

Diary

Route of travel as indicated by entries in the journal.

April	15	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
"	20	Shullsburgh
"	21	Hazel Green
"	22	Dubuque, Iowa
"	25	Cascade
"	28	Marion
Co		Cedar Rapids
"	29	River Iowa River 28 miles above Iowa City
"	30	Marengo
May	1	Bear creek in Poweshiek county
"	3	Newton
"	4	7 miles from Ft. Des Moines
"	6	Carlisle
"	8	Winterset
"		Cass county
"	14	Council Bluffs (waited here for supplies)
"	26	Papier river
"		Elkhorn river
"	28	Platte river
"	31	Loop Fork river
June	9	Prairie Creek
"	12	Buffalo Creek
"	19	Lone Tree
"	22	Castle Rock
"	24	Chimney Rock
"	28	Ft. Laramie
July	6	Following the Platte River
"	8	Independence rock on the Sweet Water
"	9	Devil's Gate
"	15	South Pass, Pacific Springs
"	16	Junction of Sublettes and Bear river cutt offs,
"		Oregon and Salt Lake road, Little Sandy river
"	17	Big Sandy river
"	18	Kinney's Cut
"		Fort Caldwell, Green river
"	19	Utah Territory
"	23	Tar Springs
"	25	Bear River
"	26	Echo creek
"	27	Weber river
"	28	Canyon creek
"	30 -	
Aug	10	Salt Lake City
"	12	Ogden, Weber Valley
"	16	Bear river ferry
"	19	Decatur creek (?)
"	22	Goose creek in Great Basin
"	27	Humbolt springs
Sept	13	Sink of Humboldt river
"	15	Edge of Big Desert
"	16	Carson road
"	18	Ragtown, Carson river
"	22	Gold Canyon
"	23	Eagle ranch, begin ascent of Sierras

Sept 25	Truckee lake
" 27	Summit of Sierras
" 28	South fork, American river
" 30	Silver creek
Oct 4	Placerville, California

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13 (May 28)

14 Saturday weather fine with cool wind left the Elhorn to the right passed over prairie again to day within sight of Platte river all day no timber except on the river passed several Small Streams and the best road that I ever saw low prairie for about 3 miles back from the river then ascends to high prairie road following round on the edge of the high prairie

May 28

Saturday Camps with prairie near water but no wood had to pack up old weeds for fire grass very good we are in the Pawnee Country have not seen but a few Indians as yet saw a great many teams in the road to day made 25 miles nothing but prairie as far as the eye can reach

(May) 29

Sunday commenced to rain about dark thundered and lightened very hard a loud clap of thunder scart the horses so that they ran all hands had to get up they went about 1/2 mile and stopt rained all night very hard raining this morning got up our teams and went on to get to some place where there was wood passed a very bad slew hole roads bad on account of

May 29 [sic]

the/rain road bearing more towards the river drove 6 miles and campd on the banks of a Small Stream that empties into the Platte good camp ground plenty of wood & timber water about a 1 mile from the Platte weather Squally with a cold wind made 6 miles teams that we passed to day came up and Campd with us to night.

(May) 30

15 Monday weather cleared up fine this morning with a cool wind passed over low prairie very wet on account of heavy rains roads bad most of the way saw 5 Sheep left on the road fowled within sight of Platte river again to day fowled the new road to the right of the old one part of the way to day no timber except on the river banks.

May 30 Monday Saw some more Cos of Ox teams passed about 80 waggons to day with a great many cattle Ox teams nearly keeping up with us campd on the prairie and have no timber to make a fire water not very good made 26 miles.

