

HENRY MARTYN POMEROY

Daily Journal,

1859

Transcribed

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[1 or 2 letters sometimes cut off on left margin; Pomeroy runs so many words together it is not practical to indicate which ones have no space between them]

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Thursday

Nebraska

Camp Little Pappillion Creek, May 12/59

Our wagon loaded for the mines started at 3 ocl^k this P,M, while Fuller and I staid behind to finish up our business and come on at our leisure. About dusk this evening bid Florence adieu without a sigh bound for Pikes Peak, Florence is now at very low ebb & nearly deserted, tho she will come up yet I most religiously believe & rival, aye and far surpass Omaha or Council bluffs either, Time will tell.

Took supper about 9 and feel as tho I can sleep a little tonight:

Raw-Hide Creek, Camp 3 miles from Elkhorn We have traveled 18 miles— May 13, 1859^N
^{Ty} today. Weather cold & blue, Met over 50 teams today returning from the west they having heard that Pikes Peak gold diggins is all a humbug and so they are going back to their homes, Many are still going west and we do not incline as yet to turn about. The top seems to be falling off the Peak and we may have to turn about face & one[?]. But I do not intend to borrow trouble My eye is nearly well to night & health good, This is on the Platte Valley & a most beautiful country it is. Fine & abundant grass & water for cattle, & but little wood.

Saturday May 14th 1859 Camp 2 miles from Fremont— ^{west} [^]

Staid in camp on Rawhide creek this morning untill about moon[sic] on a/c of rain. The rain ending we hitched up & have made 14 miles, & good drive & had splendid appetites for supper Yesterday we met about 50 teams returning early[?] having heard that Cherry Creek is all a humbug & are going back in disgust. I begin to think we [are] bound to find ourselves "sold" so far as Pikes Peak is concerned. We shall soon Know how it is.

Sunday May 15th Platte River Camp 5 miles East of ^{Emerson} [^]

**** 5 miles this morning & laid up for rain. Have [go?]od company, Some Wis. boys being camped nearby. Took a nap[?], wrote to Father & read[?] last Life[?] some to day, A ***e day it is & dreary & muddy. But few teams are passing by[?] the roads being heavy. News still bad from the **st & no prospect of better,

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Monday May 16/59, 4 Miles West of Emerson N Ty ^{Platte Valley} [^]

Weather misty & cloudy this morning, After breakfast hitched up & rolled slowly forward the travelling being very tedious, By noon the weather cleared up & the face of old Sol came out cheerfully & I was glad to see him & no mistake. So I presume are many others. We hope for better roads tomorrow. Passed Dr Harsh[?] Chapman P C, Arnots & Flannel mouth today.

Played a game of euchre in a tent this evening where is a very pretty boy that is to say a woman dressed in boys clothes & a nice[?] plmsip[?] piece[?] shoes, but her voice betrays her at once to a very careful observer. Beautiful moonlight to night the first moon for some time.

Tuesday May 17th /59. Camp Near Shinns Ferry.

Weather very hot to day & sultry. Cattle feel it severely. Traveled about 12 miles to day, roads not very good, Our man Johnson, hatched up a sorry tale of woe to day in order to leave us & to night drove off his oxon[sic], He will not do to die to ** anyhow & I am not very sorry to see him leave & guess Cash is of the same mind, Many teams are going west & many returning home also. Hundreds of men are undecided what to do & here seems to be a sort of turning point. Musquitoes are thick tonight & bite hard. All the news from Cherry Creek is "worse & worse" & more of it, Many are still starting for their[sic], but few will get there I venture, We are now in the lurch waiting for some strife[?] to join teams with us so that we can go to Calafornia, as we have no notion of going backwards

Wednesday, May 18th /59.

In Camp as last night. Weather cold & chilly with appearances of a storm Some trains of length are moving west to day some at a stand still others heading[?] slowly back East, Pitched camp near Mr Brown of Wis who has a tent & store. He has resided in Omaha for a number of years past & is bound for "Pikes Peak". I think I will go up to Columbus to day and see what the boys are doing-- no I will go to morrow. Took a walk this P,M, with Frank Brown he carried a gun & killed a duck. I gathered some nice flowers & gave them to a sick woman near[?] our camp

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Friday, May, 20 1859, Platte Valley. Camp on Prairie near Shinns Ferry at N T,

Yesterday, walked up to Columbus and thence over to Cleveland, Saw some of my old acquaintance[s] and among them Nelly-- who was married some 3 mo^s since. She looked rather docile[?] a little I tho't as tho she was lonesome &c &c. Walked 5 miles on the way back & a rain storm coming up I with 2 other campers stopped at an Irishmans cabin on the floor Early this morning started back & walked 9 miles before breakfast, A good deal of rain fell last night & roads muddy to day. Did not accomplish any thing towards progressing westward that I know of to day nor yesterday. Our scalawag of a partner from Fort Dodge leaving us has placed us in a bad fix but we are bound not to go back. Calafornia now seems to be the object of our desires, or rather the goal which we look to now, Broke up Camp at 2 P,M to day & moved 3 miles west. are in Camp to night with some men from Mich. bound for Calafornia, Got some rich milk for supper, & breakfast to morrow.

Saturday, May 21st Columbus N T,

***** 11 miles to day. Weather fine & roads not very bad. Yesterday we traded off our wagon for a lighter one & our Bulls for **** of oxen, We made a good trade & got 11⁸⁰[?] to boot, Now if we can get hold of one more pair[?] of good steers, we will be[?] fixed for emigrating to Calafornia or any other good place where money can be made fast[hasty?] We are after the "root of evil" and want to get it badly, Mean to do[?] it if we don,t[?] miss[?] of it, Heard more news from "Pikes Peak" to day.

No gold there worth going for yet found, Thousands have been fooled & turned back many of them at serious loss, which many months will not repair Woe to Nebraska & western Iowa, Stand still they must for some years,

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Columbus N T_y, Sunday. May. 22^d 1859,

Weather warm and pleasant to day. Quite a large emigration crossed the ferry bound for Calafornia, mostly horse teams passed & we wished we were of the party as they go faster than we can. Went out on the banks of the river under a tree and wrote a letter to my dear friend Sarah, Last night wrote to J M, Parker. Esq relative to Columbus matters. We tried various trades to day but did not make any of them win[?] all for the want of a little more of the "ready[?] John" which with us is a very scarce article. Several teams returned from the west to day bound homeward & much disappointed. I see no alternative but to go to Calafornia, which place I hope we may start for tomorrow,

In camp 7 miles west of Columbus N T_y

Middle of a big Prairie. Monday May 23^d 1859,

We left Columbus to day at 2½ PM & after crossing the river with some difficulty came theis[sic] far on our western way, The valley of the Platte is here far more beautiful than any part of it we have before seen, tho, the soil is said not to be as good as south of the Loup Fork. We four cleared this morning a pr of two year old steers to add to our team which helps us some, but they are not quite stout enough for our load, They are most too young, Wind very high to day from the south west a storm is at hand which will be severe I apprehend. Left my trunk at C, to day to be sent to Florence by Mr S, Forgey, We are now, Fuller & myself bound for the land called Calafornia

Camp on the Platte river 25 miles west of Columbus

Tuesday May 24th 1859,

This is my friend Sarahs birthday, God bless her, Weather fine cool & pleasant to day, Came 5 miles before breakfast, Heavy storm of wind last night & some rain, Slept but little, Cattle ran away while we were eating supper & gave us a chase of 5 miles for them. Tied them [to] the wagons, having no stakes with us, nor wood

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Wednesday, May, 25th 1859 Camp on Platte River

To day joined a company headed by Messers Hereford & Hart, from near Council Bluffs Iowa. They are going to Calafornia, have women & cows in the Co & seem to be the right sort to go with so we mean to stick to them, Wood is scarce here, & the clouds give strong indications of a storm to night, Weather cool & damp. To day have traveled about 10 miles & passed over some most beautiful Prairie rolling gently & of good soil. Timber skirts the river bank mostly on the south side & upon Islands in the Platte river, The country thus far has been well watered & sparsely timbered except along the river which is mostly Cottonwood,

Thursday May 26th 1859, Camp 2 miles west ^{of the "Lone Tree"}

Made about 15 miles to day, Road rather heavy tho' good considering the late rains A most terrible thunder storm last night & rain fell in torrents. Had to lie in water a part of the

night as our wagon cover did not keep it all out, Started late this morning, weather very cold with a damp chilly mist most of the forenoon, occasional sprinkles this P.M. Broke our cross-bar to the wagon tongue this eve ½ a mile before coming to camp by our lead steers being musury[?] & hawing square round. Fixed things up with a rope & pulled into camp. After supper went to work *** make a new cross-bar, having already taken out[?] the irons & cut a small slue tree to construct the [cross-bar] of. Made a good one tho' not a very handsome one, Stopped early to night soon after camping the clouds blew over & left us a clear blue sky once [more] with the face of "old Sol" as bright & unsullied as ever in his life, which wass appreciated by[?] all emigrants I will venture in this region *** highly as elsewhere, at least on "Terra Firma" for[?] neighbors were very Kind & lent us all the tools we needed, We shall be fixed stronger than before our breakdown. Weather cool night tho clear & pleasant

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Friday May 27th 1859 Camp 5 Miles East of Wood ^{River}
Smart frost last [night]. Water in the wash dish froze as thick as half a dollar, Weather clear cool & beautiful, all hands & teams in fine spirits & have moved along briskly all day with fair roads, thanks to a dry sandy soil. Most beautiful country have we passed thro' to day, Platte river is very high, Some of our party are luxuriating on Cat fish having caught several last night. Made 20 miles distance to day and are not more than two days drive from Fort Kearney, barring all stops & accidents This is a fine camping ground we are now in, near a belt of woods which skirst[sic] the Platte. Have seen more timber on the North side to day than any part of the route since leaving Elkhorn. Took out the flute this eve, & played several tunes & sang a few songs, Beautiful evening we are having since the storm.

