

H. T. SCOTT

Memorandum of the trip to California across the plains in
1852

Transcribed

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[page 1]
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***** from Elizabethtown
***** Aprile 13 1852 for
[Califo]rnia in P. O. Clark train
[travele]d by Steam boat to fort
[Leave]nsworth there Started by
*****crossed the mosouri[sic] river
[on] the 5 of may

[May 6]
[L]eft the river on the Sixth of May traveld[sic] 8 miles camped on Salt crick water good
wood Scarce— grass Short

[May] 7
traveld 20 miles camped on the head of indipendence crick water good gr[ass] good wood
Scarce

[May 8]
traveld 12 miles camped on a small branch grass good water plenty not very good Some
wood

[May] 9.
laid by for the Sabath

[May] 10.
traveld 20 miles, camped on a Small crick grass good wood & water plenty here we buried
John Russel to the rite [of the road?]

[May] 11.
traveld 20 miles camped on a crick water and grass good Some wood

[May 1]2.
traveled 12 miles stoped on a crick
[n]ooned tooke wood & water with us &
[tr]aveled five miles further camped
[on] the praria grass good

[May 13]
[travele]d 18 miles camped on a crick

[w]ater not very good wood Scarce

[May 14]

[trave]d 18 miles camped on big b[blue]

[ple]nty of wood and gra[ss]

*****e to camp we had So*****

***** rain there

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[May] 15

laid by to rest the mules

[May] 16

laid by for Sabath

[May] 17

crossed big blue and traveld 20 miles drove one mile off the road to camp grass good
Some water and wood

[May] 18

traveld 22 miles camped in the praria grass good wood none water by going half mile

[May] 19

traveld 20 miles camped on one branch of litle blue wood water & grass good

[May] 20

traveld 27 miles camped on litle blue river not much wood nor grass water plenty

[May] 21

traveld 6 miles camped one mile from the river we had very cold rai[n?] there grass
good wood and water plenty by going to the river

[May] 22

traveld 25 miles camped on the praria wood water & grass Scarce

[May] 23

traveld 10 miles camped on the praria wood and water none grass Short we had water in
our Kegs

[May] 24

traveld 16 miles camped 2 miles from fort Kearney water & grass plenty wood none

[May] 25

traveld 18 miles camped on platt river water & grass good Some wood

[May] 26

traveld 18 miles camped one mile from the river water & grass Scarce wood none

[May] 27

traveld 20 miles camped one mi[le]
from the river water none grass g[ood]
wood none but buffalo chips

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[May] 28

traveld 20 miles camped on the river water & grass good Some wood

[May] 29

traveld 12 miles camped on the river plenty of wood water & grass

[May] 30

laid by for the Sabath here the boys killed Six deer & fetched in to camp fine place to lay
by

[May] 31

traveld 25 miles camped close to the river water & grass good wood none we had wood
with us

June 1

traveld 25 miles camped close to the river water & grass good wood none

[June] 2

traveld 22 miles camped on the river close to the ford grass Short no wd

[June] 3

forded the river ford good traveld 2520[?] miles pased ash hollow come to north fork
of platt water & grass good wood plenty on the bluffs

[June] 4

traveld 15 miles camped on on[sic] the river water & grass good wood n[one?]

[June] 5

traveld 22 miles camped on a Sm[all] Stream of water: grass good no wd

[June] 6

laid by for Sabbath

[June] 7

traveld 25miles camped one mile above chimney rock grass good no wood nor water

[June 8]

traveld 25 miles pased Scotts
[B]luffs camped four miles a bove
[t]he bluffs grass good no wood
[wa]ter by diging 3 feet

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[June] 9

traveld 25 [miles] camped grass Short wood none water Scarce

[June] 10

traveld 12 miles camped on the Side of the bluffs grass Short no wood nor water— only on
the river

[June] 11

traveld 4 miles crossed the bridge over larimas fork of plat there we passed fort larima and
traveld 16 miles further camped cloze to Spring crick water & wood plenty grass Short

[June] 12

traveld 25 miles camped in a valey grass good Some wood water none only by going to
the river

[June] 13

laid by till noon traveld 15 miles camped close to a branch grass Short no wood Scarce

[June] 14

traveld 10 miles to marble crick Stoped here to doctor george crosier he died a bout 2
oclock we traveld 8 miles further to a valey four miles from castle rock camped buried
george crosier grass good

