

EDGAR REYNOLDS

Journal of Travels From Iowa to California,

1852

Transcribed

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here I bid adieu to a
Cousin of mine who
told me to stay at home
but I am bound for Cal.

Apr 18th

this day left uncle simp's in company with uncle Osa & R & W Matthews and their families for the far off gold region our company numbering 7 teams proceeded as far as Pleasant Hill[?] the distance of about 9 miles & camped with our friends

Apr 19

left pleasant Hill[?] in company with 5 more teams our company now numbering 11 teams, all in good health & spirits, travel'd 5 miles crossed lower thu[?] river by ferrying our waggons & swimming our cattle went 5 miles further and camped near Palmyra at Mr Fouts a fine warm sunny day

Apr 20

rather cold & windy day travel'd 17 miles camped in a large and extensive prairie

Apr 21

the weather warm & pleasant passed over some handsome prairie travel'd about 17 miles crossed clantons fork of middle rivers by ferrying camped in a large hollow on the bank of a small creek surrounded by hills a very noted place which I shall remember for years

a great place to camp
to keep out the wind
the road running
down the creek

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Apr 22

travel'd about 13 miles crossed middle the river by fording camped in the midst of a large prairie, 25 miles between timber this day cool and windy

Apr 23

this day cold & showery lay by hunting cattle which had ran off the night before found them in the evening

Apr 24

travel'd to day about 20 miles reached timber camped on the prairie this prairie is about 35 miles from timber to timber weather cool & windy thunder showers in the evening

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Apr 25

weather rather windy & cool travel'd 20 miles camped in the same prairie a number of teams from Illinois fell in the rear of ours forming a line of upwards of 20 teams

Apr 26

reached timber about noon feed teams took dinner then proceeded on prairie again 15 miles to timber again travel'd 18 miles camped pleasant day

I was on gard here when I came off gard I found 9 Indians in the tent where I slept[?]

Apr 27

reached timber about noon proceeded on crossed Nishna Botany by fording & East fork Nishna B by means of bridge

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halted at Indian Town traveld 17 miles crossed Notoway river on a bridge camped on its banks in the prarie this prarie is about 15 miles across to timber pleasant day

lots of fish here also a mill just below the mill we caught lots with dip net

Apr 28

reached timber about noon fed teams then traveld on about 15 miles acrossed west fork of Nishina botany by ferrying our teams swimming our cattle then camped in the prarie a short distance from the river by a small running Creek weather warm and pleasant had some fun here

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Apr 29th

traveld on 23 miles and camped in the prarie on the banks of a creek about two miles from Kanessville weather warm and pleasant saw several Indian some 30 or 40[?] for the first of the omahaw trib

Apr 30th

lay by resting cattle weather rather cold and windy rain in the ****ing **** **** **** **** down the ****

May 1th

lay by weather warm and pleasant

May 2nd

lay by weather warm and pleasant

verry pretty country here and sand[?]

May 3rd

proceeded on passed through Kanessville from thince on over the bluffs crossing a natural ridge surrounded by high hills

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passed through the Missouri bottoms thence to the river plenty of wood and water lots of grass traveld 15 miles and camped on the banks of the Missouri river weather warm winds high Warren broke a waggon wheel & c

May 4th

lay by on the banks of the river waiting for the winds to fall in the evening organized into a company selected a captain & &c

May 5th

stayed on the banks of the river in the fore part of the day waiting for the wind to fall and in the afternoon crossed the river and camped

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on the opposite side of the river into the Indian territory saw Indians here of the omahow trib

here was my first
curiosity an Antelope
about 50(?) men
went after them

weather in the forenoon warm wind high afternoon cloudy had a verry hard rain
thunder shower in the evening grass rather poor water and wood plenty

[May] 6th

traveld on about five miles and camped about 2 oclock weather warme and pleasant with the
exceptions of a shower in the morning wood and water plenty grass plenty or good

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My 7th

traveld 13 miles and camped on the banks of Pappera creek 5 Indians of the Pawnies tribe
came to our camp app[?] friendly some 70 waggons was camped close by us weather
verry warm and pleasant wood and water plenty grass rather poor

May 8th

traveld in ***** then came to Elkhorn river which we crossed by ferrying our waggons and
swiming our cattle got acrossed safe but came very near getting some of our cattle drowned
saw a great many Indians here &

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after crossing we traveld on about 1 mile and forded bridy[?] creek then went one mile and
camped in Platte river bottoms wood & water plenty but grass rather Poor weather warm
and pleasant

May 9th

traveld ***** in sight of Platte river halted and let the cattle eat then passed a pawnee
village the Indians came to the road and requested us to give them something we gave
them one poor ox that would not stand it to go to Cal

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they started of with it & it could[?] not go & so they shot it that did not kill it so I shot it and
that did not kill it so they kept shooting it till they shot it 10 times & then it run and then the
Indian shot it with his arrow and then it fell they apeared satisfied and allowed us to pass on
travel about 10 miles came to a point of timber got some wood went about 3 miles
further camped by a

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little pond several little ponds of soft clar water on the left traveld about 14 miles good
grass showery

May 10th

traveld about 9 miles no water nor wood then came to a point of timber and water after
traveld near the river for about 11 miles cross shell creek on a little bridge and camped on its
banks about 45 teams were camped their making a verry large company & about 5 hundred
Indians of the Pawnees they were verry saucy

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they had torne up this bridge and refused to let the emigrants pass our number being
strong they did not ofer to molest us drove about 20 miles to day

here the Indians
stoid all of Ruben
papers in his pocket
himp[?] & pocket

weather pleasant shower in
the forenoon grass good
wood plenty a horse ran
through the cattle and we
had a stamped

May 11th

traveld on rather low bottoms one bad slough no timber near the road traveld about 11 miles halted by a running brook & a little grove drove 7 or 8 miles further we camped by the side of a long lake the same company we staid with last night camped near wood & grass plenty came about 17 miles to day

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Mayth12

proceeded on about 5 miles no wood nor water came to Loop fork their being a number of teams a head of us we were obliged to wait till afternoon two ferry boats at this place crossed our wagons on the boat and swam our cattle got over safe went about 3/4 of a mile and camped the forenoon [&?] afternoon showery wood and water plenty good grass

Mayth13

traveld up the south side of loop fork saw little cotton wood on the river the face of the country beautiful

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being a smooth handsom prarie the prarie being late burned we found but little grass. in the afternoon no water near the road carried wood the the[sic] road more hilly and sandy camped on low prarie rather wet little grass & larvy[?] showery high wind traveld about 24 miles clear evenings

May 14

cool clear morning traveling near the river again the land sandy no timber some ponds & sloughs traveld about 10 miles came to crooked creek the creek & river on our right hand

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on the left sand ridge[?] traveld about 18 miles camped on crooked creek grass better no wood near went up the river about five ms and brought up a little on the horses

