

Esq. Bonines Journey to California

Left home Mar 3rd 1849

Dr. Bonine

For St. Joseph Museum

Niles, Michigan

I boarded a mud stage at Niles and struck our course for Chicago. After a heavy pounding and a cold nights ride we arrived at Laport at 4 in the morning. Here one of the Comrades passed a counterfiet bill for his fair. Before we got to Michigan City he left the stage and put into the woods, soon

we were overtaken by 2 officers in pursuit of him but they did not succeed in finding him

At 12 oclock on the night of the 4th we arrived in Chicago. It was a rainy sleety night. 5th I spent in loafing about the streets of the muddy city. On the 6th I left in a coach for Joliet. During the day we found considerable mud and high water. We arrived about sun set. At this place I stayed 3 days waiting for the Brises. On the morning of the 10th I took a horse and went to hunt them. I

found them about 14 mi. up the hickery creek. They looked hard and muddy. We arrived in Joliet on Sunday 11th at 10 oclock, we purchased a few eatables and went on. At 11 it commenced raining. We went 3 mi further got a good wetting and stopped for the balance of the day. On the morning of the 12th we started out early, drove 2 days and reached Morris on the Illinois river where we put the wagon aboard of a canal boat and sent it and the family down the River to Ottawa. Brown and I took the oxen through the country. We had to swim them across

many streams and wade ourselves. We arrived at Ottawa where we found a boat bound for St. Louis. Called the packet lightfoot. The river was very high. We saw many houses floating down it. 6 days took us to the City where we staid 3 days loafing around and getting things for the journey.

We then left for Independence Indiana on the boat Kansas. At the mouth of the Mis. River we had a man fall overboard and drown. he was from Virginia and on his way to California. After 6 days run we reached Incependence.

The boat ran aground several times and much alarm was caused by it. We encamped near Independence until the 30th of April, when we started on the long journey. This day gave us a fine country. We encamped on the boundary. The night was windy and clear, - 31st we started early in the morning into the wide open Indiana territory. It was like the mighty ocean not a stick of timber to be seen. We traveled 14 miles before we found water. It was a pond hole and had a dead ox in it, and several on the banks which

had been left to perish by the Santiffee traders. We then went 4 mi. further and encamped at the Lone Elm. It is a place where there is a pond hole and a large elm tree, the only one in sight. The branches have been all cut off to boil coffee for the Emigrants. There is a few small swamp dogwoods about 4 ft high which we used for our cooking. We had to dig a hole to burn it in to keep the wind from blowing it away. The day was clear, the wind strong from the North. The soil is fine here. About 100 wagons stopped on this spot to encamp.

From Pleats River Road Narratives  
Entry # 367

Resin  
Minnie J. Mattox Collection

May 1st

The morning was clear and cold, wind in the North. We put on our over coats. After refreshing ourselves with a hot cup of coffee we formed into a line and moved on. The dust raised like a cloud and covered our faces and made us perfectly black. We traveled 14 mi and encamped for the night on a piece of high ground on the bank of the Coon Creek which had some small groves of timber on its banks. We had a fine supper of onions and vinegar with the other necessaries of life. The onions are pulled on the bank.

I stood guard 2 hours during the night. At the moment I left guard it commenced raining and poured down like a torrent. The thunder rolled and the lightning flashed. It was a bad storm for a few hours, but before morning all was calm.

May 2nd

We started at 8 in the morning. After we had our teams straightened out we found that one of the wagons had broke an axle, so we had to wait until it was repaired. We then went 8 mi and encamped on the bank of a fine stream

called the Walkaroosho. There was an Indian village of the Miamis. The banks of the stream were so steep that we had to double teams to pull up. We encamped on the bank of the stream after crossing over. We formed our wagons into a circle near a fine grove of timber. The guards were placed at dusk in a circle around the camp. Nothing happened in the night

May 3rd

The morning was fine and warm. Our cattle are out herding with a guard around them. At 7 we started on, after a few

miles travel it commenced raining and rained until noon. We got very wet, the winds blew very hard. After rising a high hill about noon, we had a fair view of the Kansas River. After 15 miles travel we encamped on the bank of a little stream. Here we found some small wood and passed the night well.

May 4th

It rained this morning. We went 15 miles and encamped on the banks of a small stream for the night. We gathered weeds for a

bed. Everything passed off well during the night.

May 5th

We went on. Loped down 3 or 4 hills and after 13 miles tedious travel we encamped at an Indian village 1 mile from the ferry of the Kansas River.

Sunday morning May 6th

We started early in the morning for the ferry. Soon after we started we had a heavy thunder storm pour down upon us. We got our wagons and things all over in a short time before night. I took dinner with the Indians which was very good. We encamped on the opposite side of the River.

Monday 7th

The day was spent in sunning our clothing, washing, cooking & so forth.

The day was fair and warm.

Tuesday 8th

The morning was clear and warm. We started at 8 and traveled up the North fork of Kansas River. We crossed many deep ravines during the day.

The country was fine and full of Pottawatomies with

some white Catholics among them. We encamped 12 miles from the Kansas ferry on the bank of a beautiful little stream which had plenty of wood on its margin. Here we saw lots of horses and oxen that belonged to the natives. The night was spent in peace and harmony.

May 9th

At 8 we left camp, it was warm and clear. Our course went still up the Kansas. After travelling 3 or 6 miles we came to a large field of onions that covered the ground all over.

They were 8 or 10 inches high. They smelled very strong as the oxen mashed them with their feet. After traveling 9 miles we came to a big vermilion 18 inches deep 3 rods wide. Here we took dinner and grazed our oxen. After we had our refreshments we started on. Went 2 miles and in crossing a deep ravine we broke 2 wagons and had to stop to repair them. The night was cold, wind from the north.