Saturday, May, 28th 1859, Camp as above,
All hands laid by to day to unload [and] dry the clothes & provisions which have gathered dampness from the rains the past week & to rest & recruit the cattle, This is a beautiful camping ground just in the edge of the timber A beautiful warm day we have had & some mosquitoes to night, not so beautiful at least to feel. Fixed up our wagon to day, read some, played a game of euchre & took a bathe, To night went to a camp near by had a long sing with one or two of the men Enjoyed it very much,

Sunday, May 29/59 Camp on Wood River 20 miles ^{East of Ft Kearney}
Crossed Wood River this morning about 9 Oclk, Traveled about 10 miles to day, & sold on the way some provisions &c for \$27.⁵⁰ to a new settler. Weather pleasant & cool to day making good traveling. Wood River is nothing more than a small creek but between it & the Platte is some of the most beautiful farming land I ever saw in my life, Splendid claims might now be made here & would pay well This will all be settled in a very few years & well settled much of it, (ie) to say, western fashion

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Platte River Nebraska

Monday May 30th 1859, Camp 4 miles above Fort ^{Kearney}
Traveled about 22 miles to day. Weather very warm, Suffered much from a boil on my posterior & rode most of the day in Harts[?] wagon. Fuller in a bad humor because I am not in working condition and he is tired. Wrote to Father to night & also to A J Critchfield the P.M. at

Florence, which will be mailed to morrow, at Ft Kearney. Nothing new to day of interest

Tuesday May, 31st 1859, Camp on Buffalo Creek

Came 20 miles to day. 3 of our [men] left this morning, 2 to hunt & one to go to Fort Kearney & have none of them returned as yet, Weather cool to day & roads very fine Am still unable to walk on a/c of the boil. We are now in the Buffalo country fairly & have seen several to day—

The short grass called Buffalo grass is very much like blue grass & is almost as good for horses & cattle as timothy or clover, They thrive well on it & like it much, We found this kind of grass immediately after crossing Wood river. It is shorter than that we had before. The water to day has been warm & miserable. A great drawback

Wednesday. May[June] 1st 1859 Camp on Buffalo Creek,

Weather cool & fine to day & traveled briskly To night are on the same creek as last night. Water very poor. Made about 18 miles to day & had very good roads. My boil has not troubled me any to day & have felt quite well. Came up to night with some Florence boys & after supper they came over to our camp & we had some good music. Two Violins, 1 Bass Viol & my flute. Jesse[?], Pyper. Joe Renfall & John Huntington were the musicians, Spent a very pleasant evening indeed,

Several men from the Bluffs whom I knew in the Co also, In our co are 33 souls among them 3 married women and one of "sweet 16" tho' not as[?] sweet I have seen, herself. Several small children are in the co and some not so small.

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Thursday June 2/⁵⁹, Camp on Prarie 60 ^{miles West of Ft Kearney.}

Traveled 22½ miles to day, and camp by a slough to night with no wood near us, Plenty of "Buffalo chips" are handy and a little wood we bro't along helped us out for supper to night & will do so for breakfast in the morning. Weather nice and cool just right for traveling, Changed our cattle in the yokes to day & they now work better The soil passed over to day has been rather poor & sandy, The roads have been very fine & a little dusty, with a fine breeze from the North West. Very cool to night & bright starlight. We are now[?] 1½ miles north of the Platte River, A melancholy circumstance happened a few days since near Fort Kearney. An Indian Chief of the Sioux Nation, killed his daughter and she was buried a few miles above the Fort in the indian style by being wrapped in cloths & laid on top an indian cabin or hut.

The cause of her Fathers shooting her was her intimacy of an exceptionable character with the Soldiers at Fort Kearney, which is no new thing I presume if the truth was known The corpse decaying became very offensive to the emigrants passing by. Sad sad, sad,! but soon forgotten. The poor red man is fading rapidly before the pale faces. We have seen none since leaving Fremont which is only 40 miles from the Mo River, We are now passing through the heart of the Buffalo country. Saw several of them to day

Friday, June, 3^d / 59. Camp of Skunk Creek

Made a good drive to day Weather cool & road fair tho' sandy for a part of the way, Overtook Ja^s Henshokall[?], Ed Reider & others from Council Bluffs to day.

Our route lay near the river all day & water cool enough to make good Drinking,

Splendid grass & good water here, This morn started very early & ~~passed the Pawnee Springs~~ about 8 O'clk. ~~They appear the best water in the whole Platte Valley & plenty of it.~~ Fished a little while this evening without any "bites" except Musquitoes! Yet a good supper of Potatoes ham &c cooked with "Buffalo Chips" which answer as a substitute for wood, tolerably well,

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Saturday. June 4th/59. Camp on Platte River— ^{125 Miles West of Fort Kearney,}

Weather cool & fine for traveling to day. Coats were very acceptable during the forenoon, Met some Mormons from Salt Lake City at Pawnee Springs, which by the way afford the best water in the whole Platte Valley, but the weather was so cool we could not fully appreciate it. Oh! that we could have such water across the great desert, We hear no reports of indians from here to Salt Lake City. We have seen none since we left Fremont, N Ty, Overtook Arnots, Chapman Harsh John Harris & others this PM and have camped with them to night, We are also near S S, Courtis'[?] teams and this morning, the boys took their instruments &[?] gave a concert in C's tent. That tent has in[?] it a feminine institution named "Charley"! Dressed in boys clothes who makes some sport for others & a good deal for herself, She seems to be very fond of horsemanship,

Sunday June 5th/59 Camp as above

This is said to be the last point on our route where we get any timber for 1200[200] miles or untill we get to Fort Laramie. There is no wood here worth mentioning & we have done all our cooking last night & to day with the above named "chips". Weather warm and sunshiny most of to day but now indications of a storm are at hand, Took a bath this noon and had a boiled rabbet[sic] for dinner, Very good indeed, Baked a lot of bread boiled a kettle of beans, Read a little in "Life" & Tribune to day & took a nap— Unloadoed[sic] our wagon & put things to[?] rights & prepared for a storm, Day before yesterday we took an Englishman into our wagon, named W^m F. Cooley. We are to take him to Calafornia and he is to pay ** \$45 dollars when we arrive there or as soon after as he can make the money, He started on foorforleal[foot for Cal?] and was **termined to go through. "Chips" are very scarce here indeed and we must move tomorrow anyhow.

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Monday June 6th 1859. Camp on Prairie P. Valley

Started very early this morning and made about 18 miles travel to day. Found the roads very sandy & hilly this P,M, In the morning roads very good & weather comfortable all day,

These sandy hills we find when ever we leave the Platte Valley are horrible to travel over. The Bluffs Co passed us about 9 Oclk this morning,

We have now started on a 200 mile stretch on which ~~hav~~ no timber exists, We shall have abundant opportunity to test the cooking qualities of Buffalo dung dried, in the sun. I drove the team to day, Messers Fuller and Cooley acting as cooks & stewards, Think I shall drive in preference to cooking hereafter as we have to walk any how & after walking all day to fly around & get supper is not what [it?] is "cracked up to be", Nary time, for me[at least,

Tuesday June 7th 1859, Camp on Platte River

Traveled about 18 miles to day, Started about 6 Oclk this morning. Had the "back door trot" severely last night owing to, too many beans & bad water, Made some black tea this morning & with a soda cracker made my breakfast out of it This is the first time we have made any tea since leaving Florence, I have drank Coffee a few times but greatly prefer good water when I can get it, The latter article is very scarce indeed on this Platte Valley route. Road very heavy to day indeed most of the way, Damn & set fire to these infernal sandhills, They are hell on the cattle & likewise on the drivers,

Wednesday June 8th 1859 Camp on Platte River

Made a long drive to day 27 miles, Roads very fine, but cattle very tired to night. We have come rather too far this time. Passed Cedar Bluffs to day, which are on the south side the river, Some small stunted cedars were visible on our right hand to day. saw large quantities of rock in the hills at an[?] elevation of a few feet from the road. They would help in building a Rail Road for any other purpose they would be of little use up here. Had music to night.

[June 9
no entry

June 10
no entry

June 11
no entry]

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Sunday June 12th/59, Camp Opposite Court House ^{Rock}

Played several games of Checkers read the Tribune, worked on the ox yokes, and played a game of ball to day. This would be considered hard on sunday in the states but no sunday exists this high up the river, God must have forgotten this portion of the earth when he fixed up places for people to live. Took a bath in the Platte to day and a good wash which did me much good. We left Florence one month ago this evening & have traveled about 425 miles having laid by ten days since starting, which is making good speed with ox teams considering traveling time. Have not spent the day as profitably as I ought to have done

Monday June 13th/59 Camp on River,

Started at 5½ Oclk this morning and have had a hard time of it to day. Took our cattle off[f] the wagons & watered them about 9 Oclk Am after which we found no water until 2½ P,M, All hands suffered for water & the cattle & horses still more as the roads were very dry & dusty. After resting 2 hours drove on intending to stop at a creek laid down in the guide book, as being 3, miles distant. We found the creek about 6 miles off & perfectly dry, Went on 2 miles further & camped on the river where we arrived at 8 Oclk P,M, all hands tired hungry & dusty, having traveled 25 miles at least since morning.

