

Samiel Chadwick
Diary

Floor K
Shelf 6

Samuel Chadwicks travels to California in 1852 I left home
Tuesday
on the 23 day of March and my team and my partners having left
on the 22 of March I overtook them at Maderon my partners was
Jonas Boyer Frank Aldridge and his wife and we had 4 yoke of cat-
tle and A waggon I had one yoke of cattle and A waggon and 25
in money when I left home we put up at A widow womans house who
kept tavern called the 3 mile house been 3 miles from Maderon
makeing
27

Wednesday 24 we mad about 14 miles and put up at A Norwegians
in A hollow on the left side of the road and old man Boyer broke
A hay fork handle which he wanted pay for but we thought we had
paid him enough

Thursday 25 we mad about 14 miles mostly prairie to the blue
mounds the going his generally pretty soft all the way grass
gets in betwixt the cattles claws and keeps in the day long
most Friday 26 we are in Iowa County we made about 13 miles
and we are all well Thursday it his pretty muddy as the frost
his going out of the ground some we made about 14 miles Sat-
urday 28 we made 15 miles we are 10 miles beyond mineral
point we saw one nice lead of mineral the first that I ever
saw it was about 4 or 5 feet from the face of the ground they
had holes dug down to it in some 5 or 6 places straight in A
line and at one hole at the end they was digging and blasting
about 14 feet deep it was called A very good lead of lead I
never saw any kind of mineral digings before this Sunday 29

we lay up all day at Mr Whitesides in Iowa and they was very nice folks and they used us very well gave us A room most to ourselves and stove to cook by and gave us milk and such little notions and hay for our cattle ^{night} saturday and sunday and monday morning and charged us only 12 shillings they was the nicest folks in the road that we come across we went to meeting to day and my partners wanted this Afternoon to look over our accounts and see how we stood they was owing me for A share of the waggon and they wanted then to prize the cattle Frank wanted 15 more for his cattle than mine was worth and the Old man wanted 5 said that his was worth more by 5 than mine so that would draw of my waggon considerable I felt hard at them and told them I should not do it as I thought my cattle as good as theirs but we agreed to have Mr Whiteside value them on monday morning and he valued mine as much as theirs into two dollars and A half so that ended it Monday 30 we only made about 10 miles from Whitesides

Tuesday 31 we made about 10 miles and we are at the Mississippi river to day we had some rain and at sundown or along there we had some snow we had A pretty bad road down to the river down A gully to the Eagle ferry but we could not cross the river to day as the wind blew so hard they have A horse ferry here but lower down at Dubuke they have A steam ferry Wednesday the 1 day of April we are still waiting to cross but the wind blows to hard to day so that we cant cross we have hay enough here for our cattle and we are shooting ducks on the river bottom as

as there his plenty and there his snow on the ground to day we bought A tent of A California emigrant for 3 dollars Thursday 2 we crossed the ferry they charged 12 shillings only for 4 yoke of cattle 4 persons and waggon we then drove down to Dubuque and bought some groceries and such like and we saw seaver in Dubuque waiting for Dulittle and W Salts from our neighbourhood we drove out of Dubuque about 3 miles and put up Dubuque his quite A nice little place

Friday 3 we drove about 16 miles and put up it snowed considerable to day I have not got the names of the places that I put up but I am sorry I did not

Saturday 4 we drove about 20 miles to the north fork of Macauctee[?] river we had pretty good roads here a couple of young men from Waterloo rolled in at this house and stayed we traveled A few days with them

Sunday 5 we are laying up to day at the north fork of Macauctee river and to day we killed 10 prairie chickens so we had all we wanted to eat

Monday 6 we left macauctee and traveled to linn County town of Merrian

Tuesday 7 we made out to get to Merrian village and it was all killing muddy we bought A little hay of A blacksmith and put up for that night Merrian his quite A nice little Village and the County seat his at Merrian

Wednesday 8 we are still at Merrian and it his A very rainy day but towards night we went out of town about 3 miles to A

widow womans by the name of Willis and we Calculate to lay up there till the roads get better as it his very bad going we came to Merrian on the 7 of April and laid up till the 17 of April leaving us laid up 9 days we was only 3 or 4 miles from Cedar rapids which crick[?] his the nicest stream we have seen since we left home and there his A good waterpower and plenty of chance ^{for} farm improvements in fact it his A pretty little place and mills of all kinds most grist Mills and A wolling Factory and other notions we went down to Cedar rapids and baked some hard bread we bought A barrel of flour and took it to the rapids and baked most of it to take with us across the plains to save buying it at canesville and we stayed one day at the rapids as it was A rainy day and we had A settling up me and my partners and frank Aldiage did not want to allow me for my waggon till I got to California he said he had not money enough but I knew he lyed I thought we should have to have A split up I told him I could not trust him for A waggon till I got to California he might take his team of my waggon if he could not pay for it but when I talked so he had to come to and I got A Store keeper in the rapids to recon up our accounts and so he paid the bill some 20 that we had traded fork pork and such like and then we traveled on together but I dont like the man at all because when A man lies to me once I cant place much confidence in him the second time but enough of that

Saturday 17 we crossed the river at cedar rapids they have A very good ferry A rope ferry but the rope his made of wire they charged us 80 cents only for team and waggon

and men then we traveled about 19 miles the road was pretty bad full of A kind of Springs and soft we broke A chain and A ring to day it his the worst luck I have had since we left home frank and the old man broke the waggon tongue out before I caught up with them and they put A new one in whilst we laid up at Willises to night we camped out for the first time as we could not get in A house very well and we bought A little hay and made our own house and slept in the waggon