May 15

kept on the low land about six miles then began to climb the bluffs on sand ridges striking across to the plat bottoms about 12 miles over these ridges rather poor grass no wood water plenty traveld about 16 miles dark night some of the guard got lost but found again by putting up lights

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May 16

went about 2 miles to plat bottoms in descending the bluffs we find many sloughs and[?] quick sand very bad travel through good place to stall teams after traveling a few miles we crossed prarie creek and verry good crossing banks mudy it is now a better road crossed dry creek traveld about 16 miles crossed woods creek good crossing wood & grass plenty about 14 miles across on this wet bottoms weather cool little snow and heavy frost

we left the cattle to
go to camp & then
could not find neither
cattle nor camp

for the first time
suned our things

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May 17

traveld about 2 miles and camped weather warm and pleasant reloaded runed[?] our
loading wood and water plenty

May 18

rooling on our handsome prarie being high smooth a little rooling saw two Antelope but
could not get a shot at them traveld about 14 miles encamped on a small stream
wood and grass plenty

May 19

traveld on no wood nor water near the road traveled over some alcalye ground came in
sight of plat river saw teams

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on the opposite side traveld about 22 miles came to timber camped beside a branch or
slough proceeding from plat weather very warm

May 20

traveld near the bluffs rather poor grass being mostly destroyed by Buffaloes no[?] timber
good road crossed elm creek about noon found some few scattering timber[?] crossed
another small but verry deep creek & camped by another small creek traveld 17 miles on
this creek we found some ash wood grass good showery during the afternoon

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May 21

this morning traveld on broken prarie no water only in sinkholes made by Buffaloes
traveld 17 miles came to plat river from this point we have a full view of the river & clear
acrossed it is about 1½ miles wide the water has[?] a[?] turbid[?] appearance on the[?]
account of its being shallow and quicksand bottoms we crossed buffaloe creek no timber
on this creek followed up the river the river[sic] about 6 miles found some little cotton
wood and willow brush rained moderately all day traveld 23 miles

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May 22

fair cool morning traveld 7 miles passed a small lake prarie broken and wet traveld
about 20 miles went off of the road ¾ of a mile & camped on plat good grass & water
plenty of wood on an Island close by this Island is about 12 miles long and can be reached at
any time without any difficulty Warren & Mr Pitts[?] killed an antelope & Autry killed a wild
goose

May 23

lay by resting the cattle warm & pleasant Mr Autry

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killed a deer Mr Roberts[?] killed one Antilope and I killed one deer in the afternoon we
made a union supper of which each one provided a share the contents of the table were of four
different kinds of meat

here is plenty of deer on this Island
also lots of big wolves generly
speaking good place to camp

Roasted goose
 Antelope deer & Pork & hams
 Light Bread & Biscuit
 Potatoes Beans
 Onions Pickels
 Butter cheese
 Molasses Honey
 Apple & Peach sauce

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Pies & cakes Coffy Tea & Milk Sugar brown & white

our table consisted of boards taken from the waggons and placed on yokes through the center of the kurell[?] and coverd with ten dishes forty are[?] seperately[?] seated around on the ground appearantly as happy as if seated in a City dining room amid all the splendor Earth could afford

May 24th

proceeded on passed over some rather wet prarie

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untill we came to the bluffs which ran down to the river which we crossed we then had a heavy sandy road for a short distance untill we reached the bottoms again. these had good roads traveled about fourteen miles stoped at plat river and let the cattle eat then proceeded on traveled seven miles further and camped in plat river bottoms a short distance from the bluffs found verry poor water full of wigglers

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but good grass weather warm and pleasant good day for to travel

May 25th

traveled on had good road untill we came to the bluffs then had a heavy sandy road untill reaching the bottoms again stoped about noon by a spring of good water eat our diner. & a short distance to the left near the bluffs is another spring eaqually as good after letting the cattle eat we preceeded on drove about 21 miles to day went about 1 mile

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from the road towards the bluff and camped on a slough found good grass carried water for cooking found no wood except a few willows weather warm and pleasant glen killed a buffalo

May 26th

proceeded on traveled near the bluffs some of the time at others near the river came to some islands of timber[?] in the river some of us boys waded in and got some willows for wood to carry along

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then we crossed a creek or slough of clear water also another small creek traveld about twenty miles country hilly crossed North bluff fork and camped about one mile & a half from its banks about midway between platt river & the bluffs good road most of the way with the exceptions of that lying between the river & our camp ground which was very sandy being almost among the bluffs obtained good clear water

to day I killed one
Antelope shot him in
the heat[sic]

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from a well or hole dug near the river no wood onlay fuel lots of Buffalo chips except what we hauld weather warm & pleasant

May 27th

traveling on eleven miles over heavy sand ridges makeing verry hard traveling both for cattle and people halted besides a small stream of clear water at the foot of the bluffs called bluff creek but little grass or water among these bluffs went on traveld abut

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seven miles further two & a half which lay over sand ridges making verry hard traveling in places the sand in places on these hills is drifted by winds but in some places it is hard and solid somewhat resembling limestone or marble in appearance perpendicular on both sides of the road with the names of scores of travelers who have pass previously in some places the road is narrow being nearly room for the wagons to pass

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while the sand lies in high piles on either side of the road crossed a small creek also crossed the outlet of a number of springs water good shortly after the rising[?] the bluffs after reaching the bottoms we camped beside another small stream and or creek water clear and good no wood here weather verry warm and pleasant saw several indians of the Souix nation they appear friendly

May 28th

proceeded on crossed Petite creek also Picaninni creek a short distance further on we crossed a

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small creek called goose creek a little farther on we crossed a small creek then another within a short distance about a quarter of a mile farther on we crossed duck weed creek then another about two miles distant we then went on a short distance farther and crossed Rattle snake creek and halted to let our cattle feed we then went on Crossed a small creek went on to another which we crossed & camped a short distance from it in the plate bottoms for some distance

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here being quite narrow we traveld about nineteen miles to day we found good grass & obtained good clear water from a spring in the bluffs roads sandy most of the way no wood weather warm and pleasant

May 29th

proceeded on crossed crooked creek a little farther on we crossed camp creek there are two creeks here onley a few rods apart a short distance from here we crossed another small creek and passed a pond we next came to wolf creek which we crossed and immediately after

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crossing it we assended the bluffs and had about 2 miles of verry hard traveling sand verry deep and some places verry steep after crossing the bluffs we haulted in the bottoms near the river to let the cattle eat then we went on a short distance farther & camped in the river bottoms near the river we also passed the lone tree[2] which is a cedar tree & the onley tree we have seen for 200 miles we also passed in sight of ash hollow which is on the other side of the river

traveld about twenty one miles

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found grass rather poor but sufficient to keep cattle alive we got water from platte river weather warm and pleasant roads most of the way sandy it rained that night & the next morning

May 30th

went on crossed Castle creek castle bluffs is on the south side of the river went on a short distance and struck sand hills creek which we followed for some distance and camped in the bottoms about noon found tolerable grass obtained good cold water for cooking purposes from a small well dug for that purpose