(May) 31 Tuesday weather clouded up and began to rain drove to the Loup Fork river 3 miles and campd had to wait to get over the ferry Cleared up in the afternoon went and looked for a ford on the river they charged so high on the ferry from where we could get across campd on beaver creek a branch of the Loup Fork about 80 rods from the river plenty of wood and good water roads not very good made 3 miles have not seen only one house since we left Missouri and that is here at this ferry a little log shanty

June 1 Wednesday today commences on a new month and it is the coldest weather for this time of the year that I ever saw we have had but very little warm weather since we started Cos Camping here as far as the eye can reach Commenced raining last night rained all night very hard so that the river rose that we could not ford it and one of the ferry boats sunk so that we could not get across to day weather squally all day horses Stampeded to night and ran about 2 miles got scart at a pistol shot and

Thomas went and found them all boys getting Impatient about going along there is about 2400 waggons crossed the ferry up to this time

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June 2 Thursday had to wait again to day on account of the boat being sunk and teams ahead of us weather fine with cool wind all day the Indians killed an Ox a few days ago have not heard of much trouble with them as yet laying by is harder work than travelling

(June) 3 Friday weather fine with cool wind all day ferry not in operation on account of high water getting impatient about going on Just at night there was a very large band of Indians with a large band of ponys and mules came along by the camp we had to surround our horses to keep them put them into a korel for the first time to night they camped about 2 miles below us heard they stole 6 horses during the June 3 night their animals were loaded with buffalo hides they had been out hunting and was now going to trade their skins put on an extra guard to night

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4 Saturday weather fine with cool wind all day one of the Emigrants took a job this morning to put the rope across at the ferry and got \$0 Dollars Commenced ferrying about noon good many teams on the list ahead of us we are all well except Joseph he has had the sore eyes for about 7 Days getting little better we think that we shall get over tomorrow

(June) 5 Sunday Started our teams for the ferry this monr-ing commenced going over about 11 oclock got all of our wagons over ~~4 oclock~~ oclock took our horses up the river and swam them the river here is June 5 about 40 rods wide here and a very swift current a quick sand bottom sand bars changing every moment a bad stream for ferrying weather squally we camped on the bank to night after

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a very hard days work

(June) 6 Monday weather fine with a cool wind passed over prairie some of it low road follows up near the Loupe Fork all day to day no timber except on the river bank Platte river to the left of us struck near some Sand hills this afternoon road very good most of the way camped between a range of high sand hills and the river very good water no timber very near got some dry brush to make a fire made 24 miles saw several graves at the side of the road passed some watering places saw 9 graves

June 7 Tuesday weather fine with cool wind all day passed over this range of sand hills through a ravine on to high prairie in sight of Loup Fork all day another high range of Sand hills on our left as far as the eye can reach roads good part of the way to day camped on the prairie water not very good no timber within 2 miles saw no timber except on the river bank saw several more graves at the side of the road saw some Antelope to day to the right & left of us very hilly to day the road runs between the 2 ranges of Sand hills made 25 miles saw 9 graves

(June) 8 Wednesday weather fine with a cool wind all day left the Loupe Fork to the right road bore to the left passed over rolling prairie some of it low and wet roads very good part of the way some bad slow holes

June 8 came within sight of Platte river again just at night saw 4 more graves to day at the side of the road passed several cos of Ox teams to day saw 3 buffalo heads getting into the buffalo & Elk country passed several good watering places grass good camped on the prairie nice dry camp ground no timber water not very good passed a very nice spring Platte about 5 miles from camp had to carry our wood with us made 22 miles

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(June) 9 Thursday weather fine & warm with cool wind all day passed over low prairie and Sand hills to prairie creek about 7 miles crossing middling good small stream

passed on to nice level prairie good place to camp at this creek crossed another stream very bad crossing had to draw our waggons over by hand we left the Platte to the left road bore to the right passed on again to nice level prairie as far as the eye can reach came within sight of Platte again this afternoon saw some wolves off on the prairie & roads good most of the way saw no timber from the time we left the Platte this morning till we came in sight of it this afternoon overtook some more Cos to day campd on the bank of wood creek some timber on the bank something very curious about this country about the timber there is no timber except on rivers and that is a small strip you can see the course of a river by the timber sometimes for 50 miles Platte about 3 miles from camp made 18 miles.

