

Van Schaick, Holmes D.

Diary, 1852

I

[page of quotes]

II

[right side of page cut off on copy]

By-Laws of the Oneida California Com[pany]

We the undersigned citizens of the Stat[e of] New York, being bound upon an exped[ition] to California, and being desirous of for[ming] ourselves into a Joint Company, havor[?] and mutual interest in all things pertai[ni]ng to the welfare of said Company, agree, and penalty to be hereafter affixed, to strictly [word missing] the following rules:

Article 1st

Each member shall bear an equal [word cut off] portion of the expences incident to sa[id] expedition

Article 2^d

A Committee of four, viz., Messrs. Yale, [?]art, Brown, and Williams, shall precede [the] Company to Fort Independence, and [pur]chase the necessary supplies from that [word cut off] onward,

Article 3^d

We agree that AARON YALE shall [be?] Captain or Leader from Fort Independence onward, and that we will faithfully a[?] observe his order and counsel.

Article 4th

If any member having paid into [the?] funds of said Co. his quota of money shall become incapable of going fro.[?] sickness or other unavoidable circumstances, his money shall be refun[ded.]

Article 5th

When the Company arrives at [its] destination, the property belonging

III

said Company, shall be either divided equally, or shall be sold, and the proceeds equally divided among as a majority of the company shall direct.

Article 6th

If any of said Company shall, during the route, become sick, or in any way incapacitated, he, or they, shall have good care and attendance from the balance of the Company, and his interests or advancement in no way [be?] impaired on account of said sickness or incapacity, during the journey

Article 7th

If any member of the Company shall wilfully violate any of the foregoing rules, upon being adjudged guilty by a majority, he shall pay into the funds of said Company a sum of money not less than two dollars.

Article 8th

This agreement can at any time be altered or amended by a majority of the votes of the members of said Company.

Aaron Yale, Oneida N.Y.

J. T. Mathewson, Stockbridge, Madison

[one line cut off]

IV

[blot] C. Bridge, Stockbridge, Madison Co. N.Y.

E. D. Brown. Oneida Depot. N.Y.

F. L. Bonney, Hamilton, Madison Co N.Y.

James, Stewart, Oneida, Madison Co, N.Y.

Amos, W, Stephens, Oneida Depot, Madison Co N.Y.

Michael, Sullivan. Vernon, Oneida Co., N.Y.

F. Hodges, Stockbridge, Madison Co., N.Y.

George Morrison, Oneida Castle, N.Y.

A. McLeon Vernon Center, Oneida Co., N.Y.

Peter Stewert, Vernon Center Oneida, Co., N.Y.

Amos Miller, Vernon Center Oneida Co., N.Y.

S. W, Butler, Oneida Castle, N.Y.

John. G. Loucks, Oneid[a] Castle, N.Y.

I.[?]. B. Kirk Church Vernon Center. Oneida Co, N.Y.

Alexander Stewart, Oneida, Madison Co., N.Y.

Charles C, Gardiner Oneida Madison Co., N.Y.

A. Rivenburgh Mecklenburg, Tompkins Co, N.Y.

H. Smith. Mecklenburg Tompkins Co, N.Y.

Charles Lewis, Lenox Madison Co., N.Y.

Charles Button, Utica Oneida Co., N.Y.

H. D. Van Schaik. Manlius Onondaga Co, N.Y.

Charles Lampman. Oneida, Valley, Madison Co, N.Y.

Azariah Huntly Manlius [blot]tre Onondaga, Co N.Y.

[apparent end of membership roster; several pages of maxims, etc follow]

1

Journal for 1852

[poem composed by Van Schaik about leaving home]

2

March Monday 22^d 1852

I arose at an early hour, and prepared to start for the auriferous Regions, My fit-out consisted of a sachel filled with clothes and other necessary articles, an India rubber coat, a rifle, revolver &c. All things being ready Brother J ordered J to harness, and hitch his horses to the sleigh and convey himself and me to Kirkville, where we were to take the cars and go to Oneida, where the company was to meet for J was going to see me start)[sic]. The cars arrived and we went on board;

[this is a false start; trip actually begins on April 5

reach St. Louis April 22

arrive Independence April 29]

20

Friday [April] 30th

I arose from the pallet on which I had slept during the night, and went to the wharf where I found Captain Yale, and two others of the company putting together the waggons, and preparing to **transport** convey our baggage to Independence. At 11 O'clock, our wagons being put together, **and** our baggage loaded, and mules hitched on, we started for Independence, Over hills, **and** and vallies, mid driving winds, and clouds of dust, we trudged along till we reached Independence; (A distance of 5 miles) Thence we were conducted, to the house of M^r Smart, (one mile south) where we spent the rest of the day, in cleaning our harness, getting out stuff for waggon boxes &c. Independence, and its immediate vicinity is as beautiful, and pleasant, a spot as I ever saw. The land is undulating, the soil extremely fertile, the timber chiefly Oak and bass=wood. M^r Smart is a wealthy slave-holder, owning 2000 acres of land, and slaves to till it. The day was pleasant.

21

Saturday May 1st

According to previous arrangement, we began in the morning to prepare for a move to pleasant Hill. About 11 AM, (the waggons being rigged,) myself, and ~~five~~ others of our company ~~to~~ went to the farm-yard of a wealthy farmer (a distance of ½ or ¾ of a mile) after our mules After laboring about 2 hours we caught them, and returned. The mules, were then harnessed, and hitched to the waggons; All things being ready we started for pleasant hill (a distance of 20 miles) where we arrived about seven PM. The region through which we passed, was mostly Perarie;- which is decidedly the most beautiful of any land I ever saw, On our arrival, we were conducted to a log house;- standing in a lot about ¼ of a mile from the road, where we was[?] to make our home till we started over the plains. The house being destitute of any kind of furniture, we found it necessary to ~~substitute~~ use our blankets and valises in the place of furniture Being thus provided for we turned in for the night;- having enjoyed a pleasant, though windy day.

Sunday [May] 2^d

In the forenoon I rode a mule to church; a distance of two miles. The remainder of the day I spent at the house of M^r Fleming (where myself and comrads make our house[]), About dark I went to the old log house, and turned in for the night

22

Monday [May] 3^d

I arose at an early hour fixed my pants, and went to breakfast, after breakfast friend Mathewson and I bounded astrid[e] a couple of mules and went to pleasant Hill, and was vaccinatid; We then returned, and I spent the remainder of the forenoon heming tent cloth. The afternoon myself and comrads spent in branding mules, playing ball &c. The day was pleasant.

Tuesday [May] 4th

I spent the day on the farm of John Fleming. Nothing of importance transpired within my observation during the day. Having exercised freely the yesterday I did not feel very lively and consequently labored little. During the day I wrote a letter to friend Adams,

Wednesday [May] 5th

I spent the day sewing tent cloth, helping catch mules, playing ball &c The day was pleasant,

Thursday [May] 6th

I rode to town once the during the day, the remainder I spent in sewing waggon covers, shooting at a mark &c

Friday [May] 7th

We spent the day in finishing our waggons and preparing to start for Inds[?] the next day. In the evening

[2 or 3 lines not copied at bottom of page]

23

[right hand side of page not completely copied]

Manner of starting &c After which some of our boys sang several son[gs]

Saturday [May] 8th

The forenoon was pleasant;- t[he] afternoon mostly rainy: We spent the forenoon in selecting our teams, and break breaking them, loading our wagons &c, preparitory to a start for Independence. After dinner, we took leave of our friend John &[?] harnessed our mules, and started. Our mules being comparatively wild, and ungovernable we found had some trouble in getting them a**** the ditches, and sloughs we found in our way[?] Night overtook us before we reached M**** smart (the place were we were to put up[?] for the night) and we consequently had to finish our journey in the dark The sky was cloudy, and the darkness so den[se] that we could not see our lead mules **** of the time. While in the dark we ran afowl *** of a stump, and had some difficulty in releasing ourselves from it. With that acception[?] we had good luck; (all things cons[ider]ed We arrived at the destined spot at ***

Sunday [May] 9th

I spent the day at M^r Snea*** My thoughts, and feelings during the day may better be imagined than described

[3 lines not copied]

24

Monday [May] 10th

We spent the forenoon in ~~fixing~~ our harness and waggons for the great enterprise before us. Afternoon, we drove to to[sic] town and got our provision for the Journey; On our return, my mess pitched their tent, put their harness and baggage in it to protect them from the rain. Friend Mathewson and I, then went up stairs in the house and stayed till near night. The remainder of the day we spent in a pellmell sort of way The afternoon was rainy and unpleasant,

Tuesday [May] 11th

In the forenoon we harnessed our teams, and made a few other preparations for our journey. At half past 2 P.M, ~~we~~ we started over the plains. Over hill & dale, through the most beautiful region I ever saw, we trudged along, a distance of 9 or 10 miles, and camped for the night. Each mess with a rope and lasso picket fastened their mules for the night. This being done, we cooked our supper, and rudely sat around a few burning fagots and ate ~~the~~ our first supper on the plains. After supper we turned in for the night.

