

My father's diary of 1874. This is the first section of the diary of Smith's Park in Y. T. I remember, Cal.

After a long time, my father and I decided to leave it and take the remainder of the trip to California. Father told me that the distance that he had traveled was 30 miles. Only two of the ten men walked all the way, the rest were dropping back and joining the caravan. My father was one of the two. They completed the 300 miles in 17 days, an average of 17.6 miles per day. My father told about his good shoes to the men walking with him and that at the end of his feet were in such bad condition, that he could hardly remove the old shoes that had been his partners.

He also said that the country they walked through was more dangerous than the West part of the journey. The Indians were on the way without any points and when they arrived at one of the trading posts the men could hardly understand how they were able to avoid the Indians, but suggested the full press at one point no light acted as a shield, so that the Indians could not see them.

As he finished the trip he had only one dollar left but he soon secured work. He entered a restaurant and saw an apple pie and was told that the price was 25 cents per cut and 25 cents for a cup of coffee. (He ordered the cut of pie and coffee and when this first piece was finished he ordered another and the second went so good he asked the proprietor if he would sell him the remainder of the pie and a cup of coffee for the last dollar he had. The proprietor agreed to the deal.)

Some of their letters went by boat around Cape Horn while others went West by stage coach. This may explain how one section of the Diary was lost. It is incidentally, my father's brother, Byron, went to California before my father by the way of Cape Horn.

Father returned to Illinois and while visiting his sister Ellen at Marenco, Illinois he met his wife. They started housekeeping in Woodstock where father opened a harness shop in partnership with a man by the name of Richmond. He operated a harness shop in Woodstock for more than 30 years. He never forgot his interest in California's gold mines and he was an easy subject for men selling gold mine stock. His love for California and the mountains caused him to spend his last years in that state. He is buried in Verrenville, Illinois close to the point where this diary started.

My regret is that I did not ask him to tell me more of the last section of his diary so we would have a better record of the whole trip.

His son.

Frederick J. Bird.

Wednesday May 5 1854

Dear Sir

I have said all along that I was going to send my journal home. And now that I have some leisure & a good place to write I will commence. The arduous task although agreeable, it will benefit me in several ways in penmanship & composition as I have only minimally ~~carried~~ sketched the route as I passed along & shall enlarge & beautify it to the best of my abilities.

In introduction to Edwin R. Birds Journal. In furnishing my friends with this journal, I shall try to write so as to interest them. Not proposing to be a writer, I request & expect that they will make due allowance of the ~~country~~ ^{section of} through which I shall pass will furnish plenty of material which might adorn a journal. Crossed by Town Plain River or mountain of importance upon the whole range. Commencing at Naperville, Ill. Through to California. Together with every days occurrence I shall represent to the very best of my abilities.

Monday April 10th 1854

It is raining. It is a dark cloudy & stormy morning. This being the day fixed upon for a start it is a gloom and our ~~to~~ expected joy. It snowed in till about ten o'clock a.m. When the storm

about 4 the sun was more shining upon it. It was all
very happy as the order to start was given. At eleven we
were all ready & started before the Disunion House to take
a final advice of the many who had collected to see us off.
Many of them I have no reason to doubt were sincere
friends of mine. Together with them had I associated
in their jubilees their dances & songs. Therefore it
was with a feeling heart that I bade them adieu & never
shall I forget to the longest day I live ^{my} pleasant
associations in the Village of Waverly. We had not
far to get out of the village when the horse that I was leading
commenced prancing & snorting soon he broke away & running
through the train caused a general runaway. This was a
poor commencement but the old adage is a poor commence-
ment makes a good ending. Well it may be so for
we all arrived in Aurora at half past one P.M. Another
horses or riders hurt. We put up for the night at
the Fox River House in west Aurora. I will here mention
the number in our company & their names as they will
be connected with my journal commencing with Mr. J. S. Ayre
the hop & owner of the train then follows Mr. H. Ayre
Mr. Layre, C. Bond, C. Barber, J. Cobal, C. H. Linsme
D. C. Pitts, L. Doty, C. Hunt, & your writer making
eleven in number. Aurora is a very pleasant & thriving
city situated upon Fox River which divides it.
It is a beautiful stream & furnishes the place with
excellent water power. The place boasts of having three
thousand inhabitants six churches four hotels & some

also runs through it which adds much to the life of the place Distance made 10 miles

Tuesday 11th

The sun rose this morning with clear prospects there not being a cloud ⁱⁿ upon the sky We got upon our way about eight AM The day has been very pleasant; The country through which we passed mostly very handsome with here & there a rolling prairie The farmers all along were busy some turning up the rich loam others sowing the seed which is to yield a plentiful harvest - Here & there appeared the green sprouting winter wheat - We took dinner in Little Rock situated upon a creek of the same name Traveled until six PM when we put up at the Farmers Hotel Rogers Grove Kendall Co After taking care of our horses & those of our musicians Mr. H. Lagne Clark, Mepher Hunt & Dinsmore violinist played us some tunes before a good old passion fire place After which for the first time we spread our blankets & retired to rest Distance made 28 miles

Wednesday 12th

This morning before leaving Rogers Grove Mr. V. L. Lagne sold his home There After leaving the grove we came out upon a beautiful rolling prairie where we could see Earlville & the smoke from the locomotive soon eight or ten miles south of us Flashed through East & West Tawpau they are both small but handsome villages After leaving Tawpau we emerged

where a fairer much more is needed than the former I but
think was a bit too much. We had the pleasure of seeing a drove
of about 2000 about a quarter of a mile off but as soon
as they saw us they bounded off over the prairie till they
were lost in the distance game of all kinds is plenty
We took dinner at Fenwick Grove. Fenwick Hotel
Here Mr. H. L. Loper said his top buggy to a young widow
I presume that some young man will make a good tale
will claim the lady's hand & the top buggy will then be
no objection to the union & after leaving this ^{place} it was
more tricky settled & we passed a number of good farms
In tonight we are to sleep upon the floor as last night
We have had a lovely day all week & tonight we are stopping
in the village of La Moille Ill. for this is a small place &
not of much importance. Distance made 23 miles

Thursday 13th

Last night Mr. H. L. Loper's company from Naperville
overtook us & have been traveling in company with us. The day
It has been cloudy & this morning quite chilly but in
the middle of the day warmer. The first town we passed
through was Dover we then passed through a handsome
a section of country as we have seen. Stopped at the
Paradise House, in the Town of Princeton for dinner.
This is the largest & handsomest place we have seen since
we left Abbeville is the county seat of Bureau Co.
& contains fifteen thousand inhabitants.
It has a number of fine buildings with a brick Court
house to lead off with. The Military Tract Rail Road
will when completed run through the place.

Stopped for the night in the small village of Providence
breakfasted
" Mr. Loper could not procure accommodations & has

given ahead To tonight we shall have beds to sleep in ^{the} inside
of the soft-side of a plank Distance made 26 miles

Friday 14th

When we awoke this morning found it raining & the fore-
rather dull prospects But thinking that it would clear
up soon we rode on But we were not good at guessing
for it proved a stormy day accompanied by a chilly
wind Being all clothed in proper regalia in chain rubber
did not suffer The most of the time we were tramping
over a wild rolling prairie but thinly peopled Then
came upon a strip of timber here we passed the little
village of Osceola where Mr Finley ~~was~~ had stopped -
I rode till noon when we put up in the Town of Osceola
Stark Co This afternoon we are trying to kill time
by story telling dancing fiddling & singing The night has
set in with a snow storm The place in which we are
staying is a good one & we are contented Distance made
15 miles

Saturday 15th

Found it still snowing this morning But we have made
it a rule not to stop two nights in a place
so we started Snowed until ten am when it cleared
up During this time we were crossing a prairie the wind
blowing hard all the while & in our faces The first
village we passed through was Lafayette Stark Co

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We did not see at the Arabian picture at this place
we came up with Mr. Trimley who passed us yesterday
in the storm. From this place to Galesburg lays the
handsomest section of country we have yet seen. We did
after tramping over meandering roads where the mud was
about a foot deep at the above place ^{high 8 P.M.}
Have therefore not seen much of the place & ^{cannot give you a description} therefore will
leave a place in to-morrow's journal for that purpose.
Distance made 36 miles

Sunday 16th

Galesburg is located upon the open prairie & is a very pretty place
pop 1600. The new college is located here & to this institution
it owes its growth & prosperity. The college has seven
Professors & quite a number of Subordinations. The
number of students generally in attendance is four
hundred. It was here that we had the pleasure of
seeing Elder Grop. He said he came to see the
Waverille folks & also inquired of the Waverille
folks & in particular of the Col. — wanted to know
if he was yet married. Here we separated from Mr.
Trimley. To day it has been clear but chilly. The bells
were ringing for church as we got under way. After
tramping about five miles gave for a mile along an
orange fence which was very handsome.
The first town we came to was Abington. Another
which is located upon a handsome prairie & commands a
handsome full prospect. Within a few miles of Green Bush.

we had the pleasure of seeing the porcupine in line close to
the road in order to help it along I dismounted and
set a back pole the said being fair the flames bawled
along as fast as our horses could walk The country we have
passed through is very handsome Winter wheat is looking
very well Spring wheat quite forward Stopped for the
night at the small town of Green Bush Warren Co
Distance made 20 miles

Monday 19th

It has been a delightful day after traveling about ten
miles we stopped in a piece of timber upon the bank of Crab
Creek & took a lunch This is the first time that I partook
of such a romantic dinner We hitched our horses to trees
& then ten of us seated ourselves upon a big log &
you may depend upon it we enjoyed our silvers eating
crackers & apples Warren county should be represented
by me seeing that it bears the name of my ancestors
in glowing terms that suffice it to say that the
the porcupine we passed through was very handsome
& in some respects far surpasses the other counties
in timber land Passed through the Town of Maland
about two P.m. This place is the county seat of
McDonough County it has quite a number of fine
buildings & a population of fifteen hundred
The Court being in session gave it quite a business
like appearance To night we are stopping in
the town of Maland at the Maland Hotel ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
McDonough Co Distance made 28 miles

Tuesday 18th

This morning it was cloudy; looked like rain but in the afternoon cleared off & was quite warm. The first place we passed through was Middle town. At this place ^{here} we saw a very good orchard there were two Apple & Peach trees in blossom all the rest - sailing under bear flags made it quite a curiosity. We took dinner at the Plimoth House. Plimoth this four months and center lay through Oak barrens. This afternoon over an extensive prairie. The soil does not seem to be as rich as upon other prairies we have passed over. Stopped for the night at the City Hotel, in the small town of Chetle. The City Hotel is one of the four hotel buildings which constitute the town. Undoubtedly they are living in hopes the many the good folks of Warrenville are. I hope their expectations will be more than realized it certainly has an advantage over some places there being plenty of room. The landlord has a daughter who is a musician and while I ate Mr. C. Hunt accompanied by the pretty accordion player are filling the room with rich melodies. Distance made 25 miles.