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we watered our cattle at the river weather verry warm and pleasant roads good traveled about ten miles & lay by the remaining part of the day

May 31st

traveling on crossed sandhills creek soon after ~~traveling~~ starting in the coarse of the day crossed several other small streams also crossed crabb creek traveld twenty one miles and camped near the river also in plain sight of the bluffs some of our company dug a small well from which we got good water to cook with found

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tolerable grass weather warm & pleasant road most of the way good passed some verry high bluff from the top of some of these chimney rock could be seen in places

June 1st

proceeded on passed over some verry sandy road & about 2 miles of bluff or cobble hills so called some in the form of Pyrimids passed some verry high bluffs singularly constructed strangly resembling the ruins of an ancient city or fortication on the right they seem to be composed cheifly

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of rock coverd with gravel & sand in some places it has the appearance of clay forming or turning into rock also petrified bones of Buffalo were there some of our company went to the top of some of the highest bluffs when there a man looked no larger than a small child a few ceder bushes were growing on the top of some we also crossed a number of dry creeks which have every appearance of having once been streams of water but are now deep beds of sand

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about noon we halted near the river to feed we were here in sight of the court house rock or solitary tower some 12 miles distant also of chimney rock some 20 miles distant we then went on traveld twenty two miles and camped in the bottom near the river and about oposite the Court house or solitary tower this is a singular structure strongly resembling a Court house or some public edifice it stands alone and may in

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reality be called a solitary tower it is composed of marl or earthly limestone it stands some 8 or 10 miles from the road yet plain to be seen and appears to be not more than half that distance

we were also in sight of chimney rock obtained good water from a spring near by also

good water several times through the day from wells dug for that purpose we found grass
good weather verry warm winds verry high
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in the evening with a little thunder shower some 10 or 15 miles of our road through deep sand
we passed some graves in the bluffs &c

June 2nd

proceeded on crossed some bluffs where we found the road verry sandy we halted about
noon to feed near the river in full view of the Court house rock and appearantly as near as when
we started in the morning also in sight of Chimney Rock went on traveled
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about 22 miles & camped in the bottom near the river on the south side of the road & about
opposite chimney this rock is situated on the south side of the river about 2 or 3 miles from
the road it has verry much the resemblance of the long chimneys of some factories it is
composed of marl or earthley limestone we found good grass the most of the day but no water
except rain water found good
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grass & water where we camped we found a small spring where a short distance from camp
weather warm with a good breeze some rain in the afternoon accompanied by thunder
roads sandy in places we also crossed about a mile of verry bad bluffs &c so on

June 3rd

proceeded on followed up the river halted about noon for dinner near a small running
brook also near the river went on passed Scotts bluffs so called
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from the circumstances of a man by the name of Scott being killed there a few years ago these
rock are also composed of marl and earthley limestone and are sufficiently soft to be worn ~~from~~
~~the~~ by the action of the wind and rain into the shape which they assume they are situated near
the river & can be seen 20 or 30 miles before reaching them at a distance they leave verry
much the
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appearance of a city or fortification we traveled about twenty two miles and camped on the
banks of spring creek this is a stream or creek of clear water and on its banks near our camp
are springs of excelent water no fuel of any kind except what we hauld in our wagons grass
middling good roads somewhat sandy and wet in places oweing to the rain weather warm
and pleasant we camped
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about 3 miles above Scotts bluffs had a fine vew of the scenery around a verry heavy dew
at night a great number wer camped near us

June 4th

went on near the river most of the time halted for diner on the banks of the river on a high
rise of ground some cotton wood bushes on the river here also near the bluff the bottom being
narrow here went on traveled about twenty miles & camped on the river banks opposite a
small
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Island found plenty of cotton wood on the river here also some barks in the bottom for firewood the first we had found for some time we used the river water here weather fine with a cool breeze to day got our first view of Larimie peak a high mountain among the black hills over one hundred miles distant also passed at the right some large ridges or bluffs some of which were of a hard substance resembling

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clay but apparently as hard as rock others were of sand our roads to day are mostly good but a little sandy in places & some small hills grass good begin to find some small ponds or sloughs Alkali water & some mormons going to England camped near us

June 5th

went on passed some sand ridges some very high the sand being loose and easily drifted about by the wind like snow we could now see Larimie peak at a distance

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covered with snow on the top for dinner we halted on the bank of Raw hide creek water poor like Platte sand quite deep here went on crossed Raw hide creek traveled about twenty miles passed an Indian town on the other side of the river and camped on the banks of Platte river 5 or 6 miles below Ft Larimie here I wrote my first letter to my Fond & well remembered Parents who I left in Iowa

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the only one out of the family that was away from home that was myself &c we had a very hard rain storm at night with thunder and very heavy winds found plenty of pine wood grass good used rain water roads rather sandy most of the day weather warm & pleasant through the day the bottoms here has the appearance of having been overflowed by the river

June 6th

started about 7 in the morning went on passed Ft Larimie this Ft is situated on Larimie river

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½ mile from its entrance into the North fork of Platt it can be seen plain from the road on the North side of Platt it is quite a flourishing place situated in a small valley or low land surrounded by high hills in view of Larimie Peak and other surrounding mountains buildings mostly frame and Brick set so as to form a circle some of our company took some letters over to the Ft there are two very full stores there one of which is kept there by government scores of

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teams were in sight both on this side of the river & on the other there is a ferry kept here our road to the Ft is rather sandy in places from there hilly. we passed a great number who were camped along the river several Indians tents near the Ft on both sides of the river traveled ten miles and camped in a hollow on the southside of the road ¼ of a mile from the river from whence we got water to use wood plenty pine & ash about 100 teams were camped about us good grass staid the rest of the day and dried

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here I saw an Indian perched in the top of a tree for the first one

some few of our things weather pleasant and warm

June 7th

proceeded on over verry hilly road where we could see nothing but hills as far as the eyes could extend small scrubby pines & cedars grow in a bundance on these hills grass good in places found a spring of good water which was all the water for about 17 miles a great number of teams both before us & behind us some of these hills are exceeding steep & difficult to clime halted at noon on a hill grass good no water

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except what we took in the morning we went on untill we came to the river where we stoped and watered a number of teams were camped here we crossed several dry creeks to day these Creeks are supposed to contain water when the snow melts from the mountains great quantities of flood wood are lodged on the banks of some of them large holes are washed out in some places along these creeks supposed to have been done by water went on crossed spring

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branch water clear and good road still verry hilley traveld about twenty miles and camped in a small hollow or on a side hill fine wood in abundance here grass good got water from a spring some distance from the road or camp several teams camped near us weather pleasant for traveling being cool with a verry cool breeze

June 8th

went on over hills and hollows passed a spring of good water halted among the hills near a running creek or branch these hills are a portion of the Black hills so called by the dark colored pines which

