

DIARY
OF
PETER L. HICKMAN
1852-1856

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Pittsburgh April 5th 1852

I left Pittsburgh this morning on my route to California. Come down to Wellsville, and there met my companions; rigged our waggons bought our cooking utensils etc.

Thursday Morning - shipped on the steamer Paris - and descended the Ohio river, full of hope and with golden ambition. Toward evening our number was augmented by one of the Dutch women on deck giving birth to a boy, and our sport was much increased at the idea of Doc being called to deliver her of her burden of nature.

Friday 9th. This morning we discover on awakening a delightful morning the first town on our route this morning is the grand town known by the title of Gallipolis, proverbial for ugly girls and indolent men. During the day we passed Portsmouth and Maysville. This day was passed off very quietly & pleasantly I now quit writing to go to bed.

Saturday 10th. This morning I find myself at the Cincinnati wharf. Here we find a splendid city, and a noble and hospitable people. About eleven o'clock our lines are cast off and the next minute we are gliding smoothly o'er the waters of the majestic Ohio. During the day we pass some of the most beautiful farms and dwelling houses that I ever beheld. Toward evening we arrived at Madison a beautiful small town on the Indiana shore. Night stops our view.

Sunday 11th. This morning upon wakening I find myself at the Port of Louisville. The town is overflowed to a considerable distance with water. The water stands some four or five feet on the houses along Water street - Portland, a small town below Louisville, a portion of which is entirely covered with water.

Monday 12th. I made very few observations today from the fact that I have been very unwell. However I saw the town of Evansville,

and a large body of land below, on the Kentucky shore entirely overflowed by water. This morning his wife being sick, discouraged

Tuesday 13th. This morning I found myself sailing up the Mississippi. I took little notice of the country being still unwell.

Wednesday 14th. Nothing of importance today, till evening we arrived at St. Louis. This morning is beautiful, Adam is considerably

Thursday 15th. Still lying at St. Louis. Reshipped on to the El Paso, for St. Joe; your humble servant still quite unwell and

Friday 16th. Wet and disagreeable unwell still. Left St. Louis this evening. Continue sick all the way to St. Joe. Lay sick at the Missouri Hotel 12 days; feeling considerable better on Tuesday the 4th May. I shipped in one of the wagons and started for the plains. We only went 4 miles, and had to pitch our tent and wait till the next day on account of the Ferry being so thronged that we could not get across the river. Time and again.

Wednesday 5th. Crossed the river about noon, drove out four miles & encamped for the night. Travel about 2 miles.

Thursday 6th. Advanced about 12 miles through some beautiful country but destitute of timber. The wind is windy and dusty, reached little

Friday 7th. Travelled finely, it being a beautiful day, I got out for the first time and rode the pony for a considerable distance.

Saturday. About the same as the day before. In the evening about 50 miles from St. Joe, we encamped until Monday.

Sunday 9th. Changing our mind we moved on about 6 miles, so that we would be able to reach a good camping ground next evening.

Monday 10th. Started early and done a big days travelling, forenoon pleasant, but afternoon very wet and disagreeable.

Tuesday 11th. This morning two wagons from our crowd turned back, belonging to a man by the name of Richardson. His difficulty was

Saturday 11th. Rain ceased, but still very cold; afternoon very sickness. His family first were cut down with the measles, then they took the varelloid. This morning his wife being sick, discourages him and he concludes to return. There is great sympathy for him in the company. This afternoon Adam took quite sick, caused I think by too heavy eating. This morning we crossed the big Nemaha creek.

Monday 12th. Fine morning, made a big drive today, the road very good.

Wednesday 12th. This morning is beautiful, Adam is considerably better. About 8 o'clock we crossed the little Nemaha creek. About 2 o'clock we crossed Elm creek, and encamped about a mile beyond.

This evening I eat some chicken soup made of a prairie hen.

Thursday 13th. All things passed off well.

Thursday 13th. A dry pleasant day but very windy. We made a very good days travelling.

Friday 14th. This morning is clear and beautiful. About 9 o'clock, we crossed the big blue creek, a beautiful stream, larger than Chartiers first ford of the Platte river in the evening, and camped on the south side.

Saturday 15th. A cloudy morn, soon commences to rain, the wind high, broke our wagon twice the tire and hounds.

Sunday 16th. Very cold and stormy, leave our camp about 9 o'clock for the Platte river. River shallow; ford very good. to hunt a better one and travel about 9 miles.

Monday 17th. Travelled some five or six miles; day very pleasant.

Monday 17th. A very pleasant day, no new observations.

Tuesday 18th. Clear, but a little windy and dusty, reached little Blue in the morning, and travelled along it all day. Grass very scarce.

Wednesday 19th. Travel all day along on the north side of the little Blue grass very scarce; ground poor but very pleasant weather; roads dusty.

Thursday 20th. Delightful morning. At noon we left little Blue after following it about 48 miles. Afternoon wet and rather cool.

Friday 21st. Very wet and disagreeable; lay late in camp; then started and travelled about 8 miles, then stopped for dinner. Weather cold enough almost for snow.

Saturday 22d. Rain ceased, but still very cold; afternoon very pleasant. Camped in sight of Fort Kearny.

Sunday 23d. Most delightful day, lay all day on the banks of the Platte river, and in sight of Fort Kearny. Wood scarce. Eat dinner at Fort Kearny. Wrote home, and roads good. At noon we started.

Monday 24th. Fine morning, made a big drive today; the roads very good. The base to the top of the rock appears to be near 100 feet; an

Tuesday 25th. Raining a little, but in a short time cleared away; day fine. through between the bluffs, and is difficult to pass.

Wednesday 26th. All things passed off well. driving; roads very

Thursday 27th. Cool in the morning, but extremely warm through the day. Passed two Indian trading posts. Reached the middle

Friday 28th. Day similar to the day before. We arrived at the first Ford of the Platte river in the evening, and camped on the south side. 29th. Six hundred and thirty miles from St. Louis. A fine

Saturday 29th. Early in the morning we crossed the south fork of the Platte river. River shallow; Ford very good. Arrived at

Sunday 30th. Travelled some five or six miles; day very pleasant.