Sunday 18 we drove about 15 miles and camped about two miles from Meringo

Monday 19 we drove about 12 miles and crossed the iowa river and camped it his only A small river they charged cents
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Tuesday 20 we drove 13 miles and camped we are all well

Wednesday 21 we drove about 19 miles and camped the weather his cool but fine there his no grass yet but we are looking very anxiously for it as we have to buy hay and corn for our cattle till grass does come we drove to day about 17 miles to day across A prairie where there was no timber nor house

Saturday 23

Thursday 22 we camped at newton and we drove about 10 miles and crossed the indian crick and fed our cattle hay and laid up till

Saturday 24 I have made A mistake in not dating right so I will let this day go

Sunday 25 we camped at doctor bruckoses about noon and stayed over night

Monday 26 we are laying up at doctor Bruckoes to day as one of the old mans oxon his lame we want to doctor him some and we went about A mile and bought about 15 bushels of corn and shelled it to stand us to the bluffs as we expect it will be high to the bluffs from here and so we found it some paid as high as A dollar whilst we only paid 30 cents so that lasted us through that country

Tuesday 27 we drove to fort Desmains there is no fort there but it his quite A little Village there we have 2 ferrys one as we went into desmains and another as we went out I believe we paid 70 cents at one and 50 at the other we bought several little notions at Fort Desmains A little bacon and one thing or another to many to mention we drove about 10 miles and camped

Wednesday 28 we drove about 12 miles and camped on account of our lame ox we are now in Madison County Iowa we are traveling up what they call the three river country

Thursday 29 we are still in the same place laying up on account of our lame ox we have turned our cattle out on the river bottom to get their own living but we give them A little corn yet it looks prety green but we cant travel much on grass yet but we shant buy any more hay the old man and I went out into the woods across the river to hunt

A little but we found nothing here his the best timber we have seen of some time since we left Wisconsin here his A pretty tolerable good sugar bush and the rest of the timber his mostly cotton wood Iowa his poorly timbered where we traveled through and along this evening A man came along with A load of hay and we traded our lame ox of to him for A sound one but he was very poor we traded even A fat lame one for A poor sound one but he appears to be A very good traveler and A good leader

Friday 30 we traveled about 18 miles we past through winterset Village it his rather small and not much business done I think never will be we traveled across A large prairie to day with no wood but we came to A lone house about A mile from the road and they said we should not get to wood that night so we bought 5 cents worth and took along and camped besides A slew on the prairie the grass his rather poor but they have to pick as there his no hay through this country we had A very strong wind to day and right A head it was hard traveling

Saturday 31 we traveled about 12 miles and camped as we had got of the prairie to a patch of timber and we have another prairie to go 35 miles across so we cook here and take a little wood with us

Sunday 1 of may the wind blew very hard in the forepart of the day but it went down and we had A fine day we laid up

all day as it was Sunday and rested the cattle and the old man boyer went out and killed A deer and sold part of it and we eat part of it and left part in the woods as it would not keep A great while we are now about 100 miles from the bluffs

Monday 2 we had considerable rain last night but we was quite comfortable as we had A good place to camp this his A road that turns to the left when you cross the crick it his not so much traveled as the other so we have plenty of wood grass and water but we had one pretty bad crick to cross it was only about 5 feet wide but as quick as an ox stepped in he went down to his belly but after A while we made out to get over by getting the cattle over first then runing the waggon in by hand then itching on with chains we made about 14 miles and camped alone

Tuesday 3 we made about 20 miles we came into the old road again where there his from 20 to 30 waggons mostly along in A string and I expect they will get thicker every day till we get to the bluffs to day we crossed cammed[?] crick

Wednesday 4 we made about 18 miles the day was cool and good for traveling and we have pretty good grass now for the cattle they can fill them pretty well to day we past through A place called Indian town and there was quite A little river to ford it his 8 or 10 rods wide but not very

deep

Thursday 5 we made about 20 miles and it rained and blew pretty hard and we had A ferry to cross by A saw mill I did not learn the name of the place we ferried 2 yoke and the waggon across and the other 4 yoke we forded we itched about 30 yoke together and then A man rode in on horse back till he got the leaders across then they had all to follow it was A pretty bad place where the cattle dropped down so as they had to swim but we crossed without any difficulty

Friday 6 we made about 12 miles and the weather was pretty warm so that the cattle most all lolled and we came to A crick that the water was pretty high so that we could not cross so we like hundreds more had to lay up till the water went down it went down by morning and we all put in and built the bridge and went along here at this crick we saw the first Indians

Saturday 7 we made about 11 miles to Hanesville when we laid up to fix A little we got there about 12 O clock Hanesville his pretty well filled up with Californians tents stuck up on both sides of the road going out and coming in some gambling and some one thing and some another Kanesville his about 8 or 10 miles from what they call the bluffs or traders point

