

JOSEPH B. SANDERS

Diary,

1865

Transcribed

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After wintering I sold 600 dollars worth of corn oats, &c turned my horse teams into ox teams and after great sacrafize of property we started to cross the plains on the 3rd day of Aprail[sic] 1865 our train at the start consisted of 30 waggons known as Dr Goodwins train but as we did not all travil together at first on account of feed I shall mostly confine my self to our 6 waggons

April 3rd 1865

We left Neoga [IL] at 9 oclock weather nice and roads good for the time of year but while we was crossing little Wahbash it began to rain and the mud soon got awful. we all stuck stalled and hollowed think of 30 men and 10 boys all straining their voices and cracking their whips like guns and you will have a faint idea of our starting after traveling 7 milds[sic] from timber the water half[-]leg deep it raining and pouring us all wet and no fire we just set up all night in the waggons and the frogs driving the teams all night for there had been so much hollowing that the frogs appeared to say wo haw wo haw wo haw

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[April] 4th

fair day. went to timber for brakefast traviled 7 mild through mud and water had to double teams, half the time campt in a nice place where the drunk man was where Ben loosed his team and then went on to timber

[April] 5th

wet day we traviled 7 milds awful mud past through Shelbyville nice little town campt in half mild in nice lott[?] where there was 6 waggons just reddy to start to move

[April] 6th

rain plenty traviled 13 milds mud but nice country past through prary bird (small town) campt in the edge of prary with all the train to gather and tied up our cattle

[April] 7th

fair with cold wind come through Assumption (nice little town) crossed flat creek 150 yards wide almost swiming and the bridge gone here we had some fun crossing some waded some drove on horse back &c all had to double teams after all getting over we built a good fire warmed and put on dry cloths all safe and sound except the old man Hiland he had taken a little to[o] much corn tea and the waggon run over him and hurt him pretty bad but he was able to drive in a few days we traviled 9 milds [of] mud and campt in prary where we could see the top of a waggon load of goods that was mired in the mud in the night our cattle got out of the lot and come to the waggons and I thought they was a large herd that was in sight so I got up put my over coat over my head run shook it and give the Indian yell and gave

them a general stampeed

[April] 8th

cold wind traveled 12 milds mud slipp[ery] and bad we past through Taylorsville
country seat of Christain[sic] county campd in timber where the man refuzed to let us burn
brush

[April] 9th

some snow traveled 6 milds mud and mire campd at noon in nice place in the timber where
we halled corn and hay from fine house

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The rockets fly the cannons roars
Widows and orphans made by scores
While it snows rains and hails
We wont suffer while theres rails

[April] 10th

cold and cloudy traveled 17 milds and campd at the Sangamon bridge where we got a lott [to
graze on] by making threats from here we seen the Sky rockets in Springfield (6 miles of[f])
and heard the cannons firing in several places for you must know that there has been hundreds of
widows and thousands of orphans made by the braves

[April] 11th

wet day but roads some better past through Springfield (the capitol of Illinois) Saw the
capitol and old Abes dwelling traveled 17 milds campd by gate and turned cattle on 5 acre lott
and fed on hay

[April] 12th

cool & cloudy traveled 14 miles bad roads past through Plesant Plains & Ashland both
small towns campd in prary and turned our stock out for the first time this is the first time
we have been out of a lane for several days here we burnt fence poles

[part of following entry nearly illegible]

[April] 13th

fair roads some better past through Philadelphia small town past Virginia nice little
town past through the sand[?] nob[s?]
beautiful to behold here there are many coal mines
come 18 milds and campd and got lott[?] and fed on oat straw where the orange folks met and
campd with us

[April] 14th

fair day but rain at night Roads good come to Bierds town a good town on the Illinois
river ferried 5 milds and landed in fredricksburg a poor town standing to the second story in
the water past plesant ville Rush ville and +[symbol evidently marks a blank in the ms] roads
all small towns traveled 20 milds and campd in the timber where Bob drove out of the road
and John & Jim Scot stopt behind

[April] 15th

wet day come 10 milds poor broken country and Struck up camp at 11 on the little fork of crooked creek and washed and rested the ballance of the day the train past us here we gathered a mess of greens

[April] 16th

Easter fair and warm cow had calf at noon give calf to woman lost no time

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past Brooklin Bermingham & Plymoth all old rotten dried up ^{up} towns come 15 milds broken country and camped on a creek and used creek water in old clearing where the boys fished near the stone quarry

[April] 17th

fair morning but in the evening it thickened up and we saw that there was coming a storm and we begun to carell our wagons in a lane but before we could do any thing the wind hail and rain took us tearing some of the waggon sheets to attoms leaving every thing to the mercy of the torrents of rain hail and wind it raized the for[e] wheel of one of my waggons six inches off the ground and me on it and the women all on the other side holding a gainst it come 20 milds and got a small room to stay in us all wet and cold all had to warm and cook at a small stove and had not room to sit down had to set up and sleep with but little fire as there was not timber nearer than six milds

[April] 18th

fair Started with out Break fast past Sylvester a small town and stopt at 10 oclock between Oak wood (small town) and Hamilton (smart town) and dried our things in the sun in the evening we crossed the mississippi and landed in Keokuck a verry fine city in Iowa camped in 3 milds in the edge of prary where we had camped as we left Dixey and had to pack water half mild from good spring where the old Irishman took my cheer we traviled 13 milds had seviere hail storm at night

[April] 19th

fine day but threatened rain past Sumit ville Boston and charleston all poor old towns in the half breed country traviled 20 milds plank road rich roling prary past in fair view of Peorie and several other nice towns back in Illinois camped in the mud in a lane and pulled dry weeds to put in the tent where Alford and me packed water from dutch well here is where linda got so mad where we burnt fence rales

[April] 20th

cool and clouday past prim rose poor town got waggon rods mended

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past Cedar and Big moun both small towns traviled 18 milds goo[d] grass country the whole train camped to gather with many other waggons and fed on hay here is where we had like to split the quill it rained on us all nite

