

ANANIAS ROGERS POND

Diary

1849

Transcribed

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[page I]

The Route

Southern Oregon Road

Rabbit Hole Wells

Rabbit Hole Wells

Boiling Springs

Mud Creek (Mud Lake)

Salt Spring (by Scott:)

Goose Lake

Pitt River

Sacramento River

Mt Lawson (view of)

Feather River North fork.

Deer Creek

Feather River

Hudspeths Spring 26

Deep Hollow 27

Battes River 33.

Dry Big Creek 33 Spring areas the "Buttes"?

~~(Lawsons on the Sacramento)~~

Bidwells Bar Oct 28 (36)

Long's Trading Post

Bear River (47)

Bidwells Bar (48[])

Yubaville Nyes Ranch

_____ { Eutan House
 { Mr. Maples

Freemont-Vernon

Sacramento City

Elephant House

Yuba City 52

Nicolaus Eliza 53 Sutter or Houk from 53

before

Sweetwater

Pacific Springs

High Rock Cañon (38)

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Mr. Lawsons Guide:

From Pitt River over the Hill. Rocky Road 12

Cross creek to a Valley- grass & Water- 10

Spring to the Right of the Road -- 12

To a valley- good Road- Grass & Water- 16

Lake to the Left ----- 13

To Grass & Water ----- 17

South side of the Valley. Grass & Water- 12

Water & Grass in ----- 9

Deer Creek ----- 10

Here stop & cut Hay

Water no Grass -----	8
Very rocky Road to Grass & Water -----	4
No grass or Water to Lawsons Fort-----	<u>36</u>
the last 20 miles very rough.	<u>159 m.</u>

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10 miles to Grass & Water -----	10
12 m to Grass. 3 m to the head of the Cañon	15
Thence to good camp 7 m -----	7
Then 18 m to G, C -----	18
Then 10 m to Salt Spring -----	10
Then 12 into the foot of the Mountain -----	12
good grass & water	
Then 8 miles to G. H. -----	8
Then over the mountain grass & Water 16 m	16
To the Lake 8 m -----	8
To the lower end of Lake 6 m -----	6
To Sacramento[sic] 6 m -----	6
Oregon road 175 m to Lawsons Fort	
To Sutter 100 m	<u>175</u>
<u>291</u>	<u>291</u>
<u>391</u>	

Mr. Scotts guide or table of distances from Mud Creek to Lawsons

He was guiding a train of provision waggons to meet Col. Loring.

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Friday August 24th [to 26th] 1849

A report reached our train that Mrss. Hudspeth & Myers had opened a road through the Mountains to Feather River which was much nearer to the Gold region than the route by the Sink of the Humboldt— We were now over[?] 50 m. above the Sink. Yesterday we met a large train of Mormon teams going from the Pacific to Salt Lake. They Started from St Francisco on the 19th of July. Their teams and Horses were in general in good condition they gave some useful information as to the road by the Sink and predicted that we could go through without any difficulty if we were not in to[o] much of a hurry. Notwithstanding we forded the Humboldt & started nearly West

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To strike into a Road called the Southeren Oregon Road which we had passed. We drove 12 miles across the Desert to where we expected to find a spring. We found a hole had been Dug which contained less than 2 qts muddy water. Our train Now consisted of Mr Winters 3 Ox Waggons & 2 Horse Do[ditto?]& 2 led horses. The two Garners one d[itt]o 4 yoke Oxen. Phelps & Co 4 Do & our 2, 17 Head 2 of ours were lame. Four miles farther on we found a Spring to the left of the road 1 mile pretty high up on the mountain. There arrived about the same time [number missing?] of the trains. We had to dip with a basin into a Bucket & let the Oxen Drink from it This took near 3 hrs.

At Dark we again started Drove all night after taking a cup of Coffe,

Just at Day light we arrived opposite a well that had been sunk in a Ravine $\frac{3}{4}$ m to the Right of the Road watered

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Our famishing teams with the muddy brackish stuff made some coffe of the same Eat our "Dirty bite" (This is the common name for our meal consisting of Fried Bacon Bread & Coffe)

We then Drove a short distance farther to some Brackish wells* here is plenty of water, we passed many dead cattle in the night & here they are deing[dying] by Dozens we were on the alert for grass one of the C. Phelps found a little in a Kanon to the right. We unyoked & drove the Cattle out to it There was but a few mouthfuls for each they were so ravenous that they would eat the prickly branches of the Greasewood & Even the Bitter & disgusting sage.