Wednesday [May] 12th

We arose early and fed our mules We then attended to breakfast, after which we harnessed our teams and again started on our journey. The day being rainy we camped
[half a line not copied]

25

we spent in conversation, attending to our teams &c. About 9[?] PM a horse came galloping in the camp, with so much fury as to frighten our mules; many of them drew their pickets, and ran unceremoniously about the prairies Our men immediately rallied, and after working and searching about two hours in the rain and dark they succeeded in repicketing the frightened jacks. We then retired to our tents. During the day we passed the graves of two luckless travelers and a train[?] of trading Spaniards

Thursday [May] 13th

About ½ past 6 we struck our tents, harnessed our teams and again started on our Journey. Hour after hour we drove along over the undulating Prairie part of the time entirely out of sight of the least shrub or tree, till 7 PM when we pitched our tents &c thus passed the day

Friday [May] 14th

Early in the morning ~~some~~ some of our mules estampeded, and three of our boys mounted thei[r] riding steeds and followed them. After a chase of 4 or 5 miles they overhauled them and brought them back. We then struck our tents and again started on our journey. About 10 AM, we forded a small stream, whose banks were so steep and miry that we had to fasten a rope to the neap[?] and all hands take hold and help our teams. Having p**** this distance of 5 miles, we came to the Wancarucia creek, which we were obliged to
[one line not copied]

26

bank. (which was very steep and muddy) we found our turn would not come in that place that day We consequently left the place and went 6 miles farther up the creek, where the water was not so deep and the number of waggons less; When we reached the place we found the way clear. We then overhauled our teams and put 5 of our best teams together and began one of the most pokerish and perilous tasks that I ever was engaged in. The bank was very high and steep,

(it being about 70 feet from the top of to the water which was so deep that we had to raise our waggon boxes to keep them out of the water) we tied long ropes to the hind axels, and all hands with might and main took hold and helped the teams hold the loads and ease them (one at a time) down the fearful steep [bank]. It was with extreme difficulty that our mules assended the opposite bank; which was nearly as steep and difficult as the other. Dark overtook us before our task was done, Having reached the opposite shore, we pitched our tent, cooked our suppers and retired. Thus passed a day of singular adventures

Saturday [May] 15th

At 8 AM we struck our tent and again pulled for the land of Aurum. During the forenoon we passed several ox trains, bound for C; We are now in a region where numerous traders of California

[4 or 5 words illegible]

27

times and in most directions. We here encountered strong and changable winds for the hills are not very high, and timber is seldom seen. We have already been several times entirely out of sight of either tree or shrub. The extensive Prairies of the Indian Territory (on which we now are, and have been for 3½ days) cannot but fill the mind of the beholder with admiration. Their surface generally undulating; and covered with Nature's rich carpet of green. Were it not for the scarcity of timber and water priveliges, they might be classed among the most delightful and fertile regions the world could produce. At all times of day, may be seen, large herds of cattle, moving like a vast cloud toward that state where excitement rages. The marks of old camp-fires; and the many places where the grass is closely cropped plainly show the effects of Gold on the human mind.

About noon we camped, ate our dinners of raw ham & crackers. After an hour's nooning we packed, crack and sack and soon was under motion. We had not went more than 4 miles, when ~~wag~~ every spoke in the nigh hind wheel of waggon No 3 broke. (waggon No 3 we purchased at Ind) About 20 minutes after the breakdown. the rain and hail began to descent[sic] in perfe[c]t torrents Wind, and almost perpetual lightning and th[e] roaring rolling, Artillery of the air, added gloom to

***** The fury[sic] storm continued til[?]

28

5 P.M. when it partially subsided, Our captain then appointed 2 men to watch the broken waggon and the remainder of the company, with the unbroken waggons, went 3½ miles back and encamped. After picketing our jacks we retired to our waggons soaking wet. The ground was so wet and muddy that we could not pitch our tents; We consequently were obliged to spend a night in ~~the~~ our waggon, T[h]us wet and cold I spent a night the most disagreeable of any in my life

Sunday [May] 16th

This was our first Sabbath in the Indian Territory. The day was cold and cloudy, I arose from the uncomfortable position in which I had lain through the night, and went to the fire, (which some of my comrads had built) and dried my clothes after which I felt comparatively comfortable. I spent a portion of the day in the waggon writing in my journal, talk~~ing~~ sitting around the fire &c. O how few, and scant are the christian priveliges on the Prairies of the

western world

Monday [May] 17th

We spent the forenoon, cutting our waggon boxes shorter and mending the broken wheel. At ½ past, 2 PM. During the afternoon we passed a travelers grave, two Indians, an ox &c. We are now in a region where large traveling trains may be seen all times of day. About 7 Am we camped. The day was for[?] the[?] most[?] cold and ****

[possibly one or two lines not copied]

29

Friend Mathewson and [I] guarded the mules till Midnight. While on guard we heard in a distant ravine, the howling of wolves, the chatter of nocturnal birds &c.

Tuesday [May] 18th

At ½ past 6 A.M we ~~pitched~~ struck our tents and renewed our journey. The day being cool our mules traveled faster than usual, I found it difficult to keep pace with them without an occasional quick step. My boots became burdensome and I took them off and traveled in my stocking feet. At 1 PM we arrived at the Caw river. Where we remained till 5 PM waiting for our turn to ferry across. We saw a large number of waggons, on the river ferrying and waiting to ferry. We also saw several Indians pass and repass, who appeared to notice our mules closely. They belong to the Caw ~~tribe~~ Chipeways, and Potawatamies tribes Having crossed the river we traveled 1½ miles and camped for the night, During the night the surrounding woods rang with the howling of wolves. The day was pleasant, though rather cold.

Wednesday [May] 19th

We struck our tents at ½ past 6 AM, and traveled at a quick and rapid pace, We passed several trains **** the forenoon and some of

30

the Caw Indians. Our route today was more hilly than any before for we loof[?] traveled over hills and through vallies all day. At noon we halted & let our mules graze. About 3 PM one of our teams took fright and ran a distance of 40 or 50 rods, During the fracas[?] one of the mules fell, and the fore end of the waggon ran over her. Mr Lewis was driving at that time, His foot hold gave way and he fell on the gap[?] between the wheel span but was not hurt. At 7 PM we camped on a beautiful hillside, at the foot of which saw a crystal stream, & where stood a handsome grove of trees.

Thursday [May] 20th

At 6 AM we struck our tents & again moved onwards. Nothing of note transpired during the day But all moved off pleasantly. We saw 3 wolves and the grave of an unlucky traveler during the day At 7 PM we camped by the road side where we used weeds for fuel, & the feed. was very poore. Here is the place to try men's disposition; for fatigue, inconvenience, and exposure are here cornlined[?]

31

Friday [May] 21st

Early in the morning it began to rain, and continued till 9 AM. We then harnessed our teams, struck our tents & proceeded on our journey. Over hills, and through vallies we trudged along

till ½ past 4 PM, when we (having traveled about 12 miles) camped on the bank of a beautiful little ~~strea~~ stream of water, where there was plenty of wood and peace & comfort was marked on the features of ~~every~~ every thing the eye could behold. O! there is something in the appearance of the wild Prairies of the Indian Territory that seems fraught with interest, something that tends to lead the human mind from created objects up to the Creator.

