

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated March 6, 1886
Reorganized March 27, 1922

OFFICERS

C. Templeton Crocker, President
E. S. Heller, First Vice-President
Robert E. Cowan, Second Vice-President
C. O. G. Miller, Third Vice-President
T. W. Hubbard, Secretary and Treasurer
Dorothy H. Huggins, Corresponding Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anson S. Blake	Boutwell Dunlap
Charles L. Camp	E. S. Heller
Robert E. Cowan	T. W. Hubbard
C. Templeton Crocker	C. O. G. Miller
John S. Drum	E. J. Molera
D. Q. Troy	

No entrance fees are required, but the dues of \$10.00 per annum are payable upon application for membership and on each second Monday in January thereafter. A subscription to the Quarterly is included in the dues.

Back numbers of the Quarterly can be supplied for the present, to members only, at the price of \$2.00 each.

Members are invited to submit articles for publication in the Quarterly.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Society at 508 Wells Fargo Building, San Francisco.

MORRIS WERNER COLLECTION

VOL. IV, No. 4

DECEMBER, 1925

California Historical Society Quarterly

JAMES CLYMAN
His Diaries and Reminiscences

(CONTINUED)

Clyman's diaries and other papers formerly in the Tallman collection are now the property of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, with whose kind permission they are printed in this, and subsequent issues of the *Quarterly*.

[DIARIES AND MEMORANDA OF A JOURNEY THROUGH THE FAR WEST, 1844 TO 1846]

[BOOK 1]

[Cover]
May 1844

[Inside front cover]
Isaac Lightner
Independence
Mo

S. C. Owens
Independence
Mo

[*The Oregon Trail, Independence to Little Blue River, May 14
to June 30*]

1844 of May the 14th Left Independence & proceeded on to West port Roads extremely bad owing to the Leate greate rains

15 at Westport morning dull slight rains
(Cr. to 5.00 5.50
Lent Harris\$15.25 Cents
Wm Fallan⁸³ 2.00

about 10 left West port continues to rain all day passed the head of Blue River came to camp at Elm Brook passed the methodist mission and Several Shawnee Indian Formes in the course of the day made 18 miles

16 It rained all night last night in one continued and rapid Shower This morning the whole prairie covered in water Shoe mouth deep no wood to be had except what we had hauled in waggons Started throug the rain about 8 miles over a roling prairie covered nearly

3* in
Matted
In Sep to Vancouver
1844

knee deep in mud and water camped about ½ mile from timber packed some up to camp on our mules it continued to rain all night Slightly

16 [17] got up our teams and put to the road again made 9 miles to Black Jack creek ^{BULL CREEK} amuddy desolate looking place about non to day left the Sant a fee trace these are two of the longest roads that are perhaps in the world the one to Sant Afee and the other to oregon doubled teams nearly all the way Both teams Swamped down and had to unload our team breakeing an axeltree

17 [18] about 9 oclock it begain to rain again it [rained] all day so much that we could not finish our axeltr[ee] continued to rain all night and our beds ware overflown in water nearly mid side deep

19 Sunday a dismal rainy thick morning. all Brot to Stand about 11 A M after a Tremendeous Shower it Slacked up for the rest of the day got a new axel tree in and reloaded our waggon Saw & picked a considerabble fine mess of ripe Strawberies

20 Thick and foggy the women & children are coming out again haveing been confined to the waggons for 2 days past went to a camp of 4 waggons in the fore noon returned and crossed the western Branch of Black Jack ^{CAPTAIN CREEK} country high roling Prairie interspersed with numerous small groves of Timber Five wagons left encamped a ½ mile Behind us Two men returned this morning after some cattle that had strayed away

afternoon doubled teams and moved 4 miles camped on a high ridge in a small grove of Brack oak 2 fine looking yong Ladies in camp

22 Laid at camp all day to wait for the falling of the waters and drying of the roads 2 teams that ware behind came up this evening

(22 Moved ahead 8 miles over roling hilly Prairie 6 miles crossed dirty muddy Brook ^{LITTLE WAKARUSA?} camped on the waukarusha Quite a fine little rivulet with a fine dry bank on the East Side) Several Shawnee Indians pased our camp yestarday and to day a fine clear day with brisk south wind (dug a kind of a road down the bank &c.)

23 a fine clear night and a pleasant morning the small river Waukarusha (to) yet to ford with teams walked out through camp observed all sizes and ages Several fine intelegent young Ladies engaged one of them to make me a pair of Pantaloons picked some strawberries a handsome country fine land but timber shrubby 5 waggons came up to day 2 men from the mountains stoped an hour at our camp from some of the trading Stations on the arkansas (a Lot of pack mules Likewise passed us on their way to Fort Larrimie)

We have been passing through lands sofar belonging to the Shawnee nation or Tribe of Indians nearly all of which Tribe have Quit hunting and gone into a half civilized manner of living cultivating small Lots of ground in corn Beans Potatoes and grains and vegetables their country is almost intierly striped of all kinds of game but is fine and Productive in grains and Stock both horses and cattle Timber is scarce but finely watered in part the trail passes through (The company of pack mules and ponies that passed to day are a part of Mr. Bissenette^{s 84} and will [follow] 7 or 800 miles of our rout)

(24 It rained all night by day light our teams ware moving to the river which we had been expecting [to] fall but which began to rise again we let down by cords over a steep rock bluff through mud knee deep an[d] in the rain pouring in torrents) me[n] women and children dripping in mud and water over Shoe mouth deep and I Thought I never saw more determined resolution even amongst men than most of the female part of our company exhibited The leaving of home of near andear friend the war whoop and Scalping Knif The long dreary Journey the privations of a life in a Tent with all the horrors of flood and field and even the element seemed to combine to make us uncomfortable But still there was a determined resolution sufficient to overcome all obsicles with the utmost exertion we crssed over 20 waggons by about 10 o'clock when the waters became too deep to cross and in about an hour it rose so as to swim a horse it continued to rain in rapid Thunder Showers all day with a strong S.W. wind

(25th It slacked raining about dusk and did not rain any during the night tho river rose 6 or 7 Feet during the night) about 8 the sun made a (a) faint glimring appearance (all hands Buisy in contriving ways and means to cross the teams remaining on the oposite side We had a kind of an election which resulted in the chois of Col [Nathaniel] Ford for our cap^t or leader) By a considerable of a majority all seem to enjoy good health not with standing our extremely disagreeable Situation and a M^r. [L.] Everhart who is taking a trip for his health swam his horse several times since [coming] here and is making rapid impovements in his health (one verry ordinary conoe being all we have for a ferry boat our crossing, progresses verry slowly and the water continues still rising)

26 a fine pleasant night and a clear morning the Ladies passing from Tent to Tent Early our ferrying continues to progress Slowly Some young men got a hymn Book and sung a few familiar reformation

camp meeting songs last night which had a peculiar Symphonic and feeling Effect in connection with the time and place. a call was made this morning for a regular organization

J Crissman [Joel Crisman] 8 [votes], head of our mess

S Crissman

J McKinley 1

S[amuel] Walker 5 2

K [Robert?] Walker 3

J. M. Barnette 4

J Clyman 5

B[enjamin] M. Robinson

L. Morin

T. M. Adams

A[ttey]. Neal 7

P[eter]. Neal 5

G[eorge] Neal

Alex Neal 6

Cal[vin] Neal 1

J [Robert?] Neal

L EverHart

Snooks⁸⁵ 6

J Hillhouse

The before Mentioned men 19 in number in 7 waggons formed in to one mess for mutual assistance in Traveling and encamping near togeather (about 2 o'clock we got all our Teams waggons and Baggage over & ascertained that there ware 92 men present) made some regulations to prepare for keeping of a night and day guard as we are now not more (the) [than] 2 days easy travel from the Kaw Indian villagis the first of the wild roveing tribes that we meet with on our way this evening two waggons that ware in the rear came up opposite side & we ware told that 12 or 15 Teams are yet comeing on it has been fine and clear & the evening pleasant the Ladies gave us a few hymns in the afternoon which had a pleasant meloncholly affect

27 A great stir commenced early & a little after sun rise waggons began to roll out at 7 in morning we made 8 miles in an Northerly direction over a picturesque and rather hilly prairie The waukarusha that has given us somuch trouble & consumed so much time is about 12 rods wide running from S.W. to N.E. & Entering the Kansas or Kaw river about 8 or 10 miles below our last encampment for the first time we have this evening encamped on ridge of prairie & in the form of a hollw squair early in the afternoon it commenced raining again & rained in thunder showers all night

28 The earth completely covered in water at 7 got under way although it continued rain a thick fine rain 2 gents and myself started for the Kansas river with a view of examining the roads and the ferry proceeded on about 18 miles to acreek & found it verry high and rapid being swollen by the last nights rains turned loose our animals to graze and consult remained about an hour saw a heavy shower

? SAUNGANUNGA

⁸⁵ Perhaps the P. Snooks who was wounded in the Cascade fight during the Yakima war in 1856.

coming up from S.W. Saddled our mules & after finding the creek was swimming, (and) started back for camp a tremendous shower came on before we fairly got saddled and in 10 minuits we ware completely drenched with rain it continued to rain all the way to camp the roads being deep and heavey thee teams ware Scattered about 2 miles in length along the open prairie ridge on which they ware traveling each one pressing on to some shelter through mud and rain became discouraged one by one and stoped on the ground whare they happened to be many without fire or cooked provision to nurrish them after a verry tidious & toilsome d[a]ys drive I arived at my mess wet as water could make me and found them all sheltering themselves in the best way they could about the waggons they ware fortunate enough however to have furnished themselves with a fair supply of wood & now commenced the tug of war for the rain again renewed its strength & fell in perfect sluces as though the windows of heaven had again been broken up and a second deluge had commenced intermingled with vived flashes of Lightning and deep growling thunder which continued until about dark when it slaked up for the night, and here let me say there was one young Lady which showed herself worthy of the bravest undaunted poiener of [the] west for after having kneaded her dough she watched and nursed the fire and held an umblella over the fire and her skillit with the greatest composure for near 2 hours and baked bread enough to give us a verry plentifull supper and to her I offer my thanks of gratitude for our last nights repast Billitts of wood ox yokes Saddles and all kinds of matter now Became in requisition to raise our bodies above the water and we spent a verry uncomfortable night in all the forms of moisture short of swimming

29 Truged around through the mud and water Shoe mouth deep got a bite of Breakfast and put to the road again our whole distance yesterday being about 12 miles again made a scattering drive 6 miles to the Tunga Nunga the creek spoken of yesterday in the afternoon all the teams came up encamped on a fine dry Bluff on the S side had a clear night and fine

30 Morning rode over to the Kansas found it verry full and S. Bank overflown several teams crossed to day the day fine & fair saw a number of the Kaw Iindians a misrable poor dirty Lazy Looking Tribe and disgusting in the extreme To lazy to work and to cowardly to go to the boffaloe whare they frequently meet with their enemies get a few killed and return to dig roots Beg and starve 2 or 3 months then make another effort which may or may not be more successfull our

ferrying goes on slowly it being difficult to get to the boat on account of the low grounds being overflown⁸⁶

31 a fine clear night and a pleasant morning Mr Texas Smiths⁸⁷ mess leaving for the Ferry & Capt Ford followed our mess remain to give the women a chance for washing passed on to the Kansas about 16 waggons having passed over the river without much difficulty.

1844 June the 1^s Saturday

made 4 mils yesterday Encamped on the Bluff near the Ferry performed a singular and Farcicle operation of guarding our stock running loose on the Prairie & found them more scattered this morning than if we had let them roam at (at) large a warm morning with the appearance of rain went out early to get in our horseess could not find my horse and a mess mates mule both fine animals slept restlessly rose early

2 Started in search of my horse & comrades morins mule rode around our encampment several times and back on our trail 3 or 4 miles at last took the track down the course of the Kansas on an

⁸⁶ Buck, in his *History of Milwaukee*, quotes the following from the *Milwaukee Sentinel* of August 11, 1844. Col. Elisha Starr was the editor of that paper:

We received the following letter a few days since from Col. Clyman, who is on his way to Oregon Territory, with a company who intend to settle in that country. Col. C. was formerly a resident of this county, and will be remembered by many as a veteran, who has had almost as many hairbreadth escapes as the celebrated Col. Crockett, of whom he is not a bad representative.

Tonga Morgia [Nunga] Creek, Four Miles West of Kaw Village)
May 30, 1844.

Friend Starr:—We arrived here yesterday; thirty-nine wagons, about one hundred men, and about the same number of women and children, in all I have been but a few days in camp, and cannot give particulars, with twenty or thirty teams yet behind. Forty-one teams are north of the Kansas river, and ten teams three or four days ahead of us. You will perceive by this time that we muster about one hundred wagons, and from five to seven hundred souls, when we are fairly collected.

We have had almost one continued shower of rain since we left the settlements. We are commencing to cross the Kansas river today, which will occupy all our exertions for the next two or three days. We shall not all get collected in one company in less than eight or ten days. Our last and general meeting will take place on the highlands between the Kansas and Great Platte rivers, eighty or a hundred miles northwest from our present position. The traveling thus far has been the worst possible (to be possible,) at all prairie encampments, without wood, and wallowing in mud, swimming creeks and rivers. But all, thus far, have got along well, and without serious loss or accident. The ladies in particular have evinced an uncommon degree of fortitude and resignation under all hardships and privations incident to traveling in mud and water.

All right, go ahead, and no grumbling.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES CLYMAN.

⁸⁷ It is not strange that this gentleman was traveling under a pseudonym. He was an Albany bank officer who had absconded. He made a trip around the world, became a rich and prosperous merchant, and was finally exposed by an army officer who recognized him. He was driven to dissipation and ruin and returned to his family in the East. His real name was Egbert Olcott. Cf. S. A. Clarke in *Overland Monthly*, vol. 10, pp. 410-415.

