LOG BOOK OF

P. A. ATHEARN

1849

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Log Book of P. A. Athearn
by Lovella Athearn

The American Athearns are descendants of Simon Athearn who came to this country in 1660, and settled in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in 1690. The name Prince Athearn appeared in the fourth and all succeeding generations. The first Prince was born in 1770 and assisted Col. George Claghorn in building the U S S Constitution (Old Ironsides) in 1797-98. His son, Prince Allen Athearn, whose diary is here transcribed, was born April 12, 1811, and married Louise Hastings (b 1813, d 1888). Athearn himself, died at his residence on the Mokelumne River, San Joaquin County, California, February 22, 1867. The diary is of special historical significance, since the trail came to the Mother Lode area through what is now known as Carson Pass.

Log Book of P. A. Athearn
on a Voyage of Discovery From St. Louis Mills, Switzerland County, Indiana to California.

Left home Tuesday, April 24, 1849 - waited all night & Wednesday for Steamer South America & got on Board at 9 PM. Nothing of interest occurred on our passage to St. Louis where we arrived on Sunday 29th. Left on Steamer Tincon for St. Joseph the 2nd May. Steward of Tincon died of cholera third day out - arrived at St. Joseph 8th at 4 AM and landed and pitched our tents on the point opposite St. Jo. in company with several other Companies. Two of the Manilla Company died of Cholera 10th and 11th. Several deaths by cholera among emigrants.

Stored our tents Saturday 12th, and started for the Bluffs about six miles out on our road. Found roads so bad that we were compelled to halt and take out part of our load and go on with the balance. Arrived at the Bluffs Sunday at 2 PM. I remained all night with our goods and the teams and bal of our company returned for bal of goods. Rained with heavy thunder & lightning all night.

cMonday 13th A man died with cholera near our camp. Teams returned at 2 PM. - loaded up our waggons and prepared for starting.

Tuesday 14th Started at 9 AM in company with Twits & Smith of Cincinnati - made 12 miles.

Wednesday 15th Wood and water at short distances. Passed grave of

man died of cholera. Old Oregon Trail for pack mules visible all along the route.

Thursday 16th. Passed a grave three men were buried - all died in one camp within 20 hours of cholera.

Friday 17th & Saturday 18th Encamped on a high prairie without wood and little water.

Saturday 19th Moved our camp 4 miles to where we found good water and laid by for the bal of the day.

Monday 20th Started and was overtaken again by a Government Train of 180 wagons and several Companies of Dragoons bound for Oregon. _ Col. Loring in command. Road today fine and water plenty. Crossed Big Blue at 12 o'clock where the Government troops encamped.

Our teams being overloaded we were compelled to put in all our mules (12) to pull our load. Consequently we were compelled to walk most of our time. This has prevented myykeeping a journal of passing events. There is but short distances on the road so far where wood and water can be had. It is about 60 miles from Big Blue to Little Blue. To 24th of May I write from memory - now commence daily to write down.

Thursday 24th Left camp at 6 o'clock. Overtook and passed several large trains, numbering in all this day 200 waggons. Owens (Note - probably John Owen who came west with Loring's Regiment. He left the party at Fort Hall, married a Bannock Indian, and settled near Saint Mary's mission.) train from Bloomington amongst the number. A man in Campbell's train died with cholera. Passed 3 graves today. Struck the Little Blue soon after leaving camp up which our course lay all day. Wood & Water plenty. Traveled 10 hours making about 18 miles as we were detained by Ox trains. High winds and raining part of the day.

Ther. 49 70 61

Friday 25th Started at $7\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock. Rained all night and very cold

making the roads heavy, with continued high winds. Route still up the valley of the Little Blue. Traveled 8½ hours making 18 miles. Wood & water plenty, with good grass.

Ther. 46 61 46

Saturday 26 Started at 7 o'clock. Rained half the night with high winds. Continued up the valley of the Little Blue for about 5 miles and then struck out into the high land for Platte River. For the first 6 miles passed several small streams of running water with wood. Saw several Antilope & Deer today. A small herd of Buffalo seen by emigrants today. No water or wood for bal of distance to where weeencamped about 12 miles from Little Blue. made about 17 miles today.

Ther. 45 65 52

Sunday May 27 Lay by today - weather getting more pleasant.

