

– **SHOEMAKER**

Overland Diary,

1850

Transcribed

May 1999

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

Apr, 23

we left Canesville went up the missourie river 8 miles and crossed the river here we found 8 ferry boats they they[sic] row them by hand this river is one hundred and 20 rods wide with even[?] banks and a strong current we encamped on the west side at an old vacuated town called winter quarters, here we organized into a company

on the 24 [Apr]

we set sail for the promised land, we traveld 18 miles today to the papea. creeke passing over a continual succession of hills and hollows this day has been clear but rather cool & a strong wind from the south this creek is 10 rods wide

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[April] 25

traveld 20 miles today 9 miles to the elk horn. this is 9 rods wide 3 deep current rather swift & not very pleasant to ferry plenty of timber on its banks. here we found a ferry boat they charged us \$2,00 per team in 1 mile from this we came to a creek 10 feet wide and steep banks but a good bridge over it there is some timber on its banks the road somewhat uneven 10 miles from this we came to platte river where we encamped for the night the road from the elk horne to this place is rather low & muddy in a wet time but very good now here is plenty of timber we have Seen several pawnees some of them nearly naked

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[April] 26.th

traveld 21 miles to day passed severel small lakes near the road there is no timber near 9 miles we strike the river again at an island at this place there is &[sic] indian grave north side of the road this is a large pile of dirt about 80 yards north of the road 2 miles from this we came to crooked creek where we found a bridge 12, miles from this we struck the river, and encamped for the night here the remainder of our company came up with us. but some of them left so that we only numberd 46 men that night. we have seen a good many indians today but they are friendly

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[April] 27.th

traveld 22 miles today & encamped about 9 miles below the mouth of the loup fork it is about 8 miles from the platte to the bluffs. the flats are sandy and in a wet time a very heavy road we found but 2 sloughs today it snowed a little last night the wind in the northwest and rather

cool

[April] 28th

traveld 23 miles today we crossed looking Glass creeke 16 ft wide & 2 ft deep 2 miles long lake south side of the road to beaver river 6½ miles here we encamped this is 25 ft wide 2 ft deep & swift current there is plenty of timber on both sides of the creek here there is 2 fording places

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[April] 29th

traveld 24. [miles] to day & encamped at the upper Pawnee village we traveld 5 miles and crossed plumb creek 5 ft wide- 2 miles. to. ash creeke on this creeke[sic] stands the pawnee mission- near there is 2 heard[?] log houses that are deserted- here is a small tract of handsome land about 4 miles from this we passed the old pawnees village formerly occupied by the grand pawnees & lappas bands but burned by the sioux in the fall of 18.47. there was nearly 200 houses there and coverd from 12 to 15 acres of ground there is &[sic] old sod fence around it from 4 to 5 feet in hight wit the exception of one

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the south side which is enclosed by the river their houses wer[e] all round & from 12 to 15 ft in hight & about 15 ft in diameter with the exception of one which was a good deal larger that was probably ocupied by the chief that stood near the center & the doors of the the[sic] others all appeared to front to it & rig[ht] at evry wigwam was a hole in the ground from 6 to 8 ft deep just large enough to let them down & then keiouted out all round so that so that[sic] severel could get inn there with out being discovered ½ mile from this we came to cedar creek

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this Stream is 8 rods wide & quick sand bottom here we saw the firs[t] buffaloes head that that[sic] had just been killed by E emigrant. we camped ½ mile from the old pawnee village the parairies wer[e] on fire all around us & we had to back fire to Keep from burnin[g] us out of house & home but the weather soon changed about 10 oclock it rained a little and the wind blew nearly a hurrican and the next morning was very cold & disagreeable

[April] 30th

traveld 6 miles to day to the ford of the loup fork we passed some fine country

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today there is no timber from where we struck the platte to this point excep some cotton wood on the river here we found 4 graves where the emigrants wer buried last year they are on a small knoll about 10 rods west of the road and near the river here is & old beaver dam & a small Creek here

May 1th 1850

this day was spent in crossing our waggons we succeeded in getting evrything over with out much injury the loup fork is 3,00 yards wide and very difficult to cross it is quick sand bottom there is a large sand bar in

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middle of the river & the channel is on the South Side of the river but the sand is constantly mooveing so there is no telling one day where the ford is the next the water is about 4 ft deep

in the Channel and quite Swift we encamped on the South side of the river and changed our cloth[es?] it was a clear day over head but a wet one below wind south

May 2th ::

we traveld 23 miles to day the first 5 miles the road is low and wet it is a bed of quick sand the Bluffs are sand & will drift like snow the bluffs extend 6 or 7 miles then the road is [page 10]

low and soft to pararie creek this is 12 ft wide plenty of water but no grass nor timber near here we encamped for the night. about 4 oclock it commenced raining & rained nearly all knight the wind blew so hard from the north that it blew some of our tents down & some of our waggon covers off. we had no wood to burn and the buffalo chips were so wet they would not burn we passed some alkalie water, the first that we have seen & some lizzards in the sand

May 3th

we traveld 12 miles today we struck the old oragon road 2 miles below wood Creek [page 11]

this is 15 ft wide with some timber on its banks this like the rest of the creeks has caveing banks and quick sand bottoms from thence about one mile then turned to the left & went to the timber a half mile on the bank of the platte & encamped for the night. there is a small island here which is formed by the platte but the main river is about 5 miles off this day is clear & wind in the north

[May] 4th/

traveld 14 miles today we passed the grave of Mr[s] Carter this grave is 5 miles from wood river & 2 miles from timber on the north side of the road about 8 miles from that [page 12]

there is a man buried from grant Co westconsin who died of Cholera June 1849 †

road good & wather[sic] fine

[May] 5th/

is sunday we intended to have travld today but 2 of our men went out buffaloe hunting yesterday & did not return & all we were in a land of buffaloes & indians our imaginations in evry direction to tell what had hapend [to] the boys consequently we got our horses some 20 of us and started to hunt them but did not succeed but we had some sport for we found large heards of buffaloes but they did not atact as we had been told

