

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RUGGLES

Minutes by the way side of a trip across the country from Minnesota to California,

1859 Diary,

Continued from Volume 1st

Transcribed

December 2002

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

manuscript, 73 p.

William L Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

[Volume 1 is not available]

[page 1]

Monday July 4th 1859

Glorious Fourth, a day not much glorified in Great Salt Lake City— After breakfast, after breakfast we yoked our teams and went into the city, where we traded off such things as we had which we did not wish to take any farther, and bought such supplies as we stood in need of were in the city most of the day— There was not much doing in the way of celebrating the day [^]nearly [^]every one seemed to be pursuing the even tenor of his way. The Nauvoo Legion had a public dinner and paraded the streets for a short time went before Brighams door and saluted him by the firing

[page 2]

of canon and music by the band— Brigham and Heber C Kimball Gen. Wells and others appeared in the gate way; during the firing Brigham stood with his fingers in his ears I got very close to[]him as near as I wished to[]be, After they had saluted sufficiently (to suit themselves) they with drew and Brigham turned again within his guarded gates, not having so much as thanked them. The whole was an ordinary affair. The "Legion" itself being dressed in every stile[sic] of dress from Military down to Citizen— So much for this day in Salt Lake City— Toward evening we drove out of town about seven miles, to[]the North[]West or up the Lake and camped, The road here goes nearly north for a long distance, about six miles out from the city we came to a curiosity in the shape of a spring whose waters were perfectly transparent and of a bright

[page 3]

and lovely green color and hot enough it is said to boil eggs. its waters can be smelled for some distance they are sulphurous and not altogether pleasant to the smell— In the Lake are Large Mountainous islands of considerable extent upon whose hills I am told graze immense herds[sic] of Mormon Church Property stock, In consequence of the islands only a portion of the lake can be seen by us The day has been pleasant and quite warm,

Tuesday July 5th

Had a warm night last night warmest we have had in the mountains our nights and mornings were more like the nights and mornings in fall than summer night [and] morning. Shall remain in camp a portion of this day. Morni[n]g warm and pleasant. Intend writing some letters to day—

Laid by till

[page 4]

11½ O'clock then yoked our teams and went about 13 miles, the road after getting out from Salt Lake City a few miles is thickly [^]settled [^] have already passed tuo[sic] towns (of minor importance) Centerville & Farmington as we follow up the Lake there is a strip about five

miles wide (more in places) between the mountains which flank us on our right and the Lake of very good soil and is well watered with numerous small streams coming down from the mountains. This is wholly a farming community they have extensiv[e] fields and appear to be a thriving people, Wrote to Mother while in camp—

Wednesday July 6th

Day warm— as there was no grass of any account where we were camped, we got up at [page 5]

3 O'clock in the morning and travelled on for grass after about three hours we stopped and let our teams feed grass poor here, Thus far in the valley we have found grass very scarce almost none at all what there is is dried up like hay, The days and nights are very warm unlike the nights in the mountains, After stopping about 3 hours we moved on again excepting the teamsters, all of [us] went on ahead of the teams to the ford on Weber river, where we waited a long time for the teams to come up, which as they did not do we feared they had taken a left hand and wrong road which we afterward found to be the case, After waiting a very long time and hearing no tidings of them, by other teams arriving; three of the company went to see if they could find them and bring them back to the ford, Mr Bartlett and myself waited still. we had had no

[page 6]

dinner and night was drawing near, Mr Doty, with whom we had been travelling in company, nearly our whole journey, gave us an invitation to sup with him which we gladly did supper over and no teams arriving we in turn "went forth" as in old times to seek "that which was lost."—

We got on to their track and guided by inquiry followed them to where they had crossed the Weber some miles above the ford and near Ogden City We traced them into the City but could trace them no farther. It was now dark the moon however gave us some light which helped us materialy, so journeying and enquiring as we went now getting into sloughs, [and] brook, which we could not otherwise cross we kept up our search till 10 O'clock that night when coming to a hovel with a flat roof covered with straw we took off

[page 7]

some of ~~our clothing~~ the straw and made us a bed beneath, The mosquitoes troubled us here so badly that we were forced to go on top [of the straw], here we slept I do not know how long till we were awakened with cold not having any clothing on excepting Shirts and pants that we wore while travelling We now changed to below again, here we slept till between three and four O'clock next morning when we got up and renewed our search and finally succeeding in finding them after 4 miles travel camped by the road side, buying hay to feed their cattle having themselves travelled ~~like ourselves~~ till late in the evening and stopped from "force of circumstances" So much for this adventure in the land of Mormons We are still following up the Lake which recedes from the road as we go up in the forenoon we passed over a sand ridge which is unsettled it

[page 8]

being impossible to irrigate it for a distance of twelve miles— I[]forgot to[]say in its place that I had a long and quite interesting conversation to day with a little danish girl of about 18 ["]summers" who was a really devoted Mormon strong in the faith of Brigham and a ready believer of any thing emanating from the Mormon Church. She seemed to believe every thing that was was[sic] right that it was right for her to be hen[?] dad[?] to remain here and spend her days here. She was six months in getting here from Denmark She said if she had known

before she left Denmark, how it was in Salt Lake Valley she should not have come here, but now she believed it was right for her to stay. She further said that last year it was advised by the Church for all the marriageable young women to get married, which they did many of them marrying old men the marriages

[page 9]

naturally proved to be un happy ones and many of these young wives she said were ^{running} away with the "Gentiles"—

Thursday July 7th

Day warm and pleasant travelled about four miles and stopped for grass, got a good supply, After a time we travelled on till about 5 O'clock We are now camped between Willard ville and Box Elder and about five miles from the latter place— We are having a heavy wind & rain tonight, since we have been in the valley showers have been of every Day occurrence but they do not leave much rain in the valley: they scale b[sic] the mountains and then pour out their torrents, To day we passed a singular place the ground for some distance around was full of "Hot Salt Springs"