Monday 31st. Ascended the ridge and followed it till noon then descended into the flat again.

Tuesday, June 1st, 1852. Weather especially warm, & the roads very dusty, in the afternoon, we passed through Ashhollow, and camped in the flat below. Morning very cool -- in the forenoon we crossed Bigg's

Wednesday 2d. Morning cloudy, but day warm; roads most desperate dusty. 14th. Camped all day on the banks of Platte River. Good

Thursday 3d. Morning cool, day throughout pleasant.

Friday 4th. Day pleasant, and roads good. This day we passed the Church or Court house bluff, it is a high stack of rocks, about 10 miles to the left of the road, but so high as to be seen distinctly from the road, it is said to be 300 feet high.

Saturday 5th. This morning, we passed Chimney rock. This rock is a beautiful specimen of the works of nature. The basement covers about 6 acres of ground, then ascends with a gradual slope, about 200 feet in diameter, & 75 or 100 feet in height. spin our cattle.

Sunday 6th. Weather cool, and roads good. At noon we passed Scotts bluffs. These bluffs are the most splendid, that I ever beheld. From the base to the top of the rock appears to be near 500 feet; on the side fronting the road the rocks rise almost perpendicular. The road runs through between the bluffs, and is difficult to pass.

Monday 7th. Day quite cool, very pleasant for driving; roads very good.

Tuesday 8th. This morning, after travelling about 2 miles, we

Passed two Indian trading posts. Crossed the middle fork of the Platte river, and camped in sight of Fort Larimer. Wrote three letters; one home. At noon we passed by the

Wednesday 9th. Six hundred and thirty miles from St. Joe, & five weeks out today. All well. At noon we passed by the

Thursday 10th. Crossed Bitter Cottonwood Creek, dry cottonwood & made a big days drive. crossed up Sweetwater, and encamped in the evening

Friday 11th. Crossed Horseshoe Creek, in the afternoon, the roads are very rough. Leaving camp this morning, we leave the river to the

Saturday 12th. Crossed Labonte river in the forenoon, day pleasant. Roads rough. Count of the ford being crowded with wagons, but bearing

Sunday 13th. Morning very cool - in the forenoon we crossed Saprelle river, in the afternoon, we crossed little Deer Creek. of snow.

Monday 14th. Camped all day on the banks of little Deer Creek. One of our company (John Rhea), is sick. on account of alkaline.

Tuesday 15th. Still we rest on the banks of Deer Creek. Our company killed three deers and 6 sage hens today. bluffs, which were steep and rough. Today I travelled over a large pile of snow. The mountains are covered with snow. The top of which was covered in

Wednesday 16th. This morning we leave our camp & take the road again. We crossed Big Deer Creek, this morning.

Thursday 17th. This day at noon we crossed the north fork of the Platte river by Ferry & had to pay \$8 & swim our cattle.

Friday 18th. Left the Platte river and drove all day through a barren country, destitute of wood & grass, and almost of water.

Saturday 19th. This morning, we yoked our cattle, and started before day from the fact that pasture was minus; our cattle became very sick from drinking alkaline water. This evening we reached Sweet Water river, where we encamped.

Sunday 20th. This morning, after travelling about 2 miles, we reached Independence rock. This rock is rather a curiosity, it lies out in the open prairie, is about three or four hundred yards in length & about 150 feet in height. At noon we passed by the Devils Gate. The Sweetwater river passes through this gate. The walls on each side are perpendicular & about 400 feet in height. At noon, we encamped until Monday.

Monday 21st. Continued up Sweetwater, and encamped in the evening near the Devil's Gate.

Tuesday 22d. Leaving camp this morning, we leave the river to the right for a distance of 6 miles, when we come to a ford, but did not cross on account of the ford being crowded with wagons, but bearing to the left we travelled over 9 miles of desperate sandy roads. The mountains on our right are capped with a large amount of snow.

Wednesday 23d. Wet & muddy. Left camp about 3 o'clock, this morning & drove 12 miles, before breakfast, on account of alkaline water. Camping very poor.

Thursday 24th. Leaving the river we ascend the bluffs, which are steep and rough. Today I travelled over a large pile of snow. The mountains are covered with snow. The top of which seem enrobed in

with the clouds. This morning we crossed Bear river, the fording was

Friday 25th. This morning we leave the Sweetwater for the last time, and travelling 10 miles, we enter the pass of the Rocky mountains, which is 2 miles in length, & 20 wide. The water now flows toward the Pacific. I met with an old friend, from

Saturday 26th. We are now within 7 miles of the fords of the Salt Lake and cut-off roads. On arriving at the forks of the road, the company unanimously agree to take the Salt Lake road, roads rough

Sunday 27th. Ferguson Biggs being sick, we agree to lay up until Monday. Two of our wagons (Smith & Smulls) left the train this morning on account of some small provocation. We drive about 4

Monday 28th. This morning we left Big Sandy Creek & travelled over about 30 miles of a desert to Green river where we encamped for the night. It is out, but the buildings are thinly located, and are

Tuesday 29th. This morning we crossed Green river by the Ferry & commenced descending the river, & after travelling about 25 miles, we encamped on Ham's fork. quite warm. We rest all day in the city

Wednesday 30th. After ascending this creek about 4 miles and cross it, we take the bluff, and travel about 16 miles and encamp on Mud creek. Camping poor. Spring.

Friday 9th. Day place JULY 1852 about 10 miles only, in order to Thursday 1st. Leaving Mud creek, we ascend the bluffs and travel 20 miles to Fort Bridger. Passed the Fort in the afternoon, and encamped 2 miles west of it on the mountains. noon and camped on the

Friday 2d. We are now 110 miles, from Salt Lake City. All in good spirits & a pleasant morn. Mosquitoes very bad. At noon we passed the Copper Springs. In the afternoon we crossed the mountains driving the waters of the Colorado, from the waters of California bay, and camped on a small stream one mile east of Bear river.