We are now in the Potawatamy tribe, Since Tuesday of this week we have passed 136 emigrant waggons

Saturday [May] 22^d

At 7 AM we struck our tents and renewed our journey. We had gone but a short distance from camp, when one of our mules took a fit of the dreadful surs[?], and rared and kicked till she broke her whiffletree. Her conduct was such, that it took 3 men to hold her. We were detained about 2 hours, when all things was again ready and we rolled on, to a creek whose waters were so deep that we were obliged to raise our waggon boxes to keep it

32

above water. Its banks were so steep that [we] had to fasten ropes to our waggons, and snub them around a ~~short~~ stump to ease them down to the Creek. Near the creek we saw the ruins of a covered buggy, and two new made graves. Having crossed the creek we traveled about 5 miles and camped in a beautiful place, covered with Natures carpet of green, and where wood, & water and feed was plenty. Friend Mathewson and I was appointed to guard the mules the latter part of the night,

Sunday [May] 23^d

This being the lords day, we did not roll out of camp, but spent the day till 6 P.M in reading, conversation &c. At 6 PM, our Captain delivered an exhortation, to us, which was comprehensive, beneficial, and spiritual. While he was speaking, my heart glowed with thankfulness, to the great author of the Universe, for his merciful kindness, and protecting care which had been over us thus far on our journey. And I felt an increased determination to make the religion of Jesus the chief business of my life, and to regard the things pertaining to earth as secondary. Suraly[sic] there is a peace in believing on the Lord Jesus which the earth cannot afford. ~~The day is calmly ending;—The evening spreads her sail~~

33

"The day is calmly ending
The evening spreads her hail[?]
With hears and voices blended
This peaceful hour we hail."

Monday 24th

At 7 Am we struck our tents and again renewed our march. A[t] 9 we arrived at the big blue; which we forded with out difficulty. Near its banks we saw one grave, and an encampment nearly destitute of teams— the Indians having estampeded & stolen them. Having forded the blue we traveled 9 miles & turned out for noon. A[t] 1 PM we retackled our jacks and went on. During the afternoon we passed the new made grave of J— Skidmore, and an encampment of Emigrants from St Joseph bound for C—, in which there had 11 of their comrads died, and the twelfth was very near his end. The disease was said to be Cholera. During the day we passed a

large number of Emigrant waggons, one of which was abandoned by its owners. At half past 6 PM [we camped] in on[sic] beautiful piece of Prairie called the cotton wood branch;- feed and water was plenty. We are now in the Pawnee tribe

Tuesday [May] 25th

We struck our tents at 7 AM. We passed the little sandy at 11 AM, At noon we halted for our mules to graze and to eat our dinner. At ½ past 12

34

it began to rain and continued more or less till ½ past 4 PM. Night drew near and we camped on a side hill, where the feed was not very good, wood was scarce, & water poor. During the day we passed 3 graves; one of which was new. On a board at the head of the new grave was written the important sentence, "prepare to meet thy God Oh Impenitent"

Wednesday [May] 26th

We struck our tent 7 AM., & again rolled on. At 9 we crossed the big sandy. At noon we halted, and let our animals graze. At 1 PM we again caught our jacks and moved onward. The Prairie over which we passed this after noon, was generally more level than that we passed before, At ½ past 5 PM we camped one[sic] the bank of Ale creek. Wood was plenty, and water tolerable. During the day we saw four graves, one of which was made this morning. On a stake at the head of one was written "Name unknown"

Thursday 27th

At 6 AM we struck our tent and renewed our march. All things moved on pleasantly and in good time. At 11 we reached the little blue and traveled along its banks about 1 mile and halted to take in wood, and water, & let our mules graze. About 11 our Captain was attacked with the Cholera, but not considering h** **ll

35

his condition very dangerous, he ordered the train not to stop. We accordingly at the usual hour (1½ O'clock) harnessed our jacks and rolled on. Having gone a distance of 3 miles, and while passing a difficult spot in the road the nigh fore wheel of one of our waggons broke. Being thus disabled we were obliged to stop and repair. I[A] traveler hapening along at that time told us that he had passed a wheel about 4 mile back, which he thought would answer our purpose. Three of our boys then went in pursuit of the wheel, others in pursuit of a suitable place to encamp while others stayed with the broken waggon. While standing there two ladies dressed in Bloomer Costume, came along each in possession of a riding beast. They were so uncommonly talkative that they soon drew the attention [of] all who were standing near. One of them bounded astride of her prancing steed, placed her feet in the stirrups; and with an air of supremacy, drew the[sic] reigns reigns rode a few rods, and waited for her associate to follow her example. Her associate, feeling the effects of Native modesty, concluded she would wait till she reached the other side of the hill. Well thought I these are the women for the overland route to California- such are the women for me. Having found a suitable ***** on the banks of the little blue camp ½ mile distant we ***

36

there with the unbroken waggons, and pitched our tents (having left a guard with the broken one)

The boys in pursuit of the above wheel returned with it about dusk. Our afflicted Captain still grew worse till about Midnight, as[?] the cause seemed to be measurably removed. Thus passed

a beautiful, though partially unfortunate day with us. During the day we passed twelve graves.

Friday [May] 28th

Our Captain being sick, we did not roll out of camp during the day. In the forenoon, myself and &[sic] two others of my comrades went to the river (the little blue) to where we bathed and washed some of our clothes. We returned to camp about noon. About 2 PM, I was taken with purging, faintness, and sickness at the stomach. Finding myself sick, I retired to my tent, took a portion of medicine and waited its effect. Our Captain during the day grew better, his disease having reached its highest point and turned in his favor.

Saturday [May] 29th

We still remain in Camp, on account of sickness. Several of our Company felt the symptoms of Cholera. Our Captain still gained, and I grew worse. Our faithful boys gave me the best of care through the ***** shite[?] I grew[?] better. The

37

weather was excessive hot, and the water poor. Sickness and death, seemed to stare us in the face. Several persons died in some of the camps joining ours- but the King of terrors did not visit us.

Sunday [May] 30th

The weather still excessive hot, &c sickness dwells in our camp. Our Captain is still gaining. This morning I felt that the medicine, and care, administered by our faithful boys (by the direction of Providence) had reached my case, and I began slowly to amend. This Lords day, was a serious day to us, for we were here exposed to burning heat and raging thirst,= and at a great distance from good water.

Monday [May] 31st

Our Captain has so far recovered that he is again able to lead the train. This morning I found myself a little better. In view of our being in a very sickly place, and surrounded by the sick and dying, it was considered expedient to roll out of camp. A bed was accordingly fixed in the waggon for me, on which I placed myself, and as soon as the teams were harnessed, we rolled on. We rolled on, over the plains till 5 PM, when my condition made it necessary to encamp. Our encampment was on the table lands of the little blue. The remainder of the day and most of the night I endured the

38

most excruciating pain in my bowels and stomach, that I ever had experienced. To day we passed eighteen graves

Tuesday June 3rd 1st

This morning, being somewhat better I again felt able to ride. At 6½ AM, we again rolled out. At 10 AM, we passed a train, some of whose members, were in the act of burying one of their number, who had died with the Cholera. At 10½ our Captain, rode to a camp, a few rods from the road, in which he found one person dying, and two others, were dangerously ill. At 11, we reached the ~~reached the~~ point from which we were to leave the little blue. We here halted to let our animals graze. A few rods ahead of us stood two waggons, whose appearance, and location bore the marks of distress. Our Captain and two others, rode up to them. They there

found a woman with the Cholera, apparently in the agonies of death Captain immediately dismounted, and ordered these[?] that were with him to follow. They then united their efforts to relieve the unhappy sufferer. By their activity and the aid of medicine, [by] 2 PM they had succeeded in relieving the sufferer; We then moved on till 6, when we camped for the night

39

had fatigued me very much, - still my symptoms were a little better To day we passed 12 graves

Wednesday June 2^d

At 6 AM we struck our tents and shaped our course for Fort Kearney a distance of 30 miles, ~~The~~ situated on the Platte river. (The Prairie over which we passed to day is level.) We reached the fort at 6. P,M We here found good water, the first we had seen for several days. Each mess filled their keg and canteen, with the precious element. We were all much revived at once more[sic] seeing, what appeared like civilization. Uncle Sam had, stationed here, men and field pieces, for the protection of the civilized and peaceful, here stood a noble dwelling in which the comforts of life appeared to dwell. There is also a store near the Fort, in which some of our boys made some purchases. Having finished our business at the Fort, we went about 1½ miles & camped near the shore of the Riv- Platte. During the night we encountered a terrible storm of wind, and rain. The wind blew so hard that our tents could not stand Finding it impossible to keep our tent pin[n]ed to the ground, two of our boys stood over me and held the tent to screen me from the storm, for my

40

condition was such, that it would have been exceedingly dangerous for me to get wet. This was indeed a horrible night. We passed 12 graves during the day.

Thursday [June] 3^d

Being wet, and cold, we did not stop for breakfast, but harnessed our teams, and traveled about 5 miles, when we stopped and cooked & ate our breakfast. This being done we again **proceed** proceeded on our journey. About 3 PM we reached the ford of the Platte, Captain and M^r T examined the ford and found it (under present circumstances impassable[]), We then started for the south fork, a distance of 91[?] miles. About dusk we camped on the level bank of th the Rio Platte. To day we passed 5 graves.

