

William Turner  
Diary

File  
1850  
Mar. 14

FEB 4 1958  
Alec Fisher

The writer of this diary, William Turner, son of Timothy and Betsy (Stone) Turner was born in 1818 in the State of Vermont. His oldest brother, Henry Bliss Turner, came to Wisconsin some time during 1848 and settled at Honey Creek. (Census of 1850 shows him at Honey Creek)

At what time William Turner came to Wisconsin is not known but is thought that he arrived in 1849. He left his brother's place in Honey Creek March 14, 1850 and arrived in California July 30, 1850. He died at Auburn, California January 1, 1851 of cholera, which was raging at that time. The little black book that he kept his diary in was returned to Wisconsin at some time later by Edwin Dyer, the man mentioned as E. Dyer in the diary. ( June 10th)

Edwin Dyer returned to Honey Creek to find that his wife had died while he was in California. In 1856 Henry Bliss Turner came to Winnebago County and at very nearly the same time Edwin Dyer also settled in Winnebago County too. These two families lived out their lives within one half mile of each other and are buried in the same cemetery. Some of their descendants still live in the townships of Rushford and Onro.

William Turner's Diary

Honey Creek, March 14, 1850

- March  
14 Started for California. Made 10 miles.
- March  
15 Made 21 miles. Took dinner under a bur oak tree.
- 16 Made 13 miles and put up for the Sabbath. Via Beloit.
- Sunday  
17 The lightening flashed, the thunder rolled & the air was full of snow.
18. Made 20 miles without anything worth note.  
Via Rockford and Freeport.
- 19 Made 26 miles. Stopped for the night.
- 20 Made 26 miles, put up for the night. See nothing worth note.
- 21 Made 25 miles. Put up at Galena for the night.
- 22 Made 18 miles, cross the Mississippi at Smith's ferry, 7 mile from Galena down the river.
- 23 Made 18 miles, over rough and uneven country and put up for the Sabbath, being cold and windy.
- Sunday 24th
- 25 Made 15 miles to Thorns Mill then two of us returned back to the place where we stayed on Sunday in pursuit of a rifle which we lost on the road.
- 26 This morning 2 miles from our nights resting place we found the rifle. Made 15 miles today over rough country. Cross the Wapsipinicon 18 miles from Tipton.
- 27 Made 25 miles, encamped for the night for the first time that we pitched our tent, it being one mile east of Iowa City.
- 28 Crossed the Iowa River this morning. Made 17 miles & put up for the night. We had to make some repairs on our wagon & harness.
- 29 Made 25 miles over a good country & put up at English river at the Grove.
- 30 Made 24 miles over a good country mostly unsettled. Pitched our tent for the night.
- 31 Rather cool this morning. Being under the necessity to travel in consequence of feed we made 19 miles. Put up at two o'clock where we found hay & corn a plenty.
- Sunday

April

- 1 Made 19 miles, mostly unsettled, passed through Oskaloosa (loaded with grain) 7 miles from our morning encampment & camped for the night.
- 2 This morning being rainy we made but 5 miles today. Crossed the Des Moines River & put up finding an empty house at Bellfountain we laid over waiting for the rain.
- 3 In consequence of the rain that fell yesterday & last night we are yet waiting here at Bellfountain.
- 8  
Monday We found ourselves on the road to California once more. We left Bellfountain at 8 o'clock, made 19 miles over bad roads & encamped at Wolf Runn (?) for the night.
- 9  
Tuesday Made 20 miles over flat & level country, very bad roads, crossed several small streams, drove  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the road where we found a plenty of wood & water & encamped for the night on Winnesota Branch down the bluff.
- 10 After exercising ourselves for one hour in catching two of our horses which broke loose from us we again started on our journey. Drove six miles over very bad roads, crossed White Breast, quite a pretty stream. There we ascended a very bad hill, drove 9 miles to Shardens Point (Chariton Point) where we took some refreshment then drove 6 miles & encamped for the night.
- 11 Made 25 miles over flat level prairie, tolerable good roads, water scarce, we encamped on a small creek, passed one grave on Infant Prairie. There is 7 teams here in camp tonight besides ours. Windy with rain.
- Friday  
12 The weather being very windy & cold we made 18 miles over a prairie country without any inhabitation, where there is but now & then a little timber, where we encamp. We have not been able to get hay for 2 days for our team. We have encamped on Watson Creek. The water is uncommonly white. I suppose it to be in consequence of the clay subsoil.
- Saturday  
13 Traveled 7 miles to Mount Pizga over rough country. There we bought 200 lbs of hay for \$1.25, corn was worth \$1.50 a bushel. We then drove 12 miles over prairie country & encamped for the night. There is 20 teams encamped with us tonight. The water is hardly fit to use for there is 100 head of cattle & horses to drink out of the puddle.