[June] 15

traveld 5 miles camped close to the river grass Short wood & wate[r] plenty

[June] 16

traveld ~~15~~20 miles camped in the botom one mile & half from the ferry grass Short Some
wood & water

[June] 17

crossed the river feried the wagons over & Swam the mules over traveld 15 miles
camped 2 miles from the mineral Springs grass Short

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[June] 18

traveld 25 miles pased the willo[w] Springs water good camped on greeswood crick
water & grass good no wood but Sage

[June] 19

traveld 16 miles we pased indiped rock there we come to Sweet water traveld up the river past the devels gate camped 2 miles from the gate grass & water good wood none but Sage

[June] 20

traveld 20 miles camped on the river drove the mules over the river for grass and it was Short at that

[June] 21

traveld 18 miles camped on the river grass Short wood none but Sage

[June] 22

traveld 18 miles come to the ford crossed over traveld 4 miles further camped on bank drove the mules over for grass no wood

[June] 23

traveld 20 miles found plenty Snow camped on willow crick grass Short Some wood water good

[June] 24

traveld 17 miles camped at the pacific Springs water good grass Short wood none but Sage

[June] 25

traveld 27 miles camped on big Sandy grass good water plenty no wood but Sage

[June] 26

laid by to rest the mules for Subletts cut off 53 miles with out grass or water

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[June] 27

Started at noon a cross the an[erased?] cut off fifty three miles with out grass or water we took water withe[sic] us we got through to green river at eleven oclock next day feried the wagons and Swam the mules it cost Six dollars per wagon we then

[June] 28

left the river and traveld ten miles camped on lost crick grass short wood and water plenty

[June] 29

traveld ten miles camped at pine grove grass wood & water plenty

[June] 30

traveld twenty miles camped on hams fork of green river grass, water[erased] wood & water plenty

July 1

traveld twenty tow[sic] miles camp on muddy fork of bear river we crossed Some very Steep mountains found plenty grass & water Some Sage for wood

[July] 2

traveld 18 miles camped on Smith fork of bear river grass and water good Some wood

[July] 3

traveld 20 miles camped on taleys crick water & grass good Some woo[d]

[July] 4

traveld 9 miles camped close by a good Spring grass & wood plenty we [had] Some very cold rain it Snowed some three inches deep on both Side of us there was the heavest[sic] kind of a frost that nite Such as november frost

[July] 5

traveld 22 miles pased the Soda Springs they are a curiosity the boiling Springs one mile west of them is more So camped two miles from the Spring grass good Some wood we had water with us

[page 7]

July 6

traveld 20 miles camped on Sanshane crick grass Short wood & water plenty

[July] 7

traveld 22 miles camped on a Small crick water & grass good Some wood

[July] 8

traveld 20 miles crossed one very bad mountain camped at the foot of it grass good water and woo[d] none a tall

[July] 9

traveld 18 miles found a good Spring nooned there took water with us & traveld four miles camped grass good plenty wood

[July] 10

traveld 20 miles camped on a Small branch of raft river water grass plenty Some Sage

[July] 11

laid by for Sabbath had Some rain in the fore noon

[July] 12

traveld twenty miles campt on one fork of raft river wood & grass plenty

[July] 13

traveld 25 miles campt close to a Sm[all] Stream grass Short Some wood

[July] 14
traveld 18 miles campt on goose crick grass & water plenty Some wood

[July] 15
traveld 20 miles campt on a ridge grass poor Some wood water non[e]

[July] 16
traveld 20 miles campt in thousand Spring valey water not very good grass poor Some wood

[July] 17
traveld 25 miles campt at the head of deception valey we noond at the boiling Springs
grass poor one Spring of cool water first rate

[page 8]
July 18
traveld 25 miles campt on a small Stream of humbolt river water & grass good Some willow for fuel

[July] 19
traveld 12 miles campt on humbolt river Stopt at noon & laid by till morning to rest
here we had the best grass we have had on the route Some wood

[July] 20
traveld 25 miles campt on the river we crossed the north fork today grass plenty Some wood

[July] 21
traveld 30 miles crossed the river five times campt in a bend of the river grass good
Some wwood

[July 22]
we left the river & traveld 20 miles come to it again we had Some very rough roads to travel over
no grass till we Struck the river found Some Springs on the road grass good
on the river Some wood