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during the chase I killed 2 calves & one 2 year old & when I got to Camp one of the lost men had come inn he had came in to the road ahead of us before we camped & supposing us to be ahead went on 18 miles and tired their horses out and one of them Staied with them and the other Came back and found us that broke up buffalo hunting we have had a pleasant day today the wind in the north it froze ice ½ inch thick in our Pails last night

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[May] 6th/

we traveld 23 miles today we passed 2 graves today & saw plenty of parairie dogs and

some[?] rattlesnakes the roads dry and good & a fine day

[May] 7th/

traveld 33 miles today and passed the head of grand island. the platte river along here is about ¼ of a mile wide we have seen a great many dead buffaloe today it has been a hard winter on them and a great many of them have died & the emigrants are killing many of them for the name of it

[May] 8th/

we traveld 21 miles today we saw a gang of buffaloes today close to the road

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there are many islands in the river along here the roads dry and dusty the wind in the north we have a fandango tonight Shafers are fiddling and the boys are dancing they feel as happy as though they wer all ready in the golden land & their purs is full[?]

[May] 9th/

we traveld 21 miles to day we passed the first sand bluff to day the country from wood river to there a distance of 1.11 miles is very level and sandy the river runs close to the bluffs on the south side while the

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flats on the north side are 8. or 9. miles wide. the most of the way the banks of the River ar low & caveing the whole country appears to be a bed of quicksand. but the road are good in dry weather the ground in many places is coverd with nitre or salaratus for when dry looks like salaratus & when wet looks like lye we camped on the bank of Skunk Creek for the night

[May] 10th/

we traveld 20 miles to day and camped on the bank of the river near the last timber[1] on this side of the river for 200 miles

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we found no timber from where we first struck the platte except cotton wood & willows we passed the first spring of water today that we have seen since we left the missourie opposite of this is the mouth of the South Platte it rained the most of last knight the roads are very muddy today but the weather clear

[May] 11th/

this day we spent in washing & Cookeing & preparing for the 200 mile stretch where we expect to be obliged to us[e] Buffalo chips for wood. one of our men killed an. antelope todody[sic] so that we have a little fresh

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meat to strengthen us. the country back from the river is nothing but sand bluff, the day is clear it froze a little last night the day are warm & the nights cold. the ox teams that left the missourie when we did are passing us today. here is the grave of George washington [J]gordon from de buke Co. io.wa he died may 1.th 18.50. with the congestion on the brain, we are now according to the guide 302½ miles from the missourie & 7,28½ from Salt lake

[May] 12th/

we traveld 25 miles today we saw several heards of buffalo today & our men killed some of
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them. the flats here are about 2 miles wide. we crossed the north bluff fork which is 5 rods wide & camped 4 miles west of it. there was about 50 Sew indians came in sight Just as we wer pitching our tents they came up to us in the most friendly manner & all nelt down our company gav their Cheaf some provision and some other small presents which they received very thankfully they camped near us they appeared very genteel & delicate we doubled our gard on the occasion[?] but the[y] did not molest us at all this day was clear & the roads good but the night cold

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13th May/

we traveld 24 miles today the indians came to our camp this morning but soon left they were on their way to fight the pawnees. we passed severel sandy bluffs & crossed a good many streams good water bluff creek a small creek running between the bluffs bluff spring petite creek pickaninny creek goose creek small spring creek small creek 4 ft wide duck weed creek 10. ft wide & camped on rattlesnake creek 20 ft wide this is a swift current & sandy bottom about one mile ½ we pass Cedar bluffs this day clear & the roads good

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May 14th/

we traveld 20 miles today. we passed the first rocky bluffs that we have seen since we left the missourie river. we passed some sandy bluffs and several small creeks & camped on watch creek. some of our company wanted to drive faster than we have been driveing consequently they left us so that our company now only numbers only 25 men & 7 waggons & about 30 horses. there is a very little grass in places but in many places the ground is coverd with salaratus. we camped on watch creek about 4½ miles from the lone tree here our captain lost his. hat. & guide.

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[May] 15th/

we traveld 23 miles today we passed the lone tree[2] as it is called but there is a small cedar 3 or 4 miles beyond this to the right of the road there is a low rocky bluff it looks to be about ¾ of a mile in length & about 1 mile from the road but some of our men went out to it they said it was not less than 3 miles from the road there was a large cave in it & we saw several indians ride in to it on horse back we went on about a mile and came where there was about 5 hundred sews camped they had about as many horses but they was mostly very poor their wigwams consisted of small

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poles tied together at the top and spread out 8 or 10 ft at the bottom & coverd with buffaloe skins. they appeared very friendly but they followed us some distance a begging for evrything they could think of. we crossed ~~ford the creek~~ just on the bank of the river on the opposite side of the river was 40 or 50 wigwams of indians 8 of them waded the river & came to us soon after we camped & for fear what their intentions might be one of our men wraped him self up in his blanket and laid down in his tent & our doctor told them he had the small pox they gun[?] looked in to the tent and then start back across the river we did not see them again

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[May] 16th/

we traveld 21 miles today we passed castle bluffs ruins they are about a mile & a half from the river & one hundred & 8 miles from fort larama they resemble the ruins of some ancient castle there are many yellow rattle snakes along here the river here is about ¾ of a mile wide we encamped 1½[?] [miles?] above the ruins here here[sic] we found the best grass that we have had since we started we have passed several small streams today the roads good & the day clear

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May 17th/

we traveld 25 miles today it rained some last night but cleared off this morning the roads are some sandy today we camped about 4 miles east of chimney rock the flats on the north side of the river are from 3 to 4 miles wide this day clear and warm