May 10th

We started early in the morning and passed

over a hilly country covered with flint rock, some fine streams and springs. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the road some of our party found the foundation of a large building which showed very plain. There were many hieroglyphs cut on the stones but they did not understand them. We traveled 16 miles during the day and put up for the night. The day was warm and the oxen ran their tongues out. During the day we passed 2 graves with Californians in them. Today some deer were seen and fired at by some of our party.

May 11th

Started out in the morning, went 3 miles and stopped for breakfast. At 8 we started on. Went 11 miles and crossed a fine stream which afforded plenty of wood and water. Some horses and deer were seen during the day. The country was flinty and hilly as the day before. I stood guard last and the wolves howled all around.

May 12th

We started at 4 in the morning, went 3 miles and stopped at the bank of Vermillion River to take breakfast and graze the cattle. Here was 2 graves, one of them was put there in 46, the other was shot by accident out of a California train. After refreshing our selves we crossed the River. Some of our wagons dipped a little water. The stream was about 10 rods wide and had a strong current. We let our wagons down its bank with ropes. There is a narrow strip of

timber along its bank with some of the largest cottonwood trees that I ever saw. After we crossed the stream we saw some elk. I was within 20 rods of them and Si Draper fired at them but his shot had no effect. We went on 13 miles further and encamped on a little stream. This was 3 miles from the forks of the St. Jo & Independence roads which we had passed. Here we found a quantity of bacon and sugar that had been thrown over board by some

party that was ahead.

Sunday May 13th

This morning we took a vote to stay over Sunday which was carried. It was a fine clear day and we took all our things out and sunned them. Several moose, deer and wolves came near our camp during the day. In the evening I took a good nap and all passed off well. In the evening the guard was stationed and we all retired to rest.

Monday May 14

Last night we had a thunder storm. At 6 in the morning we started on. At 12 oclock we fell in with several trains. We had 110 wagons in a string at one time but before night we left them all behind. During the day we saw large quantities of bread and provisions that had been thrown over board. Today we saw several large herds of antalopes and some buffalo sign was seen. The day was cloudy and cool and we

passed on rapidly. At 5 we passed a mule train that had a runaway in the morning. They ran over one of their men and smashed him. The breath had just left him as we came up. He was from Louisville Ky. We passed on 4 miles further and encamped on an elevated piece of ground. During the night 2 Indians was discovered cralling up on their bellies to steal some of our poneys. I was on gard at the time but it was only fun for me. We soon put them to flight

It rained some during the night.

May 15th

We started at 7 in the morning. Traveled 18 miles and encamped on the bank of the Blue River. Some antelopes were seen and I kild 2 turkeys. Wolves were frequently seen and shot at but none kild. This stream is a fine stream about the size of Whitewater. The country for the 2 last days was tolerable good. Prairie as usual.

May 16th

Started at 6. We soon passed several trains. One of them had run the wagon over a childs head and tore all the scalp off. I stopped and stitched it on. Both ears were cut off by the wheels. It was rather a nasty job of stitching. We encamped at 3 oclock. Here we held an election for Surgeon of the train. There was 4 candidates of us, out of 125 votes I recd. 66, a majority on the whole. The night was spent in peace and harmony.

May 17th

We left camp at 4 in the morning, passed 20 miles up Blue River and encamped. We caught some fine fish during the day which was very acceptable. No timber to be seen except a few coton woods that skirts the bank of the R. The soil tolerable good. The weather still cloudy and time for travel. Some few buffalos and elk were seen during the day.

May 18th

We started at 6. Traveled until 12 and turned out our cattle to graze and took a little grub ourselves. At 1 we rolled on up the R. Some of the boys shot some turkeys. We encamped at 5 in the evening after a drive of 20 miles. The day was fine.

Saturday May 19th

Started at 7. Last night we had a thunder storm. Drove 10 miles and stopped to lay over until Monday morning. We passed the mule train that the runaway last week. They had just shot one of their men by accident, taking a gun out of the wagon. The ball passed through his head. This evening Aaron Brown shot 2 ducks. Some buffalo were seen this evening. Here I wrote a letter home.

Sunday May 20th

Last night we had a heavy wind storm with thunder and lightning, some hail. It came up about 12 oclock in the night. The whole heavens was a continued sheet of fire and the thunder rolled heavy. Some of the tents blew to the ground. The inmates fled to the wagons. Some of the gards stood their ground and never left their posts, where others were seeking refuge where ever they could find it.

It cleared off in the night. In the morning some of the company wanted to stay and dry their clothes and some wanted to go on so we split our train and about half of them went on and left the rest to keep the Sabath and rest the oxen. During the day we took a game of marbles. At 5 in the evening we a powder keg and took a line of march, went 4 miles and encamped at the place where

the road leaves Blue R. to cross over to the Platt River. The wind was so high that it was a difficult matter to stick our tents. Our company is in good spirits and good health. To day our little crippled child came up. To my great astonishment I found it siting up in the wagon playing and no doubt recover. There is several trains in sight. Some of them are mule and some ox.

May 21st

I had to stand gard last night. It was very cold and the wolves howled at us all night. Grass was scarce and the cattle traveled all night. We started in the morning at around eight. We traveled 27 miles and encamped in the bottom or low ground of Platt R. Today I went a hunting. Shot at some wolves. Did not get in camp until late.

Tuesday May 22nd

Last night the wolves came into our camp and barked at us. We started late this morning and traveled up Plat to the head of grand Island and encamped. We passed fort Carney about 2 oclock. There was lots of soldiers there. The houses were all made of clay. There we saw a squaw and a boy that the soldiers had taken from the Siox Indians. The husband of the squaw had been shot and they bore away his arm on a spear, took the boy prisoner and was going to burn him and have

a dance. The squaw made her escape by swimming the Plat R. The soldiers of the fort followed and took the boy from the Siox. He was a Pawnee. While they were murdering the Indian heran into a train of emigrants for protection and they would not interfere and let them butcher him like a dog. Here we came to alcali. The ground was white with it in many places. The R. here is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide.

