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A TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS IN 1879

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A TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS IN 1849.

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 attracted many adventurous spirits from all over the eastern states. The excitement raged to quite an extent in Michigan, and many young men and some that were not so young joined in the rush to the gold fields spurred on by that old desire to get rich quick. Among the young men of Battle Creek, Michigan, to join the stampede was George P. Burrall. He was not yet twenty years of age, but possessed the qualities that are needed to make good pioneers. He made the journey in a "prairie schooner" leaving Battle Creek on the first day of March, 1849, and arriving at Sacramento on the fifteenth of October. He spent six years in California and then returned to Michigan, there to marry and raise a family. In the late seventies the spirit of adventure again possessed him and he joined the Black Hills rush. Not finding what he sought there he again decided to try his luck in California and once more set out for the Pacific coast. This time fate seemed to decide against him for he was overtaken by a blizzard on the plains of Wyoming and perished in the storm. A daughter, Mrs. R.F. Banker of Seattle, Washington, has in her possession a well written diary of his first trip across the Plains, and through her kindness I am permitted to copy

it. It gives a very good description of the trip and as he followed the Oregon Trail 943 miles to Little Sandy, where the "Sublette Cutoff" leaves the trail to Salt Lake and Fort Bridger, I am glad to give it herewith:

The Battle Creek Mining Company, consisting of ten men, viz: C.S. Louel, Albert Dewey, Bergen Ten Eyck, Joshua Cook Jr., G.W. Camley, Charles Cooley, Christian Haney, Abram Minges and George P. Barrall, started for the gold regions March 5th 1849, with a few very appropriate remarks from B.F. Graves, Esq., and three hearty cheers we left B.C. escorted by the brass band and quite a number of our friends on horseback who accompanied us half a mile out of town. The first night we laid over on Dry Prairie. It rained quite hard during the evening. Made 20 miles that afternoon.

March 6th, 1849, 8 o'clock.

Left Dry Prairie and arrived at Leonidas, where we laid over until the next morning, making seven miles traveled this day.

March 7th 1849, 9 1/2 o'clock.

Left Leonidas and arrived at Constantine at 5 o'clock, having made 22 miles this day.

March 8th, 1849.

Left Constantine and made for South Bend, but did

not get farther than Elkhart, which made 24 miles. Passed through a very fine country this day. Traveled on the banks of the St. Joseph River all day, which is a very fine stream.

March 9th, 1849.

Left Elkhart at 11 o'clock and arrived at Mishwauk at 6 o'clock where we encamped for the night, having traveled 11 miles.

March 10th, 1849.

Left Mishwauk at 9 o'clock. Had to cross the river to get to South Bend, as all the bridges had gone out, and in fact that is the case with most of the bridges throughout the country. The streams are very high. We passed through South Bend, which is a very fine town, about 11 o'clock. We found the roads very good until we left South Bend, and then they were very hard through a good deal of prairie land. We encamped at 5 o'clock on the Terracoupee Prairie, which is a beautiful tract of land and all under improvement, except their roads which are almost impassable. The prairie is four miles across. It took us 2 1/2 hours to get 2 1/2 miles on it, where we encamped for the night and also for Sunday, as we do not intend to travel on that day.

March 13th, 1849.

Left Terracoupees Prairie this morning, having laid

over two days on account of the roads which were almost impassable. During the time three teams had gone on from different parts of the state. We passed one team from Kalamazoo with four men who were going to wait for the Hillsdale company which is three days back. Monday and Tuesday were fine pleasant days, the only days but what it rained since we started. We encamped five miles from Michigan City. Traveled 17 miles.

March 14th, 1849.

Left our encampment and made for Michigan City where arrived about 10 o'clock. Got some tinkering done and started. Arrived at Bailey Town 15 miles beyond the City about 8 ^{1/2}/₁₂ o'clock. Traveled on the lake shore all the afternoon, about 1/2 ²/₄ mile from the lake. Occasionally got a glimpse of the lake through the woods. Roads good for the season of the year. We had a very heavy rain all night. Roads sandy. Some rain to-day. Prospects very fair for rain to-night. Hear of great many gold hunters ahead.

March 15th, 1849.

