

M. A. VIOLETTE

Diary

April 12 - October 29

1849

July, 2000

[The following is in typescript and describes the diary]

A FORTY-NINER'S JOURNAL OF A TRIP OVERLAND FROM MISSOURI TO
CALIFORNIA DAILY RECORD OF ROUTE AND DISTANCES LIFE AT THE
DIGGING[S]

Violette, M. A. Manuscript Diary, April 12, to December 24, 1849. 65 pages legibly written in ink, bound in 4to boards.

Violette left "home", location unspecified, on April 12, 1849, and two days later was at Huntsville, Missouri. On the 24th he was at Independence, at St. Joseph on the 30th, and on May 2nd crossed the Missouri River. On the 8th he was at Wolf River, and the following day he joined a company of twenty-seven wagons under the leadership of Dr. P. S. Williams. On May 18th the company had increased to thirty-two wagons and one hundred men. The party followed the valley of the Little Blue and on May 27th was at the Platte. They followed the South Fork, crossing on June 5th and proceeding to the south side of the main platte[sic]. On the 9th they were at the Indian village near Cedar Spring on the North Fork. During the next few days, they passed Court House and Chimney rocks and Scott's Bluff, and were at Fort Laramie on the 17th. In the entry for June 22nd, Violette speaks of La Bonte River and, the next day, of the Black Hills. On the 26th the company corssed[sic] to the north bank of the North Fork and were in a "volcanic" region". On the 30th they passed the saleratus lakes and reached the Sweetwater River. One July 2nd they saw Independence Rock, on the 4th they corssed[sic] the Sweetwater three times, on the 7th they were at a high spot in the mountains, and on the 9th were at South Pass and Pacific Springs. The entry for July 11th reads in part: "Moved on to big Sandy. The starting point

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across 35 miles without wood water or grass. Lay by. Grass 4 miles from the road called Sublit's cut of. We are now in a large valley surrounded by snow capt. mountains". On the 12th they were at Green River, on the 18th at Smith's Fork of the Green River, on the 20th in Bear River Valley, on the following day at Thomas's Fork of Bear River, and on the 24th they were at Soda Springs. The entry for the 25th reads, in part: "Resumed our journey and have taken a new cut off which was travelled for the first time by Hudspeth (?) with wagons five days ago. (Hudspeth's (?) Cut off saving 150 miles so said....). Leaving Fort Hall a considerable distance to the right we this day left Bear River Valley and struck across the mountains..." On the 30th they saw Great Salt Lake from the summit of the mountains. On August 4th they were at Goose Creek, and on the 10th on a branch of the Humboldt River, with the route lying along the Humboldt Valley. On the 19th Violette decided to "pack through" and the next day he and two others left the main party. At this point according to Violette's calculation, he was about 200 miles from Humboldt Sink and 450 miles from Sutter's Fort. On the 26th they were at the Sink of St. Mary's River. The entry from September 1st begins: "Traveld 2 miles. Com to Donah (Donner) cabbins where he and company wintered and suffered so much in the winter of 1846. 2 cab bins or 1 Double Cab bin. There is a great many old clothes, bones of animals scattere

round here and as I now sit in the Dore of one of the cabbins as I write it causes very sollom feelings to think what my fellow Being has suffered hear. I set here solitary and alone in this thick pine grove in the Hills or mountains at the foot of the Siarenavado Mountains. A few Hundred yards from this Place is where Col. Cama (?) Burnt some cabbins that the company Built the eight[sight] was

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so bad that he thought it prudent to Burn them....” On September 3rd they were on a branch of the Bear River, and on the 4th in Pleasant Valley where they “eat some California Straw berreys – vary fine.” On the 5th Violette visited the diggins at Sleep[Steep] Hallow and the next day began to mine. Thereafter he prospected in various places and visited boom towns, mines in the neighborhood of the Bear, Yuba, and Feather rivers, Deer Creek, Sacramento, Sutter’s Mills, Johnson’s Ranch, Nichol’s Ranch, and elsewhere. The diary closes on December 24th in winter quarters.

[The manuscript diary begins]

April 12th

Left Home for californnia felt vary sad for some time after leaving my wife and children
morning fair evening rainey

[Apr] 13th

Cold & roads vary muddy came up with the co[m]pany found them in high spirits camp
at night after supper Doc^t Williams had a chill and was vary sick

[Apr] 14th

pass through Hunts Village roads muddy desperate Traveling

[Apr] 15th Sanday

fair roads fair roads modrate traveled 11 miles

[Apr] 16th

Snowey Mornig crossed Shariton about Noon 1[??] mile of the worst road I ever saw
traveled 9 miles

[Apr] 17

Cold windy & snow in the morning pleasant evening traveld 7 miles Doct Williams
had another chill at night

[Apr] 18th

Laid by Puliums visited Brunswick During the day

[Apr] 19th

Passed through brunswick crossed

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Grand River traveled 10 Miles camp at a[]little Town. Dewitt

[Apr] 20th

Traveled 7 miles & camped at Judge Rays good place to stop

[Apr] 21st

Left the the[sic] company went throught Clay county to see some conections traveled 30 Miles stop at Mr Philips