Wednesday 19th

This morning it was clear in the east but heavy black clouds hang off over the Mississippi. We took dinner -

at the Franklin House in the town of Princeton which has a population of five hundred & is by far the handsomest place we have passed through it has an elegant Church the steeple of which we saw eleven miles off situated upon the open prairie the traveler can see the country for miles around. Also passed through Woodville Centerville & Veed run such towns

When within five miles of Quincy saw an artificial locus grove undoubtedly it is designed for a picnic ground it will make a delightful spot to meet in buttes circle & while away the hours in sportive glee & keep the light staminatee's toe from this into Quincy is the handsomest country & the richest soil I ever saw without an exception The Farmers seem to be well off and have elegant residences fine orchards & pretty Wines If you will allow me the expression it is a young paradise And if I should live to return from the gold regions I should like to settle down in Adams to marry a rich farmers Daughter & live in an everlasting state of debauchery not saying any thing about Brownist times Quincy is a handsome City pleasantly located upon the father of waters the Military Grack Railroad will terminate here undoubtedly it will become an important place I went down this evening & for the first time looked off over this mighty river it is truly

atkins with grand Put up at the Homers Home
 Distance made 29 miles from Naperville 249 miles

Thursday 20th

Before leaving Quincy this morning I took quite a stroll
 round the town wherever I turned my eye I found an
 inviting view there are many gardens which are well
 arranged having beautiful shade trees & flowering
 shrubs they are all clothed in nature's garb of green
 & white fragrant flowers & in the spring it seems we
 are sure all on the ferry boat steering our course to the
 State of Missouri from this shore Quincy looks
 magnificent situated upon a high bluff it looks
 down upon the opposite shore as beneath its dignity
 Here I took a last view of Illinois for some time &
 perhaps forever My thoughts then returned to the
 Home & kind friends I had parted with & the
 many pleasant hours spent around their firesides
 But never shall they be forgot stamped on my memory
 they will strengthen me in the hour of need &
 stimulate me to greater exertions & keep me
 in the paths of rectitude To Mississippi bottoms
 at this point are six miles wide a dense forest of
 mammoth trees the soil is unconcealably rich &
 vegetation very forward I could gather quite a
 charming book of the different flowers already in
 bloom The American box wood is quite abund-
 -ant it bears a large pink blossom which in

shape resembles the sun at the It has been clear & warm in day cloudy towards night & looked like rain I put up for the night at the American House in the Town of Palmyra which is a very handsome place with a pop - of fifteen hundred It contains one college & two seminaries The McEae & Monroe rail road will run through the place To day is the first time that I ever saw a slave there were two women or more properly speaking there benches waiting upon the table one was a crecol & quite handsome

Distance made 16 miles

Friday 21st

This morning it was cloudy & looked like rain The first village we passed through was Claycon Monroe is situated upon the north fork of Salt river I wonder if this is the stream which is managotid so much by the Whig & Democrat party's if so I suppose this must have been a whistling post Have passed through several fine peeces of timber there being any quantity of plum trees in blossom The air was very fragrant Have seen several slaves at work one old woman was plowing also noticed two little boys dropping corn while two old women was covering This afternoon it has been clear with the exception of white cap thunder clouds off in the south

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The angle between the two we have had to day was
 killing two of the largest black snakes I have
 seen for some time. Stopped for the night
 at a farm house three miles from Clinton.
 Distance made 28 miles.

Saturday 22nd

The most of the day we have been journeying over
 a hilly timber country with an occasional small
 prairie soil not very rich. Saw some very large
 Sycamores some of which were all of six feet
 through. Stopped about one P.M. & took a lunch
 built a fire & roasted some ham took long
 sticks & sticking them through the meat held
 it over the fire until it was black when we
 considered it done our table was a long log
 upon which we set & cracked jokes. This morning
 it was cloudy & looked like rain off in the west.
 Just before sun down came to where the road
 forked & took the wrong one we therefore went
 considerable out of the way. Knight set in leaving
 us in the timber before we could make our
 way out had to cross a mirey little creek which
 had as many turns in it as office skeletons have
 at the present day. At last put up at a farm
 house accommodation rather poor. But thinking that
 the land lord had two daughters of course did
 not strenuously object. I fancy that I can
 see them now as they moved so gracefully & light

1.
= over the place which would however crack & tremble
under so much weight. Such round faces & great
= actual faces would say he should think that there
was plenty of room upon which to stamp portray
intelligence & was just arguing with me that the
full moon shows a similar portrait when the
clouds opened & in steps two fine looking young men
of the same stamp & at once saw how matters stood
& suggested that we should use to our horses
at took the hint & retired leaving the lovers to themselves
= loves Mr Pitts hearing it thought in the night got up
to see to the horses the lovers were eluded in pairs
& preparing hide & coop were hugging & kissing in the
corners such is the human condition. Distance made
32 miles

Sunday 29th

The most of our road as yesterday has been through
woods. Came to a nice well & had some good cold water
it was a lecture having drunk rain water for
two days we also had the pleasure of seeing a slate
quarry & coal mine. It has been cloudy all day & still looks
like rain it is all so excessively warm. Traveled till
known when we stop at the Huntsville Hotel
in the Town of Huntsville Randolph Co this is the
largest place we have seen since we left Alabama it is
also the Co seat court sets here to morrow. Have
seen quite a number of slaves it being a holiday they
are dressed up & seem very happy. Some riding through

down and four horses. We have a very sick horse
 so tonight do not expect him to live
 we all feeling bad as Mr. Sigge left us
 yesterday morning for Ludlow
 Distance made 14 miles

Monday 24th

This morning it was cloudy & cool our sick horse was
 worse after traveling half a mile saw that he
 could go no farther so gave him to a planter
 with the assurance that he would take good care
 of him while he lived took the mule off of him
 it was a touching sight to see him in his poor way
 try to follow at last a slave came & led him away
 he was worth one hundred & sixty dollars or was
 bought of Dr. McElman near Warrenville about ten
 there came up a severe thunder storm lightninged
 very sharp while thunders artillery made the earth
 tremble accompanied by a perfect deluge of
 rain & hail Tobacco is ^{the} staple article in this
 section Every day we can see a change in the timber
 & paradise have passed quite a number of orchards
 all kinds of fruit trees in blossom the forest trees
 are clothed in green & all nature seems to hail
 the new spring The Michigan rose grows spon-
 taneously cropped Carlton River which is the
 largest stream we have seen in the state Stop for

the night - at the Heathsville Hotel in the town¹⁵
of Heathsville which has a pleasant location in the
County Seat of Carlton Co still looks like rain
Distance made 23 miles

Tuesday 25th

No day

Last night it rained which layed the dust - it being
clear in the a good breeze made it very pleasant - The
first thing of note was a sawgrass grove some of the
trees were five inches in diameter I reached the
McCasoria River at the City of Brunswick this is
the largest place we have seen so far in the state
but it is very poorly located being very low - Crossed Grand
river one mile above Brunswick ~~this~~ was much larger
or handsomer than I expected to see had to very across
This afternoon have passed through a very fine section
of country saw for the first in the state some small
& handsome parades with here & there a nice plum
grove it is delightful The man we are staying
with to night has only eight hundred acres of
very choice land plenty of stock of every kind
& every thing neat & orderly around him
Distance made 26 miles

Wednesday 26th

This morning it was clear with a strong cool breeze
The first town we came through was Carlton The most
of the day have been traveling over a low level

my one Country man. We have had meetings
here for the last three weeks & speakers on
both sides. The night before last one of the
Democrat-speakers alleged that the Democrat
party were the native American party & that
the Native American party were foreigners.
If it was in times of war I would whip
them any such men as traitors to the
Country in which they live. But I forgot
you are not a politician. If I were writing
to the Colonel I would give him five cents
to the bottom of the page. I received a
letter from Montague Talbot & will
answer it next mail. As I am to write often
of course you will excuse short letters.
Give my Love to Uncles & Aunts & Brothers
& Sisters. Mother all. Good By.

From your affectionate brother -
Pyron just came into the shop & says that
he has got the Hotel will take possession to morrow.

Edwin R. Bird

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In air close to & sometimes in sight of the
 Missouri say the smoke of several steamers
 This is a great section of country for hemp have
 seen large quantities of it to-day We have overtaken
 two companies bound for Cal - & to Knight -
 where we stop is quite a village of tents & covered
 wagons they have commenced camping out already
 forty-five in number quite a number of women
 & children The man we are stopping with ~~the knight~~
 is a brother of Elder Foreman I told him where
 he lived was pleased to hear that he was well
 Distance made 28 miles

Thursday 27th

This morning it was raining & continued till
 about ten o'clock the wind blowing hard all the
 while which made it rather tedious Crossed
 the Missouri at Lexington this is certainly
 the most turbulent & muddy stream I have ever seen
 Did not have a chance to see much of Lexing-
 ton the most of the town or city I would say
 being back from the river upon the bluffs which
 are about eighty feet high I understand
 it is a very handsome place Passed through
 Wellington Lay face to Co. which is a small but
 handsome place being upon the bluffs about
 one hundred feet above the level of the river
 The most of the day have been journeying through

very heavy timber along the river also over some very
handsome rolling prairies. We are stopping for the
night at a Widows House by the name of Boland.
She is quite well & herself & her heirs possess eight-
thousand acres of land. Her son has been playing
upon the Piano. To morrow we shall be in
Independence. Distance made 30 miles.

Friday ^{October 2} is the Reverend J. C. Freeman's house
to day it is clear but quite chilly. Put up about
ten P.M. Here Mr. Pitts left us & went on to
Independence. Sam of the company myself inclu-
ded went a hunting in quite a romantic piece
of timber. Saw some very large stones one in
particular was about fifteen feet long twelve
wide & ten thick. Killed one squirrel & returned.
Mr. Pitts came back this evening after we had
retired to rest & informed us that we were to
start in the morning to go eighteen miles beyond
Independence. This was rather a damper upon us
as we were told that we would have plenty of time
to write to our friends at this point. Mr. Pitts
here discovered that he had left his valise at
Mr. Freeman's. Mr. H. Layre is to start back for
it to morrow morning. Distance made 9 miles.

Saturday 29th

To day it has been clear but quite cool arrived at
Independence about ten AM from Newend Le
Franklin 9 miles & from Paper mill 438 miles
here will end my distances Independence is the
handsomest city for the size I ever saw is the
county seat of Jackson Co has a very handsome
brick court-house the best I have seen excepting
the one in Chicago it also has quite a number of
brick blocks filled with a very well assorted
stock of dry goods & groceries pop - four thousand
five hundred of the merchants of San ta fee &
salt-lake trade a great deal here it being a
starting place for emigrants also makes
it one of the most business like places I have
ever seen We stayed here only a few hours
& went on to our first camp ground on the
largest & handsomest prairie we have yet
seen There we met the Parker Company 21
in number The Chaplain took soon got supper
for us I think some of my friends would laugh
to see us as we took seats upon the ground around
a table of the same material each one had a tin
plate - mason - knife - fork & spoon - Slept soundly
upon the ground in our tent

Sunday 30th

The day has been fair & a very busy one with us -

packing or unpacking has been the general order. It did not seem much like an Sabbath. But our work was that of necessity as we start to-morrow on our long journey but good by to the borders of civilization & enter upon the ground of the Aborigines.

Had the honor of an introduction to Mrs. Daiflat. She is a very fine Lady & the only one in the Company. She is finely rigged out & has a light spring wagon with a nice bed in it. She also has a fine riding suit. She can have all the pleasure she wants. In case of sickness she says she will take good care of the unfortunate one or ones.

Here ends part first of my journal.

I will now make a few general remarks upon the States we have passed through a beauty of scenery, Customs & manners of the People.