Monday May 28 Started at 6 o'clock and made Platte River at 3½ o'clock about 17 miles. No wood nor water for the distance except pond water in the low marsh lands. About 6 miles from Platte the appearance of the land changes from rolling prairie to broken sand hills. This range is about a mile wide, running parallel with the river. After passing through hills, we descended into a low bottom about 4 miles in width. This branch of the Platte where we struck it is about 100 yards wide and quite shallow. Encamped 5 miles below Ft. Kearney on the Platte bank.

Ther. 50 76 62

Tuesday May 29 Started at 6 o'clock reached Ft. Kearney at 9. This fort consists of a few buildings built of sod cut and laid up like stone work. Some Avenues with same. Wood scarce - has to be brought from Grand Island. Stream shallow. Left in half an hour continuing up the valley of the Platte which here isssome 3 miles wide. Road bad in places as we had to cross several streams of water. Encamped near the River about 10 miles above Ft. Kearney, making 18 miles today.

Ther 55

Wednesday May 30 As it rained nearly half the night we did not get started till 9 o'clock. Roads bad grass short but getting better. Had for the first time a view of the Platte River. It is here about 1¼ miles wide and presents the appearance of the Missippi on the French Coast. Very little timber on its banks - water muddy and banks from 2 to 4 feet high. Wind very high and cold putting in requisition for overcoats as it has already done frequently before. Traveled 5½ hours making about 12 miles. Grass and water plenty, but little wood.

Ther 60 64 51

Thursday May 31 Started at 6 o'clock. Soon after commenced raining Road heavy. Tent pole fell in the night and struck me on the head cutting my cranium and making the blood run. Grass fine and in abundance. Traveled 7½ hours making about 16 miles. Road bad on account of the continued rains as it has rained more or less all day.

Ther 51 58 53

Friday June 1 Started at 6 o'clock. Weather pleasant and clear - roads better after traveling 6 or 7 miles and running nearer the margin of the River. Saw today four buffalo at a distance. A Company killed one yesterday. A Company of four hunters forded the Platte here after buffalo. Water plenty - 2 springs in a ravine a short distance to the right of the road. Grass and wood not so plenty. Travelled 8½ hours making 21 miles.

Ther 53 71 54

Saturday June 2 Started at 6½ o'clock and I started out on Sand Hills hunting and "paid dear for the whistle" as the train got so much the start that I did not catch up till after dark having traveled upwards of 40 miles. Road good - water and wood do. - Traveled 10½ hours making 27 miles. Grass rather scarce.

Ther 48 70 60

Sunday June 3. We designed lying still today but as grass was poor were compelled to move our camp some 15 miles. Just before camping we killed a buffalo and I had the pleasure of putting the first ball in him. This one was a 4 year old Bull and the fattest out of some 10 killed today. The sport was very exciting - buffalo meat was quite a treat after living on fat bacon so long, but would not be considered such in the States along side of good beef.

Ther 50 75 53

Monday June 4 Started at 6 o'clock. Traveled up the Platte about 15 miles where we forded it. The River here is about as wide as the Ohio at the boom and of Rising Sun (Indiana). The bottom is mostly quick sand and difficult to cross with heavy load waggons. The water ran into our waggon badly wetting the provisions some. Current rapid. It took us 4 hours to cross 8 waggons, as we had to double team. All hands in the water. We encamped after crossing.

Ther 49

Tuesday June 5 Left camp at 7 o'clock after crossing a high prairie or sand hills about 2 miles and descended into the valley of the north fork of Platte River and continued up this fork some 15 miles where the road left the bottom and struck out on the Bluffs. After continuing on the Bluffs some 11 miles we again descended to the valley. Today we saw ledges of stone that looked like dirty lime. It is a kind of sand stone. The soil on this part of our route is of a sand nature and large portions of the uplands not good for cultivation. From St. Jo to Big Blue the soil is unusually rich of a dingy black loam. This side it gradually loses that color. About the Schohan (Cheyenne?) there is considerable stone. As you approach the Schohan the scenery is fine beyond description. A fair mill site might be made here by damming. Big Blue and Little Blue are rapid streams of clear water. The Sioux Indians - the first Indians seen since leaving the "Station" - came

to our camp in large numbers on Sunday and Monday. They appear friendly. Traveled 11 hours making 28 miles. Grass the best we have had since starting.