Late in the afternoon we gave our oxen a bucket of water each with about a qt flour stir[r]ed into it and started across a plain called the salt plain said to be 12 miles across we traveled for miles over a gravelly Road much broken by deep Gullies so that the track was a very crooked one

There was occasionally bunches of Sage & Greasewood we Drove many miles before we came to the plain Some time after dark It was apparently level and white & hard I discovered no salt Our Waggons ran Easily

*Rabbit Hole Wells

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for miles there was not the least appearance of vegetation & scarce any variation from the dead level No Mountain or hills to relieve the wearied eye at length we could discover a dark

low line apparently at no great distance a head The night was Clear Starlight We drove for hours and still were apparently as far from it as at first I began to consider it an optical illusion but we final[ly] arrived among Hillocks of sand of the form & size of Hay cocks With greasewood or Sage on their summits The Dark line ahead appeared to rise gradually & to extend farther to the right, Just at Day light we arrived opposite & near the foot of a black mountain It was not high Was apparently all rock & had a more desolate appearance than any we had yet seen not the least vegetation not Even sage At the foot is a boiling spring Said to have been sounded 250 feet & no bottom There was a small Stream running from it we gave our oxen a bucket of water each from this branch, Here had been a few acres of grass Nothing was now left but the Roots We drove abo[u]t a mile farther to where many of these boiling

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Springs broke out here was some grass & we gladly turned our allmost[sic] expiring teams to share it with others who had arrived before us and others that we constantly arriving We had been forced to turn out 2 of our oxen that gave out & were left on the Road Conrad Garner lost one Phelps & Co one and Judge Winters 3 ~~W~~ The night was cold & in the morning my feet although driving all night suffered with cold, We smelled carrion pretty much all night & was informed that the road was allmost lined with Dead oxen we saw many that had given out and had not yet expired.

I drank some coffe after washing in the warm water which was quite a luxury, I drew some bed clothing from the Waggon & lay down in the Shade I had scarce got asleep (which did not take long having slept but very little for 48 hrs) before word came that an ox was in one of the springs. I roused up a[nd] saw they had the ox out

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Lay down again I had not Slept long when Harriet Winters ran into camp with the information that one of their horses was in one of the Spring[s] The water in these springs is clear and beautiful in appearance We had to water our Team from Wells this was brackish & muddy The poor animal had runtured[blundered?] so near one of the Springs that the turf had given way and his legs had gone through into the Warm water

he was not burned so that the hair came off, But several oxen had been Scalded to death & were just pulled out & left on the brink In one[?] one spring I saw much hair from some domestic animal floating on the surface and attached to the sides I concluded some poor animal had been boiled to pieces and the bones had sank These Springs are level with the turf and are apparently bottomless

One I found boiling out of the top of a Rock about 3 ft in heighth The rock was

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Sediment deposited by the boiling Water So Our men some of them went back & brought up our Oxen that had given out

Garner's & Phelps were to[o] far gone & were left We started about sunset & Drove to another Hot Spring. Here the grass was tolerable good The spring was about 20 ft across the longest way The sides perpendicular Rock the water beautifully Clear & apparently bottomless Several others of smaller size[?] were bubbling up within a few ft The

Emigrants were cooking in the Springs by putting Tin buckets with lids on in the Springs & letting them float Round A 2 Road Ometers had measured the [distance] across the Desert to the first spring made 74½ m the other 75 our Grass is the Round Wire[?] grass of the states & grass growing in Bunches tall & Coarse Resembling Rye The Oxen prefer the 1st

[August] 27th

About 5 O'clock we started to cross another Desert some said 15 miles some 20 the salt[soil?] was very deep for miles & we were until after sunrise on the morning of 28th in Reaching Mud Creek Commonly called Mud Lake the measured distance is 25 mi

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[August] 28th

In the Evening we moved to the upper End of the grass, & A circle of 2½ miles Diameter would enclose all the grass in this place

Still it is the largest Oasis we have seen since we left the Humbolt, This grass is fast disappearing,

The 29th [August]

we are lying by o[u]r cattle that gave out on the desert are Scouring badly & I fear will not be of much further use on the trip

[August] 30

We trav[e]led this morning about 5 miles on a rough rocky road No vegetation except sage greasewood & other shrubs: we then Entered a Kanyon and the Bunch grass began to appear I have noticed that this is the grass that grows nearest the miserable prickly Shrubs of the desert and is the lowest I should think & poorest of the grass family 6 miles farther our road has led between two perpendicular walls of Dark Reddish Rock the grass has become plenty & water also at our Encampment these Walls are not more than 100 ft apart There are various opinions as to their height from 300 to 600 ft the first is probably near the mark.

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[August] 31st

We are still laying encamped in the Kenyon we have have[sic] plenty of good Willows to cook with & our folks are cooking bread & fruit (those that are fortunate enough to have any left to cook) Beans &c I had forgotten to mention that in the Desert we passed yesterday we saw the Dry Sage Brush pulled up & turned bottom up & laid so that the brush touched or nearly so this formed a line Strait in places & curved in others The brush in places had to be carried some distance as none grew near. in some places rock was set on edge in lieu of the brush

I could see about one mile of this Fence or what ever it was and could see neither end This was undoubtedly the work of the Diggers but for what purpose I am unable to decide[?] I was in company with Mr Wise and son of Boice Creek Grant Co Wis They have a pony each and the old Gent is lamenting the choice they had made in Roads Oxen are now in a state of starvation even on the Humbolt

