

COFY

COVERED WAGON DAYS

Journal written by Belinda Cooley Fickett, 1853-1855

April 12, 1853- We left our home at half past three in the evening, traveled four miles-- spent rather a restless night.

April 13,- Arose this morning some what refreshed and in quite good spirits, though I found it very hard to part with my much beloved neice. I rode two miles on horse back, then was compelled to retreat to the wagon on account of the hard wind. We have had a very tedious day, but not withstanding all this we traveled 15 miles and had a very comfortable nights lodgeing.

April 14,- This morning is very cold but we rolled out, caught up with a number of emigrants bound for California and Oregon-- about eleven o'clock. The sun came out and was very pleasant. I crept out of the wagon and got on my horse, this I find is much pleasanter than riding in the wagon. We have put up tonight with a couple of old folks. I feel quite unwell. We have traveled 20 miles and are now comfortable seated by a pleasant fire chatting with the old folks at home.

April 15,- Rolled out this morning very cold and unpleasant and very bad roads. At five o'clock this evening the rain began to decend upon us. Half past six, we put up among very kind people in a small unfinished cabin with a sod chimney,--a cooking stove one side of the fire place and a loom on the other side. You can imagine our chances for getting warm and dry was rather unfovable. The men and boys are went and cold. There are seventeen souls of us here tonight. We are all in very good humor. We have traveled 14 miles today.

April 16,- Fretty cold morning but notwithstanding the cold, we rolled out at seven o' clock, traveled four miles- caught up with Mr. Warners and Post-erfields at DODGERS FOLET. We talked a few moments with them and then rooled* on. We have passed 25 teams since we left TROY. We have traveled 22 miles today and spread out tent for the first time. Struck up a fire and Frank (Belinda's brother) and the boys (Asahel, Mack, Roy,- 11, 9, and 6 years old) - are taking care of the team and Fickett(her husband James)- is getting supper.

I believe are all feel quite well satisfied at present. We are in a settle-ment, but is is a very dry one, food is scarce for our team. Corn 50¢ per bushel.

April 17,- Arose this morning in very good spirits, ate our breakfast took up our tent and rooled on. We have had a beautiful day- camped early tonight, it being SABBATH. The ground is very wet for camping but we will do the best we can. There is a large crowd of emigrants here to night. All seems to be right with us. We have traveled 11 miles today.

April 18,- Rolled out this morning quite early, traveled five miles, caught up with Mr. Anible and sisten Dunden. I saw them a mile before us, and knew them. I put my horse on the gallop and soon found myself in their company. Mrs Dunden and Caleb were very m ch surprised to see us. The rain is beginning to fall. We are going down into the timber to camp. The wind blows, the lightening flashed, the thunder roars. We are to night

* spelled from the original.

with our tents spread on the bank of SHARITON RIVER. This is a very cold storm. Corn \$1.00 a bushel. We will leave here in the morning. Mr. Anible talks of staying 2 wks.

April 19, - We started out this morning, left our Keosauqua train behind. We have had a pretty cool day, but have been very comfortable. We payed .60¢ a dozen for eggs, today at noon then traveled on 10 miles and camped on the bank of CAMP CREEK, - the clouds are disappearing. This is a beautiful evening, we are baking tonight and are spending a very pleasant evening. A number of emigrants camped here to night.

April 20, - Cloudy and cool. We traveled til eleven o'clock on very good road then we met with a very bad place but however we got through without any difficulty of note. We have had bad road this afternoon- we have traveled 22 mile today. Paid one dollar per bushel for corn. Got no rough food, the prospect for grass is poor. We have spread our tent to night on the bank of SEVEN MILE CREEK, some 20 souls of us here to night.

April 21, - Arose this morning in usual health, eat our breakfast, and fed our cattle and started at 7 o'clock. In about fifteen minutes the lightning began to flash, the thunder roar and rain poured down upon us as if the windows of heaven were opened upon us. About eleven o'clock the rain ceased-- some very bad roads today. I have not been out of the wagon today, but there hare a number of ladies in our company that have walked and helped drive and yoke cattle until their skirts and stocking are wet and muddy to their knees. Our team has rooled through some bad places as yet, but we have helped a number that have stuck fast in the mud. We have crossed Grand River and pitched our tent again. Very wet and strong wind this afternoon. We have had a real Iowa gust rain and wind. I don't know as we ever will have any pleasnat weather, today has been a hard day both on the man and beast and to night is no better. The wind is very cold and blows so hard we can't have any fire to do much good. We have made out to boil the tea kettle. The ground is wet and cold. If you could only see us here to night you would surely think that we were in a billious place. The wagon is the only place that I can be comfortable. Franklin and the clildren sleep in the tent and they say they are very comfortable. We have traveled 10 miles today.

April 22, - I never experienced such a night as last was in my life, the wind blew so very hard that I thought the wagon would blow away. I feel rather unwell this morning, however we rolled out, - have had a disagreeable day. We have camped to night in the middle of a large prairie, - no corn for our stock and no wood to make any fire and this is not the worst of it. We are not in sight of timber, this is rather a dull show for our stock. Seven families of us here in this hard place- we all happened to have bread baked, the men and boys are gathering weeks to boil our teakettles. We have traveled 22 miles today. The men all appear to be in good spirits. The wind blows so cold that I dare not put my head out of the wagon. I call such times tolerably billious. The lightening is beginning to flash in the south and we will know what the result will be in a few moments by the loud roaring of the thunder and wind.

April 23, - We find ourselves all alive this morning and some of the crowd wet as water will make them. In fact most of the company are wet. I think I hever witnessed a more stormy night than the last one has been.

Our wagon stood the storm without being injured, the wind blew so very hard that it forced the water through on one side but we managed to keep most of the things dry. Our children and every thing in the ten is almost floating in water, nearly all the tents blew down. Mr. Perkins wagon bows were broken with the violence of the storm. The men are gathering up the teams,- and the rain is pouring but we must try to get to timber for we are suffering here for want of fire. Well, we left here and traveled until noon through the rain and cold wind hoping to come to timber soon but our hopes were soon blasted. We have come to a stream swimming deep, and here we are 16 teams, and men wet and cold. Rain pouring, wind blowing, nothing for our stock, wet tents in our wagons and thats not all,- for nearly every thing is wet here. We be piled in our wagons to keep from perishing. There cant be a tent spread on account of the hard wind. It would do but little good at any rate, for the water is half boot too deep all over the ground. There is no earthly chance to get away from here tonight. Strong, hearty men say they must perish here to night. If we were in the timber we could do very well, but oh! here we are men, women and children, cattle and horses on this bleak prairie and not a shrub to shelter us from the severity of the storm. To suffer is our destiny. Fickett is now lying in the wagon with a chill caused by riding in the rain all the fore noon. He is out of his head. It is enough to set any man crazy to see his family and concerns in such a condition. But we are far more comfortable than the most of our neighbors. We are suffering with the cold and must suffer worse if not die. We will feed our stock flour and we can subsist on the ginger bread that my dear Mother baked for us before we left home. I never saw such times before, how shall I stand this--I can't tell. I have not even a comfortable place to sit. Six of us here in the wagon,- the men wet and muddy, and Asahel and LeRoy not much better. It has gotten so cold and the storm is increasing to such an extent that the boys are obliged to remain in the wagon but the men are obliged to see to their stock. Oh my God, save us or we perish--some forty souls.