Saturday 3d. This morning we crossed Bear river, the fording was rough and difficult, the river being divided into 4 branches. We saw numerous Indians with whom we traded for venison. In the evening we encamped in Echo valley 60 miles west of Salt Lake.

Sunday 4th. This morning I met with an old friend, from Leavenworth, Washington (Tom Morrow). We travelled down Echo valley about 16 miles to Red fork Creek & encamped on the western shore. (very bad),

Monday 5th. Leaving the creek, we ascend the bluffs; roads rough & Indians numerous, encamped on the summit of a high & barren mountain. The surrounding mountains are covered with snow for the

Tuesday 6th. This morning, grass being scarce, we drive about 4 miles, before breakfast, to hunt grass; in the afternoon, we arrived at Salt Lake City. Located in Salt Lake Valley. The City is extensively laid out, but the buildings are thinly located, and are built principally of sun dried brick. The inhabitants appear to possess a great deal of hospitality. We drove to Decatur Creek 10

Wednesday 7th. Morning quite warm. We rest all day in the city to get out oxen shod. In sight of the junction of Hubbettes, cut-off

Thursday 8th. We leave town at noon, and drove out 10 miles of the camping poor. Passed the Hot Spring. foot of the mountain.

Friday 9th. Day pleasant, drove about 10 miles only, in order to rest our cattle. Weather very warm. that we have had since we

Saturday 10th. Morning fair. Travelled about 12 miles, and nooned on Weber river. Crossed the same in the afternoon and camped on the eastern shore. Morning quite frosty, roads good. At noon we

Sunday 11th. Lay all day on the banks of Weber river, to wait for our train, which was behind one day. but found none.

Monday 12th. This morning we crossed Ogden river and proceeded from there about 20 miles. At noon we pass Alkali Springs: in the evening we camp at the walls. Grass good.

of the river we started at 1/2 past 5 oclock traveled until 12 oclock started at 2 oclock camped at 1/2 five oclock

Seen 8 graves 2 waggons 1 log chane 1 lock chane the sand very bad to day grass frustrate we stoped to day at noon in site of the court house rock it looks very like a court house with a foure corner roof you can see it 12 or fifteen miles off it is on a high gradull elevated spot we camped 6 miles below th rock chimney from where we are camped it has a very butiful looking apperence the Son set with redd looking apperence and looked as though they was a considrable little town we past 2 very prety little winding streemes we traveled to day 27 miles

Saturday May 25

this clear and pleasant we started this morning at 1/4 past five we stoped at 11 oclock laid by the ballance of the day traveled 15 miles this morning I went by the rock chimney 4 miles to the left of thr here I find great many naturel curositys I will endeavor to give the discription of this rock chimney as it is called It is not a rock as high as I can Judg something similar to rotten Stone the shape of it is very much like around capelow with the litining red running above the Senter the base of it is about one 1/4 of a mile across I think it is not less than 6 hundred feet from the base to the top I went up it about 4 hundred feet then it became so steep that they was feet holt cut in see we could cline up about 25 feet futher then we could see where some had cut nochas and drove little sticks to cline about 20 feet further but did not venture up that I supose that that there is not less than 2 thousand names riten in difrin plases here we camp to day on the bank of the river and about 3 miles opsite to our left the bluffs has a very singular looking apperence sevrrel of us went out to them this evening we went on top of one about 5 hundred feet high here we fount great meney naturel curosities here we found some butiful and singular looking moss some of the pritiest little flowers I ever saw and they grow where

it look like nothing would grow they are very close to the ground or what ever
it may be it has pretty much the appearance of the chimney rock and as for prickly
pear it is spontaneous growth all over this country I have seen some since I have
been on the plains that I never saw any like before they are nearly round and
about the size of a hen egg with a little small root to them at the top of them
there is 4 little red berries in a square and now nobody could not work prettier riddle
work than is worked by nature over them this evening we had a very heavy hail
storm it was very severe on our horses they were very much frightened some 12 or 15
horses took a stampede and the pickett pinions flew they ran 4 or 5 miles we got
them without much difficulty

Sunday May 26th

this morning clear and pleasant last night very dew the first time since we
left the states we started at 6 o'clock stopped at noon 2-1/4 hours camped at 1/2
past six traveled 27 miles with the river to day 8 miles this side of the chimney
rock after we rose the hill we traveled with gradual descent 8 miles and a beautiful
road we can see groves of cedar to our left on top and side of the bluffs from
the chimney rock up to Scotts bluff the bluffs here have a very romantically
looking appearance here we pass bluffs as they are turned but they resemble
according to ancient history the old ancient country's city and mansions that has
been deserted decaying and wasting away they rise majestically out of the plain and
extend to a most stupendous height I imagine that I can see the cupelows chimney
walls columns and cornish Scotts bluff is a small trading post surrounded by bluffs
except the pass we come in at there is 1 store 2 blacksmith shops several wigwags
some 3 or 4 small cedar cabins some 6 or 8 frenchmen have squaws for their wives
we camp on horse creek to night in a short distance from where it puts in to the
platt it is about 50 feet wide and the banks much lower than the platt here
packed up some cedar chunks this evening to get our supper and breakfast here
we find grass very scarce after we rose Scotts bluff the road had a gradual descent

May 27th

cloudy raining and cold cleared off about 9 oclock cool all day we
miles to day sand very bad to day we started this morning at 9 oclock
oclock 20 miles from fourt Larency at the Yallow bluffs Just below
ing post at this place in there aflew indians

May 28th

clear and pleasant we started first before the sun rose the road
considerable more timber to day on the platt we got to the fort at
cross Larency fork 1-1/2 miles below the fork it was a very deep
had to raise our waggons beds up on block and then the water ran
like it is the swiftest stream I ever saw for the size of it is
wide the fort is situated on up the Larency fork on the bank about
where it puts into the platt it is a low situation surrounded by
we can see Learencys peak plane it is a link of the rocky--mountains
the snow on it plane it is 40 miles from the fort we stoped at 5
and 30 miles here we found grass fustrate and wood plenty we camped
of the platt 7-1/2 miles this side of the fort they is a very steep
1. to goe down at the fort down this side 2-1/2 miles I saw not less
as the emigrants had left great many horses sold at the fort for
thing up to May 27 there had past men 5860 women 48 children 36
horses 5850 mules 2057 oxen 823 cows 62