[April] 21st

Snowed all day and as we was in a nice grove of timber we conclude^d to lay by and let our stock

graze — — —

[April] 22nd

freezing Snowed all day past utica a small town Soon came to the Devils hog waller (a flat peace of prary one mild square water from shoe mouth to knee deep[]) here we had to double teams and go through two sides of it through mud and water and the snow falling in a cloud us all wet and it freezing the wind a perfect gale Some waggons stuck with 9 yoke of cattle we traviled 10 milds and campt in good timber and went up the creek ½ mild and bought corn here I bought Some Eggs and used cistern water

[April] 23rd

freez but fair day this morning we hitched up Bobs cow for the first time past Winchester and bermingham both small towns to day we saw the funny wind mill with the two niggers sawing and the man standing with a drawn cow hide to day some of our cattle failed past liberty ville small town come 15 milds campt in lane and set tents in meadow bought woo^d and hay and got a[]lot free as it was cool our wood increased after night

[April] 24th

fair past Alsecom poor town past Agency citty nice town traviled 20 milds through goo^d country and campt on creek where two rail roads come to gather near the Desmoines river where the niggers and so many other moovers stopt before and behind us

[April] 25th

fair day but sprinkled we lay by to wash and let our teams rest had lots of sport fishing in Desmoines river and killing squirrels (for we was in heavy timber[]) some of us went to Autumwa and saw the new pattent loom all the train except our 6 wagons went a[]few milds and was to stop until noon next day for us

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[April] 26th

nice day thundered all day and rained all nite past Autumwa good bizness town kept up the river and Rail road crossed the river at day ville (nice town) on toll bridge found that our train had been gone about an hour that was the last we heard of them for 2000 milds, past Bridge port little old rotten deserted town took the North road on account of feed come 21 milds good roads mostly heavy timber bottom land campt at dusk where we crossed a creek clum an awful hill and found our selves in a hazle thicket in the edge of large prara where it rained all nite on us and wet our beds in the tents woe to the fence rales that hapened to be close by,

[April] 27th

rained until it put out our fire before we was done [with] breakfast we started at 10 come 7 milds over rich broken land prary with some nice groves of timber past sam berries found him black as old Abe himself campt on big Bluff creek with several other wagons to wait for the water to fall

[April] 28th

more rain past Hamilton & mary ville both Small towns Stopt on big cedar river and had to wait until morning for water to fall Several other wagons and 3 droves of cattle stopt with us we come 11 milds rich roling newly settled prary here while we was wating on the river we had fine sport fishing killing Squirrels and Rabits and Singing black and white songs

[April] 29th

morning cool and cloudy but we was in goo^d timber we crossed the river at 10 water nearly into the wagon beds and very swift we got mad at drovers for driving their cattle on us while crossing the river soon past the bluffs come 12 milds goo^d country nice farms and corn plenty at 60 cents Campt in large hollow where the birds nest was under the bridge Some timber rain at nite

[April] 30th

cool and cloudy crossed several creeks and run the road into the meeting house- or lost it in the mud and water past knox ville county seat country rich but verry broken some timber some brush and some prary come 18 milds awful roads campt in timber where the man show us camping place on main road

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The flag and the fight
Between the black and the white

May, 1865

1st

cool quite a storm of wind past Sandy ville a small town past Indianola a small county seat here we saw a Sight that would chill the blood of any christian or any white harted person we saw the men standing in squads at the corners of the Streets and we looked before us and there come a large body of I was going to Say ladies but I will call that back and Say, women and in their midst was a lady (supported by a woman on each side) packing a 15 feet pole with the united states flag with a black flag over ~~she~~ hanging it and floating much lar^e.er to show that it was more acceptable than the stars and stripes well there was a beast in human form (who seemed to be officiating) who stept up to me and asked me to give the road for those ladies but seeing the mud on both sides of the road and the niger[sic] flag in front I refused to obey his orders so the gaters and white hoes[?] had to take the mud and what do you think it all ment well then if you cant guess I will tell you the woman that packed the black floating rag called a flag was dragged out of her sick bed and compelled to pack it with out support and for no other purpose only because she said Go^d has answered her prayers in causing the death of old Abe one of her daughters and a black harted woman had a fist and scull fight clost to our waggons in the fight black hart prooved the best man then[there?] want it provoking to hear the cowardly men Standing at a guilty distance cheering for the Heroine and hissing at the flag bearer we traviled 14 milds rich, broken timber brush and prarie crossed several creeks campt to our left and tied to the cotton woo^d trees near the Democrat house where the Ab[e] girl talked so mean where the wind blew our tents over here we burnt rales

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[May] 2nd

nice day but some rain past St Charles a small town crossed Several creeks traveled 20 miles mostly prairie ridge land camped at the corner of [a?] fence in the timber where the mawking bird sang so nice for us

[May] 3rd

morning cool & cloudy but fair day past Winterset a good up land county seat come 20 miles rich land mostly wild prairie killed some fowls[sic] found several articles of value we camped a quarter [mile] from the road to our left in [the] flat and pulled bark from the pole fence and burnt some fence poles drunk sulphur water

[May] 4th

nice day crossed 2 small rivers past Green field small town killed prairie hen in the Street come 20 miles and camped on creek where the dead Badger & dead horse lay by the bridge caught[sic] some fish to day we have had the brokenest land yet but good roads

[May] 5th

Cloudy & windy, some rain past 2 stations past Fountainell a small county Seat we traveled 24 miles rich but very broken land Saw lots of other movers camped near a creek where Jane found a bucket of water

[May] 6th

weather fair country unchanged past Louis small county seat past Indian town and Jones town both small towns crossed several creeks come 20 miles and camped on walnut creek and burnt brush where the woman wanted us to cross the creek to camp here is where we saw the big shor[?] gun and where Bob paid 10 cts for 2 Sticks of Stove wood here we had chickens and fish plenty

[May] 7th

fair but windy come 15 miles killed chickens and fish plenty camped at noon in bend of river and washed

[May] 8th

fair past several stations crossed several deep narrow streams come 20 miles country unchanged camped in timber on branch near Brick School house

[May] 9th

fair and windy come 4 miles to Council bluffs good town but broken land here we laid in our outfit Spent the day in Searching through the various trains to try

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to find our train which we had lost on the Desmoines river but failing to find it we drove to the missouri river and camped and burnt willow and burnt our boxes

