

# EDWIN M. PRIME

Journal,

1850

Transcribed

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by  
Richard L. Rieck  
Dept. of Geography  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb

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## Ed<sup>w</sup>. M. Primes Journal to Calafornia

Via. Council Bluffs. Fort Laramie. Great Salt Lake City. Thence to Calafornia by the way of Hasting cut off. A seven months tour across the plain. With a correct account of distances from place to place.

### Notice

This journal was not intended for the public gaze but was kept for the gratification of the party concerned.

E. M. Prime

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### Preface

During the Calafornia excitement in the Spring of eighteen hundred and fifty, I was suddenly taken with the gold fever, Which carried off so many and resolved to see the Eliphant. So on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March A.D. 1850 in company with I[?] Wood. H. Helm and H. Copeland left friends and home for a trip across the plains, to the gold regions of Calafornia: Which proved in the end to me as in the case of many others rather the nature of a wild goose chase

Ed<sup>w</sup> H. Prime

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### Journal

On Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> 1850 left Linn in Walworth Co. Wisconsin for Calafornia with an ox team Drove five miles and put up with Mr. Hutchinson on Big Hot[?] Prarie. Miles 05

[did not transcribe trip to Missouri River]

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May 19

Getting rather impatient. Wood & myself left camp on foot for the Bluffs which was twenty five miles distant. Harvey & Copeland remained with the teams. Walked eight miles to Silver Creek; here we found a Mormon settlement Four miles farther came to a beautifull spring

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of good cold water which to us was a grand treat haveing had nothing but crak[creek] and rivver water for the last three weeks. We stopped at the spring about an hour to take in water Walked seven miles farther and came up with Paine and company who were encamped at this place Chatted with them a short time and again put out. Walked five miles and arrived at Kainsville about dark pretty well used up Stopped at the first Hotell we came to which was

well filled with Calafornia emigrants

496 [miles from home]

May 20

The first buisness[sic] on the carpet this morning was to go to the Post Office which was kept in a little log shanty hardly large enough for a person to stand up in: Received a letter from home which made me feel in good spirits. Wrote a letter home and then went and bought our supplies for the plains. Saw a great number of the Omahaw and

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Pawnee tribes of indians in Town They were very dark complexioned Much more so than indians in general. They were nearly naked with the exception of a Buffalo robe that was urapt[wrapped] loose around their persons: Like indians in general they had plenty of ornaments in their ears and noses (consisting of large brass clock w[h]eels, Etc)

May 21

About noon the waggons arrived in town. Packed our supplies in the waggon which consisted of 400<sup>lb</sup> hard buiscuit[sic], 400 of flour, 100 pounds salt pork, 100 of sugar, 30 of rice, two gallons of syrup, six pounds tea besides a great many small articles for our journey: Drove to Mosquieto Creek where we encamped to form our company

May 22

Assembled and formed a company which we named the Wallworth ox team Comp<sup>y</sup> The company consisted of

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eighteen waggons with some fifty men and 140 head of cattle Nominated Gardner Captain John Peck Camp Master. B.T. Paine Secretary. Appointed a guard to watch the teams consisting of four persons which was to be relieved every six hours

May 23

Laid in our waggons untill most noon on account of its raining very hard. This morning I was rather unwell but raised my spirits by pouring a little down Hitched up our teams and drove within a mile of Traders Point and camped on the banks of the Missouri Rivver. We had to use the rivver water for our cooking purposses which had mud enough in one pail[]full to make mans allowance for life: Stood guard six hours the fore part of the night in company with Peck & Winchell

May 24

Drove to Traders Point. Ferried over our waggons, but swam our

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cattle which we done without the least trouble Although the rivver here is very wide & a strong current. Paid for ferriage one dollar per waggon. Drove ten miles from the Missouri and camped on a small creek in the Indian territory. Plenty of good feed and water; but wood scarce.

Two indians and one squaw came into our camp in the evening. The latter spoke english very well as she had been educated in St Louis According to her story She bore the euphoneous name of Mary Elk and was a daughter of a Pawnee Chief

514

May 25

Saw a great many Pawnees About forty followed our train to beg which they understood to perfection. We gave them but little which we found to be the best plan. To day drove eighteen miles and camped on the Elk-horn Rivver. We had good feed for our teams and plenty

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of wood but had to use the rivver water for cooking. Very rainy during the night 532

May 26

On morning guard. Laid by most of the day and caught some fine cat fish which we had for supper. To day drove but six miles and camped 538

May 27

Very rainy in the morning Started about nine oclock and drove fifteen miles and camped Plenty of indians about all day of the Pawnee tribe 553

May 28

Drove nineteen miles to Shell Creek: Here we were detained some two hours in building a bridge across the stream which the indians make a practice of tearing away as soon as a train has passed so that they can have a better chance for begging and stealing They did not make much from us by the operation. Drove five miles from Shell creek and

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camped for night. Wood and water scarce. Made our supper on hard bread & jerked venison. [mileage should be 572] 577

May 29

Drove eighteen miles over a level country and camped on the banks of the Loup Fork of the Platte Rivver. Plenty of good feed, wood, and water [mileage should be 590] 595

May 30

Stood the morning guard. The musquitos annoyed us very much during the night. Commenced to ferry the Loup Fork about eight o'clock[sic] in the morning which took us about six hours to cross all the waggons. Swam our cattle across above the ferry. Paid the ferryman one dollar for each waggon (and done all the work ourselves) Drove twelve miles and camped with good feed, wood, & water [602] 607

May 31

Our road to day lay along the banks of the Loup Fork Drove twenty two miles and camped beside the river. [624] 629

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June 1

Early in the morning we saw a number of Antelopes on the opposite side of the rivver playing but they were to[o] far off for our rifles. Saw plenty of Buffalo skulls strewn along the road and a great many of them were penciled over with Calafornians names. Drove twenty miles and camped without wood or water: but had good feed for our teams: Made our supper on hard biscuit and milk as it was to[o] late to cook up a warm supper Rained hard all night. About midnight had a stampede among the cattle As it is was useless trying the stop them had to let

them take their course. Started in pursuit and found the greater portion of them about one mile from camp. As the night was very dark we could not find the remainder (being about forty in number). [644] 649

June 2

Started out very early in the

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morning after our missing stock and found them all feeding on the Platte Rivver bottoms some five miles from camp. Started again on our journey drove eighteen miles over a bad road and camped for night. No wood but plenty of good feed and poor water [662] 667

June 3

Drove to Prarie Creek which we forded: the water being up to our wagon boxes. A few rods west of the creek was two Calafornians graves One was A. Kellogg from Southport. Drove twelve miles to Wood Creek and camped. Here we found good grass, wood, and water. During the day we had some sport trying to catch two young Elk that were laying beside the road but we were not swift enough on foot [674] 679

June 4

Laid by all day and done up our washing and mending very rainy: At night had another stampede among our cattle

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which sounded like thunder and away they went flying in every direction as if they had been kicked on end. Found some sixty head which we brought back to camp The rain poured in torrents and as our tent leaked considerably it made rather uncomfortable sleeping on the ground. O, for a place in some warm feather bed

June 5

As soon as it was daylight most of the company started out in different directions after the remainder of our cattle. At two o'clock Warrens company came up and passed. Some of our own company also arrived with part of the lost stock besides a number of strange cattle & two mules belonging to a train fourteen miles ahead of us who had a stampede among their teams as well as ourselves. At four oclock found four more ten miles east of camp. At nine P.M.

