

DIARY OF A FORTY-NINER

by Hugh Morgan Price

September 10, 1967, 1205 East 10th St.,
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Mrs. A. L. Bonnewitz:

My sister-in-law has forwarded to me your inquiries about Hugh Morgan Price's DIARY OF A FORTY-NINER and the genealogy of the Price family. I am happy to give you all the information I have but it will be disappointing in so far as more details about Raytown are concerned. (Rice's campground was within the present city of Raytown, Missouri).

All the records of the gold rush trip are written in a small leather-bound book and everything in it is faithfully transcribed in the typed copy that David Price donated to the library. (A copy was donated to the Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, Missouri). It has always been a keen disappointment to me that so few personal notes were included in the record, I have several other small books in which our Grandfather jotted down notes and observations through the years but there is nothing more on the trip to California. His entries in these later books were made at irregular intervals and are not in consecutive order.

I can give information on the price family but not so much as I would like. I have been working on the family history for several years but find myself impeded by the destruction of records during the Civil War.

If I can be of any further help, please feel free to write and ask. I expect to continue my work on the family history and will be glad to share any information I may find.

Sincerely yours,
Mary Price Williams
Mrs. S. R. Williams

A copy of this diary was loaned to the Raytown Historical Society by Gordon H. Price, 1901 S. Arlington, Independence, Missouri:

DIARY OF A FORTY-NINER by Hugh Morgan Price

Franklin Price Record Book, April 1st, 1849

March 20th, W.J. Donaldson, H.M.Price, C. Price, F. Price

left home for California, the weather very disagreeable, raining and cold. The first night we stayed at Keene, Coshocton County. Next we stayed at Montrose, Muskingum Co., the weather the same as yesterday. The next day we arrived at Zanesville about 9 o'clock in the morning and laid over there until 4 o'clock the next day when we took passage on the steamboat Jenny Lind for Marietta, at which place we arrived on the evening of the next day. Laid around there 4 or 5 hours and then left on the messenger for Cincinnati, at which place we landed on the 26th of March 9 o'clock a.m.

At Cincinnati we stayed 2 days during our stay we visited the National theater; bought a wagon, harness for 4 mules, and a keg of powder, 2 rifles and other things. I also bought a pair of pants and 2 shirts and lost one that I took from home at the boarding house. On the evening of the 27th of March we left on the Belle of the West for St. Louis, passing Louisville the next morning. H.M.P., C.P. and I got up and walked through the town before breakfast which was very good exercise. We got aboard again and moved down the Ohio, stopping at different towns in Indiana and Illinois.

(Editor's note: Franklin Price entered the above notes on the first two pages of the book; then turned it over to H.M. Price, who continued the records.)

-2- Company of H. Morgan Price, Calvin Price, Franklin Price & Joshua Donaldson left Millersburg, Ohio (home) for California, March 20, 1849.
20th evening at Keene, Coshocton Co., Ohio

21st night, Monroe's, 6 mi. from Zanesville.

22nd, Zanesville where we remained till 23rd evening, when we shipped on Jenny Lind for Marietta, arriving 24th in evening. Left Marietta at 4 a.m. from Cincinnati on steamer MESSENGER NO. 2.

Arrived Cincinnati 26th. left 28th evening BELLE OF THE WEST for St. Louis, MO. Nothing of importance save the great stir & bustle among the different people of the different places for Cal.

In marking the physiognomies of the emigrants for California we at once can determine it is not confined to the young and poor only to grey hairs as well as youth, rich and poor, literate and illiterate, halt and maimed, white and black.

In St. Louis we tarried until Tuesday evening, 3 April,

when we took up our journey again on the steamer MARY BLANE for Independence, Mo. (Landing 3 miles of Ind.) where we arrived 7th Apr. at 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.

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

9th 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 that 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 are somewhat cheaper here 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 20th moved into the country 2 miles south of Independence. Having bought our mules a day or two prior to this time we here preparing our harness, feeding up our mules & c, the number of miles bought were 5, but finding they were insufficient I bought a pony of the Indians on Kansas River.

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 our provisions we determined to lay in nothing but the real substantials 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.

29th very cool weather, raining nearly every day.

8 miles south of Independence the country is beautifully interspersed with prairie and timber. Well watered with fine springs. Limestone soil.

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

7 Travelled 8 miles, encamped near Big Blue

8 Travelled 7 or 8 miles, King bolt crossed into the Territory at 4 P.M.

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

10 Travelled 6 mi. Moderate distance; passed Lone Elm.

11 A fair distance.

12 25 miles to Otter Creek.

13 To Kansas River 15 miles. The distance to this stream from Independence was about 100 miles.

14 Crossed the river in morning. Remained all day.

15 Trav. 4 miles. So far we found plentiful supply of water in small streams in prairies and larger streams lined with timber. Wood only to be found on the larger streams. Country undulating but not very large hills.

16th May Joined Mississippi Co., under Capt. Winchel of Vicksburg (6 Teams). Crossed this day what we called Little vermilion 16 m.

17th Left Mississippi Co. 20 m

18th travelled 30 m

Rough and sandy for 40 miles after crossing the Kansas.

2 days before reaching Kansas River we overtook a Chicago, Ill. Comp. of 4 men, 1 wagon, which we agreed to travel with. Names I.S. Winn, I.B. Weir, Joseph Clever, and Hasey.

