

MG-0A

DIARY OF F. L. NEGLEY

TO CALIFORNIA IN 1849

AND RETURN TO PITTSBURG BY WATER

Bark ~~Catherine~~ to Panama
Steamer Pacific to Havana
" Ohio to Norfolk

* Marshall Gold Discovering Area
(California State Park)

research
Miner's matter collection

See Blatt's Run Road Navigation

Entry # 571

From March 1st 1849 up to 14th was engaged in making preparations for the trip to Cal. Goldfield. My opinion at this time is that we will succeed in obtaining sufficient Gold to remunerate us for our time & labor. But as there can be no certainty about it, I have made up my mind to take it easy if we should fail, but to do the best I can.

I made up a mess of six, viz F.L. Negley, John Lemmon, Amos Young, John Barckman, Jacob Kiser, & R.L. Gilghrist, the last at his earnest solicitation, as I had only intended to have 5. We joined the Pgh. & Cal. Enterprize Co. as also did 3 other messes from Butler & two from Poland Ohio. Michael Kane was the President & Wm J. Ankrum was Capt. to go overland route.

March 15th 1849. There is nearly 300 men in the company. Leaving my wife in the care of her Father & Mother in Pgh. Pa. bade my friends good bye and at 6 PM went on the S. B. Consignee, Capt Lockwood, and started down the Ohio River.

Same day, near Midnight, we colided with the Steam Boat Caroline, and sunk her, we were told at the time that 10 men were downed by the accident, but afterwards learned that all were rescued but one man who was drowned, his name was Shannon.

We arrived at ^{Wheeling} reeling (The head of Navigation) at 7 PM March 16th. It was very laughable to see men running and jumping in every direction. When the two Boats came together, such yelling and holloing was never equaled in my hearing before, some of the men showed great cowardice.

March 17th/49 We passed Potsmouth and next day about noon arrived at Maysville Ky. Yesterday & today of our men Pat Began, of mess 46 from Butler was entirely crazy from the fright, he gave me his money to take care of (viz \$10000) I have had with him so far & some of the others want me to send him back home, and I would do so but that I think that he will be better when he gets over his fright, & in the mean time I expect to have a great deal more trouble with him, before we get throug to Cal, but I am determined to do the best I can for him. I am enjoying good health so far myself, except having the Blues about leaving my wife behind me. We arrived in Cincinnati about midnight and laid there untill 12 noon of sunday the 18th. Seen my sister Minerva & her husband S.W. Haseltine, my bro Albert and little Johnny. All were well. Also called at W.B. Dicksons, but there was no one at home only little Robert. We passed the towns Madison and Louisville during the night of the 18th and 19th. Nothing of consequence occurred, and were making rapid progress down the river Ohio. It has been raiseing rapidly since we started and is now over the Banks, & still riseing.

On the morning of the 20th a verry heavy wind arose and we were Storm Stead. In the afternoon the wind lulled and we got under way again and got along verry well untill when there came up a perfect Hurricane and came near capsizing our Boat,

and we were obliged to tie up and for the night. On the morning the 21st the haveing moderated, we started on again, and arrived at Cairo the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi about noon, found the whole country here overflowed by the water. Cairo is 8 or 10 feet under water.

March 22nd this morning we proceeded up the Mississippi river, arrived St. Louis in the forenoon of the 23rd. I this day bought 48 head of mules from a man named Wilson Stewart, 48 of them at \$60 dollars per head for the 4 Butler messes & 2 Poland messes.

On the 24 we had considerable of a job haltering mules. I sent John Lemon a 3 others across the country by land to St Jo with them. 24th at 1 PM we again started up the Mississippi 12 miles, then up the Missouri, on the 25th continued up, and on 26th arrived Jefferson City the capitol of Missouri at noon.

27th continued up the river and today seen immense flocks of Wild Geese at which we have had great sport shooting, both yesterday and today. Our Irishman Pat Bergan, has got considerably better the last few days, so that I think we will not have any more trouble with him. Passed Lexington March 28th arrived at Independence Landing, laid here all night so haveing time, nearly all the Co took a walk out to Independence. This is about 3 or 4 miles out from the landing and is the great starting point for Traders and Emigrants to Santo-Fee & c in all the west, more start from this place probably than all the other points combined. Independence claims to have 1500 Inhabitants.

29th before day light this A.M. were underway up the Mo. River. This day we had the peculiar experience of running on ground. Our Pilot either being blind or drunk run the on to the lower end of a small Island he blamed on the fog. Some of the fellows were considerably alarmed again.

30th continued up the river. Nothing happened worthy of notice except shooting Wild Geese. Arrived at St Jo Mo. on March 31st at 6 PM. This being saturday just 16 days comeing from Pgh. On Sunday AM the capt of the S.Boat unloaded on the beach and and we had to go to work, strike tents and camp encamp out on sunday. St Jo is quite a smart little place of about 1200 inhabitants.

April 2nd rained all day. 3rd continued raining and not do anything but stay in our tents. 4th it cleared up and was verry pleasant. Put our Wagon together. R.L. Gilghrist would not work and quarreled with the rest of the mess. April 5th lay waiting for our mules. 6th mules arrived and we were busy all day breaking them to work. It was laughable to some of the men getting kicked over by the mules. April 8th 1849 is sunday ceased work & laid in camp all day.

April 9th 10th and 11th we worked with our mules all the time and have now gotten them broken in to work very well. 12th Rained and blew up cold almost as cold as a winterday, so that I have caught a severe cold. 13th today we held our Company election. I was was one of the Inspectors, and had to stay in the tent all day attending to it. Wm J Ankrim was elected Capt. T Thornberg 1st and Wm H. Call 2nd Lieutenant, M Kane Jr President, S.H. Sarber vice Prest, Wm M Mursay secty L.G. Berger Treasurer.

14th to day rec'd a letter from my Wife, it being the first word from home since we left. It came by the hand of Jacob Hunker, he also brought me a likeness of my wife. Went out about 5 miles today for a load of corn for our mules, had a cold drive of it for the day was verry cold.

15th Sunday again and the whole Co. stoped work. 16th we arranged all our things to start tomorrow. 17th instead of starting, R.L. Gilghrist again quarreled with the rest of the mess, put him out and took in James M Braden. 18th Braden changed his mind and we left him out again and arranged evrything to start for old Fort Kearney in the morning.