Wednesday May 23rd

The morning was fine and we started early. Passed up the bank of the R. About 10 oclock 2 soldiers came up to us hunting a fellow that had been murdering a man at the fort last night. We made 11 miles during the day and encamped near the R.. Their being no wood near we gathered a quantity of buffalo chips and made a fire which done a fair article of cooking. The grass was good and the weather cool and cloudy.



Thursday May 24th

Last night I rested well. The morning was almost cold enough to freeze. Our old jackscrew failed here and we had to cast him out. We started at 8 and went on up the R. and it commenced raining and we stopped at 4 in the evening. The wood was on an island and hard to get at. The grass was very good.

Friday May 25th

Last night we witnessed the worst storm that I ever saw. We struck our tents in the evening. It was some cloudy. At 8 it commenced thundering. Soon the vivid lightning flashed and illuminated the whole heavens. It was a perfect sheet of fire. The rain soon began to fall in torrents and wind rolled it horizontally on the ground, and soon we found our bodies immersed in water. Our beds were all wet, with 6 inches of water under us. The storm increased and

soon the tents were all prostrated on the ground. When our tent fell I happened to be close to the door and found my way out. I looked around and saw the rest of the inmates rolling and tumbling under the tents like cats tied up in a bag. I made my escape into the wagon but it seemed as if it would blow over every minute. It rattled in the lynch pins like a person having a shake of ague. The balance of the boys found their way out of the tents and retreated into the wagon with me.

We there staid until morning. Some of the train stood out all night holding on to their wagons. Some times it hailed powerfully then it would send a heavy squall of snow. Cape Horn never saw such a night. I got under a feather bed and then I came near freezing to death. In the morning everything was wet and we had to lay by to dry. We took a horse and swam him to the island and roped some green cotton wood which we pulled to the shore and made a fire to keep from freezing. At 2 o'clock we started and went 8 miles and encamped for the night. It was very cool. We cooked our supper with buffalo chips and had a good nights rest.

Saturday May 26th

We started early in the morning. During the day we saw large herds of antelopes and one of our men shot one and fetched it into camp. It was cool all day. The road was as level as a floor. There is some fine hills about 6 miles to our left. Today we passed a great many wagons.

Sunday May 27th

Started at 8 after eating a breakfast of antelope which went off fine, It is the best meat that I ever eat. Here we come close to the bluffs, they are very high and composed of a kind of alkaline substance. Some small groves of cedar are seen occasionally. Many wolves were seen during the day.

Elks have also been seen in large herds to day. We drove 14 miles and encamped for night. In the evening we went to a neighboring camp and heard a Sermon. The Meetinghouse was very large and roomy, the seats all cushioned with grass. The day was pleasant but there was a good frost this morning.

Monday May 28

Last night was a beautiful clear night and prairie dogs and wolves barked at us all night

They came into the corral. We had to take our meat into the tents to keep them from eating it. We started at 5 in the morning. It was quite warm and pleasant

Some of our boys went out a hunting. They made the wolves and antelope run all around us. Several wolves were shot. In the evening I ran the wagon over Abel Brise. Both wheels took him lengthways but didnt brake any bones. We encamped early. On the opposite side of the River

I saw a heard of buffaloes. The night was passed off in sleep and slumber.  
Monday May 29

This morning we still could see the heard of buffaloes. Some of our horsemen put across after them and such a running you never saw. One old man shot one on foot and 9 old bulls took after him and he had to flee to the hills to save his life. He do a tall article of evening. The horsemen kill several and we had lots of meat in camp. Aaron Brown went across. In crossing his horse fell and plunged him in all over and broke his gun. it got out of his hands and he had to dive after it. In the evening we saw another heard traveling up the R. on the opposite of the R. They moved along about as fast as we did. When we encamped they crossed over to our oxen and we put after them and soon we had several of them flat on the ground and the pursuers cuting out such pieces as they liked best. The one I helped take was

the largest ox that I ever saw. I am satisfied that he would weigh 18 hundred. He fought hard and we had to keep skind eye. We shot 6 or 8 balls into him before he fell. While I was persuing close to the old bull I ran over several large rattle snakes but did not take time to shoot them for I was after larger game. But while the bull was making a charge on one of our horse men, a large rattle snake took me on the shin and his teeth hung in my pants. I stopped and kicked him off and he made at me again. I put the breech of my gun on him and Bob Canady shot him. He was 8 feet long. My tall boots saved my life certain.

We got our load of meat and started to the camp. When we got in we found a part of 3 buffalos in camp that had been caught by the boys. About dark it commenced raining and we passed another dreadful

stormy night. We were belly deep in water all night. In the morning coats caps and bedding was found scattered all around. We had lots of hail as usual. It seemed as though the thunder would split the earth open. It kild 2 horses in a corell close by us.

Wednesday May 30th

Still raining in the morning and very cold and not a stick of timber to be seen. The fine hail blew so that we

had to stand with our backs to it for it cut our faces so that we could not face it. This was a trying time and made some of us think of good homes. We lay over all day and eat raw meat, for we had nothing to cook with. In the evening we split up a box and made a hot cup of coffee.

Thursday May 31

After a tolerable fair nights rest we started on went 8 miles up the South fork of the R. and crossed over. It was 3/4 of a mile wide and about 18 inches deep. We had to double teams for the bottom was quicksand. I rode over on an ox. We got all over safe, and encamped on the opposite bank to dry our clothing that got wet in the storm. This evening we shot several buffalo

I shot one here my self a very large one. Here the whole plain appeared to be covered with buffaloes, deer, antelope, and wolves.

