

Memorandum of a trip from Delton, Sauk County,
Wisconsin to Oregon and California
April 12, 1852 - Aug. 12, 1854

By Jared Fox

(Copied from original by Ruth Grimshaw Martin
November 1930)

Jared Fox was born Aug. 17, 1805 at Fabius, Onondaga Co. N.Y. and died May 19, 1865 at Delton, Wisconsin, where he is buried beside his wife Bathsheba Babcock Fox who was born Nov. 10, 1808 and died Oct. 9, 1893.

Ruth Grimshaw Martin was a great granddaughter of Bathsheba and Jared Fox.

Charles Fox lived in Fabius, N.Y. Was a big
 dairy farmer. Had large herd cows and
 made much cheese. Had 5 sons and 2
 or more daughters. Sons names were Jared,
 Levi, Norton, Charles and Ira. Daughters
 Mercy Robbins - Julia Mills. He died
 Apr. 21, 1864.

Jared Fox was born Aug. 17, 1805 at Fabius N.Y.
 Was married to Miss Betshaba Babcock
 Apr. 11, 1827. Had 1 daughter - 4 sons -
 Emily, Lewis, Albert, Joel, Jared.
 He died - May 19, 1865 at Delton, Wis.
 His wife, Betshaba, died Oct 9, 1893 at Delton, Wis.

His son Jared Fox was born Dec. 17, 1849
 at Delton, Wis. and died Aug 9, 1908, at Elroy Wis.
 He was married Dec. 24, 1870, to Miss
 Lavinia Penogles of Keosauqua, Wis. who was
 born May 13, 1854, and died Apr. 19, 1932
 at Elroy Wisconsin

Son, Lewis Fox born Oct. 4, 1879 } see p. 143
 Daughter, Emily Fox born May 10, 1878 }

JARED FOX'S MEMORANDUM

KEPT FROM DELLTON, SAUK CO., WISCONSIN TOWARDS CALIFORNIA & OREGON.

MONDAY APRIL 12th, 1852 - At 4 o'clock P.M. left Dellton & arrived at Barraboo at dark - 9 miles.

TUESDAY APRIL 13th - Paid bill \$2.75 over night. Paid for repairing Fox's watch .70 cts., oats by way .13 cts., for hauling load on to the Bluffs \$1.00, oats by the way again - 5 Bushels \$1.00, Ferriage .75 cts. Crossed the Wisconsin River and pitched out tent on the East Bank the second night after we left. Weather fine. Roads good except across the Bluffs. Went by the way of Matteson's Ferry. Made 18 miles this day. Paid for 1/2 Lb. Tea .38 cts., 4 Lb. Sugar .48 cts.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14th - Morning fine. Had a time in the night doctoring the Jerry horse - thought he was going to die. Paid .38 cts. for horses to hay and stable. Breakfast done, tent struck and on the way 10 minutes before 7 o'clock. Made 22 miles. Paid .15 cts. for 1 Lb. Coffee. Lost 1 powder flask, broke 1 crystal to watch, 1 lamp and 1 hame strap.

THURSDAY APRIL 15th - Morning fine. Cold. Froze bread in our tent. Paid .38 cts. for horses to hay. Thrashed Doc. Broke one whippetree hook, 1 crystal to watch and started at 8. Made 20 miles to Dodgeville. Broke 1 waggon wheel box. Paid .50 cts. for 4 Bushels oats, .13 cts. for 1 Lb. Candles. Roads hard. Had a mess of cowslips this day.

FRIDAY APRIL 16th - Paid bill of .50 cts. for rhubarb and whiskey .18 cts. Wind and little rain in morning. Thrashed Doc. Got under way at 8. Soon rained hard. Made 5 1/2 miles and stopped 2 1/2 miles short of Mineral Point. Rained till night.

SATURDAY APRIL 17th - Paid bill of \$1.25. Got under way a little past 8. Made 18 miles. Roads very bad. Sent a Power of Attorney to John

Topping was the partner of Doc, throughout the time the name is pronounced as split Topping.

(Tapping was a
partner of Jared Fox
Saw
should be 2)

L. Ward from Mineral Point and a letter No. 1 to E. H. Tapping. Saw a man by name of Galloway one day out on his road to move to Oregon with a wife & 8 children. One was dead & another sick.

SUNDAY APRIL 18th - Staid in camp in a good place. Had a good dinner of chickens & Johnny-cake. All very still. 2 other teams laid up with us.

MONDAY APRIL 19th - Cold & foggy. Shot one hen. Paid \$2.20 bill at Tavern. Changed horses. Put Doc and Jerry together. All went better. Made 24 miles. Some very bad road. Lost one good ^{yr} ship stalk and lash. Shot one duck and camped on the bank of the Mississippi River. Horses had to stand to trees. Paid for 7 Bushels of Oats \$1.75.

TUESDAY APRIL 20th - Found whip with another team. Paid bill .50 cts. Ferried across at Eagle Point. River one & a half miles wide, price 1 dollar. 2 miles to Dubuque here. We paid 1 dollar for horses to hay a short time. Got the balance of our outfit. Cost over 30 dollars. Afternoon rainy. Went two miles out of town and put up 5½ miles today, the 2 last the worst road I ever saw.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21st - Paid bill \$1.80. Took one waggon at a time and went 1 mile with it. The first 3 miles out of Dubuque is as much worse than the Barraboo Bluffs as they are worse than the prairie between there and Dellton and is so bad it should not be mentioned the same day with them. Here we cracked the hind axletree to the Mail waggon. Made 10 miles to Prairie Creek. Good land but clay soil and short of timber. Found a good place for our horses. Commenced to make bread for ourselves.

THURSDAY APRIL 22nd - Weather cool but looks more fair. Put in a new axletree. Bill for same and at Tavern \$2.00. Started at noon. Roads bad but some better than they were. Made 15 miles.

FRIDAY APRIL 23rd - We killed one pigeon, 1 partridge. Thrashed Doc as

usual. Broke 1 leading line and started at 8 and got stalled for the first time. Unloaded & carried out of the mud. Rainy and cold. Very bad roads nearly all day. Soil so far as we have travelled in this state (Iowa) is clay mostly. Made 15 miles this day. Country is rolling - very little timber. Rainy at night. Staid at Spencer. Some men shot at mark with pistols.