19th left St Joseph and proceeded up the river towards old Fort Kearney, came 14 miles to day to Savannah. Found the road verry muddy, to bad for us to get along with six mules, so on the morning of the 20th bought a yoke of Oxen, paid \$47 $\frac{1}{2}$ for them and this day came 7 miles in company with Beattys, McNairs, the Germans, and 2 Poland messes, and encamped at a verry pleasant place.

21st came 9 miles and ferryed over the Nodaway River, appearantly a small stream, but is verry deep and swift, a large quantity of water runs through its channel. This evening camped on a small Creek, raining hard, all got witt to the skin. Got brush to put in our tents for there is about 3 inches of water in the tents.

22nd Sunday again & we laid by. 23 to day traveled 12 miles and camped on squaw creek. 24th came 10 miles and encamped at the edge of a large slough or swamp that we came through today. Very hard traveling, it took us from 1 PM untill to come through it and it is only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide but so deep that our wagon went in in some places till the bed was on the mud. Had to take out our load and carry it out to the hard ground on our backs before we could get the wagons out.

25th came today 13 miles, and camped by a small stream of good water called Rock Creek. 26th rained verry hard last night. Laid in camp today. 27th traveled 5 miles, and camped on a small stream called High Creek. 28th came to the conclusion that were almost too early for the grass. Laid by and fed our mules and oxen, also 29th.

30th came 7 miles this PM and camped by a large swamp, called the willow Slough which us a full $\frac{1}{2}$ day to come through, we had again to unload our wagons, carry carry our goods on our backs to hard ground and then double team to get our wagons out.

May 1st 1849. Came 9 miles to the Missouri River opposite old Fort Kearney and camped on the Bank. May 2nd crossed the river into the Indian reservation of the Osage tribe. It was considerable of a job. The owner of Ferry charged us \$2 per team for the use of the old leaky flat, and we done the work ourselves, and here we are now camped in Indian territory.

May 3 put off from the River, this being our real start over the Plains into the Parraries Westward. We came today 22 miles and camped in the open Prarie, in a verry poor camping place justly called a Slough.

4th came 8 miles, and on account of the rain last night, and camped by a small creek, tolerable good grass, verry good place for all, only water, for that we had to go a considerable distance as the water in this creek is too salty to use. Today seen first herd of Pararie Wolves, gave chase for about a mile, but finding that that they were too much afraid of us, we shot after them, dropped off the chase and returned to camp.

May 6th/49. This being Sunday we did not travel any but lay in camp, but part of the day we were engaged in building a bridge over Salt Creek, so that we could get our wagon over and make an early start on monday morning.

May 7th struck our tents and came 15 miles, to Elk Creek, and camped by it. An excellent camping place, since leaveing St Jo I have been struck by one peculiar Chartaristic of the Streams in this section of the country, viz so deep and narrow. Some of them appear to be as deep as they are wide. All the country we passed since leaving the Mo. River, is a rolling Pararie.

✓ May 8th came 20 miles to day and at a place called Oak Grove a verry poor camping place. Timber small scrub oak and not much of it. Still continues rolling Pararie, not a for miles in some places. This day seen our first Buffalos and Elks, small herds of each, so far away that we did not persue them. Nearly every night since leaving the Mo. there has been some other co or companies camped near us. The leader of one of them is Francis Wormcastle formerly of Butler Co Pa. now from Buchanan Co Mo.

9th today came 25 miles, 15 of it over a beautifull level Prarie, like the description of the table lands in Mexico then 5 miles rolling and the last 5 miles along the Platte River bottom, very level but marshey, camped on the bank of the Platte River.

May 10th today came up the Platte 18 miles. Before we started the AM we had a visit from 12 Pawnee Indians, who came in to beg and I suppose to steal if they got a chance, for they have the name of being greatest thieves of all Indian tribes. The Platte bottom is one of the Pretiest in the world, from 5 to 12 miles wide, very level, and verry rich soil &c &c, but no timber, except occasionally a fiew trees along the bank of the river. This PM had the bad luck to break the front hounds of our wagon, both square off, so the tongue was entirely loose. We tied the tongue on with chains, and got to camp, again on the bank of the River Platte. 3 of us had to wade & swim the river to get a stick to make a pair of hounds of.

May 11th this AM took our wagon apart, the old hounds out, made a new pair & put them in, put the wagon together & was started before 9 AM. Before we left camp this AM were again visited by a whole tribe of Indians, Soux, who wanted swappe for every thing that we had. Come 22 miles and again camped on Bank of the Platte.

✓ May 12th/49. Came up the river 20 miles, and are camped besides a Co of Missourians, under a capt Braden. They have ox teams. This AM McNairs mess bought a poney & put it to work instead of one of the mules. At noon when they unhitched to let them graze, it got loose and ran away, and they not seen or heard of it yet, and I suppose never will.

May 13 Sunday again, and we are laying in camp. To had much quarreling in the mess, nearly came to blowes, it is quashed for the present.

May 14th 1849. Came today 20 miles up the river & are camped on the bank. This river Platte is a verry strange stream. Varies so much in its width, some places it narrows in so that it only about 100 yards wide. Again it spreads out untill it a mile & $\frac{1}{4}$ wide. Verry muddy, can wade across it in many places, and the bottom is a quicksand.

May 15th came across a bend of the river, about 14 miles, and are camped on the plain where we have neither wood nor water.

May 16th today came 16 miles, rained on us all day, are now encamped at Fort Childs, now called new Fort Kearney.

May 17th came to the conclusion that we were too heavy loaded and laid by to lighten up. Threw out all boxes, put all our provision clothing &c in bags and sacks, and I bought a horse from a man named Goodyear. Being now satisfied that we must have a lighter load and stronger team, or we would never get our wagon through to California, I even threw away my two trunks. It is raining again.

Friday May 18th Started from the Fort early, & before we got more than 5 miles Beatty & McNairs mess concluded to follow our example & stoped to lighten their loads & trade of their wagon for a smaller one for their teams were giving out. McNairs mess mules were entirely given out, and I advised them to trade them for 5 yoke of oxen. Came today 25 miles & are now about 15 miles ahead of Beatty & McNairs messes fear they will not ketch up unless we wait for them. I guess we will have to do so when we find a good camping ground. Only 4 messes with us tonight, the 2 Poland messes, the Germans and ours, 20 men, are camped on the River bank, and in sight of 3 others companies.

