

THE OVERLAND JOURNAL
OF
D. B. ANDREWS
BEING THE TRANSCONTINENTAL DIARY
OF HIS TRIP FROM
INDIANA TO CALIFORNIA.

ANDREWS OVERLAND JOURNAL

ANDREWS (D. B.). The Transcontinental Manuscript diary of D. B. Andrews, being the day-by-day journal of his trip across the plains from Indiana to the California Gold Diggings in 1852. 91 pp., 4to, original boards and half leather [with transcript, in protective half morocco slip case]. V. p., March 30 - October 4, 1852. 665.

Andrews is another of the argonauts who travelled by - and used - the still undiscovered Platt and Slater Overland Guide [vide entry of May 26th]. His journal is a well-written and carefully detailed account of the journey, the country passed through, the various routes, best camping spots, natural curiosities, geographical features, etc. From the South Pass he followed the Kinney Cutoff to Salt Lake, thence on the Mormon Road to Green River & across that stream to the juncture with the old road; thence to Bear and Raft Rivers; thence via Goose Creek to the Humboldt, and down that stream to the sink. Thence via the Truckee Route across the Desert & over the Sierra to the mines. An Appendix extending from August 24 to September 16 gives the amount of gold washed each day, with tables of expenses, etc. to October 4th.

JOURNAL

MARCH 30th 1852

We this morning bid adieu to our friends and homes, after some delays from bad weather and sickness, and embarked on our journey to the valley of the Sacramento, our party consisting of David McQuiston, S. D. Andrews, John B. Griffith, a returned Californian and myself. The day has been overcast and an occasional shower of rain fell to cheer us on our way. The roads have been very heavy, and in connection with the parting from home and the rains it has not tended to make the day a very pleasant one. We have made about 15 miles this day. Weather very warm.

MARCH 31st

At eight o'clock we got under way with a keen air, there having been a great change in the temperature since yesterday. The roads have been very bad during the most of this days travel, being mostly through timbered land along Ell River. At evening a snow squal came up and the ground has the appearance of winter. After a hard days drive we put up at the house of a Mr. Eley whose son accompanies us on our

journey. We have made 21 miles today.

APRIL 1st

We awoke this morning to a scene of not very prepossessing appearance, the ground being covered with snow to the depth of two inches with a sharp wind from the west and the weather more like the first of February. About noon the sun came out and the snow has mostly disappeared. The evening is still cold. We laid by for the day on account of bad roads and the inclemency of the weather.

APRIL 2nd

All being ready, at nine o'clock we were under way. The morning cool and roads good we soon reached the town of Liberty, a distance of two miles and a half. Three miles farther on we made the rather pretty villiage of Manchester. The roads continuing good we drove untill a late hour. The tract passed over today has been principally Oak openings.

Distance traveled 21 miles.

APRIL 3rd

All being ready, at nine o'clock we were

on the road. The morning heavily overcast. At a little past nine o'clock a snow storm set in from the east and continued without intermission untill noon when it broke away and we had an occasional glimpse of the sun. Snow fell to the depth of three inches making our road very disagreeable. During our afternoon's drive we found a very bad road, but at sundown we had the pleasure of reaching the plank road from Logansport to Rochester, which place we left at 2 o'clock P. M. Our road was through a tract of timbered land, towards noon through light openings. The afternoon's drive south from Rochester towards Logansport has been through a very marshy lock tract with very little good arable land.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4th

The morning as usual was stormy and rather cold. At nine o'clock it ceased raining. At eleven we got under way and made Logansport at 5 P. M. having traveled fourteen miles. Put up for the evening four miles below the town on the Wabash River. The evening set in with a rain and continued during a greater portion of the night.

APRIL 5th

The morning was ushered in with a sleeting storm and continued untill nine o'clock. At eleven we took the road towards Monticello; by being wrongly directed we traveled some 4 or 5 miles out of our way. The afternoon was made very uncomfortable by a driving snow which did not cease untill towards evening. Put up for the night seven miles from our last evening's entertainment.

APRIL 6th

The sun arose from a bank of clouds this morning and for the first time since leaving home we had a fair morning, the air cool and refreshing. The day continued mostly fair and pleasant. About two o'clock we arrived at Monticello, the shire town of White County. Continuing on west from this place we put up for the evening seventeen miles from the place of starting this morning. Since leaving Monticello we have passed over a very flat and wet tract of land.

APRIL 7th

Starting at an early hour we continued down on a ridge of opening land that extended out into Grand

Prairie. The land on either side of the ridge has been the same as yesterday - low and wet. At noon we arrived at the edge of the Prairie where we partook of our lunch with as much good cheer as if we had been seated at our own fire sides, many a good joke given to enliven our convivial board. Our repast being over we embarked out on to the immense sea of prairie which was bounded before us and on either hand by the horizon. We soon started a group of deer who bounded off over the hills and were soon lost to our view. Plenty of game abounded in the sloughs such as geese, brants, duck, &c. About three o'clock it set in raining and continued on untill late in the evening. Having traveled seventeen miles, and some wretched road, we put up for the evening at Denton's Grove.

APRIL 8th

We have had the pleasure of enjoying another fair day, with a cool and refreshing breeze from the North. Our days travel has been over a beautiful tract of prairie lying between Denton's and Parishes Grove. The prairie in many parts gently rolling and from the tops of some of the hills the views were extensive and

beautiful. Many deer were seen during the day at a distance. In the morning we had a rare sight - a large number of cranes - perhaps two or three hundred had congregated together in a body in the air and disturbing the silence that prevailed by their harsh & grating calls. Our road has been for the greater part of the days drive good with the exception of some bad sloughs. Put up for the evening on the S. West side of Parish Grove.

Distance gained today 17 miles.

APRIL 9th

The sun arose clear and warm. Our route this day has been from Parishe's Grove to Sugar Creek timber. The road in the morning's drive good, but the afternoon's drive has not been remarkable for good roads. Shortly after sunset we arrived at the grove, a distance of twenty miles in a direct line, but being directed wrong we traveled some miles out of our way.

APRIL 10th

The day fair and mud drying. Rain in the evening.

APRIL 11th

The day has been broken, an occasional streak of fair and cloudy weather.

APRIL 12th

Mostly fair. We laid by for the last three days to rest our team and let the roads dry and the high waters run down.

APRIL 13th

Starting this morning at a little after nine o'clock we took first a southerly course for two or three miles when we bore off west to pass around some bad streams which lay in our course. Our day's drive has been over a very flat wet prairie. Put up for the evening at the extreme western point of Ash Grove. Distance in a direct line from place of starting this morning fifteen miles. To gain this we came about twenty, crossed some bad streams during the day's drive.

APRIL 14th

Making an early start, we crossed Spring Creek about five miles from our place of starting.

After starting the same day to improve a bridge
the afternoon's drive the same with much better luck
we have found places to stock the horses. Made some
camping places here and put up at River's house.
The horses had a fine experience in the vicinity of
the river and it was particularly the first time of
their life when we have been.

APRIL 16th

Very hot day. Roads improving very fast.
In the morning passed over some fine rolling hills.
In about half of the day to Peoria some level. Put
up for the evening in the west side of Peoria house.
Made by horse drivers and some times, around a corner
to some places.

APRIL 17th

Morning clear. Roads more improved in some
places and some places very much improved. Made
some camp in the place where the I. I. to the west.
Made some camp and horses. Arrived in the morning
some camp in a small place where horses
and some horses in the afternoon lay along in the shade

of the timber which has a very dwarfish appearance.
Soil good. Put up for the evening after twenty-one
miles drive for the day. Roads in the afternoon very
heavy in places.

APRIL 17th

Morning clear but soon became overcast with
broken clouds; air cool and refreshing in the fore part
of the day. Our road has been principally confined to
the timbered land which has been a greater part of the
way light, barren. The timber in parts of little value.
Roads improving. Drove 21 miles and put up at a house
kept by R. N. Clark, a gentlemanly host.

APRIL 18th

The day has been cool and some cloudy. Our
road has been through barrens with the exception of
about six miles. Road in many places heavy. Put up
for the evening within two miles of Peoria. The coun-
try is somewhat broken as we approach the Illinois
River, timber of rather dwarfish habit. Distance
drove today 30 miles.

APRIL 19th

Laid by for the day. Weather fair.

APRIL 20th

Cloudy, with a high wind from the N. W.,
air very chilly. Towards evening set in raining.

APRIL 21st

We took steamer this morning at 10 o'clock
at West[e]ly, a small town on the Illinois situated on
the east bank two miles below Peoria. Peoria is pleas-
antly situated at the foot of a small lake of the same
name on its southwestern shore a bridge of about half
a mile in length crosses the river at the foot of the
lake. The river at this time is navigable for the
largest river steamers; the channel is free from sand
bars and snags. Peoria contains at this time a popula-
tion of six thousand inhabitants, is very well built.
Weather cool.

APRIL 22nd

Morning fair, many high rocky bluffs on our
right, bottom land on our left & inundated. At noon

we entered the Mississippi. The bluffs have changed
to our left and apparently lime stone. The channel
of the Mississippi at the junction of the Illinois is
divided in several channels by small islands. Shortly
after entering the river we arrived at Alton on the
Illinois shore. The site is very uneven. It contains
the State prison. Shortly after leaving Alton we
passed the mouth of the Missouri River. The water of
this river is excessively turbid. About 3 P. M. our
Steamer made its landing at St. Louis. Some thirty
or more steamers were laying at the landing loading
and unloading merchandise, presenting to a backwoods-
man a scene of unusual stir and activity. The amount
of trade transacted at this place is immense and is
supposed to be greater in proportion than any other
city in the Union. The streets in the immediate vicin-
ity of the landing are very narrow and much crowded.
The site of the town rises to some height as you re-
cede from the river. The current of the river at this
place is very rapid and turbid, it having become thor-
oughly mixed with the water of the Missouri. The
weather today has been warm.

APRIL 23rd

Having laid in our necessary stores we left at 5 P. M. for St. Joseph on board Steamer Lewis White-man. A little after sun down we entered the Missouri River. Our first salutation after entering this river was being brought up standing by coming in contact with a sand bar. Swinging off we were carried round by the force of the current and drove against the bank with considerable force. At a very late hour we retired to our cots on the cabin floor, this being the allotted fare of those California bound. I laid down intending to enjoy a few hours in the sweet embrace of Morpheus, but alas, how often are our most fond anticipations blighted. I was just tasting of the sweets of repose when bump, thump, the engines stopped and we were wallowing in the mud. In a short time however, we were free and following our way up the river among sand bars and snags. We did not proceed far however, before we laid by on account of the darkness of the night. I now felt certain of a few hours rest but again was I doomed to disappointment. At four o'clock, when fully enjoying the benefits of sound repose, we were all aroused by an impertinent waiter and informed that we

must arise. There being no alternative I reluctantly complied. The remaining time untill morning we passed with listless silence with the exception of now and then the snoring of some sleepy emigrant. At breakfast all was a jam, each man intent on securing a small pittance for the benefit of his famished stomach.

APRIL 24th

Morning cloudy with a fine rain. The river as usual filled with bars & snags. Passed the Steamer Isable towards noon. Passed during the day some very bold and rocky bluffs on our left. The course of things have been pretty much the same as yesterday, little sleep, poor fare and growling passengers. Saw farmers planting corn.