Friday [June] 4th

At 6 AM we again rolled out of camp, The road was good and level; At noon we halted by the road side, ate our dinners, & let our animals graze. At the usual hour we harnessed and rolled on. During the afternoon we saw several Buffaloes & Antelope at a distance, but did not give them chase.

At[?] 6½ we again camped on the shore of the Platte. Water was plenty and wood scarce. To day we passed 4 graves

Saturday [June] 5th

At 6 we rolled out of camp to
[bottom line illegible] Nothing

41

special transpired during the day, except some of our boys went over the Bluffs in pursuit of game. They took no game, but on their return they found a mule, saddle, and bridle. At 6 PM We again camped on the Platte] Here we found a good spring of water, and plenty of wood. Today we passed 4 graves

Sunday [June] 6th

This being the Lord's day, we did not roll out of camp: but spent most of the day in reading conversation &c. The messes united and cooked a general supper, which was spread on the ground, and all hands, with the Captain at the head, seated themselves around this rude table, and enjoyed what we called a union feast. Our meal consisted of a pot pie made of ~~Ant~~ Antelope, biscuit fried cakes, tea, coffee cheese the place[?] we campedl[?] ****Oneida Bluff &c. At 5 PM, we held a religious meeting, in which our Captain addressed us in a very appropriate, and profitable manner, I felt much benefited by his remarks; and felt to thank God that our leader was a man who lived, and walked in the fear of the Lord.

Monday [June] 7th

One of our men being sick, we did not roll out of camp till 7¼ O'clock. We gradually rolled along the level shore of the Platte, till noon;- we then halted ate our dinners and let our

42

Animals graze. At 1½ PM we again rolled on. during the afternoon, we saw an Antelope, and several wolves. Having found good feed, and a good camping place about 1 mile from the river, at 5 PM we camped. We here for the first time cooked our suppers with buffalo chips. To day we passed 12 graves

Tuesday [June] 8th

We struck our tents at ¼ before 6, at 10 AM we reached the south fork of the Platte, up which we traveled til 5½ PM, when we camped, on its south bank. The feed ~~rather poor~~ good, & water tolerable, Our fuel was Buffalo chips. Some of our boys saw several, Buffaloes, & Antelope. To day we passed 3 graves.

Wednesday [June] 9th

At 6 AM we struck our tents and rolled on till noon, when we halted for dinner and to let our animals graze. At 2 PM, we again rolled on, & At 4 PM, we reached the ford of the south fork; the river was so high that we found it necessary to raise our provision to the top of our waggon boxes to keep it from the water. This we done by means of poles and sticks Having passed the ford, we traveled about 40 rods up the river; and encamped for the night. Today we

43

boys killed an Antelope, and saw several Buffaloes,

Thursday [June] 10th

Having our provision to repack we did not roll out of camp till 8 O'clock, We traveled a N W course till we reached Ash hollow, (a distance of 16 miles from the Platte). We here had to descend 100 ft in going about 10 rods; this brought us in the hollow. This valley is from 30 to 50 rods wide and 2 miles long, On one side the ledge of Granite is about 200 feet high, the other side was variable In this valley we found ~~found~~ three kinds of wild roses, wild Onions,

Choke Cherries, black Cherries, wild Currants, Grapes, Ash, and Cotton-wood trees, There is also a good spring of water in this valley At the mouth of this valley, we struck the north fork of the Platte, where we halted and let our mules graze. We remained here till 5 PM, We then rolled on a distance of 5 miles and encamped for the night To day we passed nine graves,

Friday 11th

At ½ past 6 we rolled out of camp. At noon we halted 2 hours a little off from the road, where we found a good spring of water, and feed tolerable At 2 PM we again traveled on till 7[8?] 44

O clock, when we camped about 50 rods from the river, - having traveled 24 miles The road to day was sandy; the sand being from 4 to 5 inches [deep]. To day we passed 14 graves,

Saturday [June] 12th

We struck our tents at 6 & rolled on. We halted at noon as usual: where we again found a good spring of water. At 2 PM we again started, (the road was very good) Soon after we started we passed Castle Bluff. This Bluff can be seen 25 miles distant. It resembles a Court house or Church. It stands about 5 miles from the road.

We kept moving till 6 PM, when a heavy shower came up and our mules refused to go, We then turned their backs to the storm and waited till ~~then storm~~ it was over- We then drove a few rods and camped by the road side. To day we passed 10 graves, one of which the bones lay on the top of the ground; having been dug out by some wild animal.

Sunday [June] 13th

There being no wood nor Buffalo chips for fuel, and feed being poor, we were obliged to move up the river 12 miles, where we found a few Buffalo chips. We then camped Soon[?] after we started we

45

passed Chimney Rock. This rock is about 300 feet high;- the base is 150 feet high, and covers about 6 acres of land, and slopes from the top to the ground, The top of the base is about 100 feet in diameter. From the top of the base, a rock 20 feet square runs up 150 feet farther. This last rock has the appearance of the chimney of some large Factory. This rock can be seen at a distance of 40 miles. It stands 3 miles from the road. On it is engraved the names of thousands of people. The next thing that drew our attention was a number of high rocks, standing close together. They appeared at a distance, like a large city. They are about as high as Chimney rock. Our camp was about 1½ miles North of these rocks. After dinner ~~we~~ we spent the remainder of the [evening] in conversation &c. To day we passed ~~th~~ two graves.

Monday [June] 14th

At 5 AM we struck our tents and rolled on. We had traveled about 2 miles, when we came to a blacksmith shop, made by sticking up 4 poles and by laying some of the same on the top, and plastering them over with Clay, The house was made by sticking poles in the ground in the form of a hay stack, and covered with dried skins. This constituted

46

the settlement. Here the road turned and led over the Bluffs. Having traveled 10 miles further we came to Scots Bluffs, (so called from a man by that name having been killed there some years

ago[]]. this can also be seen at a great distance, These Bluffs have very much the appearance of a city or fortification.

One mile farther on we camped for noon. At 2 PM we again rolled on. Here the road leaves the river and passes over the Prairie. We rolled on till the road again struck the river. We here found a good camping place and camped at ½ past 5. To day we met two returning Californians, and passed 4 graves

Tuesday [June] 15th

At ½ past 6 we again moved on. At noon we halted as usual. At 7 PM we camped not far from the river, & near a trading post & a camp of Indians. As we came in sight the[y] were about preparing for a horse race, - which we had the pleasure of seeing. To day we met another California Company, and passed 8 graves.

Wednesday [June] 16th

At 7 we struck our tents 2 miles from camp we saw a Grocery, 3½ miles from this we cross the tole bridge over the Larimie river

47

Here we found a trading post on each side of the river, and an Indian settlement a little off from the road, While our teams were grazing at noon, Nearly all of our company wrote home. After dinner we drove to the Fort (a distance of one mile) where we staid till 5 PM. The houses here are mostly built of sods, the walls are about 3 feet thick & 10 feet high. The roof projects about 3 feet. Here the Government has a Military post, with 2 or 3 pieces of Cannon;- Here is also a store, Bakery, Blacksmith shop; At 5 PM, we rolled on. 2 miles distant passed a trading post, & 2 mile farther we camped in a valley near the river. Feed was poor, but wood plenty. To day we passed 5 graves.

Thursday [June] 17th

Dr Smith being very sick, our we concluded to lay remain in camp during the day. Several Indians passed and repassed our camp during the day.

Friday [June] 18th

Dr Smith being no better & feed very poor we were obliged to leave him and his mess, and travel a distance of 16 miles to bitter-Cotton-wood creek; during the day we passed an Indian settlement and a trading post where we traded one of our horses for a mule. We then traveled on- Our road lay along by the side of a bluff from 100 to 200

48

feet high. After traveling a mile or 2 we began to ascend the Rocky Mountains, Having traveled 16 miles we camped 2 miles up the bitter-Cotton-wood, where we found quack and wild Barley for our teams & plenty of wood. To day we passed 4 graves.

Saturday [June] 19th

We remained in camp during the day. At ½ past 10 Mr Yale and one other went back after the Dr and his Mess. To day some of our boys went a hunting. They saw several Antelope & Mountain Sheep, but shot none.

Sunday [June] 20th

We still remain in camp. At 12 O clock our Captain came with the Mess we left. (The Dr was some better[])- The remainder of the day we spent in conversation &c.