May 19th this AM learning that 15 messes of our Co. were only 1 day behind us and wished us to wait for them, and as it was raining, concluded to do so, and did not break camp today. And while laying here, an Illinois Co. in which was W.A. George (formerly of Butler Pa) passed us. Today traded of our yoke of oxen for a good horse & got \$15⁰⁰ to boot.

May 20th after waiting all day yesterday and 3 hours this AM gave up all hopes of the rest of coming up with us in any reasonable time, and started on. Came 18 miles and camped in sight of two large trains or Co's in one of which is W. A. George.

May 21st came 12 miles. Haveing waited $\frac{1}{2}$ a day for our other two messes to come up, which they did this evening.

May 22nd came 20 miles after the train was under way. Went out hunting Antelopes as they are verry plenty. Shot one. For the fiew days have almost been in despair of ever getting our heavy wagon to Cal.

23rd today traveled 22 miles up the River.

May 24th came only 10 miles as is again raining hard and verry cold. Chased a herd of Buffalo's with a man by the name of Squires of an Illinois mess, and we got one, this furnishing all our messes with and abundance of delicious fresh meat.

May 25 came today 17 miles through a cold rain. Suffered verry much. Camped in a place where we can get no wood to make a fire and had to go to bed supperless.

May 26th came 18 miles again over the delightful bottoms of the Platte to the crossing place of the South Fork of the Platte. Today seen numerous droves of Wolves, a large drove of Buffalo's & many Antelopes.

May 27/49 Sunday again did not travel but forded the South Fork so as to be ready to make an early start in the morning.

May 28th left the river after coming up it for 12 miles and struck across the north fork, 13 miles more, making 25 miles and camped on the Prarie.

May 29. Came 23 miles, 8 to the North Fork and 15 miles up it. Camped on its bank.

May 30th rained so verry hard that we could not travel and laid up all day.

May 31st came 20 miles up the North Fork and camped on its bank.

June 1st 1849, came about 22 miles, crossed two creeks of clear water, good and sweet, not verry deep, easily forded. This P.M. being in sight of the Grand Tower or Courthouse Rock, thought we would walk out to see it. Seemed to be only 2 or 3 miles, but before we reached it we found the atmosphere is so clear that distances are verry deceptive. This tower is one of the greatest Phenomena in the world, a grand sight nearly 800 feet long and $\frac{1}{2}$ as wide and must be near 400 feet high offsetts all around it in about evrry 30 feet of height so that teams might be driven around it. 3 of us clumb to the top of it and cut our names there.

June 2nd came 18 miles, and stoped to chimney rocks or the needle Rocks. 3 of them about 50 diameter at the base, round, tapering to the top & about 400 feet high, composed of the same material as Grand tower viz cemented gravel.

June 3rd came 25 miles and are camped about 2 or 3 miles east of Scotts Bluffs where there is a Indian trading post and a small Blacksmith shop, also 3 springs of excellent Water, which was a great thing to us, for 15 miles of to days travel was without any water. From here we can see Larrimies Peak or mountain, said to be 140 miles from this, can also see Snow on top of it. A beautiful view.

June 4th/49 today started at 4 AM before breakfast came 25 miles and are camped at Fort Larrimie, a trading post of the American Fur Co. Beatty mess & mine traded our two heavy wagon off for 3 light wagons. Fort Larramie is situated in the fork of North Platte & the Larrimie Rivers, the latter stream we forded to day, water was up into the beds of our wagons, were informed here the a co of emigrants 5 days ahead of us were robbed by the Indians, Crow or Sioux, also that they had taken ten head of horses from 3 Mormons, one of whom is my informant. I do not give him much credit.

June 6th this AM fixed up our light wagons and loaded up, and after dinner got under way again. Came 12 miles, and are camped at what is called the warm Springs.

June 7th came 15 miles and camped on a small creek on act of a heavy rain.

June 8th came 26 miles, bothe yesterday and to day traveled over a verry rough hilly country called the Black Hills, have crossed a Stream evry 5 or 6 miles since leaving the fort, are camped to night on spring creek.

June 9th 1849 came about 23 miles, before starting this AM while waiting breakfast amused ourselves shooting the heads of rattlesnakes.. Killed more than 100. We are camped out in the open country among the hills. Today about noon we crossed a verry fine Creek called Lemont River.

June 10th came only 16 miles and about noon crossed the LaBrieve River, and camped this evening on the LeBouche river.

June 11th came 22 miles. After traveling 4 or 5 miles this AM we again struck the North Platte and about 5 miles more crossed Deer Creek and are encamped on the bank of the Platte.

June 12th 1849 Came up the Platte to the usual crossing where there are 9 Mormons keeping a ferry, and as the River is up so high that we cannot ford it, we must wait for our turn to be ferried over, and there are about 150 wagons ahead of us, laying here waiting their turn. Yesterday chased a Buffalo about 12 miles and mett a war party of Crow Indians well armed and mounted on fine horses, but they treated me verry Kindly.

June 13 lay waiting all day and our turn has not come yet, so many ahead of us. Took our mules out about 4 miles to graze.

June 14th/49 Not yet over, but swam our mules over, and I with 9 men with me stayed over to watch them fearing the Indians would Steal them.

June 15th this morning our turn was the first, and started on our way. Came about 23 miles and camped where we have neither wood or water, over a hilly and sandy country. Had my foot run over by the wheel of the wagon and cannot travel with comfort. Will have to ride for some days.

16th Started at the break of day, came 6 miles to water were stoped & got our Breakfasts, came to day 25 miles. Camped by a small river or creek.

June 17/49 and traveled 7 miles to Independence Rock and I climbed to the top of it. From it we had a delightful view. To the East a small Rock and further on a level valley for about 25 miles. To the west the sweet Water river valley, up which we can see about 15 miles, and North South towers great ranges of the rocky mountains. This rock is more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long and nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ mile wide. South end level with the ground and to the North end is fully 400 feet high. It is a kind of Granite rock somewhat similar the common mill stone, oval on Top. Came to day 20 miles, 13 of it along the Sweetwater and through hellgate. Camped on the Sweetwater which well deserves the name.

June 18th Came 22 miles to day, up the river, over a verry sandy bottom road. Again camped on the river Bank.

June 19th To day came 28 miles over high rocks and in places sandy Plains. 18 miles of it was without water, the rest of the way up the valley of the Sweet-water.