Sunday 8 the day was very fine and frank and I went down

to the bluffs to see what we could get flour for and the steam boat was just A coming up but she did not make flour any cheaper as she had freight mostly for California passengers they asked from 10 to 12 dollars A barrel so we did not buy any and this evening I went to meeting we have our team now in the flats below Kanesville where there his pretty good grass we camp right beside the road most Monday 9 we are still camped about A mile out of the village and to day we bought 260 pounds of flour at 6 per hundred and we bought 4 gallons of vinegar and some sugar and some other notions and to day I went down to the middle ferry and I saw cross and several others from our town and I got in with them to cross when they did in their company as we have got our outfit pretty much Tuesday 10 it his A fine day and we are still camped in the same place to day we have been bying A few more things for the trip Apples and one thing or another Wednesday 11 we packed up this morning and started for the ferry and just as we started we came across A man by the name of Samuel Fox from Beloit Wisconsin and he wanted us to let him put on his cattle and go through with us but we agreed like this he was to sell his oxen to us for 140 and give us what he had towards his outfit and we take him through for 60 dollars and pay to him 80 dollars when we got through to California and we

have A chance to dispose of the cattle he paid us the 60 dollars by the way of the cattle he turned out the cattle to us at Kanesville before we started and we paid A part of the 80 dollars in Kanesville we went down to the ferry and camped ready to take our turn at the ferry when we can get it so there his 5 in our waggon and 6 yoke of good cattle to cross the plains

Thursday 12 the wind blows so strong that they cant ferry this forenoon but it went down so as they crossed A few in the Afternoon I have heard of two deaths up to this date the ferry boat sunk and one man was drowned and the other man was run over as he was going down to the middle ferry crossing a small bridge he was intoxicated

Friday 13 the wind blows so hard to day that they did not ferry any till about 4 in the Afternoon when they put on 5 yoke of oxen and tied them to the railing and started out they no sooner got into the currant when it wheeled the boat into A snag and sunk the boat there was 7 or 8 men on and they all scrambled up on the edge of the boat to save themselves and on stumps and trees that was where the boat upsat the oxen was yoked up so they had to swim with the yokes on and one yoke had A part of the railing tied to their heads which kept them from swimming good and the owner of them jumped in after them to cut them loose but the currant was so rapid that he could not catch

up with them but they broke of the railing and swam out but I thought certain they would drown they was heels up and all shapes till they broke loose from the railing

Saturday 14 we hauled up our stakes this morning and started for the lower ferry as they had so much bad luck at the middle ferry I had been at the lower ferry last sunday and got booked for my turn and it was just come when we got there so we swam our cattle across the Missuria with A skift 2 yoke at A time we got our cattle over but we could not get the waggon over as it was dark so the old man and I stayed with the cattle and Frank and fox stayed with the waggon there has been three boats sunk at the middle ferry this season and only one man drown

Sunday 15 the wind blows prety hard to day so that we could not get our waggon across they did not ferry much all day so the old man and I are watching the cattle on the other side of the river yet

Monday 17 this morning we have got our waggon across the river we was detained about 8 1-2 days at the river before we could get across we started out about 10 miles and camped and we joined A company called the beetown company calculateing to cross the plains with them about 12 waggons in the company and about 30 men we saw A considerable many indians to day some with ponys and some without and the grass his A very good now for the cattle and there his

about 100 waggons camped here to night

Tuesday 18 the road his very good we made about 20 miles and camped

Wednesday 19 to day the road his prety good and we got to Elk horn river and we could not cross the ferry till about 100 waggons crossed we crossed just at night and swam the cattle over as the river his narrow but prety deep and swift we did not get camped till about 11 clock that night as one of our companys waggons got mired and we had to help get them out it his about two days drive from Council Bluffs at the lower ferry to drive to Elkhorn river

Thursday 20 it was A very fine day and we had first rate road and it his A very fine country of land here on the plat river bottom it appears to be very good soil we have had A little timber till to day we have not much we made about 18 miles and camped

Friday 21 it was A rainy day but we got started and traveled about 10 miles and camped where we had plenty of wood and river water the country his very level and prety along this part of the river

Saturday 22 we made about 22 miles and owing to the rain yesterday we had prety bad wheeling and we had 2 prety bad cricks to cross but we had no trouble as we had 6 yoke on they most reach across all the bad places there was 2 or 3 teams got stuck we crossed shell Crick about noon it was

dark when we camped to night but the day was fine

Sunday 23 we was calculateing to lay up to day but we have no wood here much so we drove about 12 miles to Loup fork and we got ferryed across by sun down but we swam our cattle without any difficulty they charged us 3 Dollars A wagon we might just as well have kept up the river and forded it as to paid 3 dollars as I went up the river and saw them ford it and they had no trouble

Monday 24 we itched up and drove about A mile to where there was plenty of wood water and grass and laid over all day and we washed some and over hauled our waggon aired the things and stired them up that they might not spoil on our hands

Tuesday 25 we drove about 17 miles and camped we had prety good road plenty of wood and water

Wednesday 26 we drove 18 or 20 miles and camped beside A small lake on the east side of the road but about 80 rods before we came to that lake there his an excelant spring which we did not find till after we had got camped but we fetched our water from it to use it his about 2 miles right on the road from Loup fork river where they ford the river wood was prety scarce but there his plenty where they ford the river the ford his about 35 miles up the river from the ferry we had A prety fine day

Thursday 27th we made about 17 miles and camped but we had

no wood nor no water except water we dug for in ^{the} marsh
and the road was pretty heavy and crooked it was pretty sandy
which made it heavy and we had several slues to cross to day
Friday 28. this forenoon the road his bluffy and sandy which
makes ^{it} pretty heavy wheeling this Afternoon the roads was
better and we crossed prarie crick and then from thatn four
miles we crossed another small crick then we had pretty good
road we drove about A mile of the road and camped but we
had to go about A mile for wood we had ought to took wood
from Lup fork fording place to stand to wood crick which
his 35 miles we had plenty of grass as there his A large
flat here on the river bottom we made about 20 miles to day
Saturday 29 we had A very fine day and very good road we
made about 15 miles and camped we crossed wood crick to day
and there his plenty of wood and water for several miles
beyond wood Crick