And now I will return to my one loved State Illinois. Her which is a brilliant star in our Union the flower of the west. She has been her duration but there is not another State in the Union that has increased so rapidly in population & wealth. A few short years ago where the Indian Hunter pursued his game unseen by the Anglo Saxon. Now stands beautiful cities peopled by energetic & brave men. The Churches of the living God point to their spires Heavenwards & gleams in the sun of Young America. The Her beautiful prairies & meadows with the luxuriant crops & her forests are become

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by the mud mountains. Bands of iron bind the north
of south East & West portions of the state together
While beautiful steam palaces flow the waters
of the Mississippi. Mahabesell. Habers freight
with those seeking having a home in the west
To any man that has a piece of land is better of
than a Prince. Prince's titles fail & become obliter-
ated but his possession endure for a life time
a generation an age he is his own lord one of
God's noble men. And many such possession you
see wherever you may go in every portion of the
state its people are polite learned & brave valiant
The scenery is beautiful. Those who like a paradise
seen cannot find better. Those that like friends
and let them follow the windings of the Mississippi
Missouri is a fine state in point of timber land
it surpasses all but it possesses no such parades
or navigable rivers the river bearing its name
being its principle one. But they are putting the
iron horse in motion which will much facilitate
their inland commerce. This like all western states
is rapidly increasing in population & opulence
in the western portion are many fine parades
laying ~~untouched~~ uncultivated which will in
a few years ~~be~~ be under a state of cultivation
& ~~be~~ become the garden of Missouri.
The existence of slavery is in my opinion
a great pull back to its prosperity
Although I never saw a slave struck or
misused in the state it seems a cruelty

which an unbiased mind looks upon with disgust.
 The traveler will see many large plantations
 but not so many little possessions which brings
 with it an increase of population & a better state
 of society. The people back from the great towns
 & high fairs are not so well educated as in Ill-
 inois but are generous & liberal & their courtesy among
 the low class is perfectly sublimating &
sublime.

Section week end

Thursday May 1st

This morning it was cloudy & looked like rain
 Packed up our tents & started our cattle all being
 fresh & many of them having never been yoked
 we had a high old time of it. Some of them
 would run for half a mile upon a stretch
 others would balk go any where but in the
 road & try seemingly to see how near they could
 come to capsizing the wagon & not others again
 would lay down the loose cattle about four
 hundred head would ~~not~~ run bitter to
 scatter any & every way About eleven it
 commenced raining came about 8 miles to the
 Little Blue a clear nice stream with a solid
 rocky bottom There we camped & pitched
 our tents The day closed & found it still rain-
 ing 12 men were chosen to stand guard & as good
 luck wiled it I escaped Four men on at a time
 the first went on at sun down They were relieved
 at eleven by the mid night guard The last
 guard went out at half past ten & stood
 till the train got ready to start in the mor-
 ning It rained all night which made the
 cattle perfectly crazy The guards could not
 manage them & had to let them go where they
 thought best & would go any how

Tuesday 2nd

This morning it was dark before we got under way. The affrow was so scattered that it took several hours to get them all together. Crops of the Big Blue & come through the little village of Santa Fe which is on the boundary line of Missouri & Indian Territory. The day has been clear & this afternoon quite warm. The scenery is wilder than usual & therefore is quite interesting. To night we are camped upon Indian soil about a miles from Little Santa Fe. I am on the last guard & will therefore have the pleasure of seeing the morning star rise.

Thursday May 11th
 that it had taken could

Gave promise that if not taken "considerable of a
leap in glades" this morning thinking that
I would transcribe at noon having 2 or 3 hours
leisure time I took my journal book with me
~~off~~ Then we stopped - at noon I looked for my
memorandum book when lo it was amongst
the misings & with it an account of Knigin days
travel I will therefore make a few remarks
upon it & let it pass as I can remember several
stormy days when we camped over & of chasing
the cattle over the endless prairies with wet-
bed & although clothed in rubber suit to the
spring & chilled to the bones I can remember
other sunny days rolling prairies handsome
strips of ~~prairie~~ timber Indian farmers
cool sparkling springs & fine dwellings
We have traveled through some of Indian territory
it are shown in what I suppose will be Canvas
The whole section thus far has been very handsome

& most of the soil rich The only objection there could
 be is a scarcity of timber But still there is a provision
 to this there being considerable ^{amount} of any quantity
 of stone every hill being a quarry The general face of
 the country is very rolling The Tribes of Indians
 we have passed through are the Shawnees & Pota-
 watomies The latter have several missions
 among them The first was Dr Steel's located upon
 the Pagwantusha a very handsome stream
 The next was The Baptist mission Superintendent
 Mr Charles Montgomery the mission house is
 a large stone building & is located upon the
 south bank of the Kanawha River which resembles
 the Alleghenia being very muddy & swift Two days
 travel from this place brought us through the
 village of St. Marys which is quite a town
 having about five hundred inhabitants mostly
 Indians There is located a Catholic mission
 Saw a peach orchard & several other luxuries
 Saw several well educated Indians one had a
 store where we stopped & got some cider
 There seems to be considerable emigration this
 season I understand that there are thirty
 thousand head of cattle ahead of us & forty still
 back of us that is just on the Independence
 road alone we have never been out of sight of
 a train & when the country is level can see 4 or 5

- at a time. This morning at day break it was clear
 Camped close to us on the Y. M. River is a
 company of ~~the~~ United States Infantry
 just as the morning star glistened above the tree
 tops the Drum beat to quarters half an hour
 after they were ~~at~~ breakfast & as the sun rose
~~above the tree tops they were on the march they~~
 looked quite handsome in their uniforms of
 blue & arms which glistened in the sun rays
 they were bound for Fort Riley distant from
 here about 44 miles The country is quite rolling
 in the valleys are small ~~pieces of~~ patches of
 timber with here & there a small stream
 saw one grave. Hon. J. Jones died May 10th
 1854 It has been cloudy all day

Friday, 12th

This morning found it raining. Therefore laid
 over. It continued to rain until 4 P.M. most
 of the time very hard remained in camp all
 day except in guard hours or when gathering
 wood which is very scarce. Last night some
 of our best horses got away by negligence of
 the guard. There has been six or seven men
 looking for them all day but returned this
 evening unsuccessfull. It is my opinion
 that the Indians drove them off. The best
 ones being gone seems conclusive proof

Saturday 13th

This morning it is cloudy & misty with a chilly north west wind To day I shall have to ride an other horse mine not thin king enough of his rider to return Mr J. & H. Layre with three others have gone on a search intend looking till success crowns their efforts having three or four days provisions & their tent-blankets with them It commenced raining about 9 A.M. & stopt about noon but remained cloudy untill about 4 P.M. when it cleared off cold enough to be comfortable with an over coat - crossed the Big Vermilion it is very shallow at present but is a clear nice stream There we found quite a store

Sunday 14th

To day it was cloudy with a nice cool breeze Came to a bulge calf left to the mercy of the wolves one of our company ended his troubles by shooting him Where we stopt to take our lunch saw a wolf not far off to the first one we have seen Close by in a valley I picked some very pretty honey suckles on a large rock which had fallen off the bank ~~it~~ was of a curious formation there seeming to be one layer of lime & one of flint - at the same time being solid Crossed the Big Blue it was quite low but still

a nice clear stream about a mile beyond
 this saw the grave of Ebenezer W. Anderson
 died May 30 to 1850 To day have seen the St.
 Joe road off to our right - saw several
 trains pass along on it. Camped in the
 hunting country of the Paw Indians 8 few
 nights ago there were two of this tribe
 about while trying to steal stock near this
 spot -

Monday 1st (a heavy Thunder storm
 came upon us)
 About One o'clock this morning ^{came upon us} lasted until
 day break had a tough time with the stock
 they stampeded four or five times O'pardon
 who never saw cattle in this wonder full heat
 would be surprised & somewhat frightened
 On such times as these most all of the men
 are an good chasing to breast the storm
 rather than be run over & probably killed
 in the tents. The drove were formed in a circle
 & the guard around them all would be still
 & quiet & dark as pitch excepting as very often
 was the case a streak of lightning would reveal
 the compact living mass. Then would follow
 the deafening shout then back wild in an instant
 the cattle would drop or crash to the earth &
 rising would start in a solid body & go like
 wild fire over rocks through rapids & off
 over the prairies. This would all happen in
 half the time it takes me to write it. Try more
 you hollered at them the worse it made them
 & as for stopping or heading them till their
 fright was over was impossible. Therefore

= The only way was to follow them up which we did for many a long mile & drive them back down times they would run & three mile heat in splendid time. Some of the men got run over & slightly hurt - were all glad to see the break of day. This morning it was inclined to be pleasant but clouded up before noon. Fell in with the train we saw in N.O. at Mc & Tremans. Have been traveling on the St Joe & Independence road have seen a good many different trains. Since we crossed the Big Permian the country has been more level & better adapted to farming. This evening looks like rain.

Tuesday 16th

Last night it did rain sure enough & a thunder storm of the first magnitude. The wind changed sixteen times blowing hard all the time. The cattle stampeded all night but we were prepared all being on horse back we kept them in a circle where once in a while they would fairly kick. There was one constant flash of lightning & roar of thunder. I hardly believe that there is where there is enough of this article manufactured for home consumption & also have enough to batter about the walls of Gibraltar & allow the flies to march in day shade.

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= This morning left camp before breakfast
went about five miles & stopped. Just as we got
our fire kindled it commenced to rain but not so
hard but what we got what we stopped for

Some of the men took five or six yoke of cattle
& started to a grove some distance off after wood
as we were camped on the open Prairie we were
poorly off for warming & cooking fuel after
a long time they returned having one small dry
log which was soon consumed. It continued
to rain untill eight P.M. accompanied by a
severe North west wind. Mr. Parks says he
never saw a ^{more} ~~bad~~ day upon the plains of this
is his third trip. Last night we are wet - our
blankets are in the same situation. While the
ground we are to lay on is wet. Matter confor-
= mably wet. And there is not the ~~first~~
= least spark of fire to warm us by
at home sick crew feel this

Monday 17th

This morning found an Ox dead is supposed to
choaked in the yoke. It has been cloudy all
day with a strong cold north easter. The soil
being sandy & clayey the dust flew considerable
notwithstanding the recent heavy rains.
I have been chilly all day & this evening have
considerable fever. ~~Wrote~~ some composition
which Mrs. Thomas of Paperville gave me.

retired to my tent early. The country we have passed through is very handsome.

Thursday 19th

This morning I feel much better. Had a taste of down turtle meat which some of the traps caught after we camped last night which was quite a treat. The day has been fair most of the time. A Thunder storm came up about noon but passed around us. Cropped the Big Sandy found it rather high but cropped without accident. There are a great many trains waiting for the water to go down fearing to crop at present. The country is quite level could pick out some nice farms. Have seen a drove of six antelope was not very near to them. Passed three old graves.

it - Friday 19th

The day has been clear with a cold north west wind. Saw the grave of Lardner A Phillips died May 17th 1854. Camped in the Pawnee country close to the Little Blue which is very high & swift. I learned that a company lost one man & five head of cattle the other day while driving them across to where there was good grass. I also learned that on the night of the 16th there was a man & three mules killed by lightning. To night I have been peaceful.

Yesterday 20th

This morning I feel much better. Today it has been clear & cloudy by spells with now & then a shower to be seen around us. Most of the day have been traveling along the shore of the Little Blue. Have seen some very romantic places where the rain for ages has been washing away the banks some of these cover several acres & covered with forests of scrub Oak. Also saw a Buffaloes head this is the first ^{one} we have seen of this corner of the Western World.

M.B. Dear Sister I have not got as far ahead with my journal & I expect to try to do better next mail. Peyton, Delia & myself are well. Louis sup. fair. Enclosed is a Ball of sheet-cotton if you can.

