

Lane, S.A. "Diary of a trip  
Overland from Akron to Sacramento"  
[1850] - from photocopy

**STEWART'S**  
**DIARY**  
FOR  
**1850:**  
OR  
**DAILY REGISTER,**  
FOR THE USE OF  
**PRIVATE FAMILIES,**  
AND  
**PERSONS OF BUSINESS;**

CONTAINING  
A BLANK FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR, FOR THE RECORD OF  
INTERESTING DAILY OCCURRENCES AND  
FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS.

PUBLISHED BY  
**R. WILSON DESILVER,**  
No. 18 South Fourth Street,  
AND  
**HYMEN L. LIPMAN,**  
No. 139 Chestnut Street,  
PHILADELPHIA.

C-F 14

Bancroft Library

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Saturday, March 23d, 1850.

Yesterday made some progress with the ship having on board about 400 Californians and a number of other passengers - Stop for several hours at St. Louis, which was my first visit to the S. Col. a old Dominion. Took on several more Californians from Ohio. Arrived at Cincinnati about 1/2 past Eleven O'Clock P.M.

Sunday 24th.

Went up into the City after breakfast, but Shamba and called up on W. J. Cuyler and wife who board with J. T. Taylor on Long with Shamba all on one. Much rivaled a Police Gazette Office during the night - Went with C. to the Cathedral, Burnett house & Allen's office where got a stick of reading matter: and left at 11 O'Clock for Sunday.

Monday, 25th.

Took our boat lying at the wharf in Cincinnati this morning. Remained in town as near, went into the city and made some purchases. City very much improved since I was there before. Saw 15 George.

Tuesday, March 26th, 1850.

The weather pleasant, but a la. rain. Left in the Cotton only 1/2 past 10 oblig. to get out to feed the fowls &c. In evening Jerry made a Temperance speech and I opposed him. Made a good deal of sport for the passengers. Entered the Mississippi in the night.

Wednesday, 27th.

Entered the Mississippi during the night. Have made slow headway to day - but heavy load 315 passengers & about 115 loads for California. Also a large number of mules & horses mostly belonging to the emigrants.

Thursday, 28th.

Arrived at the agency of Catlin and Sharps <sup>at 5 miles</sup> about 11 O'Clock. Bought 4 mules this evening at \$8 each. Got our things on board the wagon and took our teams to James Sivery. Table on Market St. and put up at the Howard House.

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C-F 14.1



Friday, March 28th, 1850

Spent this day in making purchases and preparing for a land journey to St. Joseph's. Found everything much higher than in Ohio, and dealt with a perfect set of going. Saw some six or seven Indian chiefs who were down to attend the trial of a chief for murder.

Saturday, 29th

Left St. Louis about 2 O'clock P.M. and came about six miles, to the plantation of Mr. W. P. Fenn, who generously invited our whole company to spend the Sabbath with him. Mr. F. was originally from Tallmadge and is a cousin of John F. Fenn's & keeps a dairy.

Sunday, 31st

After breakfast gave myself a thorough scrubbing up and changed clothes. The company held a meeting in Mr. F.'s house which was conducted by Messrs. Spry, Ashman & Fenn. The day has been warm & pleasant. Slept in Mr. F.'s house. (A. L. & Family)

Monday, April 1st, 1850

Company started on, while I went back to the City for some articles we had forgotten. Overtook the train at St. Charles just as they were crossing the river. The pole to our wagon was broken, and I was myself stiffed to replace while train went on, and took them out about 5 miles at 11 O'clock or before the action gave.

Tuesday, 2d

Slept in wagon. This morning cooked our first meal. Commenced raining this afternoon, and we are now encamped at a tavern, looking under an old shed, and for a distillery and pig pen and sleeping in the barn. The rain & mud very unpleasant. Travelled about 20 miles today.

Wednesday, 3d

Stormy, cold, disagreeable weather and traveling horrible. Made some 15 to 20 miles and are encamped at a tavern, occupying a blacksmith shop for kitchen and bedroom, corn room, and oats very scarce and high priced. Much "muddy" mud.

C-F 14:2

Benaroli Library



Thursday, April 4th, 1859.

Left first rate last night in the Smiley. though it was rather dry. as the wind blew a perfect hurricane. Roads very bad to day. I was very difficult to find. Encamped in Crane Town, using "saggs" for shelter to Cook in and sleep in the house on floor.

Friday, 5th.

Very lame with Rheumatism in right knee. I had to drive all day. Came about 20 miles. Weather more pleasant. roads bad. Am encamped on a creek cooking our skins, and sleeping on the floor of a farm house near by. Part of the Company tent out. Saw no poles for our skins.

Saturday, 6th.

Came 27 miles to day, 20 miles of it wet, soggy, clay soil prairie. Too hard a drive, but we put it on horse soon. Weather pleasant but cold. Encamped by a creek near John Davis 1/2 mile from the main road. Sleep in house.

Sunday, April 7th, 1859.

Train laid by to day. Cleaned our skins up. Had a working done by the "saggs" from whom we also purchased Apples, Eggs, Beans &c. This seems to be their holiday. Seen quite as intelligent as their masters. Bright beautiful weather and well much improved.

Monday, 8th.

Tuesday, 9th.



Sunday, April 28th, 1850.

Within about 15 Miles of St. Jo. left  
leaving by the day. Weather tolerably  
pleasant. Saw many Emigrants  
coming from St. Jo. after corn. Reports  
rather unfavorable about getting supplies  
at that point.

Bore up cooking for the next two or three  
days -

Monday, 29th.

Train left by this day to go  
corn to take along. Paid from  
30 to 60 cents per bushel, and  
had to truck and shell it at

Tuesday, 30th.

Wednesday, May 1st, 1850.

Left the Bluffs about 10 A.M.  
and travelled some 20 Miles over the  
most beautiful country imaginable.  
Rolling prairies interspersed with  
small strips of timber. Camped  
on Wolf Creek, about 20 Miles  
from St. Jo. Weather warm and pleasant.

Thursday, 2d.

Arrived at the Indian Station  
about 9 O'Clock, distance 30 Miles  
from St. Jo. Has. Sacs and Foxes  
about 700 in all. 300 Acres of land  
under improvement. Young Indians are  
making some improvement in education: 60  
to 80 scholars in school. Stormy. (No sleep)  
Miles to day.

Friday, 3d.

Weather changed in night very sudden  
from warm to cold. Wind blowing hard from  
the north. Beautiful country, with low hills  
timber. Very hard travelling; much of  
the valley caused by the storm very deep.  
Made from 12 to 15 Miles. are now camp  
on a small creek with some timber.

Bancroft Library

C-F 14:4



Saturday, May 4th, 1902.

Nights quiet & stormy but cold enough at San Francisco  
to freeze over our water assets. Agree with  
999 of all best of Hancock Co Ill. died May  
27<sup>th</sup> 1869 at 29 yrs. Surmounted by a pair  
of Elk horns. Saw about 11 O'clock. Slightly  
mountainous; but almost destitute of wood. En-  
compassed by water, without wood. Cook with  
trap and moccasins. Inca about 45 miles,  
Sunday, 5th.

