

THE MARCH OF
THE MOUNTED RIFLEMEN

First United States Military Expedition
to travel the full length of the Oregon Trail from
Fort Leavenworth to Fort Vancouver
May to October, 1849

as recorded in the journals of
MAJOR OSBORNE CROSS and GEORGE GIBBS
and the official report of Colonel Loring

edited by
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Preface

The march of the Mounted Riflemen from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Vancouver in 1849 is well known to students of western history and the Oregon trail; yet the primary accounts of this expedition have not hitherto been collected nor presented in a form available to the public. It was with the desire to place these valuable and interesting documents within the reach of all that the work of editing them was undertaken.

The official journal of Major Osborne Cross, quartermaster of the expedition, has been known to a few special students, but on account of the scarcity of the original government document in which it appears, it is available in but a few of the larger libraries.

The two installments of the diary of George Gibbs, a civilian artist and naturalist who accompanied the expedition, have been virtually unknown. Published in a contemporary newspaper, this interesting account was completely overlooked, until it was called to the attention of Henry R. Wagner, as stated in the last edition of his *Bibliography of Original Narratives of Travel and Adventure*.

Colonel Loring's official report of this expedition has never been published separately before.

In the introduction and footnotes the editor has added much new material from family papers and from research in various archives. The full text of the documents has been retained, the editorial work being re-

stricted almost exclusively to simplifying the grammatical structure of the long and involved sentences so popular in the mid-nineteenth century.

The preparation of this work was made possible by the cooperation of many whose names cannot be mentioned here; to them I am deeply indebted. Especially am I indebted to the Librarian of Congress, Colonel C. R. Bennett, Q.M.C., Mr. P. M. Hamer of the National Archives, Mr. Paul North Rice of the New York public library, Miss Louise F. Kampf of Colorado college library, Miss Opal Carlin of William Jewell college library; the state historical societies of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon; John G. Clemson, John Osborne Clemson, and Charles O. Clemson, grandsons of Major Cross; and to my wife, Mary Lund Settle, for help in research and in the preparation of the manuscript.

RAYMOND W. SETTLE

Lamar, Colorado

June 4, 1940

Introduction

On May 19, 1846 the congress of the United States authorized the establishment of military posts along the road to Oregon, appropriated three thousand dollars to defray the expenses of each, two thousand dollars each to purchase the right to occupy the ground from the Indians, and seventy-six thousand five hundred dollars for mounting and equipping a regiment of Mounted Riflemen to consist of ten companies of sixty-four privates each.¹ Persifer F. Smith was appointed as colonel, and among the captains was William Wing Loring, later commander of the regiment on its historic march from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Vancouver in 1849.

This new regiment was recruited in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. All of the companies were assembled at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, with the exception of companies C and F, which were brought together at Fort McHenry, Maryland, and company I at New Orleans.²

Regardless of the fact that the regiment was authorized for the specific purpose of garrisoning posts along the road to Oregon the administration ordered it to the seat of war in Mexico in November 1846. The diversion of the Mounted Riflemen made necessary the raising of a substitute unit to do its work. Consequently, the "Oregon battalion of mounted volunteers" was recruited in

¹ *U. S. Statutes at large*, IX, 13; Bancroft, *History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming*, 688.

² Deibert, *History of third United States cavalry*, 4.

Missouri in the summer of 1847 upon requisition by President Polk. The troops were mustered into service at Fort Leavenworth and Ludwell E. Powell was commissioned as colonel. Instead of proceeding at once to Grand island on the Platte river, which had been chosen as the site for one of the new posts, the battalion marched to Table creek, a few miles below present Nebraska City, Nebraska, erected sixty or seventy log cabins with slab, dirt, and straw roofs and spent the winter there. This place was called Camp or Fort Kearny in honor of General Stephen W. Kearny. In the spring of 1848 Colonel Powell marched his command to Grand island where he began work on the new post, which was called Fort Childs in honor of General Thomas Childs. He occupied the place during the summer and was relieved by companies G and I of the Mounted Riflemen under Brevet-major Charles F. Ruff on October 28, 1848. Ruff proceeded to build winter quarters under the severest of handicaps, and on December 30 of that year the name of the place was officially changed to Fort Kearny.³

While Colonel Powell and his "Oregon battalion" were occupying the post at Grand island the Mounted Riflemen were engaged in the Mexican war. Proceeding to New Orleans they embarked for Point Isabel, Texas, and from thence to Lobos island, which was General Winfield Scott's base for a campaign against Vera Cruz. Here they were joined by their commander, Colonel Persifor F. Smith, who was soon assigned to command the First brigade of General D. E. Twiggs's division. Vera Cruz was taken March 27, 1847, and the march to Mexico City begun.⁴

From the capture of Vera Cruz to the fall of Mexico

³ *Ibid.*, 6; Nebraska state historical society publications, XVI, 237, 239, 241, XX, 176, 177, 184, 185.

⁴ Deibert, *History of third United States cavalry*, 6-8.