April 24,- Our prospect, this morning for getting away from here is very discouraging though the rain has ceased,- the hail and snow are now pelted down upon us. Mr. Fickett and a number of men have gone to see if there is not a chance to head the stream. If we have to stay here we must undoubtedly loose our teams and our lives. If we have to remain in this condition much longer, gingerbread and raw meat without tea or coffee. Our neighbors live on raw meat and crackers, and we have plenty of water that you would naturally suppose. The wind blows very hard and cold. We have not got dry clothes enough to keep us warm. I am now just on the point of giving up to die on this bleak prairie. My prayer is that God will open up some way for our escape. On, my God deliver us from this place of suffering, I know it is in they power to do so. The men have just returned,- no chance to head the Branch, now what is to be done. Well, one man ventured to swim his horse across and rode on a short distance and returned with the joyful intelligence, that there was timber two miles ahead. The stream is falling---all hands now contriveing now to get over. Well the stream is narrow but deep. Every wagon must be unloaded and one driven in for a bridge and the things carried across. This is something of a job, but all hands are at work. To our great joy and satisfaction, I can truly say that we have all got across and safe and are pleasantly situated in a beautiful grove. All are well but very much fateauged and hungry,- but the way we are baking the bread and frying the bacon is not slow.

The clouds have passed. This is a pleasant evening. I feel thankful to the Giver of all good that has delivered us from such extreme suffering- nothing lost except two cows and a calf, they chilled to death.

April 25,- Very pleasant this morning. We unloaded our wagons, our provisions were some wet. We have washed, cooked and dried our things. It has been a beautiful day,- we are within one mile of the little PINTOAWAY on a sort of a temporary concern called a bridge. We drove five miles from here and came to BIG PINTOTAWAY* and here we will have to build a bridge before we can cross. The men will build one this afternoon.

April 27,- Got up this morning,- all well, very pleasant indeed. Cooley and Fickett shaved this morning for the first time since we have been on the road. We traveled 15 miles,- came to a river too deep to drive through. A great number of emigrants here. The men drove their cattle and horses through the river and slid the wagons across on poles. We have camped here on this Bottom- the grass begins to look green,- the rain is beginning to sprinkle down upon us poor emigrants,--all appearance of a rainy night.

April 28,- The rain is pouring in torrents, great time for ducks but rather hard on feeble women and children. I stay in the wagon all such times as this, and Mr. Fickett waits upon me. One poor feeble lady in our Company- and she has to do the cooking for her family, rain or shine. Any man that will make his wife do the cooking out in the rain and mud and water shoe deep in the bargain ought to be entirely deprived of female society. He would cook his own grub for all of my doing it. Corn two dollars and a half per bushel. Grass very short. We have to make but a short distance in a day, so as to give our teams time to graze.

April 29,- Rolled out this morning. A very cold wind, had some billious road,- got along without any difficulty of note,--the grass is quite good in the revenes,- we all seem to be quite happy to night. The air is rather cold to be really comfortable. We traveled 15 miles today.

April 30,- We have had good roads today. Come to Indian Village,- Fickett bought some pies- a dime for one pie, quite cheap. The crust not one bit of shortning in it, the apple was about as thick as the back of a case knife, I know they are equal to the ray pie, the gingerbread. I am not further enough advanced to even care to undertake it. Corn 2.00 per bushel. We have traveled 8 mile to day. This is going to California slow but I hope sure.

May 1,- Raining this morning, the wind blew very hard all night. About nine o' clock this morning the rain ceased then we rolled out traveled 15 miles. Passes through a small settlement, grass is getting very good. James (Belinda's husband) is lame all over but he keeps moving doing all he is able, and more that he ought to do, I feel very unwell, so much wet weather disagrees with me. I am so lame and stiff that I can hardly get up when I am down,- I still hope for better times.

* Spelling from the original.

May 2, - Arose this morning Pickett and myself in very poor health. I have washed up the dishes after breakfast then got into the wagon and went to bed. I have had a pretty sick day. About 3 o'clock this afternoon, we met 8 Indians all painted in red and green stripes. They came up to the men and asked for money, shook hands very friendly but they look very savage and ugly. One Chief in company. They are dressed in Indian style. They came to the wagon and asked me for money but I soon give them to understand that they would not get any money from me. The most of the company gave them some money. Pickett told them to leave, or he would give them what they needed. This evening, we pitched our tents and while we were eating our suppers, one Indian came to our tent on a begging scale, but got no favors. Pickett told him to "picaches" and that quick-- he traveled from our tent, suddenly went to another tent and complained bitterly of Pickett, said 'no good white man, very bad.' We traveled 15 miles today.

May 3, - Rolled out this morning very pleasant, traveled few mile--met several Indians. The Chief was dressed in style, his ears filled with trinkets and his head with feathers and beads,- also his legs were adorned with beads and a turkey buzzards tail hung to the back of his neck. He looked as though he thought 'who is like unto me.' We amused ourselves looking and talking with them a short time. We have traveled 14 miles to day and camped within 3 miles of GANESVILLE.

May 4,- Left camp this morning--rained a small shower on us this forenoon. We got to COUNCIL BLUFF CITY about noon. The greatest place for trading I ever say. We got 200 pounds lard, bread, and 30 pounds bacon. The streets are full of wagons, horses, mules, poneys, cattle, cows, dogs, men, women and children. We passed through town, drove down on the bottom - two miles from the ferry. We will regulate our things a little before we leave here. We have traveled 5 miles today.

May 5,- Stayed in Camp today. I had a very severe headache this after noon, feel some better to nite. Hundreds of families camped in this bottom. They are crossing the river by the scores. We expect to cross soon, but how soon, I don't know.

May 6,- Still in Camp. Pickett and Mr. Boardman and Mr. Johnson from Missouri are sitting by the fire talking and laughing merrily, also Frank is with them. I am just preparing to go to bed. It is sprinkling rain, perhaps we will have a rainy night.