APRIL 25th

As usual, up at four, dozed away the time untill daylight. About 10 o'clock, after making a bend in the river, we came in sight of Jefferson City, the Capitol of the State. Some two miles distant the Capitol building occupies a fine and commanding view of the river. The view of the building from the river

is beautiful, appearing when first you heave in sight as if placed acrossed the river and presenting its full front to view. It is situated on a high hill on the left bank. The town has a very dilapidated appearance; the site of the town is very uneven. Vegetation is making its appearance. Saw during the day, pear and apple in bloom. The day has been warm and pleasant. The state prison is also at this place and is situated on the river bank at the lower part of town.

APRIL 26th and 27th

Pleasant.

APRIL 28th

Passed some very bold and imposing bluffs, also the fine little town of Weston on the right hand bank. The town has quite a stirring appearance and contains some very good brick buildings. About two P. M. this afternoon we again ran onto a sand bar where we remained untill late in the afternoon in vain endeavors to extricate ourselves. The vessel being perfectly at the controll of the current we were drifted down broad side onto the bar. The water pass-

ing under the vessel had washed away the sand and left a bar ahead and astern of the vessel which made it impossible to either move back or forwards. The bar being situated in a bend with a very strong current we washed through the bar into the channel. About seventy-five yds from where we lay on the bar lay the wreck of the Steamer Pontiac No. 2 which was snagged on the 26th inst. and was completely wrecked. Many California emigrants were aboard and lost their entire stock of stores. Passing up the river about eight miles we laid up for the night.

APRIL 29th

About noon this day we arrived at our point of destination with a feeling far different from which I had experienced while groping our way up the river through its many bars and snags. The Missouri from its mouth to St. Joseph is filled with islands, sand bars and snags. The water is exceedingly muddy, current rapid and the channel constantly changing. The town of St. Joseph is pleasantly situated being partly built on a very level site and part on the surrounding hills. It contains at this time about 2000 inhabitants.

SUNDAY, MAY 9th

Summary of the week. After crossing the Missouri the road from the river to the bluffs which bounds the prairie was very serpentine and in many places quite sandy. The timber on the river bottom is of a medium growth and in many places stands very close. The bluffs are quite bold and in many places rock makes its appearance. The ascent from the river bottom was through a gap in the bluffs formed by a small creek making in. The road was firm and the ascent gradual. One mile after reaching the prairie on the creek up which we came is good camping. The road after leaving the creek rises a long hill & at its top the prairie is in full view. The road meanders considerable to keep on the hill tops. The road from the small creek to the Iowa Mission is very uneven, passing over a continuation of hills with several small streams to cross. At the Mission the prairie becomes less hilly but is considerably rolling. The Mission is situated in a beautiful prairie. There is quite a number of buildings some of which are frame. A small store is kept there where grain and other articles can be procured. Westward from the Mission about

Andrews

St go

one mile we struck onto a beautiful scope of prairie gently rolling and but for the scarcity of timber would be an excellent farming country, the soil appearing exceedingly fertile and no waste from low or wet land. After passing a few miles farther on the prairie became more rolling and for several miles the road was a succession of hills passing up and immediately on arriving at the top commenced descending, and when at the bottom it immediately commenced ascending. It having rained during the evening previous the travelling was very laborious. Camping ground was very difficult to obtain on account of wood and water. The prairie continued rolling for some ten miles when it became more level, but of not as beautiful appearance. The prairie continued to be quite level until we came into the vicinity of Crystal Creek where the prairie became more rolling. Encamped on its bank and laid by for the day. The water is much better or rather purer than any which we have found in any of the streams hitherto crossed. A scarcity of timber prevails - only to be found on the margins of the streams and not always to be found at such places. Feed is becoming quite good, rather better than is usually found by emigrants at this season of the year.

MAY 10th

Starting early, we continued over rolling prairie. Eight miles from Crystal Creek we crossed the Big Nemaha or Nelman as called by some guides. This stream is about twenty to twenty-five in width and at the ford has a very lively current and hard bottom, but at this time very muddy banks, more particularly on its Western bank which is very muddy for some five or six rods. The ascent from channel is quite gradual. On the margin of this creek is the most timber of any stream yet crossed west of the Missouri, there being a great scarcity of timber. About seven farther on we crossed a small creek, also another two miles from the last mentioned. Camped two miles west from last creek. Indifferent water, very good feed. From the top of hill on which our camp is situated we have a vast prospect, the prairie to westward, North and East stretching off beyond the power of vision. Rained during the day; roads heavy.

MAY 11th

Morning ushered in with a dense fog. Rained during night, lost cattle in fog and did not recover

them untill after seven o'clock. Edsall & Co. also lost their horses and did not obtain them untill late in the morning. Parted company with Edsall & Co. The prairie became very flat and low towards noon and continued so untill towards evening when approaching a small stream with muddy banks it became more rolling. Crossed two creeks during the day and many very bad slues. The road has been much the worst this day's drive than any yet passed over. Encamped in the open prairie two miles west from the first mentioned creek on a slough. No good water, indifferent feed. Latter part of the day fair.

MAY 12th

Approaching Blue Earth river this morning. The prairie becomes more rolling. Crossed this stream at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 o'clock. Channel about 75 or 80 feet in width and between two and a half and three feet deep with a strong current. On the bottom of this stream is some timber and at the west bluff good spring water. The river is quite turbid. Had to take in wood & water here - none for 14 miles. After crossing the bottom we ascended on to a high rolling prairie with

plenty of good grass but a scarcity of water, there being no running water. A few miles out from the Blue there is a fine prospect of the surrounding prairie. Ten miles from the river the Independence road intersects the St. Joseph road. Camped in open prairie on a blue. Poor water, little feed. Morning cloudy, afternoon fair.

MAY 13th

Fair. High rolling prairie, very high wind. Shortly after leaving camp this morning we met a war party of Osage Indians, some fifty in number, who were wending their way home having been out on an excursion to the Northward. Crossed a small creek early in the morning, very little timber on its banks; also another towards noon. Prairie quite level. Approaching the Big Sandy it becomes more rolling. The bottom of this stream is quite stony, hard banks and bottom. No feed for some miles either way from the crossing of this creek on account of the large number that have camped on and in its immediate vicinity. Drove two miles west and encamped after sundown on the bank of a small creek. No feed and no good water.

Drove 25 miles this day.

MAY 14th Starting early in the morning and drove until seven o'clock when the feed became some better. Let our team feed and took our breakfast. Morning very cool with a high wind. Prairie high and rolling with a gravelly and sandy soil. Crossed a small stream at 1 o'clock, steep banks, some timber - elm & cotton wood. Broken & rolling prairie in vicinity of creek. Towards evening more level. Camp in open prairie. No good water or wood, rather poor grass.

MAY 15th

Morning rainy, prairie quite level, some feed in places. Crossed four creeks or runs with steep banks, two with running water, the others only in puddles, very sandy bottoms, very little timber. At 2 o'clock crossed the channel of a stream 40 or 45 feet wide, no running water, a very fine gravel bottom. About 5 o'clock P.M. reached the Little Blue Earth. Camped about two miles up on its north bank. This is quite a fine stream with a channel about three rods wide with a very strong current. The water in this stream is very turbid and to me not very palatable; skirted on its banks with cot-

ton wood and some ash; a great scarcity of feed. From the Big Blue Earth to this stream, a distance of sixty-five miles, there is no good water, none other than blue or muddy creek water and in many places no wood can be obtained without going off from the road a great distance. The first part of the road from the Big Blue passes over a tract of high rolling prairie and of a rich soil. The last half of the distance passed over the prairie becomes more barren in appearance and is much cut and broken by runs or small drains with quite abrupt banks and quite broken. The soil is light sand and gravel presenting rather a barren appearance. Roads for the last few days good.

SUNDAY, MAY 16th

A very high wind set in with the setting of the sun last eve and has continued on untill evening today. The morning was very cold and cloudy, the afternoon fair but continues quite cool. Laid by for the day. A large number of teams have passed during the day.

MAY 17th

Hoary frost this morning. Prairie wolf skulking around camp - seen quite a number in few days past. Many sand bluffs on our right hand. Road continued up the creek then bore off over the bluffs on to a fine level prairie less cut with runs than most of the prairie passed over for some miles. Back about ten miles after leaving the creek the road again strikes and does not leave it again untill passing up about 15 miles when it bears off to Fort Kearney.

MAY 18th

Our road during the day has been confined principally to the creek bottom, leaving it for the last time about 4 o'clock P. M. The prairie in the vicinity of the creek has a very barren appearance. Crossed some small creeks during the afternoon. The last one passed had tolerable good water, it being the best found since leaving the Big Blue Earth, a distance of over one hundred miles. Roads becoming very dusty. Camped in open prairie three miles from creek. Saw antelope during the day.

MAY 19th

Day some cloudy with east wind. The prairie quite level. Approaching the Platt[e] the prairie is broken into small sand hills and very barren. Camped three miles after reaching the river bottom. Poor feed.

MAY 20th

About 1 o'clock P. M. we arrived at the Garrison or Ft. Kearny. This fort consists of a few frame buildings of not very fine appearance and a number of stores & out buildings built of prairie sod or turf. About sixty soldiers are stationed here. The buildings are situated on the Platt bottom about three-quarters of a mile from the river on a level piece of ground. The whole establishment taken together has anything but a neat & tidy appearance. A few acres of land adjoining the fort has been enclosed and broken. About 2 o'clock it set in raining and continued without cessation during the afternoon. Fine Feed.

MAY 21st

Morning gloomy enough, the rain continued during the night and did not cease until towards even-

ing today. Poor feed for our team.

MAY 22nd

Morning cloudy, afternoon fair, roads somewhat heavy. Some indications of alkali were apparent on the bottom today. Poor feed.

MAY 23rd

A beautiful morning. Traveled today on account of the scarcity of grass. Warm and pleasant. The sand hills on our left, bordering the bottom are more broken and of a barren appearance. Many indications of alkali today, the ground in many places presenting the appearance of a heavy frost. A large number of teams in sight on opposite side of river.

MAY 24th

Morning some cloudy, afternoon broken & warm. Bluffs more elevated and broken, very barren appearance. Camped close to river opposite to Bradley's island. Some cedar on this island, also some on the bluffs. Poor feed.

the bottom into the river. On its bank found a spring of good water.

MAY 28th

Our road this day has been a variable one - in the morning - rolling prairie. After a few miles drive we descended from the highlands to the river bottom by a gradual descent between rocky bluffs. The road was very heavy for something like two miles on account of light sand. After passing up the river a short distance the hills made down to the river. Passing over these we found very heavy sand roads. Towards evening we came onto a fine piece of bottom land with excellent feed. Much game seen through the day. Hot & dusty.

MAY 29th

After a few miles drive from our camp this morning we left the bottom, rose a considerable hill and after passing over a somewhat uneven tract we descended into Ash Hollow. Keeping down this hollow we soon reached the bottom land of the river. The bluffs on either hand were principally rock and very abrupt.