**Sunday, 5th**

Not having a comfortable place to lay by,  
left early in the morning, intending to stop  
again in an hour or two; but the weather being  
pleasant and the roads fine, our Cattle passed  
on some 20 miles, in a comfortable place,  
very little huffed. At Niencha Creek said to  
be 91 miles from St. Jo. Saw Ganute Cows of her  
ing passed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Monday, Feb**

Wolves howled a good deal during the night. Started early and am enroute at a fine run some 5 miles from Blue Pt. Having made some 30 lbs. Notice 5 frames to day evidently made last year, but found no remains upon the bones. Saw several other signs: In one one Ovibos bones to have

**Tuesday, May 7th, 1850.**

Rained on the night of Feb 9 2 P.M. C. of  
the Big Blue about 10 mi. From a Mrs. L. across  
hazy one of last year, and the other a new one called  
"J. H. Spring of Laurel Co. Mo. died May 11/1878  
age 11. Grass, E. grass upon a Stone.  
Country more broken with ledges of Sand Stone & several  
varieties, White Blue Red &c. E. Campfire on the  
first Peak of this blue, having one only about  
five or six miles. Met a man with wag & 1 fork & then  
returning. Team having given out. 65 Miles further on.  
Deputy. Bradley Agins and Taylor in another wagon  
with the other passengers. Arrived Omaha at 6 P.M. and  
lodged by the shore in the night.

Wednesday, 8th.

Wednesday, 8th

Beautiful day and never better road. Graps  
beginning to start some and afford a little fire.  
11. rough rather a dry pinched soil. Country  
left broken. but now and then a range of low  
ore, ledge of some stone and mass of granite.  
Made about 25 miles and encamped where  
there was no more & that little water stop.  
more & water some in this region.

Thursday, 9th.

[illegible]



Friday, May 10th, 1850.

Cold night: the water in our camp trails being frozen over, but the day passed by warm. Country more level and more and water scarce, though enough to answer.

Grass very scarce. Caused by want of rain and cold weather. Had a pretty severe touch of dyspepsia to day. Camp 28 miles.

Saturday, 11th.

Reached the Little Blue about 11 O'clock and camped upon it about three P.M.

Had good a mile or two back from the road. Met a wagon on the return with one or two of the men with having become discouraged by severity of grass. Saw several grama but none of this year, and seemed obliterated. Made over 31 miles.

Sunday, 12th.

Laid by to day, and busied ourselves by cleaning up, washing, cooking, and taking care of stock. Bright beautiful day. Little Blue a clear rapid stream. General Buffalo, Elk, Deer and Antelope were seen a little back from camp. But no Indians.

Monday, May 13th, 1850.

The weather has been very warm to day, and the roads dusty. Our course has been mainly along the banks of Little Blue, found several trains laying by to feed their cattle back upon the hills. Which, notwithstanding the extreme dryness of the grass of the bottoms. Seth Sackell, one of them. Made over 21 or 22 miles.

Tuesday, 14th.

Started early in the morning, and kept on long the Little Blue some 12 miles, and then diverged to the right and travelled some 10 or 12 miles further, taking more and more for the night, there being but one little muddy stream between the Blue and Platte about 6 miles from the former. Hot, dry, dusty windy day. Encamped high and dry on the Prairie. Buffalo, Elk & Antelope plenty.

Wednesday, 15th.

Getting my eyes pretty well fixed with dust, just got up a pair of goggles last evening. Am now a little better. Found good water under the Platte a distance of some 16 or 20 miles which we reached about 2 O'clock P.M. Rain very much needed. Grass rather scarce. Though very good on Grand Island opposite camp. Had a bad cold, and shot a few quail, but a hard plate of camp for supper. Platte rapid and deep, though shallow stream. In evening met a man to be sent from Fort to a man.

C.F. 12: 6

Barcroft Library



Thursday, May 16th, 1850.

Fort Haines, 1/2 mile from River, on a beautiful site, and  
composed of fine frame building and several barracks,  
and buildings, 500 ft. long and 50 ft. wide, as well as  
the Fortifications. Seven troops. Maj. Chilton Comd.  
176 Men stationed here. Barracks for 400. P.G.  
for sending letters back to the States. Men in attendance  
keep a record of teams and men who pass. 1912 Teams  
and 6122 Men - Could get in chance to repair harness  
Bought light 8x10 Stop paid 35 cents at store.  
about 6 miles in width on an average. good land  
made about 25 miles to En Camp on River.

Friday, 17th.

Started at 6 O'clock. Weather cool and  
pleasant. road good and made good  
time. En camp about 1 mile from River  
stop good. Holmes left the train an hour  
or so before stopping to hunt for Buffalo, and  
getting out of sight of Camp. could not find a  
single one until 11 O'clock at night. Could much  
anxiety and some search. Came 38 miles.

Saturday, 18th.

Started at 6 O'clock; road equal to a plank  
road. Weather warm and grass improving. nothing  
of importance occurred to day. Toward stop  
time good feed became scarce, and we camped  
on the banks of the River, on a plot of old grass  
with a small sprinkling of new. Just  
at day about 25 miles. Camped.

Sunday, May 19th, 1850.

Not having a very good <sup>camp ground</sup> and fearing rain and  
roads, before getting through the Plateau  
bad, bottomed, it was thought best to go a short  
distance to day. Started at 9 O'clock, and  
travelled till 1/2 past 8. Distance 31 miles.  
Thunder Showers just at night, but could  
not sleep round. En camp near river,  
good feed. Beautiful Spring of water on the  
River Bank.

Monday, 20th.

Started at 1/2 past 8. Made good time, and  
the bottoms being so dry, and passed over  
travelled till 1 O'clock before stopping to feed the  
Buffalo tracks. Bories and chips on any road.  
Stopped at noon over a beautiful creek, a little  
to the right from the road, and as we were about  
hitching up, a herd of Buffalo came in sight and  
very killed several. thought about 1/2 an hour and miles  
were frightened off, in consequence of which, one En camp for  
the night.

Tuesday, 21st.

Remained in Camp today to look for missing stock,  
but were not able to find any. Holmes's Bories  
and spades. Filler's spades and saw. Live  
and a sherrin repaired our mares. sent  
to "Alonzo" for fuel. Another herd of  
Buffalo, men constantly making them  
run, and keeping as near as water  
safety from stock. Warm day, but rain.

General Library

C-F 14:7



Wednesday, May 22d, 1850.

Starsha & Co. began & had one, with thin  
2 remaining being killed with them. Soon  
after starting, a small herd of Buffalo crossed  
the road, and <sup>10 or 12</sup> <sup>or 9</sup> <sup>or 11</sup> <sup>or 12</sup> <sup>or 13</sup> <sup>or 14</sup> <sup>or 15</sup> <sup>or 16</sup> <sup>or 17</sup> <sup>or 18</sup> <sup>or 19</sup> <sup>or 20</sup> <sup>or 21</sup> <sup>or 22</sup> <sup>or 23</sup> <sup>or 24</sup> <sup>or 25</sup> <sup>or 26</sup> <sup>or 27</sup> <sup>or 28</sup> <sup>or 29</sup> <sup>or 30</sup> <sup>or 31</sup> <sup>or 32</sup> <sup>or 33</sup> <sup>or 34</sup> <sup>or 35</sup> <sup>or 36</sup> <sup>or 37</sup> <sup>or 38</sup> <sup>or 39</sup> <sup>or 40</sup> <sup>or 41</sup> <sup>or 42</sup> <sup>or 43</sup> <sup>or 44</sup> <sup>or 45</sup> <sup>or 46</sup> <sup>or 47</sup> <sup>or 48</sup> <sup>or 49</sup> <sup>or 50</sup> <sup>or 51</sup> <sup>or 52</sup> <sup>or 53</sup> <sup>or 54</sup> <sup>or 55</sup> <sup>or 56</sup> <sup>or 57</sup> <sup>or 58</sup> <sup>or 59</sup> <sup>or 60</sup> <sup>or 61</sup> <sup>or 62</sup> <sup>or 63</sup> <sup>or 64</sup> <sup>or 65</sup> <sup>or 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Thursday 23d.

