

University Librarian
Indiana University
Bloomington Indiana

JACOB BARTHOLOMEW
OVERLAND DIARY TO CALIFORNIA,
May 14 - August 14, 1850

46

May 14, 50- St. Joseph. crossed river paid 2.50 ferryage. Indians packed my barrels. called them to an ac. gave them, 25 for privilege of territory. Camped at the bluff 6 ms plenty of rattle snakes.

15th crossed 1st plain. 10ms. and no water for the cattle. very dusty. not clear day.

16th clear & warm. Sac's & Foxes toll bridge - ,25. had crossed the evening before 2730 teams. my team 2750 - passed the agency house - made some 20 miles. dust almost intolerable. camped without wood.

50

17th Run 1 mile after a large brindle wolf. could not get him. wind & dust intolerable. good camping.

18th some 30 ms. without wood or water. a country towards evening beautiful beyond description. splendid camping on a large stream. was very unwell during the day and night. name Miniwa.

19th halted over Sunday. very hot and dry till night then rained and stormed. bought a horse for 85 \$. thought of going with a train. heard their rules.

70

20th Traveled with the train. thought of organising a new company. not enough teams. camped by the train.

- 21st traveled to the big blue. beautiful camping. reported that three men had been killed Sunday before by Ind. rained night.
- 22d crossed Big Blue. two men died $\frac{1}{4}$ mile over, of cholera same night. passed them at the graves. Thomas very unwell. gave medicines ---

50

- camped in open plains. very stormy rainy night.
- 23rd turned off clear and very warm. made a good day's drive camped in the open plain. all this time the most beautiful country I ever saw. some wolves. Pawnees very thievish.
- 24th Difficulty between my two hands. concluded to try to smooth it over to get along. hot day. Sickness in some trains.

50

- camped in the open plain without wood or water. good grass.
- 25th warm windy day. buffalo head. camped on the Little Blue. beautiful camping. splendid country. rich land. saw a wolf run through all the companies.
- 26th Sunday. camped over on the Little Blue a good and delightful place. boys caught some fine fish. splendid country.
- 27th traveled up the river all day. very windy dusty. bad road. buffalo heads. camped in the bottom.

50

- 28th up the river all day. very windy & dusty. buffalo killed by another company. rough road. camped in the bottom beautiful country.
- 29th left the river in 4 ms. water there scarce also wood. camped in the open plain. went hunting for Buf. in the morning. saw 2. wandered some 6 or 8 ms. from the road. foolish for it. saw some 50 or more Antelopes. run a Mountain wolf 2 miles. could not get any thing. wolves & Buf. & antelopes plenty. wolves howling round.

- 30th beautiful country. traveled to the Platt. reached home 10 Oct.
Saw gangs of Antelopes. Saw one Buf - killed in the bottom. came
rain in afternoon. nights cold. days hot. camped in the bottom.
- 31st Passed the Fort Carny 9,0 camped on the river bottom. took a
wash in Platte river. Saw teams on the other side. Fort 330 from
St. Jo. rather a fine looking place.

- June traveled some 16 ms. came up a heavy rain in afternoon. had a
1st long talk with Packwood from California. nearly trouble in
camping. camped in the bottom. very rainy ugly night ---
- 2nd Sunday. camped over. warm heavy day. had a race after a wolf,
on foot. boys caught 5 young wolves. pleasant time. beautiful
valley.
- 3rd rained some A.M. worst thunder storm P.M. I ever saw. almost
took me from my horse. stopped

- in the bottom prairie. did not like it. during the day saw
wolf. went over the bluff hunting shot at an Antelope $\frac{1}{2}$ ml.
- 4th made a good drive. took Nicholas Barns in for 2 months work in
the mines. another rainy evening & very bad night.
- 5th rained badly in morning. called to a neighboring camp to a sick
man. gave medicine to 2 men. wolves & prairie dogs. a great deal
of sickness on road.

made a long drive. camped in the bottom. bad time for wood &
water.

6th made a good drive. water & wood distitute. crossed the south Platte. tolerable crossing. camped in the bottom. used buffalo chips to cook. did tolerably well.

7th traveled up the bottom till noon. cow had a calf in morning. killed it. crossed to the North Platte some 5 or 6 miles. good springs. up the river no grass or wood buf. chips.

40

tolerable grass in the night.

8th left river for some 10 miles. no grass wood or water returned to river grass very poor - cedar in the bluff. camped - an unusual storm. man buried of cholera close by us - a great deal of sickness on the road.

