

Cyrus Currier's Diary

1849

1. Cyrus Currier's Journal
to California by the North-
ern Overland Route from
Newark State of New Jersey

Newark N. J.

Friday ^{march} 16 1849 Took leave of
friends at 5½ O'clock P.M.
got into the cars and arrived
at Philadelphia at 9½ O'clock
the same evening and put up
at the Mansion House

Saturday march 17 left at
8½ O'clock A.M. in the cars
and arrived at Baltimore
Md at 3½ O'clock ^{P.M.} put up at
at the United States Hotel
Kept by Gay & Co. The Landlord
and servants were very obliging

thick with mud it looks some-
 thing like the streets of Newark
 in the spring of the Year but
 all of the natives think there is
 no better water in the world than
 this to drink they make use of
 the river water at St Louis for
 all purposes take a two quart
 pitcher full and let it stand
 over night and there will be
 a pint of thick mud at the
 bottom in the morning it tastes
 very well but I have to take two
 pills night & morning to work
 it through me, Saturday march
 31st on the same muddy river
 we have passed two small villages
 that look very well all of the rest
 is low Banks covered with the cotton

... a few log huts where
and cut wood
to stop to supply the boats
... pass up and down the river
have on board Capt Keen
... Tree & Russell they all served
the Mexican war and are very
iceable & sociable men full
... but smoke & drink to much
associate with, They are bound
... with their Diagoons
Rifle men Sunday April 1
the river full of sand bars
... The river changes its
... every freshet & the lead
... has to be thrown often and it
... from 4 ft to 12 in a distance
... and the boat make slow
... We pass Jefferson City in the
... still at a town called

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Rushford it looks very well.
 Boonville on the left Bank of
 the river is a very pretty town.
 Monday April 2 the river is the
 same not much to attract
 attention excepting large
 flocks of Brant seen on the
 sand bars & Islands. Tuesday
 April 3 raining all day, saw
 a large flock of pelicans.
 Wednesday April 4 the weather
 fine arrived at Independence
 landing at 2 o'clock P. M.
 stored our goods in the store
 house sent our trunk by express
 team at 50¢ each came up to the
 City by stage at 5 o'clock P. M.
 for 50¢ distance $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles put up at
 the hotel it was full I mean with room

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we had to lodge in an out house
in company with Doct. J. M. Evans
and party from Brownsville. We
found Doct. Dacey and company
encamped in an old church
built of logs near the town.
Thursday April 5 visited Dr.
Dacey's party and a diversion
among them some were for
horses & mules & other mules our
company had made up their
minds to go with mules the Doc-
tor's group had made up their
minds to go with horses therefore it was no
use to argue the point, Friday
April 6 took a view of the town &
vicinity, it stands on high ground
and is laid out very regular with
public square & Court House.

the entire the inhabitants are
 enterprising and industrious
 the soil rich & fertile, Saturday
 I took board in Mr Howes family
 a Merchant of the town were well
 received and had good accom-
 modations Sunday April 8 wrote
 letters to wife & Mr A. H. Davis
 Monday April 9 rode out on the ^{res} pair
 to mules bargained for five at
 200 Dollars Tuesday evening visited
 the odd fellows meeting the room
 was crowded with visitors and
 its members acted upon the firm
 principles of odd fellowship.
 Wednesday April 11. The mules were
 brought in and we bought 6 for
 355 Dollars. Tied them in harness
 & wagon, and they went very well

They were old Mules a great many
 bought young American mules
 It was a hard job to break them
 into the harness and they did
 not stand the journey like
 the old Spanish mule

Thursday April 12 drove the
 mules a gain about 2 miles
 to Tannery made some whip
 lashes and bought some leather
 to repair harness it began
 to rain and rained all day

Friday April 13 quite cool not in^{ch}
 doing Saturday April 14 received
 a letter from wife it was receiv^{ed}
 better than its bulk in Gold
 went to Church to hear an address
 delivered to the masons Sons
 of Temperance on their departure

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ac of the plains into California
it was very good for the occasion
Sunday April 15 went to Church
in the morning to hear Mr
Ballard preach he was from
St Louis he did very well. in
the afternoon wrote letter to
wife & looked over my Trunk
Monday April 16 in the morning
busy packing Trunks and getting
ready to move on our long journey
we previously engaged Col Ruse
of this town to act as leader and
guide a gentleman who had been
across the plains or country and
said he knew the route as well as
he knew the streets of his own town
started at two O'clock P.M. travelled
8 miles pitched our tent near a

15

Farm House and encamped for
the first time, it rained very
hard in the night and
initiated us some into camp
life. Tuesday April 17 cooked & ate
our breakfast & harnessed our
mules and left at 8 O'clock
arrived at a small stream
called the Big Blue we forded
it, it was about 3 ft deep
and 20 ft Broad we stopped
3 hrs to cook & eat our dinner
and let the mules feed. Tried
to catch some fish but could
not get a bite started at 3
O'clock P.M. and arrived at
the State line at 5 O'clock
P.M. distance 12 miles pitched
our tent and picketed our
2 mules

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wood land a few log huts where
people stop to ^{and eat wood} supply the boats
that pass up and down the river.
We have on board Capt Keen
Lieut. Tree & Russell they all served
in the Mexican war and are very
serviceable & sociable men full
of fun but swear & drink to much
to associate with, They are bound
to go on with their Dragoons
and Rifle men. Sunday April 1
the river full of sand bars
and snags. The river changes its
channel every freshet & the lead
line has to be thrown often and it
varies from 4 ft to 12 in a distance
of 200 ft and the boat makes slow
progress. We pass Jefferson City in the
night we stop at a town called