

**Preface to
Diary of James Woodworth,
Across the Plains to California in 1853**

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The bulk of the following information on James Woodworth was obtained from the Woodworth Bible which the original is in the possession of Mrs. Elanor Bailey Hughes, of Seattle, Washington. It is supplemented by the book "The Woodworth Family of America, Descendants of Walter Woodworth of 1630 Through Six Generations" by Jeanette Behan, and by the 1880 Census for San Francisco.

James Woodworth was born in Mississippi on March 27, 1829. He was 23 years of age when his Diary was written. He was the Chaplain at San Quentin Prison. James Woodworth died in San Francisco, California, on September 3, 1904, at the age of 75 years. He is buried in the Colma Cemetery in San Francisco, California, Lot 154. Section F.

The following is James Woodworth's lineage:

1. Walter b abt 1612
2. Isaac
3. Daniel
4. Nathaniel
- * 5. Jonathan Woodworth October 6, 1764
 +Sarah Culver April 19, 1763
6. Dr. Charles Woodworth, MD October 4, 1790
 +Eleanor Winan May 7, 1799
7. **James Woodworth** **March 27, 1829**
 + Cornelia Jane Birch, b. Jan 1834 in MO and died after 1900 prob.
 in SF. She was the dau. of Weston Favell Birch and Harriet A.
 Campbell, and she married Rev. Woodworth as the widow of Dr.
 Madison Webster Allen of Winchester, KY.

*Number 187 in Jeanette Behan's book, "The Woodworth Family of America, Descendants of Walter Woodworth of 1630 Through Six Generations".

Siblings of James' father, Dr. Charles Woodworth, MD, Sixth generation:

John Woodworth	July 17, 1792
James Woodworth	December 25, 1793
Sarah Woodworth	March 7, 1796
Avis Eliza Woodworth	April 25, 1798
+Ashbel Ruggles Warner	
Lyman Woodworth	July 14, 1800
Maria Woodworth	November 12, 1802
Mary Ann Woodworth	May 17, 1804
Caroline Woodworth	May 5, 1807
Rhoda Minerva Woodworth	June 26, 1810
+Ransom S. Potter, m. in Litchfield, CT	
George Woodworth	May 1, 1813

Siblings of James Woodworth, 7th Generation

Julia Woodworth	June 1, 1821
Charles Woodworth	May 4, 1825
Jane Woodworth	October 24, 1831
Sarah Woodworth	November 12, 1832
John Woodworth	August 1, 1836
Theodore Woodworth	November 17, 1839

NOTE: Thanks to Skip Higgins for much information, corrections & updates to James Woodworth's genealogy.

Preface revised 12 June 2009

Diary of
JAMES WOODWORTH
Across the Plains to California in 1853



LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EUGENE, OREGON

1972



DIARY OF JAMES WOODWORTH
1853

Saturday, April 23rd: I left St. Louis this evening in company with the Rev. Mr. Hummer on the Steamer El Paso for St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. H. intending to buy some horses there to take to California. We left at 5 o'clock and ran up into the "Chain" about 8 miles from St. Louis where on account of the fog we had to cast anchor and lay until morning.

Sunday, April 24th: We weighed anchor this morning about 6 a.m. and entered the mouth of the Missouri about 8:p.m. and during the day landed at St. Charles (we have a great crowd of passengers, most of them on their way to the land of gold, but some returning to their residences, which they had left, on business, after a visit to St. Louis.) Had quite a pleasant trip and on Friday afternoon on the 29th arrived at St. Jo. We found the town much crowded with migrants and good accommodations hard to be had and very high. We however found a comfortable place about 1 1/2 miles out of town with Mr. Morris with whom we staid as long as I remained at St. Jo which was until Thursday, May 5th. I took the Steamer Honduras for Kansas where I learned by telegraph and letter that Dr. Donaldson was Mr. Hummer has concluded not to go to California and we consequently will have to make other arrangements. We lay at Weston Thursday night and arrived at Kansas on Friday morning about 11 o'clock where I found Dr. D. waiting for me. He is staying at Mr. McGhee's 1 1/2 miles back of Kansas. I went out with him and after dinner we went to Westport a flourishing little town 4 miles out of Kansas - to see Mr. Handy who is waiting there for Mr. Bowman & ourselves to go to California. In relation to the sale of a Buggy which was left in the Dr's hands by the backing out of the Rev. Mr. Hummer and which he will be obliged to dispose of to get the means of finishing our journey (No sale was affected, however.)

Sunday 8th: Passed as unpleasantly as any Sabbath has done for a great while. Being without any clothing suitable to appear at Church in I was compelled to stay at home (that is at Mr. McGhee's) all day and was glad when night came.

9th: Went with the Dr. to Westport where he purchased Four mules at \$50.00 a piece (they are very inferior animals, but as all the best mules in the country have already been purchased, by emigrants, it is the best we can do. The selections were made from a drove of

pack animals, just arrived from Santa Fe, the Dr. taking his choice....They are all wild and unmanageable, and will have to be broken to harness....)

Tuesday May 10th: We harnessed up the mules and drove them to the wagon. They were rather hard to manage at first but by using them kindly they soon became obedient and worked well. (brought our outfit from Kansas, where it had been stored, and pitching the tent, in the yard, put other things under it. Mr. Watt, a young Scotch man, one of Mr. Bowman's Co., arrived to day with a couple of horses.)

11th: Mr. Watt, having come on Steam boat from Rocheport where he left the rest of the Co who are coming by land to bring a couple of lame horses which were unable to travel further.

12th: Mr. Bowman arrived this morning from St. Louis having arrived at Kansas last night per S.B. & in the afternoon Mr. Whitaker & Captain Jeffreys arrived with the wagon and horses numbering Twenty. They left Mr. Overton beyond Independence He having been taken with billious colic So as to oblige him to stop. I was seized this afternoon this afternoon with a pain in my bowels and sickness at my stomach which made me feel very uncomfortable.

13th: Mr. Overton arrived to day. He is much better but very weak. My sickness changed to severe diarrhea which has weakened me very much though in the evening I felt some better. The Dr has traded the buggy for a couple of horses and One Hundred Dollars. This was done I believe yesterday.

16th: We had everything arranged for starting at an early hour and at half past Nine bid Adieu to those we were going to leave and with myself driving the wagon (the rest being mounted on mules) set out on our journey towards the long wished for El Dorado. (...Mr. Hack choosing to act as cook, and the Dr. taking the place of general superintendent, and man of all work,...) Everything worked well though for a time the elements appeared threatening but soon all cleared away and in an hour to procure some additional articles which we found it necessary for us to have and passed on to the prairies. We passed the line which divides the State of Missouri from the territory of Nebraska, about Two and a half miles beyond Westport, and about Six from W. came to where Mr. Handy was encamped where we halted and having picketed out our mules and pitched our tent we proceeded to cook our supper or rather dinner as we had nothing to eat since morning. We first dig a trench in the ground about four feet long by Eight inches wide and as many deep into which we made a fire with wood brought about a quarter of a mile and set our pots upon it. Our water we had to bring from about the same distance as the

wood. We soon had the meal ready and sat down on the grass under the shade of the wagon to the best tasted meal I have partaken of for some time. Mr. Bowman with his wagon and men came up towards evening and encamped near us. We are in a very pleasant spot down south from the Baptist mission house about a half mile from the road with clear weather and a pleasant breeze though toward bedtime it is clouding up and has something of a appearance of rain.

17th: This morning soon after sunrise it commenced raining and kept increasing until we were driven to our wagons and tent all our fire was put out and we had to get along as best we could until towards noon when the rain ceased the sun broke through the clouds and a fine breeze sprang up which dried the ground up very fast and in a short time we were quit comfortable particularly when we had partaken of a good dinner and sat enjoying our pipes and suffarletts (?) Some of the Co went to Westport this afternoon and others a hunting I among the rest and though not very successful (as usual on such occasions) I perhaps burnt as much powder and was as tired when I came in as any of the rest.

18th: This morning very early the wind blew very hard so much so as almost to endanger our tent after which the rain fell in torrents and ran through the tent so as to render us very uncomfortable. The train now consists of three companies, each having a wagon. First, Msrs. Bowman & Overton, with about 20 or 30 fine horses, some of them very valuable, which they are taking to California, upon speculation, four of which they drive to the wagon. Besides, they have some mules, which the men ride. With them are M Watt, Mr. Whitaker, formerly of St. Louis where he has a family, and Mr. Reed, who joined them at Kansas, as cook etc., for the Co., besides Capt. Jeffries.

Second our Co., consisting of Dr. Donaldson and his two sons, Alexander, aged eleven and Butler (?) aged 6 years, respectively, Mr. Mack and myself. We have four mules, and two horses. The horses and two of the mules are worked to the wagon, the horses being in the lead. Between our two Companies we have a tent, in which six of us, Whitaker, Reed, Capt. Jefferies, Watt, Mack, and myself, are expected to lodge, the rest sleeping in the wagons.

Last, Mr. Handy with whom are Mr. Dexter, from Michigan, Mr. Thornburg and Mr. Welch an Irishman. Mr. H has a light spring wagon with 6 or 7 mules, one, a fine, very large black one, which he rides. He calls her Ja She is a beautiful animal, and gentle as a dog. Our outfit is complete. The wagons and harness is new. We have a supply of ropes and picket pins, & camp stools & tin table furniture...a table with legs, which can be taken out when we move, so

as to admit of packing. We have plenty of hard bread, bacon, flour, Sugar, beans, dried apples, and peaches, coffee, yeast powder, pickles, catsup, vinegar, etc. Then we have a coffee pot, camp kettle, in which to cook beans, frying pan, iron bake-oven, or skillet, tin plates and cups, water tanks, etc. - a box, containing 6 Doz paper of fine cut Scaforalls (?) or Turkish Smoking tobacco. This is a great luxury which we have already begun duly to appreciate, with the pipes, of which we have a good supply...have had foresight enough to order a demijon of the best Old Bourbon Whiskey, just in case of sickness, you know, or, in time of great drought, so that, when the question shall be asked: Have we a Bourbon among us, we shall be able to settle the matter beyond the possibility of controversy. This, with a box of medicines, which I put up before leaving the drug-store, of which with Dr. & I owned, at St. Louis, and which was sold, before leaving, will be always neat at hand, as to be acceptable, in cases of emergency: and in the same line, we have, of guns, pistols, knives, powder, balls, shot caps, etc., an indefinite supply.) We left camp about 9 and passed some very bad places in the road. The horses got frightened at some loose horses passing them and ran away but were checked without doing any damage by reining them out of the road. After getting them straightened in going down a hill they started again and ran under boughs of a tree which broke most of the bows on the wagon but being reined out of the road again up a hill they were checked without further damage. We traveled about 17 miles when we crossed Cedar creek upon the banks of which we encamped. We here set the first guard I stood watch during the first part of the night until half past 12 when I went to bed. We repaired as well as we could the damage done to the wagon.