Sunday 30 we drove about 6 miles but we did not start till
about 2 clock in the Afternoon we then camped this day I
saw our village boys from Hanchetville cross and mead and Cifert
and several others they was laying up till tomorrow on ac-
count of the guide speaking of no water but there was water
that the teams could get so we drove on and we found water
in the low places

Monday 31 we made about 15 miles and camped we had A pretty
warm day and good roads and plenty of wood water and grass
we have had generally on this platt river plenty of feed and

wood and water

Saturday June 1 it his A very pleasant day and there his tuesday plenty of places along here to get wood we made about 15 miles to day and we crossed elm Crick about noon then we drove of the road some 2 or 4 miles to grass and camped Wednesday 2 we drove about 15 miles and it his A pretty warm day to day we saw three graves emigrants that was burried this year it his right where the road strikes the river to day we met 2 or 3 waggons return back with some 8 or 10 children and A woman their fathers had died and the widdows husband had died and they turned and went back they was from Indiana the disease appears to be diarea and Cholera my health has been very good up to this time which I feel very thankfull for

Thursday 3 last night about 10 or 11 clock it commenced raining and I have heard of folks telling about plat river Storms been hard ones and this was for certain it thundred and lightened and blew and rained I think full harder than I ever saw it it blew most of the tents down it blew ours down and we lay in bed under it till we was most like drowned rats and all the bed clothes as wet as could be then it kept raining on and the old man and I stood up and held the one end of the tent up and it blew and poured down and we held the tent up to keep the thundering big drops of us but our cattle did not run

away as folks says they will in such storms we found them all right next mornig except two or three of them had scatered of A mile or so but we found them without much trouble we rolled out and made about 20 miles to day but the road was prety heavy owing to the rain that fell last night there his plenty of grass but wood rather scarce but there his plenty of buffaloo chips which makes A prety good fire

Friday 4 it his A very fine day and we made about 18 miles and to day we saw some 6 graves that was made this year and I camped beside skunk crick we travel most to the river along here sometimes to it then of again but we have not much wood along here

Saturday 5 we made about 15 miles we crossed Mysterus Crick about noon then we past the two excelant Springs as they are called and they are very large springs and very good water indeed they are I think they are the largest I ever saw and the water boils out very prety and clear the ground his most level it his but A small ravine wh the Springs are we past along A few miles and camped but we have no wood and we do not expect any for 200 miles and to day we have past 6 new graves to day and it his supposed it his emigrants that has crossed from the South side of plat to the north that his dieing of so much as there has A great many crossed within a few days that they

die with the diarea and cholera that appears to be the disorder

Sunday 6 we are laying up and resting our teams and bakeing as we expect to have no more wood for 200 miles the morning was cloudy but the day turned out to be fine and there was lots of teams past us and to day we saw some folks from lake Mills brown was one that owned the grist mill down to prats he said they had burried haukins from lake Mills Monday 7 we made about 23 miles the road was good this forenoon and in the Afternoon we had very heavy sandy bluffy roads we crossed some 2 or three nice little cricks to day one was called bluff crick the day was cool and fine and we saw 12 new graves to day

Tuesday 8 I think we have had the heaviest roads to day that we have had since we left Council blufs it was bluffy and very sandy and to day we past several Springs of good water we camped to night about A mile from duck Crick the roads was very heavy but we made about 20 miles as the day was prety cool we past to day seven more new graves

Wednesday 9 the road was prety good and we past rattle snake Crick to day and Cedar bluffs Cedar bluffs his A few scattering Cedars on the opposite side to us on the South side of the plat we dont see much game along here but there his plenty over the bluffs from the road we see antelope and wolfs once A while there his buffaloo plenty of from the road to day we met several going back home

with their teams on account of them loosing some of their company by death to day we past 9 new graves we made about 10 miles to day and camped

Thursday 10 to day we made 18 miles and we had plenty of good water as we crosses several clear nice Cricks of water the roads was heavy in the forenoon but in the Afternoon they was prety good but we have I think the poorest grass that we have had since we left Missouria river to day we met A team that was going to the States and he took letters back for emigrants that wished to send cents back he charged 50 A letter we crossed Castle river to day it his clear good water and it his 8 or 10 rods wide and good crossing not deep

Friday 11 the road his good and feed prety poor all along here to day we can see lots of teams on the other side of the river that appears to be on their road to the gold country to day we made about 20 miles

Saturday 12 we laid up most of the day on account of sickness we had A man by the name of John Christian in our company took sick with the Cholera he was unwell friday night and Saturday by 4 clock in the Afternoon he was burried he had been takeing the names down in A small memorandam book of all the emigrants that had died he wants go to most every grave and look at the head board and take their name but after that the rest of generally went along past the graves as we thought he might have

caught the disease by going to close to the graves after we had burried him we itched up and drove about 7 miles and camped he had some children left behind but no wife he was A poor man working his passage through