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Ours Did but just live through the desert What can those do that are only 10 days behind
May God help them I cannot

At the foot of the Walls is loose stones by pulling this out you come to clear very cold &
apparently pure Water Inde[e]d in many places the water is a foot deep at the ft of the Wall
The Kenyon opens out [in] Places to several hund yas[yds?] in width and is tolerably wel[I]
supplied with Bunch Grass Mountains close at hand composed entirely of bare rock entirely
Destitute of Vegetation surrounded on all sides except the Crooked Kenyon we are traveling
We are undoubtedly among the spurs of Sierra Nevada within the past 2 days we have seen
many of the horns & heads of the Big horns or Mountain Sheep

Sept 1st

We are still Encamped A Mr Ball[Bates?] over took us on the 25 miles Desert He had a
sick man by the name of Chauncey F Goodin in his waggon and he was so ill this morning
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That it was thought to be improper to start with him Bates being an old acquaintance of most
of our company We concluded to wait for the Day Mr Winters excepted who Drove on

Sept 2^d

The Sick man was considered better & we started on up the Kenyon Bunch Grass all the way &
water plenty for our teams 3 miles before we came to the head of the Kenyon the Road
became very rough and Rocky we frequently had to drive precisely in the bed of the Branch
It is the worst road we have yet found

about 10 Oclock this morning we stopped to water Mr Nevin the partner of the sick man
looked into The waggon And said this mans troubles are over. Oh may I not be taken sick on the
road We buried him on the Right hand side of the Kenyon as decently as circumstances
would permit about 5 miles from the head of the Kenyon and passed sorrowing on We
traveled a bout 15 m and camp on a little stream of muddy water made so by the oxen and
Waggons

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Sept 3^d

We Drove over an uneven country covered with Sage Grease wood and other shrubs & some
considerable grass in places for about 8 m to grass and water the grass not being very good &
some of the Comp^y hearing that a[]man had been ahead 6 m found Grass & could se water
Nothing would do our wiseacres but to Start for it; So about 4 Oc^l we started about 11 We
unyoked to let our Oxen pick of the scanty & Dry grass among the Sage About day light we
arrived at a lake Strong with Alkali We arrived at the Mouth of a Kenyon where the water was
good but Grass miserable f Our teams being nearly exhausted for [word/s missing] we
unyoked. At the lake I understood one of the Texan Com^p at Daylight this morning discovered
An Indian among the Oxen & Shot him through the head The Indians stole many Oxen on the
Humbolt and can not expect any favor from the Emigrants I deprecate the taking the life Even
of an Indian on Suspicion

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Sept 5th

We drove 4 miles to Good grass and found several springs in that distance good water our Company Drove on & left us so we are now two Waggon[s] only in Co Our Oxen filled themselves to repletion & came up to the waggons & lay Down about dark

we all lay down and enjoyed a good nights rest

Warm Spring Sept 6th

We arrived about 4 Oclock P,M Drove 10 m over a rough & uneven road the day was very warm This Spring by Scott is called the Salt Spring the water is quite Brackish The grass is tough & our teams seem to dislike it about Dark we saw a large drove going off[f] west & some of our co started in pursuit we overtook & Drove baack[sic] 60 or 70 head of ours & others from another Oasis about 2 miles from our encampment There was a great many waggons Encamped here & among the rest a man who had come all the way from Canada with one small mare attached to a cart

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We have been in co with him occasionally since we over took him on the Sweet Water and I think the mare looks as likely to finish the trip as any horse in sight. Our Course[sic] is still North of west The snow of the Sierra has been in sight for the last two days

Foot of the Sier[r]a Sept 7th

About 10 Oclock A M we arrived a[t] the bed of a Lake 2½ miles in width It is so white that it is disagreeable to the eyes to look steadily upon It is allmost perfectly level & excellent traveling on We found good grass & water after crossing this Dry bed larg[e] Pines grew on the little streams running from the Mountain The wild Sunflower was in bloom I saw several other weeds that were old acquaintances The greenness was a delightful change. We are now encamped at the Pass for the last 8 miles our road has been along The Foot of The Sierra Nearly Duy[du] North Actually a little E of N

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Sept 8th

Pleasant Valley West side of the mountain It is about 4 miles from our encampment to the Summit The Hill verry steep most of the distance It was all our 7 yoke of Oxen could do to haul up our Waggons with only about 8 hund[red pounds in them], There is grass & Shrubs on the sides & top of the Mountain that I do not know the names of The de[s]cent is allmost precipitous The West Side of the Mountain to the S of the Road is covered with the most magnificent Pine Cedar Spruce & Fir Timber an undergrowth of Service Bushes, Plumbs D[itt]o in appearance more like Crab Bushes than Plumbs, Also Thorn Bushes and many[?] other Shrubs that I can give no name to

The Service Berries were mostly Ripe & very dry & gathered by the Birds. They were verry Sweet The plumbs[?] were Green Sour & rather Bitter But still worthy we though to be Anti Scorbutic I ate a number. The Thorn Apples were small verry good & of a purple colour The Rubicon is passed