Made up the River some 20 miles, and came  
to Crossing about 3 P.M. Bed of River a very  
quick sand, and very bad to cross. Many  
teams took two low down river, then going  
straight across doing better, all safe - crops  
and in camp upon the North bank. Feeds  
not very good. Water muddy

Friday, 24th.

Started 7 A.M. Steep hill on rising to the Bluffs. Beautiful country some 10 or 12 miles, and very steep patches on getting down into ash hollows and the North Bluffs 10 miles across. Came about 3 miles leaving phone in a small village of some 10 or 12 men and 2 women both clean and bright. The hills

Saturday, May 25th, 1850.

Sioux or Saps  
Passing the Indian town, one of about 50  
wagons, they have a great many horses  
and mules. They will not sell for money, but  
a small quantity of provisions will buy a  
good deal from them. Made about 20  
miles <sup>over a very comfortable</sup> about 3 o'clock a severe hurry came  
down us to encamp on rather poor ground.

**Sunday, 26th.**

Spent by today, though find a transient one  
about 3 miles to find better feed. Cleared  
and repaired up. Bryan & Stuber not  
being able to agree, made a division, sawing  
their wagon in two and making each a cart.  
Each taking a horse. Severe rain and  
wind in evening.

**Monday, 27th.**

Road goes over crest of train about 1100 el.  
within about 8 miles of Candianiack. Much  
to the same. As we go to the top; wind whiff  
that over sandstone. Over 100 h or feet high. Sand-  
stone. Name. dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 1869. About  
1 mile across the lake, and about 15  
miles long. Road 30 miles to day.

**Bancroft Library**



Tuesday, May 29th, 1850.

The "Chimney" seemingly within a mile, or from between 9 and 10 E. Ch. Some of the birds were seen in a distance of about 40 miles. Some of the flocks near Cassidy. 13 miles from Coast Horn. In camp under S. E. Bluff 30 miles from the "Chimney" having made about 80 miles. A Thunder storm this eve. Beautiful scenery.

Wednesday, 29th

Sciurus Scotts Bluff. Spring near top, Two Black  
whips and a silver for this pair. About 16  
to the River Creek. Always good. Hill and  
ally. Angled with beautiful flaring. Made  
in St. Louis and in camp near the River  
from first having passed another small  
river to a new establishment

Thursday, 30th

rose on before breakfast, to find Fred,  
 about 5 miles. Staid 3 hours. Soon after  
 starting again, in passing a train drove into  
 a gully and broke our wheel. Bought another one  
 by the spit for 20¢ and on arriving at Fort 15  
 miles. Sold ours for 13.50. Rode 3 miles to  
 Camp 3 miles to Fort

Friday, May 31st, 1850.

Roads begin to be more hilly though good  
Saw a Grizzly Bear this morning 100 paces off.  
about 10 miles off. Camp came to a large  
beautiful spring of water called a Warm Spring.  
Made about 2 miles and encamped  
a hill with good grass, wood and water in  
abundance.

Saturday, June 1st.

A very severe thunder & hail storm that I  
have travelled about 22 miles to the  
Rocks & settled. Though heavy, I trust the  
rain about 3.50 A.M.; some after which  
abrupt turn through the mountain pass  
from our view. Passed around the  
hill and encamped on a beautiful  
Mt. Wood water & good grass, on the river bank.

**Sunday, 2d.**

[illegible]



Monday, June 21, 1850.

Country assuming a more rugged appearance  
as we approach to Meadaville. Came to a creek  
in about 12 miles. Commenced  
raining about 2 o'clock and the roads became  
very muddy. We laid up about 3. Having  
about 16 or 18 miles. Horse & mule plenty  
but rather scarce.

Tuesday, 22d.

Very slippery to day and very hilly  
and rough. In afternoon more mud and  
mud. Some late and camped  
about 2 miles from Box Elder Creek. Have  
about 25 miles. High rather severe.  
Large enough in spots to cut a few boys  
off.

Wednesday, 23d.

Crossed the Snake River in about  
10 miles and came to Bluff in about 4 miles.  
A beautiful clear stream  
about 100 feet wide. After crossing  
the river we made a high trail and a high road  
over. In camped near Platte having  
about 26 miles from very good road.

Thursday, June 6th, 1850.

Roads good (though sandy) excepting some  
deep ravines and crossing over creeks to the  
very 12 1/4 miles. 51 rats constantly going from  
dollar a wagon 25¢ each head of stock. Road  
very at 106¢ & got a wife about 12. all safe.  
Barrett boys, snatched their names 27 & 8 of  
Took rats from river and encamped near a mine  
spring & lake 12 miles from Bl. Don fence.

Friday, 24th.

Roads to day rough and uneven. Some  
occasional hills. Alkali Scraps. Very slippery  
chore. 8 of our stock were sickened  
by eating or drinking on one of the mountains.  
Then some Tainted acid which appeared  
came 22 miles and so camped on a clear  
100 yards south of Wood. Fine traveling.

Saturday, 25th.

Road about 22 miles to day. Passes an Alkali  
Lake. Some can be seen in abundance. Road  
for 12 miles sandy & heavy falling. The  
Snake River is 10 miles wide & 2 ft deep.  
Independence Rock 600 ft long & 12 ft  
wide. Some high. Some 40 miles. The  
though Independence rocks are for  
miles. Devil's Gate.



Sunday, June 9th, 1850.

Spent the day on the south side of the "Sweet Water", having crossed a mile above Independence River. Clear rapid stream of soft water, now high from the melting of snow upon the mountains which are covered with it. Had a good shower last evening. Grasp plenty water, fuel but no soda. The mountains on the north a solid mass of granite. Monday, 10th. Flare up between me and myself.

Passed over several small streams and high bluffs. Roads mostly heavy & sandy. Road runs between high rocky ridges & plains. Made about 28 miles and encamped on Sweet Water, with very poor food. Mountains on either side covered with snow. Weather very cold.

Tuesday, 11th.

Road sandy & heavy. 16 miles north of water. Found Sweet Water 26 miles from starting point. After passing a high hill or bluff 1 1/2 miles to Summit is quiet and deserted and encamped on the west side of the peak on the opposite side. 16 miles to day.

Wednesday, June 12th, 1850.

Followed the river about six miles, then we struck off over high hills with rocky ridges. decidedly the most mountain like of any yet encountered. and after passing several creeks. Swamp & snow drifts encamped on Willow Creek about 22 miles from starting point. Weather cool.

Thursday, 13th.

Had a cold storm last night. Wash basin this morning frozen solid. Out on my wooden armoire. Passed Sweet Water for the last time 5 miles, and reached the South pass 9 1/2 miles further about 3 P.M. Road as sandy and heavy. Encamped on Pacific Creek. Making about 24 miles.

Friday, 14th.

Thurs to day have been good, and the weather cool. Passed the fork of river about 10 miles. Crossed little sandy about 5 P.M. and arrived at Big Sandy about 6 P.M. and camped on the west side. Heavy rain and thunder storm & high wind in evening. This line made 23 miles.



W. LANTON'S DIARY  
ON TRIP TO CALIFORNIA - 1850.

April 25th 1850. Left Columbia, Mo., and camped at Rockport; crossed Mo. river at 3 A. M., camped 2 mi. East of Booneville, and got under way at 6 A. M. Booneville 3 A. M. Crossed Indian, camped in the prairie, travelling 3 mi. raining all night very hard.

Sunday 26th cloudy, cool, windy. Left fork of Indian high - left morning 7 A. M. Clear and beautiful, traveled 15 mi. & camped on the bank of the salt fork of Indian in the Petit plains. Tuesday 27. A. M. Windy & cool, P. M. pleasant travel 25 mi. & camped on Table Creek.