Sunday, 21st

To day resembles yesterday in almost every particular. The most of the day have been trawling down the Little Blue. The country is very low down. I found two old graves, & one new made. The grave of J. M. Starling who was drowned in the Little Blue May 16th 1859 while trying to drive stock across. Aged 18 from Mo. Q. This evening there is a thunder storm coming up, expect to have a thrine with the stock.

Monday 22

The day has been pleasant with flying clouds. Showed off in the West-Last Knight got off with a light shower our cattle were easy & we happily blew a pair to the lot of the men that stayed back looking for horses over took us today they were glad to get back to camp again they succeeded in finding 2 of the horses. Mr. J. H. & Mr. Layre are still looking for them we are over one hundred miles ahead of them. To day we were passed by 2 of the United States mail wagons with their baggage & provisions. Each team had four mules & there were two or three men riding on extra ones they ran from California to Independence when they passed were fairly busing. To night we have to use Buffalo chips for fuel.

Monday 23

To day it has been very warm & the sky has been
 overcast with flying clouds One of the Company
 found part of a human skull who is able to
 tell the history of that cranium or by what
 agency it is caused to reach upon the plains
 Traveled over a very hilly section & then for
 the first were enabled to see the Platte River
 spread out looking like a belt of silver
 Camped about one & a half miles from
 Fort Kearney went down to see the fort
 to night it is located upon the plains
 & about one mile from the Platte It at present
 contains fifty soldiers & 15 cannons We stopped
 at the Store & Post office mailed our letters
 & procured several little luxuries such as
 tobacco, Sugar & Soap. Saw 2 old granes

Tuesday 24th

To day it has been clear & very warm Called again at
 Fort Kearney Saw the soldiers on drill Also saw a
 Buffalo calf it looked very much like any calf
 but showed its wild nature if a person approached
 too near it would dart at them its limbs were more
 like a deer than our tame calves Have been traveling
 all day along the shore of the Platte some times in
 sight of it the lag of the land is flat & the soil rich
 saw many quanta of Antelope & wolves some were
 the big white kind larger than a Newfoundland

Day 21 Knight are camped on the Platte on only
see an arm on account of a large island it is very
shallow. Smith river in some places spreads out
about one mile. Saw 2 Old Grasses

Thursday 23rd

This morning it was clear & very warm. Clouded up in
a few hours & with it a breeze. Saw the Buffalo
Licks there was quite a crust of salt on the ground
which our cattle were crazy for. There can be seen
numerous trails leading down from the bluffs
which are made by the Buffaloes coming to the
Licks by the river. Saw a rain cloud round the
sun which is a pretty sure indication of rain.
Long towards night sprinkled a little. Camped
and the Platte made out over half a mile it was
only up to our knees but having a quick sand
bottom if you stand any length of time you
would soon be up to your neck.

Friday 24th

This morning found it raining but it stopped in an
hour or so leaving us with a cloudy day.
Can see the waters of the ^{Platte} till lost in the very
distance. ~~There~~ ^{Have} been seen from very ^{high} ^{mountain} ^{places}
off on the bluffs have also notice of ^{many} ^{herds}
Buffaloes trails leading to the river. We are all
very anxious to get rid of these wild cattle.
Have seen the Council Bluffs road on the north

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side of the river saw several trains pass along on
it saw one old grave

Saturday 27th

This morning it was clear but in a short time the sky
was overcast with clouds & it became oppressively
hot In the afternoon when the great shower threatened
us we escaped till just as we were coming into camp
when it commenced raining came very near disporting
our chiefs therefore did not get a fire going until
quite late but I expect we shall have many such
times as we shall have nothing better for wood
for five hundred miles

Sunday 28th

Last night it rained quite hard In day we have
had a variety of sunshine & shower it appears more
like April than May Took quite a walk over to
the bluffs where I saw a tree standing that I might
find a spring thought it was about half a mile off
but it was a good 2 miles after looking around a
while in a wild prairie where there were several
beautiful meadows & quite a number of Buffalo
skeletons came back to camp as dry as a cracker
but when we camped for noon found an excellent
one meat by felt as though we would like to take
it along with us Have seen any quantity of beeches
which is very thrifty Passed One Old Grave

Monday 29th

This morning found it raining continued until
about ten have had sunshine & shade the rest of
the day Have been tramping over the bluffs & In
the night are camped on the South Fork of the Platte
shall start it to morrow The last wagon of -

a large freight train bound for Salt Lake was crossing
 just as we arrived. I shall ford it in the morning it is
 about a mile wide at this point but quite shallow.
 A short time after we had camped a black cloud
 appeared in the west - soon the wind lightning played
 along its said night front. Our Cook had just
 put a batch of bread over the fire I told him he
 must remember that we were upon the flats & that
 he would only have the trouble it away if he put
 it to baking. Our seven tents were soon raised
 in a ditch dug round them to let the water run
 off. By this time the storm was upon us and
 break raised enough to be done in the morning.
 All but those who had to stand first got to bed.
 The storm struck us as such a thunder storm
 the wind blew a hurricane a constant blaze of
 lightning & roar of thunder & the rain fell in
 torrents. Two of the tents were immediately captured
 leaving their inmates who were nicely in bed rather
 exposed. The guards soon returned and informed
 Mr. Parks that the stacks had gone to the devil
 that they could not find anything but bracks.
 So a large number had to turn out but the
 men belonging to the captured tents went upon
 the couch leaving those who were more lucky
 who had stayed close to enjoy them.

Tuesday 30th

To day it has been clear & cloudy by spells. Cropped the river without accident just as we were in the act of crossing when I should ride up to us but the spurs of Mr. H. Sage they returned without the horses the loads four of this heat they were gone from camp 17 days were rejoiced to return to us. Have been traveling in sight of the North Fork of the Platte & close to Chalken bluffs.

At noon I met with a heavy loss. Lost my pen by carelessly letting it lay upon the bank of the river where I had been writing. I prized it very highly it being a gift from Miss Ada Bragman. Undoubtedly some Indian hunter will pick it up & present it to some Dark Eyed Indian Girl who will proudly wear it around her neck suspended by a string of beads. To night we are camped in the rough country. I hope that we shall have the pleasure of seeing some of this tribe. Of the Cam & Pawnees we did not see one. This evening it looks like rain.

Wednesday 31st

Last night were not disappointed in a storm for it is raining this morning. But after a while the clouds withdrew & disappeared in every direction leaving us the clearest day we have had since being on the Platte. Have been traveling over the bluffs where we found plenty of Old Man hair the ever-

wondered so far from home is left in the dark
 Saw quite a number of *Parasie* flowers some quite
 handsome & fragrant also found some wild & rom-
 antic places in the bluffs About four o'clock one
 of the horned travelers who showed more brains than
 flesh & whose feet had become very sore gave out
 & I stayed back to see if after a short rest I could
 not persuade her to pursue her journey after a
 while I got the poor sufferer up & proceeded by this
 time the train was entirely out of sight leaving
 the two together for I was on horse back we had
 not preceded far when we were joined by a big
 white wolf as large or larger than a New England
 Dog he was one of those easy unconsumed kind of
 Chaps who seemed to take the world easy after forming
 a few curves & sniffing the air he sat down about
 3 rods off & seemed quite taken up by the staggering
 of the Cow if I had have had a revolver I would
 have given him a pill that would have made
 him shake his head but I was unarmed therefore
 I had no inclination of disturbing him or
 calling him nearer or of raking his companions
 the way I used to do in the days of Long ^{with a revolver} since
 One of the company killed a coyote just as he was
 coming into camp ten rods off I shot one old
 crane

Thursday June 1st

Last night the wolves killed our lame cow through
 neglect of the guard To day it has been cloudy most

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of the time spent at several times where we were
Have been travelling over a sandy road all day
And the night we are at Cedar Bluffs
or I should also say hockey at least it is more
so than any place I have yet seen In a few
years it will be a strip of what gives it its name
There are only a few beautiful spreading Cedars
left to mark out to the traveler the spot
The sides of the bluffs are literally covered
with roses There are also several splendid
springs & plenty of good grass Mr. Parks
says he camped here in 1849 We are all feeling
very fine have had a bonfire out of dry cedar
accompanied by stories telling dancing singing
& hooting until about one o'clock.

Friday 2nd

To day it has been cloudy & windy For a few
miles we traveled over wild bluffs Paved
down on to the bottom lands through ash & cedar
This is a very pleasant valley & an ^{excellent} ~~not quite~~ ^{quite}
a forest of ash trees but like every other
place near the road has been stripped of
its wood to make light of charcoal the
camp of the emigrant - Saw again near mid
flowers which were huts one kind I noticed
in particular a small delicate pink & pale
white blossom growing side by side on the same
stem emblematic of rank & purity they smell
like ~~the~~ pink but more fragrant of the train
ahead of us have left one man back sick with

The colony he has four men tending him. A man came to our train about noon saying he had lost three of his horses had been out looking for them had found them with the Indians & that they would not give them up & wanted us to stop. The Indians are reported to be eight hundred or a thousand strong. The trains are all stopping close to their camp don't know but what we may have trouble. Packed eight old greases.

Of Tuesday 3rd

The day has been clear & cloudy by spells with a nice cool breeze. This afternoon have as yesterday been travelling over a sandy road. After coming about ten miles arrived at the expected Indian camp where we however only saw six or eight wigwags one of which was the Cheaps who had a very good looking Squaw. The number we expected to see have moved ahead thirty miles & it is my opinion that they will keep ahead. Here we had considerable sport with some little Indian boys who came up to the road with bows & arrows ready to shoot at doves & half doves we gave them an opportunity to show their skill in two or three trials at most they were hit the silver snark & with pride carry off the prize. There is also a man here prisoner to the Indians for shooting a squaw. He was fixing his revolver when

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it accidentally went off. He has satisfied the husband by
paying him a certain sum he has yet to get to pay the Chief
before he can get free. To know that it is trying to train
but the fact has only sprinkled a little

Columbia Oct 16th

Dear Sister

As the mail closes to-morrow I shall
not have time to write any more of my journal.
Last mail I received a letter from Mother Ellen
& your self which made me exceedingly happy.
I will answer Mothers & Ellens as soon as I can
but my time is very nearly taken up in writing my
journal therefore I hope they will excuse delays.
Tell Ellen that I will send her my dogeotype
soon either as a miner or C. B. Bird himself.
Did Mr. Matthews ever call & deliver some letter
that I sent home by him when you were again.
he used to let me know. Business is fair for Hull
times my health is very good so is also Byron's
& Delia's. They both send much love. Give my love
to Mother, Sister, & Brothers. Uncles & Aunt's
Cousins & respects to inquiring friends.
I remain your Brother
Edmund

Sunday 4th

Today it has been cool & most of the time clear have been
travelling over a smooth road surrounded by fine scenery.
In front of us could be seen the celebrated & far famed
Caul House Rock. This forenoon it has been cloudy &
showery. Camped about four miles nearly opposite Caul House
Rock. It looks to be about two miles off but Mr
Parks says it is all of five miles off. It is a ponderous
mass of stone & in the distance looks very much like
a large stone building black spots looking like doors
& windows are plain to be seen. I should like to visit
it but the distance is a little too great. Two of the young
men of the train firmly in the belief that it was
not more than two miles off started to make an
evening call at the ancient Hall of Justice. Mr P
says it is six hundred feet high & one mile in circum-
-ference. Off to the west can be seen Chimney Rock to
the right of Scotts Bluffs it has been in sight all
of the afternoon & still seems as far ahead as when we
first saw it. This evening it looks as though we were
going to get a thunder storm. The boys that went to
the rock got back about ten o'clock fully satisfied that
it was five miles off but thought that they were well
paid for their trip.