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One of our Steers, was taken lame 3 days since in on fore foot he was drove on loose and

yesterday another of his feet was sore and this morning the third was discovered to be affected also W^m Thompson was anxious to get him over & contrary to the advice of Tho^s Drove him to very near the top where he fell [and] broke his back In this situation they left him I had drove the Ox many miles & could not leav[e] him in that situation I took a Pistol & shot him through the Brain Neither of the Br[o]s could do this Still two of them appear rather anxious to Shoot Diggers Two nights since the Indians stole 7 Oxen from one of the Emigrants at the East foot of the M^t All Travellers say the[y] are troublesome in these parts & it appears they are still so

Sept 9th Goose Lake

At our last nights Encampment a firing commenced at the edge of the pine timber near where I was guarding

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Our Cattle this created quite an excitement with the guards There was 6 or 8 Encampments besides ours in a short time the firing ran along the foot of the mountain and appeared like a pretty general engagement We were five in number on Guard & [were] variously affected My belief is that all would have fought some steadily[sic] & to good purpose & Some would have made a great noise & Show with a view of Frightening the Enemy. But none were in sight

In the morning we ascertained that the firing was intended as a rejoicing For haveing passed the Mountain in safety. I understood that it commenced with a party of Missourians For about 4 miles this morning our Road led down the Valley & was Excellent, Beautiful Evergreen timber[?] skirted the side of the Mountain Our Road then led across rocky ridges for near the same Dis^t to a creek. Here we had a verry bad hill to pull up When we came to the lake a large flock of Swan were Majestically navigating its surface

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We traveled about 16 miles

Sept 10th

Encamped on the Outlet of Goose lake or Pitt river Road tolerable This Day I killed a mountain Grouse The largest species of the family in America & probably the best Eating or to Eat This is the first game I have killed on the Route We have 3 Tip top Hunters in our mess & this the first game or fresh meat we have tasted since we left the Pacific Springs Indeed we have plenty to do with out hunting & game is verry scarce & wild Trav[e]led 14

Sept 11th

Encamped on Pitt River In company with Capt Bell & Co. our Course since leaving the lake has been Down Pitt River Rather South of South West Road mid[d]ling Distance 17

Sept 12th

Morning very cold Ice froze in our Water Basin $\frac{3}{4}$ inch How much more woul[d] have frozen This Deponent sayeth not as there was no more water in it to freeze Distance 16

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Sept 12th[sic- note all subsequent dates seem to be incorrect]

Our road led Down a Kenyon Which led in every direction & some of the worst possible traveling & to wind up with had to cross the point of a mountain half a mile ascent quite steep

De[s]cent almost precipitous on the top of this hill I saw 3 small Black jack trees or rather staddles[?] Dist 18

Sept 13th

Road pretty good road & the bottom between the mountains appears to be opening out so our people begin to feel pretty sure we are near the Sacramento[sic] I hunted all day got one shot at a small Duck flying across & missed it

Camped on the river —————

Dist 17

Sept 14

Camp on Pitt River at the fork of the Road one crosses the river here And is said to be 10 miles farther to where they unite 30 miles a head than the one that turns to the left We met a company 8 miles above our Encampment, They were in the employ of Government Exploring as far north and East as the pass in the Mountains Thence West to the Pacific They informed us we were upwards of 160 miles from Lawsons

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And gave us a table showing the Dist between Watering places & as m^r Lawson was guideing the comp I hope we have at last got some correct Information We are still long ways from the place of destination on And are informed that the road is worse than any we have yet encountered

This day & yesterday we passed Excellent Grass along the River but our cattle has very poor grazeing at this place We had a small shower of Rain this aft noon be with some hail Not enough to lay the Dust— good road Dist 18

Sept 15th

The morning Cold & heavy fog our road has been over a succession of hills & is rocky most of the way we encamped late in a valley to the left of the Road Water good the grass has been Eaten off Except the coarsest kind of Wire grass We are traveleling[sic] through a timbered country Some fine white Oaks & Black jacks mixed with the Pines

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The weather has been smoky since we passed over the first mountain and continues so still Dist— 18

Sept 16th

Started early our journey commenced by ascending a hill pretty smooth for about 2 miles then the rock commenced from the size of a Pidgeon Egg to a Barrel & covering the whole surface of the ground such was the road most of the Distance for 8 miles to a small Branch crossing ourn[our] Road here had been some grass none now

We encamped at a spring on the right of the Road Drove the stock about 2 miles to the left of the road to grase[graze?; grass?] among the Pines

This day we left two oxen one that had once before given [out] on the Desert & the other one that was given to Gosford[?] by some men from Chicago

Terrible Road Dist 18

Sept 17th

Morning cold, our grazing is poor water good, we encamped on the farther side of a Valley
I picked up a handfull of wild onions which was quite, a treat, they had been knocked out
by the waggons as they passed good Road Dist 16