Wednesday, May 1st, 1850. Pleasant, traveled 20 mi. & camped 1 1/2 mi. west of Richmond, all in good health.

Thursday, May 2, Cloudy. All off at 6 A. M. in good health. At 1 P. M. rained hard. Encamped on the E. fork of Fishing river. Off at 7 A. M. of the 3d; roads hilly & sandy, travel 12 mi., camped on Fishing river, where we baked the first bread.

Saturday, May 4th. All off at 6 A. M. in good health & spirits. Got to Plattburgh 12:30 A. M., roads drying

rapidly, morning cool, passed East-creek river, traveled 25 mi. & camped early, clear & beautiful.

Sunday May 5th. All off in good health, traveled 10 mi., camped at 12 A. M. Windy lay up all day. Clear & pleasant till night when it clouded over and commenced raining & snowing.

Tuesday, May 7th still raining, cold & sandy. 12 M cleared off - pleasant - went on to St. Joseph. Cars all way from 50 cts to 1.00 pr barrel.

Thursday (sic) May 8th, Slept with W. A. Rice last night at Bryan's Mill, morning clear & pleasant. All well, camped same place tonight.

Thursday, May 9th. All well, crossed the Mo. river at 3 A. M. went out 20 mi. & camped. (no grass).

Friday May 10, Windy & cool - resting on table. I exchanged teams with John Henson and got \$50.00 to boot,

Saturday, May 11. Got teams off at 7 A. M., clear, cool & windy & dry - drove 25 mi & camped 3 mi. East of Wolf river. No grass. Great Smoke. Sub Agency, (of E.) Iowa Henson, 30 mi W. of St. Joseph, 10 A. M.

Sunday May 12. Information from Col. A. J. Vaughan - traveled about 15 mi. & camped on a ridge in the open prairie.

Monday May 13th clear & warm in morning - all well - grass improving. Got off at 6 A. M. Met one wagon & 3 men returning, two men on foot, from Warren Co. Mo. traveled



13 mi. camped near 3 gauge. Saw 50 mi. from St. Joe.

Tuesday, May 14th. All well & off at 6 A. M. Saw 100 vagons camped around us last night. This morning we joined with four other teams from Century Co. Mo., crossed Talent Creek  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mi. N. of the old trail being a shorter distance, fine timber & water - planted corn here - and traveled this day about 15 mi.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. south of the road plenty of water but no grass. Wednesday, May 15. All well off at 6 - cool nights and hot noon. Went from N. to N. traveled about 15 mi. & camped about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mi. S. of the foot of the East side of the Bluffs, fine grass, wood & water.

Thursday, May 16th laid by all day. Packing clothes, hunting & fishing; fish abundant, water too clear to be caught with hooks. But two bee trees, got no honey, and N. V., sick prairie.

Friday, May 17th. All well & off at 6 past 6, traveled 7 mi. to a Creek, said to be Little Bluffs, 3 mi. N. crossed Big Bluffs, good water & wood, on each, grass tolerable. This day John Langston's Co. passed us all well except Mr. Ryan who was injured by the running away of the team, traveled this day 13 mi. & camped in the open prairie, good water, no hauled wood.

Saturday, May 18th. All well, went down to Gum Creek. A large nest on the N. side at which is an infant's grave, "Went May 17th, 1850". Traveled 5 mi. abundance of water

& wood. One sick & muzzel, traveled to-day 13 mi. & camped in the open prairie 3 mi. S. of Big Bluffs - wood & water in abundance -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. S. of the road. Sunday May 19. Three of the Camp sick from over eating - but - Arrived at Big Bluffs 3 P. M., not one team & 3 men from Team, returning from this place. Found improving (my good) river runs S. timber - cotton wood, elm, oak, willow, water to the millrace, got on the top of the hill, a male ran away, the ox team ran away about 100 yds no injury, traveled about 10 mi. & camped in the prairie. During the night it clouded up, the frightful peals of thunder, the vivid flashes of lightning, it seemed as if the windows of heaven were opened from the torrents of rain that fell.

Monday May 20 - Clear & beautiful, all well & off at 6 A. M. 9 vagons in the train, there is at this time between us and the Little Bluffs reports of 200 teams, the distance 20 mi. traveled this day 20 mi. & camped on a brush, plenty of grass, water & wood. Tuesday, May 21. Cloudy, cool & windy. I have the headache, the balance all well, & off at 7 A. M. 12 N. cleared off finely, good grass & water, where we were told there was none. Came to Louisa Creek about 3 P. M. runs South, grass eaten down for some distance on either side, teams travel finely, made this day 15 mi.

Wednesday May 22 - A fine shower from about 2 to 3 A. M.



cleared off & got under way 9:30 A. M. teams traveled finely, water scarce, also grass, owing to the late rains, traveled 18 mi., encamped in the open prairie 2 mi. E. of Little Blue.

Thursday May 22d. Hard wind last night, storm scattered, but got together early. On yesterday we were passed by the lee rail train, we also passed 2 creeks dry, broad generally bad, also 1 to-day, traveled this day 15 mi. & encamped in the prairie near Little Blue river.

Friday, May 24. All well & off at 6 A. M. teams traveled well. According to my count we lay last night 205 mi. W. of St. Joe, by measurement 200 mi. Nothing worthy of notice occurred today, traveled 20 mi. & encamped in the bottom near Little Blue.

May 25. Well & off at 6:30 this day, passed the grave of James Austin of Boone Co. Mo. at 10 A. M. Traveled this day 20 mi. & encamped on high prairie, tied our cattle to the wagon & guarded. Sunday, May 26 - All well & off at 8 A. M. traveled to-day 20 mi. & encamped in the Platte bottom about 15 mi. E. of Fort Larney, during the night there fell the 6-foot hail storm I ever witnessed.

Monday, May 27 all well & off at 7:30 - very pleasant day after the hail storm, traveled this day 20 mi. & encamped in Platte bottom without feed.

Tuesday, May 28th. All well & off without breakfast, about 9 A. M. came to good fire where we cooked & ate breakfast

fast & traveled on till 3 P. M. & encamped in bottom on Platte, making this day 20 or more mi.

Wednesday, May 29 - All well & off at 7 A. M., roads fine, grass abundant, feed on the E. side of Platte for 60 mi. more. Traveled this day 20 mi. & encamped in the Platte bottom near the river, good grass & water. Here we found Dr. Taylor.

Thursday, May 30 - All well & off at 6:30; traveling 1 mi. to 35 mi. making this day 20 mi. & encamped in the bottom using willow switches & Buffalo chips.

Friday, May 31. All well & off at 8 A. M. traveling over most beautiful & level roads as we have done for 4 days past sometimes having to haul feed & water, the grass up this bottom is very fine indeed, the bottom extending from 2 to 6 mi., traveled this day 20 mi. having fine grass, feed & water, this day I enjoyed myself by riding over the sand hills in company with Mrs. Dr. Taylor & his sister, viewing the scenery, which was novel in the extreme.

Saturday, June 1st, 1880. All well & off at an early hour, we traveled on till about 12:30 A. M. when it clouded up & rained a fine shower, which was not wise as the dust was very bad. We traveled this day about 15 mi. & encamped on the open prairie near the river. We are now, say within 10 mi. of the ford of S. Platte. Sunday, June 2nd. Layed by all day curing our clothes & washing the grass or something else rendered our cattle very trouble-



come - running around - Late in the evening it clouded up & we had another hard storm.

