

aid itself. No census has been taken but I suppose we have 130 men. A train from St. J. is behind 10 miles. Came about 8 miles this P.M. and having wood along have stopped on the prairie where we get passable water out of the pools and quite good grass. have had good roads all day. - Saw 6 antelopes to day which trotted beside the train some 20 rods at no greater distance from it - one shot was fired without effect and they all escaped.

18 Mon. May 7.

Left 6-5 miles crossed a small poorly stream with trees in our sight. 5 miles further came to Rep. of L. Blue, 2 miles back of which the Docs wagon broke & we were detained for them to repair & overtake from 11 to 12 past. Then came 8 miles & camped at 1/2 past 3 on a barren hill where the grass were short & burned & the water stagnant in pools & full of frog spittle. brush for fuel. - We came on the ridge between the Rep. H. & Blue 5 and the

timber on the latter has been in sight all the P.M. Road ascending & good.

27 Tues. May 8 -

St. 6-5 miles crossed a small stream (good ford) (good water) 10 mi further - poorly stream, No halt. Then further came in sight of L. Blue again (fine valley) flowers trees in bloom. Halted 1/2 5 on the Blue middling grass - followed Blue 5 mi. to this camp. 175 miles.

H. H. Bancroft Collection
Bancroft Library

25 Wednes. May 9

8 o'clock At 6 mi. passed a few bad hills - still going up the valley now and then diverging to the bluff some distance to the Riv. - soon halt on the blue 14 mi. 1/2 to 1 1/2 - 1/2 mi. started and came mostly over the bluffs 11 mi. to a fork of 5 1/2 the B. (small) appearance of rain - fishing, hunting swimming - (6 of us) Good roads fine valley little grass, no flowers - Doctor G fell in the drink. Brown from pony (revolver)

31 Thurs. May 10th

8 o'clock. broke camp & passed up the 8/ valley at 8 miles we crossed a fine small affluent with quite 8/

were drenched and saw nothing.

Fri May 18.

26 5 o'clock Visited the bluffs
Saw most beautiful flowers. Had
several bad slews in the A. M. Hal-
ted at 5 on the bank of a small
creek - Wolfhole Doctor on the hand
trotter.

20 Sat. May 19.

Began to rain in the
night and continued so for a long
time after day light we were una-
ble to light a fire, hence and be-
cause it foretold a rainy day it was
thought we would not move at
least until twelve o'clock. But having
finished breakfast good from the
flavor of the 2 antelopes Suzore kil-
led, at 8 o'clock and seeing approach a
large stratin which it was thought
would cut up the wet roads ma-
king them quite bad, we at 9 hur-
riedly made our decampment. Pas-
sing over an elevated plain at
some distance from the river and
entirely from sight of woods we
made 11 miles in the A. M. at 4
we started 3 in 2 miles come to the

Side of a fine brook formed by springs
and followed it 2 miles then struck
for the high bluffs 1 mile before rea-
ching which a storm of wind, rain
and hail burst upon us with
most terrific violence - During the
height of the tempest the wagons
were turned from the wind and the
teams stopped which delay enable
Stevens and myself to overtake
the wagons just as the storm was
abating. It had been very warm
and with our light clothing we
were completely drenched with rain
& pelted to soreness with hail -
with the rapidity of magic the hea-
vens cleared and we passed up
the river winding among the high
bluffs 5 miles when we turned to a
fine camp on the river. The wind
blows a tempest and we are not able
to pitch our tents (Judge shooting
scurry dogs)

Sun. May 20.

Came 25 miles Suzore another an-
telope. Spanish mule driver. Bar-
ren sand hills and dust from
them. Disagreeable water. Gentle

304

Sloping of the banks. Boing over m-
ter (mud) 1 mile - 5.06 trains in
sight

16 Mon. May 21

Came to within 3 ms. of the
ford and halted. S. teams passed
(race for the ford) Indians - Squa-
res, trades, Ford

20 Tues. May 22

8 o'clock left for the N. Fork.