Sunday 13 we had very poor grass where we camped last night so we itched up and drove about 6 or 7 miles to have better feed for the Cattle and while we was going along we had two more men of our company took with the diarea and Cholera one of the mens name was Jeroam Buck he drove his team this morning most to the camp ground and then he began to vomit as he sat in his waggon and was very sick so the old man Boyer drove his team for him to the camp ground about 2 miles and he was taken out of the waggon and he began to cramp and turn very black he had the Cholera very bad he appeared to suffer very much but we did all the company new how for him and the emigrants that past would call and see him but they said he was to farr gone and after we had rubed him and given him medicine and such like he died after suffering A great deal appearantly and was burried on the same day about 3 or 4 clock on Sunday Afternoon he had A wife and one child about 2 months old and an orphan girl about 12 years old that he had took to bring up till she was of age and the widow was left with two cows and two of the best and fatest yoke of oxen that I have seen on the road and the waggon and provisions but she had no money as

he had none when he left the bluffs he paid his ferrying at Lupe fork with Indian meal out of his waggon we laid up here all day on account of fox been sick two he had the diarea pretty bad and vomited pretty bad but I think he will get well as we got him medicine in season and it seems to help him it his called the old ancient bluffs here where we are laying up as there his to the right some very old looking bluffs called the old ancient bluffs and I think they are named right as I think they imitate some old ancient place or other and the widow Missis Buck his going along with the Company to California as it his all the way she can do the Company helps her along drives for her and takes care of her team

Monday 14 we started out this morning pretty early and made about 18 miles we camped pretty early owing to A storm arising our sick man fox seems some better he rode all day and appears to be gaining it was A good day to drive and good roads and cool

Tuesday 15 we made about 18 miles we nooned opposite what his called the chimney rock it his A rock on the South side of the platt river which imitates A high chimney which we can see for miles before before we come at it we had very good roads to day this Afternoon all our company started on together and three of our waggons got A little A head of the company and Mr Marsh was took sick with the

Cholera and the company drove off the road to the river where they would get water and the three waggons that was A head went on about 5 miles farther and when we was A going along we saw A man on A mule that belonged to our company A young man had gone ahead to overtake another waggon that was Ahead but he was took sick and he laid on side of the road most dead with the Cholera we got him into the waggon and drove down to water as quick as we could and camped and give the young man medicine and rubed him and did all we could for him we had to set up all night with him and fox my health his good but I am very much exposed to taking the Cholera as I do all I can for them set up with them and rubs them when they cramp

Wednesday 16 we three waggons that went about 5 miles ahead yesterday started out this morning with our two sick men and went about 8 miles and nooned opposite the Scotts bluffs and the rest of the company came along with the news that they had burried Mr Marsh which was only took sick last night that leaves us two widows now in our company each with 2 children but widow marsh his with her sister and brother in law and has teams and cows she goes along with the company she felt very bad at loosing her husband and having to bury him without coffin wraped him in A buffaloo skin and burried him we made about 20 miles and camped the roads from Scotts bluffs are first rate clear to fort

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Laramie just before camping time our young man was very bad with the Cholera and we with our waggon with our sick man fox thought best to camp and let the rest of the company go along as they seemed desirous but we thought best to camp as our sick men specially the young man seemed pretty bad so we with our waggon and A man by the name of Starr that had the young man camped so as to help them and comfort them all we could but we had not been camped more than an hour or so before the young man died then he was burried right of and we itched up our team and drove to the rest of the company after dark so that makes 4 healthy looking men that we have burried Thursday 17 we had first rate roads to day and we made about 23 miles and camped A little from the road where we had plenty of wood for the first time for 200 miles but our sick man fox his very bad to night we have done all we know for him we have got the diarea stoped and he has not cramped any this two last days but he was worse A great deal to night and Starr and I his watching with him to night but he died about 11 clock and we fixt him up A little and then starr and I went to bed that makes 6 healthy looking men that we have burried fox his burried 20 miles before reaching fort Laramy

Friday 18 this morning we burried fox A man from Beloit Wisconsin that Aldrige and Boyer and Chadwick had fell in company with at Kanesville he had had some difficulty with

his partner and they had divided so he wanted to go through with us we took him in with us as he had 2 yoke of oxen we bought him provisions and was to take his cattle and take him throug and we let him have some money at Kanesville and we paid his doctor bill on the road now he has left his cattle he was to give us 60 dollars for takeing him through but he died he says he has A wife and 3 children in Beloit he said his life was insured for 1000 dollars to day we made about 20 miles and camped a blow the fort about A mile but the grass his rather poor

Saturday 19 the teams started along and I took 2 letters back to the fort Laramy post office one for foxes wife Beloit and one for my wife I overtook the teams about noon it his the begining of the mountains it his A big days drive from the fort over the black hills to the river again and the road his very hilly and stony this day was the worst on our cattles feet that we have had since we left home but there his A good spring of water in the hills that would have been well for our teams if we had only drove there that day but the grass was very poor

Sunday 20 we was calculateing to lay up to day but we have not much water or much grass so we drove 12 or 14 miles and camped where we had prety good water but not much grass to night we camped alone as the company took A notion to go A little farther and we had got our cattle

turned out and camped so we would not move that night it was A very fine day to day

Monday 21 it his A fine day but rather windy we came to where the company camped last night and part of the company had gone on and A part of them was A laying up on account of Missis Marsh had been rather unwell so the company has got about broke up as we traveled on we overtook Starr one of our company and he has his family along so we traveled along and left the rest of the company behind we hear of A great deal of sickness behind

Tuesday 22 we drove about 15 miles the roads was first rate and there his only two teams of us together and best of all my health his very good

Wednesday 23 we made about 18 miles and camped as the road was some hilly to day but we had no difficulty we had poor grass

Thursday 24 we had not very good grass last night so we drove about 5 miles then turned our cattle out to feed then we itched up again and it began to rain so we drove down to the river and laid up as it was rainy and our cattle needed rest we camped alone as the other team had gone along it was A very pleasant rain and much needed