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some of the boys got in with thirteen more. On counting found still six missing and three men not yet returned to camp

June 6

Lounged about waiting for the boys that were out to come in. They arrived in camp about ten o'clock in the evening bringing with them the remainder of the cattle which they found fifteen miles North of camp. The boys were compleetly[sic] used up haveing been out for the last thirty eight hours without anything to eat or drink

June 7

Left our camp ground at Wood Creek. Drove twenty five miles and camped in Prarie Dog town, So called from the great numbers of these animals that live in this vicinity. Shot one for



examination Their bodies are about a foot in length which resemble a dog in all appearance excepting the heads having the appearance of the goafer [699] 704

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June 8

Passed through the Prarie dog country. The weather very warm and showery: Drove twenty three miles and camped without wood or water [722] 727

June 9

In the morning we saw two very large black wolves but did not take the trouble to go after them. Drove twenty five miles over a very rough muddy road and camped on the banks of the Platte Rivver. Very showery [747] 752

June 10

Drove three miles and came to a beautiful spring of pure water on the right hand of the road During the day passed four more Calafornians graves. Drove twenty four miles and camped for night on the banks of the Platte [771] 776

June 11

Early this morning Bluebeard[?] shot a deer which made a mess for the whole camp. Drove fourteen miles before noon and stopped

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to bait our cattle at the foot of the first sandy bluffs. In the afternoon we had a very heavy sandy road and did not drive but six miles. To day passed a train that lost thirty head of their stock by a stampede and as a natural consequence they had to leave part of their waggons on the plains [791] 796

June 12

This morning we saw our first drove of buffaloes which caused quite an excitement in camp. There was about one hundred or more in the drove We drove to Skunk Creek four miles from there to Carrion Creek which was ten miles farther thence eight miles to where the road joins the Platte Rivver and camped for night. During the day passed a spring of pure water at the head of the Pawnee swamps and the foot of the bluffs that was worthy of

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notice. The spring was some four or six feet across and two feet deep which boiled up out of a bed of beautiful white sand causing quite a stream to flow which wound its way along like a belt of silver until it reached the muddy Platte We stopped at the spring a long time filling our canteens, and admireing its beauties not knowing when we should behold another alike unto it. Would that we could take the [spring] along with us [another mileage error 813] 814

June 13

Drove some three miles and stopped to put some wood in our wagons being the last we can get for the next two hundred miles. Saw plenty of buffalo during the day. Drove but ten miles and camped Was taken very sick during the night and had to be my own physician. Took a good dose of "kill or cure": and felt very much improved. [823] 824

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June 14

Our road to day lay over a range of heavy sandy bluffs which was very hard on our teams  
Passed a number good springs of water. Crossed North Bluff Creek and Small Creek. Drove  
twenty two miles and camped for night. [845] 846

June 15

Cooked some nice buffalo steak for breakfast. Passed a great many springs of pure water  
Drove twenty three miles and camped on Spring Creek and near the Platte. Caught two fine cat  
fish for supper [868] 869

June 16

Had one mile of heavy going the rest of the road to day was good. Passed two more graves-  
Drove twenty five miles passing the lone tree and camped on Castle Creek [893] 894

June 17

Drove twenty five miles without any water. Passed a number of  
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trains during the day. Camped on Crab Creek with but four waggons in company having left  
the remainder of the train behind [918] 919

June 18

Left about Eight in the morning. Drove two miles when by using my spy-glass could see  
Chimney Rock which was over forty miles distant. Drove six miles farther to the Ancient Bluff  
Ruins. The surrounding scenery here is sublimely beautiful and worthy of the travelers notice  
The scenery represents old fortifications castles & towers as they arise in majestic grandeur to  
the admiring gaze of the beholder. In company with a friend ascended one of the highest  
points and with our glass surveyed the romantic scenery We had to use great precaution in  
ascending and descending on account of the large yellow rattlesnakes that occas-  
[page 40]  
ionally made their appearance in the clefts of the rocks. Travel during the day twenty miles &  
camped by a splendid spring of good cold water [938] 939

June 19

Passed a great number of log chains, broken waggon[s] &c which lay in a state of confusion hard  
to be described. Drove twenty three miles and camped opposite Chimney Rock and in sight of  
Scotts Bluffs. Had to use buffalo-chips for cooking our supper. The musquitos troubled us  
very much during the night [961] 962

June 20

Drove twenty miles to Scotts Bluffs passing through some very beautiful scenery among the  
bluffs. Drove four miles from Scotts Bluffs and camped by a spring of good cold water The  
country now becomes more sandy and barren covered with prickly pear and wild sage. [one line  
illegible]  
[page 41]  
fuel which burns (away) almost as fast as straw [985] 986

June 21

Drove twenty two miles without water and camped. We had to bring our water for cooking a mile. We could see Laramie Peak looming up like a dark cloud in the distance which was over one hundred miles from our encampment. Had a very heavy rain during the night [1007] 1008

June 22

Drove twenty three miles and camped within a mile of the ferry at Fort Laramie. Here we found the grass very poor and had to use the muddy water from the rivver for cooking. [1030] 1031

June 23

Hitched up our teams and drove to the ferry to wait our turn at crossing There was over one hundred waggon[s] to cross the rivver but by arising early we made out to get ahead of the greater portion of them [one line illegible]

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on the bank of the river for one of their company who had died during the night with the cholera. But not a tear is shed for the departed Not even a coffin, or an inscription over his grave is allowed him. (But such is life on the plains) Swam our cattle and paid two dollars per waggon for ferriage. Drove two miles West of the Fort and camped. Wrote a letter home to— — [another error cancels out others] 1033

June 24

Went down to the Fort and had our names registered at the clerks office. J[?]. Wood made up some shoes & nails for our teams at Uncle Sams forge At the fort we saw the head of a mountain sheep The horns would weigh upwards of fifty pounds. Shortened our waggon reach so as to have the wheels closer together. Rai[n]ing during the night

June 25

Left our camp ground at Fort

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Laramie and drove six miles when we began to ascend the Black Hills. Passed some warm springs to the right of the road which were rather warmer than blood. Saw four more graves drove twenty two miles and camped on Bitter Creek being the first water we have had to day suitable for our teams—

1055

June 26

Drove thirteen miles before noon Asscended a high bluff where we found some good grass and turned our cattle out to bait. By using the glass we could see snow on the summit of Laramie Peak which was at least fifty miles distant. In the after noon we had a rough stony road which was hard on our cattle and dangerous to waggons. Passed Horse Creek & Heebers spring which was first best water. Drove during the day twenty four miles and camped on a small creek the water poor and feed scarce

1079

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June 27

Travelled about five miles over a succession of hills and hollows. Drove thirteen miles to the La Bonte Rivver, crossed and stopped to bait beside a spring of good water. In the afternoon passed



over some five miles of volcanic country which was dreary and barren. Drove nineteen miles during the day and camped on a branch of the La Bonte. We had to drive our cattle some two miles off the road for grass. The water was poor, but wood plenty 1098

June 28

Drove fourteen miles to A La Puelle Rivver where we watered our teams Thence six miles farther and camped on Box Elder Creek which was a beautiful little stream running over a rocky bed. During the day we met two persons with pack mules returning from Calafornia They gave us encouraging news which we very much stood in need of haveing seen so much of

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sickness and death our spirits were at ebb tide. Had to drive our cattle about a mile for feed which was none of the best 1118

June 29

Laid by all day making an Ox frame and shoeing our cattle which were very foot sore. The weather to day is unusually cold A number of the company are rather unwell. As for myself never felt better in my life Water being plenty done up our washing.

