

Diary of Joseph Hite Family. Crossed the plains in 1853.

Joseph Hite and wife, Elizaboth, their daughter, Mrs. Alexander, and
Mr. Alexander. Joseph Hite Jr., a son. From Paris and Plainsview,
Ill.

May 6, Traveled 17 miles

7th passed a grove called Public square.

May 8, Sunday

9th Crossed Nishnabotna river, Dogtown & Indiantown

10th Traveled 14 miles - Saw several Indians for the first time.

11th Crossed West Nishnabotna R. on toll bridge.

12th Passed through Carterville & near Council Bluffs. Camped
5 miles below Kanesville on the Missouri Bottom where we laid over
waiting for the J. R. Miller until the 19th inst.

(19-20 ?) Traveled 11 miles & came to the ferry on the Missouri.

Crossed the river on the Steamboat Hindoo & traveled about 8 miles
on the plains & camped near the Mormon Winter quarters.

21st Crossed Indian toll bridge, passed the Mormon graveyard
& Winter quarters.

22 nd Sunday

23 rd Crossed Toll bridge & free bridge. Traveled 15 miles.

24th Crossed Elkhorn River. Traveled 10 miles.

25th Traveled 17 miles.

26th Traveled 18 miles & passed a Pawnee village on the South
side of Platte River & Camped near Shell Creek Where the Indians
stole six Oxen & 1 Heiffer.

27th Traveled 15 miles.

28th Traveled 8 miles, came to Loupe fork (Loup River) &
laid Over.

30th Crossed the River & traveled 6 miles.

31st Traveled past some nice bluffs.

June 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Traveled slow, roads bad.

June 4th Camped Prairie Creek

5th Sunday

6th Traveled 8 miles to Wood River. ?

7th Crossed the river in boats made of wagon bed.

8th & 9th Traveled, had good roads, Camped on Platte River.

10th Crossed Elm Creek, traveled 11 miles.

11th Crossed Buffalo Creek, Camped on the Creek.

12th Sunday, Saw 3 Buffalo for the first time.

13th Passed a lake and saw more Buffalo.

14th Came to Skunk Creek and camped

15th Crossed Skunk Creek and passed Cold Springs, and camped
by amphitheater of bluffs.

16th Passed several small creeks.

17th Crossed Bluff Fork.

18th & 19th Good Roads.

20th Crossed 5 spring creeks, Platte, Snake, and Sandy Creeks.
350 miles from Council Bluffs.

21st Passed Ash Hollow, Crossed quick sand.

22nd Passed Castle Bluffs, traveled 25 miles.

23rd Crossed Cobblestone Bluffs, Camped opposite Court House
Rocks.

24th Traveled 22 miles, Camped 5 mi. West of Chimney Rock.

25th Roads good, camped opposite Scotts Bluffs

26th Sunday

27th Passed Cold Creek

28th Traveled slow.

29th Passed Sioux Village & Fort Wyoming.

30th Passed Cot Springs, traveled 18 miles.

July 1st Good roads

2nd Good roads, came to Black Hills opposite La ?

July 2nd (cont.) Camped on Platte River.

3rd Sunday

4th Celebrated by traveling, camped 1 mi. from river.

5th Passed good cold spring.

6th Made a long drive.

7th Passed the junction of the roads at the upper crossing of Platte.

8th Left Platte river, traveled 25 miles, camped at Sulphur Springs.

9th Passed Willow Springs, Prospect Hill, Alkali Lake, & Rattlesnake Mountain. Traveled 25 miles, camped on Sweetwater River.

10th Sunday

11th Independence Rock, Devils Gate Trading House, Snow Capt Mountain, traveled 18 miles.

12th Crossed Sweetwater 3 times, traveled 16 miles, got seven cattle alkaliied, 3 died.

13th Traveled 18 miles, camped without water.

14th Traveled 19 miles, crossed Sweetwater 4 times, dry camp.

15th Passed Strawberry Creek & Willow Creek. Traveled 17 miles.

16th Crossed Sweetwater for the last time. Crossed the Summit of the Rocky Mountains & camped at the Pacific Springs.

17th Sunday

18th Crossed Pacific Creek, Dry Sandy & Little Sandy.

Passed the Salt Lake road, traveled 20 miles.

19th Crossed big Sandy & Camped.

20th & 21st Crossed the desert 54 miles & crossed Green River.

Camped 4 miles from ferry.

22nd Traveled 12 miles & camped.

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July 23rd Traveled 18 miles & camped on Aspen Creek. 800 miles from Oregon City.

24th Sunday

25th Traveled 10 miles on fork of Green River.