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Sept 18th

Encamped on a small Lake We are still rambling among the Sier[r]as & pines, & rock The
grazing is again miserable Our teams cannot stand this hard fare much longer we are very
anxious to find grass to recruit our teams, We passed a valley near 3 miles in extent There
was some small sage Verry little grass a great quantity of gravel & plenty of rocks, The
Norway & Spruce pine has been abundant & fine morn cold & cool through the day Road
rough Dist 14

Sept 19th

Road Abo[u]t 4 miles from the Lake on the right side of the Road I am informed there was good
water & tolerable Grass the Feed here is poor inde[e]d Still our company have concluded
to lay by & rest our teams

The Lake is some 400 yds in length Clay shore & bottom Surrounded by small dark coloured
rock. It has no apparent inlet or outlet & the water was full of a large & to me new kind of
wig[g]ler

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It was cool & by straining we got along very well It is rather a bad watering place on account
of cattle mireing

Sept 20th

small fine Lake to the left I was one of 4 to guard our teams, we wished to get an early
start at Day light I attempted to rouse the balance of the Guard to collect the Oxen But my
efforts to start them was Vain I started on the hunt of one [of?] ours & whilst in pursuit of it
One of the other[s] was drove off I was on the trot from light untill we arrived at our
Encampment Road heavy & rough Excellent & abundant grass a mile ½ East of the Lake
Dist — 16

[Sept] 21st

This morning for[sic] our Road led a little East of South for 7 m & Decending all the way to a
very steep hill after decending Its course for a mile rather NE The balance of the [way] nearly
west we must have decended near 1000 ft during the Day Came to one beautiful stream 7
miles from last Encampment **F**eather River

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Decended 3 tremendous[sic] hills The Pines are beautiful Some 5 or 6 ft through & verry
tall Rocky soil &[c] Our Camp is at the foot of a Steep hill on the borders of a Valley 3 or 4
miles across covered with grass, Water Excellent Distance 14

22^d Sept

Our first Bussiness[sic] this morning was to pull Horses & Cattle out of the Bog, Several head broken throug[h] the Turf, One Ox Belonging to Cap^t Bolls Co had lain so long in the Cold Water that he could not walk & they were forced to leave him With much labor we Succeeded in recovering all of ours The stream we passed yest[erday] Ran to the S,W, We are now encamped on a Beautiful Stream Running SE through the centre of a fine bottom a mile ½ across Fine grass on its Borders, We have stopped to cut hay, to feed in the Desert Ahead We know not what s[t]ream we are on [italics written between lines] *This was Feather River North Fork* some say Feather River & some Deer Creek most say Feather River How it can get from here to where it is represented to be by all the Maps I can [not] conceive I therefore do not believe it to be the waters of that River It is curious to notice the workings of poor human nature Some of our Co seem to wish to take all the hay we can cut Dist ————— 6

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Sept 23^d

We are still at the Encampment last mentioned resting & recruiting our teams All But our two Waggons have gone on

this is a beautifull[sic] Stream & affords abundance of excellent Grass, I have no Doubt there is plenty of Game in the Vicinity I had forgotten to mention the[that] W^m Thompson Killed a Doe & Fawn of the Black tailed species on the 18th The Fawn he brought to Camp & the next Day he and C Garner when the trains started went for the Doe They were unable to find even the Mountain that she was on They did not succeed in Reaching the Encampment till late in the Night With tired horses[?] The Faun[sic] was good meat But there was not a particle of Fat about it,

Sept 24th

Started Early our Oxen appear to have improved The Road rough most of the way Through heavy pine forests, about noon we came to a beautiful little stream Running East, we followed this for about 7 miles, to its source tolerable Road up the little Vally, We encamped to the left of the Road ½ mile at the head of Deer Creek A person Can stand between the heads of the creeks and Shoot to either

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And Still the ground appears to be near a Dead level For several days back I have noticed The Scotch Cap Bushes among the Pines & now & then gathered a Dried one Here on the head of the Creek I gathered a few of the Blue Whortle Berry they wer[e] the tall bush kind & were mostly ripe & gone Pine timber in abundance Plenty of Trout in most of the Steams, but they will seldom take Bait to[o] late in the season probably Distance 16 M 16

Sept 25th Deer Creek

We most of us were hunting in the latter part of the Day W^m Thompson Killed a Black tailed Buck fine & Fat On the Brow of the M^{ts} Laurel, Chiquipin, and another shrub bearing a white sweetish berry which the Deer appear to be very fond of grow in abundance, above the Shrubbery & between it the timber is generally bare open ground, I stood on this Bare strip & counted In the Dust 20 different Beds where Deer had lain & the Ground was allmost covered with their Excrement But they are now continual[l]y Harrassed by the Emigrants & have most of them left the vicinity of[]the road

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Sept 26 Hadsbeths[sic] Spring