A small stream makes down this hollow and at this time dry; some ash timber and a very little stunted cedar. Found some very good springs. The bottom at this place rather narrow and short feed at this place. Many teams ford the North fork of the Platte and proceed up on its northern side. Taking up the south side of the Platte you pass a short distance above Ash Hollow some very bold and rocky bluffs. Abundance of alkali abounds on the bottom land in the immediate vicinity of our camp. It makes its appearance in a white powder in some places to the thickness of half an inch. The whole earth for some distance from our camp is saturated with it. Alkali in a liquid state has not as yet been discovered. Weather very warm.

SUNDAY, MAY 30th

Two months out from home. Laid in camp to rest our animals. Spent the day in cooking and washing. Something over one hundred teams passed during the day. A large number in sight on opposite side of river. Ash Hollow is one hundred and seventy-five miles from Ft. Kearny and sixty-two from the ford of the south fork. A light shower fell during the night.

Weather very warm. No timber in sight.

MAY 31st

The day's drive has been principally over a very heavy sand road, it being much the heaviest road passed over between here & St. Joseph. The bottom along the river very narrow and broken by the intrusions of sand hills. The weather excessively warm. Camped near the river on a sand hill. Some timber in sight to the southwest. Grass light.

JUNE 1st

The road has been rolling & sandy during the forenoon. Passed near a sand bank or hill of a few acres in extent perfectly destitute of vegetation. We found some excellent springs of water in the bank of the first bottom. It was an unexpected luxury. Late in the afternoon we had the first view of Court House Rock at a distance of about fifteen miles. This is an isolated or detached rock of a sandstone formation, and by the action of frost, rain & water has been worn and broken in such a manner as to bear, at a distance, a close resemblance to a public edifice.

Camped near a small pond or puddle of impure water. A train of eleven wagons from above, laden with skins, camped near us.

JUNE 2nd

Shortly before sunrise this morning, killed an antelope. Was detained untill late. The train in mean time moved on and did not overtake them untill about 8 or 9 o'clock. After three miles drive this morning we crossed a small stream of tolerable clear water. It washes the base of Court House Rock on its southern side. This rock is about eight miles to the south of the road but does not appear to be more than two or three. The country to the left becoming quite broken. Chimney Rock, thirteen miles west from Court House Rock, towers up its head and can be seen at a distance of twenty-five miles. It has at a distance a very close resemblance to a shot tower. Between Court House Rock and Chimney Rock the bluffs become very much elevated and broken. They are principally at a distance of 10 or 12 miles to the south of the road. Chimney Rock is supposed to be over three hundred feet high, is situated about two miles to the south

with a very fine gravel which injured our cattle's feet very much. Six miles from river we turned to our left and camped on a small creek, dry at this time with the exception of a few springs. Good water, grass and wood. The road from the river runs on a dividing ridge between two creeks for about seven or eight miles.

JUNE 9th

Country rolling & broken. To our left some 15 miles is Laramie Peak and adjacent mountains presenting a very broken appearance and some fine scenery. During the forenoon we descended a hill something over a mile to the Labont[e], a fine stream 2 rods wide, two feet deep with a rapid current and stony bottom. After passing over some gently elevated hills we arrived at the Labonte branch, a small creek one rod wide, 10 inches deep, rapid current. Before reaching this creek we passed over a hill and descending to the creek we passed over a soil of a very unusual appearance, it having the appearance of pounded brick. In some places a white substance was found which has very much the appearance of pumice stone but no[t] so fine.

This red earth continued on westward from the Labonte about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Road quite uneven. Camped about 5 miles eastward from Lapral[La Prele] Creek.

JUNE 10th

Early in the fore noon crossed La Prele Creek, a fine stream $2\frac{1}{2}$ rods wide, 20 inches water, stony bottom & rapid. A short drive from the La Prele we descended a hill to a small creek. Keeping down its channel about 25 or 30 rods just below where the road leaves the creek bottom we found a most excellent spring of the very best water, being extremely cold. This is a luxury that men can only appreciate who have been deprived of the use of good water. At noon or near we crossed a fine spring run about 7 or 8 feet wide with plenty of clean water. After noon a short time forded Deer Creek. This stream is not far from 3 rods wide and two feet deep. After crossing this creek we ascended a hill not far from a mile in length but of a very gradual rise. Passing over its summit we descended to the Platte. Keeping up the bottom we camped on another Deer Creek. This is a most delightful place. Up this valley or creek is an abundance of feed and is

a place where emigrants usually stop to recruit their teams. Creek $1\frac{1}{2}$ rods, about 20 inches water. Plenty of good wood.

JUNE 11th

Our road crooked but fine. Crossed Crooked Muddy Creek, abrupt banks some 10 or 12 feet high, creek 6 or 7 feet, very muddy, bridge across this creek. Crossed during after noon Little Muddy Creek. Camped on the Platte 10 miles below ferry. Snow hills on our left. Saw herd of buffalo on opposite side of river towards evening.

JUNE 12th

Continued up the river bottom to the ferry. Crossed some small runs which make down from the mountains on the left. The water is very cold and much rilled. Arrived at ferry about 10 A. M. Crossed over without delay. Three boats are constantly running at this point. Current very rapid. About $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile below the ferry, swam our cattle. This is attended with some danger, besides much fatigue to the animals. A number of lives have been lost here by those who were

engaged in driving over stock by their venturing too far out into the current which is very strong at this place. The boats carry over about 24 wagons per hour at \$5.00 per wagon, men 50 cts per head, cattle \$1.00, man & horse \$1.00. About 1000 wagons have already passed this season up to this date. After crossing the river we drove up the river about 3 miles and camped. Short grass. Two roads leave the river at the ferry, one taking off over Rattlesnake Hill, the other continuing up the river and connecting about 13 miles from the ferry. The river road is much the best on account of water and grass and some miles nearer.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th

Drove up from our camp about 3 miles and again camped close to the river where we laid by on excellent grass. Quite a high mountain on the south side of river a few miles distant. Warm & pleasant, rained during the night accompanied with very sharp lightning and severe thunder. A large herd of cattle lay close to us during the night.

JUNE 14th

Starting at an early hour we continued up along the river. The road was somewhat broken. After about two miles drive we bid a final adieu to the Platte having traveled along it upwards of 450 miles. At the point of leaving there is a high bluff of red rock or slate. This formation is quite plenty in this vicinity. After leaving the river the road passed over a gently undulating plain indented with rocky mounds. On some of these there were a little pine. In about 8 miles drive we intersected the other road from the ferry. This road passes up from the ferry over Rattlesnake Hill and makes quite a curve to the northward in order to avoid some very rough and broken ravines which lie in the immediate vicinity of the river. Seven miles from the ferry the northern road passes the summit of the hill, five miles farther on it passes the Poison or Mineral Spring. This water is accounted poisonous yet I was informed by an emigrant who encamped near it that they made use of it for their team and also for drinking purposes. Late in the afternoon we arrived at Willow Springs where we found the first good water for 22 miles, alkali abound-

ing in large quantities in all the streams passed over in the distance. Two miles from the first springs are more springs called the Upper Springs at which we camped for the evening. Air cold, appearance of the country very broken and mountainous, good wood and water but rather short feed.

JUNE 15th

Starting from our camp we immediately commenced ascending Prospect Hill. In about a mile's drive we reached its top where we had a most delightful and extensive view of the surrounding mountains some of which towered far above the clouds. The Sweet Water range in full view to the west distant twenty miles. Two miles from the top of this hill we came to Sage Spring run, six from this to Fish Run, a small stream about six feet wide with a brisk current, water good. From this to the Sweet Water River 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The country is very barren with a heavy sand road. Four miles before arriving at the Sweet Water we reached the Alkali Lakes. There is quite a number of these lakes or rather ponds. The earth at and in the vicinity of these lakes is covered with a white efflorescence or

alkali having a very sharp taste and emitting a strong lye smell. These ponds are situated on both sides of the road and in some places the road passes over their bed. The water is quite clear and shallow but having a strong lyey taste. To the northeast of the ponds is quite a high rock mound. Towards evening we camped on the Sweet Water about a quarter of a mile below Independence Rock. This rock is very barren, about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in length north & south and about one half its length in width and is said to be four hundred feet high although it does not appear to be half that height. Numbers of names are registered here by those passing by. Grass very short. A large number of teams camped near.

JUNE 16th

From our camp two roads led by Independence Rock, one around its northern end, the other at its southern, uniting a short distance above. The northern road is the best but some farther. The river washes the south end of the rock. The road passing along in the river about a mile above the rock is the first or lowermost ford of the Sweet Water. The river

at this place is about six rods in width, water at this time two and a half to three feet in depth. About $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles above this ford is Devil Gate, a pass of the Sweet Water through the granite rocks or mountain which extend up along on the north side of the river. This range is first seen from Prospect Hill at the Upper Willow Springs. The gap is about 50 rods through the rock and one hundred feet in width at the top but much less at the bottom. On the south side the rock rises perpendicularly to a height of four hundred feet, on the northern side the rock rises to an equal height but is not as perpendicular. The water rushes through this gap with considerable velocity, having in some places quite abrupt falls and is broken by sunken & projecting rocks which fill its channel. By ascending the rocks on the northern end of the gap by a very rugged and laborious path to the summit of the rock a view of the river is obtained lying far below your feet. Passing off to the left a few yards, a path leads down a very steep and somewhat difficult gulch or fissure in the rock to the stream. After arriving at the bottom on looking back the beholder will be astonished at the apparent danger over which he has

just passed. Camped 10 miles above the gap at a point where the road strikes the river. Two miles below the second cut or pass of the river through the mountains, on our left is a range of mountains covered in many places with snow. On its side is some timber supposed to be pine. On the left is a range of granite rock mountains very barren in appearance, there being a very few stunted pine & cedar. Alkali abounds on the river bottom in considerable quantities, very good grass in places. Evenings very cool. After crossing Sage Creek, a stream that empties into the Sweetwater, and ascending to the summit of the hill about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile a fine view is obtained of the Wind River Mountains situated in the Rocky Mountains. Their tops are covered with perpetual snow and present to a person unacquainted with such sights a very novel appearance.

JUNE 17th

High rocky mountains on our right bordering the river, very barren, being granite rock; on our left is a range of mountains covered with vegetation. Snow presents its self on many, on its top & sides.

Heavy sand road & poor grass. Camped at second ford of the Sweet Water, did not cross. Eve. cool, feed fair.

JUNE 18th

Took left hand road over very heavy sand to river nine miles. The country during the most of this day's travel has had a very barren aspect. Passed during afternoon the upper end of the range of rock bordering the Sweet Water. These rocks extend up the river near 50 miles from where the road first arrives at river. Mountains on the left, some timber and snow. Air cool. Passed alkali marsh & ponds. Wind mountains in sight most of the day. Camped in open prairie, no water.