[May] 18th/

we traveld 27 miles today we passed chimney rock this forenoon. it looks to be about ¾ of a mile from the river but it is said to be at least 8 miles by those that traveld to it it is on the south side of the platte & is supposed to be about 150 feet above the river

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[May] 19th/

we traveld 20 miles today we passed scotts bluffs. they are on the south side of the river about 20 miles above chimney rock these bluffs are 5 or 6 miles in length & very high they extend near the river in many places then in place there is small flats between them & the river the road on the south side of the river runs to the South of the bluffs these bluffs are about 70 miles below fort laramie. we camped about a mile from the road on the bank of the river the road some sandy today the day warm & pleasant but the night cold

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May 20th/

we traveld 25 miles today and camped near the ferry on the platte about 1 mile from fort laramie the road today was very Sandy & hard on our teams the day clear & warm

[May] 21th/

this day Spent in cutting off our waggon beds & prepareing for the black hills & crossing our our[sic] waggons & horses which took us a considerable [period] of time the boat being small the river here is 108 yards wide the ferry here is kept by the soldiers that belong to the fort the emigrants gave them whiskey so that they wer all about 3 sheets in the wind & the other fluttering it rained a little this after noon we camped on the south side of the river near the fery

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[May] 22th/

we traveld 25 miles today some of us went up to the fort but saw nothing very interesting & so started on our way rejoicing. we traveld 10½ miles along the river then struck across the hills &

camped on bitter creek. we found no very steep hills but very crooked & rocky the day fair

[May] 23th/

we traveled 24 miles today the country is very hilly & the road crooked & rough there are some scattering pines along here on the bluffs we had a small thunder storm today it lightend very sharp but did not rain a great deal. we camped on the bank of the river

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May 24th/

we traveled 20 miles today after following the river up about 10 miles we left it & traveled 10 miles over very hilly rough land we camped for the night on La bonte this stream is 15 ft wide with some timber on its banks the road some muddy this forenoon in consequence of the rain last night the day fair & cool

[May] 25th/

we traveled 20 miles today over a very hilly country, we passed over 5 or 6 miles [of] country where the earth & stone were near the color of venitian red the stone not very hard. there came up a severe hale storm about 1 oclock in the night & some of our horses

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broke their halters & the others kicked & snorted all the while it was hailing & this morning the hailstones was as large as hickery nuts. it rained & hailed is[sic] about noon today consequently the roads were very muddy nearly all day we encamped on the La Prele river

[May] 26th/

we traveled 25 miles today the roads are some sandy today but hilly we crossed several small streams we crossed box elder creek 5 ft wide clear water but not much grass. fourche boise. river 30 ft wide 2 feet deep. lat 42° 51' 5", current rapid. plenty. of grass & timber we camped on the bank of the platte the roads dry & the weather good

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May 27th/

we traveled 22 miles today & crossed the ferry & camped on the north side of the river the river here is 100 yards wide we had to pay 4 dollars per waggon & 25 cts per horse it rained the forepart of the night in the morning the snow was one inch deep the roads muddy & the day cold. after we crossed the Laprele there is a long range of bluffs to the left of the road that extend far above the ferry

[May] 28th/

this day we came to the conclusion that we would go 4 or 5 miles & find a good camping place & rest but we found no grass nor wood until we had traveled 30 miles. we passed one mineral lake & some alkalie Swamps. we saw the bones of 6

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oxen in one pile that had undoubtedly killed themselves drinking alkalie water [no- killed by lightning in 1849] we drove till after dark & found no wood nor but little grass consequently we had to go to bed without our suppers with the exception of a sea biscuit we saw some hills today that looked as red as chalk there are many deep dry ravines along here.

this day Clear

[May] 29th/

we traveld 23 miles today after traveling 2 miles we came to the summit of a hill from which we saw the sweetwater mountains we passed several small streams of good water & passed a large salaratus swamp & lake here we found aplenty of dry salaratus that was as white & as clear as cristol

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the swamp has rather bad disagreeable smell the land is sandy. here we saw the horned toads with tas[?] they are about half way betwixt a toad & a lizzard they are brown & yellow with small nubs or horns on their rles[?] and a tail like a lizzard & travel something like them for they do not gouit[?] with a yerksic], the roads today are very sandy we camped on the sweetwater near independence rock. the day clear & warm

[May] 30th/

this day we rested our selves & teams being a good place for grass & water, but not much wood we have a fair view of independence rock it is on the north side of the river

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it is about six hundred yards long & about one hundred & 20 wide composed of hard granate it is about 60 feet high & round on the top it is covered with names of travalers some cut with chirels[sic] some with paint others put on with tar, the river here is about 8 rods wide the day clear & warm

[May] 31th/

we traveld 23 miles today we passed independence rock & crossed the sweetwater & traveld 5 miles & came to devels gate is a little west from the road here the river passes between perpendicular rocks 400 feet high & [is] worthy of a travalers notice, it is about a half mile long & imposible to run a canoe threw is there is many large rocks in the

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[in upper margin] devels gate is 704 miles from winter quarters & 327 from Salt lake

river we passed 3 graves today & one of them had been dug open by the wolves the bones laid scatterd over the ground. the roads are very sandy today & heavy on our teams we camped on the bank of the river there is aplenty of snow on the mountains to the south of us but the day clear

June the first 18.50

we traveld 22 [miles] today the roads are sandy & hard on teams the road runs near the river. there is a chain of isolated rocks extends up the river for 45 miles some of them are 2 or 3 miles in circumference & from 2 to 3 hundred feet high these rocks are hard we camped on the banks of the river at the uper end of the rock the day clear & warm