We started Early this morning Down the Creek For 2 or 3 miles the Road was tolerable except Boggy places in which 2 of Garner's Oxen and one of F Collinses Mired, From this to our Encampment a worse road can scarcely be conceived We crossed the Creek twice & left it to our left hand some time After Dark we arrived at the encampment Weary & toil worn And the Oxen of course much exhausted We chained them to trees in their yokes & fed spareingly of our Hay We trav[e]led over several Mountains, and decended an immense distance For the distance travled For the last two Days the weather has been much warmer than usual, No frost this morning, The Distance is said to be only 12 m It cannot be less than ——— 16

Sept [2]7th Deep Hollow

It is indeed Deep the hill to decend to it [is] so steep that our Waggon turned a Somerset forward Crip[p]led the Driver and one Mule was badly injured

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We had to Drive our Cattle near 2 miles Down a precipitous Ravine to water one of our oxen gave out before we reached the Hill, I had a severe griping in my bowels During the day & did not go to assist in watering Harvey T is laid up with a Diarohea Gesford & Thos went with [the] Cattle they returned about mid night badly done over left the Oxen in the Ravine, This Evening a couple of aged men Killed a Grisly Bear near the Hollow they Sold the flesh to the Emigrants for \$18[?] Road [word missing] for Excep[t] the last 2 m Dist 20

Sept 29th [28]

I started by day light for the Oxen in Company of Thomas We Drove them with much difficulty up another Ravine to where the[re] was a little Dry Bunch grass & let them feed an hour Then Drove them across the hills to the Waggons This travel among the precipices was as hard on them as Hauling the Waggon ½ a day Even on bad Roads

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And we were forced to leave an Ox that had been Driven loose for the last 100 miles, We then put the 6 Remainin[g] Pairs on one waggon at a time & finally succeeded in ascending the hill though my off leader feel twice in coming up the last time, Tho^s Thompson by common consent was considered Commander in chief of our 2 Waggons My advice had been to put all the team[s] to one Waggon & go on with it to Lawsons on the Sacramento before they gave Out,

Gesford finally coincided with me still we continued on for about a mile My Leader gave entirely out & both of Thompsons were in nearly the same condition Then all parties saw that was the only alternative Much to my surprise Tho^s requested me to stay with Esqr Gesford who had volunteered to be one of two to stay Until they could recruit & return or hire a fresh team I certainly was under no obligation to stay, But his Br[other] was sick

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And he thought one of them ought to go & stay with him Tho^s I consider a fine honest man, And I disliked to leave Gesford alone In fact it would be allmost out of the question as we are a mile from the nearest Water which we have to bring up quite a Precipice, So from Sympathy I consented We are on a narrow broken Rocky Ridge Covered with Laurel & Oak Shrubs There is now & then a small Pine & occasional[I]y a scrubby Oak all limbs & to[sic] Resembling the White Oaks in the States The leaves are verry small and [have] thorns on their edges They are well loaded with acorns The Oak shrubs are seldom as high as my

head they grow in bunches are loaded with Acorn[s] Even those not more than a foot
height[sic] They are abundantly supplied with a kind of thorn so that it [is] almost
impossible to pass through them The Laurel also grows in bunches having many branches
attached to one Root The wood* is heavy & hard and red Colour
*Mancinetta[sic]

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We have a putrid Ox within 70 yards ahe[a]d of us the weather quite hot the ground
where you can see it for the rocks one bed of Dust & we are near no shade except that afforded
by the Waggon One of us has to remain constantly at the Waggon If we did not it would be
considered as abandoned by the owners & therefore considered as lawfull Prize[?] to any Who
might need it or any of its contents Many of the Emigrants have been suffering much from
Scurvy, I have noticed but one Death by it But have seen many verry low with it,
Diarrehoea is quite common Dist one m

30th[29] Sept

Last night we spread our Blankets on some hay we had hauled along, This kept the Rocks
from hurting us and we slept comfortably We then proceeded to overhaul our trunks I
found [mine] desperate dirty From the Dust that had worked in It penetrates almost every
thing I feel like my system was full of it And can

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Prove to any one not Blind that my Superfice[?] is covered with it, We unloaded[sic] the
Waggon & Cleaned it, Waggon are passing all the fore part of the day these teams are
most of them verry weak & many of them leave an ox or two in the deep Hollow My
Companion has asked several if we could have them if we could get them to Grass & water
They all Readily gave answer in the affirmative, I have this day Brought my Journal up from
the time we encamped at the head of Deer Creek My Comp[anion] is Overhauling his things

Oct 1st [Sept 30] 1849

Last night was quite warm & still The Stench from our Deceased Neighbor the Ox we
would gladly Bury him but there unfortunately is not a sufficiency of soil in the Vicinity So we
have to stand it I concluded to take a Ramble over Ravines & Se[e] if I could discover any
Stray Oxen that were worth the taking up And to See if there was any grass