May 7,- We rooled to the ferry this morning with the expectation of crossing but cannot,- 318 wagons in before us. This is a very cold windy day. The MISSOURI RIVER is very high but falling some now. The banks are caveing, trees turning up by their roots,- it looks like the banks would all tumble into the river. Such crowding and swearing and threatening, I never saw in my life- nor do I wish to see again. We are here to night, our wagons are near the water as we dare have them ready to cross in the morning.

May 8,- We were on the boat this morning before sunrise,- she landed us out of the UNITED STATES a few moments after sun rise in perfect safety. We traveled 5 miles and come to grass and camped by an Indian wigwam. Here we crossed a very gad little stream, the Indians had bridged it and wanted us to pay but we did not for it was so bad that Mr. Boardmans wagon turned over, his wife and two youngest children were in the wagon but were not injured.

(Iowa was the western boundary line of the U.S. When they crossed the Missouri River they were in unorganized*Territory-- Neb., Kansas, N. & S. Dak-
*Spelling from the original.

ota, etc. in territory---until they reached California.)

The Indians then carried brush and fixed it quite good and said no more to us about pay. This afternoon a Company crossed the bridge and refused to pay the Indians any thing--this enraged them very much, they gave the war hoop and there was soon a number which came well armed with muskets and rifles. The Company went on and the Indians undertook to persue them, but they were drunk and only went a short distance until they returned. They came to our tents, shook hands very friendly until they spied Mr. Boardman, they took him to be the man that struck an Indian, and would not pay them anything for crossing the bridge. Two of the Indians drew their rifles at him in full determination to kill him, and undoubtedly would, but our men caught their guns and revolvers and made signs of war, and the Indians dropped their guns and made hasty signs of peace. You better believe, here was a frightened set of women and children. I expected every breath, to see Mr. Boardman fall a victim, if he had we would have had some Indian scalps thats certain. Mc-Kendee says, " he is too little to be out here among the Indians." The Indians put across the Creek to their shanty and are now singing very merrily. 30 wagons camped here to night.

May 9,- Left camp, traveled 5 miles and camped again. Very cold for the season. High winds.

May 10,- Arose this morning after spending a restless night watching our teams. Saw no Indians. This has been a very cold day. I have suffered for a number of days with sore mouth and throat, it is now altogether in my mouth,- I can't tell what cause it but I expect the cold weather is the cause of it.

May 11, - Very cool wind and very dusty. Got ti ELK HORN about noon, here we had to pay \$3.00 per wagon and \$1.00 a head for stock. We swam our stock over and drove a few rods from the bank and camped. Traveled 12 miles to day.

May 12,- Left ELK HORN this morning, had some bad roads on the low flat bottom- then we struck up on a high bottom. This is the prettiest road I ever saw. Traveled 19 miles and camped on a branch of SHELL CREEK.

May 13,- Quite a cool morning,- the most beautiful road I ever saw. It is almost as level as a house floor. We are on FLATTE RIVER bottom. This is a beautiful country, if timber was plenty. This bottom is from 8 to 20 miles wide, some timber along the bank but none where we are some three miles back from the river. We have traveled 80 ** miles today, good grass for our stock, good water and no wood. We gathered weeds and boiled our teakettles and fryed our meat. Our pastures here tofore has been a tolerably good goose pasture.

May 14,- Awakened this morning by the low roaring of thunder and wind, presently the rain dashed just enough to lay the dust. We started on our journey, the wind still rising, at noon we had a real dash of rain and severe wind. It did not last long, the rain did not, but the wind increased. We have camped to night near timber, the wind still rising, the wagon shakes so that is is most impossible for me to write. The wheels are locked and it appears to me that the wagons will blow to pieces. Some wagons

** it appears to me that this must be a missprint. DVD.

have lost their covers. Mr. Boardmans wagon and ours stand side by side and his tent sat between and tied to the wagon wheels. This is going to California? He saw an antelope galloping across the plain to day very swiftly. A few moments since an mans hat blew off and it went with twice the rapidity that the antelope did. I don't know but the hat went to Texas, we watched it till it went out of our sight over the Plains. We all laughed at the poor emigrants loss, but it so happened, he had another. We have traveled 22 mile today.

May 15,- Left camp this morning, traveled on til 10 o'clock. Came to loup fork of PLATTE RIVER,- we crossed at 2 o' clock on the same day. Three dollars per wagon and swam our stock. After we got over it was like to be some time before the team would be ready to start, so Mr. Fickett advised me to ride on with Mr. Graham to his camp about five mile distant- so I mounted on my horse and off we started at good speed, but we had not gone but a short distance until we discovered an army of Indians come in our left. We rode on, not a single train nor camp in sight. In a very short time we were surrounded by 300 Pawnee Indians, all on horse back with rifles, bows and arrows, spears and knives,---I felt considerably uneasy, but they rode up by the side of us and shook hands in token of friendship, slapping their hands on their naked breasts and exclaiming in good Pawnee. We rode on to camp, and the Indians went a few rods beyond us and camped. Our team soon came in after us. Nine wagons of us in company to night but the most of the company are very uneasy. If they are disposed to take our scalps,- they can with ease, for 30 against 300 will be a dull show. It is midnight and all is right. I shall commit myself and family, and company into the hands of the Allmight, and retire to rest, knowing that he is able to keep us from the hand of the savage.

May 16,- We arose this morning quite well, no harm done by the Indians. Very pleasant morning but this afternoon we had a real PLATTE RIVER storm. We have camped tonight in a large prairie, poor grass, no wood.

May 17,- After a stormy night, we have arose to see what the prospect is, good or bad. The prospect is rather gloomy, we are considerable wet in our wagons. We have traveled 12 miles today and camped on good grass. The sun shone out beautifully this evening. We have spread out our wet clothes to dry. 20 males in our Company and no female but myself. Oh, how I miss female society but this is going to California.

May 18,- Started from camp this morning, traveled til noon and camped, unloaded- now drying and washing our things. All in good spirits. We made 12 miles this fore noon.

May 19,- Very cool this morning,- we have had some very bad roads, very poor grass and 50 miles, before we come to timber. We can carry wood for the stoves. All who are green enough to come this journey should be all means bring a sheet iron stove. A few weeds or sticks in a stove will boil your teakettle- fry your meat and bake your bread, all in a few moments time, and keep your tent warm in the bargain. A person would want 4 yoke of cattle to haul wood enough along here to bake out in the rain in a bake oven and not have them loaded with any thing but wood. We have traveled 16 miles to day.

May 20,- Rolled out this morning- had some very bad roads. About 2 this afternoon we got to PRAIRIE GRASS. We had to slide our wagons over on poles. We are all safe over. 15 miles today.