Left Baileytown at 7-30 o'clock. Took the Chicago road to avoid some of the prairies to Juliette. Traveled on a sandy ridge about one mile from the lake. We climbed several high hills in hopes of getting a sight of the lake but were disappointed. Haney and myself made for the lake shore and after 3/4 of an hour hard tramping we climbed a

very steep bluff and had a beautiful sight of the lake which well paid us for our trouble. We expected to leave the Chicago road about 12 miles from our starting place in the morning and make for Juliette, in Illinois, but was disappointed and had to keep on to Chicago road which made our route 30 miles farther. We traveled 15 miles through a ravine, ^{which} ~~what~~ was the best roads we have had since we started. We expected to cross the Calumet river to-night, but found we could not get our wagons across on account of bad roads and left our wagons, but took the horses over. There was a tavern both sides of the river. I remained back with the wagons. We found the landlord any thing but accomodating. One came very near getting in a scrape with him. Traveled 30 miles to-day.

March 16th, 1849.

Hired a man to draw our wagons across the river this morning. Gave him 2/-- for each wagon. On examination this morning found the crow bar that belonged to our wagon was lost. I got on one of the horses and rode back 3 1/2 miles but coul't not find it. After crossing the Calumet where our horses staid over night we sent Doc Cooley ahead four miles where we heard the bridge was gone. He came back about 3 o'clock and reported a ferry was established, so we hitched up and started. By taking this road we avoided going to Chicago and

saved some 30 miles travel. We had to cross quite a low wet prairie before we arrived at Blue Island, or the place where the ferry is. Why it was named so I could not learn. We encamped here for the night making only 5 miles this day.

March 17th, 1849.

Started in good season this morning. It took us a full hour to get ferried across Stony Creek. We struck on a wet, low prairie full of sloughs, as they are called. We did not make very good time in crossing, some three hours to cross five miles, and in getting off of it we came on another one some higher, but the roads were very bad. We have just got off of it and are on another one where we have encamped, 7 miles from Juliette, which place we intended to have been to-night. Our travel to-day has been on the prairies all the way and it has been the hardest days work for the horses we have had. There has been quite a good many prairie hens on our road to-day, rather wild, but succeeded in shooting two. Saw a good many sand hill cranes. Haney and myself succeeded in shooting one of them. Traveled 18 miles to-day.

Monday, March 19th, 1849.

Started at 11-30 o'clock, made for Lockport on the canal, distance 5 miles from encampment, then for Joliet where we expected to find Mr. Dewey, but he was not there,

Heard he had started from Chicago on foot as the roads were so bad and bridges gone that the stage had not run for nearly two weeks. Got disappointed in not getting any letters. Quite a disappointment to most of us. The Illinois Canal runs through Lockport and Joliet, which I think is the handsomest canal I ever saw. Between the two places after leaving Joliet we had a beautiful prairie road, the best roads we have had since we started. Traveled 22 miles.

Tuesday, March 20th, 1849.

We had a very thunder storm last night accompanied with as heavy wind as I ever witnessed. Roads quite bad. About 4 o'clock a thunder storm came up accompanied by a heavy shower of hail which was very bad, as well for our horses as for ourselves, as we had as much as we could do to hold the horses, and got wet through and has in consequence made us rather late. We went up in the woods by an old Irish shanty and hay stacks, hitching our horses to trees. This is the first night we could not get a barn. Cook and Ten Eyck got team in a slough hole. After half hours work got them out. Traveled 20 miles.

Wednesday, March 21st 1849.

An early start this morning. The horses had rather an uncomfortable night as it was very cold and most of them had no blankets. We found the roads worse than we had heretofore. We have encamped 10 miles from our last

nights encampment, where we arrived at noon and shall lay over here until the roads improve, as it is killing our horses off. We passed the Albion, Kalamazoo, Centerville and Berrien companies from Michigan. Two wagons from about 20 miles back arrived about dark, making 34 wagons we have seen to-day, all for the gold regions. High wind all day. Prairie afire on ahead of us now.

Thursday, March 22nd, 1849.

Six wagons pass us to-day. Two of our horses very sick to-day.

Friday, March 23rd, 1849.