19th: Stopped about 9 crossed a prairie about 2 1/2 miles to what proved to be Cedar Creek on which we thought we had encamped last night. About 1 1/2 miles before stopping crossed a creek where the hill to be ascended was the steepest we have yet passed over. Crossed a branch of the Wrackaluss about 4 and encamped upon its bank having traveled about 18 miles.

20th: Crossed a very bad creek where Mr. Bowman got stalled and had trouble to get up the hill. Encamped on a little stream about 4 miles from Union Village to wait for the Sabbath. Traveled about 24 miles.

22nd: I stood guard last night until near one and just as I was preparing for bed it commenced raining very hard but before morning cleared up and today we have fine weather. The men are amusing themselves with hunt & fishing & bathing. Some are repairing washing etc. I enjoyed the pleasure of a bath and got my hair cut.

23rd: Left early and retraced our steps for about 4 miles as we found we could not cross the Kansas river at Union town. Just after starting the horses of our wagon took fright at the loose horses passing and ran off. I brought them within a short distance and found that both of the other wagons had ran off but no damage was done to either. We got to the Baptist Mission about noon (near the Kansas) where we found we would have to wait for some time before we could get over the river as the crossing was very bad. We here encamped.

24th: Left the Mission in the morning and crossed the Kansas on a flat boat which was taken across by means of a rope stretched across the river with pulleys running upon it. The boat being pulled across by the current after which we passed through a low flat Prairie or Bottom up the river stopping for a few minutes upon the bank at a place where it bends out into the prairie. Crossed two small streams both of which were bridged and encamped within a mile of the Catholic Mission about a half mile to the right near a spring having traveled about 14 miles.

25th: We stopped for a few minutes at the Mission to procure some articles. We here crossed a stream about 4 feet wide over which were thrown a few poles for the privilege of crossing which we paid 50 cents. Crossed several bridges and two or three creeks where the banks were nearly perpendicular and the crossing very difficult. Crossed the Vermillion about one and stopped an hour on its banks where Dr. D. found a gun which had been lost by some one. We here left the Bottom lands & traveled over a high uneven country crossing several bad creeks and encamped on a little stream about 1/2 mile to the right of the road having traveled about__miles. The weather all day has been cold and cloudy with indications of rain.

26th: Last night was raining & the rain continued through the morning. We left camp about 11 1/2 o'clock & traveled until about 6 having traveled about 16 miles. The weather has been partially clear and cold. The country has been uneven all the way & after some miles no timber was to be seen. We traveled some miles farther than we intended on account of not finding a suitable place to camp and having seen any wood for ten miles. We encamped about 1/4 mile to the right on a little stream. A poor place to camp on account of wood being very scarce. A man came to camp who told us that the Blue was very high & 250 wagons were on the bank waiting to cross.

27th: We did not start until 10:00 a.m. as we intended to go but a few miles. Crossed the Vermillion where we had to let the wagons down by a rope. Went hunting this morning & got a mess of frogs which we had for supper. I have been quite unwell for several days & tonight took

some medicine. We encamped on the bank of a creek after crossing it having traveled about 18 miles.

28th: We lie here waiting to cross the Blue which is about __miles ahead. Two of the men went there this morning to see what the prospect is & reported that we could swim the stock below the ferry. Went a fishing and caught a fine string though all small. The men ran the seine but caught only a few. The weather remained rather unpleasant until about sundown where a hard thunder shower accompanied with much wind came on. I got wet moving the horses and spent an uncomfortable night. About 10 o'clock after all but the guard had turned in a stampede occurred among the horses & all were up to secure them. We got all secure just as a hard shower came on which beat the tent making all uncomfortable & giving me a slight cold.

29th: We lie here still but intend starting in the morning. The storm is pretty well over but the wind is blowing hard. We had several showers during the day but none of them very hard.

30th: Started early and arrived at the Big Blue about 10 o'clock. Had to wait some time before we could get over. Crossed about 2 and took in wood & water as we could not get any for some miles. Camped about 9 miles out at the junction of the Independence & Kansas roads.

31: Started early and after traveling about 4 miles a storm of rain came which continued until noon. We traveled until afternoon when we stopped for a short time to graze & rest. Weather fine in the afternoon. We encamped on a little stream about 1/2 mile to the right of the road just after passing a drove of cattle which had been stampeded the night before. The owners said they lost 200 head.

June 1: Had to make a small bridge of brush over the stream we were on after which we crossed. It commenced raining again soon after we started. We stopped about 1 on a little stream about 1/2 mile to the right and pitched our tent. Got some dinner and the weather clearing up a little. We went on. Crossed two streams near together the last of which was said to be the little Sandy. Took in wood and water and traveled several miles. Stopped about 1/2 mile to the left on a road running out that way near a stream but not near enough to get wood & water from. When we stopped there was every indication of a storm but it blowed over with but little rain.

2nd: The weather has been cloudy and cool all day. Passed several trains and droves of sheep one of which was said to contain ten thousand. Bought a sheep and dressed it. Crossed a

difficult stream where the sheep swam. Two or three miles further we stopped on account of a stream we came to being too high to ford. A great many wagons and cattle were waiting for the water to fall. Encamped about 1 1/4 miles to the left on the stream. Went into the water here to bathe.

3rd: The water having fallen we crossed very early and 2 or 3 miles on came to the little Blue which we traveled up as we will not have to cross it. The road up was fine lying most of the way on a flat bottom. Crossed several streams. Left the bottom once or twice and passed over the hills. Passed several trains & droves of sheep. The sky clouded up during the day but we had no rain. Camped on the Blue having traveled about 30 miles.

4th: Passed up the Blue crossing several streams and passing over some very steep hills. Left the Blue in the afternoon thinking we would strike it again 4 or 5 miles ahead where we intended to stop for the Sabbath but soon found that we had left it finally and had to travel until we found wood and water with grass near it. Crossed several very bad places and arrived very late at a little stream where wood was difficult to get and the grass bad but as it was so late and our teams were very tired we had to stop. We placed the horses in a band of the creek where only one man was required to guard them. During the night we had quite a storm of rain but did not suffer much inconvenience from it.

5th: Sunday, We had intended to lie by as usual on the Sabbath but as the grass is too poor to think of keeping the stock here we are obliged to move forward. Some of the company think we can get to Ft. Kearney which they say is only 28 miles distant. The roads are rather soft from the recent rains. About 10 the Bluffs of the Platte Bottom came in sight about one we got to them where we stopped an hour or two. Passed down into the bottom across which at about 10 miles distance we could see the timber bordering the river. Passed diagonally up the bottom and after traveling until late found we were yet 7 1/2 miles from the fort which we could see in the distance encamped to the right in the Prairie. We could get no wood but a few small willow bushes which the men found near the river just sufficient to cook a little coffee with. I stood guard during the after part of the night and in the morning.

6th: Raised the camp at 3 1/2. The air was cool and the dew heavy. Arrived at the fort about 8 where we got permission from the commander Captain Wharton to camp near the fort. According to the rules we could not camp within three miles but as Dr. D. & Mr. B. had become acquainted with Capt. W. on their trip last year we were permitted as a matter of courtesy to

transgress the rules. Encamped to the right within a quarter of a mile of the fort where we got our breakfast. Dr. D. & Mr. B. took breakfast and dinner with Capt. W. We unloaded and aired the wagon - done our washing etc. and I wrote several letters. We traveled yesterday about 34 miles and the day before about 30. Today a band of Arapahoe indians came to the fort. They are I believe preparing for war with the Pawnees.

7th: Left camp about 9 & crossed up the Platte Bottom coming near the river several times. While stopping for dinner one of the mules took it into his head to follow a train that was passing and I had a fine race to overtake him. When I had mounted him to bring him back he thinking that I could afford to walk as well as he commenced going through sundry performances of lofty tumbling which soon brought me on a level with the poorest beggar laying me my full length to the ground. We passed a german who was trying to get to California with a pack on his back having started as he said with a sheep train but had been discharged. We gave him something to eat and left him. We bought a bag of chips from the fort as wood is scarce up the Platte. Camped on a part of the river where the grass was poor. The Platte is high and the current very swift. Traveled about 22 miles.

8th: Crossed Plum Creek. Passed several large trains. Camped on the Platte where the grass was fine and had a fine swim in the river crossing to an island the water being too deep to wade but a part of the way the river is said to be rising very fast in fact we could see that it was by the way it rose while we were here.

We dug a hole near the river and got some fine cool water. Traveled about 18 miles.

9th: We found a lamb which had been left out of a drove in consequence of one of its legs being broken. We took it in the wagon and at night killed it and had two or three fine messes of mutton for all hands. Traveled about 22 miles and camped about 1 1/4 miles from the river a little to the left of the road near a slough or frog pond where with the exception of a little which some of the men brought from the river we were compelled to get all the water we wanted to use. We here use the first buffalo dung for fuel. It abounds is to be found near the Platte in great abundance. Hard wind all night.

10th: Stopped at cottonwood spring where we expected to get some fine water but found the spring covered with water from the river. We had a fine shade to lie under and took advantage of it for about three hours. We to day passed the most romantic part of the Platte bluffs. Passed a man loading a horse loaded with everything necessary for a trip across the

Plains. He said his load did not amount to 100 pounds although he seemed to have everything requisite to the journey. One of the mules got away while we were at the spring and we came near losing him. Camped on the river 1 1/2 miles from the road. High wind in the evening and threatened a storm but it passed away quietly.

11th: Passed the first fresh grave, that of "Alfred Wither died May 25th '53". Arrived at about 4 at the lower crossing of the South fork but so many teams were waiting to cross that we went two miles above and encamped on the river where there was no wood but the grass was pretty good. Drew the seine but got nothing. We lie here to spend the Sabbath intending to cross the river on Monday morning.