[May] 10th

Cold and cloudy, crossed the missouri river on Steam ferry boat and landed in omaha the capitol of Nebraska Ty, a tollerable good city, here we searched in vain among the many

trains for our lost train traveled 13 miles broken country and camped on a creek close to a spring where we had lots of company plenty of soldiers all along here

[May] 11th

Cold and windy ice 1½ inches thick come 12 miles good country to Elk horn city poor town on Elk horn river nice Stream 50 yards wide good bridge across it here we camped at noon here we had fine Sport fishing the whole face of the earth was covered with waggons and tents but in vain we searched for our train here we begun to want to see them for the pawnee Indians were as thick as hops and us among strangers all unacquainted with the Indians

[May] 12th

Still cold and windy, we crossed Elk horn and struck into plat valley a dead level as far as the Eye could see there was 40 wagons of us agreed to travel and camp to gather past Fremont small town come 18 miles up plat river rich and sandy we camped on the pacific rail road where the Indians had gradid[?] it here we had charge of the wagon with 2 women that had such a time fixing their nest[?]

[May] 13th

cold with rain and snow come 20 miles up plat same level country found indians plenty camped on cotton wood grove on Island about 100 wagons here is where the Beavers had cut down so much timber in this country, there is no fence so we had to pay for our stock walking through a piece of wheat which had like to caused a fuss

\$100. organisation and preaching

Hunting and fishing

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[May] 14th

Foggy morning it being Sunday we lay by and had preaching and 58 armed men with 54 wagons[sic] organized to travel in one train we elected a Captain and Lieutenant and 5 other men as a committee to settle disputes there were a great many that refused to go into the organisation and went on

[May] 15th

warm with thunder showers and a severe hail storm come 20 miles up plat past some settlements drove one mile off the road and camped at the mouth of loup fork here we had to pay 3 dollars for burning 3 Sticks of drift wood

[May] 16th

rain and severe storm last night blew our tents to the 4 winds but nice day we lay by to wash and to sun our goods here we buried Mrs[sic] Bullock she died of consumption here we killed Badger and saw large Indian grave yard Some of the train went on in the evening to cross loup fork to save time

[May] 17th

cold and cloudy past Columbus quite a business town, crossed loup fork one mile wide

had to ferry 50 yards lots of quick sand had hard pulling to git through soon broke an axil tree had to camp and send 4 milds back to columbus to git a new axil made we are now among the shiann Indians they are worse beggars than pawnees here we had no wood but a woman gave me some while others beged some chips we come 12 milds to day

[May] 18

mostly fair but sprinkled Bob swapt waggons come 20 milds and campt on plat and had to wade 30 yards to an island for wood

[May] 19th

fair and windy come up platt 24 milds and campt on platt where the french man had the fish hooks set good grass country the same from Elkhorn

[May] 20th

very windy some rain come 18 milds up Platt and campt near some small timber and herded on grand Island (50 milds in length) here we dug the first well for drinking water

[May] 21st

fair and windy come 20 milds thick settlement several small forts buildings mostly turf we saw wind saw mill

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we campt on wood river small stream and drove 1 mild to platt for grass

[May] 22nd

fair grass dried up for want of rain it ha[s]nt rained more than a sprinkle for 8 months there is quite an excitement through here the indians have Just done some devilmnt and all the soldiers and citizens are on the scout come 18 mild up wood river and campt and herded on Buffalo bend 5 milds from platt here our stock broke out and caused us some trouble to day we saw dead wolves and dead Buffaloes and a whole train of dead cattle that had froze to death from this on we saw dead buffalo and cattle plenty

[May] 23rd

Buffalo, Antelope and prary dogs plenty we saw Indians dressed in Antelope Skins slipping on a herd of Antelope

come 18 milds and campt ^{on platt} oposite ft Kerney between 2 other trains and a company of Indian soldiers had a seviere storm some waggons turned over one woman badly hurt we had quite an alarm at night the guards fired on [word missing] several times all trains doubled their guards

[May] 24th

seviere storm of hail and wind lay by and had fine sport the Indian soldiers gave us the war dance Soda and Alcaly plenty from this on

[May] 25th

fair other trains fell in with us Saw many curiosities our train killed 5 Antelope come

16 milds had some swamps and crossed some ravines campd in[]bend of Elm creek a very danderous[sic] place as we was Surrounded by brush some large ruff Elm the tops had been burned by Emigr^{ants} here the antelopes was in droves

[May] 26th

fair received orders at noon to stop and wait for an Escort of soldiers from F^t Kerney dug for water and burnt buffalo chips had plenty of grass 20 indian soldiers and white lieutenant and orderly sargent

[May] 27th

fair started with out breakfast and come 7 milds to find better grass and water campd at 10 on platt and burn willow switches had lots of sport saw large train on the other side of platt we had some game our wells not very good water

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[May] 28th

fair still lay by wating for Escort had priaching[sic] made some new regulations our train moved a few milds

[May] 29th

fair got permission to move 12 milds for grass and water some trains disobeyed orders and went on and burnt buffalo chips and packed drift wood one mild had lots of sport killed some Jack rabbits and other game I killed the first prary dog that had been killed in our train still large trains in sight over the river

[May] 30th

fair day thunder every nite come 21 milds over some sand and bad roads wind and dust awful bad campd and watered in slew dug well in road

[May] 31st

fair come 8 milds through Sand bluffs split up and had like to had some shooting escort stopt other trains campd with out wood. some swam to island for wood

Dust Rattle snakes and sand
And Indians on every hand

June

1st

fair and windy come 5 milds to creek and campd to wate for the rest of our Escort and burnt weeds the indian soldiers killed beaver and found a mans skull with gold teeth

[June] 2nd

fair and warm still lay by some Sue indians come near but was run off without any fighting

[June] 3rd

fair and warm come 5 milds and camped at ford of the creek land and grass good but no timber no Escort yet

[June] 4th

fair and windy, got late start come 7 milds to Pawnee springs large boiling springs surrounded with swamps but good grass we had to pull lots of our stock out of the mire no more Escort yet one of the Indians got thrown from his horse and badly hurt part of our train ceded and formed a fourth train the Lieutenant of the Escort swam the river to cotton wood to telligraph back to Ft Kerny to know why the ballance of the Escort did not come on he tied his cloths on his horse but he let his horse go and swam to an island and the sue indians fired on him and took his horse & cloths