May 21,- We arose this morning and journeyed on. This is the first warm day we have had this spring. At noon we came to WOOD CREEK. Here we had to unload our wagons and cork one wagon bed and use it for a boat. We are all over safe and loaded again. A storm is coming up. We will soon feel the severity of the wind and rain. Traveled 10 miles.

May 22,- Started late this morning. Traveled 12 miles and camped. Come to good feed and wood. James is getting supper. I am not well.

May 23,- Beautiful morning. We left camp early, traveled 20 mile, camped on the banks of PLATT RIVER opposite GRAND ISLAND. Poor grass.

May 24,- Left camp at 7 o' clock this morning, very good camping places by driving 2 or 3 mile from the road. Traveled 23 mile to day.

May 25,- Raining this morning, very cold, however we started and traveled 4 miles. The storm was so hard we had to stop and spread our tents on BUFFALO CREEK.

May 26,- Left camp at 8 o' clock this morning, misty and cold. At one this after noon we came on the banks of PLATTE RIVER, most beautiful to behold and mysterious. No bluffs, no banks of note, strange to see a river 2 mile wide in the prairie with out banks or timber. There are a very few scattering trees and small islands in the river,- so green and beautiful to look across the river,- the water looks higher than the ground. The river is high. We traveled 12 miles today,- the rain is pouring down upon us.

May 27,- Left camp at 6 o' clock this morning. We have had some very bad road. Crossed sand Bluffs, stuck down on the bottom- crossed SKUNK CREEK and camped. Good grass, poor water, - tinctured with alkali. Traveled 20 miles this day.

May 29,- Very cold and bad road most of the day. We passed through Fawnee Swamp, crossed several bad creeks. FAWNEE SPRINGS, is at upper end of the swamp. We have camped to night on PLATTE RIVER. We are all well. We traveled 20 mile to day.

May 30,- Rainy and cold this morning. After noon the rain ceased, we camped near an Island which has some willows on it. A number of the men rode over and got some to burn. This will be the last wood we can get for 200 miles. We shall carry enough along to boil our teakettles and fry our meat. We traveled 10 miles to day.

May 30,- Very cold morning and extremely bad. Rode till noon then the sun came out and we got out of the swamp and have had a very pleasant afternoon. We have had a small hail storm late this evening and has the appearance of a stormy night. We crossed north BLUFF CREEK today. We have rolled 18 miles. BLUFF CREEK is very beautiful shallow and wide with quick sand bottom, but good crossing.

June 1,- Left camp this morning at seven. About 10 the rain commenced. We crossed east foot of SAND BLUFF? then crossed BUFFALO CREEK? left the sands. The rain has poured down on us this afternoon in torrents. We camped on the bank of PLATTE RIVER. Still raining, wind blows very cold, hard on emigrants. We have traveled 16 miles through the rain.

June 2,- Very cold this morning. I heard one man say that " it was cold enough to freeze cows horns off". We have had dreadful bad road part of the day. Had to double teams. I thought we would all go down out of sight. Teams swamped down. Ladies pulled off their stockings and shoes and took it a foot through the mud and water above their knees,-this is true for I was an eye-witness. I stayed in the wagon. Very warm after noon. We passed CEDAR BLUFFS to day. This is a changeable country. There is a heavy storm coming. We have tugged 20 mile today.

June 3,- Rainy and cold, we left camp at 8 o' clock. Bad road at 11 o'clock, a hard wind storm, very little rain. We have camped to night on PLATT RIVER. First rate grass. The rain is coming down very easy. We have traveled 18 mile today.

June 4,- Cloudy but pleasant this forenoon, but rainy and cold this afternoon. I feel very unwell. We have camped in the mud, poor grass. We have so much rain that this valley is very muddy. We have trodged 15 mile to day through the mud and rain.

June 5,- Left camp this morning after a severe stormy night. This morning FLATTE RIVER valley overflowed. We started for higher ground. Traveled 2 mile, got into quick sands and had a dreadful time getting out. It was about 4 rods to sound ground. Cattle and horses and men would appear to be on sound ground and the next step they would go down almost out of sight. I was frightened very much. LeRoy and McKendres screamed with fear, but after a long hard struggle, we got through without serious injury. We drove up on high ground and camped.

June 6,- Still in camp. 4 of the horses in the company gone. Men are on the search of them. Very pleasant day. FLATTE RIVER is rising.

June 7,- Still in camp. Have not found the horses. quite a pleasant day. A little rain and hail this evening.

June 8,- Left camp this morning. Horses not found. 2 men in search of them. I rode and helped drive the loose stock to day, am very tired to night. I will dry up driving stock. I wont work my way through unless I am compelled to. When I ride my horse it is for pleasure and health. We passed COURTHOUSE ROCK, it is on the south side of the river. We traveled 22 mile.

June 8,- Very warm day. We are camped on FLATTE RIVER opposite SCOTTS BLUFFS. Rev. Hilton Jimerson is buried at this Bluff--is the prettiest place I ever looked upon. The river is high and Asahel is very sick, if not, I should have crossed the river and visited his grave. I feel very uneasy about Asahel.

June 10,- Very warm and pleasant. I am very unwell. Asahel is some better. Mr. Fickett is sick. 21 miles today and in sight of LARAMIE PLAK.

June 11,- I am very unwell. Fickett is better. Asahel is better. LeRoy was taken very bad with flux this morning but it is a little better this evening. We traveled 13 miles today and got to timber.

June 12,- We are now within 8 miles of FORT LARAMIE (Wyo.) 20 miles today. Last night we had a dreadful experience. The dreaded Blackfeet Indians swarmed down form the mountains, and were on the war path. We were quite unearly and Fickett feared there might be trouble in camp. So he lay near the opening of the wagon with his gun at his side. It was late and every

thing was quiet. Then we heard slight crackles, as if some one was cautiously moving in the bushes near by. Pickett lay with his finger on the trigger of his gun, that never fails or misses. But he knew that our little group of emigrants had a small chance if we were being attacked by a tribe of Indians. I was very afraid and I held my children close. When all of a sudden an ugly, war painted Indian jumped up before us with raised tomahawk ready to strike. Pickett lay there ready to shoot, but instead, moaned and groaned-' white man sick, small pocks, very sick'. And you never heard such wild scrambling of Indians through the thicket. From the sound there must have been hundreds. They feared small pocks, for Indians have been dying in great numbers from the white mans disease. Thus a bit of stratigy saved some 30 souls. We were proctected by our Maker and prayers answered.

