

Members of Oregon Colony

OHS  
ms 1508

Thos. J. Connor	of Andersonville Franklin Co Ind <sup>a</sup>	
Creswell Will	" Marion Grant Co	"
M. M. Crow	" Greenwood Marion Co	"
Dennis Gray	" Mendon Madison Co	"
Joseph M. Dosh	" Floyd Co	"
John Howard	" Madison Co	"
Stephen B. Denning	Washington Co	"
George W Capias	" "	"
John Denning	" "	"
Geo Mason		Ill s
David "		"
Jonathan "		"
Joshua "		"
Peter "		"
James Edwards	Guernsey Co	Ohio
H. C. Pennell single	Clear Ck Fairfield Co	"
W. H. Kendrick	Indianapolis	Ind
Wm Franklin	S <sup>r</sup> Charles Kane Co	Illinois
John C. Fisher & 3 others	Monticello White Co	Ind
M. Shisler	Carey	Ohio
Boyd Lawrence	Circleville	Ohio
J.F. Hecker	West Brookfield	Ohio
Rev. J. Kenoyer		Illinois
Rev Osburn ..		Iowa

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from Oregon Historical Society

See Platte River Road Narratives  
entry # 1358

## Items of travel

March 9th 1853. This day left Andersonville Franklin Co Ind and commenced our journey to Oregon. Our first point of destination being Cincinnati our way led us directly through the above county, toward the Ohio line. On arriving at the east fork of White water river we found it so much swollen by recent rains that it was deemed unsafe to attempt to cross it today.

March 10. Crossed the river without difficulty this morning and continued our journey.

March 12. This day reached the city where we were most cordially greeted by Bro W B Witt and lady. Here we found a quarterly meeting in session, and were much gratified to meet with Bro J P Eckels, P. E. Bro Shury Stationed preacher Bro J. A. Mast German Missionary and the good brethren sisters of this charge.

Sabbath 13. This day tried to preach twice to large and attentive congregations. Thank God for one more season of grace in my native land. Long shall I remember the kind regard manifested by those dear brethren and sisters not only in word but in deed also. Bro Eckels manifested all the affection of a father toward a son, and with Bro Witt and lady accompanied us to the boat, and assisted me much. Bros Longstreet, Brown Shury Applegate & Zellers have my grateful acknowledgments for presents bestowed.

Tues/ 15/ At 12 oclock today we left the wharf at Cincinnati on board of the Steamer Sparhawk bound for St Louis.

March 17 This morning at 7 oclock we passed the wreck of the unfortunate steamer Bee which burst her boilers yesterday evening a few miles below Evansville. A gentleman who went on board of her one hour after the explosion & who assisted in believing the sufferers gave me the following particulars. The Bee was a small, inferior boat engaged in the Wabash river trade. at Evansvl it was discovered that one of her boilers was leaking she stoped and made some repairs and was cautioned not to crowd the steam. She left that port and soon after stoped to wood, the steam

was high, and during the time of wooding was not suffered to escape, and about the time of starting she exploded ten persons were wounded, six of them mortally. Four were dead when we past her and two more no life expected. Fortunately there were no passengers on board. I have just had a conversation of some interest with one of the victims of slavery, a woman of some twenty years of age, whilst myself and wife were admiring the works of nature from the rear of our room we discovered her near our door in a lonely condition when the following conversation occurred.

"Well Miss you have a hard time here," "Yes Sir I would rather be at home." "Where is your home?" "My young master lives in Missouri." "How old are you?" "Dont know sir." "What is your name?" "Mary." "What else?" "Nothing els, just Mary." "Can you read any?" "No Sir I never learnt to read." "Does your master let you go to meing? Yes sir some times." "Well Mary be a good girl and all tho you have a hard time in this world you will get to a better world by and by." Tears flowed freely down her dark cheek. She could make no reply and I continued, "I think it is very wicked Mary that colored people are used so bad in this world, but those of us who think so can not help it." "No" said she "all we can do is to hope for a better world," whilst tears flowed freely down her face. O My God how long must those unfortunat victims of oppression groan under this accursed system.