June 30

Those on our sick list are much better. The weather is still very cold and looks as if we should have a snow storm which according to report is nothing uncomon in these regions. Paine and company passed to day as we lay encamped

July 1

Drove four miles to Fourche Bois Rivver, thence to the north Platte three miles farther, thence to Deer Creek where we stopped

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an hour to feed. Crossed Mud Creek (which is rightly named) and camped haveing drove during the day twenty three miles over a desolate barren country covered with prickley pear and wild sage Had to drive three miles off the road for feed which was poor enough. Brought our water for cooking purposes two miles 1141

July 2

Drove seventeen miles through clouds of dust without a drop of water and arrived at the Upper Platte ferry where we found the Geneva boys assembled While crossing; a man belonging to another train got knocked off of the ferry boat by the roaps breaking and was drowned. He had a thousand dollars in gold around his person So said his partner. The persons owning the ferry have three[?] boats for crossing. They make a trip over in about five minutes and at the price of five dollars a waggon the can clear from

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one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars per day No use for them going to Calafornia Drive our stock up in the mountains about six miles for feed 1158

July 3

Herded our cattle in the mountains untill the afternoon when we drove them to the rivver and swam them across which was a hard task to perform As soon as the cattle struck the current

which was very swift they would turn and come back. We were in the water some two hours before we could get them all across, which was not very pleasant as the water was like ice. Sold some brandy to the ferryman for fifty cents a drink. Got in company with a train of Mormons who were encamped here on their way to Salt Lake City They had a band of music with them and although the musicians were none of the best it was a grand treat to us Poor Devils haveing heard nothing sweeter than the growling of wolves since leaving the States

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July 4

Left the Upper Platte ferry about ten A.M. in company with the Mormon train. Drove three miles and left the main travelled road to our right and struck the Platte Rivver. Folved the banks of the rivver ten miles and camped about noon Had a good dinner to celebrate the fourth and laid by the remainder of the day having good feed and water for our teams. Had plenty of music by the mormon brass band and we all made ourselves as merry as circumstances would allow

1168

July 5

Laid by all day and caught some fine fish out of the Platte Had a very high wind during the night which capsized our tent and filled our eyes and hair with dust and sand Resembling (as we all lay side by side) the very picture of hard times

July 6

Left our encampment The mormon co taking the lead. Drove two miles & crossed a small creek of poisonous

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water. Drove four or five miles farther and again struck the main road (One mile farther passed through Rock Avenue.) A short distance from here passed a large spring of alkali water around which there was plenty of dead horses cattle and mules haveing died by drinking the poisonous water. To day we saw for the first time the toads with horns and tails. Drove twenty four miles and camped on a small creek of good water. Had plenty of good feed by driving our teams a short distance from the road

1192

July 7

Drove ten miles over a heavy sandy road and came to the Alkali Springs and Lakes. Here we stopped for a short time and gathered a supply of saleratus The water being encrusted over with saleratus an inch in thickness. At this place the Mormons generally get their supply for the City of Salt Lake Drove five miles farther to Independence Rock where we crossed the Sweet Water Rivver. Asscended to the top

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of Independence Rock and had a grand view of the scenery below— Independence Rock is composed of hard granite and is seperate from the main chain of mountains. It is 600 yards long, 150 yards in width and some two hundred feet in heighth The sides and top are completely covered o,er[o'er] with the names of the Calafornians that have passed by Left our signature on the top among thousands of others. In comeing down found it much worse than going up, and had to come down "on all fours" We arrived safe at the bottom with the exception of our clothing which was rather worse for wear Drove four miles from

Independence Rock and camped on the Sweet Water within one mile of Devil's Gate Haveing  
drove during the day twenty miles 1212

June[July] 8

After breakfast all of the company that felt inclined took a visit to the Devils Gate. Here the  
Sweet Water Rivver rushes through a ledge

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of perpendicular rocks four hundred feet in heighth which strikes the beholder with awe as he  
gazes up at the bold front of this stupendous structure of nature. In company with H. Barton  
asscended to the top and took a peep over the highest point which made our heads whirl. The  
wind blew very hard so that we had to use great precaution to keep from being blown over the  
cliff. Reached the bottom in safety and on looking to the spot we had been made up our minds  
that we had enough of exploring around Devils Gate. In the afternoon saw a band of about forty  
Crow Indians on horse back who were out on a foray as we supposed. They were all fine  
looking fellows and well mounted They went by like the wind and were soon lost in the  
distance. Drove fifteen miles and camped on the Sweet Water. We kept a strong guard out all  
night but were not molested by the indians 1227

June[July] 9

We had to day very heavy sandy

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going. Forded the Sweet Water four times during the day. Saw a single buffalo off to our left  
some of the boys put after him but did not get near enough for a shot. We saw plenty of snow  
off to our left in the gorges of the mountains. Drove seventeen miles and camped on the Sweet  
Water Rivver 1244

July 10

Passed through an Alkali country The wind blew hard all day which made it disagreeable  
traveling— Passed an ice spring but the water was strongly tintured with Alkali. At the  
depth of two feet below the surface of the water it was a sollid body of ice which was hard to  
account for. Drove twenty four miles, forded the Sweet Water twice and camped with good feed  
and water, wo[o]d scarce. 1268

July 11

This morning I was taken very sick with the mountain feever. During the night it was so cold  
that we almost froze. I slept in Bartons

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tent Ours being full to overflowing. Drove ten miles and camped in sight of the Wind River  
Chain of mountains which are covered with perpetual snow and ice. We had but a little grass  
although plenty of good water. 1278

July 12

Felt some better of my mountain feever. Eat a very good breakfast For a sick man. Before  
starting burried one of our train Name unknown: He was burried without any ceremony or a  
coffin to cover him. "But such is fate". Drove twenty miles. the road on both sides strewn with  
dead horses & cattle haveing died from drinking the Alkali water which abounds in this vicinity.

Crossed Strawberry and Willow Creeks. Passed the twin mounds and camped on a small creek within a few rods of a large bank of snow. Very cold all night "to[o] much so for comfort" 1298

July 13.