#### June 1st

Last night was a fine night. We put out early in the morning. Some of us went ahead of the train to hunt. We did not go so far until we saw a large herd of buffalos. They came dashing by us, we fired into them and knocked some of them down.

They made a noise like thunder as they run after they ran 2 or 3 miles they were turned back by a train and we had to run to get out of their way they don't give the road for nothing. Here we killed lots of them and left them untouched. Sometimes the boys would cut out a tongue or a heart. It was a shame to waste so much fine meat. Here we had plenty of grass and water but no wood.

#### June 2nd

This morning we reached the north fork of Plat R. After traveling 8 miles we stopped to graze our oxen. We had a cup of coffee and a nap under the wagon on the grass. Started on at 10. The evening was warm and fine at 3 in the evening we stopped at a fine spring pouring out of the rocky bluff close to the road. Here we had some fine cedar for wood. This was the first spring that we had seen for 200 miles.

#### Sunday June 3rd

Last night was a fine moonlight night a wolf came into the camp and we shot at him. This morning we concluded to lay over and spend the Sabbath. The day was very pleasant, the country was sandy and made bad traveling. D.C. Hite was court martialled for refusing to stand guard.

#### June 4th

We started early in the morning went 3 miles, came to ash hollow, a deep ravine full of ash trees, with plenty of springs in it. Here we passed a village of Sioux Indians. The country is all sand here and blows like the snow in Michigan. At night we found our selves encamped about 20 miles from ash hollow on a little creek which afforded good water we had wood on our wagons.

#### Thursday 5th

We started at 5 in the morning, the sand blew into our eyes so that we could hardly see to get along. About 12 we came in sight of some timber at distance off which proved to be bat pine we sent men on horseback to get it to cook with. In the evening we had a heavy thunder storm which came very near taking off our wagon covers. The storm was short and we had a tolerable fair night. During the day we

passed an Indian in a bush he had just been put there that is the way they put away their dead. He had a blanket with him and a quantity of buffalo meat hanging to his nose for him to subsist upon. Here we had poor grass and water.

#### Wednesday June 6th

We started early in the morning. Stopped at 10 o'clock to graze. We moved again at 2. We soon came in sight of the Court house rock which is situated in an open plain and is about 300 feet high.



It has 3 stories or offsets which gives it the regular appearance of a house hence it derives its name. Close by its side stands another about 200 feet high this we called the jaol house these are singular structures for a level plain. It rained some in the evening. We encamped early.

Thursday June 7

We started at daylight. Several of us started on ahead to examine Chimney Rock which was in sight. We reached it about 9.

It is one the most magnificent structures in the world. It is 250 feet high the bottom covers about an acre about 100 feet up there is an offset then it runs up a tower which is called the chimney the diameter of the chimney is about 25 feet it holds its size to the top. The whole structure is semented clay and sand. The swallows used it for a building place. Here we could see off at a distance a cluster of hills which looks like a Splendid City. Country muddy and grass good.

Friday June 8th

Left camp early in the morning. At noon we passed scots bluffs. Encamped 8 miles the other side. Nothing occured during the night of interest.

Saturday June 9th

Started at 5, went 20 miles and encamped on the bank of Plat R. where we found plenty of wood and water with a splendid feed for our cattle.

Sunday June 10th

We kept the Sabath here to rest our oxen. The day was fine and pleasant. Close by our camp was an old cotton wood tree that was full of martins which amused me all day with their music. They put me in mind of my native country.

Monday June 11th

We started early in the morning at 3 in the evening

we reached Fort Laramie. We found Laramie River a very swift running stream. Some of the boys ferried it at \$1.00 a wagon. Some forded it by eaising their beds. One of the Marion wagons tlied over in the R. and wet everything they had.

Tuesday June 12th

We had to lay over today to let the boys dry their clothing and wet provisions. Wagons sold here for 6\$

Wednesday June 13th

We started at 7 in the morning passed a few miles up the R. and left it to the right. We passed lots of wagons that had been left road. Some had cut the spokes out for pouch saddles and wood. At 2 we reached the Great hot spring. It was so hot that the oxen would not drink it. It was large enough to ..... a large mill. The grass was poor wood plenty. Some buffaloes were seen in the evening.

We encamped near a fine little creek 10 miles from the hot spring. Here we had a splendid view of Laramy Peak. It is quite a mountain and looks splendid this evening.

Thursday June 14th

We started at 5. Went 6 miles and found such fine grass that we turned out our cattle. At 10 we put out and went 15 miles further and encamped on the bank of a fine stream. I was sick all day. Here the ground

was covered with hail grass scarce.

Friday June 15th

We started very early to find grass that we might recruit our cattle. Soon we came to a large hill which was very difficult to ascend. We went all day and found no grass and encamped on the bank of Leabout R. among the sage and horn toads. We found a little grass among the hills but it was a poor sight for the oxen. The soil was snady and stony.

Saturday June 16th

We started at 8 went a few miles and came on to the red hills which was rough and hard to travel over. In some of the hills we found fine grind stone and in others fine white stone resembling marble of the finest quality. It is an old volcanic region. After traveling 19 or 20 miles we encamped on a beautiful stream which afforded plenty of wood and water but no grass.

Sunday June 17th

In consequence of the scarcity of grass we concluded to travel on. We went 19 miles to deer creek. Wood water and grass plenty. We borrowed a fish net of the government train and caught lots of fish in this stream. The day was hot and dusty.

