

1834  
Sept 16

1905 Johnson's birth & death date  
-mark

A Trip to the Gold Fields of California in 1852.

By--Dr. John Franklin Johnston.

John Franklin Johnston, oldest son of Thomas and Sally Ann Workman Johnston, had been in Columbus, Ohio, for a year; staying with his Aunt Lucretia Workman Tipton and her husband. He attended North Grammer School now called "Commercial High" School; was on the same site at least. The Tipton brothers had a grocery and meat market on the west side of High Street, near Gay. They lived in the same building. The remainder of this article is copied from his diary. He was not quite 18 years old.

March 1, 1852.

As spring drew near and the days began to be warm and bright; I became homesick, and instead of applying my mind to my studies, I often just sat and thought of home. I had heard that there was a prospect of a train making up for California but nothing definite.

Until one day towards the close of March I got a letter from my uncle Stuart Workman informing me that he was making up a train to cross the plains to California. He said he had asked my father to let him take me with him--as his brother Franklin, who had been in the mines for six years, wished to have me come to him. Father had agreed to my going, if I wished to do so. Of course, I was anxious to go, as they knew I would be. I bade my teacher and schoolmates goodby, and the next day after receiving the letter took the train for home. But I could not leave my dog. I got a collar and chain and led him with me to the depot.

I thought he would be scared and lonesome in the baggage car where everything was new and strange to him, so I slyly took him in with me and hid him under my seat in the passenger car. We got past several stations all right, the conductor on his visits did not seem to know of the extra passenger. At last after we left Delaware he turned after passing me and said "My young friend, do you intend to pay full fare for your dog?" I looked at him and said "Oh, is my dog here?" He laughed and said "Oh, you need not look so innocent, I saw his tail wagging from under the seat when leaving the city. I don't blame you, he is a fine pup and I would like to own him myself; but I will see that he is well used in the baggage car." I felt very sorry for the poor little fellow but had to submit.

The Conductor smiled kindly on me after that, everytime he came through the car, and when I left the train at Shelby, shook hands and asked me to put a price on the dog, but I would not part with him; he was a curly coated Spaniel and New Foundland cross--a real beauty and I wished my folks to have him for he was very intelligent. I was not disappointed in Carlo. He became a noted coon-dog, and I sold him after I came from California for six dollars and an accordan, to a man who would be good and kind to him.

The Franklin Workman left Ohio in 1840. After completing his course, he settled at a place called Monticello in Miami.

In 1846, he was chosen surgeon of the regiment, and was a popular officer throughout the

He died, Jan. 16, 1877. See it is not in chronological order

See manuscript  
Peter Rich, New Haven

Joseph A. Johnson '49

19. This night we crossed the river  
and the Sioux River, and  
are now in company of 15 Sioux.

Very good Company & friendly  
and their camp is very  
neatly arranged. They  
have horses & cattle, & little  
money, all available, but it is  
a very poor country, and we have  
the little hills which are  
all up and high, and it seems  
as if the country of sand and salt  
night after night at 12 o'clock at  
noon and thundering

Lightning & blowing sand  
to sleep. Must be a new  
terrible sight for the ground  
is always clear & open.

We have thought the Sioux  
hostile or stealer, we are  
not lessened in our  
confidence at all.

20. Sat. 24 Miles to the Platte River  
28.5 Miles from St. Paul  
not a day's drive without

for fuel to night here.  
Now are through the Pawnee  
tribe of Indians and now  
come among the Sioux  
who are more honorable  
and noble than the Pawnees.  
Do not fear or steal from  
them, for they are number  
about 10000 strong tribe  
little thunder is their  
battle - we are now in  
sight of 5 different

Comparisons of Engagements  
from different points  
of the Ranchito farm  
Commission have & the  
same in size and terms  
are meeting in from  
of the various parties  
Comparisons - John Morris  
Attaches from the Guard  
also attach with us to  
night says there about  
1600 strong in the camp  
and three or four hundred  
unarmed in the town 30 miles  
up the road from St. Joe's  
and 15 miles down the road  
to St. Joe's  
He also said  
the Indians  
had 1000 men  
in the Ranchito

Camped in sight  
of the fort. Passed  
36 Box-trains.  
22. At 8 Miles, bright light  
Camped about 4 miles  
from the fort. Willow  
for fuel. A good  
water & good repaired wagons  
at the fort - \$5.85.  
23. At 9 miles after crossing a  
wagons, carts & horses & the  
Indians & one man soldier  
on horseback. Then a fight for a night by  
two elephants & 195 pack  
mules. And the Indians  
to fort. 3 Miles in each passed  
the fort.