Indian trail followed our animals about 8 miles when they left the trail and went in to a thicket where our animals had been tied [to] a couple of large trees and saw the bed where one of the Kaws had spread his couch near by and taken a happy and no doubt pleasant repose over his rascally and ill gotten treasure after examination we followed on again over rocky bluffs smooth prairies and brushy thickets until no doubt we were discovered for our animals had been put to the keen jump and run 3 or 4 miles when caution again was taken and hard rocky bluffs again taken until we became discouraged and nearly lost ourselves arrived at 5 evening at camp

3 put to stand to know what measures to take to recover our lost animals crossed over the river hired two Indians and made another trail to find our animals went back to where we left the trail last night followed it 5 or 6 miles to where we came to the main wagon trail about 15 miles East of our encampment 9 Teams having passed a few hours previous we could not follow any further Returned to camp tired and dejected with fair prospect of making the remainder of our long Toilsome Journey to Oregon on foot

and here let me remark that this is [the] third season that a considerable emigration has passed right through the Kaw village and crossed the Kansas at this place yet I have not heard that Major Cummings or any other agent or Interpreter has ever been here at the time they passed which is certainly a great dereliction of the duties of an agent Last year I understand that the Emigrant[s] lost that never were returned 3 or 4 horses & 20 or thirty head of neat cattle and a considerable amount of other property and we have lost 200 Dollars worth of horses mules and other property which might be mostly recovered if time would permit and we had an interpreter that would look to our interest but as it is we must submit without recourse the Kaws are now starting on their summer hunt and our stolen horses cannot be obtained until they return which will not be until some time about the first of August or later

4th a Thick foggy morning 9 clear off fine & pleasant all hands still engage getting our stock across the river which is beginning to fall one of our Indians returned without finding our animals nine Teams came up on the opposite side of the river I am inclined to think that there is a much better route than the one we are taking By crossing the Kansas at ferry on the Military road leading from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Scott and Taking the high lands between the Kansas and Wolf river still Keeping west after passing Wolf river between the Nimihaw and Kansas until you pass the heads of the Nimihaw you gain the main high land between the Kansas & Great

IN GENERAL, THE ROUTE PROPOSED BY CORNELIUS GILMAN CO. THIS SAME YEAR.

Platt where insted of Swiming rivers you will heave to shape your course so as to strike water once or twice a day and bear on to the Great platt near the head of the grand Island

5th crossed over the river went 10 miles up the river to the village of the head chief a tall lean wrinkld faced Filthy looking man with a forehead indicating deceet Dissimilitoin and intrigue and more like a Beggarly scape gallows than a Chief but nodoubt these fine Qualities are higly prized by the Kaw nation after telling him through an interperter that whites wanted nothing of the Kaws than a passage through their country the water thy drank and the wood thy kooked their victual with all other things that thy injured or used they would pay for and that I took it verry unkindly of him to allow his young men to steal our horses and cattle He talked with great energy assuring me that if he could See his rascally scamps with our horses he would immediatly bring them to us and assured us that in three days he thought we might expect to see our horses I howewer put but little confidene in his asseverations a clear warm day and a warm night.

6 Returned to camp awarm clar morning all waiting for the rear of our camp to cross the river about dusk in the evening Jo a kaw who speaks pretty fair English came up to our camp & told me that 2 young men had been down to the Shawnees and came back with three ponies Suspitions had rested on these two scamps for some days past that they had stolen our animals and now the thing was Explained

7 Three of us and two friendly Kaws started to overtake the two horse thieves who had followed a party that ware starting out on a Buffeloe hunt it commenced raining early & continued all day late in the afternoon after swiming two creeks & wadeing three more breast deep I arived at [the] village in the midst of a Tremendeous hail storm And found about 20 Drunken Indians in a dirt covered lodge half knee deep in water Judge of my feeling a rapid hail Storm out[side] a hog wallow within all in unison the Thunder Lightning & hail the schreems an yells within and my object to recover stolen property being instantly known all eyes ware directed on me a loud angry Quarrel commenced between my Friends and enemies and my situation was far from being envious for Knives ware soon drawn and one Flurrished over my head the indian that held it was soon grapled & a half dozen ware as soon wallowing in the mud on the ground floor of the Lodge

8 (Returned to camp which had moved about 12 miles up the river) did not reach the camp till after midnight in a tremendous

thunder Shower lay down dripping with water and as soon as I became warm fell asleep and slept soundly untill day light though the water raised in a perfect Spring in under us

9 Sundy

(no guard last night and [rose?] two horses and two mules missing walked up the creek a little and saw the Moccasin tracks under a steep Bluff) all explained the animals ware Stolen after a considerable search found whare they had swam the creek (Capt Ford and 10 men went in persuit could not move camp on account of high water in the afternoon Capt Ford Discovered two indians on high points in the prairie on approaching them he found they were in possession of his lost animals and he brought them to camp the Kaws said that they found the mules & horses in possession of an Oto Indian whom they beat and whiped and took the stolen horses from him and ware returning to us with them when capt Ford first saw them but this story did not go down with many of us)

10th it commenced raining about an hour before or 2 before day-
light and rained all day without a moments cesation the creek on which we are encamped bears the dignified name of CRASS CREEK and rose 15 feet during the day the [Kaws] that had Capt Fords Horses went away to day verry much disadised not getting as much pay as they expected) Several of us tried to make them understand that we had sent to Fort Levenworth for an escort of (of) dragoons & hope it may have a good efect

11 It continued to rain all night and is still raining the prairie has become so soft that it will [not] bear the weight of a man in many places Several persons are becomeing discouraged on account of our slow progress and it is almost enough to discourage the stoutest and bravest amongst us (I now see the water spreading on all the low grounds & if it was not for the strip of timber it [would] have the appearance of an extensive Lake)

12 No guard last night it rained all night but not so rapid as to keep the creek up as it fell about 3 feet 8 oclock we saw a watry glance of the sun for about a minuit all camp regulations are lost & each individual seeking a dry Sheltered spot to stand or lie down on our Tents beds blankets clothing provision and every thing almost rotting and no prospect of drying them and even our cattle are Scarcely able to walk the muddy weather having given them the fouts. (It still continues to rain moved camp a 1/2 mile to escape the mud which resembled a brick yard on our old encampment without the least stretch of immagination

13 (It rained all last night verry rapidly & the creek rose again 6

or 8 feet 10 A.M. we saw the sun & a general shout was raised through all the camp after 80 hours steady rain we saw the Kansas river from the Bluffs & it shews 8 or 10 miles wide the sun shines pale and watry with no fair prospects of clear weather

A great Dijection in camp as it is imposible to overcome natures obstacles & many are brooding over fine houses dry beds & pleasant Society all of which are scarce here on the bluffs of Knife river & the distance and circumstance allmost seem to forbid our ever regaining any of the comforts of civitization and verry little encouragemet can be given to the fearefull and Timerous

14th A thick foggy morning but Some prospect of Better weather sadly disappointed we barly saw the sun through thick foggy showers aand the day closed in without drying our clothes & provisions.

15 a dull Foggy morning without any pospect of clear weather a disaffected camp without unity or concert in any matter except Sleeping which is performed by the male part of the camp to the greatest perfection several complaining of the chollic

(10 oclck Maijor Richard Cummings arived on the oposite side of the creek on his way home from running some lines between The Kaws & Pawnees the maijor is goverments agent for the Kaw & Several other tribes of Neighbouring Indians & we ware well pleased to see him so near us) CUMMINGS

16 Sunday

the clouds braking away with a prospect of fair weather to dry our Baggage one clear day the first we have seen for 8 drid all our Baggage and commenced making a raft to cross the creek the camp looks Quite cheerfull this evening and our prospects have a better appearance for Traveling

17 Commenced early to make preperations for crossing the creek about [?] it commenced hailing from the west but soon changed to rain one hour more of fair weather would have seen apart of us on the other side but such was not our fortune and when we will be able to leave the Bluff on which we are encamped the Lord in his provedence either of Mercy or anger only knows

(At 2 P.M. the rain slaked up & all hands to work again we By active exertion crossed over 19 Teams and encamped on a miserably dirty muddy Bottom that had been overflown 6 or 8 feet deep only 24 Hours previous)

18 Thunder & an appearance of more rain a warm sultry disagreeable morning & no better pospect of dry weather than there was a month since when the rains commenced (against all expectation the

day passed without rain and all hands moved out about 1 mile on the Prairie & the sun set clear for once at last)

19 How Sadly are we frequently mistaken when we depend on our own calculations for the sun had hardly shot its last rays over the western horizon when a small Black cloud shewed itself in the S.W. and the grumblng thunder began to growl & in ten minuits a rapid thunder Shower was desending in torrents on us which however was not of long duration for it passd off to the S.E. & about dark gave us a Splended natural meteorick Exhibition the electrik fluid Sparkling and flashing in front & byond the dark heavy masses of fleecy cloud which shewed like frowning mountains Stupendeous rocks & deep chasms & dark raviens illuminated with dazzeing brileancy too bright & glancing for the eye to dwel on & might be truly be called the Sublime awful Rolled out early through the rain which continued untill 12 o'clock when the sun broke out had several views of the Kansas river which was overflown from Bluff to Bluff 8 or 10 miles wide made 10 miles

encamped on a narrow ridge 1/2 mile from timber a Bright clear evining and a fine view of extensive uneven Prairie prospect ~~look speak?~~

20 A fine fair morning rolled out along a ridge Northwardly on account of the back water from the Kansas made 5 miles and halted to look for a passage over the Black vermilion Several returned after some hours of fruitless search the Teamsters becoming tired of waiting took a S.W. Ridge made about 5 miles & encamped a good ford having been discovered on the best course we returned to camp the day haveing been clear & bright the highlands are becoming firm. S27 T8 R9?

21 Some for Rafting near the mouth of the creek some for returning to the ford discovered and some for hunting another ford after about 4 hours search another ford was discovered and we rolled out to it Distant 3 miles and immediate set to work to prepare the banks (which are verry steep and muddy) for crossing in about 2 hours we commenced crossing & more than half the teams passed over the river Jordan (or vermillion as it is called) and if Jordan more black & muddy than this stream it would hardly run, observed several marien shells in flint rock and some pieces of petrified wood (a fine clear day)

22 A clear night & a fine Beautifull morning yestardy Mr. Robinson Mr Morin & Mr [Isaac W.] Alderman Returned without Sloten [stolen] animals which ware taken on the First of this month after Swimming Sawping and wadeing and enduring inumerable hardships almost Beyond discription we once more gladly hailed our messmates to camp They Likewise brot us some news From civiliza-tion The streams South and east being all overflown ennumerable

DEEP CR / ~~FROM~~ RILEY CREEK?

LAST CREEK

RED VERMILION

S33 T8 R11?

FRESH LACLEDE

damage Sweeping Fences Houses Barns & in fine distroying all kinds of Property on the intervalles so far as heard from And Likewise information from the Political world As it appears there to there has been a great Troubling & Striving of the eliments the mountain having at last brot forth J. K. Polk Cap^t Tyler & the invincible Henry Clay as candidates for the Presidency. go it Clay. Just whigs enough in camp to take the curse off; made 14 miles along a narrow Prairie ridge and found fine water in a little grove of Elms

23 Sunday

a Fine clear morning noticed a great many granite Boulders some of a Fine vermilion Tint verry compact & handsome scattered on a limestone Strata At 10 A.M. Struck the oregon trace on Cannon Ball Creek greate Joy at finding the trail and a good ford Crossed over without delay or difficulty except the breaking of an axeltree which was repaired in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour made 12 miles and encamped on a small Brook with a Plentifull scarcity of wood (made 12 miles) the country verry uneven and broken in an immense number and veriety of conicle nolls all Beautyfully covered and clothed in grass But we found the ravine soft and deep & many Teams doubled over

24 Rolled out at sun rise and at 11 reached Burr oak creek a deep dirty stream about 10 rods wide all the Banks and bottoms having Been overflown found the date of M^r Gillhams [Cornelius Gilliam] company having crossed 4 days previous crossed over in 2 hours although we had to let down our wagons down a steep Slipery bank by hand to day struck our old trail made on our return from the mountains in 1827 when I had the honorable post of being pilot Some points look quite familiar although I never passed but once & that time nearly 17 years ago our evening camp in particular game is verry scarce but one deer having been killed made 14 mils

25th A thunder shower came on early & continued at entervalls all night found Middle camp creek overflown and it still raining Rolled out at 1 oclock through the rain & went up the creek 2 or 3 miles to a shallow ford crossed over with out difficulty made 5 miles by the old trace & encamped on the Smoky fork or Blue fork (of Kansas). found two canoes left by those ahead

26 a dull Cloudy morning rolled up to the place of embarcation this stream is about 80 yards wide and has fine intervalle and prairie lands based on a fine white Limestone but timber is rather scarce Here we had an awfull time in crossing our Stock the Botoms and [word omitted] being so soft from the over flowings of watter that we had to Litterly drag our animals several rods to swiming water and again from it and in all probabillity the everlasting hill never since

the deluge experianaced such a superabundance of moisture particularly the immediate cuntry through which we have to pass got more than half our wagons over & cattle enough to drag our wagon to dry land about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant by hitching all to one wagon at a time

27 a thick foggy morning it rained yestarday which is so common that I neglected to mention it got all our camp over before night Mr Sublett & party arived on the oposite side Mr. Sublett's party consists of 20 men 11 of whom are Sick and traveling for health one of which died and was Buried this morning about 15 miles East of this Poor fellow Marshall by name JAMES H. MARSHALL his fair companion accompanied him from St Louis and tenderly watched over him to Indipendence whare thy seperated Kind companion her worst fears are realized her Husbands bones rest Quietly forever on the bluffs of oak creek whare no noise disturbs his rest but the carrol of summer wild birds and the nightly howl of the lonely wolf the day proved to be one unusualy fine

28th Left our encampment early which was in several respects the finest we have made consisting of a nice little little grove of Hackbery & elm timber a beautifull Spring of cool clear water runing past well stored with goosberry shrubbery some of which we had for coffe Tea I cannot call it as we had none the rest was covered with an uneven ridge of Limestone rock on the east runs Blue river meandering through a grove of Hickory walnut oak and cottonwood timber cap^d with fine conical green nolls and ridges to South lies the wally of Blue revir a fine prairie soile & handsom little Brooks passing through our rout to day lay north westwardly ovie rathe uneven Prairie ridge Beetwen the main Blue & the wesst fork of the sane made 16 miles & encamped on the east of the ridge

29 A Strong South wind all night with thunder Showers passing for once they mised us weather very warm & the road soft & heavy but fine Black rich soil Tried to Stand guard last night a good deal of grumbling & discontent amongst those that have horses & those that have none some not even wanting a camp guard our pilot Mr Harris's. 22 years experianc and advice is perfectly useless in this age of improvement when human intelect not only strides but actually Jumps & flies into conclusions Traveled 16 miles over uneven prairie & circuitous crooked road Some miles migt be saved and a better track by following the main ridge 3 or 4 miles South of the wagon trail corssed rock Creek late and encamped on the W. sid [of] it. a rapid shower of rain fell in the afternoon & 4 or 5 Team came up so late as not to cross the creek raised and at dark wa swiming another heavy shower fell at day light (Sunday

30th The creek still rising and verry rapid this creek is branch of Little Blue or west fork of Blue river & affords some usefull Timber fine grass & good soil a verry warm day almost to suffication. The trace we have been traveling follows neare the dividing ridge between the main Blue & the west fork and is the highest land in the country one or two teams that had been 2 days behind came up to day Laid still to day to await the falling of the creek that all the teams might get to gather our camp is on rather a sandy soil the first we have seen on upland since we passed the waukarusha

[MEMBERS OF THE TRAIN IN ACCOUNT WITH CLYMAN]

M. [M.] Warnbaugh [Wornbaugh] ⁸⁸	\$2.50
J. D. Perkey ⁸⁹	2.50
[Samuel and William] Packwoods [Packwood] ⁹⁰	6.00
Doty [N. R. Dougherty?]	2.50
Gillespie ⁹¹	2.50
Priest	2.50
[John R. and John H. P.] Jackson ⁹² & Co.	3.50
[Henry] Williamson ⁹³	2.50
[James] Hunt	2.50
W[illiam] Smith	10.00
Howard ⁸⁹	1.50
[Isaac N.] Gilbert ⁹⁴	2.50
Blakesly [Blakely] ⁹⁵	2.50
N[orris] Humphrey	1.00
Boyd ⁸⁹	1.00
J. L. Mulkey	3.50
N[athaniel] Ford ⁹⁶	11.00
Alf. Devenport ⁸⁹	2.50

⁸⁸ Came to California in 1846. Bancroft spells the name Warnsbough and Wambough. I take the above spelling from a letter of his in the *Oregon Spectator*, April 30, 1846, in which he announces to his creditors that he is about to leave for the "Spanish country" to "work in the redwoods."

