

1850  
May 31  
Platte RiverA.I.S. (Copy of)  
Debnay T. Carr  
To:  
G. C. Broadhead

Subject:

Copy of Letter written by  
Debnay Terrell Carr,  
on route from Missouri to  
California, to G. C. Broadhead  
dated Platte River near Chimney Rock  
May 31 - 1850

My Dear Cousin

As the time for fulfilling my  
promise is near at hand, I have taken  
advantage of a noon halt to commence  
a letter to you, as I have written one to  
Frank and two to Maria (x), and it is  
nothing but fair that some one of your  
circle has done me next. As Mr. Henry  
has given me his letter as account of  
our trip as far as Ft. Kearney,  
it is hardly worth while for me to repeat  
it, and all I have to say about it is  
that we have had a much better trip  
than we expected. Some were sadly  
disappointed as they were in hopes that  
the hardships they would have to endure  
would be an excuse for turning back.  
Several accidents have happened in  
other companies, but not one in  
Y his brother and sister.



ours. One man in a company from  
Illinois shot himself by accident  
It happened near our camp on  
Rock creek. We have seen several  
wolves turned over and broken, also  
a good many dead horses, a few dead  
oxen and one deer.

We have passed many emigrants who  
left the States in March, and early  
in April. There was no grass and they  
were obliged to give their provisions  
to their animals to keep them alive.  
We met several going back, some on  
foot, some with one yoke of oxen or  
a horse, who said that all their ani-  
mals had died, and all that they  
wanted was to get back alive;  
how can they travel without their  
hast. They made no preparation  
for the exit of the stormy Orion,  
they knew not what a March storm  
on the prairie was; sadly they  
suffered for the knowledge. One man  
told me that his oxen and horses  
would eat hay with the same



avidly that they would corn.  
 They have offered as high as \$30.  
 per hundred for flour at Ft. Kearney,  
 but the officer said he could not  
 spare any, as the provision Train  
 had not arrived, and how they  
 are to get through I do not know.  
 To finish with the heart-rending detail  
 there has been more suffering on this  
 trip than we can well imagine, and now  
 it is to end God only knows.

There were over 2000 wagons passed  
 Ft. Kearney before us, and numbers of  
 these had not 100 pounds of flour to a  
 wagon. They are now pushing on in  
 the hope of reaching Salt Lake, but  
 the grass is very short and it is very  
 doubtful whether they will live to get  
 there. The health of the emigrants, as far  
 as my knowledge extends has been very  
 good. We have had several cases of  
 measles with us, some have recovered  
 and the others are doing very well.  
 We had some cases of small pox  
 behind us, but none near us.



Travelling as we do, we have very little opportunity of hearing what is going on behind us, therefore I can only say of what is near or before us.

We started from St. Jo with 19 wagons in company. After travelling a few days we found it difficult to get grass for all of our stock, some starved.

There are now ten of us, but whether the horse teams will be able to keep up is doubtful, as the grass is rather scant and it takes a horse much longer than a mule to get enough to satisfy him, and those that have mules are getting rather impatient of the delay that the horse teams occasion.

Walker Bird & Co have been near us for several days and should our and their horse teams hold back we will join company. The pack company from Flint Hill are near us. They passed us three days ago, then stopped half a day, when we passed them. I saw all the boys they are getting along very well. Mr. Oglesby had a severe attack of sickness while in Missouri, but is now improving.



since entering the prairie  
Benj. Ball is well as his best friends  
could wish, in high spirits and  
fresher than I ever saw him.

Hugh Mc<sup>Isaac</sup> looks so natural as ever,  
and Finley, Lyon looks more like a man  
than I ever expected to see him at  
his age; browned like a veteran of  
many campaigns, all he wants to make  
him a fit representative of one of  
Napoleon's old guard is, the beard  
and mustache. Their animals are  
improving and their chances for getting  
over are among the best.

I have not heard anything of L. Hitt  
since I left St. Jo. Mr. George Fox are  
four days ahead of us - all well.

We left M. Pike at Ft. Kearney and  
have not heard from him since.

There is a report that he had 30 mules  
killed by running off with some of his  
regiments but it wants confirmation.