Again my feever returned so that I was unable to set up haveing been sick all night. We laid by all day as there was three or four more sick with the mountain feever. There is one  
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of the train who is perfectly crazy with it and imagines himself to be all sorts of curious things. The boys drove the stock some two miles for feed. Took a very heavy sweat which made me feel considerable better kept my bed all day. Tried to eat some supper but wanted something better than our "State Prison" fare to give me an appetite

July 14

This morning found plenty of ice in our water pails which had froze during the night. Felt better of my feever but am very weak. -- Drove ten miles and arrived at the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains or Summit of the dividing ridge between the Colorado and Great Basin The altitude of the summit being 7,085 feet above the level of the sea Drove three miles farther to the Pacific Creek & springs water good and cold. Here the streams all flow towards the west. Drove ten miles farther to the Dry Sandy Rivver and camped. We had good  
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feed but awfull poor water No wood but the wild sage. We were a hard looking set of individuals when we camped haveing drove all day through clouds of dust. Had a heavy hailstorm about dusk. Some of the hail were as large as hens eggs 1321

July 15

This morning we did not get a very early start on account of our cattle haveing strayed from camp. Drove six miles and arrived at the Junction of the Oregon and Calafornia roads. Eight miles from the Junction we came to the Little Sandy rivver where we watered our teams haveing had no good water for the last twenty five miles. Drove five miles farther and turned off of the road to camp Had plenty of good feed but no wood and had to drive our cattle three miles for water-- 1340

July 16

Drove four miles and crossed the Big Sandy. Seventeen miles farther struck the Big Sandy again and camped for night. Had hard going on  
[page 56]  
account of the dust and sand which was from three to four inches in depth (which was bad for our eyes). 1361

July 17

Drove ten miles to Green Rivver and forded it two miles[?] below the ferry. Commenced crossing about three oclock and did not get all across untill dark. The rivver where we forded was sixteen rods wide with a very heavy current. We raised our waggon boxes up on blocks but still the water came up to the top of our waggons and gave our provisions a regular soaking Crossed twenty six wagons without any serious accident. When we got across we gave three cheers for Capt Lytle and took a small sensation of fourth proof brandy all around as we were



almost froze in crossing the rivver; the water being as cold as ice; There being plenty of the ardent in camp we made a merry night of it and rather think a more noisy set never camped on the

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banks of Green Rivver. We made up our minds the Elipant was not far distant. (Some thought they had saw his tracks on the bank) 1371

July 18

This morning am perfectly free of the mountain feever. (Think that crossing Green River froze it up) Drove eighteen miles and camped on Blacks Fork. Dried our provisions and clothing which got wet crossing G.R. 1387

July 19

Drove four miles to Hams Fork and crossed: drove two miles to Blacks Fork and crossed. Ten miles farther crossed another small stream and camped haveing drove eighteen miles. 1407

July 20

Crossed Blacks Fork three times the water was very swift and about two feet deep To day we saw plenty of wild flax along our road. Drove nineteen miles and camped near a trading post and within one mile of Fort Bridger While we lay encamped a number of the Snake Indians came into our camp but they appeared very friendly

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We had a very heavy Shower of hail and rain about dark 1408

July 21

This morning was troubled with a violent tooth ache but haveing no dentist in camp I had to grin and bear it. Went to the trading post and bought a pair of buckskin pants likewise two pair of moccasins. Crossed four rushing streams before we arrived at the Fort where we stopped but a few minutes Drove six miles from Fort Bridger to a beautifull spring of pure water on the right of the road, thence three miles to the summit of a high ridge. The descent was steep lengthy and tedious Drove four miles farther to Muddy Fork and camped with plenty of good feed wood and water [no mileage listed]

July 22

Drove four miles and came to two springs each of different water. Tasted of both and found one to be pure soda water; the other was strong copperas water: We drank soda water to our hearts content w[h]ich was very fine. Drove two miles

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farther and arrived at the summit of a high ridge the altitude being 7,315 feet. One mile farther passed another copperas spring. Four miles farther we found a spring of good pure cold water which was the onely good water for the last eleven miles. One mile farther we came to the east foot of the dividing ridge between the Colorado and Great Basin. The asscent was very steep and crooked. We found the summit very narrow Altitude 7,700. Drove six miles farther to Sulphur Creek. At the edge of the creek is a spring of strong sulphur water and at the foot of a bluff west of the creek where we crossed is a spring of pure water the coldest and best we have seen on the route. One mile west of this spring is an oil or tar spring boiling out of the ground

and covering several rods of surface. We filled all the buckets with tar from the spring which is first best for waggons. There is a species of oil arising to the surface of the tar which gives a beautifull polish to any kind of wood work Drove two miles and crossed Bear

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Rivver which is deep with a swift current. The water came to the top of our waggon boxes.

Camped and had plenty of rain at night

1441

July 23

Drove nine miles and crossed Yellow Creek, thence six miles to Cache Cave which we went to see but found it not worthy of much notice. Thence four miles farther and camped by a spring of good water haveing passed a number during the day. We had plenty of good feed wood and water Very showery all day

1460

July 24

To day our road lay through Echo Kanyon. The road was very rough crooked and full of deep mud holes while the rocks on both side[s] of the road towered above our heads to the heighth of from four to six hundred feet perpendicular. Had plenty of good spring water. Made twenty two miles and camped on the Red Fork of Weeber Rivver which abounds in fine trout

1482

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July 25

Forded the Weber drove two miles and came to a spring of warm salt water at the head of Pratts Pass Drove through this pass to avoid a large kanyon Commenced asscending a high mountain which was four miles to the summit. After reaching the summit stopped a short time to rest. Descended again into a large kanyon. Four miles farther struck kanyon creek. Here we found the roads very bad on account of dense high bushes, trees and stumps. It required the greatest precaution to keep our waggons from upsetting Made seventeen miles by hard driving and camped in the kanyon

1499

July 26

Drove three miles when we left Kanyon Creek haveing crossed it thirteen times within the last eight miles. We now begin to ascend the steepest and most tedious mountain on the road from Missouri Rivver to Salt Lake City. Continued to asscend for four miles when we reached the summit. The sides of the mountain

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is covered with the balsam of fir Altitude of mountain 7,245. At the summit we had a "magnificent view" of the valley of the Great Salt Lake and City which lays stretched out at our feet in all its beauty and grandeur In descending the mountain we found it very steep and tedious as the road was full of stumps trees and large stone with occasionally a very short turn in the road. With very carefull driving we arrived safe at the bottom Crossed Browns Creek and one mile farther asscended another steep mountain a mile to the summit. Descended again and camped on a small creek in the Emigrant Kanyon haveing drove fifteen miles over the worst kind of a road

1514

July 27

Drove five miles when we left the kanyon haveing crossed the creek nineteen times. Some of

the crossings were bad the road rough and rocky Drove five miles farther and arrived at the City of the Great Salt Lake The City covers a space of about five  
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miles in extent and the number of inhabitants are estimated from eight to ten thousand persons. The houses are generally built of adobies or unburnt brick The City is located three miles from the foot of the mountains which enclose the east side of the valley within three miles of the Utah Outlet and twenty two miles from Salt Lake. The land is gradually sloping from the mountains to the outlet and is of a black loose sandy nature. A stream of water rushes from the mountains east of the City and divides in two branches; both of which pass through the City to the Utah Outlet. The water is good and very cold and plenty for mill priviledges. The atmosphere is very pure sweetened by the healthy breezes from the Great Salt Lake— The timber on the mountains is mostly balsam of fir. The valley is forty miles long and from twenty to twenty five miles in width— The valley is beautifully surrounded on the East, South, and West by high mountains. There is two sulphur springs one mile and a half from Temple  
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Block The water is some salt and a little warmer than blood. Two miles farther North is a sulphur spring of boiling water. On the North side of the City the land is not good for cultivation but on the east it is best adapted for farming purposes by irrigating the water. Camped in the City and bought some vegetables which was a treat to us having had nothing of the kind on our route  
1524