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he lay out all nite naked unable to find the fort but next morning he got to the fort and got cloths but we all supposed he was drowned ~~but one of our ta~~

[June] 5th

nice day still lay by Morton swam the river to look after Lieutenant found him all right he sent word for some one to meet him the next day at 10 o'clock at the river but some of the trains went on their way, the big train buried a child

[June] 6th

rained and thundred all last night but fair day no word from lieutenant or other escort we started late come 16 milds and camped on platt with out wood quit digging for water on account of alkali and used river water thick with mud here some burnt bones and some burnt weeds and some done with out fire today we had some sand and muddy creeks to cross

[June] 7th

rained all last night and all day, train burst all to Shatters our train is now 34 waggons come through awful sand bluffs and come to North bluff river 50 yards wide broad nice ford we bulged in 5 or 6 wagons at a time but the fore most team refused to take the right shoot and the other waggons went down in the quick Sand and we had quite a time of it some on horse back and some of foot all hollowing and whiping and the rain pooring in torrents but after so long a time we all got over and un yoked but the rain soon Slacked and we received orders to yoke up and drive on here our captain got the ill will of the train for our steers necks was badly scalded but we drove 5 milds further to day we come 15 milds and camped on slew in mud and water burnt swamp locus[t] brush but had good grass

[June] 8th

rained all nite and all day, come 4 milds through awful Sand and mud hert our steers necks very bad all trains camped to gather on platt with out wood burnt weed some very sick folks in big train here mesler put in a new waggon tongue

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June 9th

fair come 25 milds through sand bluffs and Swamps. crossed one creek and several good

spring branches camp on platt poor grass rocks first show on the other side of the river
the first we have seen in Nebraska alcali very plenty along here

[June] 10th

fair come 20 miles bad roads Sand and Swamps alcali and rattle Snakes very bad we
crossed several creeks and spring branches took dinner at rock springs here we saw the
first wild currants and many other shrubs and flowers which was common the rest of the way
camp on Slew near platt and mad[e] the first found[round?] carell only 2 trains

[June] 11th

fair come 21 milds good roads crossed 2 or 3 creeks and past ash hollow rock plenty
camp on Slew near platt Just like where we staid last nite we burnt burr weeds about one
foot high and the size of small pipe Stems misketoes and Snakes awful bad (you would have
thought the indians was on us there was so much shooting at the rattle snakes) there is plenty
of cedar on the other side of the river

[June] 12th

fair come 24 milds crossed some creeks and some Sand but road mostly good we
traveled hard our teams gave out past some very large dog towns camp on platt with out
wood and had a weding at night rocks plenty

[June] 13th

fair come 10 milds mostly bluffs and sand teams failed stopt on plat for dinner and to
wate for big train to bury a woman the bluffs a long here are delightful to look at many
beautiful water worn pebles many beautiful flowers and shrubs prickley pairs very plenty all
the time

[June] 14th

fair come 25 milds good roads past castle rock a great curiosity it resembles the ruins
of some ancient citty camp oposite chinney[sic] rock it is a rock looking like a chimney
[blank] feet high standing on level ground we thought we was clost to it for 2 or 3 days we
thought we was camp in half mile of it and some talked of swiming the river to see it but we
learnt that we was Still 5 miles of[f] from it

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misketoes awful to day I worked my cow for the first [time]

[June] 15th

fair morning Just in the evening with[sic] some rain come 20 milds good roads and camp
oposite Scotts bluffs citely objects to look at passed several graves most dug out by the
badgers the bones laying around we can see th telligraph posts and large Government train
on oposite Side of the river

[June] 16th

storm in the evening come 25 milds good roads Saw many great curiosities met one
train from Salt lake going to the states graves plenty all a long past battle ground where the
soldiers had Just had a fight with the indians we run off 8 indians and took 2 ponies and saw

several indians and ponies on island in the fight there were 4 whites and 45 indians killed and 20 ponies captured we camped at the agency on indian camp ground some soldiers there who told us of the fight saw many indian curiosities had good grass and plenty of wood for first [time] in 150 miles

[June] 17th

cold cloudy and very windy we wore our over coats all day, dust so bad we could not see the country some bad sand and some good roads come 20 miles saw lots of indian signs more prickly pears than grass our mouths and faces all sore with Alkali dust

[June] 18th

fair and windy come 8 miles to ferry near Ft. Larima here the trains all lauded up some wanted to cross the river and some to keep on the North side our train all agreed to be governed by a majority Except our captain he with all the other trains kept up the river the rest of our train against my wish agreed to cross we camped below the ferry had more sand than grass some cottonwood and willow we reorganized in the Evening by Electing David Baker captain and L Bullock lieutenant but Baker refused to serve so we was known by [the name of] captain Bullocks company and we was all proud of our officer

[June] 19th

fair day some rain at night we rented the ferry for 150 dollars but it took us the most of the day to fix up the boat

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we commenced crossing at 3 o'clock had to ferry one wagon at a time and had to run them in by hand then we had one yoke of cattle on the other side to pull them up the bank and carell them we worked hard until 9 o'clock at night and did not get near done while some worked the boat Some tried to swim the cattle after a great deal of trouble we got them all over safe but spent some hours trying to swim the horses but after coming very near losing several men and horses we had to give it up and ferry them next morning 2 at a time had to have guards on both Sides of the river the Soldiers had an other fight with the indians and lost 7 men and 400 horses and they are Still in pursuit of the Indians

[June] 20th

fair but thundering finished crossing plain and after looking at 3 chiefs that was hanging near the fort we started at 9 crossed Larimay river on toll bridge and on account of high water we had to keep the south side for 100 miles we soon took the military trail which led us out of our way so we come 20 miles over bluffs with out water or grass in the evening we sent runners to hunt for water at sun set they returned with word that they had found a spring about 5 miles ahead of us so as there appeared to be great danger of indians we armed our selves and went on each side of the wagons and it [w]as dark as a guiney Negro after a black cat in a dark cellar at mid night

at 9 o'clock we stopped but could not find the Spring our cattle dry and hungry and our selves in the same fix and we was not suffered to raise a light some of us dipped some water from ox tracks thick with wiggle tails some of the oxens got a little water but no grass and they had but little for 3 days some steers failed and was left until next day, we camped in small valley

under cedar and pine bluffs to day we saw plenty of sage and other strange shrubs which we had not seen before