Monday June 18

We staid here all day to let our cattle rest. Some went a hunting and some a fishing. I was one of the hunting party. I had a horse the rest was on foot. We saw quantities of antelope and shot some of them. Soon we came into a heard of buffaloes out of which we shot 11. I had a rifle a good revolver and 2 rifle pistols in my belt.

I put spurs to my poney and crawled onto an old bull and fired on him every jump until he could not stand it any longer, and turned for fight. I had to wheel my horse and get out of that. We tore up the ground fast for a short time but he soon turned and started on again. I wheeled my poney and run onto him and fired several pistol balls into him again and he fell. I cut out a small piece and left him he was as fat as any stall bred beef.

Tuesday June 19th

We made an early start this morning, traveled a few miles and the train concluded to make a left and cross the north fork of Platt. Our wagon individually went on up the R. and joined Fuller crowd. We crossed the R. on 3 canoes lashed together. We got over safe but the train that crossed over before us upset and lost their loading. They lost 10 guns.

Wednesday June 20th

We fixed up our loading, had a good dinner of buffalo soop. Drove 8 miles and encamped. The country was hilly and sandy no grass. We had mush and milk for supper.

Thursday June 21st

Started at 8 went 8 miles and came to upper ferry. From here we passed over a rough country to the mineral springs and encamped. The 3 red Butes were close by. We saw a large bear crossing over them. The grass was good.

Friday June 22nd

Started at 6 justled through avenue rock and assembled prospect hill went 6 miles and encamped on a fine stream of good water. We here caught some fine fish in a handkerchief, about 7 inches long. We had a fine breakfast.

Friday June 23rd

Left camp at sun rize passed through a heavy sandy road 12 miles. We then came to Saleratus lake. There were several acres covered with pure white saturatus. We went 4 miles further and came to Independence rock where we encamped. I clim up and put my name on it in large letters with the black lead. There is thousands of names on it.

Sunday June 24th

Left the rock at 7 went 5 miles and encamped near the Devils gate which is a great curiosity. The walls are 3 hundred feet high perpendicular. The water rushed through like a torrent. We had fine grass for cattle.

Monday June 25th

Left the camp at 5. Passed up the R. over a heavy sandy road, passed Mineral Lake and Spring at noon we stopped on the stream 14 miles from camp. We went 14 miles further and encamped. I was very tiard. We had mush and milk for supper which went off well.

Tuesday June 26th

This morning I left and went 10 miles back to see some sick men. That evening I got back to the same place and encamped with Capt. Stidger. Some of the boys climed up into the mountains and fired some old pines which made a splendid light.

Wednesday June 27th

I started early in the morning to overtake our train. I passed 3 hundred teams during the day and over took my train just in time to camp. Today we passed the Ice spring which had plenty of ice. The spring is in a low flat basin. The road is lined with dead oxen. They died from drinking alkaline water. We crossed the R. 5 times today and mush and milk for supper.

Thursday June 28th

We left camp early and passed over some high hills which were very rocky. Went 20 miles and encamped on the R. at the last ford. Today we found snow 15 feet deep we carried with us for drink.

Friday June 29th

At 7 we pulled up stakes and struck for the South pass or summit of the Rocky Mountains which was 9 and 3/4 miles off. It was a place hard to find for it was a perfect plain but from this place the water divided and ran into 2 different oceans. To our right were the wind river Mountes covered with snow. Here the

nights are very cold and chilly. To day we came to the Pacific Spring which flows into the Colerado R.. We went a few miles further and encamped near dry sands. The water was so bad the cattle would not drink it, but those who did were certain to die in a short time.

Saturday June 30

We left Dry sands early and passed over to Big Sandy and encamped. During the day we passed lots of dead cattle the road stunk with them all the

time. Here we had to do all cooking with small sage.

#### Sunday July 1st

We spent the day on the bank of Big Sandy to rest the cattle so as to pass the 50 mile desert which is our next drive. It is destitute of water and grass. Big Sandy is a swift running stream 2 ft. deep 8 rods wide. The roads were rocky and sandy. The weather fine.

#### Monday July 2nd

We left Big Sandy at 4 in the evening and traveled all night. It was very cold and the ground froze. I saw ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick. This morning the Centreville boys came up with us. The whole country about Big Sandy was covered with dead oxen.

#### Tuesday July 3rd

We drove on until we got to Green R. which took us until 2 oclock in the evening. The distance was measured today, it found to be 50. The dust was 5 or 6 inches deep. It was a hard trip for oxen but we had the good luck to get all of our cattle all through safe. But many poor oxen perished before they got to water. When we got to the

River we found no grass. It made our eyes stick out until they might have been snared with D cable rope. But after resting them a few minutes we started them to the mountains about 3 miles distant where we found some wild oats and they done tolerable well. We soon went to bed. I slept very sound until the sun roasted me out of the tent in the morning.

#### Wednesday July 4th

We fixed our boat and commenced puting our goods and wagon over the River. It is a powerful swift running stream about the size of St. Joseph River. The old lady Brice got us up a good dinner and we passed a happy 4th of July. There was a company from Pittsburg that had a canon and kept a constant fire all day. It sounded a little old times.

#### Thursday July 5th

We worked hard all day to finish crossing our plunder and oxen. Many oxen were drown in swimming the stream. Also many mules were lost in the same manner.

#### Friday July 6th

We commenced early in the morning to put our wagons together and loading them. At 12 oclock we rolled out through a cloud of dust. It was several inches deep. It was

a trying time on our eyes. We went about 10 miles over hilly ground and came to a fine stream of water pouring down from the mountains like a torrent. We encamped on the bank of it. We passed the night fine, had good grass and plenty of wood. One of our best oxen died during the night. One of our men caught a speckled trout, we had it for breakfast. It was one of the finest fish that I ever saw. Here was the grave of Henry French of Michigan.