(June) 10 Friday weather fine & warm with cool breeze all day crossed wood creek this morning crossing not very good had to draw our waggons cross by hand

June 10 passed over prairie all day very nice & level road bore near the Platte with wood creek on our right all day passed 8 graves at the side of the road Struck Grand Island yesterday traveled by it to day passed 77 wagons of Ox teams road good water scarce campd on the prairie no wood nearer than the Platte which is about 1 1/2 miles where we got our wood water not very good a very hard rain & hail Storm came up just at night the

19 horses Stampeded & ran about 3 miles made 25 miles grass good here

(June) 11 Saturday weather fine with cool wind all day passed over nice prairie again to day passed 7 graves road kept nearer the Platte passed 2 deep ravines with good water after driving about 10 miles came to the head of Grand June 11 Island this afternoon passed some more teams roads good campd on Elm Creek with good water and timber good camp ground grass good nicest land that I ever saw level as a house floor made 24 miles 3 miles from Platte

(June) 12 Sunday weather fine & warm with a stiff wind all day passed over prairie with a long range of hills at our right road bore from the Platte came to Buffalo creek good water and some timber about 10 miles from where we campd last night Buffalo Creek on our right all of this afternoon timber on the Platte very thin to day campd on a Small creek with no timber & and not very good water grass good roads very good Saw some Elk & Antelope today

June 12 Passed some Cos that were lying by a long high range of sand hills on the other side of the Platte one of the boys shot a wolf last night made 20 miles carried our with with [sic] us today burnt some Buffalo Chips here for the first time some of the boys saw a large drove of Buffa(lo) to night

20 (June) 13 Monday weather fine with cool wind all day saw 7 Buffalo this morning some of the boys went after them but did not get any passed over some sand ridges till we struck level prairie passed 3 or 4 Streams good watering places but no timber left Buffalo Creek to the right here nearer the Platte a very high range of Sand hills on the other side again to day saw some more teams on the other side this side very level as far as the eyes can reach saw a prairie dog town saw but very little timber very thin and scarce

June 13 on the Platte got on to lowish prairie this afternoon roads middling good campd within 40 rods of Platte where we get our wood & water water not very good made 25 m

(June) 14 Tuesday weather fine & warm with cool wind passed over sand bluffs for about 2 m a hard road passed over low prairie with a range of sand bluffs on our right all day road near the Platte part of the way on the bank road follows near the Bluffs high range of Bluffs on the other side of the Platte passed several watering places and a very nice spring at the left hand side of the road about 16 miles from where we campd last night campd at very large nice spring the best water that we have seen since we started a great rarity to find such water saw no timber except a very little on the Platte have our wood with us camp about 1 mile from Platte

June 14 Some of the emigrants killed a Buffalo this morning saw but very few teams on the road to day moved 22 m we are in the Sioux Indian country saw 4 graves roads middling good

21 (June) 15 Wednesday weather fine & warm with cool breeze drove across low prairie 5 miles to small creek good place to water drove 5 miles further and camped on account of getting wood as we shall get no more wood and see no more timber for 200 miles except one lone tree road bore near the Platte part of the way on the bank high ridge of sand hills on our right and also on the other side of the Platte passed over low prairie timber very scarce no timber here except willows took some of them in passed 2 graves a grave near camp man been shot this spring roads middling Putney had a little falling out and left the train a great many Cos came up to day and camped near us Platte a very nasty muddy stream on account of quick sand made 10 miles

June 16 Thursday weather fine and warm with cool wind drove 6 miles came to small stream passed 2 other streams good watering places passed over low prairie with high ridge of Sand bluffs on our right also on the other side of the Platte saw no timber except a little on some Islands and on the other side that merely brush saw the last timber about 10 miles from where we camped last night followed up near the Platte part of the way on the bank road not very good camped on the bank of Bluff fork river pretty stream with good feed no timber went in and bathed passed some bad slow holes saw a good deal of alkali to day roads part of the sandy Putney joined us again to day this is the main part of the Buffalo country made 18 about 40 rods from Platte