No timber - vast view - sand
hills indicating river - First view
of Ash hollow - Steep hill - Flowers -
Lost Pony - Hunt wolves Ravines
Rain - Rainbow Camp under
the bluff - Raining (thunder)

22 Wednes. May 23

Cloudy in the morning but
started at 6 1/2 o'clock & was caught in
the rain in 1/2 hour and drove throu-
ght until 11 halted an hour and
came on Roads Sandy & very hard
25 ms west of Ash Hollow

Thurs. May 24

Remained in camp for rain.
Cold Hail in the bluffs 1 ft.
thick

Fri. May 25

305

22 6 o'clock Cold Sandy roads
22 ms. across a fine spring brook

30 Sat May 26

Scott & myself started for H.
Lar. passed C. H. rock C. rock &
staid with our teams. 5 ms. 30 ms
in all.

H. H. Bancroft Collection
Bancroft Library

25 Sun May 27

5 o'clock passed G. B. 5 ms

Rubidness 5 ms. (mormons) robbed)
15 ms to camp with bolters at H.
creek (Antelope)

Mon May 28

35 5 o'clock 15 ms. to N. Fork. 20 ms
to H. Lar.

Bought 2 ponies all they had -
remained until

Thurs. May 3

Rain arrived at 9 o'clock & camp-
ed close to the fort - Fed across
the river (grade)

A meeting of the Co. was cal-
led & it was voted to leave our
old wagon, putting 12 animals
on the 2 remaining.

Also to take only 40 lbs. bacon

per man (440.) and to extract lead to the amount of 5 lbs. per man and put it in our small water keg to take along.

Also that all trunks & chests be abandoned the owners being required to put the contents in sacks. Also to throw away all the iron not absolutely necessary - And so it was done. (Our wagon lent.)

A hundred wagons has passed in the last 3 days - All things are abandoned. - Beef - meat 15 cts. 25 at the shops - Flour 1 1/2 cts. Sugar 15 cent - All else nothing -

25 Fri June 1.

6 o'clock. Met many things thrown away - Did not feed in the morning - 1 1/2 m. to Spring - 3 m. to noon halt - P.M. come to a creek 7 m. up 3 m. fine camp.

24 Sat: June 2.

6 o'clock. N.H. 17 m.

Carass 7 m. on small brook. Plenty of water all all day - Passed L. Rock - & B. Hills

17 Sun June 3.

5 o'clock crossed several small stream & at 1 1/2 m. crossed the La Porte N.H. Brought in Buff meat. Teams there camped. Saw 15.00 in the morning - 5 m. came to a creek & broke R. wagon tire & were forced to camp at 2 P.M.

22 m. Mon June 4.

5 o'clock 14 m. to La Porte N.H. 8 m. to Boise - Camped 3 o'clock.

Tues June 5.

27 3 o'clock 9 m. to Deer creek 5 m. after striking the Platte. Left D. Creek 10 o'clock 9 m. to a grove on the Platte 9 m. to our camp - muddy water - good grass -

11 Wednes June 6.

5 1/2 o'clock 11 m. to ford & are now waiting for our turn to cross

Thurs June 7

After 5 wagons crossed our team commenced passing - We over at 1 1/2 M. Terrific storm 4 m. camped on Platte bottom 14 o'clock.

Fri June 8

To millon Spring.

23 Sat. June 9.

To Ind. Rock

Sun. June 10.

25 To camp on S. water.

Mon. June 11.

Laid over to hunt - but killed but 3 antelope.

40 Tues. June 12.

To camp on S. water.

Wednes. June 13.

To Strawberry creek (Snow)

26 Thurs. June 14.

4 ms. beyond S. P.

31 Fri. June 15.

Came across one small stream
7 o'clock & several dry channels -
Passed the turn of the Cut off
11 o'clock past 1 P.M., reached lit-
tle Sandy 3 1/2 o'clock left for Big San-
dy 8 ms. -

Sat. June 16.

Crossed the Sand & in 18 ms
nooned on the same - 9 ms. fur-
ther G. River - Not fordable. Our
rebels lost 2 men this morning
Ford & Galt. Must lay over
until we can make a raft.

19. Drove about 20 miles, this brought us some distance up the south part of the Platte. The road today has been over the bluffs, the greater part of the way this afternoon we had a very severe storm of rain with some hail. Since our arrival on the Platte we have followed the valley of that stream until this forenoon. The soil is for the most part fertile with the best quality of wild grass that I ever saw. The bluffs is composed of sand hills very irregular in form, on our arrival at the river the bluffs were very low but as we advanced up stream they became gradually higher until yesterday evening we passed one point of nearly circular form and as near as we could guess was about 200 feet high. The bottom varies in width from 2 to 5 miles presenting a most beautiful plain. The hills along the bluff is certainly the most romantic looking sight that I ever seen, being composed of sand and separated from each other by deep cuts in many of which there is to be found a small growth of Cedar and Wild Plums. We are now in camp for the night on the

banks of the south fork, the sun is sitting clear and the wind blows very high but not very cold.