Friday 25 we made about 18 miles the road was some sandy and some hilly but it was A fine day to drive after yesterdays rain we are in no company now so we camp alone to night but there his plenty of camps all around us the grass

his very poor and we dont expect much for 70 miles as we are told we shant have any by emigrants returning home we are now at the last ferry on platt river where the emigration all comes together from the South Side of platt river to the north and the grass his all pretty well picked of we have to drive our cattle of the road some ways to feed my health his very good

Saturday 26 we made about 15 miles roads some pretty sandy and some pretty good we keep A crossing from the river over hills and then down to the river again so we have plenty of water and the weather his pretty cool and good for cattle we have not seen an ox have his tongue out with heat for more than A week we meet Californians occasionally returning home with mules of the best quality

Sunday 27 we made about 18 miles we now leave the platt river which we have traveled on along side of for Along while we now left it to day we past some mountains that the rocks was red they looked very pleasing to the eye and on the hills was some small timber we dont appear to pay much respect to Sunday on this trip appearently on this trip we camped with some other teams to night but we had no water to day for our cattle we had A very fine shower to day which laid the dust

Monday 28 we made about 15 miles but we did not have any water for our teams till non when we reached willow Springs

then we drove about 6 miles and camped besides A very nice brook of good water but poor grass but our cattle looks pretty well yet and to day we had another nice shower of rain and my health his very good

Tuesday 29 we made about 16 miles roads pretty good some sandy and to day we had another pretty rain to day we past the independance rock this Afternoon about 5 O clock and here we strike A river not very large called the sweet water we watered our cattle and drove about 1 mile from the sweetwater crossing and camped here beside sweetwater was several whiskey tents and some bacon might be bought here as there appears to be bacon for sale here independance rock his the most wonderfull rock I ever saw it his A very large granit rock no dirt on it at all very high but so flat that people can run right up it and go most all over it and there his hundreds of names printed on in large and small letters printed by emigrants on their road to California and Oregon to night we found our cattle about dark and we could not find the tent we had drove the cattle by the tent and we let them lay down then hunted for the tent and after A while we found it and we was glad

Wednesday 30 last night whilst we was camped along there was another team come up and Set their camp beside us so we are traveling together to day to day we past the devils gate it lays about half A mile on the right hand side of

the road I did not go to it but it his sweetwater river that runs betwixt two high mountains which stands up pretty straight and the water has but A narrow place to run through and it his called the devils gate I expected we should have pretty hard roads through by the devils gate and all along but the road his first rate and we have had and has yet either wood or buffalo chips or sage roots that we can burn pretty much all the way through this farr I believe these mountains that we are now traveling over his called the snake mountains the mountains here lays mostly on the right hand on the other side of the river and they appear to be mostly rock here and pretty well shattered my health his good and the rest of the company his very good to day we made about 15 miles July 1 the road his some sandy to day but the day his cool and and fine for the cattle to travel there are sill mountains all along and to day we past some ten or twelve dead oxen that had died right in the road they appeared as they had drank alkaly water as they appeared to be swelled to large for their skin and there appeared as if there had A barrel of water run out of their mouths which was of A redish colour to day we forced sweet water crick three times it was not bad fording if people was carefull we had no difficulty at all we went through what his called the pass and then drove about two miles and camped having pretty good grass to day we made about twenty miles

July 2 to day we forced sweetwater crick then traveled about 16 miles to the river again passing what his called the alkaly lake to the right and then traveling three miles up what his called the alkaly swamp passing A considerable many dead cattle on the road to day we heard of A murder behind us it was A man from Michigan he was fetching A man through with him and they had A falling out some how and the man that was bringing the other one through got the other to go out A hunting with him appearantly in good friendship the murdrer having A double barrellled shot gun and the murgered having A rifle and the rest of the company was going along and when they got behind some mountain or in A lonely place the man with the double barrellled shot gun discharged one barrell right in the back of his head and the other barrell into his back and killed him then returned and overtook the company and they asked him where the other man was and he said he did not know and told where he saw him last and they went on A A ways and the man did not come back to the train so they began to mistrust that something had happened him so they stoped and made the man go back and show them where he saw him last and as they was A going he confessed and said he supposed he had killed him that they got to fighting and he killed him he said he had to do it to defena himself but they examined the man and see how he had been shot and how he had been beaten with the but of

the gun after he was shot they found him guilty and they put two waggon tongues up together and fastened them and hung him till he was dead and his wife and one or two children was along and some of his wifes brothers she went along through with her brothers to California She had his team and everything he had 5 or 6 good horses this was near the devils gate where he where he was hung made them use the waggon tongues there his no trees along here so it seems there his law on the plains and as we came along on A place we heard of A man been killed and also his son it was on A low piece of land where we are about leaving platt river for good when we came there we heard of this murder but did not stop nor pay much attention to it but after traveling on A day or two there came some men along past us and told us that A company had come along where the murdered man and his son was and they knew them and they had seen his team A going back with some frenchmen or A kind of indians driving I met them myself and spoke of them as having emigrants cattle and waggon and thinking I had seen them before somewhere on the road so this company that knew the man started of back after these frenchmen thinking that they had murdered the man and took his team but it was not so the frenchmen told them that they had bought the team and that the man had gone back to the States that they had bought the cattle and waggon of so they clearing themselves

and the company I suppose knowing who it was that was with the man and his son going through to California they went back in search of him and found him brought him back and found that he had cut their throats and throwed them behind an old log or some bushes and sold their team and started back for the states but they caught him and there been trees handy here he was hung and left there and there was A board put up of the murder and he was left hanging in the tree and there was A board put up saying fresh meat for sale I did not see either of these murders but I believe that it was actually true as I saw the team A going back myself and I was told by men that come along and saw them