Passed "Chimney Rock" to day, which is about 15 miles from Court house rock,,

Tuesday. June 14th/59 Camp on Spring Creek ^{Near River}
Traveled 20 miles to day over the smoothest road I have yet seen in the Platte Valley. The dust has been terrible today, tho' the weather comfortable We are camped to night a short distance opposite Scotts Bluffs or Capitol Hills, Some of them present a grand & majestic appearance, Chimney rock is about 50 feet high, which is about one fourth of its h[e]ight 8 yrs ago. It is formed of calcined clay & has been much worn by the action of the elements. In a few yrs there will be nothing of the chimney left except the foundation.

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Wednesday. June 15th/59. Camp on Platte River.
Fine camping ground to night. Made a more moderated drive to day than for some time, made about 16 miles, Road heavy & dusty, very, Weather moderate Rode all day to day, having suffered much from a boil on the instep of my right foot as I have also for 2 days previous to this, Hope to be better to morrow. We are now within about 40 miles of Fort Larimie which we hope to reach on Saturday by noon at the fartherest if we have no bad luck Platte river water is very cool & fit to drink: considering the time of year, I think it better than almost any water on this route, tho not so clear.

Thursday. June. 16th 1859, Camp on River 18 miles ^{East of Ft Laramie}
Found plenty of good dry wood here, also water [&] grass enough. In fact about the best camp ground we have had on the route, Took a long nooning to day about 3 hours & drove about 17 miles to day, most of the road being sandy & heavy, The "Black Hills["] became visible to us for the first time this morning, black they are sure enough loom up in the distance "grand gloomy peculiar". Had a mishap with our wagon to day tho no serious damage is done I think, The ^{right} ^{Left} hand fore wheel turned wrong side out, on a/c of the unruly conduct of our steers. With a little help put it in place & went on.

Friday June 17,th/59 Camp at Cotton Wood Grove ^{10 miles East Laramie Ft}
Made this morning a drive of 8 miles to this point & will stay here untill to morrow as there is no grass for the next 15 miles. This is a very good camp, tho no dry wood to be had, Got here this morning at 10, am, passed several Lodges of Sioux Indian[s] on the way, This region is in fact head waters for the tribe who range between Fort Laramie & Pawnee Springs. Some finely developed fellows among ^{them}, sharp & shrewd looking *** too. They are far Superior in all respect to the Pawnees. They are very quiet & friendly to the whites,

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Saturday June 18th 1859, Camp on river
Moved our camp this morning about ¾ of a mile to get wood handy & better grass. Last night stood guard half the night & feel a little sleepy to day, Ran a foot race just about sundown of 300 yards and come out ahead ten rods, We took off[f] the fore Axletree of our wagon this morning & heat & straightened the ends which had been sprung, Fixed it up good, Washed some towels and unloaded the wagon, cleaned it out & did some good cooking, Weather very warm, tho' the nights are very cool & pleasant, Have had no rain for 3 weeks to speak of. Put on some moccasins yesterday which feel very greatful indeed

Sunday, June 19th Camped in the ^{Black Hills}

Started this morning on foot in Co with 4 other men for Fort Laramie about 8 or 9 miles distant, Mailed a letter to Father & one to friend Aoge[?], at the Fort, Swam the river coming back which is a dangerous pc of business. Caught up with the train just as they were starting after dinner & felt tired having walked fast some 14 miles Find plenty of fine cold spring water & good dry cedar wood in camp to night but grass not first rate.

Monday, June 20th, Camp on Platte River.

Crossed the backbone of the Blk Hills this forenoon & found some very steep descends[sic] & rough rocky road, Some of the scenery was splendid. Saw more beautiful wild flowers & some very good grass, The soil is tolerable where it is free from rocks. Small pines & cedars are scattered over the steep hillsides & make excellent fuel for the emigrants, Made 8 miles & stop[p]ed about 11½ AM, where we have staid to day, A tremendous storm of hail & rain fell this, P.M. The largest hail stones on an average I ever saw. The cattle ran & scattered in all directions, one was lost **** cow. Fixed our wagon s to keep the tires on to day

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Tuesday, June 22nd, 1859. Camp on Muddy Creek.

Last night & yesterday afternoon we had a splendid camping ground & not less than 50 teams staid there for the night. Plenty of water wood & grass, well sheltered in a nook made it a choice camping place,

Made 19 or 20 miles to day, weather cool & roads fine & hard. Passed over some hills to day & saw some fine upland which lacks only water to make a splendid stock raising country of it. It is near the Platte river valley & should a Rail Road ever be built up it, the most of it will be settled some day. Found no wood to night, but cooked with sage roots which answer tolerably & grow here in great abundance.

Wednesday June 22^d 1859. Camp on Platte River

Met a party of Mormons from salt Lake to day going to Iowa to live. They report the grass is very scant 100 [word missing] of the way between Fort Bridger & Salt L. City. Said their cattle had to live on greasewood during that distance, Made 25 miles to day which is altogether too much of a drive & now here the grass is poor & wood scarce,

Roads & weather very fine to day

Found good grass some distance from camp,

Thursday June 23/59, Camp near River,

Drove 23 miles to day & did not reach camp untill after sundown All hands very tired & hungry not excepting the cattle as they did not get a good feed at noon, Crossed some high hills along the Platte banks and saw bear wolf & antelope tracks Also saw some wild scenery and naked rocks not a few,

Friday. June 24/59.

Bought one Dollars worth of rice to day of an emigrant. Took a bathe this P.M & felt much refreshed thereby

Weather cool & roads fair tho much discomfort is felt by the cattle & teamsters on a/c of the wind blowing the dust in their faces. Found but little good feed for stock to day,

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Saturday. June. 25th/59. Camp in Grove 3 miles ^{above Deer Creek Station}

Yesterday afternoon I started for the river to get water. Kept the road & traveled several miles before reaching the Platte,

After refreshing myself started for a camping ground some 3 miles distant. Kept along the river bank & saw some wolf tracks & wild scenery. Sandstone rocks just ready to fall from their dizzy highths line the banks for miles, Deep fissures in the rocks furnish retreats for wild beasts. About 5 O'clk found myself at the camp of N. Y. Brown of Wisconsin. Took tea with one of his men. Passed the night in Mr Browns camp & took breakfast with him, Was very kindly & hospitably entertained At 9½ our train over took me & at ten AM came into this camp, where there is plenty of wood & a fair share of grass & the river ¼ of a mile distant, Cool & shady here but a high wind & much dust, on a/c of which latter two hindrances we have laid up,

Sunday June 26th 1859, Camp on River,

Made about 15 miles to day & camped at 4 P,M, for the night. Today at noon one of our oxen got into the river and I had to do some good swimming to get him out, The Platte is a dangerous river & all who cant swim should keep out of it, Saw musquitoes to day for a mile or two thicker than ever I saw them elsewhere,

Monday, June 27th, Camp on River

Passed Platte River Bridge to day A very good bridge is there and a trading post, kept both by a rich old frenchman named Richards Many droves & teams are crossing there daily, Heavy sandy roads to day & have laid over this afternoon Made about 8 miles to day, Mailed a hasty line to Father to day at the bridge, which will be sent by Salt Lake Mail, Read in Atlantic a little to day & enjoyed it much,

Good camp here,

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Tuesday. June. 28th/59 at Small^{Clear} Spring Creek,

Made a terrible drive to day of 30 miles, Roads good & smooth but hilly, Cattle very tired to night & men are likewise. Made out a good supper to night by the aid of good neighbors. We ought to have stopped where we took nooning, for the day. Found no water since noon. Came near being tired clear out before reaching the stopping place to day than any[?] one before on this trip. Feed here very poor & on a/c of so many teams being here that water is very rily & bad tasted. About one hour after stopping to night found our best ox very lame, which is quite unaccountable as he was entirely well to all appearance when unyoked, I fear we shall loose him

Wednesday, June, 29/59, Camp at Willow^{Springs}

Came 3 miles this morning before breakfast to this place where we are laying by to day to rest the

cattle & fix our wagon tire, Fine cool weather to day & many teams passing. Our ox is quite lame this morning, & will be so I fear for some time, Found a most splendid spring here, clear & cold the first real mountain water we have had.