Ten o'clock started for Ottawa, where we arrived about 1 o'clock. Found the roads dried up some, but the mud was so stiff that we found it the hardest pull the horses have had. We hired the man with whom we stopped to draw our wagons to town, as one of our horses has given out and will probably die. This is quite a business place, situated at the junction of the Fox and Illinois rivers, 16 miles above head where the St. Louis run daily. In high water time they run here. There was one boat came up just as we came in town. There has 18 teams gone through to-day. A good many ship here for St. Louis.

Saturday, March 24th, 1849.

The Prairie Bird arrived from St. Louis do-day.

About 25 teams gone through to-day for the gold settlements. Quite a shower of rain and snow this eve.

Sunday, March 25th, 1849.

Steamboat "Alvarado" from St. Louis came in with which we shipped ourselves for that place with the intention of shipping from St. Louis. We left at 5 o'clock in the afternoon with 15 wagons and 18 horses aboard, with quite a good many Californians. The captain of this boat is very much of a gentleman. Took in two two canal boats very heavy loaded, and with load on the Alvarado we had to run quite slow. She was loaded down.

Monday, March 26th, 1849.

Passed through Peoria, which I think is as nice a place as I ever saw. Contains 6000 inhabitants and is quite a business place.

Wednesday, March 28th, 1849.

This day we found the dreariness, for such we had got in, somewhat relieved, as our voyage so far had been through a country that was overflowed with water. The shanties all along the river were under water and all the storehouses along the water front. There has been here as well as back, a great height of water, more so than was ever known before. This day we came among the far famed bluffs of the west. On either side of the river the bluffs rise from 100 to 250 feet high. Quite a contrast with what we have passed. Arrived in St.

Louis at half past 9 o'clock. Traveled since Sunday, 310 miles.

Thursday March 29th, 1849.

Commenced this morning unloading the boat. Got our things out and together about dark; in the meantime had amused ourselves by looking around the city, at mules and seeing about shipping for the Bluffs, but mules are so high priced we concluded not to buy at present, nor could we ship to any advantage, so we have concluded to go by land, shipping most of our luggage. St. Louis is a great business place, much more done here than I had supposed. The streets are very narrow.

Saturday, March 31st, 1849.

Having bought our stores and got them aboard the Eliza Stewart, with Joshua A. Cook to see to them we left town and found one I must say was not sorry to leave. Traveled 15 miles. Roads good.

Monday, April 2nd 1849.

Started this morning in good season. We attended church all day yesterday and listened to a good sermon, there was a revival in the church. After 5 miles travel we were ferried across the Missouri River to St. Charles. Proceeded on. The country was very rough and hilly, timber principally black oak, small growth. Put up at an old planter's who keeps 28 slaves. Traveled 19 miles.

Tuesday, April 3rd, 1849.

Started at 9-30 o'clock. Our road this day was through a better country. Vegetation is very forward here, more so than in our state. All the farmers own more or less slaves. Traveled 25 miles.

Wednesday, April 4th, 1849.

Started at 8 o'clock this morning. Traveled through Prairies all day. The prairies of this state do not appear to be such soil as of our own state, and also of Indiana and Illinois. It is a clay not as rich soil. We passed 9 California wagons to-day. Traveled 25 miles.

Thursday, April 5th 1849.

An early start this morning. The roads very bad all day, up and down hill, and almost as hard drawing down as up the hills. Passed 7 wagons, 5 of them were mule teams. McCauley and Minges quite sick. Made 20 miles.

Friday, April 6th 1849.

To-day our journey has been through prairie land. The roads in some parts good, rather wet. We had a heavy thunder storm most of the afternoon. About 1/2 past 4 it was so violent that we were obliged to put up as we providentially came out to a house. Traveled 20 miles.

Saturday, April 7th 1849.

After traveling 8 miles to-day the news was that 4

miles ahead there was a stream that was impassable, so that we were obliged to halt for a time. It commenced raining at 8 o'clock in the evening and continued throughout the night, at times raining very hard, accompanied with a good deal of thunder and lightning.

Monday, April 9th, 1849.

Yesterday it rained all day. Saturday night also, with a very heavy thunder storm. Left this morning at 9 o'clock, taking a roundabout road to a bridge. Traveled 20 miles. Very bad road indeed. One of our horses very sick all night. Tuesday did not leave our encampment.

