

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REUNION  
OF THE  
**OREGON PIONEER ASSOCIATION**

FOR  
**1903**

CONTAINING THE  
ANNUAL ADDRESS BY HON. CHAS. W. FULTON,  
OF ASTORIA  
AND THE  
OCCASIONAL ADDRESS BY OLIVER C. APPLGATE,  
KLAMATH AGENCY, KLAMATH COUNTY

AND  
OTHER MATTERS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

PORTLAND, OREGON  
PEASLEE BROS., COMPANY, PRINTERS.  
1904.

## DIARY OF MRS. CORNELIA A. SHARP.

## Crossing the Plains from Missouri to Oregon in 1852.

Wednesday, May 5, 1852, 2 o'clock p. m.—We left our place of residence in Jackson county, Missouri, and took up our line of march for the far-off and much-talked-of plains of Oregon. After parting with our old friends and neighbors, we traveled but ten miles and encamped, without any incident worthy of notice.

Thursday, May 6—Our camp through the night was visited by rain and heavy wind; our tent blown down and everything saturated with water and covered with mud. Our cattle, being secured in a good corral through the night, were turned out in the morning to graze, and while we were at breakfast strayed off, and, having separated, one part was soon found; the main body not till about 2 o'clock, our wheel steers still missing. The balance of the day spent in search of the lost cattle. So much for the first night and second day.

Friday, May 7—This day we hitched up and moved forward with our remaining cattle, while the search for the missing cattle was continued by Mr. Sharp. We traveled about twelve miles and encamped, having crossed the Big Blue and passed some very bad road.

Saturday, May 8—We moved forward and in a short distance crossed the state line, and was overtaken by Mr. Sharp with the lost cattle. Having made about twelve miles, we encamped—rain, water and grass.

Sunday, May 9—We made about fifteen miles; road tolerably good; crossed Bull creek about one mile; grass tolerably good; wood and water scarce, and encamped.

Monday, May 10—We made about 12 miles over a rolling prairie country, similar to what we have passed, and encamped within one mile of the Walkarusha river.

Tuesday, May 25—Rained hard in the morning. Did not leave camp till late in consequence. Traveled a few miles to a creek and encamped.

Wednesday, May 26—Traveled a few miles. Made two very ugly crossings of the Big Blue river. Made about fifteen miles and encamped.

Thursday, May 27—This day we met the fur company. Crossed several dry, sandy beds of creeks. Made about twenty miles. Struck the Republican fork of Blue river on the afternoon. After traveling some eight or ten miles along the bank we encamped. Grazing poor.

Friday, May 28—The road good; weather pleasant. Traveled this day about eighteen or twenty miles. Wood and water in abundance; grass pretty good. Passed a number of fresh graves. Met four wagons returning to the states.

Saturday, May 29—The road yesterday and to-day runs along the Republican, with rolling prairie on the right, with wood and water on the left. Passed the spot where a murdered man had been found and buried on the 10th of May; name unknown. One night our company had their wagons, or rather contents of the wagon, set on fire by the accidental discharge of a gun. Fortunately no serious damage was done. Two of the men left the train this morning for the purpose of hunting. Returned in the evening without any game, but with the loss of a very fine horse. Advanced about sixteen or eighteen miles and encamped.

Sunday, May 30—Sent two men back to search for the lost horse. This morning we left the Republican and advanced sixteen or eighteen miles through a rolling prairie. Encamped without having any tidings of the lost horse or his pursuers.

Monday, May 31.—This day, after advancing some six or eight miles we struck the Platte, or Nebraska river, where we stopped to noon. Made about ten or twelve miles this day. Our men came up with the horse. Encamped without wood; grass not very good.

Tuesday, June 1—This day we passed Fort Kearney; made some ten or fifteen miles; encamped without wood. Procured a small supply of buffalo chips.



brought us to Ash Hollow, when darkness came upon us, and we were obliged to encamp in the road. Threatened rain, but passed off without.