Thursday, June, 30th/59, Camp at Sweet Water ^{Bridge}

Made 22 miles to day. Roads sandy this PM & weather hot. This morning passed a little grave, on the headboard of which was cut with a knife, the following touching inscription viz "Here I laid my dear little Monroe" "June 30th 1857" "K. Maxwell" This was doubtless the love offering of some young Mother. Oh how many[?] aching hearts have gone along this road after burying in the cold earth what was most dear to them. We have seen several graves but[?] few of them had names to mark them, We are camp^d to night near Independence rock, on which are carved the names of many hundred names among the number was Col John C., Fremonts Kit Carsons Maxwell & many other old pioneers. Like fools we paid for cross'g the bridge here

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Friday July 1st 1859, Camp on Sweet Water River

This morning we traded our smallest steer for a cow & gave to boot our wagon & \$5 in money, We then joined teams with W^m Simpson who has one yoke of cattle & a wagon, tho the latter is rather short, At noon to day camped at the "Devils Gate", which is a majestic sight & no mistake the river (sweet water) divided the mountain of rock through which it passes & leaves a per[pen]dicular chasm of over 300 feet of rock,

Cash complain[s] of not feeling unwell to day, Lost my bund[l]e of keys in the river & my pocket book but found the latter,

Saturday July, 2^d /59, Camp on S.W ^{River}

This morning our cow ran away, on the road towards where we purchased her & gave me a severe chase of 3 or 4 mile[s]. Finally with the help of one of Mr J. W. Brillards[?] men on a mule, caught her & in due time had her yoked up & on our west ward way, Could not overtake our Co to night & so are camped here among strangers,

Sunday. July 3^d 1859,

Camp on Sweet, Water River,

This morning traded our white steer for a heavy stag & gave ten dollars to boots[sic], mostly in trade, Cash complained much this morning & now we have stop[p]ed for him having made but 8 miles to day, He has a high fever & I must go & pack him, shall not travel further to day,

The cow gave me the slip again this noon & chased her about 3 miles, & came back in triumph[h], Cash seems a little better this eve. & I hope he can travel to morrow. Good feed & grass here Weather very warm to Day. Road very fine,

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Monday July 4th/59. Camp on Sweet Water.

Traveled 8 miles this morning & overtook our train at 10. AM, They are laying by to celebrate the 4th, Cash is better to day tho' not well by a good deal. I have some fears he has the "Mountain fever" Found most all hands over at a neighboring camp helping to celebrate the

day, Several speeches were made, one very good one, and a most capital dinner was provided for all, & given with a free goodwill, Altogether the affair was very creditable indeed & the utmost harmony & good feeling prevailed, A military display was attempted which did not amt to any very great things[sic], Gave cash[sic] a dripping sheet this PM, & think I will pack him to night,

Tuesday July 5th/59 Camp on S Water River

Weather very warm to day. Drove 16 miles & that without water, Passed Ice springs this morning & obtained some of the article by digging up the sod to the depth of 10 inches. The water that composed the ice was alkali water but the ice seemed to hurt no one, Cash is much better to day, Gave him a "dripping sheet" ~~their~~ after dinner yesterday which had a good effect, Attended a dance on the green last night at the same place where we had the celebration. About a dozen feminines were present & all seemed to enjoy themselves. Dr Minier[?] was the Capt of the above Co & he is from Rock Island Ills. I danced a Polk[a] & Schottish & retired back to camp. This morning Mr Hart lost a splendid ox from drinking Alkali water, His mate looks lonesome without him.

This evening the Co held a meeting to have a more perfect organization & to elect officers anew & make laws for the care & protection of the Co & Stock & etc

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Wednesday July 6th/1859. Camp in the Rocky ^{Mountains}

Made about 13 miles to day the latter part of the way very hilly & to night we are high up in the rejion[sic] where the clouds come close to the rocks. Suffered much from dust this PM as a high wind was blowing in our faces. Just after dinner we left the sweet Water Valley & began to ascend the mountains, In the course of two or three hours, a coat felt very comfortable indeed By the time we came into camp a heavy storm threatened close by & we had just time to unyoke and get under shelter before down came the rain in torrents, Our cattle went into a ravine near by & were all snug[?] when the storm was over. "Fremonts Peak," is in full view from here and has been in sight since the 4th. A thunderstorm in the mountains is a grand & majestic sight. The lightning & thunder seems to be very near you, Some of the cattle are very sick to night, supposed to be from drinking alkali water & eating alkali grass One of the cows belonging to our Co died last night from same cause.

Thursday July 7th 1859, Camp on Johns Creek ^{South Pass}

Traveled over a very good road to day after dinner, with nice cool weather & the dust laid by the rain of last eve, Laid by this forenoon, Baked boiled &c The Co had a meeting this morning & adopted a set of rules & regulations which each member of the Co sign^d & the new officers elect took their posts A debating Club was started and I was chosen secretary, Cash is not well to day, has some fever, Gave him a dripping sheet this PM, after camping, On one side of us to night is snow 3 feet deep, & on the other or rather below us is snow 3 feet deep & green grass within a few feet of it, This snow will last till snow comes again, some of it I must stand guard to night from 4 to 12 oclck & so here's to bed

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Friday July 8th 1859, Camp at Pacific Springs ^{Oregon Territory}

Here we are down in the corner of Oregon Ty to South East at that,

We are now something over 800 miles from Omaha & at the highest point we will attain in the Rocky Mountains and also at the end of the south Pass— About 70 miles distant "Fremonts Peak" looms up in the clouds & is covered with snow, Its altitude said to be 17300 feet above the level of the sea, We have made about 23 miles to day over a very good road,

Saturday, July, 9th, Camp as above,

We have laid here to day for the benefit of the sick cattle, several of which are in bad condition. This alkali dust is awful. My mouth & lips are so sore as to be almost raw & pain me very much indeed at night especially, some call it the scurvy & it may be but if so it is not caused by the usual causes of that scourge. This morning his Excellency Corporal Simpson— became very impudent & saucy & after breakfast we proceeded to vacate his wagon & have joined teams & put our goods into the wagon of James Lockard, He has a large wagon Cov,^d[?] in which is his pit[?] & ours & also a spring wagon in which he carries his family, We have four yoke of cattle 2 of which are ours & 2 his, making a strong team & wagon will not weigh over 3000 lbs. Six years ago this morning I parted with my dear Friend Sarah & left her at Albany NY. The same evening I arrived at "Glen Haven Water Cure" where I remained 6 mo^s & recieved[sic] benefits which I feel to day, O how I wish I could see Sarah to night, or Dr Jackson & family But I must toil on some years I presume before that pleasure can be mine. When oh when will it come Have worked very hard to day indeed,

Cash is much better & has taken no bath to day

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Sunday July 10/⁹⁹, Camp on Little Sandy Creek

Had a rain storm last night, which has cooled the weather & settled the road so that this morning we could travel briskly. Had some rain to day. Roads sandy but excellent, Made 25 miles & that with feed or water, Stopped at noon an hour to rest & lunch, Up here in the mountains the weather is very cool & 2 Prs of blankets is none too much to sleep under & [at] night & before & after sunrise an overcoat feel[s] very comfortable Cash not quite as smart to day though,

Monday, July, 11th 1859. Camp on Big Little Sandy ^{Creek}

Very poor feed for the cattle last night & this morning, so we rolled out to this place as early as possible,

About 9, AM this morning we stopped & turned the stock out & drove them to little sandy creek about a mile distant where the feed was scanty tho' better than nothing, Made about 8 miles this morning & 7 this PM, We have now very good feed at the distance of a mile from camp & water 30 or 40 rods from Lame[?], Yesterday & day before we had rain also to day which is remarkable for this region, tho' we may well be thankful as it lays the dust & makes our sandy roads good, This morning one of our Co Mr Gage found some of his cattle missing & was unable to come on with us. To night the man who stayed with them, this morning came into camp & ate supper with me & said Gage had not yet found his cattle. Suffered very much from sore mouth & lips to day, Mailed a letter to Father at Pacific Springs

Tuesday July 12/59. Camp on Little Sandy Creek

Laid by this forenoon waiting for Gage, & hearing that he had found his cattle, came on & made 10 miles this P.M. No feed here. We have come 40 miles out of the way, from the sublett cut off We may go by Salt Lake City yet, Made yeast bread to day, & had good luck.

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Wednesday, July, 13/59 Camp on Green River

Found good feed this morning after travelling about 3 miles, when we stopped & turned out the stock which looked hard & quant[sic], Roads good and weather cool, much dust yesterday not much to day, Ferried across Green River this PM, & found the stream high & rapid current. The loose cattle swam across & a bull of Capt Herefords named "Tony" went to his long home in the middle of the stream. \$1.²⁵ each was the price for each team & wagon, Traveled on about 5 miles where we found very fair grass & plenty of river water, tho, the grass is all scanty in this region. The wild sage furnishes most of the fuel along here & answers very well where large roots can be found, as it is very dry, The Co talked of splitting up & part of them going, Via Salt Lake City, but finally we are all going on together by the "Sublette cut off" or northern route. Baked 4 loaves of Bread to night & now as it is late will retire altho, this beautiful moonlight night tempts me to stay up,

Thursday, July 14th Camp on Goose Creek.