Wednesday, April 11th 1849.

An early start this morning for Hunterville. 20 miles distant, at which place we arrived at 4 o'clock, finding the roads very bad. The country was older settled than that we have been traveling through. Passed a good many fine farms with very nice orchards on them. We find a good deal of trouble in procuring wheat bread. The inhabitants use corn bread a great deal, the principal crop being tobacco. We found Hunterville the only town since we left St. Charles, it being the county seat of Randolph County, Court-house here and several stores. We staid there until Tuesday morning, the 17th. Sunday they have no regard for. There was a drunken man in town and the greater

portion of the citizens joined in to have a time with him as they expressed it, throwing clubs, stones, mud and water at him, knocking him down. No officer to interfere, which in my mind did not speak very favorable for the town, although I made several acquaintances which were very fine men. A great many Californians passed through town while here, some 200.

Tuesday, April 17th 1849.

Started for Keytesville, 23 miles from Hunterville where we should have arrived in good season, but found the Chariton Bottom very bad, a half mile of which took us some two hours to get through. The Chariton River had overflowed its banks. Put up at Keytesville. Passed 28 gold wagons.

Wednesday, April 18th 1849.

An early start this morning. Roads some better. Arrived at Brunswick on the Missouri River 12 miles from Keytesville, where we bought some flour and bacon. We were ferried across Grand River 10 rods from where it empties into the Missouri. The bottoms for 4 miles which we traveled, we found very good roads. We stopped at Liberty Hill, a place started by the Mormons. Their intentions were to build temple here, and a very nice place they had for it, but for some cause which I did not learn they did not build. Traveled 16 miles, passed 16 wagons.

Thursday April 19th, 1849.

This morning we made a good start and found good roads, with a very few exceptions. Passed through Carrolton, a place 16 miles from our last encampment. Passed one mile out of town and encamped, waiting for Cooley who had stopped to buy a horse. He came up about 9 o'clock in the evening. Made 17 miles, passed 18 wagons.

Friday, April 20th, 1849.

Half past six o'clock found us on the road. We encamped on the edge of Waucandaw Prairie, which is 22 miles long. We found the roads very good. Passed 28 wagons and encamped by a planter's house who had a very nice plantation. There is some 20 wagons encamped here. In crossing the prairie saw a nice drove of deer of about 20. Several Californians went after them, but did not succeed in shooting any. For the last 2 or 3 days we have passed some very nice farms. The country is better than it has been. We made 26 miles this day.

Saturday, April 21st 1849.

An early start. We found ourselves in Richmond, 2 miles from where we encamped, when most of the wagons laid in their bacon and we bought a horse. We found the roads very hilly. The days travel made 12 miles where we stopped and laid in a quantity of corn. Found it cheaper than we had farther back. The evening looks

very showery, but no rain. Sunday, quite a warm pleasant day. 13 wagons encamped here all day. They are the first we have met besides ourselves who did not travel on Sunday.

Monday, April 23rd 1849.

Raining very hard this morning. We concluded to lay over another day for fear of not getting in as good quarters. 18 wagons encamped here to-night. This evening we gave Rev. Mr. Allen an invitation to preach us a sermon which he did. His text was, "The hope of the righteous is everlasting" and an excellent sermon we had.

Tuesday, April 24th 1849.

Started at 6 o'clock this morning. Traveled through a very fine farming country. The country grows better and better every day. Made Liberty, 20 miles.

Wednesday, April 25th, 1849.

Left Liberty at 1 o'clock and drove 12 miles out of town. At Liberty we finished buying our harness and had our teams completed.

Thursday, April 26th 1849.

An early start this morning. We found the roads very hilly all day; more so than we have had heretofore. Forded the Platt River about noon. Made 22 miles travel. Encamped 18 miles from St. Joseph.

Friday, April 27th 1849.

This morning Ten Eyck left us and went on to St. Joseph. We lay here till he returns, Cook came in this

evening and left Ten Eyck in St. Joseph.

Saturday April 28th 1849.

Struck camp at 7 o'clock and arrived at St. Joseph at 4 o'clock. Traveled through a fine country. Found St. Joseph full of adventurers. Some reports as regards hostilities of the Indians which we do not regard. Made 18 miles.