Sun. July 28

Washed up and went to the Mormon meeting

July 29

Had my measure taken for a pair of buckskin pants (by a mormon tailor). Went to a concert in the evening by Jno. Kelly of St. Louis

July 30

This morning Copeland left no[?] for Calafornia As he was in a hurry He packed his oxen with his traps and left us at the city. We intending to shoe our cattle and let them recruit for a short time. Some of the boys hired out to the mormons to help them do their harvesting at the price

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of one bushell of wheat per day which brings from five to six dollars a bushell Went again to Kellys Concert in the evening

July 31

Hitched up our teams and drove ten miles North of the City on the Jordon River for better feed which was good at this place Saw Creego & Utter who were camped in the City about half a mile from the Council house

Aug. 1

Took up my abode along with Creego while I staid at the city. The remainder of the company remaining at the camp burning a coal pit calculating to shoe all our working cattle before we leave Creego & myself took our dinner at a boarding house for which we paid 1.25 Gave

Ed. Winchell \$9.50 to help him through to Calafornia. Went to an exhibition in the evening which was given by one of our train; being feats of legerdemain etc. Of course cost us nothing

Aug. 2.

In company with Creego took a job of threshing wheat for C. Decker. The Residents son in law

The weather blew[??]

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very warm and as it was a good place to board we did not get our job done

Aug. 3

Finished our job by noon having threshed but eight bushells in a day and a half. Received \$7.50 a piece for our laborious exercises. Sold my spy glass to one of the mormons for five dollars

Sun. Aug. 4

In company with young Soles from Rochester, Wis Who had the misfortune afterwards of being shot by the Indians wen[t] to hear mormon preaching by Brigham Young. The congregation was large. The discourse was on the first principals of salvation. But our attention was to[o] much directed to a bevy of young ladies who were seated in the same pew with us, to give the sermon a thought They eyed us with rather a musical look (and well they might for we had not shaved in the last three months and our shirts had been worn for two weeks[]). After service a brass band who were stationed among the singers played some lively dancing tunes Which made quite a sensation "in mis[?]

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understanding". Left the City for our camp on the Jordon in company with Barton and Lovejoy. We walked some seven miles when it got to[o] dark to proceed. Seeing no house at hand we took possession of a pile of straw which we found in a lot owned by one of the mormons. We did not sleep much for we were disturbed all night by the howling of wolves. Likewise a horse and two dogs had taken up their abode in the straw and we had to keep one eye open to watch the horse who occasionally tried his speed around the straw stack.-

Aug. 5.

Got up out of our nest before sunrise and started for camp which we reached in going four miles. Staid in camp all day. Some are out shooting at a mark.-

Aug. 6

Left camp and went again to the city Staid over night with H. Johnson--

Aug. 7

Went back to camp in company with Dudley of Chicago

Aug. 8

Rainy. Staid in camp and wrote a letter home to .....-....

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Aug. 9

Formed a copartnership with Lovejoy Barton & Company to mess together the rest of the way



to Calafornia. Our company now being eight men with two waggons with seven yoke of cattle and three cows Appointed two cooks, two cow boys and four teamsters. Part of the company went to the city after some flour Etc. and the remainder staid and shod the cattle

Aug. 10

Done up our washing for comeing events

Aug. 11

Getting ready for a start

Aug. 12

Left our encampment about ten oclock. Went back to the city after our provisions which we bought at that place. Before leaving the city I sold my indian pony for sixty five dollars being afraid he would not stand the trip. Drove two miles west of the city and camped for night.

Aug. 13

When we went after our cattle we found them in a mormons wheat stacks. Hitched up and took Hastings

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cut off. "Crossed the Rivver Jordan" and paid \$1.75 for crossing the toll bridge (O. Jordam am a hard road to trabell)

Put on a supply of water from the Jordan Drove ten miles to a good patch of grass and stopped to wait for part of our train that are behind. While we stopped we were very much annoyed with flying ants which covered our waggons in swarms Drove eight miles farther and camped at Black Rock. We had good feed but very poor brackish water. 1542

Aug. 14

Drove four miles and came to the beach of Salt Lake. Here the mormons were boiling salt The water is so strong that four barrels of water would make one of salt. We took a bathe in the lake and found we could lay on the surface without any exertion whatever, it being impossible to sink We staid in the water about an hour and when we came out we were pretty well pickled. Our hair and whiskers were white with salt enough to season our food for a week. Drove six miles and came to four springs of water. These

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springs were about one rod apart and no two were alike. One was strong salt water The next a little brackish the third was saltpeter and the fourth pure cold water. Two miles farther we saw a number of springs which were more or less salt. Drove fifteen miles farther without any water and came to Willow Creek ware[?] we camped haveing drove twenty three miles 1565

Aug. 15

Laid by to day to cut some grass for the desert which was very good at this place We were very much annoyed with the howling of the wolves all night. Had a very heavy thunder storm

Aug. 16

This morning we found two oxen belonging to the train swamped in one of the natural wells

wich abound in this part of the country. The wolves had torn one of them so bad that we were obliged to shoot him to put him out of his misery. Laid by all day waiting for part of our train to come up who were still back. They arrived in camp about dark.

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Aug. 17

Bound up a quantity of grass and filled our casks with water not knowing when we shall get any good water again as we have no guide for this part of our route. Drove ten miles and came to a number of salt springs which our teams would not drink of Fifteen miles farther came to some more springs the water rather better than the first although not fit to drink. Camped here for the night with plenty of good feed. 1590

August 18.

Had to cook our breakfast with grease wood and sage brush. Drove ten miles and came to a spring of good pure water. Here we camped being the last good water we can get untill we cross the big desert. 1600

August 19.

Laid by all day to cook some provisions for the desert. A number of Utah Indians came into camp during the day. They were filthy looking devils as a person would wish to see Our train has increased since leavi

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ing[sic] Salt Lake so that we number at present forty persons with nine waggons. Three being horse teams About three oclock in the afternoon filled up all our casks with water a mounting to about ninety gallons and put as much grass in our waggons as we could conveniently carry. Drove fifteen miles over a level plain destitute of feed or water and camped at the foot of a mountain. Here we found some water but not fit for man and hardly suitable for stock as it was very brackish and tintured with sulphur No wood but Sage brush 1615

August 20

Rolled out of camp about three [o]clock P.M. for the desert. Drove over a range of mountains five miles across. The road was very rough and stony and some places so steep that we had to double the teams. In company with a young man from Ohio clumb to a high point of mountain where we had a beautifull view of the desert which lay out before us as far as the eye

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could reach. As we stood and gazed at the scene before us a feeling of loneliness would steal over our senses and our thoughts would naturally wander back to the scenes we had left far away. In descending the mountain we saw three mountain sheep which were feeding on the side of the mountain but to[o] far off for rifle shot. The teams arrived at the edge of the desert about dark. The first four or five miles of the road was very dusty being from four to six inches in depth after this our road was beautifull being as hard and as level as a house floor. Our teams travelled very fast haveing made during the night thirty five miles of desert by sunrise.