June 13,- Fine morning. We all feel better after our narrow escape last night. We see a great many Indians moving. They fasten long poles on the sides of their ponies and large dogs, and let the other end drag on the ground. Their belongings are then packed and fastened on the poles. I also saw several Squaws and Papoose riding in large baskets fastened to the poles. The squaws do all the work, They are the Sioux Indians and quite a respectable looking tribe. We passed quite a large Indian Village near FT. LARAMIE. The Fort is a large trading post of store, smithy, bakery, mill and tannery where buffalo is cured and tanned and bought by the Indians. Today we traveled 16 miles.

June 14,- A very cool but pleasant morning. We have had rough road today crossing the BLACK HILLS?- very rocky and steep. The Hills looked beautiful, all covered with cedars. All is right with us to night. Traveled 18 miles.

June 15,- Very pleasant, good roads all day. Camped to night where we have good water. Traveled 20 miles today.

June 16,- Stayed in camp today. I was taken down with the flux.

June 17,- Very sick, but traveled 18 miles.

June 18,- Still very sick but some easier. Very weak. 19 miles today.

June 19,- Staying in camp. I was very sick in the forenoon but some better tonight.

June 20,- Made a good travel today. I am very weak but considerably better..

June 21,- I rode horseback 2 or 3 miles this morning. Feel better tonight.

June 22,- I am gaining slowly. We are in sight of snow, quite cold. The snow is on LARAMIE PEAK, (southern and eastern Wyo.)

June 23,- Very cold, good roads but quite dusty. Very poor grass and water. We burn sage brush for fuel.

June 24,- Quite plessent but cool. Ice froze in our wash basin this morning. The road was very dusty. I rode horseback all day. We crossed SWLET WATER on a floating bridge. The men ran the wagons over by hand and swam the cattle. It cost \$2.00 per wagon. I rode across on my horse. Some of

the men that I knew not, said" that women was more courageous than wise." I thought to myself, ' What will the poor cowards do about it'- I had as soon risk myself on my horse as to risk wadeing*over shoe top deep water. This bridge is near INDEFENDENCL ROCK. We camped tonight near DEVILS GATE. I reeped through the Gate but being rather unwell,I did not view it but little. It is a doleful looking place.

June 25,- We rolled out this morning, found a very dusty road. It was very windy. I sometimes thought it would blow me off from my horse, but I was in luck,- it merely blew my dress over my head. We camped on SWEETWATER in the ROCKY MOUNTAINS. The mountain scenery is very pleasant.

June 26,- Very pleasant. We stayed in camp nearly all day. Traveled 5 miles to a fresh spot of grass and camped. We all ate a hearty supper.

June 27,- Very cold and high wind. The dust and sand blew so that we were compelled to stop. Snow close to us.

June 28,- Very cold morning and a very windy day but we made a good travel.

June 29,- Cold and windy. Very sandy road which made traveling very disagreeable. Snow on the mountains near us.

June 30,- Very pleasant and quite warm. We camped, at noon on SWEETWATER RIVER, to rest.

July 1,- Very cold. We have traveled today through mountains and snow. Where we crossed SWEETWATER this afternoon, the snow was 20 feet deep above and below the ford.

July 2,- Very cold morning and high wind. About noon we passed through the South Pass. We are now descending the ROCKY MOUNTAINS and are in the PACIFIC REGIONS.---230 miles from Salt Lake City. We are camped to night at the PACIFIC SPRINGS?--there is a blacksmith shop here kept by the Mormans.

July 3,- We stayed in camp until noon, then started out,- traveled 6 miles and camped. Plenty of sage brush but grass very scarce. A very warm day, can see beautiful mountains covered with snow, on the north of us.

July 4,- Cool but pleasant. We found ice in our wash basin this morning. We poor emigrants celebrated the fourth snuffing the dust and inhaling the very offensive smell of the dead cattle that lay thick along the road. We camped tonight on LITTLE SANDY, no grass. No wonder the cattle die here.

July 5,- Very pleasant, good road but very little grass. We are camped tonight on BIG SANDY and the mosquitoes are about to take us. But I think we are too hard for them.

July 6,- Beautiful day but very dusty. We have had our supper and are now starting across the GREEN RIVER DESSERT. Only 12 miles across this, is a new route called KINNEY CUT OFF, making it 52 miles shorter, for which we are thankful.

*spelled from the original.

KINNEY CUT OFF--is it possible this might be one of my Kinney Ancestors???

vcd.

July 7,- We crossed GREEN RIVER this morning in a boat, six dollars per wagon and one dollar per head for loose stock. We swam our cattle. We find poor feed and a dull chance for wood.

July 8,- Good roads, good grass in places. We have good water and grass tonight and a good chance of Gallinippers.

July 9,- Very pleasant. We have been traveling today over GREEN RIVER MOUNTAINS, first rate water and good grass. We camped tonight between two large mountains on a beautiful stream. Fickett went up on the side of the mountain and got a pail of snow to make tea. This is very nice for the 9th. of July.

July 10,- Very pleasant. We traveled 10 miles and over some very high mountains. When we came to HAMS FORK of BEAR RIVER we camped. Here I sold my linen dress to a squaw for two dollars cash. I bought all the fish we could eat at one meal of an Indian boy for a pint cup. These Indians are called the Snakes and are a very friendly tribe. I must confess that this is the first time that I was ever guilty of buying and selling on the Lords Day, and I trust it will be the last.

July 11,- Left camp this morning and have been climbing up and down BLAR RIVER MOUNTAINS all day. We find these mountains very high and steep in many places. I rode horseback all day, the rest walked.

July 12,- Very cold. I have never suffered any more with cold in my life as I have this morning. The mountain is very steep and rocky. I rode horseback for I did not feel safe in the wagon. I rode on and on until I thought I should surely perish. I then dismounted and tried it on foot in order to get warm but all in vain. The wind blew so hard from the snow mountains that I could hardly breath, the wind being in my face and the dust to my shoe tops. I persevered on as well as I could and presently spied a cluster of bushes beside the road. I hastened on to them and threw myself down on the ground, - the sun shone warm on me and the bushes broke the cold wind from me, then I soon got warm. By the time I was nice and warm again the team and wagon came along. I got on my horse and went a little further, but was obliged to retreat to the wagon and go to bed. I feel very well tonight and able to eat a hearty supper.

July 13,- We started from camp this morning and traveled 12 miles across TOMAHAWKS FORK of BEAR RIVER and camped. First rate grass.

July 14,- Stayed in camp. There is a Trading Post kept here. The mountain air is pure and sweet.

July 15,- Rolled out this morning, all in usual health. Crossed some tremendous mountains. We camped tonight between two large mountains on a beautiful stream of water. We have delightful water in the mountains. We bought some butter today at a Trading Post, 50¢ per pound. It is fresh from Salt Lake City, - very good Morman butter.

