

[Minnie Mather Collection]

STUL

Stanford University Library

DIARY OF ANGUS MOQUEEN

Transcription of Entries

APRIL 5 --- MAY 23, 1852

From Ontario to Fort Kearney

with

Indications of other Entries

Made at Woodbridge, California

January 1-February 3, 1873

And near Riverside

July 8-October 23, 1874

(not used in bibliography)

This diary was kept by Angus McQueen, the grandfather of the present possessor, Mrs. Frank Jotham Snow, of Palo Alto. It is unfortunate that Mr. McQueen did not continue his entries until he reached California on his overland trip of 1852, but this transcription may be of some use and interest to those studying the movement to California during this period.

The diary was kept in a small notebook, 9.2 by 14.5 centimeters or 3-5/8 by 5-3/4 inches, of 132 unnumbered pages of foolscap, eighteen lines per page, and two unruled leaves at the front and at the back. The card board covers are covered with imitation leather and the back cover is extended to form an overlapping flap.

The entries were made in ink for 1852 and 1873, and in pencil for 1874, and were begun with the book reversed, so that the proper bottom of the pages has become the top.

The transcription is line-for-line and follows the original as exactly as type permits. No editing has been thought necessary except in explanation of untranscribed entries.

Harry H. M. Winton

Stanford University
February 15, 1936

[Inside front cover: figuring in pencil.]

[First front flyleaf (unlined) side a:
Figuring in pencil; name
"Bevington" in pencil. Name
"L. D. Green"]

[First front flyleaf (unlined), side b:
blank.]

[Second front flyleaf (unlined), side a:

"Boisdock

or

Osage Orange

for Hedging - The Seeds

to be Soaked for

one or two Weeks then

planted in drills"

[This seems to be in the writing
of 1852.]

[Second front flyleaf (unlined), side b:
blank.]

Mon 5 Apl 1852

Left Home passing by the
Suspension Bridge to Manc-
haster thence by the Cars
to Buffalo Snowed heavi-
ly in the afternoon

6

Take the cars from Buffalo
to Erie Pa, where we
expect to get a Steamer
but find Much to our
annoyance the Harbour
closed with ice, and
after remaining over the
Seventh without a prospect
of getting out we determine
to proceed by land
Wrote from Erie to Lt Wm Bigges

Apl 8 - 1852

On foot to Conneaut
pass thr beautiful Village
of Girrard - Stop all
Night at Greenfield

9

No Boat at Conneaut
hire a waggon to Ashtabula
15 Miles or 45 Miles from Erie
take Passage on the little
Steamer Bell for Toledo -
Several returning Californians
on board - Several families
emigrating to Calafornia

10

Arrive at Toledo in the
evening = 11th 1852

Stop at Toledo where I
write My dear Wife

Mon 12 Apr^l 1852

Take the South Mich.
rail Road to Chicago
where we arrive after
dark — 13th

Take the Cars to Cherry
Valley near Rockford Ill.
thence Stage to Galena

Fri 16 Apr 1852
at Galena where I write
My dear Mary again

Sat - 17 -
on Board the Steamer
Danube for Hannibal

Sun 18 Apr^l
pass the Town of Nauvoo
once occupied by the Mormon
arrive at Hannibal at dark

Mon 19 Apl 1852

Sherborn Mattock and
Myself Start by land
for St Joseph on the
Missouri river while
McCraney and Walbrook
take the rivers for the
Same place the reason
of our seperation was on
account of Walbrook
being so unwell from an
attack of diarreeah as not
to be able to proceed by
land, the distance between
Hanibal on the Mississippi
and St Joseph on the Missouri
is considered 220 Miles, about
100 Miles from Hanibal the country
is tolerably well Settled, the

land rolling and Mostly
timbered appears of good quality
their staple production has been
Hemp and Tobacco but Many
farmers are now turning
their attention to the raising
of cattle which is likely
to be a greater Source of
wealth, The remainder of
the way lay more through
a prairie country and thinly
Settled on My way through
I wrote one letter home

Wed ~~Frid~~ 28 Apl 1852

This day we arrived at St Joseph
a Small town Situated on
the flatts of the Missouri
river and surrounded by high
Bluffs its preasent importence

is chiefly attributable to its
locality as a starting point
for the Oregon and Cal.
emigration, and having a
rich farming country around it
fast settling it will in time
be an important river town

Th. F. Sat. ^{Ap^l} - 29. 30. May 1st

We have begun buying our
Mules Waggon provisions and
various other requisites for the
Journey and drive out of town
about 1/2 a Mile on S^{at}. evening

Mon 3 May

Crossed at the ferry about
5 miles above town - had
a heavy rain through the night
with much thunder and Lightning

Tues May 4 - 1852

the boys go back for some
things we Still require, and
return in the evening

We had again violent
thunder storm commencing shortly
after dark, during one of its
paroxysms while the rain fell
in torrents, and the vivid
electric flashes, and loud peals
of thunder, was truly terrific
Matlock who was on guard at
the time stepped for a few
minutes under the Shelter
of the tent, in that fearful
moment a rascally Indian
stole one of our horses,
cutting the rope that tied it
he made good his escape before
we detected the theft

Wed 5 May 1852

This Morning we started
on the open plains, the
road from the recent rains is
bad and we find it verry
fatiguing on our Mules

Wed 12 May

For the past week it has
rained almost every day Lore
or less the roads are exceedingly
bad and we have not been
able to average More than
8 Miles per day, M^CCraney
who has been verry sick for
two or three days past we find
out today has the measles, he
is unable to ride and consequently
has to be taken in the wagon
Making so much of an addition
to our already heavy load