SATURDAY APRIL 24th - Got under way $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8. Rainy. Roads bad. Lost 1 whip. Made 20 miles. Got off of our road 2 miles by trying to go round the mud but by the means found a good place to stop. Rainy and cold wind. Had the sick head ache at night.

SUNDAY APRIL 25th - Laid by. Very rainy all night. The farmer's name where we are is Goudy and very fine youngerly people. Had two little children. They lent us all the favors need be both for us and our teams. And would make us sleep in the house free of charge and done what they could for my head. This day wrote letter No. 2 to E. H. Tapping. I had forgotten to note the streams - 1st from Dubuque is Prairie Creek - 2nd is the Whitewater - 3rd North fork of the Maquoketa 4th South fork of the Maquoketa at Clarks - 5th the Wapsipinicon at Anamosa the County seat of Jones County and we are now at John Goudy's at Lynn Grove, Lynn County, Iowa.

MONDAY APRIL 26th - Paid bill of \$2.27 for hay 2 nights, $4\frac{1}{2}$ Bushels of oats, 5 Lbs. of Butter, 3 dozen eggs and started in the mud as usual but on the whole the going improved. Made 14 miles. Crossed Cedar River 30 rods wide. Paid .20 cts. Put up at McGruder's down in a field to the right hand by a fine grove in Johnson County 10 miles from Iowa City. This day it cleared off fine. At night it is very pleasant. Lost the currycomb before we got here. Had a plenty of straw to sleep on.

TUESDAY APRIL 27th - A very fine morning. Froze a little last night. Clear and warm this monning. Started at 8. Broke an axletree out of the Mail waggon the first mile behind and had much trouble to get to

Iowa City, 10 miles. There we repaired at a cost of \$5.25. Crossed and camped on the bank of the Iowa River 100 rods out of town. We crossed at the lower ferry - .20 cts.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28th - Took the south rout toward Warrenville. Made 16 miles. Stopped at Shaft's Inn - yet in Johnson County. Fair but some wind. Samuel Nelson of Delavan staid with us. Got good tame hay.

THURSDAY APRIL 29th - Fair and windy. Nelson left to find his team. Started at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 8 and had to thrash Doc. Had been two days without. Had to pay him for old and new. Came 4 miles to Warrenville. 4 year old town on the English River, about as large as our Spring Brook and the town looked as if it ought to be put into a tub of suds and scraped like a scurvy pig. Here I hear that my brother had passed 2 days before and Wm. G. Mayhew 2 hours before. Made 20 miles and put up in good season in Keokuk County. Here I found Mayhew and staid together.

FRIDAY APRIL 30th - Mayhew took breakfast with us. Here we lost two hams. Suppose the dogs took them as they were left exposed over night. Started about 8. Got stalled two times this forenoon - got off two shoes from my team. Passed a little town called Sigourney. Made 18 miles and put up on a creek where there is no house. Very windy all day. Had have the toothache for three days and now the headache and am near sick. Killed 2 chickens today.

SATURDAY MAY 1st, 1852 - Started $\frac{1}{4}$ past 7. Made 20 miles. Roads getting dry - upland. Good going but the sloughs are very stiff and hard. This is the warmest day we have had. Today we forded the north branch of Skunk River and ferried the main river at .25 cts. We broke the hind axle out of Fox Waggon. I had forgotten to say that letters 2 and 3 to E. H. Tapping were mailed at Iowa City April 27th. Grass begins to look green and some small brush in the timber. We put up on a little creek in the woods 1 mile before we got to Oskaloosa. This country as far as I can judge is famous for rolling prairie - little good timber -

very few stone except what is in the road. Three miles this side of Dubuque and plenty of sloughs and bad ones, and plenty of lightning rods.

SUNDAY MAY 2nd - Last night had a thunder shower. Lasted till 9 o'clock this morning. Cleared off fine. Grass grows and we have need of it. Hay is gone. Mayhew's with us today.

MONDAY MAY 3rd - Got under way at 7. Soon commenced raining. Went 1 mile to Oskaloosa. There got a new axletree and other repairs. Cost \$2.50. Mayhew went on towards Knoxville. He let us have milk yesterday and this morning and some beans. Here I mailed Letter No. 1 to my wife. Here I found George W. Pierce and wife, and Sidney Derleysire and Cummins and Co. from Kenosha. We got started from here at 4 afternoon and travelled till 10 at night to overtake Pierce and Co., and camped in grove 11 miles from Oskaloosa, the prettiest village I have seen in Iowa. 12 miles this day.

TUESDAY MAY 4th - Started before 7. Came 5 miles to Fella. Quite a smart little Dutch town all in a heap. Here I got straw hat .30 cts., shbe set .20 cts. and a camp kettle \$1.25 - this was cheap. Roads bad in forepart - good in afterpart of the day. Oats .30 cts., hay .50 per cwt. Weather warm - some wind. got $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel beans. Made 29 miles. Pierce and Co., with us.

WEDNESDAY MAY 5th - Started at 7. Weather good but by 9 it rained hard for two hours. Got stalled. Broke 1 chain, 1 hammer. Crossed the Des Moines River 20 rods wide and 14 feet deep. 38 cts. per team. Made 25 miles. Bad Roads.

THURSDAY MAY 6th - Rained hard in the night and thundered sharp. Filled the roads with water. Started by 8 and by 10 it rained hard for 1 hour. This day made 25 miles. Hills slippery and sloughs full of water. Cleared off in afternoon. At evening thundered again and like-

ly to rain. The last 4 days we have seen a good deal of good land, both timber and prairie, rich clay soil, very little stone or sand. Little burr oak - mostly white oak and black and some black walnut and a great quantity of slippery elm - the most I ever saw.

FRIDAY MAY 7th - Clear and warm. Made 30 miles - 25 on one prairie without timber or stone or much water. The land not as rolling as has been back, but full rolling enough at that. The roads today have been better. Lost the dog, Rover, today. Stopped at a little creek and a few rods of timber. Clear all day.