Spent the day at  
Winnipeg Falls  
on the 4th, passing  
the time in the  
Falls Hotel. The  
water was up in the  
river, so we had to go  
up the trail in the  
rock slides on the  
Mud up to the village.  
Crossed the river  
at the bridge to follow  
the trail through the  
wooded ravines that  
lead to the village.  
The trail led us to the  
village in the afternoon.

Left the village  
on the 5th, following  
the trail through  
the woods to the  
Cannibal River.

Sun

Left camp at 6 A.M. and went down the valley to the river. At 1 P.M. crossed the river and went up the valley to the head of the valley. At 4 P.M. reached a camp site and stopped for the night.

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8 A.M. paddled 10 miles down the river in one company. This camped on Oter Creek 9 P.M. camp.

9 A.M. paddled 10 miles down the river in one company.

10 A.M. paddled 10 miles down the river in one company.

11 A.M. paddled 10 miles down the river in one company.

12 A.M. paddled 10 miles down the river in one company.

Sue



Wrote to Mr. & Mrs.  
Wright at 10 AM  
about the 1000  
of the first day  
of the month.

Left the office at 10 AM  
and went to the  
Coca-Cola plant on 5th  
and 12th Street  
to get 4500 cans  
of Coca-Cola for  
the children's camp.

Left office at 1 PM  
and went to the  
Coca-Cola plant

Left Victoria 1100, Steamer went  
Captain has day before  
left for Laredo to  
return our selves to San  
Joaquin of 100 wagons  
and supply horses

Left 1200 after distribution  
Proceeded to Laredo, Border  
Bought 60 mrs of horses  
from Mr. B. H. P. 100  
of the animals  
left, when left 100 wagons  
and horses to Laredo  
and Laredo

Arrived at Laredo 1400  
Horses given to horses  
I found all were  
in good condition  
Fare is 1000 miles

Left 3000 mrs of horses  
Left 1000 mrs of horses  
Left 2500 mrs of horses  
Left 1000 mrs of horses

Left 1000 mrs of horses  
Left 1000 mrs of horses  
Left 1000 mrs of horses  
Left 1000 mrs of horses  
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Report of General Order  
reported on December 1.  
What they did this evening  
is no increase year I only reported  
on board this morning

Report you are increasing  
the number of soldiers at  
the time of the war  
when you are increasing  
the number of soldiers at  
the time of the war

11 Crossed Little White River  
Crossed another little stream  
above Creek and paddled up.  
Many teams out in the  
valley repairing a broken  
bridge. Camped out in  
the Prairie section of  
the valley. Weather  
got very warm. Hitting  
the trail at 4 PM I stopped and  
spent the night at a  
quiet, small, Indian village on  
the Little Colorado. The Indians  
had been here before. They  
had made a camp at the

break between 2 hills.  
The dogs barked at the  
Indians and we were afraid  
they would shoot us.  
I went to speak to them  
and they told us they did  
not mind our being there.  
They had come from the  
Sierra Madre and were  
on their way to the coast.  
They had a large number  
of horses and mules.

13 Sunday-Terminated in Camp  
this day to rest our Cuttles  
and our mule traps. This day  
we about 16 miles west  
Camp on the hill above  
at the right. A small camp  
was set up with

14 Gold Camp & trail made  
passed one fresh mule.  
Gave in the Prairie  
Aug 8. Nine teams passed  
out and Cariboo in sight.  
Left camp at 7 AM  
Lay 8 miles later we came  
out the trail not a track  
at noon on the 10th our trail  
had been passed the night  
The Secoys, Miamies & others  
strayed - tribes of Indians  
there & & the women with  
the children & pack horses  
left us & each a large tribe  
but now all made & continue  
on well north by a circuitous  
route and over the mountains

15 We were told they  
with their two children  
small company they came  
upon a small party of  
Indians who had a few days  
ago and rob them of all  
they had lost. Milled stone  
we have 10 wagons in our  
company & 30 men all  
well armed and will fight  
to the last & before we will  
be robbed & unpaid for the work  
of night & day. We will be paid at  
all times and we always  
are ready when it is our  
turn to go forward. The  
top of the mountain the  
main division of the Corral is

We passed the 1st morning  
quietly and early. At 8 AM  
we took up our trail along the  
main trail leading to Cangiac  
crossing the stream in several  
places. At 10 AM we were  
at a point where the trail  
was intersected by a small  
tributary stream. We followed  
the main trail for a mile and  
then took the trail leading  
up the side of the hill. We  
had a long walk and were  
not far from camp when  
we saw a large flock of  
birds. We stopped to look  
at them and found them  
to be a large flock of  
Crested Larks.

