

1849 TRAIL DIARIES

Edwin Bryant

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March 26, 1849 Edwin Bryant had assembled 42 men for trip to California

APRIL 1849

April 1- Sunday

Gray: At Independence

April 2 - Monday

Bryant: Arrived at Independence, and was encamped on Neville Ross farm, where he was buying mules from a large number of Santa Fe traders present

Gray: At Independence

Josselyn: The "South Zanesville Company" of '49's was composed of 10 members. They left Zanesville April 2, 1849. Each of the ten men put \$200 in a pool for expenses. Each furnished a team of horses and a wagon, fully equipped with camp utensils, beds, wagon tools, etc. They went westward over Ohio's roads to Cincinnati, thence by steamboat to Independence.

April 3 - Tuesday

Gray: At Independence

Price: Hugh Morgan Price and three others had left St. Louis on the steamer, Mary Blane, on April 3, 1849

April 4 - Wednesday

Gray: At Independence

April 5 - Thursday

Gray: In Camp No 1 near Indep+

April 6 - Friday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

April 7 - Saturday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+, wrote home

Price: Landing 3 miles of Independence, arriving a 4 P.M. This evening we laid our bodies in an old stage coach or wagon bed. Rainy. Disagreeable and muddy. Hard beginning for California boys. Missouri River full of sand bars and snags. All the way up its banks are very broken, rocky & hilly. (Corrected) Now and then a flat cottonwood marshy bottom.

April 8 - Sunday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price: Arrived at Independence the 8th. This night we lay under a shed in the suburbs of town.

April 9 - Monday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price; This evening we rented a house of Mr. Joseph Stone at one dollar per month.

Good health enjoyed among us in Independence. Here F. Price had a spell of sickness, cold settled on the lungs and measles connected with cold. Here we found the virtue was in cold water, its effects producing good health immediately.

Independence is situated in a rolling and fertile country containing about 1600 inhabitants. Articles of provisions and clothing about as cheap as in Ohio. Business is conducted on quite a busy scale here. Cattle, horses and mules somewhat cheaper than in Ohio or Sty. Louis. Plenty to be bought.

We remained in Independence until 20th April making tent and preparing utensils, food and other necessities for the journey across the plains and mountains. Nothing of great importance during this time.

April 10 - Tuesday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep +

Price: In Independence

April 11 - Wednesday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price: In Independence

April 12 - Thursday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price: In Independence

April 13 - Friday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price: In Independence

April 14 - Saturday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+, Ice 3/4 of an inch in thickness

Price: In Independence

April 15 - Sunday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price: In Independence

April 16 - Monday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+

Price: In Independence

April 17 - Tuesday

Gray: In Camp No 1 Indep+ (Total of 13 days in Camp No 1)

Price: In Independence

April 18 - Wednesday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Price: In Independence

Josselyn: Arrived at Independence Landing at day light and spent the day in getting up the bluff. Camped just up the hill. Day fine.

April 19 - Thursday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Price: In Independence

Josselyn: Spent the day in packing our goods. Weather fine.

Bryant: Before leaving Independence gave Missouri neighbors a Kentucky barbecue....all Kentuckians and Missourians were drunk as lords and were unable either to dance or accompany the women home.

A reporter for the St. Louis Republican had stated "the Bryant party would start for California April 20.

On the date of Edwin Bryant's departure there was gathered in Independence approximately 1,500 emigrants and the number was swelled hourly by new arrivals. Specific attention was focused on Bryant's party which numbered forty-eight men. It was provided with eleven tents, one wagon, an Indi rubber boat capable of rescuing and bearing the wagon bed, a medicine chest, hospital stores and other necessities. Each man had three mules for his own use, with three extra to each mess of four, and was armed with a rifle, a pair of holster and a pair of belt pistols. They carried provisions enough to sustain them for 130 days. A reporter observed that, "For the expedition, if not for comfort, this company is better prepared than any in this field.

Charles Dulaney; In his letter to his brother, Robert, the Kentucky barbecue and assured his mother that he had remained sober (p.40)

April 20 - Friday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: In camp all day putting things in order. Weather fine.

Price: April 20th moved into the country 2 miles south of Independence. Having bought our mules a day or two prior to this time we were preparing our harness, feeding up our mules &c, the number of mules bought were 5, but finding they were insufficient I bought a pony of the Indians on Kansas River.