We are now encamped on the  
Platte River 25 miles below Ft. Laramie  
resting our own animals, writing and  
washing as we are about to enter the mountains.



and there will be very little opportunity of writing before we enter the Grand River valley. The North Fork is one of the most romantic parts of our trip. You enter the valley at Ash Hollow by a descent of about 400 feet in two miles. The road running down a ravine bounded on each side by cliffs between 3 and 400 feet high from the crevices of which grow cedar, pine and a little aspen, shrub some cutworm, giving to the valley a romantic and picturesque appearance. As emerging from the hollow, the scene changes, the valley of the Platte spreads out itself before you from one to two miles wide, the river rushing along with a velocity that is almost incredible in such a bold country, and on your left rises a precipice of sandstone and clay interspersed with a granite like rock that is peculiar to this country. It extends in a line nearly parallel with the Black Hills, and often springs up into some of the most romantic shapes that



They can behold. But to finish  
with the Platte valley. The rocky  
wall on the south now approaches  
the river so close as scarcely to  
admit of the passage of wagons  
now crosses with a bold curve  
forming an Amphitheatre of several  
miles in extent, now broken as it  
were by some mighty convulsion of  
nature forming those isolated mounds,  
to which have been given the names  
of Court House, The Chimney, Scotts  
Bluff. There are springs scattered  
along under the base, which have such  
a little bunch of timber, consisting of  
Box elder and Cherry, which make  
the most beautiful camping grounds  
with the high wall above covered  
with cedar and pine. The river in the  
distance, a broad prairie around you,  
plenty of provisions, and good company  
who would not wish to be elsewhere.

On reaching the highest point of Scotts  
Bluff, you have one of the wildest and  
most dreary views on the Platte. The rocky



wall we know the river, and appears  
 only at intervals, with the dry beds of the  
 winter torrents winding among them, their  
 peaks without one outcrop of vegetation  
 and what few streams that do find  
 their way to the Plate without one  
 stick of timber I should have mentioned  
 as before that there is no wood on  
 the Plate from Ash Hollow to Scott's  
 Bluff, nor can one imagine a more  
 dreary prospect, without it should be  
 the lands of Humboldt River.

But before us and in sight is the  
 Black Hills with Goshute Butte rearing  
 its head above the clouds, presenting  
 to our imagination cool steams,  
 plenty of water, and we are in hopes  
 of finding grass plenty except on  
 the crowded from Plate to Sweetwater.

The time for moving camp has arri-  
 ved and I must close for the present. I will give  
 you a better description of our route when I get to  
 past the Red Butte. There seem to be no prospects  
 to me, for the Laramie to morrow and as the Express  
 leaves in a few days my letter will get to you.  
 We are in good health but all who do not use  
 tobacco have sore throats.

Babney T. Carr.



1  
When Gabrey J. Carr returned  
from his stay in the Upper  
Missouri about the year 1849,  
he gave to Mr. Roodhead a list  
of following Indian words and  
their definition.

I saw the Black foot Indians  
(Ah - tohew - na)

Aka woman

Aha guine young woman

Tipa Takay Old woman

Napay - an Old man

Mine, Kope - young man

Chicke - a little boy

Kogaca - a little girl

Aha-wa - Blanket

Aha - Buffalo robe

Sooka - A coat or covering

Mitape - a warrior

Haponeeta - The man that loves blood

Napaguine - a white man

Sikspaguine - a Black man.

Mene friend

Napene - enemy

Sikeekian - Coffee

O'Pisluken -

Naperka - Whiskey - White man's water

Napeois - Horse or foot



Muchinunmucke Gun  
 Jato quâte Ammunition  
 U' Nitower Dog.  
 A Peze Wolf Ito fire  
 A' Peze Cord Ika little  
 Cotohâne Horse Ok'a water  
 Cotohâna Elk Pomby  
 Mistis wood Pomby - fit  
 Itanâna knife Yahya - ha  
 Kanunkean - house  
 Apokristimaska beard  
 Pokesimha death's head  
 Pah Kokosineka - ghost  
 Kunna Kokot give it to me  
 Pokes a' pote come here  
 Nita pote go away  
 O' jistatou - to fix it  
 Michitchitchi - I have none  
 Michin' Kiin - There is not much  
 A' Kiin - a great many  
 Hm - na - esey - You have done very well.  
 Nitou - take it  
 Kitiapitz - you lie  
 Neeto - I - Cresto - you, Suh - no.  
 Neeto nishemun - mine - - Muk - far off  
 Cresto chine - yours. Mofit - quiet  
 Kusto mûnka  
 An troquis - to fight or whip.



3  
Indian words

Kanas

Sah-ba, tunga - a black man  
Pah-braska - flat nose  
Sah-sha-egav - deer hair  
Sah-shatunga - bending head

Arapahoe

Wai-ta-wah-ta - long knife

Siou

Wash'-ahs'he - a white man  
To-lah - Oh dear me - a waiting relation  
Soolon-i-ishua - I have not any  
Wah-fia - hoh - the man that wears a white hat  
Tash (nose) Ahnto (ear) Yes.

Munich

Meunk-ate 1

Som-ber 2

Yemina 3

Topa 4 Satta 5

Sapta 6

Pako 7

Sagolo 8

W. k. ahimira 10

Alla - teen

Mikschuame Number 20