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grow upon them the largest of them are on the south side of the river the road over these hills are verry hard and solid and in some places verry rocky grass good along our way[?] to day went on traveld twenty miles and camped on a flat nice piece of ground on the banks of a creek proceeding from a spring a short distance up the creek from our camp was a spring of good water grass good weather warm and pleasant

June 9th

lay by resting our cattle washed &c weather verry pleasant

June 10th

still lay by cooking recruiting

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teams &c weather verry warm and pleasant a warm shower of rain towards evening two or three of our company not well a great many camped near us

June 11th

proceeded on a few miles and halted beside a creek near a spring & halted roads rather smoother than for several days saw two Indian interpreters of the Souix nation passed an Indian town of the Souix nation one frenchman keeping a trading establishment here road tolerable some few hills traveled about twenty two miles & camped on the south side of

the road

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on the banks of platt river weather in the forenoon warm in the afternoon rather cooler with a slight shower of rain cool breeze from the mountains good grass used river water which is rather better than when we first came to it found plenty among the the[sic] grass in the bottoms but few treee here very small has the appearance of having been washed down by the river light dew at night

June 12th

went on fine morning for travling being pleasant while the cool breeze flowing from the mountains render the air bracing and balmy

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nights quite cool here since reaching these hills passed opposite Larimie peak some 25 or 30 miles distant south of us yet plain to be seen with its snow coverd tops we found grass good for several miles and roads smoth & solid we then crossed a large dry creek and came to some bluffs resembling sand or small gravel but verry hard seemingly turned to rock they are of various shapes & dimentions roads here mostly hard and somewhat hilly crossed some dry creeks which are sandy no grass among these bluffs

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we came again to the bank of Platte halted at noon on the south side of the road near the Banks of Platte river grass good here went on passing over bluffs some of which are verry rocky and high desended some verry steep rocky and dificult hills came several times in sight of the river but some distance from it went on untill almost dark without finding grass we then camped it being 8 oclock on the banks of Platte & also on a small creek and near a spring of good water grass verry poor traveled 30 miles weather cool oweing to the cool breeze from the Mountains

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slight sprinkle of rain the road to day sandy in some places but mostley solid and dusty

[June] 13th

we started earley went on about 5 miles found good grass halted to let the cattle eat & prepare diner got a little wood and buffalo chips stayed untill about noon then went on over some two or 3 miles of deep sand traveled about 15 miles and camped on the south side of the road about ¼ mile from the road on a hill or rise of ground about 1 mile from Platte river from which we got our water grass tolerable weather cold & cloudy

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most of the day slight sprinkle of rain towards evening thunder shower in then night with high winds two of the crow tribe came to our camp we used Buffalo chips for fuel chiefly found a few dry sticks on the river Banks

June 14th

went on passed the lower ferry but few teams here a[t] this place is an Indian incampment several Indian tents some 100 men women Children came to the roadside when we passed of the crow nation passed over several of[sic] sandy ridges some steep hills stone among the hills to feed

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found rather poor grass on the river bottoms went on passed some sand ridges of verry deep sand traveled 15 miles and camped on the Banks of Platte river on the south side of the road grass good weather pleasant most of the day cloudy with a light sprinkle of rain the afternoon wood plenty used river water

June 15

lay by resting cattle washed &c weather warm most of the day but a shower of rain & hail in the afternoon some 300 Indians of the crow tribe passed our camp

June 16th

went on over deep sand 24[?] miles

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and halted for diner among the sand hills on the south side of the road about 1 miles from Platte and about 1½ below the upper ferry and watered cattle also filled water vessels to carry along. quite a number of teams crossing here it being the junction of the roads on the north and south side of the river two ferry boats here crossing with roaps several Indians tents on this side and on the other we here assended the Bluff to the forks of the roads the right hand road leaves the river and bears towards the north on Platte snake hill we took the left hand road lately laid out

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by the mormons and followed up the river we traveled 17 miles & camped on the banks of Platte river on the south side of the road in a hollow surrounded by higher hills grass poor wood plenty on the river banks weather pleasant

June 17th

started on one of our cattle swam acrossed the river Steven Gragg under took to swim over after him the water being verry cold he took the cramp in his legs and came verry near drowning after waiting a while the ox came over of his own accord after going on about three miles we left the river and bore off towards the other road

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about 6 miles we came to the junction of the roads about the time of leaveing the river we crossed a stream of water mixed with alkali some verry strong ponds of ponds[sic] of very strong alkali on the west side a few miles further ahead came to two small streams and some ponds of verry strong alkali water passed willow springs got good water also upper spring water good traveled 22 miles and camped near sage springs creek water good no wood except sage brush weather pleasant roads good to day

June 18th

went on crossed sage spring creek also fish run some mirey places here one of our company lost a cow we passed some verry strong alkali

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in lakes or ponds 10 or 12 miles from fish run traveled 20 miles and camped on the banks of sweet water river about 1 mile from the road and 3 miles below independance rock grass good some alkali here took the cattle acrossed the river some of the company lost an ox here road sandy though pleasant weather

June 19th

went on passed independance rock passed around the right hand side of it came to the river in a short time which we crossed forded went on passed devils gate a trading post here crossed 2 creeks or sloughs a short distance apart halted at noon on the banks of the river in the bottom high rocks on our right and snow
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covered Mountains on our left grass midling here took cattle acrossed the river some alkali here we passed an alkali pond or lake on the left hand side of the road about 5 or 6 [miles] after starting in the morning went on crossed little cotton wood creek 2 or 3 cotton wood trees at its mouth traveled 30 miles and camped on the banks of sweet water river some distance from the road took the cattle 1 mile from the road found good grass roads verry sandy most of the way weather pleasant & warm

June 20th

went on over verry sandy roads high rocky ridges of the Black Mountains border on the river
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on the opposite side 4 or 5 hundred feet high halted at noon on the banks of sweet water at the ford the river being high we did not cross but assended the bluffs and traveled in deep sand some Indians came to our camp of the siox[?] or camanche[?] tribe sand about two miles we then camped among the sand ridges or bluffs high rocky bluffs border the river here from these bluffs we obtained wood mostly pine and cedar no water here took the cattle back to the river to the water & carried water from the river to use grass not verry good weather pleasant & warm traveled 14 miles & camped

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June 21st

still traveling on over deep sand in places in about 7 miles reached the river stoped & watered then went on halted at noon on the banks of sweet water came to a marsh which we followed some 2 miles on this marsh is alkali and ice springs where by digging down 2 feet at at[sic] any season of the year you will find ice but no good water uncle Osa[?] Matthews boy fell from the wagon & was ran over by the wagon here after leaving the marsh assended the bluffs to day for the first the main ridges of the rocky Mountains rearing their snow caped peacks

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to the regions of the clouds traveled about 30 miles and camped on the banks of the sweet water in a hollow surrounded by high hills grass verry poor weather cloudy and cool slight rain one of our company left a cow

June 22^d

started verry earley in the morning before breakfast and went on crossed sweet water river went about four miles found some good grass stoped & got some breakfast then went on about 1 mile further and camped on the banks of sweetwater stayed the remainder of the day good grass here no wood except sage brush weather cool some rain