Saturday 3 we crossed the river three times in the forenoon in one crossing two waggons went in to go across together one wanting to cross before the other and one team turned on toward the bank on the opposite side and turned the waggon upside down throwing their provisions all in the water they got pretty much all out been some what wet I jumped on one of our oxen and drove across without any difficulty the country to day appears to be almost A desert as there his nothing much but sage bushes and sand to day there was A buffaloo chase by some hunters which came up to the road where the emigration was traveling along and they seeing him coming had their guns ready and he had A good many balls put into him which brought him cown I eat some of his beef to day for

the first I ever ate in my life and to day we saw snow away of at A large distance on the mountains to day we camped about 10 clock on the banks of sweet water river and laid up till the next day we are now about forty eight days drove from Counsill bluffs there his A great many teams past us to day whilst we are laying up our company his all well

Sunday 4 we drove about 16 miles we drove about 6 miles on sweetwater bottoms and then left the river and crossed over A hilly and very stony road for about 4 miles we camped about one mile before reaching Strawberry Crick and to day we saw about 20 dead cattle on the road last night it was very cool we had quite A heavy frost there was ice on the water

Monday 5 we made about 18 miles and camped near what his called the South pass this his A very poor part of the ^{for} Country of grass our cattle appears to be A falling away some and to day I was on A snow drift from 8 to 10 feet deep I eat snow and I snow balled some on the rockky mountains on the 5 day of July 1852 to day we forded the sweet water river again for the last time we have forded this river now nine times backwards and forwards just as the road goes it his not bad fording any place if people be carefull and gentle with their teams we now leave old sweet water the roads are first rate

Tuesday 6 to day we passed what his called the pacific

Springs this his said to be the place where the water begins to run the other way into the pacific Ocean it his nothing more than any Spring in A kind of A wet place an miry some like our Marshes in Wisconsin the roads still are very good we crossed what his called dry sandy it was dry enough there ^{little} drove about 22 miles to what his called sandy where we found ^{little sandy his} plenty of water as big as quite A stream it was very dark ^{little} when we got to big sandy and it was A very rainy night we just took the yokes of the cattle and let them go as we could scarcely see them and we got some sticks and struck up A little fire in A little tin stove ef or rather sheet iron stove and made A cup of tea and there fixt and lay down till morning and we past quite A number of dead cattle to day Wednesday 7 we left little sandy this morning and drove about 8 miles and camped with Condys Company from Wisconsin I believe they call the river we are camped on big sandy we laid up here till the company Started next day and Condys company getting the start of us this Morning owing to us getting in so late last night Condys Company got their team up and got started just as the old man and I started out after our cattle as we expected we could get them in A few minutes as we had been with them till the breakfast was ready we went to eat breakfast and left the cattle and after breakfast frank and his wife hurrying and pulling up the tent and putting the dishes away as usual been in A very great hurry to catch up with Condys company the old man and I goes after the Cattle

right where we left them and they was not there we looked round and we saw them A mile or more of well we had to go after them which threw us very late back to the waggon with the Cattle and After the old man and I going after the Cattle when we got back frank was very wrathly and began to jaw us round like two prentice boys and hurrying us and fussing and I had A yoke in my hand fixing the bow key he came like any wrathly boss would and plucked the yoke out of my hand jawing and saying very provokeing words and wanted to know if I was going to be all day about it when I thought I was on an average smart enough to put three yokes on to his putting on two well this did not suit me nor the old man we came pretty near pitching on him we had A regular jaw well we agreed to divide of him so and so and then when it came to it he would not do it so we got started again in perfect hatred as neither the old man nor I liked his company so we catched up with condys company as they only went to big sandy 8 miles and camped

Thursday 8 we are traveling now along with Condys Company from Wisconsin called the Badger Boys the road is very good to day and fine for the cattles feet we made about 17^m miles to day and camped on the side of sandy river here the road crosses the river and goes to Salt lake but here to the right we go down the river to green river to the lower ferry but some of our company went on to Salt lake with their horse teams and calculates to meet us again where the roads

comes together again the road that we took with our ox teams his called Sublets cut of

Friday 9 we drove down to green river to day to the lower ferry it was about 12 or 14 miles from sandy river where we camped last night the roads was good and pretty good grass here frank one of our partners had been makeing A bargain with Condy unknown to the old man and me to join condys Company so when we got to the river frank comes up with another waggon and says come lets divide the provisions I am A going with Condys Company but we told him to hold on he had got to settle with us first but he fetched condy up and was going to take things out of the waggon but we told Condy that he was not A going to takeing things out of our waggon we told him we thought he was more man than that so he said he wanted nothing but what was right so we showed him our accounts and we had some considerable due us but they was waiting to ferry our waggon so we ferried the river and the old man said he would call it even if I would so we agreed to divide of tomorrow Green river his Considerable of A river it his about 20 or 30 rods wide nice clear water there his A good rope ferry here some swam their cattle but we ferried ours I heard of some fording this river A little above where we ferried

Saturday 10 we left the river this morning and drove about

10 miles and laid up for to day and rest our teams here there his wood on the river bottom and sage wood on the road we was going to camp on the river bottom but the misquetoos was so thick that we could not stand it and whilst we was laid up we divided our provisions and our cattle and frank joins condys Company condy had A light waggon that he calculated to leave so he let frank and his wife have it to go through with and then Condy his to have the waggon again when they get through frank took the smallest Yoke of Foxes Cattle as the largest yoke one of them was lame so the old man Boyer and I took the largest yoke we doctored him up and he soon got well

