

COED - Census of Overland Emigrant Documents
PAGE 1: Document Description

Mattes # 1142 Document ID: (52CORP1)

Emigrant's last name: Cornell Surveyed by: mem69
first & middle names: William Date surveyed: 2/27/92
Title: William Cornell's Journal, 1852, with His Overland Guide to Oregon

Year of journey: 1852 Year written (if different): _____ Page nos. surveyed: 367-393

Type of document: D (D - diary; J - journal; R - reminiscence; L - letter; N - newspaper article; G - guide; A - autobiography; O - other)

Items in document: I X K F M (use all applicable codes)
M - daily mileages D - emigrant drawings P - emigrant maps Q - maps by editor K - biographical sketch
I - Introduction B - bibliography N - index X - photos F - footnotes/commentaries

Published? (Y/N): Y Location of original document: _____

For PUBLISHED documents only:

Published in: Oregon State Historical Quarterly 79

Publisher: Oregon State Historical Society Year published: 1978

Place published: _____

Editor's (or translator's) last name: Offen, Karen and Dunway, David C.
first & middle names: _____

Notes about publication history: _____

For UNPUBLISHED documents only:

Notes about format of document: _____

mem69

Cornell, William

COED - Census of Overland Emigrant Documents

PAGE 2: Journey Description

Document ID: (S2COR01)

Emigrant's occupation: Farmer Origin: Licking County, OH
Age: 39 M/F: M With family? (Y/N) N No. in family: _____

Departed from (code): 13 Arrived at (code): 01
Date of departure: 05/04/52 Date of arrival: 09/28/52 (use form mm/dd/yy)

Party: _____

Mode of travel: W (one code only: W - wagons; P - packing; L - passenger lines; H - handcart; X - other)

Number of wagons at departure: _____

Number of people at departure: _____ total _____ men _____ women _____ children

Draft animals at departure: X oxen _____ mules _____ horses _____ other (use X or a number)

Other animals: C (H - horses; C - cattle; S - sheep; P - pigs; F - fowl; D - dogs; X - other)

Guidebook used by emigrant (enter either a title, or an author and title, if given):

Routes: 1B 1D 1E 1L 2L 2N _____ (use codes from the trail maps)

Notes on back? _____

member Cornell, William

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Cornell	Gideon		M		Licking Land Co.	359	1/1805		
Cornell	Gideon		M			359			
Cornell	Sylvanus		M			359			
Cornell	Archibald		M			359			
Cornell	Issac		M			359			
Carpenter	Sarah		F			359			
Cornell	Emily Castle		F	St. Albans Township, OH		360	1/1852		
Castle	Walter		M			360			
Cornell	Bertrand		M			361			
Cornell	Holly Austin		F			362			
Cornell	Edward W.		M			362			
Cornell	Wilbur Fisk		M			362			
Cornell	Emma Julia		F			362			
Cornell	Emily Castle		F			362			
Cornell	Mary Celestia		F			362			
Cornell	Samantha A.		F			362			
Mc Alister	E. A.		M			363			
Royal	J. H. B.		M			363			
Gardner	William		M			363			
Healey	John J.		M			363			

CODES for column 1:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A - birth | G - marriage (*) |
| B - death, illness | H - registered name |
| C - death, accident | I - name on roster |
| D - death, murder | J - turned back |
| E - death, other/unknown | K - traveling east |
| F - name on grave | |

CODES for column 2:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| L - capt. of party | R - Black |
| M - guide of party | S - Indian |
| N - military | T - Hispanic |
| O - govt. surveyor/explorer | U - non-US citizen |
| P - trader | V - Mormon |
| Q - non-immigrant | W - joined other party |

Codes may not apply to all names. Use up to 2 codes in each column, if multiple codes apply.

* For marriages, bracket the spouses' names and number the couples sequentially.

member Cornell, William

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Castle	Judson		M			365			
Davis	Drury		M			365			
Cornell	Harvey		M			366			
Castle	Judson		M			371	05/16	B	
Orchard	Mr.		M			372	05/23		
Dennis	Capt.		M			373	06/02		
Brunton	Mrs.		F			375	06/22		
Orchard	Jesse		M			378	07/11		
Caston	Mr.		M			380	07/22		
Caston	Rev. Mr.		M			380	07/23		
Orchard	Mrs.		F			381	07/25		
Nichols	Mrs.		F			381	07/26		
Nichols			M			381	07/27	A	
Nichols	Mr.		M			381	07/28		
Davis	Drury		M			382	08/03		
Orchard's	(child)					388	08/30	B	
Brunton's	(child)					390	09/11	B	
Mann	Mrs.		F			392	09/27		

CODES for column 1:

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Codes may not apply to all names. Use up to 2 codes in each column, if multiple codes apply.

* For marriages, bracket the spouses' names and number the couples sequentially.

Location	Page	Date
Missouri River	367	Φ5/Φ4
Duncan's ferry	367	Φ5/Φ4
St. Joseph	367	Φ5/Φ4
Snake creek	367	Φ5/Φ4
Mud Creek	367	Φ5/Φ5
Wolf river	367	Φ5/Φ5
Iowa Ridge Creek	367	Φ5/Φ5
Rainy Creek	368	Φ5/1Φ
Big Blue river	371	Φ5/19
Turkey creek	371	Φ5/19
Sandy	372	Φ5/21
Little Blue river	372	Φ5/22
Platte river	373	Φ5/29
Fort Kearney	373	Φ5/31
Plumb creek	373	Φ6/Φ2
South Platte	373	Φ6/Φ8
North Platte	374	Φ6/Φ9
Ash Hollow	374	Φ6/13
Courthouse rock	375	Φ6/16
Chimney rock	375	Φ6/16
Horse Creek	375	Φ6/21
Laramie river	375	Φ6/23
Fort Laramie	375	Φ6/23
Rapid Creek	376	Φ6/26

Location	Page	Date
La Bontee river	376	06/27
trader	376	06/27
Willow springs	377	07/05
Rocky mountains	377	07/06
Alkalie lakes	377	07/07
Independence Rock	377	07/07
Sweet water river	377	07/07
Snow creek	379	07/15
Fremonts peak	379	07/15
South Pass	379	07/17
Pacific Springs	379	07/18
Dry Sandy	379	07/18
Big Sandy	379	07/19
Little Sandy	379	07/19
Green river	380	07/20
McKinney's Cutoff	380	07/23
Hans Fork	381	07/26
Bear river	381	07/30
Mud Creek	382	08/02
Soda Springs	382	08/03
Steam Boat spring	382	08/03
Oregon road	382	08/04
California road	382	08/04
Trout creek	382	08/05

Location	Page	Date
Vally of Snake	383	08/07
Lewis river	383	08/07
Fort Hall	384	08/09
Ponacles creek	384	08/09
American Falls	385	08/11
Rock Creek	385	08/11
Raft river	385	08/12
Raft Creek	385	08/12
Goose Creek	385	08/15
Cut Creek	386	08/17
Rock Creek	386	08/19
Snake river	387	08/23
Salmons falls	387	08/24
Silver creek	387	08/25
Roaring river	387	08/26
Grave Creek	388	08/29
Indian creek	388	08/31
Boisse river	389	09/03
Malheur river	389	09/09
Spring Creek	390	09/12
Burnt river	390	09/13
Salmon mountains	391	09/16
Blue Mountains	391	09/16
Powder river	391	09/16

mem 69 Cornell, William

Location

Page

Date

Grand Round valley

391

09/20

Umatilla

392

09/24

Indian agency station

392

09/28

Dalles

393

CODE	Tribe name (leave blank if not mentioned)	Page	Date
F	Pawnee	372	05/21
I	Sode.s	374	06/09
D	Indians	375	06/23
D	Indians	376	06/27
D	Snake	379	07/19
D	Soo	380	07/20
D	Indians	382	08/04
H	Indians	384	08/09
K	Indians	389	09/07
H	Indians	392	09/25

CODES (use up to 3 for each entry)

- A - attacked
- B - begged
- C - robbed
- D - saw Indians
- E - imagined sighting
- F - worried about Indians
- G - were warned about
- H - traded with Indians
- I - other
- J - paid toll to Indians
- K - visited/talked to Indians

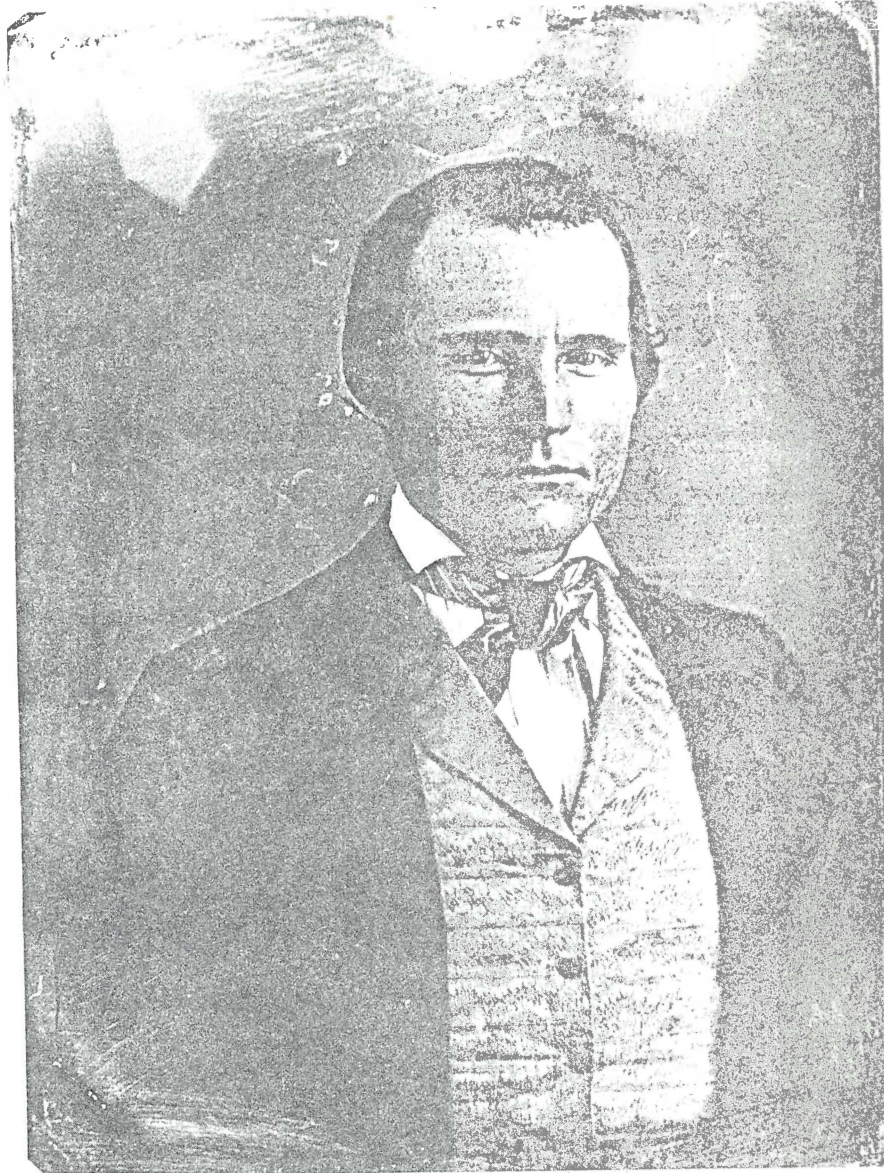
KAREN M. OFFEN AND
DAVID C. DUNIWAY, EDS.