⁸⁹ Not mentioned in the list of 1844 emigrants in the *Trans. Ore. Pioneer Assoc.* 1876, pp. 40-42.

⁹⁰ William Packwood moved into the Puget Sound country in 1847, settled on the Nisqually River, and is said to have been "the first *bona fide* American settler north of Olympia." He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1857.

⁹¹ Perhaps the John Gillespie killed by Indians on the Rogue River, Oct., 1855.

⁹² John R. Jackson was one of the first settlers in the Puget Sound country. John H. P. may have been the Jackson who went to California with the Stephens-Murphy party.

⁹³ Williamson and Alderman attempted to squat on Hudson Bay Company territory within a half-mile of Fort Vancouver. The controversy over their rights became a famous one involving a practical interpretation of British-American joint occupancy. Williamson is said to have come to California during the gold rush. Alderman was murdered at Fort Sutter in 1848.

⁹⁴ Made first plat of the town of Salem, Oregon. He is probably the same Gilbert to whom Clyman entrusted the letters for Spaulding and Whitman.

⁹⁵ Mentioned as a captain in the war with the Rogue River Indians in 1856.

⁹⁶ Elected Supreme Judge at Champoeg convention, April 1845; declined and Burnett succeeded him; elected county treasurer June, 1847; state senator, 1866-68; held other offices; died in Dixie Polk County, Oregon, Jan. 9, 1870.

Rolin ⁸⁹	5.00
Cordel ⁸⁹	4.00
[James] Harper	1.50
W. L. Black ⁸⁹	2.50
Eli Perkins ⁸⁹	3.50
Joel Perkins ⁹⁷	3.50
John Perkins	3.50
James Johnson ⁹⁸	3.50
Daniel Johnson	2.50
R[uel] Olas [Owless]	2.50
P[ee] Williams	3.50
Wm Clark ⁸⁹	3.50
B[arton B.] Lee ⁹⁹	2.50
J[ames] Welch ¹⁰⁰	2.50
M. R. Perin ⁸⁹	2.50
Wm Weer	3.50
Noyes Smith	3.50
Steevens	2.50
Joel Chrisman [Crisman] ¹⁰¹	5.00
[Isaac W.] Alderman ⁹³	2.00
Neals & Co.	3.50
Barnett	2.50
Evans ⁸⁹	1.00
Mr.	2.00
McMahan	2.50
Big Kaw ⁸⁹ [the interpreter?]	
Goff ¹⁰²	

June the 25th 1844
Expences incurred in getting lost Horses

J Clyman paid Chief	\$2 50
Young Indian	2 50
Ferriage	2 00
	7 00

B[enjamin] M. Robinson paid	\$5.00
Form Clyman	3 12 1/2
Own Cash	2 00
Morin "	1 25
Clyman again	
	11.50

L Morin ⁸⁹ paid	11.75
on various occasions	
	30.25

⁹⁷ There were two of these, father and son, one founded the town of Lafayette Oregon, in the early '50's.

⁹⁸ Brought the first flax-seed to Oregon. Homespun linen was manufactured from the crop in 1845.

⁹⁹ A member of the Oregon legislature in 1845. Came to California during the gold rush.

¹⁰⁰ Located a claim at "Shively's Astoria," in 1846.

¹⁰¹ The head of Clyman's mess. He was a Virginian, and died in Yamhill County, Oregon, in 1875.

¹⁰² There were at least three Goffs with the 1844 train, David, Samuel & Marion. David guided the J. Quinn Thornton party over the Applegate road in 1846.

[BOOK 2]

[Cover]
July 1, 1844[Little Blue River to Red Buttes near the mouth of the Sweetwater,
July 1 to August 14]Oregon Emigrants Camp
Rock creek July the 1st 1844

The above named rock creek seems to be almost arbitrary there being but one rock seen & that one a loose boulder but Lying right in the middle of the ford the sun rose nearly clear while the grumbling thunder was heard to the South the road very heavy and several wagons stuck in the low grounds & ravines small groves of Timber seen either to the right or left some sand Shews itself in the trail to day which is hailed with delight as being our Saviour from mud in which we have ate drank Traveled slept and breathed continually ever since we left the settlements & about 2 weeks previous made 13 miles & encamped on dry sandy ridge near COTTONWOOD CREEK Cotton creek which runs S. Westwardly into the west fork or little blue

2 A thick foggy morning walked about ½ a mile back on the trail to see a mountain of Petrifications this mound is 150 or 200 feet above the level of the small streams passing to the south of it & is formed [of] grey lime rock near the top which rock is intirely composed of shells & other manrine matter greate portions of it is broken up verry fine near the surface every fragment of which shews a shell of various sicess and shapes & at least a dozen differant kinds another Shower of rain fell this morning rode out saw deep ravine washed out of marly lime stone about 8 feet deep which was intirely composed of Shells in a solid compact form remained in camp to day on account of high water the afternoon clear & fine

3 Foggy cool with an East wind Cottonwood creek fell four or five feet Last night many of the small Brooks in the Neighbourhood completely choked up with slides of earth froom the contiguous Bluff the Bluffs & banks formed of round wased gravel & Shell rock Based on a strong clay bed 10 A.M. a Shower of rain Turned out to Bridg the creek but returned to await its falling Mr. Subletts again came up having buried one more of his invalids Mr. Ketchup by name June 30? three days since at his camp called by him Ketchums grave 10 miles West of Blue river Mr Ketchum was [a] yong man his Brother came with him and attended him to his grave in this greate wilderness of Prairie which streches in all most all directions beyond the field of vision

4th of July the sun rose in pale misty magesty and was saluted by Several guns forom thoes owt on the morning watch Soon after the Stars & Stripes floted in the Breeze the american Jubilee was but little further noticed than that the star Spangled Banner floated from Esq^r Rolands¹⁰³ waggon throughout the day crossed cotton wood and left Fossil Bluffs with all their once numerous animated family and made 12 miles crossed Sandy a Broad Shallow Stream with sand barrs and Isleands running nearly S. W. into west fork or little Blue our rout to day was near the ridge dividing Cottonwood and West fork and was dryer and firmer than any 12 miles previously traveled over although the rains have been frequent and rapid

5th A verry warm Night & a warm morning the Musketoës troublesome Several persons compaining of the Rhumatism & Dyentery it thundred and Lightned all night although it did not rain made 14 miles over uneven Prairie crossed 4 shallwo sandy Brooks all Tributary^s of west fork & encamped on the last mentioned stream which stream is about 40 yards wide and runs rapidly over a Sandy bed course From N W. to S E. large intervalles as much as 3 miles wide no timber except cottonwood and willows The wind from the S & air extremely warm at about 5 P.M. the wind suddenly shifted to the N & it insantly became cooll enough to want our coats saw severall antelop to day & for the first [time] & some of the men killed one of them

6th A fine cool morning the wind from North for the first time since we left the Settlement a cool N.E. wind all day made 17 miles up the W. Fork mostly on the interval encamped on a low bottom a Tremendious thunder shower came up before sundown which lasted untill 9 o'clock two or 3 dozen of fine catfish was caught & in fact all the tributaries of the Kansas seem well stored with that Species of fish and have been easily taken when ever the water has been low enough to permit us to approach the main Banks of the streams which however has been seldom Mr Subletts party passed us to day and we are now in the rear of all the different parties traveling over the western praries passed some fine Bottom lands to day but little timber and that not valuable the wolves howled vehemently around us last night

7th Sunday the creek bank full this morning wind N.E. a thick drizzely morning the road laid out from the creek at the heads of the ravines about 12 The sun broke through the misty clouds & we stoped to water & graze on the reshes which have been plenty in

¹⁰³ Perhaps Levi L. Rowland, later Superintendent of Public Instruction in Oregon.

patches for several days horses & cattle feed on them voraciously 2 miles Brod us up to Mr Sublett party of invalids whane they had Just finished intering Mr Browning who left this troublesome world last night at 11 oClock the season has been the worst possible for Sick persons generally allthough the 3 or 4 consumptives travelling with us are mending slowly made 16 miles to day the afternoon near the creek which has diminished since we first came on its banks saw some Beaver cutting for the first observed the earth is becoming much firmer notwithstanding the rains.

8th Another Foggy morning we are beginning to camp in Tolerable order running the wagons on a level piece of ground and forming a Square round or oblong Krale the tents Pitched on the outside the fires still on the outside of the tents and the guard outside of all the horses & other valuables in the Koral a little afternoon passed the great Pawnee Lodge trail leading South came near Splitting camp there being Several trails and as many nominal pilots but all but one wagon came up to camp in the evening the Bluffs and ravines shew a geat flood at some time more vilent than any I ever observed in the states made 18 miles and encamped on a brook Tributory to the West fork nothing but willows for fire wood But we are told that we need not expect any better verry soon our course to day South of West

9 It thundred & Ligtnd all night & Several Showers of rain fell during the night the morning fair several patches of Short Buffaloe grass made its appearance about our camp made 10 miles N.W. over deep cut ravines in a loose soft clay intermixed with fine sand encamped on the bluffs of a small Brook Lying deep below the surrounding level of the country wood and water scarce & difficult to approach Several Teams remained at last encampment to await the appearance of a young emigrant who came on & overtook us at 5 oclock P.M. in riding this forenoon a Short distance south of the trail we fell in a deep vally amid the bare clay Bluffs which realized allmost all the fabled scent of the much Fabled Spice groves [of] arabia or India for more than 2 miles the odours of the wild rose & many other oderiferous herbs scented the whole atmosphere But the groves ware wanting nothing but gnarled cotton woods ware seen

10 A Light Shower of rain fell about Sun rise roled out across the devide between the head of Kansas & the great Platt and from the eye I should Judge that the main platte is as high or higher than the Kansas near our last nights encampment a narrow row of low sand hills running paralel with and not more than 6 or 8 miles from the platte being the only deviding ridge. all the water South of the sand hills

runing into the Kansas and none at all runnin into the platte this last named stream being the most muddy & in fact a grate deal more muddy than the Missourie itself the father of mud made 17 miles & encamped on the Platt near the riddle of the grand Island the country as far as the eye can reach is as level as a pond except the low sand hills before mentioned

11th A cool Pleasant morning no wood but a few dry willows and Quite small made 18 miles up the south side of the River over a level Prarie no timber except a few cotton wood Trees & them all confined to the Islands in the river which are numerous but generally small the Prairie ponds are wellls[t]ored with wild ducks [these] with a few antelope constuite all the game yet seen & but feew of them precured a rapid shower of rain about sun down This river Platt has a channel not much less than three miles wide and the intervale from Bluff to Bluff as much as 12 miles wide the bank from 2 to 4 feet high above the water whare it is 4 feet high it is remarkable dry and hard formed of a fine pale tenacious clay and fine dead sand remarkabel hard and smoothe

12th A clear morning and a fine day but verry warm the same Level country the want of wood and water except the river and the long grass on the lowlands made 20 miles and encamped near some low willow Islands from which we obtained dry willows sufficient to make fire for the night Several antelope ware killed to day and a number of wild ducks seen— had a fair view of our camp traveling as seen from the Bluffs about a mile distant they made Quite a picturesque [appearance] First came a few stragling foot & horse men ahead & on the left flank the right being on the river next a thick squad of horsmen in front followeed by a long string of white looking wagon covers flanked with gentlemen & Ladies occasionally in the rear a long string of Loose cattle horses and mules the tout assemble being rather uneque

13 A Fair day started early & made about 20 miles over a level Planies & a heard smoothe road To day the sand hill which have lain to our left disappeared and ware succeeded by dry clay Bluff cut into deep narrow ravenis which do not reach far back into the (the) country as no streame that brings any running water has yet been seen the high level country South of the ravines are Beautifull Beyond discription handsomely roling and thickly set with fine Buffalo grass and Blue stem almost as soft as a bed and luxuriously covered with wild sun flowers and several other speses of yallow Blossoms which are now in full Bloom and scent the air to a considerable distance with a verry fine perfume as plasant as a flower garden

Sunday

14th It rained a light Shower last night & a thick cloudy morning Mr Hinman¹⁰⁴ who [went] south into the Bluffs to shoot antelope did not return turned [out the] men this morning to hunt for him no place in the world looks more lonesome and discouraging than the wide Prairies of this region neither tree bush shrub rock nor water to cherish or shelter him and such a perfect sameness with a alusive ridge all around you meeting the Horozon in all directions you Suppose your course to lie over some one of those horizontal ridges whcn after several hours anxious fatigue you suppose you are about to assend the highest pinnacle and some Known Land mark what is your diapointmint to find ridge rise beyond ridge to the utmost extant of human vision

15 Rol^d. out unusually early found the road quite sloppy The weather close and warm and the mosquitoes thicker than I ever saw in any place to continue for a whole day as they (as they) did here until dark when they eased off & we had a fair nights rest the course of the river nearly due west [down] the valy [to] the extensive level plain Timber still more scarce and for miles nothing seen but now and then a Junt of shrubby Cottonwood or a dwarf willow made 20 miles recent Tracks of Buffaloe seen in Quanties but the animal himself Kept out of Sight rode out south onto the Bluffs and saw an undscribeable country of hills Bluffs and deep cut ravines through a pale yallow clay soil some of which are 100 feet perpendicular the great reservoirs of mud which lie here in reserve for the next rain

16 A clear morning all though it thundred and Lighned in all directions Throughout the night all the companis of Oregon Emigrants mountaineers & californornians &c &c ahead of us had had buffaloe for several days & being anxious my self to get amess I laid my couse S.W. over the cut Bluffs nearly perpendicular and passed main rang[e] the country became more regual and level found the Buffalo in great Quantities Killed one verry fine one loaded my mule and started for camp had hard riding to pass the cut Bluffs & obtain the open plain through which the river passes before sundown But here commenced our Toils the camp having made 18 miles at 12 of which we had to ride after night the moketoes with uncommon Blood thirsty appetite commenced & ware Litterly so thick that with all our exertions we could hardly breath

¹⁰⁴ Alanson Hinman's reminiscences were published in the *Oregon Hist. Soc. Quarterly*, vol. 2, 1901. He traveled in Ford's party until it reached the present site of Baker City, when under the guidance of Black Harris he went to the Whitman mission at Wailatpu for supplies. Later he entered Whitman's employ and was put in charge of the mission station at The Dalles.