[page 10]

All of the rocks and the bottom of[]the spring were covered with a rust giving the whole a reddish appearance

Friday July 8th

This day has been unlik[e] most of the days for some time past, it has been intermixed with "Showers" and "sunshine" (by the way we are told that they never have "Showers" in this valley at this season of the year), At noon we had a smart Shower and at night just as we camped there came up another which continued for some time then appeared to pass away nearly— but reveived[sic] and set in for a regular rain storm which continued without cessation all night and is still raining 7, O'clock of the 9th with good prospect of a lengthy continuation— After a few miles travel in the morning we came to Brigham City (Formerly "Box Elder") a town[]of some 800 Inhab

[page 11]

itants— this is the last town that we pass in the valley, there are settlers along for some 6 miles yet however At about noon, I think we had got up abreast the upper end of the Lake but it was so far away that we could[]not tell exactly Our road from Salt lake City here has followed at the foot of the Mountains which flank our right these mountains are quite high and in places very abrupt they are I believe the W[asatch] Mountains. I saw yesterday what I never remember to have seen before that is how low the clouds sail. yesterday any time you could see clouds apparently hanging on the peaks of the mountains while many were to[]be seen between us and the mountains and apparently not more than halfway up, Most of them appeared like ropes[?], but some old "whil[white?] heads" came up which looked differently. It was a sight

[page 12]

I valued much it was uncommon to me, and gave me a good idea of the heighth[sic] of the clouds—

All the farmer's along here have to irrigate, their crops look well some of their houses are built of cobble stone and are very rude— (we see considerable length of stone wall along here) others fire of logs from the mountains and some of Adobe Brick. Our road now turns to[]the left

toward "Bear River Ferry"— The "ford" is above and the water is too high to ford— To night we are camped upon the bank of[]Bear River at the Ferry where they charge \$3.25 for ferrying a wagon and 25 cts per head for cattle across a stream not more than ten or twelve rods wide—

Saturday [July] 9th

To day has been a rainy day, has rained almost without cessation, have remained encamped [page 13]

at Bear River Ferry have seen one hundred and fifty Cattle swim the river here to day. it is very difficult getting cattle in and miry and almost impossible for them to get out on the other side— we have every prospect of a rainy night

Sunday [July] 10th

Rained last night, this day has been mixed Showers, Clouds and Sunshine left Bear River and travelled one and a half miles to a creek called "Molad" a narrow deep creek, then went on seven or eight miles further and came to some springs wher we found camped a number of teams, here we stopped and got dinner, About the time of[]our starting from here a Minister (Methodist) who was travelling with one of the trains here [page 14]

camped collected a company about him and commenced preaching to them, they opened their meeting regularly, by singing and prayer, and had commenced the sermon when we drew out—

These springs stand on the first point of high land that makes into Salt Lake Valley from the North West, here the valley divides and runs into ten kanyons (or valleys), one to the North West, the other to the North East and up Bear River, our road leads up the kanyon to the Westward which takes us into rough country of very high hills or low mountains as you may see fit to name them. this afternoon bade "Adieu" to Salt Lake Valley in which we have been since last Monday morning, seven days—

[page 15]

Monday [July] 11th

Yesterday noon when we left the springs we took some water with us for our nights use as we intended to travel only eight or nine miles, and to the next water was sixteen miles, so our camp last night was what is termed amongst travellers a "Day Camp". We passed a comfortable night found the morning very pleasant

The country over which we have travelled today has been rough but unlike any we have seen heretofore it consists of Large Valleys miles in extent both in width as well as length with hills or ridge between these valleys seem all to run together therefore I thought the best idea of it could be got ~~was to~~ by considering it as one vast plain with Hills, Hillocks &[]Mountain Ridges on its surface, sometimes in these valleys

[page 16]

our road could be seen for miles ahead where it rose in higher land ahead, As a general thing today the ascents were long and gradual and the descents more abrupt the soil today has seemed more like our eastern soil of clay &[]gravel, than any heretofore, no wood and very little sage through this country Water very scarce and poor, there are (strange to say) no

brooks or creeks in this country (at this season at least) only occasional springs, distant[sic] in todays travel Seventeen miles and twelve miles which are long distance to drive cattle without water and then only that that is poor when arrived. At the end of the 17 miles we came to[]the "Blue Springs" which were warm salt & sickish tasting, used as little as we possibly could, in fact in preferance[sic] we used water found in the hollow

[page 17]

of the rocks there, which was gray as dirt itself and into which little frogs were jumping and[]playing A little beyond this place we stopped for our dinner, grass for feed good, but see no place nor have we seen any in our whole journey ^{save the two great valleys} where hay could be gathered this grass here is a very fine grass a part only of which heads out and bears a seed something resembling the oat in shape

Tuesday July 12th

Day pleasant, after six miles travel came to a creek of good size and good water called "Deep Creek[]" this creek sinks six miles below here we dinnred near the sink to day the road has been excellent, almost as level as a house floor and easy on cattles feet we have travelled all day in a large valley which we are crossing. the direction

[page 18]

of this valley is about N E &[]S.W. it's extent untold, being many miles 50 or 60, &[]possibly more it is a perfect plain to view, with mountains all around it in the distance it contains nothing but sage brush. is a desert almost destitute of water to night we are camped at Pilot Springs where we find little or no feed for our cattle but as we have already driven them twenty[]two miles today we must stop and let them rest; if they cannot feed. It is ten miles from Deep Creek Sink and fourteen miles to the next water ahead, where we expect to find feed and not before, this is truly hard on our cattle but cannot be helped we shall only drive to the next water tomorrow and then give the cattle some rest