20. Drove about 22 miles over high rolling and rather barren sand along the south bank of the south fork and camped on the bottom near the bluff and river. In the afternoon Sugar went hunting and in the evening brought into camp a fine Antelope.

B. H. Smith Collection
Nebraska Library

21. Drove about 15 miles this brought us to the upper ford of the river after which we crossed and camped on the north bank. The River is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide current rapid, bottom sand, The water is about 2 feet deep and very dirty. Here we met 100 or 150 Indians Squabs and children. It was a source of regret to our party that we could not talk with them, however several of our party traded with them for Buffalo skins Maccaem's &c. They appeared to be perfectly friendly and did not wish to injure us. They were of the Leary tribe.

22. Drove about 18 miles over high beautiful Prairie except about 2 miles before arriving at the north fork. This was through high irregular

bluffs of limestone presenting the most sublime and magnificent sight that I have beheld since leaving the States. In passing through among these high rocks, it calls to mind the days of my childhood among the rocks of New York. We are encamped on the north fork almost immediately after pitching our tents we were visited by a heavy shower of rain and wind. The bluffs viewed from our camp present a most delightful view, the rocks at the top projecting, and the earth below as if in defiance of the lovers of pleasure among the crags of the mountain.

23. Followed the north fork about 16 miles. The soil the greater part of the way is of barren sand with intervening spots of that which is more fertile. The bluffs have continued to present the same towering appearance that they at first presented until within about 3 miles of our camp when they are not quite so high. We are now in camp near the Bank of the River on a fine spot of grass. ^{rain} Some some of the day.

24. Remained in camp all day on account of Rain, it has rained steadily and is very cold.

25. Drove about 20 miles. The day has been very cold and a little rain. The road rather barren sand. The bluffs have presented rather beautiful appearance on the north side of the River on the south they have gradually diminished in height and boldness, we are now in camp near the River and the grass rather poor. Just before encamping we crossed a small creek of clear water. The Court-house and Chimney Rock house being visible for several miles.

Ed. H. Bennett Collection
Bancroft Library

26. Drove about 24 miles. The road most of the way is rather beautiful the bluffs high and present a most beautiful and picturesque appearance. At noon we stopped opposite the Court house, this at the distance of perhaps 5 miles bears the appearance of some stately mansion it is between 200 + 300 feet high with a base of about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. it is composed of clay which at a distance resembles a large mass of stone. During the day the sun shone quite warm we encamped on the bank of the River about 7 or 8 miles from Chimney rock.

27. Drove about 15 miles in passing along we had a most delightful view.

of chimney rocks and the other bluffs which rose to the height of about 300 feet and as romantic as they were hilly. After arriving in camp, the col. gave notice that there would be preaching in camp at 5 P.M. by one of the members of the train, which was listened to with much interest, perhaps as much from the novelty of the scene as from interest in the subject. The day has been clear and pleasant.

28. Drove about 15 miles, after driving about 2 miles we left the river and passed to the left of Scotts Bluffs and entering the most delightful valley that I ever saw and its beauty continued during its whole length which is about 10 miles. The bluffs on each side of the valley are about 300 feet high and present the most magnificent appearance, the ruins of ancient castles towers &c. There is a scrubby growth of cedar along the bluffs and in the ravines. The day has been beautiful and the roads good. We are encamped at the head of the valley and have plenty of good wood and water. Here we found 2 Frenchmen a blacksmith &c.

29 Drove about 22 miles after leaving

our camp we ascended a long hill from the top of which we could see the Rocky mountains, we then followed the plains over good roads and stopped to noon at Horse Creek, about 13 miles. In the afternoon the roads not as good about 4 P.M. we had a shower of rain with high wind, drove about 11 miles and camped, soon after camping it commenced raining again and continued quite hard until dark and during the night a short time before camping we came again in sight of the river.

30 Rained in the morning so that we did not start until 12 M. Drove about 13 miles along the bank of the river. The bottoms are in some places narrow and barren. We are now in camp at the old site of Fort Bernard.

31 Drove about 8 miles, the remainder of the day was spent in repacking our loads &c. This brought us to Fort Laramie on the Laramie river. The day has been very pleasant and the country rather barren.