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June 21st

fair morning ^{Indian fight in broad day light} some rain in Evening we found the spring and plenty of good water grass and wood close to our camp we went on the bluffs saw many curiosities wolves plenty Sent and brought up steer that was left behind we come 4 miles in the Evening and stopt on chug water where we had good grass water and wood plenty mostly box Elder

[June] 22nd

fair come 20 miles up the creek good roads grass and water all day nice bluffs on Each side for now we have entered the black hills we see dogs and other game plenty camp on creek where I killed sage hen

[June] 23rd

fair and windy country unchanged rocks and soil of all colors and has been burnt our cattle all grunting and growning from eating choke cherries and rush; killed Antelope come 15 miles up the creek and camp where the indians had dressed hundreds of Skins

[June] 24th

fair and pleasant come up the creek several miles took over mountain pass soon took down another creek then took up dry creek and soon camp some running water no wood a few willow brush in a quarter [mile] mountains have been greatly disturbed by volcanoes to day we had one steer to dy[sic] come 18 miles

[June] 25th

white frost fair day soon left creek crossed some ridges and other creeks soon struck the mail road at an old fort on a small creek where there are some good springs took up the mountain to pinery turned down to a spring branch and camp and run out some tar here we had wood water grass game misketoos grass hoper and crickets plenty good prospect for gold if quartz is any sign

[June] 26th

fair morning but storm in the evening come some miles over mountains crossed several deep ravines and spring branches come down the mountain to ^{big} larima river for dinner caviled some time whether we should cross or go 6 miles up the river to the toll bridge on another road we finally propt up our waggon beds and crossed all safe

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and camp with out wood but we had fish plenty wood plenty until we left the mountain we found lots of snow on the mountain from this on we are never out of sight of snow peaks come 12 miles we can see the fires of several trains on the other road

[June] 27th

stormy but little rain come 21 miles crossed little larima half mile wide with narrow

channels with swamps between campt on a nice creek near a ranch with out wood but game plenty 2 other trains campt near us and several behind

[June] 28th

very stormy and cold wore our over coats all day while we was at break fast in time of seviere storm the indians stampeede^d and took 9 head of horses from a train clost to us they run through the carell we guarded their waggons 3 hours while the men followed the Indians but another trane came and helpt them on[out?] we come 15 milds flint hills crossed several nice creeks past 1 ranch campt on a creek one other train campt a mild below us in quaking asp grove we had game plenty soldiers re took the stolen horses from the indians

[June] 29th

fair and cool come 16 milds hilly rocky roads past one station and several ranches crossed rock creek a very rapid stream crossed several other creeks one waggon turned over in a rapid creek campt late on hill with out grass or water burnt sage brush

[June] 30th

fair got a late start past station Stopt for dinner on medison beaw creek drove our stock quarter of a[mild for grass sent some small boys and 2 men to keep them to gather un armed except two of the boys they ha^d 2 pistols and shot gun I soon saw two indians on the mountain I named it[identified them] but the men thought they were soldiers scouting but I went and told the guard to watch for I saw the indians but they did not heed and I had just got to the carell when a woman gave the alarm

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that the Indians was coming then bet all hands was armed and started in less than no time but the indians ware to[o] fast the first thing the guard knew of them James M Sanders Shot a sage hen and started to git it and lo and behold the indians was on them like a thousand [pounds?] of bricks the boys all got in the bushes but one he was spaened[speared] and shot so he died in 3 days our men all fired but the distance was so far that there was but 3 killed there was quite a brisk fire for a bout 5 minuts but the indians with their scare devils got the most of the horses and mules stempeed^{ed} and run them of[f] we lost 23 head one of the indians killed by a boy 12 years old one by J W Sanders (he got his scare devil a young dressed moose skin he had a vest made of it) there was about 30 of the Indians there was 2 other trains Just behind us attacted at the Same time but no harm done only one man killed, Scalped and his horse gun and pistol taken there was 300 of the indians one train came up and went with us we campt near medizon beau lake where the Alkali was very bad come 7 milds rough roads the indians attacked large train back at Rock creek station done much damage to train and soldiers burnt several waggons while I am talking of the indians I will just say that there was some attacks nearly Every day but this was the only fight that we had

varieties of all kinds here

As we find it every where

July

1st

fair come 7 milds to ft Hallock and wated for other train to bury the man that was killed by the

indians but in the evening we was ordered back to camp with Captain Owens train on the lake where we campt last nite. owens train lost 19 head of cattle in one hour from drinking alkali Rock creek station destroid by

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the Indians and some stock taken our train is for the present (with other trains) are under Captain owens

[July] 2nd

Some rain and wind dust awful bad past the ft again had to pay half dollar for each waggon going through come through nice mountain pass roads good crossed Several mountain streams come 14 milds and campd on a large creek below ranch and packed sage one mild

[July] 3rd

Some rain and wind come 16 milds good roads camp near Station on platt river some timber but poor grass here we seen a stage in the river a quarter [mile] below the ferry the team (6 mules) all drownded caused by the cable breaking our carell covered 4 acres of ground

[July] 4th

nice day with appearance of rain we set some wagon tyers[tires] and crossed the river on small ferry boat Swam our Stock come 1 mild and campt on the river grass very short big train not all over the river the big train had 2 children killed by waggon runing over them we had one girl axidently shot in our train but not dangerously hurt

[July] 5th

wind and dust very bad some rain come 24 milds hilly but goo^d roads crossed some creeks teams faile^d some left behind we campt at pine station in the sage on creek some nice timber met 6 waggons from callifornia

[July] 6th

nice day, came 10 milds very crooked roads campt on hill near station had good grass and water some rain here John Swapt waggons and sawed off bed we are now on the western Slope of the rocky mountains spring branches plenty

[July] 7th

some rain and wind come 10 milds crooked rough roads Stopt at Sulphur Spring Station had goo^d grass and water both fresh and edibeat[?] killed lots of sage hens

[July] 8th

cool some rain roads crooked come 14 milds down the creek goo^d grass most of the day campt with out much grass train devided other trains clost by we have left owens train

