and wood and we remained over the Sabbath.

Monday 28th. Traveled 19 miles and rested the remainder of the day in this beautiful Valley antelope are plenty on the bluffs here and some Buffalo have been seen near this.

Tuesday 29th. Made an early start and made 22 miles no timber except on the Islands the river today appeared to be 5 or 6 miles wide in many places today the timber is scarce even on the Island, and indifferent to have one small stream just in from the bluffs this evening but was very good.

Wednesday 30th. Made a good start and up this beautiful Valley is along here was ten miles wide and the river from two to 6 miles wide spotted all over with islands from a very small size up to a large Island with but little wood on them the bluffs present a very barren appearance a collection of high knobs some scattering alder bushes are seen on them. We made 22 miles this day, with a high north west wind against us very cool and disagreeable all day.

Thursday 31st. A rainy morning continued showering all day with disagreeably wind very cool. We started at nine o'clock and the company divided leaving us ten wagons, seven going with Col. Watkins and two others going to themselves. This was produced by some misunderstanding and dissatisfaction among the company but no open out break they separated in peace, but it was very painful to us for to part with those I love and

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

1849
April 5 to
October 7Mary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 10 -

evening, we have camped in sight of each other, this evening I have endeavored to get a friendly intercourse kept up between the parties for the future. We traveled 15 miles this day.

Friday 1st. A clear pleasant day a large Island in the river has narrowed the Valley and the grass is nearly all Buffalo grass and short but the stock is very fond of it the bluffs are becoming high along the river and the bluffs also are rising and wood is more abundant and more readily obtained we traveled about 20 miles this day.

Saturday 2nd. Near this the high rocky bluffs lower down and become very barren they now resemble a beautiful blue grass pasture for miles out from the river and become more lovely as you ascend the river and no wood near the road. 21 miles brought us to the Forks of the river no timber near, a fine spring where descended.

Sabbath 3rd. Into the low bottom land, you travel under the bluffs several miles and again rise on the bluffs on higher land for several miles and again descend. 18 miles brings you to the Second crossing where we crossed and camped to remain to the next morning there is a good crossing near the forks, and another up above this some 15 miles. It is sandy bottom and not very deep at any place. We double team as it is heavy falling sinking deep in the sand it over half mile runs rapid and very full of small islands.

Monday 4th. Crossed over the sliding bridge between the two bluffs about two miles across the stream are over the same side, half mile wide, and the Valleys two miles. Fine grass on each stream went up the Valley 12 miles and rose on the bluffs for ten miles, found a pond of water and camped after 20 miles travel, the bluffs are of easy ascent in many places.

Tuesday 5th. Traveled 20 miles the river has been crossing the Valley several times and has us to travel several times under the bluffs where there was heavy sand at one place there was some ash trees but no other

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 7 -

rolling and knobby with a variety of pebbles scattered over them and
scattering large rocks and some shells all indicating the action of water.

Wednesday 16th. Started early crossed the river and traveled ten miles
to a large branch of the same stream over a very crooked road, rolling
and plenty of timber on each side and intrenched on the edge of a large
gravel, passed over this evening a rolling country plenty of timber on
each side we made this day sixteen miles. We are now 150 miles from St.
Jo.

Thursday 17th. Started early and traveled 18 miles over a beautiful
widespread gravel and camped on a little blue river a very fine small
stream skirted with a strip of timber. It is about one hundred feet
wide there but with clear water and sandy bottom.

Friday 18th. Crossed the river it was near the beds on west of the
saguna and traveled 16 miles and encamped on the waters of big blue 4
miles back the Independence road intersection ours it does not appear
to be as much traveled as the St. Jo road These roads have the appear-
ance of being traveled as much as the roads in two miles of St. Louis
the lands are very fine yet and the country very beautiful but great
destitution of timber, scattering timber along the water courses is all
that is to be seen.

Saturday 19th. Traveled 20 miles camped on the open plains. All day
we have been on these beautiful places no timber near the road until
this evening we crossed a small branch of blue river where are found
wood and water. Blue river has been on our left all day and the last
ten miles has had a beautiful appearance the bluffs along its banks
the appearance of the grass has changed very much it is now short and
fine the stock appear to love it and do very well on it the soil appears
very rich and is very solid and fine.