Made 23 miles to day, the first 13 of it without water, but some very hilly roads, Find plenty of sage brush here large & dry which is about the only attractive feature in the place, Feed is scarce & poor & only on the edge of the creek which is small & deep, water cool being so near the mountains, We are now in sight constantly of snow & have been for the last ten days, Had a little dance in camp to night in which I participated slightly, Cooked beans tonight

Friday July 15th Camp in the ^{Green River} mountains 18 miles East of Hams Fork, near a fine spring,

We made 12 miles to day by noon & are now spending the rest of the day here as there is grass enough & we must drive 18 miles to Hams Fork tomorrow without feeding. Weather cool & nice to day, roads mostly good. Lightened the wagon of 200 lbs or more [of] useless plunder this morning before starting, which is quite an advantage

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Friday July 15/59 Camp as below

Continued

Had a very disagreeable quarrel to day between Lockard & his wife, Hope they will get along smoother now as they have vented steam. Took off the 3^d pr of cattle to day & put them on the lead so that the team work[s] better. We also took off the projections from the wagon & lightened it very much by adjusting the load properly. Cattle look well to night & have had good feed. Hope to reach "Hams Fork" of Bear River to morrow evening,

Saturday, July, 16,th/59, Camp of "Hams Fork"

Made 16 miles to day, a part of the road very hilly indeed, Plenty of grass & water most of the way to day, altho' the traders told us we would find none, This PM, one of our wagons J Lockard broke his wagon or bent the axletree, by another team running into him, After delay of an hour or so, straightened it & proceeded on our way, Weather cool & fine this evening

quite chilly, a thick coat feels good & comfortable, here is a valley of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in width, affording fine grass & good cold water, some brush & little wood, Found several Lodges of Snake or Shoshonee indians, camped here but very friendly apparently. They are very dirty & have but little except, a gun and a pony occasionally, They are great beggars Some of our Co fear danger from them but I do not. Sold some of our traps yesterday for cash & some to day, Several french traders are stationed here, sharp as ever,

Sunday July 17th/59 Camp as above

This morning concluded to lay by to day & rest the stock. Baked light bread to day & had fine success, Work harder in camp than on the road. A band from "Pierces" camp, near by came over this eve about sunset & played several fine airs for us, which culiscned[?] the score handsomely. Would have had a dance but for being sunday. The snake Indians left an old man to day to take care of himself

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Monday. July. 18th. 1859. Camp 3 miles East of Bear ^{River.}

Struck out early this morning at 6 AM & pulled up a long & very steep hill in fact a mountain. Aside from the hills up & down the roads were fine to day. Made 15 miles in the forenoon & 5 or 6 this P.M. Found vegetations[sic] much richer to day & plenty of mountain springs. Grass is sufficient on the hills[sic] tops for feed almost anywhere, Weather warm to day tho' nothing like as severe as in the states at this time of year. In the night & before sunrise in the morning, in "Hams Forks" valley it was cold enough to wear two overcoats, Grass luxuriant & abundant to night & good water nearby, Came down an awful hill this afternoon,

Tuesday July 19th/59 Camp on Bear River

Made 20 miles to day through a beautiful level & fertile valley with luxuriant grass & good soil on either side, Plenty of pure cold mountain streams flow across the road frequently & springs as cold as ice abound. Passed two trading Posts to day & a large number of snake Indians. The Traders in all this region have squaw wives and are the worst kind of men, the vilest of all creation frequently, They make lots of money & are not particular, how they get it, Passed through a good wheat country to day, One of Capt Herefords little girls quite sick to night,

Wednesday July 20/59 Camp in Bear Valley,

Made 16 miles to day over most awful rough mountainous road. Came down some pitches that stood at an angle of 45.^o The musquitoes nearly devour^d us last night, Have not been so annoyed before. An Indian one of the snakes played a Prank on Uncle Dan to day and stole a blanket from his wagon, Had Uncles gun been loaded he would not have got off so easily. Resigned the cookship to day & turned driver

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Thursday. July 21st 1859. Camp in Bear River ^{Valley.}

Made 18 miles today over a beautiful level road & through a well watered & fertile country, Mountain streams crossed the road frequently. Saw a few Snake Indians to day, tho no signs of danger that we can discover. We are some 3 miles from Bear River to night & about 12 miles East of Soda Springs, which we hope (the latter) to reach early tomorrow afternoon, Hope to

reach Carsons Valley in four weeks after this if we are prosperous[?],

The latter part of the night I come on guard so must go to be early,

Friday July 22nd /59. Camp at Soda Springs

Stood guard from 12 to 4 oclck last night All quiet & nothing to excite alarm.

Was on guard also from 5 Oclck to 8 this eve. Here we have a fine camp ground & plenty of grass & water. Wood at a distance to be had plentifully, Beautiful boiling springs are here strongly impregnated with soda Several other trains of emigrants are camped here, Pierces Co & several others To night a dance was had on the green near our camp, music by Pierces Co^s band & very good music they make indeed. Did not take a hand in the dancing as I was tired enough to retire without,

Saturday July 23^d Camp as last above

Laid by to day to rest the stock,

A french trader killed a beef to day & sold it among the emigrants, at 10¢ pr lb, We bot 15 lbs for our benefit and gastric necessities, We are now said to be 300 miles from the Hunboltd[sic] river. The weather warm this morning but quite cool this evening. Some Indians here & some evil reports but I look upon them all as foolish & untrue, If we are careful & watchful we will have no trouble if not we may have, We have now 350 lbs of provisions clothing & everything inclusive

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In Bear River Mountains

Sunday. July 24th/59. Camp on a nameless creek

Made a hard drive to day over steep & rough roads Climbed some high mountains & descended the same so that to night we are in a snug little valley & on a good camping ground, Grass good & water plenty, This morning visited a large soda spring which boils up strongly and exhales a strong gas, so that one cannot breathe near the surface of the water— We also passed two large boiling springs called the Steam Boat Springs one on each side of the road & were quite a curiosity. Traveled 23 miles to day.

Monday July. 25th Camp on Creek

Made 20 miles to day, One tremendous long hill to climb this afternoon with a much steeper descent. Cattle very tired tonight, Have a good camp a little to the left of the main road. Yesterday & to day the roads have borne evidence that a recent rain has fallen in this region & part of the way roads quite slippery, Stood guard to day from 12 M[eridian = noon]. to 8 oclck this evening, Crossed Rush creek just after dinner to day. Quite tired tonight but health & appetite Splendid.

Tuesday July 26th/59 Camp on Gravel Creek

Made 15 miles to day & came into camp very early Excellent roads to day & this P,M, a gradual descent all the way. Found a nice lot of currents, many of them ripe & a few ripe gooseberries, Had a mess of sauce made of them for supper, They are of the wild species

of course & not so good as the tame, Have found good grass nearly all along the road since leaving "Hams Fork" & also water at convenient distances apart. We are now said to be about 650 miles from Placerville Calafornia & hope to reach said place in 6 weeks from this time Weather fine & cool to day & cattle in good spirits, Capt Herefords little girl is almost well & now we have no sickness in camp, Pierces Co is camp^d near us & has been for 3 nights past

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In Bear river Mountains. Oregon Ty.

Wednesday. July 27th/59. Camp on Spring Creek

Made a severe drive to day & suffered much for want of water, Came about 20 miles without water except what we carried which was but little. When about 2 miles from camp we met one of Pierces Co who told [us] the Indians had killed nearly all of a horse train which left the above camp this morning & plundered their wagons & stole all their horses & mules except what were killed. On coming into camp we found a number of wagons there & much excitement prevailing, Seven men were there & one woman who escaped from the massacre & 3 children also, One of the men was slightly wounded but walked 7 miles after being hurt. About 2 hours after we arrived in camp a woman was seen at the distance of half a mile calling for help. A number of men thot Indians were coming & hollowed to bring in the cattle causing much useless excitement, but it was soon quelled & a no. of men went to give aid to the poor woman, who proved to be the wife of one of the men who was killed in the melee this morning. She left a little babe near the fatal scene having given it to a wounded man to carry away but who was so week[sic] he was obliged to leave it. He placed it carefully in some bushes by the road side & it is hoped it may be found alive tomorrow— Last evening awhile before sundown 8 Indians armed & mounted came up to two men who were guarding cattle about 1½ mile from the above camp where we are tonight & appeared to be very friendly. The two men were unarmed & after the Indians had shaken hands with them the[y] rode off & when at a distance of a few rods the[y] fired on the defenceless men mortally wounding Mr E C. Hall of Scott Co Iowa, & badly wounding a man named J W. Harris of Mo this morning who was on guard ½ mile from camp. A reserve party of Indians well mounted were seen some 15 or 20 in No on a hill some distance off waiting the result of the attack Some 50 wagons are now here together and about 200 able men can be mustered and we will hereafter by prepared to give the Indians hell if need be,

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Oregon Ty. Bear River Mountains

Thursday July 28th./59. Camp on Muddy Creek.

This morning our train rolled out early & numbers 56 wagons and about 200 men besides women & children. After proceeding a short distance we halted and formed a part of the men into 3 Co^s, of 10 each. One went onto the hillsides on the right & one on the left one going up the kanyon where the massacre occurred yesterday about 7 miles distant from our last nights camp. Proceeding carefully along the flanking Co^s all armed to the teeth advanced in front of the train which was headed by the other Co., I was on the left flanking Co. and most severe & laborious work we found it to climb the steep hills with a heavy rifle on our shoulders. After going into the [blank space] Kanyon about 5 miles we came upon a most horrid & shocking spectacle. Three wagons were dismantled 4 men lay murdered in all their gastibly[sic] gore in the road. The contents of the wagons were strewed on the ground and a man & his wife with 2 children were found under one of the wagons, the two former terribly wounded. One little boy 4

or 5 yrs old went in the night & brot water from a spring a mile off for his father & mother. A little girl 2 yrs old was also there unhurt it being the other child mentioned above. The babe was found where it was left & tho much sunburnt will recover. With as little delay as possible the dead & wounded were placed in wagons & what was of value was taken from the wagons of the dead men & the wagons brot on with the train as the place was considered dangerous to remain in. The defile was very narrow & the hillsides very steep so that when the Indians attacked the party being protected by rocks & bushes, they could fire with impunity upon the whites untill the route[sic] was complete. Three[?] horses & mules were killed 35 stolen This morning a large mule was found which had escaped from the Indians, It is the full conviction of all our Co that a part of the murderers were Mormons. The wounded man heard conversations in good english & one of them struck him a crushing blow on the head

Sauthy/Rage[?]