June 20th/49 Came 26 miles, partly up the river and partly across the hills where there was a large bend in the river. On this cut across we could get no water.

June 21st 1849. Came 23 miles and passed through the south pass of the Rocky Mts where we can see snow caped mountains in evry direction, and within a few feet were two springs of good water one flowing towards the Atlantic and the other to the Pacific ocean. We camped two miles west of the Pacific spring.

June 22nd came about 27 miles and crossed big sandy creek. Tonight are not going to camp only stoped to get our suppers, & let the mules graze, for we learn the next 50 miles is over a barren country without water, almost a desert - no grass.

June 23 Started at 8 oclock last night, traveled all night. At day break having found a little grass, stoped to let the mules graze and get Breakfast, and came on to Green river making this day 50 miles. Camped on the bank of the Green River in Oregon, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the ferry. For the last six days we have had verry poor grass and our mules are beginning to show it pretty badly. We have a better appearance on valley of Green river and hope to find grass to recruit our animals. Grass is only in the valleys, there is scarcely a blade on the Hills, and verry little timber, a chance scrubby Cedar, Some little Pine on the Mts. I have been struck with one characteristic of Country all the way from the Missouri river to the Rocky Mts is a regular gentle rise, almost a naturally graded RR.

June 24th 1849 Came down to the ferry, took our mules out to good grass. Camped on the river bank. Plenty of in this river. We caught some 2 feet long.

So many here ahead of us, we will not get over for a couple of days.

June 25th Layed all day waiting our turn to get over.

June 26th got our wagons ferried over early and swam our mules over. We have had so much quarreling in our mess that I concluded leave it for a while, so took my horse and mule & in co with 5 others tried packing a while. (Wallace, Blythe, Whiting & Morrison of no 21 and Gilghrist). Made pack saddles.

June 27th This morning started packing, but only came 10 miles on acct of Blythe being sick. Camped by a small creek with an Iowa Company.

June 28th came 26 over the Bear river Mountains. Plenty of good grass, knee high & plenty of good springs of water. Camped on Ham's fork of Bear river, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from a village of 3000 Shoshones or Snake Indians, our camp tonight is full of them, all wanting to swappe for everything that they can see. Yesterday traded my horse of for a mule & wagon for a jennet as it will be better for packing.

June 29th/49 This morning I traded with the Indians a Red Blanket two Flannel shirts &c for a verry nice Poney. Came today about 30 miles up the Bear River valley.

June 30th 1849. Came down the river 22 miles. Camped on the River Bank.

July 1st 1849. Came 22 miles Still down the River, occasionally cutting across the Hills at the large bends, and they as rough and steep hills as we have yet seen. This cutting across the hills was to save distance, where the river was to crooked to follow.

July 2nd Came 25 miles still down, and are camped just below the Soda Springs. These are a wonderfull curiosity, a large circular basin over 100 across, and near the middle of it boils and bubbles up a strong stream of water, so strongly impregnated with soda that it can be used for making Bread.

July 3rd came 20 miles over some rough and rocky Hills, camped on a small stream that runs into the Bear River.

July 4th 1849. Started hopeing to reach Fort Hall tonight but came 35 miles and camped on a small creek of good water and good grass.

July 5th Came 8 miles to fort Hall. Overtook 2 other small parties of our co. yesterday, making 30 of us together now. The British Flag was floating over Fort Hall and we ordered to take it down or we would tear it down. They hauled it down immediately, and excused themselves by saying that was not up to claim any jurisdiction of England, but simply to notify the Indians that some British traders were there with good to trade with the Indians for furs pelts &c. This PM have come 14 miles making 22 today, are camped on the bank of the Portneaux River or Snake river. We are nearly eaten up by the musquitoes.

✓ July 6th Came 26 miles down the Portneaux, and overtook the Butler German messes tearing up their wagon and making pack saddles to pack the rest of the road. We stopped a while to help them fix up and let our animals feed.

July 7th 1849 Got under way and came 30 miles down the river and camped on a small creek.

July 8th Traveled a small creek 28 miles toward the Blue or goose Mts. Camped by it.

July 9th Came over the Blue Mts or Goose Hills. 30 miles and camped by a small run.

July 10th Came 39 miles still over the same Mts. & this PM caught up with the bal of my mess and Beatty's mess. My old mess were in trouble again quarreling and were verry anxious for me to come with them again and I agreed to do, on condition that they would quit quarreling & obey orders, and they agreed to do so. Camped by a small run.

July 11th Came 33 miles, still on the Mts. Camped by a small run.

July 12th Came 30 miles still among the Blue Mts. Are encamped by a good spring.

July 13th Came 30 miles to the headwaters of the St Mary's or Humbolt River.

July 14th Came down the Humbolt about 30 miles, yesterday traded my jennet for a horse.

July 15th Came 40 miles still down the river. Grass getting scarcer evry day. It was afternigh when we camped and we could find grass to tie out our mules, and left them loose, and this morning 3 of them are missing. Laid up to hunt them.

July 16th Not haveing found, only got started by noon. Came 23 miles, and camped on the river bank. Water geting worse and the grass scarcer. German stayed back to get their mules.

July 17th Came 20 miles, and stoped to let the two men of the German mess catch up with the strayed mules. Having heard that Beatty's mess had got them, and that they were back about 10 miles, camped on the bank of St Mary's river. Last night I found a good mare that had been left by the wayside. Yesterday PM Went to see the renowned Steam Boat spring, Luke warm water. Keeps shooting up evry fiew seconds, 20 feet or more. Colum of 6 or 8 inches.

July 18 Came 10 miles, and laid up to enable the 2 men to come up with the strayed animals.

July 19 Came 35 miles. Camped on the River Bank.

July 20 Last night all our animals stampeded about 11 oclock. We supposed it was the Digger Indians. Hunted them all morning and got them just befor noon. Came this PM about 20 miles. Was quite unwell this AM. Diarea.

July 21st Came 30 miles over barren sandy road and in places numerous hot spring swamps.

July 22nd This day came 28 miles, and camped on the river bank.

✓ July 23rd Traveled about 35 miles and camped alongside of the Star Brilliant Co. of Uniontown Pa. Road very sandy and barren, in fact it has been getting worse ever since we have been on this river. Water getting more brackish, and the grass poorer each day. For the last fiew days the grass has been the worst on the trip. Our animals are falling away verry fast. I am afraid the Co. behind will not be able to get through, for we are among the first 1000 of probably 50,000 Emigrants on the Plains crossing this summer, and when there is not enough of grass for our animals to eat. Some nights cannot get any at all. Then what must the hind one's do.