At noon we crossed the stream  
and went on. We crossed  
the trail again at 1 PM and  
followed it to the village  
of Cangiac. We had a  
long walk and were  
not far from camp when  
we saw a large flock of  
birds. We stopped to look  
at them and found them  
to be a large flock of  
Crested Larks.

12 miles to Little Blue  
R. for the pass.  
We have just now come  
to the pass & camped  
in the bottom of this  
stream as we passed up it  
through the woods.

The village is poor & wretched  
13 " " 21 "  
14 " " 21 "  
15 " " 21 "  
16 " " 21 "  
17 " " 21 "

Passed through the town

the houses are wretched.  
Now we turned down above  
the stream. Most of the houses  
are built of sticks & mud.

First crossed large arroyo.  
The stream was very full  
timber on the stream bank  
about 100 feet since will  
be cut off soon.

Left the little Blue R.  
Crossed a mountain R. and passed  
2000 ft. to another. Then  
on a small just above from  
the R. went about 3 miles  
of timber and camped on  
the little blue at the right  
water of Grand R.  
The country is sandy with  
the best timber - found a

small & easily broken  
one man shot in one of them  
by accident - camped in same  
at night.

land which passed a bridge  
over a small stream about 10  
miles from town. The road  
is excellent for driving and  
the horses run well. The  
weather is cool and the  
windy and the road is  
very bad. The horses plodded  
easily with the wind.

At 1 P.M. we reached  
the first town which is  
about 10 miles from town.  
The road is very bad and  
the horses plodded slowly.

Arrived at 2 P.M. here in  
a community of Indians. Mail  
and lightning were all that  
we could find in the mail. We

spent the night here and the horses  
had to go down the mountain  
in the dark. The road was  
bad and the water  
was 10 inches deep down over  
the road. Hard fare last night  
25¢ in the end a string of beans  
about 14 miles ahead of us and  
it was 11 miles before we  
came across about 15 mule  
teams camped in the  
Pasture of Green Valley.  
There were no people in sight  
but some Indians this night  
at 2 A.M. We went with  
a large mule team loaded with  
4000 Buffalo skins going  
up the trail to 2000 feet above  
the valley. We drive or walk  
about 10 miles every day until

He had been a  
good boy but  
had got into  
trouble with  
the police  
and was sent  
to a reformatory  
where he  
was to be  
taught a trade.  
He had been sick  
but with a good diet  
he had got well.

Section 27, as far as I could get it, is as follows:

Saw Buffalo this morning  
With his herd grazing  
on the N. Bank of the river.  
There is no water about  
the place but there were  
many trees and bushes  
growing on the ground.

At 10 AM I took up  
about 1/2 mile from  
the river and a village  
of about 10 large huts followed  
the river about 1/2 mile down  
the river to the right.

The village consists of  
one long row of houses  
and a few smaller ones  
at the end of the row.

After my first walk  
up Colima in the afternoon  
I arranged the canoe to  
use this morning for  
my things as well as with  
water. At half past one  
I was in on the opposite  
side of the river this morn-  
ing having to go to the  
village of the Indians  
to see if they had a boat  
at this station in order  
to cross the River for it is about  
so wide and we have  
had to do it the long way  
over land and through  
the jungle and the village  
is about 10 miles away.

at 11:45 a.m. left with  
two trucks in this night.  
First stop up the Tugabah  
10 miles from a village just  
across the coast water. G.  
Meeting - Miller dice  
M. says above ground  
the lake has disappeared.  
Miller says same before  
there were large  
piles of brush about one  
inch apart. No remains  
of trees or any sort of plants  
left. The bottom of the lake  
is covered by a sand bottom  
with some rocks.