Sunday

14

The forenoon was very snowy. It has cleared up this afternoon & the weather is fine. The weather has been cold for some time. Traveled 22 miles today over prairie, crossed several small streams, also one grave on the prairie, the name was L. L. Burbank engraved on the headboard. We have encamped on a small stream for the night.

15

Traveled six miles over prairie country, crossed a small stream then drove 15 miles to Sand Creek where we took in wood & drove 5 miles. Encamped for the night on Cristal Stream.

16

7 miles from our mornings encampment we crossed Nishnabotny River, a small Mormon Town, pursued our journey over prairie, crossed several small streams. Made 22 miles today & encamped in a small grove for the night. The day has been very windy & cold & we are threatened with a storm. There is not only now & then a settler. We go from 5 to 50 miles between settlers. One of our men has gone after hay & one has gone a hunting, so ends the day of Tuesday.

There has 3 horses died today on the road for California. There is 30 teams in camp with ours tonight. We keep up a watch tonight for the safety of our team & feed. We got 138 lbs hay for \$1.38 tonight. Corn is \$1.50 per bushel, oats ther is not any in the country nor much hay to be had. The snow fell an inch.

17

Wednesday The weather continues cold yet. Traveled 5 miles crossed Big Nishnabotany, crossed several small streams, crossed Silver Creek, a small Mormon Town, passed through Centre Village, encamped 1 mile west of Centre Ville, a Mormon Town. Made 28 miles today, encamped for the night.

18

We moved two miles today back from Kaneaville & encamped. During our stay here at the Bluffs we found L. D. Lewis here. He arrived here the same time we did. There was a steamboat landed there the night that we come in here. It was 17 days in coming up from St. Louis.

19

Today we are out to buy grain for our team & provisions for ourselves. Bought wheat for \$1.00 per bushel to feed the team. The weather is more favorable than it has been before.

20

The weather is rather mild at present. The grass is but just a starting. Today our men are preparing for the journey over the plains. Two of them have gone to the mill with the wheat, one of them is buying groceries, one is a drawing hay which we pay \$8.00 per ton & I am keeping camp. Corn we pay \$1.25 per

bushel, potatoes 1 bu 75 cts, onions 75 cts.

Sunday

21

We lay in camp resting ourselves for our long journey over the plains.

Monday

22

We are all busily employed in getting ready to start on our journey. The weather has cleared up fine, fair prospect for good weather.

Tuesday

23

We again started on the road for California. Drove 20 miles down the Missouri River. We met with the Parrot on the above named River. Good roads here, we encamped for the night.

24

Today we crossed the Missouri River & encamped waiting for company to make our company sufficient for the trip to California.

25

The weather being exceeding fair we started on our long mission about 8 o'clock. We had one steep bank to ascend from the river this morning. Traveled 12 miles crossed 2 small creeks today, drove 1 mile from the road & encamped for the night by a small creek where we found wood. It is raining very little tonight.

26

The last night about ten o'clock the wind blew a perfect hurricane, subsided, & rained very little. This morning we started at 8 past 8, traveled 8 miles crossed two small creeks, one bad enough, arrived at Minnehaha Creek at 12 a.m. where one of our company broke one axeltree in consequence of which we lay up for repair.

Here we organize our company & make preparation necessary for the journey. We are composed of 52 men, 2 women, 60 horses, 18 wagons.

27

We were again on the road at an early hour. Our progress being more rapid today we made 25 miles, crossed several small creeks, encamped on the open prairie. We keep up a fire with weeds tonight which we gather in the ravine. The day has been cold & windy.

Sunday

28

In consequence of so much delay the last week we think it expedient for us to travel 7 miles from our mornings encampment. We crossed a small stream where we watered our team then drove 8 miles to Salt Creek. The water was too salt for use there. We took in wood crossed the stream, found fresh water, fill our canteens with water, drove 8 miles & encamped the left of the road on the open prairie. Salt Creek is skirted with cottonwood, the water is bad tonight. We have passed one company at Salt Creek of ox teams, also one dead horse, 3 dead oxen. The country has been extremely handsome for the 3 last days but scarcity of wood & water.



29 Four miles from our mornings encampment crossed a small creek very steep banks, drove 6 miles, crossed another creek, passed 5 oxen carcasses which the ravenous wolves had devoured their flesh. We passed one company, men with ox teams & some of them are in the state of starvation. Made 25 miles, encamped one half mile to the wright of the road in bur oak grove.

30 The weather being very cold & very windy we made preparation for our days work. Left our morning encampment half past seven, drove until Houston where we found about one acre of green grass where we bated. Here we went  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile for water to fill our canteens, found water 1 mile from our baiting place, 80 rods from the road for our teams. The road has been good today. About 2 o'clock we struck the Flat bottom, passed 14 wagons, chains, yokes, & left on the road by emigrants. Made 25 miles today. Encamped on a very nice creek. We pack wood  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to keep up a fire tonight. Crossed one creek today.