City the Mounted Riflemen bore their full share of marching, fighting, and hardship. They distinguished themselves at Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, and Molino del Rey. At Chapultepec, September 13, 1847, Lieutenant B. S. Roberts led the storming party which opened the attack and planted the first American flag on the Mexican position. Captain Loring lost an arm at the Garita; Captains J. B. Backenstos and S. S. Tucker, and Lieutenants I. N. Palmer and J. G. Walker were also wounded. The flag Roberts planted upon the Mexican position was displayed over the National palace, and while reviewing the Mounted Riflemen September 14, General Scott said, "Brave rifles! Veterans! You have been baptized in fire and have come out steel!" These words were immediately adopted as the regimental motto and have been retained by the organization, now the Third United States cavalry, to the present day.⁵

With the fall of Mexico City the Mounted Riflemen did provost and police duty for the remainder of the war. They fought at Huamantla, Puebla, Matamoros, Galaxara, and Santa Fe. On July 7, 1848, under command of Lieutenant-colonel William W. Loring, they embarked at Vera Cruz for Jefferson barracks, where they arrived on the twenty-fourth of the same month. Their record of honors and achievements was a splendid one. In the eighteen engagements in which the regiment participated fourteen of the officers won brevets and eleven men from the ranks were advanced to higher grades. Their casualties were: killed in action, four officers and forty-five men; wounded, thirteen officers and one hundred eighty men; died, one officer and two hundred eighty men. On August 7, 1848 the men were mustered out of service and the reorganization of the

⁵ *Ibid.*, 8-9, 10, 12.

regiment begun. It was now assigned to its original task of establishing and garrisoning posts along the road to Oregon.⁶

About the beginning of the year 1849 preparations for the departure of the Mounted Riflemen from Jefferson barracks began in earnest. An estimate of supplies calling for over half a million pounds of freight, four hundred twenty-nine wagons, and seventeen hundred sixteen mules to draw them was prepared by the regimental quartermaster, Lieutenant D. M. Frost, and forwarded to Major-general D. E. Twiggs, commandant of the Sixth military district at St. Louis, Missouri. Officers on recruiting duty were ordered to close their stations and proceed to Jefferson barracks and may 1 to 15 set as the time for departure from Fort Leavenworth. Early in January Captain Michael E. Van Buren with company A marched for that place, and about the middle of February Captain Noah Newton and company B followed. These companies marched overland, the Missouri river being closed to navigation by ice, and suffered many hardships on the way.⁷

By the latter part of march the remainder of the regiment had been transported upriver on steamboats and was established at Camp Sumner about five miles west of Fort Leavenworth. Here Brevet-colonel Loring drilled his men and assembled his train, which, when ready to march, consisted of seven hundred horses, twelve hundred mules, a number of oxen, and one hundred seventy-one wagons. Since the Mounted Riflemen would be the first military unit to travel the entire length of the Oregon trail Brevet-major-general

⁶ *Ibid.*, 10, 11; Jones, Circular letter, July 14, 1848; Nebraska state historical society publications, xx, 246.

⁷ U.S. Senate. *Executive documents*, 31 cong., 2 sess., no. 1, pt. 2, 77-78; Loring to Twiggs, January 12, 1849; Loring to Jones, January 13, 15, February 2, 1849; Twiggs, order no. 8, February 9, 1849; Packwood, "Reminiscences," 42-43; Nebraska state historical society publications, xxi, 220, 227, 228.

Twiggs and Colonel Aeneas Mackay, deputy quartermaster general, came up from St. Louis to see them off. On the morning of May 10 five companies were reviewed and General Twiggs himself gave the orders which pointed them toward Oregon. The route they took was that to Table Creek and Council Bluffs. Following a course which led them north and west they crossed the Big Nemaha river in southeastern Richardson county, Nebraska, then swung to the northwest along the dividing ridge between that stream and the Little Nemaha. Crossing the north fork of the Big Nemaha they followed a westerly course until they struck Sandy Creek in western Jefferson county, Nebraska. Here the road they were traveling joined the main Oregon road from Independence, Missouri. They arrived at Fort Kearny May 19, where Major Osborn Cross joined them and relieved Major James Belger. Under instructions from Major-general Thomas S. Jesup, quartermaster general, Cross kept a journal of the march, which was prepared for publication in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after his return from Oregon in 1850. It was included in the report of the secretary of war for that year and a privately printed edition, of which only a few copies are known, was brought out by C. Sherman of Philadelphia in 1850.⁸

Following the Mexican war and the acquisition of California, the Pacific division of the United States army was created and the Mounted Riflemen's old commander, now Brevet-major-general Persifer F. Smith was placed in command with headquarters at San Francisco. He set out for his new post on November 24, 1845 by way of New Orleans and the isthmus of Panama and arrived at Monterey February 23, 1849. About the same

⁸ Packwood, "Reminiscences," 43; Mackay to Jesup, May 17, 1849; U.S. Senate. *Executive documents*, 31 cong., 2 sess., no. 1, pt. 2, 128-231; also U.S. House. *Executive documents*, 31 cong., 2 sess., but without plates.

time Brevet-major J. S. Hatheway, with two companies of the First artillery, sailed from New York for Fort Vancouver, where he arrived may 7 of the next year. One company was quartered in the rear of Fort Vancouver and the other, under Captain B. H. Hill was first sent to Astoria, then to Nisqually on Puget sound for the purpose of establishing a fort.⁹