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[June] 2th/

we traveld 24 miles today we traveld 16 miles without water we passed ice spring. this is on a low swampy piece of land to the right of the road ice can generally be found by digging

down about 2 feet we got some of the ice it was clear & good we could not a[s]ertain how deep the ice was. we passed some very steep hills & passed 2 graves one of them had been dug up by some varmint the bones were left there we camped on the river. the day clear & the road good

[June] 3th/

we traveld 8 miles today it commencet about 10. oclock and rained the remainder of the day it was a very cold & disagreeable rain on both man & beast there is a plenty of snow about here

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June 4th/

we traveld 27 miles today the roads wer some muddy the forenoon we crossed several small streams & some snowbanks that wer from 15 to 20 feet deep. the creeks are very high in consequence of the snow melting on the mountains we stoped at noon on the sweatwater



the above bluffs are south west of the last ford on the Sweatwater river & about ten miles off they ar nearly

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south of the pass this view was taken on the bank of the river one mile below the ford.

the south pass is nothing more than a wide valley it appears to be nearly as high as the country around it except the wind river mountains which ar to the north 25 or 30 miles. there is no high mountains to the southw[est?] if the guide had not have told us this was the pass or summit we would hardly have known it, after passing the summit 3 miles we came to a slough or marsh that is very miry this we [k]now by experience for one of the horses in our train ventured in & mired so

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we had to pull him out with ropes there ar several springs in it but it is difficult getting to them it is so miry. we camped here for the night the roads good here it froze quite hard



this is a view of the south end of the wind river mountains. it was taken from the pacific springs the tops of these mountains ar generally coverd with snow it will all most make a person shiver to look at them in mid summer

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this is a small bluff east of the ford on big sandy it is about 5 miles off from the river one day ahead of the times

[June] 5th/

we traveld 25 miles this day the country is generally level but little grass but aplenty of wild sage we passed the junction of the fort hall & Salt lake roads we camped on the bank of little sandy creek. it froze quite hard last night

[June] 6th/

we traveld 25 miles today we crossed big sandy this river is 8 rods wide. it has a quick sand bottom

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there is not timber on it the country along here is generally level & sandy with but little grass

this day Clear & the night cold

[June] 7th/

we traveld 14 miles today we came to green river. this stream is 16 rods wide & a very rapid current the river is to high to ford & so they have the impudence to ask us \$4.00 a waggon & 50. cts per head for horses they have 2 ferry boats some of the emigrants build rafts & ferry themselves over rather than gratify the ferrymen we camped on the bank of the river 6 miles below the ferry. the day clear & warm the night cold, we saw some of the flat heads indians at the ferry there was 4. or 5 french traders amongst them they all have squaws for wives

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June 8th/

we traveld 22 miles today after leaving the river the country is generally hilly to blacks fork which is 16 miles we found no water nor grass after we left green river til we came to blacks fork- 6 rods wide & 2 ft deep. from thence to hams fork 4 miles here we camped for the night this stream is 8 rods wide the roads are very dusty 8 in places many small stones this day clear & warm

[June] 9th/

this is the sabbath consequently we do not travel some of our company crossed this stream with their waggons loaded they had to raze their boxes to the top of the stakes & draw them across with ropes & then got their things wet some

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we put our things in a boat & paid one dollar for taking them across & then drawd our waggon over empty but such thorough going men as John shellhammer take theirs through load & all here we saw some of the snake indian[s] there wer several french traders with them they have got nearly one hundred head of horses & about as many oxen & cows they winter them

in the mountains on willows here we sold tea for 5 dollars a pound & they offered 25 dollars a hundred for flour, they would only give a pair of buck skin pants for a good rifle but they would sell them for 4 or 5 dollars we passed the crow country with out seein[g] any of them they wer on the yellow stone river it is said they wer afraid of the small pox

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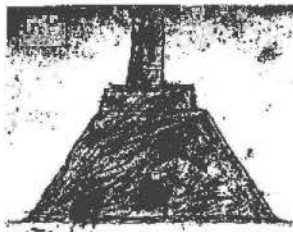
[June] 10th/

we traveld 15 miles today, the country is generally level but but[sic] there is many small cobble stone in the road there are many isolated hills along here that are from 2 to 3 hundred feet high they are generally clay & sand & much rock about them, we passed 2 graves today, we found but little grass but a plenty of sage we camped 5 miles from water

[June] 11th/

we traveled 27 miles today, we stoped at noon close by fort bridger this fort is composed of 4 log-houses & a small enclosure for horses the land very rich the water cold & good considerable of timber after crossing the mountins the country is level but sandy, we have to make some long drives to obtain water for camping

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[a page out of order here, with a sketch of Chimney Rock on top, a caption in the middle and a sketch on the bottom of a portion of a landform, but not obviously a part of Chimney Rock]

Chimney Rock is 71 Miles below fort laramie & on the south side of the platte river & about 7 miles from the river the chimney is about one third its high it is split from the top down about 20 feet so that we could see through the whole is supposed to be about 3.00 feet high



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there is no wood after you leave the upper plat ferry til you come to fort bridger except. on green river fort bridger is on blacks fork a branch of green river it is 9.17 ½ [miles] from winter quarters 1.13½ from salt lake & is in latitude 41° 19' 13" longitude 110° 5' altitude 6,665 feet

[June] 12th/

we traveled 22 miles today. the country is very mountainous & the road very crooked. we passed the dividing ridge between the waters of the gulf of california & the great salt lake. there is not much rock on these mountains they are covered with sage & greas woods with but little grass there is some snow on them now the bear river mountains ar to the south they are coverd wi-

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th snow. we could see them for 150 miles before we got oposite of them. we passed an oil spring Add. & os. went & got some it is very much like seneca oil it is very good substitute for tar it is also very good for sore this spring is on sulpher Creek we camped on the bank of bear river this stream is said to be 6. rods wide & 2 feet deep but at this time it is near 10. & 8 is[?] feet deep. this day rather cool