[July] 23
traveld 25 miles campt on the river grass good Some willow for wood the muskatoes
very bad to nite

[July] 24
traveld 25 miles campt on the river off the road Some grass & wood

[July] 25
traveld 12 miles campt on the river at 10 oclock laid by for Sabbath grass good some willow for wood water poor

[July] 26

traveld 30 miles campt on the river greasewood Scarce water not good

[July] 27

traveld 20 miles campt close to the river grass & water plenty Some wood we had very heavy Sandy roads to day

[July] 28

traveld 22 miles campt on the river grass poor Some wood & water roads Sandy

[July] 29

traveld 27 miles 22 miles without water or grass campt on the river grass none Some wood we had to feed cornmeal

[July] 30

Started at one oclock at nite traveld 13 miles Stoped to graze

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and get our break fast laid by til 6 oclock in evening Started trave[eled] 25 miles Stoped at 3 oclock in the morning Some grass water very poor

[July] 31

Started at eleven oclock traveld four miles Stoped at a lake water not good laid there till one oclock in the morning Some of the boys go[t] high we had lots of fun here

Started at one clock traveld twel[ve] miles campt at the wells Some grass water not good five trading posts here they See high [prices seem high?]

August 1

Started across the desert of 45 miles with oute[sic] grass or water 12 miles of the last end of the road very heavy Sand we found Some trading posts on the road they hall water from carson river to Sell they charge from fifty to Seventy five cents per galon

[August] 2

came to carson river at nine oclock in the morning with ten wagons we had to leave three [wagons] Six miles from the river till nite we left number 1- 2 & 5 drove there mules to the river for grass and water there is a little town where we come to carson river the[y] call it a town the houses are built of poles and muslin traveld three [miles] up the river campt grass good some wood

[August] 3

laid by to rest the mules drove the mules over the river found good grass one mule died here one died on the desert

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[August] 4

traveld 10 miles Stoped and give the mules Some grass that we had with us for there is no

grass nor water for 18 miles roads very sandy and stony we came to the river traveld 5 miles up found good grass & wood campd here till morni[ng]

[August] 5

traveld 10 miles campd on the river grass & wood plenty laid by here till morning

[August] 6

crossed[sic] the river here we leave the river & road we are on a new route South west to Strike the Southern part of california at Senoria we have general morehead & Bradford as our guides as they are the men that found this route we crossed a high ridge passed down in to a vally came to a good Spring 6 miles from the river no water nor grass for 19 miles then we com[e] to walker river campd grass & water plenty Some wood george lawton got lost Some of the boys went out to hunt him but faild to find him

[August] 7

traveld 8 miles up the river Stop and laid by the rest of the day to Search for george we had good grass and wood & water the men rode all day but faild to find him

[August] 8

traveld 18 miles campd on the river grass wood & water plenty georg came to the train at ten oclock he was very weak for the want of water and food

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[August] 9

crossed the river there was four branches of it here it runs very Swift we had to travel 15miles round and came to the river Six miles from where we left it camp[p] on the river grass & wood plenty w[e] bought a ox from a man that wa[s] travling with us killed it for beef it was very good to us now

[August] 10

traveld 15 miles campd on the river Some grass & wood tied our mules to the wagons to keep the Indians from Stealing them we cu[t] grass for them

[August] 11

traveld fifteen miles campd on the river grass & wood plenty we traveld up the river the mountains came close up on both Sides we had to cross four times in too miles it is very bad crossing the road very stony

[August] 12

traveld 15 miles campd on a Smal[l] Stream grass wood & water plenty we crossed the river to day and left it and took up a canion on the west Side roads rough & Stony Some Sag[e?] mountains high on both Sides of us with plenty snow very cool

[August] 13

traveld 15 miles campd in a Small valey grass wood & water plenty we crossed one mountain we had to take Six & 8 mules to pull the wagons up we then came down in a

Small valley traveled through Some fine pine timber

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[August] 14

traveled 15 miles camped in the mountains where the Sun only Shines at noon for the mountains are So high we cant See out we have plenty wood water & grass we traveled over Some very rough roads to day we came to walkers river to day at noon fed got our dinners then crossed over and left it again Snow plenty