Ther 64 80 67

Wednesday June 6 Left camp at 7 o'clock and continued up the valley through the day. Some part of the day the roads were very heavy due to the rain in the night and deep sand in places. We passed today several large flower beds of roses of different kinds; some of which contained nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. I have seen some specimen of Dwarf Roses of deep scarlet, pale red and varigated. also a great variety of other flowers. Traveled 9 hours making 18 miles. Rained part of the day.

Ther 75 68 57

Thursday June 7 Started at $6\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock. Oh! but the Mosquitoes are plenty. Rained some during the night. Arrived at "Ash Hollow" at 8 o'clock. Saw a number of Sioux Indians and all their cry was "Whisky". The road now leads up the valley of the North Fork through a low sandy bottom. The cliffs of Sand Stone present quite an imposing and wild scenery. Also we have seen for several days, Cedar, Pine and wild currants. Traveled 9 hours making 18 miles. Grass poor.

Ther 50 57 63

Friday June 8 Started at $6\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock - road sandy - met several Mormons who report roads and grass fair. Passed one or two small streams of running water. Road part of the way sandy and heavy - wood scarce except for buffalo chips, which burn when dry. Traveled 10 hours making 25 miles. Encamped two miles above Court House and Church Rock in sight of Chimney Rock.

Ther 53 60 65

Sunday June 10 Remained in camp today - had a severe thunder storm last night. Clear and pleasant today. Grass good. It is said by those acquainted that grass was never known to be as good on the prairies as it is this year.

Ther 57 86

Monday June 11 Left camp at 6½ o'clock. After traveling a short distance the road - next the hill - became marshy and bad for several miles. The view here of Castle or Church Rock, Chimney Rock and Scott's Bluff together with the surrounding rocks, sand hills and bluffs presents the finest view for an artist to display his talents of any place I ever beheld. It is grand beyond description. Traveled today 10 hours making 25 miles. Wood scarce.

Ther 47 70 64

Tuesday June 12 Left camp at 6 o'clock. A short distance, say 5 miles, we left the river and through a valley back of Scott's Bluff. About 1 o'clock had a storm of wind, rain and hail. Sunday night last, we had one of the most violent hail storms I ever experienced. Weather cold - wearing a thick coat. The afternoon being cloudy we failed to get a view of the Rocky Mountains from the ridge back of Scott's Bluff, descended into the bottom but had to travel some 8 miles before finding grass. Traveled 12 hours. Made 30 miles.

Ther 57 72 61

Wednesday June 13 Left camp at 8½ o'clock. Had today a fine view of Laramie Peak of the Rocky Mountains. Distance 150 miles. Roads pretty good. One mile after leaving camp passed a fine creek of running water called I think Horse Creek. Reached the Platte about noon and continued up the valley. Traveled 8 hours making 20 miles.

Ther 51 66 57

Thursday June 14 Left camp at 6½ o'clock Reached Laramie River opposite Ft. John - forded by raising our waggon beds about 6 inches. Fine stream of water about 40 yards wide. Left Ft. Laramie about one mile to the left. Ft. Laramie, a trading point only. Encamped four miles above Fort Laramie. Plenty of wood, water and grass. Traveled 8 hours making 18 miles.

Very cold this morning.

Ther 37 66 55

Friday June 15 Remained in camp today. Bought a light waggon of Madison Co. for 55$. Sold our large waggon, about 200 lbs. bacon and 100 lbs. of lard at 10$ which is about on a par with other sales.

Saturday June 16 Left camp at 6½ o'clock - shortly after commenced mounting the "Black Hills" a dark looking mass of broken hills and sandy. What gives them so gloomy an appearance is the dwarf Cedar and Pine trees scattered over the surface of the hills and along the ravines. Passed the "Warm Spring" so called from the fact of the water being as warm as Ohio in June. No water for several miles when we crossed several small creeks of clear cool water with sandy bottoms. Traveled 10 hours making about 24 miles.

Ther 53 85 65

Sunday June 17 As we had lost Friday, a majority of our company were in favor of traveling today. We started at 6 o'clock. About one mile crossed a small creek. At 10½ o'clock came to two springs on left of the road. Road hard most of the way - except a portion of the road being sandy - but very broken. At half past twelve we arrived at a small creek of good water. Wood plenty since leaving the Fort but grass scarce on the Black Hills. Nooned at Horse Creek, a fine stream of water. Went in bathing and felt revived. Camped at a small creek, 43/4 miles from Horse Creek. Got some buffalo today. Traveled 9 hours making 20 miles.