Monday, June 3rd. All up & off early. Crossed the South fork of Platte at the lower ford at 9 A. M. The river here is about 1000 yds wide, about belly deep to my horse, generally bottom and surface for a team to stop & stand over for a few minutes. After fording we took the right hand road through the sand hills, learning it was 15 ms. to wood or water we provided ourselves with water, not having seen wood within 5 miles we did not take any, we traveled this day 18 ms. & encamped on the bank of the N. Platte, - a very fertile grazing ground - consequently grass shorter, also steeper. This evening we were passed by Bart Galtier, Clarkson, Collins & Tipper who camped within 1 1/2 m. of us, all well.

Tuesday, June 4th all well & off at 9 A. M., very cold & windy day, wind E. left the bottom & travel over sand hills to where we again strike the N. Platte a distance of 18 ms. making in all this day 25 ms. grass good, timber none. Wednesday June 5th still cloudy & misty, cattle a little scattered, though all off at 7 A. M. traveling up the bottom over tolerable grass making this day from Ash or Dry hollow to Cedar bar, 20 ms.

Thursday, June 6. All off at 6 A. M. Last night 1 1/2 m. N. of Bart & Co. traveled 6 ms. & entered truly Ash hollow, which is 140 ms. N. of Ft. Kearney. This hollow

is a pass 100 yds wide & several large oak trees are here, the bed of the stream is broad & gravelly, traveling down this 1 1/2 or 2 ms we again strike the river & on on through the day, traveled this day 25 ms. & encamped near the river, hauling our wood. During this day we passed two encampments of Sioux Indians, they number here some 125 warriors, large & likely men - the women far from and beauty will compare favorably with the refined whites being dressed in the American costume.

Friday, June 7th. All well & off at 6 A. M., traveling up the river bottom. No wood & grass very short owing to the number of stock grazed on it. The weather for several days past has been favorable to our cattle. Some dead pulling yesterday & to-day in deep sand, making to-day 16 ms.

Saturday, June 8th. Did start this morning owing to our men being out of the way - we however got them again & got under way at 7 A. M. making this trail near 14 1/2 m. per hour. Our riding horses look well & bid fair to go through although they are a little sluggish owing to the gait they travel. This morning we passed an Indian village of 41 wigwags standing & about 12 having removed to another point. The no. of souls about 500 all clean & in good health & friendship, we traveled this day 20 ms. & encamped in sight of Court house rock, there we had good grass, having hauled our wood for several days. Sunday, June 9th. Another storm



this A. M. before day. All well, up & off at 7 A. M. Several of the Co. went out to Courthouse rock & found it nothing more than a vast heap of sand blown up to the height of about 300 ft. above the level of the plain, covering about 2 acres. This day is fine on our cattle, cool, dry & light wind, we traveled this day about 12 mi. & encamped within about 6 mi. of chimney rock. This is another vast heap of sand blown up to the height of 300 ft. in the shape of a big shock with a spire of 150 ft. high & 30 ft. in diameter - distance apart 15 mi.

Monday morning June 10th all well & good and going to late riding, late breakfast & late start. Less energy and less this morning than at any time previous, fine traveling, weather & roads good - from Court house rock to Chimney rock is 15 1/2 mi. from Chimney rock to Scott's Bluffs is 12 1/2 mi. from where the road leaves the river turning up the hill it is 10 mi. to a spring which we were told was only 5 mi. To make a pace for it, traveled late & notwithstanding our late start, & the account given us of the distance, we came over 25 mi. today & encamped without food, or water and but little grass. Tuesday June 11th my barrels are very much out of order, the rest well - all off at 4 to find water - that spring instead of 5 mi. was 14, we found the spring 5 mi. from our encampment, filled our bags & pushed on to horse creek - several shallow streams of clear water, 14 mi. from the spring, making this day, 19 mi. Wednesday, June 12 - I am taking calomel and Dover's powders every 2 hours. I

am riding in the wagon today for the first time. Fine is mending, the rest well & off at 6 A. M., the dust is worse than I ever saw it by 3 in. in depth. Nothing worthy of note. We passed another trading house today. Near & far - none at war. Traveled today 20 mi. Thursday June 13th I am much better today, fine shower last night, beautiful morning, late start, owing to the cattle refusing to go ahead - all found & off at 6 1/2 traveled to Laramie fork, it was quite still. We raised our goods and put in. The water ran 4 in. on the wagon bed all got over safely. Stopped while at the fort, driving out 2 1/2 mi. we encamped, making 19 mi. today. Friday, June 14 - All well - but great heat night, we rolled out very early. Then I returned to the fort to get my horse shoe where I spent over 1 day, here I met with Leonard who is 3 days travel behind us. Showing all round \$1.00. We are now reading our way to Hickman's ferry 125 mi. distant. At 3:10 we set out from the fort to overtake our team which we left at our camp, encamped in excellent grass & tolerable good water gathered from a very heavy rain a few hours before traveled this day 15 mi.

Saturday, June 15 - All well except myself. I am still taking medicine & riding in the wagon, both disagreeable - this morning we traveled up a stream call "good water" which to my taste is true, timber & grass good all day, water scarce but good when found. We traveled this



day 20 we, I camped in among the old pines between two dry branches - plenty of good wood, fair grass. Sunday, June 19th. Myself as usual - balance well - we travel about 30 mi. & laid by the bal. of the day. Good water & wood, grass tolerable. We learn they are dying of Cholera behind us in a certainty.

Monday, June 17th. As usual - balance well - all off early & travel 15 mi. to a large creek of clear water. Our road for 3 days has been quite "hilly". Here we crossed - rolled out & traveled 5 mi. to where we camped on a branch of water & plenty of timber. This day has been very cold & windy. I am now writing under a beautiful shady box alder feel much better than this morning. We make today 20 mi. like (sic) for rain.

Tuesday, June 18th. I am sending, bal. well & off at an early hour, rough roads and high bluffs on each side, grass very poor & weather very cold. We travel this day 20 mi. & camped on a high ledge hill. Wednesday, June 19. I am still sending, bal. well & off at 6 A. M. over rough roads. Traveled 3 mi. & passed a large creek of clear water - bank tolerably well lined with box alder, traveled on & passed our crew - traveled on & camped in the open prairie, grass poorly, made this day about 20 mi.

Thursday, June 20, All well & off at 6 A. M. I left the train & went on to the ferry, where I found them all well with good boats to the No. of 3 making a trip every 20 min.

the grass is very "indifferent" & we are informed the same for 70 mi, the fairings for \$5.00 per wagon, \$4. per yoke for oxen & \$1.00 per head for horses, we choose to defer crossing until tomorrow morning, making in this day's travel 20 long miles.

Friday June 21 - All well, did not cross today but laid by, grazed, sunned & washed up yesterday our white cow had a calf which was shot immediately, & traveled on till night.

Saturday, June 22d All well & off early, came to the river where we crossed our wagons immediately, drove our cattle 3 mi. up the river to where, where we were detained sometime, drove 5 mi. & camped.

Sunday, June 23d. All well & off early, to note Willow Spring. No grass, no water, hot weather & dirty roads, arrived at the spring about 7 past 4 took water on board, traveled about 5 mi. & camped on a branch of sweet water. Here to use great caution to keep the stock from drinking it - making this day 30 mi. Monday, June 24 - All well & off very early, grass tolerable last night, and today very dry, but sun after a fine frost last night, making 20 mi. to sweet water, at Independence rock. This rock is somewhat of a curiosity to us as also many others. Tuesday, June 25 - All well & off at sun rise traveled 6 mi. finding good grass lay up for the day. About 80 rods from the road is the Devil's Gap, through which the Sweet



Water river passes. The walls are about 100 ft. apart & near perpendicular & near 300 yds. long & between 100 & 200 ft. high by the eye. Wednesday June 26, - All well. On yesterday our Company divided & one man divided their wagon and men - leaving the wagon bed in middle, 2 taking the fore wheels and 2 yoke of oxen, the other two the hind wheels & 2 yoke & so on this day we only travel to where we leave the sweet water 8 mi. & camp in order to get a fair start on a sandy plain tomorrow of 20 mi. We traveled this day about 13 mi. & encamped on the sweet water, during the evening we had a fine shower of rain. We are informed the Chinaman is very bad among the emigrants behind us. It is to be hoped that it will entirely cease. Thursday June 27. All well & off at 6:30, beautiful morning, traveled all day through deep sand. Crossed Little Cottonwood Creek on which are a few cotton wood trees. It empties into Sweet Water 1 1/2 m. N. of the sand. We crossed the sweet water at about 1 hour and encamped on the bank, grass thick but very short, making this day about 20 mi.