9th Sunday, trains crowded & eat off grass so we had to travel. went some 10 or 15 ms. found tolerable camping. grazing very scarce, on the river. Camped in the bottom some 10 mis - below Ash Hollow.

70

10th cool driving. reached Ashhollow about 10 O. at noon came to a village of Indians. beging. buffalo plenty. Castle Bluffs. 3 Indian towns. camped in bottom very sandy bad road. grass tolerable. Ike lost from waggons.

11th beautiful morning. deep sand - bad roads. Ike towards noon. dusty. good grass & water all day - camped in the bottom. made a good drive. beautiful eve -

12th very beautiful morning day rather hot & windy.

50

very good grass. lost a cow at noon. found her some 6 or 8 ms. ahead. camped in the bottom 4 ms below opposite the Court house or Church & in sight of an Indian town chimney rock in view.

13th good roads & grass all day passed by chimney rck. camped close by in the btm. no wood. Indians beg. tolerable drive - government wag. passed us forenoon. hard rain in the evening.

14th Beautiful day. a good drive - passed Scotts Bluffes some 2 or 3 o clock. 8 miles from

25

bluffs to a great spring. camped in the most beautiful valley in the world - Indians camped close by - wood, grass & water good. hemmed in by Bluffs -

15th passed Horse Creek noon made a good drive - very scarce of grass all the way tolerable camping some 8 or 10 ms from the creek - met with another cousin - J.B - got a glimpse of the mountains. J. B staid all night.

16th Sunday - camped over. very beautiful day. repacked all things -

40

17th mountain wolf came into camp before day. took after it with sword & revolver - shot 2 barrels at it. but missed - passed Indian town & French trading post. grass very scarce - intolerably dusty. made Larrimie fork - could not cross. Fort in sight - great many deaths.

18th swam through the river put all loading up. stopped at Fort - sold my watch. passed some 3 ms to North Platte again. reloaded - passed the steep Bluffs 7 ms from Ft. & camped in the bottom - grass rather scarce - rained at night

50

19th very pretty day - made a good drive. saw some very rough roads - grass wood and water good. camped in a creek bottom - shot at wolf while in water -

20th very pretty day - bad roads crooked, rough, rocky. passed Heber springs. ascended bluff very bad - traded horse for a poney. camped without water. grass tolerable. at night was called twice to see sick men - gave medicines. staid with them the after part of the night

50

21st pretty day. very bad roads - was taken quite sick. had to get in- to the waggon. crossed the La Bonte - camped on next branch. grass rather scarce - very sick all night. symptoms of cholera. took medicine accordingly. going to ship Ike.

22nd fine day. rough roads - continued very sick. travel to the A La Prele river & camped. grass very scarce in all the country. great deal of sickness & many deaths. got some better of my attack. eat some black bird broth.

23rd Sunday - camped over. nothing important

70

24th made a tolerable drive reached A La Prele river. camped - grass very scarce. was some better of sickness --

25th rainy. shipped Ike with provision to last to Salt lake - through with one trouble. able to ride my filly. left the other teams. camped on river. tolerable drive. very poor grass. talked to Charley about shipping.

26th traveled by our selves. reached the ferry in fore noon - 5 \$ waggon, 50 poney

30

long time getting cattle over - swam - repassed the other waggons - camped 7 miles from ferry high ground - no grass scarcely - no water - used wild sage for wood - cold night -

27th beautiful cold morning traveled. without water all day - no water fit for use. poison. cattle suffered for water & grass. no grass - mountains piled on each other - passed Willow Spring. camped some 4 ms from W. sent cattle off some 2 ms for night.

60

28th desperate roads, dusty beyond endurance. sand 6 inches deep all day. no gras at all. poison water. passed Independence Rock. crossed Sweet water river camped near Devils gate made a good drive. among the rocky mountains & rocky they are. cold night.

29th cold morning. killed a big rabbit. passed Devils Gate. made a good drive. camped in the river bottom. grass very scarce - among the mountains - snow on tops - cold wind towards eve. cold -

45

30th Sunday. had to travel for want of grass - grass very scarce - made some 12 or 14 ms. very heavy roads - wheels sink 6 to 10 inches in the sand - camped off the river - grass very thin.

July beautiful day - heavy roads - made a very good drive - came to 1st the river & camped - grass scarce - not far from the snow - cold night - Charley rode the poney off - got her again -

2nd beautiful morning

40

started late - shipped Charley to another waggon, rid of another evil spirit. feel a great relief - made a moderate drive of some 10 ms. camped in the bottom. short grass - windy & dusty - intolerable.