July 24 Came 30 miles today. Water in the river is getting so brackish that it can not be used and we depend on meeting springs or small runs that come from the hill sides & run into the river, and they are scarce. Hoping to meet some one that we can get a supply & fill our vessels to cross the dessert.

July 25th/49 To day came 15 miles to the lower end of the sink of St Mary or Humbolt river, so called because of the river entirely disappearing, sinking into the earth or sand and not reappearing afterwards. The sink itself is a lake of about 10 miles or more wide and more than 20 miles long, and is on the edge of the 65 miles desert. Water in it is about the color and of what comes from a stable manure field, so full of Alkali & salt that neither man nor beast can take a mouthfull of it. No grass for the mules, nor water for them or us, yet we must start over the desert of 65 miles and go 7 miles beyond it, before we can get water or grass. The grass on this edge is so meager that a mule eating all day could not fill his belly, a sheep could not live on it. Water worse than none. The more the animals would drink of it the thirstier they would get. At 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ oclock PM started over the dreaded desert. As we passed along found the traveling verry hard and tiresome on account of the sand, always ankle deep and some places almost to the knee, so that we were scarcely 5 miles on our way before some of the animals began to give out. We had to fairly push them along. The mule that I had been riding gave out so badly that I had to turn her loose and drive her before me. One horse and one mule of the German mess had to be left behind on the desert. All of us were nearly dead. For my part I thought I could not live another hour without water. Roman Staley of the German mess was so far gone, that he could not speak. His tongue swollen up so that it completely filled his mouth, and we were compelled to leave him behind, placed under the shade of a wagon & blankets under him. Left a man to stay with him and take care of him untill we could back for them. I then being the only of the party that sufficient strength left to do so, unpacked all the mules, left Bergan to take of the packs, and drove them before us, haveing to fairly push them before us for the last 5 miles of the desert. Began to be a little gradually getting better as we went towards the river (Carson) which is 6 or 7 miles west of the desert. It was a great relief when whe reached Carson River. Clear and cool water, for men just dying of thirst. I was then in fear that some of the men would kill themselves drinking, so I got some of them to take a drink and then tickle their throats untill they would up the water, then a small drink would quench their thirst. Myself and some others waded into the river and squatted down entirely under water except mouth and Eyes and thus quenched our thirst by absortion & cooling the Body. All we had become sufficiently rested I with two others took the freshest mules and went back into the desert for the men & packs left behind, taking water with us for them, and hopeing to find them still alive, which we did and brought in. This was certainly the hardest time that we have had since we left home and started on this trip.

July 26th 1849 Yesterday I had almost given up hope of getting all the men through but since resting today and are so far recuperated and refreshed we feel safe to bring all in to Cal.

July 27th Having got evrything over the Desert, last night we moved about 6 miles up the River valley to where we can get still better grass for our mules, for they need it badly, they have fallen away so much, that they look two Boards nailed together. Coming this infernal Desert hurt our mules more than any 3 week of travel since we started.

July 28 To day we rested our animals and ourselves in a pretty camp on Carson or Truckee River. Good grass and delightfull water.

July 29 Beatty mess having arrived yet we laid bye untill late this PM, it being after dark when they got into camp. They had a verry hard time of it.

July 30th Started up the river 5 miles and crossed the little Desert. 15 miles wide, not so barren as the Large one. This morning J Kiser and John Lemon of my mess came up to us. Got over this Desert easily about Dusk and camped on the river bank haveing come 20 miles.

July 31 Came 26 miles over a third Desert, haveing cut across a large bend in the river. Got over and camped on the River Bank.

August 1st 1849. Came 28 miles, 18 of it up the River, and 10 over another cut across, so barren that it was almost dessert, and camped again on the River. Good grass & water.

August 2nd Came 30 miles up the river, camped in the valley of Carson River. This a verry pretty valley to travel through.

Aug 3rd Came 18 miles, 12 of it up the river valley and we struck the Sierra Nevada Mts. To day was the worst road that we had since we left Pgh. It was through the Carson river Canyon, up steep rocky Hills and down others again all PM. Immense Rocks.

Aug 4th Came 26 miles to day up the Sierra Nevada Mts at one point for $\frac{1}{2}$ miles it was almost perpendicular and we had to use rope to cordelle our wagons up, those that sill kept their wagons. This over Ranges of the Siera Nevada Mts, immense rocks. It done us good however to see the fine large timber. For 500 miles before we struck the truckee river, scarcely saw a tree worth the name. This Mt is well timbered, and there are plenty of springs of good water, all the way. Tonight near Midnight we killed our first Grizeley Bear, by the help of an Iowa Co. Camped on top of the pass over the Navada, poor grass for our mules.

Aug 5th Came 16 miles, and camped to let the mules feed as we have had very poor grass for our mules. Down a ridge of the Siera Navada. Found the grass only midleing.

Aug 6th Came down the Mts 16 miles, had to $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 miles of the trail to get grass. Laid here all PM to let the mules graze, being informed the last good grass we will meet untill we reach Suters Fort or the Sacramento vally.

Aug 7th Came only 14 miles and camped by the road side.

Aug 8th Came 12 miles this morning & struck the first Gold diggings at Hangtown or Weavertown. Camped and watched the miners washing out gold. Tried my hand this PM and got out about 75 cents worth, all the miners say that it is better farther down, and will go down.

Aug 9 This morning we again tried gold washing and after working till noon had only got a little over a dollar each. This PM moved down 5 or six miles from Weavertown or Creek to Hastings saw mill (old Suters) on the south Fork of the American river which empties into the sacramento river and is sometimes called the south fork of the sacramento. This town is now called Colloma & is the county seat of Eldorado Co. Found here an immense no of miners, among them the two Poland messes who got here yesterday. Quite a smart town here. Nearly evry house is a store. The prices are at present Flour 50 cts per lb, Bacon 1 dollar, and all other things in propotion, Boarding \$28 per week.

Aug 10/49. Dug and washed all day and only got $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars worth, not enough to board me.

Aug 11th/49. To day two others with myself bought a washer or rocker, paid 4 oz for it, and went to washing out gold with it. Got about 16\$ worth. It costs at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ per day to buy your provision and cook it yourself and Sleep under the trees.