May 29th

clear and pleasant started 1/2 five stoped at noon 2 hours put up
traveled 25 miles to day about 2 oclock we struck the black hills the
brokenest road that I most ever saw to day we past the warm spring
there is very plenty of these hills this evening we came to a very fine

spring we have bin travling to the left of laremys peek all day and it aperse that we are about as neare as when we started this morning grass tolerable good to knight plenty of pine wood we camp to the side of the bluff this evening know watter we suplied our selves with watter at this spring I I [sic] spoke off

Thursday May 30th

this morning cleare and plesant started just before sunrise travled 25 miles to day this morning shortly after we crost abutiful little streem I call cleare creek it is a very swift clere and cold there is considrable on it about 7 or 8 miles this side of the creek we looked up the river and it looke as tho it come out of the mounting sevrel of us stoped just below the the [sic] seen at the mouth of adry branch in a small grove of timber we went up it 1-1/2 miles we seen some the butifulest scenery of nature that we ever saw the bluff on the opisit side is about 5 or 6 hundred feet ^perandiclure and rock of various colors this side not quite so much so but with considrable seeder and pine we have travling sperently opoit of laremys peek to day to day [sic] in the after noon we left the rever we past ever some high and broken read past 2 cooking stoves considrable lot chanes harness trunks old guns Sethe blads barrels and various thing too tedious to mention Stoped at 5 oclock here we found grass and watter very scarce we campid 1/4 of a mile to the left of the road on adry sandy branch consedrable timber on it

Friday May 31th

this morning cleare and cool the cool bresses off of the mountains we started at 1/4 past five travled 25 miles this morning we crost the Labont river it is a butiful streeme about 25 or 30 yeds wide below and very swift it looks very much like snow watter which it is just out of the mountans here we find the largest timbers we have seen sense we left the stats come some 6 miles we came to labont branch which is a very fine watter we came over red hills to day our road has bin very brokin by the time we could on lock our waggon and get up one hill we

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would have to lock again the cuntry here is fit for nothing but the wild beast it is all very broken we stoped at noon 1-1/4 hours camped at 4 oclock just this side of the Laprose and top of the hill to the left of the road the horses for the last 2 days wont drink the watter except out of those creek it is akind of a alkali we seen 4 cookin stoves 1 waggon we are blest with one thing and that is good roads the roads over this broken cuntry is not surpastly they are as firm and soled as aturn pike to days travle we could see something like snow on top of the mountings I suppose it is this saleratus or saltpeter stuff that we see very thick in places

Saturday June 1th

this morning cleare wind very high and cool started at 1/2 past six travled 16 miles stoped at noon 1-1/2 hours camped at 2 oclock this morning we crost Laprese creek very swift and butifal watter bout 50 feet wide and shalow considerable timber on it for this cuntry travled about 7 or eight miles came to the laprile creek about such astream as the last scribed travled 5 miles came to the platt againe the read about as yesterday travled up the river 3 miles in a narrow bottom here we find more timber on the platt than we have seen for the last 3 hundred miles we camp on the north side of deer creek to knight neare where it puts into the platt it is the pretys watter that we have seen sins we left the bliwz it is about as wide as the labont river and very crucked considerable timber thre of very god size and the pretyst camping place we have seen sense we left stats seen 2 cooking stoves and great many other things our horses took a stampede this morning and ran about 2-1/2 miles we got them without much truble

Sunday June 2th

this morning cleare and plesant very hevey dew we started little after day light went deer creek 2-1/2 miles camped planty wood watter and the best grass we have seen sense we left the stats infact as good as I ever saw seen 2 cooking

stoves here 2 of the train dropped each swaggon one of them lost a horse he died with the bots we cut him open and found that the bots had et through his naugh here the grass is so fine there is sevrel trains laying over to recrute we lay by all day

Monday June 3th

this morning cloudy raining at intervells all day lay by all day this after noon some of the boys went out to the mountains which is about 5 miles killed 1 deer sevrel mountain hens they look very much like our tame hens a strain below us killed a bare wond amountain sheep they say there is plenty of all kind of game such as bufflow antelope mountain goat sheep do hare and black tail deer if the boy had went out sooner they would have killed considrable game

Tuesday June 4th

this morning cleare and plesant started this morning 6 oclock stoped at noon 1-1/2 hours camped at 6 oclock travled 25 miles we camped 3 miles below the uper ferry 1 mile to the right of the on the bank of the river here there is considrable timber and good grass my self and brothers and another man went out to the mountains to day there we found plenty of snow I killed a antelope to day we had a bare chase but did not kill it

we came 8 miles from deer creek this morning we crost Rudy creek it is 12 feet wide very deep banks very steep difecult to cross here the road is more brokin than usiel on the river some very prety groves of timber on the river to day past 5 stoves to day

wensday June 5th

this morning cleare and coel hevvy frost last night started 1/2 past 5 oclock stoped at noon 2 hours camped travled 24 miles we crost the ferry this morning ferriage waggon 3 and 4 dollars horses 25 cts each head man free camped at 8 oclock travled 25 miles the cuntry to days travle is very ugly and now grass and grass hoppers and crickets by the

acre 9 miles this side of the ferry to the left of the road they is a small lake
pon it is a kind of alkely and is very dangerous for horses to drink and to day
various branches of the same kind we camped 1 mile this side of the willow spring
here we have to cook with sage bushes in this encampment to the left of the road
is several little springs and branch is the indiffrent grass we have had sense
we have left the state