#### Saturday July 7th

We left camp early. The road was hilly, some of them were covered with snow. We desolved it for drink. It was very refreshing. We made about 16 miles

and encamped near a cotton wood grove and a fine stream. We are so high up in the atmosphere that we could hardly get our breath.

Sunday July 8th

Here we spent another Sabbath in rest. Read a chapter in the Bible. The day was spent fine. The wind blew our tents full of red sand.

Monday July 9th

The camp was aroused at 3 and at 4 were on the move. We passed up among hills and banks of snow. In the evening we crossed a stream

which we supposed to be Thomas fork of ... River. It was about 3 feet deep, some of the wagons dipped water. We then commenced rising the mountains that divided the waters of Bear R. and Portnuf R.. For a half a mile we climb up a backbone that was hardly wide enough to let the wagons pass. A very little slip would have thrown the team down a quarter of a mile. But we had the good luck to get them all up safe. We still kept rising and at night

we encamped 14 thousand feet above the level of the sea. We had plenty of grass for our cattle and wood to cook with. We dissolved snow for use. Here we had a view of several ranges of mountains which covered with snow. We are almost froze so I will go to bed.

Tuesday July 10th

We left camp early in the morning, passed over a high elevated range of mountains. We had to go down 2 mountains which were almost perpendicular for a mile. We went down in a hurry. This evening we landed into the valley of Bear R.

Wednesday July 12th

Rollled out at 5, passed down the valley and crossed the mouth of Thomas fork 3 miles from camp. We drove all day and encamped on Smith fork a fine stream full of fish. Here we found the Centerville boys encamped they had some fine trout I took supper with them. Here we found the finest grass that I ever saw. It was a perfect meadow.

Thursday July 12th

Last night we had a freeze which is a very common thing for this country. We started early in the morning, left the river and climb a high mountain to get past a canyon in R.. We had to descend again into the valley. The descent was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles altitude  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile grass and wood still plenty Here we met with a large quantity of Snake Indians, they begged us for something to eat. They were very friendly with us. We encamped at 4 in the evening at the foot of a high hill on a little creek that ought to be called Musketoe Creek for I never saw so many in my life.

Friday July 13th

Early this morning I gained the Centerville train. We went to the Sodae and Steamboat Springs and encamped. These springs are the greatest curiosities I ever saw. The Sodae Spring has formed a mound with an alculine substance and constantly pushing up its boiling water through it. The Steamboat Spring is near the bank of the R.. It forces the water several feet high through a stone about one rod from where the water comes out is an air hole which makes the scape pipe, it sounds exactly like a steamboat. The water is a little warmer than dish water. Here is several large craters. One fellow said he wanted to be off for he believed hell was close by.



Saturday July 14th

We left Bear R. this morning, went 25 miles up a beautiful valley which ran to the N. W. and encamped on a fine little stream. Here the grass was splendid.

Sunday July 15th

We left the valley in the morning and passed over a high range of mountains and encamped on the waters of Portneuf R.. Here the grass was very poor.

Monday July 16th

In the morning we started early so as to get to Fort Hall. We passed over some very sandy road. The valley is very wide and fenced on both sides with snow capped mountains. We got to the fort at 4 oclock. Captain Grant gave us some fine cheese and cakes which was a great rarity for us. They had great quantities of firs. The old Capt. had a half indian for a wife. She was a fine

looking woman. There were several indian huts outside of the fort. They were Crows. We got some fine beef here at 12 cts. per pound. We went 4 miles further and encamped on the bank of Portneuf R.. Here the Muskatoes came near sucking all of our blood. We had to build a fire in our tents to drive them out so as to get a chance to sleep.

Tuesday July 17th

We moved out at sunrise, crossed the R. which was about 60 yards wide with a beautiful gravelly bottom. We had to block up our wagon beds to keep them from dipping water. We went about 20 miles down Snake River and encamped. Here we found lots of the yellow current which was very habitable. The roads today were so dusty that the drivers could hardly see the mules.

We caught some fine fish here. Muskatoes thick as usual.

Wednesday July 18th

Left camp early in the morning went 2 miles and came to the American falls of Snake R. The water poured down through rocks about 40 feet. It was a great curiosity. We passed on down the R. 16 miles and encamped. We crossed several fine little streams during the day.

Thursday July 20th

Here we found good feed and concluded to lay over and let the mules rest. We slept away part of the time. We had fried pies for dinner also a quantity of corn bread and other fixens which made a good dinner for this barren region. We were about 65 miles from Ft. Hall.

Saturday July 21st

We started before sunrise up Raft R. at noon we encamped at its head. We drove 10 miles in the afternoon over high ground and encamped on goose creek.

Sunday July 22nd

Started early passed through a deep cut in the mountains which was very rocky. The rocks were composed of granite and went up many tall peaks like ancient towers.

After going about 8 miles we came to the Salt lake road. We went 4 miles further and encamped for noon at a good spring. In the evening we passed over a high range of mountains to goose creek. We had to let down some of the places with ropes. We encamped as soon as we got down. Goose Creek runs in to Snake R. Here we slept out without a tent.

Tuesday Aug. 21st

Started at 5 went still up the R. crossed 5 times and stopped for noon. Meat being scarce we gathered a quantity of mussels and made soup for dinner. After we eat dinner J. Frazer and I went on a higher mountain where we had a fair view of the Gold Mountains. It took us several hours to get to the summit. We encamped at the forks of

the River where we had fine grass.

Wednesday Aug. 22nd

We moved out early in the morning our rout was still up the River. Crossed several times during the day. Here I saw many of our native birds. The sapsuckers yellow hammer martin and bluebird. At night we arrived at a beautiful fine grove where we encamped, the evening was warm and pleasant. Here we left the stream.