SATURDAY MAY 8th - Watched our horses last night. Started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 on a rolling prairie 35 miles across. Had a little rain. My brother is some 10 miles ahead. Made 35 miles. Camped near a stream and little belt of timber. Passed 4 dead horses and 2 dead oxen. Night before last one company lost 7 horses. We have passed 150 teams this week. We watch again tonight.

SUNDAY MAY 9th - Staid in camp. Pleasant but cool. At noon Cummins and Co. started and left us. I commenced Letter No. 4 to E. H. Tapping. Saw some men tonight that want to make up a company who will not travel on the Sabbath.

MONDAY MAY 10th - Fair. Started at 6. Passed one grave close to the road. Nearly all prairie today and very rolling. Forded 2 small streams, bad banks. No settlements of any account for the last 100 miles. Passed 1 dead ox today. Saw Hays of Barraboo that made our mill sash and store sash, but did not know him till he called me by name and told his. Made 32 miles and up on a little bottom.

TUESDAY MAY 11th - Started at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 6. Weather and roads good. Passed 97 teams in the forenoon. One dead horse in afternoon. All prairie and very rolling. Made 29 miles to Franerville or the bluffs near what is called Council Bluffs. Here found Cummins and Pierce and Co., and my brother Levi and family.

WEDNESDAY MAY 12th - Fair. Staid in camp in town. Smallpox here.

Saw Aidin McGraw today. Bought corn for .20 cts. a bushel and oats for .35 cts., hard bread at .10 cts. per pound. Took 4 bushels of corn and 2 of oats for each horse.

THURSDAY MAY 13th - Finished and mailed No. 4 to E. H. Tapping. Sent 1 paper to Leonard Dickens, 1 to Tapping and Bowman, 1 to Soper and Tapping, 1 to Charles Fox at Fabin's, 1 to Simon J Robbins, Norwalk, Ohio.

In the afternoon went up the Missouri bottoms to the upper ferry 10 miles. Weather a little showery. Here we found our company and Capt. Healy camped in the crowd. At night got myddy water to use and found that such we must the next 600 miles. This was a breaker on me and the first I had thought of complaining. Windy all night.

FRIDAY MAY 14th - Pleasant except high wind. Tried to ferry in forenoon but could not. Saw one new grave of a child near us. In Afternoon we got across and camped. Paid \$1.10 each. Lost this day 1 pail, 1 box of matches, 1 jack knife, 1 pocket hdkf., and Vail left 3 chairs back at Franerville.

SATURDAY MAY 15th - Sent a letter back to my wife and 1 to E. H. Tapping by a Mr. Moore returning to Southport. Started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 and made 25 miles, all prairie to Elkhorn River, 80 rods wide. \$2.00 to each waggon ferriage. Plenty of teams here afraid of the Pawnee Indians. the 2 last trains had trouble with them. One white man shot and 4 Indians killed. The Indians got up a stampede with our horses before dark. Had a thunder shower about dark which left us in the water and mud to sleep. Plenty of Indians all around us. We formed a correll for our horses and set a watch.

SUNDAY MAY 16th - Cold and wet in the morning. Horses shaking and shivering and hungry and we started out to warm our horses and find and find some feed and intending on my part to stop as soon as that was accomplished, but the boys were afraid of the Indians and we had to

keep on with the company. Made 23 miles this day. High cold wind and some mist all day. Wore my cap, mittens, overcoat buckled around me and suffered at that. Camped on the bank of the Platte River. Passed 1 ox carcass and saw some bones of last year's California expedition. All prairie, level and rich and some groves by the river.

MONDAY MAY 17th - Started $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6. Fair but cold. Water froze in our dishes this morning. Passed 80 waggons, 100 head of loose cattle and a dozen ladies on horseback driving them this forenoon. They seemed to be enjoying themselves very well. This day passed the most dangerous place with the Pawnee Indians where there has been 3 or 4 fights in as many days last past and 1 man killed and left a family to get along alone, and another wounded and 15 Indians killed. Made 15 miles. All prairie except some islands in the river. Camped on the Platte. Most excellent land so far but some lack of timber.

TUESDAY MAY 18th - Fair, but the wind blew cold all day. Came 12 miles to Loopfork of the Platte - to the ferry. Could not ferry short of 4 days, there were so many teams ahead of us, so we concluded to go up to the ford 28 miles. We passed the ferry one mile and stopped to feed and dine. After dinner I had to settle and divide with Vail and Phelps. When we took up our teams Old Jack could not be found. It was on a level prairie and not a stick for 3 or 4 miles and after looking 3 or 4 hours with 4 horses on a jump, we gave up. Thought he had gone back. The company started on slowly to a feeding place and I took a horse and went back till I was satisfied by meeting hundreds that he was not on the road back but was stolen but how I could not tell. I turned to overtake my company and after riding awhile I found I had lost my dog. The wind having blown a perfect gale all day and cold and I began to get over my sweat and was cold, tired, had a hard headache and when I began to count up the day's work - 2 men gone and took one horse and what was of the waggon I did not know, my old Jack stolen, my dog lost, my stuff

all torn up and divided and I did not know where it was or how it was and I left behind in the dark, cold and sick and not knowing where they were, I concluded I was elected for a trip to California along, but I found the company and the dog had got there first. Made 20 miles this day.

WEDNESDY MAY 19th - Joined in with my brother Levi. He had 3 horses. We threw away stuff too numerous to mention. Levi left his waggon and hitched on to the one Vail left. I hired a horse for the day to put beside mine and sent Charles on ahead with the other to overtake some teams that passed yesterday to see if they had not stolen my horse. Levi put 3 horses to his waggon and we started on. Weather good. ~~PI~~ Passed an old Pawnee Indian town burnt down in 1846 by other Indians. Passed an old missionary station gone to ruins. At noon Charles met me and had found my horse and if it had not been for our Capt. the men would have been whipped to all intents and purposes. The afternoon fine. Passed some of the prettiest land I ever saw. Made 20 miles to ford and camped and unloaded and cut blocks and put under our boxes on the bolsters to raise them and our loads from 6 to 00 inches to fetch them above the water and keep dry as all depends on grub now.