Ther 45 85 56

Monday June 18 Started at 5½ o'clock passing four small creeks each one mile apart. The road smooth and hard as a turnpike but very hilly. 8½ miles from last camp reached the La Bonta River, a fine stream of clear water running over a bed of large cobble stones. This section of country abounds with grasshoppers of various colors. Surface of the hills covered with cobble stones and gravel. Five miles reached the North Branch of the La Bonta. Six and ¼ miles brought us to a small creek where we encamped.

Traveled 10½ hours making 23½ miles. From the La Bonta River presents a highly volcanic appearance. Found some specimen of Iron Ore.

Ther 49 85 68

Tuesday June 19 Started at 6½ o'clock. 6½ miles brought us to another small creek. Passed two or three small creeks, also a river, a smaller stream 4 miles from the Platte. Encamped near the Platte making 20 miles today over a very crooked and hilly road.

Ther 54 78 62

Wednesday June 20 Left at 6½ o'clock. Continued up the north bank of the Platte 5 miles to Deer Creek, a fine stream of clear water with plenty of suckers and Red Horse fish in it. Here emigrants commenced ferrying the North Branch of the Platte. Virginia Company had a man drowned in crossing Continued up 2½ miles farther and encamped for the purpose of crossing - making 7½ miles today.

Ther 50 68

Thursday and Friday June 21st and 22nd. Remained in camp - waiting to cross the North Fork of the Platte River. Crossed Friday evening late and encamped 1½ miles from the Ferry.

Ther 56 49

Saturday June 23 Started up the bank of the Platte at 6½ o'clock. Road to upper Ferry most of the way a sandy road - the wheels sinking in frequently 3 to 10 inches. Camped two miles above upper ferry. Traveled 10 hours making 25 miles. Grass very scarce.

Sunday June 24 Left camp at 6 o'clock continuing up the Platte about 5 miles when the road left the Platte striking out into the high plains - road today hilly and sandy. Water scarce except mineral Lakes & Springs which destroyed a number of oxen who drank of the water. Traveled late to reach a small stream of water but found no grass. Traveled 13 hours making about 30 miles.

Ther 46 92 64

Monday June 25 Started at 3½ o'clock to find grass. 2 3/4 miles came to Willow Springs - fine water - found grass very scarce. Passed over a good deal of sandy roads today. Found two small creeks of good water. Passed two or three small lakes of water, as the water had left the ground leaving a deposit of Sal Eratus ¼ to½½ inch thick, as white as snow. Reached the Sweetwater and camped on its banks. Plenty of grass. Traveled 12 hours making 25 miles. Wild sage for fuel.

Ther 58 83 26

Tuesday June 26 Started at ½ to 7. 2 miles passed "Independence Rock" a large mass of gray granite about 650 ft. long - 50 or 60 ft. high of an oblong shape. The road continued up the Sweetwater Valley over a sand road most of the day. The valley is hemmed in on each side by high cliffs of granite. The clouds during a storm today striking half way down from the summit. The height from the level of the valley is not great but the altitude from the sea is here about _____. We reached the "Devil's Gate" in five miles further where the Sweetwater has forced its way through a span of granite mountain, the sides rising up perpendicular to a height of about 400 ft. and 300 yds. long and 50 or 60 ft. wide. We made about 13 miles today.

Ther 46 79 52

Wednesday June 27 Started early at 5 o'clock. After traveling 4 or 5 miles up the River the road left the River for about 8 miles running most of the way over a deep sandy road. Saw mountains above with an appearance like snow on top but supposed to be very white sand or chalk stone. Wood scarce as also water for the last 10 miles. Traveled 10 hours making 23 miles.

Ther 45

Thursday June 28 Started from camp on the banks of Sweetwater at 6

o'clock. Crossed the River three times in two miles. Last company to cross - we had to raise our waggon beds up about 6 inches. This mountain of rocks seems to get of less altitude as we approach the South Pass. Traveled about 5 hours - making about 11 miles.

Ther 50 80 67

Friday June 29 Left camp at 5 o'clock and immediately crossed and left the River. Six miles passed the Ice Springs and one of our party found some ice about 18 inches below the surface of the ground. Nooned at 10 o'clock. Reached the River at 3 o'clock. Crossed and traveled 3½ miles and crossed again and camped, making 20 miles in 10 hours.