May  
1

The weather is very cold this morning. Drove 10 miles without water. We go 1 mile to procure it for teams. Drive up the Flat River. This River is skirted with white cedar & cottonwood. The water looks like the waters of the Missouri. Passed one place where there was 63 horses skulls layed in one circle, also one Indian village that was deserted. We also met a party of Indians that were just returning from war with the Sioux. The road being very sandy & hard wheeling we made but 22 miles today & encamped. We passed one company today of ox teams.

2 We were early on the road this morning. Traveled up the Flat River, the road being very sandy we made slow progress. We drove until 10 o'clock then we found some grass. We stopped to feed, we started about 12 o'clock & made about 16 miles today and encamped. Wood is scarce. It is very windy but warm today. We have a fine rain accompanied with some hale tonight.

3 Started about 8 o'clock, made 18 miles, the weather being very cold & our hay being gone we encamped about 3 o'clock. Passed Banks of Halesstones at one o'clock that was washed into piles by the rain. We keep up a fire with willows tonight.

4 The weather being warm this morning we started at 8 o'clock. Our men feeling anxious to get some fresh meat some of us persued some antelope but without effect. We again joined our company and persued our journey. Traveled today without finding water fit to use

We also see several wolves. We find no wood today, we keep up a fire with buffalo chips tonight.

Sunday  
5

Camped at  $\frac{1}{2}$  after 4.

Today it was thought best to travel on the account of scarcity of grass & our Sabbath's day journey ended 12 miles from our morning starting place. We encamped about noon  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Fort Kearney and spent the remainder of the day in camp.

6

Made 18 miles, found a sufficiency of dry grass. The roads is sandy & heavy wheeling. The river water which we are obliged to use is thick & muddy, much better however than none. It being my watch tonight with 2 others we feasted on the flesh of an antelope that our company killed today. At 11 o'clock p.m. 2 men came to our camp. We gave them a share of our antelope soup & accomodated them with the little which we had for the night. We get very little rain tonight.

7

Today we made about 20 miles on good roads. The general character of the country is level & handsome.

8

We were again early on the road this morning. Our progress being more rapid today we made about 28 miles. The river makes up to near the road at two places today the weather has been warm for 3 days but cool nights and mornings. No grass of any account except the dry grass for our team. We keep up a fire tonight with small willow & buffalo chips. Drove about 80 rods to the wright of the road where we found good water & encamped.

Met a company of men belonging to the American Fur Company, St. Louis. We met one company of 8 fur traders belonging to Roby of St. Joseph loaded with furs.

9

The Flat River bottom extends from one to 3 miles back from the river on the south side. Today we made about 20 miles, passed some peculiar bluffs with now & then an evergreen growing on their surface. We drove one mile from the road & encamped, found good water. The ground for 3 miles this morning was covered with alkali. About 10 miles from our mornings encampment the road bears to the river where we get water for our teams. We found one place this afternoon where we found water in a dead creek.

10

We lay over until 12 o'clock p.m. waiting for one of our men to make an exeltree to wagon. We then made 13 miles, found one mudhole where we watered



our teams. We crossed some deep ravines. we had about 8 hours rain during the night. We encamp  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the road where we find good water.

- 11 We find ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick in our pails this morning. 7 miles from our morning's encampment we find water for our teams, about 2 miles from our morning's starting place we killed a buffalo & took the most of his flesh for food. During the day we saw numerous herds of the buffalo ranging over the plains. Made about 20 miles today. Drove a little to the right of the road & encamped where we found water. Wood is very scarce for the last 3 days.

Sunday

- 12 We laid in camp preferring rather to make the Sabbath a day of rest than travel. For wood we burned a wagon for cooking our provisions.

- 13 About 7 miles from our morning's encampment found water. The country continues about the same. Made about 25 miles during the day. Passed a prairie dog town one mile from our morning's encampment. Also passed a company of Soldiers going from Fort Kerney to Fort Laramie. We encamp on the road side tonight without wood except some small sticks which we find on the bank of the river.

Tuesday

- 14 The monotony of the scenery has greatly changed from the level prairie to the broken bluffs & deep ravines. Passed through Ash Hollow where the evergreens springs from the crevices of the rock. 10 miles from our morning starting place we crosses the South Fork of Platt River then drove 10 miles before we found water. Passed through an Indian Village. They were Sioux. We encamp 2 miles west of the Indian Village. Night found us 28 miles nearer California than in the morning.

- 15 The day has been very warm but our progress has been slow. The road has been very sandy & heavy wheeling, the high & elevated bluffs & deep ravines still continues to lay along our road. Passed a small Indian Town & encamped 3 miles west of the village. Made about 20 miles. We bring water  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile but there is no indication of wood.