Friday, June 28th. All well & off very early, traveled up the Sweet Water 1 mile. We crossed it twice, drove 1 m. & grazed 1 1/2 hrs. For several days the mountains on our right are granite, on the left they are at a greater distance & more mud & timber & covered with snow. Night pleasant & none hot. We now have a stretch of 15 m. or 20 m.

where we again cross & leave Sweet Water. This river, the oftener we cross it, the deeper it gets. We traveled this day upwards of 20 mi. & encamped in the open prairie, hauling our water, stock doing without grass, scarce wood - none at all. Saturday June 29 - John Rice very sick last night & today - off at about 8, for the crossing of Sweet Water which we learn is about 3 m. traveling heavy, sand deep & dry, the wild sage, or sage supplies the place of wood - landed at the Sweet Water, we halted for the day, poor grass indeed, the wind blew so strong against us that it would have been almost impossible to travel. Sunday, June 30 - A clear, clear, cool frosty morning. Off at or near 8. Rice is better, can travel today easily. It soon cool breezes, yet the sun shining very burning. Encoded at near the river N. of the last crossing of Sweet Water. This is to my opinion one of the most unhealthy streams in all these Western wilds, to man or beast, the stream from Independence West to this point is impregnated with Alkali & very warm & weakening to man & beast. Hence the very many deaths this season (in my opinion). From here we left Sweet Water 7 mi. is a fine cold spring, 100 yds to the left of the road, in the neighborhood are 3 large alkali ponds. We made this day 13 mi. Monday July 1st, 1850. We were all off at a very early hour. John Rice is better, balance well. We travel today about 17 mi. passing many banks of snow, the



boys are eating it like pound cake. I fear they are not to be benefited by it. I am told a man at the cold spring yesterday drank a small canteen full of water and it killed him in 1 hour. There is perhaps more sickness now on the trip than ever was before, tonight we have excellent grass for stock & fine sage for fuel. We camped 3 or 4 m. N. of the last crossing of Sweet Water or poison river 9 m. from it is the Summit of this Mt. Tuesday July 2 - All well & off early - arrived at Pacific Spring 10:30 fine water indeed, but all agreed we could not for to last us 25 m. While 20 m. this day, camped in the plains, grass not abundant, but fine sage - Was it not for the cow on either hand of us, a man would think he was travelling on the great prairie in Mo. In passing over this Mt. it is a beautiful plain.

Wednesday, July 3rd. All well & off early very cool cloudy morning, traveled about 7 m. passing dry Sandy, 2 m. further on the forks of California & Salt Lake roads - then about 5 m. further on we came to Little Sandy, 60 ft. wide  $1\frac{1}{2}$  deep, clear, good water runs S. W. rapidly, 6 m. further we came to Big Sandy 100 ft. wide 18 in. deep, runs S. rapid current, - making 20 m. today.

Thursday, July 4. John Rice is very bad through last night and today. By his consent at about 7 A. M. we launched out into 25 mile desert which we design getting through about 11 tonight. In many places on this desert

is fair grazing for the animals, the horses were landed at the ferry on Green river, which is at the foot of Rocky Mts. at dusk the team by traveling near all night arrived about 10 A. M. the 5th. John is better. We crossed our wagons over, went our stock in short order & camped on the bank of the river. This is a very rapid deep stream, 15 to 20 yds wide. Saturday, July 5th. John Rice is mending slowly. We looked on our cattle, killed out about 7 or 8 A. M. where  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the road we found excellent green grass, plenty of wood & water. This stream is called Green Creek, deep & rapid 2 rods wide (30 ft.) here, we agreed to lay by until Sunday to graze & rest, the ford is from 1 to 5 inches deep, the wind rises about 9:30 & then it is almost beyond endurance. Sunday, July 7 - a beautiful morning, but this day is to be spent remains yet to be told - first by all mending the cattle & stinging horses, after dinner a part of the Company repaired to card playing & continued it until dusk. Monday July 8 - All as fast & off at 6:30, the wind is now high, a few drops of rain fell last night. This morning is cool & the dust does not yet fly so bad as before. Traveled 18 m. & camped near a group of fir trees - good wood & water, grass excellent, 3 m. to the right of the road. Tuesday July 9 - John is still mending - Sid is complaining smartly. Off at 7, travel-



of this day over the Green river Mts. (as I am told). We have had some rugged descents today plenty of the purest Mt. water every few hundred yds and excellent grass within from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. of the road. We are told the Crow Indians are troublesome here. I do not believe it. Traveled this day about 23 mi. and camped on the N. side of Green river.

Tuesday July 10th Starting John & Sid. We pulled out about 7, crossed the creek 3 rods wide, 12 in. deep & very rapid, immediately after which we ascended ascending a very high Mt. with some very steep places in it - all up safe and pulling on. We traveled this day 12 mi. over the roughest road that I ever saw, we descended on the side of the Mt. where we had water to pack 1 m. - when I refused & still refuse to pack any such distance. Thursday July 11th still hauling our freight. Off early & down the Mt. ready to ascend another. We camped last night about 10 m. S. of Bear river. On our travel today we discovered a very steep pass in the Mt. to Bear river valley. We turned down the river to our right crossing Thomas' fork 4 times in 40 rods or less - this stream is 3 rods wide 15 to 20 in. deep & very rapid. Here is Little Fork in honor of James Little of Platte Co. Mo., who lives in the valley near the foot. This day we rode 20 mi. camping in the valley, such grass & water. Friday, July 12, still hauling Sid. Bal. well, off at 7, fine roads & grass & water.

This day at noon we crossed a stream running S & emptying into Bear river, there Bear river takes a turn running S. & emptying into Salt Lake near where it heads. After crossing this small stream, 3 rods wide & 2 ft. deep & very rapid we again took the Mt. & in traveling the 23 mi. our P. M. travel we ascended & descended some of the loftiest Mts. we have yet passed, there Mts. have no stone benches on them, either ascending or descending & the dirt is from 3 to 4 inches deep - We descended a very long & steep one & landed in Bear river valley again, where we camped, making in the day's travel 20 m. good. Saturday July 13 - Hauling John & Sid. Off early. This day we lost our off wheel steer, traveled slow, & camped very early, until Monday morning. A dense swarm of flies & mosquitoes, although excellent grass - road & water. Our stock is the worse by laying by to rest & strengthen. We make 13 m. today & 111 this wk. Here we cut off our wagon bed. Sunday July 15. Sid is on horseback. John over ate himself yesterday & is being hauled today. We start off very early - our teams traveling finely. We have been for several days traveling through fine grass and the most beautiful streams of pure water I ever beheld. We have some wading road today to travel - 23 mi. & camped at Soda Springs. These springs are a number of wells tasting like soda, on the N. side of the road  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from



11. Tuesday July 16. Heavy frost & hard frosts. All up & off very early indeed, traveled 2 n. & came to an Indian encampment in a cedar grove & in the midst of the Soda Springs. Here is what is called Steam Boat Spring, near the edge of Bear river & 300 yds. to the left of the road, it boils up continually & sometimes 2 ft. in full blast-heat, 5 n. ahead the road forks, the right to Fort Hall - the left is called Spere out off. We took the left & here we leave Bear river finally. We traveled on passing a lodge of Flat Head Indians, French & Spaniards not to be surpassed for intelligence by an ever average of Micmacians. We passed their lodge 2 n. making between 25 & 27 n. this day. Wednesday, July 17 - All up & off very early indeed, passed over some very rough road this forenoon, fine grass & water, some travel well. We traveled 13 n. to noon on Rock river, wind or poison river, here is a spring near the road on the right, of excellent sulphur water. We forded the river ascended a long steep hill into the plain making this P. M. drive 13 long miles & encamped at a spring near the foot of the hill, good grass, wood & water.