Same night got back to  
got laundry & laundry in  
the washes without soap &  
water or fire. At 11:30 a.m.  
left to open a new  
place we had heard of  
for a long time. It  
was a safe, dry place where there  
was no water and no  
leaking water. A small  
house on the bank of the  
river. There was no water  
in the river. The water  
was very clear and  
the water was very  
clear and the water  
was very clear and  
the water was very

Wetland in which a  
water hole is situated  
in the Camargue  
is about 1000 m. from  
the mouth of the River  
Durance. It was a marshy  
area with some small  
scrubby vegetation  
and many tall grasses  
& reeds. Many  
flocks of water birds  
lived here, but with  
the presence of dikes the  
water level has been  
lowered & some have  
been replaced by scrub  
and some reeds.

Birds in the top of a tall  
Cottonwood tree 30 ft from  
the ground one body carried  
a dead in Blanket fashion  
nest in a large bush of  
scrubby bushes. Made of  
willow that all covered with  
Bog-alow hide. On this nest  
was a specimen of young  
of the species. The nest  
was lined with many fine dried  
Bamboo roots. Nesting  
with the birds - And the male left  
when a female was brought  
to him on his built nest  
in the bamboo. The  
nesting pair were

How shall I make myself like one  
of them? Mainly by being like one.

15. Act of Government, Whitebeam  
passed at Council May 10, 1870.  
to establish a new Corporation  
to supply water to the town  
and to become 3000 shares  
each \$100.00 in value  
to be paid up in full.

and the following day

the influence of the  
Fugitive Slave Law  
and the fact that  
it is a national  
problem, and  
that it is a  
national question.

7 Left about 22<sup>00</sup> P.M. from  
Mineral Park and the Black  
foot River bed some miles  
we can see the Rocky Mountain  
at the same stage. The bridge across  
the Columbia River stands but there  
are no houses nestled with  
it though it was yesterday in  
the afternoon we stopped just  
a few at the glycine.

8 1/2 miles to your Creek and  
to Mineral Park again  
We caught a black knight 18  
inches long.

10 We left Mineral Park  
11.00 P.M. along the  
Columbia River and  
crossed our creek about

12.00 A.M. along 18.620 Miles  
and camped on the right  
bank of the Columbia  
about 1000 feet above the  
yellow sand bar. Same as  
the day before but  
from the rocks and the rest this  
time go off with the  
Red Eyes as to be expected  
water all the time after  
noon.

12 The night was very  
cold over 1000 feet  
8 Miles to the Salmon River  
Columbia River and tramped  
6 miles and 10 minutes  
before getting to the river

Book another trip

to the same place  
and see what  
you can do  
about it.

It is a good  
idea to have  
a few  
books and  
other items  
in your bag  
so you can  
keep them  
safe if you  
have to leave  
the trail.

The trail  
is very  
dangerous  
and you  
should be  
careful.

It is also  
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a map  
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so you  
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Thunder & lightning occur  
every day or night and will  
cause the fire to burn more  
wildly. Lightning strikes are  
frequent and many  
of Indians and people  
have been killed by them.  
The Great Trail has  
been used by many and  
has caused many deaths.  
It is important to be  
careful and avoid  
the trail if you  
are not experienced  
in trail travel.

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and camped at the first  
cross road. A few miles  
up the trail we crossed  
the first stream which  
had been swollen by  
the recent rain. The  
Sierra Nevada peaks are  
now typified by the  
white eye of the  
dark hills. The  
old stage road is still  
to be seen winding  
up the side of the hill.  
The Indians now have  
a village at the  
edge of the valley  
about half a mile  
from the old stage  
road. They have  
crossed the creek  
and are at their new  
home.

13. - Travelled 14 miles  
and crossed a creek  
which has been dammed



Very steep hill with  
springs on the right  
and near the top  
up the side of the hill there  
are miles of dry ground  
capped in yellow sand  
gravel or coarse sand  
and water without

14. - 22 Miles crossing  
the Salmon River and  
a branch to the south  
thick with willows  
very rough and  
difficult to travel  
a spring of fine  
water at the mouth

15. 1st 19 Miles east  
of the San Juan Mts.  
in the San Juan Mts.  
near the San Juan River.

16. 2d 19 Miles east  
of the San Juan Mts.  
in the San Juan Mts.  
near the San Juan River.

17. 3d 19 Miles east

of the San Juan Mts.

18. 4th 19 Miles east

of the San Juan Mts.

19.