[Apr] 22

Eat[?] my Breakfast in Richmond Stop at night with my uncle Bill 30 mile

[Apr] 23rd

I Visited my different Relations found them all Well except aunt Saludd Violette who I think will not recover

[Apr] 24

Visited Indipendence it is in the Hart of a[]fine country Butiful Place

[Apr] 25 & 26

Visited my Relations

[Apr] 27th

returned and met my company on the road to Plats Burg 6 miles from the Burg

[Apr] 28

Pass through Plats Burg. traveled 13 miles campt at Mr. Atchisons

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Our out fit campt 1 mile from Iowa Traveled 10 miles St. Joseph is the most flourishing Town in the state agreeable to its age 5 years Old colery Here

May 1st

Fair to day traveld 8 miles 235 miles from Home

[May] 2ond

Storm Last Night Traveled to the Missouri River about 50 Wagons to cross before our time comes about 7 oclock Moved up to the Fery cross the river about 12 O'clock with 1 wagon and the balance froud[?] that until day 3rd of the Same By paying \$100 more \$250 on the teame we cross at night

[May] 3

Traveld 8 miles campt at the Bluffs ****ss fine grass and watter Pleasant day

[May] 4

rainey damp day Lay still to day

[May] 5th

cloudy Morning lay still to day fair evening

[May] 6th

Fair Sunday Layd By to day

[May] 7th

Fair Traveled 8 miles camp at Musher creek

[May] 8

do[ditto] cross wolf river Traveled 4 miles Campt

[May] 9

Fair Lay By to day 27 wagons from[?] of Salt River Misourie formed a company to cross The Plains elected Doc^t P. S[L?]. Williams captin and other oficers nesesary to Orgernise a company

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I also saw a man To day come vary near Being drown[ed] crossing wolf river By Being run over By as pair of Mules in a[]bed of qu[i]ck san[d] Traveled 8 ^{miles}

[May] 10

Fair Pleasant weather traveld through the Indian agency- a[]small town and a[]scool
traveld 9 miles and compt good grass for cattle

[May] 11th

Fair .Traved 12 miles all Plains campt on a[]small creek plenty wood grass and water

[May] 12

Windy some what cloudy Traveled 12 m

[May] 13th sunday

Fair and Pleasant Traveled 9 or 10

[May] 14

Cloudy some rains in the morning

[May] 15th

do- & cold morning vary pleasant Travling

[May] 16th

Cloudy Vary fine Travling Crossed ~~Little Big Big Blue~~ vermillion Butifull stream

[May] 17th

Cloudy Morning fine Travling Mr James Grout[Groat] was taking ill yesterday and to day is vary Bad with the Cholera

May 18th

Fair Lay By to day Mr grout[Groat] Vary Bad we passed our by Laws to Day Our
company Now Numbers 100 men 32 wagons

[May] 19th

Cloudy pleasant. Travling But Clouds of dust

[May] 20 sonday

Hevy shower in the morning Clear in evining fine Travling

Mr. Grout[Groat] still vary low

[May] 21st

some what cloudy fine Travling Hunt to day one of company killd a dear another Mr
George Haines found a dead man who look as though He Had bin dead a[]week we passed a
Man Dying to day who shot him self by taking His gun out of His wagon loaded also another
just a Head who Shot Him self the Same way a[nd] died

[May] 22

fair but vary cold lay still Mr Grout[Groat] Died to day and we attended to his Buriel
which was done in a[]vary solem maner impression on company

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[May] 23rd

Fair & Plesant Travling but rather cold. Started up the valey of little Blue

[May] 24th

Cloudy Hail storm about 11^{ock} cold stormey evning and night

[May] 25

cold cloudy and muddy roads

Bad travling left the little blue Struck across for Bigg Platt camp in the Pararie cold
nighth[sic]

[May] 26

cold cloudy rainy No wood for 25 or 30 miles except On an[]iland which is cald grand
iland of Bigg Platt campt in the Bottom about 2 miles from the river some Prospect for
Fair day tomorrow 20 miles

[May] 27th

Fair Pleasant weather But bad roads moved up the Bottom 7 or 8 Miles & campt 4 miles
from Fort Carna wrote a[]letter to my familey Pleasanting[?] evning this

[May] 28

Fine Pleasant day passed fort Carna traveld up the valley of the platt 2 wagons Left
our company to Day no wood today

[May] 29

Fair and warm traveld 12 or 15 Miles no wood to Day 8 more wagons left our company

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[May] 30

Hevey rain Last night cloudy morning cold windy day. Traveld 16 or 18 miles

Bad prospect for wood. we still remain in the Valey of the plat and will for some time

[May] 31st

Cold windy and rainey Barley comfortable with one coat & Blanket Traved 15 or 16 miles

June 1st

Clear Pleasant day fine Traveling weather but rather Bad roads wood vary Scarce

[June] 2^{ond}

Clear Pleasant Weather fine Travling

[June] 3rd Sondag

Clear fine day fine Travling

[June] 4th

Clear fine Travling came up South fork of Platt camp oppersit a Sew Vilage of 1000 or
1500 inhabitants vary friendly