Wednesday [July] 13th

Day pleasant, our road to

[page 19]

day has been hard on cattles feet being gravelly and uneven it is yet all a desert destitute of grass, wood and water only in scanty quantities, the general appearance of the country is as heretofore mountainous with large and wide valleys, We are now stopping for a few hours on "Stony Creek" which leads into a valley whose length is enormous I can see as far as "Blue" "and the end is not yet" Its width I should judge was 15 miles; there is no feed here and we shall rest till evening then go on till we find grass Next water is 12 miles ahead. last past fourteen— At 6 oclock we started 8 miles to a creek (not laid down in the guide) where we found other teams camped. here we camped—

Thursday [July] 14

Day pleasant, At an early

[page 20]

hour we started out for there was no grass scarcely where we stopped, travelled four miles and came to "De Casur Creek" a creek of good size, water little roily and runs northerly Along this creek we find the Wild Rye or Buffalo Oat Grass this is the only place I have seen where hay could be gathered cattle do not lik[e] this grass very well— followed down this creek

six miles; then left it & went four mil[e]s into the hills when in a kanyon we found grass and Water so we camped, we are now within a mile of "City Rocks" at which place the Sublet[sic] Cut Off[]Road comes in (it leaves the main road you will remember a few miles this side of the "South Pass") Since camping a "Sho Shone" Indian has come to our camp. as near as we could understand him, he was from "Humboldt River[]" and going to Big Sandy Guide [page 21] tells us to look out for Indians her[e].

Tuesday July 15th

My Birth Day am 27 years old to day (that is I suppose I am) was born. in the town of Columbia in the eastern part of Maine in the year 1832 begin to think I have wandered a long way from there now— This day has been pleasant, the morning was cool, our road today has been very rough and crooked. up hill and down winding here and there as a way could be got. at one time was at a great heighth being on top of "Goose Creek Mountains[]", from which heighth we been all the afternoon in getting down to Goose Creek, road very tortuous and steep, the country as far as we could see, from the tops of the mountains, was very mountainous, We are now camped on "Goose Creek", plenty [page 22]

good feed, tolerable water, early this morning we passed the junction of[]the Fort Hall & Sublett Cut off[]Road, have passed plenty good mountain streams today which are always cool and good they run rapidly and broken over rocky bottoms, very pretty streams, the country through which we have passed today has been clothed with a growth of Mountain Cedar just scattered enough to make them ornamental to the Mountains I went on a head of the teams and laid down under a cedar and went to sleep till they had passed me a long way have had more shade trees in Indian Country & where Mormons frequently come to stop and commit their depredations

[page 23]

Saturday July 16th

Day pleasant, during the forenoon we remained in camp for the benefit of our oxen intend to lay bye another half day before we start down the Humboldt River. find abundance of grass and of the best quality; at twenty minutes past 12 Oclock we started out, travelled down the creek ten or twelve miles and camped for the night road tolerably level, country all around very rough although the mountains near by do not appear so high as those in the distance, feed excellent. good chance to cut hay along this creek & of good quality, such as we have not seen before in our entire route, this creek is about twenty-five feet wide and has bottom lands probably forty rods wide there are some trout in this creek. water runs north east—

[page 24]

Sunday July 17th

Day pleasant started out and drove until we came to where the road leaves Goose Creek which is up a rough kanyon here we took dinner then started on again our road running strongly to the south (generally travel towards the "Setting Sun") over hilly and rocky road the next point to be made was "Rock Spring" twelve miles distant— We are now camped at Rock Spring but do not find any feed for our cattle, have got thirty miles yet to travel with poor feed before we come to good— after that, we are told we shall have good feed all the way

Monday [July] 18th

Day pleasant. At 3 o'clock in the morning without breakfast we started out and travelled for feed did not travel but about two miles before we came to some very tolerable grass

[page 25]

(for a desert country) here we stopped and then went on again, Our next "stopping place" was by the Guide to be "Ten Wells" but not finding them we travelled till 12½ O'clock and then stopped for dinner, found some poor water, which as it had minnows in it we thought it would be safe to use sparingly notwithstanding its Alkaline color According to our Guide (Mormon Guide of 1851 said to be the best guides[sic]) we have along here 42 miles of Alkaline Country "nearly destitute of feed" and "with bad water",

Yesterday we travelled twelve miles of it and to day and night intended to travel the remainder, there was one stretch of 18 miles without any water this we were going to travel in the night when it was cooler on account of comfort to cattle that on such long

[page 26]

and laborious journeys as this when the team is our whole dependence to get through have to be favored and nursed as men would, At three and a half O'clock we started out intending to travel till near sun down then turn out and bait and rest our cattle and then drive on in the night till we arrived to good feed and water, but unexpectedly and very much to our joy we soon came in sight. if[sic] a large encampment, on arriving there we found they had excellent feed & good water. here we gladly pitched our tent— There is no mention made of this place in our guide

Tuesday [July] 19th

Day pleasant. yesterday and to day we have been in "Thousand Spring Valley" a "[good] sounding name", but one would hardly believe when told that he was in a valley bearing such a name to day we have made a long days travel

[page 27]

till about three o'clock we were in the valley where we had excellent feed, at that time we left the valley and climbed the hills up a kanyon and over into another this country is full of mountainous ridges and extensive valleys we are now camped by a spring where we found some teams camped who had arrived before us we are near some snow covered mountains supposed to be the Humboldt Mountains— feed good— Wood none nor has there been any for a long time We are visited frequently by some of the Sho Shines (Shaw-shon-y's) Indians and see them occasionally in the tall grass and among the willows, they are dirty and almost destitute of any covering hair long and uncomb[e]d & perfectly filthy. they are of rather small[er] stature than that I have seen

[page 28]

Wednesday July 20th

Day pleasant travelled about ten miles in the forenoon in the afternoon we laid up one of our oxen being quite lame and two others not much better— We are now camped in a valley at a place called the Wells it is supposed to be 15 miles to Humboldt River are inclined to think this valley leads to the Humboldt feed is good but water not very good fuel scarce— day warm and roads dusty