Sabbath 20th. Started early and traveled 10 miles and came to wood and
water and we are now encamped and expect to remain for the day and until

Louis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Salina City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 8 -

the night is past.

Monday 21st. This day was very stormy high wind and several light showers,
we passed over beautiful places passed over several branches of blue river
some of them sandy and without water and camped on one of them after
traveling 24 miles, this evening George Seap shot himself through the
shoulder, in handling a gun in the baggage.

Tuesday 22nd. Early this morning we descended into the Valley of the
main blue river and traveled the balance of the day up this Valley in
all 20 miles it is a most lovely Valley the stream winding from one side
to the other fringed with a narrow strip of timber it is about 50 feet
wide rapid turn current and can only be crossed in particular places
it affords fine catfish, the soil is very sandy with small gravel in-
termingled. We are now over 200 miles from St. Jo.

Wednesday 23rd. Traveled 20 miles up this beautiful Valley.

Thursday 24th. Traveled 15 up the same Valley, then left it and roost on
the table land and camped on a branch of blue the grass is indifferent
outlooks has been seen for several days.

Friday 25th. Made a late start it having rained hard all night roads
heavy and a heavy gale of wind setting us we made 16 miles and camped
on the bluffs of Platt river grass indifferent.

Saturday 26th. Started early and descended gradually into the Valley of
the Platt a beautiful Valley level as a floor next the bluffs is dry
and sandy with some gravel mixed. The half next the river is rich and
more moist we came to the river at Grand Island 20 miles from the head.
It has some timber on it but none on the south side along here Fort
Childs is situated on the south side of the river and ten miles from
the upper end of the Island the buildings are now all built of sod
with human placed on top then willow brush and sod on top for its
covering and the earth for floor they are now adding plank and bark
to aid in turning the rain, but are preparing to put up better

Louis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Salina City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 5 -

crossing an eddy on both sides, and very narrow and good landings on both sides. St. Jo is beautifully situated and improving very fast, it now a population of 14 hundred, three churches, Presbyterian Methodist and Catholic. I have found many old acquaintances who treated me with much kindness especially Doc. Cook and Lady. We have had a very disagreeable time here for three days a heavy rain fell on us the first night and made it very muddy our teams we had to wade several miles out to the country and grazed them on the prairie as corn could not be had. The third day we crossed late in the evening.

Sabbath the 6th. Here we were this morning with out corn or grass we set out early and traveled 10 miles out to this beautiful prairie where we are camped on a high ridge where we have a most beautiful prospect around us that can be imagined, beautiful knobs but not very abrupt, forming the most lovely sights for building purposes that can be conceived of here we have plenty of grass and good spring water and timber plenty for cooking.

Monday 7th. Went back to St. Jo and found Mr. George, Mr. Goggins, Letcher Dricks and others on this bank of the river ready to start to our campment the ferry is more crowded now than when I crossed it and still crowding more and more. Returned by three o'clock.

Tuesday 8th. Pretty day we are employed in arranging our matters for a final departure waiting for Harper and others to come up they still cross this evening. We are all impatient to be off there has been much turbulence with many of our men, numbers are passing us all the time and numbers are turning back and selling out, they feel now like they had been an age from home now and will not go farther.

Wednesday 9th. We organized this evening having Fifteen Waggons, Fifty Eight men and two ladies, adopting a republican form of government, I as Vice President possessing military powers, and President of the Judicial board. Alfred George was chosen Vice President and occupies the place

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 6 -

of Lieutenant. Stephen Letcher secretary and fills the place of Lieutenant (second), a Judicial board of nine men who also act as (Sargants), also a Legislative body elected one by each mass of six or eight members, and numbered our Waggons in four Divisions.

Thursday the 10th. Set out early in the morning in regular order and traveled about 12 miles and camped for the night. We continue to be surrounded by a most picturesque country. It resembles one of an ornamental garden laid out with much care and much taste, scattering here and there solitary and ornamental trees well distributed to give a fine finish of tasteful ornament to the scenery.