17 La[s]t night we passed Mr Gilhams company & they repassed us again in this morning we have now arived at the dry & thirsty clay soil which is always hard or if soft melts & runs with the water so thick that you can not see aparticle of the whitest matter the 1/2 of an inch below its surface Made 12 miles & passed the Junction of the S & N Branchs of Platte which Junction is in a verry low wet country & only a fieu inches above the surfac of the water Several Hunters ware out to day all returned Brot Quantities of meat some verry fine & all good I am sorry to Say that I was mistaken about the Hunters all returning 4 men did not return and great anxiety is [felt] on account of them 3 with families & 2 of the women driving the Teams for 2 days past arived at our supposed ford and making preperations to cross over

18 It rained a light shower last night after which the (the) wind changed to the N. & we had afine coll night & a pleasant fair morning. Cooked our Supper last night with Buffaloe dung called chips in a modest way Such an article as wood (being) not being found 18 [miles]

Crossed the S. Fork of the Platte river without the least difficulty over a loose sandy shallow ford and encamped on the smoothe level Prairie about 2 miles form our last nights encampment the bluffs in the contigious contry in many Places shew a fine loose limestone which gives it a white appearanc at a distance Soil dry and hard bearing the fine Buffaloe grass but no timber had a pleasant cool day for July the [valley] narrowed down to about 4 or 5 miles in width but level as heretofore

19 A cool clear morning all it Thundred and Lightned in several Directions last night our 4 lost hunters returned after wandring 3 days & 2 nights over the boundless Prairies and allthough the summer is far advanced our prosspects wore a bette[r] face for crossing the mountains before winter made 5 miles and encamped on accoun of one of the Ladies being to sick to travel Rode out on the hills deviding the N. & S. Forks (which in appearance are nearly the same vollume of water) Found the ridges dry & hard composed mostly of rounded granite gravel undelaid with strato of soft marly Limestone several male Buffaloe ware see[n] from camp and one large herd containing Several hundreds on the opposite Side of the river nothing in the character of a spring or Brook of running water has been seen since we came on the platte

20 A Beautifull (clear) clear cool morning the finest we have yet seen a Light west wind and clear atmophere imence heards of Buffalo seen from the hills near camp on the plains Beyond the river

4 days since we overtook Mr Gilhams company of Oregon Emigrants & yesterday an arrangement was entered into for the traveling in the near vicinity of each other & encamping no further apart than necessary for the good of our stock so that our entire company makes 96 Teams wagons & occupies with loose stock & all more than two miles of tolerable close column 16 [miles]

no preceveable alteration in soil or river or appearance of country except the uplands are dryer & harder & on the Bottoms a fair appearance of salt mixed with several other mineral substances

Sunday

21 A Slight Shower of rain fell about sundown yestarday evening & several others during the night a clear morning cole & pleasant made 14 miles up the N. Side of the S. Fork of Platte over dry Prairie intervale as fine a road as any in the union or even the world great Quantitees of Buffaloe seen a few miles from the trail but verry few imediately on the rout owing to several small companies of malcontents going ahead and driveing them away But our Hunters have been able to keep our camp well supplied with the finest kind all Ladies Gentleme[n] Children and all with the greatest unanimity agree that this is the finest richest sweetest living of any they have ever experienced and all hope that they may last far long & broad without stint or diminution

22 a warm evening last and a warm morning this the mosquitoes verry troublesome the first time we have been much troubled in camp allthough they cover a single individual horse and all in a few minuits of evenings & mornings for the last 10 days if he happen to be out alone Quantities of Buffalo in sight all day to day made 7 miles to the point whare we leave the S. Fork & cross over the ridge to the N. Fork a verry warm day without scarcely a breath of air to keep down the flies & Mocketoes country the same except that their has been a Tremendious Shower rain not long since which has flooded all the ravines & given life & vigor to all Fly & Mocketoe tribe & the warm weather has given them keen appetites.

23 Contrary to all the k[n]own rules of Traveling in this country a number of horses & mules run loose last night & Likewise acording to a well known Phraze 15 or 20 came up missing this morning a fine cool day for crossing the interminable Prairies rolled out early nearly a north course found by good luck and unexpectedly several ponds of water about noon Likewise passed an extensive prairie dog village containing 3 or 400 acres of Land thickly settled with an active population living remote from every thing but grass & weeds which constitutes their entire subsistance made 22 miles & encamped at

dark on (on) the South bank of the N Fork in excelent grazing which is verry extensive the intervales being 6 or 8 miles wide not a stick of Standing timber in sight in any direction The Bluff down the river formed of Lime stone

24 The coolest morning we have experianced with a brisk N wind all plesan & animated on account of our late good roads & rapid traviling did not travel to day an odd Butle of washing shaveing cleaning & repairing it being the first since the 4th when we left Fossil Bluffs to the east risis steep Limes[t]one cliffs all most perpendicular near 100 feet high worn into all manner of Shapes by the action of the wind This stream is a Counterpart of Stream we left at our last encampment Except that it is not so muddy being more than a mile in width generally shallow & running rapidly over loose floating sand no place more than 5 feet deep Quantities of Saline Substances making their appearance on the surface in Evenings of clear days the opposite side of the river shew high rounded sand hills

25th Fair with a light east wind and plesanly cool moved of at an Early hour Singular as it may seem this Stream like the last has no tributarys falling into it from either side the Loup or wolf fork falling in below drains all the immense Sand plains N. to the Shianne which is the first stream nothe that takes its waters from the highlands or mountains made about 18 miles partly loose Sand & partly a Tenacious light coloured clay verry fine & close & in places white as pipe clay the Limestone ledge nearly dissap[ear]ed Toward evening and was succeeded with clay and Sand bluffs but not near so high in the evening passed the Broad channel of a brook with a little shallow water rippling over the sand the first water we have seen running into the Main Platt or its Branches since we struck that river no Buffalo seen on the N Fork

26 A light shower of rain fell about dusk last night a clear warm morning Pased one mud hole the first on the Platte made 17 miles over the usual level Prairie one or 2 Shrubby hackberry trees seen through the day and passed some scattering clumps of pine to the South of our track theat at the distance shew rough uneven and rocky the Bluffs shew close to the water on the oposite side of the river in many places the day clar and warm throughout and the evening Remarkably light and pleasant with a bright moon the (the) chimney rock was said to be visable but I did not see it allthough I watched close No Buffaloe seen since we left the S Fork

27th A clear cool morning the Ladies pleasant animated and in fine Spirits which make a fine contrer part to the morning Early we came in sight of the noted chimney rock at the supposed distance of 30

miles it rises perpendicular and alone and looked like an old dry stub not larger in appearance than your finger 4 or 5 miles from our nooning raises a bank of clay & rock having all the appearance of some old castle of circular shape the spire having been Blown down the main walls and dome roof in a good state of preservation and still shewing the even range work of rubble rock of which the structure was formed made 20 miles over the level intirmenable Prairie But not so tiresome as their was Quite a variety in sight the chimney rock changed its appearance & Shewed like a large conicle fort with a Tremendeous large & high flag staff & top taken off with out towers and (&) various fixtures of defence

28 Sunday Fine and dry not a drop of dew fell last night which circumstance is not uncommon in the region of country we are now approaching all our sick of old cronic disorder begin to ware a healthy appearance & active elastick movement nooned opposite the chimney rock Scotts Bluffs in full view ahead on the whole the view in all directions Singualr and Picturesque emmence level plains east the river a mile wide meandring along but your eye can not tell at a short distance which way the water runs the chimney rock with rugged Bluff from which it has sometimme or other been parted south Scotts Bluffs like a walled and fortified city with immenc out works west a rugged chain of Spercely pine timbred hill in the back ground the river a broad vally & a distant chain of Barren hills to the North made 22 miles

29 My Page being entirely full yestarday I had not room to say That A light shower of rain fell in the afternoon which collected & commenced falling not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile ahead of our camp Keen claps of thunder with a profusion of Electrck fluid playin in all directions in a dry clear sky set the dry grass on fire in several places in sight of our traveling caravan which was soon Extinguished by the rain Just mentioned Left the River and struck S. of W. 14 miles and encamped in the midtst of Scotts blufs By a cool spring in a romantic & picturisque vally surrounded except to the E. by high & allmost impassably steep clay cliffs of all immagenary shapes & forms sopped on a most dlecious piece of venison from the loin of a fat Black taidl Buck and I must not omit to mention that I took my rifle and (and) walked out in the deep ravin to guard a Beautifull covey of young Ladies & misses while they gathered wild currants & choke chirries which grow in great perfusion in this region and of the finerst kind

30 Roled out over the last ridge of Scotts Bluffs which is a ridge or connetion of highland commencing on the river & running Southwardly as far as visably rising in many places from 600 to 1000 feet high

formed of clay & a verry fine dead sand & occasionally a thin layer of Soft Limestone which last mentioned layers protects the Softer parts from the ravages of Storms of wind & rain The whole range appears to have been once the common level of the country but owing to solible Qualities of the earth the main Bulk now forming the low grounds have been carried away with the water which operation is still in active operation these hills are finely stored with game Such as Black tailed deer antelope mountain Sheep & some times Buffaloe Elk & grisled Bear I must not omit to mention a singularity on a vally we pased yestarday which was covered in all parts with Quantities of dry logs & wood the only reasonable conjecture with me was that the vally some 10 or 12 miles in [l]ength & 8 or 10 wide has no channel for the discharge of the water from the surrounding hills [which]occasionally in winter become deeply frozen considerable snow falling which goes off with a sudden thaw all the mountain torrents, come rapidly down charged with drift the water filling the wally diposits its drift on the Shores & Islans of the newly formed lake which soon finds a passage through the sandy soil on which it rests we had a destinct & clear but distant view of the Black hills from the hights this morning made 14 miles & encamped on the river crossed horse creek about noon

31 A fine clear cool morning a dry camp clear cool water and fine grazing the moon Shone clear as day allmost during the whole nigt about one third of our company remaind to recruit their lame Stock the Prairies ware on fire in Several directions last night and all the uplands look dry and parched made 14 miles over dry & verry dusty road We have been following A recent lodge Trail of moveing Indians for some days But have not been able to overtake them several persons went ahead to day to await us at the fort supposed to not be more than 20 or 30 miles considerable Quantities of cottonwood made it[s] appearance on Bottoms & islands to day as Likewise drift pine along the Shores Several flocks of wild [fowl] seen to day on the dry bars of the river the mountains do not change their appearance

Thursday the 1st of August Dry clear warm day cool Beautifully fine nights with Scarcely any dew or moisture to dampen a blanket of those that sleep out in the open air Soil a fine whiteish clay mixed with sand usually verry fine but sometimes moderately coarse about 4 oclock in the afternoon we hove in sight of the white Battlments of Fort Larrimie and Fort Platte whose white walls surrounded by a few Sioux Indian Lodges shewed us that Human life was not extinct this being the first we have seen since we left the Kaws the various Emigrants Excepted crossed the Larrimie river a clear fine Streean about

80 yards wide only about half of the channel filled with water 2 feet deep Several persons getting scant of Flour Some to be had here (at) Superfine at 40 dollars a barrel Spannish at 30

2nd Clear cool nights & mornings verry warm days Remained in camp to day trading and waiting for Blacksmith and other repairs went down to the fort after writeing to my Friend Starr of the Milwaukie Sentinell and found no prospect of his recieving my communication verry soon but I left the letter hoping that he m[a]y recieve it Soon¹⁰⁵ I tried to trade some but found even the products of the country verry high I purchased a dressed deer skin for 2.50 cents and returned to camp satisfied that money was allmost useless while all kinds of grocerys & Liquors ware exorbitantly high for instance sugar 1.50 cents per pint or cupfull and other things in propotion Flour Superfine 1.00 dollars per pint or 40 dollars per Barrel Spannish 30 no dried Buffaloe meat could be had at any price so our stores of provision did not increase

3 Roled out over the parched hills and soon lost singht of the white washed mud walls of Fort Larrimie & her twin Sister fort Piearre made 12 miles over the dry parched hills which make a verry Singular appearance dotted all over with Shrubby Junts of dark looking Pine and cedars rootted in the white dry weather worn Lime rock which in many places shews like chalk banks & appears to be formed of Strong white marly clay dried by the sun and formed into rough Solid masses of rock without much form or regular Stratification and affording but feew Springs and no brooks as the water rises and Sinks occasionally along their gravelly beds encamped by one of those Springs which is a fine Strong rapid Spring but disappears in less than ½ mile amongst hight white rocky cliffs which Surround us in all directions

4 Sunday it thundred and Lightned consideraby about dusk & rained a few drops but the sun rose in beautfull majesty over her parched cliffs this morning as it rains but little in this region Made 8 miles over the same Kind of dry hard thirsty country as yestarday and encamped on the dry sand barr of Sandy creek a little rill of warm muddy mean tasted water was all that dignified this broad channel of more than 100 yards broad crossed over the Bluffs & hills with our guns after camping to the river which here runs through a deep cut channel of Solid Lime stone more than 1000 feet deep 7 or 800 of which is perpendicular and not more at the top than 3000 feet wide coming up from the south with allmost level Prarie I neglected to mentian that the Junction of Platte & Larrimie is immediatly below the back hills

¹⁰⁵ This letter has not been found in the Milwaukee papers.