Monday [June] 21th

Having filled our water keg we again rolled on. During the forenoon we crossed the creek 3 times, We then left it and traveled a NW course till noon. We then halted & let our animals graze as usual. At 2 PM we moved on till 5 PM, when having found a good Camping place we Camped. To day we passed 4 graves.

Tuesday [June] 22^d

The fore part of the day our road was very uneven. At 1 PM we reach
49

ed the Labontee river. We here camped for noon. Here we found a trading post & a small Indian village. These Indians were richly ornamented; One of them had a Medal that had been presented to him by Martin Van Buren. About 40 rods from camp was the grave of L Tate who was hung (on a cotton-wood tree) for the murder of Miller. We saw the tree he was hung on, and a piece of the rope that held him. Leaving a[f]ter our dinner we rolled on a distance of 12 miles, when we camped. Feed was very poor and wood scarce

Wednesday [June] 23^d

At 4 AM we rolled out of camp, at 10 we stoped and cooked our breakfast. We then moved on. At 4 PM we camped on the shore of Deer creek. To day we passed 7 graves.

Thursday [June] 24th

At 7 AM we rolled on Having traveled 7 miles we came to the North fork of the Platte. We traveled along its banks &, when it having began to rain we camped for the rest of the day. We passed one grave.

Friday [June] 25th

At 6 we struck our tents & traveled along the banks of the fork. At 6 PM we camped on the
50
bank of the river. To day we passed 2 graves

Saturday [June] 26th

In the morning we harnessed our jacks and rolled a distance of 2 miles to the ferry, We had to wait 3 hours before our turn came, there being several trains ahead of us. We here found som Indian wigwams, and a small trading post We have saw a returning California Co of 28 men & 70 mules, who spake unfavorable of California. Having reached the opposite shore we moved on till 3 PM when we stoped and let our jacks graze. After which we rolled on till dusk; when we were obliged to camp without wood or water. & feed was very poor. We passed 2 graves

Sunday [June] 27th

At 4 AM we tackled our jack and rolled on till 7 AM when we stoped and cooked our breakfast At 11 AM we moved on. At 5 PM we struck the Sweetwater, where we camped 1 mile from Independence rock this is a solitary rock from 120 to 150 feet high and 125 rods long We

It has inscribed on it the names of thousands of travelers. To day we passed 6 graves.

Monday [June] 28th

At 6 AM we struck our tents and rolled on One mile beyond

51

Independence Rock, we forded the Sweet water, 2 miles from the ford we passed the De[v]il's gate; which is 60 feet wide & 400 feet high. Here the water runs through a narrow passage in the Mountain. The road here is sandy which made heavy wheeling, at 12 we stoped for noon, on the shore of the sweet water. At 2 PM we rolled on along the banks of the river till 5 PM when we camped near the river. Our fuel was wild sage. We passed 7 graves. The days are warm, the nights cold, the roads sandy.

Tuesday [June] 29th

At 5 AM we struck our tents and renewed our journey. Having traveled 8 miles, we left the Sweet water 6 miles farther on we struck it ~~again~~ at the ford. Here it runs so near the Mountain that there is hardly room for a road. Having passed the ford and traveled ½ mile, we stoped for noon, where we found very good feed. After a space of 2 hours we again moved on. Soon after we forded the sweet water, twice. We were here obliged to keep our provision out of the water. At 5 PM we camped on the bank of the river where there was plenty of wild sage This sage is scented somewhat like garden sage stalk[?]

52

answers very well for fuel. To day we passed 8 graves. We are now in the Rocky Mountains ipso facto. Huge piles of Rocks may be seen on every hand; that are perfectly naked and barren. Some of the peaks run to great hight, and their summit are covered with snow.

Wednesday [June] 30th

At 6 AM we struck & moved on. We here left the sweet water and traveled over the bluffs a distance of 15 miles, when we again reached the same. We here found grass and stoped to graze our animals. After the space of 2 hours we moved soon after we started we forded the Sweet water 4 times, We then traveled 12 miles along its banks, when we turned to the east[sic] and traveled 5[?] miles and camped about 200 rods from the road in a ravine, where we found plenty of wood 2 good springs and tolerable feed for our mules. During the day we passed a Salaratus mine, and 6 graves. The snow-caped mountains have been in sight all day.

Thursday July 1st

At 6 AM we tackled our long eared horses and trudged along We crossed several little streams

53

whose banks are steep and difficult of assent, & descent. Soon after we came to a creek on whose banks in a ravine we saw a pile of snow 10 feet deep. 6 miles farther on we found grass one mile from the road. Here we stoped for noon. Soon after we stoped it began to hail and rain, and continued more or less the rest of the day It has been so cold to day that an over coat and mittens were desirable. To day we passed 4 graves.

Friday [July] 2^d

Early in the morning we renewed our journey. Soon after starting we forded the sweet water for

the last time. 12 miles farther on we passed the dividing ridge between the Atlantic & Pacific, or the south pass. This is an undulating plain 30 miles wide. 6 miles farther we stoped for noon. After a space of 2 hour we again started and traveled 21 miles before we found a camping place. This was a hard days drive, the road was more or less sandy. We traveled 40 miles
54

To day we passed 4 graves.

Saturday [July] 3^d

At 7 we rolled on a distance of 8 miles to the big sandy where we stoped 2 hours for the mules to graze. We then traveled only 18 miles where we again struck the big sandy We here camped to spend the Sabbath. To day we passed 2 graves

Sunday [July] 4th

We spent the day in conversation, reading, writing, &c A[t] 6 PM Our Captain gave us a good exhortation This seemed to add cheerfulness & sincerity to all present;- it caused us to feel that we were in a land of civilization.

Monday [July] 5th

At 7 we harnessed our mules and began the new born week, by rolling on toward our place of destination. Though we were traveling down the west side of the Mountain, still our road was comparatively level, and smooth. Interesting, and curious shaped Bluffs, nearly bounded our road on each side. At noon we halted by the road side, where there was neither wood nor water. At 1 PM we again moved on. Having traveled 12 miles we reached green river, & rolled up its banks about 2 miles and camped for the night Our camping
55

place was beautiful and romantic. The swift flowing river was on one side, and high, steep bluffs on the other, On the shore of the river grows trees and shrubs, as if calculated to afford fuel for the many, and care worn trav traveler. We here found first rate feed, and good water. The snow caped mountains have been in sight all day.

Tuesday [July] 6

To day we remained in camp. Some of our men during the day made a raft, on which we were to float our waggons and provisions across the river. Some ~~sp~~ spent a portion in baking, others in prospecting for gold along the bank of the river. They found gold, but in small quantities. I spent the most of the day in mending our tent, Thus passed this notable day,

Wednesday [July] 7th

Our raft not being made right; we spent the day in remodeling it; and rafting our waggons and provisions across the river. This was the most difficult task we have had to perform on our rout. The current of the river was strong, and rapid, & our raft was floated across it, only by hard labor & good management

56

Thursday [July] 8th

We spent the forenoon in cooking riging and loading our waggons &c. At 1[?] PM we caught and harnessed our mules and again moved on, over hills, and through vallies we trudged along,

in many places high steep bluffs bordered our road on each side, in others our road lay on large and level track[?],

About 3 PM I & 3 others [went on the] road ahead of the train supposing our Captain to be still in advance of us. We rode till after sun-set, when finding our[selves] too far ahead of the train to go back to meet it, & giving up all hope of the trains overtaking us, we rode to a strangers camp and obtained lodging for the night. We passed 4 graves this after-noon.

Friday [July] 9th

I left my hospitable friend at ½ past 7 AM and rode on about 3 miles where I found grass (about ¼ of a mile from the road) and let my mule graz till the train overtook me. I then traveled with them. We camped at noon as usual. After our usual nooning we rolled on, ~~and~~ till night. We then camped on the bank ~~of~~ on the bank[sic] of ham's forks (a branch of ~~hams~~ green river.) The road to day has

57

been various. A part was good others sandy. We also had several steep and stony hills to climb and descend. We passed 1 grave.