Monday, 8-15

To day it has been clear with a strong north west wind. I have had a good road & romantic scenery. Have seen several groups of Indians. Some were smoking they fix their tent-poles to a pony so that the ends drag where upon they have a seat-rigid upon which the Squam or Papposes ride upon the back of the pony they place the rest of their movables. Some of their garments were very nicely ornamented with beads. I also noticed some earrings all of eight inches in diameter. We stopped for dinner about two miles from Chimney Rock after satisfying our appetites several of the Company myself included made it a visit in the distance it looks like a large haystack with a long pole sticking out of the apex after a pleasant walk we arrived at the base of the rock which was much larger than we expected to find it. After climbing up about one hundred feet we carried our names the rock being soft had no trouble. Above the base is a cap piece about 30 ft square & 50 ft high the spire at Chimney then rises to the height of 60 or 80 feet is about 50 ft in circumference at the base & gradually tapers to the top it has been much higher every year washes away some of its glory the Chimney is cracked at present in a few years this part of the rock will fall it is a great curiosity & I thought that I was well paid for my trip. Saw several rocks the names of which I did not learn. To night are camped between Chimney Rock & Scotts Bluffs.

Tuesday 6th

This morning it is clear & cold. We arrived at Scott's Bluffs about ten A.M. I should have mentioned that these Bluffs were named after a Rocky Mountain Trapper who died there with starvation. A quite interesting story is related about it ^{is found} in the Prairie Sketch it mentions a spring near where he died which I did not see. We have been in sight of these two days at the distance of ten miles a person would almost imagine that he was in the Ocean world & was approaching the ruins of a Babylon. It seems to me that centuries ago it has been a mountain & has washed away till nothing is left but the clay & sand which has formed into this. The highest point is about 400 ft above the level of the Platt. They cover considerable an extent of land & are formed into all shapes imaginable. One pile resembles a splendid dome while in other places they look like Roman towers extending their rocky fronts into the Ocean of Prairie which every where surrounds them. They are beautifully decorated with small spreading cacti. The weather has washed deep gullies in which the wild Rose & other beautiful flowers abound. We then went through a pass which one would almost believe was artificial it is about 8 ft wide & 3 ft high with perpendicular sides it is very winding & is a good register containing many carved names. We then came out upon the west side where if possible it is still more grand. From this point the Platt

= can be seen to a great distance studded with
 numerous Islands reaching its way towards the
 Mississippi taking the whole journey thus far & this is by
 far the most magnificent sight we have looked upon
 We have passed several trading posts the traders are
 principally French & Spaniards there are also
 generally 3 or 4 wigwags near them The principle
 at present are Squaws & Pappooses The Indians
 being on a Buffalo hunt which I understand
 appeared in the Bluffs this morning for the
 first time this summer To Night we camp
 = ed about ten miles beyond Scotts Bluffs
 We begin to have cool winds from off the Mountain

Monday 4th

Last Night one of our Company killed a prairie
 Dog I should have mentioned these animals
 before we have been in this section of country
 ever Since we arrived at Fort Carnie They are
 about the size of a Fox Squirrel & have a head som
 like a Dog they bark like a puppy They have
 regular villages some of them several acres in
 extent with regular streets from one hole to the
 other being a constant prey of the wolf & hawk
 they are very cautious & are prepared for danger
 They build a dome about 2 in or a foot high
 & have the mouth of the hole upon the top there
 they will sit & bark if any one approaches they will
 clog in the holes There is one old fat fellow

= who seems to be Commander in Chief for at a given
 March from him causes a general disappearing
 Craped Horse Creek a small clear stream
 In 1852 Mr Parks buried one of his company here
 A Lady by the name Elson who died with the
 Colabry & was buried near this stream She was sick
 only a few hours leaving a Husband to mourn her
 loss she could not find the grave Have passed two
 trading posts the principle article for sale was
 Whiskey

Thursday 8th

Last night it rained To day it has been cold enough
 to be comfortable with an overcoat on The scenery
 has been grand The Black Hills stretch away to the
 north east & south west in front of us rearing there
 black summits far above the common stock around them
 Passed several trading posts one within five miles of
 Ft Laramie belongs to the American fur Company
 Here we saw several Indian Graves they wrap the
 body up in Buffalo hides place it in a box or log dug
 out canoe fashion then when trees are scarce which is
 apt to be the case upon the plains they raise the coffin
 up in the air upon long poles passed in the ground
 when a Chief or celebrated warrior dies they trim the
 coffin with red flannel I noticed one small box trimmed
 in great taste on enquiring of a Rocky Mountain Trapper

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learned that it contained the bones of a favorite
warrior who had been killed by his enemies some three
hundred miles distant whether they had gone to collect
his bones & brought them home or saved the middle
fork of the Laramie of Platt River there it is quite
clear & swift - we then were in plain sight of Fort
Laramie went about one mile & a half past the Fort
& camped close by it. I shall visit it to morrow &
then I will give a description of it

Friday 9th

To day it has been clear & warm This morning as soon as
I got my breakfast started for the Fort a foot & a
half with my letters Fort Laramie is one of the oldest
in the west was built by the American Fur Co but now
belongs to the United States it is garrisoned by seventy
five soldiers & has four pieces of Artillery
three in the Fort & one on the government farm where they
are trying to grow a few vegetables but so far without
success It is located upon the middle of Laramie fork
is about one mile from the north fork & commands a respect-
ful view of the surrounding mountains it is seven hundred
miles from Independence & four hundred from Salt Lake
It is a great rendezvous for Trappers & traders in
the winter season the home of ^{all} Fort Laramie is the theater
of many thrilling tragedies The dream of romance &
Poetry It is therefore not strange that I should be
interested in the place It contains quite a number of
substances built things on of which is a store where they

keep a register containing the names of those kinds
of emigrants. To day we have been traversing among
the black hills which are covered with scrub pine
this is what gives them their black appearance in the
distant. After traversing about eight miles came to
another trading post here I saw several large
buildings literally filled with furs some of the finest
I ever saw. The traders have every thing comfortable
which gave to it a cheerful look. To night
we are camped in the country of the Arapaho Indians
they are a handsome & better dressed tribe than any
we have seen. Their clothes are very handsomely
worked with beads while their riding equipages are
very ingeniously ornamented with beads & fringes
with white & black skin strings. We camped early
& close to a very nice cotton wood stream.
We had become so much the color of the soil
that we improved the leisure time & had a general
wash.

Here closes Section Second of my
Journal. I shall make a few remarks upon
the section of country lying between Independence
& Ft. Laramie but have not quite time to accom-
plish it before the mail closes & will com-
mence my next section by a few comments upon the
last.

Immediately after leaving Little Bantam
 is situated partly in Missouri and partly in
 Kansas. The latter immerses upon an immense
 expanse of prairie which is under being and the
 is beautifully romantic. Small patches of small
 timber can be seen now & then which are as
 clouds in the Ocean water upon the land we
 traveled very close. The soil is of a deep black
 loam & must be exceedingly rich which was at
 the time we were there laying waste excepting
 a few educated & Christianized Indians who
 had farms & were cultivating the soil.
 After seven days travel we arrived at the Kansas
 River here if I understand it right is the
 western boundary line of Kansas Territory.
 After crossing the river the country is more
 hilly the soil sandy water more plenty &
 timber still more scarce. There is as marked
 difference between Nebraska & Kansas as between
 the latter & Missouri. Although I could pick out
 some good farms in Nebraska but it is generally
 so hilly & stony but very likely would make
 a good grazing country. Upon the banks of the
 Big & Little Sandy, Big & Little Blue Rivers or
 more properly speaking creeks could be located
 some good farms. Twenty three days travel
 brought us to Fort Larned which is upon the West
 River ^{as far off from the South Fork} which is upon an average

about three quarters of a mile wide with a quick sand bottom. I should judge the general depth of the water was three feet with a current about four miles the hour. The flats upon each side of the river were from one to five miles in width with a fertile sandy soil good crops might be produced for a hundred or fifty miles up the river further up than that I think it rather doubtful that back from the river over the bluffs very likely is good soil & plenty of it. The scenery from the time you first touch the Platt until you arrive at Fort Laramie is wild & grand & constantly presents something of interest to the traveler.

Sunday 10th

This morning it was clear but clouded up before noon. We have been going up & down all day long. Saw Dogs harried up & used in packing. This afternoon it rained in plain sight but we escaped.

This evening it is clear & cold. We are now on a lot of grass. At night we are camped upon the north fork of the Platt. The scenery has been interesting - tant.

Sunday 11th

To day there has been sun shine & shade. In the afternoon it was showery off in the west where Laramie Peak rears its snow capped summit.

far above the surrounding mountains it is visible
of this mountain is covered with perpetual snow
of can be seen for a great distance the could see bears
& Penguins upon it - very plain it look to be about
ten miles off. But Mr. Parker says it is fully five
miles distant - he says the men however went to
start to visit it - but after travelling over a rough
road for one day have given it up saying
that it looked as far off in the end of the day's
journey as it did when they started.

Frederick says that can be plainly seen from
St. John's Bluff upon a clear day. It also notes
several other peaks the names of which I did
not learn. We have now arrived at where the
black hills assume a rougher & loftier form
here in reality commences the Rocky Mountain
that extensive range which nearly divides the
North American continent - We have wood &
water in abundance & nice spring water at
that therefore our campfires are all pleasant.

Monday 22nd

This morning it was clear but about noon
there came up a thunder storm but it passed
around us we were all wishing that it might
rain it however layed the dust ahead of us
We have now fairly commenced our journey
through the South pass on either side rises

high blance bluffs or perhaps more properly
 it being mountain tops in shape they resemble
 snow drifts & looks as though the storm
 had come from the south. Some through
 one place which looks as though it had
 been on fire. The whole ground sounded
 like a drum as we passed over it. I saw
 very quantities of red clay or earth in other
 places. There is large quantities of plaster
 We here crossed a very fine spring brook
 which is said to be very high & thick
 with alkali but which I believe is a mere
 supposition as we drank very freely of
 it & could not perceive any injurious effect.
 The first stream of any importance was
 the Sabonta it is clear & very cold & swift
 & runs down from the mountains.

To night we are camped on the banks of
 the Laprell or Rush Creek like the most of
 these streams the only trees that shade
 its banks are cotton & willow trees.

To day have passed C. & D. Graves.