Thursday, July 18 - All up & off - morning at Goose Creek 12 n. excellent water here. We took water ahead to last across the strait 25 n. & cut out at 4 P. M. - The dust is bad & the sun shines very hot indeed. We are nearly out of sight of snow. Our nights are much more

wild than some distance back - and the grass from 2 n. & over from the road, the world can't beat - it is the Bear River valley, and a distance of 350 n. from Goose River west to where the grass ends. We have mistook our direction, the above not being the creek. We traveled 5 n. and came to a beautiful stream, clear as crystal which I think should be called Clear Creek. It runs south. We made this day 17 n.

Friday, July 19th, all well and off very early for the strait (very hot indeed). This strait is a narrow defile almost all the day - 25 n. - passing between two mountains, gradually opening until we arrive on the top of a very high mountain, being the dividing chain between the Bear river and Raft river. We nooned in the valley and cut out again, encamping in the valley, 1 n. before leaving the valley, and 1 1/2 n. to our left is a spring of excellent water, - making this day 26 or more miles.

Saturday, July 20, all well and off early. Driving on about 2 n. we came to several springs near each other, forming a pretty little stream. 4 n. onward we came to more springs on our left in an Aspen grove. On yesterday we descended from the top of the dividing ridge a distance of one or more miles. It seemed to me a descent of 1/2 from a perpendicular. Today we rallied on from this spring to a spring, a distance of 20 or more miles, and encamped near a fine spring, at the foot of a hill. These springs in many places to the number of a dozen in a place, and in



a short distance from a large branch, but owing to the stock going to water, the soil is generally very deep.

Sunday, July 21. All off early, traveling over a narrow valley about 8 m. and emerged in a bottom, on a branch near a spring, 2a. East of the grave of Mrs. Humphreys of Auburn, Mo., making 12 m. to-day - 17 m. to Brush Creek.

Sunday, July 22nd. Clark and myself drew our outfits, sold them, and cut out on horseback for the City of Sacramento. We arrived at Brush Creek (17 m) with Bennett & Co., traveled on crossing the East fork, the middle fork, and the West or Battlement fork of Salt river, 23 m. About the middle of the afternoon we came to and crossed the road running from Salt Lake to Fort Hall. We were entertained by a German man named Minny, from St. George, - 43 m. this day. Tuesday, July 23rd. Both well and off early, making good time. We arrived with Fitchburg, Lynch & Co. of Boone. Traveling on we pass Gulp and Emerson, still further on we were entertained by Shippe and Hunter in Mount's train 3 m. from Goose Creek I., making this day 56 m. Bill \$11.00 each.

Wednesday, July 24th. Off very early indeed. Traveling our usual gait, we came to Goose Creek, 13 m. We arrived at 1 1/2 hr. and traveling on, passed a red branch, near which is a fine spring, issuing from under a rock 15 m. from noon, 3 m. on we emerged with Cal. Hall, making this day

23 m.

Thursday, July 25th. Off early, traveling on to water, 13 m. to a fine spring running from a mountain. 3 m. on we arrived at the 1000 springs - much alkali - 5 m. on we came to good grass in a large bottom to the left of the road. We grazed an hour & traveled on 10 m. to a beautiful valley of good grass and water and ate boiled milk of Faget - we made this day 33 m.

Friday, July 26th. Off and traveled 10 m. to the boiling springs - hot enough to boil eggs in 30 min. 100 yds from there is one as cold as melting snow. A short distance from this are more of strong alkali - of the latter there are a number. 3 m. on we met we overtook Clark and Co. from Boone at the head of the valley, noon. We were warmly welcomed, dined with them, traveled with them that evening and lodged with them that night. I have not language to describe the kindness & so of this company. All seemed to be of the same determined spirit, - that is to go ahead. We made this day 50 m. and emerged in a most beautiful valley 4 m. to the right of Emery's cut off. The road taking 8 m. from the morning spring.

Saturday, July 27th - Off at 8, in the cut off, passing through a narrow canyon, rocky road for 10 m. when we struck another valley - fine grass and water. We are now on the waters of the Humboldt. We traveled down this



valley to near the junction of these roads 30 mi. and  
meaded on above and across. After meading we con-  
tinued down the valley on what is called Canyon Creek  
to near its junction with the Humboldt proper, then we  
left the Creek 2 or 3 mi. and crossed the Humboldt go-  
ing down about 8 mi. we lodge with Capt \_\_\_\_\_ mak-  
ing today between 30 and 35 mi.

Sunday July 29th. Off at sunrise, traveling 30 mi.  
to where a large creek empties in and meaded at half  
past 10 A. M. This creek is called Thompson's fork.  
We moved on leisurely 25 mi. making 35 mi. this day,  
and lodged with Capt. Hoes and Co. of Colliery. The  
boys were in such high spirits! Hoping to be digging  
gold in a few weeks!

Monday, July 30th. Off early. My horse has sore  
withers, and moves like he was hurt. We drive on though.  
We stopped at half past 10 A. M. to change horses. Our  
horses act as though they had not eaten a bite for 3  
days. We spent here 1½ hours. We came 25 mi., then  
moved on down the river. There is a road turning to the  
right up the mountains, we know nothing about it as we  
have to go down the Humboldt - we traveled down crossing  
the river 4 times this evening going 18 mi. and encamped  
with a Mr. Bartlett of Ill. Bill 30 etc.

Tuesday, July 31. Off at sun rise. My horse has  
become very weak, and I am compelled to walk ½ of time.

We, however, made 20 mi. to noon. We crossed the Hum-  
boldt again, after an almost dry stretch of 15 mi. mead-  
ing in the bottom, on very poor grass indeed. We go-  
ed up, stuffing my blanket with grass and he travels  
much better as it relieves the saddle from the withers.  
We made this afternoon 15 mi. and encamped with the Hon-  
ore train on the bank of the Humboldt, making this day 35  
mi.

Wednesday, July 31st. Off at 5 o'clock, traveling  
very slow, came 7 mi., finding good grass & water, we  
rested and grazed one hour, and traveled on around a  
large field of calcareous land, filled with stumps,  
traveling some distance out of our regular course to  
within 2½ mi. of where the road strikes and leaves the  
river making this day 40 mi. and encamped with old Colli-  
wall. The B. B. meal out of half - poor fare - \$2.50  
each.

Thursday, Aug. 1st, 1880. Off at the usual hour,  
came 2½ mi. watered and traveled on a good lively ex-gait  
till 2 P. M. No water, poor grass - making this forenoon  
20 or 25 mi. Rested and traveled on till 1½ hour by  
noon, and encamped with a Mr. Hoes of Ray Co., Mo. mak-  
ing this day upwards of 50 mi. Bill \$1.50 each.