Osborne Cross was born in Prince George county, Maryland, in 1803. His mother was a cousin of General Zachary Taylor, president of the United States. He graduated from the United States military academy in 1825 and was assigned to the First infantry as brevet-second-lieutenant. On July 1 of the same year he was transferred to the Fourth infantry, with which he served until September 29, 1827, when he was transferred back to the First infantry as first-lieutenant. His first wife, whom he married in New Orleans about 1830, was a daughter of Colonel Bartholomew von Schaumberg and a lineal descendant of one of the Delaware chiefs who sold a portion of Pennsylvania to William Penn. The children of this marriage were Edmund, who died young, Julia Louise, who married John Clemson, and Annette, who married Captain Grove Porter. Mrs. Cross died January 11, 1862, and he married Mrs. Mary B. Dix, widow of Lieutenant-colonel R. S. Dix of Pennsylvania, on July 8 of the same year.¹⁰

During the years preceding the Mexican war the First regiment was stationed at various points on the western frontier. From 1825 to 1831 it was at Jefferson barracks, Baton Rouge, Forts Wood and Pike, in

⁹ Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, II, 68-69; Hatheway to Jones, November 5, 1848.

¹⁰ John G. Clemson to editor, March 9, 1939; Heitman, *Historical register*, I, 341; *American state papers*, military affairs, III, 625; Hughes-Hallet, letter, n.d.; Kepler to editor, February 23, 1939; Cross file, Pension bureau.

Louisiana, and Cantonments Brooke, Clinch, and King in Florida. From 1831 to 1836 it was in the northwest and distributed among Forts Snelling, Crawford, and Winnebago. Upon the outbreak of the Seminole war in Florida in 1836, it was ordered to that region under Colonel Zachary Taylor. At this time Cross was listed as first-lieutenant with the duties of assistant quartermaster. After the close of the war he seems to have remained in New Orleans, possibly on departmental duties. The First regiment was sent back to the west and northwest where it remained until the outbreak of the Mexican war.¹¹

When the conflict with Mexico began, the First regiment, with the exception of three companies which were assigned to Forts Snelling, Scott, and Leavenworth, was ordered to San Antonio, Texas, where it was incorporated with General John E. Wool's "central division of the army of Mexico." Cross, who now held the rank of captain, was made chief quartermaster of the division and upon him rested the responsibility for organizing the great train for the long march into Mexico. He served in this capacity until the close of the war, when he was appointed to dispose of surplus quartermaster's supplies with headquarters at Vera Cruz. This duty was accomplished through private sale rather than by auction, for which he was severely criticised by traders but highly commended by the department. Late in the summer of 1848 he returned to the United States, but what he did during the next six months is not known.¹²

On April 25, 1849, General Jesup ordered Cross to report to Colonel Mackay at St. Louis, Missouri, for service with the Mounted Riflemen. His duty was to

¹¹ *American state papers*, military affairs, IV, 666, 725, V, 638, VII, 933; U.S. House. *Report of committees*, 31 cong., no. 1, January 29, 1852.

¹² U.S. House. *Executive documents*, 30 cong., 2 sess., no. 1, 192-93, 204-208.

command the supply train and provide quarters for the regiment upon its arrival in Oregon. Having made the journey and discharged the duties assigned him he returned to the United States in february 1850. His activities during the next eighteen months are not known. In 1852 he was back on the Pacific coast as chief quartermaster of the Pacific division with headquarters at San Francisco. Four years later he still held that position, and it is presumed that he continued to do so until the beginning of the Civil war. In the early part of january 1862 he was ordered to relieve Colonel Thomas Swords as chief quartermaster of General George B. McClellan's division. From 1863 to the close of the war he was stationed at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the capacity of deputy quartermaster general. On march 13, 1865, he was breveted brigadier-general for faithful and meritorious service during the war, and on july 29, 1866, he was promoted to the rank of colonel and retired. He died at Roosevelt hospital, New York City, july 15, 1876, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery, Libertytown, Maryland.¹³

The Cross family made generous contribution of its sons to the army and navy of the United States. In addition to Osborne two older brothers also served in the army. One of these, Trueman, was assistant quartermaster general under Colonel Zachary Taylor in the Seminole war in Florida. Upon the outbreak of the war with Mexico he was assigned to Taylor's division as deputy quartermaster general and was killed by a party of Mexicans near present Fort Brown, Texas, on april 21, 1846. The other brother to enter the army was Howerton, who became a second-lieutenant in the Forty-

¹³ U.S. Senate. *Executive documents*, 31 cong., 2 sess., no. 1, pt. 2, 126; 34 cong., 3 sess., no. 534, 172; *War of the rebellion*, series 1, VII, 531, 548, XXV, 373, XLVII, pt. 2, 127, 244; Heitman, *Historical register*, 1, 341, John G. Clemson to editor, march 9, 1939.

second infantry august 14, 1813, first-lieutenant may 1, 1814, and was honorably discharged june 15, 1815. Joseph Cross entered the navy as midshipman june 9, 1811. During the war of 1812 he served on board the frigate "Constitution" and participated in the battle between that vessel and the British man-of-war "Guerriere." He died at Bladensburg, Maryland, february 10, 1834.¹⁴