[June] 5

Clear Pleasant weather Moved[?] up the river 4 miles and crossed this river is about ¼
Mile wide and shallow some times up to the wagon. Bed Cross over the point[?] in to main
Platt 2 miles Traveld up the south Side campt fine grass some appearance of a[]storm
to night

[June] 6th

Heavey thunder storm Last night Cattle Strayed of[f] vary Bad Storming day wood[?]
***** bad

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found the cattle about noon Move up the valley 6 miles or upwards

[June] 7

fair. fine Travling we average some 16 to 20 miles per Day

[June] 8

fine Travling to day a[]man shot him self to Day throug His leg just Behing our train
campt at Noon

[June] 9th

rain last night fine Travling to[day] Started at Noon which made 1[?] day we Laid By at
Seder Spring on the North Platt pass an indian Village

[June] 10 Sunday

Storm Last Night fine day for Travlig wood Searce man Died just Bahing[behind] us
Last night with colera Butiful Scenery on the Bluffs to day Large castle Rocks **
Discriptions some few seders covered with grass & Flowers Meet 2 wagons from Salt
Lake

[June] 11

Heavy storm last night cloudy day fine Travling. came in sight of Court House Bluff

[June] 12

Fine Travling to day Pass Court H. bluff Storm in the evning

9

[June] 13

Cold cloudy morning over coats very nescesry Vary Sick all day with something like
a[]bad cold Pass chimbny Rock to day Butifull Scenry along the Botton Bluffs come in
sight of scotts Bluff

[June] 14

Passed scotts Bluff fine Pleasant Day for travling cross some Bluff in the evning came
in sight of fort Larmie Peake of the Rocky Mountain 150 miles Sto[r]mey evening this

[June] 15

Clear morning fine Travling to Day Cloudy

[June] 16

Fine Clear day rather warm Evening

[June] 17

Clear Greening & Co- wagon upsett this Morning By the team runing away Crossed
Larimoies fork of Platt passed fort Larimoie vary warme to day

[June] 18

Clear warm Morning Left the Bottom road asended the Point suffered vary much for
watter (12 O.c we came to a[]fine spring[]) Some vary Bad roads fine camping in the
evening But grass Searce passed the warm spring

[June] 19th

fine day Lay. By. litened our wagons about 500 lb

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[June] 20

Clear fine day roads vary Hilley Theodoer Price and Hiram Lamton fought this evning
(Some Hail at noon[.]])

[June] 21st

Clear fine travling to[day] roads Hilley fine watter Bad Grass Alexander
Hickman Vary Sick for Severell days passed but Some better to day

[June] 22

Clear warm and Dusty roads Vary Hilley grass Bad water scarece Camp on the
Labonte river

[June] 23

Clear warm Clouds of dust plenty water no grass came to[sic] Back to the Platt after
crossing 80 Miles of Baren country colled the Black Hills cattle Vary worn out & feet tender
campt on Deer creek grass eat out and vary Searce

[June] 24

Fine Pleasant day Lay By to day and Bought a[.]ferry Boat for \$30

[June] 25

Fine day Lay s[t]ill in camp to[day] a[.]man drowned Swiming a[.]mule cross

[June] 26

fine day crossed main Platt in in[sic] a boat composed of 4 conoes

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[June] 27

Fine day Some what cloudy Light Showers. Traveled 15 Miles

[June] 28

Clear Pleasant Morning and one of the most Lovley Encamptments we have found on the Platt
we are now travling up the North Side of the River which is[.]a volcanic region and renders
makes[sic] the water unfitt for the use of animals Vary warm Dusty & Hilley. Deep sandy
roads campt in the Pairrie

[June] 29

Clear Hot & dusty Passed the Rred[sic] Mountains crossed the poisen Valley campt at
the willow springs fine watter No grass

[June] 30

fine day in the Last 4 days we Have Hardly bin out of sight of Dead Cattle caused By Poisen

Watter passed Lakes of Saliratus came to Sweet water campt Saw 8 dead oxen in a pile

July 1 Sunday

fine clear day rather warm lay By to day good water and grass

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assended one of the points of the Rocky Mountains which we came to today the Scenry was rich indeed the Platt runing from south west at this Point with its Broad spread Valley and peaked Mountains Sweet Watter from the west with its Meanderings through Lovley Valley and cloud capt Mountain of pine on the Left and towering Mountains of granite rock on the right How Butifull an Sublime

July 2

fine day slight Showers assended sweet water Passed Indipendence Rock in the Morning grand sight came to the Devills [Gate] about Noon Sight worth seeing continued up sweet watter Lots of dead cattle campt on on[sic] the river camp'

[July] 3rd

vary cold Passed Small Lakes coverd with Sa[l]iratus continued up sweet water High mountains Butifull valey came in sigh[t] of Snow capt mountains

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[July] 4

Clear cold morning ice in Buckets cross the river 3 times 1 of [the] crossings a[n] narrow pass and vary Bad came to the Ice Springs in the evening campt

[July] 5th

fine day for Travling from fort Larimore to this the road is Strewn with every artickle composeing the out fitt for california except Grocreys Oxen not excepted campt earley good grass