[June] 13th/

this day we spent in crossing our waggons & horses here old Curleys courage failed him. he was very much opposed to crossing until the water fell but that was very uncertain for the snow was melting on the mountains. the first waggon that drove in John run to the tent & down on his knees

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& told Dan & Chyle that Shafers waggon had gone to the devel. they did not know whether he Praid or not, but the waggon was over safe. we had to fasten our waggon boxes on top of the stakes & then fasten ropes to the top of our loads to prevent them from tipping over when we drove through. we all got over safe there is a plenty of trout in this stream we saw some indians here we did not get over til nearly night & we camped here for the night this was rather a cold disagreeable day

[June] 14th/

we traveld 17 miles today. there has not been many stone in the road today. we passed some small creeks that are very bad to ford & some very steep hills with some snow on them we saw some very curious rocks amongst these is Cache Cave it is at the head of echo creeke it rained & hailed, the most of the afterno[o]n

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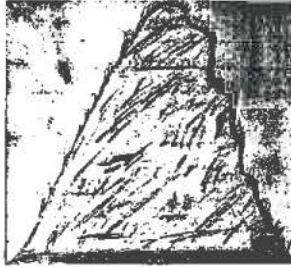


this represents Cache. cave & mountain this cave at the enterence is about 15 feet wide & about 8 feet high it sloaps back in to the hill from 30. to 40 feet some of us went inn there & staid through a shower it smels very much like a bears nest, in fact we saw bear tracks this mountain is about 2.00 feet high the rocks in many places are red. there is some cedar growing on it. this night stormy & disagreeable

[June] 15th/

we traveld 19 miles today we crossed echo Creek 15 times the most of the crossings are very bad this creek is 10 feet wide & 2 feet deep there is some very high rocks along here the most of them are of a reddish color there is a plenty of grass all along this creeke

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we encamped for the night at the foot of this mountain it is probably 8.00 feet high it is close to the last ford of the red fork & one mile from weber. river there are several other mountains near this that ar nearly as high there is some cedars growing on them some of the boys went nearly to the top of this mountain they did not look bigger than thomb[Tom] thumb

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June 16th/

we traveld 17 miles today. after traveling 5 miles we came to weber river & crossed it on a raft for which we paid \$1.50 cts a waggon this stream is said to be 4 rods wide & 2 feet deep but it is a good deal worse than that now after traveling 7 miles further we came to the summit of a high hill of which we have quite a prospective view the country to the west is very mountainous with considerable of snow on them, we then assended a long hill & crossed a small creek several times the most of the crossings wer wer[sic] bad, we then came to the first crossing of Kanyon Creek lat 40° 54' 7" this stream is 1 rod wide & said to be 1 foot deep but it is a good deal deeper now we had to put 2 poles across & slide our waggons across on the axeltrees. we ar narrow[?] but plenty of grass & not much timber gow[?] up this stream the rocks are red [in] these valley this day pleasant

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[June] 17th/

we traveld 15 miles today we crossed Kanyon creek 13 times we then turned west up a narrow ravine 4 miles through which runs a rushing creek & after crossing it 31[81?] times & wading through snow drifts we came to the summit of the highest sill that we cross in the whole journey it rases at least 1500 feet in 12 miles. this mountain Attenle[attains?] 7.245 feet the most of the way on side hill & through timber over stumps through mudholes it required 2 or 3 men to keep the waggons from upsetting when we wer on the to[p] of this summit we had a view of the south part of the valley of salt. lake. the decent is steeper than the assent we had to lock one wheel to our waggon & for 3 miles & part of the way we crossed browns creek 10 times & then camped for the night we had plen[t]y of grass

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June 18th/

we traveld 11 miles today after traveling 2 miles we came to the summit of a high hill. the decent being very steep for a mile. we came to the last creek before come to Salt lake. we crossed. it 19 times the most of the crossings were very bad. we camped within 3 miles of the great S L City in decending the last creek it took 12 men to the wagons to keep them from

upsetting in fact the last 40 miles of the road has been the worst road. I ever saw it froze ice in our pails $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick last night

[June] 19th/

this day we laid still to recruit our teams & to doo up our washing & so forth, the Great St Lake City is located within 5[3?] miles of the mountains. which enclose the east side of the valley & with in 3 miles of the Utah outlet & twenty two miles

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~~Salt than[?] of water trenches[?] from the~~

of the Salt. lake. the land is gradually sloping from the mountain to with in a mile of the outlet & is of a loose sandy nature a stream of water rushes from the mountains east of the city & at the upper part it divides in to 2 branches both of which pass through the City to the outlet. the water is good & very cold & abundance for mill purposes or for irrigation the air is good & pure sweetend by the healthy breezes from the salt lake the grass is rich & plentiful & well filled with rushes & the passes in the mountains afford abundance of good timber the valley is about 40 miles long & from 20 to 25 miles wide it is beautifully surrounded on the west. south. & east. by high mountains salt lake extends from a

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point a little south of west from the city to about 80 miles north from the north western boundary of the valley. there are 2 sulphur springs a mile & a haf from temple block. the water is salt & a little warmer than blood heat. 2 miles further north there is a sulphur spring of boiling water, there is not much land on the north part of the valley fit for cultivation but the east side is well adapted for farming being well waterd by several large creeks & the soil beautiful. the land on the west of the utah outlet is also good for farming & easily irrigated from the south end of the outlet

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June 20th/

we traveld 12 miles today we passed the Great salt lake City. it is situated in latitude 40° 45' 44" Longitude 111° 26' 34" altitude 4,300 feet, the city is regularly laid out it is 3 m[i]les square. the most of the houses are built of unburnt brick. the corn now will averdge 6 inches high their spring wheat is not headed yet their winter wheat looks well they generally irrigate their crops here flower here is worth one dollar a pound meat 30.cts chees is worth 25. cts butter 50 cts beef 10[18?] cts after leaveing the city we traveld 8 miles & camped at willow spring here we found the grass & water good