Thursday

- 16 The road over which we pass for 10 miles today is sandy & we find it very heavy wheeling. The surface is more on a level. Traveled 25 miles. Crossed one dry creek, also one small stream of water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from our encampment we find a spring of pure cold water.

Friday

- 17 7 miles from our encampment we crossed one small stream of water. 3 miles further on passed Solitary Tower. 4 miles to the left of the road. After walking 15 miles I had become very thirsty. I saw a pond of water & made towards it with the anticipation of getting a draught of water but to my sad disappointment it was naught but alkali. Therefore I was constrained to

travel 5 miles further for water. We had a fine rain during the night. Made 22 miles & encamped  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Chimney Rock. Wood is scarce for the last 3 days.

Saturday

18 Left our encampment about 7 o'clock a.m. made for Scott's Bluff. Traveled 25 miles & encamped in the valley to the west end of Scotts Bluffs where we found wood & water, grass poor.

Sunday

19 Grass being very scarce we drove 12 miles to Horse creek where we found good grass & water. We reached Horse Creek at 12 o'clock & spent the remainder of the day in camp washing & preparing for the weeks journey.

20 Drove 10 miles, struck the Plat River. The general character of the country has been broken today. Passed one Indian trading Station, traveled 23 miles encamped one mile from the river. There is no sign of wood.

21 Drove about 12 miles, forded the Larimie River & encamped about noon on the opposite side of the River within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile of Fort Laramie.

Wednesday

22 We lay in camp until two o'clock shoeing our horses cuppling our wagons & making other preparations for the week. Started 2 o'clock p.m. Drove 5 miles & encamped near Plat River.

Thursday

23 We left our mornings encampment half past six o'clock a.m. Drove 25 miles during the day. Ten miles from our morning encampment we come to a spring of water. Six miles further on we come to Bitter Creek & cold spring. Continued up the Creek for two miles & left it on the left. 4 miles further on we come to another small creek. The country which we travel to day has been rough and broken. We camp tonight in the valley where we find wood & water.

24 We left our camp at 7 o'clock this morning. 7 miles from our camp we come to Horse Shoe Creek. 6 miles further on we come to Plat River. 5 miles further on we come to the Plat again. We camp tonight to the right of the road where we found good grass, wood & water. The country which we passed for two days is spotted with evergreen trees. Our days travel ends 22 miles from our morning's camp.

Saturday

25 Started at 5 o'clock, traveled ten miles to La Bonte River, 5 miles further on we come to Marble Creek. We forded it & encamp on the bank of the creek. We Had a shower of rain & hail, which fell in torrents. Our journey ended 15 miles from our morning camp. This creek is about ten feet wide & very steep banks.

Sunday

26

We remained in camp today recruiting ourselves for the week.

Monday

27

We had a light fall of snow this morning which slightly empeded our travel.  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles from our morning camp we come to a small creek.  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles further we come to another small creek. One half mile further come to a very small creek. The road runs nearly two hundred yards down the channel of this creek. One & half mile further on is La Prele River, 20 feet wide, 2 feet deep. Small creek  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles on. Box Elder Creek one mile further on, five feet wide, 6 inches deep. Three & quarter miles further on we come to Fourche Boise River, 30 feet wide, 2 feet deep, current rapid, & encamped on its banks one half mile below the ford.

28

Four  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles we struck the North Fork of the Flat River. Five miles on is Deer Creek, 30 feet wide, 2 feet deep current rapid.  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles a deep ravine, steep banks. One mile a grove of timber on the bank of the river. Good chance to camp. One mile on is crooked muddy creek, 3 feet wide, gulch 2 and three fourths miles. We have traveled all day in sight of snow. Made  $31\frac{1}{2}$  miles today & encamped  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile up the Creek, 2 feet wide 6 inches deep.

Wednesday

29

All through the day has been very warm. The mountains still contain their snow. We crossed Muddy Creek 1 mile from our camp, 3 feet wide,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep, 2 ravines near together 3 miles further on. 3 miles another creek, 5 feet wide.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles further on we crossed the Flat Ferry. We drove 8 miles from the river & encamped in a hollow where there is not much chance for grass but no water. We payed \$3 for a wagon 28 cts for a horse to cross the ferry.

30

We left our camp at 6 o'clock a.m.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles to mineral Spring & lake.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Rock Avenue. Steep descent. The road here passes between high rocks for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile. 2 miles to Alkali Swamp & Springs. This place is not fit for a camping place. 4 miles further to a small stream of clear spring water. We have drove 18 miles today with out water. This alkali water is poisonous. The roads are of the best kind. 2 and  $3/4$  miles from this place is Willow Spring, clear cold water.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from here we crossed a bad Slough. After traveling 28 miles today we pitched our tents on the bank of a small creek. We found but very little grass, for fuel we have to use wild sage.