Both issuing from deep cut rocks a Short distance above through which they pass for more than 40 miles with a few intervening small vallies or open spaces

5 Shortly after dark their came on a thunder Shower with such a Squall of wind that allmost all our Tents ware fluttering on the ground in a moment the large cold drops of rain pelting us furiously all over & not even sparing the delicate Ladies & small children which ran helter skeltter in all directions seeking for shelter from the storm which was of Short duration Passed up our Shallow stream west & soon came to a beautifull running brook with a fine intervale well clothed with timber & much the handsomest place we have yet seen well clothed with green vegetation & is one of the green spots so sldom seen in this arid scorched region but this beautiful vally did not last long for after passing about 6 miles up we left it & turned up north along a dry sandy bed of what is sometimes a brook and assended up it to its extreme eastern head where we assended a beautifull smoothe roling ridge covered with scattereing pines from which we had the finest view which can be had in this romantick country the immediate country dry & beautifully smooth & roling into Knobbs to the south a distant & extensive view of appearantly smooth level prarie turning your head to S. W. & W. an extensive view of the roughest & most raged mountain in all this rough region mellowed down by the distance into smoothe sharp pinecles with others rising in the back ground to a great hight turning to the north a large uneven vally makes its appearance filled with finely rounded ridges & butes intermingled with vallies to the utmost reach of vision turning to the East is perhaps the most singular of all you have an extensive view of the greate Kenyon Through which the river passes and in the distance is a crowded view of rounded butes & would resemble the larges assemblage of Arabian lodges that ever encamped together and of nearly all the shades of colour from red to white & occasionally black being covered with the tufted pine and cedar all handsomely exhibited in light & shade by a clear afternoon Sun made 20 miles the last 4 or 5 rather rough & heavy on account of the deep sand at our camp on horse shoe creek we over took all the differant companies of emigrants except Hitchcocks¹⁰⁶ and encamped in a Jumbled mass of Stock tents people &c &c

6 Turned out early from our camp on Wagon Hound creek* and had Some Steep pitches to raise before we got clear of the creek then

¹⁰⁶ Hitchcock was one of the leaders of the Stephens-Murphy party, bound for California. Bancroft says he had possibly been a member of the Walker party in 1833.

*In the MS. a line is drawn through the words *Wagon Hound creek*.

some fine rolling country was passed with several brooks of clear water several miles of desert brot us into the vally of wagon hound creek whare we encamped for the night haveing made 15 miles in this vally we saw Quantities of Buffaloe but few of them were taken owing to the lateness of the day when we arived & the number of hunters out which drove them from one another which is envariably the case when a great number of anxious men turn out (out) to hunt after any discription of game the mountains discribed yesterday are of a light grey granit & are the frst seen on our assent from the vally Below Scotts bluff as before mentioned

7 Clear as usual in this region of (of) almost cloudless Skies moved out of our dry grassless camp crossed clear fine little Brook at the distance of 5 miles on both sides of which the utmost confusion exists vitrified earth clay & rock of several kinds in banks hills Knobs mounds piles & mountains ly & stand in all angles from horizontal to perpendicular but mostly in an angle from 20 to 45 all seem to have been hove up from the N. E. for that is the Slanting direction & the S. W. being nearly perpendicular—and the ranges running from N. W. to S.E. formed of grey granit red Sandstone blue lime stone clay red as brick and some black looking Substance resembling decomposed Slate or Something blackned by fire made 14 miles & encamped near a fine spring our camp once again largely supplied with Buffaloe beef

8 The same as yestarday a clear Bright sun & cloudless atmosphere on the road again passed a number of Beautifull little clear Brooks cool & remarkable sweet coming out of the grey granite mountain lying only a few miles to the South of our rout & in many places the strata rises nearly perpendicular & allway at (at) least 40 degrees with the Horizon Made 17 miles and encamped on a fine little stream almost in sight of N. Fork of the Platte in the vally of which Stream we have been traveling ever since leaving Larremie but seldom in sight our encampment is the best for stock we have yet seen since passing the Forks and a number of Scaffolds are arected well covered and smoking with fine Buffalo Beef to dry for the road as well as the Board which is finely stored for supper with the choisest Kind

9 the same Beautifull clear Sky concluded to remain in our present position on Boxwood creek which is thickly set with that kind of Timber well Stored with current and choke cherries & a number of Large grissly Bears to feed on them as is pleny seen by their numerous pathes through the brush the Bear feeds on all kinds of fruit but the red willow berry which is extremely Bitter seems to be their favourite food all hands busied in preparing and drying the finest kind of Buffaloe Beef as we are fearfull that they will not be many on the road

ahead walked up to the mountain about 4 miles distant found the top ledges 4 or 500 feet high composed of a whitish grey granite then a strata of rough red sandson 5 or 200 feet thick based on blue & red Lime stone intermixed with red vitrified clay the water of the brook running over loose rock of all the above descriptions

10 Moved off from our encampment on Boxwood & crossed over about 5 miles to the river crossed Several small Brooks and dined on deer creek made 15 miles and encamped on the river Same hard granite gravely rounded hills the mountains keeping close on our left and (and) running paralell to our rout along the river the weather fine as usual the uplands dry and parched

The mountains lying to our left are not very high perhaps not more than 3 or 4000 feet above the vally of the river but they are extremely rugged and Steep the(y) rocks standing in many places nearly in perpendicular strata the range is narrow an uneven vally lying beyond then another paralel range Beyond which is an elevated table land distitute of Timber & Tolerable Smooth Turfed

11 Sunday a Beautifull morning Roled on up the river crossed several fine Brook considerable timber or Junts rather of cottonwood the Bottoms covered with dry fallen Timber which in this region never decays but wares away in Slow degrees by the weather the Buffaloe very fat and excelent eating and still found in great abundance made 18 miles and encamped on the river grass scarce and nearly dry even on the most moist Situations & we begin to find our delay on Kaw river was a great detriment to our traveling here bringing us through this dry region in warmest and dryest part of the Season our Stock begins to look bad and loose their activity and yet we have not arived at the worst part of our long tiresome Journey our own subsistance dose not look so precarious as the forrage for our stock our horses in particular

12 Moved up the river 4 miles to the place whare we leave the river and cross over the red Bute mountain and encamped a few miles below the lower Kenyon the cliffs on this Kenyon are for more than half way up of a fine deep brick red appearantly of burned Slate and a marly clay lime—

13 Made an early start and raised the rounded dry hills of the Red Bute mountain which falls off to moderate hills without timber to the north of our rout but rises again on the head of the South Branches of the Big Horn and Toungue and Powder rivers this range I could not understand was Heretofore named or laid down on any map of this country the tops of these hills are fine sand and clay lower down : rough sand stone Based on a whitish coloured Slate which with a littl

change from Black to red makes the lowermost Strata or bed to be seen and in many places stands edgeways or in perpendicular form made 12 miles of crooked wooming Travel and encamped in a small vally a dry Brook a Brackish [spring] rising near (near) it(s) Buffaloe chips wild Sage and Prairie thorn forming our Stock of wood 4 miles to the South resis The Red Bute which give name to the awfull Kenyon both above & below the Bute on Standing on the cliffs near the edge of the Poicipice you see the river both above & below on two bends of the river which is much narrower at top than at the water the continual waring Below haveing fully doubled its once width through the solid granite & its perpendicular depth being over 1000 feet the stream looking not larger than your finger seemed to be at an angle of 40 at least and clear under your feet.

14 Left our encampment early and again took to the rising hills which we nearly topped in about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from which we had a distinct view of Wind river mountain standing in bold raged cliffs directly ahead and about a N.W. course a few rods to the left of the road breakes up a fine oil spring from in under a rounded Knoll of whiteish Slate & appears to be much frequented by the Buffaloe & other animals numerous ledges of different kinds of rock all standing edgewise and nearly perpendicular one in particular of white Sand Stone which extended to the utmost reach of vision in a narrow Straight line nearly north over ridge and hollow now rising then sinking from 3 to 20 feet in height no discription of mine will give any adquate idea of the Barren dry Sterility of the dry land of this region Made 20 miles & encamped without grass but had fine water and plenty of good dry wood our rout to day was verry crooked & 6 or 8 miles might be Saved by taking a more Southern route

[Some calculations on the inside of the back cover seem to indicate that during the preceding twenty-seven days the average rate traveled was fourteen miles per day.]

[BOOK 3]

[Cover]

Aug 15, 1844

[Inside front cover]

Augt 18th 1844.

Augt. 26.

Sept 4

J. Clyman

J. Clyman

[Red Buttes to the Blue Mountains, August 15 to September 30]

August the 15th 1844

Left our contracted encampment at willow Spring near the top of the Red Bute mountain & in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour reachd the top of the ridge had a fair view of the east end of the wind river mountain the numerous rough granite peaks on Sweet water & those around Indipindance rock But it soon became So smokey that our fine viws ware intirely obscured the ridges vallys hallows & all (all) the whole region near our rout these last two days have been the (the) most Sterile Barren land imaginable haveing but little vegetation except the wild sage and that not more than Six or (or) eight inches high curled down & level & stiff makeing a good seat Soil granite gravel & sand intermingled with rounded granite Boulders some of considerable size Made 16 miles and encamped on Sweet water $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile below the rock indipendence

16 Moved on up the creek saw the notable rock Independance with the names of its numerous visitors most of which are nearly obliterated by the weather & ravages of time amongst which I observed the names of two of my old friends the notable mountaneers Tho^s. Fitzpatrick & W. L. Sublette as likewise one of our noblest politicians Henry Clay coupled in division with that of Martin Van Buren a few miles furthe[r] up the creek passes through the South point of a most rugged & solid looking granite rock by a verry narrow pass after passing which we entered a vally Surounded by low rugged mountains except to the West whare a defiel Shews itself the lower vally of this creek is well clothed with short grass the upper with sand & sage the mountains with short scattering pines but in many places nothing but the bear rock in large steep Surfaces made 8 miles & encamped for the night on a good plat of grass

17 Smokey But the sun rose over the Eastern mountains in its usual majesty Some recent Signs of a war party of Indians ware discovered yestarddy which caused some uneasiness but verry little more caution roled up the Stream on the South side arang[e] of the most rugged bare granite rocks lay along the North side close to the

water & a range of Blue mountains to the S. at the distance of 6 or 8 miles the sides bear the tops pretty well clothed with pine Timber saw some fine herds of Ibex or wild sheep some of which were taken and (&) found to be verry fine eating saw great flocks of young wild ducks many of which were unable to fly not having their wing feathers stiff enough

This region seems to be the refuses of the world thrown up in the utmost confusion rocks without strata forming mountains others standing in perpendicular strata made 13 miles & encamped

Sunday

18 Left our encampment near the granite rocks and moved up the creek & passed several points of the same range of cliffs untill we entered a close Kenyon the cliffs nearly approaching the water from either side giving bearly room for the teams to pass which opened out into a fine wally at the distance of a few miles above up which we passed and encamped 14 miles from our last camp the grass had been pastur^d verry close by the Buffalou all through the rout up this creek and we found them in greate abundance near our encampment a slight Shower of rain fell after which the wind blew quite cool for august which in fact has been the case for several nights although the days for several hours near noon was very warm

19 Left the creek immediately after starting and laid our course south of west and almost directly from the creek which course we traveled most of the day over a barren tract of country nothing escaping the appetite of the Buffaloe except the wild sage which is left for the antelope & mountain grouse the only animals known to feed on such bitter herbage the Brarren Sterelity of this region must be desolate in the extreme in the winter as it has nothing inviting now Made 18 miles and struck the creek again and encamped without scarcely aparticle of grass the earth dry and completely parched to dust which moves in perfect clouds around us during the day when on march it is a little remarkable that all the native animals get so verry fat in dry parched region so bare of vegetation

20 crossed over a narrow ridge and struck the creek again above the rocks through which it passes made 7 miles and encamped close below another Kenyon through which the creek passes and near to whare we encamped in January 1824 at which time we under J. Smith and T Fitzpatrick first traversed the now well known South pass¹⁰⁷ and camp^d on green river on the 19th of march 11 days of which time we never saw a drop of water except what we thawed from Snow The

¹⁰⁷ Cf. this *Quarterly*, vol. IV, no. 2, pp. 127-128 and 132-134.

mountains look quite familiar although I have not seen them for 17 year and it appears as if the 17 summers last past had not in the least diminished the snow that then cound their lofty heads which still ware the white appearance of old age

21 It Had the appearance of rain last night and a few drops fell But the sun arose this morning with its usual brightness moved up the dry parched hills crossed a number of ranges of perpendicular rocks black and (&) appearantly vitrified passed numerous small brooks & springs verry fine and cool & appearantly clear of lime or any substance whatver being nearly as pure distilled passed several fine small groves of Aspin the first seen of any consequence Made 14 miles and campd on the creek again that we had left this morning now reduced to a small Brook & dammed up by the beaver Likiwise confined between steep rocky Bluffs the strata of which rises in perpendicular form Mr. Barnette who has been confined 5 or 6 days with a fever has the appearance of being quite dangerous and has been delerious during the whole of the night

22 Left our thick willow camp and after raising the bluffs Had a fine undulating road across the ridges to another Branch of Sweet water the wild sage the only vegetable seen on the ridges Hardly exceeded two inches in hight so completely are these hills formed of dry gravel and deprived of Moisture added to the intense coldness of this high region in sight of the eternal snow that Scarce a week passes without frost and we had a fine one this morning which caused us to hover close to our willow brush fires and [those] out after cattle & Horses complained of cold toes made 7 miles & camped in a pretty faced vally covered with cospes of willow and thin short grass many wearing our coats all day without feeling uncomfortably warm

23 Remained in camp to day on the account of Mr. Barneett who we did not expect to live being verry low with a Typhus Fever several teams however went on & Mr Gilhams company passed our encampment all Buiseed in mending washing and preparing for. Tomorrow poor M^r Barnett^s prospects bad our circumstances not permitting delay & he not being able to travel