12th: Sunday wind blowing hard all day. Spent nearly all day in sleep. We got wood today from the river carrying it about 1 1/2 miles. The wind which was blowing all day from the South about 11 1/2 suddenly changed round to the North and blew with great violence. At the same time a terrible storm of rain accompanied with hard thunder came on and as we had pitched our tent in a hollow on account of there being some dry grass there it was soon filled to the depth of about six inches with water and all of the bedclothes were swimming in it. We of course were obliged to evacuate the tent without ceremony and pass the night as best we could which certainly was not in the most comfortable way.

13th: After dragging our clothes from the water and getting everything in as good order as we could we started to cross the Platte. While we were waiting on the bank our ox wagon loaded with flour in attempting to go down the bank was turned over into the water but not much damage was done further than wetting the flour a little. We put six horses to the Dr.'s wagon and started across. Soon after starting the lead horses sank in the sand and the force of the current washed them over on their sides. We got them clear by cutting a rope by which they were pulling & got over without much further difficulty. The rest of the wagons and horses crossed without accident and we were ready for starting about 2. Crossed over the North fork and after going about six miles encamped about 1 mile from the river to the right of the road at about 4 1/2 o'clock.

14th: Left camp at 5. Traveled until 11 when we stopped for dinner. Here we saw five antelopes near the bluffs and several of the men started in pursuit of them intending to meet the train some miles beyond. After starting we ascended the bluffs as there was not room next to the river for the road to run. We here saw the first buffaloes but as the men were out with guns we

could get none of them although we were near enough to have killed one. Dr. D. gave chase to one with his horse and got within fifty yards of him. The men soon after joined us where the road comes around towards the river. We descended the bluffs in the evening and crossing the road encamped, about 1/2 mile from the river and 1 1/2 from the road having traveled about 30 miles.

15th: Roads very sandy until afternoon when we stopped for a short time at a fine spring which comes out of the bluffs to the left soon after which we ascended a long steep sandy hill to the top of the bluffs and passing over a rough country for a few miles came to Ash hollow to hunt and did not arrive until night. They brought with them some buffalo meat which made a fine supper. Traveled about 33 miles.

16th: Sandy roads. Passed several large trains and droves and after traveling about 25 miles encamped on a sandy place near the road to the left.

17: Passed the train of "Adams Co." Mr. Adams was formerly a resident of Venice Ill. While we were stopping at noon he came up and stopped near us and having a blacksmith with him Mr. Bowman got several of his horses shod. Court House and Chimney Rock were in sight nearly all the afternoon. We encamped on a little stream to the left of the road in sight of C.H. Rock which appeared to be about a mile off but is said to be twelve.

18: Passed C.H. & Chimney Rocks. A band of Sioux of a hundred or two were encamped on the river opposite Chimney rock. Dr. D. went to try to trade with them for a pony but did not succeed. They offered Mr. B. three pairs of moccasins for his mule, and would have traded for beans sugar or whiskey. We encamped opposite Castle Hill on the river.

19th: Sunday we started early as the grass was too poor to remain on intending to go 15 miles and stop for the rest of the day. We passed a trading lodge kept by Robidoux. Passed a train of wagons & cattle in which was a sick man for whom Dr. D. prescribed and we prepared the medicine in the wagon without stopping. We arrived at Scotts Bluffs about noon and stopped near the top at a spring which ran down a shady ravine about 300 yards, to get wood & water. I ascended one of the high bluffs with Mr. Whitaker and had a fine view of the country for miles around Laramie peaks one of the spurs of the Rocky Mountains is plainly visible from here at the distance of 100 miles. We went over the bluffs and encamped to the right about a mile from the road under bluffs near a ravine which was full of little springs. The grass here was the finest we have had yet. Towards night just as a black cloud was rising from Westward a herd of buffaloes

were seen making across the bottom for the hills to find shelter from the approaching storm and although there was every indication of an approaching rain some of the men gave chase but returned unsuccessful just in time to save themselves from a good wetting. The storm proved to be a severe one of wind and rain accompanied with much thunder. We were obliged to brace our tent with ropes to prevent its blowing away. The rain slackened about dark and the night was rather pleasant the wind drying the ground soon.

20: Started late. Passed several large droves & stopped for dinner near a frog pond. Soon after we passed the Lodge of a trader with whom Dr. D. traded both of his horses for a mule giving ten dollars besides. We encamped at the road on the river near to an encampment of Sioux who were on the bluffs and near to a traders lodge. We learned of him of some difficulty which had occurred at the post with some of the Indians but I cant anything in relation to it until we arrive at the fort which we do to morrow.

21st: Passed the train of Mr. Rennett of St. Louis. Arrived at the fort about 4 but found we could not cross the river until Thursday there being a great many wagons ahead of us who have the preference. Fort Laramie is situated between the Platte & Laramie rivers at their junction. We went above about 2 miles and encamped on the Laramie where the grass was very poor crossing a little stream which empties into the river.

22: Spent the day in writing letters but did not get through with all I wished. The day has been quite wet with some rain some of the company went to the fort to ascertain the chance of getting over the river and of getting work done. We will cross tomorrow. Mr. Bowman can get his horses shod at the shop though at a high price. The blacksmiths charge for shoeing a horse 4 a mule 5 and an ox 6 dollars for setting a shoe 75 cts. Mr Handy's axletree was bent a little and wished to get if straitened and a light bar put under it but they asked him for doing it thirty dollars or for merely shortening it fifteen dollars. Flour is 17 coffee & sugar each 40 cts per lb. The price for crossing wagons at the ferry is ... dollars apiece. The stock will have to swim. We are encamped on an indian road where indians are passing continually. Some of them to day were moving. This was done by packing a pony with blankets etc. to form a kind of saddle on which one end of their lodge poles were placed on each side the other end dragging on the ground. About the middle of these is placed the lodge and other things which are wanted and sometimes as to day a papoose takes the place of the pack on the poles. Some of them in passing to day caused a stampede among the horses by one of the ponies getting away and running off

with papoose among them. Several of them ran off but were caught after running about a mile and papoose was landed on Terra firma without injury.

23: We crossed Laramie to day about noon. The horses etc by swimming and the wagons being taken over on a flat-boat. We stopped at the fort for some hours to get some of Mr. Bowman's horses shod. I bought a common pencil such as in the states would have cost about 2 cts for which I paid 20 cts. We left the fort about 3 and leaving the river ascended the bluffs or "Black hills" passing over a rough country and over through a beautiful valley about three miles wide and in twelve miles came to the warm spring which flows out of the ground at the foot of a bluff in several places making quite a stream. The water is nearly at blood heat and to warm to drink but when it is cooled by standing through the night it is very fine. Our road just before this wound round among the rocks & cliffs and after crossing the rim of the spring we passed up a kanyon about a mile & encamped where the grass was poor but wood in abundance. We had more of this than we had found before in the dry pines which had been blown down from the bluffs. We had a small stampede in the evening caused by a mule running through the horses with a bush tied to the end of his rope to which it had been tied and which it had pulled up but it was stopped without trouble. There being a blacksmith shop at the spring Mr. Handy left his wagon there to get repaired. The difficulty with the indians at the fort seems a band of the Sioux tribe whose hunting grounds are on the Missouri river but who have been prowling around here for some time as it is supposed for the purpose of plunder Seized on some boats which belonged to the fort and when the corporal who had charge of them attempted to retake them the indians shot at him with their arrows. Information of the affair being communicated to (Lund?) the commanding officer at the fort. A company of 20 men was dispatched to the spot who fired into the indians killing three or four and wounding several. The chiefs came to the fort the next day and had a "talk" about the matter and expressed themselves satisfied with the reasons given by the officers for the course they had pursued but some think that they are not and that the emigrants will be annoyed by them on account of it.

We learned to day that they had sent the pipe of peace to the neighboring tribes which looks like as though something is in the wind. I had a violent head-ache all the afternoon but it wore off in the evening. We had a fine Supper of beef-steak having got some beef at the fort.

24th: We did not start until late having been waiting for Mr. Handy to get his wagon repaired but as it was not done at 8 o'clock we with Mr. Bowmans wagon Overton & Read only

accompanying it the rest remaining behind with the loose horses to get some shoeing done went on. We soon passed up a long steep stony hill after which we had fine roads though rather hilly. We did not pass any trains under way. Stopped at 12 about 1/4 mile to the left of the road a stream of fine water running to the right and had a fine dinner of beef Soup under the shade of the tent. After dinner crossed the stream three times and encamped to the left in the mouth of a Kanyon about 1/4 mile from road & 1/2 mile from creek. The rest of the Co came up as we were preparing to camp. Grass bad and a poor place to camp. Went into the creek at night and washed some clothing. Traveled about 15 miles.

25th: Left camp about 5 and traveled up a ravine for 4 or 5 miles then over a very rough country passing Laramie peak and down a long rough descent to a stream after crossing which we came to another about a mile further where we stopped for 3 hours with a fine breeze. After dinner passed the wagon of a trader where the road joins the "Middle Road" from Laramie. Then going down into the valley crossed a small stream where were some traders tents and encamped about 8 or La Bonte river to the left of the road about two miles from road having traveled about 30 miles & being about 60 from Laramie. Plenty of fine water Grass & Wood. Traveled about 30 miles being now about ... miles from Kansas and 60 from Laramie.

26th We lie here for the Sabbath with fine weather and a pleasant breeze.

27th: Started early & crossed the La Bonte and several other streams. The wind blew very hard and made the dust very uncomfortable. Crossed the Leprele (?) about noon and stopped for dinner to the left of the road about 1 mile from it having traveled about 21 miles. We here did our first cooking with Sage brush. After dinner the wagons started on leaving the loose stock to graze. We traveled a few miles when we were obliged to stop on account of the wind which drove the sand like a shower of hail in our faces. Camped on Box Elder creek close to the road & under a hill where we had plenty of fine water wood & grass.

28th: We did not start until late on account of the weather wind was very cold. After crossing the stream & another we came to the Platte where it is so crooked that a line of two or three miles in length would cross the river 5 times. Crossed Deer Creek and passed round the hills over a bottom which has been lately overflowed which made it very muddy. Camped on the Muddy after crossing it on a bridge which was kept by a trader for the privilege of which we paid 15 cts a wagon.

29th: Crossed snow creek and another where Mr. Overton stalled with his wagon and we had to wait about two hours before he got out after which we went about a mile further and stopped for dinner near a little creek. After hitching up the teams it was after discussion agreed to find a good camping place and lie by tomorrow for a hunt. We found a first rate place about a mile farther up the creek where we had plenty of water wood & grass. Six of the company went and in the evening to the hills to be ready for the hunt to morrow.