From the very beginning of the march of the Mounted Riflemen desertions on the part of soldiers and teamsters were of frequent occurrence. At Fort Laramie Colonel Loring reported forty, and upon reaching Independence rock he offered a reward of two hundred dollars for the arrest and return of any deserter. This, together with the capture of a number of them, effectively stopped desertions on the route. No sooner had the troops arrived in Oregon, however, than the spirit of dissatisfaction reasserted itself, intensified by reports that laborers were paid from five to ten dollars a day in California and that gold had been discovered on the Rogue and Klamath rivers. By march 1, 1850, about one hundred deserters had passed up the Willamette valley to a predetermined rendezvous in the Calapooya mountains, one hundred sixty miles south of Oregon City. On march 12 Colonel Loring set out in pursuit of them with thirteen officers and eighty men, crossed the Calapooya mountains and seized fifty-six in the Umpqua river valley. Here he was met by Governor Joseph Lane, who was also in the field with a volunteer force of citizens for the purpose of taking the deserters. Colonel Loring turned his prisoners over to Lane and pushed on to the Klamath river, where he captured seventeen more and returned to Oregon City

¹⁴ Powell, *List of officers*, 265; Heitman, *Historical register*, 1, 341; Service record, Lieutenant Joseph Cross.

about the first of may. Thirty-five succeeded in building a canoe and making good their escape.¹⁶

Sometime in april 1850 the headquarters of the Eleventh military district, of which Colonel Loring was now commandant, were removed from Oregon City to Fort Vancouver and the troops established at a place called Camp Talcott. The people of Oregon City, to whom the Mounted Riflemen had been most obnoxious because of drunkenness and disorderly conduct, celebrated their departure by burning down the buildings they had occupied. Upon arriving at Fort Vancouver the troops were put to work building quarters, which were called Columbia barracks. The headquarters staff of the district moved into these buildings november 11, 1850. On may 13 Brevet-major S. S. Tucker was ordered to the Dalles with two companies to establish a post at that place. In may 1851 what was left of the regiment was ordered to return to Jefferson barracks, where the men were mustered out and the regiment reorganized for the third time in five years. Here we leave it, although its subsequent history, under the name of the Third United States cavalry, in the west, in the Civil war, the Spanish-American war, and the World war was a brilliant one. Its present headquarters are at Fort Meyer, Virginia.¹⁶

George Gibbs, whose incomplete journal appears in this volume, was born july 17, 1815, and was descended from a long line of distinguished forbears. His maternal great-great-grandfather, Roger Wolcott, was deputy governor of Connecticut in 1741, major-general of militia 1745, and governor of Connecticut 1750-1754.

¹⁶ Loring to Jones, june 22, october 15, 1849, march 6, april 28, 1850; Loring, proclamation, july 8, 1849; *Oregon spectator*, february 21, 1850; Lane to Nesmith, march 5, 1850; Ruff to Ford, february 26, 1850.

¹⁶ Frost to Loring, may 30, 1850; Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, II, 89, 91, 100; Loring to Jones, november 12, 1850; *Oregon historical society quarterly*, XXX, 333; Deibert, *History of the third United States cavalry*, 17.

Another distinction with which he may be credited is that of having written the first book of poetry published in the colony.¹⁷

Oliver Wolcott, great-grandfather of Gibbs, graduated from Yale college, studied medicine, and settled at Litchfield, Connecticut, where he filled the office of sheriff for twenty years. In 1775 the Connecticut assembly sent him to interview General Gage in Boston and in the same year appointed him to serve as one of the commissioners to treat with the Six Nations and other Indian tribes. He was a delegate to the first Continental congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1776 he was brigadier-general of the Fourteenth regiment and two years later major-general of the Connecticut troops. He was lieutenant-governor of the state in 1787 and became governor upon the death of Governor Samuel Huntington in 1796. Later he filled the same office by election.¹⁸

Gibbs's grandfather, Oliver Wolcott, also graduated from Yale college, studied law, and served in two minor revolutionary campaigns in 1777 and 1779. In 1788 he was selected as comptroller of public accounts and successfully reorganized the finances of Connecticut. Appointed auditor of the federal treasury in 1789, he worked under Alexander Hamilton. He was appointed comptroller by Washington in 1791, succeeded Hamilton as secretary of the treasury in 1795, and filled the same office under President John Adams. He was governor of Connecticut 1817 to 1827.¹⁹

On his father's side the Gibbs line ran back to James Gibbs, who emigrated from England to Bristol, Rhode Island, about 1670. His father, George Gibbs, who by courtesy was called "colonel," married Laura, daughter

¹⁷ *Dictionary of American biography*, XX, 445-46.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 442-43.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 443-45.

of Oliver Wolcott. Having a natural bent toward the sciences, especially that of mineralogy, he brought together, while on a trip abroad in 1805, what was then the largest and most valuable collection of minerals in the United States. In 1810 he loaned this to Yale college and ten years later sold it to that institution for twenty thousand dollars.²⁰ The Gibbs family lived at Sunswick Farms, near the village of Astoria on Long island.

George was intended for the army, but the necessary appointment to the United States military academy was not obtained. In lieu of this he traveled and studied two years in Europe, during which time he undoubtedly gave attention to drawing. Returning to the United States in 1834 he entered Harvard college and studied law. Upon graduating four years later he entered the office of Prescott Hall in New York. In the same year that he entered college he published *The Judicial Chronicle; a list of the judges of the common law and chancery in England and America*. In 1846 he published *The memoirs of the administration of Washington and Adams*, which was based largely upon letters to and from his grandfather, Oliver Wolcott, while he was secretary of the treasury.²¹

Along with a love for literature Gibbs was possessed of a passion for outdoor life. Hunting and fishing were his chief amusements, to which was added a deep interest in natural history and geology. He mounted a large collection of birds and assembled a considerable mineralogical cabinet which he added to his father's collection at Yale college. When the excitement over the discovery of gold in California swept the country he abandoned his law practice, in which he had little real interest, hurried to Fort Leavenworth, and attached himself to the regiment of Mounted Riflemen.²² On the

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 445-46; Stevens, *Memorial to George Gibbs*, 1-2.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 5-9; *Dictionary of American biography*, VII, 245.