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Thursday 28th July, Continued

with a keg & said this "damn^d son of a bitch ain't dead yet but Ill fix him" The woman was thrown down violently on the ground & shot through the thigh while on the ground & villainously treated otherwise. The hair was pulled off her privates & she was beaten also. The little girl was tossed high in the air by an Indian & its leg broken, The utmost precipitation was visible in the whole affair, One trunk was found unopened which contained \$1700, in gold. \$600. in gold was taken from another trunk, which was all the money in the Co, Twelve men, 3 women & 4 children with 4 wagons & 38 horses & mules composed the Co, Seven of the men escaped with a slight wound in the arm of one of them excepted, unhurt, also two of the women and 3 of the children, We made 20 miles to day & as soon as we could find a fit camping place, made the wounded as comfortable as possible & prepared to bury the dead, We have a fine surgeon now in the train named A W. Tjader a Russian, who served as surgeon in the Crimean[^] Russian[^] wars who is very efficient in doing all he can for the wounded of whom there are now 4 in the Co, The man & his wife Mr & Mrs Wright have suffered very much from travelling & are in great pain to night Mr Wright cannot possibly live, Mrs Wright may recover, Very much censure is bestowed on Capt Shepherd as every member of the Co. he had with him, urged him to wait at Spring Creek another day untill more teams should come up but he resisted all remonstrances and went in to death & ruin. He was the first man killed. His features & organization indicated a man who would be reckless of danger and very head strong. At dusk this evening a wide grave was dug by the roadside & the four bodies consigned to it in silence & sadness.

The lamentations of Mrs Shepherd over her dead husband & of Mrs [blank] over her Brother[?] were truly heartrending & touching, A head board was placed at the grave with the facts of the affair & the names of the deceased on it.

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Friday July 29th 1859 Camp on East Fork of[^] Raft River, Oregon,[^]

Made 17 miles to day which we did without stopping, Weather quite warm & roads dry & dusty, The wounded people suffered very much from travel. They are no better & Mr Wright seems to be weaker, Arrived here today about 3 Oclk PM & find splendid grass for the cattle & good water, Our train now numbers 62 wagons as a few more joined us to day, & about 250 or 260 souls, 200 of whom are men, Road today mostly level, Found the distance from the

crossing of Muddy creek this morning to the Fork of Raft River on which we now are to be 12 miles, Never was so glad to see a camp in my life before, Was sore tired hungry & sleepy.

Saturday, July 30th 1859, Camp as above

Laid by to day & we need rest for selves & stock. Had some excitement in camp today. I ran a foot race for 100 yards with George Coffin & was beaten [by] about 5 feet, Was in bad condition to run & could do much better if in trim. I then ran 250 yds with same man & the race was decided even, tho' his side of the track was 6 feet the shortest, Some money was lost on the first race, A race of 100 yds was then run by Corson, one of Pierces men & a fellow called "Black Hawk" It was a tight race & a quick one. Blk Hawk won by 1½ feet but owing to a misunderstanding in giving the decision it was called a tie & the stakes some \$25 withdrawn. Sick & wounded no better to day,

Mr Wright will die. The rest will recover I think, Rode over to day to the mouth of the next kanyon some 7 or 8 miles distant & met 3 trains who took the Pacific Wagon road on Sweet Water 2 of them for Calafornia & one for Oregon,

Browns[?] Co was one of them. They had had no trouble were taken by surprise at what I related, They report Co^l Andrns[Andrews?] nearby on his way to make a ^{treaty with the Bannock Indians}

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Sunday July 31st 1859, Camp on West Fork of ^{Raft River, Oregon,}

Made ten miles today & lay by for the good of the wounded who suffer much by travel, A level road to day, weather warm & some dust, Plenty of grass water & enough wood here, This PM went a short distance from camp & picked a quart of fine large blk gooseberries which with dried apples will make us some splendid sauce, Since getting into Bear River valley have had currents (wild ones) & gooseberries a number of times which in the absence of other fruit & vegetables are very acceptable & healthy,

Monday, August. 1st, 1859. Camp on Creek Near the Junction of Salt Lake & Sublette Cutoff

^{Roads}
Made 18 miles to day over a good level & dusty road, Mr Wright is worse to day & may not live but a short time, The other wounded people remain about the same, A few Indians have been ^{seen} this eve at a distance, About 100 wagons are camped, here to night & at least 1000 head of cattle, Pierces Co and ours are very close to each other tho separate to night. Picked some nice currents this P,M, as we camped early

The Salt Lake road comes in here & we are now said to be 125 miles from Salt Lake City and 600 from Placerville Cal, 100 from the Humboldt[sic] river & 1200 from Council Bluffs,

Tuesday August 2^d 1859. Camp on Goose ^{Creek}

This morning passed through the city of Rocks which is quite a curiosity, Six miles from our last nights camp is the Junction of the Salt Lake road with that we have been travelling, Mr Shepherd has rec'd news of his stolen property & it seems to have been done by the Utah Indians,

A meeting of 300 emigrants was held here yesterday, sending a memorial to the Gov of Utah

Ty asking for Troops to protect this road, Made a long hard drive to day and are very late in coming to camp to night. Made 25 miles at least, Good feed ***

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Wednesday. August 3^d 1859, Camp near Goose ^{Creek}

Made 18 miles today, over a fine smooth road level most of the way & following Goose Creek valley with little deviation, Suffered much from dust yesterday & somewhat today, was very tired on reaching camp last evening, but very comfortable tonight as we made camp by 4½ oclk Saw 3 or 4 digger Indians today who looked miserably ragged & dirty, but not dangerous,

Yesterday our pretty little spotted steer, named Mrs Brady caved in & we had to leave him on the road as he could travel no further, Alkali, hard work, too much spunk[?] & the scours seemed to be the principal causes of his decline, together with a touch of the "hollow horn"

Made a short nooning to day, just giving time to eat dinner,

Indians all quiet as far as heard from Camp^d tonight in Co with Pierce's Train

Thursday August 4th 1859, Camp in Valley of a ^{Thousand Springs}

Made a terrible drive & the cattle suffered much, Did not stop a moment for dinner but ate a lunch in our wagons. Traveled 35 miles & did not get into camp untill near 9 O'clk this evening,

The dust to day was awful & the cattle got nothing to drink from morning till stopping at night.

The wounded people have suffered much to day & Mr Wright is deranged tonight, He cannot live many days.

Friday August 5th/₅₉ Camp on Alkali Creek,

Made a 4 mile drive this morning & finding good grass & water here thot best to lie by untill tomorrow, Mr J D, Wright died this morning at 6 O,clk & was buried with appropriate ceremonies by the road side, He is the 5th victim of the Indian massacre in the Kanyon, Roads not so dusty & weather cooler than yesterday, as a strong south west wind is blowing, Mr Wright was from Howard Co. Mo & leaves a wife & 2 children to mourn him.

Pierces Brass Band played a requiem over the grave.

Sad Sad Sad

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Saturday. August. 6th/59. Camp on Rock Creek ^{Head Waters of the Humboldt[sic] River Utah Ty.}

Made 22 miles to day over a terribly dusty road then mostly even & smooth,

Weather cool & strong breeze all day Saw some Indians on coming into camp this eve, who claim to be Shoshonees, but some of the men dispute it, This morning started from camp at 5½ Oclk and made no stop for dinner, About 8, O'clk AM, we met a government train & about 200, soldiers from Camp Floyd, near Salt Lake City, Utah Ty They have been on an expedition down on the Humboldt River & report having had no trouble with the Indians, but found 2 men on the Humboldt dead, with their throats cut. They had heard from emigrants ahead of us on the road of the Indian Massacre in the Kanyon between Spring & Muddy Creek, in Oregon, & took one of the men from our Co with them *** who was in the melee, & also noted down all the particulars of the affair, stock stolen &c, They evinced a most cordial hate for the Mormons, They were Commanded by Major Lyons[?] assist^d by a Col ^{Crosman[?]} & a Lieutenant. They fully believe the mormons helped to commit the murders & robbery, & will

bring them to justice if they can, Fine feed & water here to night but no wood of any a/c,

Sunday, August 7th/₅₉ Camp on Humboldt

Made ten miles to day & finding good grass here tho,t best to lie by the rest of the day, Travelling much more comfortable than yesterday. Passed through Rock Creek Canyon this morning which is the most sublime & rough of any we have yet seen, An attack from foes there would have been disastrous doubtless, 100 men could prevent ten thousand from passing it, Passed some boiling springs this morning which were at 90^o Farenheit, Heard some fine violin playing to day Sold 4 ^{lbs} dry Apples to day at 50 cts pr lb

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Monday August 8th/₅₉ Camp on Humboldt ^{River}

Made 55 ^{fifteen} miles to day over a dusty road tho did not suffer much from it, I walked 25 miles to over take Ponds train in one of whose wagons I left my boots, Got back to camp just after sundown a little tired, A stampede occurred to day to Pierces train which was just ahead of ours, by a dog scaring one of the mules & consequently the whole no of teams flew the track, throwing some men off the wagons running over one man hurting him some & losing another mans revolver, So far we find the Humboldt river water very passable & an abundance of splendid grass nearly all the way, this[?] then is some alkali on the ground in all this region, which will increase as we go on,

Tuesday Aug[u]st 9th Camp on Humboldt River

Made 25 miles to day, Road in the AM not much dusty, this PM, very much so, tho' mostly level except during the last 7 miles, where the road leaves the river, 2 or 3 times & a few hills occur & tho' not very high, are long ones,

Weather very warm this afternoon.