June 1. Drove about 24 miles after leaving Fort Laramie we struck our course over a high barren and rather hilly country

at 12.30 we came to the warm spring this is the largest and one of the most beautiful springs that I ever saw. The water though not cold is clear and beautiful. In the evening we camped on the bank of a beautiful creek, at the camp we found good wood and grass but for some distance back the vegetation is principally weeds and a little grass. The day pleasant.

2. I started drove 24 miles after leaving camp we followed along the creek for about 4 miles then came on to high rolling country and barren for 8 miles we then descended a barren valley for 5 miles, this brought us to a beautiful creek but the grass not of the best, in the afternoon we passed over a very hilly and barren country and camped on a small creek, during the afternoon we passed several fine springs of good water. The day has been warm and clear, we are now nearly due north of Laraine Pass and about 10 miles distant.

3. I drove about 17 miles. The country barren and very hilly, passed some beautiful springs of water and camped on a branch of the Saluda Creek, at noon we sped on the Saluda, then the Colt mazzin Tongue

game way and the train laid over for repairs.

5. I drove about 24 miles, started at daylight and drove 4 miles, this brought us to the north fork again, we then followed the River for about 4 miles this brought us to Deer Creek a beautiful stream here we halted and took breakfast, at 1/2 past 10 A.M. we then started and drove 16 miles up the River over most part of the way grass was very scarce, we are now in camp, here we have plenty of good wood water & grass, and a good liberal shower of rain to camp in we still continue in full view of the Black hills.

6. I drove about 7 miles up the Platte, this brought us to the ferry, and owing to the number of wagons ahead of us we were detained that day before we commence crossing. From this point we have a most delightful view of the tall peaks of the Black hills, the sides of which are covered with cedars, the principal herbage here and for several miles back is the wild sage. Here we have discovered the June grass, soon after encamping we had a very refreshing shower. I succeeded in crossing the ferry.

with our waggons and swimming our Ponies and at about 1 P.M. we were ready for a start but about that time we were visited with a very severe storm of wind, hail and rain which detained us for about an hour we then started up the river over barren sand for about 2 miles, we then came to a beautiful bottom on which the grass was very good but the timber was all on the other side of the river, we however after going about 1 mile further up the river succeeded in picking up flood wood to cook our supper here we laid over to camp for the night. Distance of travel 3 miles, and a fair prospect of a rainy night.

8 Started up the River over very soft sand bluffs for about 5 miles, we then came to the bottom again over which we continued for about 10 miles the grass part of the time, we then bid a final adieu to the Platte over high rolling barren country with slight exceptions along the creeks for 15 miles, this brought us to the willow-springs, these afford a full supply of good water but the grass was rather scarce owing to the numbers that were before us. Here we

camped for the night, we had a good supply of willow for our cooking purposes. Distance 30 miles.

9 Drove about 25 miles, after leaving the springs the country is hilly, and barren except small spots along the little creeks at noon we stopped on Greasewood creek, distance 12 miles; in the afternoon for 10 miles the sand is soft and the wheeling heavy, this brought us to the Sweet Water after following the river a short distance we came to the celebrated Independence Rock, this is about 125 feet high 800 long, and about 200 wide, of oval shape and granite stone. We passed about 1 mile further up the river we forded and camped on the bank of the stream which has a rapid current. 10. Followed up the south bank of the river 5 miles this brought us to the Devils Gate, this is formed by the river passing through the mountain, the channel is about 100 feet wide the sides are between 20 & 30 feet high and nearly perpendicular of granite, the road passes through another opening but the banks are not so steep after passing this we travel about 7 miles this brought us to Grease wood creek where we stopped

to noon although grass was not very plenty, in the afternoon we followed the river for about 2 miles, we then left the river and passed between 2 granite mountains for about 8 miles, we then came to the river again which we followed for about 2 miles where we camped, the road since passing Devil's Gate has been bounded on both sides by high granite rocks distance 24 miles.