Thursday July 21st

To day has been a pleasant day and good for travelling, the sun has been obscured by clouds a large portion of the day, at 5 O'clock in the morning we left our camping ground and travelled down the valley our road leading us upon the side of the mountain we were as we afterward found on the

[page 29]

["]Mountain road" and on the South Side of the Humboldt, At noon we camped for dinner while there Mr Newhall who had gone ahead yesterday afternoon, returned and said the road was very rough and rocky almost impassable, that he could not make more than a mil[e] an hour and that a man just ahead of him had broken an axle, that the road was the same as far as they could see so upon consideration we concluded to strike across the valley to the road on the North Side which we could see about five miles distant and which road we had intended to take, but as it had not been travelled this season did not know when we came to the forks of the road (which we passed yesterday a short time before camping) that the right hand road was the one that we should have taken, all the travel

[page 30]

had gone the left hand road, and we thought the right hand road was a road leading to grass probably as such roads are frequent many others after getting as far as we did and finding their mistake cut across as we had done we had no trouble in crossing although we met a man on horseback who said it was miry and deep water and that he had all he could do to get across this man and his story we questioned considerable, what his object was in telling us; such a lie— we cannot tell however contrary to his story we went ahead and found not the least trouble he probably belonged to some Trading Post below on that sid[e] of the river, and wanted to keep every one on that road— We have passed some "tall grass" today the best hay privilege yet, where we could mow hay than on all the route before

[page 31]

(although at this season Platte Bottom may be excellent being too early when we traversed it)—

To night we are camped upon the head of the Humboldt or Marys River. we find grass very abundant and of good quality there having been no teams before us. there is no fuel here scarcely the stream is small ten rods uide[sic] water good the Mountains on the south side are much higher than on this side and have snowy caps on— road good— we find some Mosquitoes & flies, but not very troublesome yet. last evening we had a ["]Thunder Shower". Last night about midnight I was taken with vomiting and have been very poorly all day have rode all the time. do not feel well tonight but think I am better

[page 32]

Friday July 22^d

This day has been a good day for travelling the sun has been beclouded, most of the day had a few drops of rain ~~had a few drops of rain~~ in the early part hardly enough to lay the dust have had good road level most of the way and easy on cattles feet— from where we camped last night at the junction of Kanyon Creek and Humboldt River, for twenty miles down the valley of the river is about one mile wide and heavily burdened with grass of good quality along the banks of the river is a growth of Willows, say ten rods wide, about these willows and the tall grass we frequently see the hateful sight of sneaking Indians our guide warns us to "look out for Indians" here, there seems to be plenty of them— About four miles back our

[page 33]

crossed what we suppose to be the North Fork of the river it is a stream about the size of the main stream above which [it] is not over two rods wide immediately below the junction the river enters the mountains and the road leaves the river taking over the hills and touching the stream only at intervals: we are camped on the river to night with Fickles & [] Corks [Cooks?] who have a drove of cattle. There are some high Mountains along the "Humboldt" mostly on the south side— I am much improved in health tonight, shall stand my watch

Saturday July 23^d

Day pleasant for travelling, sun has been beclouded a portion of the day, tonight we are camped upon the banks of the river with several other teams, have seen "any quantity" of Indians

[page 34]

along the road some on foot and some on Ponys some of them naked with the exception of a "breach cloth" (made of fur or tanned skins) their hair they wore long and un combed were small of stature and dirty— The road today has been level and easy for cattle but quite dusty feed of various kinds of grass very abundant high hills (or Mts) on both sides of river

Sunday [July] 24th

Day pleasant forenoon very warm, after noon sun beclouded and comfortable cool breeze blowing last night we camped near the foot of a very high hill and our first thing this morning after starting out was to climb that, we found it to be a weary some job— we were all the forenoon in getting over to the level on the other side for a long time we had to climb this then brought us into a kanyon which ran

[page 35]

back in nearly the direction we had come for a long way then commenced meandering around the different points now here now there for a long way farther in the kanyon we travelled nearly every point of the compass, but after a time reached the heighth of the land

"But ere that Steep ascent was won,
High in his path way hung the sun,"

We now began to descend by a crooked zig zag road as we had ascended to the western level At times of low water there is a much nearer road that follows the river crossing it several times— Tomorrow we have got another hill to encounter, these hills mar the beauty of our northern route so beautiful and level up to to day, feed still good— willows for fuel. Tonight we are camped

[page 36]

upon the river in a large valley between the hills I have spoken of where a creek comes into the river

Monday [July] 25th

Day pleasant, have had hilly road and rough kanyons to night are camped at "Gravelly Ford" passed today back in a kanyon in the mountains an encampment of United States Soldiers who came as an escort to some emigrants from Salt Lake, there are as many more (one company of Dragoons and one of Infantry) soon expected back from "Sink of Humboldt") when they arrive they will all go to "Thousand Spring Valley" feed good here find here a drove of 1000 head of working oxen from "Camp Floyd" (40 miles South West from Salt Lake City) and going to California they have crossed two fifty mile deserts in reaching here

[page 37]

The mail is carried over this route notwithstanding these deserts, The country about here is mountainous The water in the river is as good a common river water fuel scarce

Tuesday [July] 26th

Day pleasant afternoon very warm remained encamped at the Ford in the forenoon waiting for Mr Newhall to come up who had broken an axle yesterday: The road now takes directly over the hills again which is at first hard to climb, the hill passed, we had very good travelling as we came again on to the bottom lands and followed the river till evening we are now camped upon its bank. feed good the drove of 1000 cattle are camped near us. Country Mountainous. We think of going into California by the "Honey Lake Route",

[page 38]