Saturday [July] 10th

Our train started at the usual time, and traveled at more than usual speed. I rode about ¾ of a mile off the road to an Indian village where I traide one of my blankets for a buffalo robe. I remained here till[?] till the train had got considerable in advance of me so that I had to [ride] nearly all the forenoon to overtake ~~them~~ it. This day our road was the most hilly of any on ~~the~~ our rout ~~that we had~~ thus far. At night we camped on the bank of the Bear river, We here found wood, and good feed. To day we passed 7 graves,

Sunday [July] 11th

This being the Lords day we did not leave camp. Our company spent the day in various ways. Some were fishing, some hunting, others in reading, conversation, & meditation. Indians passed, and repassed nearly all day. We were troubled considerable by their calling at our tents and urging[?] for some thing to eat to traide &c. This has

58

been the most solemn day to me that I have seen since I left home. Nothing but experience can teach any one my feelings. Surely the western plains is the place to try mens souls. The fatigue and length of the journey, the exposure to a variety of weather in a strange climate, and the absence of civilized society, all tended to irritate, and beget within the human heart partial inhumanity and desperation. But God, the Author of the Universe who knows mens hearts can comfort the weary traveler; even in this land of desolation.

Monday [July] 12th

At 8 AM we again moved on. Our road for a distance of 8 miles was good. We then reached the toll bridge at Thomass fork. The road for 11 miles after crossing the fork; was very rough and mountainous. We then struck Bear river, where the road was comparatively level. It being 3 PM, we halted and grazed our mules. At 5 we again rolled on till near sunset,– when we camped in a valley near a small stream of water. Here Musquetoos were so numerous, and the keen demands of their appetites so great, that we were obliged to fight, or lose a portion of our

59

blood. To day we passed three graves.

Tuesday [July] 13th

At 7½ AM we rolled out of camp. At noon we halted as usual. At 1 PM we were found again ~~of~~ on the road. We drove along at more than usual speed till 6 PM when we camped ~~at willow~~ springs in a beautiful red cedar grove. The road to day has been generally good, Some places it was level, some undulating, others hilly. We have passed a variety of bluffs, which bounded the Road on each side. They added beauty & interest to our journey. To day we passed 7 graves.

Wednesday [July] 14th

At the usual hour we again renewed our journey. (One mile and a half from camp, we saw a Soda Spring, which is ~~one of~~ the greatest curiosity I had ever seen before. It is ~~elevated about 30~~ feet situated on a rocky ~~about~~ Bluff about 30 feet in highth, and flows [from] the top of a small conic shaped rock, about 3 feet high: Its waters are strongly pregnated with Soda.) not preparing to travel far to day we did not halt at noon, but drove till 4 PM when we camped in a valley about 1 mile from the main road. Wood and water was good, and plenty. We passed 12 graves

*mmmmmm

Beware of breakers[?] W[?]

60

About 1½ miles from camp, we saw a soda spring. This is something in the works of Nature, that fills the mind of the Beholder with wonder and admiration, It is situated on a rock, (which stands in the valley) about 20 feet from the base. The water flows from the top of a conic rock about 3 feet high. Its waters is strongly pregnated with Soda, though perfectly pure. ¾ of a mile farther on, we saw a beer spring; so called from its waters being pregnated with beer, or something with a similar taste (probably gass) ½ mile farther, on the bank of Bear river, we saw steamboat spring. This, if possible exceeds the other. It is situated on the brink of Bear River and in an exceedingly romantic and interesting spot. It boils from a solid rock, and has the appearance of a boiling pot. The water is often thrown in drops and small columes to a highth of from three to six feet. It is warm, and strongly pregnated with Soda.

61

[top ¾ of this page blank]

Thursday [July] 15th

At 7[?] AM we rolled out of Camp. At a rapid pace we trudged along over lofty hills and through deep vallys, till midday.- when we camped for noon, in a vally, on the shore of mud creek. A[t] 1½ P.M, we again moved on till dark; We then Camped on ~~a hill till~~ a hill near

62

a ravine in which there was water & plenty of wood. During the day we forded several small streams. To day we passed 2 graves.

Friday [July] 16th

At 7 AM, we caught our mules & again started on our journey. 1[?] miles from camp we crossed the willow-muddy creek. This is a small stream whose banks are thickly covered with growing willows, and are also extremely soft & muddy. 8 miles farther we reached gravel creek. Here we camped for noon. Feed was poor & wood scarce. At 2 PM we broke camp and moved onward; till near sun set, when we camped in a valley; ~~where where~~ where there was no water, & but little wood. In the afternoon our road was tolerable good, we ascended & descended a lofty hill or mountain;- on one the slope was gradual. the other was steep and very stony. To day we passed 1 grave.

Saturday [July] 17th

A[t] ½ past 6 we rolled out of camp. Over lofty hills. and through deep ravines we trudged, along, (halting at noon as usual) till 6 PM; we then camped by the roads side, near a spring of good water. The feed in or near camp being very poor we were obliged to take of our mules, one mile from camp in a *****

63

where we found good grass and plenty of it At an early hour our Captain ordered friend Mathewson & I to ~~take under reef~~ eat a cold supper & take our blankets & repair to the mountains to watch the mules (It being our turns to wa[t]ch). We accordingly took our bed clothes, a piece of bacon, some rice, biscuit & crackers and started. Having arrived, we built a fire & cooked our suppers, After supper, we made our bed in the open air, and waited for mid-night when we were to begin our task, About 10 O'clock a four, or two legged mountaineer ran through one drove and created a stampede. As the frightened drove approached the spot where we were sleeping, their noise awaked me, and I had just [time] to rise & turn their courses or we should have been run over. We then in company with the guard for the fore part of the night carefully searched for the interceding stranger but did not find him- As soon as the mules became quiet we returned to ~~led~~ bed. At midnight we were aroused to commence our duty; which we did and continued till 6 Sunday morning. We passed this day 8 graves.

64

Sunday [July] 18th

We remained in camp. Our mules being a distance from camp some of the company (as their turns came) were obliged to watch them;- while others spent most of the day in cooking. I spent nearly all day in the tent;- having done my duty in the mess, in the morning Our road for several days, has been truly romantic. Lofty mountains of various shapes, deep ravines, and shady groves of Poplar, ~~small streams~~ bounded it on each side, small streams bordered with thrifty growing willows, occasionally cross it & often for miles follows along its side, then suddenly disappears behind the mountains. O, there is wisdom and grandeur displayed in the works of Nature!

Monday [July] 19th

At 7 AM, we struck our tents & began another weeks travel toward our place of destination. Our road in the fore noon was somewhat undulating, & lay mostly between 2 ~~ranges~~ chains of mountains. At noon we halted at the entrance of a large valley; We traveled all the afternoon in the valley & camped at night ~~on the~~ near raft river with plenty of water but no wood The road was first rate, descending nearly all the way. To day we passed 3[?] graves, We have

now come to a region where

65

we find the remnants of waggons harness &c. Scores of dead cattle and occasionally a dead mule or horse lay along the road side.

Tuesday [July] 20th

At 7 AM we struck our tents & moved on, till noon; We then as usual, stopped and grazed our mules. At 1 PM we again started. Over an undulating road we tugged[sic] along little thinking that bad luck is liable to overtake the weary traveler in all places. At 5 PM the skanes of one end of the fore axle of N^o 4 broke. We were thus disabled in a barren land, with nothing to mend the broken [wagon]. But as luck would have it one of our boys ~~in-cro~~ found on an old camping ground, the very article we needed. We then found a suitable place, and camped; The cripled waggon was then taken in hand & ere day light had gone, it was ready to roll on. Our road to day has been good, The weather hot. & We passed 9 graves.

Wednesday [July] 21st

At an early hour we left camp. During the forenoon we passed a variety of scenery;- among which was Pyramid circle. It consists of multitudinous rocks, ranging from 10 to 150

66

feet in highth, of various shapes, tapering from the ground to the top. On these rocks are written the names of thousands of travelers, At noon we halted in a valley and grazed our mules. At 1 PM we again rolled on to Goose creek, where we camped for night. Our road to-day has been very rough. We ascended & descende[d] hills, many of which was very high nearly all day. We passed 2 graves

Thursday [July] 22^d

At the usual hour we packed sack and baggage, & at more than usual speed traveled toward our place of destination. At noon we halted as usual.- Four miles from our camp at noon, we left goose creek, and traveled 12 miles to hot spring valley. It being 10 PM when we arrived, we of course camped. Our road to day has been generally good. It runs over hills, & mountains, & through vallies, through deep ravines &c 1 grave to day.