Friday the 11th. Made an early start in light waggons crossed Fall river a small stream running North into the Mo. then two miles to the Iowa agency situated in a beautiful prairie of very rich land they farm pretty largely. We then proceeded five miles farther and camped where we are well situated timber water and grass all being good and abundant for camping purposes, having made 15 miles in the day.

Saturday 12th. Set out early this morning and traveled seven hours and gained about 15 miles this day and are now camped in a beautiful place plenty of good water and a small grove of timber in a boundless... We have seen but little timber today and that at a considerable... from us, all day on a winding ridge of very rich land well adapted to farming purposes if there was a supply of timber, but it is destitute. We expect to remain here over the Sabbath.

Monday 14th. We traveled this day 15 miles over a beautiful prairie no timber near then camped one mile off it.

Tuesday 15th. Started very early and traveled 25 miles over a beautiful level plane with but little timber in sight and camped on the Kansas river about Fifty feet wide gravelly bottom and very high banks and a very beautiful ledge of blue stone rocks all along the east bank, skirted with a narrow strip of timber principally post oak, low and scrubby,

Lewis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 3 -

Kind hospitable and interesting Family.

Monday 15th. Left Col. Davies nine miles to Marahal the City. sent them two miles to Maj. Harrison's where we found Mr. Orley in waiting here I started Uncle Peter back home. Traveled on to Cpt. Risers 16 miles in all today.

Tuesday 17th. Crossed the Tetow plains by the Pass and on this day to Col. Hills in sight of the Rev. Mr. Dimens. 20 miles Travel of very fine road through the most beautiful country in the state, soil being rich and many healthy citizens. Deep grass luxuriantly all through this country the prairies appear beautiful when clothed with hemp eight foot high, and the great number of teams a going preparing the hemp for market at this season of the year.

Wednesday 18th. On this day passed through Dover a very pretty little town ten miles East of Lexington where we arrived that evening and camped for the night.

Thursday 19th. Past through Lexington to the river and spent the whole day in waiting and crossing the river a cold wind blowing on us all day and the crossing difficult. Camped on the north bank of the M. River.

Friday 20th. Left our encampment and crossed a lovely Low Land for five miles then up a gentle ascent to Doc. Allens of one mile where we found the Family all well and encamped far to remain untill Monday morn.

Saturday 21st. Last night we had 30 wagons camped here last night. Here the Carrollton road intersects ours, it pours in a torrent of Wagons the road is full. Doc. Allen and myself went to Richmond and visited several of my old acquaintances and formed some new ones, this place does not improve much, but has a beautiful country round it, rich soil and good population.

Sabbath 22nd. Spent the day in the tent wrote two letters and spent considerable time with sister Sarah. Oh it is a great treat to her to see her old friends around her.

Louis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline Cty., Mo.

(over)

Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 4 -

Monday 23rd. Left Doc. Allen's in the rain but it ceased raining soon but the day became clear and we traveled thirteen miles to Mr. Campbell's and have camped for the night.

Tuesday 24. Started early. Mr. E. Card and myself left the wagons and set out for St. Joseph, to Flatsburg 25 miles. We then took dinner, then set out and got to St. Joseph about 1 o'clock on the 25th it is situated about 40 miles from Flatsburg. St. Joseph is a very Flourishing place at situated on the Mo. river where it makes a great bend to the east. We went this evening 16 miles to Mr. Fanta and stopped for the night, (the Cholera and small Pox prevail considerably at St. Joseph and the emigrants are crossing the river in to the bottom and some are going to fort Carnoy) corn is very scarce.

Thursday 26th. We sent our Wagons about ten miles Flatsburg and stopped the Wagons and camped until the next day and looked through the neighborhood for corn and found plenty about 2 miles off the road at one Doll per Bushel.

Friday 27th. Left our encampment for our corn and struck our tent in the prairie where we had good grazing for our stock and plenty of corn to feed them. Here we hope to collect some of our City men as they come up. Saturday 28th. Cloudy this morning but soon cleared off all are now gone from the tent but myself, our stock is now feeding in the prairie in sight, a cool breeze from the north is blowing.