Friday, May 18th, 1849 We find a plentiful supply of water for our mules but no good drinking water for a few days travel. Limestone soil. Very uneven and hilly--Country of the Pawnee Louos (?) This is my birthday 29 years of age. May God Prosper our Journey and give us a safe and happy return to our relatives and friends in the States, is my

prayer. 25 m

Saturday 19th Come into the St. Joe road. Any quantity of ox teams, 25 m

Sunday, 20th Overtook several mule teams, passed Vanbibber (of Miss.) and Amy Hiram Roberts, negro woman. Very cool and chilly 20 m

Monday, 21st May, 1849 Camped on R F P on Big Blue. Overcoat and gloves very necessary and yet very comfortable. Cold, windy and chilly. 25 m

Tuesday, 22nd This day we saw a fine pond of water on a plain, a beautiful sight. Camp on Little Blue. 25 m

Wednesday, 23rd Today we reached the vicinity of the Platte River. Camped a short distance below Ft. Kearney (Formerly Ft. Childs) Here was our first sight of elk. 20 m

Thursday, 24th Arrived on Platte near Ft. Kearney. Wood scarce. Water muddy, worse than Missouri River. This night we had a dreadful storm of wind, rain, thunder & Lightning. 20 m

Friday, 25th May 1849 Arrived at Ft. Kearney at 12. Camped 2 miles up from the Ft. 7 m Here meat, flour, lead, sugar, coffee, tobacco, powder and many other articles were worth almost nothing. California emigrants overloaded and giving away their articles of food, etc. The Ft. is about one mile from Platte River in a beautiful prairie bottom of fine soil and looks like a healthy situation.

Saturday 26th Left at 12m. Distance travelled 12.

Sunday 27th On Platte River. We can see plenty of game. 18m

Monday 28th May Platte bottom looks to be very productive. 2 miles wide, very sandy, bluff uneven and very rough..23m

Tuesday 29th On Platte. 20 m

Wednesday 30th This day very stormy, cold, wet and dreary. Travelled 8 m

Thursday 31st No wood but cedar--that far away in ravines. 20 m

Friday 1st June 1849 Lay all night near lower ford south fork Platte 20 m

Saturday 2nd Travelled to upper ford and crossed this

evening. River 120 rods wide or more, probably. Sandy bottom, sink in.

Sunday June 3rd 1849 Lay up until 12m, then crossed from South to North Fork. Here we used buffalo chips for fuel. 10m

Monday, 4th Up north fork Platte. We found today some ash & pine timber. Travelled down ash hollow today. We saw in it 2 or 3 fine springs of cool water. 22 m

Tuesday 5th Road very sandy. Here we found soothing springs issuing from the earth to soothe the thirsty souls and quench the parching thirst. 18 m

Wednesday 6th Up north fork Platte. Terrible hail storm today & heavy rain. 17 m

Thursday 7th June Sandy road, then wet and sobby. Another hail storm. Passed tower or church rock seven miles from the road. 20 m

Friday 8th June Camped this evening 4 miles from Chimney Rock. 28 m

Saturday 9th This morning visited Chimney Rock and inscribed my name on it. It is said to be 250 ft. in height. Camped near Scott's Bluffs. Found some good springs. Passed Frenchman's blacksmith shop (Traded mules) 20 m

Sunday 10th Today I found a Beautiful spring one eighth mile to the right of the road from Ft. Laramie. 20 m

Monday 11th Arrived this day at Ft. Laramie at 11 A.M. Crossed ferry on Laramie River at 3 P.M. and travelled over to North Fork Platte. Ft. Laramie is situated on Laramie River in a bottom 3 miles from North F. Platte. 14 m

Tuesday, 12th Soon this morning we drove out onto the dividing ridge. Passed Warm Spring and crossed Ritter Creek. 25 m

Wednesday 13th We are now among the Black Hills. Here we find mountains, hills and but few valleys covered with pine. Crossed Horse Shoe Creek and went up the largest hill. Yet in sight of Laramie Peak and have been 2 or 3 days. This Peak appears to be covered with snow. Clouds are very visible between us and the peak. 23 m

Thursday 14th We travelled this day among the visible remains of some earthquake or volcanic eruption. Generally

sandy and red like burned brick or calcined rock. Crossing La Bonte. 20 m

Friday 15th Crossed several creeks. Box Elder, then Graves Creek to Platte. 25 m

Saturday 16th June 1849 Up Platte to the ferry. From Ft. Laramie to the ferry on the Platte we found no scarcity of wood and generally plenty of water. Running streams and springs also. 20 m

Sunday 17th June Here we wait at the ferry probably until tomorrow or next day. I have many reflections and think often of home and friends left behind, but alas! I am journeying from home with Holmes County boys, 4 of us in number. Calvin is now out hunting for game, Franklin & Joshue out guarding our mules, and myself the wagon. I had seen times & seasons ere I left for Cal. but no troubles, trials & difficulties attending this toilsome and tedious journey no person unacquainted with such can describe or even imagine. Other difficulties than the thought of home we see. Teams of all kinds are giving out and what the poor mortals will then do I cannot say. many are now beginning to open their eyes, by finding out what they have undertaken, others anxiously desiring to return home again. It's a general rush, every person wishing to get before, and jading his animals to death. As for us 4 Holmes Co. boys our team is yet in good order and we hope by the guidance of an all wise Creator to reach the Eldorado or long desired spot of the west. 10 o'clock 7 25 min. A.M. 17th June 1849. Crossed the river this evening.