30th: The weather is fine and we lie here yet I acting in the capacity of cook and man of all work. Not having the proper equipment for hunting I have contented myself with a feu shots with a gun at a tobacco box which if it had have been an indian or buffalo would doubtless have been in the state it now is lifeless. Mr. Thornburg came into camp about dark having been lost from the rest of the party and unable to find them. He brought no game but a couple of grouse. We could see a light on the bluff at night which we thought was caused by the camp fire of the rest of the hunting party. The bluffs are about 6 miles from camp. Weather fine.

July 1st: The hunting party not having come in we were obliged to wait for them. In the afternoon a hard thunder storm came on but cleared up with a beautiful rainbow. I killed a rattlesnake the Second I ever saw. Between sundown & dark Mr. Bowman Mr. Dexter, Read & Mack came in each loaded with elk meat which they had killed. Mr. Overton they had not seen since about daylight he having left the party about that time to return in an hour and it is supposed he could not find his way back. Some uneasiness is felt about him. The men killed several elks and reported having seen droves of others as well as of mountain sheep besides several grizzly bears. They told us of a horse that was up the creek some distance and the Dr. and I went after him on mules. We found him about three miles up and brought him to camp about dark but he proved to be worthless having the fistula so as to be incurable besides being stiffened up and very poor.

2nd: Several of the men went in search of Mr. Overton taking mules with them intending to ride to the foot of the mountains and proceed from there on foot having the mules to be brought back by the men who went along for that purpose.

They found him at the mouth of the Kanyon they were intending to ascend on his return. He had been lost being deceived by the streams running in a contrary direction from which he had supposed. He had killed an elk & a deer in proof of which he brought only their tails. They all returned about dark and we prepared to start early the next morning.

3rd: Left camp about 7 and soon after crossed the river on a bridge soon after which we took in water and left the Platte for the last time crossing over rough sandy hills and after dinner took in water from a dirty looking run of warm water. Soon after we passed a spring & lake which are said to be poisonous - here was a wagon with a broken axletree. Camped to the left in a low place where the grass was poor and but little wood & no water.

July 4th: Independence Day. Left at 6 and in the morning passed Avenue rock. Traveled all day not finding a good camping place crossing several creeks and encamped late in sight of Independence rock on the Sweet Water. Drove the horses across the river into a bend where they did not need much watching requiring but one man or guard at a time.

5th: Passed Ind. Rock where some of the emigrants had had a celebration the day before. Some of the men ascended the rock. Passed the Sweet Water just beyond where it was about 3 feet in depth. We lost our camp kettle in crossing.

Passed Devils gate just after I ascended the rock and examined the gate and overtook the train in an hour or two. We passed Rennett Day & Mr. Rennett visited us when we stopped for noon just beyond. We camped on S.W. driving the stock across the stream. I slept on the bank among the horses where I was sung to sleep by the roar of the water.

6th: Crossed S.W. at crossing No. 2 about noon and stopped near where Mr. Bowman got some horses shod. Soon after we crossed where the river runs through a narrow gorge in the mountains and immediately recrossed which to crossings are No. 3 & 4. In the afternoon we passed some very fine grass but could not stop at it because we have a drive of 15 m to make to morrow without water grass or wood. After crossing the river We here met a return train of Californians who were packing and reported having left Sacramento on the 25th of May. They report flour at Salt Lake to \$30 cwt. We encamped on S.W. near ford No. 5 with poor grass and no wood. Dr. D here visited a sick man at one of the camps. Here we first got sight of snow Mts (a range of peaks of the Rocky Mts., many miles away, which rise to the height of more than ten thousand feet above the Sea level, being covered with perpetual Snow.)

7th: Crossed the river and traveled over a dreary Sandy waste of 15 miles about the middle of which are the ice springs a low place where it is said that ice can be had by digging down 3 or 4 ft. Arrived at the river about noon and stopped about a mile below the crossing and having swam the horses across we drew the seine five or six times catching about the same number of fish. After dinner crossed at ford No 6 and any quantity of emigrants passing over

hills to the valley of S.W. which was covered here with wagons. Perhaps nearly a hundred were encamped here besides great numbers of cattle. We passed fords No 7 & 8 without crossing and encamped on the river putting the horses on an island where they required but little guarding. We had a little rain in the evening and about 12 o'clock but it did no damage.

8th: Passed up the bottom a little way and left the river passing over hills & stopped for noon at a pretty place on Strawberry Creek where Mr. Bowman got some more shoeing done. Afternoon we passed ____fork (a mass of ice, or frozen snow, which lay close to the road, to the depth of three or four feet.) where we got some ice. Passed Willow creek and 5 miles beyond encamped on S.W. with fine grass.

9th: Crossed river at ford No 9 and about 10 passed South Pass. Soon after we passed the Pacific Springs and creek and took the road leading to the left thinking that as none of the emigrants seemed to be going that way we would be more apt to find grass there than on the other road. We found no grass or water until late and were obliged to encamp at a poor place about 2 o'clock. We saw no wagons after leaving the main road.

10th: Sunday we traveled over the worst sand we have passed yet being on the wrong road. Encamped early on the Sandy with poor grass but plenty of water and some wood. We here saw the main road across the river.

11th: Left camp early and soon crossed the Sandy which is very swift and so deep that we were obliged to block up the wagons to keep them above water. We soon joined the main road and found that by taking the one we did we had gained 15 or 20 miles. A band of indians overtook and passed us who seemed to pay great attention to our horses. We arrived at Green River where we watered and nooned just beyond after which we drove down to the ferry. Just as we drive up a man and a horse who were driving stock across the river went down and both were drowned. We crossed on a flat boat and encamped in a bottom on the river about a mile above the ferry.

12th: We passed the most emigrants we have passed in the same time before. Nooned to the left in good grass where we bought a hundred lbs of flour from an emigrant paying for it \$8.00. Camped at night on Black's fork where one of the horses mired and we had difficulty in getting him out. We drew the seine and got a wetting and one fish. Captain Jeffries has been sick and been obliged to lie in the wagon all day.

13th: We traveled until late in consequence of not finding a suitable camping place. We encamped on a creek about two miles from the road in sight of Fort Bridger near a train from Arkansas who had just buried two dead one of whom they said they found sick on the road having been abandoned by his comrades.

14th: Passed Bridger and a large drove of Cattle belonging to Mr. Shorb of Arkansas which extending for nearly two miles along the road. Descended a long steep rocky hills to a beautiful stream and encamped in the mouth of a canon where we had wood water and fine grass in abundance. At night we picketed the horses on the hill about 100 feet above us. Made our dinner.

July 15th: The three cooks left the train soon after starting to go to the river and fish. We passed the Copperas spring in the morning and soon after Poplar Springs where is a poplar grove at the foot of a mountain which one of the men ascended and got some snow from which we made a julip after we got into camp. Camped near Bear river a mile to the right of & below the road in a grove and on a creek which empties into the river. I went a fishing to the river but found the current so swift that I remained but a few minutes and was nearly two hours going and returning through the brush which was so thick that I could hardly get through it.

16th: Crossed Bear river at a place where it spreads out very wide and is not very deep but swift. Passed round some singular rocks which look like stacks of grain - over a couple of streams and over a long steep ascent and descent to Echo Canon ascending and descending perhaps 1000 feet crossed a creek which runs through the Canon and at one of the crossings Mr. Bowman's wagon wheels sank in deep in the mud that the body ran into the bank. We stopped for noon near by and got the wagon out. Soon after dinner it commenced raining and we had to work in the rain to bridge the creek with willows before we could cross. Towards evening in crossing the creek Mr. Handy broke the tongue of his wagon and we were obliged to encamp near by. We stopped at the mouth of a Canon which opens into Echo Canon where the bluffs on each side were 500 or more ft. high. Mr. H's wagon was rolled up by hand and soon repaired. We had a damp cloudy night .

17th: Sunday we started late to try and get ahead of the trains which were jammed together in the Canon and which caused us much trouble. We crossed the creek (which is the Red fork of the Webber) in all 13 times and every crossing was about as bad as could be. After crossing the last time we stopped for a short time in sight of Webber River. After dinner we left

Echo Kanyon at the Webber where was the cabin of a settler and in three or four miles drive came to the ferry where Dr. and Mr. Handy had their wagons taken over on a flat boat. Mr. Bowmans wagon & all the horses and mules being forded the water being only three feet deep. Soon after crossing we turned up a Kanyon and in crossing a bad mud hole Mr. Handy broke the tongue of his wagon again and again we were obliged to encamp for him to repair it. We drove the horses across a creek and on to a bluff from the top of which I had a view of the most splendid scenery I have seen on the trip. In trying to get one of the mules across the creek he leaped over and onto me throwing me down and falling on me but did me no injury.

18th: Started early and passed up the Kanyon a few miles crossing the stream which runs through it several times then over to another Canon through which runs Brockman's creek. Crossed it several times and stopped for noon where we found fine grass and a fine mountain stream of cold water. In the morning we passed two wagons on each of which was a boiler for making beet sugar which had been left the wagons having broken down. After dinner kept up the creek crossing it several times. At one of the crossings Mr. Handy broke something belonging to the forward axle tree of his wagon, and the other wagons went on leaving some of the men to assist him. We traveled up the creek a few miles and at a very bad crossing we left a man to direct Mr. H. where to cross and turned up the Cannon which leads to the "Summit". Though this was a stream, which the road crosses continually and is full of large stones which make it dangerous for wagons to travel the last half mile is very steep and it has as much as the teams could do to hold the wagons with two wheels dragging. Just as we got over the worst of the descent Mr. Bowman overtook us and reported that Mr. Handy was coming on and that he would overtake us at camp. Here we found a couple of wagons loaded with wood which they were taking to Salt Lake City one of which was turned over. We assisted the men to right it and went on. Darkness soon came on and we had to travel by guess one of the men going forward on horse-back and the wagons driving after him. We descended into a Canon crossing a stream several times which runs through it and when we began to come to where there was any grass the valley was covered with encampments so that we did not get into camp until about 10 o'clock. At about 11 Mr. Handy & Dexter arrived at camp bringing their mules having left their wagon just after passing the Summit it being too dark to come farther with it and they thinking that we were encamped within a mile or two of them.