[July] 6

Left Sweet watter for 15 miles assended a[n] vary High part of the Rockey Mountain fine cool day but High winds clouds of dust

[July] 7th

cool Morning High winds colouds of dust passed lots of Snow Lying under the Banks of creeks campt 2½ miles from Sweet water and 10 miles from the South Pass we are now about as high as we will get on the Rocky Mountains fine Small Streams narrow valleys fine water and grass sage wood to cook with snow vary Plentiful

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[July] 8th

Fine day cool windy some what cloudy Lay By to day- Sunday our company Has Lost some 5 or six Oxen in the [last?] 5 days Some more Sick a[n] vary sick Lady in a camp

Last night R. Austr
took cold by lying
out & is quite hearse

close by

[July] 9th

Left sweet water Came to what is call[ed] the South Pass about Noon and Pass over to the pasific Spring Which is about 3 miles farther camp about 8 miles Below the sprig lots of Dust and High winds to day

[July] 10

Left Pacific creek cross Dry Sandy campt on Little sandy Traveld 21 miles fine calm morning High winds & clouds of Dust in the evening good Grass 3 miles

[July] 11

fine rather windy an Dusty moved on to Bigg Sandy 6 miles the starting Point across 35 miles without wood water or grass Lay By Grass 4 miles from the road called Sublits cut of we are Now in a[]large Valley Surround By Snow Capt mountains

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[July] 12th

cold Morning & clear Left campt to the 35 mile streach without water at 3 O^{ck} Pm traveld all nigh[sic] came to Gren River 4 Pm nex day and found nearer 50 than 35 miles our

[July] 13

cattle vary fatieged Bad road in Some places clouds of dust

[July] 14 ~~13~~th

fine day Lay By at moman ferry on Green river fine grass 3 miles up

[July] 15 ~~14~~th

Lay By after crossing Sondag Doct Williams was taking vary ill Last night with Difficulty of Breathing and came vary near not recovering

[July] 16

Lef Green River traveld 12 miles goo[d] watter grass and sage for wood Some What rainey to day & warm

[July] 17

continued rather south west crossed Spurs of the mountains with Banks of Snow Lying in the Ravines cleare [sky] with White clouds Noon noon[sic] I am now sitting on a Bank of Snow 15 or 20 feet Deep

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The seenery around is sublime The mountains spotted with beautiful groves of Pine & ash

[July] 18

Accompanied by Dr W. whose health had become so bad that he determined to have recreation for a week or two we left the train & struck N.W. over high Mountains Scenery equal to

yesterday crossed many small streams of pure water as cold as ice and upon one or two we found some ripe Strawberries. Becoming somewhat hungry we began to look out for some game but found none save a couple of young hawks which we Killed one of which we barbecued and in truth found it to be superior to almost any thing I have ever ate. We had provided ourselves with bread salt & pepper. After doing ample justice to our rural repast, smoked our pipes, talked over home & home matters, we proceeded in search of our train, when to our

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surprise found that we were several miles in advance of it having taken a cut off consequently had to "tack ship" or camp out. we found it encamped in a beautiful valley of Smith's fork of Green River, Nothing of moment occurred that night, Save we had a Badger cooked for supper which went pretty well

[July] 19

We this morning ascended a very high mountain with the train the road passed to day through a lovely country intersperced here & there with the most beautiful pines groves I ever saw. Water abundant & good. We here witness the singular fact that in the short distances of 2 miles or less we have Winter Spring Summer & Autumn—

Dr. W. & I spent the greater part of the day grazing our ponies. We had this day a variety of Small game cooked in a style that the most fastidious epicure could not fail to relish

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we joined our train at the summit of a high mountain full 1½ mile from the summit to the valley & so steep for a considerable distance that the wagon had to be let down by ropes. All got Safely down

[July] 20

We this day crossed over Several high hills and descended into the Vally of Bear river which is beautiful indeed everything roadfare[?] for the emigrant is here found in abundance. The Dr & I again left the train & dined as usual off game including fish taken from Bear river. I am now seated on a beautiful little hill[?] and [blot] the base of a high rocky mountain nearly 1000 feet high & almost perpendicular

[July] 21st

continued down the Valley of Bear River Crossed Thomases fork of B[e]ar R and assended severall High mountains and crossed Some butifull Valleys and fine cold rivletts [blot] the C[blot] of Bar River camped in[sic] near the river

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[July] 22nd Sunday

Continued Down the Vatter[sic] fine Scenery. Some rain fine water & Grass. Headache 2 days now

[July] 23

Road still continues down the Valley nothing of interest to day. passed one of the finest

springs I have seen about 4 feet square & 2 deep cold Still quite unwell

[July] 24

Austin quite unwell is now unable to do any thing & has placed himself under the care of Dr W. Came to the Soda or Beer Springs which are indeed amongst the great curiosities I ever saw the waters of which I found quite palatable particularly when Sweetened the most interesting of which is the Steamboat Spring, so called from the noise made by it resembling that of a steamboat, The water is forced up several feet above the surface. We travelled a few miles & stopped for the day. Visited several Indian Lodges of the Panack tribe who are among