THURSDAY MAY 20th - Weather good but cold and frosty. Commenced early to ford what is called the Loopfork of the Flatte. The two first teams came near drowning and 3 or 4 men would have drowned but for the timely aid afforded. I should have been among those who have passed away but for help afforded principally by Charles. The water is swift, deep and cold, and quicksand bottom, but notwithstanding all the obstacles in the way - by being in the cold water till noon and suffering almost to perishing - we were, by the Lord's Blessing, all across and alive. Some had been all under water and some teams and waggons all under but by ropes fastened to them beforehand they were drawn ashore and our provisions were not as badly injured as we feared and we had rendered timely aid to Cummins and Pierce's Companies who had come up and got into

serious difficulty in trying to cross just below us. In the afternoon we made 10 miles wet and cold in the wind and before night it began to rain. We camped on the open prairie with very little wood or water. This night it came our turn to watch in the cold and rain and it was not the most pleasant night of my life to tramp in the grass and rain after the day's work we had endured, but it must be done. The Indians must shoot us or not get our horses. In the night something scared our horses and some broke loose and ran but we finally secured all of ours but another company lost 14 horses.

FRIDAY MAY 21st - Rainy and cold wind. Started at 7. It is now 30 miles to timber. Made 25 miles, mostly low meadow land and some sandy hills. Camped out on the open prairie in the wind and rain. Have not been dry since we forded. Lie down in our wet clothes at night on the ground but sleep good.

SATURDAY MAY 22nd - Rained hard all night. Very wet, having rained 2 nights and one day steady. In forenoon travelled over low ground. Waggons cut in badly. Towards noon came where it is higher and more level. This forenoon we passed the bleached bones of horses and oxen of other companies in other days and 2 graves marked Kellogg 1849. Came to a stream and forded. One of our company said that two years ago he went along here and there was hundreds of waggons left here and the scent of dead horses and oxen was very bad indeed. We saw the bones of the animals and some remnants of waggons. None left yet this year. In the afternoon passed some of the prettiest country I ever saw between the creek and the river. None ever handsomer. Made 20 miles and camped near the Platte. Very good grass. Team tired travelling on the low ground this forenoon but have good feed tonight.

SUNDAY MAY 23rd - To our shame we started unnecessarily in the afternoon and travelled some 10 miles. Passed one new grave and 3 old ones. Waether fail and all prairie except a few cotton wood trees on the is-

lands in the river. No stone to be seen since we left the Missouri River but bones are getting to be very plenty, hardly out of sight of them.

MONDAY MAY 24th - Weather good. Roads very heavy by reason of so much rain but not very badly cut up because it has been but about 10 days since teams began to pass here. We are passing many teams. The horses are yet ahead. Started at 5 this morning and made 25 miles. Came to here there is plenty of prickly pears such as I have seen in boxes placed in windows. In some places there is from $\frac{1}{2}$ to a bushel in a place or bunch. Wild tomatoes and ^dandelions. This day began to witness the destruction of property and life. Plenty of old bones and several old graves and waggon irons. Today passed 4 new graves, one a mile from our camp, buried an hour ago and left a wife and several children just gone on a mile ahead. We forded the river yesterday from the south side. Plenty of teams - miles of them - on the other side in sight from this side and many crossing and some drowning in the attempt. Passed some gun barrels and a part of a new waggon, the remainder burnt up for wood. When we pass 4 new graves in a day it reminds us (me at least) that death has been along the track. We saw several antelopes today and killed a deer. Camped on the prairie as we have made up our minds to take in wood and water when we can and camp away from the old camps.

TUESDAY MAY 25th - Started $\frac{1}{2}$ before 6. Came to Elm Creek in 2 hours. Stopped there till 11 o'clock to wash. While we were here the ox teams that crossed the river yesterday went past us as though they were kicked by us - one continuous string and one drove of sheep. At 11 o'clock Cummin's and Pierce's Company came up and reported 5 deaths by cholera one mile in the rear of us last night at the place where they were crossing, Pierce's Company having staid 10 miles back of us. Cholera raging on the south side of the Platte at a dreadfull rate and

all were hustling over to try to escape it if possible, but they are falling now on this side. We gathered up our traps and started as soon as possible. Passed before night all the teams that passed us and some others. Made a good day's drive - some 30 miles - and pitched our tents on the bank of the Platte - a plenty of teams in sight across the river. A trifle of rain.

WEDNESDAY MAY 26th - Clear. Started 15 past 5. Everyone seems to be in a hurry. Ox teams are on the move. Drove fast. Poor feed at noon. Past one new grave and one not as new and I don't know how many old ones. Saw several by the boards yet standing but I see that graves don't last long here as there is no coffins and many only half buried. They soon fall in and the buffalo and wild animals soon tear and paw them to pieces. Roads are getting more dry. Made some 30 miles. Put up at 5 o'clock. After we got our horses out and tents put up we found that a tent close to us had a dead man in it of cholera. He was well this morning. Plenty of teams hustling through the river wherever they dare as it is so sickly on the other side. We are now in the buffalo country and they have eat the grass down like sheep and in many places it looks like a dairyman's cowyard. Tonight we begin to burn buffalo dung to cook by and it does well. Burns readily. 7 o'clock and near sundown, the comrades of the dead man are digging his grave and burying him near the road some 10 rods in front of our tent. Looks solemn. Well in the morning and in the grave at sundown. Had a brother with him and wife and children. He was from Ohio. I have since learned that the brother that was well when he was buried died before morning and was buried after we left that morning.

THURSDAY MAY 27th - Clear. Started $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4. Roads getting dusty. Passed several teams before they started. Passed several old graves. One marked Ezekiel Clifford died May 9th, 1851. Passed one cow and calf so poor they were left to die. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 we left the level clay

bottom of the Platte and came into the sand hills. In a few miles we came to a bottom again but more sandy and some marshy. Came to some alkaly water and 1 good cold spring. Crossed a little stream and camped. Very fair day but very warm. Made 30 miles. Nearly all buffalo pasture, eat close last year and will not burn over. A vast many trails where they have come from a distance to the river to drink and many buffalo bones, very large, especially the skull bones and horns. Their horns are large and the grub or bug horns very short, come out back and stand back and crook short round forward, and full round foreheads. No timber. Passed 1 waggon mostly burned up. Good grass at night.