JUNE 19th

Starting before sunrise we drove to the Sweet Water about six or seven miles and forded. Good fording, no grass or timber. Rolling and some broken crossing the Sweet Water from the south side to the north the road passes over a level piece of bottom land for a quarter of a mile to the foot of a long hill of some height. Arriving at its summit it commences descend-

ing towards the river bottom. The surface of road is covered with small stone which makes the descent rather disagreeable. Four miles from the last ford there is another, banks some mirey. Crossing the river at this ford can be avoided by passing over a very steep ridge to the bottom again and continue up its north side. Very barren appearance, no grass only on river bottom and in the ravines. Ten miles from ford arrived at high bluffs where the road turns to the right and ascends a very long and tedious hill. Passing its summit descend a little and again ascend another passing over on its summit, some broken rocks descending this hill a short distance the road ascends the third hill which is very rocky and uneven at its top. Descending from this hill about half a mile there is a good spring at the left a few rods from road. A short distance from here is a marsh on which are a number of ponds of pure water. Continuing along this marsh 3 miles came to some springs of most excellent water. One mile from these springs is a small run along its banks. Some $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from this run we camped on Strawberry Creek, a small stream about 4 feet wide, 8 to 12 inches deep, some feed along its bottom. Hills quite barren, the

plain some rolling. One days drive or 20 miles from here we cross the summit of the Rocky Mountains. Weather quite warm, evenings cold. No timber of account.

JUNE 20th

Lay in camp. Short feed.

JUNE 21st

Starting at our usual time, in one mile's drive we came to the Aspen Springs situated a few rods to the left of the road at the base of a gradually rising hill. Water cold and excellent. All of the springs as yet seen are cold in the vicinity of the mountains. The road continued over a gently undulating sage plain very destitute of grass. About 4 miles from the Strawberry, descending a short but steep and stony hill, we crossed the branch of the Sweet Water, a fine stream about 20 ft. wide and 20 inches deep with a rapid current and gravelly bottom. $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from this creek is Willow Creek, 10 feet wide, 18 inches deep. Ascending the hill from the creek, from the top a view of the twin mountains was obtained situated a little to the left some 10 or 12 miles dis-

tant. Road excellent, the plain slightly rolling & indented with hills, mounds & at a distance mountains. Descending a long but gradual hill we reached the Sweet Water. Here the road crosses and leaves the waters flowing into the Atlantic. Snow is laying in banks along the river or more properly creek, it being not over 3 rods wide at this point. After crossing the creek which has a good gravel bottom the road continues across its bottom land to the high land a distance of 50 or 60 rods. Road very soft in places and quite uneven. Distance from Strawberry 9 miles. Leaving the Sweet Water we continued on over a beautiful and gently undulating plain ten miles to the South Pass or Summit of the Rocky Mountains. The summit is said to be between two mounds situated on either side of the road and about sixty rods apart. Two and a half miles from the Pass, after descending a long hill, is a marsh on the right hand side of the road. At the upper end are the Pacific Springs, the first water come to after crossing the mountain flowing to the Pacific. Continuing down the marsh $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles the road comes to Pacific Creek, a small run 5 feet wide, 1 foot deep, formed by the springs. Rather short grass,

barren appearance, sage plains. The road from the Sweet Water to the descent of the hill to the Pacific Springs is one of the most beautiful kind. It would be extremely difficult to find an equal amount of road in the States to bear comparison. The mountains to the right are covered with snow. On the left the mountains are not as elevated and more detached and broken, while on the summit of the mountain a thunder storm passed near accompanied with considerable wind which caused a great change in the temperature, the forenoon being very warm, evenings cool as usual. Between the Strawberry Creek and the Sweet Water we met a large company of Californians on their return to the States. They were mounted on mules which were in fine condition. Left the mines on the fifteenth of May, report good grass most of the way. They appeared to be in good spirits and went on their way rejoicing.

JUNE 22nd

Leaving camp this morning and crossing Pacific Creek, we wended our way over a beautiful sage plain. Shortly after crossing this creek a road bears off on the left to Salt Lake. This we avoided and

continued to Dry Sandy Creek, about one rod wide, water said not to be good. At the crossing of the road there is some water. 80 rods below there is no indication of water the channel being loose gravel & sand. Six miles from this creek the road forks, one taking direct to Green River, the others by Salt Lake and Kinney's Cut-Off. The direct road crosses this side of Green River a tract 41 miles wide destitute of water and but little grass. To avoid this desert take the left hand or Salt Lake road to the Cut-Off on which is said to be plenty of grass and water. The road continues on over a most beautiful plain, little feed in places, to the Little Sandy, from the forks of road 9 miles. Road excellent. Camped on Little Sandy, fair feed. Creek about 25 feet wide, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, water turbid. Thunder storms during afternoon.

JUNE 23rd

Starting from camp at rather a late hour, continued over a beautiful level sage plain with good road to Big Sandy, six or seven rods wide, 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in depth, water turbid. Camped about a mile above the confluence of the Little Sandy with this

stream. The Big Sandy is a tributary of Green River. From Little Sandy to Big Sandy, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Rained during afternoon. From the plain snow-capped mountains are in view to the west, north and south, those on the south being a great many miles distant, those on the north & south from 50 to 75 miles and perhaps more. Many smaller mountains are close on our left but void of snow. No timber of account for many miles back nor is there any appearance of any ahead. There is some willow along the banks of the Big Sandy. Many teams passing. On the point between the two rivers found most excellent grass. Remained here from noon until morning.

JUNE 24th

Our road has this day been over a gently rolling plain covered principally with sage, among which there is good feed, being bunch grass and wild oats, or something that bears a resemblance to the tame oat. Road excellent with but few exceptions there being some flat stone on some parts. About eight miles from the ford the river makes quite a curve to the southward and approaches to within a quarter of a mile

of the road. At this point there is considerable feed. While nooning here a rain & hail storm passed over us; continued on to the river a distance of 17 miles from the ford. We continued down its western side to Kinney's Cut-Off distant from ford 19 to 20 miles. Turned off at forks of the road and camped on river. Swam our stock across river on to high table land; good feed. Kinney's Cut-off avoids the 41 mile desert passing around its southern end. Plenty of grass & water on this route. High snow-covered mountains in view to the south, west & north. About a mile before reaching the river there is quite a large plat of red clay on which there is some ponds of shallow water with but few exceptions the soil has been sand or sand and gravel, the entire route in some places so light as to make heavy travelling, in other places very hard and firm. The principal part of the emigration take the Cut-Off.

JUNE 25th

Leaving the Salt Lake City road this morning and taking the Cut-Off, in a few miles the road came within a short distance of Green River along which

there is some cotton wood timber, being much more than has been seen for many miles back. In about 12 miles from the Mormon Road the road crosses Green River, a stream 22 rods wide at this place with a strong current. The road from the point where it first approaches the river continues up along its bank or vicinity. Some feed. A sage plain extends back from the river to the first bluffs something like a mile. On the second flat or table land is some patches of excellent grass. Along the river and in the vicinity of Big Sandy there is quite a large amount of prickly pear with a large double leaved deep crimsoned flower now in full bloom and very beautiful, also varieties of the orange and yellow. There being but one boat running at the ferry and a large number of teams in advance we were compelled to lay by untill our turn came, there being over 200 wagons in waiting. Camped up above the ferry about half a mile on a sand bank and drove our stock back a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ to good grass. Evening cold.

JUNE 25th

Driving in the stock early we moved down to the ferry. Shortly after arriving another boat was

set running in opposition to the old one, reducing the ferriage from \$8.00 to \$5.00 on wagons and from \$1.00 on cattle to 25 cts per head. Towards evening after much contention among the emigrants about turns or preference we succeeded in getting over with our wagons and stock, having made ineffectual attempts to swim them (that is stock). Continuing up the river some 3 or 4 miles camped on a hard gravel knoll, very barren and destitute of feed. By driving the stock back to the hills about a mile, obtained good bunch grass in abundance. The country has rather a broken appearance to the south & westward. High mountains in sight to the north, west & south white with snow. Thunder storms at a distance.

JUNE 27th

The country passed over during this day's drive is rolling and some broken, road in places gravelly but for the most part very dusty. Driving untill a late hour. Descended a long steep rocky hill to a small valley in which there is some springs of good water. Grass rather scarce in the valley and on the hill sides. By going back a mile and a half good feed

was obtained. The surrounding hills are very high and have a mountainous appearance. Many of the hills are of the red earth and covered with small stones. In some of the ravines flax is in bloom. Thunder storms at distance.

JUNE 28th

In half a mile from camp commenced the ascent of a high hill upwards of a mile in length, some stone. Passing the summit descended about 40 or 50 rods and rose a small hill. The descent from its top to the valley was exceedingly steep and some stony. This hill is upwards of a quarter of a mile in length and is much the sharpest yet descended. At the foot of the hill a small spring run makes down to the left, good water. Crossing this the road continues up a shallow ravine. At the bottom of this there is also a small spring run. About a mile from the foot of the hill the cut-off road joins the Old Road. The road here crosses the run and continues up on the other side to the summit from which the run takes its head. From this place, which is a small marsh, the water flows both ways. The road descended from this point

to the valley of a small stream 5 to 6 feet wide and some mirey. The road continues down this valley about 3 miles crossing several runs of water caused by the melting snow on the mountain close on our right hand. On the left is a succession of high hills with very stony tops. Late in the afternoon we commenced the ascent of the mountain on our right, the road being crooked, steep and in many places covered with small round stone. From the base to the summit is upwards of a mile. From its summit Ham's Fork of Green River with valley first present themselves the valley being skirted on its western as well as its eastern side with mountains. The descent to the ford of river was crooked, steep and stony in places. Forded Ham's Fork late in the afternoon. The river at this point is not far from $2\frac{1}{2}$ rods wide, 2 ft. water with a brisk current. Speckled trout abound in this creek. Camped on R. bottom. Good grass at the foot of the mountain. A spring of good water also on the bottom a short distance from river. Evening very cool.

JUNE 29th

Leaving camp at rather a late hour, continued

down the river about a mile when the road turns back a little to the right and ascends the mountain. The ascent is very steep a part of the way and at the top or near, it is covered with broken limestone. Arriving at the peak (2 miles from the river) the road descends gradually for a mile and then gradually ascends towards the summit of the mountain. Six miles from the peak the road passes a fine grove of popple[poplar]. Near this grove there is a good spring, some pine at a short distance to the left. On this mountain there is considerable flax. Granes bill abounds in large quantities. Three miles from Popple Grove there is a grove of Balsam fir, the road passing through it. About a mile from this grove is the summit of the mountain. The descent to Marsh Spring Creek, about 2 miles, is extremely crooked and steep with small stones on some parts. The creek is about 4 feet wide, rapid current, clear water. Along this creek poison springs abound. Crossing the creek the road immediately commences ascending another hill or mountain - to its summit is about three miles. The descent to Bear River valley is by a most wretched road, being covered with broken rock. On the second descent the road, not being an

even one, there is some places less descending than others. The road is very winding. Arriving at the base of the hill, camped for the night near a spring run. The hill sides are covered with an abundance of most excellent grass, plenty of sage for fuel. From the summit of the mountain near the fir grove there is a grand prospect of the surrounding mountains.