Monday 18th June 1849 Up Platte short distance when we left the river for plains and mountains. 20 m

Tuesday 19th Passed the Mineral Springs and camped at Willow Spring. Passed several lakes the last 2 days said to be very poisonous. 18 m

Wednesday 20th This day we passed ponds in farm but instead of finding water in them they were coated with thick alkali resembling carbonate of soda or saleratus and tasting nearly like saleratus. We tried the experiment of using it in bread and found it served the same purpose as saleratus. This evening we camped on Sweet Water 1 1/2 miles above Independence Rock. Grass very poor from Platte to Sweet Water. 22 m

Thursday 21st This morning I inscribe my name on Independence rock where thousands of others were inscribed. Up Sweet Water past Devil's Gate. This is a grand curiosity and a sublime spectacle. Close to this Gate we were

unfortunate to break our wagon tongue. 18 m

Friday 22 nd. Up Sweet Water today we found ice in a marshy place about 1 foot under ground. Ice 6 or 8 inches thick.
18m

Saturday 23rd June 1849 Up Sweet Water today and over bluffs, etc. The last sixty miles is very sandy. 24m

Sunday 24th Crossed several small streams & camped on Willow Creek. Today we found snow in abundance. Used it.
20 m

Monday 25th This day capped the climax as we travelled through the great South Pass of the Rocky Mountains so notable in History and so much spoken of in the States. Camped near Pacific Spring. This pass is no great curiosity save its name, as a person travelling would not know when in it were he not informed of the fact.

(Editor's note: The following note was found on a fly leaf--I am now in what is called the point calumination of the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains, en route for California, June 25, 12 o'clock & 20 minutes P.M. 1849)

Tuesday 26th June Crossed Little Sandy River. Today we passed the Ft. Birder on Salt Lake or rather we came to the forks took what is called sublets cut-off leaving the Ft. Brider road on our left. Camped on the Big Sandy. 23m

Wednesday 27th Today we travelled over hills and plains toward Green River. 25 m

Thursday 28th Yet over the hills to Green River which we reached today at 11 A.M. by taking a very early start this morning. We found not a drop of water between Big Sandy and Green River, a distance of 45 miles. Crossed the river in a wagon bed. 20 m

Friday 29th June Remained at Green River. A great many people were waiting to get across the river. (Sunburnt).

Saturday 30th June Left Green River at 8 A.M. and camped on a small stream or creek. 10 m

Sunday 1st July Over hills and mountains towards Bear River. 25 m

Monday 2nd The same as the day before but worse roads. Today we had to let the wagon down a rocky place with a rope. 17 m

Tuesday 3rd Travelled down Bear River. 28 m

Wednesday 4 July Still on Bear River. No celebration save a few rounds with pistol saluting the ear. This river presents a beautiful valley with plenty of good grass. 23 m

(Editor's note-- The following meditation found in an isolated portion of the book)

Bear River, Oregon Territory, July 4th, 1849, 100 miles from Ft. Hall:

This day 73 years since the Americans stood in ranks prepared by every tie that bound them to Heaven, Earth, Home, Father, Mother, Wife, Son, Daughter & Happiness to resist old "Mother England's" tyranny which she had been exercising over those of her own blood in North America whom it certainly was and ought was and to have been her object to protect from every assault of other nations and to throw an arm of comfort & consolation around, But ah! Her destiny was sealed and the gems she most wished to trample became too powerful for a tyrant to crush beneath a wanton's foot--caused Her to tremble like an aspen leaf and ask of the Sons of Union & Freedom a cessation of the clatter of arms and an amicable adjustment of all difficulties resting between the two contending nations, which finally was acceded to.

Sentiment, while on the plains over 1000 miles from the States and hundreds from California whither we are enroute.

The Ladies of the United States of North America--The Fairest in the World. The brightest gems of Earth. The things or creations which we most desire to see & be with, that make life a joy, Home a Heaven, a place of Peace, Contentment & Enjoyment, a Place (Home Sweet Home) the most desirable of all Earthly Places or spots, a feast to the Heart & Soul to look upon them. Millions to enjoy their society. May they long live happily, live contentedly, live in the enjoyment of all they desire and at the appointed time cease to live on Earth only to take an exit for a Brighter and sweeter home beyond this Terrestrial Sphere. July 4th 1849, 1 o'clock & 16 minutes--While resting at noon today. Written by H. Morgan Price. A happy return to our loves we sons all crave.

Feelingly ---Our Mother, Fathers, Sisters & Brothers. God be with them, give them life, Health, Peace & Plenty upon Earth and the Enjoyment of the Society again of their Sons now absent for California. July 4th, 1849 H. M Price

Thursday 5 July Today we passed Bear and Soda Springs, Steam Boat Springs, also many others, and left Bear River a few miles to camp. 30 m

Friday 6th Travelling on dividing ridge between Bear River

and eastern Mts. on waters and Pacific Ocean. 26 m

Saturday 7th Arrived within 5 m of Ft. Hall. 25 m

Sunday 8th Travelled by Ft. Hall and camped 3 mi west of Ft. 8m

July 9, 10, & 11th, 1849 Remained at (3 miles west of Ft. Hall) preparing our pack saddles and rigging ourselves and mules for packing. Ft. Hall is on *(Editor's note: Name of river omitted - he failed to ascertain it) River in a fine prairie with an abundance of grass to sustain a large quantity of cattle & horses. Used at this time only as a trading post. Country delightful and soil sandy.

Thursday 12th Commenced our journey again in a new form, packing instead of wagoning. Distance 15 m

Heart & Soul to look upon them. Millions to enjoy their Society. May they long live happily, live contentedly, live in enjoyment of all they desire and at the appointed time cease to live upon Earth only to take exit for a Brighter and Sweeter Home beyond this Terrestrial Sphere.

Friday 13th Again on our way. We see nothing but trouble now with out pack saddles & packs. 20 m

Saturday 14th July Within the last 3 days we crossed several small streams, among them Fall River, and now Raft River. 25 m (I think today or the day following was passed the point of country where the Oregon road separates itself from the California Road.