Aug. 21

Stopped a short time and gave our teams a little grass and water likewise took a cold bite ourselves for breakfast. Rested about an hour then drove ten miles farther when we gave our

teams another turn at the grass and water giving from two to three quarts to an animal. It was rather a small doses[?] but the best we could do for them

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The sun shone very hot and the ground being encrusted over with salt it made our eyes ache from the reflection. The thermometer stood during the day at one hundred and forty[?] degrees and not a sprig of anything could be seen on the desert as far as the eye could reach Drove untill dark when we came up to a waggon that had stopped and sent their horses on ahead the day before to find water. One of the men haveing returned told us that we were still twenty five miles from water which was sad news for us as we were nearly choked for the want of water. Stopped a few minutes and gave our teams the remaining water which was about two quarts to an animal The grass being all gone. The cattle began to look thin and jaded as well as ourselves. Rolled on again as fast as the state of our teams would allow passing any quantity of dead animals that had given out for the want of feed and water. An hour after sunrise we reached Pilot Peak Creek across the desert. The loose stock haveing got across about two hours ahead of

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the teams. Our cattle were completely worn out by the time we got across haveing travelled ninety three miles without rest and scarcely anything to eat or drink. Had to use great precaution in giving our cattle water for fear of killing them.

1703

August 22

Took care of our teams and then had some breakfast for ourselves which we great stood in need of as some of us had not eat a mouthfull for the last twenty four hours. We then took our blankets and stretched ourselves out for a good sleep Haveing had not rest for the last forty eight hours. We slept untill four oclock in the afterno[o]n when we hitched up and drove on three miles farther to a better camping ground where we had good feed and plenty of water. 1706

August 23.

Laid by all day and rested ourselves and cattle. Some indians of the Shoshone tribe came into camp. We gave them nothing and they soon left us-

August 24

Rolled out about nine A.M. drove six miles to a number of springs

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of good water. Here we found another desert of thirty-five miles to cross Let our teams feed untill four in the afternoon when we put on a supply of water and started across the desert Drove fifteen miles over a level plain when we struck a range of mountains which gradually ascended for ten or twelve miles when we arrived at the top of the ridge. The rest of the way across was very levell. While crossing this desert we passed over a portion of ground that emitted a dull hollow sound as our wagons rolled along sounding as if there was a tremendous cavern beneath our feet. Drove all night and got across the desert about ten oclock the next morning.

1747

Sun. August 25.

Laid over to rest ourselves and cattle To day is considered a day of rest and we are glad to avail ourselves of the priviledge haveing been up three nights during the past week



August 26

We did not get a very early start

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on account of its being rainy in the morning. Drove six miles and baited our teams having a nother desert ahead forty miles across. Drove twenty miles and camped at a number of sulphur springs. Some of these springs were cold while others were very warm water. The water was not hardly fit for our teams but they had to drink it for the want of haveing better. 1767

August 27

In company with another young fellow left our train and put out ahead with our rifles. Crossing a rocky point of mountain we killed two large yellow rattlesnakes which measured from six to eight feet in length We also saw the fresh tracks of a large grizzley bear while out Drove twenty miles which took us across the desert. This desert is forty miles without water During the last ten days we have had no less than one hundred and sixty miles of desert to cross. Camped for night at a mountain spring which was a

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little tinctured with sulphur We are now in sight of the Humboldt chain of mountains which are capped with perpetual snow and ice. 1787

August 28

Laid over and took a general clean up. Some of the boys got rather impatient and started off for the mines with their packs on their backs

Aug. 29

Went out to drive in our cattle and found three missing besides a mule belonging to John Peck. Feeling confident the indians had stolen them we raised a company of twelve persons to go in pursuit We soon struck their trail and followed it some four miles when we saw one of the missing oxen comeing towards camp with two arrows sticking in his side haveing broke away from the indians. Drove him into camp and killed him for the benefit of the company. We followed the trail about fifteen miles across a level plain and struck

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a range of mountains. It was now to[o] dark to proceed so we made a halt and came to a consultation as to what should be done next. We soon built a large fire of Grease wood and Sage brush and appointed two persons to keep fire and guard who were to be relieved every two hours while the remainder tried to sleep. The night was very cold and as we had left camp without our coats we were nearly froze. We rolled about in the dust before the fire freezing on one side while we roasted the other untill morning when we got up looking like a set of wandering arabs Our hair and clothes completely filled with dust.

August 30

Waited untill it was light enough to see and again took their trail. We followed about two miles and came to the spot where they had camped over night. Here we found one ox belonging to Harvey with eight arrows in him and still alive We shot him to put him out of his misery The remaining one we found

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butchered and part of the meat carried away by the indians. Them[?] all appearances they had



left in a hurry taking the mule with them. Being satisfied we could not get possession of the mule we returned to camp nearly used up determined if any more indians made their appearance in camp to have our revenge. Hitched up and drove sixteen miles to a small creek and camped with good feed and water Had a strong guard out all night to watch our teams 1803

August 31.

Drove over a small desert twenty five miles across and camped on a small creek Name unknown at the foot of the mountain. Here we found Helm and Gibbs waiting for us they having had enough of packing. At this place a number of persons were camped who had suffered more or less from the indians They being very bad in this portion of country One man had two oxen stolen (Being half [page 81] of his team[]) another had two mules stolen. We appointed a strong guard which was relieved once in three hours. 1828

September 1.

Drove twenty miles and crossed a great many small creeks. We camped for night at the head of a large valley wich abounded with wild clover and herb[?] grass. This valley extended towards the south as far as the eye could reach. Camped at the foot of the humboldt range of mountains. We had plenty of good mountain water for our teams 18[ink blot]

September 2.

Drove twenty five miles down the valley crossing stream after stream as they came rushing from the snow capped mountains. The clover was waist high and our teams apared to enjoy the change haveing had rather poor fare for the last three hundred miles Camped by a large spring which came gushing out of the rocks at the foot of the mountains. This [page 82] spring was one of nature's curiosities The rocks formed an arch over the spring (which was some two feet in depth) and as cold as ice. 1873

Sept. 3

Drove thirteen miles when we came to a gorge in the mountains which we passed through. Made eighteen miles and camped. 1891

Sept. 4.

Drove ten miles over a low range of hills which were covered with low cedars and small bushy pines and struck a small creek which we suppose to be a tributary of the St. Mary's Rivver. Haveing no guide for this part of our route we are entirely lost. There was considerable gossing[guessing] as to our whereabouts but to no effect We had a number of Col. Fremonts maps in our train but could not find this route laid down Drove fifteen miles farther and had good feed and water. At night stood on guard untill one [page 83] o'clock along with Wadell and Lovejoy. 1916

Sept. 5

After driving some two or three miles we came to a place where the ground was covered with

blood for some distance around. An indian skull laid near with a ball hole in the back part of it. Two miles farther we found a piece of paper sticking into a sage bush which had been written by a train some three days ahead of us. The paper stated that they had lain by at this place to bury two white men whom they had found killed by the indians. They also found one dead indian near the body[sic] of the whites. They also found the bodies of four more white men on the sides of the mountain near the road. Vengeance was sworn on every indian that should make his appearance within rifle shot Drove during the day twenty six miles and camped on a small creek with good feed and water using sage brush for fuel. 1932

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Sept. 6.