To our right and but a short distance Isued a considerable branch of Popo Azia [Agie] the most Southern water of Wind River which Brakes out between a rough pine clad range of mountains and the eternal snow capt. range which rises here from an uneven high plain which forms the dividing ridge Between the waters running into the yellowstone and the platte all portes of which Shew the remains of great convulsions at some remote time

24 A dull cloudy morning the camp made early preperations

For moving & all roled out except ourselves who remain to take care of Mr Barnett whose prspects for living seem a little better than yestarday all though yet quite small every preperation seemed dull & melancholly & many bid the sick man their last farewell look a Spade was thrown out & left which looked rather ominous The ravens came croaking around us and the Shaggey wolf was seen peeping from the hills to see if the way was clear to contend with the ravens for the Fragment of the camp Early in the afternoon Cap^t Shaw and Morisons company hove in sight and the hills and the vally became the seene of life and animation again for the evening they camping about ½ a milé below us Several came to visit us Mr. Harris staid though the night

Sunday the 25 Clear and Bright no change for the better in Mr Barnetts Symtoms rather worse allthough medicine seemed to operate well Found it verry Lonesome to be clear of the noise and Bustle of a large camp and to remain Stationary with a Sick man in one of the most prominent Indian passes of the country in the afternoon However Perkins and Scott came up with the rear of all the Emigrants on the rout & we had their company during the night which intirely relieved the lonsomeness of the Place and many of the Ladies seemed emulous to see which should be the most active in giving us advice & assistance for the relief of our appearantly dying friend the Perkins family in particular

I noticed several vegetables now in full Bloom & do not seem to be the least affected by the cold allthough we have had frost & Ice for 4 nights in succession

26 Usually fine and bright Mr Burnett to all appearance Still wareing away under a verry Strong nervous excitement never being Scarcly one minuit still at a time Mr Scotts company¹⁰⁸ remain here to day and Several of the Ladies are verry kind in doing all they can to make the sick man comfortable about noon Mr Barnette commenced with severe Spasms & seem^d to be in the gratest agony imaginable continually driving his teame or calling on some friend to do something or other all those called being absent late in the evening however he became at spells more camlm & even Stupid & about 10 oclock he departed this life verry easy without a struggle or a groan & all his troubles ware in Silent death having nothing better we cut a bed of green willows & laid him out on the cold ground & all of us seated our-

¹⁰⁸ Probably including Captain Levi Scott's family. He was one of the leaders of the Applegate road explorers who laid out the first trail from Oregon through Northern California and into Nevada, in 1846.

selves around our camp fire & listned to the hair beadth escapes of Mr Harris & other Mountaineers

27 Early we ware up and making preperations for the enterment of the deceased when after Burying him in the most decent manner our circumstances would admit we made ready for leaveing Sweet water on which now rests the Body of Mr Barnette the first white man that ever rested his bones on that stream leaving our willow encampment we soon rose the deviding ridge Between the waters of the Atlantic & Pacific which is nothing more than a plasant assent for about 23 miles & decent of the same distance to afine grassy Spring Brook which pours its crystal waters through green River into the gulf of california rode 25 miles and camp^d on little sandy likewise a tributary of green River

28 Made an Early Start & in a few hours came in sight of a large grassy vally through which runs Big Sandy which unites with the stream we encamped on last night a few miles blow & continue nearly a South course untill they mingle their waters with Green river our general course a little West of South yestarday & to day we had a number of fine views of Several of the pinicles of the wind river mountains the country dry & dusty cowed with wild sage & Praerie Thorn & a few other hardy Stinted vegetables traveled down the west side of Big Sandy Several miles from the Stream as it runs in a croked deep Channel Rode 25 miles and camp^d on Big Sandy During the day had one or 2 views of the utaw mountains Several Snowy point being directly South and bearing Southwest

29 In about 2 Hours ride we came to green river a beautifull clear crystal Stream about one hundred yards wide & nearly Belly deep to our Horses running East of S. through a Sandy parched dry country but little of it clothed with grass some groves of Shrubby cotton wood growing on its banks after crossing we rode down the vally of this stream about 6 miles East of South then South over the Bluffs 12 miles to Black fork which Stream likewise runs into Seetskadee [Green River] about 20 miles east of where our trail struck it all the high ground dry & dusty & covered with the Eternal Sage which can live without rain from June untill october on a clean pure granite gravel after coming down into the vally of Blacks Fork we turned Short to the West up the same rode 5 miles making about 30 miles and encamped with our former mess once more

30 Moved up Blacks fork and in an hour crossed Hams fork coming in from the N.W. through a fine grassy vally crossed Blacks fork & made a cut off of a long bend & struck the river again in the afternoon we had the Singular phenominon of Seeing a Shower of rain in the vally & after the light cloud passed off the peaks of the Eutaw

mountain were covered white with a fresh fallen snow which however were partially covered with the snows of former winters made 18 miles & encamped on the Stream we left this morning numerous Butes Mounds & ridges occurring all through this vally formed to all appearances by wash of water consisting of Red brown white & green clay formed in many places into Soft rock but still washing away by the water at ever[y] freshett Made 14 miles

31 Moved up the vally of Blacks Fork & early in the afternoon arrived at Bridger & Vasqueses trading house [Fort Bridger] a tempory concern calculated for the trade with Shoshonees and Eutaws which trade is not verry valuable this place is likewise the general rendezvous of all the rocky mountain hunters & Trappers that once numerous class of adventurers are now reduced to less than thirty men which Started out under the command of Mr Bredger yestarday on an excursion through the mountains of Northern & central Mexico this small Trading post is also within the limmits of Mexico but can be no great distance south of the U. S. states Boundary line this Establishment has a fine grassy vally arround it but of no greate extent we here met Mr Robedeau [Antoine Robidoux] from the arkansas with horses and mules & other articles porposely to catch our trade

Sunday th 1st of September 1844 Moved out north across the hills from Bridgers Trading House found the road rough & hilly & perfectly bare of grass crossed Several steep & deep ravines one of which had some pools of poor Brackish water standing in it in the afternoon passe^d a low range of hills covered with cedar to our left and encamped on a creek called muddy emtying into Hams creek our rout through this Green River vally has been verry crooked & might be easily made to save about 50 miles by keeping more westwardly as the rout is equally level & the only object of this zigzag road is to pass the trading hous which however is some convenienc as we ware able to trade every extra article we had for mokisens & leather clothing. exchanged of all our worn out mules & horses 20 miles

2 Fine & dry moved westwardly up the vally of muddy creek which is entirely bare of grass made 12 miles & encamped in a Loose Scattering manner grass Scarce & dried all up pased Several ranges of volcanic hills rocks standing nearly perpendicular running as usual from S.W. to N.E. But differant from any I had before noticed the perpendicular Bluffs being on the eastern side & the gradual slope on the west the sides of many of the ridges are covered with scatering cedars but most of them are bare having Scarcely any vegetation on them not even the wild Sage which seems to be the hardiest vegetable in this cold dry region & I can now see severall Bunches Just dropping the

Bloom allthough we have had but few nightis without frost since we came in sight of the snow capt mountains game antelopes grouse & Rabbits

3 I let my Horses loose a little before day & they took the road ahead & I did not come up with them for about 4 miles whare they stoped to graze on a small vally of fine grass whare we all Should have encamp^d last night all Subordination and controle haveing been broken up for several days thinking ourselves out of danger at least danger of life But all Savages will Steal & so will the Shoshonees a party of which are now passing while I am writeing Made 5 miles & encamped at a fine Sping of water the head of the North branch of Muddy on a fine platte of grass the rout to cross the Second mountain or deviding ridge between Green river & Bear river Several of us are preparing to go through on Horses & are Buisily preparing for our departure tomorrow nothing for fire but Sage

4 Left our encampment Early 4 of us on packhorses for fort Hall & In a few hours we arived at the top of the ridge or mountain deviding the waters of green river and Bear riiver which last Emties in to the Greate Salt Lake from the top of the ridge we had a fine view of Green River vally which at this season of the year Looks Bald rough & desolate the Bear River vally ahead not quite so Bad but bear & Bad Enough every thing looking dry and parched the road up the East side follows a ravine whose sides are finely clothed in many places with aspin groves and the assent not verry Steep or difficult several fine Springs breaking out Just below the assent the asent westward is steep in several places & some sideling ground that requires some care & a good spring Breaks out on Left of the road made 30 melis & encamped on Bear river

5 packed up & moved North down Bear River vally a brad fine well grssed vally with a steep range of volcanick mountains on each side but these ranges are not so regular as those noticied Hertofore but the rocks & earth Shew more the marks of eternal heat about noon we passed Smiths river running into Bear River the former a rapid Stream about 20 yards wide running rapidly over a round gravelly bed clear as crystal & cool as spring water made 24 miles & encamped on the North bend or as the hunters say whare Bear River comes around the point of the mountain this vally is the early Rendevous of the mountain Trappers & hunters But in the last 7 or 8 years the Buffaloe have entirely left this country & are now seldom seen west of Sweet water 20 miles Traveled

6 Started Early on the road following the bends of the River which was here during the forenoon verry crooked running at allmost

all points of the compass early in the afternoon the road Steered out from the river & crossed over a steep rugged mountain which however is not wide the descent being very steep & about a mile in length from the top of this mountain we had a view of the N. end of sweet Lake [Bear Lake] which lies in a valley South of the river the river passing through this mountain opens out into a much larger valley below the mountains bordering this valley have the same vitrified volcanic appearance as yesterday If it was not for the intense want of Timber this valley in many places might bear cultivation to some extent made 27 miles & encamped on a cool mountain Brook destitute of Timber

7 Packed up before Sunrise and made off down the river a N.W. course through a fine level valley for several hours the mountains keeping their usual appearance about noon we again had to cross over a mountain not very high or rugged We did not strike the river during the day but crossed several Brooks of good water & encamped at the Soda Springs a company of hunters from Fort Hall had just arrived & likewise a few persons (to hunt and make dried meat) For California

These Springs are a great natural curiosity the immediate vicinity of Springs are covered with shrubby Cedars and pine timber & near the river a Shelly rock makes its appearance a little further out a fine white clay which appeared to have been blown up with a Substrata of rock which lies immediately beneath a thin Layer of caly [clay] this appears in dry times to form Quantities of the Salts of Soda then it becomes quickly moistened and produces a Quantity of gas which is confined below & bursts up the rock & earth to give it vent. the Strongest Spring is about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile North from the river which is so highly charged that it almost takes your Breath to drink a cup of it Quick from the Spring But the most singular one is below near the river Spouting as much as 6 feet high & a heavy column I had not more than one hour to make my examinations I regret much that I was so hurried Several Large Springs of fresh water Break out in the vicinity of these & one hot Spring the rocks strewn over the Lower plain has once evidently been in a State of fusion & resemble the Slag thrown out of Lead furnaces I mean the rock strewn over the lower part of the valley

Sunday

8 After taking several hearty drinks of Soda water we left the Soda Springs went down the valley of the River about three miles when the river & us took different directions we turning short to the N. & the River to the S a fine looking open valley shewed itself before us but we were sadly disappointed for our apparent smooth road was rough & rocky all covered with Cynders of the hardest kind and broken

into chasms & deep holes in all directions & the forenoon was wholly the worst road we have seen the afternoon proved to be better Traveling made 17 miles & encamped on Portnuff a Stream having some curiosity about its heading in (in) the mountain dividing Bear & Snake Rivers and taking a Southern course into the valley of Bear River it turns short into the mountain

9 Made an Early Start on way up Portnuff & at noon Stop to graze on the top of the mountains dividing the rivers we found this mountain pass very cold & windy leaving our Nooning place we wound around from Knob to ravine a few hours and began [to] descend the ravines of Ross^s. Creek toward Snake River Saw some good Soil on these mountains but it is so dry & cold that it is useless made 25 miles and camp^d. The Prairies having been burnt recently our horses fared rather poor the ranges of these hills or mountains are not so regular as some others we have passed But are burned blacker and harder than any yet seen & are thrown up in a more confused manner Saw no kind of game Save a few coveys^s of mountain grouse

I fear the whole country West and South of us will be burned over as it keeps very smoky

10 Moved on down the creek N.W. & soon came in sight of the broad extensive valley of Snake river which for several miles was entirely covered with wild Sage & deep blackish Sand after a fatiguing [ride] we at length reach^d the Low valley & found plenty of grass & good water where we unpacked to graze Made 16 miles & encamped on Snake River about 2 miles above Fort Hall as we understood the grass was poor Further down this valley is wide & the Northern Highlands are invisible perhaps on account of the smoke which lies thick in this valley the land appears to be poor & cold with great Quantities of Springs & Brooks in all Directions with the finest kind of Trout but they were difficult to be taken I did not go down to visit the Fort as I had no Letters for that place a good stock of cattle is kept at the fort & a large quantity of Horses

11 one $\frac{1}{2}$ hour bro^t us opposite to the white washed mud walled Battlements of Fort Hall and as I had no Business to transact I did not go inside But the outward appearance was pretty fair for a comfortable place for all that the present trade admits of Flour plenty at \$20 per cwt. as nothing was purchased I cannot give any other prices but I presume they are as cheap as any of her Sister establishment in this region about noon crossed Portnuff here a Swift Stream 60 yards wide & belly deep to our horses having plenty of T[r]out in it Made 18 miles & encamped on the river about half of a mile above the first falls during the whole of the afternoon we were passing large

bottoms of grass which would Support a considerable number of cattle & other Stock but no land fit for cultivation the uplands are covered with wild Sage

12 about Sunrise we ware again on the trail and passed the falls whose musick luled us to sleep last night these falls have but little perpendicular pitch but fall about 16 or 18 feet in a verry short distance the water comeing rapidly down a raged rock is torn all into white foam Several rapids ocured this forenoon and the whole country appears to have been once in a complete fusion of Liquid matter the rocks are all of a dark Borown & Black vitrified colour & some resembling Black glass in every particular a fiw Scattering cedars appear along the Bluffs which only help to give the country more of a melencholly appearance the Eternal Sage plains appear as extensive as formerly Cossed one singular creek which came tumbling down rapidly over a continual Succession of diposit damns made from the water made 27 miles

13 last night contrary to our expectations we came to a brook with a broad vally of fine grass this brook is called cassia & is the place whare Mr. Hitchcock¹⁰⁶ left our rout & went South with 13 wagons in company for callifornia this days Travel is the most Barren Sterril region we have yet passed nothing to disturb the monotony of the Eternal Sage plain which is covered with broken cynders much resembling Junks of pot mettall & Now & then a cliff of Black burned rock which looks like Distruction brooding over dispair found a filthy pond of water at noon made 28 miles & encamped on the river which we left yestarday & again had fair grazeing No animal Seen no fowl Save a few mountain grouse which can live in any region whare vegetation can grow our couse down this river so far has been S.W.