Ther 40 80 67

Saturday June 30 Started at 5 o'clock up the Sweetwater Valley for 5 miles to a fine Spring of water and then left the River ascending a succession of hills. Road stony and steep. Descended into a basin where we found another of the numerous Alkaline Lakes. Passed two or three very small creeks and encamped on the bank of Willow Creek' a fine stream of water, a tributary of the Sweetwater. Before arriving here we crossed a branch of the Sweetwater and within the bank found masses of snow - one of which was about 10 feet thick. We have seen for several days in the distance mountains covered with snow. Gathered some mint today for the 4th. Traveled 10 hours making 21 miles.

Ther 48 57

Sunday July 1 Left camp at 5½ o'clock as we had no grass for our mules. Traveled 5 miles and arrived at Sweetwater for the last time and found grass cut off. Crossed and passed on. 9½ miles brought us to the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains, a place celebrated in History but presenting nothing very uncommon upon seeing it with the eye and not the imagination. Three miles further on brought us to "Pacific Springs", - the first water that takes the direction of the Pacific Ocean - a beautiful Spring of cold

and clear water boiling up out of the sand. Came on three miles from there and encamped near the creek supplied from the spring, making about 20½ miles today. Found grass by going back about 1½ miles.

Ther 39 57

Monday July 2 Left camp at 6 o'clock and left the creek - Pacific - striking out into the higher land - came to a small creek in about 7 miles Water not good. Eight miles reached the junction of the California and Oregon roads, as also "Sublette's Cutoff". Took the right hand road and in 5 miles came to "Little Sandy". Camped 2 miles beyond. Grass good 1½ miles from the road. Made 22 miles today - no water or wood.

Ther 46 68 51

Tuesday July 3 Started at 5½ o'clock. Big Sandy from Little Sandy - 6. Grass good for 3 or 4 miles after leaving B. Sandy Descended into a low bottom of barron land which continued for several miles. Ascended to the higher lands which grew more and more broken until we arrived at Green River 43 - Traveled 47 miles from 8 o'clock A M till 9 A M next day. No water during the distance.

Ther 36 68 58

Wednesday & Thursday July 4 & 5 Lay at Green River waiting to cross. Had the misfortune to get my thermometer broken. Paid eight dollars per waggon for crossing.

Friday July 6 Left camp at ¼ to 7. Continued down the river about 4 miles and left for the uplands. Creek 9 - do 5. Continued up same for 3 or 4 miles where we commenced ascending a range of high hills or mountains. Small branch 3 - ehere we encamped 4 - Grass & water good. Snow conditions on the north side.

Saturday July 7 Started at 7 o'clock and ascended a high mountain where we had an extended view of the surrounding country. Passed at short distance a number of mountain streams caused by the melting of snows. Traveled

8 hours making 15. Overtook Vance today.

Sunday July 8 Left camp at 6 o'clock and reached Ham's Fork in 5, a branch of Bear River. Continued up the branch for a short distance ascending a high range of Mountains at the top of which we passed a beautiful grove of Fir & Quaking Ash Trees. Plenty of snow and cold spring water near the road. The descent to the valley of a small spring branch was sudden and very steep. Ascended another long hill part way and encamped. Descent very steep to a valley that led to the "Bear River". 23.

Bear River valley about 4 miles wide and covered with a luxuriant growth of grass of different kinds at the point we struck it.

Monday July 9 Left camp at top of mountain - as before mentioned - at 6 o'clock and reached the valley in about 9 miles and nooned. Two miles reached the "South Fork" of BearvRiver, a bad creek to cross with several mouths. Five miles further encamped.

Tuesday July 10 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Madison Boys remained. Creek from the north 13. After crossing, retraced our steps down towards Bear River about 2 miles where we ascended a high hill and left the river. Reached Bear River again over a very rough 2 hills part of the road.

Wednesday July 11 Left camp at 6 o'clock and continued up the valley of Bear River for 10 hours making about 24 miles today over an excellent road.

Thursday July 12 Bear Springs, a number of springs of clear water that resembles and tastes like Soda water. Two or three other Soda Springs where we encamped 9

Friday July 13 Started at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 6 o'clock. Passed three small streams furnished from springs. Small creek 9. Continued up the valley to foot of hill of the dividing ridge betweenthis and the valley of Lewis fork of the Columbia River. 2 miles uphill encamped.

Saturday July 14 Left camp at $5\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock and continued to ascend the Hills - over a very broken and hilly country. At bottom of hill found several

found several large fine springs of excellent water. To the left of the road small creek. Country flat and sandy for most of the way to the Spring near Port Neuf River where we encamped 2 miles from the river,

Sunday July 15 Remained in camp all day.