Sunday 15th Up Raft River. 20 m

Monday 16th Travelled from Raft River to Goose Creek. 20 m

Tuesday 17th On Goose Creek or, by some, Rattle Snake River. 22 m

Wednesday 18th From Goose Creek to Warm Springs Valley. 27 m

Thursday 19th July 1849 Down Warm Spring Valley to the ridge that divides the valley from the head waters of Humboldt on Mary's River. 32 m This is a fine looking valley with both warm & cold springs of water in it. Coarse grass and not very large quantity of that. We find a very fine spring at the point of the valley before taking the ridge to the head waters of the Humboldt.

Friday 20th Over Ridge to Branch of Humboldt River. 28 m
On this branch are several cool springs or wells they

should be called as they are formed like a well (depth I cannot say). Plenty of fish in them.

Saturday 21st July 1849 Down Branch & crossed Humboldt, then down it. 30 m

Sunday 22nd Here is a number of days connected together to 1st of Augt. in which we were travelling down the Humboldt to the Sink, which we reached at dark Tuesday evening 31st July. This stream is about 300 miles in length, I would suppose, at the head of which was middling good grass but along some portions it being very scarce. Some places the road left the river to pass over a hill or mt. longest hill 20 miles. A scene occurred on this stream that made unpleasant and horrible feelings for a short space of time. Calvin Price sinking the third time in Humboldt before being caught.

August 1st 1849 This morning early we commenced our journey across the Desert from the Sink of Humboldt to Carson River, a distance of 45 miles I would suppose--a distance to be travelled without getting any fresh water to drink save what is carried by persons who journey over it. We, C. Price, F. Price, J. Donaldson & H. Morgan Price, having commenced our journey with only one small canteen of water. The sun beaming hot upon us we became nearly famished ere we travelled 20 miles of our journey. We thought of many ways to escape but all to no use. Our plan and best one was to stick to our mules and travel onward as usual. But when we had fairly concluded we must perish a glorious scene presented itself, a salt well where emigrants were camped. But the brightest thing of all was this: An elderly gentleman from Dayton, Ohio, by the name of Thomas Clegg had found by putting the meal of parched corn in the water it absorbed nearly all of its saltiness and made it palatable to our thirsty throats. Here we arrived about noon and tarried until 8 & one fourth P.M. when we started again to finish our journey across the Desert to Carson River. Arriving at Carson River at dawn of day we put our mules to grass and ourselves to bed for a short time; then refreshing ourselves with some food for the first time for 48 hours and our mules the first of any consequence for the last 100 miles save for a small portion of meal mixed with thin water at Salt Well on the Desert.

August 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th 2nd--Remained on Carson at the point where we struck it until evening when we travelled up 3 or 4 miles. From this time to the 7th we travelled up on Carson, travelling of evening & nights for 3 nights, having points of land crop from 10 to 20 miles in length where the road left the river at these points.

On the evening of 5th we arrived in a beautiful bottom some 10 or 15 miles wide on a Branch of the Carson River. This is the most beautiful of bottoms, thickly covered with tall grass and clover both of the finest quality.

On the evening of the 6th we camped at the mouth of the Pass Creek Canyon with our friend from Chicago whom we travelled with to Ft. Hall.

August 7th, 1849 Up Pass Creek about 5 miles having a hard road for wagons and bad enough for pack mules, being very rocky and rough. (Found service berries in Canyon.)

Nooned near Red Lake. Strawberries here. Camped night in a large Valley called Lake Valley; we camped by the edge of the Lake finding the best grass partially covered with water. Heavy frost and very cool nights.

Wednesday Aug 8th This morning we crossed the highest point of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and travelled down the descending Ridge to Leek Spring. We found any quantity of snow on these Rocky Mts. a child in comparison to these Mts.

Thursday Aug. 9th 1849 Still down the Ridge, camping 3 miles to the left of the road in a Valley where we found a middling supply of grass for our mules.

Friday August 10th Down the Ridge to Pleasant Valley where we nooned without grass. Continuing on in afternoon we passed Weavertown. Between 4 and 5 o'clock this evening we saw the first operations in the Gold Mines-- a man washing Gold in a pan. having 1/2 oz.

Saturday August 11th 1849 Reached Sutter's Mill or now there is a town called Coloma. This is the spot where Gold was first discovered, or had it been discovered ere this time the thing was kept secret to the whites, by all the information I have yet gained.

Discovery of Gold made in the year of our Lord 1848, I think.

Coloma is situated on the South Fork of the American River about 45 miles from Sacramento City.

August 12th 1849 Remained at the mill a portion of the day laying in our supplies for the mines then a portion of the way to the Middle Fork.
(Editor's note: Here we disagree a little to record another set of entries found in the fly leaves.)

We, H. Morgan Price, C. Price, F. Price, J. Donaldson, arrived in the Gold Mines of California Aug. 10th, 1849. On the 11th at Sutter's Mill now called Coloma.

Monday the 13th arrived at the Middle Fork of the American River where we commenced the mining business--rather unfortunate for the first month not averaging over 1/2 oz. per day. The next 2 or 3 weeks I have been more fortunate making what I had on hand when we arrived here (and my operation here in the Mines) \$1800.00

Oct. 1st 1849. This day a company of 4 from Ohio, or part of them at least, made themselves so notorious as to pull down a portion of dam T.M. Clegg, McCain, Emily, H. Morgan Price & J. Donaldson (all from Ohio) had put up a day or 2 before. A jury called Tuesday (2nd) consisting of 2 men.

Sunday Oct. 7, 1849 Tomorrow I think of leaving these mines (a short season at least) for Sacramento City of San Francisco.

(Editor's note: Again we return to the body of narrative. Entries following this point are intermittent and irregular, apparently indicating ill health and little luck in mining.)