Aug 12 Worked out a little better than yesterday, not much.

Aug 13th Today got \$12 each.

Aug 14th Today only got \$8 worth each. On last sunday 11th wrote to my wife.

Aug 15th To worked hard and only got about \$1⁰⁰ worth each and became a good deal discouraged.

Aug 16th Today got 22\$ worth of Dust for 3.

Aug 17th Got \$16 each.

18th sunday did not work.

Aug 19. Wrote home again to my bro James.

Aug 20th To day got 22\$ worth each.

Aug 21st Got 18\$ worth. Yesterday Robt Wilson went to the middle Fork. Jahn M McGanghey and myself worked. Got 18\$ worth for the two.

Aug 23 Got 16\$ worth each

Aug 24 To day got \$14 each.

Aug 25 Again sundy not working and I was verry unwell with the diarea began yesterday.

Aug 26 Diarea not much better yet, had to work easily & save myself. Took medacine, but got \$18 dollars worth each. Organized our party into a party of twelve. I was made Prist.

Aug 27 To day I am better. Got \$14 worth of gold, had then saved 247\$ each.

Aug 28th/49 Two of us started over to the middle Fork to prospect. Traveled very high and steep hills this PM. Came 4 miles.

Aug 29 Came 11 over the same precipiteous hills to Spanish bar on the Middle Fork. Made a pretty thorough test and were not satisfied with it.

Aug 30 Came back as far as Kelseys bar and prospect it on 31st and Sept 1st with no satisfactory success.

Sept 2 Today found a place were in an old race from a dam the two of us made $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Sept 3. Sent my men over the other and the tools &c. Made \$80 worth. This PM the other came.

Sept 4th/49 This day 9 of us worked below Rileys Dam and made again 80\$ worth.

Sept 5 Left the Co working on Rileys bar and went up the River to prospect volcano bar. It is about 8 miles from Rileys bar, the prospect was not satisfactory.

Sept 6th Came down to Spanish bar, prospected it.

Sept 7 Prospected down the River all day. Not successful.

Sept 8th/49 Being dissatisfied with the Middle Fork, only having \$400 in 5 days for the twelve of us, came back to Suter or Hastings old saw mill.

Sept 9th left the co working and to 1 man with and up the river to prospect it and look for a good place to put in a dam so as to work its bed. Staked of a claim for a Dam about 5 miles above Colloma, and concluded that we would put in a dam there unless we could find a better place.

Sept 10 Came back to Col and worked with & 11th 12th and 13.

Sept 14 Worked on the bar, not doing all satisfactory, and becoming very much discouraged. Scarcely made enough the last 4 or 5 days to our boarding. Today a merchant here of me a situation to run a pack train for him to the different mines up the Middle Fork. Offers me \$300 per month and my boarding and all expenses, about concluded to accept it. But get him to give me two weeks to decide, as I did not wish to leave the rest of the Co. until I had got them into a better place to work.

Sept 15 Prospected down the River and found a place to dam the river 7 miles down that I think is far better than the other one up the River, but on discussing the matter over, came to the conclusion that it was too late in the fall to dam the river this year, so wrote out and posted notices of our claim to this portion of the river and decided to look for a place in the Dry diggings, where we could work during the winter and then put in our dam when the river was low enough in the summer. In the mean time I decided to decline the pack train offer and stick to the boys as they seemed to depend on me.

Sept 16th Went up to Kelseys Canyon, Dry digging, prospecting and found a satisfactory place.

17th Took with Wm J Beatty, Wm J Stewart, Michael Mechling and Pat Bergan. Went up to Kelseys Dry diggings and built a Log cabin. 5 other of the Butler messes built another and the two Poland messes 2 others, and this with the laying in a stock of Provisions for the winter, bringing it up from Colloma. The reason we laid in an enough Provision to last us through the is that we are informed that during the wet season the roads get so soft that no animal can get through. All this with occasionally mining Gold in which we were only moderately successful, occupied us till Oct 21st and on the 22nd it rained, as it did the bal of Oct every day more or less. Still we mined part of the time, during Nov it rained almost incessantly but we mined some. Nov 13th was our election for free or Slave state, also a full sett of state officers and our Co all took a very active part in it. On the 26th of Nov took the Diarea again. Still worked between showers. During most of the last 6 week we worked each for himself, except Irish Pat - who would leave me unless I would chase him away, so I had to keep him and let him work with me, and we have been doing very well, the best of any in our crowd, from as low as \$14 dollars per day to as high as \$56, the highest day in two months.

Dec 31st Beatty, Stewart, Mechling, and all my mess but myself took sick near the first of this month, and I had a very severe job nursing them towards the

last of this month. Stewart and Bergan were pretty well recovered but Beatty and Mechling are not better, rather worse. I fear they not get well again. Some good weather between Showers so that I could work and did verry well one day made \$46, other days less, \$92 for the two of us.

Jan 1st Beatty & Mechling still sick.

Jan 2 & 3 Henry Shepard thought that he could make money with an oxtteam down at Sacramento city and be ready to haul good to the mines as soon as the roads were dry enough, so I went partnership him in it and bought 4 yoke of oxen & wagon.

Jan 7 to 14. It continued to rain so hard that we could not do mutch, Sometimes nothing at all. To wett to start the team down. Still I worked some between rains and did verry well.

Jan 15 Started down to Sacramento, was all of 15th 16th 17th and 18th getting down, being anxious to see how Shepard is getting along with the team, rained on me all the way. Found the city flooded from 4 to 16 feet of water nearly all over the city.

19th 20th 21st & 22 Lay there trying to get out to Johnson ranch were our oxen are. A stockman that was down to Johnson ranch that there were only 19 head of oxen saved out of 600 on that ranch, all the rest were washed away by the flood so I suppose that our team is lost. I have not been able to get into the P.O. yet to see if there any Letters for me.

I this Jan 23 got into P.O. and got 5 letters from home all containing good news.

24th and 25th raining very hard. 26th and 27th Tolerable fair but showery.

Jan 28th This day learned that all the cattle that escaped drowning on Johnson Ranch are dyeing from starvation, so concluded give them up as lost and start back.

Jan 29th 1850, 30th & 31st still raining.

Feb 1st Came up to Colloma.

Feb 2nd This Morning got back to Kelseys Canyon, found my comrade Wm J Beatty verry much worse, almost dead. Grew rapidly worse and died at 6 oclock this evening. The Doctors held a post Mortim on him and found that his Liver and spleen were affected, in fact partly rotten.