Friday

31

We found roads sandy & heavy wheeling. 8 miles from our morning camp is alkali Lakes & Springs. Here you may gather Salaratus. 5 miles from this place is Sweetwater River and Independence Rock, here we ford the river. This river is 8 rods wide & 2 feet deep & runs along the base of Independence Rock. Five & a quarter miles from this is the Devil's Gate. Drove 19½ miles & encamped one mile south of the Devil's Gate. We found good grass here but no wood, a plenty of water.

June

1

We found the roads today sandy & heavy traveling. Crossed several small creeks during the day, made 28½ miles & encamped on the banks of Sweetwater. We found a grate sufficiency of grass tonight.

Sunday

2

Not finding feed for our teams it was though best to travel 15½ miles from our morning camp. We came to Ice Spring, the ice from 18 to 24 inches under ground. Roads were heavy but night found us 26 miles nearer the Gold Regions than in the morning. We followed up the Sweet Water River & encamped on its banks. Very little grass was found for the teams.

Monday

3

It being quite rainy today we remained in camp here. We found that one wagon was sufficient to carry our loads therefore we loaded all of our traps on to the small wagon & left our large wagon.

Tuesday

4

The monotony of dry traveling has been relieved by the rain which fell Monday. We forded Sweet Water this morning, traveled 23½ miles, crossed several small streams & encamped on a branch of Sweetwater by the side of a snow bank. We have also traveled for the last six days in sight of snow. We here found a plenty of water & wild sage for fuel but very little grass.

Wednesday

5

We forded Sweet Water 7 miles from our morning camp. 9 and 3/4 miles from this river we found the Summit of the Rocky Mountains. Crossed 4 streams of water in our course & encamped 23½ miles from our morning camp. Here we found very good grass.

Thursday

6

7 miles from our mornings camp we crossed Dry Sandy. The water brackish & not fit for horses. Six miles from here is the Junction of California & Oregon Road. 7 and 3/4 miles from here we come to Little Sandy, making 20 and 3/4 miles drive with out water. Made 29 miles today & encamped on the bank of big Sandy.



Friday

7

We forded Big Sandy this morning, drove 17 miles without water then struck Big Sandy, the second time, then drove 10 miles to Green River where we encamped for the night.

8

We remained in camp until one o'clock p.m. Then forded the river, drove 2 miles down the river & encamped. The ferrying was \$4.00 for a wagon, 50 cts for a horse.

Sunday

9

We followed down the river  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles then left the river. No water nor grass for  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Land rolling, barren mostly sandy and several steep ravines to pass. We struck Black's Fork  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Green River. We encamp on Hams Fork. Our Sabbath day journey brought us 23 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles nearer Eldorado than in the morning.

Monday

10

We ferried Hams Fork this morning. We payed \$2 for ferrying our wagon & forded our horses. Here I met with E. Dyer of Honey Creek, Wisconsin. After crossing the river we drove 16 miles & encamped on a small creek.

Tuesday

11

No water today for 16 miles, then we struck Black's Fork, drove 28 miles & pitched our tents for night. Here we found a sufficiency of grass, wild sage for fuel & dug wells for water.

Wednesday

12

Two miles from our morning camp we descended along cobble stone hill very steep descent. Crossed several small creeks in our course & made 28 miles & encamped on Bear River. The general character of the country is now mountainous.

Thursday

13

We ferried our load this morning over Bear River. Forded our horses & wagon, the water very high & rapid current. We left the river at 2 o'clock p.m. Drove 10 miles encamped on Yellow Creek at the foot of a high gravelly Bluffs, the day has been cold.

14

The monotony of dry traveling has been relieved by occasional showers during the day. 4 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from our morning camp passed Cache Cave & Echo Creek. Crossed Echo Creek several times in our course. We encamped at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past eleven o'clock a.m., 12 miles from our morning camp & remained in camp the remainder of the day.

15

After a drive of 14 miles & crossing Echo Creek 6 times we struck the Red Fork of Weber River. 4 miles further brought us to Weber River ferry. Drove  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the river & encamp. The day has been showery.



Sunday

16

After a long & tedious days travel over uneven roads bad sloughs & crossing Canyon Creek 9 times, this creek 2½ feet deep, water very swift, we at last arrived within one mile of the summit of Eutaw Mountain at a late hour almost exhausted, where we encamped. We hitch our horses to the trees for there was not any grass for them to eat.

Monday

17

The snow was fast falling when we arose from our beds this morning. We soon threw the straps onto our horses, drove 5 miles where we found feed, turned out to bait & get our breakfast. After baiting we again started & a drive of 8 miles brought us to the Great Valley & within 5 miles of the City of Salt Lake. Here we encamped & turned the horses up on the mountain to feed.

Tuesday

18

Drove 5½ miles & encamped ½ mile north of the City & made preparations for the journey. Here we found ice in our pails for the two last mornings.

Wednesday

19

We drove 8 miles today from the City for grass. Here we encamped. The remainder of the day has been spent in preparing for the journey.