William Cornell's Journal, 1852, with His Overland Guide to Oregon

INTRODUCTION BY KAREN M. OFFEN

MY great-great-grandfather, William Cornell, the author of the accompanying journal and guide, was one of some 25,000 settlers who came overland to Oregon in 1852. At the time of Cornell's emigration from central Ohio, where he was born and raised, he was a man of nearly 40, responsible for a wife and four children—indeed, a fifth child was on the way when he departed. Cornell left behind an apparently prosperous 100-acre farm, his own immediate family and a number of other close relatives, choosing instead to brave the unknown dangers of the trail and the uncertain prospects of beginning anew in faraway Oregon Territory, in order to (as he put it in his journal) “better his condition.” Beyond this single comment, Cornell made no statement of his motives for undertaking this great move at a time in life when other men might have felt too old or too tied-down to do likewise. As both a trained historian and a curious descendant, I have found myself irresistibly tempted to ferret out the factors that may have motivated his departure.

One fact that may well have influenced Cornell's decision to go west was that he himself was the descendant of pioneer folk. In 1805 his grandfather Gideon Cornell had brought his family to Ohio from New England, in company of a group known as the “Licking Land Company,” to settle St. Albans township, now in Licking County, east of Columbus and just west of the town of Granville. Although Gideon Cornell died in 1806, his four sons (Gideon, Sylvanus, Archibald, and Isaac) and daughters established families and farms in the region. Sylvanus, who was William Cornell's father, had married Sarah Carpenter, the daughter of another Licking County family that had come to Ohio from Pennsylvania. This union produced five children, three girls



William Cornell, aged 37 (taken Aug. 11, 1849). (Courtesy Elizabeth Lane.)

and two boys, of whom William Cornell was the elder. Even though William was the only one of the five to leave Ohio (even today a few descendants of his sisters and uncles can be found in Licking County and the surrounding region), it is clear that the pioneering spirit was no stranger to the Cornell family. William Cornell's wife, Emily Castle Cornell, also came from a family of Ohio pioneers. The Castles were Yankees from Vermont; they had emigrated to St. Albans township from Chittenden County, Vermont, in 1830, when Emily was ten years old, and had settled not far from the Cornells.¹

Certainly the desire to seek improvement in economic circumstances played a determinant role in influencing Cornell's decision to go to Oregon. The possibility of obtaining the 320 acres of virgin land promised to married emigrants by the Donation Land Law of 1850 was undoubtedly tempting.² Yet it is not clear that Cornell was particularly committed to farming as a way of life. Walter Castle, William Cornell's nephew and an authority on the history of Licking County and his family's past,³ once suggested that his uncle William had decided to abandon farming and was more interested in getting rich quick. Castle remembered hearing William say, during a later visit to Ohio, that he had gone to Oregon to prospect for silver. According to Castle, a company of 32 men from Licking County, many of whom were known to Cornell, had gone to California a few years earlier "to get rich mining gold." "Most of them returned," he added, "but the trip was not an unqualified success. I suspect the reports brought back by them may have had much to do in turning Uncle William towards

1. For information on the Licking Land Company and the settlement of the area, see Robert Price, Walter Castle and George B. Cash, eds., *Alexandria and St. Albans Township, Licking County, Ohio* (Alexandria, Ohio, 1952). Information concerning the background of the Cornell and Castle families has been obtained from various genealogical sources and correspondence with family members. Of particular importance is the *Genealogy of the Cornell family; being an account of the descendants of Thomas Cornell of Portsmouth, R. I.* by the Rev. John Cornell (Press of T. A. Wright, New York, 1902). (Microfilm in Mrs. Offen's possession.)
2. According to the Donation Land Law of 1850, emigrants arriving in Oregon before December 1850 might claim 320 acres if single or 640 if married; those arriving between Dec. 1, 1850 and Dec. 1, 1853, were entitled to claim land grants of 160 acres (single men) and 320 acres (married couples).
3. See footnote 1.
4. Letter from Walter Castle to David C. Duniway, Feb. 21, 1961. No evidence has turned up which would indicate one way or another that William Cornell actually tried his luck at prospecting.

Oregon instead of California."⁴ That the prospect of acquiring easier riches in Oregon may have been the immediate temptation is corroborated by the testimony of William's young cousin, Bertrand Cornell, who accompanied him on the trail. Bertrand had originally set out for California, but had by chance encountered William Cornell in Missouri and was persuaded to accompany the older man to Oregon instead. "I think there will be as good or better chance of making money there as in Cal," he wrote to his father Archibald.⁵

Nowhere in these documents do we find any suggestion, either explicit or implicit, that Cornell's move was influenced by the call of "Manifest Destiny," that great ideological and emotional appeal launched to stimulate westward settlement. Clearly, such ideas were in the air in that part of Ohio where Cornell lived.⁶ But Cornell seems to have been a practical sort of man, not much stirred by ideologies. Probably the combination of personal familiarity with a pioneer situation and a nose for opportunity was sufficient to spur him into risking the move. Indeed, the best supporting evidence for this judgment is provided by an examination of his subsequent life in Oregon.

When William Cornell first arrived in Oregon in the autumn of 1852, he busied himself with odd jobs. In an account published later by one of his daughters, it is noted that for a time he worked for a certain Judge Taylor, south of Portland, and hewed timbers for a new school building in Bethel (Polk County). In 1854 Cornell sent for his family: all five children and their mother made the long and arduous trip by steamer, via the Panama isthmus route, and at last arrived in Portland. For a time the family was settled in Bethel, but in September 1855 Cornell acquired his claim of 320 acres in what is now Portland and began raising fruit, cherries at first, then apples and pears.⁷ According to

5. Letter of May 30, 1852 (photostat at OHS).
6. In his correspondence with Duniway, Walter Castle emphasized the intensity of feeling that existed in the states of the old Northwest Territory about the necessity of settling the new Northwest region with Americans. "There was an organized propaganda to win settlers for Oregon," Castle wrote, noting that it took on the proportions of a religious crusade. Letter of Feb. 21, 1961.
7. From interview of Cornell's second daughter, Emma Cornell Royal, by Fred Lockley. "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man," *Oregon Journal* (Portland), Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 1933. Details of Cornell's land claim (Oregon City D.L.C. No. 1662) indicate that he settled his claim on Sept. 29, 1855. Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims* (Portland, 1957), Vol. 1, p. 68.



William Cornell family, circa 1862. Back row: sons Edward (left) and Wilbur Fisk Cornell. Front row (from left): Emma Julia, Emily Castle Cornell, Holly Austin (born in Oregon), William Cornell, Mary Celestia and Samantha A. (Family Collection.)

Walter Castle, William Cornell had discovered that easy money was to be had by raising fruits and vegetables and selling them to sailors on the Portland docks.⁸ Farming, it seemed, might still be more lucrative than prospecting. In 1857, the reunited Cornells greeted the arrival of their sixth child, Holly, the only one to be born in the West.

Once settled in the Portland area, William Cornell became actively associated with the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he had earlier been affiliated in Ohio. In 1856 he was named trustee of the church-sponsored Portland Academy and Female Seminary (a school later taken over by Willamette University). In 1859 Cornell's eldest daughter Samantha (my own great-grandmother) became the first graduate of this school.⁹ Also in 1859, Cornell was authorized by the church's Oregon conference "to hold meetings for prayer and exhortation" in the East-

8. Letter to Duniway, Feb. 21, 1961.

9. Methodist Episcopal Church, Oregon. Minutes of the Oregon Annual Conference, 1856. For the early history of the Portland Academy, see Alfred Powers and Howard McKinley Corning, eds., *History of Education in Portland*, written by the WPA Adult Education Project under sponsorship of the General Extension Division, State System of Higher Education (Portland, Oregon, 1937), 57-62. Samantha Cornell's diploma, dated May 18, 1859, was added to the Cornell Royal papers by the Misses McAlister of Blue River, Oregon. (Now at OHS.)