Feb 3rd This P.M. we burried Beatty, in a beautifull grove of tall white Pine Timber, about 100 yards north of our cabin.

Feb 28th 1850. Rained some evry day. Worked as much as we could, and done verry, in fact the others were envious of Bergan and I doing so much better than any of them.

March 31st 1850. About two weeks ago the Doc gave M Mechling up, said that they could do no more for him and he would die. Bad wett weather all the month so that we could not do much, still worked all the time that we could.

April 30th/50 Weather the first two weeks was still pretty rough, rest of verry good. At the first of this month I and Bergan formed a temporary partnership with Dr Truesdale, J.B. Hartley, and Orlonzy McConnell to go over to the Spanish Bar on the middle Fork and work a long tom rocker. Tried it for 3 week and

only done tolerable well, so Bergan and I sold out our shares and came back to Kelseys. on May 5th/50, having only cleared \$44 for the 3 weeks work with the long tom and Quick Silver Machine. When we got back found S.S. Beatty and M Mathew Herron of Butler Pa. had just arrived in our cabin. Bergan and I took Patterson who came to our cabin on this 11th May, and with him came Jake Zeigler, James McLaughlin, J. Reiber, H. Hineman, to work with us and have done verry well, making from as low as \$8 to as high as \$47 per day each.

May 15 Left the 3 working in our claim and started up to the Yuba and Feather River to prospect them. Went as far up as Humbug canyon, tried in over a hundred places. Found nothing any better than we had at Kelseys.

On the 23rd have been working and doing well, so well indeed that the rest of the old Co. of 12 want to begin working in co again.

May 27th Left the rest of men all working in our old claim, and taking S.S. Beatty with me, started up between the south and middle Fork of the American river to prospect for coarse Gold near the volcanic eruptions. Spent one week and not find anything satisfactory to us so that we concluded to stick to Kelseys awhile longer. But while up there we had the grandest view that can be obtained in the world. Can see the whole of Cal laid out like a map, and out into the Pacific Ocean, and can see ships under sail apparently about 250 miles from shore. We all worked together and made verry. Over \$300 each up to since we came back from the Mts.

July 1st 1850. Left the others working our claim and took J.P. Patterson and went to work in another claim, up to the 16th done verry well, averaged \$33 per day. But the river has fallen low enough so that we should commence our dam. We cleaned up our claim, put what property we did not take down with us into the cabin, went seven miles to Coloma and down the south Fork 7 miles to our bar and we named Butler Bar. Other companys were trying to jump our daming claim so often that we had to send two men to maintain pass open, and it cost us considerable. The names of the co going into the dam, F.L. Negley, J.P. Patterson, P. Bergan, J. Beiber, M Herron, S.S. Beatty, Wm J Stewart, M Mechling, John Chamberlain, Frank Gerbode, Thos J Tadbroom. I had bought the interest of the 12th man Greib out so that I had two shares, hire in a man to work for me.

August 1st Spent all the last part of July working on the dam or rather the race for the Dam, and during all the month of Aug. continued ourselves and hired all the hands that we could get at 6\$ per day and on the race & getting cut for the dam.

On the 10th of Aug. P. DePark Taylor, Michael Denny and John M Bredin arrived over the plains and came to us and they being Butler men, we gave them James McLaughlin and Henry Hineman a price of the Lower end of our claim to work on the shares, but James McLaughlin took sick & about the 21st of Aug died.

1850 All the last part of this month we worked at our Dam and finished on the 17th of Sept 1850 and from that day to the 24th had 7 good days work in the bed of the river. The first days yield was \$364 worth of Gold, 2nd day \$624, 3rd day \$990, 4th day \$1516, 5th day \$2511, sixth day \$4250, seventh day \$6600⁰⁰. Total taken out of our daming claim was \$16,855⁰⁰ and our total expenses were for wages, Provisions, tools and all other was \$11,460, leaving a profit of \$5855⁰⁰. Being 12 shares, made per share \$448 clear profit, and as I had two week previously bought out Gerbode and Tadbroom, I held 4 shares. All agreed to defer the reputting in of our dam untill next summer and that we would go back to the Dry diggings for the winter, and come back and put the dam in again next summer. But as had promised my wife that I would not stay away more than 2 years concluded to start for Pgh. and I made a bargain with 4 Germans from

Butler who had been working for us, that they would come into the co in my place and work my 4 shares for equal half and half, which they are to do under the direction of J. P. Patterson my brother in law, unless I come back myself in time. And I packed up whatever I wished to carry Home and gave the remainder to the boys, principally to J.P. Patterson. Our Dam held the longest against the flood, but about 2 oclock the large logs of the Dam at Dutch bar, which was built on the same plan as ours, came down, struck ours and took it away. Some verry bad Language was used about that time.

Sept 25th/50 Started for Penna, fully intending to bring my wife back with me in time to be at putting in the dam again next spring.

27th arrived in Sacramento.

Oct 2nd Took passage on a steam Boat to San Francisco.

Oct 4th Engaged 3 Berths on the Darke Catherine, a sailing vessel of 250 tons burthen. These were for myself and Henry C Hineman and Patrick Bergan, who at the last moment had decided to come home with me. O.F. Hitchcock was the Capt of the Catherine.

Oct 9th 1850 Sailed from San Francisco. Sailed past the called the 3 sisters on Oct 15th and Oct 28th sailed into Acapulco Bay, which is a Beautiful circular Bay. Acapulco in Mexaco is a small city very pretty location. Part of the time on this trip had the Diarea and the Dr thought I would dye and to ask me what was to be done with the money and property I had with me. But I concluded that I was not ready to dye just yet and got well. While laying becalmed, went out in the jolly boat two other passengers & two sailors, got the boat almost full of black Bass, then two of us went in to take a Sea bath, and the other 3 played a trick on us, rowed slowly away towards the ship and made us all the way in, about 3 miles.

Nov 2nd 1850 Haveing visitied the old spanish Fort & other points, again sailed away from Acapulco, keeping near Land.

Nov 4 A man named Wilson from Missouri, a passanger who had been sick, died and we buried him a sea, the first funeral of that kind that ever I seen.

Nov 15th Arrived at Realegio, and Capt H says he he will lay here a fiew days, to allow any of the men who wish to do so to cross to the Gulf by the Nicaraguan route, and a party us went out to see the city of Leon at the head of the Lake, about 12 miles from Realegio. The vessel laid 7 days.