22 June 17 Friday weather fine & warm with cool wind passed over Sand Bluffs all day near Platte a very hard road for teams Country all Bluffy back also a high ridge on the other side saw no timber except a little on some islands and on the other side that merely Scattering Small trees and brush passed by Several Small Streams and a good spring on the right hand side of the road about 2 miles back from where we camped to night camped at a very nice Spring feed very good this is has been the wettest Spring that has ever been known since they ever crossed a buffalo passed within 80 rods of camp last night some of the boys went after him but did not succeed made 22 1/2 m after a hard days work about 1 mile from Platte
very

June 18 Saturday weather fine & warm with scarcely any air stirring Thermometer Stood 91 in the Shade passed low prairie and sand Bluffs had a little better road to day but very warm high ridge on our right all day also a very high ridge on the other side passed Cos of Ox teams passed Several Small Streams very good water passed near Platte all day camped at a good Spring of water near the road about 1 mile from Platte grass good Sand hills on each side very high no timber except a little brush and Small trees some cedar on the other side made 19 miles saw 2 Stoves at the side of the road

(June) 19 Sunday weather fine not quite as warm with cool wind passed over prairie June 19 with a ridge of small Small hills more to our right and not quite as high very high ridge on the other side very Steep Bluffs passed Several Small Streams and the Lone Tree passed some more Cos to day passed over a high bluff road very hard for about 1 mile near the Platte all day part of the way on the bank saw no timber except a little shrubbery on the other side and Small cedars roads good most of the way part of the way sandy camped on quicksand creek about 40 rods from Platte good water burnt Buffalo chips made 23 m Co camping near us that buried a man yesterday one of our men sick with diarrhea but getting better nice spring near camp

23 June 20 Monday weather fine with nice cool wind all day rained & Thundered & Lightened very hard last night so that the dust to day is not so bad passed over nice prairie with scarcity of water had to go to the Platte to water passed 2 graves 2 men killed by lightning June 12, 53 a very high ridge of Sand Bluffs on the other side following close to the river the Bluffs on this side not as high and farther back passed no Streams today

passed Several Cos to day saw Several Cos on the other side saw wolves and antelope to day left one of our Stoves this morning no timber except a little in the hills on the other side road near Platte all day camp on the Platte good feed made 23 m a government train from Fort Larimie passed us to night on the other side of the river

June 21 Tuesday weather fine & warm cool wind passed over prairie with Steep and rocky Sand hills on each side passed only one Stream very good water road near Platte passed Several Cos today one large drove of Sheep we are within about 10 miles of Castle or Court house rock saw this and Chimney rock this morning roads good with few Sandy places Chimney rock from here looks about the size of a man camp on the Bank Platte with good grass no timber except some cedars on the other side made 23 miles scenery along here very nice saw 3 graves to day

24 (June) 22 Wednesday weather has changed very much since last night cloudy and hazy with some Sunshine and very cold stiff wind so that overcoats came very handy the dust has been very bad blowing right in our faces passed over nice prairie good roads crossed no stream watered out of the Platte road near the Platte all day saw 3 graves passed castle rock about 11 o'clock it looks like some old ruined castle it stands in an open place about 3 miles from any other bluff bluffs on the other side very high and Steep & rocky this side they are no(t) as high and farther back from the river saw few cedars on the hills on the other side camp on the bank Platte 2 miles from the road good feed water dirty about 6 miles to chimney rock another curiosity it is a large roundish rock like a coalpit with a stick running up through the centre Scotts Bluffs farther ahead saw them this morning we can see objects from 50 or 60 miles here made 23 miles chimney rock is about 400 feet high you can ascend about half way and then it runs up very small in the shape of a chimney alkali water very bad here have to keep our horses away from it

(June) 23 Thursday weather fine with cool wind weather moderating down passed over nice level prairie as far as the eye can reach passed chimney rock about 10 o'clock a grand sight passed no Streams to day water very Scarce except out of the Platte road following not quite as near the Platte Bluffs on the other side very high and rocky with some