Tualatin Circuit, and for many years he rode the circuit in this capacity.¹⁰ In 1871, he was ordained a deacon in the Taylor Street Methodist Church in Portland and henceforth was known as the Rev. William Cornell.¹¹

Cornell soon complemented his active interest in church affairs by a brief foray into politics. In 1874 he was elected (on the Republican ticket) to the state legislature, where he represented Multnomah County (Portland) for a two-year term. During these years Cornell was particularly active in pressing measures on road-building and improvement of waterways.¹² But he was evidently too independent-minded for the comfort of the local party leaders, and in 1876 they only reluctantly renominated him.¹³

About 1884 the Cornells moved permanently to Salem. There William remained except for a visit to Ohio, this time by rail, during the late summer and autumn of 1891.¹⁴ On the return trip he fell ill and died the day following his arrival home. The obituary notices praised him as having been a man of exemplary character—an upright citizen and a pillar of the community.

None of William and Emily Cornell's six children stayed with farming. All three daughters married—two to preachers (the eldest, Samantha, to a maverick Universalist preacher and self-taught physician from Maine, E. A. McAlister; the second, Emma, to a more acceptable Methodist, J. H. B. Royal). Both these women have living descendants. The third daughter, Mary, married a William Gardner, of whom nothing is known; she died in Idaho, without issue, in her late thirties. All three sons entered the business world. The eldest, Wilbur, was a journalist and printer by trade, but his avocation was prospecting. In 1861 he and Capt. John J. Healey discovered gold in Florence, Idaho. Thereafter he harbored a latent case of "gold fever," and finally

10. The certificate of authorization, dated Dec. 25, 1859, is signed by "Nelson Clark, Preacher in charge." Cornell-Royal papers.

11. Minutes of the Methodist Conference for 1871, p. 19. Cornell was ordained deacon by Bishop Jones on Aug. 13, 1871. On the usage, see his obituary in the *Pacific Christian Advocate* (Portland), late December 1891. Clipping in Cornell-Royal papers.

12. David Duniway has traced Cornell's legislative career through the pages of the *Journal of the lower house*.

13. Letter from David Duniway, June 13, 1972; *Daily Oregonian*, May 22, 1876, p. 2, col. 2.

14. This may not have been his only visit to Ohio. Following the death of Emily Castle Cornell in the spring of 1888, William Cornell married a Mrs. Caroline Collier from Delaware, Ohio, in 1889.

in 1892 he left Portland for Alaska, where he later chronicled the rush to the Klondike and sought to strike it rich himself. Both younger sons settled in Portland. The second brother, Edward W., made a successful career in real estate, and the youngest, Holly, was active in the construction business.¹⁵

William Cornell's journey on the overland trail to Oregon was marked by no extraordinary events; it was simply long and difficult. His two companions were both relatives and both were much younger than he. The first, Judson Castle, was Cornell's wife's younger brother. He fell ill, a victim of the cholera that took such a heavy toll among the emigrants of 1852, less than a hundred miles from St. Joseph, Missouri, and was buried along the trail. According to Walter Castle, William Cornell's mother-in-law never forgave him for Judson's death, attributing it to his carelessness in looking after the younger man—and it was remarked by the Ohio family that only after Mrs. Castle's death did William Cornell return for a visit with his Ohio relatives.¹⁶

Cornell's second companion was his young cousin Bertrand, who was also stricken and was ill during much of the trip. By the time the party neared the Bear River, William Cornell wrote in his diary that "Bertrand's long sickness seems to have produced a state of mind bordering on Lunacy he imagines things to be true that are entirely false that persons in the company are making derision of him."¹⁷ Bertrand survived the journey only to die soon after his arrival in Portland.

William Cornell himself was more fortunate. Except for two relatively minor complaints during the last month of the trip (an infected hand and later a tooth), he enjoyed good health during the journey. He must have been blessed with an iron constitution, considering that he was responsible for nursing Judson Castle, then Bertrand Cornell, and also a man named Drury Davis who had joined their party in early August and also fell seriously ill before reaching Oregon.

The various illnesses, compounded by problems with the oxen, slowed the Cornell party down considerably. Cornell and his com-

15. Additional information on the families descended from William Cornell may be found in "Descendants of William Cornell, Oregon Pioneer," compiled by Karen M. Offen, dittoed and privately distributed, Stanford, Calif., 1969.

16. Walter Castle to Duniway, Dec. 21, 1960.

17. See diary entry for July 30.

panions started out from St. Joseph, crossing the Missouri River at Duncan's Ferry on May 4th. They lost a full week at the outset, due first to the lameness of an ox and then to the illness and death of Castle, and only reached Fort Kearney on May 31. From that point on, however, they made good time, reaching Fort Laramie on June 23 and Fort Hall on August 8 (William Cornell's fortieth birthday), at which point Cornell considered himself to be on schedule. But they did not reach the Umatilla Indian Agency station until September 28, well behind a number of other parties that had left Missouri at approximately the same time.¹⁸ We have no record of their trip beyond Umatilla. They may have followed the standard pattern of ferrying their wagons down the Columbia River from The Dalles, but they may also have driven them over the Barlow route, over the Cascades into the Willamette Valley.¹⁹ We do know from the Donation Land Claim records that Cornell gave his date of arrival as November 1st, 1852.²⁰

On May 20, enroute to Fort Kearney, the Cornell party joined forces with another party of four wagons bound for Oregon. On June 4, they enlarged their party by five more wagons. Some of these emigrants were from Brown County, Illinois: the names of a Captain Dennis, and families named Orchard, Nichols, and Brunton, appear in the diary. On July 11, the party split. The Cornells joined the party of a preacher named Reverend Caston and his family, along with the young Orchards and the Nichols. Drury Davis joined the party on August 3, near Soda Springs. On August 14, three more wagons joined this party at Raft River; on the

18. It is interesting to compare the progress of Cornell's party with that of others whose accounts have been published. Cornell embarked from St. Joseph slightly ahead of the John Tucker Scott party [see the Compiler's Appendix to Harvey W. Scott, *History of the Oregon Country*, III (Cambridge, Mass., 1924)], but the latter had gained a lead of several days in arriving at Fort Kearney and arrived at Umatilla nearly three weeks ahead of Cornell and his company. The Akin, Kerns, and Sharp parties traveled some three or four days ahead of the Cornell party all the way, while the Davis and Adams parties were a week or more behind. See *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association*, 1903 (Sharp), 1912 (Akin), 1914 (Kerns), 1904 (Adams), and 1909 (Davis). The White party left St. Joseph on May 1 and arrived in Oregon City on August 29. See *To Oregon in 1852, Letter of Dr. Thomas White, La Grange County, Indiana Emigrant*, ed. by Oscar O. Winther and Gayle Thornbrough (Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, 1964).

19. According to a statement made by F. A. Chenoweth in the territorial legislature, Dec. 14, 1852, this was the general practice. Quoted by Scott, *History of the Oregon Country*, III:228.

20. Oregon City DLC No. 1662. *Genealogical Material, op. cit.*, p. 68.

16th, two others left in a huff. On the 19th, the party was reduced to ten wagons by the departure of four others. Nerves and tempers were obviously wearing thin. On August 23, the four wagons belonging to the Caston party split off, leaving six wagons in the company (Nichols, the young Orchards, the two Cornells and Davis). In early September, however, the party was enlarged once again when the remnants of the group that had gone with the senior Orchards in July rejoined the others.

Despite the hardships, William Cornell never lost his sense of beauty nor his eye for detail. One can only admire his sensitivity to the loveliness of a newly-sighted river or the panorama from the crest of a mountain range. The diary and guide abound with observations of this sort. Cornell's powers of observation were quite refined, and he could always articulate what he saw—even when he couldn't spell it correctly. He displayed an evident knowledge of practical medicine (his brother Harvey was a physician) and a scientific curiosity that was ever alert to new discoveries (see, for example, his diary entry for September 1st). Moreover, his writings provide an excellent example of the entrepreneurial mind that seems so classically American. He viewed the land in terms of its potential for development (see his diary entry for May 14, among others) and the rivers and waterfalls in terms of harnessing power for mills (entries for June 26 and August 21).

The documents that follow have been transcribed verbatim; no changes have been made by the editors in order to improve or update the grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Except for an effort to clarify the paragraphing, the texts are entirely faithful to originals, though occasionally there may be an editorial insertion in brackets when meaning is not clear.²¹

21. There is an annotated transcription of the diary (as well as the original) at OHS, which has words or figures inserted between brackets to indicate changes made, presumably by the author, in the original text. Underscoring indicates an addition [addition] appearing generally above or below the line; lined through words indicate a deletion [deletion]. In the course of preparation, the typescript of the William Cornell journal (both diary and guide) was proofread against the original manuscript (by David Duniway with the assistance of Andrew Snyder) and against the microfilm copy of the original (by Karen Offen, with the help of George R. Offen). The final typescripts were prepared by Mrs. Offen.

The editors would like to acknowledge the help of many individuals over the years since this project was first undertaken. First, they want to thank the personnel of the Oregon State Library, the Oregon Historical Society, Willamette University Library and Stanford University Library, who have aided them in so many ways. Three mem-

William Cornell's
Description of the route to Oregon [1852]

May the fourth Crossed the Missouri river at Duncan's ferry 4½ miles from St. Joseph kept down the river close to the Bluffs 2½ miles then turned to the right up a gradual [*sic*] ascent to the top of the expansive and deep rolling plains one deep ravine 1 mile on the plains another in 5 miles a good spring at 6 or 7 on the left at the head of a deep ravine Camped on snake creeke 22 miles from St. Jo PROBABLY MOSAUMTO C. (4½+2½+15?)

5 Wednesday rained last Night road slippery 3 miles to Mud Creek bad crossing ½ Wolf river toll bridge 4½ to Set- tlement and 2 miles to another Creek and 4 to Iowa Ridge Creek Camped distance 14 m MISSOURI CREEK CEDAR CREEK IOWA MISSION

6 Thursday last night it rained and thundered and brewed a hurricane to day muddy with more rain We had to unload a part of our goods to get out of a mud hole traveled 15 miles camped muddy slew 2 or 300 WEST OF HIAWATHA T.