[June] 21th/

we traveld 27 miles today we passed several small creeks some of them rather bad to cross

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grass good plenty of prickley pair & some wild sage the roads are verry Stoney today hwe[sic] camped on the bank of webber river the roads are dusty & in some places heavy Sand

[June] the 22

we traveld 15 miles today we crossed webber river today there is a ferry there they charged us \$3,00 per waggon & we swam our our[sic] horses this stream is 10 rods wide 4

miles from this we crossed a creek which [is] rather bad to ford this after noon we passed some warm springs the water is a little brackish one mile from these we came to a spring of cold water here we camped for the night we passed some bad sloughs today feed good wood rather scarce

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June the 23/

we traveld 28 miles today the road runs near the foot of the mountains we passed several creeks & a good many Springs the water is a little brackish 8 miles from bear river in a hollow there is a spring the water is boiling hot about one rod from that there is 2 springs of cold water the water is a little salt. we camped on bear river grass good the day Clear and warm

[June] the 24/

we traveld 23 miles today we crossed bear river this river is 10 rods wide this crossing is 56 miles from st lake & 8.99 from san[]francisco. the country along here is generally mountainous the water a little

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salty 20 miles from this river there is a warm spring the water is a little salt but we had to use it we camped 3 miles west of the spring there is a plenty of grass & sage here the day mild & pleasant

[June] the 25/

we traveld 30 miles today the roads are generally good grass plenty & water scarce the valleys are large & coverd with wild sage & greas woods we camped at pilot springs there is no grass here the day fare[?]

[June] 26th/

we traveld [number missing] miles today after leaveing pilot springs the road is stonny and hilly in many places in others heavy sand the road runs along

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the bench of the mountains the principal part of the way we passed a valley that runs to the north as far as the eye could extend at the point where the road strikes Cassus creek the road runs on the side of the mountain where it is so steep that we could hardly keep our waggons from upsetting we camped here for the night, being 26 m[i]les from pilot springs & 1,57 from St. Lake plenty of grass & watere & sage here

[June] the 27/

traveld 22 miles today we crossed cassus creek & followed it up for 11 miles, we then assend a hill for 5 miles to the junction of the old fort hall road. to the right of this is the

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is the[sic] noted steeple rocks in which the fort hall road passes betwixt there is Just room for a waggon to pass betwixt the the[sic] rocks this is the end of the cut off from the Great. st. L.

we then ascended a hill 5 miles to the summit of a high hill while we wer here it rained & snowed some, we decended the hill one mile & then camped for the night at a small creek

[June] the 28/

we traveld 23 miles today the first 5 miles we decended some very steep sideling hills the road is very crooked & in some places so steep that it was with great difficulty that we kept our waggons from upsetting

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while de[s]cending those hills we could see the wind river mountains far to the north we at length came to goos creek this stream, is one rod wide we did not cross it but traveld up it 18 miles. & camped near where the road leaves it the roads are very muddy there is a plenty of grass all along this creek

[June] the 29/

we traveld 29 miles today we followed up a branch of goos creek 4 miles. then struck across the hills to the thousand springs valley 14 miles without water or grass the road bein[g] very hilly and in some places very stoney the most of the stone look like black smiths sindy[?]

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there is a plenty of snow on the mountains we camped on cold water. creek there is. a plenty of grass here but no wood except sage brush the roads today have been very dusty

[June] the 30/

we traveld 22 miles today from cold water creek to the end of thousand spring valley 13 miles feed & water good. there are many natural wells or springs in this valley they are from 3 to 5 feet deep[sic?] & from 5 to 12 feet deep[sic?] some of them are not fit for use. being strongly [im]pregnated with minerals. there ar[e] however some hot springs in this valley the road runs near them the most of this saens[streams?] run a little ways & then sink we camped at a spring at the foot of a hill

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July 1.th 18.50

from the head of marys river stC 2.78 [miles]
--

we traveld 25 miles today we came to the dividing ridge where the waters run in to salt lake & in to marys. river after leaveing Kanyon creek the road good the most of the way through valleys to St marys river 18 miles grass & water good & some sage brush. we camped about 5 miles from the first crossing of marys river, here we heard that there was a white man shot by an indian night before last the man snaped 3 caps at the indian but his revolver did not go off the indian escaped unhurt the arrow went to his lungs

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[July] 2th/

we traveld 23 miles today after traviling 5 miles we came to marys river & crossed it this stream is 3 rods wide we had to put chains across the tops of the waggon stakes & then raze the boxes & draw them through by hand the water was from 4 to 5 feet deep we all got over safe. we found plenty of grass along this stream & sage for fuel. the river flats were from ½ to 2 miles wide there are many sloughs in them they. are full of water mow[now]. there is. a range of mountains that commence near here and run to the south that are covered with snow,

this branch of the river from the ford on the west side. of. it runs. south we camped 18 miles from the ford on the west side of it

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July 3th/

we travild 28 miles today we crossed the west branch of marys river today we razed our waggon boxes as before and drove through this crossing is a ½ mile above the Junction the river here runs through a Kanyon a little below the road here leaves the river and runs over a hill & then returns again the river here is 6 rods wide & not a very swift current we camped here for the night grass good &C plenty of sage

[July] the 4/

this day we spent in celebrating the great anaversary of our freedom at the present time we had 3 musitions in our company we all marched an fired our guns in order of the [ink blot]

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States & in the eavening. we had a cotillion party, they all seemed to enjoy them selves we had no flag for there was nothing in this part of the world to hoist a flag on larger than a whip stock. we wer about 330 miles from St. L City and 625 from san fransisco