- 11 Laid over for our teams to rest having plenty of wood water and grass
 12. Followed up the river for about 4 miles we then left it passing over left bank for about 12 miles that brought us to the river again where we stopped to noon. In the afternoon we followed the river for about 3 miles, the road then left the river again for about 14 miles, but the road much better than in the forenoon, here we camped for the night it being about 9 P.M. The country barren. distance 36 miles.
 13. Immediately after leaving camp we forded the river and soon after forded again and in coming out at the bank we broke one of our muzzled tongues but we tied it so that we

kept on until we stopped to noon at about 6 miles from our camp. Here we spliced the tongue which we finish and we started again at about 4 P.M. and drove about 10 miles to camp on a beautiful small stream, here I saw the first white clover that I have seen since we left the settlement. During the afternoon we ascended some very rocky hills. at dark we had a shower of rain and the air very cold, distance 46 miles
 14. Left our camp and drove about 13 miles in view of snow at no great distance which brought us to a creek in the valley of which there was snow and ice 2 feet thick, through which our wagons had to pass continuing on about 2 miles further we came to the river again where we halted to noon, immediately after crossing it in the afternoon left the River immediately after noon and all were gazing for the south pass which we passed about the middle of the afternoon but the ascent was so gradual that it was difficult to determine the highest point, after passing the pass we soon came to the Pacific spring soon after which we camped distance 28 miles

he can accumulate money in almost any business. When I speak of doing well I mean acquiring, at least 4 times what one could in the States.

Were I placed suddenly in Michigan again I should immediately devise means for returning to Cal. 1st By the isthmus route - to save time & in the end money - for the time saved, is here worth more than the excess of expense over other routes - 2^d By Cape Horn or Overland.

U. S. Research Collection
Summit Library

And I deem it of the greatest moment that whatever article or luggage is not absolutely necessary for use on the route, be forwarded by water from New York to San Francisco.

If any one wishes to come overland, he will find the best starting point to be St. Josephs, Mo. & the best time as soon after May 1st as vegetation will permit.

Ox or mule teams are to be preferred though I have seen horses perform the journey very well. The wagon should be quite light, & the load at first should never exceed, 450 or 500 lbs. to each animal; I will not

urge this; but let one do otherwise and see if he does not repent it.

During the 1st part of the journey you will have heavy rains and should be provided with a good strong tent, for the wind sweeps over those plains with great fury; let wagon covers also be made of very strong material. Do not burden yourself with guns ammunition & you will not hunt half so much nor kill half so many indians as you dream of. Let each one have a pistol & knife and then one rifle and one fowling piece for every 5 or 6 (six) is all sufficient. Each one should have 1 lb. of best powder & other things in proportion. One strong suit of winter clothing with a change of drawers, shirts & socks is all you want in the line of apparel, as to bedding you should have 2 pds. of blankets & if you choose you can at almost any time with the indians exchange one of your blankets for a fine buffalo robe. It is well also to have an India rubber blanket which will also serve in place of an oil overcoat being worn as a Spanish Serape - you will soon learn how.

Calculate on being out 100 days provide per man not less nor more than 250 or 300 lbs provisions; the largest item being breadstuffs. Sugar is most valuable; do not fail to have from 30 to 50 lbs. a man. Aside from provisions, the baggage of any one should not exceed from 20 to 30 lbs. Past seasons experience demonstrated, "who takes the least does the best." Take along a plenty of animals for many men die, & if you have mules you perhaps prefer, at some point beyond the South Pass, to abandon your wagon & pack through. Be sure to take Sublet's cut off, not passing Fort Bridger it will save nearly 100 miles & need do not pay away your money for guidance, last year experienced & paid guides were great humbuggers.

You need not start from home until about the 10th of Apr. then, proceeding by water directly to St. Joseph you will do best to make the most of your purchases at that place; keep away from St. Louis, they skin Californians there.

These are most scanty outlines,

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but I am not aware that any of my friends
seeks instruction in this matter, still
if any one does, he is welcome to what
of my advice he deems useful, with
the sparing counsel to come by the
Isthmus if he can.

Excepting Mr Sweeney whose death I have previously announced, all from Monroe, so far as I can learn are alive and well. Stevens and myself are at San Jose, while the rest have been in the Sacramento valley.

Seizure will perhaps reach you
before you receive this; what excu-
ses he will frame for his abandonment
of the co. & premature return I know
not - I was unable to convince him
or the other bolters ~~of the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~of~~
~~fact~~ of the falsity of the notion he and
they had conceived & cherished that
the payment of 500 \$ was to release
them from all obligations to yourself
& Mr. Benedict - Hoping we may
again meet when fortune shall favor,
I remain Yours

P. R. Ashley.

D. A. Noble

Monroe, Mich.