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They could be driven to I succeeded in finding 5 That I thought might do I also found some
considerable bunch Grass on the Mountain sides that I concluded might serve to recruit them
untill we could find better Along the mountain Torrent I found plenty of Grapes similar in
appearance to the Frost[?] grape of the States but very different it tastes They were quite
sweet, I consider them an Excellent Fruit And Ate verry heartyly of them and gathered a
Bucket full to take with me whilst gathering them my Dog Spring appeared rather uneasy
I found on starting homeward a bear had come into the thicket above me I measured the print
of his fore foot 6½ inches wide, Not much Difference from the head to the toe, I
succe[e]ded in Reaching the Waggon found Mr L Busily engaged with his things Doeing[sic]
up Ox shoes, Picks goods &c in Paper This I call being over Nice Yet this man frequently
Eates[sic] his morning meal with unwashed hands & combs once pr month

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The principal misfortune was he had not cooked any dinner I was both tired & hungry & wished

to return to the oxen I found in my travels a verry good Butchers knife And saw a man that had left a Poney which he gave me if I could find [it]

It got so late before I got any Dinner I concluded to look for the Poney instead of the Oxen Near Sunset I discovered a good[]looking Ox near a mile from me in the opposite Direction to my present abode I was well aware that night would Close in on me before I could go to him & return However Spring was with me & my doub[] Barrel gun, & althoug[h] I [k]new there were plenty of bears, Continually seeing their signs I decided to go & See the ox With much Difficulty in clambering over Rocky Ravines & through thick Brush I reached him & found him to be a pretty good Ox for this Country Started him down— He was determined to take into the thick brush on the

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Border of the Torrent we followed he soon led me to 2 others one a pretty fair Ox considering the place, The other was an Old Stag & verry weak I drove them on some times in the Stream some times on one side some times on the other & Finall[y] was Forced to leave the Stag From appearances they had been in or near where I found them for several days In driving them I passed where two Oxen had been Devoured Both places was[sic] abundantly supplied with the Excrement of the Bear About 20 Steps in advance just at Dark I heard[sic] a Low growl I halted with my thum[b] on the cock of the gun the Oxen continued on and Spring was not alarmed So on I went the Oxen soon came to a halt I heard the same noise close to their heads I was at their other end, I looked past them & there sure as shooting stood a large Not Bear but Brindle Ox I moved him on with the other for a time to where I thought they could be found again

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And left them for another Day The Moon was near full or I could not have reached the Waggon that Night However about 9 Oclock we arrived safe but much fatigued When I say we I mean me & my Dog Spring She is much attached to me I say but few words to her but she minds at the least bidding Is verry Watchful of me not even will she let one of our own company approach verry near to me (when we are out by ourselves) with out notifying me of their approach by a low Growl Money would not at present tempt me to part with her & so long as I[]have food she Shares,

I found my partner without any fire & quite Excited (Squire said he we have missed it badly we had ought to have kil[l]ed 3 Bears 3 of them have just been eating of the Dead Ox Said he heard a growl Raised my head & di[s]covered

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them at work I sprang for my Rifle & thought it best to find some balls to load with in Case I should not kill [with] the first fire while I was looking for Balls a confounded boy came up in the opposite direction, Yelled & scared them away One was as tall as to my waist the Others about the size of Spring [(]The Big one as just the Colour of my Pants) Mr G is verry tall the Pants were Steel mixed Casinette, There is some kind of Shrub around here that bear[s] nuts similar to the to the[sic] buckeye Another resembling the Spice bush, I saw a Rabbit or hare Red[d]ish Brown with broad & long ears,

Oct 2^d [1st]

I have staid at the wagon & my partner went out this Morning to water & Drive to feed the Oxen

He soon returned Stateing that a Mr Heustis was driving up all the Oxen I had described as haveing found And was going to yoke up and go on with them

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but that Mr H Stated that he was then with his family Team given out Provis[ions] gone also & he wished to do the fair thing & finally wished to see me Accordingly I went to his Waggon where he had the Oxen collected I would not be positive that more than one of mine were with them there was one that was with a Muly ox of his the day before but he could not be found

So in the end I let him have my Ox Claim, for \$2,00 Cash & am entitled to the Muly if I can find him In goeing[sic] to Se[e] Heustis I found a bar of lead lyeing[sic] by the side of the Road I am quite unwell am verry costive haveing had no passage since the morning of the 28

I have pain in my limbs A a[sic] heavy dull pain in the back of the head Gesford returned about sunset He had found but one of the Oxen I had the day before So I fear we shall Make a poor out in getting them together & getting them away from this miserable place

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Oct 3d [2]

I rested poorly, very bad last night And feel miserable enough this morning I took a dose of pills & they have commenced to work me Evening much better I found a man by the Name of Milburn on the hill above the Deep Hollow his partners had left him sick. I purchased a trunk containing various articles for 50 C He abandoned His waggon & I assisted him to Pack what he could on his 4 Oxen He could not succe[e]d in packing And f he finally finally[sic] concluded to put what he had tried to Pack into the Waggon I assisted him he told me to take any or all the property he left. (We were already fast with more than we could get to the settlement) But Gesford & myself concluded to take some light articles in hopes that we might succeed in getting them through to the settlement Milburn finally with my assistance succeeded in reaching our