Wednesday May 2nd 1849.

Having got most of our things together we started for the ferry 5 miles above St. Joseph. During the time we laid here the wind was very high and we were annoyed by the dust which flew in a perfect storm. There are a few cases of cholera here. We have made arrangements to join three or four companies together when we cross the river, making --- men. At 10 o'clock, the moon shining bright, we concluded to ferry to-night. We got across by 2 o'clock in the morning.

Tuesday, May 8th 1849.

Our company this day all came together and made our final start for the South Pass, having formed in with several small companies for our mutual protection and welfare across the Plains. The company consisting of 57 men. Made for Wolf Creek, 16 miles from our encampment. We found the road very good, but crooked and hilly. Arrived at Wolf Creek at 3 o'clock, but found a great many teams there and the crossing very bad.

All hands turning in, by cutting brush and filling in some of the mud holes we succeeded in getting across by 9 o'clock in the evening. Ten Eyck and Cook's wagon turned over in the mud. No bones broken, nor wagon. Having a very hard days work of it, encamped half mile from the creek where we got water for cooking and animals. We passed including those encamped, 175 wagons to-day. Very warm.

Wednesday, May 9th 1849.

At half past ten this morning we struck camp, having made complete arrangements so that we formed one company. The country we found very rolling, but of excellent quality, withall, very pleasant sight. Passed through an Indian Mission of some 8 or 10 houses, one horse mill, 100 acres improvement, very pleasant place. Traveled 10 miles where we went half mile off the road for wood and water. Found some 30 wagons encamped, which, with our own of 14 made quite a show. The plains are covered with Californians. To-night we had a regular picket established.

Thursday, May 10th 1849.

Struck camp at 6 o'clock this morning. Found the roads hardly as good as yesterday. Plenty of water. Encamped at 5 o'clock near water, but wood very scarce; had to bring it over 1 mile. Made 15 miles, saw a

prairie wolf to-day.

Friday May 11th 1849.

Catched up camp this morning at 7 o'clock. Made 12 miles, halted and baited our teams. At 2 o'clock we started again. Met three men on horse back who had come 20 miles, and met 356 wagons. The country is not as rolling as it has been; growing more level every day. Encamped soon after sunset. 25 miles to-day. 150 wagons in the neighborhood.

Saturday, May 12th 1849.

Up at 4 o'clock this morning and started at 7-30. Made 5 miles where we came up to ---- Creek. Found rather bad crossing. The captain ordered a halt until Monday morning, very much against the wishes of the company. While we laid here some 400 wagons passed us. More reports from day to day as regards the hostility of the Pawnee Indians. Here we found a man had been buried, being the fourth one since we left St. Jo. and another not expected to live.

Monday May 14th 1849.

Up at 3 and ready to start at 5. Raining very hard. Crossed ---- Creek without any trouble. Found the country more broken and uneven to-day. Good watering and camping all day. Made 25 miles where we encamped at 5 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 15th 1849.

Up at 4, started at 6, came up to Blue River at 2 o'clock, crossing after some delay of other teams ahead of us. Encamped 2 miles from our crossing. The Blue country is very broken. Fine quarries of lime stone. Made 20 miles and encamped at 5-30 o'clock. Found another grave to-day on the Blue River.

Wednesday, May 16th 1849.

Started at 7 o'clock this morning. Entered the Independence Trail about 10 A.M. Found the country very broken in the forenoon, afternoon much more level. Some very fine prospects. We had plenty of company to-day, some 200 wagons together all day. Found another grave to-day, of B.F. Adams, who died with inflammation of the lungs. Encamped at 6. Made 25 miles. Poor water.

Thursday, May 17th 1849.

Off at 6-30 this morning, traveling in company with a great many teams. The country very broken, road crossing many ravines. Three wagons getting ahead of train and also several others traveled on and are encamped waiting for the others to come up. Made 25 miles. Passed 2 graves to-day, one was a young man from Kentucky who was killed by a mule.

Friday, May 18th 1849.