Friday the 7 this morning found one of our oxen with a very lame foot and much swelled conclude to remain here to day and until our ox can travel to night near 50 emigrant wagons camp nears us

Saturday the 8 Our ox still lame as ever and obliged still to remain and exercise our patience; the day somewhat rainy The evening brings about the usual amount of emigrants to camp by us Thus quite a vilage springs up and disappears dayly upon this spot of earth with pigmy edifices with underpinings of wheels in many instances and tenanted by some 2 or 300 people old and young and some 4 or 500 head of Cattle horses and mules in the agregete are turned out upon the surrounding beautiful hilly plain

bers of the Cornell family have been especially helpful: Harvey H. Cornell of Portland, for his gift of the original journal to the Oregon Historical Society and for granting permission to publish; Eddie J. Cornell of Columbia, Ohio, for providing the editors with photocopies of the original Bertrand Cornell letters and for consenting to publication; and the late Willis R. Cornell of Portland, for his donation of the Cornell Royal papers to the Oregon Historical Society. In addition, the editors thank other William Cornell descendants for their continued interest and assistance: the late Miss Cecile McAlister and Miss Katharine McAlister of Blue River, Oregon, and Mrs. Elizabeth Singleton Lane of Sonora, California. Finally, they would like to express their deep debt to the late Walter Castle of Wilmington, Ohio, for his invaluable contribution, based on his boyhood memories of his uncle William's later visits to Ohio, and on his historical knowledge of the St. Albans area where the Cornells lived prior to their emigration to Oregon.

to graze upon the tender grass all shadoing civilization in these beautiful but uncultivated lands

Sunday the 9 morning rather cool our ox about the same the complaint is called by those who pretend to know the foul hoof said to be caused by mud and wet a crack between the hoof followed by inflamation and sweelling in the pastue [pastern?] joint so up the leg if not checked As directed for a remedy we performed the following opperation made him fast between some trees with ropes, fastened his foot also thin took a chord and sawed it through between the two parts of the hoof till it nearly bled then poured in some hot tar turned him loose with the hopes of his speedy recovery We have some company quite a number of emigrants are remaining here over the Sabbath the day is pleasant though rather windy this is the second Sabbath in the pleasant month of May and every prospect pleases, How I should like to day to be with those I love but I have chosen to bear the privation hoping to better my condition.

Monday the 10th We made another start our ox appears a little better we drove him six miles without yokeing drawing the wagon and load with one yoke camped on Rainy Creek off to the left of the road * It commenced raining about two O clock and made out the day so This morning a man died at the place where we camped the last three days of the Cholrea Morbus so said this makes the fourth man that has found a resting place for his bones on the first fifty miles out from St. Jo. during this tide of emigration to California Ah who his time can tell

Tuesday 11 this morning our prospects rather gloomy one ox lame no worse and another in a bad condition we think blind one eye injured when bought the other I think injured by a stroke of the whip I fear that we shall have to leave him I thought this morning of going back to St. Jo to buy another yoke of oxen. We traveled about 11 miles to day and camped off to the road in about 60 rods of a good Spring I mile or more of wood I call it 68 miles off of St Joseph *BRANCH OF WOLF RIVER*

Wednesday [May] 12 this morning one of our oxen got loose we found him after 1 hours search Started this morning with the expectation of going ten or twelve miles and stopped at 16 and that without wood too far for our lame ox. Judson Castle troubled with a diarrhoea to day more than common thought that he could not stand it to walk rode the last six or 7 miles he looks

* HEAD OF WOLF RIVER

**

EAST OF BAKER'S FORD

quite bad and says he has "*got the Cholrea*" I told him that I thought not Having put a few chips in our wagon in the morning we in all haste struck fire het water and made him a brandy sling probably in 15 minutes He said he was not "alarmed about himself" The sling started him to vomit a little at that moment a lady passing driving 2 cows inquired if we had any mustard I told her *no.* she said send to her wagon and get some make a plaster and put it on his bowels Also some pain-killer was sent we applied and gave both as directed also some warm wet clothes were applied to his stomach rice boiled and the water given to him I browned some rice and made him some rice coffee, one evacuation and he appeared tolerably comfortable and hoping that he may have a comfortable nights rest and be better in the morning

Thursday the 13 This morning we feel somewhat alarmed at Judson's condition he has become quite emaciated and enfeebled We hitched up our oxen and went early to where we could get some wood and water to cook with got no supper last night Judson during the night did not appear in much pain wanted drink we gave him rice water at intervals of about half hour his evacuations would occur involuntary and frequently through the night but not enough colour to stain a white shirt today we have been giving him camphor and Loudanum rice water, Rattle weed tea by his request It is said that three died near this last night I went to see a man that was sick last night that camped by us he was about dying poor fellow started for the Gold diggings but is to find a grave before he gets 100 miles on the plains as probably a score has in the same distence this year already To day at noon thinking that there was as much to fear as hope in Judson's case I inquired of him if he had any word to send home in case he should now *die* I intimated that I thought there was still hope of his recovery still we could not tell. He said "*tell them that I have no fear of death*" After a moments pause he remarked that it was "*possible*" that he "*did not realize what death was*" and further said that he had not as clear an evidenc as he would like to have that he would be happy hereafter or the evidence that some had I endeavoured to encourage him by telling him that dying grace was not given until it was necessary that if he would believe for it he would receive it He inquired of me if I thought he would die I told him frankly that his case in

my mind was equilly ballanced but I hoped for the best It is now two hours since and I still think the same He remarked that he would be glad to see his "folks," but uttered no regrets nor complaints

Friday 14 Last night and this morning we were well supplied with milk some Oregon emigrants camped by us with plenty of cows This morning the gloom in our case seems to be vanishing and hope brightens before us Judson is decidedly better I think with care will get well our blind ox begins to see the lame one walks better than he did We will remain here to day and Bertrand and I are trying our hand at washing some shirts The country through which we have passed for beauty and richness I have never before seen any thing that compares with it all that it appears to want is timber and industrious inhabitants to render it one of the best countries in the world but now a beautiful region of desolation Judson has not improved through the day as I had hoped he would; looks bad out of his eyes, his diarrhoea still runs him yet: some eight or nine times during the day I still hope and fear Our oxen are improving by laying up Two days without rain the sun is setting and throwing his bright rays athwart these beautiful plains More than 100 wagons have passed to day

Saturday the 15 Judson rested tolerably well last night still have hopes of his recovery Quite a hard rain this morning and thundering this evening Judson's diarrhoea nearly stoped only 4 evacuations in 24 hours This evening Judson looks bad and at times a little delirious my fears are still excited in his case We have now laid bye three days on his account doing all that we thought for the best but the mysteries of providence and the fate of men are not for us to know or control If he is to die why could he not have died at home with more friends to aid and sympathize

Sunday the 16th The last ray of hope in Judson's case is expiring his appearance indicates his stay with us but short his feet and hand are cold and pulse less his fingernails black his voice hollow faint and faltering Melancholly thought must we part so soon after entering upon our long and tiresome journey We have been doing what we thought for the best by the counsel of a physician and others a few hours will determine and consumate our grief or allay our fears A part of the night



and to day is windy and cold 12 O'clock

A sad record I have this evening to make Our fears are realized Judson is dead! melancholly thought! must we leave him here and in and see him no more yes? and more send the sad tidings to his friends and inform them that he is dead that they have parted for time to meet no more till in yonders bright world They assemble with the "just made perfect" He died about 4 O'clock He only expressed a wish once to be at home And once he said he would like to see his *folks* He appeared to suffer but little during his sickness and apparently easy was his end

Monday 17th this morning after inscribing Judsons name residence age and day of his death on a stone set up at [t]he head of his grave I took a tearful farewell of his last resting place and at about 11 O'clock we got our things all adjusted in our wagon and our team traveled of[f] nimbly for about 13 miles There was frost this morning the day has been clear and cool

Tuesday the 18 morning cold with a brisk West wind and continued through the day Traveled 21 miles stoped where the water was bad and no wood burnt an old yoke for fire and drank mud tea for Supper

Wednesday [May] 19 frost this morning 7 miles to Big Blue rive[r] fordable at this time We crossed about 11 o'clock traveled 21 miles camp on Turkey creek not much wood

Thursday the 20 Frost this morning about to rain evening traveled 16 miles saw three Antelopes 20 miles west of big Blue the first I ever saw aman after them on horse back the were shot at twice to fleet for a horse encamped with 4 Oregon emigrant wagons baked bread made tea and fried meat with a weed fire

Fryday the 21st This morning rainy and cold nearly snow about 10 Oclock we started in company with 4 Oregon emigrant wagons for wood and water crossed Sandy; while muddy bad crossing traveled 6½ laid up the rest of the day Since crossing the Big Blue we have been in the territory of the Pawnee Indians but have not seen any yet

Saturday th 22 morning cloudy and misty afternoon fine traveled 12 miles camped in near Little Blue river to lay over Sunday The roads bad Bertrand troubled with a flux rode some

Sunday the 23 This day delightful None of our crowd religious I believe some have been hunting some fishing An Old Mr Orchard and the women remain at camp Bertrand a little better Some sad reflections arise on the subject of having to bury Judson last Sunday We have traveled 85 miles the week past And 173 miles from St. Jo. Our blind ox sees well again the lame one nearly well our prospect for travelling seem to be good Our oxen growing fat

Monday 24 pleasant traveled 17 miles ox lame Bertrand better camped on a dry sandy Creek with but little water but tolerbly good

Tuesday the 25 rainy the most of the day traveled about 15 miles camped on the banks of Little Blue river the sun is setting clear

Wednesday the 26 It rained a little through the night and morning the day fine One of our company upset his wagon to day a wife and 4 children in it No serious damage done a child bruised a little. a few things mashed up a few edibles and some tea compounded a little The English husband swore a little his Dutch wife railed and the children squalled! What a world we live in traveled 15 miles to day camped mil[e]s to the left of Blue river on good grass

Thursday the 27th last night we had a storm of Bugs nearly as thick as bees a swarming to the great annoyance of both man and beast they roared like "a mighty rushing wind" they were on wing about ½ an hour The Musketoes made music for us the rest of the night to day has been clear and warm traveled 17 miles to day Our ox dont get well of his lameness yet Bertrand is getting better but has to ride yet

Friday the 28 Pleasant morning day rather warm and dry

some dust traveled 17 miles left the little Blue turned toward the Platte

Saturday the 29 The day cool with a stiff breeze from N. E. a good day to travel traveled 18 miles to day camped on the bank of Platte river the water very turbid the stream broad and shallow The musketoes very thick here but the coolness of the evening prevents their bloodthirsty designs

Sunday the 30 the day has been warm I wrote a letter to Father Castle²² and family Spent the day on Platte river a narrow part of the stream runs on this side of an Island some Musketoes here

Monday the 31st pleasant day passed Fort. Kearney traveled 18 miles At This Fort there is a Post Office

Tuesday June the 1st a pleasant day traveled 19 miles By my count 305 miles from St. Jo.