3rd beautiful day. rough roads. very rocky. made a tolerable drive. saw a bank of snow side of the road 20 feet deep - camped on the Sweet water bottom within 10 ms of South Pass snow banks close by us. cold evening and night -

- 4th made the South pass & came to the Pacific Spring at noon. passed by. camped in a valley some 4 or 5 miles from the Spring - a man & boy camped with us. Sold 3 shovels & 1 pick at the spring. grass very scarce.
- 5th beautiful day. mountains of eternal snow to the right. made a good drive - camped early, on the Little Sandy. took the cut off. Sent the cattle some 3 or 5 ms. up the creek off the right -
- 6th traveled to Big Sandy. stopped till 5 O'clock - started on the desert-

- a most beautiful eve. traveled all night. grazed the cattle in in morning of.
- 7th Sunday - started early - traveled hard nearly all day. no grass. not a drop of water - reached Gran River some 5 oclock. very bad roads. hilly & rocky - camped on the bluff - no grass - cow gave out. left her.
- 8th lost 5 of my best cattle. remained camped. hunted all day for the cattle. no sign of them. traveled very hard over the mountains in search.
- 9th still hunted for my cattle. no trace of them -

- crossed the river - took another search - no trace - paid 7 ~~¢~~ to cross - villages of the Snake Indians. man died by my waggon - traveled 8 ms. camped. good grass. & water. willow for fuel.
- 10th remained in camp - to recruit my team - took another look for my lost cattle - no sign of them - threw away my bed, yokes, chains. lead. hammer; salt &c to lighten my load.

11th made a good drive - awful dust. scarce of grass & water. camped

50

in a valley - tolerable grass & water. took a hunt in the mountains. killed some sage-hens - cold night. called to the sick last night.

2 #

12th called to the sick. 3 # - made a good drive. plenty of water & some grass. very mountainous and rough. crossed a large stream. passed more Snake Indians. tried to trade powder for a poney. no sir - camped on very good grass & water & wood. Thomas got a young Antelope.

13th very mountainous. awful road, grass & water good all the way. made a very good drive -

60

reached Bear River. camped in the bottom - most glorious grass. like a meadow. took a little hunt in the afternoon. shot at an Antelope.

14th Sunday - remained in camp - called to 2 sick men - 50 cts. one. called to consultation by a sick lady - cholera - gave medicine to all. cold night, but hot day.

15th beautiful day - traded meat for rice 76 lbs. went to see my patients. much better. one 5 #. the other 3 # - unusual mountains. made a very good drive. camped

50

in a valley off the Bear river. grass knee high & thick. cold night. no wood e

16th Ice & frost by the quantity - water & milk frozen. Sultry hot day. worse mountains than ever I saw - worst roads yet in forenoon. good road in afternoon. down the river. made a very good drive. camped near the mountains - tolerable grass. good wood & water -

17th poney gone. hunted all around - could not find her. left boys to hunt still. started the teams. boys returned. no

60

poney. gone forever - made a tolerable drive. passed Indians & French - sold powder & saddle - went to the river bottom to camp - good grass & water.

18th got 1 ox shod. 5 # - started on to the soda springs to hunt poney - Indians - no sign of poney turned out buffalo & made a very good drive - camped without water near the forks of the road - cutt off - good grass.

19th Buffalo unfit to yoke - made a very good drive with 2 yokes.

40

Indians all around us - Awful mountains - awful roads. Indians 1 o'clock - road worse - camped in a bottom - sultry hot - drops of rain. grass plenty - buffalo sick.

20th buffalo sick - hot beautiful morning. rained a glorious shower near noon. mountains. mountains - dust 10 inches deep - Nicholas ran off last night, without cause. reached a large creek. camped excellent grass - water plenty - not very good - buffalo swelled neck, died before night - strange disease.

21st Sunday. remained in camp till evening - coupled shorter - reloaded & threw

60

away many things to lighten. much better. traveled 10 ms in the evening. camped on a branch. good wood, water, & grass. dust. dust. dust.

22nd hot & dreadful dust. good roads. but mountains. grass and water abundant. crossed a fine stream towards evening. went some 4 ms to the mountain. made a very good drive. camped in the mouth

of a ravine entering the mountain. wood & grass. no water -
23rd beautiful morn. started up the ravine. most beautiful I ever
saw for some

30

4 ms so gradual as to seem level up the mountain. then down the
steepest & worst ravine, on the other side, that I ever saw.
some 6 or 8 ms down a valley. water a mile off the left. grass
very abundant ever - rose the mountain again. went across some
7 or 8 ms. some water & good grass - camped in a valley. made
a very good drive.