Thursday

20

After making necessary preparations we again rolled for Sacramento. Drove 8 miles, crossed several small creeks & encamped on rise of ground at the foot of the mountain which lays along the Valley.

Friday

21

23 miles drive brought us 3 miles north of Weber River where we encamped this river we pay \$3 each to ferry our wagon over.

Saturday

22

We made 25 miles today, passed the Hot Springs & crossed several creeks during the day & encamped on Musquito Creek.

Sunday

23

A drive of 16 miles brought us to Bear River which we ferried over wagon for \$5 & swam our horses. 2 miles from here we found a stream of poor water then a drive of 20 miles from here we found no water except warm springs. We drove 2 miles from here & made a dry camp. These springs brackish & not fit for use, we encamped tonight at 10 o'clock.

24

We was on the road at 4 o'clock this morning. A drive of 11 miles brought us to Cinque Creek. Here we lay in camp the remainder of the day. We was glad to find water here after a drive of 23 miles without it.

Tuesday

25

6 miles from our morning camp we crossed Deep Creek then a drive of 18 miles brought us to Pilot Springs. Here we found good water. 7 miles further brought us to Sink Creek on the mountain. We drove 2 miles & encamped, the last 22 miles barren, its principal product wild sage & greasewood.

- 26 We was early on the road this morning. 19 miles brought us to Cassions Creek, here we drove  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile over the slope of the mountain, this distance was all small stone that rolled from the mountain. Here we had to hold onto our wagons to keep them from upsetting. We followed up this creek for 11 miles, we filled our water cask, then left the creek & made a westerly direction. We made 32 miles today, crossed several small streams of good water & encamped one mile to the right of the road.
- 27 An early hour found all in readiness for a start, drove 3 miles to the Junction of Fort Hall & Salt Lake Road & steeple Rocks, then drove 12 miles over rough mountainous country to Goose Creek. Followed up the Creek for 5 miles & encamped. We had a shower of rain about 3 o'clock this afternoon accompanied with hail which fell in torrents. It also relieved the monotony of dry traveling.
- Friday  
28 The weather being fair we made ready for our departure. We followed up Goose Creek for 13 miles then left the Creek. Struck a small creek, followed up the canyon 3 miles where we turned our horses out to graze upon the slope of the Mountain. Made 30 miles today over rough rocky road mostly. Some steep hills to ascend & descend. We encamp tonight at the foot of Thousand Spring Valley near a spring of good water, a plenty of grasses & wood.
- Saturday  
29 We left our camp at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 o'clock this morning. Followed up the Valley & found but very little grass, water a plenty. The road generally good. Made 25 miles & encamped on a small creek where we found a sufficiency of coarse grass & sage brush for fuel. There was a woman died near our camp last evening & buried this morning.
- Sunday  
30 A drive of 3 miles brought us to the end of the Valley. We then followed up the canyon 2 miles & found a delightful place to camp. Here we remained in camp during the remainder of the day, washing our clothes & preparing for the weeks travel. Here we found a sufficiency of grass, wood & water.
- July 1  
Monday All things was in readiness at an early hour for our departure. We left our camp at 5 o'clock, drove 20 miles, turned out for dinner, here we found red clover. After dinner we drove 15 miles & encamped on Humbolt River. Wood scarce & grass poor, the road poor. We drove through clouds of dust today & looked more like Indians than white men. We looked much worse however than we appeared.

Tuesday

2

4 miles from our morning camp we come to the ford of Humbolt at Marys River, also two sloughs. Here we fell in with several wagons. The water being deep some of them was packing their goods over on horses others ferrying in a wagon box. With our men engaged in fording & packing our goods, some on their heads, others on their shoulders, & drawing our wagons over with ropes. It would be amusing to our Wisconsin friends to have witnessed the scene, while we were fording the river up to our arm pits. We drove 25 miles down the River & encamped one mile west of the River. Our wagons rolled feloe deep in dust the most of the day. The feed good.

Wednesday

3

Two miles from our morning camp we forded the North Fork of Marys River, near the Junction. Water  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep 20 yards wide, not swift current. Here we packed our things over on our horses & drove through with our wagon. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from here the river makes a turn & passes through the kanyon then makes back to road. Followed down the river 27 miles & encamped. The road very good except very dusty. We found good feed by going  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile up the gorge in the mountain. Near the river is very miry also the small yellow fly are very troublesome resembling the black fly.

July

4

Independence Day. It came not ushered in with the cheerful clang of bells or the Happy Clamor of Artillery, still our little band of Americans acknowledge it on the desert waste reverting to the kindred days spent at home and the enjoyment experienced at home on their annual approach but time was precious & we was obliged to travel two miles from our camp. We left the river ascended along steep hill to summit one mile then wended our way 3 miles through the Gorge of the mountain to a small creek 5 miles. To another creek 7 miles then drove ten miles & encamped on a high bluff. We go 2 miles for water. We found good feed  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from camp. We use wild sage for fuel.