14 Left our camp on the river & Steered S. of W. across a Barren Sage plain cossed one brook of water & Saw 2 Antelope the only animals seen in some days The earth is the driest I ever saw it & the dust rises in perfect clouds every particle of moistness & adhsion is obliterated & lost & currents of dust is frequently seen rolling down the path & Spreading like hot embers that have been well Stirred came to the River to noon & grze the River running through cliffs of Black volcanic Rocks which grew Steeper & higher as we decended down the River at length we left the Bluffs of the River being 1000 or more feet of Perpendicular Rock standing from the plain to the water & the river pressed to 20 or 30 feet in width after 20 miles of fatiugueing ride we encamp^d haveing made 30 miles at fair grass & water

Sunday

Strewn thick with Cynders & other volcanic Rock verry rough & Sharp

¹⁰⁶ Cf. page 333.

15 Left our camp on the brook & moved off west over a Sage plaine as usual Kept down the course of the creek we encampd. on last night soon saw that it fell in to a Kenyon of Steep Black Rocks after following 8 or 10 miles we crosseed..over the Kenyon at a favourable point & Struck for the River over the usual Kind of Sage plane & late in the afternoon we desended the main Kenyon on Snake River The Black battlement cliffs of this river remind one of the Fragments of a world distroyed or at least distroyed for all human purposes on the river we found a Small fishing party of Ponack^s. [Bannoeks] who had plenty of Small fish of the Sucker mouthed Kind Several Tremendious Springs come Pouring out of the rocks oposite Made 20 miles & encamped on the River confined in Between high & impassible rocks

16 Pased down the Kenyon to the mouth of a Small river & over the ridge to the little or upper Salmon Falls whare we found a number of Indians encamped who offered us plenty of dried Salmon cheap & almost for any thing we offered them these falls are Surrounded with high inaccessible Clay & rock Bluffs the vally narrow & Broken up with ravines Sandy without vegetation except Sage & some of the Same Kind of useless hardy plants Made 25 miles over Sage plains deep ravines clay Bluffs &c &c it being the most uneven roade we have yet had for so greate a distance & the most Barren county of grass Likewise as well as an intire want of water except in the River [which] runs in such a precevice that only a few places can [be] desended even on foot & then to return to the summt is $\frac{1}{2}$ a days hard labour

17 Left our position & went down the River whare it was with difficulty that our pack horses could Travel on account of the steepness of the way at length about 10 A.M. we came to the ford or upper crossing of the river & saw a few Teams on the opposite side that had left Fort Hall 6 days before us. Soil since we left portnuff Slaked & unslaked lime volcanic rocks & fine & coarse sand Sometimes simple & pure & other times mixed in various proportions vegetation Sage prarie Thorn & Liquorice plant all Shrubby but thick set with Scarcely any grass on the uplands Some lowlands are Sometimes well set withe Short grass made 24 miles & encamped on a Small Brook with Several Wagons & found Some Ney Percee Indians with them & a few Snakes Some difficulty was likely to grow out of a Stolen horse. the [matter] was easily settled

18 After crossing the River yestarday we Steered north Several miles We raised a high bluff & crossed an uneven sage plane on a western direction & at Starting we Steered N.W. to the point of a low Mountain intirely destitute of Timber But Plenty of Sage & the ground

to travel over passed a verry hot Spring & grazed at a muddy Brook overgrown with canes

The afternoon about 10 miles was the most Rocky rough road we have yet seen made 25 miles & encamp^d on a Small Brook running through a deep Kenyon the mountains again made their appearanc on the South Side of Snake River which had disappered for Some days past the Rocky cliffs to our North of us appear verry dry & Rugged

19 A few hours from our last nights encampment Brot us to an entire chang of Surface & we gladly exchang^d the rough volcanick rocks for good hard gravel road but Quite uneven and the Burnt earth & rock entirely disappered & was succeeded by the rough grey granite Standing like Stumps on a fallow or more like a monumental church yard this singular appearance lasted in groups for several hours & we saw but little sage during the day Made 30 miles & encamped at the first possible chance we found to desend to the River Gross Boise or Bigwood which here comes rushing out of the most uneven Rugged Mountain I had yet seen & passes rapidly down through a Steep Kenyon which cannot [be] assended or desended even on foot except in a few places this is a rapid Stream about 40 yards wide & is fine for Salmon

20 Set out down the river west the mountains to our right and the perpendicular rock Bank to the left both receding & deminishing a fine wide vally opened to our view & we pased down through the dust which was almost past endureance but not much wose than it had been for Several day past This stream has more Timber & Brush than most of the streams of this [region] allthough this vally is wide yet it has scarcely any grass & the land is as dry as ashes & would not produce any Known grains or vegetables made 20 miles & encamped on the river which is as clear & fine as a mountain Torrent which it is of the finest Kind ourselves & animals are completey tired out with dust & burned Prairies which has generally been the case since we left the devide between Bar River and Snake River Camp^d with 2 Teams that ware ahead

Made 28 miles

21 Left our camp & Took to the dust again in a few miles we passd 9 wagons in camp about 4 miles further passed 14 or 15 more all making a move for the road crossed over the river to the north Side & made our way down a dry dusty plane untill noon this river so far has but little grass & what is is dry or Burne^d close to the ground to day we are almost out of Sight of Mountains only the tops of a few being visable The country we have passed over will be dis-dressing to the teams in the rear as it is already bare

Afternoon again Bore down the vally found it verry dry &

dusty But better grassed course North of West a little Before Sun-down came in sight of Fort Boise & encamped for the night a beauti- full clear evening & the sun went tranquilly down behind the Blue mountans without a cloud to be seen

Sunday

22 Left our camp 2 miles above Fort Boise & passed the mud walld Fort of Boise & the clerk was Kind enough to make us out a Sketch of the rout to walla walla crossed Snake River a Short distance below the Fort found the ford good & Smoothe but rather deep for wagons unpacked on the opposite Side Several Families of Ponacks & Sauptins [Nez Percés] ware encamped at the Fort it being Sunday the sauptins refused to trade with our men on account of the Sabbath Packed up & put N. of W. Snake River running N. The Trail carried us over another Sage plain 14 miles to Malure River a dirty deep Stream running to the N.E. with a fine large dry vally covered in strong coarse grass & small willows a hot spring coming out on E. Shore under a high cliff of volcanic rocks

Made 28 miles

23 Left our camp on Malure & Struck out N.W. up a vally the eastern branch of which we assended to the head & decended another dry ravine beyond the ridge the entire country covered with sage which from some cause or other is nearly all dead passed the Birch Spring and encamped on Snake River which here comes out of a rough looking mountain to the east & making a Short curve goes off into the mountains again to the North our camp is verry poor for grass which has been the case for Several days & no appearance for the better many of our horses are nearly exhausted & several afoot this evening we raised our bread with saleratas picked up a few miles east of inde-pendenc rock on sweet water

24 Clear as usual for it has not rained Since we left Fort Larri-mie passed a ridge & soon Struck by what we Supposed to be Burnt River Quite a small crik Bound in by steep high Lime rock Mountains almost impasible for our horses yet the wagons have gone this rout these mountains as well as those passed yestarday shew all the visible effects of fire Som red some yellow Brown white & green mostly of decomposed rock & remarkable fine clay all dry & dusty even to the touch Made 17 miles through the worst mountains and over the worst road we have yet seen the sides of these mountains are nearly pependicular & composed of granite & rough Slate rock without any timber or any other kind of vegetation except Short grass and in many places entirely bare

25 Left our camp in the slate mountains & after making two or

three curves in the hills we came out on an open country comparatively & Struck Burnt river again in a vally north of which stands a singular conicle Knobb crown^d with several pinicles of rocks resembling horns no game of any kind seen not even the appearance of a rabbit which are so plenty on snake River Made 18 miles & encamp^d at a Spring amongst rounded Knobs well clothed in Short grass as all the country in sight has been all the afternoon there seems to be an entire change of Soil from any we have passed over Lately all the streams are likewise (are) slightly skirted to day with willows alders & a Species of Birch & other Shrubery but no valluable timber has been seen since we passed the Black Hills

26 Left our camp at the spring & took the trail bearing N. up though the hills arived at the top of the ridge Saw to our left mountains clothed with pine or othe[r] evergreen timber a few hours brought us to another detested sage plain that vegitable being Scarce for the last 2 days Nooned at what is called the lone Tree in the middle of a vally & a fine one it has been of the pine Spicies now cut down & all the branches used for fuel the day verry Smoky & I Begin to daubt M^r. Espy^s theory of produceing rain by any phisical means as the whole country has been on fire for a month past & no rain yet a range of mountains lying close to our left seem to be all enveloped in Smoke Made 25 miles & encamped on Powder River which runs (when there is Plenty of water) through a fair vally of grass the hills Likewise are generally well covered with the Same, our selves & animals are becomeing tired of travel

27th Came to our camp last night M^r [William C.] Dement and 4 Indians going to meet the wagons their object I did not ascertain but some (some) speculation no doubt Passed through a beautifull vally this fore noon well grassed but to dry for cultivation a Timbred mountain close to our left the same seen range yestarday morning As we caught our horses for our aftenoons travel Some Indian as is their habit when they discover Strangers in their country set fire to the grass about a half mile ahiad of us our rout being N. & a strong south wind blowing the fire kept ahead of us though the hills about 6 or 8 miles and when we overtook the fire we had some difficulty in passing it but all got through nearly suffocated with smoke & dust & entered the grand Round vally the whole mountains which surround this vally completely enveloped in fire and Smoke neare Sundown we discovered a man rideing rapidly toward us which proved Mr Watters [James Waters] from Willamitt waiting for his family which he expects to come in this seasons imigraton made 26 miles and encamped close under the Bleue Mountains in company with Mr. Watters & Mr [Rice?]

28 Concluded to ly still to day and rest ourselves and horses before taking the Blue Mountains which we are informed will be two days without grass this is a well watered well grassed vally but the thick smoke preventes me from seeing the probatible Size or extent I think however it is not large Remained in camp to day which was Quite warm although we had a white frost last night as we have had for several nights past. Encamped in this vally are several hudred Indians of the Skyuse nation now amalgamated with Shehaptin or Pierce nose nation 30 or 40 of these people visited us this afternoon & from whom we traded a little cammerce thy bringing with them some peas & Squashes of their own raising they seemed to be anxious to see our wagons & cattle they being anxious to trade horses (for) of which they have great Quantities for cattle & appear to be rapidly advancing in civilization this vally is also verry favourable to the groth of the (root) Cammerce root a root much resembling & onion in appearance but of a Sweet rich tast when roasted after the manner of the Indians the smok appeared to encrease

29 Sunday Left our camp in the grand Round vally and took up the Blue Mountains which are steep & rough but not so bad as I had anticipated from Previous information came to the grand round creek in about 10 miles the mountain so far is mostly Prairie & fairly covered with g[r]ass some parts However espically the ravines & vallies are covered with pine & spruce timber the rocks all shew the effects of internal fires Left our nooning & proceeded on N. Westward Pased some remarkable wild & lonesome groves of pine & firr that had a dark appeearanc & the more so on account of the thick smoke that enveloped the mountain in such clouds as to nearly hide the sun at midday continued untill dusk along bare rocky rough Sides of the mountain extremely bad for wagons & encamped with out water there being but little water in these dry vitrified ridges made 26 miles saw but little sign of any wile animals Except Pheasants which are plenty in some parts of this range & live upon the berries of winter green which grows in Quantities in many places saw likewise a speeces of Laurel or Ivy on the Ridgis

30 Saddled up at day light and proceded on our way found the trail tolerable for hosses in about 8 miles came to some pools of Standing water whare we took Breakfast these mountains are parti ally covered with Several Kinds of evergreen timber the South side of the ridgis are bare or thinly sit with grass all the rocks & they ar plenty shew the effects of fire at some remote period the caly [clay] is of the same kind as that found on the plains verry fine and Soluble i water but of a yellow colour Some a verry deep yellow with all Shad

down to a pale grate Quantities of coarse pumice stone laying
strewed over the ground particularly near the western desent of the
mountain the western desent of the Mountain is much more easy &
grduel than the eastern so far I have seen but little land that would
be called fit for cultivation in any of the Western States allthough there
are a fiw Spots that would bare cultivation Made 25 miles & en-
camped on a Small brook or rather Spring to the right of the trail &
close to the foot of the mountain

[Inside back cover]

Madison Gilmore	tell these
Joel Walker	Gentlemen
Peter H. Burnett	that Gnel [General]
Anarson [Anderson] Smith	Gilham is on the road
James Watters ¹⁰⁹	and scarce of Provision ¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ All these, except Walker, were immigrants of 1843.

¹¹⁰ John Minto, writing from memory after many years, says that Peter H. Burnett "had left a letter at Fort Hall in 1843 to the effect that if for any cause there was likely to be suffering before the families could reach the Willamette and we would let it be known, relief would be sent." Clyman and Minto were among those who went forward on horseback. They met Dement, Waters and Rice already on the road to meet the immigrants, adds Minto, *Oregon Hist. Soc. Quarterly*, vol. 2, June, 1901, pp. 119-167; Sept., 1901, pp. 209-254.