Monday july 16 Started at 5½ o'clock. Crossed several small streams caused by springs - very bad to cross. Continued through a low bottom to Fort Hall, a trading Post built after the style of Fort Laramie, situated on the bank of the Lewis fork of the Columbia River which here is about 80 yards wide. Bannock River ford a stream of about 100 yards wide. After crossing we ascended to a higher bottom of sand covered with Sage and destitute of grass. Small branch with good grass in the low bottom.

Tuesday July 17 Arrived at Lewis Fork and followed it to the Falls - a fall of about 15 feet in 200 yards and River 200 yards wide. Road continues near the River today.

Wednesday July 18 Started at ¼ to 6 o'clock and continued up near the River to where the Bluff or Rocks come to the River. The road here turns sharp to the left up a ravine and leaves the Lewis Fork. The country is almost destitute of grass. Cooper Spring branches at short distance. Road now runs over a Sage Desert to a small creek 1½ rods wide. Encamped on creek.

Thursday July 19 Left camp at 5¼ o'clock. Followed the creek for 4½ miles - crossed again and struck out again on the Sage Desert for another creek the same width. Grass good. The road runs parallel with the creek before reaching the ford for about 2 miles. After crossing the road takes a course along the base of the hills gradually ascending over a barren to a branch of the same creek as last.

Friday July 20 Left camp at 5¼ o'clock - the road following the Branch - grass good - for some 5 miles and then commenced gradually ascending a low range of hills. Small Branch 19. Warm Spring 3. These Springs lie

to the right of the road in a swampy place near the base of the hills. Water about 120 and clear. Encamped here.

Saturday July 21 Started at 5½ o'clock. Small creek. 1½ rods wide ¼ foot of ravine 2½. The road here leaves the bottom and takes up a rough rocky ravine. Road very bad and rocky following the branch for about 4 miles. A short distance Springs to the left of same. Spring Branch 9 -- Now commence ascending the Hill again. 2 or 3 Springs 3 - Rough road and hilly. Small Branch 6. Encamped here.

Sunday July 22 Remained in camp. Attended church at the Springfield Co. camp. Heard quite an interesting discourse from the Text "Verily, Verily, I say unto you except a man be born of the Water and of the Spirit he shall not have Eternal Life", by Rev. Mr. Blakely of Iowa. After service he received into the Church one of the Co. and immersed him in a pond in the Branch made by damming it. This considering the place the circumstances, was quite a novel sight.

Monday July 23 Started at 5½ o'clock ascending a steep hill. Goose Creek 3. The road continues up the valley of Goose Creek. Road leaves the valley and turns up a Branch through a deep ravine for about 4.

Tuesday July 24 Started at 6½ o'clock. Road leaves the Branch and goes over a range of hills. Road good but no grass nor water till you arrive at a Spring Branch at the head of a valley. Springs left of the road 5 - Road leaves the valley 2 - Road arrives at a valley 5. Small supply of water and good grass lower down in the valley.

Wednesday July 25 Left camp at ¼ of 6. Road continued up same valley all day. Springs at every 5 or 6 miles. Hot Springs about mid way of the valley. Grass good in places.

Thursday July 26 Started at 5½ o'clock. Head of valley - good water - 29. Road here goes up a Spring Branch 2 miles and then ascends the hills. No grass. Spring in head of valley 12 - Head of next valley 7 - Road leaving

valley 4. The water & grass in this valley are injurious to mules, and as it set our mules to vomiting before they had eaten but very little and they refused to eat any more. Head of valley - Small creek 2. This is the first water emptying into the Humboldt.

Friday July 27 We started at ¼ to 9 o'clock owing to our late drive last night. Frost and ice for several nights. This is a singular country - Snow in sight close at hand on the hills and hot in the valleys with very cold nights and lots of Mosquitoes. Traveled 6 hours making 15 - Plenty of grass & water.

Saturday July 28 Started at ¼ after 5 o'clock. Road continues down the valley for about 13 miles and then goes over the hills successively within a few miles - road striking the river in each valley and then following the river usually. Traveled 10 hours.

Sunday July 29 Remained in camp. Had excellent grass.

Monday July 30 Started at 5½ o'clock. Road continued down the valley for 17 and then forks. Left one following the river - Right taking over a high range of hills - distance to River again 15. The River course is nearest - only 7 miles -and best in lower water.