8 oclock P.M. Supper being over the gentlemans cabin is made ready and a regular dance is going off. Some of the ladies have to leave their prattling babes in the care of others while they join in the revelry of the evening. O! what a world of iniquity there is upon those waters, tongue cannot describe it.

March 19. This day at 4 P.M. landed at St Louis.

March 21 Started at 5 P.M.; for Keokuk on board the Lamartine. She is much crowded with passengers.

March 22 I find I have made a poor selection of a boat. She runs very slow and her machinery is of an inferior quality. Stopped twice last night to repair her engines. Up to 7 oclk this morning had only advanced 25 miles.

March 24 this day landed at Keokuk in Iowa, had a very tedious trip from St Louis.  
 March 25 to day land at A. Clark's in Vanburen co find my outfit only partially completed, but feel greatly indebted to the Providence of God for his protecting care.

April 4 After ten days hard work my outfit is completed. Two large mares to my traveling Carriage and 4 yoke of good cattle to my burthen waggon. My partner having backed out the entire expense of the out fit falls upon me.

April 5 Having engaged the services of Nelson Clark as teamster to Council Bluffs, we bade our friends in Iowa farewell and at 9 oclk A. M. commenced our journey in regular emigrant style traveled 14 miles and encamped near Birmingham. Team works well and everything thus far gives flattering indications of a prosperous journey.

April 6, 7, 8 & 9 continued our journey at about the rate of 15 miles per day our road leads a Northwest direction following in the main the direction of the Desmoine River.

May 3 After passing through the rotine of mishaps, trials, difficulties and dangers usual on such trips we landed safely at Council Bluffs in tolerable health, and found 9 families mostly of the Illinois division awaiting our arrival.

May 6 Bros Crow Kenoyer and Price arrived and joined our company

May 9 Having recruited our stock of provisions and examined and fited up our outfit in general in the best possible manner we crossed over the Missouri River and moved out some 4 miles and encamped. our company consist of 13 families with 26 teams amounting in all (men women & childred) to 88 persons

May 10 having gotten regularly on our journey the members of the colony met and entered into an organization By electing Rev J. Kenoyer Captain and P Mason, Rev. M. M. Crow & Rev R. Price, Councilmen.

May 16 Sabbath laid by and had a meeting

- May 17 Finding our company too large to travel together with speed and comfort, by mutual consent we divided into two companies with an agreement to come together as often as practicable on Sabbath.
- May 22 both companies came together and had Preaching by Br Lichtenthaler at 3 P.M. and Prayr M. at night.
- May 29 Since the 22 traveled about 85 miles. Rainy weather and bad roads. today being Sabbath a part of the company remains in camp, and a part refusing to lay by have gone ahead viz Peter Mason Jonathan Mason Joshua Mason and Mr Carlton. Bros Kenoyer, Crow and Price are some 10 miles behind But expected up in the morning.
- May 30 Traveled some 20 miles in company with David Mason Geo Mason and Lichtenthaler the rear company is still behind and our sabbath travelers still ahead
- June 1 Traveled about 18 miles yesterday the same today. Roads very muddy. This evening came up with the forward company. The Masons halted with them and Bro Edwards and myself passed on a short distance and encamped alone
- June 2 Traveled about 14 miles and having reached the last timber for two hundred miles concluded to stop for washing baking &c Crow and others still behind
- June 3 at 9 oclock this morning the rear division of our company reached our camp
- June 4 Traveled about 15 miles weather still rainy and roads bad
- June 5 This being sabbath a question arose about traveling. on one side it was argued that our teams did not need rest and that we had near two hundred miles yet before us before we would reach timber that we were consuming our small supply of wood &c and on the other side that it was the sabbath and should be kept and when submitted to vote a majority of one were in favor of traveling we accordingly harnessed our team and traveled some twelve miles today passed the other company
- June 6 Traveled about twenty miles roads still bad
- June 8 Traveled yesterday about 24 miles and about 18 today roads a little better
- June 15 Since the 8 we have traveled about one hundred miles and are now at Ft Laramie. Passed Courthouse rock on the 9th and Chimney rock on the 10 both being on