Thursday June 6th

this morning clear and pleasant started at 1/2 past 5 o'clock stopped at noon 2
hours camped at 6 o'clock to day we past several small lakes of saleratus 2 other
small creeks 14 miles from where we started this morning we crossed greese wood
creek it is about 7 feet wide banks very steep very pretty water several places to
day that it is dangerous for horses to graze or drink I seen several teams sick by
grazing and drinking 10 miles of S and to day hard drawing we camp to night
on the north bank of sweet water close to independence rock it takes its name I
suppose because it is entirely alone from any rock bluff here there is thousands
of names written some as early as 1842 to day we can see the snow on the mountains
all day see 2 cooking stoves here we found grass tolerable good turned horses
across the river the river is about 100 hundred feet wide very swift we traveled
25 miles to day

Friday June 7th

this morning clear and pleasant started at 1/2 past 8 o'clock camped at 2 o'clock
traveled 15 miles we camped on the banks of sweet water again to night grass
tolerable good 6 miles from independence rock to day we past through the devils
gate it is a gap in the mountains 1/4 of mile to the right of the road there is a
beautiful scenery it is where the river sweet water runs through the mountains there
is about 4 hundred feet perpendicular rock 1/2 mile this side of the gate there
is another beautiful small creek puts in to the river 1/2 mile this side of the gate is
another 4 miles this is another the of the creek deep ravine creek creek [sic]

very difficult to cross and very poore watter seen 3 cooking stoves 1 waggon 1 log chain a greates many other things too tedious to mention hard dragin through the sand all day

Saturday June 8th

this morning cleare and plesant started at 6 oclock stoped just above sand bluff stoped 2 hours caped on the banks of the river sweet watter again here grass a cross the river is very good travled 25 miles to day camped at 5 oclock 1-1/2 miles from high gravley bluff we cross bitter cottonwood creek about 20 yds wide banks high very easy to cross little timber here the road leaves the river 6-1/4 miles where the road Comes to the again they is a road that crosses the river is much rougher the road runs between the rocky ridges after this you ford the river twist some times difficult to ford we oep the old road but by crossing the river you miss great deal of hard puling and dragin in the sand we had very hard dragin in the sand all day the last 6 miles the hardist we have seen yet yesterday and to day the bluffs and mountains is prety much all solid rock great many rising independent and a leane in the plains they look very romanticle you can see considerable seeder coming sperently out of solid rock seen 2 cooking stoves

Sunday June 9th

this morning cleare and plesant lay by all day here the horses and mules dun well her one of the company dropped his waggon and packed on count of his horses not being able to draw there waggon which is the first of our ^R_Atain that has faged yet

Monday June 10th

this morning cleare and plesant started at 5 oclock stoped at noon 1-1/2 hours we left the rive the river this morning now watter 18 miles here we come to the river again Sand hevy we past the ice spring this morning it is in alow marshey plase to the [blank space] you can get ice by diggin about 2 feet soon after we started this morning we came in sight of the South pass or rather the chane of mountains

that we pass between they look most butiful they are covered with snow they look like white clouds when we first saw them this morning we was 65 or 70 miles from them today when we struck the river we crost 2 prongs of it about 1/2 mile apart we left it againe came 6 miles struck it againe came up it 4 miles and camped which makes 28 when we struck it the last time the road is very ruff and broken this streem is as prety as streem as I ever saw the banks low and smoth very crooked and swift it winds around its bends most butifully with great speed we camp on its banks to night againe here we find plenty of wood but now grass ceasley about 2 yds below is a spring to the right of the road it is as cold as ice its self for the last 2 miles back we crost sevrel little sloose making out from the rever very muddy cool breses from the mountains made it very pleasant travling to day we past one dead ox 2 waggons droped camped at 1/2 past 5 oclock

Tuesday June 11th

this morning cleare and cool wind high this morning the road leaves the river this morning the road winds round and over a succession of hills and hollows for 2-1/2 miles rough rocy ridges dangrous for waggons and aught to be crost with care 1/2 mile futher soft swamp very small creek short distance 2 small creek 4 mile futher strawburry creek about 5 feet wide 1 mile futher quakingaspen creek this rises in a small grove of small popellow timber on the south side of the road 2 miles futher a branch of sweet watter 25 feet wide here we found on the west bank of it plenty of snow sevrel feet deep these branches I speak of is butiful cleare and cold sevrel cold springs we are now on top of the mountains we can see snow evrey direction the road is butiful across those branches consedrabl mud and jump of (off) plases very straning on waggons on those branches and creeks acasionly you can see some small willows 5 miles futher we come to another fork of Sweet watter about same size of the other very good ford good plase to camp 3 miles futher another small creek as we came up the hill on this side we came over snow 10 or 12 feets deep 4 miles futher

we came to Straw burry creek her we found it difficult to cross we had to raise the beds of our waggons and then the watter came in then some banks very steep and difficult to get down creek very swift three miles futher futher [sic] we past between the the [sic] twin mounds we camp 1/2 mile this side of them to knight to the right of the road 3/4 of a mile from from [sic] sweet watter started this morning at 5 oclock stoped at noon 2 hours camped at 6 oclock travled 29 miles seen 2 waggons 3 guns to night grass scorse we had a fine snow balling to day

Wednesday June 12th this morning cloudy and cool wind very high we camped 3/4 of a mile this side of the twin mouns started at 1/2 past 5 oclock travled 4 miles here we came to the Summit of the mountains which is in a small valey here is the pesifick spring and pesifick creek the pasifick creek runs westward and and [sic] alle one west this is the devide betweene the watters of the pesefick and atlantick travled 2 miles came to day sandy here is but very little watter and brackish not good for stock we had to fill our cags at the pasefick creek nomore watter for 23-1/2 miles came to little sandy 30 feet wide 2-1/2 feet deep came mile 1/2 this side of the creek camp at 5 oclock to the right of the road stoped at noon 2 hours 17 miles from the pasifick creek we came to the forks of the the [sic] left leading to Salt lake the right subletts cutoff the road very fine to day grass scors nothing but wild Sgs to eock with for several nights the wild sage is bin so thick we could not pick it our horses we run a great risk of loosing them past 1 brokedown ex we had considrable shower to day we have little sprinkle every most ever since we got in to the mountains