June 23 Thursday cedars and that is all the timber we have seen saw plenty of Prickly pears to day the best road that I ever saw passed several cos to day camp about 5 miles from Scotts Bluffs they are on the other side a very curious sight Several large mounds of rocks combined together it is supposed to be about 400 feet high the highest part peaks running up different heights camp on the Platte good grass saw 3 graves made 23 miles distances here very deceiving to look at Scotts Bluff from camp a person would take it to be about 1 1/2 miles Chimney rock to be seen very plain back of us

25 June 24 Friday as we went out to get up our horses last night they commenced running some of them they caught 15 miles from camp had to lay over here as 13 horses we could not find some of the boys been out hunting after them all day 3 of them was brought in to night saw 2 large droves of Buffalo to day on the opposite side of the river boys out hunting and some writing home I wrote from here mail it at Fort Laramie weather fine & warm with very little air stirring a great many cos passed us to day I saw 10 wolves this morning the Bluffs on the side gradually disappearing some of the boys been out all night nothing of importance

June 25 Saturday weather fine & very warm little air stirring 10 horses back yet waiting here again to day a great many more teams passed us to day 7 horses were brought in this afternoon they had been taken up by a train 2 horses can not find we are about 1/2 miles of the Platte the Platte here is about 1 mile wide the train that took up the 7 horses charged us 35 Dollars a very steep price for taking up horses.

Sunday June 26 weather fine little cooler to day we moved out and drove to cold creek 6 miles saw a few cedars on some Islands in the river Several Cos passed us again to day 2 men that was out for horses came in with them just at night good water & very good grass about 1/2 miles from Platte passed a Sous Encampment about 1 mile back from where we camp to night a half Breed Trader there got a few notions to sell Some Sous in camp to night Gibson Cos from Milwaukee and the Troy Co camp near us to night.

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Monday June 27 Weather fine with a very stiff wind all day the dust has been very bad blowing right in our faces passed over Prarie little more level on each side Scotts Bluffs in plain sight to night passed no creeks to day saw no timber except a little on Some Islands in the river clouds of dust flying so that we could not see 10 feet ahead camp on a small creek good water and feed made 8 miles road near the Platte watered out of the Platte good roads wind blowing very hard to night

Tuesday June 28 weather fine with cool wind passed over nice level prairie with ridge of Sand hills on our right also on the other side Laramie Peak in sight this morning in the distance road following near the Platte crossed no Streams to day watered out of the Platte Struck the first timber on this side about noon saw some timber on Islands and on the other side all of the way up passed 2 small trading posts kept by half Breeds and a very large camp of Sous on this side and another large camp on the other side they have a very large number of horses and ponys some of them just moving off roads good most of the way camp about 1 mile from the Platte where we get our wood & water feed middling made 23 miles we are within 8 miles of Fort Larimie a large camp of Sous 1/2 a mile from our camp went down and visited them

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Wednesday June 29 weather hazy & cloudy with cold wind passed over prairie passed Trading post good road to the Fort arrived opposite the Fort at half past 9 a m the Fort is on the other side in plain sight of the road it (is a) camp of about half a dozen houses a great many Indians camp here we did not stop here any passed on to prairie and good roads for short distance till we Struck high Bluffs the road has been very bad the rest of the way to day some places just wide enough for a waggon to pass very high hills steep and rocky small cedars on them passed a creek just as we struck the Bluffs passed Several Springs Scenery very beautiful to day passed Several Cos to day camp in

a ravine with high hills on each side water about 80 rods wood plenty and good these Indians here appear to be very friendly we left the Platte to our left and bore to the right in order to get through them these are part of the chain of the rocky mountains grass not very good made 21 miles I visited one of the Peaks near camp and it is the finest Scenery that I ever saw as far as the eye can reach nothing but mountains and these covered with small cedars

Thursday June 30 weather fine & warm with cool wind road following through ravines and over steep and high hills very near all day a little more leveler this afternoon road been very hard to day

June 30 Thursday passed 2 good watering places fin(e) spring water Laramie peak in plain sight to night a trading post near camp