JUNE 30th

Three months out from home, health of Co. good. Leaving camp at a late hour, continued down the base of the mountain to Bear Valley Creek, distant from Marsh Spring Creek 9 miles. A range of two hills run along to the left of the road parallel with the mountain. At the crossing of B. V. Creek the road strikes into Bear River Valley. This is a wide fertile valley covered with a luxuriant growth of grass. Continuing down the valley along the mountain in five miles from last creek the road bears off to the right. To Smith's fork about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile between two high mountains to the ford. The crossing of this stream is rather bad. The stream is divided into three channels. The first is about 2 rods with a

swift current, 2 feet water; the second about one rod, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. water; the third about the same as the second, 2 ft. deep. After crossing the road turns short to the left down the stream passing around the base of a high rocky mountain which has a very cragged appearance. The road a short distance from the ford is a most awful one, being filled with large broken rock. After passing over this piece of road (some 40 or 50 rods) it continues down the valley to Thomas Fork $14\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Camped 4 or 5 miles before reaching the fork. Good feed.

JULY 1st

At a little after six o'clock left camp and continued down the valley to Thomas Fork. At the junction of the rivers Bear River bears off to the west. The road crosses over to Thomas' Fork. This stream is about 3 rods wide, deep, turbid and sluggish. Some traders have built a bridge over it at this point, toll \$1.00. There is a ford some miles above, very bad crossing. Shortly after crossing the fork the road ascends a heavy hill. The descent is also very steep. From the foot of the hill the road continues down a

ravine about a quarter of a mile to a small valley through which runs a small stream of good water along which there is good grass. This valley makes down to Bear River a short distance below. The road continues on this valley about a mile and a half and then ascends a very abrupt and high hill; at the summit of this hill there is some stone. In about a quarter of a mile the road descends & bears around to the left and passes down a very narrow ravine. In a short distance it bears off at a right angle to the right and ascends gradually to the summit of the last hill a mile and a quarter or more before descending to the river bottom. At the top of this hill the road bore off to the right and continued along its summit a short distance and then bore off to the left and descended - much the steepest hill yet passed over - upwards of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from top to base. Continuing down the valley a few miles camped on the river. Grass plenty back on the hills but short at the river. Mosquitoes very annoying, evening warm.

JULY 2nd

The road this day has been confined to the

river bottom. About 6 miles from camp crossed Tallies Creek, a fine little stream 10 feet wide, 16 to 18 inches deep clear water & rapid current. Five miles further on crossed Willow Creek, 6 ft. wide, 1 foot deep, water clear & cold, swift current. Six miles from Willow crossed Ashties Creek, 10 feet wide, 18 inches clear water, rapid current. Camped about 3 miles westward from this creek on a small spring run among the hills, water excellent. A number of spring runs make down from the mountain on the tract passed over this day's drive. Considerable pine on the mountains to the left, also snow.

JULY 3rd

The tract passed over today has been moderately rolling and in the vicinity of the river about seven miles from camp crossed Muddy Creek, a small spring run & very mirey in many places. From this to Willow Spring five miles, to the Soda Springs $5\frac{1}{2}$. A little before reaching these springs a stream of poisonous water crosses the road. The water is clear but not very cold. It apparently takes its rise in a grove of cedar a half of a mile to a mile to the right

of the road. From the grove it passes through a small willow swamp & marsh which is some mirey. On the marsh is a good growth of grass. Many cattle become poisoned here. The water is not considered poisonous unless rilled and saturated with the earth. At the bottom a short distance from this stream is a mound 12 to 15 rods in length and six to eight in width. The mound has an elevation of about 25 to 30 feet. On this are a number of springs issuing from a formation very much resembling rock which has been formed by deposit from the water. The amount of water discharged is rather small but is continually agitated by a current of gas which rises in bubbles up through the water. Near the center of the mound is an elevated portion bearing a resemblance to porous rock. In its center is a caldron or basin 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ over and two deep which has been, apparently, at some time the basin of one of these springs. About one and a half rods to the west of this is a small spring run affording water of a peculiar taste, somewhat warm. Sulphur appears to abound in these springs. When first taken into the mouth it imparts a sharp and not altogether unpleasant sensation. This spring issues from a small mound of

regular form near 3 feet over at its base & two feet high and drawing in at the sides, leaving a small basin at the top 8 to 10 inches over and six deep. From the bottom of this the water and gas issue. In a short distance from this mound the road crosses another small stream 15 ft. wide, 10 inches deep, stony bottom, rapid current, good water for current. The road here runs close to the river, being now on the great bend where the river passes around the mountain to bear off to Salt Lake. From this creek along the river for some distance are a large number of wigwams or Lodges of the Snake Indians who have large number of horses. At this place is a trading post & blacksmith shop. About half a mile below the soda mound is the large soda spring situated immediately on the bank of the river and about on a level with the river. This spring is about 10 feet long and six wide, two ft. deep. From the bottom of this large quantities of gas arise which causes great agitation in the water and some noise. Water cold and clear. One mile below this spring is Bear River Spring. Here the road leaves the river or rather the river the road, as the road runs nearly a direct course while the river makes a short curve to

the south untill it arrives at the base of the mountain when it bears off to the right nearly in a due west course $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles when it curves around the mountain (which is very high and rocky) and bears off to the south making its way into Salt Lake. Four miles from Bear River spring is the junction of the California & Ft. Hall roads. It being late we bore off from the road and camped on Bear River a short distance below its curve to the south. Banks very high and extremely bold & rocky. Evening cool.

SUNDAY, JULY 4th

Lay in camp to rest our teams; plenty of good grass. To the southward about 10 miles is a mountain, in parts considerable snow. A gently undulating plain extends from the river to the mountain, about a mile & a half from the camp is a mound having very much the appearance of a volcano crater. In this mound is a large basin formed of rock. In many places it has the appearance of cinders, showing strong indications of the actions of fire. For some distance back from the river the formation is a blackened rock in which there is many very dangerous fissures or openings, being in

some places 3 to 4 feet wide, and many feet in depth. At the bottom of some there is water. During the afternoon, towards evening, a shower of rain fell. At the same time, snow fell on the mountain to the west sufficient to whiten the ground. Plenty of good grass.

JULY 5th

Leaving camp at rather a late hour continued over a plain gently undulating to the mountain, the ascent gradual. Passing up a ravine between two high hills curving at summit to the right, descended to Mountain Willow Creek, a spring run 5 ft. wide, 1 foot deep, very rapid current, good water. This creek is 13 miles from the junction of the roads. Crossing the creek, immediately commenced ascending a long and gradually rising mountain. Arriving at summit a few rods of level road then descends through a ravine to a small creek 8 feet wide, 1 foot deep, swift running current, water good. About half of the descent of this hill from the top is good, being firm and free from stone. About half way down the ravine contracts or narrows, and a small spring run makes in from the

south side and continues down the ravine nearly to the valley. The descent through this part of the ravine is most wretched, being much cut and worn by the action of the water. The road is very sideling, broken by abrupt offsets, muddy, stony and crooked. The descent through this part is less steep than the other parts of the road. Shortly after leaving the run which keeps off to the right of the tract a few feet, the road descends a very steep but short pitch which is quite stony. High rocky mountains on the right. Crossing the creek camped upon its bank about 40 rods from the road, surrounded by broken mountains. Very good grass among the hills. A light shower of rain fell during the day. The last hill passed over is five miles from foot over summit to foot again.

JULY 6th

Road some rolling for 4 or 5 miles. Three miles from camp arrived at creek, the same one camped on. After this the road gradually ascended to summit. Here is about a quarter of a mile of level road. Descended to valley marsh creek, plenty of grass. Continued up the valley about 2 miles and crossed the

creek, one rod wide, 2 feet deep with a good current. The distance over the last mentioned hill is not far from 6 miles. A high mountain lies across the creek to the right. Ascending the bluffs bordering the creek bottom continues over a slightly rolling plain to the ascent of the mountain. This is gradual, commencing some 4 or 5 miles back from summit. Road passes up through ravine on either side, some white & red cedar. Arrived at summit, descended about half a mile and camped on the mountain side at a spring of good water. Plenty of grass.

JULY 7th

Lay in camp on account of the sickness of one of the train.

JULY 8th

Leaving camp descended to the Valley where there is a small spring run 4 ft. wide, 6 to 8 inches in depth. Crossing, immediately commenced ascending another hill. Continued over rather an uneven piece of road for nearly a mile then entered a ravine. In a short distance emerged to an open space and in not a

lengthy drive arrived at summit. The road then continued to gradually descend to Willow Muddy Creek. Water not very good, being sluggish. Creek 5 ft. wide, 6 inches deep. Distance from last spring 7 miles, from Muddy Creek to Gravel Creek 8 miles. The road for the most of a very gradual descent. Gravel Creek 3 feet wide, 10 inches in depth. After leaving this creek the road passes over a level piece of valley for a mile and a half or more when it rises a hill and again descends. After passing over some uneven road it enters a deep narrow ravine and gradually ascends to the summit, a distance of 4 to 5 miles. In the ascent there is some stone in places and only room sufficient for the passage of a wagon. Along this ravine there are a number of Popple groves. Arriving at the summit the road soon commences descending. This is a very steep, stony and difficult hill to descend, being for the greater part of the way through a deep narrow ravine untill it arrives at the valley. From the summit to the base of the hill, two miles. Camped on the edge of valley, distant from Gravel Creek nine miles. No water, but little wood, plenty of grass.

JULY 9th
Starting at an early hour continued along in the valley a southerly course for 5 or 6 miles, when turning short to the right ascended a low mountain by an easy ascent to the summit. From the foot of the bad hill 10 miles. After passing over this summit continued over a descending and some rolling road to a small run and some springs of fair water. Distance from Gravel Creek there is no water. Noonning at these springs, a little before two o'clock commenced ascending a hill. At the top passed on to a more level road for a short distance, again passed over another hill and again another and another, when entering a ravine, the road gradually ascends to a spring, distant from last spring 7 miles. Camped here. Plenty of wood, water & grass.

JULY 10th
Continued up the ravine from camp to summit $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Passing over, descended a short distance, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile where there is a good spring. Crossing a spring run that makes in from the right, ascended a short distance and then descended about 30 rods. There

ascended between a quarter & half of a mile and again descended for a few rods. Ascended another small hill. From this the road gradually descends through a ravine with high mountains on each side, along the sides of which there are a number of popple groves. About 3 miles from summit the road becomes quite bad and the ravine changed to a narrow valley. Five and a half miles from summit came to a spring of good water.

From this spring a small run takes its rise. Continuing down along this run 3 miles crossed a small spring branch 5 ft. wide, 10 inches deep. Continuing down the first mentioned run, in 5 miles came to another spring run of about the same size of the one last crossed. Both of these are tributaries of the first mentioned run. After crossing the last one named, keeping down on the right of run through a pleasant valley. Five and a quarter miles from last creek, crossed over the creek down which we came. This is the east branch of Raft River, 6 to 8 feet wide and 12 inches deep. This and also the other two creeks are bad to cross on account of the softness of the banks and bottom. At the crossing of the east branch a beautiful sage plain surrounded by high mountains

on three sides. It is in width from east to west, 23 miles. To the north it extends as far as the eye can reach. This is a most beautiful tract, being very level. Continued over the plain from E. Branch to Raft River 11 3/4 miles. Camped at 8 o'clock. Plenty of grass & water, but no wood. Some sage & grease wood.