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[the most?] filthy creatures I ever Saw much more so than any of the tribes I have seen on the road

[July] 25

Hudspeth Cut off saving 150 miles so said from the forks of the Road to the first Water 13 or 14 miles Resumed our journey and have taken a new cut off which was travelled for the first time by Hudspeth with wagons five days ago, leaving Fort Hall a considerable distance to the right we this day left Bear River valley and [s]truck across the mountains Road tolerably good. Came about 18 miles and encamped near one of the finest springs about 150 feet in diameter & 10 to 20 feet deep & so transparent that the bottom can under favorable circumstances be seen. Cold as ice Grass good- Still unwell but think I am some better

[July] 26

continued across the Mountains came to water in 6 miles 3 miles farther came to a [small Brook and noond continued

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on about 9 or 10 miles and came to a creek Having passed through and Mountain gap and camped good grass & water vary Unwell to day we are now crossing the Head watters of Raft River south of fourt Hall

[July] 27

Road continued over high hills but the ascent was so gradual that the road could not be considered bad Passed several Small & beautiful rivulets of the most excellent water & encamped on a small creek where we found grass abundant Having travelled to day about 18 Miles

[July] 28

Left & came about 5 miles to a stream of fine water Stopped a few minuets passed through a very long gap in the Mountains the ascent of which was very gradual but the descent was terrific, we however came through safe and encamped on

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a beautiful plane. No water. We had filled our Kegs so often unnecessary that on this occasion we determined not to be fooled again, and came with empty vessels when sure enough the wolf came. We had not enough for drinking or culinary purposes. having come about 20 miles. Very cold Ice on buckets common here in the mountains of mornings.

[July] 29

Made an early start this mornng and came 12 miles to water which was gratifying to man & beast as both had gone with out it for more than 24 hours. It being sunday we stopped for the day. I will here remark that it has been our aim to stop every Sunday but Sometimes could not do it without doing great injury to our teams.

Dr W disposed of one of his wagons putting all provisions &c in one

23

To day we witnessed an act of inhumanity that I Scarcely could have been made [to] believe an emigrant would have been guilty of A gentleman who had lost an ox was returning in search of him when his mule took fright threw him and as was supposed injured seriously A wagon was passing about the time & refused to permit him to ride a few miles to where he had left his company & left him lying within a few feet of the road on the sand exposed to the scorching rays of a noon day sun for several hours. Mr Hickman & others of our co remained with him until our train came up He was placed in Dr W.s wagon in a helpless condition and conveyed to camp where he recd every attention necessary his train having left him he continued with us

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[July] 30

This morning we started to go 15 miles to water. So soon as the train was under way in co with Dr W. I started and rode 6 or 7 miles to a small spring, Saw an Indian trail going in the direction of a beautiful grove of large pine trees which we followed to the grove which we found to be a delightful place indeed, Lovely shade, no Ky Blue grass pasture could excel it in beauty or richness. It was blue grass or something so similar that I for one pronounce it identical. After grazing our horses and taking a nap of sleep we proceeded to ascend to the summit, expecting to fall into the road in a few hundred yards and as the direction we were travelling suited us we Kept on without seeing the road until we had proceeded

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so far that we disliked to turn back ascended the highest peak in view in order to take a view of the surrounding country & to ascertain where the road passed through the Mts. The prospect was beautiful beyond description on our left & SW could be seen the Great Salt lake & its Valley with here and there beautiful groves. I imagined I could see farms. but in this I may be mistaken, more west an other valley stretched out N. as far as I could see bounded on the west by high mountains on many peaks of Which there was snow. Not doubting but that we would strike the road in a short time we Kept our course until sometime after night when we were attracted by a light to which we hastened & found as we expected some emigrants

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encamped and ascertained also that we were 15 miles or more in advance of our train so we tied our horses borrowed a quilt & Robe & stretched ourselves upon the ground & slept soundly were Kindly furnished something to eat by Mr Brown of Nodaway Co. Mo.

I had forgotten to mention that although throughout the whole day we were in sight of Indian Camps & other signs which indicated their close proximity yet not one was seen by us, we were doubtless Seen by many Killed a Mt. Rabbit

[July] 31st

Remained in [camp] on the road to day Dined on wild Pigen and Craw fish Train came up
10 at Night

Aug 1st
continued up a [small creek in the Mountains 15 miles campt water and Grass plenty

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Aug 2
Continued rather south Direction through Valeys some 18 miles My Health some Better
although My cough is Bad yiet

at the warm springs

[Aug] 3
Traveld about 17 miles over mountain and campt in a pass wood water and Grass Plenty

[Aug] 4
Traved over 9 Miles of the worst road we have had yiet came to goose creek Traveld up 8
miles & campt Plenty grass &c

[Aug] 5 Sunday
Lay By on goose creek (My cough some Better)

[Aug] 6
Continued up goose creek 16 mile Struck across low mountains 3 miles & campt Bad Fare
Here

Passed some Warm Springs to Day

[Aug] 7th
This Morning 3 of our Horses were Missing Doc^t. Williams Samuel Huston and my own
supposed to have bin Stolling By the Indians Train