19th: Mr. Dexter started at about day break for the wagon and arrived with it about 8 o'clock. As all hands were very tired we did not leave camp until about 11 o'clock. Soon after doing so we passed over a long steep hill nearly as bad as "Summit Hill" the decent also being as steep. We descended into a kanyon through which run a stream which we have to cross several times all the crossings being bad. The Canon was jammed with trains pushing for Salt Lake. The road here is in some places dug round the side of a steep mountain with barely room for a wagon to pass and where a false drive of a few inches would precipitate the whole team and wagon into biling stream which runs at the bottom of the Canon below. After toiling for several hours we finally arrived at the mouth of the Canon which opens into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of which we had a fine view as also of the city which although we were at the foot of the mountains seemed far below us and we could from where we were look down upon each house. We were here about 4 miles from the city and had to go about 3 more in direct line with where we were to the south in order to find suitable place to camp. We encamped on the bank of a Canon through which we ran a beautiful stream of clear cold water filled with fine trout of which we caught a good many while we remained here. We had to take the horses & mules across the creek about a mile from camp to find grass for them. Dr. D. drew a tooth which has been troubling me for a great while.

20th: We unloaded the wagon and all hands from our wagon went to town. We saw all the sights had a fine dinner and got to camp about dark. We found the place swarming with emigrants making purchases, & the merchants, who were driving a fine business.....the dinner was excellent, consisting of every necessary variety of fresh vegetable, and meat....felt as if we had been to a feast. And so we had. I called on Mr. Little, who, with his wife, is a mormon. He is a relative of Brigham Young, and formerly did business, as a merchant in St. Louis, where I was acquainted, and traded with him. He came to S.L., in '49, with a train, at which time I was thinking of coming out with him.

21st: I went over to the horses and after assisting to water them and climbing over some of the hills in search of grass went into a canon and laid down and slept all the afternoon.

22nd: I took some medicine last night and have been sick all day lying on a blanket within two or three feet of the rushing stream where I am now writing up my journal not having done so since we left camp after the buffalo hunt. July 1st Mr. Handy has disposed of his wagon and intend to pack the rest of the way through.

23rd: I am still sick though the Dr is also quite unwell. Mr. Handy has bought another wagon more heavy than the one he sold and with which he intends to go through. We had a hard storm of wind and rain to day and some rain at night. A wagon drove into the Kanyon near us with a sick man.

24th: I am still sick though better in the evening after the operation of some medicine which I took this morning. I suffered very much most of the night with a pain in my side. I was unable to attend church at the city as I should like to have done. Some of the men from the camp did so. It is the intention to leave to morrow.

25th: Left camp and drove down to the mill a couple of miles the Dr's wagon stopping for 3 or 4 hours for flour while Mr. Bowman & Mr. Handy went on. We overtook them a few miles farther at a blacksmith shop where they had stopped to get some work done and had encamped. We encamped with them on ground belonging to the church for the privelage of which we had to pay.

26th: We all drove into the city where we staid until evening to make purchases etc. I had another tooth which has caused me much pain for a day or two drawn by a dentist of S L City. Provisions here are high. Flour is 10 per cvt though at the mill it can be had for 8c. Sugar & coffee are 40 cts Bacon 25 & 30 cents & other things in proportion. I got a pair of cow hide shoes made for which I paid 4\$. We bought a wagon load of grass in the evening and had it taken to the outskirts of the city near the "U.S. Hotel" or Bath house where we encamped.

27th: We staid here until afternoon when we drove 5 or 6 miles where we found pasturage for the stock of one of the settlers paying 12 1/2 cts a head for keeping them on the grass all night. We found Mr. Mounts here a gentlemen who left Kansas a week before we did. One of Mr. Bowmans men had left him and he has procured another to take his place. Mr. Bowman joined us here in the evening with the wagon he bought at the city and Mr. Almsbury who is a blacksmith and will attend to shoeing the horses etc. is on the way besides driving the wagon. His wife is with him and is going through. I have been very sick and compelled to take some more medicine.

29th: Left at 1 or two o'clock and drove only a few miles to a creek where we encamped about a half mile to the left of the road. Here we could see the whole of the G.S.S. Lake. I have felt rather better to day though my mouth is getting sore in consequence of the blue moss (?) what I have taken.

30th: Moved the wagons down the creek about 1/2 mile further where we found better grass.

31st: Sunday Mr. Handy left this afternoon intending to join some train which moved faster. It was agreed to day to reduce the guard to one man so that as we have 8 to stand each one will have to do but 1/2 night in every 4.

Aug 1st: Drove about 5 miles to the Webber which we crossed going into Salt Lake Valley on the 17th of last month when we arrived at 10 o'clock. We stopped under the shade of some cedars near the river and put the stock about a half mile off across Where though very unwell I remained to guard them. The men dreu the seine but caught nothing though with hooks & lines some of them caught several fine strings of trout. We drove 2 miles farther and encamped on a crick about 1/2 mile to the right of the road.

2nd: Traveled a dozen miles and encamped 1/2 mile to the left on a prairie stream the banks of which were lined with rushes where I stood guard at night for the first time since I have been sick. We have got some more vegetables. Mr. Mack got ahead of the train and traveled 4 or 5 miles to find us but came in with a fine couple of live "chicken fixens".

3rd: Traveled 15 miles and encamped about 1/4 mile to the left on a bank of a creek where the water had been turned by the settlers for the purpose of irrigation. The settlers are collecting here with their property in consequence of the alarm about the indian troubles and an order from the Governor to collect and build forts through the settlements. They are preparing to build a fort here.

4th: To day we passed the last of the settlements which is about 60 miles from the city. Passed two large springs which boil up each one forming quite a large creek. Nooned on Bear river about 1/2 mile to the left. Mr. B & the Dr went ahead to see about the accommodations for crossing. We drove on after dinner and got the wagons across on the ferry boat which was merely two old skiffs fastened within a foot of each other and covered with puncheons being pulled over by a rope and was barely sufficient to bear up one wagon at a time but for the privilege of crossing on this we had to pay 3\$ per wagon. The stock we had to swim and in doing so Captain Jeffries came very near losing his life. He attempted to ride one of the horses but the horse was unable to carry him and threu him from his back. He was saved by pushing out with the ferry boat and one of the men catching at his hair just as he was sinking for the last time. We got in to camp after dark about 2 miles up the river to the right of the road.

5th: Crossed and left the "Valley" passing up a long deep Kanyon or valley near the mouth of which we nooned with no water only a little which happened to be left in the tank and which was barely sufficient to make a pot of coffee. Here shut up by the hills on every side it was very hot. We pushed on for the Blue Springs where we expected to get plenty of water though we knew it would be rather warm to be pleasant. When we arrived there we found the water salt so much so as not to be fit to drink though we were compelled from necessity to force down a little of it. We filled the tank and went 4 or 5 miles further where we encamped 1/2 mile to the right from the Blue Springs.

6th: Left rather early and after traveling over the hills and through the dust until 10 o'clock we came to a fine spring coming down the mountains where we got what water we wanted and went on to deep creek which runs through a valley where we nooned. After dinner we went down the creek 5 or 6 miles on our way to near where it creek sinks but finding no grass we turned back a mile or two and encamped on the bank of the creek. Mr. B. & Dr D went up toward the hills where there was some appearance of a spring but found not a drop of water and we will remain where we are.

7th: Sunday Put the stock on the creek. Washed Mended and passed the day which was very hot as well as we could.

8th: Stopped at a dirty spring in the morning to water I left the train and walked on 3 or 4 miles to where a camp road turns off up to the mountains and waited until the train came up which as it was behind several large droves moved very slow and I had to wait 1 1/2 hours. We went on intending to go to Stony creek but Mr. Bowman went ahead and found no grass there. We watered at a dirty spring just at the right of the road and turned into a Kanyon to the left about 1/2 mile from the spring where we had fine grass and plenty of wood from the cedars which grew among the hills.

9th: Crossed the fine clear cold stream Stony Creek and crossed a desert country of sage and dust to a creek where the road crossed it twice to get around the point of a hill. Another road went a long the side of the hill and was made by digging the loose stones down just so as to make a track side enough to let a wagon pass and it required very careful driving to prevent being precipitated into the creek down the hill. Passed Hooper's train from S. Lake. Traveled over a desert plain crossing several streams and encamped near a fine stream which we had just crossed about a mile above the road to the left. The stock we put on the hill about 1/2 mile from camp

and several of us went up there and slept and although we had plenty of Sage brush fire we slept very uncomfortably on account of the cold.

10th: Traveled 2 or 3 miles to a kanyon through which we passed between the mountains and 5 miles from camp passed Pyramid Circle through which Sublettes Cut of runs and where it joins with the G.S.L. road. Passed through a valley crossing several streams then up a kanyon to the summit of the Goose Creek Mountains. Found a spring half way up the kanyon. Turned off to the right a mile or two at the summit and encamped among the mountains on a fine little stream and as the grass is fine and we have a pleasant place to camp in with plenty of wood & water we concluded to remain until morning and spent the rest of the day in repairing etc.

11th: Left camp early and passed over the hills and kanyons to the road soon after which we had to ease the wagons down a decent by means of a rope. At the foot of the Mts we crossed a branch of Goose Creek and passed up the valley of the creek crossing several bad sloughs & over a hill where the road left the creek for a mile the creek running through a kanyon. On this hill we nooned and here it was that "Casso" as I was preparing to harness him caught me between himself and his picket rope and threw me over his back bruising my sholder & skinning my arm on the rough stones. Passed Record bluff & entered the mouth of deep kanyon expecting to find a camping place within a mile or two. Crossed and passed up a branch of Goose creek which runs through it but finding no suitable camping place we took in water at the foot of a hill where we crossed & left the creek, and ascended a long stony hill. Finding no grass we encamped about 10 o'clock in the road tying the stock up to the sage bushes. Our supper table was set in the middle of the road and the bed made where the emigration was passing a feu hours before.

12th: Took the stock at daylight a mile or two from camp over the hills to where we found good grass and grased them a couple of hours. Left at 9. I took a road to the right on foot thinking it was nearer but after travling two or three miles came into the road behind the train. We passed through Thousand Spring Valley stopping at the springs which boil up at the base of a rock near the middle of the valley. The water is not very cold but answered every purpose we wished it for. Passed on several miles to a dry creek but found some water in a hole where we watered and began to look for a place to camp. We soon came to a creek of dirty water but several springs oozed out of the ground near the edge where we filled our tanks and went up to

the right of the road a couple of miles where we encamped near the base of the mountains. Herded the stock awhile & then picketed them among the small sage just at dark.