²² Stevens, *Memorial to George Gibbs*, 6-9.

march to Orégon he made numerous drawings of scenes along the way and kept a journal. The first installment of this was sent back from Fort Kearny to the daily *Journal of Commerce*, New York, July 25, 1849. The second installment, sent back from Fort Laramie, was published in the same paper September 1. These were reprinted in the *New York Mercury and weekly journal of commerce* July 26 and September 6, 1849. His intention was to complete it, but the remainder, for some unknown reason, was never published. The files of these newspapers were searched to 1852, but no additional installments were found.

As an artist Gibbs exhibited considerable talent, both in sketching outdoor scenes and in drawing from life. He made what was perhaps the first drawing of Shoshone falls, and sketched various scenes in eastern Oregon, on the Columbia river, and while crossing the Cascade mountains from the Dalles to Oregon City. In 1850 he was appointed deputy collector of the port of Astoria and in 1851 was associated with Governor John P. Gaines in the making of treaties whereby the Calapooya Indians surrendered their lands in the Willamette river valley. While engaged in this work he made many drawings. In the latter part of the same year he was a member of the Redick M'Kee expedition to northeastern California. While on this journey, which ended in San Francisco the latter part of December, he made numerous drawings.²³ Immediately upon coming into contact with the aboriginal peoples of the northwest Gibbs became intensely interested in their customs, languages, and mode of living. During his service with Governor Gaines he prepared a vocabulary of the Calapooya language, and while with the M'Kee party he did the same for the language of the inhabitants of the regions about Clear lake and the Klamath,

²³ Bushnell, *Drawings by George Gibbs*, 1-28; Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, II, 81.

Trinity, and Salmon rivers. In addition he began assembling a collection of articles illustrating their handiwork, which was sent to the Smithsonian institution in Washington.²⁴

After his journey with M'Kee he took up his residence on a ranch or farm near Fort Steilacoom, Washington territory, where he continued his Indian studies. In 1853 he was associated with Governor Isaac I. Stevens in the survey of the western portion of the Northern Pacific railroad route. Next year he was again with Governor Stevens and made a number of maps which are preserved in the Washington state historical society. During 1855 he assisted in the making of treaties with various Indian tribes, and 1857 he served as astronomer and ethnologist on the northwest boundary commission. He made an elaborate report on the natural history and geology of the country through which he traveled and wrote "Tribes of western Washington and northwestern Oregon," which was published in *Contributions to North American Ethnology, United States geographical and geological survey of the Rocky mountain region*, I, part 2.²⁵

In 1860 Gibbs returned to New York for what he meant as a temporary visit, but he never returned to the northwest. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he went to Washington where he served as a volunteer guard for the capital in april 1861. Not being physically qualified for military service he became an active member of the Loyal National league and the Loyal Publication society. Despite the turmoil of war he found time to continue his Indian studies. In 1862 he published, in collaboration with J. G. Shea, a *Grammar and dictionary*

²⁴ Bushnell, *Drawings by George Gibbs*, 1-28.

²⁵ Bancroft, *Washington, Idaho, and Montana*, 71, 383; Bonney to editor, march 24, 1939; Tilden to editor, february 15, 1940; Stevens, *Memorial to George Gibbs*, 10-11; *Dictionary of American biography*, VII, 245.

of the Yakima language, and a year later *Alphabetical vocabularies of the Clallam and Lummi, Alphabetical vocabulary of the Chinook language, A dictionary of the Chinook jargon, or trade language of Oregon, and Instructions for research relative to the ethnology and philology of America*. In 1867 he prepared his *Notes on the Timneh or Chippewyn Indians of British and Russian America*. All these were published by the Smithsonian institution. In 1871 he married his cousin, Mary Kane Gibbs, and moved to New Haven, Connecticut, where he died april 9, 1873.²⁶

Oliver and Albert, younger brothers of George, ably carried on the family tradition for achievement. The former occupied a professorship at Harvard college from 1853 to 1887. He was one of the founders of the National academy of sciences and associate editor of the *American journal of science*. Albert received appointment to the United States military academy, from which he graduated in 1846. He was a member of the Mounted Riflemen during the war with Mexico and fought at Cerro Gordo and Garita de Belen. During the Civil war he became a major-general.²⁷

In addition to George Gibbs, another artist, by the name of William Henry Tappan, accompanied the Mounted Riflemen to Oregon. He was the fourth son of Colonel Ebenezer Tappan, and was born at Manchester, Massachusetts, october 30, 1821. When about eighteen or twenty years of age he went to Boston, where he was associated with George C. Smith in the business of engraving photographs in mezzotint. About the same time he also engraved some line plates in conjunction with Joseph Anderson of the same city. Later he was engaged as draughtsman in the United States

²⁶ Stevens, *Memorial to George Gibbs*, 12-13; *Dictionary of American biography*, VII, 246.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, VII, 245-46; Heitman, *Historical register*, 1, 452-53.