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passed over some verry steep hills to day and camped near a verry high mountain

June 23rd

went on followed up the river for a few miles then ascended the bluffs or Mountains and passed over a verry hilly rocky and bad sand for about 4 miles we then came to the bottoms or valley again passed a large marsh and some ponds of water said to be verry poison both to man and beaste[?] beast[sic] after leaveing this in a few miles we came to some springs the outlets of which we crossed also crossed strawberry creek & also a blanch[sic] of sweet water here is a trading post we passed a

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trading post & Blacksmith shop in the morning also met some men returning from California to the states they were all well fixed for traveling every man had a good gun and a good sixshooter also a good mule to ride I begrudge them their trip we traveled about twenty miles and camped on a branch of sweetwater 1½ miles from the road on the right hand side of the road and 1½ mile up the creek in a hollow found excelent grass here also good dry willow wood water good mostley snow water a large snow bank just below our Camp also

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in plain sight of the mountains and snow roads after reaching the valley good weather cool and rainy

June 24th

lay by resting cattle also to wash & cook weather cool & cloudy with rain

June 25th

laying by weather cool and windy heavy dew at night to day I and some more of the boys went out a hunting saw lots of sage hens and plenty of antelope we Killed some 4 or 5 we had lots of fun throwing snow balls

June 26

still lay by weather cool most of the day with some rain heavy dews ice[?]

June 27th

went on fine morning for

[page 74]

traveling clear & cool crossed strawberry creek & sweet water traveled about 14 miles and camped about noon on the banks of sweet water about 1½ miles from the road and 3 miles from the summit of the Mountains grass good weather pleasant most of the day a slight sprinkle of rain stayed the rest of the day plenty of snow banks along the side of the hills road somewhat hilly in places very little sand & gravel plenty of wood chiefly willows

June 28th

went on clear and pleasant morning for traveling we here leave the water which flow into the Atlantic passed

[page 75]

the Pacific springs the first waters of the pacific ocian water good before reaching the springs we cross the summit of the mountains through the south pass road verry hard and solid a little gravel in places the road also passes between two Mountains on the summit the

Mountains are very plain to be seen the wind river range lie off to the right covered with everlasting snow on the left high bluffs a little timber on some of them the view of the wind river mountains from the summit is beautiful & grand a very mirey marsh extending along the road for 1½ miles from the

[page 76]

Pacific springs a little farther on we cross pacific creek went a little farther short distance further from the creek and halted for diner somewhat sandy here went on crossed dry sandy stoped and watered by takeing our cattle up the creek then went on arived at little sandy about 9 oclock in the evening and camped good poor grass to day passed the junction of the Salt Lake road and Ft Hall also came in sight of Bear river mountains traveled about 26 miles roads good most of the way but in some places rather sandy. generally very dusty no wood here

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except sage brush and willow weather pleasant but windy

June 30th

lay by untill abut noon [June 29] then went on a few miles came to some grass stoped and fed then went on untill dark came to another parcle of grass stoped & fed also prepared supper then went on traveled all night and arrived at green river about 9 oclock in the morning haveing traveled 35 miles since camping we here crossed the river which was on

July 1st

by traveling all night I got tolerable hungry and to tell the truth Elizabeth was to Lazy to cook & I told her if it was not for beging I would

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have something to eat she went and told Dock some great long lingo and the old fellow told me if I could do any better to go I told him I could so I goes to Matt Williams & told him that I wanted him to take me through he said he would do so but by and by Old Dock came and smothed it all over he said he new that Elizabeth was slack and he would see that I should have plenty cooked after that after some time made up my mind to go through with him green river we crossed by swimming

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our cattle and ferrying wagons three boats here each one running by rope after crossing we went on traveled 8 miles from the ferry and camped on a branch of Green river grass good but somewhat mixed with alkali on the oposite side of the branch is a good spring weather to day wet and rainey passed over some very steep hills to day before comeing to the river

July 2nd

went on crossed the branch then assended ~~the~~ a ridge of ground and passed over some hills traveled 7 miles and camped about noon and lay by the remainder of the day

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found excelent grass here camped beside a small branch also near a spring of good water weather pleasant

July 3rd

also laying by weather pleasant plenty of pine wood here also some little timber on green

river plenty of gooseberries & strawberries here [on?] the bluffs which border the river
some Indians came to our camp of the snake tribe

July 4th

lay by untill about noon then went on over Mountains and hills some of which were verry steep
and rocky traveled about twenty miles crossed hams fork of Green river and camped near
its banks in a hollow

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surrounded by high hills grass good got water from a spring in the bluffs or Mountains
weather cold & cloudy a snow storm in the evening plenty of trout fish in the river

July 5th

lay by weather cold an indian encampment near us of the shoshonese and snake tribe

July 6th

went on still traveling mountains asending and descending passed Poplar ridge also
Balsam fir grove this is a large thick and splended grove passed several springs of poison
water and marshes springs creek halted at noon among the mountains then went on
traveled 25 miles and camped in the bottoms near

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Bear river valley creek grass good no wood except sage weather cold rainy
thunder shower

July 7

went on crossed bear river valley creek 3 times in a short distance had a verry bad & stoney
road for 17[?] miles halted at noon in the valley then went on traveled 23 miles a[nd]
camped among the bluffs grass good got water from a branch or slough weather wet &
rainey also cold to day crossed smith fork of Bear river by fording also Thomas fork by a tole
bridge here Mat Williams told me that uncle Simeon Reynolds was dead for the first time that
I had heard it

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just beyond the river is an Indian Camp & some of the prettiest horses that I ever see from
here we rise the bluffs and traveled over exceedingly difficult hills about 3 miles got good
wood by carrying it about 1 mile

July 8th

went on over verry bad hill till we reached bear river in the valley then had good roads
crossed tallies creek and halted for diner a short distance from its Banks went on traveled
22 miles and camped on the Banks of a creek wood plenty by crossing carrying it some ways
weather pleasant Indians

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plenty

July 9th

divided our company then numbering 9 wagons we proceeded on crossed several creeks
Ashlies & willows traveled 12 miles and camped about 1 oclock on the banks of Bear river

some distance from the road on the left hand side of road lay by the remainder of the day
grass good a pond of water not verry good weather pleasant wood chiefly willows
one of our company taken sick at night with the colera

July 10th

lay by on the account of Autry who was isck[sic] he died at night weather warm
[page 85]
and pleasant

July 11

after burying the dead we went on crossed some poison streams of water passed several
soda springs also a warm spring which comes out of a rock throwing the water up some distance
above the ground sounds as if hollow when traveling over it the soil around the soda springs
is of a deep yellow color halted at noon near where the road leaves bear river grass poor
went on traveled 21 miles and camped in a sage plain some 2 or 3 miles from the foot of the
mountain grass midlin no water except what we
[page 86]
hauled from the river for cooking no fuel except sage brush weather cloudy