Wednesday June the 2nd day rather warm thunder in the evening Capt Dennis killed an Antelope to day traveled 18 miles Camped on Plumb creek

Thursday June the 3 last night we had a terific storm wind rain thunder and lightning The next morning found us none the worse save our sugar and salt moistend by the dashing element which I hardly ever knew to fall faster To day has been rather cool with a North wind We traveled about 16 miles The opposite side of the river appears to be lined with hundreds of white wagons looking like white houses at a distance

Friday 4 day pleasant traveled about 22 miles cooked with willow brush in the evening wood scarce on Platte

Saturday June the 5th day pleasant till about three Oclock A black cloud arose and threatened storm only a little rain [s]hower Traveled 16 miles United the evening before with 5 other emigrant wagons for Oregon

Sunday the 6 rained a little evening fine Had to travel not grass enough where we stoped the evening before Traveled 15 miles We were invited to attend preaching in a company near us Sabbath but had to move on account of our teams

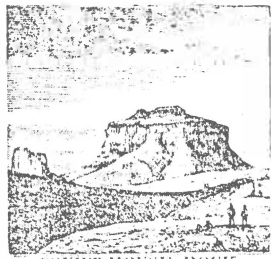
Monday June th 7 the day cold for the season with a North wind blowing almost a gale all day traveled 17 mils

Tuesday the 8 Last night nearly frost To day pleasant with a West wind crossed the South Platte in the Afternoon the

22. August Castle (1791-1880) was the father of Judson Castle and Emily, William Cornell's wife.



MOUTH OF ASH HOLLOW



COURT-HOUSE ROCK



CHIMNEY ROCK

stream one mile wide and from six inches to three feet deep a rough irregular bottom; quicksand. I waded three times over and twice back Traveled 12 miles today

Wednesday the 9th day pleasant with an East and South wind Struck for the North Platte came near it at nine miles here we came across the first dog town These villaegers were out many of them to eye the passing intruders Traveled 19 miles In the territory of the Sodes [Sioux?] Indians since crossing the Platte

Thursday June the 10 Morning pleasant with a South breeze Apperance of rain in the evening Camped on the Bluffs no wood or water not much grass Took up 3 stray horses traveled 19 miles

Friday June the 11 day very hot a little rain in the evening Traveled 14 miles 52 miles from crossing on S. P. Two men and two women sick with diarrhoea. Feel a little feeble

Sat. 12 In the afternoon troubled with diarrhoea Traveled about 7 miles stoped on good grass to let our teams rest and recruit

Sunday June the 13th Morning pleasant I feel some feeble but comfortable It seems that our croud are inclined to travel to day traveled 14 miles camped near Ash Hollow an Owner came for the stray horses Threatning appearance of rain some fell with a very blustery evening

Monday the 14 The forenoon warm the evening windy thundering with a threatning appearance of rain traveled about 15 miles a goodeal of the way over deep sand Saw a man about dying with Cholrea and six or seven fresh graves It seems that death is doing his office about as fast here as anywhere. My health is better than yesterday Bertrand mends very slowly sleeps too much dont exercise enough

Tuesday June the 15 Morning misting of rain Ine the evening two travelers from Oregon to the States camped by us met emigrants 400 miles ahead left Oregon April 16th we traveled 17 miles to day

Wednesday June 16 Morning cool warm afternoon eve-

ning appearance of rain Came in sight of the Courthouse rock to day It looks like an old dilapidated building Chimney rock is also in sight some 20 miles off 160 feet high looks like an old chimney or monument

Thursday June 17 day warm til 4 Oclock a shower of rain the evening qute cool and windy traveled about 16 miles

Friday the 18 morning cool and cloudy day hot evening pleasant traveled about 16 miles passed the Chimney Rock a high range of hills commence at the C. house rock

Saturday 19th forenoon pleasant afternoon warm passed a blacksmith shop traveled 15 miles put up to lay over Sabbath fine Springs in the head of a ravine above us plenty of wild currant along this ravine Two men from the upper crossing on the Platte staid with us last night going St Louis report the Platte high above the bridge swept away ferriage 5 dollars a wagon one dollar an ox

Sunday June the 20 A fine Summers day has passed we have remained this day in the head of a butiful Basin near some most excellent clear cold springs to day I have written another letter to send to my wife

Monday June the 21 The day pleasant Cross Horse Creek traveled 18 miles

Tuesday the 22 Morning cloudy Mrs. Brunton very sick Midday pleasant evening cold with some rain traveled about 20 miles passed an old dilapidated tradi[n]g house saw the bones of an Indian recently killed or died without being intered his blankets skins and other goods strewn about his scattered bones

Wednesday the 23 Cool cloudy and misting of rain most of the day passed two trading posts with several Indian Wigwams Crossed Laramie river stream very rapid a tollbridge across it 2 dollars per wagon toll when 4 yoke of oxen and less 25 cent a yoke for over that One mile above the crossing is Fort Laramie a military post with one company of soldiers a post Office and a store goods sold here from two to ten fold rate A good many Indians are to be seen about here all friendly I believe traveled about 17 miles to day

Thursday June the 24th Morning cool and cloudy the Afternoon warmer with a shower of rain we are now in sigh[t] of the highest portion of Earth that ever I looked upon To day we

passed a warm Spring the water about milk warm with as pure water as ever I beheld and the larges volumn of water that ever I saw a spring

Friday June the 25 in the afternoon a shower of rain some hail passed some dog towns the road some muddy from the previous evenings rain traveled 18 miles

Saturday June the 26 day pleasant Laid up for the families to wash on Rapid Creek a beautiful stream of clear cold water A noble stream to obtain water power for mills or other purposes Two of us rambled up the Creek with our guns shot at an Antelope and commenced an unprovoked attack upon the residents of a Dog town They manifested a manful resentment but no resistance more than a Wren like chirp or barking as it is called; killed 3 dogs It Thundered most of the day and sprinkled a little in the evening traveled 5½ miles in the morning Two black tail deer seen here

Sunday June the 27 Our captain and company seem disposed to travel to day Thundered most all day a few drops of rain to day our road has been the roughest and hilliest that we have yet traveled Traveled 16 miles camped on LaBontee river A trader and some Indians were stationed here

Monday the 28 day fine only a dark cloud threatning rain Traveled 17 miles some of the Hills were of a red color along to days travel

Tuesday June the 29 Some thunder showers passed around traveled about 2½ miles laid up to let our oxen recruit they all appear to be getting tender footed I employed myself in splicing a piece onto my wagon axletree it was about to fail from a wrench the cattle gave it by screwing around. Some of our company gathered Gooseberrys and currants others hunted a little for game

Wednesday June the 30 Day pleasant reached Platte river traveled 13 miles road quite rough grass scarce

Thursday July the 1st 1852 Morning pleasant traveled two miles to a new Ferry opposition the one 22 miles above charges reduced to 3 dollars per wagon teams had to be swum over the river rapid all got over safe and traveled about 2 miles up the North side of the North Platte grass scarce and said to be for 200 miles The day mostly pleasant some threatning appearance of rain

Friday July the 2d a little rain and hail to day otherwise pleasant Traveled about 13 miles

Friday [*sic*] July the 3d the day clear and warm. to day I was solicited to raise a man up in his bed to give him some medicine his son a lad appeared to be the only attendant he had the Cholrea death appeared inevitable Today we traveled about 17 miles.

Sunday July the 4th Morning pleasant the afternoon cloudy windy and cool As grass was scarce we traveled 16 miles for better range

Monday July the 5 Day clear but Overcoats coats were in requisition the Wind blew from the West an unceasing blast raising the dust to the great annoyance of both man and beast We passed the Willow springs traveled about 16 miles

Tuesday July the 6th laid up to day to let our cattle rest and graze Most of the day pleasant thunder and some appearance of rain in the evening some of the men saw some buffalo We laid up on spirng run 4 miles from the Willow Spring left side of the road ½ mile frome here the rugged peaks of the Rocky mountains are seen in various directions

Wednesday July the 7 Last night We had a thunder shower fowllowed by a rainy morning so cold as to spit snow a little an other shower during the day largely mixed with fine hail Winter clothing comfortable here for day and night to day we passed the Alkalie Lakes or ponds cattle are constantly drinking and dying with the use of it some of ours have got a taste of it this morning we fear the consequence We are now within a few rods of Independence Rock put up for the night Hundreds of persons have had the vanity to carve their names upon this Rock It is an oval rock about ¼ of a mile long and about ⅓ that width It looks a little [like] 3 big kettles turned bottom up wards water oozeing out near the top Sweet water river is a beautiful stream about 2½ feet deep and 60 wide About 6 miles above Independence Rock it passes through a chasm 10 or 12 feet wide for a ¼ of a mile Snow is to be seen on the Mountains game said to be plenty

Thursday July the 8 the day is clear but a coat is necessary for comfort to day Such masses of rock I never before saw piled up hundreds of feet high with some pine and cedar sticking along in the niches of the rocks We traveled to day about 17 miles