Sunday 11th the old man and I started out this morning with our three yoke of oxen we sawed the waggon box of some and coupled it up shorter and only haveing the half of the provisions and half the team it seems to go A great deal better as we have no hard feelings amongst us we could not agree before so I think we did well to divide of we traveled part of the day with an Oregon Company and this Afternoon Condys Company catched up with us that frank his A traveling with and we all camped together at the foot of A large hill where we have prety good grass ang good spring water we made about 15 miles to day we had A very nice shower of rain to day we can see snow away of on the mountains the weather his prety warm along here

Monday 12 it his A prety warm day and we have had prety

hilly roads to day we past over several hills and through several Valleys the road was pretty hard to day on the Cattles feet we made about 14 miles and camped on Hams Crick where we have pretty good grass and plenty of water and some dry willows for fuel

Tuesday 13 we having good grass here we have concluded to lay up to day on hams Crick and rest our teams there his considerable many indians on this Crick and they have A good many horses and poneys which looks very well as they are fat they have some American horses and some french horses there his some french ^{men} amongst the Indians and they trade A good deal with the indians and with Emigrants the indian squaws makes A good many moggisons here and sells to emigrants there was some two or three squaws rode up to our camp to day dressed of and beaded of very nicely they had A bay horse about as pretty an animal as I ever saw I visited A good many of the indian tents to day the emigrants traded lead and powder and guns or any thing for moggisons and deer skins and such like here his fish in this Crick the old man shot one and we eat him he was very good there his A good many goossbarries on this Crick we stued some up and sweetened them which made pretty good sauce we had A nice shower to day

Wednesday 14 this Morning we Itched up our teams and got most ready to start when an Affray took place between Holmsted and D Dunmore Holmsted had been watching the cattle so consequently he was not at breakfast till the

cattle was drove up to yoke then Holmstead went to eating breakfast whilst the rest yoked up and Dunmore an Holmsted was A quarreling prety hard the swore prety hard at one another and finaly Dunmore pitched on to Holmstead whilst sat eating breakfast in the tent and they was A scuffling together in the camp about A minute and when they had just left of one another Dunmore said that holmstead had stabed him and he requested us to get something out of his valice in the waggon to keep him from fainting as he had stabed him he then laid down on the ground as he was only just ^{had} feeling the effects of it we asked him where he was stabbed him and he put his hand on his belly but did not say anything then we unbuttoned his pants and vest and looked and sure enough he had had the knife in his belly his belly did not bleed any but the blood was out of his mouth as he had bleed inwardly he did not live more than 10 or 15 minutes then he was burried and the train went along as they was all itched up ready to start before the Affray took place none of us see him stabed as they did it in the scufal as Holmstead was eating breakfas when Dunmore pitched on to him consequently he used his knife that he was eating with they had had other disputes before but this put an end to it Holmstead was wallking about to and fro about 3 or 4 rods from the camp I went to him and asked him how he felt about stabbing him and I told

him he was dead he said he would give all the world most if it had not happened but he said it was done and it could not be helped some was angry at him and others was in favour of him but he said that they might do whatever was right with him so the company concluded to drive on that day until the excitement was over and have A trial of it tomorrow he did not want to get away but went along same as the rest of the Company Dunmore has left A wife and three children in Illinois Holmstead and Dunmore was neighbours in Illinois Dunmore had hired his passage with holmstead Just as we leave hams Crick which his in a valley we go up A very steep hill and it his A good ways up to the top we had some pretty good hills to day almost straight up and down we traveled to day from hams Crick to bear river whis 31 miles it took us till ten or eleven clock at night there his plenty of grass and water along here we drove to farr to day but we calculate to lay up tomorrow to have the trial Thursday 15th Condys Company his A laying up to day to have the trial of holmstead which came of about 3 clock this Afternoon but Boyer and ditched up our team and started out and drove about 3 miles up bear river and camped along with some men that had been A traveling with Condys Company but would not travel with them any longer on account that they did not like to travel with holmstead because he had killed

Dunmoore some of them stayed to hear the trial that had horses to ride so they came up to the Camp and told us that the Jury had Cleared him as he was fighting in self defence the Jury was out of another train and the witnesses out of Condys train they had A fair trial and the Jury was smart intelligent men we had A pretty smart shower of rain to day there his some Indians along here which appear to be quite friendly I visited several of their camps to day they had some buffalo skins wolf skins an such like and they had A large Owl alive that they had tamed but they kept him fast by A small Cord to his leg

Friday 16th to day we Crossed A stream called thomases fork it his A stream some 6 or 8 rods wide and emptys into bear river here was A bridge across this river which they taxed us one dollar A waggon we could have crossed it A little lower down but we had rather pay than go lower down and ford it the roads has been pretty hilly to day and we had A fine shower of rain we made about 15 miles to day and Camped on bear river Saturday 17 we have traveled up this valley about 18 miles it his very good road this his A beautifull valley there his snow on on the tops of the mountains which looks very pleasing to the eye up bear river valley his several small Cricks of good cold water Crosses our path which dont come amiss we came to bear river again and camped on its banks there his good grass all the way up this valley Sunday 18 there his any quantity of teams along here and

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there his some traders along here that wants to get all
the lame Cattle they can which they calculate to get pretty
cheap and to day we past the soda Springs