Thursday June 13th this morning cloudy wind very high and cool started this morning at 6 oclock came 6 miles to big Sandy this is abutiful ford 100 feet wide 2-1/2 feet deep came 1-1/2 miles this side of the creek camped at 10 oclock we will lay here until

morning it is 25 miles to the next watter we shall cook anuff to doe us through and prepare ourselves with watter here we find alittle wood grass very good for the mountains we had ahale storm this evening and snood alittle 7-1/2 miles to day the health of our company is not very good at presant evry waggon has frome 1 to 2 sick men in it the complaint is the mountain fever it make them very sick but I think it is somthing simular to see sickness every one of will feel it more or less seen 2 log chains 2 waggon

Friday June 14th

this morning cloudy windy and cold started 1/2 past 5 oclock stoped at noon 1-3/4 hours camped at 1/2 sixoclock travled 45 miles very good grass at noon fore the first 8 miles to day sandy the ballance of the way very dusty considrable rock for the 15 miles very broken we camp on the bank of green river to night and not one particle of grass for our horses as good for our selves we had alittle feed past one dead ox seen the bones of thirty that died last yeare 1 waggon 2 log chains 1 gun we could see the white cap mountains off to our wright to day

Saturday June 15th

this morning cleare and cold we harnest up and drove down to the ferry 3/4 of smille lay thare all day and as desegrable aday as I ever felt wind very high dust very bad cold rained sevrel times through the day Snoed considrable across the 3 or four miles at the mountains and some whare we was Just amagin how bad it can be and then dubelit and then you will have some faint idie of it we had to ware our big coats all day 2 cooking stoves 1 gun 6 waggons and great meny little things too tedious to mention

Sunday June 16th

this morning cleare and very cold the watter frozed solid over our bucket last night we swan our horses over yesterday morning and grased them out about 4 miles until 11 oclock to day which we got across the river it cost us from 5 to 7 dollars for ferage

fore 5 miles very tall and steep then we had a very pretty road 6 miles here we
past several pine and quaking aspen groves both to right and left we past through
one 1/4 of a mile wide then we commenced descending and ascending the tallest moun-
tains we have yet seen we descended this evening 2 miles long into the valley of
[blank space] bare river we camp in 2-1/2 miles of it to night to the right
of the road 1/4 of a mile grass pasture no wood sage a few little twigs some-
thing like sage seen 3 waggon 4 graves 1 horse 1 mule 2 steers

wednesday June 19th

this morning clear and calm and very cold started at 1/2 past 7 o'clock stopped at
noon 2 hours camped at 1/2 past 6 o'clock traveled 20 miles hauled 3 miles came
to a lake to our left between the road and the river 3 miles further the road turns
to the right and goes up between the mountains here we cross 4 prongs of bare
river and as strange as it may appear not much more than that many yards a party
crossing tolerable bad here is some little scrubby brush also just before we
cross there is a small branch comes out of the mountain puts into them they
will average about 30 feet wide and 2-1/2 feet deep as soon as we cross them we
turn immediately to our left west for 3 hundred yards we had some of the biggest
rock to run over I ever saw a wagon go over here we nearly lost again 2 miles
further we come on to the bank of main bare river here is some timber here the
river is running north and it commences taken a gradual bend as a rainbow trailed
ten miles further came to a small branch 1-1/2 wide beautiful water running out of
the mountains 2-1/2 miles further came to [blank space]
this stream is the cleanest running stream we have seen it is 40 feet wide 5 feet
deep here was some difficulty in crossing some emigrants had their wagon []
ferrying in it charged 100 dollar per load draught our waggon across by rope
camped 1-1/2 miles below the ferry on the bank of the river here we saw willow
and the best grass we have had last night we had nothing but little fine grass
wood scrubby past 4 graves 2 waggon 2 guns one horse 5 oxen

further is the stein boat spring 2 miles further is the forks of the road the right goes to fourt hall thr is greenwoods cutoff from the forks of the road to fourt hall is 50 miles travled 35 miles to day we camp to night 8 oclock on the side of amountain without any watter our horses try going 2 miles after we stoped we got alittle snow for our Selves

we came through large valey this evening some day has bin aruption of some kind great sunk and large crevices in rock you can see see [sic] down as fare as you eyes will let you see grass and wood plenty

Saturday June 22th

this morning cleare and plesant sarterd at 6 oclock stoped at noon 2-1/2 hours this moring we ascended the mountain fore 1 mile thin we wnt down widing through the mountains fore 3 miles here we came to watter and asmall indien village here we ascended the mountaine fore 2 miles then we descended for 2 miles futher down through a narrow crivas jus wide anuf for awaggon to get along with great difficulty then we come into asmall valey here we found a butiful little creek 12 feet wide 3 feet deep little wood plnty of seeder on top of the mountains and

to day 1-1/2 futher to the right of the road is abutiful creek 20 feet wide 4 feet deep but little wood lewises fork of columbia river or fourt 13 miles came to to [sic] another creek bare grass here we camped to the left of the road nothing but sage to cook with fustrate grass Seen 4 waggons 2 oxen 1 stove 1 log chain 1 gun Camped at 5 oclock travled 22 miles