Tuesday July 31 Left at 8 o'clock and traveled till 10 ½ o'clock last night to reach water and grass. Road following the valley for 3 to foot of hill where it turns again to the right over a still higher and longer range of Mountains. No water now. This stretch, except a Spring about 2/3 the way over. Road arriving at River 22.

Wednesday August 1 Started at 7 o'clock. Road again forks - one going over the hills to the right - the other following the valley by crossing the River. Traveled 9 miles and encamped for the day as our Mules showed fatigue from the drive over the hills yesterday and having a scanty supply of grass. This part of the Humboldt is scantily supplied with grass.

Thursday August 2 Left camp at 5½ o'clock. following the valley.

At about 22 miles from the place of starting this morning the road passes close around a right hand point near the River and then leaves it passing over an Alkali Plain and Sage Desert for eight miles before striking the River again. This part of the route is destitute of grass. Encamped on the bank of the River at 9 P M. Making 30.

Friday August 3 Started at 6½ o clock to find grazing for our Mules and found pretty fair grass after traveling 8 where we encamped for the day.

Saturday August 4 Left camp at 5½ o'clock. Started folloeing the valley over a barren Sage Desert most of the way. traveled 8 hours - 20.

Sunday August 5 Remained at camp.

Monday August 6 Started at ¼ of 6 o'clock. Road down the valley to foot of hill where the road turns to the right and passes over a range of hills to where it strikes the River. Road now continues down the right bank of the River, passing around a large bottom of Alkali Swampy Sand. Traveled 11½ hours - 19

Tuesday August 7 Left camp at 8½ o'clock. Road continuing down the Valley over a succession of Sand Bluffs at 16 to where the road forks - left hand one crossing the River and taking up the left bank of the River.

Wednesday August 8 Started at 5½ o'clock. Road through the bottom on left bank of River for 10 where it again crosses the River.

Thursday August 9 Started at 6 o'clock. Road leading to the right up a steep Sand Bluff on to the high table Sage & Greasewood Desert to where it again strikes the River.by the left hand road. This part of the road. is destitute of water and grass and as in many other places covrerd either with sand or light dust to the depth of several inches. Road now continues down the River over 2 or 3 sand ridges to where it descends a rather steep bluff to the River.

Friday August 10 Started at 6½ o'clock. Road now leading down the

right bank of the River through a broad barren valley. Very little grass and what little there is, is in the low bottoms of the River. Road leaves the River 12 and again ascends to a high brown Sage Desert entirely destitute of either water or grass.

Saturday August 11 Left at 5½ o'clock. We encamped last night on the desert and drove our Mules off to the left 2 miles to the River where we found good grass. Road strikes the River 14 and immediately leaves it again ascending to the Sage or Greasewood Plain again. Road touches at River 10 and again ascends to the Desert Plain and continues over a broad and dreary waste to where it reaches a slough 12. Here the road forks - the right leading on to the Sink and the left crossing the dry Slough and running down towards the River for six miles to a fine bottom of sand covered with a very luxurient growth of grass sufficient to graze all the stock on the road.

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday August 12, 13, & 14 Remained in camp and left on the 14th at 5 o'clock. Road leading back through the desert bottom to where it intersects the old road. Distance from camp to "Sink" 18. Sulphur Springs or Wells 5 - These are holes dug in the side of a Ravine some 4 to 6 feet deep where stands water in taste very much like the Celebrated Blue Spring Water but not so highly impregnated with Sulphur. Reached these Springs about 2 o'clock at night and encamped.

Wednesday August 15 Started again at 3 P M descending from the Sand Bluff where we encamped to a low barren Plain of vast extent, covering several hundred square miles. To forks of road 2 - the one leading to the left going by way of Carson River - the right hand one - which we took - leading to Truckee River. To Boiling Springs 18 over a good level road most of the way. These Springs are great natural curiosities. The water is slightly brackish but after cooling we gave to our Mules and drank of it considerably. Arrived here about 2 at night and encamped.

Thursday August 16 Left at ½ to 9 o'clock. Road continuing over the

Desert Plain and very good till we arrived at the foot of a high Sand Plain 12 - after ascending the Bluff and finding the sand deep we concluded to leave one waggon and put both Teams to the other and try to reach the Truckee River distance, but found it impractible after going about half way, as the mules were suffering very much for Water, and grass. Took our Mules on and I remained on the Desert with the waggon without water which we all needed very much. The water used at the Sulphur or Boiling Springs or both affected the kidneys of a good number, causing great pain.