FRIDAY MAY 28th - Started at 5. Clear. Roads getting very dusty and sandy in the afternoon. Heavy sand hills. Very hard for team and the day hot. The dust rose like clouds both before and behind us on both sides of the river. We made 28 miles - too far for the going and weather. Our stint is to pass 50 teams per day but today we have passed near 150, some droves of loose cattle, making in all near 3000 head of cattle, horses and mules and 1 remnant of a waggon left by some one ahead.

SATURDAY MAY 29th - Clear and warm. Jack and Jerry gone. Found them 3 miles off. Started $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5. Soon came into heavy sand hills. At noon we came down to the Platte again. Cummins and Co. came up with us again. Some of them had been sick. Say there is more cholera behind. Last night and this morning saw James S. Jones of Christie settlement near to Barraboo on his way to Oregon and California. In the afternoon came to the bottoms again and crossed a number of small streams. Sandy and heavy wheeling. Made 27 miles. Passed but a few teams - some 20. Put up among the waggon irons of other days lieing in the grass. This has been a long yellow day. Passed vast amount of buffalo bones, some appeared to have been shot but most of them have died of age or disease or winter killed. We saw a few carcasses nearly whole that probably died a few weeks sñnce. By the appearance of the horns and teeth the

most of them die yearlings or very old - from 12 to 15. Horns stand back and then coil short round forward. Small shower in night.

SUNDAY MAY 30th - Pleasant. Out Capt. seemed to be anxious to bring his company through but feared for grass, there were so many teams. He said we ought to keep ahead of the 3000 that we passed Friday and we started out early and travelled till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 and passed 3000 more, the most of them on the more. We then stopped till 3 o'clock. I suppose 1500 or 2000 passed us while we were there. This day has been very warm. Here we lighted up again by throwing away. We have now got rid of our tools mostly, some of our ropes, some of our harness and 3 feet off of the hind end of our waggons, $\frac{2}{3}$ of our bags, all of our horse blankets, some of our clothes and some of our dishes, etc. In the afternoon passed over some very bad sand bluffs and came down again to the bottom. Passed most of the teams that passed us. Made 18 miles. Our company left one waggon today and 1 before.

MONDAY MAY 31st - Started at 5. Passed 50 waggons. Passed quite a distance where the ground is covered with a weed about 8 inches high. the flower is something like the prairie rose of Wisconsin, but is as white as can possibly be and looks as if the whole surfact of the earth around was covered with new snow. This forenoon saw across the river something that looks some like rocks. Passed a good deal of stuff this forenoon - 1 waggon, 2 feather beds, lots of coats, hats, vests, boots, women's and children's clothing of every description. Made 30 miles on the Platte bottom. Clay soil. Grass bad at night. Passed a great amount of teams today and they are so thick tonight that we can hardly find room. Saw some stone here - the first since we left Council Bluffs. This day noticed 2 old graves, 1 marked Martha Hawk, died August 16th, 1849. Did not see any mark on the other.

TUESDAY JUNE 1st, 1852 - Started at 5. Very fair and we passed a great many teams but some oteams passed us before we started for the first

time. The road today has been all sorts - knobby, sandy, clay, uphill and down, steep water cuts and any amount of dust. Noticed 3 graves, 1 marked Mrs. M A Thompson, died August 9th, 1851, aged 52, and 1 beside this marked Ziba, son of -- Davenport of Wisconsin, died May 21st, 1852, aged 18, and 1 new one, no mark. Hard wheeling all day. Made 25 miles. Passed a drove of sheep. Some alkalie water. Some tolerable grass. Before bedtime had a perfect gale - the wind blew down all our tents.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 2nd - Fair. Started at 3 o'clock in the morning. Very dusty. Hard up for water all day. Some alkalie. Made 37 miles. Had sick headache.

THURSDAY JUNE 3rd - Rainy in morning. Finished Letter No. 6 to E. H. Tapping to send from Fort Laramie. Started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6. Cleared off at noon - hot. At noon wrote No. 1 letter to Leonard Dickens. A little mud, some sand. Made 25 miles. Met and sent my letters by a so-called express but dont know but it is all a hoax. Paid .50 cts. for each letter to the States. He said his name is G. G. Blodgett of Milwaukee.

FRIDAY JUNE 4th - Clear and hot. Started at 5. Some good and some not good road. Passed 1 waggon only partly destroyed and 2 horse carcasses. Made 28 miles. Feed good. 1 grave marked Catharine Booth, died August 18th, 1851.

SATURDAY JUNE 5th - Came to Fort Laramie at 7 o'clock in the morning. Went across the river to the Fort. Mailed Letter No. 7 to E. H. Tapping. Here are two rather decent dwellings and some 3 or 4 other things. I think 6 in all. The Fort is of no great account. No farming done here and very little, if any, gardening. Saw a few Indians, the first we have seen since May 18th. We started from here at 11 o'clock and kept the North side of the Platte. Soon came among the Black Hills. Made 16 miles and put up at 3 P.M. At night about dark there came up

a shower of wind and rain and blew our tents all down and nearly turned our waggons wrong side out. Rained till dark and things were in a wet fix.

SUNDAY JUNE 6th - Started $\frac{1}{4}$ before 5. Drove till 12 noon. Started at 3 and drove till 7 P.M. Made 25 miles among the Black Hills. They heaped upon heaps of gravel and rocks of a dark color and steep up and down but more rise than fall and as you rise over them there seems to be no end as far as the eye can reach - all is the same. Much of it seems to rock and there are many small pitch pine and cedar trees which seem to be darker color than we have at home and they are from one to ten feet high and twice as broad as they stick among the rocks all seems to have a dark and sombre appearance and they are termed the Black Hills. Once today we let down with a rope. Saw 5 or 6 traders with squaw wives. Saw old waggon irons. Found water 3 times today.