the south side of the River we had but an imperfect view of them  
 Our company was thrown into quite a panic this morning, when about 6 miles from the  
 fort we were stoped by an indian trader and informed that hostilities had commenced  
 between the Missouri Sou indians and the soldiers of the fort, that they had  
 come to an engagement the day before which resulted in the death of 9 whites and  
 6 Indians our company with others called a council to determine what should be done.  
 Whilst we were yet consulting, a messenger arrived and informed us that the Indians  
 were collected to the no of 500 and were sending off their squaws and children  
 and had killed 30 head of cattle that morning belonging to emigrants and had  
 declared they would kill every white man on the road & under those circumstances  
 it was thought best to halt until a considerable company would come up and then  
 move on we accordingly waited untill ten oclock when we found we had about 75  
 waggons and one hundred men. we then moved on cautiously to the fort when lo! and  
 Behold! there was scarcely an India to be seen and every thing as quiet as a  
 country village. we learned however that the day previous the Indians had become  
 insulted and shot at on officer of the fort, when some 20 Soldiers went out and  
 demanded that the offender and those associated with him should be given up this  
 they refused to do. the soldiers then fired on them and killed three and took two  
 prisoners and that the balance had fled. But supposing them to be exasperated  
 the officer advised us to travel in large companies we accordingly moved out  
 some 4 miles and encamped with four other companies.

June 16 This morning three of the companies with whom we encamped separated from  
 us leaving one of 11 teams and 18 men with us, with whom we agreed to travel a  
 few days. Advanced some 12 miles and encamped on the blk hills road very rough.

June 17 Traveled about 12 miles road very bad.

June 19 Sabbath this morning our associates left us and went on our company remained  
 in camp. Traveled yesterday about 15 miles. Preaching at 11 oclock

Mon 20 Traveled about 20 miles over a dry rolling Pararie country. roads fine.

June 22 Since the 20th traveled about 40 miles Country rough and uneven on the 22

the weather cold and blustery equal to march weather. Some snow. Price left the 23. 26 Sabbath. remained in camp. since the 22 traveled about 50 miles roads rather rough and uneven the weather cool, on the 24th we took our final leave of Platte River after following it near Seven hundred miles we are now wending our way toward Sweetwater River.

27 Traveled 15 miles and encamped at the willow Springs.

28 Reached Sweetwater traveled about 20 miles

29 This day passed Rock independence a huge mass of gray granite situated in an open plain about fifty yards from Sweetwater river also passed what is called Devils gate. This is truly one of the wonders of nature on reaching the place myself and three others went to see it. we approached at the lower extremity by crossing a ridge which makes down the river about 150 feet in highth, descending about 50 feet we came to River bank which was a perpendicular cliff of about 100 feet finding a chasm in the rock with some difficulty we descend to the waters edge and supposing we could pass through by following the course of the River we proceeded up about 300 yards here our path was interrupted by the river dashing and foaming against the side of the gap. at this point the rocks on either side are almost perpendicular and rise to the highth of near 400 feet the channel is probably 100 feet wide through which Sweet water River passes with great rapidity Finding our way hedged up we were under the necessity of returning and passing round the point of the Bluf a distance of some miles or to clamber over the top by which we would reach the road much nearer we preferred the latter and commenced climbing some times through chasms in the rock sometimes up almost perpendicular cliffs clinging to the rocks as best we could after an hours hard work we found ourselves on the top pretty well tired but well paid for our labot we traveled this day about 18 miles the weather quite cool and windy for some days past, hard frosts and some ice passed Masons company

June 30 Traveled about 20 miles

July 1 Traveled 18 miles much of the way through heavy sand. we this day came in sight of the Wind river Mountains the scene was delightful, covered with masses of snow and ice they rise to an immense highth glistening in the sun like a crystal city The road passes near the southern extremity of those mountains which extend to the north farther than the eye can penetrate

July 2 Traveled 16 miles our road continues up Sweet water

July 3 Sabbath remained in camp

July 6 This morning at 8 oclock A.M. we passed the dividing ridge that separates the waters flowing into the Atlantic from those which find their way into the Pacific we had reached the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

The Scenery upon the summit of this vast mountain is beautiful beyond description for 40 miles or more the road is very fine. no deep ravines or rugged cliffs but one continuous gradual ascent untill the highest point is reached and then descends in like manner not a tree or shrub obstructs view but one vast plain spreads out around you as far as sight can penetrate interrupted only by the majestic appearance of the snow caped Wind River Mountains in the N.E. and a few distant peaks of the Rocky Range.