[July] 5th/

we traveld 23 miles today after traveling 5 miles we passed over a high mountain for 10 miles to a small creek where we filled our water casks & then started over another mountain after traveling until nearly dark we camped where there was no water nor but little grass

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July 6th/

we traveld 25 miles today for want of grass and watter we started at day light we traveld about 5 miles & came near the summit of the mountain. where we found some grass & a little water here we stoped & got our breakfast & let our horses graze the decent of this mountain is very steep & in many places very stony we at length came to the river & about 2 oclock we camped on the bank of the river

[July] 7th/

we traveld 23 miles today the road has followed, the river today. the dust is about 3 inches deep & in some places very stonny this is very

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hard on teams as well as men we heard today that the man the indian shot on cold water creek was. dead. it rained a little this after noon. enough to lay the dust for 4 or 5 miles there is a good deal of salaratis ground along here. there is scarcely a day that we do not hear of the indians s[t]ealing some of the emigrants teams

[July] 8th/

we traveld 25 miles today the road has followed the river today mostly there has not been many stone[s] but a plenty of dust we have adopted a new plan with our horses we keep 3 men with them all the time when they ar feeding there is some snow on the mountains, we turned off the road one mile to camp

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July 9th/

we traveld 10 miles today we supposed this morning we wer 4 days travel from the sink of marys but when had traveld 10 miles we were[?] informed that we wer all ready at the sink consequently we turned to the right 5 miles to a slough for the purpose of recruiting our teams & cutting grass to cross the desert we found a plenty of wild clover & several hundred teams preparing for the desert. this is a large valley

[July] the 10/

we traveld 22 miles today after returning back to the river & filling our water vessels we started on to be dis-

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appointed as well as the rest of the emigrants. the road leaves the river here & runs to the north 4 or 5 miles to a sulphur spring & then turns to the west over a sand hill & passes through a kanyon and the[n] returns to the river again we then followed until night & camped the river bottoms are coverd with water along here

[July] the 11/

we traveld 20 miles today we traveld along the river the most of the day the roads are sandy & hard on teams. we camped on the river again grass is getting scarce

[July] 12th/

we traveld 20 miles today the road the fore part of the day run along the bench of

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a mountain. in the after noon we crossed a deep Creek. we had to raze our boxes it was with difficulty that we found any grass to night the day warm & pleasant

[July] the 13/

we traveld 22 miles today the first 15 miles led across the bench of a mountain the road is both sonny & dusty to the river thence along the river until night there was a man died last night out of a train that camped near us he was from illinoice &[?] Cron[?]. we camped on the river our great. cry along here is grass

[July] 14th/

we traveld 21 miles today the road runs back from the river we only came to the river once today that at night

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we decended to the river through a narrow crooked ravean here we encamped for the night we had to swim the river for grass for our horses the river banks are very high here with a good spring of water on it this is on the south side of the river some cut willows for their horses here we saw 3 indians

[July] the 15/

we traveld 20 miles today here we left the river & crossed a plain about 10 miles & came to the river here we bated our horses after traveling 5 or 6 miles we come to a spring in a deep ravean after leaveing this we traveld on til night & came to a plenty of grass here we

purpose to cut grass to last our horses across the desert

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[words or letters in gutter did not copy]

[July] 16th/

this day we spent in making h[ay?] to last us across the desert there is plenty of it here by wading in the water after it we had to draw it ***t on dry land to cure it there is hundreds of teams here cutting [all?] the time now. we are passing from 2[0?] to 30 dead horses a day along he[re?]

[July] 17th/

we traveld 25 miles today & came to the final sinke of mary river. the river here spreads out in to a kind of a lake or slough from one to 2 miles wide & from 8 to 10 long there is no grass near the sink it is a perfect desert the water very brack[?]ish it is not fit for camp use but w[e] have to use it. the flats along the St. marys river are very low & the water very high when we wer along

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we had to wade the sloughs every day to our wastes for 150 miles to get grass for our horses it being impossible to get them to the grass it was so mirey this river is about 6 rods wide it is as large near the head as it is any where it d[o]es not receive any tributaries of any size for 2,00 miles. we saw no timber on the river there is no grass of any account along this river except on the bottoms. there are many packers acomeing up with us evry day they are nearl[y] all out of provisions they offer us \$2,00 a pound for flour & bacon but we have none for them for love nor money

[July] 18th/

we remained in camp today until 12 oclock & then started across the desert, we are now

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as near as w[e] can learn about 545 miles from St lake city & 4.10 from san francisco. we traveld until s[u]ndown & then stoped & fed & [w]atered our teams got our supper & then proceeded until 12. ocloc[k] we then halted & gave our horses the last of our hay & water & then went on & at sunrise we we[re?]

[July] the 19/

within 8 miles of carsons river from this to carsons river the road is very sandy the waggon wheels sink in to the sand about 8 inches we drove our waggon 2 miles further & left it I staid with the waggon the rest of the boys tooke the horses on to carsons river & waterd them & fed them & Add came back to the waggon & brought me some

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for I had been there in the hot sun from 7 in the morning until one in the after noon with out a drop of water it was with difficulty that he got to the waggon with any water there was so many nearly dieing for the want of water there was 2 men died for the want of water & a good many more that would have died if they had not had it brought to them there was one man came to our waggon after the water come & offerd me a first rate watch for a half pint of water. I gave him the water he handed me the watch I would not except it he said I was welcome to it. he went on his way rejoicing. once in about half an [h]our there was some

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come to the waggon all day for water those that appeared to be nearly exhausted we gave water & those looked as though they could get across we sent [on?] for we had but very little a little after dark they came with [the?] horses & about 12 o'clock we got our waggon to Carsons river it is called 40 miles across the desert to Carsons river there were several wells dug about half way across the desert but the water was as salt as brine we did not dare even to give it to our horses

[July] the 20/

we remained in camp until 2 o'clock & then went on 6 miles to grass the road was very sandy & hard on teams the most of the emigrants have left their waggons

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& are packing. Carsons River is 8 rods wide and appears to be very deep here we found lizards 10 inches long they appear to be very harmless.