July 12th

went over a verry hilley road up the mountain crossed mountains willow creek went on
still over a verry bad road the decent[?] down the mountain verry bad on account of the
narrowness of the road deep ruts and mud holes halted for diner at the foot of the mountain in
a hollow surrounded by verry high mountains no water grass midtling went on
traveled 22 miles & camped in a valley about 2 miles from valley marsh creek no water
[page 87]
here fuel sage grass good weather pleasant

July 13

went on crossed valley marsh creek then raise a mountain at the foot of which is a spring
here we halted and got diner went on crossed willow muddy creek also 2 small creeks
proceeding from the spring water in muddy creek not verry good traveled 23 miles and
camped in the bottom between two high hills no water except what we hauld from the springs
got cotton wood from the bluffs or hills grass good weather most of the day cloudy
some rain and
[page 88]
thunder

July 14th

went on traveled over mountains and through reveines crossed gravel creek some
mormon traders here we then rise a mountain the desent of which is a verry deep and difiicult
ravine halted in the valley for diner but some emigrants haveing made a fire it spread so
rapidly that we were obliged to leave immediately we then went on several miles up the
mountain on the top of which is a spring traveled 28 miles & and[sic] camped on the banks of
a small stream two springs here t he water good
[page 89]

except a little saltish grass good weather pleasant

July 15th

traveling on up a ravine at the head of which is a spring the headwaters of raft river a little further on water good traveled 10 miles and camped about the middle of the afternoon beside a poplar grove on the summit some pine and fir here a spring near lay by the rest of the day grass good pleasant through the day rain through the nigh[sic]

July 16th

went on crossed two small muddy creeks 3 miles apart the first bad to cross road good being down a reveine most of the way struck the valley about noon stoped for [page 90]

diner went on near the summit is the head water of east branch of east raft river crossed it in going down bad banks & muddy bottoms had but little trouble in crossing in the afternoon went acrossed a pretty plain to raft river camped near the banks some showery to day grass good fuel sage traveled 22 miles evening fine here in sight of salt Lake road

July 17th

fine morning crossed the mitle branch of raft river bottoms & banks muddy bad some trouble on crossing in a few miles crossed west branch of raft river good crossing followed it down

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7 miles & camped on its banks about noon lay by the rest of the day & washed showery evening grass good wood plenty plenty of goose berries here Osa[?] lost an ox

July 18th

left raft river good roads fine morning traveled 22 miles and camped on goose[sic] creek in rock city so called from their resemblance to an ancient city one among them called steeple rock from its resemblance to a steeple grass good here

July 19th

went on in 4 miles came to pyramid circle a great curiosity the rock being situated so as to form a circle they are verry high ground inside level

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and thickley covered overgrown with wild sage good road in the forenoon in the afternoon verry hilly a very steep hill just before reaching goose creek in the valley went 22 miles camped on bottoms land surrounded by hills good grass & water warm days cold nights fuel sage

July 20th

traveled acrossed goose creek valley good roads traveled 21 miles camped on goos creek grass good pleasant day

July 21st

crossed goose creek twice came to good spring beside a large ledge of rocks here we

nooned then went on traveled 25 miles reached spring

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valley passed a good spring of water went on and camped in the valley no water and but little grass pleasant weather

July 22nd

removed our camp about one mile back on the road and a short distance from the road & lay by the rest of the day washed good grass two large springs of good water here hard rain storm ground springa[?] got good wood from the hills

July 23rd

went on through spring valley a verry pretty valley to hot spring valley here there is a collection of hot springs here and a verry cold

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spring a short distance from them this is also a pretty level valley traveled 22 miles and camped on a small branch & near a spring in a valley grass good pleasant fuel sage

July 24

went on passed over good roads came to a spring and nooned then went on passed up a reveine several spring above it on the left here the roads forks we took the left traveled 22 miles & camped besides some springs among the hills grass good fuel sage pleasant & warm in full view of the humbolt mountains covered with snow

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July 25

went on passing over hills to a small valley and to a creek nooned here passed a spring where we first entering the valley met some snake Indians traveled 18 miles and camped beside a small creek and near a branch of marys river a spring or two of good water took the cattle over the creek some alkali there grass good pleasant fuel sage willow

July 26th

went on passed through the valley of the head waters of Marys river & camped about noon on its banks a beautiful valley grass good in this valley and land rich crossed

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Marys river and camped abut noon on its banks about 1 mile from the crossing grass good lay by the rest of the day fuel willows verry warm days cool nights traveled 10 miles

July 27

went on over good roads stoped on the banks of Marys river about 10 oclock stayed untill 1 oclock good grass dry willows for wood then went on traveled 15 miles & camped on the banks of Marys river roads good hard rain grass good here dry willows plenty

July 28th

went on crossed west branch of Marys river and continued down the valley passing over some

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hill & sand after often[sic] in sight of the river very warm Reuben lost one his wheel steers
stoped for diner on the banks of Marys river very warm here met Gill Childress & Logan
went on roads tolerable but verry dusty traveled 20 miles and camped on the banks of
Marys river grass good dry willows plenty verry warm

July 29th

went on tolerable good roads stoped on the banks of the river for diner extremely warm
grass good bottoms rather narrow here banks thickley covered with willows went on
left the valley at the end of

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the roads fork we took the right hand road which follows the river we cross it 4 times in
less than 10 miles a spring near the first crossing the river runs between 2 high bluffs
forming a deep revine some places verry narrow between river and bluffs in one place for
a short distance went in the edge of the river in some places verry rocky singular looking
rocks here some ridges formed of rocks large & small haveing the appearance of haveing been
slid off from the bluffs or mountain and look as if they had been burnt traveled 25 miles and
camped

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in a reveine on the banks of the river took the [sic] a crossed grass midling fuel sage
warm light sprinkle of rain

July 30th

went on through the rain along the river bottoms a few miles over some hills then assended a
mountain 17 miles acrossed went all day without water or grass for cattle a few springs
about mid way in the mountains uncle Warren left a cow here reached the river about dark
crossed it here the roads forks one leads over the mountain and the other the river we
chose the river road and camped on the oposite side a short distance from

[page 100]

the banks took the cattle back acrossed the river found grass midling verry warm fuel
sage traveled 30 miles at the place a great many cattle lost one man lost his whole team
supposed by Indians

July 31st

went five miles and camped lay by the rest of the the[sic] day washing & cooking grass
splendid dry willow plenty verry warm shower of rain passed a spring on the banks
of the river and Reuben taken sick consequently lay by

Aug 1st

lay by verry warm great number of teams pased to day uncle Warren went back after the
cow

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could not find her

Aug 2nd

went on followed along crossing some hills crossed the river and stoped for diner a short
distance from the bank a road also heads over the bluffs but we chose the bottom road

went on traveled 15 miles and camped on the banks of Marys river dry willow plenty
grass good warm & fair