Nov 22nd Today sailed for Panima in central America. About 20 of our passengers had left us and gone by the Nicaraguan route.

Nov 30th Arrived in Panama Bay, being 52 days from San Francisco. Panama is a verry fine old city said to contain 40,000 inhabitants.

Dec 1st Hired one hombre, a greasy looking mulatto native to carry our luggage and started over the Isthmus for Chagres. Walked over the Mts for 35 miles to head waters of the Chagres River, and then down the River in a boat called a Bungo, or dug out. It is a large log, shaped like a cannoe. 48 miles down the river stoped a couple miles out of town, being pleasanter. While in camp here killed a Guigar or American Lion and while laying here, visited another old Spanish Fort on the south side or Spanish side. All the Americans are liveing on the North side of the River.

Dec 12, took a steerage passage on the Steamer Pacific at \$50 each and started for New York. Crossed the Caribbean Sea into the Gulf of Mexico, on the 16th rounded Cape San Antonio.

Dec 17th Arrived Havana on the Island of Cuba at 10 A.M. This is one of the prettiest Citys that I have ever seen. I think it would be as delightful a place to live as can be found, beautiful residences and shade trees &c.

Dec 18th Came on board the Steamer Ohio for New York, being transfered by the Capt of the Pacific to the Ohio.

Dec 21st While of Cape Hatteras, were struck by a most tremendous storm, it was blowing verry hard when we went to bed, but about oclock in the AM Capt sent men all over the vessel to wake up the Passengers of whom there were 560, besides the crew of 110, making in all 670. When they all got up, we found that the water gained so much that on the crew, that had been working all night and were completely given out. After the Passengers had been gotten up, and been put to work we found the water had gained so much on the crew that the lower hold was full and up to the second deck and $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet of water on the floor of that Deck, making fully 19 feet of water in the vessel and the ship rolling and pitching with the greatest possible violence, and evry shred of canvas torn to tatters by the wind. By day we had gotten the Passengers organized into pumping and bailing gangs. About 30 in each squad. The handle of each of the 4 pumps extended through the lugs of the pump, so that 15 men could work at each end at the same time, that is 30 men working at each pump and being 4 of them, it took 120 men to be working and 120 men resting to take their places, 15 minutes at the pumping and 15 minutes to rest, and being two of these schift per day, it to 480 men to man the pumps and keep them going without any interruption. And beside the pumps, there was two of the Bailey patent bailing aperatus. These by windlass raised each of one of about two barrels of water each and they came up evry $\frac{1}{4}$ of minutes, and this would be about 16 barrels per minute, and took nearly 100 men in gangs to keep the bailing aperatus going.

Dec 21. We have been working with all the power in our body and Soul for 26 hours and all greatly exausted upon examination that instead of gaining upon the water it had gained a little on us. And Capt Schmidt got greatly alarmed and told the Passengers that we were working for our lives, and the water had gained on us. And if we could not get it down so as to start the engines, that is kindle a fire under the boilers, we never could get away from this as the wind had destroyed all the sails and broken the yard arms so that it was impossible to rig up any sails and we must depend on the Engines. This had a verry demoralizing effect on many of the men. Many quit work, some swearing the officers of the ship, some crying and ringing their hands, some down on their knees, praying haveing given up hope and thinking their end was near. And under this state of matters we called a meeting of those who had lost their heads and decided to take charge of the ship, and appointed a committe of 3 to wait upon the capt and notify of our intention and desires. They were a Capt Dunn of Boston, Capt William an old English sea capt and F. L. Negley. We waited upon Capt Schink and he agreed to cooperate with us. And we then told him that the kind speeches he was making would not do, and that he must something cheerful instead, as his alarm had demoralized about $\frac{1}{2}$ the men, particularly the cowardly ones among them, and that we must again get them to work, as it is absolutely necessary that all work, and with a will if we were to save the Ship, and with renewed energy at that, as that the only hope of saveing ourselves, as there were only 5 boats on board and they would only hold about 30 each, 150 all told. And even these were pretty damaged by the storm. We then asked the

Capt if he had any Liquor on board and he said he had several barrels and told us where it was. And we appointed a reliable committe to bring up a barrel and take charge of it. They put it into the Capt saloon, and to all who wished a good drink of it, and it revived them that had been working, and put false courage into cowards who had quit work, so that we all got to work again, the cowards after that working nearly as well as the good men, and kept all the pumps and bailing buckets going. This P.M. the chief engineer of the vessel, by aid of a large no of men & a yankee windlass succeeded in getting the sharp end of a spar into some kind of a hole where a pipe has been broken off, thereby stopping a large part of the inflow of water and we have been gaining on it since dark.

Dec 22 Glorious news. This morning we have got the water down enough so that a fire can be started under the boilers, which they are now doing. This will enable us to start the vessel for Land and to start the steam jack pump and this verry severe labor. The wind has greatly fallen this P.M. and the ship is under way, but the waves are mountain high. Said to 60 feet. This evening we gave up the comand to the capt again, and he decided that there was to much danger in trying to make New York before he had some repairs, so he put the ship nose towards Norfolk Va. The land was seen last night at old Point Comfort, it is indeed a comfort to see.

Dec 23rd/50 Landed at the warf in Norfold, and the Passengers held a meeting and resolved to put in a claim of salvage for saveing the vessel. But I told them when they came to me about, as I had been one of the committee, that I was too glad that I saved my own Bacon, to care about any salvage. And Capt Dunn joined me and that nearly broke up the matter. I concluded to forgo all interest in it and hurry home. Let others do as they pleased about it, and took passage for Bing_____. Hineman and myself on a Bay steamer for Baltimore, where we arrived this morning.

Dec 24th. Came by RR to Philadelphia to day, and exchanged our gold for coin. Got 18.75 per oz for it. Bought myself a suit of clothes, and started for home.

Dec 25 By RR cars to Hollydaysburg and and then by stage over the mountains, all night in the Lumbering old coach on Dec 26th and to day Dec 27 in Salem, Westmoreland Co. Mett Wm Angus who told me that my brother Wm was dead. This was a terrible blow to me, as he was my favorite Bro. and I had not heard that he was sick. This P.M. arrived in Pittsburg haveing traveled more than 10,000 miles. Found all others of my family well.