Drove ten miles and came up with Dr. Truett and company. He having lost five mules stolen by the indians since we saw him last (some six days ago). Eleven men started in pursuit and came upon them so suddenly as they lay encamped that the indians ran for dear life leaving everything behind. The whites fired on the indians killing one and to all appearances wounding several. They made a bonfire of the bows and arrows and blankets, which the indians had left in their hurry. This tribe is the most hostile of any we have seen on our route (and are cunning enough to keep out of our sight)– Drove two miles farther when we struck another stream coming from the N.E. Being another tributary as we suppose of the St. Mary,s. We followed this steam eight miles and camped on its banks haveing good feed wood and water 1952

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September 7.

Laid by all day haveing travelled the last twelve days without rest. We had plenty of washing, mending and cooking to do.

Sept. 8

Followed this stream about one mile and entered a very narrow rocky kanyon through which the stream passed. Some places through the kanyon were so narrow that we had to follow the bed of the stream– The rocks towering above our heads from four to six hundred feet in heighth. After driving about eight miles we came out on a large valley haveing crossed the stream through the kanyon twenty nine times Drove during the day sixteen miles and arrived at the junction of the North and South forks of the St. Mary,s where we camped. (Here we intersected the road coming from Fort Hall).

Sept. 9

Drove six miles through another kanyon when we came out on another valley Left the Humboldt Rivvver to our left and struck a low range of mountains which were seventeen miles across–

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Camped on the mountains by a small spring of good water haveing drove during the day twenty two miles. At night it was so cold we had to sleep with our overcoats on to keep from freezing.

1990

Sept. 10

This morning it was very cold and had a little flurry of snow. Drove nine miles when we left

the mountains and again struck the Humboldt— on which we camped for noon. Here we found a train of four waggons encamped that had twenty six head of horses and cattle stolen the night before by the indians. Thirteen men had started out in pursuit of the indians but had not yet returned when we left camp. Drove nine miles farther over a range of low mountains and again struck the rivver on which we camped for night. 2008

Sept. 11.

Drove twelve miles and camped about three o'clock in the afternoon Being rather short of provisions we killed an ox which was salted down for the benefit of the company

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During the day we saw two fresh Calafornia graves. One was a young man from Rock Co. Wis. The other had been shot in a fight with the indians (A small board at the head of his grave described his death). 2020

Sept. 12

Drove twelve miles over a portion of country that was covered with saleratus and gathered some for our use. Drove two miles farther to Stoney Point on the Humboldt Rivver where we stopped for dinner. At this place we got in a scrimmage with about forty indians of the Shoshonee tribe

While we were getting ready for an attack a company of about fifty mormons with over one hundred head of horses arrived from Calafornia on their way to Salt Lake. We told them what the fuss was when we concluded to camp where we was and route[sic] the indians which we done on horse back in short notice. The indians were on the opposite side of the rivver among the thick willow bushes and as soon as we arrived at the banks of

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the rivver they mounted their horses which were hid in the bushes and left like the wind. We kept a heavy guard all night over our stock. Learnt from the mormons that we were still four hundred miles from the mines and would see the Eliphant before we got through in the shape of snow on the mountains. But that remains to be seen. 2034

Sept. 13

Drove twenty three miles expecting every moment to be attacked by the indians who are very troublesome in this vicinity. Every day brings news of some person being killed by them.

Camped on the rivver, stood guard at night six hours. 2057

Sept. 14.

Drove to day twenty five miles and passed over a large portion of country covered with pure saleratus an inch in thickness. Gathered about twelve pounds for our own use. Camped on the rivver with poor feed and water, wood scarce and had to use sage brush. 2082

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Sept. 15.

In the morning we had a cold rain coming from the west which lasted about an hour. Drove ten miles over a low range of sand hills leaving and returning to the rivver. Made eighteen miles and camped on the rivver. Feed and good water scarce. 2100

Sept. 16.

Drove twenty miles a portion of the road being very sandy. Camped near the rivver and caught two fine trout for supper. 2120

Sept. 17.

Shot a large sage hen with my pistol Drove sixteen miles and camped for night on the rivver. 2136

Sept. 18

Drove sixteen miles through clouds of alkali dust without any feed or water and camped on the rivver. We had to take our teams across the rivver for feed. 2152

Sept. 19.

Drove twenty miles over a good (but dusty) road and camped on the rivver Feed rather scarce, but plenty of wood and water. Stood guard again at night  
[page 90]  
untill one o'clock. 2172

Sept. 20.

Saw a number of the Pyute indians who were quite friendly. Drove twenty miles over a dreary sandy country and camped on a high bluff overlooking the rivver. Halte[?] of the Truckie rel[i]ef station staid with us over night. He very politely presented us with an order for some flour and beef to be paid at his station on the Truckie which came very acceptable indeed. 2192

Sept. 21

Drove but ten miles and camped on the rivver. Water poor, and feed and wood scarce. 2202

Sept. 22.

Drove twenty miles passing hundreds of dead animals. Property of all kinds lay strewn along the road in the greatest confusion imaginable. Camped at the big meadows with plenty of good grass for our teams. 2222

Sept. 23

Cut a quantity of grass and filled our casks with water for the Truckie [2 or 3 words illegible] the last wood water we  
[page 91]  
can get this side of the desert. Left the big meadows about three o'clock drove six miles when it became to[o] dark to drive any farther. As there was no grass to be had for our teams we picketed them to our waggons. 2228

Sept. 24.

Drove twenty miles when we arrived at the sink of the Humboldt Rivver The water spreads over a large portion of ground and sinks without any perceptible outlet. The water in this vicinity is all highly impregnated with alkali and is not fit either for man or beast At this place the Carson and Truckie roads fork. We took the right hand road or Truckie and passed over a low ridge and came to a large flat of swampy ground where we stopped untill the moon rose. Which was about ten o'clock when we started across the Truckie desert Drove four miles



when we passed a large stream of water which came gushing up out of the desert. Supposing it was alkali water we did not stop to try it. Our road being good we drove twenty miles by morning.

2268

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Sept. 25.

Drove to the boiling springs (which are about midway of the Truckie Desert) and stopped a few hours to rest. These springs are one of the greatest curiosities on the route across the plains. Two of these springs were very large and of a temperature sufficient to boil an egg in a few minutes. One of these springs is at times perfectly calm. At first it commences gradually to boil (scarcely ruffling the water) and increases in force for about fifteen minutes throwing up the water to the height of three or four feet and again gradually subsides to a perfect calm. We could see the steam arising from the springs at the distance of five or six miles. These springs are no doubt caused by the still slumbering volcanic fires laying far below the surface. As we gazed around us in every direction nothing but volcanic eruptions met the eye. It was at this place "so the story goes" that two Irishmen on their way to California stopped a short time to rest. As the spring commenced boiling one of

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them jumped up and exclaimed "Arah[?] Jimmy lw[?] be afther laving here for hell is not far off. In faith dont you see the divils own pot a boiling Of cours[e] after that we left. Drove twelve miles when our road became very sandy which lasted the remainder of the way across the desert. About dark our teams began to lagg and give out unyoked some of the cattle and left them with two waggons in care of Burton and Morrill. Took the remainder of our teams and went ahead calculating to return for those we had left as soon as our teams were sufficiently recruited to do so. Drove eight miles when we arrived at the Truckie Rivver (and across the desert). Got across about three o'clock in the morning and right glad were we to see and taste water once more. Found plenty of good grass for our cattle.