SUNDAY, JULY 11th

Morning heavily overcast. About 7 o'clock set in raining & continued without cessation untill near 10 o'clock A. M. At 11 o'clock left camp and crossed the river or more properly creek, it being about 12 ft. wide, 2 1/2 ft. in depth, good running current, bad crossing, banks soft and mirey, bottom muddy. In a few rods crossed a slough or an old channel & in a short distance crossed another 8 ft. wide. Very soft & mirey for one or two miles from this slough. The soil is red clay barren of grass but plenty of grease wood. The soil from this to West Branch of Raft River is sand and gravel. Very level road, good fording the W. Branch. Continued up the valley on the north side, crossing good. Creek 15 ft. wide, 15 inches in depth, very rapid current, stony bottom, good water. Camped

early about 3 miles above the ford. Plenty of sage brush, some willow, plenty of grass.

JULY 12th

Continued up the valley near 4 or 5 miles and crossed the creek, good ford. High mountains on the right and left. Shortly after crossing the Branch the first time the road enters the valley between the mountains. At the last ford the road bears off south over a plain between two ranges of mountains ascending very gradually about 4 miles and then descends gradually to a small creek. $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from West Branch directly ahead is a range of high mountains with some snow on their tops also snow on the mountain at the right. To another small stream two miles, ascending to White Creek two miles, 8 ft. wide, 8 inches deep, very stony bottom and rapid. In the bed of this stream is some quartz rock. Leaving this stream the road bears off to the right and ascends the Goose Creek Mountains, rise very gradual. As the road bears off to the right it leaves a wide & handsome valley to the left bordered by a high mountain. $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles from White Creek after descending from hill top cross a small spring run which takes its rise among some monumental

rocks which are a short distance ahead to the right. Camped here. Good water and fair feed. The monumental rocks are quite picturesque, many towering hundreds of feet up into the air, many of quite regular formation and many irregular and broken. A number are quite a true circular form, these are of granite. It would appear as if Nature wearied of her labours, had left these rocks in a loose and neglected manner. A thunder storm passed a short distance to the south during afternoon.

JULY 13th

From camp the road ascends rather gradually, passing many towering rocks. On some of the rocks are a large number of names. After passing over some uneven road we passed between some large rocks and descended gradually to junction of Salt Lake Road. From the creek five miles to a small stream, two and a half miles to another & to another $2\frac{1}{2}$. These are all spring runs. After crossing the last one the road commences ascending the Goose Creek Mountains. The distance passed over from the rocks to the foot of the mountains is a sage plain. The ascent of the Goose Creek Mountain

is very gradual and is not far from five miles to its summit. $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from last creek is a spring run. Passing the summit the descent is rather steep and sideling. At the foot of this hill is another spring run. The road again ascends over a steep and sideling hill. From this to the valley there are a number of hills. The descent from the summit to the valley is very uneven and winding. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from summit the road comes to a fine spring run 4 ft. wide, 6 inches in depth, good water, rapid current. A little before reaching this creek the road descends a very steep hill. The road continues down this valley for a short distance and then passes over some hills and descends to the valley of Goose Creek. This valley is about a half a mile in width with plenty of grass. Creek a little over a rod in width, one foot deep with not very lively current, water rather warm and some turbid. On the opposite of the valley from where the road enters it are a number of mountain bluffs, being very high with square and abrupt edges, they being of soft sand stone at the base and a harder rock at top on which there is some cedar. Descending for a few feet perpendicularly they slope rather steeply and smoothly

to their base. Proceeding up the valley a short distance, crossed the last mentioned branch and camped a short distance above. While descending the mountain to the valley a heavy shower of rain fell accompanied with thunder and lightning.

JULY 14th

Continuing up the valley in seven miles crossed a very muddy creek, a tributary of Goose Creek. During the afternoon crossed another small run, very bad, being very muddy and mirey. Continuing up the creek for some distance the road passes near Record Bluff, a singular sand stone formation with many quite regular formed cavities or coves on its sides. Many names are cut on the stone. Passing this some distance the creek turns short to the right and passes up through a narrow ravine for a mile or more. Road very rocky and bad to pass over. About half of a mile up the ravine on the left are some rocks rising perpendicularly some three to four hundred feet. After ascending the ravine about a mile the road crosses the creek which is very rocky. After crossing, the ravine widens to a narrow valley. Continuing up about two

miles the road crosses back again. A short distance after crossing to the right at the base of a ledge of rocks there is a spring affording an abundance of water, but not very cold. A narrow valley makes back from the creek here a mile or more. At the appearance of this the road bears off over the hills to the right.

Camped in the valley about a quarter of a mile from the spring. Grass very poor, some cedar on the mountains.

JULY 15th

Leaving camp early passed over the hills to the right. Road very stony for several miles. From Goose Creek to rock spring, 12 miles, there is no water and but very little feed, the road passing over a rolling sage plain. At noon arrived at the spring, which is at the foot of some rocks. This spring affords quite an amount of water but not very cold. Continued down the valley not far from four miles. Found some wild wheat in which we turned out our team. Shortly after stopping a heavy shower of rain fell which detained us at this place until 4 o'clock P. M. when we moved down the valley two miles or more to

some wells or springs. These wells are very deep & from 18 inches to 15 feet over. At this place there is considerable alkali. The ground being wet from the recent rain our camping was unpleasant, also surrounded by dead cattle which did not tend to make our situation any ways enviable.

JULY 16th

Leaving camp early continued down to the end of the valley (4 miles) over a muddy road. The soil being clayey very little grass. At the point where the road leaves this valley are some alkali springs which are very strong. Leaving these the road bears off to the right over a rolling ridge to Hot Spring Valley. The mountains to the right and left have a very barren appearance. Continuing up Hot Spring Valley in a short distance reached Cold Water Creek, or by some [called] Alkali Creek. Continuing up along this creek a few miles the valley commenced widening very rapidly until it became many miles in width. In many parts of this valley there is no grass, it being covered with sage & grease wood. Continuing up the valley in a southerly direction 14 miles from

where the road enters is an excellent spring of water. One mile from this spring are the Hot Water Springs. These springs are a curiosity the water being at a temperature of 180°Fahrenheit. They cover an area of near an acre affording water sufficient to form a stream of six to seven ft. in width and 18 inches in depth and emitting rather a disagreeable smell. Below these springs are a plenty of good grass and some clover.

JULY 17th

From camp continued over a level plain to the foot of the mountain 5 to 6 miles, ascending the mountain through a ravine. To the right of the road are a number of springs the upper one being much the best, distant from the Hot Springs seven miles. The ascent is gradual to the summit, two miles, the descent is also gradual. From the summit the Humboldt Mountains are in full view. They have been visible for a number of days back. Descending to the valley on the hill sides there is an abundance of bunch grass. From the springs to another collection of springs, twelve miles. The road in this distance passes over a narrow plain

between barren mountains. These springs are not of the best quality. Continuing down the valley or plain about a mile camped to the right of the road where there is a large patch of red top grass & clover, also a number of springs - water not very good. No wood but plenty of sage.

SUNDAY, JULY 18th

Leaving camp at a late hour continued over a rolling and somewhat broken sage plain with plenty of grass to a small valley, 7 miles. Here are a number of wells from 3 to 10 feet over, 6 to 8 deep, good water. Passing down the valley about 2 miles, nooned. From our place of nooning passed over a rolling sage plain to a beautiful valley distant from springs or wells 5 miles. The sage plain passed over extends to the southward many miles. Continuing down the valley 4 miles crossed a small run. About a mile below camped near a spring of good water, plenty of grass, fuel sage wood. Some alkali in this valley.

JULY 19th

Continued down the valley the Humboldt Moun-

passed during the forepart of the day. No camps in sight this evening.

JULY 22nd

Left camp at an early hour. Morning cool and fair. Continued along the valley occasionally passing over grease wood bottoms which extend down from the hills on the left. Shortly after nooning we forded the river, passing over to its left hand bank. Continuing down the valley about 2 miles farther crossed again to the right hand bank. Here the valley ended and the river passes through an open ravine or very narrow valley. In about 2 miles forded again. Between this and the second ford the road is somewhat uneven and very rough being strewn with broken stones. A short distance below the third ford the road enters the river and continues in it about 10 rods and passes out on rather a rough piece of ground. About a mile and a half below the road again crosses the river to its northern or right bank, crossings good, gravelly bottom, lively current, water from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Between the first & second the bluffs being very high & rocky approach near to the river. Much red rock

abounds here. The road after the second crossing bears nearly north. At the fourth ford it bears nearly south or S. West. From the lower ford a rock bluff extends up the river on its right bank about a quarter of a mile, towering up to a height of 3 to 400 feet. This rock presents in many places a very broken appearance, yet the face of the rock is quite even it being very full of seams. Camped not far from a mile and a half below the last ford. Good grass & some willow.

JULY 23rd

In a short distance from camp ascended a short but steep hill and gradually descended to the valley. Crossing this a distance of about 5 miles crossed two small runs of good water. Passing a bend of the river in about a mile commenced the ascent of quite a high hill which was some rough being strewn with stone. Continued over a very rolling and dusty road to a spring, eight miles. This spring is about a quarter to the left of the road in a ravine. Nooning here, commenced ascending to the summit of the ridge. Passing over, the road gradually descends, passing in a short distance a spring. In about a mile came to a

collection of springs. One of these near the track is very deep and mirey with abrupt banks. The road a short distance below the springs enters a narrow ravine and very stony. This continues for some distance and then emerges into an open and very rolling plain. Road exceedingly dusty. After leaving the ravine the road ascends a hill. After this it descends rather gradually to the river. In a short distance after entering the bottom the road passes close to the bank of the river. A short distance below again forded the river to its south or left bank. A short distance below camped at a late hour having traveled about 25 miles, from the river over the hills to the river again 17 miles. Found fair feed, some willow. Our course of travel from the West Branch of Raft River untill the last day & a half's drive has been principally in a south & southwest direction. Weather very warm.

JULY 24th

Continued down the valley in a westerly direction about two miles when the river bore off Northward. High & rocky mountains to the left, broken & high hills to the right and some mountains. A little

after noon passed off from the bottom over quite an abrupt hill with an immense amount of dust. Descending the hill a little before reaching the river bottom the road forks, the left hand or old road passing over the hills about $3/4$ of a mile to the river bottom, the right hand road bears off to the right across the bottom and crosses the river. Keeping down on its northern side continuing down the river a few miles camped early near the river. Found most excellent grass. The valley here is some miles in width. To the northeast are high and broken mountains, to the left adjoining the bottom are quite high & barren mountains. A shower of rain passed to the south and east during the afternoon.

JULY 25th

Continued down the river, crossing Stony Creek, a small stream. Nooned at Rock Point. This is a point of the mountain that makes down along the north side of the river. The river here makes close up to the Point. This Point is covered with a broken rock of a dark color. The river appears to have undergone a great change since morning. Instead of being clear with a gravel bottom it has become much rilled and the

bottom muddy. At the Point the river makes a short bend from a southerly course & bears off in a N. West course. Leaving the Point the road crosses a flat abounding in large quantities of alkali, the ground being white with it. It emits a very strong limey smell. Continued, crossed the valley to the river, angling down the stream the tract passed over from the point to the river is mostly covered with grease wood and destitute of grass. Road very dusty, weather very hot. Camped off from the road on the river bank. Very good grass. Banks of the river very abrupt.