This is really the dividing point between the East and West and many and deep were the emotions experienced on bidding farewell to the waters of the great Atlantic I alighted from my carriage and passed over this point on foot and whilst upon the Summit composed the following farewell melody

Atlantic's sweet waters we bid thee farewell  
 We've long been permitted on thy margins to dwell  
 At this point we must leave thee no more to return  
 Till dew drops shall fall on our mouldering urn.

Farewell to thy rivulets sparkling & bright  
 By thy sides have I wandered by day & by night  
 Or laid myself down on thy carpet of green  
 And gazed with emotions most calm and serene  
 Thy Rivers majestic in grandeur they roll  
 Like the deep swelling tide of God's peace in the soul  
 Thy waves may roll on but the tale cannot tell  
 With what deep emotions I bid thee farewell.

*Common*

Three miles from the pass brought us to the Pacific Spring here then we hailed Oregon having a desert of 20 miles before us we watered and rested our teams, for a few hours and at 1 P.M. harnessed our teams moved on to dry Sandy where we encamped having traveled 18 miles

July 7 Ten miles today brought us to little Sandy where we again obtain water and 8 miles further brought us to big Sandy where we encamped

July 8 Having now a desert of 49 miles before us (commonly called the Big desert) we remained in camp until 4 o'clock P.M. when we again harnessed our teams, laid in a small supply of water and started

July 9 Today at 5 P.M. we reached Green River having driven all of the preceding night and accomplished the journey of 49 miles in 26 hours. We ferried over to the opposite side of the River and encamped

July 10 Sabbath remained in camp.

July 11 Traveled ten miles and as our teams still needed rest we encamped on

#### Lost River

July 12 Traveled about 20 miles and encamped on Crow Creek the country west of Green River is very rough and mountainous

July 13 Traveled 11 miles over a very rough and mountainous country encamped on Ham's fork nights very cool and hard frost.

July 14 Traveled 12 miles and encamped at a Fir & Pine grove.

July 15 remained in camp

July 16 Traveled 18 miles. Reached bear River passed down said river 6 miles and encamped on Smith Fork

July 17 Sabbath remained in camp preaching by M. M. Crow

July 18 Traveled about 20 miles encamped at the foot of the mountain

July 19 Traveled 15 miles. Crossed one of the most difficult and dangerous mountains on the road

July 20 Traveled about 18 miles

July 21 reached the Soda Springs passed on five miles and encamped near the junction of the California road having traveled 14 miles

July 22 Traveled 15 miles through a beautiful valley . grass very fine

July 23 Passed over the dividing ridge between Bear and Snake River and encamped on a spring branch having traveled about 15 miles

July 24 Sabbath remained in camp Preaching at 11 oclck by J Kenoyer

July 31 during the past week traveled about one hundred miles our road since monday has led down the valley of Snake river. we passed fort Hall on the 26th the American falls on the 27th our Sabbath encampment is at the Marshey Spring. remained in camp

Aug 1 Traveled 23 miles encamped on the River bottom. the road along this valley is uniformly rocky and very dusty and he country extremely barren

Aug 2 Traveled 21 miles, our camp was near the source of Rock Brk

Aug 3 Traveled twelve miles, the trail leads down Rock Creek

Aug 4 Traveled only 8 miles our teams being much fatigued and suffering for food

Aug 5 Traveled twelve miles and reached Salmon fall creek

Aug 6 This day traveled only two miles to obtain grass of which our stock was much in need

Aug 7 Sabbath. Traveled 4 miles to the ferry on Snake river. drove our cattle about 4 miles to grass

Aug 8 Crossed Snake river by ferry had to swim our stock journeyed 2 miles and encamped grass in plenty was found.