mint at Philadelphia. In 1848 he was a member of Professor Louis Agassiz's exploring party to the Lake Superior region and visited the Platte river, where he made a large portfolio of drawings. This journey evidently fired him with enthusiasm for that kind of work, for the next year he sought and obtained permission to accompany the Mounted Riflemen on their march to Oregon in order to "make such drawings and collections as will illustrate the geological features, the zoological and botanical products of the country."²⁸

Presumably Tappan accompanied a detachment of troops under Major John S. Simonson which left Fort Leavenworth ahead of the regiment. These were transported to Table creek by steamer, from whence they marched to Fort Kearny. A set of fifty drawings in the possession of the Wisconsin historical society, made by an unnamed artist who evidently accompanied this detachment, contains drawings of scenes along the Missouri river above Fort Leavenworth, on the Nodaway river, of old Fort Kearny at Table creek, and of an apparently deserted Pawnee village on the Platte river below Fort Kearny. From this latter place, which was also drawn, the sketches are frequent and the dates noted upon them coincide fairly well with the movements of the regiment. The probability is that Tappan made part or all of these drawings, since in addition to strong circumstantial evidence, the handwriting on some of the sketches bears a striking resemblance to his.²⁹

Upon arriving at his destination Tappan located in Washington territory, where he assisted in laying out the town of St. Helen's in the early part of 1851. He

²⁸ Tappan, *Tappan-Toppa genealogy*, 49-50; Wheaton to editor, february 4, 1940; Fielding, *Dictionary of American painters*, 361; William H. Tappan to Charles Tappan, february 15, 1849; Charles Tappan to Greely jr., march 19, 1849; Lunt to Crawford, march 21, 1849; Crawford to commanding officer Mounted Riflemen, march 28, 1849; Winthrop to Crawford, april 6, 1849.

²⁹ Mackay to Jesup, may 17, 1849.

lived here a number of years, and was elected to the first Washington territorial legislature in january 1854. Having a desire to see as much as possible of the Indian tribes of the interior he resigned at the close of the first session to accept an appointment as special Indian agent for the Columbia river district. In the spring of 1855 he accompanied Governor Isaac I. Stevens to Fort Walla Walla for the purpose of making treaties with the various Indian tribes. About 1859 he went to Colorado with his brother Lewis N. and engaged in the mercantile business at Denver, Golden, and Central City. He returned to Massachusetts in 1876, and was elected to the legislature of that state the following year, and was a member of the state senate 1885-1886. He married Margaret Anderson, april 7, 1857, who died april 11, 1867. On april 2, 1881, he married Augusta E. Wheaton of Manchester, Massachusetts. There were no children by either marriage. He died january 22, 1907.³⁰

The question as to who made the thirty-six drawings accompanying Major Cross's journal in the senate edition of the report of the secretary of war for 1850 has not been conclusively answered. Certainly Cross did not make them himself, and either Gibbs or Tappan could have done so. Since the latter accompanied the regiment for the express purpose of making drawings, the presumption that Cross availed himself of them is both reasonable and strong.

A table of distances was kept by Dr. Israel Moses, one of the surgeons accompanying the regiment, and is included in this volume. This table is reproduced from the original manuscript preserved in the National Archives.

³⁰ Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, II, 251; Talbot, *Journals*, 100, 138; Bancroft, *History of Washington, Idaho, and Montana*, 71, 73, 94; William H. Tappan to Steele, october 8, november 30, 1852; to Prosser, february 12, 1898; to Mason, june 19, 1854; Tappan, *Tappan-Toppa genealogy*, 49-50.

The two journals reproduced herein contain much valuable material on the Oregon trail and the great emigration of 1849. While Cross at times writes as though bored by daily routine, Gibbs seems thrilled by new scenes and experiences. Since the regiment of Mounted Riflemen was the first military unit to traverse the entire length of the Oregon trail these journals assume added importance as the only complete narratives of the long march. Colonel Loring's report is necessarily brief, yet it adds much to the story. When these and the letters, reports, etc., written by Cross, Loring, and other officers are combined the full story of a magnificent achievement is revealed. The chronicle of daily events, comments by the journalists, letter writers, references to conditions encountered, descriptions of natural scenery, and the recital of the experiences of the thousands of emigrants seen on the way, provides much to interest both the student of history and of military undertakings.

The Journal of
Major Osborne Cross

March to Fort Kearny

Philadelphia, May 20, 1850

GENERAL:⁸¹ The order which I have here annexed will show the duty assigned to me by you. In compliance with it I took my departure from Washington City on the twenty-fifth of april [1849] for Fort Leavenworth, Missouri.⁸² Here the rifle regiment had been directed to assemble and make such preparations as a march like the one contemplated might call for.

I arrived at St. Louis on the eighth of may, and finding the cholera prevailing to an alarming extent⁸³ left

⁸¹ Thomas Sidney Jesup. Born in Virginia december 16, 1788; died june 10, 1860. Entered the army of the United States may 3, 1808, and served in the war of 1812 on the staff of General William Hull. Rose to the rank of brigadier-general, and commanded troops in the Florida Indian wars, 1836-1838. His long service as quartermaster-general of the army, over forty-two years, has never been equaled by the head of any other department or corps.