[July] 21th/

this day being Sunday we concluded to lay still & let our horses rest as the grass & water is good & plenty of timber on the river there are a great many coming along now that have lost their teams they are taking it afoot with what little they can pack

beef is selling at 40 cts per pound fresh it is very poor at that being drove from the states but it will keep off [f] starvation. this day has been very warm

[July] 22th/

we traveled across a sand plain 13 miles & then came to the river here we stopped

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until 4 o'clock and then started across another sand plain or desert of 26 miles it is a perfect desert the most of the way along here except the river bottoms and they are small. we crossed the desert & came to the river about sunrise these sand plains are very hard on teams there is neither grass or water on them & the sand is deep & in many places very stony

[July] 23th/

we stopped here about 2 hours & then went up the river 6 miles to grass here we stopped all day & all night we are now about 45 miles from the main desert

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here we found several trading posts they have some here to relieve the emigrants. by skinning them they fetched their provisions from Sacramento they sell flour pork sugar potatoes \$1.50 per pound & liquor for \$1.25 per glass & other things in proportion there is snow in sight

[July] 24th/

we traveled 22 miles today after following the river 4 miles we struck across another sand plain 16 miles & then came to the river again the road across is very sandy & stony. here we found some stunted cedars we then left the river. at the foot

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of the mountain that is 4 or 5 miles wide with a plenty of grass & water this valley is 35 miles

long & the road runs near the mountains we passed several trading posts & met several trains of pack mules loaded with provision[s]

[July] the 25/

we traveld 22 miles today we followed the foot of the mountains we passed several trading houses today the traders are buying all the poor stock they can get they heard them there until they get fat & then they take them to california we passed a number of small mountain streams & one hot spring the water is hot enough to boil eggs but we had none the roads have been very Sandy today

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July the 26/

this day commenced packing we traveld 15 miles today after leaving camp we traveld 6 miles & came to mouth of a big kanyon that is 5 miles long the road is very rocky we passed several swamps that was very mirey the river runs through this kanyon the water rushes over the rocks it looks[sic] as white as milk there is a plenty of pines in these mountains some of them are 5 feet in diamiter but they are very short & scrubby we passed many little mountain streams in the kanyon there is some grass at the mouth of this kanyon & there is no more until we got to the head of the kanyon. we met several pack trains packing provisions to the trading houses

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July the 27/

we traveld 12 miles today after traveling 4 miles we come to a lake at the foot of a mountain this lake is one mile long & 40 rods wide we are now at the foot of the dividing ridge of the california mountains this is the wor[st] road that we have found on the whole rout this mountain is one mile to the top it is so steep that it is allmost impossible to draw a waggon up it it was a mutch as our horses could do to goow[sic] up with packs on there is a smooth rock in the road 3 rods long a few days before we came along there was a 4 horse team agowing up

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Just as the leaders got over this rock they broke loos from the waggon. the waggon drawed the wheel horses back down the hill & killed them both when we passed we saw 2 dead horses & a waggon below turned over against a pine tree we then decended this mountain 3 miles to the foot [at] the foot of this mountain there is another lake. this decent was crooked & rocky and through timber this road is very hard on teams at this lake there is a trading post. we now have to go over one of the highest mountains on the whole Journey it is 4 miles to the top

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we went one mile up it & camped for the night

it froze ice in our water pail $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick. we met 75 or 80 mules loaded with provisions they wer gowing east of the mountains there was a number of mexicans with them their mules were all fat they carry from 2,50 to 3 hundred [pounds] to the mule

[July] the 28/

this morning we started up the mountain through the timber & over rocks. after gowing 2 miles

we came to where the road went over snow drifts for 1 mile in many places they wer 40 feet deep

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the track is solled[solid] except at the foot of the mountains. there is some bad mud holes we met 15 or 20 fat oxen gow[ing] east of the mountains for beef. when we got to the top of this mountain we were 8 miles from rock vally we had to pass over snow one half of the way. the road runs on a rocky ridge it is very difficult getting along with waggons but we got along very well packing. we then passed over another mountain from rock valley to tragedy springs 6 miles where we camped for the night. here we found it difficult to get grass we passed a number of mexicans they had over 1 hundred pack mules they we gowing east we are now about 94 miles from sacramento @[sic]

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July 29th/

we traveld 20 miles today from tragedy springs to leek spring valley 12 miles we had to pass over & down iron hill there is some steep pitches & through timber there is a good spring here but very little grass there is 2 trading posts here they ar running oposition to one another. from here to camp creek 8 miles the road runs on a ridge the most of the way & it is very crooked the most of the way & in many places very steep hills & through heavy pine timber we saw the head & hide of a grisley bear. there is a trading post at this creek they all keep liquors to sell we saw a man laying drunk by the road side we found but little grass for our horses here

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[July] the 30/

we traveld 18 miles after gowing up a very [s]teep hill the road follows a ridge for 18 miles there is many steep hills to ascend & decend there is several trading posts on this ridge they have hay to sell at 10 cts pr pound but that looks rather steep to us. we had to take our horses 2½ miles south of the road to a ranch where we camped, all night

[July] 31th/

we traveld 10 miles today the road has been very sandy today there is a plenty of pine timber along here it is very tall & strate we had to drive nearly 10 miles before we could get water for our horses we stoped at noon at Johnsons ranch 6 miles from hangtown we went on ½ a mile and stoped all night we went on a hunt for gold but found none

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Aug 1th/ 18.50.

we concluded to start some men out aprospecting over on to the middle fork of the american river & I went to hangtown & bought a Shovel & a pick the gold dust for to dig

[END]