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July 9th

fair roads good we started at sun rise with out feed come 27 milds watered at gum Spring several cold spring[s] but brackish Earth white salt and soda campt in the dust with out grass seen some indians they stole 1 horse we hear of several attacks on trains behind us country has all been burnt rocks of all kinds large banks of lime roads good

[July] 10th

fair good roads come 12 milds watered at creek mud and water black as ink campt at 3 oclock near a large Spring gushing from the bluff this is the head of bitter creek Sage and grease wood plenty

[July] 11th

mostly fair some rain and wind started with out breakfast come 3 milds and graze 3. hours come 14 milds further and campt on creek and drove 3 milds to grass brough[t] the Stock back at mid nite burnt sage country unchanged but more level

[July] 12th

mostly fair some rain Started with out feed come 18 milds down the creek teams failed campt near rock point station tollerable good grass water brackish

[July] 13th

nice day but some rain come 14 milds left one mare on the road campt at salt well station on the creek used well water very brackish and we was allowenced one bucket full to the family stock water very bad[?] but we got good grass in a mild burnt sage here is where the grave was made over the birds looking like a childs grave [previous sentence is legible but makes little sense]

[July] 14th

Some rain good roads come 18 milds past rock spring station and salt springs drove over some hills and campt on small branch and [d]rove 2 or 3 milds up in to the mountain to grass where there was lots of Snow

[July] 15th

cloudy but little rain come 14 milds hilly roads and bad water campt on green river at the mouth of bitter creek and herded on island teams failed some died there was some left every day on bitter creek and we had to keep pulling them out of the mud Every day some times a dozen at a time some left not able to travil

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July 16th

Some rain ferried our waggons over the river come 3 milds up the river then drove our Stock 2 or 3 milds over the mountain and down to the river where we had good grass here the Soda was 4 or 5 inches deep white as snow for acres

[July] 17th

cool with some rain we lay by to wash and recruit teams several sick folks in the train here the surveyers past us surveying paciffic railroad we had fine sport fishing all went on

but our old train they ^{most} all went by fort [blank]

[July] 18th

cold rain come 16 milds over mountain mostly good roads crossed Browns fork at Station
camped on the river drove 2 milds up the river for grass had a frolick in the evening that
is we had an addition to our train a youngster we called her Lydia Utah for we are now in
Utah territory, several other trains overtook us we hear that the indians have destroyed Ft
Hallock and done much damage.

[July] 19th

frost and cool come 18 milds and camped on Browns fork at the mouth of Hams fork poor
grass ranch on each side of us one store swapped our mares for ponies

[July] 20th

cold with some rain started very early took up the Hams fork road other trains mostly took
telligraph road we soon stopped on good grass and grazed 3 hours kept up and camped on the
river and had good grass this is a nice stream good grass all the way up come 12 milds

[July] 21st

cold and cloudy with some rain come 17 milds bad roads mud and slews camped on the
river good grass ducks and fish plenty

[July] 22nd

rained all night and some today come 20 milds some very bad roads crossed point of
mountain and camped on the river good grass crossed the river 7 times

[July] 23rd

some thunder showers come 12 milds very bad roads across the river sloughs and points
of the mountain left the river and camped on bench of the mountain above the river and below
the snow drifts where tibets cut off comes in

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Snake Indians very plenty we traded some with them crossed the river 9 times

[July] 24th

severe hail storm up long steep hill to mountain bench come several milds nice level
plain then come one mild up mountain peak through nice tall timber then come 2 milds
down Bear mountain had to lock both hind wheels and take off all the teams but one yoke to
each waggon then had to upset several waggons we had a runaway scrape all hands badly
scared but not much damage done come 15 milds crossed several nice spring branches
saw many nice flower[s] new shrubs and many curious rocks got gun broke to atoms coming
down the mountain camped on branch at dusk and burnt small green sage saw lots of indians

[July] 25th

nice day with sprinkle of rain soon crossed Smiths fork of bear river on toll bridge just above
the forks near ranch come down the river crossed Tomisons fork (an ugly stream) on toll
bridge at ranch camped near the bridge in the mud but good grass come 15 milds good

roads caught lots of fish saw plenty of snake indians

[July] 26th

frost fair day soon met a man that tried to turn us on to new tole road he wanted us to pay 2 dollars a waggon for travling 6 milds but we would not pay it but finally agreed to give him 50 cents so he took us at our offer in order to break the road so we soon struck the Devils hiding hole for half of the new road was a swamp cross laid with willow brush without any dirt on it and 10 times the worst thicket ever seen by any white man and the indians all along [the road] fishing they might have destroid the train in a less than no time as they were then threatning to break out the rest of the road was dug along the side of the mountain bluff a very good track but one mis step and no telling where the waggon and team would have landed for it makes ones head swim to look down at the water below we stopt at[]the end of the toll road paid toll and took dinner

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here we saw lots of suspicious indians one strang[e?] chief other train come up soon come to shanty and found wheat corn and potatoes growing for the first [time in] 1000 milds soon come to a mormon village and farms 100 houses or shanties here we campt and found garden stuff plenty but awful high [prices] fish plenty indians by the score had to buy our wood come 18 milds sold our ponies

[July] 27th

fair and cool nice valley along here soon past another small town of shanties wheat and barley plenty Just heading come 15 milds crossed lots of spring branches saw plenty of bannock indians some entirely naked drove 22[2½?] milds from the road to camp on the river for grass burnt willow brush had plenty of fish river valley from 1 to 6 milds wide has to be irigated but is very rich

[July] 28th

big frost fair warm day, come 12 milds to soda springs for dinner great curiosities there are several hundred springs they boil like hot water but are cold they formed soft rock which has grown until some of the Springs comes out on top of mounds 20 feet high the water tastes like the best of soda these springs extends for milds down the river past soda city right smart town of cabbins one shingle roof house for the first in more than 1000 milds soon campt on the river at 3 oclock and burnt cedar wood there is lots of very large cedar trees the rocks all hollow come 15 milds

[July] 29th

frost fair day, we soon left Bear river and took up a valley from 5 to 20 milds wide very rocky full of caves and craters and many curiosities soon past several been[beer] springs they are like the Soda Springs only the water is sweet as maple water and clear as cristial come 16 milds and campt Early on a small creek where there was a great many wigwams the mountain on our right is covered with cedar and on the left with pine willow on creeks