JULY 26th

Continued down the river over a very good road. High mountains to the right and on the opposite side of river. The road on the opposite side of the river keeps on the bottom. Towards noon passed near some ponds of salt water, the earth in the vicinity being covered with an efflorescence of salt which makes the ground white with it. Noonning, passed over quite a large tract on which there was considerable dry alkali. About the middle of the afternoon left the river bottom and raised on to a grease wood plain

very barren of feed. Continued across this untill near 5 o'clock when turning to the left bore down to the river and camped on fine grass. The river bottom is here very gravelly, a good current. Mosquitoes very annoying for the last few evenings. Course of travel N. West.

JULY 27th

Morning had very much the appearance of rain. Continued down the valley keeping in close to the river over a beautiful meadow covered with a luxuriant growth of fine grass. The old road, leaving Rock Point, keeps back through a grease wood plain approaching the river in about ten miles. It then bears off again through the plain. This is on account of high water which inundates the bottom, fills the slues and renders the bottom impassable. At this time the river is very low and the slues mostly dry. Our course of travel during the forenoon has been N.W. & N. untill noon when passing around the great bend in a southerly direction. Noonning at the point of the bend (feed very scarce). Bore down in a westerly direction. In about a mile the road leaves the river and ascends gradually a

point of the mountain which makes down to the river. The road passes up through a depression in the mountain, descends through a narrow ravine. The road is some sandy in places but for the most part a fine road. From the foot of the mountain over to the valley not far [from] 7 or eight miles. Continuing down the valley camped at a late hour off from the road on the river. Grass rather poor. The road on the opposite side of the river leaves the river a little above the bend and passes over a rolling plain near two miles $\frac{1}{2}$ to the river bottom down which it continues for a short distance when it ascends rather a broken & rugged mountain and descends to the valley a mile or more above where the road on the north or right bank reaches the valley from the north side of the river. The road over the mountain on the south side appears much broken. There is a road on the north side keeping down the river but is some further than the one passing over the hill. Weather warm, snow on the mountain to the left.

JULY 28th

Morning clear & warm. Leaving camp passed

out to the road which keeps back from the river on account of many bad slues and passes over a sage & grease wood plain. Nooned on the bank of a rush slue, the river being on the opposite side of the bottom nearly a mile distant. Grass rather scarce. The sage plain is some miles in width at this place and for miles back destitute of grass. Roads very dusty. About two miles below where [we] nooned the road came to the river being the only place in 24 miles. A little below the road bears off to the right up Sand Creek which it crosses about a mile and a half from the river. Off to the right are some barren sand hills. After crossing the creek the road bears off westward over a rocky hill not far from two miles. A little below camped on the river the road keeping back at the edge of the high land. The road on opposite side also passes over a sage plain bottom becoming rather narrow. Grass drying up. Found very good grass by going over the river. Weather warm, roads dusty.

JULY 29th

Passing out to the road continued over a sage & grease wood plain. Road very heavy being grey

sand. Noonning, continued over the same kind of road and plain as passed over during the forenoon. This has been one of the heaviest day's drive yet made owing to the excessive heat and heavy Wheeling Mountains to the right & left. Fair feed. Thunder at a distance in the evening.

JULY 30th

Four months out from home. One hundred miles from the foot of the sink of the river. During the forenoon passed along some sand bluffs. Afternoon's drive has been over a clayey plain destitute of grass, road stony in places & dusty. Camped on the river. By driving stock over river found very good grass. High mountain on the opposite side of the river with some snow on its side & top. Weather warm, evening quite warm.

JULY 31st

Forenoon's drive was over a grease wood plain with rather clayey soil void of grass. Plain some miles in width, plain bordering the river on its left hand bank. During the afternoon came onto what

might be termed the Humboldt Desert being a large barren plain extending from the river on either side back to the mountains, covered with sage & grease wood. The principal part of this plain is covered with a low herb but destitute of grass. Soil gravely & sand also clayey in places. The river bottom through this plain is rather narrow. The bottom is bordered by high and broken sand bluffs. Grass is rather scarce. Camped about eight miles down the river from the edge of plain. Found a small lot of good grass. The road keeps off from the river not far from a mile. High and rugged mountain to the eastward, the mountains to the west lower & less broken.

AUGUST 1st

Leaving the river, ascending gradually to the road. Continued over the same barren plain as passed over for many miles back. Noonning, drove our stock down a narrow ravine to the river a quarter of a mile to the left. Continued down the river about five miles and bore off from the road to the river not far from one mile. Obtained fair grass.

AUGUST 2nd

The forenoon's drive passed over the barren plain. About three miles from camp the road comes to the river for the last time until it reaches the foot of the sink. About eight miles below came to a collection of springs, water not first rate. Descending the bank crossed over and bore off in a S. East direction across a sandy & grease wood bottom to the meadow. The road before reaching the springs keeps off in rather a S. West direction until near the spring. On reaching the meadow the road passes along near a slough full of fair water. Continuing down the bottom, camped a few rods off from a slough of clear water but not pleasant to the palate. Abundance of grass on the bottom of a dwarfish habit and very brackish or salty.

AUGUST 3rd

Passing down the bottom 5 or 6 miles. Nooned and cut grass for the crossing of the desert, having taken in water 3 miles back. The water is good but a little warm. The river is here broken in a number of small channels with rapid current and a number of falls of low height. The waters of the river begin to waste

away as soon as it reaches the meadow. From this point to the foot of sink is not far from 30 miles. The sink is covered in many places with a heavy growth, in other places marsh grass & again luxuriant patches of fine grass similar to red top. During the afternoon came on to a barren bottom or plain one or two miles in width and continued down it six or seven miles until near dark, when bearing off to the right of the road camped without either grass or water other than that brought from above. Towards evening a light drizzling rain set in.

AUGUST 4th & 5th

Morning heavily overcast with clouds. Continued down to the foot of the sink about seven miles over the same kind of bottom as passed over yesterday. This bottom nearly of a water level and perfectly barren. The road passing to the foot of the sink bears off nearly south. About midway of the valley a small sand ridge divides the lake or sink from the barren bottom. The sink is a number of miles in length and from one to 3 wide, water a little brackish. Passing down to the lower end of the sink continued along a

slue to the foot [of] a small hill. Here the roads fork, the left hand being the Carson rout, the right the Truckee and is the route taken by the Company. The Humboldt from the point where the road first crosses it at the head of the valley to the sink has a fine current & in many places quite rapid, the banks generally abrupt. The bottom is gravelly & its banks skirted with willow. No timber either on its banks or bottom land. The water is low and from the first ford to Rock Point is quite clear, from here to the meadow some turbid, though warm is pleasant tasting being much better than the Platte or Bear River. The cause of this is owing to the lowness of the water, the slues being dry and no water making in from the bottom which has many alkali & salt beds on it. Bidding adieu to the Humboldt & Sink passed up the hill to the right. From the top the desert presents in view. Passing down the hill bore off short to the right over a level road. A part of the water of the sink having escaped through a slue making around the point of the hill to the left bears off to the right passing along a short distance from the edge of the desert or bottom land, it being bounded to the right by low mountains. In about two

miles it bears off westward. Along this there is some grass. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 o'clock A. M. entered the desert and continued along the slue about 4 miles and nooned. The road excellent passing over a barren bottom having the appearance of having been inundated. Over this we continued for a few miles when rising a short pitch passed on to a plain the same as the one passed over with the exception that the last one has some salt beds, which makes the ground white with it. In about two miles the bottom is changed for a gravelly & sand plain some rolling and quite stony in some parts. In twenty miles from the sink are the Boiling or Hot Springs. The springs occupy an area of 3 to 6 rods. The principal spring is at the S. East side and rises up through a fissure in the rock. The water is thrown out with much force and noise being thrown to the height of three and four feet. The water is hotter than can be borne by the hand. A number of smaller springs arise in the rock but without much action of the water, a gurgling sound being perceptible. A few feet to the eastward from the principal spring there is a basin ten to 15 feet over. This receives the water of the principal spring. The water escapes from this and passes down

the hill side and soon loses itself in the sand. The plain is barren of grass but some sage & grease wood. Passing from the springs we soon entered a narrow valley bordered by low ranges of hills. In about three miles from the springs the valley becomes perfectly barren of any vegetation. Here is a large quantity of salt on the surface of the ground. About 5 or 6 miles from the springs a small channel of a run passes along on the right hand side of the road. Continuing down this for some distance crossed over and in a short distance crossed it again. This channel is perfectly covered with salt. Salt continues to show itself for 7 or 8 miles. Seventeen miles from the springs the road ascends a very heavy sand hill and continues over heavy grey and yellow sand to the Truckee River, eight miles. A little before reaching the sand hill the valley is covered with a vast number of small mounds from 3 to 10 ft. in height and from 6 ft. to 3 rods over. Reaching Truckee river at 11 o'clock A. M. on the 5th, crossed over and camped about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile above the ford. Fair grass. The river at the ford is about 6 rods wide, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep with a stony bottom & very rapid current, water very clear. During the

afternoon of the 4th a shower of rain fell to the south and eastward, also a light part of the same storm fell on the part of the desert over which we were, also during the evening some rain fell. Air cool with a fresh breeze. Lay by in camp during the afternoon of the 5th. Weather clear & warm.

AUGUST 6th

Starting out rather late passed up the valley over some sand road for near two miles when rising a hill continued to pass over hills, around ravines & through them, the road being very winding and stony. In about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles the road descends to the river. Passing along a very short distance again passed over stony hills and again approaches the river. At this point there is some grass. Noon here. Continuing up the river a little less than a mile passed over some very stony road & in a few rods came to a bad & somewhat dangerous piece of road. The river here approaches a very high rock bluff or mountain leaving only room enough to admit of the passage of the team. Between the river on the left and high towering rocks on the right the road is some uneven and a part of the way very sideling. From where the road first comes to

the bluff to the point of leaving is not far from 40 or 50 rods. Leaving the bluff the river bears off to the left upwards of a mile between ranges of high mountains & then bears off to the right again, some less than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile the road leaves the river and passes off westward through an open ravine about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles when it emerges on to a small plain. Crossing this it rises a hill of gradual ascent for something less than a quarter of a mile and then descends to the river over a very stony road upwards of a mile. Camped here after sundown on fine feed. Distance traversed not far from 15 miles.

AUGUST 7th

Starting from camp at a late hour continued up the river on its bottom or valley until 11 o'clock A. M. when the road bore off to the right through an open ravine. In less than a mile came out on to a sage plain road some sandy. Passing over this turning to the right around a large rock, bore off to the right up rather a steep hill. Descended into an open ravine with exceedingly stony road. Passing through this at its western extremity arose a hill and turned to the

left. Descended to the river over a very uneven, steep & stony road to the bottom land of the river. Arrived here between 1 & 2 o'clock P. M. Camped here. By driving the stock over the river obtained good grass. Plenty of good grass below less than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile on the side on which our camp is situated. River very rapid and stony.