Aug 3rd

proceeded on crossed a creek or slough nearly dry passed over a ledge of rocks ½ mile
called rock point stoped on the river banks for diner two small warm springs ooze out from
under the banks of the river here close to the water passed

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some verry big bluffs to day went on traveled 20 miles and camped on the banks of Marys
river about one mile from the road grass good banks of the river steep here making it
dificult to get watter for the cattle pleasant through the day rain at night roads good with
the exception of some holes or ruts dry willows plenty here

Aug 4th

rainy morning went on over smoth roads but verry wet in consequence of the rain Uncle
Warren went back after a cow we stoped for diner on the banks of the river went on
traveled 15 miles & camped

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on the banks of Marys river grass good dry willows plenty pleasant through the day and
rainy at night Warren found the cow

Aug 5

went on over sand ridges some water standing on the ground in consequence of the rain
stoped for diner on the banks of the river large mountains seemingly surrounds us here we
can plainly deserve[sic] large clouds between us and the mountains we have crossed the
mountains river by diging down the banks made a verry good ford after crossing we
continued our journey on the south side of the river following near it we crossed

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2 tolerable steep hills rest of the road after comeing to the traveled road good traveled 20
miles and camped on the banks of the river about a mile from the road grass good willows
plenty pleasant weather

Aug 6

went on crossed a mountain about 5 miles across road ran through a canyon high
mountains & rocks on both sides the road smooth most of the way but verry rocky in some
places and a little sandy crossed in desending quartz rock in abundance in these hills
stoped on the banks of the river for diner an Indian of the Piute tribe came to our camp was
verry friendly he went on

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with us some snows in sight to day went on traveled 20 miles and camped on the river
banks grass good fuel dry willows pleasant here met some acquaintainces from Ohio

Aug 7th

went on over sand ridges hard wheeling stoped on the river banks for diner went on
made about 20 miles and camped on the river banks some distance from the road grass good
dry willows plenty pleasant & warm some of the road good & some of verry sandy over

bluffs

Aug 8th

went on some of the way in the river bottoms & some or most of the way over ridges of verry deep sand and dust

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some steep sand hills stoped on the river banks for diner went on traveled 20 miles and camped on the river banks grass good dry willows for fuel warm & pleasant

Aug 9th

went on about 5 miles over bluffs we there desended the bluffs which were verry steep into a small flat bordering on the river we here camped and lay by the rest of the day washed cooked & Ironed grass good willows plenty warm & pleasant

Aug 10th

went on over ridges of sand and dust which has the appearance of being about

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half ashes supposed to have been burnt in years past after going 2½ miles we came to a bend in the river and the road here leaves the river and leads over a sandy barron ground or bluffs resembling a desert no grass to be seen or water for about 22 miles we reached the river a little before night watered at the nearest [s]pring then went on a little further and camped on the banks of the river grass verry poor wood scarce a few willows being all we could find warm and pleasant nights cool to day passed near the foot of a high mountain roads here rather rocky also halted a few

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minutes in the road for diner a stream near the mountains some distance from the road which we did not go to made 25 miles to day and camped

Aug 11th

traveling on over bluffs but little sand but verry deep dust & some small hills stoped on the bluffs for diner & took cattle to the river grass poor verry dusty here went on over bluffs verry barren traveled 20 miles and camped on the bluffs took cattle to the rive verry dusty here grass verry poor willow brouse being nearley all the feed for cattle here wood scarce warm and pleasant some[?] of these bluffs near the

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river look like melted sand or gravel in hard lumps appears to have been burnt or heat amazing hot uncle Warren left a dun cow to day

Aug 12

a warm & pleasant day still traveling over bluffs verry dusty & somewhat sandy some places verry steep halted at noon in the road beside some springs which are on the banks of the river near the waters edge no grass here went on reached the big meadows a little before night and camped on first reaching them also passed a trading post uncle Warren went back after a cow but did not get her he sold her for what he could get

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and returned the next morning grass good here water poor all we could get being from a

slough and that verry salt wood scarce

Aug 13th

started before breakfast & traveled 8 miles and stoped here we cut our grass for the desert and filled water vessels water here poor got from a slough but much better than any other to be had about here we stayed untill almost dark then went on traveled all night passed the Lake and sink of Marys river the road here runs between the lake and mountain road good except a little sandy camped

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abut 9 oclock having went 17 miles

Aug 14th

stayed till about 4 in the afternoon grass tolerable wood scarce except grease wood got water from a well or hole not verry good just tolerable verry warm filled our water vessels also dried our grass and started for the desert about 5 oclock in the afternoon traveled all night here I had Amanda Matthews and Auginery[?] Layton[?] drive my team from dark untill midnight which was great help to me we halted about on the desert about sunrise & fed and took breakfast then went on reached

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thousands of wagon tires and dead cattle here about every minute I could hear the boones[sic] crack

rag town

Aug 15th

on carson river about 2 oclock in the afternoon a distance of about 45 miles here we stoped and watered passed several trading posts on the desert road good most of the way except about 12 miles of deep sand before reaching the river we also fed at midnight after staying 1 or 2 hours at the river we went on about 4[?] miles and camped on the river bank wood plenty grass poor pleasant

Aug 16th

went on about 5 miles most of the way sandy & dusty road camped near the river in the bottoms

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& stayed untill about 3 oclock in the afternoon grass poor wood plenty then went on over another barren desert some ways from the river weather warm and verry windy reached the river reached about 12 oclock at night a distance of 12 miles and camped grass poor wood plenty road sandy passed the white clay beds

Aug 17th

went on through the valley grass poor here often crossing the valley we came to another desert of 10 miles which we crossed sand deep no grass nor water reached the river about 5 in the

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after noon & camped we here found grass good wood plenty also a also[sic] a shady road pretty valley & a pretty grove where we camped weather warm winds high made about 15 miles to day we here found Compton Jurdon & Glen waiting for us

here they had a Corele
built of log chains and
wagon tires

Aug 18th

lay by washing & cooking &c warm & windy very slight sprinckle of rain

Aug 19th

also cooking two travelers to supper. weather warm witnessed the death of Mrs Compton

Aug 20th

after burying the dead we went on in company with Mr Compton Jurdon & Glen

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traveled up the river a few miles roads sandy in some places some shady groves very pretty between mountains & rocky in some places we then crossed the river and continued our Journey on the opposite side road a little sandy in some places rocky both road & river here runs between high Mountains traveled 12 miles and camped on the river bank grass good wood plenty pleasant had 8 men to breakfast also Uncle Warren left one of his waggons Dan[?] Johnson & Steve Gregg left us here and went on packing

Aug 21st

went on roads good except some sand & rock little before

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crossing river stoped for diner on the river bank near the gold canion saw them washing gold at the river 3 times here we here[sic] stayed the rest of the day and night made 10 miles grass good wood plenty pleasant

Aug 22nd

crossed the river & went on passed a grocery & sold some flour then assended a mountain & traveled some 12 miles without grass or water hills steep & stoney some sandy passed some large ledges of rocks and through a canion reached the river and valley about noon some trading posts here we here traveled to the left & went some distance