⁸² On may 8, 1827, Colonel Henry Leavenworth, being under orders to establish a cantonment on the Missouri river near the mouth of the Platte river, pitched his camp on the site of the present institution which bears his name. In the spring of 1829, because of malarial fever among the troops, the place was abandoned, the troops transferred to Jefferson barracks, and the buildings occupied by Kickapoo Indians. Six months later Colonel Leavenworth again took over the cantonment. General order no. 11, by the war department, changed the name from Cantonment Leavenworth to Fort Leavenworth. It has never been unoccupied since the summer of 1829. Until the organization of Kansas territory in 1854, certain laws of Missouri extended to the unsettled region west of that state. Hence that territory was commonly, though not officially, spoken of as "Missouri territory." Colonel E. V. Sumner was in command at Fort Leavenworth when the Mounted Riflemen started on their journey. Their first camp was named in his honor.

⁸³ The Asiatic cholera first appeared in the western United States in 1832 by way of the St. Lawrence river through emigrants from Ireland. It spread across the Great lakes, to the troops at Rock island, and down the Mississippi river to Jefferson barracks. It appeared among the Sac and Fox Indians of Missouri that year, but does not seem to have ascended the Missouri river. Reappearing again in 1833, it reached St. Louis in may, where by the latter

on the tenth on board the steamer "San Francisco,"⁸⁴ after making a hasty outfit there. It will not be out of place to remark here that the cholera was not only in St. Louis, but had spread through every town on the Missouri river. In many instances [it] had raged with great violence on board several steamers, one of which, after losing nearly thirty passengers, was entirely abandoned and left tied to the shore.⁸⁵ We were more fortunate on board our boat, having but one case, which may be principally attributed to the untiring efforts of Captain Keneth [Mortimer Kennett], her commander, who spared no pains to keep his boat in excellent police and make his passengers comfortable.

The troops had just passed up the river, and with so great a number it could hardly be expected that they would not be more or less affected by the epidemic. I was therefore exceedingly anxious to reach Fort Leavenworth to ascertain what effect a pure atmosphere would have in dispelling a disease with which all who traveled the Missouri river were in some degree threatened. I was much pleased when I landed [at Fort Leavenworth] on the nineteenth instant after a passage of nine days from St. Louis.

It was expected that the regiment⁸⁶ would be in read-part of the summer sixty of the best citizens had died of it. It was introduced from Canada and Europe in 1834, and from Cuba in 1835. After an interim of ten years, it again appeared in St. Louis in april 1849. During may and june the mortality was excessive. Fifty-two hundred eighty-five deaths in the city were ascribed to it that year. The number of deaths from this disease along the Oregon trail in 1849, while not definitely known, has been estimated at from four to five thousand.

⁸⁴ One of the five steamers burned at the St. Louis wharf in the great fire of july 29, 1849.

⁸⁵ On may 22, 1849, the St. Louis *daily republican* reported that the steamer "James Monroe" was laid up at Jefferson City, Missouri, on account of being practically deserted by officers, passengers, and crew, who had fled because of an outbreak of cholera on board. After lying there several months the vessel was taken to St. Louis. No doubt this was the vessel to which Cross refers.

⁸⁶ The Mounted Riflemen consisted of ten companies, five of which began

iness to take to the field by the first of may,⁸⁷ but it was not prepared to do so for several reasons until the tenth. To organize properly a train and make all necessary arrangements incidental to a journey of two thousand miles required much more time than was at first anticipated. The officers were to make an outfit for a permanency in Oregon. They were to be separated from the civilized world for some time, with their families,⁸⁸ and it was by no means an easy task to make all proper arrangements even for their comfort while on this long march. In addition to this, the spring had not advanced sufficiently to justify an earlier move.

On inquiring at the fort I learned that the troops were ten days in advance of me, which was a very long start, as my mode of traveling was the same as that of the regiment. If I could have been fortunate enough to have procured a few pack mules in place of wagons it would have greatly facilitated my movements, as I could have traveled much more rapidly. Not being able

the march from Fort Leavenworth on may 10, 1849. Companies G and I under Brevet-major Charles F. Ruff had been at Fort Kearny since october 28, 1848. Major John S. Simonson and a party had been transported to Table creek by steamer some time before, from whence they marched overland to Fort Kearny. Company B, under Captain Noah Newton, was already on the way, and company C, under Brevet-lieutenant-colonel Benjamin S. Roberts, remained at Fort Leavenworth to escort the supply train to Fort Laramie july 1. Company E, commanded by Major W. F. Sanderson, left at the same time, but seems to have been under orders to march independently of the regiment. Loring to Jones, may 10, 1849; to Freeman, october 15, 1849; Mackay to Jesup, may 17, 1849; for further information concerning officers of the regiment see notes 280-88, pages 275-77.

⁸⁷ The date of departure was set between the first and fifteenth of may 1849. A backward spring, difficulty in securing bids for transporting supplies and teamsters due to the gold rush to California delayed the march until the tenth. Twiggs, order no. 8, february 9, 1849; Mackay to Jesup, may 17, 1849.

⁸⁸ At least four officers, among whom were Brevet-major Ruff, Captain Llewellyn Jones, and Lieutenant Charles F. Denman took their families with them. They had large spring wagons, accommodating five passengers besides the driver, made in St. Louis. These were so constructed that the seats could be made into beds and were drawn by four mules. "Notes by Frederica Jones" in Swift, Personal memoirs.

to do so I had no time to lose, and on Sunday May 20 [1849] at two p.m. I left for Fort Kearny⁸⁹ after a short stay of twenty-four hours at this place.