Friday 9th a stiff Westerly breeze nearly all day From the top of a high hill we were able to see a range of the rocky mountains all covered with snow Large Rocky piles are heaped up on our right during our days travel probably 500 feet high traveled about 16 miles

Saturday July the 10. Day pleasant traveled the forenoon 8 miles and laid for the rest of the day In company with three others we climbed onto a mountain of rocks about 1000 feet a great curiosity to me to see such huge rocks piled in every for to such a height from here we had another view of the snow on the Mountains still father on

Sunday July the 11 This morning we were invited to attend preaching in a neighbouring train I concluded to accept the invitation A Freewill Baptist minister preached to us about 60 persons were in attendance from different trains Text was "*These declare plinly that they seek a country*" divisin Three countries spoken of Eith. Heaven & Hell Mr Orchard Sen. concluded to go on I think out of stubborness Being where grass is said to be better than it is ahead our cattle needing a little rest the opportunity of hearing Preaching which I had not before enjoyed since I left home I came to the conclusion to stop and join the train in which the Preacher was for I could see no reason for Sabbath traveling In addition to all this some prejudices among some family connections in the train had grown to a disagreeable pich made it desirable to forn new acquaintances and travel in other and I think more agreable company two families with 4 wagons one man I had formed some acquaintance with at St. Jo. We camp up on the Same Steamboat together in this new train Jesse Orchard the son of the Old man with his family stoped with me the great spite of the Old man and connections seemed to be at him the Old man pronounced his blessing on him in the shape of a cursing wishing him in H-ll and he himself would die on the top of the Rocky Mountins If such is the language and feelings of a man of threscore years and 10 what must his future hope and condition be The day mostly cloudy some little rain

Monday July the 12 As it was but 5 miles to where We had to leave the river and travel 18 miles without water so we traveled but the 5 and laid up the rest of the day some of us went a hunting killed nothing but a wolf and a rattlesnake and got back at night both hungry and weary it rained a swower during thee day

Tuesday July the 13th To day We traveled the 18 miles to the rive had a showower saw about 20 head of dead cattle killed I presume by the use of Alkalie water. In the evening where we camped we spied thre Antelopes 3 of us took after them and after traveling about 1½ we got a shot and wounded one which I aterwards killed while running at full speed which was a treat to us all

Wednesday July the 14 This day was clear and tolerbly warm traveled about 13 miles Found a few ripe Strawberries and black Gooseberries in the evening

Thursday 15 Day nearly clear roads dusty Found the rockiest traveling yet seen Traveled about 16 miles camped near a Blacksmith Shop on Snow creek Snow is yet found on the banks of this creek its waters are the melted snows about Fremonts peak²³

Friday the 16 Laid up to day Some of our company have been to work in the Smith shop making oxshoes Today I passed snow on the banks of the creek and saw plenty of strawberries in blossom Showery in the evening

Saturday the 17 somewhat rainy last night bad on us that stood guard A cool west wind to day the dust raises some in the road We pass abrest of Fremonts Peak to day Camped within a mile of the two flat Mowns in the South Pass A light shower near night quite cool.

Sunday the 18 to day we had to travel having camped where there is no water This day was fine and we upon the Backbone of our country and all in sight of the snowey peaks about Fremonts Peak. To day I drank of water from a spring that runs to the Pacific Ocean No doubt the melted snow on the mountains sinks down and comes out and forms these spring called the Pacific Springs. Today we traveled about 19 miles camped on the West side of Dry Sandy

Monday the 19 The forenoon pleasant the Afternoon windy and cloudy with some sprinkling of rain We traveled to day from Dry Sandy to Big Sandy 22 miles The road level and fine all except the crossing of Little Sandy bad Camped on the bank of Big Sandy found the grass eaten close A small village of about 150 Snake Indians live here Several companies of emigrants are camped in sight of us to night

23. Highest peak (13,730 feet) in the Wind River Range, in what is now Wyoming.

The road for the last few days travel appears to be well lined with dead cattle occasioned probably by over driving and permitted to get to the Alkalie waters that is found along the route

Tuesday July the 20th The forenoon five Soo Indians dressed and trmed in their fantastic garbs came galloping by us they soon discovered an Antelope towards which one of them dashed off at full speed with his pony till within a proper distanc slipped off his horse gave it a shot with his rifle wounded it after which a chase followed which was amusing to us all to see two fleet well trained ponies with such rider pusuing so swift an animal the[y] soon succeeded in capturing their prey

In the evning we camped on Big Sandy after traveling 18 miles in nine miles of Green river A fine Ferry here and plenty of Indians sontering about this Ferry Also some trading done here This is a beautiful and considerable river water enough for a Steamboat but verry rapid current The day fine rather warmer than on the mountains

Wednesday 21 Traveled 18 miles camped near the river crossed Green river safely today 4 miles above the Ferry and found tolerable grass and plenty musketoes

Thursday July the 22 laid up to day Mr Caston taken quite sick a better chance for our cattle to graze here than expect to find for some distance to come Some washed some fished but got more Musketoe bites than fish bites day pleasant a little cludy in the morning

Friday July the 23 The day warm passed up by the Ferry on Green river McKinney' Cutoff traveled 12 miles and laid up in the afternoon 5 miles above the ferry on the river The Rev Mr Caston not being able to encounter the heat and dust I caught a fine Mess of fish in the evening The day warm and very dry

Saturday the 24 The day hot and roads dusty left Green river and traveled towards some snow topped Mountains Camped at 4 miles after crossing a branch or creek that runs towards Green river Mr Caston better some Musketoes *in these parts*. Traveled about 16½ miles to day

Sunday July the 25 We again found ourselves under the necessity of taking up our line of march having stoped last night where there was no water Traveled 14 miles over a very rough and difficult land Camped to the right of a Quaking aspen



Indians pursuing buffalo (from movie, "The Covered Wagons," OHS Cols.).

grove over a Bluff good grass and cold spring water Mrs Orchard was taken with a fever to day I bled her The has been clear and warm There is snow on the mountain close by us

Monday July 26th Day fine and Clear Traveled about 6 miles to day over a high Mountain Camped at noon on Hams Fork of Green river Mrs Nichols sick confined

Tuesday 27t Laid up to day on account of Mrs Nichols had a fine boy last night day mostly clear some thunder in the evening I caught a few speckled Trout in the creek to day

Wednesday 28th day warm traveled 8 miles as far as Mrs Nichols thought safe to go for fear of injury The Elder Mr Nichols and I tryed a ramble around the mountains Visited a snow bank 6 or 8 feet deep a fine stream of ice water issued from it An old grizzly Bear had just left his track there We camped at the Quaking asp spring

Thursday July the 29 last night we were much annoyed with the musketoes Though the Mountains here have great altitude yet the th soil is undoubtedly of the most fertile character and that too their summits some timber Qaking asp and Spruce Pine the first that I ever saw A good many Indians are lointering about on the streams that intervne between these mountains To day ascended and decended two of the ruggedest and most difficult mountains that we have passed Having to lock two and three wheels in a wagon in order to decend Camped on a little creek near Bear river after traveling about 13 miles The day clear and warm disty roads

Friday July the 30 To day we reached Bear river the water some turbid it rises between Green river and Salt Lake flows North where the road comes to it. A good stream for fish and wild currents in places both yellow and red ones The vally is of excellent rich land and grass plenty some places a little marshy

the vally is walled in by very high mountains The road keeps down it about 80 miles It rained to day two considerable showers some Musketoos on this stream We traveled about 16 miles Bertrand's long sickness seems to have produced a state of mind bordering on Lunacy he imagines things to be true that are entirely false that persons in the company are making derision of him I hope he will soon get over it and make me less trouble he appears to be mending slowly at this time

Saturday July th 31 Day pleasant Traveled over a difficult high mountain to day and come to camp on Bear river At this time eleven hundred miles from St. Jo. Mo. We traveled to day in circuitous route about 21 miles

Sunday August the 1st 1852 Last heavy showers of rain with heavy thunder and more musketoos then any place heretofore met with they gave us an Arkansas touch Traveled about 12 miles and camped for the day had a shower in the Afternoon

Monday the 2nd day fine and pleasant We met three packers from Oregon this morning The said they had met immigrants nearly through to Oregon city Day fine traveled 17 miles Camped near the bluffs on Bear river vally 1 mile after crossing Mud Creek Grass not plenty a good spring above the road or crossing.

Tuesday August the 3 day pleasant Last evening a young [man] made application for to go through with us being imposed upon in the train that he was in This morning I agreed to take him He gives me an ox for compensation and helps to drive team and and do chores his name is Drury Davis I fine young man I think We passed the Soda Springs to day Among them the Steam Boat spring 14 miles

Wednesday Aug the 4th To day we took the Oregon road leaving the California road to the right passed 6 or 700 Indians going towards Bear river one light wagon with hundreds of horses or ponies Several showers of rain passed around with considerable shower of hail just before us as it laid thick in places when we came up Traveled about 16 miles to day