Off at 6 A.M. Crossed Sandy Creek about 11 o'clock. Made for Small Blue where we arrived about sunset. Made 20 miles. Had a very severe thunder storm. The lightning was very sharp and continued all night with only a few drops of rain.

Saturday, May 19th 1849.

Off at our usual hour. Heavy wind all day. Encamped 15 miles from our last night's camp about 2 o'clock, where we lay until Monday morning.

Monday, May 21st 1849.

This morning we left part of the company we had been traveling with as the arrangements did not suit our purposes. So with four other wagons besides our own we started, traveling up the Blue 25 miles where we encamped for the night. While laying over Sunday, Bryant with a train of pack mules passed us.

Tuesday May 22nd 1849.

Off at 6 o'clock. Struck across for the Platte River where we encamped on the bottom 2 miles from the river, making 25 miles this day, passing a great many towns. Saw 4 antelope and one prairie wolf. The wolf young Dodge took after on horseback, has not come in yet.

Wednesday, May 23rd 1849.

Young Post and A. Mingos was off after young Dodge

Trip Across the Plains

Tuesday May 22nd 1849

Off at 6 o'clock. Struck across for the Platte River where we encamped on the bottom 2 miles from the river, making 25 miles this day, passing a great many towns. Saw 4 antelope and one prairie wolf. The wolf young Dodge took after on horseback, has not come in yet.

Wednesday, May 23rd 1849.

21 Young Post and A. Mingos was off after young Dodge at 4 this morning, supposing he was lost or some accident had happened to him. Dodge came in about 9 o'clock, he had gone ahead to the fort. Mingos and Post came up at night, tired and very much put out over finding Dodge in camp. Passed through Fort Childs about 3 o'clock where we found a great many emigrants, also some 50 government wagons starting out with troops for Fort Hall. Fort Childs consists of a few sod houses, a trading establishment and post office, although they are building on a different scale. Encamped 5 miles beyond the fort. Made 18 miles. Cooley sold his wagon to an emigrant and joined with Cook and Ten Eyck.

Thursday, May 24th, 1849

Off at 8 this morning. Passed a good many encampments. Traveling along the Platte. Roads not as good as we found before we struck the river. Nights and forenoons we find very cold, afternoons very warm. Encamped half mile beyond the government train. Made 20 miles. Raining all day. Food better.

Friday, May 25th, 1849.

22 A late start this morning on account of the heavy storm of last night which came up about sundown, accompanied by a very high wind which blowed the tents all down and drenched the sleepers, some of whom were up in shirt tails holding the tents up, while others were holding to the wagons for fear of blowing away. Created quite a laugh in the morning, some thinking the elephant was in the neighborhood. Passed a good many teams. Made 15 miles. Food good.

Saturday, May 26th, 1849

Off at 6 o'clock this morning. Found the roads not very good. Met 4 wagons with buffalo robes from Fort Laramie. Took a turn among the bluffs and found some of the handsomest views I ever saw. Encamped at 4 o'clock. Food tolerable. Made 15 miles.

Monday, May 28th 1849

Yesterday 500 teams passed us while we were in camp. Haney shot a deer and brought a quarter to camp on which we feasted, being the first fresh meat we have had. Made 20 miles, camped late, food poor. Found two nice springs of water.

Tuesday, May 29th 1849.

23 Off at our usual hour, passing a good many teams encamped. This morning our roads lay through and on the bluffs and somewhat sandy. We are in the buffalo country. Saw a few at a distance. Heard of four that was killed. Some of the meat was brought into camp to-night. Made 25 miles. Camped 1/4 mile from the river. Feed and water poor. We were all busy eating supper when the startling cry of INDIANS! INDIANS! BUFFALO! BUFFALO! caused each man to drop knife and fork and out with his gun. We found the noise and confusion was caused by two men driving a buffalo into camp which they had shot and run about 6 miles. Each man took his station. The buffalo in the meantime making directly for our camp. All were ready and give him a warm reception with ball and powder.

Wednesday, May 30th 1849.

Did not move to-day on account of heavy thunder storm of last night and rain this morning. Rained all day, a regular cold, October, stormy day, almost snow.

Thursday, May 31st 1849.

Off at 6-30. Roads very bad. Cold high wind. Made 15 miles. No wood. Good feed. Encamped 4 miles from the ford. Saw a buffalo shot by some of our neighbors across the river.