Wednesday July 27th

Day pleasant This day has been one of hardship; we started out at 5 oclock this morning and our cattle have travelled all day at the hardest kind of labor, till 7 Oclock tonight without a mouthful to eat and no water but once and that not till 2 oclock this afternoon When we started this morning we took the river road which soon ran out teams that had taken it branched out through the grass and soon left us without a road we then struck out for the Bluffs to the right hand, the bottom land here being wide and low were soft and we got into many places where we had to twitch one ox[?] out by the neck; with others had a very ugly time but final[l]y reached the main road and travelled along till we came to "Stony Point", here we got water, While crossing the bottom land,

[page 39]

we had given them two pails full each of water that we found standing in a Slough by its having "frogs" and "minnows" in it we thought it could not be very bad and so ventured to risk a little with them as a present releif[sic], At dinner time (2 oclock) they had no chance to eat: the ground all about being white with Alkali. We ate our dinners and gave the cattle one hour to rest and then went on had a level but very dusty road. The bottom lands here are very wide and low with marshy places & []Sloughs and yielding an offensive odor to the nose, The road running near to the high lands made the distance to the river some miles towards evening we[]took a left hand road which led † towards the river, had not gone far on it before it led us into trouble where we got mired again in trying to get out we split one yoke, At 7 oclock

[page 40]

fourteen hours from the time we started in the morning we had got to the river where we found excellent grass & Humboldt River Water which is here muddy and warm, ourselves very tired, and hope such days experience as this has been may be scarce scarcer than "Hens Teeth" or "Honor"

Thursday [July] 28th

Day pleasant left our camping place at 6½ Oclock and travelled till 3 Oclock over a sandy road without water or grass. finally came to the river where we are camped grass poor

Friday [July] 29th

Day pleasant but very hot scarcely a breath of air to fan our heated bodies our road has lead us across a sandy desert where not a thing grows

[page 41]

save "Grease Wood", the road was very hard and ran a long distance from the river and was very crooked. At noon we took a left hand road which led us to the river where we got water for our cattle, that were very dry, Also tolerable grass for dinner, the mountains here are back some fifteen or twenty miles from the river forming a great cove or basin inland For about one mile in width along the river may be found the bottoms that bear grass the rest of all these great flats are a little higher and sandy and bear nothing but grease wood which is all that prevents them from being shifting sand deserts

Saturday [July] 30th

Day pleasant and warm have had at times a little stirring air which relieved[sic] us very much [page 42]

from the heat, our first travel this morning was to cross a point of high land by passing up one kanyon to the summit, then down another where we struck the river again here we found a "trading Post" and were very near to the road on the South Side both roads coming near the river here. found feed good turned out and baited our team two hours, At this "Post" we sold one sack of flour for 12.\$ in a few minutes some emigrants came along and asked the Trader the price of flour, he answered him "forty cents per lb" Then[sic] usual price I am told is 20 to 25 cts per lb. for Beans they ask 30 cts per pound, for Bacon 75 cts for Sugar 60 cts for Coffee 50 cts &c &c From here our road was level but sandy sand shoe mouth deep thus far on the Humboldt with the exception

[age 43]

of the first two days the road has been hard laying as it does most of the way a cross barren sandy plains and touching the river only at long intervals, making some of the stretches very tedious blu[?] borne and hard to accomplish To night we are camped by the side of a slough our bed being made directly on the road a very disagreeable place but the best there is here Last night Mosquitoes were almost intolerable could not sleep scarcely "a wink"

Sunday [July] 31st

Day pleasant, last night had another severe night with the Mosquitoes— have had very hard road to day sand in some place[s] six inches deep, A Miserable country all along no wood sand soil. road tolerably level. heard that "Horace Greely" passed

[page 44]

here on the South Side, on the stage yesterday had heard previously that he was "coming" and of his being in Salt lake City

Monday August 1st 1860

Day pleasant and warm as has been a great many days before it, Road terribly hard, sand very deep till 4 O'clock, then we had dust deepest I ever saw so deep that the cattles feet would bury in it quite to their dew claws Men oxen Wagons and every thing in the wagon were completely coated with dust Men looked worse than Millers the road was tolerable level some sand hills we followed down the river till 4 O'clock when the road turned from the river. we travelled on till 6 O'clock then stopped by the road side and got supper No grass nor water for cattle we gave our Oxen two hours rest, then travelled till 12 O'clock, and finally, had to tie our oxen

[page 45]

to the wagon wheels and await the light of morning because we had not found the "stopping place" that we were seeking for, and could not see in the darkness where we were and knew not how much further we might have to travel to find water &[]feed We had already travelled our teams much further[sic] than we wanted to— they were very tired and required considerable urging these drives are very hard on jaded teams that require rest [with] more than un common urgency. One of our oxen has been sick for some days have expected he would die, to day our cow is sick but both have been able to keep with (or not far behind) the wagon by having one to attend to them— As for ourselves we spread our bedding by the side of the road and laid down to sleep, ~~(had some sweet rest to our weary frames~~

[page 46]

Tuesday August 2^d

Day pleasant, had some sweet rest for our weary bodies last night; awaking this morning we could see the river not very far distant and had we known it might have turned out cattle out to tolerable grass a short distance from the wagon but darkness shrouded us and we were obliged to do as we did this is hard, sepecially[sic] on cattle. We found our cow dead, in the morning having died after we had lain down at 12, She was a very excellent cow we shall miss both her and her generous supply of milk Poor "Curley"; "peace to your ashes" At 8 O'clock we left our camping place our cattle having got a tolerable breakfast and at 11 O'clock we arrived at "Lassens Meadow" at which place the road of the "Honey Lake Route" leaves the Humboldt; here we stopped and baited till 20 minutes of 2 O'clock then