Friday

5

We was early on the road, traveled over hills & rough roads, found several springs down the kanyon. We again struck Marys River, 10 miles from mornings camp, then left the river ascended a long steep hill to the river again 8 miles, followed down the river & encamped on a creek near the foot of the mountain but we found no grass nor wood except grease wood.

Saturday

6

Not finding feed last night we started at an early hour, drove 3 miles, the grass looked so enticing we turned out our team & lay in camp the remainder of the day, for fuel we burned a wagon.

Sunday

7

We were again on the road at six o'clock. Found good grass for about 4 miles. We struck the river 16 miles from our camp & passed over the slope of the bluff for one mile on rough rocky road then left the river. No more grass nor water after this for 22 miles. Drove 32 miles today & encamped on a small creek, 100 rods to the left of the road. We waded the creek & mud holes to get grass for our horses. This we packed 1/2 mile. We found the roads very heavy today.

8

Two miles drive brought us to the river then left the river. No grass nor water for 14 miles then come to the river again. Here we left the river, drove 5 miles north where we found a plenty of wild clover. We struck our poles for an encampment at 12 o'clock. Here we were employed in cutting grass & preparing for crossing the Desert. The country which we passed over for the last two days is mostly covered with Saleratus. Surface quite level & very dusty.

Tuesday

9

8 miles drive brought us to the river. Followed the river 2 miles then left the river. Here the river passed through the gorge of the mountain. Ascended a steep hill then followed down the ravine & struck the river 6 miles from where we left it. Drove 30 miles today & encamped by the side of a slough. There was but very little grass that we got with our knives because our horses could not get to it. The road which we traveled over today is the same as before described.

Wednesday

10

We left camp at 10 o'clock a.m. Drove 5 miles to the river passed round the point of a bluff. Here is the junction of the river. Followed the north fork in a northern direction for 2 miles then crossed at the foot of some high sand bluffs which you will see several miles distance before arriving at the bluffs. Here we left the bluffs to the right. Here we made a southwest course crossed a stony sand hill, soon struck the main river again. The water lays in sloughs on either side of the main river. We made 18 miles today & encamped near the river where we found some feed for our teams & a plenty of sage for fuel.

Thursday

11

We left our camp at six o'clock this morning, drove 16 miles over very heavy sandy roads, then come to a dusty plain two miles. From here you have the



bank on the west side of the river, is 75 feet high, nearly perpendicular, whilst the opposite side is nearly level with the river. Distance about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the bend in the river.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles here the river takes a turn & runs nearly south whilst the road continues on West. We made the river again after a drive of 10 miles over an ashes plain where there was not one spear of grass to be seen. Here we encamped. We found no grass of consequence. We fed out the little grass which we had provided for the desert. What little grass on the lower end of this river lays in sloughs & very bad to get. We keep up a fire with greasse wood tonight.

12 Our road today was about the same as in the afternoon yesterday. Made 22 miles today & encamped on the bank of the river where there was not a spear of grass to be found. We made to the river twice during the day, it being  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the road.

Saturday

13 At 3 o'clock this morning we found all things in readiness & we started on our road. Drove 10 miles, the road makes to the river here, we turned out to feed where found nothing but willow for our animals. We lay here two hours then started on. Drove 10 miles then drove to the river, unhitched our team & baited on willows. Again no grass to be found. We followed up the trail on the bluffs as the road soon leaves the river. Again today we have had tiresome work, the roads were very dry & the clouds of dust nearly suffacated ourselves & hourse. We struck the river five miles from our nooning place where we watered our team. Here the road leaves the river. 13 miles from here we come to a creek but no feed. Some very good springs. We filled up our casks with water, crossed the creek. 3 miles brought us to the river then drove 3 miles to the big marsh. We encamped about 9 o'clock at night ourselves and our horses nearly exhausted.

Sunday

14 All hands were employed today in cutting & drying grass to feed on the Desert. The river is said to be high & is still rising. We waded in water from 12 to 18 inches deep to cut our grass. This water strongly impregnated with alkali.

I attended meeting this evening, it being the first time that I have heard a sermon since I left the States.



Monday

15

We lay in camp until 3 o'clock p.m. We were visited by several Cayute Indians. We drove 10 miles tonight & encamped near a slough, where we found very good grazing for our animals. The water brackish & poor as it near the Sink. The water lays in sloughs near the Sink.