Sunday June 23th

this morning cleare and plesant started 1/2 past 8 oclock mooved 3-1/2 hours camped at 1/2 past 6 oclock travled 18 miles this morning we had some difficulty in crosing the creek we had to prop up our waggons beds and raise our good up in side very miray starting 1 mile and 1/2 blew bare we camped last night is aflew wigwams I traded them 2 blankets 1 pistol 1 knife 1 flask of powder 1 box of caps 1 vest 1 shert for agood poney 7 miles over agradiul rise came to afine

down through small mountains came 8 miles to aspring to the left of the here we enter a crives on cenion of the mountains from here it was said the they was no more for 20 miles but we found it untrue we found watter in sevrel defrent places we travled up a gradual ascent for sevrel miles then for sevrel more gradual descent butiful road down this cenion find some butiful quakenasp and pine groves we camp on the banks of a butiful little branch to night plenty of willows and grass rering to the left of the of the road very warm to day past 1 grave 2 dead horses seen 5 waggons 1 gun 3 stoves sevrel sets of harness

wensday June 26th

this morning cleare and plesant started at 1/2 past 5 oclock stoped at noon 2 hours camped at 3 oclock travled 17 miles this morning we crost valey travled 8 mile came to atributary of raft creek here we found the ford very mirey and difecult to cross 2 miles futher another trebutary here we had to onload our waggons and put them cross by rops with great defeculty the horses got across some one had left awaggon and put it in the creek to cross our goods on 6 miles futher came to main raft creek her we crost without much difeculty steep banks had to raise our beds 1 mile futher up the creek we camped clost to to [sic] the road plenty of dead willo and wold whiet seen 1 dead horse 1 ox 1 stove 3 waggons we camped 1/2 mile this side of where the fourt hall rode intersects this

Thursday june 27th

this morning hazy and plesant started at 5 oclock stoped at noon 2 hours travled 4 miles up the creek then crossed very good ford here we turn diaw south travled 2-1/2 miles came to avery prety branch 6 feet wide 10 inches deep here we are in a large valey of about 8 miles wide 9 miles futher sevrel branches two tedious to mention it is snow watter runing off of the mountains consedrable cruby seeder on both sides of the valey on the sides of the mountains plenty of snow 10 miles futher to the Soth came to where the Sald lake road intersects this road about 5 miles back on the road on both side of the road which in a small valey is

is a small creek water warm 4 feet wide 6 inches deep 5 miles miles [sic]
further came to several springs to the left of the road quite marshy around them
slimy looking moss water clear and very cold springs about 6 feet deep spread
over considerable ground some signs of alkali fuel sage and very scarce at that
grass plenty it is flag seen 1 dead horse seen 6 waggon seen where several more
had bin burnt up 2 cooking stoves stopped at 6 o'clock traveled 28 miles past 1
broken down ox

Monday July 1th

this morning clear and very cold started at 6 o'clock stopped at noon 2-1/2 hours
camped at 1/2 past 6 o'clock traveled 30 miles came 6 miles this morning to cold
water creek 5 feet wide from 15 inches to 4 feet deep it runs north east came
up it 2 miles here it sinks 1-1/2 miles is plenty of water it heads near the
head of the valley it goes smaller and smaller considerable slimy moss in the
creek 13 miles further came to the hot springs to the left of the road 1 mile
further came to a cutoff the road in the valley the cutoff is some very bad crud
holes 8 miles further here we camp on a small branch to the left of the road at
the end of the valley the roads very dusty in some places very poor grass fuel
sage and small dry brush past 2 graves 2 horses 2 waggon seen where several
more had bin burnt 2 cooking stoves 1 gun

Tuesday July 2th

this morning clear and pleasant started at 6 o'clock stopped at none 2 hours camped
at 1/2 past 6 o'clock this morning we traveled for 3 miles over considerable broken
road here we come to kinion creek valley 7 miles further came to several springs on
to the left of the road which canon creek or branch is off to the left of the
road 8 miles further came to some little water to the left of the road in a very
dry time there is not any here here, [sic] we leave the valley of kinion 3 miles
further came to the valley of humbolt came 6 miles further here we struck tribu-
tary of humbolt 8 feet wide 15 inches deep ugly to cross all down this valley is

mile further here we came to the river again here we leave the grass and come
20 miles further over a low barren Salernatus and alkily cuntry saw small alkly
lakes no growth ceasley except small scrubby sage got here at 1/2 past 2 oclock
on a slow about 1/2 mile from the river this slow is considerable empregnated
with alkellie I washed my hands in it and they left as though they had bin washed
in ly we had to wade across the slow to get grass for our horses it is very myrey
grass very deficuilt to get started at 1-1/2 past came down the river 5 miles
here we came to a little grass it being very myrey where the grass was fuel sage
and very scerse here we stood gard for the first time sense we left little Sandy
where we nooned to day the night before 5 horses was stolen
Seen 1 grave died July 7 1850 Seen 1 dead mule 1 dead horse stoped to camp at 8
oclock traveled 31 miles the roads to day is very dust we see no such dust in the
stats it is as fine as flower and as leaght as iny thing can be it rises in clouds
and some times aporses it will chock boath man and beast to death this morning
we went in mitchel and company

Tuesday July 9th

this morning cleare and plesant started 1/2 past 6 oclock drove 12 miles about
the same sort of cuntry as yesterday here to our astonishment they say it is the
sink we thought we was about 60 or 65 miles from it here we leave the creek turns
amediatly to the wright came 6 miles here here [sic] we find any quanty of clover
they can be tons of it is watter in spots some small little branches in the
bottom very pore watter and more toeds than you can shake astak at we get watter
her by digen smalls wells from 3 to 4 feet deep watter bracked considrable saler-
atus here and take this river apun aavrage it is the most heprecritle In the
valy of the river in plases it look soled and a hors will myre amidatly they
is no dependince to be put in the hole valey I have bin informed to day that man
I spoke of that was shot by the indiens is dead they cut him open and found the
arrow in him since he has died 2 indiens came up to them they shot them down
also milares traino has got all of thare horses but 2 or 3 and have coled 14

indians in getting then they are getting very troublesome and I am very fearful that they will do great deals of damage to the last immigrants but still very bad the first 12 miles travel to the growth which is nothing but scrubby sage

Wednesday July 10th

This morning clear and pleasant we got up this morning and to our surprise we found the water sink in the branch and well that we camped by

Started at 9 o'clock nooned 3 hours back to the river 4 miles started for the desert as we thought came 5 miles on our way here we came to a sulfur spring on our left below it it forms a small lake here we traveled 1/2 moon circle 4 miles further came to the river again 2-1/2 miles further here we struck the bluff here we past through a narrow canon came down through the valley onto the river again stopped at 1/2 past 6 o'clock got our supper and let our horses graze grass tolerable good for this river started at 3/4 past 7 o'clock traveled 15 miles stopped at 2 o'clock road very pretty smooth and very dusty all day and night