Aug. 13th Reached the Middle Fork of the American River 1 mile below the Spanish Bar--the great country of Gold.

Here we remained and labored until about the 1st of Oct. when I went to Sacramento City. Remained a short time, bought team, provisions, etc. closed business again and went to the mines. Took sick. Remained so for nearly 2 months, part of the time on the Middle Fork, part at Sacramento City and part on the briny Pacific on my way to Oregon Territory where I arrived (Astoria) 16th January 1850.

This part of Oregon at the mouth of the Columbia River is very rough, mountainous and heavily timbered, timber consisting of fir, pine, alder, ash and some few other species of wood. Some little oak is found up the river and through sections of Oregon Territory. No Hickory. The Country up the Columbia to Oregon is generally mountainous, presenting some beautiful scenery. Yet here and there is found a spot capable of being cultivated.

The produce of the country is: wheat, oats, Potatoes, onions &c. Butter and cheese are made in abundance, as a general thing, cattle sustaining themselves on their own industry gathering up the dry grass during the winter which has been quite pleasant so far, as the weather has been rather warm but very rainy and disagreeable to be out.

Raining, as it were, nearly incessantly day and night, continues for about 5 months in the year. From this information I can gain the balance of the year is very pleasant and agreeable, rather cool nights with little rain.

Astoria, Oregon Territory, January 24, 1850
Oregon City ----Feb. 24th 1850

26th--Left Oregon City in a canoe for Ft. George, where we arrived 2nd March, our mess composed of H. Morgan Price, Geo. Sumpter, Jacob Rioneerson, and James Taylor formerly of Londonville, Ohio.

Sunday 3rd March Boarded the BRIG. PIEDMONT, or some called TOPSAIL SCHOONER.

3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th. We remained in the Bay at the mouth of the Columbia on account of the contrary winds, the same being from the East & Southeast.

Thursday 7th 10 A.M. Yet in the Bay hope to get out today.

March 9th, 1850--This day we raised anchor and made our way through the South Channel and across the breakers which rolled like mountains for a short distance.

Columbia River--In sadness many have passed these rough points and a few have taken their slumbers in the deep.

The wind being in the southwest, it is impossible to make much headway yet.

March 16th Arrived at San Francisco in evening. Remained at that port until Tuesday evening 19th. Then left on STEAMER SENATOR for Sacramento City. Arrived next morning.

Business at San Francisco was very dull, a large portion of the people having gone to the mines generally to Trinity River or Bay.

Mined a short time 1st April on Oregon Bar, Middle Fork American River, in company with A. Ryland of Wayne Co., Ohio. Then on Poverty Bar same river, until W.W. Price arrived which was 7th June 1850.

On the 11th same month W.W. Price, T. Tidball & myself took up our camp articles and left for the Yuba River. We travelled to Nevada City, from thence up the South Yuba to Washington City. Found poor diggings as the river was very high.

1850 July 1st returned again to Middle Fork American River. We remained at Dutch Bar until 1st Sept. I then commenced business in Greenwood Valley with J. Allan at 150 \$ per month 200\$ per month next 2 months.

Christmas day on the road to Sacramento City. Arrived at City in evening. Put up at Crescent City Hotel. I find the City the same old place as last winter--gambling, drinking and carousing. H. Morgan Price

29th Dec. Very pleasant this day. At G.W. Bell's last night.

1851

New Year's day I was on the road from City to Greenwood Valley. Arrived at Valley in evening.

2nd January. Hunting. The weather has been very fine for near 3 weeks and no appearance of rain yet. Hard on miners in consequence of want of water.

Greenwood Valley, Cal. Jan. 11, 1851

"Recipe for coloring Hair. 1 Drachm Sulphur, 1/2 Drachm Sugar of lead, 4 oz. Rose Water. Mix them. Shake the phial on using the mixture and bathe the hair twice a week or longer if necessary."

I remained at Allen's until 1st February/1851, when I again went to mining. I continued on American Rivers until 1st May when I left Yuba. Bought a bank claim on Secards Bar for 600\$ which after saving 2 or 3 months was lost. Bought claim at Carduas Bar and spent 300\$ to get into it & failed--first cost 400\$.

Bought again at Industry Bar Sept. 29th. Rice & self one claim for 350\$, the next week another claim for 500\$. Did very well on said claims. Made a visit to the Bay City, American River in latter part of Oct. & 1st Nov.

Nov 18th bought half claim in Industry Bar for 400\$ and half claim in Parks bar for 320\$.

Honcut Creek, Yuba County, California, Dec. 11, 1851

This day H.M. Price, William Rice & Joseph Mohr measured off one qr. section land next and adjoining Mrs. Kyle Cleveland.

Dec. 12 The same 3 named men took up other qr. section to

their claim to Mr. S. Goar.

Jany. 1st 1852 I put this day in at ditching on the Honcut 12 miles from Marysville, Yuba Co., California. H.M.P.

2 Jany. 1852 H.M. Price & Wm. Rice, the first two named of the above partners, bought Joseph Mohr's interest in the remaining quarters.

In observing the process of mining through the country at this time, latter part '51 & first '52, I find the improvement in machinery very great. In fact advantages are very perceptible and rather too much the case as Gold is getting scarce in the operations and machinery too plenty. Gold is getting so scarce that many of my acquaintances have scarcely been able to make board this winter on the Yuba & other places.

Hundreds are looking out for farms that they may engage in agriculture, settle themselves down and cease their laborious operations in the mines and a sensible change this truly. Farming lands are only to be found in the valleys, and particularly the best on streams. I think the finest farming land I have seen in this country lies on the Yuba and Honcut, rich, sandy soil very melllow with here and there good grass, in fact fit for meadows.