Friday, June 11—This morning we got breakfast, milked our cows, yoked up, advanced a mile to the north fork of the Platte, and encamped to wash and rest. Remained in camp all day. Some sick.

Saturday, June 12—This day we made some ten miles only, in consequence of sickness. The road to-day is very sandy. Grass pretty good.

Sunday, June 13—This morning Captain Brown and R. Dickey, of the part of the train we left on the Platte, arrived, bringing the mournful intelligence of the death of two of their company and the ill-health of many more of them. We traveled about sixteen or eighteen miles to-day over some very heavy sand. The road runs along the river. Abundance of good grass. Rained this evening.

Monday, June 14—This day we made some sixteen or eighteen miles. Encamped about one mile west of Spring creek, a beautiful stream of clear water. Had an excellent spring at our camp, and a tremendous hailstorm.

Tuesday, June 15—This day we crossed another creek, and nooned at Solitary Tower. Encamped at Chimney Rock. Traveled about twenty-two miles.

Wednesday, June 16—To-day we advanced about twenty miles over very good road, and encamped in neighborhood of Scott's Bluffs; drove some two miles off the road to encamp.

Thursday, June 17—To-day we passed over Scott's Bluffs. Was overtaken by the rest of our train. Advanced some ten miles; stopped in consequence of a thunderstorm. The rain over, we hitched up and made some four miles more, making in all fourteen miles. Encamped near the river, with plenty of good grass.

Friday, June 18—This day we traveled some eighteen miles; crossed Horse creek; had some sandy road; encamped on the river bottom; pretty good grass; had antelope for supper.

in camp the rest of the day. Had deer and buffalo meat in camp.

Tuesday, June 29—Remained in camp all this day, in order to rest and recruit our teams before crossing the alkali desert.

Wednesday, June 30—This day we advanced about twenty-five miles. Crossed several small streams and ravines, and encamped near the river. Tolerably good grass; wood plenty.

Thursday, July 1—To-day we traveled about ten miles. Crossed the north fork of the Platte. Ferried our wagons over and swam our cattle. Paid \$5 per wagon; 50 cents for mare. Witnessed more debauchery than we had seen since leaving the states. Encamped near the river, among the sage.

Friday, July 2—This day we advanced about twenty miles, and overturned one wagon. Encamped about five miles west of the Willow Springs, near a beautiful little run of clear water. I suppose Sage Run.

Saturday, July 3—To-day we made some twenty miles over some very sandy road, the plain being a sandy desert, covered with artemisia and greasewood. Good water scarce. Came to Independence Rock about 1 or 2 o'clock. Stopped a short time to let our cattle drink and rest. We then drove one mile past the Devil's Gate, and encamped. Grass poor; water plenty.

Sunday, July 4—This day we advanced some fifteen miles along the Sweetwater. There has been good grass along the valley, but it has been eat off. The road to-day was very sandy. The scenery is sublime, with a large mass of granite on the right and high mountains on the left. To-night we had a delightful camp within a few steps of the creek. The weather is quite cold. The wind blowed unusually hard to-night—blowed down our tent.

Monday, July 5—This day we caught the first view of the Wind River mountains. Our road was very sandy. We came to the Narrows soon after noon. Crossed the creek three times. Got a pretty good camp near the river.

Tuesday, July 6—To-day we advanced some eighteen or twenty miles. Had some very heavy sand. Crossed the creek in the morning. About noon our team, with some others,

the river without any difficulty; traveled some four or five miles; encamped on the river; plenty of good grass.

Thursday, July 15—This day we remained in camp.

Friday, July 16—This day we traveled about fifteen miles. Road very hilly; but little grass. Crossed several streams. Encamped in grove of quaking asp, with a smart shower of rain.

Saturday, July 17—To-day we made about eighteen or twenty miles. Passed up and down some very steep, stony hills. The country is mountainous. Good springs and beautiful spots of grass. In the evening we crossed a beautiful stream of clear water and encamped in the bottom; grass very good.