28
Started & Doc^t Wms remained to Hunt for the Horses after Travling some few miles 9 of our
company returned to Help hunt them came across an Indian who confest the matter and
Showed them Where He suposed them to be But they were not There the Indians all run and
Left their encampment and their Pilot Drove up 4 indian Poneys for them which they returned
with. Doct W^m Succeded in getting ours from them on goose creek 2 of them They Had
traded to the emigrants mine he took from an Indian and came up withe the Train on the next
day at Noon in the warm Spring Valley

[Aug] 8
continued up the warm spring Valley 17 or 18 miles campt fine grass & water Dust Bad
all the time

[Aug] 9

Continued up the valley grass

29 **[NOTE- much scratching out and revision of dates on the next few pages]**
and water in this Valley in some Places vary fine passed the Springs water hot enough to
cook meat and in a[]short distance as fine cold spring equal to Ice water camp't at the foot of
the mountain no grass came 18 miles

[Aug] 10

crossed through a[]mountain came to a[]branch of the Humbolt River fine water & grass
traveld 20 miles

[Aug] 11

continued down the Valley to Humbolt River some 20 miles fine grass and water good
road Ice in Buckets this morning cold Nights Snow upon the Mountains yet in sight

[Aug] 12 Sunday

Lay By today Bytiffull Valley fine Scenery in camps in the Mountains South Some
trouble apprehended tonight

[Aug] 13th

Cattle estampeded last Night Horses affrited Vary much no Harm done

~~14~~th

Continued Down the Valley some 16 or 17 miles fine roads &c

~~15~~

But Oh the Dust the Dust Dust[?]

30

[poor copy on top of this page]

[Aug 14?]

Continued down the Valley 18 or 20 miles fine Camping

**[Aug 15?]th

Contied Down the Valley fine grass and watter Nothing Occuring worth Notice except we
passed Some Hott Springs some Little Thunder to day

[Aug] 16

S[t]ill travel down the Valley So far this is a[]lovely Valley to the W[e]ary Travler in this
Diseffted Country came to a canon in the evning about 6 or 7 miles through Doc' Williams
and my Self Being in advance of the Train passed through in the evning we heard our Train
had camp't in the canon about 3 miles Back so we camp't With the Franklin Train Cap't
McDonnald for Night

~~17~~

came to Where the road cross some low mountains some 22 Miles passed Half way through
and campd No water for Cattle

[Aug] 17

came to the river again about
31

Noon and lay By the Balance of the day

[Aug] 18

Continued down the Valley with the Train untill Noon and Left it see if I could overtake Mr
Scott who Had agreed to go through in ad vance of the Trains but not overtaking him and
being in advance of the company at night [a] half days drive I campd with the ray county Train
treatted Vary cindley by Them

[Aug] 19

there bening no grass the company came to where I was and found good Grass in being
Sunday we Lay By the Balance of the day I this evening prepard to pack through 200 miles
above the Sink and 450 Miles from Sutters Fort Mr Wm Burggess J Abby concluded to
accompany Me on foot and Pack Through

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[Aug] 20

Mr W^m H. Burggess Jos A Abbay and my self Left the Train this morning on Humbolt River to
Pack through Traveld 28 Miles campd with Mr Scotts Train I walked some and
Blistered my feet Vary much My Poney is 2 Heavey Packed to ride much yiet So I have to
foot it

[Aug] 21st

After Breakfast we Made an earley Start and Traveld 32 Miles and [camped] on the Bank of the
river about Sun down Mr Abbay and My Self Have Vary Soer feet and fatiged Vary Much
Oh Home How Sweet

[Aug] 22

fine Morning for Travling Continued down the Valley about twelve Miles and stoped to feed
My Ponney who is Vary Much jaded and take some refreshment Our Selves continued down
river untill sundown Traveld 30 Miles

[Aug] 23

Traveld about 30 do

33

[Aug] 24

Traveld 35 Miles Mr Abbay and my Self Suffering Vary Much with Sore feet Mr Burggess
Stands the Journey finely we entered the 26 mile streach this evning 8 Miles Had No grass
for my Ponny

[Aug] 25

Vary cold Morning but fine Travlg continued about 28[?] miles to get grass for my Horse and Bad at that Bad Camping now on this river owing to the number of Emigrants ahead of us Having lost My Frying Pan yesterday we Was compielled to Bake our Bread for Dinner wraped on Sticks Traveld 38 miles Traveld 5 Miles after Night Before we co[u]ld find grass for my Horse eat some crackers and Water for supper went to Beed Slept soundly

34

[Aug] 26

Came to sink of st Marys river Saw the Disspptive[?] waters and in ½ mile or 1 mile from you appeard as though He was walking on a Mier[mire?] came to the 45 Mile strech [with no] grass or water about 1 [h]our By Sun Having traveld 25 Mile took Some refreshment [blot]ted across Traveld 15 Miles [blot]d out our blankets took a nap