13th: Turned the stock loose and drove them up to the foot of the Mts for an hour or two. Drove into the road in the middle of a large drove of cattle. Stopped the wagons at some springs in some low ground at the left of the road where we watered and waited an hour for Mr. Bowman who had remained behind with the loose horses and been detained in consequence of one of them getting mired. We stopped just below & let the teams graze for an hour or two on the bottom grass while Mr. A. shod one of our mules his foot having commenced breaking so as to render some protection necessary. Started on expecting to be obliged to go 15 or 16 miles before finding a camping place but in 3 or 4 miles we found a fine bottom meadow to the left of the road where we concluded to encamp and remain over the Sabbath. We drove across two slough and encamped about 1/4 mile to the left of the road and crossed a couple more with the stock when we found an abundance of fine grass from two or three feet high.

14th: Sunday. Pitched the tent among the horses where several of the men slept for the greater safety of the stock. I stood the latter guard of the night and the weather was so cold that I could with difficulty by great exertion keep from suffring on account of it.

15th: Passed some hot springs soon after starting where some men were engaged in washing. The water was so hot at the spring that a person could not bear his hand in it for any length of time being nearly at the boiling point. We struck the rim of Hope springs & followed it up to the springs where we found fine water & filled our tanks for dinner. Passed up a kanyon & over a mountain. Up this kanyon I saw some of the tallest sage I have seen on the trip being more than 6 ft high. We stopped for dinner just after crossing the mts. Here was some of the largest sage I have seen some of it was at the base 6 or 8 inches in diameter. After dinner I walked on and passed a road which turned to the right near where we nooned but thinking the wagons would take the straight road I went on but they turned to the right and I did not discover my mistake until I saw them a mile or two on the way on the other road. Thinking that the two roads came together after passing a mountain just ahead which I thought could not be more than ten miles I thought it best to keep on and join them there. I stopped for a feu minutes at some swampy springs to the left of the road - passed a company of packers five in number who were on their way with a couple of Indian ponies which they had gotten at Salt Lake having come that far south with a train. Passed over several deep gullies & over a desert country of sand & sage

and just after sunset came to Deception valley. There I found some water in a hole where I got a drink and kept on hoping to fall in with some train where I could spend the night. I had fine moonlight and kept on until about 9 o'clock when I came to a hill which overlooked a valley of several miles in length. Seeing no light anywhere I concluded to turn in so building a bed of sage and brush I went to bed without coat arms or supper and though I did not have a very comfortable nights sleep I got along pretty well until morning when -

16th: I was down the valley bright & early. After walking a mile I saw a light made by the fire of a camp and proceeded to reach it in order to get some breakfast. I passed the place where the two roads came together again just after sunrise and a mile farther came to the encampment of Mr. Dorsey from Pike Co Mo where I got some breakfast. This was on the deep (?) fork of the Humbolt river. After breakfast I went back to the forks of the road and remained all day waiting for the train to come up which they did about 4 o'clock and concluded to camp near the spot where we did about a mile to the left of the road between two fine streams of clear water (branches of the Humbolt) which came down from the mountains one of which we had to cross in going to camp. I found that I had traveled about 10 miles farther on the road I went than I would have had to do if I had have been with the train. I suppose I traveled nearly 30 miles nearly 25 of it last night and gained just a days drive on the train.

17th: Crossed Deep fork and 6 miles farther crossed the Humbolt. Passed down the valley of the H. stopping for noon on its bank where I employed the time in fishing but not very successfully. We stopped for a fea minutes in the afternoon on account of a gust of wind and rain. Camped on the H. and had some rain in the night.

18th It commenced raining about 8 o'clock and continued to rain during the fore part of the day. We crossed the West branch of the H. & Hoopers trading post which consisted of 12 or 15 large wagons. The rain continuing so stopped at 10 o'clock on the Humbolt to make a fire and dry ourselves and make a cup of coffee. After dinner we dreu the seine three or four times but caught nothing but 3 or 4 little fish. We had some rain in the afternoon but the clouds cleared up in the evening and we had a splendid moonlight night which was the more acceptable to me as I had the first watch that night. We encamped near the river.

19th: We continued down the valley of the H. stopping for noon where the road leaves the river as we expect to have to make a long drive in the afternoon but after dinner we found we could get down the river without leaving it as the river was low enough to admit of crossing it.

We crossed it twice and encamped in a kanyon through it runs where we had plenty of fine grass. We caught some fish here which with some we had caught at noon made a fine mess and we sat down to a -----? between 60 and 70 which were all cleaned up before we quit. Mr Almsbury shot at a wolf during the night but without doing him any injury.

20th: Crossed the river twice in the kanyon and once nearly across & back to get round a point of the rocks. We went out of the kanyon in two or three miles of travel & crossed two streams one of which we had to ascend some distance to get over Blue creek. Here the road which leaves the river where we nooned yesterday joins it again. We soon left the river and ascended a long hill thinking to join the river in a short time but soon found we were where the road leaves the river for 15 or 20 miles. Ascended another hill and near the summit stopped and made some coffee with some water which we found at a little dirty spring near by. We had no water for the stock and but little grass. We left here at 2 and at 3 came to a fine spring to the right of the road and though the water was quite muddy in consequence of so much having been used from it we got enough for ourselves and all the stock. We then descended into a kanyon though the road was very stony & through which ran a little stream. We came in a few miles to the end of the kanyon where the stream sank when we had to ascend a long steep hill. Just at the summit one of the mules got tangled in the harness and caused us some trouble. We arrived at the river after sun down and encamped about 2 miles above Gravel ford driving out of the way 2 or 3 miles to find a suitable camping place. Put the stock across a slough on the river bank. The grass was not very good having been eaten off a great deal by the cattle of some traders who were grazing here.

21st: Sunday we left camp about 10 o'clock and drove around over the hills to the river again where we encamped about one within a few feet of the bank. We put the stock over the river in a band where they were surrounded with water. Mr. Bowman & Overton went a ducking in the evening and killed 5 or 6 duck. About 9 o'clock 5 or 6 footmen came into camp having walked from Goose creek where they left the train they were with and about 40 miles to day. We here saw a comet near the western horizon which set about 10 o'clock.

22nd: I went a ducking in the morning but with the exception of 1/2 Doz. snakes got no game at all. We left camp at 12 - passed over the hills 2 or 3 miles to the river flat and encamped near the river having traveled 15 miles. We here some report of the indians causing some trouble

in this neighborhood and stealing some of the emigrants stocks. We here begin to perceive a slight taste of alkali in the water.

23rd: Passed Stony Point where we expected to have to leave the river 28 miles but on account of the river being low we took the river road and nooned on the river in a splendid meadow of fine grass. After dinner we drove a feu miles and encamped in a fine meadow of grass waist high. There have not been 1/2 doz. wagons passed here since the river has fallen so that the grass remains almost untouched. We had a visit from some indians who are encamped across the river.

24th: We went down the river until soon after dinner when we left it for 14 miles after taking in water at a spring near the road. We then travled over a barren waste of sand passing several low places which were covered with alkali in some places the crust of it being an inch thickness. We travled until 8 when we came near the river and encamped on an alkali slough with very poor grass and no wood but a feu dry willow switches which we pulled out from among the thicket which greu on the bank of the slough having to use a lantern to see to get them.

25th: I went a gunning in the morning & killed a feu ducks water hens etc the slough being full of water fowl. We left camp at about 9 and soon after left the river going up towards a mountain on which the road ran. We stopped to water at a dirty spring to the right near the foot of the mountain. We then followed a very crooked road until halfway up the summit when being doubtful of whether we were on the right road or no we stopped while Mr. Bowman went ahead to reconnoiter. After 2 or 3 hours he returned having arrived at the conclusion that if we continued on we would in process of time find ourselves terr. Oregon there being a road leading to those points which turns of somewhere in this neighborhood. We then turned off toward the river and drove over the sage brush 5 or 6 miles and on the river about 6 miles from where we encamped last night after traveling about 15 miles. We put the horses in a bend of the river among the willows to hunt for their supper.

26th: Drove up a kanyon and over the mountains to the river travling 15 or 18 miles and found some good grass across a slough where we intended to put the stock and encamp but the slough was found to be so miry that the horses could not be got over and one or two which we tried to get over had to be pulled out of the mud. The Dr's mules got over in safety and had fine grazing while they remained. We here saw in the river a school of small fish numbering

thousands which were lying near the shore. I fired a load of shot among them and though killing numbers I was unable to get any. After dinner we passed a large slough filled with flags or rushes which seemed to rise out of the ground like a spring and a few miles below gathered into a swift stream of several feet in depth and two or three rods wide on which we encamped near Rush Creek with poor grass.

27th: Went up rush creek about 2 miles to cross it. Passed over the hills 4 or 5 miles to a slough which was part of the river the grass being over it. We intended to camp here and put the horses across but after crossing two horses and two mules we found it impossible to get the rest over on account of the banks being too miry. We let the stock graze awhile without crossing and then drove about 1/2 mile below where we encamped to spend the Sabbath. We here caught some fine fish and had as many as we wished while we remained. We had a hard storm of wind and thunder and about midnight a severe rain.

28th: Sunday. The weather is cool with cool wind. A great many heavy trains and droves passed along the road to day having recently crossed the river. The emigration which has before been mostly traveling on the south side are now crossing at every ford to the north side and though we have been almost by ourselves so far there is a prospect of our having more company than is agreeable for the rest of the way down the river. The cause of leaving the south side is the scarcity of grass on that side. Between two or three thousand head of cattle must have passed us to day. Some of the boys caught another large string of fine fish furnishing us with some more good living. We had a severe storm of hail in the afternoon. I gathered a large dish of it which rolled off the tent. At night we had another cold rain. We have great fears that being so late will cause us much trouble among the Sierra Nevadas.

29th: Passed down the river and over the sand banks for a few miles when we left the river going up a sandy hill and bluffs which formed the bank of the river below. here we got among some droves of cattle which we were unable to pass. Two of the wagons drove through one drove and soon jammed between all the forenoon. We remained behind with our wagon and stopped occasionally to rest and water the mules. Our road for 6 or 7 miles lay through very heavy sand and along a high steep bank of the river where we could not get the stock down either to graze or to drink. We stopped at the first place where the road descended the bank into the bottom & baited the stock in a bend of the river. After dinner we drove over a few miles of sandy road and along a steep bank of the river which is said to be One or Two Hundred ft high and is

perpendicular. We stopped on the brink of this near the lower and where we found a place to get to the river with the stock putting in a bend of the river among the willows 100 ft below the wagons. We counted on the road to day the carcasses of 63 head of cattle & horses.