Friday, Aug. 2nd. Off early. My horse traveling  
better than yesterday; came 10 mi. and crossed a large  
slough, then took over some rough ground. We are and



have been from the last evening, on the South side of the Humboldt and no guide, we came on down the river to where the road takes the mountains, where there is a ferry of 5 days standing, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a wagon body - we crossed in it, dined, bill for all \$5.00, we then took down the bluff a narrow path for about 15 mi., making today 35 mi., bill 50 etc. each.

Saturday, Aug. 4th. Off very early, traveling around and across several sloughs. It soon we met Hart & Co. also Collins & Co. and moved with them, and traveled on with them & camped with them. We traveled over some very muddy road today. We made this day 50 mi. My horse is very weak.

Sunday, Aug. 5th. My horse is still very weak. To get off at the usual time - passed over 15 mi. of deep muddy road to noon. Found no nothing. Hunted and took a dry dusty road 15 mi. without grass or water. To protect of the hospitalities of Abbot Hancock of Carroll Co. Mo. grain, no grass. Monday, Aug. 6th. Off very early, traveled 2 mi. finding tolerable grass - we turned in - went all the stock at 3 P. M. We are within 35 miles of the sink of this river and the road over which we have to travel is destitute of vegetation. We traveled this afternoon about 10 mi. and stopped for the night. We are traveling with John Ridgway making this day 12 mi.

Tuesday, Aug. 6th. We are now getting grass, we cut a

sufficiency, and cut out at 12 M. and traveled 35 mi. and put up.

Wednesday, Aug. 7th, off very early, came 1 m. and struck the river, watered and put out for grass. We are all tired, my horse is somewhat improved but not rideable - my bowels are very much disordered, the diarrhoea having returned on us in a chronic form, caused no doubt from walking. We came to-day 35 mi.

Thursday, Aug. 8th off very early, traveling over the deepest dust and sand, as also for several days past - that we have done since we left Missouri. We traveled this day 15 mi. to what is called the Reader where we found an abundance of grass, driving the stock to it, through water from 1 to 15 in. deep and some mud. I this day as with Decker Leary et al. Friday, Aug. 9th, I found John Ridgway and Clark last evening, and today we are engaged in making hay in order to strike out tomorrow. From report we are now 20 mi. from the old sink and 50 mi. across the desert, which can not possibly be  $\frac{1}{2}$  as bad as the 15 mi. back. My horse is still weak, so much so, I fear I will have him to leave, as I have not money to pay the best required. My bowels are also weak and the heat can shine in which I have to be able nothing to my strength. Saturday, Aug. 10th, I am still very unwell, lying by with Ridgway. Sunday, Aug. 11th Ridgway left. I was unable to travel on horseback or on foot, the vagans were loaded



with grass. But Clark & Co. from Reno rolled in, who took me in, with whom I intend staying until I get well, die or land in Sacramento. They are lying by getting grass and resting their stock in one of the most sticky places on earth. We lay here Sunday and Monday, the 12th & 13th. During this time I needed very much, also my horse.

Tuesday, Aug. 14th. This morning George T. Nelson of Harris' train died. We hooked him on to the side of the main road, where we deposited him in quite a decent manner indeed. We then moved on to the sink, a distance of 20 mi. today. My horse looks worse than any animal living to carry a rider. We are in a state of preparation to cross the desert. God grant how soon we may get through.

Wednesday, Aug. 15th. We set off very early, traveling hard through sand, dust and the stench of dead animals. We moved in the open desert, as hot as weather can be. We geared up and set off again, rolling ahead, occasionally resting our cattle several times during the P. M., the evening and night. We arrived at the river about one mile. My horse had to be left 8 mi. back owing to weakness. I used all means in my power to save him. Our day and night travel was 40 mi. Friday, Aug. 16th. We are now on what we have long desired to be, (Carson River) I think quite an unhealthy stream. We moved up today 6 or 8 mi. and are now

resting and grazing. I am of opinion that from the time we set out yesterday across the desert, we must have passed 1000 head of dead stock, it was quite offensive.

Saturday, Aug. 17th. We have moved up the river by the emigrants' route about 15 mi. We are grazing for a short time across meadow across another desert of 15 mi. Owing to the scarcity of grass ahead we have concluded to graze today. Sunday, Aug. 18th prepare and take a very early start Monday morning. My right leg is very painful when walking. ~~Prognosis~~ is very bad.

Monday Aug. 19th. All well and off at sunrise. We traveled over the 14 mi. desert, struck the river and up it 2 mi. to noon, grass not good. We picked up and moved on the river route 4 mi. avoiding the 10 mi. desert, finding tonight excellent grass - the stock is in to it to the horses. We made today 14 mi.

Tuesday, Aug. 20th all well and off at sunrise, traveling up the river route - traveled 15 mi. over the worst land yet. 3 mi. further I moved in P. M. grass. While moving a cow had a calf and we laid by, making 15 mi. today.

Wednesday, Aug. 21st. All off at sunrise, never did cattle travel better than ours, making this day near 30 mi., good grass and water all the way.

Thursday, Aug. 22nd. All off early, traveling over some heavy road, balance good, with plenty of grass and



water, making 20 mi. today, reaching the river early this morning.

Friday, Aug. 23rd. All well and off very early, traveling over a small portion of muddy road, the balance of the road good with fair grass and the best kind of mountain water, making 25 mi. today.

Saturday, Aug. 24th. All off early to pass through to the Canyon. We made the trip passing over 6 or 10 mi. of the worst road I ever saw; and having to ride in the buggy owing to the soreness of my legs, it almost killed me. We made today 25 mi. The Ganges river runs through this Canyon, and the roaring of the water over the rocks is worse than falling over a mill dam. It is not so rapid as in the Canyon, in tolerable grass, fine water and wood.

Sunday, Aug. 25th. All off early, travelling 8 mi. over tolerable road to the foot of the Sierra Nevada. About 1 1/2 past 2 we took them boldly and passed over without any injury to anything. The distance over is said by some to be 8 mi., some 9 and some 10 mi. Nevertheless we landed about 4 P. M. I must say that it goes anything on earth for teams and wagons to pass over, up or down. We are tonight encamped in a small valley, grass moderate, wood & water abundant. We have been traveling for several days in sight of snow, to day we came to it on the road side & then ran above it. Our sights are indeed

cold & our days very hot indeed. We made today 17 mi. Monday, Aug. 26th. All off early. Traveled 2 mi. and struck the foot of one more of the Sierra Nevada, the first of which I thought had enough, but this is worse, being longer and steeper and higher. We passed through and over snow from 12 inches to 10 feet deep. We made today about 15 mi. and encamped on the mountain, but little grass, fine wood & water.

Tuesday, Aug. 27th. All off very early, travelling 8 or 10 mi. till noon, still on the mountain and above the snow. It was winter cold last night at home, but today, at noon, as usual as hot as Taylor. At 1 P. M. we packed up and put out for Lost Spring, a distance of 6 mi. making today about 15 mi. We found in the valley excellent grass and water and lay by the 28th. Wednesday, which was agreeable to me as my legs are very sore indeed.

Thursday, Aug. 28. All off early, and continued on the mountain all day, making today 18 mi. and encamped in the pines without grass.

Friday, Aug. 29. Moved on early over a desperate road for dust and stones. I was compelled to ride in an open bear barn for 6 or 8 days past. This was the worst day of all, making today 20 mi.

Saturday, Aug. 31, all off early, coming 6 mi. and within 4 mi. of Yountstown. We laid by until Sunday



than we took in the towns and sold them.

My legs pain me very much, but I thank God I  
hope to be well in a few days, as rest and vegetables are  
the medicines for Scurvy.

Wm. Loughton.

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