July 16,- Today we have had good roads, good grass and good water. We camped tonight on BEAR RIVER. Beautiful fish in this river, - spotted trout.

July 17,- Started out from camp, traveled 12 miles and came to SODA SPRINGS and STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, here we camped. There is a Trading Post here owned by the Mormons. These Mormons are very clever. It is sixty miles from here to Salt Lake City and the Mormons come out here to buy the worn down and lame

stock. The Springs are quite a curiosity,- the ground jars as you walk over it and sounds very hollow. No doubt but this has been a volcanic eruption, - the rocks look like they had been burnt done thousand years before they were blown out. The boiling of the water is caused by fire undoubtedly. The Steamboat Spring is about Blood warm. The Soda Springs are cool and taste like our soda.. It is counted very healthful by the mountaineers. The Springs boil as hard as you every saw water boil but still the water is cool. It made me shudder to ride over the ground near the Steamboat Spring, such a doleful, hollow sound but not-with-standing all this, I traveled all around them and viewed them closely.

July 18,- Rolloed out for a days journey. Traveled 20 miles, good roads, good grass, and water.

July 19,- We have traveled over mountains all day,- bad roads, very warm and dusty. I am not well. We have just crossed a Creek on a bridge,- .25 cents toll. We have camped and are now in OREGON TERRITORY.

July 20,- Made a very good travel to day. Camped tonight near muddy WILLOW CREEK. We drove up a canyon to a Spring where we could have good food for the stock and good wood.

July 21,- We started this morning at 3 o'clock in order to get up through the canyon before the heat of the day. The Canyon is five miles through and the mountains are very high on either side.- there is just room enough for the wagon to go between the mountains, getting down this mountain almost gets me. It is very rocky and steep, merely room enough for the wagon to pass between the rocks,- the driver has to walk on the side of the mountain above the team,- sometimes at quite an elevation. We got down safely into a valley then traveled some distance to camp by a fine Spring. We have traveled 20 miles today.

July 22,- (Leroy's birthday) Very Cool. We had a beautiful thunder shower this evening. I am not well nor have I been for the past ten days, the heat overcomes me. The mornings and evenings are pleasant but the middle of the day is very hot and oppressive. We have camped between two large mountains with good water, the grass will do but we would prefer better. We traveled up a canyon* this afternoon that the mountains were so high on either side that it made my head swim to look to the top of the mountains. I rode horseback today. This is LeRoy's birthday and we had a mess of potatoes for dinner,- 15 cents per pound. They tasted first rate out of the United States and the land of Civilization.

July 23,- Very pleasant, good roads, good grass, good water, very good health and plenty to eat and what more could we want? One thing more we want and that is,- we are anxious to get over into California, and then we will want something else, I believe that human beings are bound never to feel satisfied. I firmly think some of our curiosities will be satisfied by the time we get through this!

July 24,- Pretty bad road, very pleasant over head, good grass, water and very good health. We have traveled 15 miles today.

July 25,- Very pleasant, good grass and water,- rough road this afternoon but the most beautiful rocks that I ever heheld. The rocks are very large and of all shapes with the names of people written in large black letters nearly ** cover the rocks. Some names are 50 to 100 feet high. I walked around and

* from the original spelling.

** even in 1853 people were writing their names every place.

viewed them, read names until I gave out and got on my horse and rode from one rock to the other all afternoon and read names until I nearly ruined my eyes. The rocks are light color and the sun shone so bright, it made it hard on the eyes. But the eye is never satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing.

July 25,- Very rough road and very high mountains. We have traveled over GOOSE RIVER MOUNTAINS, all day. Camped on the river to night, good feed. My eyes are very sore, to pay for looking at those beautiful rocks yesterday. Today we have passed some beautiful mountains,--the work of art can't compare with that of nature's art.

July 27,- Very pleasant, good grass and water. Good road most of the day, very dusty.

July 28,- Rough roads. We came down on THOUSAND SPRING VALLEY late this evening, good water, poor feed. A great many people and lots of stock here at this Trading Post,- fresh from Sacramento City.

July 29,- Good roads, grass and water.

July 30,- Remained in camp all day. Fickett is sick, also one of the ladies in the Company is sick, I feel somewhat discouraged. We have lost one yoke of our cattle and more yoke is lame, yet notwithstanding all our bad luck, I think Providence will provide.

July 31,- Rolled out this morning, quite cool, good roads but dreadfully dusty. Some of the time the dust arose in such clouds that it was impossible to see the heads of our wheel cattle nor could you see the team beyond our wagon. This is hard on man and beast. We are now out of the valley and it is not dusty. We camped to night by a spring in the mountains, good grass and a cool pleasant evening. I made a blackberry pie for supper, very good,- all it lacked was cream. This pie was made out of berries that my little boys picked in Iowa and my dear Mother dried them, not knowing nor perhaps even thinking that her daughter and grandsons should eat pies made out of them, out of the UNIFIED STATES* but it is even so.. I rolled my crust on the bottom of my bread pan with a tent pin which served in the place of a rolling pin. I had a rolling pin and a bread board but we threw them away, also our tent, in order to lighten the load for the teams. The boys sleep under the wagon. I hang quilts around the wagon. This is really going to California. I have not seen an elephant nor don't expect to before I get to California. I shouldn't wonder if I should see him there. We traveled 15 miles today.

August 1,- Very pleasant day and very, very bad roads this afternoon. We traveled down through a canyon* which was very rocky and the mountains on each side of us were very high, steep and rocky. One would suppose it impossible to get through between those lofty mountains with a wagon. People that were never among the mountains would positively think it was dangerous to even ride horseback down such a looking place, and it surely is, unless your horse is sure footed. I rode all the way through, fearless of danger and carried my umbrella over me. About the middle of the canyon, there is a Spring of clear water voiling out from under a rock, warm enough for dish water and a little salty. McKendree has not forgotten to make strange remarks about things of various kinds. He says, " if it had not been for him, these mountains never would have been here."

* from the original spelling.

August 2,- Pleasant over head but very dusty which makes it very disagreeable. We are camped to night in HUMBOLT VALLEY. Good feed. The grass is knee high and fine as thimothy and as thick as it can stand and there is also acres covered with wild rye, higher than a mans head and stands and stands thick on the ground as I every saw rye stand in the UNITED STATES. This looks beautiful waving in the wind. The cattle and horses do not like the rye as well as they do the grass. This Valley in 1850 was perfectly barren.

August 3,- Very cool and pleasant day for traveling but the dust has been very bad some of the time. The dust flew so thick one could hardly see an inch from his nose. We are camped on HUMBOLT RIVER? (Nev.) Good grass.