[page 47]

gladly, yes very gladly, bade adieu to Humboldt River and struck out for "Antelope Springs" which is the first point on the ["]Honey Lake Route" after leaving the river twelve miles distant, after leaving the river we had level and excellent road and reached the "Springs" about dark found good water but grass scarce there was a very little near the top of the mountains at[?] the head of the kanyons we were told there was grass about a mile distant in a kanyon further West and to the left, So two men took the cattle and some bedding and went out for the night. At about 10 O'clock we were awakened by Mr Bartlett who was one of the two who had gone with the cattle and who had returned to know what he should [do] with the cattle. he said they had been driving them and searching for grass ever since they went

[page 48]

out and could not find, neither grass nor any of the cattle belonging to the other teams that were camped here that had been driven up before dark so our cattle had to be returned to the wagon supperless and then stand tied to the wheels til morning, with "Past Meat" supper for a second night, rather hard this on cattle tired and fatigued as ours are with the hard roads and harder fare of a week past Our sick Ox continues about as he was

Wednesday Aug 3^d

Day pleasant "laid by" all this day to rest our cattle The best grass and most of it we found over the mountains on the south side where we shall drive our cattle and herd them tonight

Thursday Aug 4th

Day pleasant, early in the morning our cattle were brought

[page 49]

from over the mountains and we soon started on our way to "Rabbit Hole Springs" fifteen miles a

head where we arrived at One and a half O'clock found the Springs to be holes dug in the ground into which the water slowly drained the water when we were there was gray they look more like mud holes than springs We being the first to arrive had best chance to get water which even we had to dip up by dipper fulls and pour into pails and water our cattle in that manner, as fast as we dipped one dry we would go to another. there are in all some half dozen of the holes within the area of an acre do not find a particle of grass here the country being perfectly dry and barren as has been all the country since we left the river Our cattle laid down to rest and we ate our dinners

[page 50]

dinner over five of us went out in search of grass each taking a different direction, After two hours one returned having found some about three miles away where he thought there might be enough for them to fill themselves on One other soon returned having found a very little the rest did not find any, two of the first who returned, (then 4 O'clock) took the cattle and started with them for the 3 mile grass, while the remainder, save one to watch the wagons, went with knives and sacks to gather what Mr Bartlett had found— Whether we shall remain here all night remains yet to be seen if the cattle have any more grass than they can eat at this time we shall remain till morning if not as soon as they eat up what there is and are brought back we shall start out to cross the Desert which now lays stretched— out

[page 51]

before us for Twenty-eight— or Thirty miles from here, to the "Hot Springs" (on the desert) is 18 miles, these springs are so hot as to boil; it is said the steam arising from these springs can be seen on a calm clear day many miles— the water after running out from them and spreading over the ground some distance below becomes cool so that it can be used by animals, From "Hot Springs" to "Granite Creek", next stopping place where we expect to find water and grass is put down at 10 miles but one who has been over it, tells us it is twelve "Granite Creek" is supposed to be on the western side of the Desert proper, In the early part of the day before, we arrived at "Rabbit Hole Springs" we found a stray mule upon a mountain side which was very fine to have to hunt grass upon at the Springs—

At about 9 O'clock in the evening

[page 52]

Mrss[Messrs] Woodman & Miller returned with the cattle could not find grass enough to keep them over night; they had got a tolerable supper, while the cattle were away Mrs[Messrs] Bartlett, Ben Whitney [and] myself had gathered four sacks of dried grass & Mr W & [M] two more so that we considered ourselves under the circumstances as very well prepared for crossing the desert Our cattle with the exception of one pair are thin in flesh and very much worn down we have driven hard and steady [al]most too much so I think were I to cross again I think I should keep my cattle in better flesh and heart After the cattle returned we spread our bedding for a few hours rest intending to start on to the desert at One O'clock next morning which would give the cattle a few hours here to rest; the grass they found lay to the left of the road through an opening in the mountains to the east Mrs[sic] Bartlett's lay to the South or SW

[page 53]

of the springs & was to be found only in tufts and quite scattering

Friday August 5th

Day pleasant, at One O'clock this morning, Mr Whitney being on guard, called us to arise and prepare to move on "sans,["] ceremony of Breakfast he having during his watch watered all the cattle again in a short time we were on the move— drove till sun rise then stopped for Breakfast, rested our cattle 2 hours, and went on at 20 minutes of twelve we arrived at the "Hot Springs["] One of our oxen, which was being drove[sic] single got wearied out and laid down about 2 miles back. we came on and left him After stopping at the Springs a while Mr Woodman went back on the Mule after him found him up and coming on slowly, About one half mile east of the Springs I found along a dry creek some ripe or dry Rye Grass (I was directed to it by a man who had been

[page 54]

searching for a lost steer) upon which our cattle filled themselves very well (most any thing is feed in these hungry times) so we gave our sacked grass to the weaker oxen and did not drive them out upon a portion of this desert nothing grows it is perfectly level and hard clay a beautiful road, the wind has blown hard today and the desert has been one continual cloud of dust we stopped here from 20 minutes of 12 till 7½ O'clock to rest and feed our cattle and wait for the wind to go down At 7½ we started for "Granite Creek" west side of[]desert we arrived at an en campment of all hands who had crossed the desert within[?] last two days; not at Granite Creek (for we dont find any such creek, although we are told farther up on the mountains there is a creek) but several well holes with water enough such as it is, at about 10 O'clock in the night cattle all travelled well (cattle travel much better

[page 55]

in the night than day) find plenty grass here both "bunch grass" & "Wild Rye" but we make no account of the latter as cattle will eat it only when very hungry, there are a great many teams here that have come all the way from "Humboldt River" 55 miles without any thing to eat, it is a wonder to me how they perform so, did not pass but a few beat out and deserted cattle on the desert. Mr[]Newhall our travelling companion since we left ["]Omaha" had bleau[?] one of his the other is very weak the one we passed was alive when we left him but teams coming on after us report him dead, I wanted to shoot him and end his misery when we passed him but the others would not consent to it as they said he might possibly when night came work along to the springs but his labors were over— In crossing