[July] 30th

sprinkled but nice day, come 20 milds rough roads crossed several creeks campt at Sweet Springs where there has been

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lots of soda springs here we had the most and the best currents yet mostly yellow we gathered about 5 bushels only saw 2 indians we have company along here

[July] 31st

fair but frost light sprinkle Soon left the valley and struck over mountain soon struck another creek took down it past through the devils toll gate great curiosity come 20 milds hilly rough roads and camp on creek Saw lots of indians moving up the creek here we had like to Split the quill

Up and down round and round
Here and there and every where

August 1865

1st

fair good roads come down creek some milds auctioned off goods left creek and fort Hall road struck level plains come 19 milds and camp on port neff river nice stream 50 yards wide some trains crossed to camp land nice but covered with sage here we had fish Enough

[August] 2nd

fair had some trouble crossing river come 19 milds good roads but very crooked crossed bannock creek and canon river camp on salt creek had good spring but the musketoes ware in tolerable

[August] 3rd

fair with light sprinkle soon struck Snake river come 20 milds rough roads and camp on the river where whole train had been destroyed last year by the indians the waggon irons lay all around 70 odd graves Just above us on the hill we had good grass and sage plenty to day we came through the Devils lane a narrow passage Just wide enough for a waggon to pass between two bluffs of rocks we also past the American falls where the river falls 100 feet in 50 yards then it falls every 2 or 3 hundred yards from 4 to 10 feet Saw but few indians houses all vacant

[August] 4th

fair crossed two very rapid creeks neglected to lay in water kept hunting for water but could not find any left some of our stock on the road found a nice rocky creek and camp at mid nite come 35 milds the rough^{est}

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black rock as hard as pot mettle past several vacant ranches one where we camp the country looks level but many deep ravines to cross dust very bad for the last 3 days we turned out our stock to shift for them selves

[August] 5th

fair and very hot lay by washed and rested had good grass we brought up the stock

that we had left on the road had fine sport killing Sage hens and fishing the whole country
a vast sage plain

[August] 6th

mostly fair and warm light sprinkle come 20 miles good roads crossed 2 nice creeks and
camped on the river had sage and drift wood plenty dust bad

[August] 7th

fair come 15 miles bad roads past the narrows in the river where the river runs for some
hundred yards through a crevasse in the rocks not more than ten or 12 feet wide. camped on pond
creek where ^{some} miners camped with us returning to the states great danger of indians along
here they have just stolen some horses ahead of us

[August] 8th

fair and pleasant come 18 miles level but rocky sage land soon struck stage road leading
from Salt Lake City struck rock creek kept down it 9 miles see a great many miners
camped in bottom near ranch past the widows waggon that had left us some time back she
had all her teams taken by the indians and was waiting for the soldiers to get her horses which we
hear afterwards she got

[August] 9th

fair come 23 miles rough roads past one ranch crossed rock creek turned and drove
half mile back and camped near the river in the sand where there was very rapid falls 5 miles
above which fair exceeds the Niagara falls here we drove 2 miles up the river in the dark to
grass along here the horny frogs long tail lizards hiena mice and crickets are very plenty
with many other curiosities

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August 10th

fair come 10 miles through black Sand looking like gunpowder come to the ferry on Snake
river called the Salmon falls here we ferried our waggon and a great deal of trouble to swim
the most of our stock but some we had to ferry sand awful hot we climbed the hill and camped
on a rapid rocky creek on the table land near the falling springs the springs the creek and a
lake near us all fell 300 feet which was acutely object to look at no grass but cane grass
about 8 feet high Sage plenty,

[August] 11th

fair and warm come long 10 miles rough roads rock and sand crossed a very rapid
rocky creek and camped near ranch on the creek and drove 2 miles into the hills for grass the
falls in creek a great curiosity some places it was about 4 feet wide it finally pitched 100 feet
down and was hid by flat rock until it pitched down the bluff 300 feet into Snake we camped at
noon

[August] 12th

fair and pleasant as there was several Sick in the train and as we thought all danger over we
concluded to break up the train but we still camped near each other for some time we came 18

milds country unchanged campd at noon at hay ranch where we had good grass found a indian Skull here Hoit and the English man left and went on

[August] 13th

fair and warm come 15 milds crossed some branches and creeks campd on creek at ranch where Hoit and the English man left us

[August] 14th

fair come up the king hill (as bad a hill as we have had[]) here the sage was black with crickets they had eat up all the herbage and were eating each other alive come 20 milds rough roads crossed several creeks &c past several ranches campd on[]creek near Hay ranch at the bog spring here we overtook Hoit he lost his one horned steer here we had good grass horny frogs long tail lizzards and burrs very plenty

[August] 15th

fair past 2 alcali branches at ranch soon came to the hot springs where the loose cattle bulged down to drink but you bet they Skedaddle^d in no time

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there was about 50 springs coming up through the rocks all boiling hot Every thing dried up for a great ways round past some good springs campd at 2 oclock at big spring and washed come 13 milds

[August] 16th

cloudy and sprinkled come 23 milds past some springs and 1 creek in the fore noon roads rocky after noon smooth but hilly with plenty of bunch grass past Junction house covered with shingles campd at weak spring and let the cattle run up the hollow all nite her[e] the train was mostly together some still very sick

[August] 17th

warm storm of wind and some rain past several ranches and crossed several branches saw corn and other stuf growing some oats in the shock come 14 milds hilly roads campd near ranch and drove 2 milds up the hollow for water and grass got poor grass

[August] 18th

warm small sprinkle of rain come 17 milds rough roads come down some bad hills to Boicy river where we found settlement with good farms and buildings like civilization produce plenty but very deer[sic] crossed the river and campd near the fort Shaw Shawnee indians plenty bought Salmon fish of them some timber on the islands of the river mostly balm [of Gilead] here we campd a head of the train and fed on barley straw

[August] 19th

very hot with some rain and wind soon past fort Boicy good fort all stone buildings soon past Boicey citty quite a bizness place stone and brick buildings plenty come 7 milds and campd half mild from the road to the right in hollow and had good grass and water valley thickly settled and well arigated