[Aug] 27

Traveld five Miles came to the Boiling Springs watter makes fine Tea or Coffee & By cooling it will do to Drink Here I Saw the remains of some 100 wagons some of the[m] new and redy for runing Log Chains trace chains cooking Shing[?] Pumps gold washers aand Lots of Dead cattle one of these Springs Boiles So hard that it through the water 3 feet High and can be Heard 150 yds

35

We continued across the Dessert after travling some 3 Miles I was taking Vary ill and in a[]vary singular way wich alarmed me vary Much I was compelled to take Opium to relieve the pain and Spurd my My[sic] Ponney up to over take a doctter who was in a[]train some 5 Miles ahead which I done and got some Medicin which relieved Me when my company came up I found the[y] were in the same condishion/ in this Dessert evry thing at a[]little distance looks like it was setting upon Mier the road is strewn with dead mules, Horses and Oxen some wagons at sun down I reach the samon trout river which is quite chering indeed campt with Mr Smalley and his famley who sold me Some crckers for my Horse

36

[Aug] 28

continued up the river Sloley to some what rest our selves and Horse traveled 16 miles and campt [h]our and a[]half By sun about Dusk 3 others Packers on foot came up and campt with us slept vary well during the night

[Aug] 29

continue up the river passed Some Vary fine camping places but pushed My Horse too Hard and he gave out in the evning I was By My Self at the time but Some Wagons came up Soon Hope[helped] me to where they campt Mr Kingkade and famley treated [me] Vary kindly By the[sic] them but My company being parted from Me I felt Vary Low Spirited and Bad Having waded the river Late and became Vary cold naving[sic] no dry clothes to put on we cross this river 27 times it Has vary Small Valley and High Barren Mounts on the sides some 3 or 4 canons one

37

I wrote this at
the Hot Springs

Butifull Valley called Slew valley 10 to 15 mile wide saw 1 grave & 1 dug redy for the corps
of a[]man that drownd Swimming the river after cattle

[Aug] 30

My Horse some What rested I Started up the Valley My company Being [be]hind over took
this But taking a cut of as they though traveld 5 or 6 Miles the contray direction I continued &
crossed the river the Last time Struck across the Sierenovado Mountains & came to dog
Spring Valley at Noon found good grass and Water Lay By the balance of the day to res[t]
My Self and Horse Saw some Vary High Mountain to day covered with Butifull Pine trees
200 ft High Some Snow capt this evning [met] a gentleman By the [name of] A[D?]. D.
Whitney who was [to] start

38

next Morning and we Made A[rr]angement to Travel to gether this Mr Burggess and J Abbay
With 3 other come up and Near me I told them not to Delay on my account that Neither [I]
Nor my Horse could keep up with them So they concluded to go ahead My Horse and [I]
Vary Much refreshed Mr Whitney and My Self Started crossed throug a[sic] a[]mountain gap
some 8 or 10 Miles came [to] a[]butifull Mountain stream and good grass for our Horses and
Nooned We are surrounde[d] By high Mountains covered with Large Pine or fur threes and
some ceder some of them Have Snow upon their tops and fine Springs continued untill Night
we came to canibal Valley camp't neare Donah cabbins

39

Sept 1st

Traveld 2 Miles come to Donah cabbins Where He and company wintired and suffered so
much in the winter of 1846 2 cabbins or 1 Double cabin there is great many old clothes
Bones of animals cathered[sic] round Here and as I Now sit in the Dore of one of the cabbins as
I write it causes Vary sollom feelings to think what My fellow Being Has Suffered Heare I Set
here solitary and alone in this thick Pine grove in the Hills or mountains at the foot of the
siarenavado Mountains a[]few Hundred yards from this Place is Where Col Carna Burnt some
cabbins that the company Built the Sight was So bad that He thought it prudent[?] to Burn
them them[sic] Mr Whitney turns Back Here and I now procede alone came Half way up
mount to some fine water and by

40

Traveld 18 Miles pulling some grass suchceded in gettin my Horse Somthing to eat Eat Some crackers and
watter my Self and proceded to climb to the top of the Mountain which I have done but with
great difficulty My Horse was so week I had to unpack him and carry my things to the top and
wind him about to get him up, it so Smokey[?] that I can See but a[]few Spurs around me
Dcinded abut 5 Miles throug Lovly Pine fur & ceder groves some of Wich I am told measured
upwards of 33 feet and Look as though they were 300 feet High came[]to a butifull Little
Valley & camp't

[Sept] 2

Vary heavy white Frost Last night & this Morning My ink is frost 2 [h]ours By Sun I am 30
Miles from Bear river or the nearest point where the Diggins
commence 41

It being Sunday and My Horse week I concluded to travel Slow to day But the [road?] is nothing [but?] up one Hill and down another and Some all most gussipofs[?] and most of the time ove[sic] over and through Rocks Vary crocked and to look at the places they pass without seeing a road you Would think a wagon could never pass through them it must undoutdly Be one of the worst roads in the World I Have only Traveld about 12 miles to day But to add some little to Hardships we Have had a[]fine Pine grove all day and passed a[]number of Small Lakes of clear watter which looks Vary Lovley some Little grass but not neare enough to do the emigration that will pass this year there is no doubt but there will [be] a great deal of Disstress among the Hinemost Trains ~~capt in a grove near a small Lake~~