Sunday, July 18—This day we commenced our journey up hill, and we put in the day traveling up one hill and down another—or rather mountains. We made about sixteen or eighteen miles. Had a delightful rain about noon; heavy dew yesterday morning and this morning. We passed through a beautiful grove of quaking asp and fir. Our camp was in Bear river bottom, near several good springs. Grass good. Artemisia for fuel.

Monday, July 19—This day we made some ten or twelve miles. The road good. Crossed Smith's fork on a bridge—50 cents toll. Camped on Bear river. Willow for fuel; mosquitoes very bad.

Tuesday, July 20—To-day we traveled some eight or ten miles. Crossed an ugly bluff and some pretty streams, near one of which we made our camp. Road pretty good; weather fine.

Wednesday, July 21—This day we traveled some sixteen miles. Four or five miles brought us to the big hill or mountain, where we let our cattle rest a short time. We then ascended the hill, which was very steep till we got to the top. We then descended to bottom, of Bear river. Drove four or five miles and encamped.

Thursday, July 22—This day we separated ourselves from the train with which we had been traveling. We made some sixteen or eighteen miles. Good road. Crossed a number of



at Rock creek. Camped on Raft creek, about two miles below the Powell train; poor camp.

Saturday, July 31—We traveled about eighteen miles. The road was very stony and duty; but little vegetation, except the wild sage. Our camp was at the marshy spring; had a smart shower of rain.

Sunday, August 1—This day we traveled about eighteen miles. The country presents the same sand and sage appearance. We camped some three miles west of Goose creek, in the sand and sage; good grass.

Monday, August 2—This day we traveled about twenty miles. The road was very dusty and a good deal of it very stony. Our camp was some three or four miles west of dry branch. Pretty good grass.

Tuesday, August 3—This day we made about eight or ten miles, and encamped on Rock creek. Remained till the next day, in order to rest our cattle. The health of our family not good.

Wednesday, August 4—This day we traveled about fifteen miles. Nooned at the crossing of Rock creek. Camped in the sage and sand on the bluff of the creek. Road very rough. To-day we took in a hand. We had a fine shower of rain. Turned our cattle on the other side of the creek to graze.

Thursday, August 5—This day we advanced some ten miles. Halted to noon, and then concluded to remain till the next day.

Friday, August 6—This day we traveled some fifteen miles. Nooned about a mile west of Warm Spring branch. Camped about a mile from the river. Drove our cattle on the bluff to feed. Left our "Rose" cow to die. Was overtaken by the Powell train. Had quite a satisfactory interview. Was passed by them while we were nooning.

Saturday, August 7—This day we made some fourteen miles. Two miles brought us to Salmon Falls creek, on which we passed the Powell train. Six miles more brought us to Salmon falls, where we nooned. Took in water and then ascended the bluff. The road was very hilly and dusty. Our camp was in the sage and sand, with abundance of grass.

mile below the spring; no grass. Our camp was on a branch of good water; grass tolerable good.

Wednesday, August 18—This day we traveled about thirteen miles. Passed the hot springs. The road run along the river the most part of the time. No grass along the road. Our camp was on the hill in the sage and sand; tolerable good grass.

Thursday, August 19—This day we made some fifteen miles. Road pretty good, except sand and dust. Our camp was on the river, just below some sloughs. Pretty good grass.

Friday, August 20—To-day we traveled some sixteen miles. Camped on the river late in the evening without grass.

Saturday, August 21—This day we traveled some five or six miles, which brought us to near Fort Boise. We turned our cattle on an island hard by, which was covered with good grass. We remained in camp until the morning.

Sunday, August 22—This day we were left by Mr. Buell and family. We traveled fifteen miles. The road was very dusty; no water by the way. Our camp was on the Malheur bottom; good grass. The Powell train camped close by.

Monday, August 23—This day we remained in camp till afternoon. We then hitched up and traveled some five or six miles, and encamped in the sage and greasewood.