MONDAY JUNE 7th - Off at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4. Had rain in the night. Cool. Very cold all day. Had good roads for a hilly rocky country but kept rising. The wind is cold. Wore overcoat and mittens. Got water in 2 places in forenoon. 1 grave marked L. G. Williams of Coldwater, died June 25th, 1850 aged 24. Made 25 miles. Not as cold at night. Saw many curious formations in rock and clay. Good grass. Was sick myself with the diarrhea and others complaining. At night there were some of us dissatisfied with the balance of the company and had been for some time and we hauled off and would like to have taken our capt. with us but he was so linked in the teams of the others that we could not. The haul-off party numbered 14 men, 3 women, 7 waggons and 23 horses, leaving 15 men, 1 woman, 6 waggons and 21 horses. We that hauled off joined Cummins Co. This night Sister Ruby, my brother's wife, was taken sick and Pierce, Derleyshire and Morehouse were all sick of diarrhaea.

TUESDAY JUNE 8th - Our company (Cummins) started at little past 5.

Had some very hilly road but good of the kind. Made 30 miles. Passed 1 ox left to die of his poverty. Put up on the Platte on a good spot of June grass. This has been a very fine day - good breeze but not cool. Healy's Co. near us at night.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9th - Started at 5. Clear. Most of the sick seem on the mend. Lost my dirk knife in forenoon. In P.M. had a very hard sandy travelling - cut in to the dry hot sand $\frac{1}{2}$ way to the hubs. Some 6 or 7 did not feel able to walk. Made it hard for horses wallowing in the low sand and sun. This is trying to old nature - on the sick especially. 1 grave marked Hiram Flint of Capt. Davis's Co. of Tennessee, died Sept. 1st, 1851. 1 dead ox - been dead a short time. Made 25 miles. Sick all on their feet at night. Camped close on the bank of the Platte. This is the first time I have seen any fog on this river. The other side seems to be lined with teams. Feed not as good tonight. Most of the country between here and the Forst is good for nothing, as can see plenty of stone in some places but no timber to speak of and the land is not good. This day met a company of packers from Oregon, the woman in the train. Left Oregon April 18th. Their mules look well and they report feed good.

THURSDAY JUNE 10th - Fair - some wind. Remained in camp till noon and worked and repaired. Boys killed a buffalo fat as mud and some of the beef made me some broth which done me much good. Sick are gaining. The Elkhorn, Wisconsin, Company passed. I saw Bradley of Elkhorn and wife. Had been sick but better now. Started at 10 minutes past noon. Went through mud where the river had flowed over the road. The wind blew a gale and had to stop and turn to it, deep sand in the road and the sand and dust blew so we could not go or see. Made 15 miles. 1 dead horse and 1 dead ox, 1 ox turned out to die, a large number of gun barrels, some waggon irons, a number of oxyokes and irons, etc. Came to the upper ferry across the Platte where they all ferry across to the northern

side of the river. Wind went down at night.

FRIDAY JUNE 11th - Slight rain last night. Started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4. Passed at ferry and thereabouts some 200 teams, 1 large drove and some small - over probably 4000 head in all. Good driving in morning. Dust laid. A good deal of uphill but roads fine. Towards noon wind rose right in our eye and the dust flew thick to suffocation. Drove 30 miles without grass and water and when we got to water the wind blew a perfect gale. The spring small and 6 or 8 feet down the bank and 30 to 40 to dip out of it and dust drifting in from the top till it was thick and man and beast so choked up with dust we could hardly see or swallow. This was a lifter on our teams. Some 3 miles further we got a little grass making 33 miles in all today. I see that others had made up their minds ere that times were hard for here were lots of waggon irons, stoves, and furniture, overcoats, bed clothes, 1 bed of feathers, hats, coats, boots, and all sorts. Bones and graves. Passed several graves today but so dusty we don't know how many. Put up $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5. Capt. Healy's and Elkhorn Cos. behind. Cool at night. I had to watch. Took teams off some ways from waggons.

ATURDAY JUNE 12th - Clear and cold in morning. Started $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5. Good roads for hills and a good day to drive. Made 25 miles. Passed Independence Rock where a couple were married yesterday. Crossed the Sweetwater on 12 old logs pinned together. Paid .40 cts. each waggon and done the work all ourselves. Swam and forded our horses. 1 dead horse. Plenty of bones and irons of the other companies in other days which to me looked sorry but others did not seem to mind. 1 grave - a lady - don't recollect the name. Plenty of names cut and written or painted on the rocks in this vicinity. Found my dirk knife.

SUNDAY JUNE 13th - Should be a day of rest but Thursday Capt. Cummins stopped $\frac{1}{2}$ day to work and so that must pay for a whole Sunday to drive. Started at 5. Clear and very cold. Eat breakfast with my overcoat on

and suffered at that. Made 15 miles and put up. Here cut my name in clay rock across the brook. 2 dead oxen and lots of bones in among rocks up a hill off from an alkali bottom. At night the wind kept a-whirling and a real blow took down our tents. Very little rain.

MONDAY JUNE 14th - Levi and I finished dividing our stuff and Charles and I found ourselves with 3 horses and our little waggon and traps by ourselves. Started at 6 with these. Passed one grave marked O. W. Campbell, died 1850. Passed 2 dead oxen and lots of bones of oxen herebefore. Every few rods a heap of bleached bones. Plenty of names carved and painted on the rocks and signs of Roman Catholics, Freemasons, Odd Fellows, and the like. Passed 2 more dead oxen in afternoon. Very sandy and hard travelling. Grass very poor and has been for the last 100 miles. Camped near the Sweetwater. Not much grass. Made 10 miles.

TUESDAY JUNE 15th - Started at 6. Hard sand and gravel road uphill. Cold on one side and hot on the other. Plenty of mountains hardly covered with snow. Crossed the Sweetwater again at noon. Little grass. One grave marked R. B. Orear, died June 25, 1850. We have been passing one of the Rocky Mountains for 2 days past. Camped at 4 o'clock on the Sweetwater. Better feed. Passed 2 dead oxen and 3 dead buffaloes. Made 34 miles. Forded twice. Pleasant day.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16th - Clear and cold. In the morning ice in our dishes. Had some antelope for breakfast. Some of us about half sick and the balance about half well. Started at 6. Had a long hard day's drive up heavy hills, some rocks. Forded several small streams and one bad slough. Made 33 miles. Came to the top of the Rocky Mountains. No grass morning, noon or night. Teams fare hard. Plenty of snow all about in drifts 10 or 12 feet deep. Today saw young Weed from Rock Prairie. Passed 6 graves, 1 filled yesterday. At night on the summit we saw 2 or 3 families of the Shoshone Indians. Some 10 or 12 - old

and young. The first we have seen except some trader's wives since the 18th of May. Grass is scarce. Teams must die and then the people. I pity the thousands behind. This morning I saw some yellow daisies such as my father has in his meadows.

