

Nixon, Alexander B

Diary of an overland journey from Cincinnati,
Ohio, to California starting Mar. 10, 1849,
and arriving in Culloma [sic] Calif. on Aug. 10,
1849.

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Journal to the Pacific Ocean

Nixon, Dr. Alexander B.

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March 10th, 1849. Left Cin. on board the Steamer Pay State for St Louis and after a pleasant trip of five days arrived safely at that place--was then transferred to the Steamer St. Joe and in four days more was safely landed at Independence Missouri. I was attached to a company of fifty men organized at Cincinnati We had a joint Stock Capital of \$25,000. Our Company remained at Independence from the 20th of March until the 23rd of April, during that time the Company was engaged in breaking Mules to harness and getting everything in readiness for our long journey across the Plains The Country around Independence is very fertile and quite thickly settled. The town has a population of about 1500 and is beautifully situated, the country being high and rolling, and is about three miles from the river. From the town to the River there is a Rail Road in progress of construction and will be finished within the present year which will be of great importance to the place

April 23rd This day being the one appointed for the commencement of our journey--everything being in readiness, started off with our train consisting of ten Mule teams and one oxteam.--traveled about three miles and camped for the night in a small woods pasture, Our company was divided into ten Messes of 5 persons each. The Mess to which I belonged was composed of R W Cook David Kinsey D B Scott John Pearson and Myself.

Ap. 24th Our road to day has been quite hilly--country well watered by Springs, land very fertile but rather scarce of timber. About 16 miles beyond Independence is a small Stream called Blue River and would afford good water power for Milling purposes. Our Camp is on the Indian Boundary line near a Mr Libscomb's who has a fine farm under good cultivation and well improved. All the country west of him is Indian territory. As the grass

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July 29th Last night we made our beds among the willow--each one wrapping himself V.
up in his blanket and Slept soundly. This forenoon remained in camp. About 2 O'clock
P. M. caught our Mules and started out on the Desert for our wagons and succeeded
in getting them in to the River about 10. o'clock. Our Camp is on good grass, with
Plenty of wood and water.

July 30th The Iowa train left us again this morning and as usual took one of our
Messes with them. We decided to remain another day to recruit our animals, however
we moved up the River Some 4 or 6 miles to a fine large bottom covered with fine
wild clover and other nutritious grasses. This river is about 15 yds wide and has
some very fertile bottoms along its valley

July 31st We remained in Camp this day until about 4 o'clock this afternoon when we
again moved about 6 miles further up the River and Camped upon good grass with plenty
of wood & water. We see frequent signs of Indians. These Indians are hostile and
the most degraded perhaps on the North American Continent. The inhabit the great
Basin--live upon roots and insects and wear no manner of clothing whatever.

August 1st This day did not start until about 2 o'clock--having a Desert to cross
of about 25 miles to avoid a Kannyan on the river. Cut hay before starting for our
Mules on the road and to feed them after getting through in case we should find no
grass. The road in some places was very bad--being over plains of loose sand. Sat
through about 12. o'clock. Distance 26 miles.

Aug. 2nd This morning found that my horse was stolen during the night. He had
been rode by R. Cook through the Desert and was tied with a long Larriette to a
bush, and was stolen whilst Cook was asleep, however about 9 o'clock A. M. the horse
came into Camp with a peice of an indian Larriette around his neck. He had broken
loose from his captors and made good his retreat. The Root Digger Indians are very
troublesome along this part of the road. Those who have oxteams have to use the
most untiring industry ot privant their stock being killed or wounded during the
night. Last night there was a company Camped with us that had one ox killed and