For some two weeks both divisions of the Brethren colony have been traveling together but today reluctantly separated one com choosing to remain on the south side of the River the other to cross over to the North

Aug 9 Traveled 4 miles to a creek bottom where was found an excellent camp and as our stock had recently suffered much for want of food we halted untill the next morning

- Aug 10 Traveled 20 miles road stony and very dusty. encamped on a small creek  
grass plenty
- Aug 11 Traveled 6 miles to where the road leaves the creek, where is a good camp  
grass in great abundance
- Aug 12 Traveled 13 miles encamped on a small creek good camp
- Aug 13 Traveled 14 miles encamped at meadow creek, an excellent camp
- Aug 14 Sabbath remained in camp
- Aug 21 during the past week traveled about one hundred miles. Road very dusty  
and in some instances quite stony. passed the hot springs on the 15th  
Reached the beautiful valley of Boyce river on the 17th our Sabbath camp  
after traveling 6 miles is on Boyce River 6 miles below the fort
- Aug 22 Reached the lower ferry on Snake River having traveled 10 miles crossed over  
and encamped on the opposite side
- Aug 23 Traveled 18 miles and encamped on Malheur River
- Aug 24 Remained in camp until 5 P.M. Then harnessed our teams and drove 18  
miles to Burnt River
- Aug 25 traveled 5 miles
- Aug 26 Traveled 15 miles our road leads down the valley of Burnt River
- Aug 27 Traveled 15 miles
- Aug 28 Advanced 9 miles and encamped on a spring branch one of the tributaries of  
Burnt River
- Aug 29 Traveled 20 miles without water reached the valley of Powder River
- Aug 30 Traveled down Powder River 10 miles crossing the first second & third  
branches
- Aug 31 Traveled 18 miles and reached Grand Round encamped at the foot of the hill  
on a small branch
- Sept 3 Traveled 8 miles across the valley of Grand Round encamped at the Base of  
the Blue Mountains

- Sept 4 We this day ascended the Blue Mountains traveled 9 miles and encamped on Grand Round River
- Sept 5 Traveled 10 miles
- Sept 6 Traveled 10 miles reaching Lee's encampment
- Sept 7 Traveled 16 miles Passing the main ridge of the Blue Mts and reached the Umatilla River
- Sept 8 Traveled 15 miles down said River
- Sept 9 Traveled 17 miles encamped again upon the Umatilla
- Sept 10 Traveled 16 miles. 6 miles brought us to Agency and 10 miles to Butter Creek
- Sept 11 Traveled 10 miles
- Sept 12 Traveled 16 miles. 6 miles brought to a spring
- Sept 13 Traveled 10 miles which brought us to Willow Creek and having 25 miles before us without water we remained in camp untill noon of the 14th
- Sept 14 Traveled 10 miles
- Sept 15 Traveled 17 miles 15 brought us to John Days river we crossed over went two miles and encamped
- Sept 16 Traveled 19 miles. encamped at a spring
- Sept 17 Traveled 10 miles 5 miles brought us to the Columbia & 4 to Deshutes river
- Sept 18 Traveled 5 miles
- Sept 19 Traveled ten miles which brought us to the Falls of the Columbia This day our little company was divided again. Bro Kenoyer & Crow choosing to go over the Mts and Br Edwards and myself by water We parted reluctantly hoping to meet again soon after reaching the valley
- Sept 20 Br Edwards and two hands to assist him started with our stock on the pack road down the River leaving myself and one hand to assist to ship our effects and go with the families
- Sept 24 after being much detained we this morning put our Wagons and goods on a boat and started down the river

Sept 25 owing to contrary winds we are still on our downward passage

Sept 26 This morning at 8 oclock landed at the Cascades and found our stock and company waiting having arrived two days previous We put up our wagons and went round the Portage to the foot of the Cascades

Sept 27 Shipped on board the Sail boat Ohio and started our stock for the mouth of Big Sandy. Landed same night about 2 oclock and after collecting our stock and arranging our loading moved on up the valley passed Oregon City on the 2nd of October Salem on the 5th and reached the residence of Bro Bethers on the 7th. Seven months lacking 2 days from the time we left Andersonville Ind and Six Months & 2 days after leaving Bonapart Iowa.

Finis