Friday, June 1st, 1849.

Off at 6. Crossed the ford by 10 o'clock. Found the fording not deep, but the bed of the river being quicksand made it hard hauling through. While resting our teams across the river, up came two buffalo on full run with two men chasing them. We had a shot at them, but did nothing more than to make them run faster. Very warm afternoon. Made 10 miles. Good feed.

Saturday, June 2nd 1849.

24 One hour after starting this morning we came up to an Indian encampment. Two French traders were with them who were married to some of the squaws. Traded some old clothes for moccasins. Struck across the bluffs to the North Fork, which is 18 miles. Camped in Ash Hollow. Found plenty of wood and good water. Feed poor. Made 20 miles.

Sunday, June 3rd 1849.

On account of poor feed we were obliged to move camp this morning. We followed up the North Fork along the bluff under which we traveled making a fine and picturesque sight. Roads sandy. Made 5 miles.

Monday, June 4th, 1849.

Off at six. Roads very sandy, which made our hauling very heavy. Bryant passed us to-day. Camped in good feed. Made 15 miles. In digging for water we found it quite salt. Very stony around.

Tuesday, June 5th, 1849.

Moved at 6-15 this morning. Found the road sandy all day. Camped at 4 o'clock near a nice stream of water. Had a very nice specimen of a western storm; high wind, heavy thunder, sharp lightning and hail. A strip of woods on the left all day. Made 17 miles.

Wednesday, June 6th, 1849.

25 Off at 7 o'clock. Found the road improved. Came in sight of Courthouse Rock soon after starting, also of Chimney Rock. Found a very nice spring. Road good. Camped opposite the Courthouse Rock 18 miles from our last night encampment. Some of our men made a visit there and returned at half past 9 o'clock very well pleased with the view. Good feed, plenty of mosquitoes, hail and rain.

Thursday, June 7th, 1849.

Struck camp at 7 o'clock. Found the road on the bottom very wet and muddy. Camped at 5. Made 15 miles. Had another thunder storm with hail. Four wagons from Salt Lake came along going to the states. Improved the opportunity to send some letters back to our friends. Cook and Haney traded their wagon off for a mule and joined Mingos and Burrall.

Friday, June 8th, 1849.

Struck camp at 7 o'clock, following the river 8 miles. Ascended to table land. Our teams were very much fatigued. Very hot day. Good roads. Encamped near a blacksmith shop. Found a good spring of water. Feed not very good. Made 18 miles.

Saturday, June 9th, 1849.

Off at 6-30. Crossed over the bluffs. Good roads but rather sandy. In the afternoon cross a very bad and muddy creek, also Horse Creek. Mingos taken sick to-day. Encamped on Platte River. Good feed and water. Made 18 miles.

26

Monday, June 11th, 1849.

Sturck camp at 6. Named this encampment Mosquito Flat on account of the great quantities of them. They bothered our animals very much. Sunday was a very warm day. Thunder storms all around us. Roads good. Passed a great many teams to-day. Encamped 2 miles from Laramie River and 4 miles from the fort. Good feed. Made 25 miles to-day.

Tuesday, June 12th, 1849.

Sturck camp 5-30. Crossed Laramie Fork. A good many teams crossing here. Had to raise our wagon boxes to keep the water from running in. Stopped at the fort one hour. No troops there. One trader and a blacksmith shop. Good many wagons repairing here and some thrown away. Roads a good deal up and down hill, sandy and a good deal of gravel. Came up to Warm Springs where we watered our animals, taking on water. Raining quite hard when we encamped. Made 15 miles.

Wednesday, June 13th, 1849.

Sturck camp at six. Found the roads good all day. Very much crowded by teams, passing a good many who were rigging their wagons over. Found the wild sage in abundance. Crossing a small stream several times, encamped at 3 o'clock in a flat of this creek in good feed, wood and water. Made 10 miles. Minges and R. L. Dodge quite sick. Our encampment was the pleasantest

27 and best one we have had as yet. Half a mile from us was a very high peak on which Misner and Haney climbed to the top and brought in a young eagle, calling the peak Misner's Peak. Encamped on Dry Tree Creek.