The country through which we passed up to today has been verry destitute of timber rolling or rather hilly, but of an excellent quality of Soil, Wolf Creek was ~~all~~ the only Stream of importance we passed on it the Iowa Indians have constructed a rude bridge on which they collect a toll of ,50^{cts} per waggon & team and a dime per riding horse

This Morning we passed the Big Mimmehaw a stream at its preasent stage of water about 3 rods wide and up to the axle of the waggon flowing with a strong current

While at the crossing of this
Stream 5 Men came up with
us drawing a hand-cart on
Which they had their provisions
and other requisites for a journey
of 2000 Miles, I need Scarce
Say this looked like Madness
they Must either Starve on
the road or live on the
charity of their better provided
neighbours - Two others had
their all packed on one
Small Mule - and one solitary
Dutchman rolled out on a
Wheelbarrow - as this day
was fine, and the roads
beginning to dry we have
made a better journey reaching
15 or 18 Miles

A delightful grove of Hickory
with a fine Spring of Water
afforded a desirable Camping
place for the Night, the
country around us was
Somewhat broken, the view
more picturesque than is com-
monly met with in plains
traveling, to the north and
West lay a wide extent of
prairie, undulating or strea-
ching off into broad vallies
while handsome groves of timber
clad the hill Sides or traced
the deriles that lay to the
South and East of us - and
the Scene was enlivened by
the heards of cattle and white

covered waggon that appeared
as if floating on the wide
Sea of Prairie around us

Shortly after camping this
evening the two young men
who had a mule packed
between them the same
we passed at the Nimmehau
came up and camped beside
us, The eldest Calvin Brandin
of Tenn. about 35 years of age
the other Anson Hewett formerly
of N. York, but lately of Oswego
Co Ia. was a young man about
19 years of age - I conversed some
with the latter while on guard
through the night, he seemed
not the least disheartened
but rather hopeful of success

Notwithstanding the difficulties
I pointed out to him as
being to Contend with on
So long a journey

The next day not long
after we Started Hewett the
younger of the two complained
of illness as he seemed unable
to walk we let him have a
riding horse, In the afternoon
he said he was unable to
ride any further I however
left a Saddle Mule with
him, telling his comrade if
he should get some better
to bring him on to where
we should camp
We proceeded about 4 miles
to where we got some

verry bad water and a
little brush and camp^d -
Shortly^{after} Brandon came with
the mule Saying the young
Man was too ill to travel
He returned to the Sick
Man Saying if he was able
they would be on early
in the Morning

Friday 14. May 1852

Scarcely had the Sun glanced
over the eastern horizon
When Brandon came to us
with the Sad intelligence that
poor Hewitt was no more,
having breathed his last
about 11 oclock the previous
night - I understood he had

no particular request altho'
aparently aware death was
near - he left a little cloth[es]
and \$25.00 in Money
Brandon gave me his Bible
in charge in it were his
Name and Birth register
with that of the death of
Several of his relatives
In it was a card on one
Side of which was a vine with
leaves and roses encircling the
words "I go but to return"
below was represented a little
boat in which Sat a Cupid
in the act of leaving a at
the stearn was the word
"Farewell" and on the back

was writen in pencil

"A token of love to you I
give that you May remember
Me as long as you live"

and Signed- "Jane Leilar"

There was no other writings

he was from Oswego Co Indiana

[17]

[Contains penciled memoranda for
Tuesday, October 13, 1874.]

[Contains penciled memoranda for
Wednesday and Thursday, October 14, 15,
1874.]

[Contains penciled memoranda for
Friday and Saturday, October 16, 17,
1874.]

[Contains penciled memoranda for
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, October 18,
19, 20, 1874.]

Sun May 23 - 1852

passed Fort Kearney, where
I Mailed a letter for home
We are now about 300
Miles from S.^t Joseph, the
roads have been better
Since we Struck the little
Blue - They are rather Soft
on the bottoms of the Platte
about the Fort

[Memoranda for Tuesday, October
20, 1874; in pencil.]

- [22: Contains penciled memoranda for
October 21, 22, 23, 1874.]
- [23-35: Contain memoranda in ink for
January 1-February 3, 1873.]
- [36: Blank.]
- [37-96: Contain penciled memoranda for
July 8-September 5, 1874.]
- [97-100: Contain penciled memoranda for
September 7-10, 1874.]
- [101-121: Contain penciled memoranda for
September 12-October 1, 1874.]
- [122-126: Contain penciled memoranda for
October 3-7, 1874.]
- [127: Contains penciled memoranda for
October 9, 1874.]
- [128: Contains memoranda in ink (1873?),
and memoranda in pencil for
October 11, 1874.]
- [129: Contains memoranda in pencil for
October 10, 1874.]
- [130: Contains memoranda in ink re sales
of wood, January 7-31, 1873.]
- [131: Contains memoranda in ink re sales
of eggs, January 3-31, 1873.]
- [132: Contains (in ink) a "Recipe for
Thistlelo"; and penciled memo-
randa for August 18, 1874.]

[First back flyleaf (unlined), side a:
contains some figuring in pencil.]

[First back flyleaf (unlined), side b:
blank.]

[Second back flyleaf (unlined), side a:
blank.]

[Second back flyleaf (unlined), side b:
in ink:

A ¹Queen

Also some figuring in pencil.]

[Inside back cover: figuring in pencil.]