We separated to day from Pierces Co and are now several miles ahead of them. Crossed the North fork of the Humboldt this P,M, which is a clear, cool stream & not large, Since the junction of it with the main stream the water is of a green colour, deeper & wider than before & not very cool, Saw a few Digger Indians to day, very ragged, They all call themselves Shoshonees,

Wednesday, Aug 10th, Camp on Humboldt.

Made 20 miles to day over a very good road &c level one[?]. Dust very bad & weather quite warm. Splendid grass since striking this river & but little Alkali to do harm. Took a bath after a long walk this P,M, which did me much more hurt than good as I was very tired, Humboldt very deep in some places & water a deep green colour,

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Thursday, Aug[u]st 11th/59 Camp on Humboldt

Made a very moderate drive to day of about 16 miles, The cattle all seem to be tired to night, in consequence of their scouring since coming onto the Humboldt river, which weakens them & we have been making to[o] big drives since then. Saw a number of Digger Indians to day & some of them visited our camp. Some rocky road to day coming through a long Canyon, where

the Humboldt had to be crossed 3 or 4 times, Have crossed it 6 times to day. A creek puts into the main river just above our camp

Had some rough talk with J. Lockard Esq. this morning & we will probably separate soon[soon?] & pack through or get a pr of wheels & make a cart, which will hasten us on our journey

Friday. Augst. 12/59 Camp at Gravelly Ford

Made 22 miles to day over a hilly road, Came through a long Kanyon and the first 12 miles without water, We then found 2 or 3 splendid cold clear springs by the road side which were very greatful indeed, Came into camp about 4½ o'clk. Road very dusty to day & weather warm, Mornings & nights very cool in all this region, Last night water froze under the wagon, and the same has been the case several times since leaving Soda Springs. This evening a meeting was held by the Co and a vote was taken to see whether Mr Fairbanks should remain in office, or be removed and another Captain chosen

Saturday Augst 13/59 Camp on ^{Humboldt River} ^

Made 20 miles to day. Roads very dusty & mostly level, Passed a mail station this a,m & mailed a letter to Father. This morning bought a cart & propose to travel on the independant line the rest of the route, which we can do easier & with more comfort. Good grass & water; thus far, Crossed 2 hills today near the river, Paid \$7½ for our cart in cash.

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Sunday, August, 14, 1859, Camp on H River

This morning we fixed up our cart and put our old stag "88" in the shafts and rolled out about an hour after the rest of the train departed. Made this camp about 3 oclk P.M, having driven 18 miles without food or water, After resting an hour or two & witnessing a fight between Jim Lockard & Billy Henthorn[?] which came out about even, & setting up our little matters with said Lockard we drove, on and turn^d out in an hour after to feed the cattle & stop for the night, but the musquitoes proving very troublesome we moved on untill about 8½ Oclk when we came upon a camp of four wagons where we now are,

Monday August, 15th 1859 Camp near Stage ^{Station} ^

Made 20 miles to day without feed or water, Cattle very tired & all of us very tired & hungry, Feed scarce here & no water near us, except the sloughs, A very good spring at the station slightly impregnated with Iron, Price of flour here \$30, for 100^{lbs} & beef 20 cts, pr lb, Caught up with Pierces train this PM shas[share?] a side with Joe, which helped me a good deal, W^m Henthorn is in our co and we are hauling about 35 lbs for him,

Tuesday, Augst 16 Camp on H, River

Made about 18 miles to day 2 of which we came before breakfast, after which we did not stop except a moment to eat a bite of dinner untill 4 oclk when we reached this camp, Soon after us came Herefords Co & Pierces very soon after & both camped near us. Feed rather scant.

Wednesday, Augst, 17th Camp near H. River.

Made 17 miles to day road sandy but not bad, Weather very warm, no feed on the way but

plenty of water. Got to camp about 3 PM Feed good here & sird[?] close by. Have for the last 3 days passed over the desert of America & no white man ought to live here

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Thursday Augst. 18th 1859. Camp in Humbolt Valley,

This morning our stag old "88" being unwell we made slow progress for 5 miles & then laid by till 5 this evening, when after a dusty supper & the cattle being well rested & full of grass we drove untill about 9 oclk making a drive of ten miles or 15 to day. Lightened our load as much as possible getting rid of about 40 lbs of old clothes carpet bags &c &c, Mended my coat & did some good cooking this P,M,

Friday, August, 19th Camp on H River.

Made 10 miles this forenoon and laid by for noon at a trading post near a stage station where we remained untill 4½ Oclk,. Sold the stag old "88" for \$25 to a man named Leighton at the stage station, He would not have traveled 100 miles farther I think., & consider him well sold, Came on 3 miles further & found good grass here & handy by plenty of water, Pierces men some of them stayed some time at "Pooles ranche" & got a little inebriated. After playing cards & having sport the station men hitched up & brot them 3 miles on their way to camp (their train having passed on) when the wagon broke down & they had to foot it 5 miles further, the road being too narrow for some of them, The plan of the traders was to get them to gamble and thin them but they did not consid,[?]

Saturday, August, 20th 1859 Camp on H ^{River}

Made a long hard drive to day of 30 miles, 15 of which without water a cross a hot sandy desert, Went off the road a mile to a station 7 miles from here & got some most splendid spring water the best I have seen on the route, After letting the cattle browse a while and eating out[our] suppers, sold 2 books to a stage driver & g then tired enough to stop near 7 miles more, making 30 in all, The cattle stood it well tho hungry & tired,

[August 21 through 25
no entries]

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Friday, Augst, 26th 1859 Camp on Carson River, ^{City of Ragtown, Utah}

Yesterday at 2 Oclk PM we rolled out of camp on to the desert and made this point by 7 am this 26th day of Augst. Of course we travelled all night making in that time 40 miles. Our team stood it well and had nothing to eat or drink during the entire distance, Some of the cattle in Pierces Co and others gave out. The road was very good untill the last 10 miles which is very heavy & sandy. We found the wells dry at the station 23 miles from the Lake where we expected to feed & water, so made but a few moments stop there. I was almost tired out when we reach[ed] the 23 mile station & stretched myself on the road at full length feeling that I would rather die than go on without any rest. After resting a half an hour and trying in vain to hire a passage to the next station, trudged on a mile or so then laid down and slept an hour I should think, when feeling rested plod[d]ed on again, & then rested frequently. Sunrise and and[sic] an hour after found me 12 miles from the first station, jaded & weary. Saw some men eating a breakfast of new potatoes & bread with golden Syrup, & could not resist the temptation, so I

ordered a breakfast, for which I paid one dollar but ate enough for 3 breakfasts for a clerk. Reached this camp about 9 ocl^k Am 2 hours [word missing] the teams arrived. This is a hell of a place and contains 5 houses & very little to eat. Meals can be bot at \$1⁰⁰ pr meal; but provisions can be had at no price for they are not here. Slept a good deal today & feel very tired indeed Eyes sore[?] & hinged up generally. Made a checkarboard[sic] to day. Never was a mortal more glad to see Carson river than was I this morning. This river is a Gods best blessing on poor mortals who have emigrated hither. That desert is a terrible place & much suffering has been witnessed thereon. I never came as being tired out as while crossing it, Carson river is a small stream but clear, cool & sweet. Oh that the Humbolt river was like it. I have not yet recovered any equilibrium but hope to by tomorrow. Pierces Co are all laying by to day as are all who cross[c]d this desert last night,

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Saturday. August 27th 1859, Camp on Carson ^{River} ^
Made (12) Twelve miles to day over a very good road, Started out of camp this morning at 10 O'clk and drove slow, Our cattle look well all things considered, and feel quite as well as could possible[sic] by expected I still feel the effects of the trip across the desert, somewhat & I am tired enough to night. We are now on a beautiful camp ground above the former place called Ragtown stood, but is now, entirely consumed & every vestige of a settlement removed. Pierces Co are near us, We are now about 70 miles from Genoa & almost out of provisions of all kinds, but intend to live once more when we get where vegetables are to be had Every thing is very dear here, Flour 25cts pr lb Bacon 65 cts do, Coffee 50 &. Sugar 50 to 40 c/ Potatoes 20 cts pr lb & Onions 25c/ do.