16

Left our camp this morning at half past five o'clock quite fatigued for the musquitoes were so numerous & troublesome that we could not sleep one half hour during the night. Drove 12 miles to the last slough where we arrived at 10 o'clock a.m. We lay here until 4 o'clock when we hitched up & rolled out for the desert after filling our casks, canteens & every other thing that would hold water. Drove 12 miles, stoped two hours to bait, then drove 10 miles, stoped two hours again, then drove 8 miles & again stoped 1 1/2 hours then drove about 7 miles & our teams were failing very fast. We left our wagon, threw away a portion of our clothing, packed the remainder & our provisions on to the horses & moved on at a slow rate. We arrived at Carson River on the 17th at 12 o'clock a.m. We lay there until 4 o'clock. 1 1/2 miles from here we encamped on the river where we found very good grazing for our horses. The distance across the Desert, 95 miles. The last part of the Desert very sandy. Several sandy places near the centre of the desert, it mite with propriety be called a Desert for 150 miles.

17

Lay in camp today until 6 o'clock making pack saddles. We followed up the river 10 miles, then left the river for 18 miles. A portion of the road sandy & heavy, others very rough & stoney.

We struck our poles for encampment on the morning of the 18th at 3 o'clock on the bank of the river.

20

We lay in camp today until 7 o'clock p.m. then left the river, crossed over a desert for 26 miles. Sandy & heavy traveling. We struck Carson River on the 19th at day brake. Lay here about 2 hours then drove 10 miles to where we found good grass on the river bottom.

21

Lay in camp today with one of our men in consequence of his not being able to travel. July 20th my pardner left me on Carson River with James Scofield & moved for California.

22

Lay in camp today recruiting the sick man.

23

Left our camp at 8 o'clock this morning one mile from our camp we left the river crossed a desert for 14 miles, struck about 11 o'clock a.m. Made

30 miles & encamped near the foot of the mountain where we found good grass & water.

- 24 Left our camp at an early hour, found a plenty good water today. Made 25 miles & encamped in a valley surrounded with mountains, where we found good grass, wood & water. We encamped at the mounth of the kanyon.
- 25 Followed up the kanyon, road good for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, then very rough & rocky for 5 miles. Almost impassible After this very good roads. Made 15 miles today & encamped at the head of Red Lake, & the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Found good grass, wood & water. We have traveled in a pine timbered country today.
- 26 Left our camp at 8 o'clock & started to ascend the mountain. The trail winds its way around the steep granite rock. It did not avoid the rough going however it kept all hands busily employed in climbing the Mountain. We crossed the first Range of mountains & encamped at the foot of the Second. Made 8 miles today & encamped at 8 o'clock p.m.
- 27 We arose early this morning & found the ground covered with a very heavy frost. We left our camp at five o'clock & begun to ascend the mountain. We ascended the first about one mile to summit, not very rough but long & steep, then descended down into a small valley  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, then commenced ascending the last high peak of the mountain one and three fourths mile to the summit. Here we found snow from one to fifteen feet deep which rendered the road quite comfortable, otherwise it must have been impassable. We then found a short piece of good road. After this we found rough, rocky roads for 3 miles where great care should be taken for it is very dangerous to animals & wagons. After this we found the roads some smother. We descended down into a small valley about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Here we found very little grass. Here we baited & made a cup of tea, eat our dinner, then drove 5 miles. Hilly roads, not very rough & encamped  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles west of two small lakes laying about 80 rods apart.
- Sunday  
28 We were on the road this morning at 6 o'clock. Traveled over mountaineous country. Some portion of the road very stoney, drove 8 miles found grass. Turned out here to bait. Found no more grass today. Made 18 miles & encamped with out feed on camp Creek.

29 Our road today has been very hilly, also stoney & sandy after a drive of 15 miles we found water 300 yards to the left of the road in a ravine. We drove 18 miles today. Found no grass for our animals we encamped on a ridge & drove our animals 2½ miles for grass.

30 A drive of 18 miles over good roads brought us to Hangtown the noted Gold diggings.

July 20th my partner left me on Carson River with Scofield & moved for California. There I remained for two days when we moved on again. We had stopped at the 14 mile desert.

The following is a list of the expenses which it cost me extra laying over with James Scofield.

Expenses at the 14 mile Desert..

Flour	4 lbs	\$5.00
Corn meal	1 lb	1.50
Sugar	½ lb	1.00
Castor oil	2 spoonsfull	.24

Carson Vally

1 lb sugar	1.00
3 lbs bread, 1 qt milk	3.50

Lake Vally

½ lb tea	.50
Flour on the mountain	4 lb 1.60
pork	3 lbs 1.20
to brandy	.75
to 6 lbs flour at 20 cts	1.20
to 1 lb sugar	.75
	<u>18.05</u>

to 3 lbs rice	.90
to 11 lbs hay	1.65
to 12 lbs hay	1.80
one pack saddle	2.00

Traveling expenses from Georgetown to Hangtown.  
On James account & expense while with him \$3.79

August 23, 1850.... received 3.50

August 24, 1850  
to T. M. Clark Dr.  
to 4 cotton shirts \$6.00  
to 1 woollen shirt 3.00  
belonging to J. H. Scofield