Tuesday 13th

This forenoon the sky was overcast by
 thin hazy clouds about the middle of
 the day heavy black clouds sprang up in
 early direction of this afternoon thunder

Ed Latons have completely swalled us in
with their black clouds while the vivid
lightnings are plunging their fiery prongs
in every direction. We had fully made up our
minds to get a soaking but the clouds broke
at the station passed around us and only sprinkling
us a little. We have been tramping over a smooth
rolling road To tonight we are camped on
the flat & close to Dear Creek which is a clear
nice stream. Near our camp is a large sand
stone rock which I shall call Lone Cedar
as there is a ~~delicate~~ very pretty cedar ^{tree} ~~tree~~
in the ~~delicate~~ ^{rocky} ~~rocky~~ ^{patch} ~~patch~~ ^{claders} claders several acres
in same place it is ten feet high while in other
places it just appears above the surface of the
ground. I can not find a better comparison
to this part than a pond of water when
frozen so hard as to capering the ice up in
small oval piles & these are clipped into
squirrels as though they had been laid in an
arched form by the hand of man. The main
body of the rock is fifty feet high & has
quite a number of names engraved upon the
sides. Another storm storm came up
just after we camped which lasted until
mid night. Have passed two Old Grays

Monday 14

So day resembles yesterday I traveled until noon
when we camped near the Platte close to which
which it well deserves its name it is also the creek
where I ever saw a deer after we camped a thin
deer station came up & for one hour it rained
quite hard. I have had quite a time killing one
of those large yellow Rattle Snakes which
abound in the rocks he ran into his hole
leaving nothing but his tail to be seen with
which he played us a lively tune. We made
a slip knot in a whip lash & slipped it down
below this musical instrument which if I
remember right numbered twenty & drew
him forth the strict way of shot him with a
revolver. This afternoon we are laying over
some are improving the time in writing some
are playing cards while quite a number have
gone out to hunting. The hunters were lucky
they brought into camp a fine Antelope we are
all expecting a rarity now & no mistake of
licking our chops this is a portion of the
meadow off to our left rises a lofty range
of mountains with snow upon their top
they are distant about eight miles. To night
for the first time we have sight of sage brush
this is a species of wood which grows in bunches
it varies in height from one foot to 8 ft.

but the general average is about 2 feet it has not
yet been well only that it does not last long
to the night it is raining again but not very
hard

Thursday 15th

This morning it was clear & cold Soon after
sunrise it blazed up accompanied by a strong
west wind came about ten miles & crossed the
north fork of the Platte here we found a good
bridge far better than any I have seen at home
There is a store & other buildings connected
with it. In the store saw two Frenchmen
gambling The owner of the bridge says that
he took in seventeen thousand dollars last
season he charges five dollars for a team & five
cents a head for horse stock We join the Council
Bluffs Road here saw one are all in a string
& never out of sight of a train Here we leave
the Platte which has become a small clear
swift & cold stream & strike a camp to the
west of Langley To the night we are camped in
the Crow Indian Territory near a little stream
that is tinged with allé

Friday 16th

To-day it has been clear with a fine cool breeze
making it as fine a day as we have had In these
high latitudes a person can enjoy good health

if one looks the scenery has been beautiful
 rather to the north at least can be seen the thin
 out lines of lofty peaks which seem to touch
 the very sky. While nearer to us upon the
 south is a good south bluff. With ridges of rock
 curving them round about as a band of iron.
 Went to see an alcibi spring not far from.
 The road in places the crust was so thick that
 we could pick it up without getting hurt -
 but it did not arise in camp till long after
 sundown.

Saturday 14th

So day resembles yesterday but this morning was cold instead
 of cool. Started on our way about 4 came five miles off then we
 took breakfast. Then we again rode. The most of the time
 to day have been tramping over the bluffs which extend on
 either side of the Sweet Waughter which stream we are
 camped upon to night it is narrow deep & swift -
 it is a very nice stream. Opposite of our camp rises a rocky
 mountain several of the company went up on its sides & some
 on top got some pine wood & also some gum. There we saw
 rocks in every shape piled in a confused mass. On the
 highest peak is a natural basin in the solid rock
 shaped like a hens egg which will hold ten or more
 barrels of water. Off to the right of our camp is the grave of
 G. M. Wood who started for California with Mr. Perry
 in 1852. He died June 19th 52 with cholera. The three lines
 upon his tomb stone denotes that he was an Oddfellow.

Sunday 1st

To day we have had a pile of Sundance of whom
accompanied by a strong west wind. He in habit
died in a bolted quantity. He did not leave camp
until about 11 A.M. After coming two miles we
passed Independence Rock. This seems to be
formed of gravel stones of different hues or very
brilliant cemented by nature into a solid rock
I think I am perfectly safe in saying that
it is the greatest rock in all the West, being
covered with names bearing dates from 1836 to 1854
many of them are yet very plain or some of them
will stand for many years to come. I should
judge that the highest point of the rock is
~~about 100 feet high~~ In the distance it looks like
a long hay stack, it is also rich I think
that the water running off of it for ages has
worn these channels, leaving the harder part of
the rock in ridges, but what is still more strange
or what perhaps would mystify my argument
above, is, that the ridges are at regular intervals
apart or run in straight lines over the rock.
We here crossed the Sweet Water found a good bridge
or several Trading posts located here. About
five miles farther up the river we came to the
Devils Gate that noted gap in the rock bluffs.

that extend along the shore of this lake. Several of the company myself included went over to look at it. The distance was much further greater than we expected but I thought myself well paid for my trip. I cannot describe it in more appropriate language than that it ~~was~~ is ~~it~~ is a beautiful sublime & magnificent - it is about thirty feet wide & four hundred feet from the head of the river to the top with perpendicular sides with the exception of a few large rocks that project out over the water. The place our view was taken from was upon ~~one~~ a large rock that extended out about ten feet & I should judge one hundred feet from the water. In places it looked to be not more than ten feet wide it having a great descent the water went clashing & foaming over the rocks at an astonishing rate. This is certainly one of the most interesting places & romantic places we have seen ~~on the side~~. Upon the left side of the river & opposite of our camp are high rock bluffs & upon the right about eight miles from camp are mountains with snow upon their top. We are now in the Snake Indian Country. To Knight there is a company of four men & two women part of them from I'll report from going camping with us & intend traveling with us we are all perfectly satisfied with the arrangement - as they have a good

- filled with things to tonight we have been climbing
upon the green hills in order to put ourselves in
you may guess that we are tolerable lost in the
joints To day have seen two Old Graves

Monday 19th

This morning it was clear & very warm just as we
were leaving Camp. George's artillery gave a morning
salute off upon the bluffs where was a black
cloud. In less than an hour the sky was overcast.
The wind commenced to blow & a cold half rain
half hale storm came down upon us. The con-
- dition was great & we fairly suffered with the
cold. The storm soon broke but it has been
chilling all day to night is quite cold.

To day we have been tramping over hills back
from the river & part of the time along the
shore where we are camped to night.

The scenery has been fine have been in sight of
snow all day also. saw a natural ~~bridge~~ road
leading over the rocky bluffs which from
where we were looking to be about twenty feet
broad & thirty deep & looked to be as smooth
as a floor.

Tuesday 20th

It has been a clear, cool day there being a cool breeze
from the west it has been delightful traveling.
The scenery has been beautiful beyond descrip-
- tion Upon every side could be seen high bluffs

while off in the west the Sweet Water Mountains
 crowded in its gold of perpetual winter appeared
 like a thing of beauty & as the sun came upon
 its snowy peaks it looked like an alabaster
 wall stretching across our path whose top seemed
 to touch the sky, where it sat enthroned in
 its beautiful grandeur. Such a sight is seldom
 seen & when seen near forgot - Have been traveling
 over a sandy road the dust flying considerable
 About the middle of the afternoon met quite a
 large train of packers returning home from
 California which place they say they left on
 the 16th of May So tonight are camped on the
 Sweet Water This morning one of our company
 killed an Antelope

Monday 21st

So day it has been oppressively hot - far more so
 than any day we have had & the most of the day
 we have been traveling over a hard gravel road
 found no streams of water for the relief of
 our stock & the greatest curiosity we have seen
 was the ice springs this is a low & rocky
 looking place the ground looking very much
 like the breaking up of a winter at home
 there is but very little water visible which
 upon the surface is quite warm but by
 running your hand down it is distressingly
 cold Mr Parks says that he has known

pieces of ice

Two feet square to have been taken out by sliding
down two or three feet & as clear as crystal
The ground is sprung & trembled as we passed over
Undoubtedly this is an underground river of fresh
- ice so hard in the winter that it forgets to thaw
out. The mountains that have been on either side
of us have a summit a smaller grade stretching
away in hills. The Sweet Water mountains have
been in sight all day & look very pretty as the
sun shines upon them. We met several trains
coming back to the states filled with men
who say they had lived in the Holy City
long enough. I did not notice whether there
was any old depending Maids with them
or not. To night we are camped upon the west-
side of the Sweet Water near to us are two old
graves -

Thursday 22nd

It has been a lovely day there not being a cloud
to be seen, while a cool mist veils the
mountain tops. We have been traveling over a
very rough road have had to cross some high
bluffs with rocks extending in ridges upon them

hops, while in other places they were in the shape of small stacks. There is a very fine spring close to the river which is called bitter willow spring. This afternoon came to one that gushed out of a black muddy place at first a person would imagine that it was not fit to drink although very clear, but upon trial we found it to be of the first quality, & as cold as any I ever drank. Crossed the Sweetwater twice its snow mountains are still ahead. To night we camped upon a fine spring brook. Have seen 6 old graves.

Friday 23rd

This morning it was very warm about 9 A.M. a fresh breeze sprang up which made it very pleasant traveling. The road has been hard & gravelly but quite good. Crossed a branch of the Sweet Water & Willow creeks which are very clear swift streams about three rods wide & three feet deep upon the bank of the latter found a snow drift a number of us got a ball of it. Crossed the Sweet Water about noon. This is the last time we cross this stream as we near its source it is much clearer, colder & sweeter. This evening we are camped upon the river.

and beside of its snow mountains the Chief & a
 number of the Shoshoneas or Snake Indians
 visited our camp when a rather curious circumstance
 happened & one which did not speak very well for
 our scalps. Mr. Parks had traded horses or rather
 a mule for an Indian Pony with the Chief & on
 in fitting the stirrup strap he accidentally cut
 the young bloods fingers at once his wild Indian
 nature was aroused he said that a large company
 of his tribe were camped near us & that white
 man draw blood on an Indian no good &
 said that he would come that night & scalp
 the whole train. But Mr. P. understanding
 them & knowing their love of money presented
 him with half a dollar which restored
 perfect friendship so much so that he went
 to embrace him. To day have seen three old
 graves & one under date of June 16th / 54

Saturday 24th

This morning it was clear & very warm
 Here we left the Snake water & its mountains
 to the right after traveling a short distance
 we came to the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

All the water east of this enters into the
 Mississippi & its tributaries in the Gulf of
 Mexico. All west into the Great Basin where
 the most of it sinks. There was so much
 romance connected with the place, the theme
 of poets & novelists that made it very interesting.
 How often had I wished to visit this celebrated
 range & to stand upon its dizzy top but how
 my youthful fancies faded I was not a notch
 higher than all creation & did not stand upon
 an elevation that would enable me to look down
 upon valleys, rivers & sparkling cascades but where
 ever I turned my eyes could be seen still higher
 peaks. But how many have longed to feast their
 eye upon the grandeur of this place & how many
 have started with high hope of reaching that
 wild region but have found an early grave
 of the rude slab here. There tells where lies
 their sleeping ashes. Here the altitude is 7085.
 For memory of the place I picked up three small
 stones, and waved a last adieu to the Atlantic
 States of the Atlantic slope. After gradually
 descending for about two miles we arrived
 at the celebrated Pacific Springs the cool
 nice waughter gushes out of the bank for
 half a mile forming a clear nice creek but =

Sunday 25th

This morning it was clear & warm about 9 A.M. it clouded up & in the afternoon several showers passed around us. The first stream we crossed was the Little Sandy one then came about 3 miles & crossed The Big Sandy. This stream is about ten rods wide & runs very swift finding a little grass here we camped for the day. This is the poorest section of country for stock we have seen the soil being all sand. The principle product is wild sage. We have seen a great many dead & forsaken cattle have lost a great many of our own. The face of the country is quite level for miles around but in the distance can be seen lofty peaks. This morning we caught a glimpse of Green River Mountains they being a brown range they looked like distant clouds. Sweet Shaggy mountains are plane to be seen off to the right of us. So far have seen one old grave.