[BOOK 4]

[Cover]

Oct 1844

[Inside front cover]

Stapleton^s in California

Sarcoxie P. O. Missouri

[The Blue Mountains to the Valley of the Willamette, October 1 to 13]

Tuesday Oct 1st 1844

A Beautifull morning & fine clear nights I neglected to mention yesterday that this vally was nearly covered with horses when we came down the mountain but no Indians came to our camp this as well as the grand round vally being one of the great Stopping places of the Kyuse tribe of Indians & from them we obtained Some Potatoes Corn Peas & Squashes of their own raising they likewise are verry anxious to obtain cows & other cattle for which they exchange horses of which they have great Quantities There is no climate finer than this if dry weather constitutes a fine climate & indeed the days remind one of Byrons discription of Italy not a cloud to be seen neither day nor night for months together

Left our encampment & proceded on the Trail 2 or 3 miles when we came to a Kyuse farm Krailed [corralled] in with willows and planted with corn beans potatoes &c &c here we left the wagon trail which turns to the right & goes to Dr Whitmans said to be 40 or 50 miles further than the rout we took which goes down the Utila I her observed that the wild Bunch grass of this country was intirely eat ou near the Indian farms and does not seem to grow again Traded som potatoes of the Kyuse Women & proceded on down the Utila a fin mill-stream made 16 miles & campd on the creek at the head of Kenyon through which the creek passes during the day saw severa large roads leading in different directions

^{2nd} I neglected to mention that I forwarded all the letters intrusted to my care & directed to Mr [H. H.] Spalding & Dr. [Marcus Whitman to Mr Gilbert who left us in the grand round vally to g directly to Dr Whitmans & I hope they went to their proper directions

Last night about 8 oclock & while we ware all siting by our cam fire talking & thinking ourselves one niight safe for horse thieivs v heard an unusual tramping of our horses When I arose & walked on in the direction of our horses what was my surprise to find my fine b most st[a]rved mare being driven off by an Indian on hose back n haveing brought my gun with me I called to him to halt at which J put off at full speed leaveing the mare & 2 mules that ware following so much for the Kyuse who are said to be the most honest Savage peop

on the continent our fore noons travel has been mostly down the utilla through a very dry country the stream confined amidst a black wall of volcanick rocks & over a dryer upland thinly coated with short grass made 26. miles & encamped on the utilla several Indians made their appearance but did not come to us this afternoon passed some small patches of cultivated land in a small but rich vally near the creek the weather contines verry smoky allthough we have not seen any fires for several days this creek does not afford any valuable timber ther being nothing but cotton wood that grows to any size & that is verry shrubly

3^d Left our camp amidst the walla walla camps there being 3 of their fires in sight none of them came near us during the night & as several men ware robbed by them last season we ware glad to [see] that they kept at a distanc our party being now reduced to 4 men the others some haveing gone to Dr Whitmans and some having preceded us on leaveing camp We likewise left the timber which extends no farther down the utilla the stream running over black burned rocks to whare it enters the columbia came on the banks of the great river about 11 o'clock which shews no change but runs through sand planes & rocky banks so far as we went without timber or drift wood except here & there a small clump of willows & those scarce passed several encampments of Wallawallas sutuate on sand bars along the river which came out & gazed at us as we passed

Made 24 miles over mostly sand plains covered with sage & prickly pears bothe of which we thought & hoped that we had passed at our camp we found it difficult to gather as much Brush weeds & sage as would boil a fiv potatoes & a cup of coffee the river looks Beautiful & the water clear and good but nothing else can be seen to change the sight of the detested sage & sand plnes —

Greate Quantities of Salmon are taken in the utilla when the water is up in June and their appears to be plenty of that Fish in the stream yet as we could hear splunging on the ripples all night but they are [not] considered good at this season haveing become Quite poor from thier long stay in fresh water as the smallest kind of a fish could not assend this streame at this season of the year the upper vally of this stream would make some handsome farms if their was any timber to be had but none is seen except cottonwood & willow

4 Had a Quiet nights rest and a Beautifull clear morning Left our camp on the great river & proceed down the River passed several Indian villages all on the oposite side nothing seen but rocks sand & a shrubby stunted groth of vegetation with here & there [a] Bunch of

short grass the north side of the River appears to be closely Bound by a ridge of Black frowning rocks current of the river rapid

The ridge of rocks mentioned in the fore noon closed up on the sauth side in afternoon and gave us an uncommon bad road even in this steril region and we had to travil over sharp rocks or deep sands & sometimes both the rocks being covered deep in sand so that our horses sunk half leg deep in sand & then stepd on unknown sharp rocks at the bottom making the way extremely tiresome & bad

Made 26 miles & encamped on the (on the) River again before we had packed up three men with thier guide & enterperter came up from willamette on their way to meet the emegrants one of them general [M. M.] M^cCarver was expecting to see his family on the road but we could not give him any information concerning them we soon parted they proceeding up & we down the river

The general seemed to speak in raptures of the Oregon Country and even went on to say that on the top of the cliff of Black rocks under which we ware encamped was a fine grazeing country this may be admitted but certainly their was not the amount of one cord of wood in the circuit of 25 miles & perhaps not a drop of water in the same distance except what flowed in the Columbia & many other extravigancies

5 Left our camp once more after having 28 miles of the most tiresome Travel we had yet found on account of the Quantity of sharp fallen rocke which filled the path over which we had to travel the [path] leading near the water in under a cliff of dark perpendicular rocks the fragments of which had fallin down & choked up all the narrow wally far in to the water some times disending to a considerable hight immediately under the cliff & then ascending back to the water edge along a narrow path which one animal could scarcely travel in over sharp rocks made the road tiresome in the extreme & we traveled steadily all day without stopping the afternoon being windy & Bo[is]torows the dust & sand nearly choked us when about sundown we came to a small open vally & encamped for the night tired and glad to find a resting place larg enough to ley down on these rocks remind one of emmense walled cities castled forts & ruins of tremendous magnitude but this is the last place in the world to enjoy any such scenery whare nothing is to be seen but rocks Sand & Savages

Sunday

6 Crossed Johndays River early which like all the country in this region comes in through steep rocks & is difficult to cross on account of the rocks being very steep passed severall steep cliffs all of which may [be] said to be dangerous on account of the loose rocks of which they

are composed & the high perpendicular cliffs below jetting over the river Late in the afternoon passed the river De Shutes made 44 miles in the 2 days

7 yestarday evening after passing the River De Chuttes took a guide who conducted us a short rout over the hills to a small rich vally with handsome little Brook running through it whare we encamped for the night this vally would bear cutivation but has no timber in sight saw mount hood nearly west covered in snow nearly half way dow[n] its sides this weather continues thick & smoky

yanky story

Every device and artifice is used by the natives of this river to obtain amunition & other manufactoryed articles of the whites & the following was used by some natives to day 5 or 6 natives came leaping & yelling gaily from bahind the sand hills one [had] a small piece of dried salmon an other a few handfulls of corn a 3^d some dried roots each bringing something & insisted that we should eat we continued moveing on & they running along side offering ther subsistence without price untill reaching a bend in the River westoped to let our horses drink when one of them spreading his blanket on the sand they spread out the repast for us, & obliged us to taste the provision which gave them a fair right to beg and importune us for tobacco Lead powder and in short every small article they could think of after giving a part of what they wanted we rode on they seeming well pleased

Reached Mr [H. K. W.] Perkins missionary station in the fore noon now occupid by Mr [Alvan F.] Waller delivered to him a letter taken from the office at west port Mr Waller appears to be a gentleman but I do not recolect that he thanked me for the care & trouble of bringing the letter but the reverend gentleman must be excused for my appearance certainly did not shew that I could apprecate any civilities not haveing shaved for about 15 day or changed clothes for more than 30 and the Reverend gentleman pricking himself verry much on outward appearances as I have since understood

8 started up the steep ridge west of the creek & in 1/2 an hour reached the top our selve & horses in a foam of sweat on account of the steepness of the path but the cool mountain Breeze soon relieved our lungs this like all the ridges of this mountain was soon crossed & we had a longer & steeper decent than any previously crossed but after a pack horse or two pitching thire loads over their heads we at length reached not the bottom but smoothe going which fell into deep ravines to the right passed over an uneven plain covered with the pines & largest kind of Fir & pine timber interspersed with stented oaks this continued for some 9 [?] miles with several small Brook passing

through made 18 miles & encamped near the bank of rapid tumbling mountain torrent immediately below the forks the eastern branch from its colour & appearanc being a part of the weepings from the white summit of Mount Hood which is covered in snow more than half way down its sides

The ridges over which we passed are verry steep and high being about 2 miles & about the same distance down the opposite side

From the missionary establishment passed yestarday there is a grand view of the Columbia pushing its course through the black Frowning rocks which stand in thick profusion in over & about the stream with the wildest mountain scenery in all directions & of all kinds surmounted in the north west by a conicle summit of a mountain caped in Eternal snow

9 Proceede early up the East side of the stream we had encamped on & soon crossed the Eastern branch the water being very rapid tumbling & roling down amidst the rocks which lay so thick that it was difficult for our horses to keep their feet pased up the stream some miles through allmost impervious thickits of veer[y] green shrubery of to me new & unknown kinds crossed over to the W Branch through the same kind of Shrubery & passed up the East side of the W Branch through immense groves of Fir timber the tallest & straites I ever beheld some supposed to be nearly or Quite 100 feet high & not more than 18 inches through at the ground immense mountains covered and crouded thickly with timber apearing in all directions in the afternoon we assended an open ridge the large timber having (havein) been killed off by fire & from this ridge we had a splendid view of mount Hood & various other ridges & pinicles some thickly timbered to their summits others nearly bar or covered with under brush shewing at this season a greate veriaty of [colors] some covered with a species of dwarf maple wore a deep red appearance others yellow & Brown contrasted with the deep green Firr of othe[r] points & the white snowy summit of Mount Hood gave us all the veriety of shades allmost between green white & red But soon we took down the steep sides again & all views ware lost except now & then a perpendicular peep up an immense Firr tree which seemed to have no reasonable stopping but went on to a dizzy hight

Made about 25 miles & encamped after sun down tied up our horses not having seen a hanfull of grass during the day

10 Saddled our Starved animals and proceed up the couse of one of branches of the same creek we followed all day yesterday the same immense Quantity of timber continueing & not in the [least] diminishet in Size & hight in about 4 hours winding around & jumping ove

logs we (we) assended the highest ridge of the cascade mountains over which the trail passes but the timber prevented us from having any view in any direction turning short to the west we began our descent down the western declivity & following the course of a ravine through which ran a clear Brook of cool water we descended rapidly and found going down hill more pleasant than going up especially when one goes on foot as we all did our horses not being able to carry us in about 3 hours we came to an open sandy vally through which ran a rapid Brook called Sandy the vally being more than a mile wide & covered with sand & Loose rock

This vally appeared to have been a deep mountain ravine at no distant period from the great Quantities of dry Firr that [were] standing on each side and lay strewn over and intermingled with the rocks and sand and as the Stream takes its rise from the summer weepings of Ice & snow on the western declivity of Mount Hood I conclude that some tremendous avalanch must have descended into the vally carrying every thing before it rock sand gravel timber & all in one confused mass the whole being carried down filled up the narrow ravine & forming the present vally now Just begining to shew a stented groth of young Firrs or that some internal heat must have melted off the ice & the immense flood of water broke over all its original bounds tore away from the lower part of the mountain [the] mixed mass that now fills & forms the vally

11 Left our camp on sandy & proceeded along the blind trail down the stream at a slow gate untill nearly noon the brawling mountain torrent haveing assumed Quite the appearanc of a river we left the stream & turned short to the right & soon came to a kind of Brushy opening of rich soil & some grass where we stoped to graze an hour saw some male Fern growing here nine or 10 feet in height

moved on the trail along a narrow ridge amongst the tall Firr and the emmence large Hemlock timber grate Quantities lying down & more standing Several small Brooks crossing our path untill near sundown we came to an opening or Small Prairie where we encamped for the night going nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ amile down a steep declivity for water to cook our Suppers during the whole of today the country had been burned some still on fire & some had been burned last year the under Brush being killed & the larger [timber] haveing fallen in all directions made the travelling verry bad & tiresome as our horses had to leap over all the logs filled with sharp snags & limbs to the great danger of letting out their entrails

Made about 18 miles & we ware glad to find a spot of green grass for our animals to feed on during the night these mountains do not

appear to have much game on them as we saw nothing but a few small Squirrels & some Pheasants the latter plenty in (in) some places & several ware killed to day which proved to make a fine Treat and ate well being fat and finely flavored passed several small spots of land that appeared to have a deep rich soil of pale redish coloured clay mingled with decomposed rock and gravel and generally covered with an emmence thick and large groth of firr timber

12 Again under way before Sunrise a stiff white frost covered the grass & weeds in an hours travel we came down a Steep hill into a low ground completely strewn over with logs & brush a late fire having passed over in many [places] the smoldring logs ware (ware) yet smoking after leaping logs & Braking Brush we succeeded in gaining the Banks of sandy the stream we left to the south of us yet tardy & crossed to South side where for a mile or more we encountered the same difficulties as on the North side after greate exertion to our Jaded animals we at length gained the top of the Bluffs where the pathe became more opin and traveling more pleasant crossing two or three handsome Brooks & passing as many thickets we at length gained an open highland of fine Soil covered thickly with fern & dug thickly with holes by some Burrowing animal what kind I did not asertain¹¹¹

Made about 15 miles and encamped at a small Spring where we found fair grazing for our animals and we made preparations for Shaveing & preparing ourselves to see our countrymen tomorrow almost wearied out with the continual watching it requires to tarvel through an unsettled country such as we had now passed our little party felt lively and happy and [it] Bcame a pleasant task to once more wash shave and bathe ourselves in the cold clear running little brook that passed our present encampment and we spent a Jovial evening around our camp fire in the anticipation that for a while at least our constant toils ware about to ceas as we knew the settlements ware not far distant about dark two Indians of the Walla walla tribe came up & camp^d near having been to willhamett trading they remained with us & in the morning we parted each [going his own] road

Sunday

13 Early we ware again on our saddles and Kept down the val of (of) some creek or river [of] which we heard the water rippeling but did not come in sight of the stream, the trail leading along through kind of firr opening where the grass in places looked green as summer in spots but we soon passed over all the fine places going up (and) steep banks through brush & logs almost impassable the woods haveing been

¹¹¹ Probably the Sewellel or *Aplodontia*, a burrowing rodent about the size of a muskrat, and inhabiting the fern thickets in the Cascade Mountains.

recently burned & many old logs yet smoking and again crossed sandy haveing increased to a small river still running rapid over a rocky bed the low grounds being litterly covered with logs and brush after tearing through brush and leaping logs about an hour we at length assended the bluffs & found an open trail comparatively crossed Several fine running brooks of clear water steep guters &c &c About 2 oclock P.M. came on the top of ridge & saw some cattle feeding on the vally of the clackimus River & soon came in sight of a cabbin the first of the settlement of Willhamett and on enquiry found we ware within 4 miles of the Falls of Willhamett the Seat of government & the main commercial place for all the settlments of the Territory of Oregon crossed a rough rocky Ridge & came to a small farm or two on the bottom land of the Clackimus crossed the river at an old Chinook village and in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour we ware on the banks of the Willhamett River and at (on) the lower part of the town or city platt

as soon as I entered the village I shook hands with a Mr Ware [J. W. Wair] a young man of my acquaintance from Indiana who came out with the last years emigration 20 miles

[TO BE CONTINUED]