The general difficulty is want of good rail timbers for fencing land, and building timber. Many are fencing by ditching, making it 4 ft. wide at the top, one at top, one at bottom and 3 ft. deep, which will do generally for one season.

The mines most spoken of at present are the Southern Mines at Sonora and other points in what are termed southern mines.

Farmers have been sowing barley since 1st Jany., this 30th; some are planting seeds already. I think it too soon for my part, for seeds at least. William Rice and myself will not get to plowing before 10th Feby., as we now are busily engaged in ditching in our land.

Jany 30, 9 1/4 o'clock P.M. By H.M.P.

At my ranch on Honcut March 1st 1852--This day so far, 1 o'clock P.M., has been raining moderate at intervals, blowing a heavy gale all day, and in fact one of the most disagreeable days I have seen the past winter. I have confined myself to the house until the present and from appearances will be obliged to do so for the remainder of the day.

The preceding month (Feb'y) was a warm, pleasant & most agreeable month. Being leap year, of course, it had 29 days, coming in on Sunday (5 Sundays)

The neighbors generally are done seeding and have commenced putting in vegetables--yet there are many vegetables fit for use at the present time, such as turnips, radishes &c--I am of opinion that barley and many vegetables would do best to put them in the ground in Dec. in this country.

March 15th 1852 This evening the water raised to such extent as to overflow all the Honcut bottom washing away nearly all the ditch fence in the bottom. It damaged us about five hundred dollars and disheartening us so much that it is doubtful whether we continue any longer on the place, as our claims on the River require our attention.

I am now on a study what is best for me whether to get rid of any property in this country and return to the States east of the Rocky Mountains or so arrange my business as to stay in California the remainder of my days. May God, in whom I put my trust, direct my mind in this operation that I may so direct my affairs as soon to settle myself the remainder of my days on earth. H.M.P.

March 22nd 1852 We sold the above Ranch to 4 brothers, by name Kirkpatrick, for 800\$, one hundred in hand & notes payable first June, each payable separately. Note given me 300\$. H.M.P.

1852

Steamship GOLDEN GATE. Passage from San Francisco to Panama, New Granada

June 28 at 8 a..m. Left San Fr's

" 29 at Noon. Lat 33'32 N. Long 119 55' W. Distance run 28 hrs 229 miles. Distance to Acapulco yet 1550 miles. State of California nearest land Island of San Nicolas

June 30 at 12 N. Lat 29'05'N, Long 116'48' W Distance run last 24 hrs. 277m. Nearest land San Geronimo, bearing E by South

July 1st at 12 N. Lat 26'05'N Long 113'48'W Distance run in last 24 hrs. 283 m

July 2 at 12N Lat 20'04'Long 110'00'W Distance run last 24 hrs. 290m. State Lower Cal/. Mexico

July 3 at 12N Lat 20'04' Long 106'10' Distance run last 24 hrs. 275 miles

July 4 at 12N Lat 17'52' Long 106'10' Distance run last 24 hours 275 miles

July 5 Arrived at Acapulco about 2 in the morning, consequently no distance taken this day.

July 6 at 12M Lat 15'06, Long 92'18 Distance run last 24 hours 235 miles. Distance to Panama 1205 miles.

July 7 at 12M Lat 12'55, Long 96'18' Distance run last 24 hours 270 miles. The name of the mountain in sight this morning is the Volcano of TAJAMALCO. Distance to it 120 miles. Guatemala.

July 8 at 12M Lat 11'12, Long 88'24' Distance run last 24 hours 258 miles

July 9 at 12M Lat 8'56', Long 85'09' Distance run last 24 hours 237 M Nearest land Cape Blanco.

July 10 at 12 M Lat 7'09 Long 80'44' Distance run 24 hours 290. nearest land Cape Manisto. Distance to Panama, New Granada 150 m.

July 11 Arrived at anchorage at Panama at 1 o'clock A.M. Landed at 8 A.M. Left for Cruses at 10 A.M. Secured two mules at 16\$ each--W.W. Price & myself.

July 12 Arrived at Cruses at 9 o'clock A.M. Took boat (2\$ each) soon for BARBACOA, on Charges River where we arrived near 1 o'clock P.M. Left at 2 P.M. on cars for Aspinwall, where we arrived after 4 P.M.

Editor's note: With the exception of the entry of March 22nd, 1852, the diary to date has all been written carefully in ink. That one entry was made in pencil. The two pages of the book used to record the ocean voyage were badly blurred, as if by spray, and finger marked. A calendar for 1849 is pasted in side the back cover. the remainder of the diary, to the time of reaching his mother's home, was written in pencil, hurriedly.

July 14the 1852 left Aspinwall, New Granada for New York on board STEAMSHIP UNITED STATES at dusk or dark in the evening.

July 15th at 12M. We have made a distance of 170 miles.

July 16th Following 24 hours we made distance of 209 miles.

July 17th at 12M. 244 miles.

During the 2 latter days some 4 or 5 have died on board, said to be Cholera Morbus. Manner of burial is to wrap them up in a cloth, fasten feet together and slide them overboard into sea. I yet fear many more will share the same fate ere we reach New York. Course northeast, passing in sight of several of the West India Islands.

July 18th Distance run 261. Fair, pleasant weather. No deaths. Small islands, also Cruces.

July 19th Distance run 304. Fair weather & moderate wind. No deaths today.

July 20 This morning 2 more unfortunate deck passengers died and were buried in the briny Atlantic as the former five were. May God visit and heal the sick of this vessel to Port of N. York.

Before noon another died & was buried in the deep. Distance run 300.

3 again this day ere 4 o'clock P.M. were buried in the Atlantic making 6 this day.