Monday 26th

So far the sky has been overcast by flying clouds which in the afternoon thickened into rain clouds. Several showers came up & went round us but at last one did lag the dust a little for the benefit of our eyes & lungs. We have been traveling along the Big Sandy.

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- & to night are camped near it upon the upland
where there is plenty of good feed. A person
might imagine it would be no presumption either
that he was travelling over a rolling Prairie instead
of the Rockies saw for the first a range of
low mountains off to the south west which
I learn are a continuation of the Green River
Mts - Have ^{seen} two trading posts & have seen two
old graves & one wedding date of June 16th 1834

Tuesday 24th

To day it is clear & warm left the big sand
& crossed over to the Green River this stream
is about one quarter of a mile wide is deep & very
swift - running about seven miles the hour &
There is a ferry & several log houses located
here At present there are a great many waiting
to cross the teams & tents forming quite a village
with I should judge five hundred inhabitants
Yesterday a man was drowned while trying to
cross the river on horse he leaves a Wife & two
Children to mourn his loss To night we are
camped on the east side about only a half mile
from the ferry The country upon this stream
is very grand the Cotton wood grows quite
large & the flats are rich in soil while the
swifd river flows on & helps to swell the
springs of Colorado The Sweet Mountain
mountains are still in sight -

Monday 28th

This morning it was clear & warm. Started at an early hour to swim our stock. While we were waiting for a blow to get out of the way a thunder storm came up in the west accompanied by a high wind. The heat of the storm passed around but it rained quite hard for a few minutes. In four trials we succeeded in getting our stock across. The current was swift & cold so that it took the animals down stream for half a mile before they gained the opposite shore. Whole trees came down which would make cords of wood.

We ferried our wagons across without accident & camped on the west shore for the rest of the day. I picked up 3 small but very pretty stones. One was a very pretty agate to keep in remembrance of Green River. Near us to night are several companies camped. Therefore the order or bill of the evening has been singing dancing & story telling.

Thursday 29th

This ~~evening~~^{morning} it was clear & very warm accompanied by a strong west wind dust flying considerable

We did not make a very long drive on account of our stock being tired & hungry. I jumped off to the right of the road over the bluffs where we found a magnificent spring. The water gushed out of a rock bed the discharge of the water was so great that it formed a nice charcoch.

I found plenty of good grass but as alibi exists it is a dangerous place for a drove but we have to take the chances once in a while. At present it is rather of a desirable location & the hunters & creation are up to the eyes in good living & unconscious of danger.

Friday 30

To day it has been clear but very windy on account of feed we are laying over. The day has been spent in the usual way the principal game that the hunters brought in was Prairie Squirrel Foxes & Prairie Dog. The Squirrels are a little smaller than the fox squirrel & are of a mouse color. They are very good eating I have often seen so many on the ground water one hundred at a time & those that have eat the latter perceive them equally as good as the squirrel but undoubtedly the same would spoil the water for some. One of our company also killed a Prairie mountain Digger To night a general good feeling prevails Singing Dancing & Merriment.

69 go off today at last This evening it is lightning
& thundering off in the south

Saturday July 1st

Last night it was so cold that it was quite hard
of this morning when the sun was an hour high it was
oppressively hot but about the usual time a cool nice
breeze sprang up which made it very pleasant travelling
The lay of the land has been more rough than it
has been for several days back & the soil much better
being a dark clay we found plenty of good grass &
therefore camped early by a cold nice spring that rises
from a rock bluff upon which several of the company
myself included cut our names Some of the company
went a hunting & brought in some Sage Hens they are
in color & form of flying like a partridge but are
much larger Caught another glimpse of the Sweet-
scented Mountains This evening it is thundering &
lightning off in the south

Sunday 2nd

This morning the day was overcast by light-fleecy clouds
just after we left camp crossed a high smooth
bluff the ascent was gradual but the descent quite steep
While we were upon the summit a thunder storm came
up & for a short time it rained & hailed quite hard
Another storm came up while we were stopping for
dinner which proved to be the hardest thunder storm
we have had since we left the Platte Have had a

variety of scenery from smooth rolling & stoney bluffs to snow peaks which extend along the right of the road. The snow melting forms numerous streams some are clear & cold others muddy & swift.

Met quite a large pack train from California. Also saw Indians gathering thistles & shooting squirrels with bow & arrow. Being a land to quip I should say that they were going to have a 'stuss'. They gave us a piece of the thistle which I fancied tasted like a potatoe. To pay for their civility one of our company shot four squirrels with his revolver which pleased them much. To night we are camped close to the bluffs & not far from the fork of Green River.

Monday 3rd

To day it has been clear with the exception of a few clouds off on the south. The first we first wound round a high range of mountains when we arrived at the fork of Green River this is a clear cold stream. On the east side is a splendid spring I should judge that it is forty feet in circumference & about twelve feet deep & so clear that a pin can be distinctly seen on the bottom. Crossed the river without accident & ascended a high mountain range which extends along the west shore it was very warm on the valley but when we had gained the top we were surrounded by snow drifts & the air chilling went down on the =

Side of the mountain where we found it quite warm
 & vegetation in full bloom - while the flowers fairly
 scented the air with their fragrance. Saw one kind
 which was new - the lower portion of the blossom
 rose in a small stem for about one inch & was
 was a very deep red the leaves then spread out -
 in a light pink clothed with deep red spots.
 The body of the plant is about a foot high &
 is completely filled with bladders. It is not
 fragrant - but very handsome. We then gradually
 ascended for about six miles here there was a
 small grove of Spruce & Cotton Wood the most of
 them containing number one Springs. When we
 had gained the summit we passed through a beautiful
 grove of Spruces here the elevation is so great that
 we could see to an incredible distance off to the
 right - in the same distance could be seen lofty snow
 mountains while off in the west Bear River valley
 wound its way through a beautiful valley.
 We then descended into a deep canyon the descent
 in some places being very steep. At night we are
 camped in the same by a nice spring brook found
 the mosquitoes in companies of thousands assembled
 in council to carry out - there being such a great
 but as the sun declined & the night air became
 colder & colder they entirely disappeared having first -

glutted themselves in human gore To day we have seen
any quantity of Curacao huries about half grown
they are similar to the Huckle berry Have passed
the old graves

Tuesday 4th

This morning about one o'clock the gards
commenced to welcome in the glorious fourth
a day sacred to every American by discharging
their revolvers which was soon answered from
camp this was the only way we could celebrate
but we thought of the stirring times at home
the Orations the boom of cannon bands of martial
music pleasure rides pretty Girls & Ball Rooms
the imagination had to take the place of the
reality It has been a clear day with a good
refreshing breeze the atmosphere assumes a smoky
appearance like Indian Summer We first ascended
a decided mountain we then passed over a
trailing road for about five miles when we came
into Bear River valley just before reaching
the valley our road lay along a small spring brook
which I shall take the liberty of calling frog creek
it being literally alive with them We then gazed
down Bear River to Smith's fork of the same
This is a pure cold mountain stream & abound
with trout We camped early & close to the

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river there we found plenty of good grass for our stock. The most of us went fishing & caught some fine messes of trout to midnight we had them for supper together with a can of Oysters which was given to our men by a trader on Grand River. Last after we crossed the divide of the Rocky Mountains three men & the trader took dinner with us for which we would not take pay. But saying nothing more about that the fish & Oysters were there considered good eating. At midnight we are camped in the great basin having passed over the east of the Rocky Mountains. We are also in the Kamax tribe of Indians there are a well proportioned manly looking race. The soil is much richer here & the grass is plenty & good. Mosquitoes are also troublesome. Here closes section third of my journal.

Concluding remarks upon the last section. The earth as well as the mountains are regularly divided. The land markers can be plainly traced. If a person admires mountain scenery he cannot rate himself better than in the Rockies. This section comprises the whole range commencing at Fort Larimer & terminating at Bear River. We were 26 days making the trip I think the distance is about 350 or 400 miles. This range is often ~~mentioned~~ in romance & poetry. It is altogether probable that many of the writers

have never visited their wild regions but their claim
 is certainly a good one. Here the lakes great woods
 remain still & undisturbed as yet the Hudsonian
 has not begun to cultivate its rich valleys or can the
 its numerous mountain towns & settlements
 exist except the rude wigwam of the Indian
 who form villages here & there but only temporary
 they are constantly changing their location & take
 the rapid road upon the face of the earth their
 wants are few The Creator has placed them in
 a good hunting ground where game of all kinds
 abound The scenery of these mountains is mag-
 nificent embracing every thing that is interesting
 to the traveler Its mountain peaks are lofty &
 magnificent covered with snow or forests of
 beautiful firs or the graceful spreading
 Cedar except upon the loftiest peaks the trees
 are all small in size so much so that it is
 almost like a rolling prairie on an extensive scale
 this enables a traveler to obtain most splendid
 views the atmosphere is so pure that the eye can
 reach an incredible distance I have seen
 trains starting out in the morning could
 see the men gathering up the cattle & after traveling
 all day would only arrive at their camping
 ground I have also often heard the crack
 of a teamster's whip all of five miles They
 contain some splendid valleys many of them

25. Forging, fields of waving grass & abundance
of beautiful wild flowers & flowering shrubs.
The streams are cold clear & swift - & many of
them abounding with trout. But I think
it would never become a good agricultural
section of the principal source of wealth consists
of its furs & it also possesses the handsomest
stone that I have ever seen which would
which would throw the granite of the east
far in the shade as building material.
Laramie Peak Independence Rock The
Devils Gate The Rock mountains upon the
highest water of its narrow cap mountains
are the most prominent peaks & in my
opinion are not surpassed in the habitable
state.

Columbus Aug

Dear Sister

I send you right complat-
the tenth of my journal. Whether you
enough to pay for my trouble I cannot
that there are many mistakes in both of
give it such collection as you see fit of
a book for the journal & let the friends &
like to pass on my me a crop the planes
I have finally got settled down & in busi-
ness are good the sales for there were two or three
about seven hundred & fifty dollars a
ward is profits I only had thirty do-
when we bought the shop that I gave
money to buy the establishment - so
time before I get it paid for think
fifteen hundred or two thousand do-
if so I shall be able to return in a
with at least a commencement for a y
There is not a day that passes but what
friends do they return the complam
received a letter from you this long &
you not write I suppose that you &
that I shall write you each mail &
say what has he done with his money in
in Cal. I have helped to give each
when together he had to send money

she has been in this country have helped
Byron to could not stand it to mind
that I have earned I have give to him
no more than my duty & that though
Byron in reality owes me about two
dollars I would never have stated this.
I have thought that my friends would
had been a spe theift - I have earned
my self of decent clothes so as to make
For Heavens sake never mention this
me in return for it would hurt this
I should have been home long before
have had the money & I was to prove
to ~~have~~ I am already in debt for help
I am contented & happy & for the first
Our village was through in to great excite
Some men authorised to arrest Mexicans
a hut where there were some living so he
were fired at them Then the cry was
arm himself with pistol each excite
never seen To ~~bring~~ a meeting of
was called & past several resolutions
no Mexican should be allowed to trade
Co armed himself he had a writing from
a respectable American that he was a
man Last week nine Americans were
Catastrophe by Mexicans The Sheriff of
yesterday while in pursuit of the murderers

of our own Co was also wounded. The
district is becoming alarmed of the peo.
in mass to put down this blood shed
quite use to it - soon one is sent to ex-
pose by these bloody scape goats. They hear
that our town there is about twenty men
knights - The excitement in Poland is as
the American party to which I belong as
it will gain the day. There is a meeting on
Monday in Town I send Ellen & press.
Give my Love to Mother Sisters & B.
to the Doctor To Uncle & Aunt Geo.
& not forget the rest of the Uncles & Au-
friends. Tell the Council that I have
that letter or any papers & to expect
not to expect to learn of the defeat
party here in Cal - by me I am
Affectionate Brother
Edwin

M B Pyron & Delia join in Love.

