

# **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.

<sup>March</sup>  
Friday Feb 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 <sup>P. M.</sup> put up at  
at the United States Hotel  
kept by Gay & Co. The Landlord  
and servants were very obliging



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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  
 31<sup>st</sup> 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

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... 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 Boats  
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 pelican,

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 trunks by express team at 50¢ cash came up to the city by stage at 5 o'clock P.M.

fare 50¢ distance  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles put up at the hotel it was full I mean with room



"  
we had to lodge in an out house  
in company with Doct. John Evans  
and party from Brownsville. I  
found Doct. Darcy and company  
encamped in an old church

built of logs near the town.  
Thursday April 5 visited Dr.  
Darcy's party and a diversion  
among them some were for  
horses & mules & other mules and  
company had made up their  
minds to go with mules the Doc-  
tor's group had made up their

to go with men therefore it was no  
use to argue the point, Friday  
April 6 took a view of the town &  
environs, it stands on high ground  
and is laid out very regular with  
public square & Court House.



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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 accoma-  
-dations Sunday April 8 wrote  
letters to wife & Mr A. H. Davis  
Monday April 9 rode out on the <sup>res</sup> train  
to mules bargained for four at  
300 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



13

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<sup>ch</sup>  
doing Saturday April 14 received  
a letter from wife it was rec<sup>ed</sup>  
better than its bulk in Gold  
went to Church to hear an address  
delivered to the masons Sons  
of Temperance on their departure



14  
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 Russell  
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 pitched our  
tent near



9  
wood land a few log huts where  
people stop to <sup>and cut wood</sup> 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