30th: Went down the river 2 or 3 miles to a trading post. The road forks here one road going down the river and the other straight over the sand. We started down the river but found from the traders that we could gain several miles by taking the other road. Traveled about a dozen miles over the dust and sand to the river. Continued down the river several miles and stopped at about 2 o'clock when by bridging 2 or 3 sloughs with willows and leading the horses and mules over one at a time and crossing four sloughs two of which were bridged before we got the stock in fine grass. Some emigrants who were encamped here were cutting grass to take with them. We had a hard cold wind here in the evening and I had rather a cold guard being on the after watch.

31st: It taking a long while to get the stock over we did not leave until late and took a gun and went ahead to try and kill some ducks which I saw in a slough. I did not succeed in getting a shot and soon found that I had got behind a slough which I had to wade to get to the road. Thinking that it was narrow being deceived by the grass which grew in the water and what appeared like terra firma I plunged in and had to wade nearly up to my knees for a quarter of a mile to get to the road where I sat down and waited for the wagons which did not come up for a half hour having been delayed at the camp. We left the river for a few miles and nooned near it at 10 having to leave it here on a long stretch. Left at 12 and traveled 14 miles on the sand and sage for 14 miles crossing a deep canyon and going down one to the river where there is no river bottom the stream running through a canyon and consequently found no grass. We watered here and left the river intending to go on until we should find grass but Mr. Bowman going ahead found there was none for some miles and met us before we had gone a mile. We turned back to the river and went down under a bank a mile or two where we camped putting the stock down among the willows with hardly any grass. We traveled to day 30 miles.

September 1st: Left Camp at 5 - passed up a canyon and over a sandy waste. At 8 or 9 we turned off to the left a mile to the river. Stopped the wagons on the bank and put the stock down in a bend of the river about 1/4 mile off where we had to watch which were on each side of them. Got dinner and left at twelve. We came in 2 or 3 miles close to the river at a trading post. Here we left it again traveling over the sandy plains and passing through a low place for 1 or 2

miles when we saw great quantities of a kind of turf in pieces as large as a barrel bearing some resemblance to peat. Stopped at Willow Springs to water where was a deserted trading post and where the road forks one road crossing the spring and bearing off toward the river and the other continuing down in a south westerly direction. We crossed the stream and in a few miles farther we encamped about 3/4 mile from the river having to cross a slough to get water for cooking. The grass here appeared rather fine but tasted very salt causing the animals to become very thirsty so that two or three of the mules strayed off in the night in search of water.

2nd: We moved down a few miles to the meadows where we stopped to cut grass for the desert. Put the stock over on some sloughs of swift running water which forms a part of the river to where they had fine grass and went to cutting grass. Dr. D and myself soon cut as much as we required which we left to dry until the next day.

3rd: Read left the camp this morning having chosen to travel the rest of the way on foot. We got our grass over, had cooking done to last us across the desert and were ready to start at 6 o'clock. Traveled 12 miles and encamped at 9 on a barren place without a spear of grass. Tied the stock up to sage bushes feeding them a little of the grass we brought along. Having to water to make coffee we did not have a very comfortable supper. The stock gave us considerable of trouble during the night by pulling up the bushes they were tied to to hunt for grass.

4th: Sunday. Found about 1/2 gallon of water on one of the tanks with which we made a cup of coffee for each one. Read came up with us about daylight and after stopping a few minutes went on. Left about 7 and traveled about 10 miles stopping at 10 1/2 o'clock on the lake to feed the stock and take in water intending to start across the desert in the afternoon. Left at 2 1/2 (we are now about to leave the Humboldt, down which we have been journeying for eighteen days, as it does not go any farther, but here spreads out into a vast, shallow lake, of several hundred acres extent, called the "Sink" which, as it has no outlet, is supposed to discharge the water received into it, by allowing it to sink into the earth). Passed down the lake where we turned off to the right on the Truckee road crossing a ridge when here finally lost sight of the lake. Watered at about 3 1/2 at a slough of running water which was beyond the ridge and which is part of the Humboldt Lake where it seems to rise again. Watered for the last time at a slough where was a trading post at 5 o'clock. The road after this lay for some miles over a piece of barren ground. We came very near losing our tank the handle by which it was suspended to the wagon having broken and it was by the merest accident that we discovered it just as it fell. We

stopped and put it into the wagon. We got behind a drove of cattle which we could not pass and here at about 10 o'clock one of our mules gave out so that we had to take him out of the team and supply his place with another. We then got along pretty well intending to drive to boiling springs which are about 13 miles from where we last watered but as the teams were getting tired and we found by one of the men riding ahead that the spring were not within 2 or 3 miles of us we stopped at about midnight & unharnessed the teams and gave them the water we brought with us and some grass. We made a cup of coffee but had not time to stop. While we were here Rennet & Co's train passed by. Mr. R stopped with us and took a cup of coffee. They were getting along badly having lost a number of cattle since starting on the desert. Chamberlain, one of the Co. came by soon after with their horses of which he had five less than when they started across. He said he had lost \$1000.00 worth of stock within the last two hours. We harnessed up and left about Three. Day broke in about an hour when we had a less 5th unpleasant time to travel in. We passed a good many cattle and trains they having begin to travel very slow and many were stopped to get breakfast and rest themselves and their stock. We traveled until about 9 when we came to an ascent where the heavy sand begins. Here we stopped to get some breakfast and put our stock upon the ridge where we found some dry bunch grass upon which they grazed for a couple of hours. We left here at about 12 o'clock without a drop of water having made use of the last in preparing some coffee and all were very thirsty. We then had 8 miles to go over the worst of the road before coming to water. We did not find the sand as deep as we expected but were obliged to drive very slow and to stop frequently to let the teams rest as they were very weary and thirsty and the sun was very hot. In about 2 miles we came to where the road forks where we were told that by taking the right road we would strike the river a mile or two below the crossing but that we would find better grass there as most of the emigration took the other road. We acted in accordance with this information and about 4 came to the Truckee where we watered and then drove about 1 1/2 miles further where we encamped under some tall cottonwood trees and picketed the stock on the grass near by. We had some coffee made and were soon in bed from which the most of us did not arise until 8 or 9 o'clock the next morning.

6th: Put the stock over the river where we allowed them to run loose on some fine grass watching them in the day time and I assisted to guard at night having a fine fire to set and lie by.

7th: While we were preparing to start one of horses (Old George) got mired in a slough and we were delayed a couple of hours in getting him out. We drove up to the ford which was about 4 miles up the river. On the way we got some of the neck of a calf which had been killed the night before for which we had to pay 25 cts per lb and take the last piece that remained. We stopped a short time at the ford. Here were several camps or trading posts where the traders are selling flour at 60. Sugar and coffee at 40 and bacon at 50 cts per lb pies at a dollar a piece, potatoes at the rate of 8 for a dollar and whisky at 25 cts a drink. We traveled up the river a few miles then over rough stony steep and long hills and finally encamped on the river with no grass. The stock having to get along the best way they could on the willows among which we put them.

8th: Traveled down the river a couple of miles passing Rennetts train where they were encamped. We learned from them that they left nearly 30 head of their cattle on the desert and that out of 22 horses which they started in with they brought out the next day only two though I believe that the afterwards got ten more out. We here passed round a stony dangerous point where a careless drive of a few inches would have precipitated a wagon over the bank into the river. We then drove up a kanyon and over very steep & stony hills or mountains coming again at noon to the river. Some of them on horseback kept a narrow road which led along the river but which was not wide enough to admit of a wagon traveling on it and saved some miles travel by it. We stopped near the river and put the stock about a mile below the camp to graze. After dinner we drove about 5 miles to the mouth of the kanyon where the road leaves the river and as it did not strike it again for 10 miles we encamped about 1/4 mile below in an enclosure made by the mountains on one hand and the river on the other.

9th: Passed up a kanyon and a long steep stony hill the worst road we have yet trawled over 10 miles to the "Big Meadows" Here we encamped on the river driving the stock across. The grass is not very good having been eaten off and what is left is very dry but within a mile or two of the river it is very fine.

10th: I started to ride a horse across the river for the mules this morning but just as I started he fell down in the water and I rolled off him. The air was quite cold and my dunking made me quite uncomfortable. I kept on however and waded across and brought the mules over. We left the Truckee for the last time soon after starting passing a lake to the right of the road. Our road lay for part of the way up a gradual ascent but afterwards was pretty good to Pea Vine Springs where we encamped about a mile to the right of the road putting the stock about 1/2 mile

further down near a large lake. Our wood here was the remnants of what had been left by some emigrants who had camped here before and some that one of the men brought a couple of miles from the foot of the mountains. Five or Six trains and droves of stock came in and encamped near us. One train with 9 or 10 encamped close by and they told us that they had nothing but jerked beef and coffee to eat for three day. Mr. B sold them 5 lbs of flour for \$2.50.

11th: Sunday I had to hunt among the loose cattle for the mules spending a couple of hours and walking some half dozen miles. Left at 7 o'clock passed over the hills to a large lake which we left to the right and a spring to the left a mile or two from the road and in a few miles drive came to a valley full of fine grass with a stream of water running through it. Traveled down this valley several miles stopping for noon near the lower end of it where we had plenty of fine grass. After dinner we crossed the bed of the creek and ascended a gentle slope over a fine road two or three miles to the summit of the Sierra Nevadas. The road was there gently descending to Beckwiths Valley down which we traveled 5 or 6 miles and encamped on a creek which was dry with the exception of some water which we found in some holes where we watered the stock. We had no wood but some willow switches and had to bring water for cooking from the "Canvass House" a mile. We are now in California.

12th: Traveled down the valley passing a fine spring to the left. Stopped to water at a creek to the left and about two o'clock reached the lower end of the valley where Beckwiths house is built in the edge of the timber. Nooned under some pine trees near a creek. We here left the "Plains" and entered a grove of pines. Traveled 4 or 5 miles over rough hills and through the forest to a little valley and a fine spring where we encamped.

13th: Passed over the hills 4 or 5 miles and descended to an open valley crossing a creek where we stopped to water and to look at some mica which lay on the bottom of the creek and which resembled gold in appearance. Passed along the valley occasionally crossing a little stream running through the valley, abounding in grass and occasionally through a point of the timber to a swampy stream which crossed with some difficulty and passed along another valley through which ran a fine stream of water and which contained plenty of grass.