42

[Sept] 3rd

Traveld 18 or 20 Miles to day over worse roads thain yestarday Decended down a[]mountain there thare[sic] was 3 or 4 Places that they [took] wagons down with roaps come to a[]branch of the Bear river Butifull Valey camp

[Sept] 4

Lay By to rest My self and Horse this Morning was Stung By two yellow Jackets which Poisoned me all over in Less than 15 minits I was vary sick Pleasant Valey this assended the Mountains Eat Some california straw Berreys Vary fine

[Sept] 5

traveld 25Miles over a[]vary Mountainous road came to the gold Diggens on Steep Hollow Lots of Diggers

[Sept] 6

Came across the Audrain Boys stoped saw them diggin and washing old washed out \$1.50 or \$2.00 worth Myself

[Sept] 7

went a cross to Bare river Prospecting found Poor incuragement My feelings are vary Low now

43

[Sept] 8

Went Prospecting to day along Bra[n]ch of Bear River and up Bear river prospects flatering

[Sept] 9

Cross over to Dear creek came across the Audrain company

[Sept] 10

commenced Washing gold With $\frac{1}{2}$ galon pan got $\frac{1}{2}$ ou[n]ce or about

[Sept] 11

B[blot]d a[]large pan washed out $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ounce of gold done vary well

[Sept] 12

Cloudy this Morning. Done about as well as yesterday

[Sept] 13

Had the use of a[]washer and Tools to day washed more Durt But not So rich Made 1 ounce cloudy this morning some Aprehencions of the rainy Season Setting in Miners preparing to go South Fair evening

[Sept] 14

Cloudy Morning Mad[e] a[]start for Sacramento Sitty

I am now in Some What Better Spirits now I have

44

Saw men Make from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 ounce of gold a[]day and not work Vary Hard Cloudy all day Traveld 8 miles no grass of much consequence for our stock

[Sept] 15

Fine clear day some what cold in the Morning killed Som quails to day Vary Much Like those we nett in the States but their feathers are rather Blue fine Bird to eat My Horse is improveing a[]little but I Have to walk yiet it being as much as he can do to carry my Blankets and provisions we are now Travling down between Bear river and Uba where the miners or Emigrants Have Stop[ped] to work a[]few weeks before the Raney Season sit in Lay By Half the day to day

[Sept] 16

Traveld Some 18 Miles no grass Some water

[Sept] 17

came to Johnsons Ranch or Settlement here we found a great Maney People Some

45

Stores Bording Liker Tents Some Spanyerds french and indians it Being on Bear River the Valleys do vary well to cultivate I Here Saw the first Hoggs in california lay By Half the day here I Heard Heare of 2 Men Being Burnt by the indians

[Sept] 18

Left Johnsons settlement and Traveld Down Bear river to Nickles Ranch 15 Miles I Heare came to a 25 mile Streach without grass or water Traveld 6 miles in this eving camp

[Sept] 19th

crossed along warisom Streach me and my Horse Both came vary near giving out came to the amarican fork of Sacrameto Rive[r] 2 miles from the Sitta fine grass and water I lay By Here to rest great meney People camp Here

46

[Sept] 20

Waded the river and went over to the citta Saw gireat Maney cloth Houses for Stores
groceries Taverns and loog[?] thingelse[?] came Back to campt in the evning it Has bin
Vary Hot Here for Sevrell days

[from this point on transcript only deals with mention of his former company which took a different route over the Sierra Nevada]

48

[Oct] 4

Left the river ["Middle Fork"] asended a[]mountain fell in company with J. McCay and
company who in formed Me that My company had not came in on the Carson rout

49

[Oct] 8

Heard my company Had taken the new cut off and that it[?] was 3 or [4] Hundred Miles farther
to this Place and that they had[]not time to come in Sent out for My Horse and concluded to
meet them or go to them if I could find them

50

[Oct] 12

S[t]ill remain in the citty but No News from my company

[Oct] 13

Heard that My company Had taking the Featherriver Route Which Throughs them 300 Miles
Farther from this Pount[sic]

[Oct] 14

Heard My company would Not be in for 5 or 6 days

51

[Oct] 18

I sort out this Morning to get some imformation from My company with a Sad Hart and Tears in
My Eyes

All the information I could get was that they ware Some 100 miles Back returned to town in
the Evning Vary low Spirited

[Oct] 21st

the News that I get from my company is Vary Discourageing indeed-

52

[Oct] 25

Started to find My companey Meet Mr Strode from Ralls Mo who in forme me that they Had
Stop on the Ubar Miney[?] and that Some of the wagons was coming down for Provisions

[Oct] 27 Sondag

Started to the Ubar Mines crossed 25 Mile Desert

53

[Oct] 28

Set out this Morning travel 8 Miles came to Johnsons Rancharo and Nooned Traveld
untill sun down & campd

[Oct] 29

came to the Ubar found some of my company chowning Austin Williams West having
remained with Do^{ct} Williams Who was Sick and also was taking sick which detained Severel
days Songer went 14 or 15 Miles down the Ubar to our correll found some of the company
there who was unwell