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Waggon we gave him some food & water & whilst he was eating one of his former friends a Doctor The name escapes my memory returned. one of His Oxen had again given out And his friend insisted on his packing what he could on the 3 [oxen which were] left they accordingly proceeded but had to leave a tent & some more property; These Milburn told us we might have

[October 4- 24

no entries]

Feather River Oct 25th

I have not been able to write since my last. Mr Benton Came to our assistance on the Eve of the 4th Hauled our Waggon with the assistance of two of the Oxen I [had] picked up [and moved] 4 miles then unloaded into his and Mr Massots the contents of ours

We finally succeeded in reaching the Valley on the 5th I sold my share of the Oxen for \$25,00 Staid 2 Days near the River then moved Slowly on to Buttes River, Distance 30 m Here we left our teams W^m Thompson & S. Way staid to Herd Way quite weak from fever

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But mending, On the

10th [Oct]

6 of us Started for the Diggings on Feather River it Rained Considerable on the 9th & about 2 O'clock P.M. we started it commenced again We traveled to Dry Creek 12 miles & Bivouac[k]ed thoroughly wet About Midnight it ceased, Ra[i]ning, We had one Blanket Each & our Provisions to pack besides our Cooking utensils & tools In the morning we proceeded the Road being verry wet & muddy & we tolerably loaded traveled slow & got verry Thirsty before we reached the Spring the nearest Drinkable water to the Buttes* 12 m

*Pronounced Bates

The Road passed over a tolerable level but arid country covered with pebbles most of them quartz for the last 18 or 20 m

we took some refreshment at the Springs Then proceeded 4 miles further over Rough ground strikeing the river near the lower end of the Diggings We had but 4 pans & one Pick in the crowd. They were not enough to give the Diggings a fair trial H Thompson was taken sick the day after

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we arrived, we soon Eat our Provisions up & had to by Pork \$1,00 p lb Flour 50 C Saleratus \$4,00 other things in proportion.

I staid 10 days & made about \$35,00 I find Digging & washing to be verry hard work keeping the body in a, bent, Crooked & uneasy position The Bluff[s] at the Diggings are verry high & steep the tops of the Rocks are worn perfectly Smooth by the action of the water, Showing plainly that the River Rises upwards of 50 ft These Bluffs Produce Pine trees short in the bodies & fall[sic] of forks & some Oaks, & few shrubs

The Salmon in the streams are now verry poor & many of them are Sucked or Eaten to Death by a small Perrewinkle[sic] or small Snail living in the water I was not aware of their not being wholesome & tried to b[u]y some of an Indian that came to our camp I offered Gold he showed me he wished Beads by takeing some & showing of this kind of Merchandise [of which?] we were not possessed I tried Silver No A Hunters knife still No again he showed the beads A Calico Shirt Nothing

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Would do but Beads We were not badly furnished with money Arms provisions & clothing with all we could not purchase the Naked Indians Fish, I had fractured one of my ribs on the West fork of the Buttes one that had been previously Fractured, I did not believe it to be Fractured And feared that my liver was affected as my side was verry sore So I feared to work any longer at the Diggings And returned to The Buttes to have them come & over to this river to get Harvey & then to proceed to the City of Sacramento I found [name missing?] and W^m Thompson Verry Sick with a brain Fever He is now on the mend & I hope out of Danger And Mr Massot has gone up with a Waggon afte[r] Harvey Way is again down, I scarce know what to do, The Season for working is passing fast away The bottom on the River sandy with Scattering Oak timber Grass good,

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The Grapes in this Country is excellent not large but verry Sweet & on most of the streams are abundant The acorns on the Oak resembling the White are nearly 2 inches in length, Generally

small in Diameter. But I have seen them $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in thickness. The Mancinetta* of this country has smooth Red bark and the wood is of the same color & Extremely hard heavy & Brittle a few blows with an ax will break a stick several inches thick I have seen some Near a foot through 20 f in height Though always in the form of Shrubery many Stems from one root, I think it is the best fuel I have ever seen

Bidwels[sic] Bar Oct 28th

I arrived here this morning in Co of Messrs Benton & Way Mr W has been sick for some time past & I fear a fever is still hanging on him

*Mancinetta

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We are now about 15 miles above where the Diggings commence I had started to go to Sacramento City with the Thompsons, [and] 4 other Waggons all acquaintances Being Extremely ancous[sic] to hear from [home?] some of the company observed that it appeared foolish for so many to go for provisions & intelligence half would do just as well The Rainy season must be close at hand Thinks I to Myself I had best go farther up than I have been & go to work, & Send for letters & provisions I made arrangements accordingly. By advancing Mr Benton \$65,000 He is to haul let me have 30,00 in provisⁿ at City prices, by my paying \$15,00 pr Hund[red] for hauling. Yesterday I weighed the gold washed by Mr B. & myself 4 miles above Long on the opposite side of the River I found we had made \$46,00 The last Day we worke[d] the Cradle, Pretty fair as it was only the 2^d day we had worked it

[transcript ends; diary continues]