Thursday Aug. 23rd

This morning we started early passed over a high mountain which was covered with pine fir and cedar. It made me think of home to hear the birds singing in the tall pines. We made 16 mi. and encamped in a fine valley of grass, the night was very cold and frosty.

Friday Aug. 24th

In the morning we started early went 12 mi. and encamped for noon, after eating our dinner we startee on went 2 mi. and came to the houses of the doner party. Here we found ox bones and human bones all mixed together. The flesh had been eaten and the bones cast into the yard. The trees where they cut their wood were cut about 12 feet from the ground. There

was a dense forest of hemlock around the huts. You could see many traces of distress. This was at the foot of the Syrenada Mts. Went 2 miles up and encamped on the side of the Mt. at a spring. The whole side of the mountain was dark with tall trees. Some of the pines were from 7 to 9 feet through. This evening we passed Trucky Lake.

Saturday Aug. 25th

We started early in the morning for the summit which took us until noon we had to put 10

to each wagon. We passed above many heavy snow banks. This was a tall climb for a wagon. We then passed down into a valley and encamped. The descent was not so great as the other side. Here was a fine stream of water which we supposed to be a branch of feather River.

Sunday Aug. 26th

We remained in camp all day to rest our mules for the mountains ahead. Dr. Prichet and I went about 3 mi. to a

lake on the side of the mountain. Here we rolled large round stones down the mountain among the pines. They would knock the tops off when they would strike them. It was rare sport

Monday Aug. 27th

We left camp at 6. We traveled all day over a mountainous rocky country. Some places we had to rope down.

Tuesday Aug. 28th

This morning we left at 5 went up hill and down hill. We broke our wagon tongue and upset all in the fore noon but we gathered up

Monday July 23rd

Took an early start and went 23 mi. up this creek to its head and encamped between 2 large mountains. J.T. Bloomfield caught a mess of trout for supper. The road was good all day. The country around us is rough. I cooked a mess of beans for supper. It was my first cooking.

Tuesday July 24th

This morning we eat frozen beans for breakfast. It was so cold that we did not start early. We puled over a stony hill until noon. We had bird soup for dinner made of larks doves and young ducks. Here we left a wagon. We went 5 miles and encamped in hot springs valley. Here we found some cliff Indians of which we purchased some antelope meat. We afterwards

supposed it to be dog meat from the effect it had upon the stomach. We purchased dressed buck skins of them for a few charges of powder. Some of them were grinding wild oats and bugs to make bread of. These are miserable creatures. Some were naked and the rest nearly so. They would pick lice out of their heads and eat them.

Wednesday July 25th

This morning we buried a man by the road side by the name of Cook. His coffin was made of sage brush, his blanket made his shroud. We went 24 mi. and encamped in the same valley. Had fine grass and water. The night was very cold.

Thursday July 26th

Started early went 5 mi. and came to hot springs, which was so hot that you could not bear your hand in it. It sent off a large creek. We then passed over a high range of mountains to the valley of the Humbolt R. and encamped at a fine spring. Grass not very good, wood plenty.

Friday July 27th

We continued our course down the valley 25 mi. and encamped for night. The day was windy and dusty and very hard on the mules. The grass was good. The boys had a dance. Old Snake Foot playd. They were all in good spirits and felt well.

Saturday July 28th

We moved out very early in the morning. The road was fine and made of dust. Soon we found our selves on a tolerable large stream. We here came into the richest grass that I ever saw. It was a perfect meadow. At night we found our selves 25 mi. from camp.

Sunday July 29th

This day we spent in rest and feasting. I was Cook and of course it was well don. We had a clean bite. We had ice water all day last night was so cold that it froze the water in our buckets one inch thick. We set it in the shade and retained ice all day. We are here surrounded by snow covered mountains which makes it so cold at night. The indians stole some oxen last night and took them to the mountains.

Monday July 30th

At sun rize we pulled out down the R. We soon passed over a high hill to a canyen in the stream. We had a dusty road all day late in the evening we crossed north fork of R. and went one mile and encamped near the foot of a mountain that we had to cross to shun another canyen.

Tuesday July 31st

In the morning we started and went into the mountains which took us until noon to get out. We encamped on the R. at 4 in the evening.

Wednesday August 1st

Our mules were drove into corell early in the morning. We soon put out for the mountains which we had to cross before we

could come to the water again. Went 20 mi. and struck the R. again. There grass was scarce we had to drive them a mile to grass, poor at that. Here Dr. Prichet fell into the R. and I took a good laugh at him.

Thursday August 2nd

At day light we found our selves moving down the R. During the day we went 25mi. and encamped on poor grass.

The wolves barked at us all night. We slept out doors on the sand.

Friday August 3rd

We put out in the morning our team was behind and the train went off and left us. Our mules gave out and we had to stop after a few miles drive. Dr Pritchett went on and overtook the train and they sent back a team after us we traveled in the night and over took them.

Saturday August 4th

Today we stopped until noon and fixed our wagons. The Hagarstown men are going to assist us in getting through. We started at noon and went a few miles down the River and encamped. It was sun set.

Sunday August 5th

We remained in camp until 4 in the evening and rolled out on our journey went 10 mi. and encamped.

Monday August 6th

The sun is up and we are going to start soon. Went 20 mi. during the day over a sandy heavy road and encamped for night.

Tuesday August 7th

We started at 6 in the morning passed 15 mi. down the R. and encamped for noon. I got a duckling in a bulrush slew. We had blue crane for dinner. We all eat very harty of it at 3 we started on and went 8 mi. over a heavy sandy road and encamped. The night was very cold

Wednesday Aug. 8th

Started early in the morning so as to get ahead of the ox trains which was in our way. The road today was very sandy and made wheeling bad.