P B I write this on an illustration
views are perfectly correct - what a
river mountains I have called it
mountains

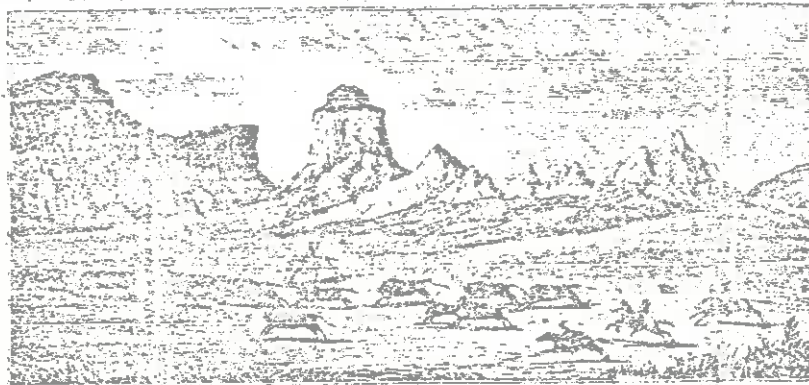
HUTCHINGS' PANORAMIC SCENES. — CROSSING THE



EMIGRANT TRAIN PASSING WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS



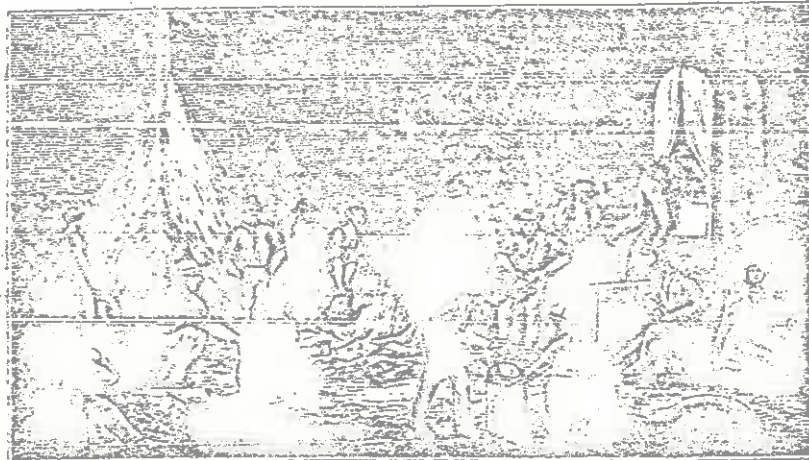
SIoux INDIANS



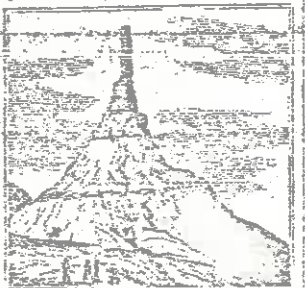
INDIANS CHASING BUFFALOES, SCOTT'S BLUFFS



COURTHOUSE ROCK



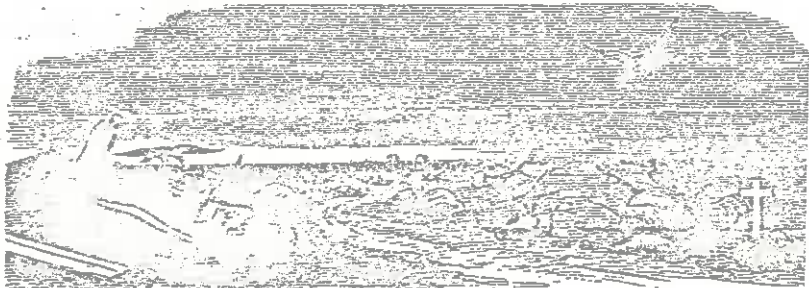
FIRST NIGHT ON THE PLAINS



CHIMNEY ROCK



LARAMIE PEAK



SCENE ON THE DESERT



Dear Sister

Columbia Co

I have now sent you your
journal. Hereafter undoubtedly it will be
it being wilder & more romantic. Undoubtedly
many mistakes but I have not got time for
enough correction. Since I last wrote Delia
sick & for several days was very dangerous
good ear & is fast recovering. This morning
& we hope will soon be able to get around
is a fever which is raging this summer in
more than half that are taking with it now.
The weather has however changed & we hope
will not longer exist in our midst. The
wind is today in high hopes being a
getting the heat which he spoke of
Becher's letter. He so far has had but
bears up manfully never has the blues
with an untiring energy. Quinsy is
present but is still better than I ex-
pect. Politics are running very high. On
both American & British. The so-
cracy I am proud to say that I in
the latter & never will I dishonor
who gave me birth so much as to
a party which are fighting against the
men & trying to give the foreigner a

Dear Father

Cheney, Iowa, Nov 10

I received your valuable letter of 2nd inst. & have read it over & over & am much pleased & interested. It received from me & Henry, Mother & Marion a few all interesting letters which in Mother's I have never received any letter it was the so I wrote & should have come the next mail. It seems to me that it must be in Chicago tonight & contained a description of which I presume would have interested & should not receive it I will give you in my next. I found William H. Fisher he arrived in San Fran — was glad to see one of my friends his baggage is the with me. Therefore I did not write till I came in to the mines. For were all very glad to hear from me & knew all the very anxious therefore I wrote as soon. When I arrived in Leavenworth I was very tired & if I had been at home I would have sick & gone to bed but I only had one & had to go to work & was lucky enough to the same day worked two days & a half before to quit. I being so tired that I trembled & the thought of my arms was so excited that

I have been thinking of you very much lately
 and wondering how you are getting on. I have
 been very busy lately with my work but I
 have not forgotten you. I have been thinking
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no more to put into to days journal. Last night
of the 21st morning as usual took breakfast at
a very early hour before the sun came up over the
snowy peaks we were upon our way to claim which
is a good miles from our camp over a spur of Little
mountain. The day has been exceedingly fine a few
hazy clouds would now & then throw their shadows
over us which is fine when a person is working. I will
feel a little tired to night have not had hard know
means of importance to communicate to day so will
close.

On the 21st morning it was quite cloudy got to work
early has been clouding up all day looked like rain
when we quit is raining to night weather warm air
barney. This afternoon fanned out a haul of 100 to
pan of dirt fanned several as good think that is
OK, if it will hold out. I wish you could see me
with a pan of dirt you would be surprised to see
the car left of all the dirt out to wind up our days
work sluiced down. I do not know how much we
have got but have a good show. The row is passing
it out at my elbow. Will tell you Sunday how much
we have made through the week.
On the 22nd Last night is rained a little. This
morning the air was very pure & truly spring like.

a shower came up about noon but the heaviest
of it passed around us started all day passed out
soon dollar gang or at least we think it. They
will show such a mark are in good spirits to think
our claim is worth having. & O.K. again the sky
is cloudy think that it will rain here forth
morning we hope so at least so that it may
not hinder us from work to-morrow.

9th Last night it rained a little but
steady & was raining this morning continued
until noon when it slacked up is still cloudy
& looks like rain. The inclemencies of the weather
has prevented us from work this afternoon. At-
tended for claim made some improvements & panned
out we nearly do think one dollar & a quarter gone.
I would not take five hundred dollars for
my interest. At night visited a shaft
that has lately been sunk in turtle mountain
saw the prints of leaves ^{on some of the clay} & a piece of bark
that came out of the hole forty feet below
the surface. Cloudy this evening & looks like
rain.

10th This morning was clear & pleasant
worked all day about noon the sky was
overcast with fleecy looking clouds
which indicates more rain. Nothing very
important has occurred to day.

10th Clear & pleasant got to work in good
season about noon clouded up wind blew
strong from the south pretty sure indication

of some fanned out a hand fulls of dirt think
we got about fifty etc commenced sluicing down
soon after dinner but we were not quite quick
enough & got caught in the storm & we & the
skin got a good show. Have taken out in five
days \$90-\$22.50. a piece this is not as good as
we expected but will do taking every thing into
consideration Dear Sister you would naturally
say why they out to make more than that when
they can get so much to a pan but where we have
one dollar pan we have twenty one cent pans that
which pays us so well is upon the red rock
we have to remove about 9 ft of dirt before
we come to the red rock think we shall get to
drifting soon then we shall get out more ^{profit} dirt
dirt & less top & think we shall make it pay
better

Sunday 11th

Dear Sister

I shall have to
close this letter to day you see from the above that
we are doing something at least & stand a chance to
do better if our claim does not peter I will pan you
out a ring intend to pan out one for Mother &
my four sisters & may pan out one for —
Again I have got down your letter & will try to finish
answering it. You say that you wish that I

staid with me just till I left the
company. It is but the reason in my letter to Julia
about a week after I arrived in Cal. Some of the boys
that stayed back with the train came to the company
where I was ^{waiting} looking for a job. They were so glad to see
me that they shed tears. I saw many of the boys
in Downieville they were all very much pleased to see
me. I did not have an enemy in the train without
it was Mr J A Ayre & when I left there
was only one man who thought that I would stand
it so you can imagin how glad they were to see me
in Cal. in good health.

Was glad to hear that the Dr has done so well & may be
ever prosper & am glad that your children are well.
tell Thumet that Uncle Edwin will come & sleep
with him if he will be a good boy & mind his Mother
if we should both live. Tell Mary Ellen that Uncle
E may send her enough gold dust for a ring if
she will be good girl. Am glad to hear that you
have a house of your own in Chicago instead of
Herronsville. Byron says he will write you soon.
Give my love to Julia the Dr. Thumet Miss Mary
for me & give my love to Pincles Aunt Cusins
& respects to all that inquire after me.

The Bible you gave me was in my
envelopey valise & I presume is to day in the hands
of some Indian. Had with it a doiment of
flowers. I am your affectionate brother
Edwin P. Baird

Columbia Mo 12th / 1858

Dear Sister

It looked very hard for a letter from your last mail but none came & I despair. I hope that I shall have better luck next time. The last mail I wrote to Ellen & wrote her that I wanted the Daguerotypes of Mother & herself & as many more as she chose to send. I also told her to send them by the Pacific Express but if she has not sent them before this reaches you have her send them by mail as it will not cost as much. My health is very good & you is Byron & Delia's. We have had a little train but not enough we expect a winter soon as every thing indicates. By this time this reaches you. You will be off to the winter with its snow drifts will be yours to enjoy. Please take a sleigh ride for me. But the best I wish you all a very Christmas & a Happy New Year. Your health is improving. Enclosed I send you a small piece of soap of stone such as found in Table Mountain. It will form a candle & wash as well as castile soap. What a thing a world is. I am afraid it will get smashed before it get to you. As I have another letter to write you must excuse these few lines. Love to all From your brother Edwin