24th cool cloudy day - more & higher mountains than ever - splendid road
all day. 10 ms up hill. went 23 ms and not entirely over the
mountain range - grass

30

abundant. spring at noon & water at night excellent - grass
tolerable at night. camped on the branch. took my rifle & climbed
the mountains to the north - companion gave out before we got $\frac{1}{2}$
way up - I went on - splendid view. cold.

25th warm day till noon. cloudy afternoon - rained - another ox sick -
died before night. only 4 left - made a very good drive no
water nor grass till night. both good - cut off my waggon bed -
rained. camped on a large branch left my stove this morning.

40

26th made 7 or 8 ms. 3 or 4 up Raft river stormed & rained & hailed
all afternoon. camped over. best grass on the whole road -
Indians plenty.

27th very hot day. sold part of sack of flour. #15, Thomas drove.
I took a hunt to the north west in the awful mountains. saw &
climbed where the ravens build their nests & the Eagles feed
their young. made a long drive. camped on a creek. tolerable
grass. sold 50 of flour in morn. 10 in even - rice & meat to some
packers

80

28th Sunday. sold 70 of flour. 10 meat. made an unusually long
drive - water all the way - no grass. dreadful mountains &
roads in after noon - camped on a large creek - grass scarce -
cold night.

29th forenoon clear & very hot - drove some 7 ms. stopped on good grass
till 1, oc - splendid road all day - rained afternoon - made
some 16 ms & camped on the same goose creek. splendid grass.
good water - bought apples. some wood & Sage.

30th very rocky road - made 25 ms. 12ms up creek. 13 to next water -
no grass - Sent cattle to the mountain - tolerable grass

85

31st no water all day. grass at noon - made a very long drive, 25ms.
good road. dust insufferable. camped in 1000 well valley.
grass good. cold nt. Sold rice at .50 per lb -

August
1st

85

" very heavy frost - ice $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in bucket - traveled up the creek
all day. made a good drive - grass & water at noon. then,
grass scarce. no water. camped in the mountains near a good
spring. grass tolerable.

2nd fine day - crossed the dividing ridge - head waters of Humbolt.
made a very good drive. grass & water off the road

at noon - camped in the valley - wells - good grass - cold night -
good road all day -

3rd fine day - splendid road all day. traveled down stream grass
& water at noon - crossed the north fork of Humbolt - & camped
on the other side. most splendid grass I ever saw. made a
good drive -

4th Sunday - camped over - took a hunt to the mountains S. E. 15ms
Indians in mts. no game in consequence.

5th dusty - traveled down river. crossed 2 hills in eve. grass at
noon. made a very good drive - camped in the bottom - crossed
another branch -

100

6th made a very good drive - camped bottom - man begging bread -

7th made a good drive - awful reports from the Salt lake road -
bad road all day. crossed river 4 times. camped in the bottom.
man sick.

8th 4 or 5 ms & then left river for 18 ms. bad road - no grass or
water - reached river - camped - some grass - sold 15lbs rice
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. heard of my poney - behind a day or two. men begging
bread -

9th hot day - dusty - crossed some hills after & forenoon - grass
at noon - made a tolerable drive - great excitement about Indians -
camped in bottom - good grass - raised a company of men to fight
the Indians - had a brush ,? , -

70

stood on the outer guard -

10th company started for Indians at 3 am. remained in camp till noon -
company returned - did nothing - brought the scalped man - tried

to raise another company - could not - men begging bread - made some 8 or 10 ms. camped in best grass yet - at a false alarm at noon I started to the relief -

11th Sunday - made some 30 ms. forenoon some very rough rocky roads. passed warm springs - traded rice for crackers. afternoon went out of the way by leaving river to left. camped in bottom. good grass, water & c -

12th made a very good drive

60

noon good camp - had to return to river at night - not good camping - grass across the river. very hot day but cold night -

13th started without grazing - stopped in 3 ms. for breakfast and grass - went over a mountain some 12 or 15 ms to noon traveled till after night - nothing but swamps. tied up without grass - made some 30 ms.

14th started by day - went 3 or 4 ms - stopped to grass. swampy - traveled on to noon - no grass - went till even - good across river - cow mired - I swam river - men begging bread - sold rice & meat.

46
120
100
100
90
90
120
65
100
100
105
90
75
110
110
100

60
120
145
170
60
2076
567
2643 to Sacramento