July 21st Distance run last 24 hours 300. So far no deaths this day but several unwell. A little more life and energy on board. The remaining distance being in accord to Lat & Long. of N. York 224.

July 22nd Arrived at Quarantine this day at 8 or 9 A.M.. One death having occurred before reaching here. Her (Quarantine) We were bound to remain, after sick were taken ashore, for 24 hours as health officer said to see if any more could get sick. Most damnable outrage. Arrived at New York City the evening of the above date. W. W. Price & myself in middling good health.

July 24 left New York at 9 o'clock A.M. and arrived in Phila. at 1 P.M. Camden Rail Road. Put up at Mr. W.H. Webb's.

Remained at Col. Webb's until Wednesday July 27, 11 P.M. Left in cars for Pittsburg. Arrived Friday 2 o'clock A.M. Put up at Allen Brown's Hotel. Left at 8 1/2 A.M. on cars for Massillon, Ohio. Arrived at 2 same day.

July 31st Left Massillon at 6 A.M. for Home in carriage. Arrived at Mother's at 2 P.M. same day.

Editor's note: This concludes his journeys to and from California. The remaining entries were made intermittenly.

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO

November 24th 1852--This day by mutual consent in Bonds of Matrimony were united at 2 25/60 P.M. of said day, H. Morgan Price of Ashland Co., Ohio and Elizabeth Tidball of Holmes Co., Ohio

May God in his infinite mercy and wisdom watch over us and direct each and every undertaking through the journey of our lives, give us health and strength of body & mind, give us wisdom, knowledge & understanding that we may walk in the path of holiness on earth and be prepared at death to receive an inheritance in his kingdom and sing songs of praise ceaseless of eternity, are our wishes.

Nov. 28/52 Signed H. Morgan Price
 Signed A. Elizabeth Price

This day I travelled to Millbrook, thence to Wooster on business thence to Mo Mohecan. Now my wife looks at watch every 15 minutes wanting of nine o'clock at night.

May God give us a peaceful & plentiful year.

* January 17th, 1853--Received 100\$ on a due bill held against G.W Bell, the same calling for 110\$; remaining unpaid 10\$ at sending back of said due bill to the said G.W. Bell enclosed 20 Jany.

*Editor's note: The entry for Dec. 29, 1850 states that Mr. Price spent the previous night at G.W. Bell's. The date of the due bill was 3 days prior to his sailing from San Francisco.

May 18th 1853 Birthday--Raining morning & very hard in the evening. Hauling manure. To Reedsburg to (shave-save?) note to Doct. Kiser. To Lee's for seeds &c, &c. Near nine o'clock at night.

Christmas 1853--At Tidball's and Lockhart's, Holmes Co., Ohio.

May 18th 1854-- At home in Ashland Co., Ohio reading "Uncle Tom's Cabin". My wife has spent the day in reading the Testament. Past 8 o'clock at night. H.M. & E.P.

May 4th 1856--Yesterday I found ice in the springhouse while at work. The past winter has been one of the great severity. Snow fell about 23 or 24 day of Dec. 1855 and from time to time so snow became very compact and to the depth of nearly or altogether 2 ft., remaining on the ground until 1 of April & even much later where drifted. peach trees nearly all killed this past winter. This day cold & windy. The past winter I had timber got out for

building stable & built this spring.

Statement of Weather-- April 19th 1857. This day so far it has been snowing steadily all day 11 o'clock A.M. and snow 3 or 4 inches deep. Feby was warm and pleasant, March cold and disagreeable. April the same so far. 1855 was very cold, long snowy winter. Wet summer, several floods in June I think in succession weekly. 1856 was very cold snowy long winter, snow not leaving until first May altogether with a very dry summer & poor crops, frost killing corn last of May.

May 18th 1857--This day I am 37 years of age and residing in Mochecan Township, Ashland County, Ohio. Today I fixed some work in the cellar and putting in and making bars in the afternoon. The spring remains cold and windy. Wheat is very backward and also grass & everything else. Not much corn planted yet. My companion is nursing the baby--Clara Jeannette nearly nine months old.

June 7th 1858--H.M., A.E. & Clara J. Price (our little daughter) left Holmes Co., Ohio for the state of Mississippi. Started in a two-horse carriage. Passed through Coshocton, Newark, Lancaster, Chillicothe, and from thence through Hillsborough &c. We found the roads very bad and bridges washed away in consequence of which we determined to take passage on steamer for Vicksburg, Miss.

June 22 left Cin. on board steamer ALMA for V.B. Miss & arrived 28. Same day to Raymond by cars. 29th to Cooper's well. Remained 7 days. Left 6 July for Jackson--remained 3 days, the most of the time with Brother (Col.) W.P. Withers, a wealthy man (Lawyer) yet a heavy planter. I also be acquainted with brother (Gen.) Clark, Brother Casky and some others, kind and obliging Brethern and Sisters. May God bless them for their kindness.

Friday 9th July we moved out by Battle Spring to a Mr. Neal's to board where we remained 10 days. Preached July 18th at Battle Springs Church, the only discourse I spoke in the South. Rec'd of a Brother Body one dollar the first money I ever received for preaching.

July 20 we came to Vicksburg. 21st took steamer CITY OF MEMPHIS for Cairo at 12 M. Arrived 23 at 8 P.M. being 80 hours making 676 mls. 24 at 6 S.M. left on cars for Cinn., Ill. Central to Sandoval, thence on Ohio and Miss. R.R. to Cinn. 383 mls in all (marked so in bills, I think mistake) in 18 hours travelling time. 26 at 6 A.M. took cars to Little Miami road for CUSTLON, over 160 mls; arrived in 6 1/2 hours, thence to Clinton Station on Ohio & Penn. Road by 2 P.M. Making trip from Cin. to Clinton over 200 mls, in

8 hours.