Friday [July] 23^d

Feed being poor we harnessed and started without breakfast, After driving 4 miles we found tolerable feed.. & We here stopped ~~on~~ co[o]ked our breakfast & grazed the mules. After breakfast we rolled on (weather very hot) At noon we stopped where there was no wood nor water. Having nooned our usual time

67

we moved on, a distance of 9 miles and camped in hot spring valley. This valley is so called, from its numerous hot springs. (It is sometimes called thousand spring valley, from the same cause[.]) (This valley also contains a number of ~~cold~~ cold springs.) Wood and water in camp to night is scarce. 2 graves to day

Saturday [July] 24th

At 7 AM we rolled out of Camp. About 10, we passed a number of hot springs. They, ~~come~~ ~~about~~ are scattered over about one acre of land; and are hot enough to boil eggs. At noon we

halted on a hill side where feed was tolerable, sage plenty, but no water. After-noon we traveled over an undulating road, till about 5 O clock; we then camped in a large & beautiful valley, where feed was first rate, water good and wood very scarce: The day has been very hot. The road very dusty. 1 grave to day

Sunday [July] 25th

This Lord's day. we also spent in Camp. At 7 PM our Captain addressed us in the language of exhortation. His remarks were appropriate & profitable. I felt benefited by them

Monday 26th

At 6 we rolled out of camp. Nothing of note transpired during the day; but we moved on
68

unmolested by every species of trouble; ~~Soon after leaving the valley in which~~ Soon after leaving the valley in which we were camped, we entered a deep ravine, about 4 miles in length. This is truly an interesting spot; A little stream of pure water, bounded by thrifty growing willows gayly flows through it, & 2 large warm springs come rustling from the foot of the mountain. Having reached the end of the ravine, we entered another beautiful and fertile valley, in which we saw acres of wild & thrifty growing rye we traveled in this valley till 6 PM when we camped on a ~~branch of the~~ Humbolt river. Wood scarce, water plenty, grass good, We passed two graves to day.

Tuesday [July] 27th

At 6 AM we renewed our Journey. Our course to day, lay along the Humbolt, through the same fertile valley, we traveled yesterday. Some of our company to day began to feel unwell, & complain of extreme pains 3 graves to day.

Wednesday [July] 28th

Still we are traveling in the beautiful valley of the Rio Humbolt feed is good, wood scarce, water tolerable. At night we camped in the same valley

69

Two of our men are now sick; though not dangerously 1-[?] grave to day-

Thursday [July] 29th

We left camp at the usual hours. Our course lay chiefly along the river. During the forenoon we passed through a deep & interesting ravine. Mountains of rocks of curious shapes, stood bold & permanent on each side of the road as if to protect it & those who chance to travel it, from an invading foe. At noon we camped by the river side and in consequence of Sickness we remained in camp ~~during~~ the remainder of the day. The weather is very hot & the road extremely dusty, 2 graves to day,

Friday [July] 30th

The sick being a little better we rolled out of camp at an early hour. Our road in the forenoon was extremely stony, dusty, & hilly. In the afternoon [it] was nearly level, less stony, but still dusty. ~~Our road—It lay~~ Our travel in the afternoon was in the valley of the Humbolt. We are now traveling in a somewhat interesting and romantic region. The mountains

70

[from this point on text is sometimes traced, rewritten over other words, or illegibly scratched out; occasional blanks appear]

Are less lofty, the vallies wider, & feed better; than that we met with a few days ago. We have reached a region where the mountains are not so lofty as to think it beneath them to wear any other than snow white caps. They here are willing to wear caps of the same color of their foundation. At night we camped by the side of the flowing Rio Humbolt. The days travel did not prove beneficial to the sick in the train.

Saturday [July] 31st

At 6 AM, we rolled on, One mile & ½ from camp, we forded the river. At noon we camped by the river side; Feed first rate. Having nooned our usual time (we moved on till night; when we again camped in the beautiful valley of the Humbolt[]). The sick to day is a little better. We are now traveling in a valley so wide that the eye cannot reach across it. It abounds in grass, wild sage, wild grain, willows &c. It is watered by the swift flowing Humbolt, whose waters are
71

clear, & current rapid. It also abounds in fish: but they are not easily caught.

Sunday August 1st

In view of our being in an unhealthy region, our Captain thought it best to travel toward our place of destination. This we accordingly did. Through the rich and beautiful valley of the Humbolt (halting at noon)[sic] as usual) till near 5 PM, when we forded the river & camped on its South bank. The weather is hot & roads good.

Monday [Aug] 2^d

We rolled out of camp at 5½[?] AM. During the forenoon we passed ~~the las~~ through the last Canyon that lay on our road between the Sierra Madra & Sierra Nevada. At noon we halted as usual. Having moved our usual length of time we again rolled on through the wide and noble vally of the Humbolt till night. We then camped- by the river side, where feed was tolerable but wood scarce. We passed 15 graves nearly all of which
72

had been dug open ~~either~~ and the bones of some who had been laid there exposed to view. They had (no doubt) been opened by Indians in search of plunder

Tuesday [Aug] 3^d

We struck our tents at an early hour and again moved toward the end of our journey. The road was excessively dusty, & in some places for miles the sand was from four to eight inches deep. Our mules labored hard to draw their loads. The region through which we passed to day is barren & unpleasant Little else than wild sage, & greese wood grows on its sandy surface. At night we camped about, ¾ of a mile from the road by the river side. Feed was tolerable & wood scarce. One grave to day.

Wednesday [Aug] 4th

At an early hour we pulled up stakes & rolled on. Over an extremely sandy, & dusty, road & rough road we rolled along over Bluffs, & through the H valley, we moved along with eyes filled with dust and clothes covered with the same till 9 PM, when we
73

camped in the rain, without wood or feed & retired to bed without supper.

Thursday [Aug] 5th

In view of the scarcity of feed for our mules we packed bag & sack at an early hour and without breakfast rolled on a distance of 3 miles. where we found some grass. Here we cooked our breakfast & stayed till 11 AM giving our animals time to graze & rest. At 11 we again began to move- over the sandy plain. The country here presents barrenness and desolation on every hand. Little else than wild sage & greese wood can be seen growing on its sandy surface. To day some of our mules began to lag. Old Charley came nearly giving out entirely. We camped about six PM, about 200 yards from the river Grass tolerable. Wood scarce. The health of the company is ~~generally~~ good; except Mr Thornton,, who is now sick with the mountain fever. One grave to day.

Friday [Aug] 6th

At 7 AM we threw the leather on our rasede[?] jacks, and again

74

Staggered toward the land of excitement.- Through deep & burning sand from 4 to 10 inches deep we tugged along through a barren region till 3 PM when we reached the valley of the Humbolt We then halted & let our animals graze; after which we rolled on a distance of about 3 miles and camped.

Saturday [Aug] 7th

We spent the fore part of the day in cutting grass & drying it to carry on the desert for our animals. About 10 AM our Captain called the company together to hear their minds on the propriety of excusing three of our number who wished to leave the company & pack through the rest of the Journey, By a vote of the company three mules their portion of the property were given them & they were excused. (Their names, A & G Steward & J Loux[?]) At noon we pulled up stakes & rolled on till night, when we camped in the same valley. This is an extensive valley situated on the sink of the Humbolt. In

75

it lies the big meadows which so often cheers the hearts of the care-,worn travelers. Here they may rest & recruit their teams and prepare for the troubles common to the latter end of the rout.

Sunday [Aug] 8th

This beautiful & pleasant day of the Lord we spent (till 3 PM) in preparing for our journey across the

50 mile desert. At 3 PM all things being ready we moved on About dusk we reached a traiding post, situated at the edge of the desert. We here watered our teams and rolled on, choosing rather to travel over the desert in the night- than under the scorching rays of the sun. We had not traveled far on the desert when one of our boys picked up a human skull. Several of us examined it, and felt to sympathize with its unlucky owneer[sic]. About 9 in the evening one of the fore wheels of waggon N^o 4 (the waggon belonging to my mess) ran off. We now found ourselves involved in trouble. We looked a long while[?]