14th: Passed down a mile and crossed a stream at the foot of the mts where we commenced an ascent. We had three ascents to make each one more difficult than the preceding one and were three hours reaching the summit it being as many miles to the top. We then passed along a ridge about a mile when we commenced the descent. We had to let the wagons down the

first decent by ropes. The first two got down very well but as I was going down the rope broke and both of the wheels came unlocked and the wagon and mules went down to the danger of breaking everything to pieces but we got down in safety and soon arrived at the Garden Spring Ranch where we stopped a while and went on down the valley which soon narrowed into a canyon the two banks forming an acute angle a creek running through it. We had to cross the creek 5 or 6 times and had a very rough road for several miles when we came to Sherwin's Ranch where the canyon widened into a valley again. We here saw the first rail fence we have seen since we left the states. We drove into a large enclosure and picketed the stock in a pasture of fine grass. We bought some bacon at the ranch for which we paid 40 cts a pound Flour 25 and potatoes 15. It rained during the night and some of the water ran into the tent wetting some of our clothes.

15th: the rain continued for several hours. We started at 10 o'clock leaving two horses which Mr. B thought best not to take any further than was necessary. Stopped at 2 at the American Ranch 6 or 8 miles from Sherwin's. It rained all day and we had to dry our bed cloths by the fire. We put the stock in pasture about a mile from camp. The rain continued through most of the night.

16th: I had a fine chase for the mules this morning they having not seperated and mixed up with the other stock and scattered over the pasture which was very large and the fog being heavy made it difficult to see very far. This made us late getting off. We moved down the valley and crossed some very rough and hilly road. The men with the loose horses taking a "near cut" and following a trail was impassable for wagons. We passed a camp where some miners were settled who had been here since July. We stopped and had some conversation with the wife of one of them who told us that her family had struck a rich piece of ground out of which they had taken \$7000 and intended going home in a short time. Within a feu miles of the end of our journey Capt. Jeffreys leader "Dick" in crossing a little stream fell down and we had a good deal of difficulty in getting him up but succeeded in a short time and moved on. We passed a company of miners at work sluicing the first I had seen near to the Spanish Ranch where was a store and a blacksmith shop at which we stopped to get some work done. At 12 we passed the Meadeu Valley ranch and stopped for a little way beyond near a large log against which we built a large fire. We took the horses to a pasture about a half mile from camp having to cross several little streams on the way and turned them loose the grass being to poor to picket on. We had rain

at intervals all the afternoon and during the night. We stop here preparatory to crossing Bucks Mt. which lies a couple of miles beyond.

17th: Started early and moved on to the foot of the mt. We found the ascent very difficult having some very bad hills to get over. We had to take every thing out of the wagon and pack on the loose mules. We passed French's Hotel a public house high up among the Mts and stopped to noon a mile or two beyond. The descent we found not near as bad as that of Grizzly mt. At the foot we entered a valley and passed Duck Ranch where they were putting up a neu house. We went two miles farther to Iron's Ranch and camping in a little grove we put the stock into a pasture. We are expecting tomorrow to be in the region of the "poison grass" (where it is said to be dangerous to allow stock to run loose, we bought some hay, or Mr Iron, paying 4 cts per lb)

18th: Sunday We got some hay of Iron at 4 cts per lb and started. We travled for several miles along a high ridge which rose high above a point between us and the Sacramento Valley which gave us a fine vieu of the valley and the American River and also the Shasta Butte and the Coast range with the foot hills of the S N. We stopped in the evening at the Pea Vine Ranch near a spring and fed the horses the hay we had got at Iron's. A large train of pack mules had stopped at this ranch.

19th: We started intending to go 6 or 8 miles to a grass patch which was said to be there but not finding it we travled on for 15 miles being delayed a good deal in consequence of difficulty in getting along with the loose horses and mules. We stopped near a ranch at which we bought 8 lbs of barley at 12 cts per lb & cook a squirrel which I had killed and some beef which we bought at 35 cts a pound. We left here at half past four intending to go as far as Bidwells Bar. We passed on a bridge which crosses a pond made by damming a stream for the purpose of running of running a sawmill which is situated here. We here have improved roads. Passed a steam mill and night coming on we gave up the idea of going as far as Bidwells and stopped at dart at a ranch and tied the horses to some trees feeding them some hay which we bought at 6 cts.

20th: We left Bidwells before daylight at 4 o'clock with our wagon leaving the rest. We find the roads improved as we advance. We took a "near cut" and ran into the limbs of a tree with the wagon and had some difficulty in getting disengaged remaining there for half an hour. We crossed Feather river at the bar in a boat and travled three or four miles farther to a ranch where we stopped under the shade of some trees to rest and wait until the rest should come up.

We bought some hay at 4 cts and put the stock into a lot and fed it. We here got some beef and pork. The rest came up at two o'clock when we left intending to go to the Prairie house which was said to be about 8 miles ahead but the horses getting tired and there not being a probability of reaching the P.H. without difficulty we stopped in three or four miles at the Garden Ranch and bought some hay at 3 cts. I have went gunning but got nothing.

21st: We are now out of the foot hills of the Sierra Nevada mountains and to day we pass through, alternate patches of a plain and scrubby oak timber. We travled 15 miles to Seymore's Ranch where Bowman intended to recount his stock. We remained here three hours during which time Mr. Bowmans wagon and horses were taken through the ranch to near the river (Feather) where they camped under a large tree and turned the stock loose in a large field. . Mr Almsbury & wife here joined us putting their baggage into a wagon and in the afternoon we bid adieu to those who for so long had been our companions and started for Marysville where we arrived between 7 and 8 o'clock and it being quite dark and we perfect strangers we had considerable of difficulty in finding a suitable place for camping but finally stopped on an open place in the suburbs and having looked about for some splinters to make a fire cooked our supper and rousing a man out of a pile of hay we got enough to feed the mules for which we paid 2 cts per lb. The Dr gave the wagon up to Mr & Mrs A and we all slept on the ground with a little of the hay under us. Here I heard the first steam whistle I had heard since I had left the Mo river.

22nd: Drove into town and stopped a couple of hours to make some purchases etc. We bought some flour at 9 cts and bacon 25 cts and leaving between 20 & 11 crossed the muddy Auba (Yuba) and started down the river for Sacramento which is about 45 miles distant. We travled about 15 miles and camped among some bushes near the road where we found some grass. I was troubled all evening and night with a painful toothache.

23rd: We started down the Valley crossing a little stream soon after starting and soon left the river which takes a large bend to the West travling through an open prairie which extends nearly to Sacramento without water except in one well which we found near the middle. We arrived in the evening within a mile or two of Sacramento and drove into a pasture under the shade of some trees and turned the mules loose to range through the fields. Mack and I made our bed in a willow thicket in one corner of the lot where we slept quite comfortably.

Saturday, Sept. 24th: We crossed the American River, on a bridge, on foot, to look about, at the city, and for business, etc. I went to the post-office, expecting that, after an absence

from my friends of five months, I should receive some letters from home, but, to my disappointment, and bitter grief, the answer to my inquiries, at the window was: "Nothing" at which I turned away, almost heart sick, feeling that I wished to find some place to hide myself and weep. A stranger, in a strange land - money all gone, and no friends here, I seem to be forsaken by everyone but God. But He, I know, cares for me, and so I take courage, for I know that "He doeth all things", and "doeth them well". And perhaps I judge my friends too harshly. Perhaps they have not forgotten me. Their hearts may be yearning after me still, and there may be reasons, and good ones too, why I have not heard from them, as I expected to have done.

Sunday, Sept.25th: The Dr Mack, and I, all together with the little boys, went down to the river, to bathe and wash ourselves. We had a nice time, but, being unacquainted with the country, we got entangled in the heavy underbrush, on our return, and, it being nearly dark, we had great difficulty finding our way back to camp.

We lay here some days. Mr and Mrs Almsbury got a situation, with a man in the country, and left us. We rented a house, in Sacramento, and moved into it, remaining there, perhaps a month. I went to church, on Sunday evening, and heard Mr. Benton preach the last of a course of discourses to young men - the first sermon heard since that of Mr. Hummer's, Apr. 24th. Mack left us, for San Francisco. The Dr visited the Bay, and returned, when, having disposed of his wagon, harness, and mules - Blue Dick, Casso, and all, we all took passage for San Francisco, where after a few days, we took up quarters in a room, in the upper story of the iron building, on the North East corner of Battery and Jackson Sts., renting it of Mr. Van Allen, the owner, for a month, purchasing a stove, and baching it, still-----

A RETROSPECT

And now, the journey “across the plains” is completed. Illinois and Missouri have been exchanged for California, and precisely five months after leaving St. Louis, I find myself at Sacramento, having been upon the journey, since actually starting it, by land, from near Westport, 128 days. The difficulties of the trip have been surmounted, the mountains and rivers have all been passed, and, after a toilsome journey of more than four months, we are all in the land of gold – El Dorado, to which our eyes, our minds, and our hearts, have, for so long a time, been bent. Some of the party, with whom we started, have left. Others still, will leave us soon, and ere long, those who remain will all be separated, and perhaps we shall never meet on earth again. By and by, one by one, we shall go down to our graves, until all have passed away, and our memory will soon have vanished from the earth. And then, shall we ever meet again? Ah! that is a question which omniscience only can solve. and the answer to which, Eternity only will reveal to us. God grant that we may all meet again, in that better land, over whose “plains” we shall delight to roam, where there are no deserts and the water of whose streams are ever sweet and clear, with nothing poisonous in them, or along their banks and where hunger, and thirst, and toil, and fatigue, shall be forgotten, in that Everlasting Rest, which we shall there enjoy.

Later....

We shall not meet again on earth. Overton is dead! He returned across the mountains, for the horses that had been left at Sherwin’s Ranch, and, sickening on the way, died at French’s Hotel, passed by us, September 17th, among strangers, far away from his home, and all held dear by him, and was buried in a lonely grave, high up on the mountain side, where the autumn winds sighing sadly through the pines gave all the requiem sung above him. Who will be the next one?

Later -- November

Bowman too, has gone! He came down, with disease, contracted from the miasma of the place where he had encamped, upon the Feather River, bringing his horses with him - was taken sick, so as to be confined to bed, and, in a short time, from the house of his brother, followed Overton. Parents, relatives, friends, will mourn for him, but there is one heart above all others,

that will be torn with anguish, which the world will know not of. Her grief, she cannot tell, but, in the secret chambers of her own heart, will weep out her agony, before Him who alone can sympathize with her, and who only has the power to soothe the suffering of her wounded spirit. May she go to him -

*“And find, in him, that sweet repose;
Which none but him who feels it knows”*