We are truly thankful to our Heavenly Father for his mercies and preserving care over us in our absence from home South and in our sickness which we were overtaken at Cincinnati, our little daughter being sick with dysentery. Called Doct. J.H. Pulte (Homeopathic) who did her much good. Also we had our turns of sickness while absent, but are now returned to Holmes Co., Ohio & hope by care and prudence to regain health & strength again.

From information and our observation the Miss. and streams generally have been higher than for many years past, flooding all the bottoms tearing away the levee on Miss. and destroying millions of dollars worth of crops north & South. Oats destroyed by rust every place this year. Holmes Co., Ohio July 29th 1858. H. M. Price

May 18th 1860-- At home Franklin Twp., Wayne Co., Ohio. Did a little carpenter work this morning--and afternoon arranged a discourse on the Holy Spirit, from John 16 ch, 7 to 12. Rather pleasant this forenoon--raining this afternoon. I am forth 94 years old this day. Written 4 o'clock and 5 minutes. H. Morgan Price

THE PRICE FAMILY HISTORY

William Price - born ca 1771, Som (Somerset) County, Maryland. Married first Sarah Pollard and emigrated to Allegany County, Maryland.

Richard P. Price	born	March	3, 1789
John R.	"	May	25, 1792
PETER PAUL	"	June	17, 1794
Catherine Price	"	June	27, 1796
William Price	"	Sept.	5, 1798
James Price	"	Oct.	10, 1800

Sarah Pollard Price died Nov. 17, 1800 and William Price married second on July 12, 1807, Mary Butler Lewis, widow of Thomas Lewis.

Six children were born of this marriage:

Lewis Price	born		1808
Sarah Price	"	June	22, 1809
Polly Price	"	April	12, 1812
George W. Price	"	March	24, 1814
Gulian Smith	"	June	27, 1816
William Harrison	"	Dec.	5, 1817

Peter Paul Price, third child of William and Sarah Pollard Price was born in Westernport. Allegany County, Maryland, June 17, 1794 and died in Shreve, Ohio, June 17, 1846. He married in Monogalia County, Virginia, on March 7, 1816, Margaret Morgan, daughter of Hugh Morgan and Mercy Ayers.

They settled in Ashland County, Ohio later living in Wayne and Holmes Counties. Peter Paul and Margaret Morgan Price were the parents of eleven children:

William W. Price	born	Dec.	5, 1816
Matilda	"	Oct.	31, 1818
Hugh Morgan	"	May	18, 1820
Sarah	"	Feb.	12, 1822
M. Temperance	"	Jan.	19, 1824
Catherine	"	Mar.	13, 1825
Calvin	"	Dec.	30, 1827
Franklin	"	May	22, 1830
Rebecca Jane	"	Oct.	24, 1832
Priscilla	"	July	20, 1835
Simon Peter	"	Oct.	11, 1841

Hugh Morgan Price, son of Peter Paul and Margaret Morgan Price was born in Holmes County, Ohio, May 18, 1820. His writing indicates that he received a good education but where I have not been able to discover. He began teaching school in Ohio in 1844 and in 1855 went to Yazoo City, Mississippi where he taught in Liberty Academy for three years. He returned to his mother's home in Ohio in 1848 and in March 1849 began the trip to the gold fields of California. His brothers, Calvin and Franklin, who made the trip with him, died of the cholera aboard ship while returning from the gold fields in 1850. Calvin was buried at sea off the coast of Lower California and Franklin at Chagres, Isthmus of Panama. Another brother, William, made the trip to California in 1850 and returned with Hugh Morgan Price in 1852. On November 24, 1852 Hugh Morgan Price married Ann Elizabeth Tidball, daughter of Thomas Tidball and Margaret Thompson Tidball. In 1856 he became a minister in the Church of Christ and continued in this work until his death. In 1866 with his wife, children and mother he moved to Missouri, settling near Dresden, Pettis County. His mother died April 1, 1871 and is buried at Dresden, Missouri. Both Ann Elizabeth and Hugh Morgan Price died of tuberculosis, she on November 1, 1872 and he on June 20, 1873. They are buried at La Monte, Missouri. Children of this marriage were:

Franklin	born	Aug.	4, 1853	died in infancy
James L.	"	Sept.	30, 1853	"
Drusilla	"	July	5, 1855	"
Clara Jeanette	"	Aug.	15, 1856	m John Reese Wade
Margaret M.	"	Oct.	27, 1858	unmarried
Milton Morgan	"	Nov.	11, 1860	m Sallie O'Bannon
Lois Mary	"	Aug.	30, 1863	unmarried
Ella Eta	"	July	25, 1866	m R E Guthrie
Laura Venette	twin	Dec	14, 1867	died young
Lillie Lee	"	"	"	m Thomas De Arman

Cora Belle " June 21, 1870 m W O Terry

Milton Morgan Price, born November 11, 1860 in Wayne County, Ohio, married September 22, 1892 in Pettis County, Missouri, Sallie Byrd O'Bannon, daughter of John O'Bannon and Eliza Fisher.

Children:

John Morgan	"	July	3, 1893	m	Rose Hewerdine,
Hugh Milton	"	Feb.	27, 1895	m	Ruth Swift
Mary Lois	"	Sept.	9, 1897	m	S.R. Williams
Annie Clara	"	Nov.	29, 1899		
Helen Florence	"	Aug.	13, 1901		unmarried
Ella Ruby (Jane)	"	Apr.	7, 1903	m	R S Glasscock
Ogbert O.	"	Nov.	18, 1905	m	Martha Chevalier