Sunday August 28th Camp at Stage Station

Made 10 miles to day over a fair road then some slight hills by the way, Weather comfortable. Made this point at 12 Oclk M as we had a late start this morning,

Left the river all the way but come to it here where is a fine camp ground tho' the grass is poor & scant, Plenty of browse will have to take the place, Yesterday stopped at noon and found an abundance of the most splendid grass, which the cattle took hold of, as tho' they had had nothing for a week, To morrow we cross a 28 miles desert, Feel all right to day as good as new

Monday. Aust 29th Camp at Millard Stage Station

Made 23 miles to day over a complete desert and away from the river. Road sandy & half of it up hill. Started late this morning as we had trouble to find the cattle, for which purpose I had a tramp of 5 miles before breakfast & took the wrong road from camp as I staid behind to eat my breakfast, so that I had 5 miles more of extra travel to add to the days a/c. Bot 10^{lbs} of flour yesterday at 25 c/ pr ^{lb} & to day at 20 c/ do, Feel tired to night & hungry as a bear, for we took a very short nooning & only a bite to eat.

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Tuesday Augst 30th 1859, Camp on Carson River

Drove 2 miles this morning and having had poor feed for the cattle stopped here where it is very good Found some men camped here who have been up to Gold Kanyon & so Fuller &

Cooley started up to see the diggings; this afternoon. We heard that gold claims[?] are paying well there. Read a newspaper to day of date Aug 22 the "Sacramento Democratic Standard" and its politics are sank[?] Lecompton & Buchanan & of course I despise them, tho it seemed good to get hold of a newspaper once more.

Wednesday Augst, 31st Camp in China Town

Baked a lot of Bread this morning, bo,t some beets corn & potatoes and had a royal good breakfast. Hunted for the cattle an hour and a half and started for this place about 11, Am, arrived here at 2 P,M, got some dinner & went up town where I found Cash & Cooley, who had returned from their gold hunting expedition with the ardor they evinced[?] on starting very much cooled & quite jaded. Came back to camp & found our ox gone searched for him high & low untill sundown without success so must remain here for the present.

Thursday, Sept, 1st Camp in China Town,

Arose at day light & hunted for "Bob" untill about 8½ Oclk & found him not, Came back & got breakfast, went out again with Cash & hunted untill 3 Oclk with no better success, After supper went again untill after dark but came home without him, The prospect[s] begin to look dark for finding him at all

Friday. Sept 2nd Camp in ~~last above~~ Carson City

Arose early & after an early breakfast struck out after the cattle. Want[sic] down the river and hunted thoroughly on both sides for "Bob" and found him about noon, tied up where we camped day before yesterday about 6 miles from here, Started about 3 1 M from China Town and made 14 miles to this place which is very new. having just opened up like Jonahs gourd, in a day & night. Excitement prevails about the snince[?]

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Saturday, Sept 3^d 1859, Camp in Genoa, Utah,

Made 15 miles to day & worked hard to do it, 7 miles from Carson City struck into Carson Valley, after leaving Eagle Valley. This is a beautiful valley and has quite a number of farms scattered over it, Genoa is a pretty little place at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and has all been built within a few weeks, The gold digging excitement has caused it to spring up rapidly as the same cause has made Carson City. Both places will do well if the mines in this region prove as rich as they are expected to do, if otherwise, these fast towns will go down with a rush, tho' this valley will support one good town, Night before last there was a ball at Carson City Tickets ten dollars a pc, Pierces Band played and it was quite a grand affair so the folks said who attended it. A fast country is this. 40 wms[women?] were present, a fine supper was served and whiskey had to suffer[?] also,

Sunday Sept 4th Camp in Carson Valley.

Made 10 miles to day after hunting for the cattle untill 10 O'clk this morning & tramping at least 10 miles in the search and did not find them at that, When near a mile from camp saw Cash driving them in. Started about 10½ Oclk, and have made slow time to day. Have passed some good houses & barns to day the latter much the best of the two; and also some extensive fences. I do not think this valley well adapted to any thing but grazing & stock raising for which it is capital Those who own good claims here can get rich in a few years, The nights are very

cool all through the warm season here as the valley is entirely surrounded by mountains. Winters here are warm the snow falls sometimes to the depth of a foot, Some fine wheat is raised here and good potatoes & other vegetables but most of the soil would not bring good crops, the water is cold & splendid, Mountain streams flow down in great abundance, The Sierras are covered with tall pines which furnish splendid lumber

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Monday Sept 5th 1859, Camp in Hope Valley.

Made 15 miles to day, 6 of it through a Kanyon which was the worst we have yet experienced, In many places it seemed almost impossible for a team to go yet Californians & others draw[?] heavy loads through them[?] all. Have been ascending all day and are now nearly ^{2[?]} hundred feet higher than we were this morning. The atmosphere is much cooler up here than in Carson Valley, The Sierra mountains loom in tall & solemn grandeur all around us[?] and[?] the stately pines that ware[?] their lofty heads on all sides of us, as straight as gun-barrels, seem to be proud of the green livery they wear & of the majestic heights they have attained, Many of them are of huge size, 6 or 7 feet in diameter at the base; and make large quantities of good lumber. The feed here is very scant it having been eaten off by numberless teams, but good grass can be had by going two miles after it, Would not live in this region for any small sum of money, for very little that is attractive can be discovered for a scaidance[?];

Passed Carey Mills to day, Stage station, and a fine frame house & barn are there.

Tuesday Sept 6th 1859, Camp 3 miles from the Summit ^{of the Sierra Nevada}

Made 15 miles to day, Ascended this PM 2 miles up a mountain on a dug road which winds along the side of the dizzy heights at a gradual elevation which makes a very good road, tho necessarily, rocky and rough to some extent a considerable, part of the way. Find feed scant to night, tho enough to answer the purpose, Commisary Fuller upset the cart to day doing no damage & quarter master Henthorn[?] did the same, We are now 50 miles from Placerville which place is our destination and if we have good fortune will make it in three days more. The weather has seemed like fall all day & a coat has felt good,

To night it is quite chillely & would not be at all surprised to see snow on the ground in the morning, Had a view of Carson Lake to day & we will pass it tomorrow,—

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Wednesday, Sept 7th 1859 Camp on the Sierra Nevada ^{Mountains, Cal}

Last night slept near the top of the Sierra Nevada mountains which ^{is} one of the many ranges or branches of the Cordilleras, The scenery is more sublime in this region and millions of splendid trees add much to the beauty of the whole, Balsam, Fir, Hemlock and yellow pine abound also Cedar & white pine to some extent— Millions of feet of valuable timber goes to waste annually, which would be most invaluable in many parts of the world, Made 12 miles to day and are camped by the road side. Scanty grass we find on this side of the Mountain, & put up with it rather than pay 6 cts a pound for hay as we hope to morrow to be where the said[?] article[?] is cheaper[?] than that? Day after tomorrow we hope to be in Placerville the end of our journey at present. Found a fine road this P.M, along the sides of the mountain, which has been cut here by the people of Calafornia, This is the stage route and for the last 6 miles

excellent. Had lots of fun to day with our Cart, It out travels every thing on the road in several respects, It has upset twice & come better than it was before each time & this morning it kept us, ((ie.) Gov Cooley, Q.M, Billy & myself, the Commissary remaining behind to unship some of his personal=stores, from his individual depot) in a roar[?] for 2 hours to see it climb rocks higher than itself, & trees of all sizes, never missing a rock where[?] one occurred and keeping rigtet[ri]ght side up with care perpetually, By way of an episode or variety, the cattle straddled a big tree this morning however, and it required some skill to disengage them from the loving embrace they had taken of a huge Pine,

The Gov & Commissary started QM Billy & I after water down the mountain side to a creek[?] at the bottom & a damn miserable wild goose chase it was, At least. a half mile- to water & steeper than the road to Hearon[?] I hope the water will choke both of the lazy cubs who sent on[us] after it. A lady and gentleman passed us this evening on their way to Leake Valley. They hailed us and seemed to be very pleasant people, Road very fine to day

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Thursday. Sept 8th 1859, Camp at Dicks Station

Made 23 miles to day & have had a very good road indeed, altho' this Calafornia dust is deep & heavy, The cattle had a good feed last night & this morning looked & felt well, Met with some men to night from Placerville and they give a very good a/c of things there, tho they say that emigrants must look out or they will get palad[?], Hope to be there to morrow night.

Friday Sept. 9th Placerville, Cal,

Billy drove the cart to day and the rest of us got separated from it & he waited so long for us at noon that he could not make this place by dark and so he camped 7 miles from here, Cash & Cooley slept in [a] barn about 5 miles out of town. & I alone of our party made this larding[?], which was done by dint of hard walking as I at least travelled 30 miles to day & am tired a plenty to night, Went 6 miles out of the way via the Atlantic saw mill, which is a splendid steam mill & will cut 13000 feet of pine lumber in 12 hours, Came through Newtown this eve and a most Godforsaken town it looks like and no mistake. Saw a good many mining claims tho' but few of them being worked,

Saturday. Sept 10th Placerville Cal

Went out 5 miles this morning to look after, the cart & team, Heard of them and found they had gone via Smiths Flats about 2 hours ahead of me, Came round thay[sic] way & found all hands[?] together cart & all near the emigrant boarding house about 1 'oclk[sic] P,M, Had a feast of peaches this morning which were very fine indeed, This is a splendid fruit country, and produces the finest grapes I ever saw anywhere. If I remain here shall try & go into the fruit growing business, as it will be profitable for many years to come I doubt not,

[diary continues, transcript ends]