THURSDAY JUNE 17th - Started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 and in 4 miles came to where the water runs westward towards the Pacific. Hard show for grass all day as usual and teams begin to look hard. At 5 in the afternoon, having made 22 miles, we came to junction of Oregon and California roads. Here Charles and myself took the Oregon trail alone, a little down in the mouth. Cummins and Co. took the Salt Lake road and my brother Levi and family with them. We came 5 miles further, 27 in all, and camped alone entirely for the first time on the top of the Rocky mountains. Passed receipts with A. W. Phelps today, but Vail acted aggressive and would not pass receipts although he had agreed to do so. Passed 6 graves and some men making another.

FRIDAY JUNE 18th - Clear and cold in the morning. Charles and I started on a train by ourselves alone at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5. Made 3 miles to the Big Sandy river and forded and halted at 7 o'clock and let our team rest, but it was little there was to eat and now we have 43 miles without grass or water and wood. We don't expect it has been so long since we have seen any. At 3 P.M. we started and at sundown stopped an hour and let the horses pick a little but there was no grass. We gave them little water out of our cans and gave them 3 pints of oats each and went till midnight and then gave them a little more water out of our cans and a quart of oats each and then at the rising of the sun we stopped and got breakfast, gave out the last of our water and went on and had some of the worst hill both up and down that we ever saw. Waggon had the appearance of going out entirely by the hot sun and the sand. A little before noon got to Green River. Gave another quart of oats around. Paid \$9.50 to be ferried and nearly quarrelled in the bargain.

or after it. Went over some awful hills for 8 or 10 miles. Horses nearly done out and at 6 Saturday night, June 19th, got half a show for Sunday feed. We stopped by ourselves, but plenty of others in sight. Gave our horses all the chance we could till dark, but we were so tired and sleepy that we had to tie them up close to us for we saw Indians here. The dog did not allow them to come close in the night. Passed graves, 1 dead ox. Made 53 miles in the two days and one night. This stream is called Lost river, but none of the musketoes (mosquitoes) are lost - they are all here.

FRIDAY JUNE 20th - Up and had my horses out at 3 in the morning. Let Charles sleep till 8. Horses had a fine time except the musketoes. We looked over our stuff @ it wanted airing etc. Pleasant all day but at night looked like rain.

SUNDAY JUNE 21st - Shod horses in the forenoon till I was tired out. Started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11. Forded the stream. Had a little rain. Made 10 miles and I was in such pain in my head, back and hips and so sick we could not go further. It seemed as if they would come apart. We saw few little cedars and poplars today. We put up alone near some springs and tolerable feed.

TUESDAY JUNE 22nd - Had a most distressed night. Did not eat, sleep or rest. Have not eat since yesterday morning. Charles is down in the outh, poor fellow, can't eat. At 8 o'clock I have a bed fixed in the wagon and Charles get up the team and we start. Very warm but snow banks all around us. Soon came to some most tremendous hills or mountains. Wind rose and it thundered and lightened, rained and hailed and snowed and was very cold. I was chilled through covered up in bed, except now and then I peeped out to see Charles drive straight up or straight down. We found more mud today than in a month before caused by the snows melting and running down the hillsides. Some of these were very bad - deep and steep. In one of these we got the team in

till I did not know how we would ever get Jerry out - he was all under but his head. On some of the hills today we could actually see the clouds below us. We made 18 miles and forded what is called Hams Fork of Bear River. We had to raise our box by putting things on the bolsters to keep our things from getting wet. We broke out one stake of our waggon. Here we camped after corssing and I feel better than I did this morning notwithstanding our hard day's work, but I feel poorly at that. Plenty of snow close by. Passed 3 graves. Saw some of the mountain flax today and it reminded me of ours and resembles it very much. Has a blue blossom. Feed is getting better. When we came to comb Jerry we found he had a bad wound just back of his forelegs - large hole cut deep. I suppose that he cut it in the mud when down.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23rd - Got up and put the horses out at 3 - look hard to be but half fed on grass and out in the cold. Clear and cold. Got breakfast with my overcoat on over my other and suffered at that. One of the graves we saw yesterday was marked M. Beal, shot June 12th, 1852, by Balsley of Boone County, Kentucky. This morning we saw a grave close to our tent marked Leon Balsley, shot June 14th, 1852, for the murder of Matthias Beal, June 12th, 1852, both of Boone Co., Kentucky. So justice overtook him soon. Started $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 and went right to Jacob's Ladder two miles and could see the teams descending on the other sides as we did yesterday with 2 wheels chained and all due diligence at that to keep from ending over. After we got on top of the hill we had some 10 miles of good road and begin to see a sprinkling of small timber. Some little poplars and balsam. Passed through a grove of some 20 rods wide - the most timber we have seen in a thousand miles and in this grove there is I suppose 5 or 10 thousand, for ought know) names cut in the trees. Some printed with chalk or waggon grease, red paint and anything and everything. Dates from 1845 to the present, but most in 1850 and many of them are 10 to 15 feet from the

ground. In the afternoon we had the worst road that was ever made and this was not made, but people tumbled down the hills neck and heels with all the wheels chained mile after mile and then up and down again. Made 22 miles and got within two miles of Bear River. Noticed 6 graves today besides the one near our tent in the morning. One was marked Dr. E. Ford of Oswego, N. Y. died July 10th, 1850, aged 25. One was Eunice Stone, died July 23rd, 1848, aged 67. One was Mariah C. Emerick died July 14th, 1848 aged 47. There were these three at what were called the Poison Springs and the ladies must have been Oregon emigrants there was little going to Clifornia in 1848. We have had good grass today and good grass and water tonight.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24th - Started at 10 o'clock. Weather fair. Roads good except about a mile at Smiths is bad. A short bit of road after crossing the 4 branches is full of large stones tumbled from a singular looking rock or bluff near by. Made 22 miles this day to Thomas's Fork. Passed 9 graves, one marked David P. Gardner of Walwenth Co., Wisconsin, died July 19th, 1850. Passed 3 dead oxen. Good feed. Saw a Brent of Elkhorn going by way of Oregon. At Smith's Fork we carried part of our stuff across on Old Jack, the water being too deep for our wagon box and very swift.