[August] 20th

warm and dusty with some rain come 17 miles sandy and hilly crossed dry creek and camped on willow creek nearly dry good water above the hay stack nice farm some prospecting for gold here the train mostly camped below us other waggon camped with us

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August 21st

very hot some thunder and rain and Sevier wind after we camped tore up our tents come 8 miles sand and hills come down the awful Sand hill to pretty valley nice valley camped on river and swam stock to island and had good grass Balm timber on islands

[August] 22nd

fair and pleasant lay by to wash and rest some still very sick we got a seign[seine] and caught more large Salmon fish than we could destroy the river is a clear pretty stream 100 yards wide

[August] 23rd

fair come 16 miles down the river settlements all along camped on the river train all together we had good grass

[August] 24th

fair and warm come 13 miles soon crossed payette at a nice ford kept down valley and camped on snake river below the mouth of payette grass mostly salt grass had drift willow for wood here the train was just a head of us Stores all along here

[August] 25

fair hot and awful dusty took dinner on wezer a nice small river come 12 miles down the valley and camped at good springs near Snake where the train past us in the night the last time we ever seen the most of them but we generally had lots of company

[August] 26th

fair hot and dusty lost near half the day hunting 2 of our steers found them in a thicket where they would not have went of their own accord for they never left the rest before past dangerous looking grade saw where one waggon turned over last nite soon past springs where the train camped last night crossed Snake river on small boat crossed free got cow mired and had to pull her out with ropes camped near ranch at fare well bend come 9 miles here we had lots of company harris joined our 6 wagons here we left one of our waggon

[August] 27th

warm with sprinkle of rain come 8 miles over mountain camped on burnt river with 2 freight trains drove to the mountain for grass

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August 28th

cloudy and windy crossed the river several times took dinner at good spring drove up

hollow for grass left 2 milk cows crossed mountain ridge and camped on branch near the river and had to drive 1 mile back into the mountain for grass come 8 miles

[August] 29th

cool some rain and wind come 8 miles mostly dug roads along the river bluff very narrow met cow drove and freight train had old[sic?] work to pass got into the mountains and camped near a spring drove stock ½ miles into the mountains and had good grass Some miners camped with us

[August] 30th

fair and cool come 13 miles some hills water plenty camped near New York house and drove a mile and a half to grass in the mountain camped near irrigating ditch had company plenty

[August] 31st

cloudy and cool with some rain we got some empty freighters to tow 2 of our waggon to Grand Round which was a great help as our teams were very weak come 10 miles over the ridge from burnt river to the waters of powder river and camped at weak springs and drove down to our right for grass had choke cherry brush for fuel other waggons past us

At the end of our trip
Were Entirely Stript

September

1st

cold rain with snow on the mountains crossed ridge to powder river crossed and camped on the river ^{some} other trains with us river very muddy from gold diggings Salmon fish plenty past quartz mill and rich gold diggings come 22 miles valley nice

[September] 2nd

cold windy with showers of rain mountain tops white with snow came down the river crossed little powder river wolf creek and clover creek all nice streams clover valley is a beautiful valley with nice ranches crossed several branches crossed ridge and camped at vacant ranch in beautiful valley good water and grass had company burnt poles timber plenty on the mountains come 13 miles

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September 3rd

cloudy with cold wind come over mountain and down long winding hill to Grand Round valley met large mule freight train and had to wait on them to get up we past the toll gate free camped near vacant house good water plenty come 10 miles here our company left us to do the best we could steer died

[September] 4th

fair lay by the boys went to work in harvest I went to Grand a nice new town

quite a business place

[September] 5th

fair moved 10 milds and camped on island of grand river good grass wood and water
Indians plenty fishing

[September] 6th

moved 2 milds to russels and stopt until we was ready to leave the valley

[September] 7th

rain hail and snow Sold wagon and steer

[September] 8th

Still cold and as the boys are at work I will describe the valley it is a beautiful valley of
about 400 square milds or 20 milds square is well watered all over with creeks and spring
branches grand round river runing through the center surrounded with mountain timber balm
alder and willow cherry and haw on the creeks there is a lake in the valley so warm it will
cook an egg at any time this is a great place for Small grain and vegetables but the seasons
to[o] short for corn the corn and potatoes are now frost bit there are 4 towns all
flourishing places in short it is a pretty place it looks like a bason in the mountain[s]

[September] 9th

Some rain after spending some time hunting up our cattle we started on our journey come
13 milds and camped on willow creek near the bridge

[September] 10th

rain all day come 9 milds mostly good timber camped on indian creek grazed on point
killed some pine squirrels

[September] 11th

rain and snow all day come 16 milds up the blue mountain through very heavy timber
stumps very bad took dinner under pine made a fire to warm here George goodwin over
took us the first we had

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heard of our Illinois train since we left Desmoins river they heard of us in Grand round
they was on the tole road and we on the Linkton road so we wade [in] snow mud and slop
started down the mountain and camped at dusk at a vacant house almost froze cavelled our
stock with out feed but had good water some of us took the house and some the stable and
soon had good fires and when we got warm and got our grub we felt much better Some still
very sick

[September] 12th

some snow but soon broke away, come 13 milds on mountain very heavy timber and lots of
stumps soon came to grocery turned our teams on grass built a log fire and warmed
camped near Linktons old mill some good ranches on the mountain mostly vacant Squirrels
and grouse plenty snow all gone

[September] 13th

cool and looks like rain come down the mountain to walla walla river nice stream nice
settlement took dinner crossed ridge and camp on branch near mud spring come 14 milds
other waggons camp with us

[September] 14th

nice day was bothered to find our teams got late start come 7 milds crossed several
nice creks landed in wally walla citty and camp on creek in 5[?] mild of town several of us
took the mountain fever stopt here 3 days on the

18th day of September

we moved 7 milds to Cones ranch where we staid some time I had a very seviere spell of
tiphoid fever did not git about for 5 months about the

20th of November

we moved on [a] new claim on North dry creek and soon got snowed in there was 2 snows
each 3 feet some places it drifted from 10 to 20 feet there was about 12 feet of snow fell
through the winter and we had quite a time to git our grub for we pretty much lost our teams
and we was strop when we lande^d but we have still mad[e] out and it is now the 12th day of
December 1867[not 1865]

[end of transcription]