Tuesday, August 24—This day we traveled some fifteen miles to Birch creek, which we found pretty near dry, but sufficient of water for our cattle and good springs for camp use. After traveling about five miles we passed a lone spring, where we watered our teams in buckets.

Wednesday, August 25—This day we traveled some sixteen miles. Eight miles brought us to Burnt river, along which we found some very rough road; abundance of grass, but it is all dry.

Thursday, August 26—This day we made some eight or nine miles. Encamped by a fine spring branch; plenty of dry grass. Powell camp close by.

Friday, August 27—This day we traveled some ten or twelve miles. Crossed the creek six times, then traveled up a spring



at noon. Water was carried up the bluff for noon and night. Our camp was in an opening on the mountain. Plenty of grass and wood, but no water. Powell train passed.

Sunday, September 5—This day we traveled some seven or eight miles. The road was rough and dusty to a considerable extent. We camped in an opening in the timber; grass plenty and an excellent spring. This day our hand left us.

Monday, September 6—This day we traveled about twelve miles, which brought us to the valley of the Umatilla. Water and wood; grazing only middling. To-day we had a delightful view of the surrounding country.

Tuesday, September 7—This day we traveled some twelve miles and encamped at the crossing of the river. Out of provisions and family sick.

Wednesday, September 8—This day we traveled some ten or twelve miles. The road runs along the valley for three miles, then over the bluff. Our camp was on the bluff. Very difficult matter to get cattle down to water.

Thursday, September 9—This day we traveled about nineteen miles. Nine miles brought us to the agency, and ten more to Elder creek; the last nine miles heavy sand.

Friday, September 10—This day we remained in camp. We left Mr. Turner in camp.

Saturday, September 11—This day we traveled some eighteen miles over some very heavy road. We traveled till after dark to get to a spring, where we encamped, weary and tired enough.

Sunday, September 12—This day we made about eighteen miles. Roads pretty heavy and hilly. Watered at the well springs, and encamped at Willow creek, where we arrived after night, very tired, indeed.

Monday, September 13—This day we remained in camp; very windy and dusty.

Tuesday, September 14—This day we traveled about twenty miles. The road was hilly, but generally hard. We encamped in a perfect bed of sand by a small spring, where we arrived

Saturday, September 25—This day we made some ten or twelve miles. Traveled down a long and very bad hill to Indian creek, where we camped. Bought some potatoes at the rate of \$4 per bushel.

Sunday, September 26—This day we traveled some nine or ten miles. Pulled up Indian creek hill, among the worst on the road. Our camp was on Three-Mile bottom.

Monday, September 27—This day we traveled about nine miles. Three miles brought us to the gate; six miles more to a small spring, where we camped for the night.

Tuesday, September 28—This day we traveled about twelve miles. Road tolerable good; one very bad hill to come down. Our camp was among the pines, near the creek; browse pretty good.

Wednesday, September 29—This day we made some twelve miles over bad road and rainy day. We camped at the foot of Summit hill. Stormed all night, and some snow.

Thursday, September 30—This day we traveled about six miles. Very bad road. Rained all day; some snow; rained during the night; everything wet and cold. Family sick and out of bread.

Friday, October 1—This day made some six or eight miles. Road worse. Ceased to storm toward night. We camped among the whortleberries; good browse for cattle and children.

Saturday, October 2—This day we remained in camp.

Sunday, October 3—This day we traveled some ten miles. Road very bad. Passed over Laurel hill, which was very steep and difficult to get down. Crossed Zigzag; traveled some three or four miles along its bottom, and encamped; poor camp.

Monday, October 4—This day we made about six miles. Road pretty rough. Got a good camp; plenty of good grass.

Tuesday, October 5—This day we traveled some ten miles. Road tolerable good. Crossed Sandy. Camped in the bottom; good camp.

Wednesday, October 6—This day we made about six miles. Some pretty smart hills to pull up. Our camp was in a fern opening; good camp.