Thursday July 11th

this morning clear and pleasant started as soon as we got came 4 miles stopped by a slow got our breakfast let our horses graze very little grass they could get at we waded in the slow and cut grass for the desert again as we thought started 10 o'clock here we turned nearly due north traveled 4 miles up a slow over Saleratus ground most of the way crossed over a sandy bluff came down to the river again here we found good grass we waded the slow and cut grass came on down the traveled until 10 o'clock at night

Stopped on a slow tied up our horses gave them a little grass that we hauled with us for the last 5 miles

we came very heavy drag in the sand traveled 25 miles James killed 10 snakes here we found a nest of snakes

Friday July 12th

this morning clear and cool started just after day light came 1-1/2 miles here

fork we take the left hand came 2-1/2 miles here we came a creek or Slew very good spring on it to the right of the road came 6 miles here we came to the fountain head of grass here is sevrel thousand acres of grass here is the plase whare we make our hay for the desart here is great distruction of propty great many dead horses and brokn down ones travled 20 miles to day

tuesday July 16th

this morning cleare and plesant lay here all day they have sevrel beefese killed here for the last two days the emigrant thrtent to kill them if the oners did not 1 man drowned him self because he was in want of pervision and cant not get ery

wensday July 17

this morning cleare and plesant lay here all day we got up this morning at 2 oclock to start but 1 of our horses was so sick we could not start I expect we will have to leave heere horses is dying off here very fast it is the watter supsed thare is J we will say in the bounds of nearin 50 dead horses within 1 mile of this plase

Thursday July 18th

this morning cleare and plesant Started for the Sink at 1/2 past 6 oclock very prity very dusty 7 miles stoped at 1-1/2 noon hours came 5 miles futher here we found little grass to the left of the road by the slew here we lay 1-1/2 hours came 3 miles here we camped we started in company with the Wellises train the grasing to night we cut thare waggon up and made a cart here we took in 5 bushel watter we travled 18 miles we left one of our horses this morning See 7 dead horses to day throad away mor my clothing this morning

Friday July 19th

this morning cleare plesant and cleare this morning cleare and plesant this morning we we [sic] start into the desart we came 3 miles here we came to the last slow of the sink the last slew runs through asmall hill it is 10 feet wide 3-1/2 feet deep defecult to cross for the first 5 miles very good road infact road

tuesday July 24th [23d]

this cleare and plesant travled at 10 oclock came 3 miles here we found very good grass lay here until 4 oclock came 3 miles here the road leaves the river for 13 miles most of the way very bad road very ruff and rocky considerable seeder on the road no grass on any of those streches got at 11 oclock here we found tolerable good grass here thr has but very little timber on it princibly willow 10 dead horses travled 16 miles

wensday July 24th

this morning cleare and cool started at 6 oclock here the road leaves the river for 8 miles the road turnes to the right goes through chane of the mountains wich is the Sererra Anavad mountains road hevly Sand here we find plenty of grass buteful watter snow watter from the mountains we travle up this valey for about 44 miles we camp to night 3/4 mile this of the morman trading post we camped under a large pine tree to the right of the road neare assall spring we see trading post every few miles along this valey I tradid my mare to one of thim to day for 12 lbs of flower and 4 do of meat seen 10 dead horses the road runs neare the right hand side of the mountain and the to the left travled 25 miles stoped at noon 2 hours camped at 1/2 past 5 oclock

Thursday July 25th

this morning cleare and plesant started at 6 oclock came 2 miles here we came to the warme springs 1 mile futher here is aread that some packers take we thought it adveseble not take it came 12 miles futher here we stoped to noon no grass or nearley so came 10 miles futher no grass on the way here we came to the mowth of the canon we camped 3/4 mile below the mouth on the river very good grass here we find very hevly from 4 to 7 feet in diameter for the last 15 miles the mountains is coverd with pine travled 25 miles stoped at 4 oclock

Friday July 26th

Started at 11 oclock to night travled over avery ruff road rocky and brcken in going 7 miles we crost river 3 times on bridges stoped about 1 hour before day

broust alittle got our breckfast and started gain 12 miles futher here we left the main road the right went down in to avalcy at alittle grass got there at 10 clock at night and avery darke and weresom road travled 27 miles seen 4 dead horse

Monday July 29th

this morning cleare and plesant started at 8 oclock 10 miles here we come to the head of plesant valey we find trading post evry 2 ore 3 miles some times little towns of them came 5 miles futher here camp to the left of the road neare aspring neare the diggins soped at 7 oclock the deapest dust to day I ever saw it is frome 6 to 10 inches deep very hevey diw last night

tuesday July 30th

this morning cleare and plesant started at 1/2 past 5 oclock came 5 miles to ringold 1 mile futher come to weber came 5 miles futher here se stoped to noon nothing but alittle dry grass for our horses to eat this is a very prety valey the groath of timber is princably oak 15 miles futher here we camp opsite of atrading stand to the right of the road under alarge oak tree here is the dry diggins all along those Small [illegible] and rivers another horse sold here for 4 lbs of crackers 1 do of meat 2 do of Shugar Sold my Saddle in ringold today for 5 --dollar Seen 10 dead oxen 4 waggons travled 25 miles

Wensday July 31th

this cleare and plesant started at 6 oclock came 2 miles here we came to amayne trading post we now travle over apretty partof the cuntry it is prarey Sacramento valey 20 miles to the merican forke the groath of timber is nothing oak here this is amost butiful streem we strike the river at the 10 mile house now we travle down the river every mile or 2 thare is atavern numbered in the same way the nearer you get to the sity the thicker the houses get 2 or 3 little town started on this side of the ci[ty] we stop to night milles this side of the city at A. B. Hawkins travle 25 miles to day 8 dead oxen to day