AUGUST 8th

In about a mile from camp ascended a stony hill and passed along the side of the mountain a few rods and then descended to the river down a very steep & stony but short pitch. Here forded. Water $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, very rapid with stony bottom. The river is here about 8 rods wide. Continued up the river a short distance when turning short to the left arose a steep hill about 20 rods. The descent of this hill at the top is very steep but clear of stone. In about 30 rods reached the bottom land along which we continued a quarter of a mile & emerged onto the big meadow. This is a large tract surrounded by mountains and has abundance of good grass on it. Following along the margin of the meadow the river comes in close to the

base of the hills. In a short distance the road approaches a deep slue which continues along near the base of the hills and in many places approaching close in to the highlands causing the road to pass along on the hill side over very stony and sideling places. Continuing along the slue near a mile it began to widen and soon became of considerable width. Bearing around the point of the hill a small stream makes in close to the hill leaving but a narrow space for the road. This continues near half a mile. Passing up some farther the hills approach each other and the marsh or slue becomes about fifteen rods in width. Here the road crosses about midway of the marsh, the run makes down being six feet wide and about three feet in depth, the marsh & run bottom quite firm. Immediately after crossing the road bears off to the right along the base of a mountain for near two miles & then turns still more to the right and crosses over a sage plain and some meadow to the ford of the river. In making the circuit around the slue nine miles is traveled to gain three. Some emigrants are now engaged in building a brush bridge across the slue, near where the road first approaches it. Arriving at the

river a little after noon camped and remained untill morning. Ford shallow most of the way. Stony bottom with a very rapid current.

AUGUST 9th

Leaving the river bore off to the right over a sage plain near a mile with rather sandy road to the base of a low ridge. Rising this continued over a gently rolling plain with considerable stony road to Pea Vine Spring, twelve miles. This spring is near the base of a high mountain & to the left of the road a little less than a quarter of a mile. Water good. To the northward of this spring is a large valley with some grass. In the vicinity of the spring there is considerable grass, being bunch grass and some clover. Leaving the spring bore off over a low ridge in westerly direction. Descending the ridge upwards of a mile & a half came onto a level valley. In the N. Western part of this valley is a shallow pond near $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile over but in time of high water is considerable larger. On the S. East side there is plenty of good grass. Crossing the valley and the bed of the pond found most an excellent road. Rising a low ridge passed over to

another valley in which there is an abundance of fine red top and other grass. A small run makes down through this valley. No running water but some in pools. Camped here for the night.

AUGUST 10th

Continued down the valley near eight miles, road good. Leaving the valley or rather bottom bore off to the left towards the base of the mountain. In about a mile drive over sandy sage plain with a little ascent. Arrived at the foot of an open ravine or narrow valley which ascended very gradually to the summit of the mountain. Road good. From the foot to the top of the ascent through the ravine is between $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile & $\frac{3}{4}$. Within a few rods of the summit is a spring, water not very good. The summit of the mountain from Pea Vine Spring, 15 miles. At the summit of the mountain we entered California. Passing over the road gradually descends through a sage plain near two miles and then enters a large and beautiful valley abounding in large quantities of most excellent grass. Passing onto the valley near three miles, camped on a tributary of Feather River a little after noon, it being

upwards of 12 miles from this branch to water again.

AUGUST 11th

Leaving camp at an early hour continued across the valley to a spring 12 miles, water good. Noonning here continued on to Beckwith, three miles. Here is the first cabin on this route to the mines. Here the roads fork, the left hand leads to Seventy-Six, 13 miles distant. This is a quartz mining town. The left[right] hand or Beckwith leads to Marysville. Passing through a number of fine vallies among which the American Valley is the most noted. Passing on from Beckwith on the right hand road about seven miles camped in a small valley with a spring of good water and entirely surrounded by pine timber. This we entered at Beckwith or War horse ranch. The country passed over from the ranch is in some places heavily timbered and quite uneven, there being one or two heavy hills to ascend and descend. The weather on the mountain is delightful, being cool and refreshing with a clear sky nights, heavy frosts.

AUGUST 12th

In a short distance from camp ascended a hill. Passing over this and a number of other smaller hills in few miles drive descended to Grizly Valley across which the road passes. This valley is about two miles over with but little grass untill reaching its western side. Here a spring run makes down from the mountain on the left. Along this there is some fine feed. Shortly after entering the valley from the east a small creek is crossed the water passing off to the left. From the west side of the valley a narrow valley makes off in a westerly course. Down this the road runs occasionally passing through points of timber that makes into the valley. The valley is quite broken with timber. A small run makes through the valley at this time, no running water, it being in pools. Marsh or valley quite wet in some places. This valley is bordered by high mountains on either hand. Continuing down the valley nooned within three miles of its lower end. Pursuing our course down the valley occasionally leaving it and passing over points of timbered land at last emerged into a small and narrow valley which leads to the Main Valley at the lower end of

the principal valley. Camped for the night. Evening cool.

AUGUST 13th

In a short distance from camp crossed a small run, crossing rather bad. About a quarter of a mile from camp reached the foot of the mountain which is heavily timbered with pitch pine, fir, spruce & Norway pine. Passing on to the timber the rise was very little for near a quarter of a mile. Here crossing a small spring run immediately commenced ascending the mountain. The ascent quite steep for near $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile. Road good being smooth and free from stone. From this point the ascent for 10 or 12 rods was very steep & stony. The road from the top of this ascent bore off to the right a short distance and passed around a stony point to the left & continued on in that direction for near a mile or more passing over some very stony and short steep pitches to the foot of the principal ridge. We here commenced the ascent of the heaviest hill or mountain on the route from the States, being very stony and steep. Doubling teams ascend near a quarter of a mile. Here the road became less

steep, passing on a short distance, gradually rising untill reaching a still steeper rise than yet met; doubling team passed up to the summit. The mountain side stony and heavily timbered with fir, some of the trees being 4 feet over. Bearing to the right passed along on the top of the ridge for some distance with some snow banks at the right. From the summit of this ridge the valley covered with timber is in full view and far below across the valley ten or 15 miles and to the left many more. The principal ridge of the Sierra Nevada range are in view, their summits covered with snow. To the left many miles distant are some very high peaks covered with everlasting snow. Within half a mile from the point of where we reached the top of the mountain the road descends for near a quarter of a mile & then bears off short to the left passing along the mountain side, some parts being very sideling & stony. Descending some 60 rods over an exceedingly stony & rocky piece of road turned short to the right and were at the top of the steepest descent of any on the route traveled over. Passing down this pitch some 20 or 30 rods the road turned to the left still descending with very deep dust and some stone. The descent

still continued for 5 or six miles occasionally descending exceedingly steep places. After passing down from the summit near two miles the road continues to the Valley. On a ridge to the right in a deep ravine is a spring run of fine water. A little below on this run some emigrants are mining. The mountain side is heavily timbered with pitch pine, sweet pine, white cedar, spruce & a very little oak. A little after noon arrived in a small valley at the base of the mountain. Here is a ranch. Camped here the remainder of the day.- being heartily tired of our pass over the mountain. This valley is in the mining region being six miles from Nelson Creek & a number of other creeks. A high mountain borders this valley on the south. A small run makes down through the valley.

AUGUST 14th

Leaving camp proceeding down the valley near a mile crossed the spring run mentioned on the mountain side which is here about 10 or 12 feet in width with a stony bottom. In a short distance below the first crossing the road entered a narrow ravine and in less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile crossed the creek 6 times. The

crossings and the road between the fords was most wretched being very sideling and stony, being large boulders. This is the worst piece of road passed over from the States here. In about 12 mile from camp arrived at the American Ranch. This is situated on the American Valley. This valley is situated between high ranges of mountains & has a small creek passing through it & with much good pasturage. Cattle & mules are herded here at \$3.00 per month per head. We here disposed of our team at \$65.00 a yoke and the same for wagon.

AUGUST 15th & 16th

Lay in camp to rest after our long & wearisome journey across the plains.

- 0 -

CR. AT NELSON CREEK.

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| Aug. 24 | by gold dust per claim | | | | | \$7.33 |
| " 25 | " | " | " | " | " | 5.25 |
| " 26 | " | " | " | " | " | 6.00 |
| " 27 | " | " | " | " | " | 2.46 |
| " 28 | " | " | " | " | " | 8.00 |
| " 30 | " | " | " | " | " | 4.75 |
| " 31 | " | " | " | " | " | 4.00 |
| Sep. 1 | " | " | " | " | " | 3.12 |
| " 2 | " | " | " | " | " | 10.00 |
| " 3 | " | " | " | " | " | 3.50 |
| " 4 | " | " | " | " | " | 14.00 |
| " 6 | " | " | " | " | " | 6.75 |
| " 7 | " | " | " | " | " | 4.43 |
| " 8 | " | " | " | " | " | 6.50 |
| " 9 | " | " | " | " | " | 2.20 |
| " 10 | " | " | " | " | " | 3.00 |
| " 13 | " | " | " | " | " | 3.25 |
| " 14 | " | " | " | " | " | 1.95 |
| " 15 | " | " | " | " | " | 2.28 |
| " 16 | " | " | " | " | " | 2.27½ |

EXPENSES AT NELSON CREEK.

From Wednesday, August 18, /52 to Tuesday Eve. Aug. 24, /52.

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Beef | .75 |
| Bread | .50 |
| Gold Pan | 2.00 |
| Crackers | .37 |
| Bread | .50 |
| Beef | 1.00 |
| Do | 2.75 |
| Bread & Pie | 2.50 |
| Beef | 1.75 |

Co. 12.12

| | |
|---|---------|
| From August 24 to Saturday Evening, 28th, for board | |
| at \$10 pr week for Don, self & hand | \$12.50 |
| Aug. 25. Dr. to one day's work. co | 3.00 |
| Aug. 27. Dr. to one shovel. co | 2.00 |
| Sep. 2. Dr. to one Rocker. co | 10.00 |
| Sep. 4. Dr. to Board per self, Don & hand. | |
| Sept. 4. Dr. to labour six days at \$3.00 | 18.00 |
| Sep. 5. Dr. to two pair drawers. | 4.00 |
| Sep. 19. To one pair sheep gray pants | 5.00 |
| Oct. 2. To one pair boots | 8.00 |
| " " To one pair wrappers | 5.00 |
| Oct. 2. To washing | 1.50 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| August 24 Dr. to S. Ballou | \$200.00 |
| Aug. 24 to Sep. 4. S. Ballou, Dr. to six days labour on wheel &c at \$8.00 per day | 48.00 |
| Sep. 5. S. Ballou Dr. to sixty dollars gold dust paid to I. Sherwin | 60.00 |
| Sep. 15th. S. Ballou Dr. to eleven days work on wheel & pump from Sep. 4th at \$8.00 per day | 88.00 |
| | <u>\$196.00</u> |
| Ballance | 4.00 |
| Sep. 16th. B. Stephen's & Co. Dr. to one day's work on pump | \$ 8.00 |
| Sep. 19th. B. Stephen's & Co. Dr. to one day's work on wheel & pump | 8.00 |
| | <u>\$16.00</u> |
| Sep. 18th. Rhodes & Co. Drs. to work done on the 17th & 18th making elevator pump | \$16.00 |
| Rhodes & Co. Drs. To labour from Sep. 20th to Sep. 28th, 8½ days | 68.00 |
| Rec'd Payment | <u>\$84.00</u> |
| Oct. 4th. Seward & Co. Drs. to labour from Sept. 30th to Oct. 4th. three and a ½ days. | |
| Rec'd Payment | \$28.00 |