[August] 15

traveled 5 miles came to walkers river at noon camped and laid by to hunt a road grass wood & water plenty Sever[sic] or eight of our men Started to Sonora this morning with more head after provisions for we are getting very Short now they will come back a[s] Soon as they can with them on pack mulwy[sic]

[August] 16

crossed traveled one mile Stopped turned our mules out to graze then went to work on the roads we now[?] cut brush & rolled stone till noon then hooked up Started on came to the top took off the teams let the wagons down by hand for it was very Steep hooked on a gin traveled on to walkers river crossed over and camped wood and water plenty some grass we had to let them run loose for the timber was very thick mountains are very high all round us here plenty Snow very cool nights Some frost

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[August 17]

laid by all day looking for a road Some of the boys caught some very fine fish we had to cut grass in a lake Some too feet in water for the mules then pack it over to them

[August] 18

eat the last of our provisions thi[s] morning Started up a canon crossed the river three times in too miles come down one place So Steep we had to take the teams off and let the wagons down with ropes then hitched on traveled up a canon some too miles Stopped to kill a beef for we [had] nothing to eat we had hardly got it half Skined before it was on the fire by the time the hide was off he was half eat up we then took one wagon up to the top of the mountain by hand for it was so Steep & Stony that the mules could hardly get up themselves there is a very nice lake here

[August] 19

Seventeen of us started to pack th[r]ough we took our Sacks on our backs and Started[sic] at half past one in evening there names was as fol[lows] Jacob & John Bolander[?]. D. G. Francis george oiler James ashton J. J. [I. I.?] Rusel J[I?]. H. Rusel george Lawton obediah priest Jacob Liming[?] J Derfus

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J Kitle george Spencer James Dunwidy george Myers A B hodson M. T. Scott we Started with Some litle beef to eat on the road

we crossed Some very Stony mountains came to a Small Stream Stopt for the nite built us a fire broild Some beef made some Tea eat it & laid down on the ground for we had nothing else to rest till morning

[August] 20

we had a very cold nite the ground froze there was ice plenty on the wa[ter] this morning plenty snow we broil[ed] a litle beef for we [had] but litle to broile eat it and Started on traveld till nine oclock came to a lake on the head of the Stanizlaw river Killed 13 ducks cleand them broild the rest of our beef eat it and Started on crossed a very high & Stony mountain passed over plenty Snow Stopt to nite on the Side of the mountain have Some wild onions to nite for we have [nothing?] else made us a good fire laid down all around it to rest and do the best we can for the night for it is very cool here of nites

we have the best water here in the world

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[August 21]

we have one duck & too Sage hens for breakfast this morning it makes a Small peace all round made Some tea eat what we had & Started on[?] we traveld till noon Stopt made Some tea drank it & Started on we came to a[]very Stony mountain here we found the horses that our men Started with after provisions they was on a bench of the mountain So Steep they could go no farther they had no water nor grass they was almost Starved but we could no nothing for them it was as much as we could do to take care of our Selves John Derfus was accidently Shot in the thigh by a pistol faling on a Stone it did not touch the bone he don[t] Seem to mind in much now we Stopt to nite on a crick of good water made a fire & laid down to rest for we have nothing to eat now but Some berys

[August] 22

got up this morning very Stiff and Sore climbing over the Stones and brush made Some tea drank it & Started on down the crick

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we found Some berys a long to eat we traveled on till noon Stopt to rest a while then Started on Killed too Sage hens we then crossed a very high mountain then traveled over a ridge came to a packers trail we was very glad to find where some body had been we folowed the trail Some too miles came where they had campt here we found a tin can they had left we put our Sage hens in, and made some Soupe it was very good after we all drank our Soupe we Started on the trail we traveld till Seven oclock and Some of the boys was tired and wanted to stop till morning So they made a fire & laid down foure of us wanted water very bad and there was none there So we Started on traveled till 10 oclock Stopt and went too miles off the road for water came back to the road laid down till morning to rest

[August] 23

got up this morning very Sore and Started on came to a ranch at 8 oclock got our breakfast

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it was the best meal I ever eat in my life for we had eat no bread for so long we rested a while Started on for Sonora Stopt at too oclock & got Some bread & coffe then Started on for town

got here at Sundown found Some of our boys here. the rest had gone back with provisions
we can get plenty here to eat we was very glad when we could see the town Sure

hole[sic] distance 19,21[sic]

[end of diary]