[page 56]

the desert from Hot Springs to Granite Creek through the meat of the night the outlines of the mountains bordering the desert on the west appeared to be very near us yet hour after hour of travel apparently towards them did not seem to change in the least the distance intervening between us time and again some portion of the crew believing that they could not be far distant would start a head of the team and after travelling till they got tired and apparently no nearer than at first would lay down upon the level clay floor and wait for the wagon to come up, how far away these mountains were I cannot say but we did not get to them that night But for Mr Whitney who had gone ahead on the Mule and found out th[e] encampment before we arrived we should have missed them altogether and gone on to "deep hole Springs" as they were to the right of the road

[page 57]

and out of sight possibly we might have got out of the main road for on that clay floor and in the night it was hard to track

Saturday August 6th

Day pleasant remained in camp till quarter of one o'clock then started for Deep Hole Spring 12 miles distant arrived there just before sun-set found feed good and plenty of it. also splendid ^{water} in almost bottomless springs one spring is 30 feet over and for aught I know is bottomless Road good & level country mountainous. Trading Post here

Sunday August 7th

in camp Day pleasant staid in camp till 11 o'clock then started for "Buffalo Springs" said to be 16 miles distant, sold one ox today for 25\$ to the Trader he was thin when we started and is now weak and worn down,

[page 58]

Our ox that was sick is better but not strong yet after leaving our camping place we soon came upon an other desert (connects I think with the other) I had supposed the desert to be a level plain but it is Like a Large Lake or plain with high hills or mountains in it, the level and barren clay portion of this desert lays around, about and between these mountains. Some of these plains being miles in width ([sic] we are now about ten miles from deep hole springs upon the waste taking supper and baiting our cattle with grass which we had pulled and put into sacks-

Again- We arrived at "Buffalo Springs" at about 9 O'clock P.M find them situated in a cluster of Bushes of unknown kind not much account. the water tastes of decayed substances. no feed about them We found some grass about a mile North East from them they are situated below the hills upon the level ("Wall Springs"

[page 59]

lay to the right of us and I think about [blank] miles from deep hole springs) and curious to say the water comes to the surface upon the top of a little knoll which I suppose has been formed by decayed rushes and leaves. we took a short distance back the right hand road which leads to here the other goes on by, here we camped for the night

Monday August 8th

Day pleasant last night we were serenaded by a band of Coyotes or Prairie Wolves that came near and set up their strange sounds After breakfast we started for "Smoke Creek" said to be 14 miles ahead travelled for a couple of hours upon the level then went over a point of the mountains for two or three miles into Smoke Creek Cañon below the sink of Smoke Creek All brooks and

[page 60]

rivers in this region of country sink none lead to any other water even the "Humboldt", The "Truckee" & the "Carson" sink In this cañon at about one o'clock we stopped an hour and a half for dinner and to bait our cattle on bunch grass which we found on the left then went on four miles and came to the Trading Post and an encampment find feed and water fair To day while crossing that high point our Dog "Bounce" "Give out" he has been lame and getting used up for a long time, but has rec'd considerable attention his feet are worn and cracked by Alkali they have been kept greased and covered with cloth as well as could be for some time back which has enabled him to keep along, but to day with heat and dust and thirst and worn out with fatigue he laid down and refused to follow, we have haul[e]d him considerably of late but think he is about as able

[page 61]

to walk as our worn team is to haul him After a while his owner went back after him but could not get him along but a little way, however before we stopped for night he came up with us, We are told that but a few of the dogs that start a cross the plains ever reach California the trip being more than they can perform

Newhall's other ox died today—

Tuesday August 9th

Day pleasant, laid in camp till one o'clock then started for "Mud Springs" 10 miles distant, arrived there about sunset find feed good and water excellent, road level and good with the exception of one rocky hill which we had to climb when we left Smoke Creek. Mr Phillips a Drover who has been in company with us for some days killed a Beef to day which offered us a rarity. have quite a heavy encampment along with us since

[page 62]

we crossed the desert, distances since we crossed then have been so long that we cannot drive over two of them in a day consequently we only drive from water to water each day

Wednesday August 10th

Day pleasant at an early hour we were ready to start for "Honey Lake Valley" which is the next stopping place, found the road tolerably level, no bad hills but very rocky most of the way in many places the whole surface of the country is actual[ly] paved with the rock (scale rock) upon it, the distance is about sixteen miles, no grass nor water between points tonight we are camped near the Trading Post in the lower end of[]the valley here we find feed and water good To day we came in sight of woods ahead the Seirra[sic] Nevada Mountains are in sight and covered with heavy Pines & Firs

[page 63]

We see here the first newspapers we have seen for a long time. begin to think we are approaching civilisation[sic]. feel pretty well over it. Flour here is 15 cts per lb Pies One dollar apiece

Thursday [August] 11th

Day pleasant, last night was very cold. this morning found the water in our basins skimmed over [with ice], an over coat was a very comfortable article of apparel Ait[sic] 6½ O'clock started for the upper end of the valley said to[]be twenty miles where there is a store and other buildings called "Susan-ville" This valley is a number of miles wide has a fine creek running down it. (I believe they call it "Susan River") heavy pine woods is to be seen on the mountains in abundance & also Cedar &[]Fir. Road today has been level passed a company of U S.[]Soldiers (Raw

[page 64]

Recruits) who are out here from Fort Crook recruiting horses and to be drilled themselves They were upon horses and being drilled in the broadsword exercise, were passing around the Officer in a ring were very awkward this was their first drill= we were told that they have been here about two weeks We are now camped near a store and settlement Rustic looking place and Romantic with all are about four miles from head of valley—

Friday [August] 12th

Day pleasant. have laid in camp to day to rest our cattle feed and water good. I hear there are three Stores in this valley, their Merchandize is Packed in on Mules, a portion of it while some is hauled on wagons prices necessarily high