Sunday 29th. Left our encampment this morning and traveled 16 miles and encamped in 4 miles of St. Jo where we have good grass and but little corn.

Thursday 3rd. Went in to St. Jo and took our place at the ferry about 40 teams ahead at each boat they cross about 35 teams per day each boat and some times there is great contention about these rights, and at a landing 5 or 6 miles above this there was two men killed in a conflict for their rights, this is the finest place I have seen on the river for

Louis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline Cty., Mo.

(over)

1849
April 5 to
October 7Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

COPY

DIARY OF COLONEL JAMES TATE
1849

April the 5th, 1849.

This day, I took a long fare well to my dear friends and my old home, of many years and many dear association, for the much famed Land of Gold in California, to try and repair a ruined fortune. Traveled 5 miles to Capt. Allen's and spent the night.

6th. My aged Father and Dear Mother I have part with perhaps for life but may be only for two years. O how trying these separations has been to me. But I have endeavored to commit them to the hands of a gracious and constant keeping God. He alone rules the winds, and the waves O day, and will endeavor to trust myself and friends to his care and his all wise providence, for guidance and protection. We travelled this day 12 miles to Doc. Dr. Stephens through a desperate storm of wind hail and rain descending in torrents from the west, and was received with all the hospitality and kindness of a Brother. He ate at his table and lodged in his house drying our wet garments and clearing our spirits by his unfailing kindness without charge.

7th. The roads were heavy but traveled on pleasantly 10 miles to Hinkston a small stream one mile East of Columbia. Our train performing very well. We still remain here over the Sabbath, I have been cheered through this day by the great number of wagons we passed who had started untill after the Sabbath this is a promise of good for California.

8th. It commenced raining a little after dark last night and poured down in torrents for twelve hours flooding the country and swelling the streams very much. It was late in the day before we got our coffee, after this we spent the Sabbath very pleasantly in the evening wrote a few lines to Mr. Reed, and obtained some straw to lie upon, still very cloudy.

Monday 9th. We all had a very pleasantly night's rest early it commenced raining and continued for several hours after which the clouds began to

Louis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)

1849
April 5 to
October 7Diary of Colonel James Tate who
Journeyed overland to California.

Col. James Tate.

- 2 -

weather and the young men and Black boys is now gone up to Columbia to view the place, Mr. Wilson and myself remaining to keep camp. He is very kind and obliging, a pleasant companion.

Tuesday 10th. Left Hinkston this morning passed through Columbia and traveled over very bad roads 12 miles and camped within 2 miles of Beachport, at Mr. Smith. Our train have performed very well this day. Mr. Wilson broke a spoke out of the hind wheel of his wagon, but will soon get another in. We have to commence baking bread it will be some what unkindly to us all, but we will soon learn.

Wednesday 11th. Started early this morning and passed through Beachport and took the road to Franklin. Soon the Rev. Mr. Coulter and Lady at that place. We got to Old Franklin in the evening and camped on the bank of the river near Mr. Anderson's the roads being good we passed over 14 miles very easy.

Thursday 12th. This day we spent in crossing the river the boat is good but very badly managed, it commenced raining about 12 o'clock and made it very disagreeable. We have obtained our Flour and packed up our Boxes and left all to be shipped up to St. Joseph, Chapel in the edge of Town here I met Elijah Scott and spent the night with him at Henry Butler's who was very kind and agreeable.

Friday the 13th. Started early on a sloppy and heavy road and traveled the Indian 8 miles from Coveville and camped at Mr. Zimmers making 14 miles that day. James Vandear left us this evening and went on to Col. Dr. Davison in Saline City.

Saturday 14th. Started late it being very cold and disagreeable. We met Jas. Vandear near Doc. Sappington returning to meet us. We passed over 12 miles today pleasantly to Col. Davison where we will spend the Sabbath they received us very kindly.

Sabbath 15th. Here we have been compelled to leave our tents and wagons and eat and sleep in the house and enjoy the hospitality of this very

Louis River
Fall Creek
Oregon Road
Saline City., Mo.

(over)