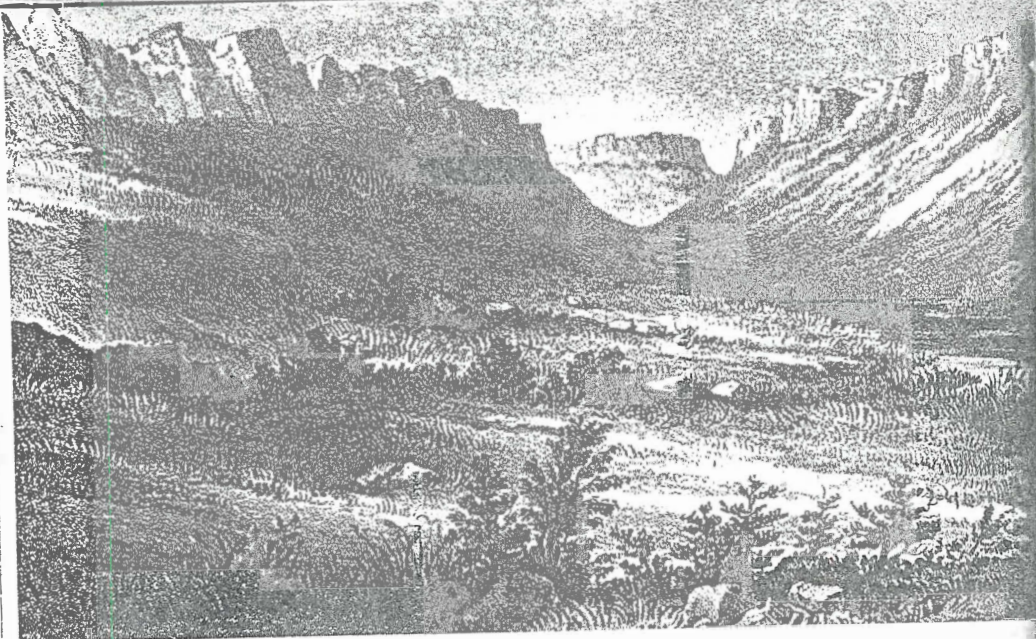
Thursday Aug the 5 Some passing showers and tolerably warm traveled about 15 miles crossed and camped on the West side of Trout creek We caught a mess of speckled trout out of it Plenty of Indians along here of different tribes, quite

beggarly are they Come up with the Rev. Mr Caston and company

Friday Aug the 6 last night and this morning cool As-cended a mountain again On stopping at noon found plenty of berries resembling June berries near the first Spring that runs to Snake river and Columbia quite a shower little afternoon Passed a very rough Mountain Traveled in company and came to camp on a creek that leads to Snake river with six other wagons it is quite possible that we shall travel on together The evening cool with a North wind Traveled about 16 miles to day over quite a rough road

Saturday Aug the 7 In the morning a cool North wind blew very warm by noon I found myself quite unwell last night and this morning probably occasioned by eating too freely of some Black whortleberries Or a little fruit that resembles a June or sarvis berry To day we reached the Vally of Snake or Lewis river this Vally is broad and high Mountains present their heads in various directions The soil does not appear to be of the best quality it [is] a fine sand of nearly a clay color where you first come upon the vally as you advance the sand seems coarser and blacker and when you descend to the lowest level or bottom the land is rich without timber and everywhere abounds in springs and fine crystal streams and the playful speckled trout are to be seen in them This vally has greater width than any this side of the Misssissippi river probably 50 miles from mountain to mountain Fort Hall is located in this vally about 22 miles after you leave the Mountain We traveled about 18 miles to day over a tolerable level road but considerable heavy sand and came to camp on the second creek in this vally

Sunday Aug the 8 To day is the anniversary of my birth 40 years old. am I to day on Snake river vally near Fort Hall This place I had fixed upon as being the point that we should reach at this date all Summer so my expectation here have been realized Now four months lacking four days since I left home and dear friends Through the goodness of Providenc I have enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health Not so however with the one that started with me he sickened and died far from home and civilization Bertrand has also been sick and tarried long in a state of debility We are resting to day the day is pleasant But how are those most dear to me! Are they



Overland Rifle Regiment sketch of view along Snake River, 1859.

well are they alive near two months more must elapse before I shall hear from them Nearly 2700 miles from home 750 yet to Oregon city The sun is at this moment just visible setting behind the Western horizon of the broad vally of Snake river Our company thought best to move a little to day and passed Fort Hall and old mud fort on the bank of Snake river and in the midst of vast rich vally The day has been fine some Musketos about us We have traveled about 9 miles and come to camp on the bank of the Ponacles creek a considerable stream full of fish saw a good many Indians offering to sell long strings of fish to day

Monday Aug the 9 This morning we forded Ponacles creek and river upon the latter we had to raise our Wagon beds a few inches a ferry just below the ford charge 1 dollar per wagon We caught some fine Salmon Trout this morning The day clear and warm at midday and after. Traveled 12 miles

Tuesday Aug the 10 In a train that was camped near us a case of Assault and battery took place last night one man had beaten another with a fire brand across the face which was considerably swoolen this morning the provocation very slight The men of our train were solicited to attend and demand of the offending man damage for the injury he had done the person of another They agreed to Submit it to 12 men to arbitrate I was one of that number We assessed 27 dollars damage he

turned out a cow we considered its value about equal to the damage the injured man to took the cow they parted and both "went on their way" but *perhaps not rejoicing* Another train close by lost 8 head of cattle last night bad water was probably the cause Bertrand was violently attacked with dysentary last night and quite bad to day To day hot road dusty We took down the vally in order to save traveling back to the road but after traveling nearly 3 miles found ourselves headed by deep sloughs and to return loosing 5 miles travel so that our travel to day amounted to about 10 miles headway proper Camped at the foot of the Bluff where the road comes to the vally the second time after crossing Ponacles river One of the men that lost cattle last night came and bought my ox this evening that I got of Mr Davis 40 dollars Mr Orchard sold a yoke of his for 80 dollars to the same man he is to take them in the morning

Wednesday Aug the 11 This I remember is my wife's birth day I wonder if She thinks of it The day has been clear hot and the roads very dusty We passed the American Falls to day²⁴ We traveled to day about 18 miles and came to camp about 1½ miles below Rock Creek Every night has been cool and the days hot since we came upon this vally and river

Thursday Aug the 12 Morning clear and pleasant day hot and nearly clear Traveled about 12 miles come to camp on Raft river with a number of trains around us

Friday the 13th We laid up to day on Raft Creek Weather hot and dry A Wagon turned over near the creek to day a young lady got some hurt Our company busied themselves variously Washing mending mending cooking hunting fishing and guarding cattle &c.

Saturday 14 to day we admitted 3 more wagons to our company We traveled over a very rocky road to day We traveled 16 miles to day, day hot and road very dusty A wagon of our train was turned over to day This makes the fifth that I have seen on the road We came to camp near the head of a large grassy marsh on a muddy creek 15 miles from Raft

Sunday Aug the 15 Last night a lady died in a train near us from Arkansas day warm roads dusty We traveled 17 miles and come to camp on Goose Creek grass scarce

Monday Aug the 16 Day cooler and more pleasant than

24. Some 50 years later Cornell's grandson, Seth McAlister, returned to American Falls as the first superintendent of a newly built hydroelectric power plant.

some of the former Some thunder and a little appearance of rain in the evening Two of our train of wagons left us having taken umbrage at some trifle We traveled over a barren country and part of the road very rocky traveled 13 miles come to camp on the river

Tuesday Aug the 17th Morning pleasant with a West wind No grass about our camping we yoked and put our early this morning found some grass at 2½ miles we found some grass and come to a halt grazed and took breckfast Traveled 5 miles over a rough road to Cut Creek and went up it 5 miles to camp plenty grass not much water day warm and roads dusty

Wednesday 18 moved 5 miles further up the creek to lay up to recruit our cattle while in the region of good grass for a barren region is before us One of our oxen was missing I rode and footed it together near 40 miles today in search of him finally found him among the stock of a train that were camped within 2 miles of us Through the day we had a very pleasant air with quite a Fall like appearance

Thursday Aug the 19 We had a comfortable Fall atmesphre with a little sprinkle of rain traveled about 12 miles a circuitous route and come to camp on Rock Creek near the mountain Our train now consist of 10 wagons three left yesterday and one to day without complaint

Friday the 20th Last night and this morning cool miday pleasant evening cool and cloudy with a few scattering drops of rain We traveled about 15 miles to day and come to camp soon after crossing Rock creek Bertrand not very stout but all well in the train While on the former part of the road from one to ten fresh grave might be seen in a days travel along on this part it is a rare sight and the most that we have seen lately are small graves Dead cattle are innumerable on this part of the rout and I am not yet able to divine the cause to my own satisfaction as many of them are full fleshed they certainly were not worn out

Saturday 21 Day very fine and pleasant Traveled abut 16 miles over a somewhat rough and very dusty road and come to camp on the bank of the river 17 miles below the crosing on Rock creek The river here is walled in by rocky and almost perpendicular banks near 1000 feet high on the opposite bank the water issues out abut 100 feet from the base in sufficient quantity

for two grist mills and tumbles to to the bottom making considerable roaring We made our cattle swim the river here for grass two of mine thought as I did not best to do it

Sunday 22 Morning pleasant We found it a bad job the driving our cattle across the river last night the best we could do was to get them back by by two Oclock to day We traveled about 9½ miles a circuitous rout and come to camp again on the bank of the river at dark and drove our cattle down a precipitous bank to water and grass The middle and after part of the day rather hot The smoke made the distant mountains look of a bluish cast

Monday Aug the 23 Day rather warm We traveled 16 miles over a dusty rough and crooked road and come to camp on Snake river near the mouth of We thought best to divide our company Mr Caston's boys were rather saucy and dictatoriale for some of our company and he seemed to justyfy them there are 6 wagons now in company

Tuesday the 24th To day after traveling 5 mils near Salmons falls we come to a ferry and crossed with the expectation of getting better grass A[t] the ferry several Indian were about with numbers of large fine salmon fish all hands supplied themselves at a low rate we got two that would 15 or 20 lbs. We com to camp one miles after crossing near a large spring the water that runs from it is a small river

Wednesday Aug 25 This morning we traveled 6 miles to Silver Creek water cold and almost as transparent as air and from two to three feet deep An abundance of grass on both hill and valley We come to camp on Silver creek calculating to travel in the evening after grazing and resting our cattle Day hot for any country for the time of the year

Thursday Aug the 26 Last night we traveled about 9 miles by moonlight crossed Roaring river and come to camp 4 miles after crossing After a long warm drive of 13 miles through dust we come to a small creek of warm water We went down this creek about 5 miles and come to camp having come about 18 miles plenty of grass and bettr water than above the stream having been augmented by springs

Friday Aug the 27 To day we laid up done chores Mrs Orchard's child quite sick with the Summer complint Day pleasant with considerable of a breeze