26th Crossed fork of Green River, Tedious ascent for 2 miles. Quaking Asp & Fir & Pine Grove, Crossed ? Creek & camped in Bear River Valley. Traveled 20 miles.

27th Crossed fork of Green River on toll bridge. Traveled 13 miles, Camped on Bear River.

28th Crossed toll bridge on Miret ? Creek and one on Thomas fork. Bad Hills. Traveled 20 miles.

29th Crossed several small creeks, got a good camp on Indian Creek. Traveled 20 miles.

30th White Sand hills, good cold springs. Shoshone Indian Village and camped 1mi. from Soda Springs.

31st. Sunday

Aug. 1st Crossed Sugar Creek. Junction of Fort Hall & California Roads. Basin of Soda Water, Steamboat Springs, Volcanic Crater. Traveled 25 miles.

2nd Traveled 15 miles. Camped Ma Creek.

3rd Camped in Fort Hall Valley. Traveled 14 miles.

4th Passed Fort Hall. Crossed Port Neff River and several small creeks. Traveled 14 miles.

5th Passed American Falls & camped on a creek.

6th Passed Bad Creek & Raft River. Camped on the River.

7th Sunday

8th Traveled 17 miles & crossed a creek.

9th Crossed Goose Creek & Traveled 15 miles.

10th Crossed Cut Rock River & camped.

11th Crossed several creeks & camped in a poor ? place.

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Aug. 13 Came to Snake on top of hill and headed ? for Salmon
Fall River where we arrived on the 14th Sunday.

15th Crossed Salmon Fall River & Snake River 1 mile above
Salmon or Fishing Falls

16th Traveled 3 Miles.

17th Traveled 17 miles & Camped on Barren Creek. Here com-
menced the sickening among the stock, 2 of our oxen, a cow and
2 calves died here.

18th Laid over

19th Traveled 4 miles and camped.

20th 2 cattle died. Traveled 4 miles, good camp.

21st Sunday

22nd Traveled 12 miles, good camp.

23rd Calf died, rocky road, traveled 12 miles.

24th Passed Hot Springs & traveled 12 miles. Good ?

25th Crossed several creeks & camped near Snake.

26th Crossed several creeks & got a good camping grove.

27th Came to Boise River & camped on the river.

28th Sunday

29th Good road along the Boise River . Traveled 14 miles.

30th Traveled 14 mi. & got a good camp on Boise River.

Sept. 1 Camped $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. from Fort Boise.

2nd Crossed Snake River.

3rd Traveled 15 mi. to Melkusen Creek

4th Sunday

5th Passed Black Sulphur Springs. Traveled 17 mi.

6th Traveled 15 mi. Came to Snake & Burnt River.

7th Traveled 15 mi. Crossed Burnt River 3 times & several
creeks.

8th Traveled 12 mi. Crossed Burnt River 7 times & several
creeks.

9th Traveled 14 mi. Crossed Burnt River 3 times. Good Camp.

Sept. 10th Traveled 15 Mi. Came to Powder Valley, Good camp.

11th Sunday

12th Crossed Powder River 3 times. Traveled 15 miles.

13th Came to Grande Rhonde Valley, Traveled 20 miles.

14th Crossed Grande Rhonde Valley, traveled 10 miles.

15th Blue Mts. Some very bad hills.

16th & 17th Same.

18th Descended into Umatilla Valley. Laid over.

19th Traveled 15 mi. Camped Umatilla River.

20th " 17 " " "

21st " 15 mi. Crossed Umatilla River. Passed Agency.

23rd " 20 mi. Camped at a spring.

24th " 15 mi. " on a creek, Water scarce.

25th Sunday

26th Traveled 20 mi. to Well Spring.

27th Crossed John Days (River) & Camped 5½ mi. from Crossing.

28th Traveled 20 mi. to Columbia River & camped.

29th Traveled 9 mi. Camped Deschutes River.

30th-Oct. 1, 2nd- Laying over 5 mi. from Dalles.

Oct. 3rd Drove to Dalles & Shipped the wagon on a boat. Stock drove

on the pack trail, which I will leave, and on the 16th of Oct.

we left the mouth of the Sandy River 20 miles from Oregon City.

19th Camped at Oregon City in good health.

From land claim record. Joseph Hite, #2738 Linn Co. Born 1792 in

Virginia, arr Ore. 11 Oct. 1853, settled claim 18 Nov. 1853,

Married Elizabeth, 10/16 Feb. 1838/39 Jefferson Co. Ky.

Donated by
Carlisle Smith
3636 N Baldwin St
Portland, Ore.