April 21 - Saturday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: Left camp and went into Independence and found it to be quite a business place. Fine weather.

April 22 - Sunday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: Stayed in camp all day. Weather fine.

April 23 - Monday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence, wrote home

Josselyn: Rain nearly all day which prevented us from being in no hurry put it off until the next day.

April 24 - Tuesday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: Left camp at 8 o'clock and drove 6 miles and camped three miles S W of Independence. Fine day.

April 25 - Wednesday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: Left camp at 8 1/2 o'clock and drove to Mr. Rice's (6 Miles) where corn was plenty at 1.25 per bll

April 26 - Thursday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: Drove back 1 mile to a smith shop and got our tyre cut. Fine day.

April 27 - Friday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: In camp all day working at wagons, fixing ox tongue, etc. Fine day.

Price: 27th April moved out to Mr. Rice's 8 miles from Independence. Here Capt. McCaddon of the Zanesville Company died with the cholera.

In laying in provisions we determined in nothing but the real substantial of life. Our provisions consisted of 600 lbs. flour, 440 lbs. bacon, 227 lbs. crackers, 25 lbs. rice, 20 lbs. sugar, 18 lbs. coffee, 1 lb. sassafras tea, 85 lbs. salt for selves and mules.

April 28 - Saturday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence

Josselyn: Hitched up and drove 8 miles to Blue River; before leaving Rice's we bought corn enough to feed our teams for 6 to 7 days thinking the grass would be good enough for grazing by the time the corn was out. Weather fine.

Price: 29th very cool weather, rainy nearly every day
8 miles south of Independence the country is beautifully interspersed with prairie and timber. Well watered with fine springs. Limestone soil.

April 29 - Sunday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence
Wrote home

Josselyn: Remained at Blue River all day. Weather fine.

Price: At Rice's 8 miles from Independence

April 30 - Monday

Gray: In Camp No 2, 8 miles out from Independence
Wrote home

Josselyn: Left camp at 9 o'clock and drove to Lone Elm 16 miles. Weather fine. Good roads but water scarce.

Price: At Rice's, 8 miles from Independence

MAY 1849

May 1 - Tuesday

Gray: Started in earnest at 10 O'clock, a beautiful day, but very cold at sunrise, road good, with exception of a few steep hills & some sloughs, two of our 8 wagons broke their tongues, detain+ 2 hours to repair them and the whole afternoon (this other) . Stop+ this other side the Big Blue, had dinner & then moved forward 3 miles & encamped; Slept in the common stock wagon, on the anvils & spades & this wagon the common property of the C+ received no attention particular has no curtains & the storm consequently beat in, wetting my companion & myself pretty well, awoke with lame back & a pain in the side. The name of this place is call+ "Point of the Woods" - water scarce & little wood. Distance third day 12 miles Making from Independence 20 miles

Price: At Rice's, 8 miles from Independence

May 2 - Wednesday

Price: At Rice's, 8 miles from Independence

May 3 - Thursday

Price: At Rice's, 8 miles from Independence

May 4 - Friday

Price: At Rice's, 8 miles from Independence

May 5 - Saturday

Price: 5th May left Rice's and travelled 4 miles then encamped till Monday morning

May 6 - Sunday

Price: 4 miles from Rice's

C. Dulaney: Charles Dulaney, letter to his brother Robert L. Dulaney, Camp Bryant, Jackson County, Missouri, May 6, 1849

May 7 - Monday

Price: Travelled 8 miles, encamped near Big Blue

** Route unknown..John O. Boggs, Lewis Jones, John Bartleson, Major Hickman, "crossed the plains with ox teams (Possibly with Hudspeth train)"

May 8 - Tuesday

Price: Travelled 7 or 8 miles, King Bolt crossed into Territory at 4 P.M.

May 9 - Wednesday

Price: Travelled 6 miles. Today we spent in unpacking and repacking; finding our load too heavy and we commenced selling and throwing out unnecessaries.

May 10 - Thursday

Price: Travelled 6 mi. Moderate distance; passed Lone Elm

May 11 - Friday

May 12 - Saturday

May 13 - Sunday

May 14 - Monday

May 15 - Tuesday

May 16 - Wednesday

May 17 - Thursday

May 18 - Friday

May 19 - Saturday

May 20 - Sunday

SOURCES

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