Thursday Aug. 9th

Left early in morning passed down the river 18 mi. and encamped grass poor.

Friday Aug. 10th

Started at 3 in the morning rolled down the R. which soon took a south direction went 13 mi. further and encamped for night on a sand bar and no grass near the mules had to eat willows.

Saturday Aug. 11th

Started at 6 in the morning passed over a dry plain where the dust was very deep. Stopped at noon and fed on willows. In the evening we went 10 mi. and stopped grass poor and wood scarce.

Sunday Aug. 12th

Went 4 mi. and encamped for the day. Had bean soup for dinner, fed on willows again.

Monday Aug. 13th

Moved early this morning went 12 mi. and encamped at the Sulphur Spring and sent our mules 8 mi. to grass.

Tuesday Aug. 14th

Sent for our mules and moved our wagons to the grass and then spent the day in cutting hay to cross the desert with. This is 20 mi. from the sink.

Wednesday Aug. 15th

We left camp at 2 in the morning passed down a level plain to the sink a stinking hole of salt water not fit for use but 5 mi. from here we came to pond hole of stinking water with a dozen dead mules and oxen in it. We were obliged to use the water. It was as bad as a cow yard and warm as dish water at 4 in the evening

we started for hot springs. After a laborious and dark drive we arrived at 2 in the morning. Here we found a boiling hot spring the water was hot enough to scald a hog. We had to cool the water in a wagon box for our mules and to drink. It was miserable water after it was cooled. It made us all sick. Here was great suffering among the animals many of them were dead some dying and some still standing in the hot sun reeling, with their fate sealed.

Thursday Aug. 16th

We gave our mules some hay and started for the balance of the desert 25 mi. which has not a particle of water or grass. During the day we passed many animals as before. You could smell them all the time. When we came within view of Salmon trout River the sand got so deep that we had double teams to pull through. We got through late

in the night over a desert of 65 mi. without water or grass. A pint of cold water would have been a fortune to me at that time. I did not think of the California gold at that time. This is a volcanic region and has no vegetation of any kind. The mountains are a perfect bed of heavy lava. When we reached the S. River we got a good drink of cold water and all was well once more, except fatigue.

Friday Aug. 17th

Early in the morning we found ourselves on the bank of Salmon Trout R. a beautiful stream of water, it had a strong current and splendid water from the Syrinade Mts. We here passed all the day in rest the grass was good and wood plenty.

Saturday Aug. 18th

Today we still continued in camp. Some refreshing hours occasionally passed about

Sunday Aug. 19th

We still stayed in camp to recruit animals. The weather was fine.

Monday Aug. 20th

We left camp at 6 passed 14 mi. up the R. crossed it 14 times it closely confined between the mountains. It is 3 to 4 feet deep with a strong current.



and went on. This was one of the hardest days work that I ever done. We encamped 4 mi. from Bear river, the night was very cold.

Wednesday Aug. 29th

Again at 6 we were on the move. Went 2 mi. and had to descend down a high mountain into bear valley. We had to let down with ropes. It was almost perpendicular for a mile. We drove down the valley a few miles and encamped. We were within a few mi. of the diggins.

Thursday Aug. 30th

We remained in camp all day. Here was lots of game deer, bear and pheasants, with some large rattle snakes throwed in. Here one of our Georgia men shot a bear and this is the size of his claw. I marked it from the claw with a pencil. (drawing of claw)

Friday Aug. 31st

I left the wagon in company with a man from New Jersey and struck across for the Uba R. to look for gold and find a place for our company to work. We struck the stream late in the day. We soon came where they were digging gold. We encamped with some oregon men. Next morning they offered us an oz to work for them that day (16\$) at night they

had 65\$ a piece and we had 16\$ each. We started immediately after our company and found them above Johnsons wating for us. We all fixed and started for the Uba where he had worked about 6 weeks and took sick. We made from 20 25\$ for day on the average, but the ague drove us, we went to Sacramento City and remained there until I left for home.

When we were operating in the mines we paid 100 \$ a lb for flower, 125 for pork, 100 for sugar. Vinegar 1.50 a pint, beans 75¢ per pound.

California is a poor country for vegetation but grass grass grows fine in the valley. There is fine cattle in the valleys better beef I never saw. The country abounds with elk, deer antelope and all kinds of water fowls. Timber is scarce in the valleys, there is nothing but scrub oaks. The oaks bear a long acorn which affords the principal feed for the Indians or natives.

#### Prices of Provisions in Sacramento City this winter

Pork	from 40 to 50\$ per lb.
Flour	" 30 to 35 " "
Corn meal	" 30 " " " "
Sugar	from 25 to 50\$ per hund.
Bacon	" 60 "
Beans	12 to 15¢ a lb.
Fresh beef	25¢ " "
" pork	75 " "

Fresh mutton	75¢ a lb
Venison	75¢ " "
Ducks	6 to 8 " "
Brants	8 to 10 " "
Sandhill cranes	1b. 1\$ a pair
Snipes	2\$ " "
Dried aples	50¢ a lb.
" peaches	75¢ " "
Cheese	1.25 " "
Butter	1.25 " "

Eggs	6\$ per doz. sometimes 12
Pickles	75¢ per lb.
Pies	1.00 each
ginger bread	2\$ a section
Milk	1\$ a qt.
Whiskey	25¢ a drink
Cabbage	75¢ 1 lb.
Turnips	75¢ " "
Beets	75¢ " "
Onions	1.25 " "
Irish potatoes	25¢ a lb.
Sweet potatoes	35¢ " "

A good mule is worth from 3 to 500\$  
A " yoke of oxen " 3 to 500\$  
Lumber is worth 700\$ a thousand  
Wood 25\$ a cord  
Boarding 20 to 40\$ a week