Saturday Aug the 28 A stiff Westerly breeze making the day cooler than some of the past we traveled over a very hilly road about 16 miles and come to camp on a creek near some high Bluffs The child of Mrs Orchard's a little better

Sunday Aug the 29 Day pleasant we traveled about 15½ miles and come to camp on Grave Creek here we found nine graves of recent interment

Monday the 30 Morning more cloudy than usual with considerable wind This morning we have to add another to the nine graves the child of Mrs Orchard's died about 8 O'clock aged 10 months Midday uncomfortably cool cloudy with a brisk North West wind In the evening more pleasant it cleared off After the burial of the child we got under way about 3 O'clock and traveled six miles by sunset with the intention of going eight miles further to camp at a spring Mrs Nichols taken with a dysentery

Tuesday Aug the 31 We traveled last night about 8 miles and come to camp at a spring near a lone Mountain Two miles above this some hot springs The water boiling or scalding hot The day continued windy till night We traveled about 16 miles and come to camp on Indian creek, Mrs Nichols still sick

Wednesday Sept the 1st Fall has arrived I am where there is no timber to show its searleaf sage brush a dwarfish shrub is all that is seen I have seen it so long the sight is disgusting This morning Mr Nichols had a cow to die in good flesh I had the curiosity to examine her I first sawed off the horn to see if she had the hallow horn I found it sound but upon opening her I found an unusually large gall nearly a quart and the melt swollen bloodshot or purple and upon cutting it it seemed nearly putred The blood a bad color Not hunger hollow horn nor murrain and if poison whether vegetable or mineral I cannot tell still plenty of stock is found dead The day has been as pleasant as evr I saw September in any country in my life Even delightful but the ground and grass is all dried up

Thursday Sept the 2nd day pleasant but tolerbly warm Mr Davis taken quite sick with a flux to day We traveled over the Grassy hills to day about 14 miles we left the road about 1½ miles to the right of a dry creek to a spring near some quaken aspen trees a number of wagons were allready stoped here Mrs Nichols getting well

Friday Sept the 3 Day rather warm traveled 15 miles and come to camp on Boisse river One of the beautifulest rivers that I ever saw considerably larger than the Scioto of Ohio Davis appears to be dangerously sick

Saturday Sept the 4 This morning I thought my duty to lay by and try and doctor Davis I proposed to the rest of the company to go on and not to detain on our account as they were getting short of provision two wagons went on Mrs Orchard said she thought that we had better trust to Providence and stay and assist in taking care of the sick so Mr. Orchard and the Mrses Nichols' staid The day rather warm Davis not any better sickness prevails to a great extent at this time among the emigrants principally flux and diarrhoea

Sunday Sept the 5 Davis rested better through the night but still there is but little hope of his recovery We concluded that our circumstances made it strictly necessary that we move on a little We traveled on a good road and come to camp on the river again at 16 miles

Monday Sept the 6 Last night we had two or three claps of thunder and a few scattering drops of rain To day delightfully pleasant Davis some better this evening but very difficult to please in any thing We traveled about 14 and camped near the river

Tuesday the 7th To day we crossed Boisse had a pleasant day traveled 16 miles and come to camp 6 miles below the crossing We had here a call from our neighbors Indians squaws and paposes in numbers

Wednesday Sept the 8 today we traveled about 16 miles crossed Snake river paid 3 dollars per wagon ferriage driving our cattle across at the old ford barely fordable ½ half mile across camped on the bank of the river Davis a little better Had frost last night

Thursday the 9 Having a pleasant day We traveled 18 miles over a very dusty road and camped on the Malhuer river Last night we fell in company with a part of the train that we traveled with to Sweet Water and left us there They had buried the Old man that talked so hard and bitter to his son when he left him his wife also died with the cholrea a few days before him

Friday The 10 To day we laid up on the Malhuer river with

the train that left us on Sweet water A number are sick and an infant of Mrs Brunton's will die The day very warm and dry

Saturday Sept the 11 In the morning we traveled about three miles and stoped and some went back to hunt an ox of Mr Brunton's that was missing The weather very warm for the season In the evening we made a start but Mrs Brunton's child died before we got two miles we therefore come to a halt for the night and buried the child For the last two days I have felt quite out of sorts symtoms of fever but I think produced from a sore that I have on my right hand at the joint of my fore finger which is quite swoolen it seems to be poisoned

Sunday Sept the 12 Morning fine and pleasant I felt quite bad and restless through the night and my hand worse swoolen than ever! The evening a little cloudy and quite smoky so that the distant Mountains were obscured and thos nearer at hand were veiled in a drapery of dark blue we had to travel in order to get to water 22 miles and come to camp on Spring Creek

Monday 13 I rested better than the night before my hand looks quite bad and swoolen though not painful The sick in the train are on the mend except Mr Brunton The day has been tolerbly warm we traveled about 9 miles and come to camp on Burnt river a beautiful little stream coming out of the Mountains My hand still looks bad otherwise I feel quite well The sun is just now casting her golden rays upon the high mountain to my right

Tuesday Sept the 14 At or by this time when I left home I expected to have arrived in Oregon City but it will take One month yet Last night the North wind blew very hard all night nearly taking the covering off our wagons My hand threatens to be a serious calamity as I can find nothing that will effect it for the better I am a little afflicted the common complaint After traveling a very rough road for about 10 miles we come to camp on the same river or as it should be called a creek

Wednesday Sept the 15 Last night Old Boreas kicked up quite a dust scattering our fire dirtying our victuals throwing us cooks into a *phizz* and and the children to crying and others were busied running after there hats It continued to blow through the night This morning appears more pleasant My hand is some better the sick appears to be still mending Bertrand imagines himself in a state of great weakness but I think that it is

more of *mind* than of *body* from the way he eats traveled about 14 miles and come to camp near Burnt river wher we come to it the last time

Thursday 16 to day windy traveled on a better road my hand getting a little better the face of the country looks a little more fertile traveled 16½ miles and come to camp on a spring branch 5 miles after crossing the round peak

Friday Sept the 17th This day exceeded all for a heavy North wind and thick dust full in our faces To we had a view of the Salmon mountains and a more extended view of the Blue Mountains we traveled about 20 miles and come to camp on a slue of Powder river

Saturday Sept the 18th Day quite pleasant with a gentle North wind To we traveled only about 9 miles and come to camp where we first come to Powder river The high dark peaks of the Blue mountains are before me and the sun is just setting behind them My hand I believe is getting well My health is good but several of our train sick and complainig

Sunday Sept the 19 Last night cold but calm ice in our bucket and other vesels having half an inch thiek To day has been most delightful we traveled about 18 miles crossed both forks of Powder river and come to camp in the base of the basin

Monday Sept 20 This morning we had a little more ice the day very fine To day we decended into Grand Round valley the worst mountain to decend met with on the route traveled about 14 miles and come to camp on th left hand mountain of th vally saw good spring and plenty of good grass

Tuesday Sept the 21 Last night the warmest that we have had for weeks and this morning at an early hour the sun modestly withdrew her shining and the dark cloud gathered from the Northwest the wind seemed to sigh through the long leafy pines as we were ascending the lofty summit of the Blue Mountains as if it lamented departed Summer or passing Autumn The rain drizzled misted with snow and we felt ourselves quite hemmed with cold traveled 16 miles and camped on Grand Round river

Wednesday Sept the 22 Cloudy through the night and all day to day and quite cool We traveled a very rough road to day up steep mountains and among yellow pine and Tamarack timbr traveled about 10 miles to day and come to camp near a little

c[r]eek lined with tamarack A large fire of pine logs was very comfortable and acceptable.

Thursday the 23 Froze quite hard last night to day has been clear but cold we have traveled for the last two days through a finely timbered country for the last two mornings we have been troubled to find our cattle the scatter among the woods so that we have got late starts traveled to day about 10 miles and come to camp on or at the Swamp Encampment

Friday Sept the 24 Last night very cold plenty of frost and all the water about us frozen over A keen cold wind blew through the day from off those snowy peaks which were to be seen in the distance We made our decent from the Blue Mountains to day into the beautiful vally of the Umatilla and found a pleasant climate The day clear we traveled ab[ou]t 16½ miles and come to camp near where we come down the mountain

Saturday the 25 day pleasant but rather warm at midday Found more Indians on this rivere than any place that we have seen upon the road They are offering for sale berries peas and shelled corn Last night and to day I have suffered severely from a swelling in my upper jaw proceeding proceeding from a hollow tooth We traveled to about 12 miles and camped on the Umatilla river

Sunday Sept the 26 Last night froze a little to day very pleasant and clear this evening some smoky Saw plenty of indians going to and fro they have large herds of horses One says that he has been in Ithica New York speaks English quite he is engaged in buying cattle that are fagged out and cannot be driven through To day we crossed the river and come to camp about 3 miles after crossing no wood or water but some grass We traveled to day about 11 miles our cattle having but little grass for the last 4 days The swelling in my face is going away and I feel quite well

Monday Sept 27th Weather pleasant traveled about 11 miles and camped on the Bluff about 10 miles above the 2d crossing of the Umatilla Mrs Mann was prematurely confined 3 nights since is doing as well as could be expected her husband died with the Cholrea soon after she started

Tuesday Sept 28 Day fine crossed The Umatilla at the Indian agency Station Found plenty of people here expecting to buy provision here but none to be had. People are suffering for

want of food some have not had bread for weeks others are out of every eatable some are killing their oxen poor as they are to subsist on I sold beans last night for 40 cents a pint and could have got more if I had asked it beef from 20 to 50 cents a lb flour 75 cents a pound coffee 1 dollar a sugar the same Providetially I think that I have enough to do me through to the Dalles We traveled about 15 miles and camped 5 miles from the *agency*

Wednesday Sept the 29 This forenoon has not been exceeded for wind and dust until it commenced to sprinkle of rain a little We traveled about 7 miles and stopped to get our brekfast or rather dinner of a little creek where water was to be had

(To be continued)