Friday August 17 Remained on the Plain all day with the waggon as the Mules were considered too weak to haul it into the River Some of the party bringing out water to drink and cook with.

Saturday August 18 Hauled the waggons into the River today

Sunday August 19 Remained at camp.

Monday August 20 Started at 7 o'clock taking the left hand road ½ miles ascending a high Bluff over a Sandy road for 2½ miles - then pretty fair the balance of the way except three places of about 1½ or 2 miles each. To Carson River 25 but no water or grass.

Tuesday August 21 Remained camped on the Carson River. Good grass both up and down the River.

Wednesday August 22 Left camp at 6 o clock taking the left hand across the Plain - Road most of the way good to the river 20 - There is considerable timber growing along the banks of this and Truckee River - mostly cottonwood.

Thursday August 23 Left camp at 6 o'clock. Road up the River 8 where it takes off to the right over a high range of mountains to the River 10 - Up the River 1.

Friday August 24 Here we again come in sight of snowy Peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, as also Forests of large Pine Trees - some of which I measured 4½ feet from the ground - measuring 18 feet in circumference. Up a valley and over some hills to the River 7, where we encamped in one of

the largest and most extensive valleys of grass we have seen anywhere on our route. We supposed its greatest width to be some 20 miles and enclosed on each side with Pine covered mountains whose summits seemed to reach to the clouds and whose sides were more or less whitened with snow.

Saturday August 25 Started at 5 O'clock and continued up the valley of the River for good grass and water.

Sunday August 26 Left camp at ¼ to 7. We concluded to travel a part of today as we had lost a good deal of time and the Ox teams are crowding up. The road now keeps on the low hills to Pass on Rock Creek Canon or Kanyon. Through the Canon 5, and such a road and such a place I never saw before. It is a deep valley and very narrow where the water forces its way, having a great fall and hemmed in on both sides with almost perpendicular Granite - Grey - Rock, Mountains towering up some 2 or 3 thousand feet above our heads. The valley being strewed with broken fragments which from time to time which have given away over and between which the road or trail makes its way. It seems almost impossible for waggons to pass through but still they do it. We got about 2/3 through the Canon and encamped taking our Mules to grass.

Monday August 27 This day will long be remembered by our party on account of the difficulty in getting through the Canon which we finally accomplished about 4 o'clock. Last night in driving our Mules to grass two of them got into a swampy piece of ground - all under but their heads & necks. Also two of the Vance men got in - one up to his neck, the other entirely under.

Tuesday August 28 Road leading up the valley occasionally passing over low hills to Red Lake 10 where we encountered the Elephant Tusk - all in the slope of the rockiest and steepest part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The ascent was at an angle of about 60 miles up which we had to pack about half our load on our backs for ¼ of a mile.

Wednesday August 29 Encamped on the hill about ¼ the way up on Tuesday night and got over today and encamped at Lake Valley.

Thursday August 30 Started at 5½ o'clock and commenced the ascent of the highest ridge of the mountains which we accomplished with greater ease than we did the other, although the altitude was much greater. We were several hundred feet above banks of Snow yet there were peaks a great deal higher than where we crossed. The ascent was about to the top 4 - The descent to Rocky Valley 6.

Friday August 31 Started at 6¼ o'clock. Road leading over a succession of lower mountains by a circulating route keeping clear of the larger masses of rock. Some of the Mountains seem to look at a distance like solid Masses of Rock covered with heavy Pine Timber growing out of crevices

Saturday September 1 Left camp at 6 o'clock and in about one mile came to Leek Springs. After going 2 or 3 miles, the road kept on a ridge till we arrived at the descent to Camp Creek. The road immediately ascends the mountain again and continues down a ridge although quite hilly for 16, when we encamped. there being two springs a short distance to the left and grass 2 miles to the left.

Sunday September 2 Remained in camp.

Monday September 3 Left camp at 8 o'clock. Three of our party spent a part of the day in searching the woods for the Jinney Mule, but did not find him. Road continued down the ridge and very dusty. Timber changing from tall and lofty Pine and Arbor Vitae to low scrubby Oak. Traveled __ and encamped.

Tueday September 4 Started at 6½ o'clock. Head of Pleasant Valley 3. Followed down the valley to the first digging in a small village of (perhaps Volcano) and encamped.