August 4,- We have traveled over mountains most of the day and camped tonight on HUMBOLT, good grass and water not very bad.

August 5,- Good roads, good food, not extra water.

August 6,- We have been traveling over large mountains most of the day and camped tonight be the most beautiful Spring Branch that I ever saw. A few Indians here and a Trading Post. These Indians are called "Rootdiggers," they will steal. We have passed through the Shawnee tribe of Indians. They are very poor, almost naked, and very peaceable. They will all steal if they get the chance, they are hard looking customers.

August 7,- We have been traveling over high rocky mountains all day but have gotten down to the HUMBOLT RIVER tonight! Here we will cross the river and go down on the south side. There is a Trading Post here owned by Californians. William Alexandria is here waiting for Mr. Porterfield and Mr. Warners. We have traveled 25 miles today, we had to travel far in order to get to feed and water.

August 8,- We have had a very disagreeable day. Very bad road over the mountains,- the dust 6 inches deep and very hard wind. We are awful looking creatures,- after traveling all day in the dust,- one can't laugh at the other for we are all the same color. We are camped in a very pleasant place tonight. Good grass and water.

August 9,- Very pleasant, we have not had mountains to climb today, some dusty. Made a good travel, 22 miles.

August 10,- We stayed in camp all day, very cool and pleasant. A great many camped here, I should think 100 persons. I was very unwell this afternoon and tremendously home-sick for a few hours but I feel very happy this afternoon, the gloomy clouds have passed away and I look forward with a hope that I shall yet see better days. If it was not for hope, the heart would certainly break.

August 11,- We left camp this morning before 6 o'clock, very cold. The children and I had to get in the wagon and cover up till nearly noon, to keep from freezing. The wind blew from the snow mountains. We are camped tonight where there is good grass but poor water. The water is tainted with alkali. Some places we have come over today, is so strong of alkali that the ground smells like an old ash-hopper. I am like the old man that crossed the Plains in '50,- "I think it is the tightest place I ever was in ", but will admit we might be in a worse place. We have traveled 22 miles today.

August 12,- We traveled 25 miles today without stopping. There was no grass nor water so we had to keep rolling until we came to grass and water. We have finally got to grass and water, such as it is. We have traveled all this day through dust from 2 to 6 inches deep,- this has been hard on the cattle.

August 13,- Rolled out this morning all in good spirits, passed several Trading Posts. Dry place for feed along here. Where there has been any grass the water has been all over it, and the cattle and horses mire down so the men have to go out the grass and bring it, is one man in our Company that has a sythe as luck would have it. I feel very well to night,- 15 miles to day.

August 14,- Remained in camp all day. I feel some better satisfied than I have for some time past. 400 miles yet to go.

August 15,- Started out this morning,- have had very sandy road all day,- has been a hard day for the teams. We have camped, poor grass and water and no wood except Greese wood. HUMBOLT is a hard place on man and beast. Traveled 12 miles.

August 16,- A very hard day,- sandy road, the sand 6 inches deep and a very high wind. We have dragged 16 miles today,- I am tired, tired, tired of this way of living. This is like taking a persons life by inches.

August 17,- Cool and pleasant, a sandy road, no grass. A perfect barren land, sage brush and greese wood can grow spontaneously. We have found a little spot of grass and camped. Just enough grass to keep our stock from starving. If any person or persons which to know what anxiety and hardship are like, set them out to try the Plains as soon as possible, and I think they will find out many things they never dreamed of.

August 18,- Not a bit of grass to-day. Sand and dust 6 inches deep and a strong wind in the bargain. Flenty of water but very poor drinking. We have camped on the bank of the HUMBOLT RIVER. The stock will have to subsist on Willows. This has been one of the hardest days that he have had on this journey. We have traveled 18 miles.

August 19,- Started from camp this morning, traveled 15 miles and arrived at the BIG MEADOW RIVER?- plenty of good grass and river water. Very poor wood, nothing but Grease wood to burn out, we feel satisfied to put up with this and have our stock on good feed. Some places today the sand has been 8 inches deep. We have had no wind today, so we are not quite drifted under tonight. Last night, we were almost out of sight, I am not joking, for the sand drifted in our wagon so that every thing was covered and all one color. I should have been happy to have had our liklinesses taken and sent them to the STATES.

August 20,- We have reached the sind of the HUMBOLT RIVER. This is very different from what I have visioned it was. The Sind is a large Lake of water, some say it is 16 miles in length and from 3 to 5 miles in width. The over flow of this river, this Spring has run a Slew of water 12 miles farther on into the Desert than it ever was before. This is most favorable.

August 21,- We started across the Desert this morning. We have gotten along very well, so far. This is the prettiest road I have ever seen. Iowa cannot turn out as good roads. It is almost as level as a house floor and as solid as a trunpike. This is the pleasantest road I have traveled on this journey. This CARSON DESERT is an interesting place, it is almost paved with wagon iron. I have counted 23 wagon tires in one pile, and I wno't begin to tell how many piles I waw with from 4 to 12 tires, carriage springs, and a little of all kinds of iron also chairs, rings books and every thing that pertained to a wagon or carriage. I saw a great many bones of cattle and horses, horrible sight but a very few animals died this year. I have not seen any great suffering on the Desert. A few men that were packing complained of sore feet, a hard life to live. There are several Trading Fosts on the Desert. It is now six o' clock in the evening. We have stopped to rest, get our suppers and rest our stock until 8 o' clock when the moon will be up and then we will roll on to CARSON RIVER.

August 22,- We arrived at RAG TOWN on CARSON RIVLR this morning, just at the break of day, the chickens were crowing and everything stirring. This is quite a town. They have hay and provisions to sell. Esq. Dunden is here waiting for his family. At the Desert Saloon, the Flag of Liberty is raised and waving in the wind. We have our stock on first rate grass, they are desperately hungry.

August 23,- Stayed in camp all day. It has been a very warm day. Our stock is doing well. Lverybody doing their washing and cleaning up everything. Excuse me if you please, I have a word or two more to say about the CARSON DESERT. I think there were at least 500 gun barrels, stoves, canteens, kegs, ect. in piles and scattered along the trail. We burnt two kegs to get our suppers. Much suffering and hardship has been experienced on the very spot where we enjoyed our supper. The boys had a pleasant day, they saw so much to draw their attention. We actually had more sport corssing the Desert than we have had at any other time on the road.

