

Herndon
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WILLIAM H. FRUSH'S OVERLAND DIARY

"WILLIAM H. FRUSH'S OVERLAND JOURNAL

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May 15th (1850) Left my family and home near Newark, Knox County, Missouri for California on one horse with the expectation of overtaking on route my brother with teem, John H. Frush.

May 20th. At 9 Ock I arrived in St Joseph, Mo, makeing 200 miles travel in a few hours over 5 days with a pack of 40 lb besides myself.

May 21st. Remained in St Joseph at Mansion House.

May 22nd. Wrote to my wife, and at 9 Ock crossed the Mo, River and traveled about 25 miles on route and at dark struck camp near a fine stream water that crosses road. There is Indian cornfields near. There is two in company of us, a Mr. Church of Hannibal, Mo. This is 5 miles East of the Indian Agency. Road good; grass & water plenty.

May 23rd. Called at the Agency & see Jno. Ferman & Brother and Col. Wm P. Richardson, agents and my old friends. Traveled 30 odd miles this day and camped on plains with a single waggoner. Roads good, grass do & plenty water. See many dead horses and cattle, and several Teems going back from friend(s) dying.

May 24th. Cross River Mine Craw (Nemaha) at 12 Ock, m., and graze our horses on plains 2 miles west. Camped with 2 teams from Bee Town, Grant Co, Wis. Rod(e) 30 odd miles this day. All well.

May 25th. Sat'y. Started 6½ A.M. on route. Dined 12 miles E of B(ig) Blue. Made Big Blue 6 P.M. Found it not fordable. Camped at foot of Elm Tree all night. Distance from St Joseph 130 miles. Roads fine.

May 26th. Sunday. Paid \$1 to have my horse swam alongside of raft; 30c to gat my baggage and self ferried in a leather Bottomd boat. Left on route at 11 Ock and travel'd 22 miles and camp'd with some men from Ohio. They tented us. Left at Big Blue from 100 to 150 teams.

May 27th. Monday. Met a train of waggons from Fort Lareme owned by traders, also the Government Mail 9 Ock, A.M. Distance from St Joseph about 160 miles at fine Branch spring running water & plenty timber. Dined 6 m. west Branch spring & timber. See 5 graves near former Branch, part died '49. 5 m. further cross Sandy Creek, 10 ft wide 6 in deep; running pirty. Much roaling ground for 15 m. travel. Campd 18 miles East little Blue River with Co. from Decalb, Mo.

May 28th. Tuesday. 4 miles from camp met with Holliday, of Shelby Co, Mo., at the grave of Wm Fisher of Knox Co, his Brother o'law. 11 O'clk saw small herds Buffalowe and at this time fell in with Geo. Parker of Hannibal Co, packing. Joined them. 12 O'clk made little Blue; dined. Travel 15 miles & campd at 15 m. after 5 Ock. Roads fine all day. Roling ground; plenty grass & water for stock. Passed many teams. A train always in sight.

May 29th. Wed. Traveled all day up little Blue River. Many deep sandy revene putting into bottom. Roads fine. The sandy bottoms on this river here is full of Prickle Pears. But little timber or plenty of willow. Passes in this days travel 150 teams. 9 of us in company. All well. Some of the trains had fine sport after Buffalow to day. They killed one. The land here is vary sandy, but vary good to this river, and would produce well. Struck camp on this river to night.

May 30th. Thursday. Traveled 3 miles further up Blue River, then took to the devide for Platte River. Branch & water for stock in 6 miles; do 4 miles further. Some wood on boath. Travel 15 miles on vary level Prarie without wood or water, then come to