THURSDAY JUNE 25th - Started at 6 O'clock the other teams that were camped near us having gone, we were left alone with a plenty of Snake Indians. Had to cross Thomas Fork to start on, but had good luck except got little water in our box but not to hurt much. Made 11 miles over the rest of hills entirely to Bear River again. Made 23 miles in all today. The balance of the road quite good. Passed 3 graves and 1 dead ox. Had fears of Indians at night but no harm. Grass good.

FRIDAY JUNE 26th - Started at 6. Passed some good little streams of mountain water. Made 20 miles to Mud Creek and the first of the Soda Springs. Passed 1 grave made an hour before. The man got up his teams

in the morning and at noon was buried. He was from Ohio. Left a wife and 9 children, the oldest had been sick 16 days and still is sick, by going into the water after having the measles. Passed 2 dead oxen and saw some red-top and dandelions and large thistle and speckled trout, etc. Here saw a man by name of Miller, lived 4 miles from Whitewater. Had an oxteam and going to California. All well. We are now among the Snake Indians and they are numerous and to be feared unless we keep in large companies. They are great for stealing horses. We have already when we have as many as 300 horses and some of them English horses. I suppose States ones. They have just stolen 30 from one company.

DAY JUNE 27th - Staid in camp till noon. Then started because we do not like to stay alone on account of the Indians. Very warm in the middle of the day. It seems as if the musketoes would destroy man and beast. The grasshoppers, too, are very thick and have been for 3 days back on Bear river and I think must soon finish up the feed. Made 25 miles today to Snake village. Here we saw lots of Indians and any quantity of ponies and stolen horses. Here wrote Letter to Elder Horst, E. H. Tapping and my wife.

DAY JUNE 28th - Found my watch key broken and in trying to wind my watch broke it and had to lay it by. Sent my letters this morning by H. Nables of St. Paul. Soon found that Doc and Jack had eaten something poison. Doctored them up as well as we could and they soon got better. Here we cleaned all of our horses. At noon we harnessed up and I was about to start when the Peoria Co. from Illinois came up that wanted to travel with to Oregon and we went one mile and camped. Clear and warm. Saw Leander Weed today going to California. Said Van Hunt was behind. Had a chat with Capt. Grant and his half-breed wife and babies. He is quite a coon and has a good deal of musical talent. Passed 2 graves and 2 dead oxen.

TUESDAY JUNE 29th - Had good feed and good rest last night. Cloudy this

morning. Started at 6. Came 3 or 4 miles to the junction. Took the righthand for Oregon. Came 6 miles further and overtook C. A. Thatcher for Oregon. Made 20 miles this day. Passed one grave marked D. Porter died July 16th, 1849, aged 69 years. Grass good. Have come to the speckled trout - not bad to take. This day passed many of the large crickets spoken of by Palmer. They are not as black as I expected but are yellow and are from the size of the ends of the fingers to the size of the whole thumb. They are very thick and nearly cover the ground in some places. Plenty of red-top, June grass, dandelions to be all yellow, toad plantain and now and then a very small scrub pine cedar or poplar.

TUESDAY JUNE 30th - Cool and pleasant in the forenoon. Passed several small streams and springs, some sharp hills and stony, some brush by the sides, one very fine spring flowing out of a high bank. Today came where many wild flowers were in bloom which adds much to the already large variety. Some of them are very fine colors and sweet scented. The largest musketoes I ever saw have preyed upon us for some 10 days nearly to our annoyance, and our teams, but today the big fly has armed and takes all clean fore and aft. It is to be hoped they will not last long. If they do, our teams cannot. Today paid .50 cts. to a half-breed for crossing his bridge some 20 feet long rather than get mired in the mud and water. Made some 24 miles today. Stopped at a small stream before starting on the sand stretch near Fort Hall. Got some fine stem of currants, some ripe, tonight.

WEDNESDAY JULY 1st, 1852 - Watched last night. Weather fine this morning. Some 15 miles yet to Fort Hall. Our company are behind. Did not come up last night. Saw Thatcher and Van Brunt yesterday. Have not seen them today. At night camped 5 miles past Fort Hall, making 20 miles travel today. The last 7 miles before we got to the Fort was almost one continuous ford, one half mud and the other water. It is all low ground

full of small streams and sloughs. At night we came to and camped on the bank of an old one called Pultney river. Fort Hall is no great affair. It is built of adobes, mostly two stories, but very low and large enough on the ground so as to have room for a tier of rooms all around the outside, opening to the center where is a small yard. The rooms, judging from appearances, are used for various purposes, such as storing furs and provisions, ammunition and firearms, sleeping, cooking, doing business, making half-breeds, and such like. There seems to be a low place full of bushes and grass some 10 or 12 miles wide. I don't know how long, perhaps down the river some ways. Now we come to the Bigger Indians and it is expected some of us will get robbed or killed. There is but 10 men at the Fort and they are half-breeds, except one. We are cautioned to go in large trains. Now calls for patience, vigilance, courage, by night and by day. It is said that we are liable to have a ball or arrow at every crook and turn, or rock or bush we come to and the musketoos won't let us rest if we could. It is almost impossible to get a mouthful of victuals from one's plate to his mouth without getting a lot of them on to it on the way.

FRIDAY JULY 2nd - All alive and well in good season. We were carrying our traps across the worst part found yet in our journey. Water to the horses backs. Jack and Jerry could but just touch bottom and when we got across the water, the mud was worse yet. 5 times each crossed, carrying the most of our things, and then I drove the waggon through while Charles took the single horse. It was over the waggon box by a foot. It was a job to cross the mud but a lot of us joined together and drew them through by hand. It was all the horses could do to get through single, and many of them got down at that. It took all day to get 40 rods. In one hour after we had cleared the bank of waggons, there was 41 more arrived to go the same over again. We finally hitched up and went 6 miles at night. Good grass and water.