August 24,- We traveled 5 miles and camped. My health is very poor. Fickett is not able to do anything. One of his legs is badly swollen and has turned purple. He complains of being lame all over, in fact he has been lame ever since we left home. Some of the time he has been so bad that it took the children and I to dress him, we had to lift him up when he was down, and lay him down when he had to lie down. He has suffered a great deal, sometimes he has been so bad that he could not put his hands to his mouth,- I had to feed him, which made it hard for me. His feet are so swollen that he is unable to get his boots on, nor is he able to wear them for the last 200 miles. Some of the Doctors say it is rheumatism, and some that it is dropsy and some that are not so green, say it is the scurvy, no doubt it is. I feel so bad to think that I was so foolish to undertake this journey with such poor health myself and with Fickett, but little better than a dead man when we left home. He has grown worse ever since. This kind of traveling does not agree with him and never did. (This was his third time across the Flains and the last). If I was back on the old Ranch, it would take something powerful to move me,- but I am not frightened in the least. I have not mentioned his lameness before in my journal but since he has gotten so bad, I thought it would be prudent to say something about him for he says he dosen't think he will live to get over the mountains to California. But I think he will.

August 25,- Today we have traveled 15 miles over very rocky, bad roads, 12 miles of the way was desert. I have been sick all day, and feel very unwell tonight. Fickett is very lame, he can scarcely get in and out of the wagon without help.

August 26,- We crossed on 8 mile Desert this morning, very hard, sandy road. Traveled 16 miles today, camped under some beautiful trees on CARSON RIVER? good feed and water. A very pleasant thunder shower this evening, everything looks so beautiful. It seems so good to be among trees after spending a summer without scarcely seeing a tree. All the timber we see crossing the Plains, I think would be a sure cure for sore eyes.

August 27, Very good roads. Our travel has been up CARSON RIVER today, good feed and water. A great many Trading Posts and plenty of provisions at a very high price,- flour 30 cents per pound, and other things in accordance. We sold 50 lbs. of flour a few days since for 3 bits per pound. We have traveled today 18 miles.

August 28,- We have traveled 14 miles to-day. We had our wagon tire set. The blacksmith lives at the mouth of Cold Canyon, there are a number of families who live up the Canyon. There is a very good mine, a store and some fine families here. I met a very nice lady here, she is a Yankee. I spent part of the day with her. She has a great many chickens, and sells her young hens for 6.00 dollars each.

August 29,- Traveled 12 miles, camped,- good grass and water. Quite good farms along this river. It is a beautiful valley.

August 30,- Very good roads. We passed a number of farms today. Vegetables of all kinds growing,- potatoes .20 cents per pound, other things accordingly. Very high wind this evening and very cool. We passed Mormon Station this afternoon. There is a Post Office, a blacksmith shop, a store and a butcher shop at this Station. It is situated at the foot of a mountain near a mountain stream. The mountain is covered with pitch pine trees from the top to the bottom. The trees are very large and beautiful.

August 31,- Remained in camp, good food and water. A great deal of wild clover growing here and a great many emigrants are staying here to recruit their stock. I was offered \$200.00 for my riding horse by one of the traders, but I refused the gold. My health is very poor,- I can't walk half as far as I could before I left home. I fear I have come the wrong way for my health. I am not as well as I was last year, this time. All the benefit this journey has been to me, is over the left.

September 1,- Still in camp. James is no better. He thinks he will loose his leg, if not his life,- but I am not one bit concerned about him. I feel badly to see him suffer so much, but I don't believe he will die or loose his leg. There are several of his California friends here, say it is scurvey and as soon he gets over the mountains into California, he will get well.

September 2,- Still in camp. Fickett is no better. I feel anxious to go over the mountains so he will get relief from his troubles. It is so cold here, snow in sight and freezes ice every night and the wind blows so hard that we can't have one bit of comfort, unless one would call it comfortable to have their eyes, nose and mouth filled with sand and dust.

September 3,- Traveled 10 miles. Bought cabbage, potatoes and eggs,- all raised in this valley. Fickett is about the same, he gets the blues very bad sometimes.

September 4,- We have had 4 miles of good roads, then we struck into the ROCKY CANYON. One would naturally suppose this road was a mere foot path for wild animals running through among the rocks. The mountains on each side of the road are very high and rocky and covered with Pine, Cedar and Fur* trees and are very large. What looks the most singular to me is, to see these trees growing to such great size out of almost solid rock. The scenery is beautiful. All through the canyon. the rippling water flowed quietly along through the rocks, when suddenly the water would rush over high rocks with a great roaring sound. This was a wonderful sight. The rocks on either side of the road are various sizes and just room enough for a wagon to pass through between them then we had to run over small rocks from 1 to 3 feet high. We had this kind of road for 7 miles. I have tried to describe the road to you and well as I could in a few words but no person can form a correct idea of this place, unless one can see it for themselves. Though the road is bad the scenery is beautiful. I love to ride along horseback and view it. We have traveled 11 miles today. This is the first range of the SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS.

September 5,- Very good roads. Traveled 4 miles and camped at the foot of the summit, good grass and water. This is a very heavy timbered country.

September 6,- We crossed the first Summit of the SIERRA NEVADA?, it is a great mountain but the road is not as bad as I had expected to find it. I rode my horse all the way up except a few steps which was a smooth rock, I scrambled my way up that and led my horse after me. Our two yoke of cattle, took us up with the exception of half a mile, and there we doubled teams and then we went up 'kighting' onto the first SUMMIT. Then we traveled on a few miles and came to a Lake of good water and lots of grass. Here we rested and had dinner then rolled over a small rough mountain into a canyon at the foot of the 2 summit. We have traveled 8 miles to-day, all well except Mr. Fickett.

September 7,- To-day we have rolled over the last Summit of the SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS. I rode horseback all the way over. We crossed very little snow but the wind blew very cold on the Summit. This mountain is very rocky and steep. When we were at the foot of the mountain, it looked almost impossible for a team to gain the Summit but we gained it without any difficulty of note and have traveled several on this side, over the worst rocky road that I ever saw. We have camped by a mountain stream but very little grass.

September 8,- We have been traveling over mountains all day, they are quite rocky but good to what they have been for the last four days. Good water but little grass. I rode horseback all the way from CARSON VALLEY? The wind was very strong and cold. I have taken some cold but still keep moving. I do nearly all the work. I make all the bread and do the cooking and lately I have saddled and un-saddled my horse. Oh, I just went 'kighting' over the SIERRA NEVADA. Mother has often heard me say that I should like to cross the Rocky Mountains, Well, I am pretty well across and my curiosity is pretty well satisfied. I will assure my friends in the States, that I do not escire to cross those mountains again.

* from the original spelling.

Thus ends the Journal of Belinda Cooley Fickett as I have it. It almost appears as though a page were missing.