2288

Sept. 26

This morning we all feel about used up haveing been the last two days and nights without sleep, and hardly any thing to eat or drink. For myself I am nearly blind occasioned by the fine dust; which

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is composed of volcanic ashes and fine sand and likewise being so long without sleep. Part of the boys went after our teams and waggons we left on the desert and returned again late in the afternoon safe and sound. Camped here all day at this place we found a trading post w[h]ere we could buy all kinds of provisions we wanted. Pork & Beef at five shillings a pound, flour fifty cents. Dried fruit at one dollar and a quarter per pound Potatoes one twenty five and everything in proportion

Sept. 27

This morning a train arrived who have lost the greatest portion of their teams on the desert. It was a sad sight to see the property of all kinds that lay strewn over the desert. Waggons enough to fence a farm and dead animals enough to stop the hog hole. The stench arising from dead carcasses was perpetual. To day I am teetotaly blind. My eyes are swelled entirely shut and are very painfull. Hitched up and crossed the Truckie Rivver. The current was very swift and from

two to three feet in depth. Drove four miles to Waldo,s station. Here we received some  
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flour and beef (which was presented to us by Waldo) for past favours.

2292

Sept. 28

This morning Harvey left the train in company with ten others for the mines They took their packs on their backs and started. Received into our company Dr- Truett, wife and daughter from St. Louis whom we found destitute of a team Haveing lost all their horses and mules by the indians and the hardships of the desert. Left our camping ground about noon. Crossed the Truckie six times, some of the crossings being very bad the current allmost sweeping our teams and waggons down the stream. Here the Truckie rushes through a range of volcanic mountains towering high above our heads Drove ten miles and camped on a small patch of grass beside the rivver. The provisions Etc. in our waggons were soaking wet crossing the Truckie during the day.

2302

Sept. 29.

This morning resigned my commision of chie[e]f cook to Mrs. Truett & daughter and took the more pleasant position of assistant

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Drove eight miles over a rough rocky road without crossing the rivver keeping the North side of the stream which was a most horrid road. At times a misstep of our teams would have plunged us over the bank[?] into the Rivver which was from one to two hundred feet below us Our teams were true and steady or we could not have accomplished the task descending a steep mountain we had our first view of the Sierras which lay far away to the west and capped with perpetual snows drove eight miles farther and camped on the banks of the Truckie with plenty of good feed, wood, and water.

2318

Sept. 30

Drove eight miles when we again crossed the Truckie. Went four miles farther to the Grand[?] meadows and camped about four in the afternoon.

2330

Oct. 1

Got up quite early and found the indians had stolen three mules and one horse during the night haveing no guard out from two young men belonging to Waldo,s station who camped with us  
[one line illegible] the

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mules came into camp with an arrow sticking through his neck. Having broke away as we supposed from the indians Pulled the arrow out of his neck and found he was not much hurt by it. They started with their remaining animals for the station and we rolled out on our course. Drove eight miles to the last crossing of the Truckie where we had the misfortune of upsetting one of our waggons in the rivver while crossing. Made fifteen miles and camped on the bank of the rivver and at the foot of the Sierra Nevadas. Had a bad tooth ache all day but had it extracted before going to rest by Andrews.

Oct. 2

A company who were encamped near us had one ox and four horses stolen by the indians during

the night. (Haveing no guard out). Left the Truckie (haveing crossed it but seven times whereas last season there was twenty seven crossings) Drove four miles over hill and down dale when we commenced ascending the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Drove three miles through a dense forest

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of lofty pines and cedars when we again descended into a small valley where we camped for night by the side of a small stream. Had good feed for our teams and used pitch pine for fuel. The country now assumes a far different appearance We no more see the wild sage and grease wood but the country is covered with lofty cedars, spruce, and pine with occasionally a fir tree.

2352

Oct. 3.

Good road, Drove thirteen miles through a forest of beautifull pine, spruce and cedar. Some of these trees were from five to eight feet in diameter and from two to three hundred feet in heighth. Camped on a small spring creek and had good feed for our teams.

2365

Oct. 4

Drove through a heavy forest for twelve miles when we arrived at the Canibal Cabbins. Here the unfortunate Donner party four years ago the twenty seventh day of september last were blocked in by the snow and were reduced to such an extremity that

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they were compelled to eat the dead bodies of their companions which gives the name of the canibal cabbins here we camped for night. Around the cabbins were stumps of trees which were from ten to sixteen feet in height haveing been cut by them &[?] showing the depth of snow that must have fallen during their stay in the mountains. We are now six miles from the summit of the Sierra Nevada.

2377

Oct. 5

Drove five miles when we began to ascend the "back bone" of the Sierra- which was very steep and tedious We had to double teams to ascend After some hard pulling and a great deal of noise we at last arrived to the summit. The altitude of which was 9,700 feet. Being two thousand feet higher than the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains. And still there was many peaks around us that rose for thousands of feet above where we stood. Bearing their snow capped heads in majestic grandeur to the very clouds. We now begin to descend the

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mountains which was steep and rocky. Drove five miles down the mountain side and came to a small valley where we camped for night. We now feel ourselves safe[?] for the mines as we have passed the summit.

2383

Oct. 6

This morning a short distance from camp we found a man murdered and covered up with willow bushes The side of his head was considerably fractured. As there was signs of there having been a trading station here we came to the natural conclusion that he had been murdered by his partners for his money. We took our shovels and burried him as decently as possible. Hitched up and drove twelve miles over a road that defies description. Being a combination of everything bad. camped in the woods moving[?]

2400

Oct. 7.

Our road to day was horrible in the extreme. let our waggons down twenty feet over a ledge of rocks by means of ropes. Made eight miles by

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hard driving and camped for night by a beautiful stream of pure water with but little grass. 2408

Oct. 8

Commenced storming in the morning and lasted most of the day which was very disagreeable.

Drove five miles over rocks and mountains and camped by a number of springs of rather poor water Feed very scarce. 2413

Oct. 9

To day we went but two miles and it was a hard days work descending the mountains. We had to unyoke our cattle and drive them down the mountain singly as it was impossible to get them down with the yokes on. We had to let our waggons down twice upwards of three hundred feet by means of a rope hitched to the hind axletree besides chaining all the wheels to keep them from turning Used the pine trees beside the road for snubbing posts— Camped in Bear Valley and took our stock off in the mountains about three miles for feed as the emigrants

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have swept everything before them in the shape of grass along the road While herding our cattle measured a tree that had been blown down and found it to be three hundred and thirty feet in length although no more than five feet in diameter. 2415

Oct. 10

Drove four miles up a steep mountain over rocks and old logs a road that defies description.

Drove fifteen miles and camped at the Mountain Cottage. Tied our cattle up to the waggons as there was no feed to be had for them. 2430

Oct. 11

Left the Mountain Cottage and drove eleven miles to Rock Creek and within four miles of Nevada City. Camped on Rock Creek and drove our stock off some two miles for grass. In the afternoon cleaned up and went to Nevada to see the Eliphant. Paid two dollars for our supper which we got in the city and returned to Rock Creek 2445

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Oct. 12.

Sold off our stock and was paid in Feather River gold dust. Sold our cattle for seventy five dollars a yoke and the cow for seventy five dollars. Sold our waggon for twelve dollars and got cheated awfully. Pitched our tent on Rock Creek and made preperations for mining.

[diary continues, transcript ends]