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here we fell in with Henry Donnell and he went through with us he was at work for a man here hearing

from the road near the bluffs found good grass & camped beside a creek running down from the Mountains weather cold & good grass some farming & houses here & a trading post we here sold some flour wood scarce where we camped but plenty in the bluffs traveled 15m

Aug 23rd

traveling on through this beautiful valley some farming here & some trading posts also went about 18 miles camped at the foot of the Nevada Mountains near the Mormon station & in a grove of large pine & fir timber romantic place being a little elevation of ground where the valley below is in full view on one side & lofty mountains towering

& Henry Donnell & I went up on the Mountain hunting

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in splendor on the other side a clear cold stream runs down from the mountains on each side grass good the hills thickley coverd with timber weather pleasant

thousands of
Jackass rabbits and a
pretty place to hunt
them here lots of
sage brush here

Aug 24th

uncle Osa[?] & Glen went on we stayed till after noon then went about 6 miles passed some hot springs by the road side quite a number of springs here forming quite a body of water crossed several streams running down from the mountains a great many camped here also some trading posts we camped in the valley beside a running stream water rather poor wood scarce except willows grass midling pleasant

Aug 25th

went on about 5 miles & camped near a running brook

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of good water about 1 mile from the foot hills of a large Mountain a trading post near crossed several creeks to day wood plenty on the mountains grass good warm

Aug 26th

Compton & Jordon went on we lay by resting warm & c

Aug 27th

lay by cooking pleasant I went out hunting saw lots of Antelope two deer & plenty of sage hens killed nothing & c

Aug 28th

lay by washing & cooking had plenty to eat pleasant

Aug 29th

lay by fine weather

Aug 30th

went on abut[sic] 5 miles road some sandy crossed some creeks camped in the vally near a creek a short distance from the mountain & a short distance from the

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mouth of the canion grass good for fuel sage & a kind of green bush with which the country abounds warm days and cold nights

Aug 31st

went on entered the canion about 9 oclock in the morning & passed on over a very bad road crossed a little bridge at the mouth of the canion this canion is literally filled with rocks several feet in diameter which appear to have fallen from the mountains or been thrown up by a volcano while mounains of rock covered with tall pines on either side to the hights[sic] of several hundred feet these stupendous pines and the river as it forces it way through this narrow

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channel rushing & roaring & foaming among the huge piles of rocks which seems to have been fallen to impede its way the cool refreshing[sic] shade of the numerous groves the balmy breeze and the swift winded clouds as they fly acrossed the horizon all combine to render the scenery romance & delight the weary traveler about midway in the canion we crossed another bridge & at the head another all of which are across the river we crossed[?] several streams

running from the mountains to the river water cold & good this canon is about 7 miles long after traveling until nearly dark we found that we could not get through before night owing to the crowd[sic] of teams ahead which[sic] blocked the road for about 3 miles consequently[sic] we camped having made about 8 m & as there was no grass here we chained our cattle to the waggons & trees & cut some willows for them we were near a stream of good water also on the river banks good wood weather cool & windy at night

Sep 1st

went on found the road clear but very bad & just after crossing the last bridge uncle warren broke his reach of his waggon after repairing it the best we could we went on and soon reached a small valley called hope valley we here stopped for dinner turned the cattle acrossed the river good grass here I found thousands of huckleberries the bushes was small but covered the ground I took my diner on huckleberries &c after staying a short time we went on through the valley good roads also crossed 1 or 2 streams we then passed over a small range of mountains to a small[?] valley and camped near a creek

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and also near the river a great number camped here and a trading post found good grass & wood a short distance from the post[?] of the first mountains of the sierra Nevada range pleasant & fair

Sep 2nd

went on and assended the first mountain was detained some by teams but got over safe the way over the mountains is very steep & rocky in one place smooth rock on which it was difficult for cattle to stand passed some very narrow places between trees[sic] soon reached a small valley between the first range & snow top mountain or main ridge a little before night camped made about 8 miles to day found grass very poor a running branch of good water here also a lake passed several lakes & crossed several creeks in the mountains wood plenty a little rain

Sep 3rd

went on crossed the snow top mountain this is steep and very rocky but not as bad as the first although higher yet rather more gradual in ascent when on the summit or near it we had a splended view of the lake in the valley numerous appearances of volcanic eruptions along here after approaching[?] ***** summit we went on over the hills made about 10 miles and camped ***** a branch near a spring grass poor wood plenty pleasant except a little hail on the summit of the mountains

Sep 4th

went on crossed hills some of which we very steep & rocky traveled about 15 miles & camped on the mountain about 1/2 miles from tragedy springs grass midling wood plenty

Sep 5th

went on passed tragedy springs also passed the Junction of Hangtown and volcano roads camped about noon beside a spring of good water found good grass on the side of a mountain a trading post here wood plenty warm made 11 or 12 miles roads dusty

Sep 6th

lay by warm lots of teams here

Sep 7th

went on road verry dusty some hills made some 20 or 25 miles and camped after dark near a small branch which

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was nearly dry a spring near by when cleaned out affords water for cooking little or no grass several teams here wood plenty warm while crossing some hills saw far distant at the right something haveing the appearance of the smooth surface of water thought by some to be the ocean

Sep 8th

went on about noon halted near a spring also near a dwelling house then went on then went on through the mineing region then through the beautiful valley called volcano said to have been so named for haveing once been the seat of a volcanic eruption went about 3 miles beyond here and camped near a dwelling house & hired our cattle ranched grass poor a good spring here wood plenty warm roads dusty some hills traveled 15 or 20 miles purchased some water melire[?] from[?] wvity[?]

Sep 9th

went on roads good except some hills and dust made 15 or 20 miles and camped near a spring also near a frame house grass tolerable water good wood plenty warm & pleasant weather

Sep 10th

wen on untill about noon and camped and lay by the remainder of the day found grass wild oats plenty water rather scarce but some in a branch nearly dry warm some quarts[sic] rock here mad[sic] about 10 miles wood plenty

Sep 11th

~~went on met uncle Asa[?] and[?] teams who had started out *****~~

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Sep 11

went on some 15 or 18 miles and crossed the Moquelumne and camped near its bank good crossing also near a frame house or ranch got watter[sic] out of the well at the house verry warm road good grass tolerable wood plenty heard from uncle Osa here &c Henry Donell and Worthington & myself went to the house and worthy got to playing cards for whiskey and we all got tolerable Drunk parceularly[sic] myself for I did not get back to the camp until the next day I reckon I was the sickest man in the state

Sep 12th

went on met uncle Osa who had started out to mete us good roads no water except some ponds for stock made 20 or 25 miles and arrived at Bakers ranch 8 miles North of Stockton in good health and spirits also found the rest of our company here stayed here one month

looking around and on the

12th of Oct

started for Tulare[?] Valley & Sour[?] Creek

[transcription ends, diary continues]