Saturday [August] 13th

Day pleasant. Four miles travel

[page 65]

took us from where we were camped to the head of the valley (Susanville) where the pine timber commences. from that time we have travelled in a dense forest of Cedar, Pines and Firs, heavy timber all the road has been very rocky and hard upon the cattle. we have risen to a considerable heighth to day, though our road has been "up and down". We are now crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountains by "Nobles Pass" said to be the easiest pass of three this one is very easy

Sunday [August] 14th

Day pleasant. had an en campment of Nineteen teams last night a[t] "Summit Springs" found grass enough for our stock by following down a ravine but other teams coming late cannot get much if any Eighteen of these Nineteen teams are bound for Oregon & Northern California

[page 66]

about Yreka (emigrated from Kansas"[sic] to day till 3 Oclock our road was very rocky. After that time it was better, have travelled through dense forest with more firs than yesterday passed Firs today five feet in diameter We are now camped at Silver Lake passed water & grass three or four times today Said to be danger of Indians here

Monday [August] 15th

Day pleasant, road has been excellent excepting occasionally a small patch of stones has very gradually descended all day and has led us through beautiful glades and plains for the greater part of the distance saw this afternoon Nine Wild animals. could not tell whether they were Deer or Mountain Sheep on account of distance they were large and of a grizzly color apparently. To night we are camped at "Butte Creek" a fine little stream with abundance

[page 67]

of good grass in a little meadow of perhaps two hundred acres

Tuesday [August] 16th

Day pleasant, first part of forenoon had down hill road and good, then had a long and very rocky hill ("Hat Creek Hill) to go down road very winding then some miles of very rocky road amongst which is the Piece called the "Devils Half Acre", then tolerable road for rest of the day, the Timber has today at times been more bushy than before consequently no[t] so good timber At noon we arrived at "Hat Creek Station" where last Saturday the Indians made a descent upon the dwellers and killed them both, This station is on the freight road from Red Bluff to Yreka and was kept as a by two men as a stopping place for teams It is situated upon Hat Creek and surrounded

[page 68]

by very high mountains On our arrival there we found a company of soldiers who had arrived there from Fort Crook about an hour before us Fort Crook is about 35 miles N, or N, E from here, we found hay and Barley here the house (built of Logs) remained just as the Indians

had left it stove. dishes &c The Indians used fire arms and bows and arrows I hear that they got 100\$ in gold One Horse and One Pistol &c &c. To night we are camped at "Lost Camp Station" which is 8 miles below Hat Creek Station good water here but grass is enclosed (no grass land about Hat Creek Station) nights very cold have heavy frosts have seen some very high mountains today among[]which most prominent stand "Lassens Buttes", highest of the Sierra Nevada's its top is crowned with snow and looks very beautiful It is I think the grandest old Mountain I have seen

[page 69]

Wednesday August 17th

Day pleasant at 8 o'clock 20 minutes we were on our way again up hill road for four and a half miles after that down hill road all the rest of the day & road somewhat rocky, heavy growth all along of Firs and Pines to night are camped at "Brand & Lature's Ranch" where by paying 12½ cts per head for our cattle we get good grass and water

Thursday [August] 18th

Day pleasant, during the forenoon our road was nearly level and very dusty appeared to run upon a bench of the mountains during the afternoon our road was nearly all down and quite rapidly at that growth more bushy and intermixed with Oaks see some very fine firs and pines We passed today

[page 70]

quite a number of off[]ranches shall find settlers all along after this to night are camped under a large branching Oak by the road side by the side of a small creek on the Ranch of Mr Ogden a very handsome ranch grass is more to be found only in enclosures To night we[]feasted on Water Melon. the first for many a day When we left Brand &[]Latures Ranch this morning we left four of our cattle to be ranched for a time at three dollars per head per week for the four or 75 cts each

Friday [August] 19th

Day pleasant, our road has been diversified some up hill and some down, and at times rocky the growth is changed to scrub Oak and Oak openings interve[n]ing Grass there is none to be found we are now in the "Sacramento Valley" and

[page 71]

every thing in the vegetable kingdom is dried up we have to pay three cents per pound for hay for our oxen near night we arrived at the Sacramento River which we crossed by Ferry paid \$1,50 to be crossed (consider ourselves well into California now) After crossing the river we travelled to a Station (Hotel) called "Cottonwood" or "Cottonwood Creek" kept by a Mr Lane. did not arrive there till sometime after dark

Saturday August 20th

Day pleasant left Cottonwood at about Seven O'clock and travelled over a diversified country of hills and oaken woods passing occasional houses, Dined by the roadside then went on a short distance and came to a stopping place known as "The 9 Mile House" (being 9 Miles from the town of[]Red Bluff- situated

[page 72]

on the Sacramento River at the head of Navigation) and known in the early times of California as

the "Round Tent" here we ended our journey by turning up a kanyon to the left and east of the house where was a spring and dried grass such and[is] all they have on the valley in the dry season We have now travelled an overland trip of about 2300 Miles with Ox teams and have been from March 7 to August 20th Inclusive or 167 days in performing it Thirty-four days of which time was spent in waiting for grass (at Council Bluffs & Omaha) and in resting our stock along the road—

We have been 111 days in coming from the Missouri River [to] here of which time 12½ Days were spent recruiting stock have averaged 17⅓ Miles per day travelling time, Left Minnesota with four yokes of Oxen and a cow and

[page 73]

arrived here with six oxen

And now in regard to closing our journey I think I shall express the feeling of all in a very satisfactory manner, if I apply to our case, the couplet which Adam Clark has appended to his Commentary. For I think our feelings are similar

"Like travellers when they see their native soil
^ ^{Emigrants} ^ ~~Writers~~ rejoice to terminate their toil,

Finis