76

in the dark for the nut, but could not find it. Friend Mathewson then consented to take the heal of his boot to supply the place of the lost nut. A hole was then bored through, it the size of the

screw on the end of the skane on which it was placed,. Being thus temporarily righted up we again rolled on; but soon the leather nut came off, and down went the axle, We looked a short time for the lost heel, but did not find it. Friend M. then offered his other boot as a sacrifice to the luck and chance of a journey on the desert. Having put the other boot heel in the place of a nut, we again moved ahead; but soon a crash was heard and down went the axle the 3^d time. On examination we found that the boxes in the wheel were broken. We now began to pack our mules and leave the waggon but luck often cheers the traveler. We realized our condition in a desert land, and were but

77

making up our minds to pack our mules and go ahead. But a second thought ran over our brains. We again raised the axle, put the wheel on, & took a nut from the hind axle & put in the place of the lost one, and put the leather on the hind axle. Hope again revived and we moved on . At 3 ½ AM

(Monday) [Aug 9]

we overtook the rest of the train which had halted to feed their teams- Some of the grass they had brought with them. We of course followed suit. At 4½ AM we moved on a distance of 3 or 4 miles where we stopped & cooked our breakfast, & gave our teams the remainder of our grass & a little water from our water cags. Daylight having returned we could plainly see the marks of misery & distruction that had gone before us. The ruins of waggons, cattle & horses without number met our eyes on every side. About 7 AM we reached a region of deep & heavy sand

78

We here found it necessary for all except the driver to travel on foot. Slowly, and laboriously we trudged along through the burning sand (occasionally passing a traiding post, erected for the relief of the suffering traveler) til [3 lines erased and struck over] 10 AM when the team of N^o 2 gave out and we were obliged to leave the waggon. The team, and the remainder of the train, then moved on till about 1 PM when we reached Carson Valley through which runs a beautifull river of the same name We here watered our thirsty mules and drove about 1 ½ miles down the river where we camped. At the entrance of this valley is situated a number of large traiding posts, where various articles of refreshment are kept for sale, though at an exorbitant price. I purchased a small bottle of pickles for \$1,50. 12 graves to day.

Tuesday [Aug] 10th

This day we remained in camp. We spent the day mostly in

79

recruiting ourselves & animals, as far as time and circumstances would admit. At 3 P.M two of our boys took 8 mules and went on the desert after the waggon that was left. They returned with it at 10 in the evening.

Wednesday [Aug] 11th

At 7 AM, we again pulled up stakes & rolled onward. At 9 AM we stopped & let our mules graze; There being no grass nearer than sixteen miles of this place. After an intermition of 2 hours we rolled on over a very stony road till near sunset. W^e then camped on the bank of Carson river, in the valley of the same name. We now begin to feel near our journeys end. Having less than 150 miles to travel yet. We passed 15 graves to day. Our teams though they have seen some hard times look comparatively well. The health of the company is good except

M^r Thornton who is still struggling with the mountain fever; but he is gradually amending,

80

Thursday [Aug] 12th

At the usual hour we rolled out of camp and made progress toward our journey's end. Our course lay chiefly along the bank of the river. During the day we passed several small trading posts. At night we camped in the valley under the shade of thrifty growing cotton-wood trees. This valley abounds in grass willows & cotton wood trees.

Friday [Aug] 13th

At the usual hour we again started. At noon we camped near a trading post where one of our boys exchanged some bacon for pork. This we found to be a rarity. During the afternoon we passed a canyon in which there was several miners at work. It was said that they evariged \$5 per day. We also passed 3 trading posts and crossed an 8 mile desert. At night we again camped in Carson Valley, near another trading post;- where we exchanged some bacon for beef. This we also considered as quite a treat.

81

He-gere I-gy re-ge-se-geve-e-ged th-ge ge-ra-te-gest, re-gep-ro-go -ma-gand fro-gom o-gou-e-gere-se-gap-te-gaing th-gat I-gy e-ger-e-ger to-gook i-gen ma-gy la-gife. A-ga-Fre-gend i-gin na- geed i-gis a-ga fre-gend i-gin da-geed. [possible meaning- Here I received the greatest reprimand from one[?] *****ting that I ever took in my life A Friend in need is a friend indeed]

~~~~~

Saturday [Aug] 14<sup>th</sup>

At 7 AM we again packed bag, and sack, and tackled rasslejack[?] with different feelings and a variety of opinions, we rolled toward our place of destination, The road was more or less sandy. At 11 AM we passed over a steep and sandy Bluff and landed in the most beautiful Valley I ever saw. About 150 yards to the right of the road as it enters the Valley is situated a splendid grove of lofty pines, (in which we camped to spend the remainder of the day, and the Sabbath) This looked indeed like civilization in the wilderness. The valley is bounded on the NW[?] NW by a smooth & barren mountain the Sly  
[one line illegible]

82

one of a more irregular shape on which is thrifty growing pine and fir trees. About 1 mile from the entrance may be seen a beautiful little lake whose unrippled waters lie sparkling in the rays of fiery faced Sol. A reflecting mind while viewing this lake, hemmed in by lofty mountains may learn a lesson that would be a benefit to the petulent and fretful. A lesson on composure & contentment, that might touch the case of the whole of the Human race. This Valley also affords grass in abundance

Sunday [Aug] 15<sup>th</sup>

We remained in camp till 4½ P.M, We then packed and moved to the distance of 5 or 6 miles up the valley and again camped.

Monday [Aug] 16<sup>th</sup>

At an early hour we again started for the land of Gold. At 7 A.M, we reached the foot of the Sierra Nevada. For awhile we tugged up the mountain side but finding the

83

road increased in steepness as we advanced, we found it necessary to pack our riding mules with valises, provisions &c, from the waggon, to make it more easy for our teams to climb the mount before them. All day we tugged up the mountain over a crooked and sandy road. I carried a heavy stone nearly all the way to block the wheel when we stoped to let our teams rest. About sunset we reached the summit. We then moved 1½ miles farther and camped. This day's travel ranks among the most interesting though the hardest and most difficult of any on our route thus far. Though we were rising higher at every step we could look in all directions and see peaks far above us. On the summit of these mountains it is so cold, that an over coat would not be a burden.

84

Tuesday [Aug] 17<sup>th</sup>

To day we remained in camp on the top of the Mountain; Plenty of snow in sight, and too much cold wind for convenience or comfort. M<sup>r</sup> B's train not being able to reach the summit yesterday; some of our boys with three of our teams (for B's were about used up) and[sic] went and helped him to the summit, Others with guns in hand and blood in their eyes, went a hunting for grizzly Bears, deer, &c But they found no game. In the morning I shot twice at a wolf. The first time I missed him, the 2<sup>d</sup> hit him in the same place. Sol at length sank behind the mount, & we straitened ourselves on our pallets, shut our lookers for another nights sleep.

Wednesday [Aug] 18<sup>th</sup>

At 7 we pulled up stakes and rolled along. Over vexatious rocks, through the brush, & down the mountain side, we tugged along till we reached a nearly level spot of earth situated on

85

the shore of [a] mountain Lake. There being a little grass here, we halted and let our mules graze, This being done we again rolled on toward the foot of the mount. Night came & we camped (on another grass spot) for the night. Our road to day has been very rough a[nd] somewhat difficult.

Thursday [Aug] 19<sup>th</sup>

We started at the usual hour, and slowly made our way (over one of the worst roads I ever saw) down the mountain. At 1 PM we reached grass valley, and camped for the rest of the day: This is a beautiful valley surrounded by snow caped mountains, whose sides abound in lofty pines and cedars- it affords an abundance of grass & good water.

Friday [Aug] 20<sup>th</sup>

At 6½ AM we again harnessed our mules & again began to climb the mount. Soon we came to what is called the ½ mile pile[?] It is very steep and stoney & it was with some difficulty that we asscended it. Having reached the desirable end of this half mile we again began

86

to descend over one of the most God forsaken waggon breaking mule provoking driver perplexing; heart sickning roads I ever saw Over rocks & down short & steep pitches, over logs & through mud nearly deep enough to take a mule in out of sight, we pushed along fully

determined that the Sierra Nevada should not conquer the NY boys. Night came & we again turned in. The feed was good.

Saturday [Aug] 21<sup>st</sup>

At the usual hour we again moved on. Our traveling to day was up and down the mountains as it had been for day before, The road still extremely rough, the mountains high and steep. While on the mount top we could see huge banks of snow far below us. Night came and we, tired and hungry camped in [a] ravine where there was water, but no grass. The Mountains are covered with large and thrifty growing pines & cedars.

Sunday [Aug] 22<sup>d</sup>

Our provisions having run short, we were compelled to travel. We accordingly started at an early

87

hour and rolled along over lofty mountains ~~and~~ through deep ravines, (and over a road that is bad enough to make a child strike his Father.) till 1 PM when we reached a better and more level piece of road. 5 miles farther on we passed a trading post, where we purchased some salt, cheese &c. 3 miles farther we camped for the night. Thus far good luck has followed us.

Monday [Aug] 23<sup>d</sup>

At the usual hour we started with life and energy, purposing to finish our journey before night. Having traveled 8 miles, we reached a trading post, we here camped and drove our mules 1½ miles on a ranche where we were to give \$3 a piece per month. We were to remain in camp till our Captains return from Caloma.

[later entries indicate that on Aug 23 Van Schaick was 8-10 miles from Yankee Jims]