Last evening was very pleasant, and the sun, in setting, left behind a bright sky. [This] was indicative of a fair morning, but contrary to our expectations it became cold and commenced to rain during the night, [which] made it extremely disagreeable for our party, whose only shelter was a common tent. As they had to come to it sooner or later, everyone took it quietly and made themselves as comfortable as their means would permit. Many of them were unaccustomed to a life of this kind, and the scenes they were about to pass through, as well as the toil and hardships which they would be required to endure would be a new life to them, of which in reality they knew but very little.

It had been threatening to rain all the morning and continued cold. The sky was becoming overcast by heavy clouds that were rising rapidly in the southwest, and it began to rain very hard before reaching the base of a hill over which our road led. Here we began to realize the labor and trouble which were in store for us. The evening was one of the most unpleasant I had ever experienced. The rain poured down in torrents as if the clouds had been rent asunder by the heavy thunder, which seemed to increase as the vivid lightning flashed incessantly around us. The whole sky was at moments wrapt in one dark canopy, while at others it presented one glare of lightning. Having reached the base of the hill, we found it necessary, from the weak condition of our mules, to attach twelve of them to one wagon to pull up about twelve hundred pounds. With the assistance of all hands at the wheels we succeeded, after two

⁸⁹ Although Cross consistently spelled this as "Kearney" the editor has changed it to "Kearny" to conform to the decision of the United States Board of Geographic Names.

hours work, in reaching the top of the hill in the midst of the storm. We continued our march after sundown, which brought us to a small stream about four miles from the garrison, where we made our encampment for the night.

It continued to rain very hard. As wood was scarce and we had no means of kindling a fire, the party placed themselves under cover as soon as possible, without having eaten anything since morning. As for myself, I was completely overcome by fatigue and much harassed at the gloomy prospects before me. Every stitch of clothing I had on was thoroughly drenched. In this condition I was taken with a fever, which lasted several hours. During the night it passed off, and in the morning I was much gratified to find myself able to resume my journey.

My outfit was as indifferent a one as ever left for any station, much less the Rocky mountains. The mules were poor, unbroken, and by no means calculated for such a march as we had to perform. The drivers were not only stupid, but totally ignorant of their duty, as they had never been employed in this capacity before. [They] seemed to have no other object in view than to reach the gold region with the least possible expense or trouble to themselves. They were, however, the best among those left at [Fort] Leavenworth by the regiment, and I had no alternative but to take them. They had been hired at fifteen dollars per month and were without the least knowledge of the duty of a teamster or any capacity to learn. I had men of this description with me in Mexico, who generally made out to destroy more public property from gross ignorance than would have hired double the number of good teamsters. From the system that is now observed, it will always be difficult to remedy the evil. It is a laborious life and the sum

of fifteen dollars per month will never bring into the service good and efficient men who are calculated for such duty. It is to be regretted that some plan cannot be adopted to supply the department with experienced drivers who are so indispensably necessary upon long marches like the present one. I have been in favor for some time of enlisting men who are particularly qualified for this duty and I regret that the plan you have for so long recommended has not yet been adopted.

MAY 21. The teamsters commenced their labors at daybreak, but the unbroken condition of the mules was such that the greater part of the morning was consumed in bridling and harnessing them. Because of this we were not prepared to commence our journey until half-past eight o'clock. Whoever has witnessed the scene of preparing unbroken Mexican mules for the road will not be at a loss to imagine the position of one with men who had hardly ever taken a whip in their hands and now had charge of such teams. This, in a word, was our condition and I had witnessed enough yesterday to warn me of what might be realized before arriving at Oregon, or even Fort Kearny. The display this morning had not tended to lessen my conviction in the least. This was the beginning of a long and hazardous journey, filled with difficulty and labor. We were soon to find ourselves on a desert waste, cut off from all resources except those we might have with us, and it certainly was no time or place for experimenting.

I sent back for an entire outfit this morning. The post teams, being considered by far too valuable to be spared for such service, were withheld, probably because it was thought I was on the same footing with the balance of the outfit of the regiment. If so, I could have no cause to complain. Be this as it may. To this subject I shall again take occasion to refer before completing this journal.

This day may be noted as the commencement of our march. The morning, although cloudy, gave every indication of a pleasant day, which we stood much in need of after the cold rain of yesterday afternoon and last night. It still continued cold today, which greatly facilitated our traveling.

The road lay over a prairie which was skirted with timber, and at five p.m. we came to a steep hill, somewhat difficult to descend, but [we] succeeded in reaching the bottom without much trouble. While some attended to the mules others held on to ropes attached to the wagons, which brought them to the base without any accident. The broken tongues, hounds, and other parts of wagons showed plainly the trouble which the command had met with at this place. As the evening was drawing to a close, we made our encampment for the night on the banks of a small stream⁴⁰ which was running at the base of the hill. Here we found plenty of good water and wood for our use and fine grazing for the animals, [of] which they stood greatly in need. We had not more time before sunset than would suffice for the arranging of our meals and making a few alterations which were required before leaving in the morning. Our tents were scarcely pitched and all things properly prepared for the night before it began to hail. [It] continued until nearly sundown, when it cleared off and became very cold, making a fire quite comfortable.

MAY 22. The morning was clear, and we left our encampment at five o'clock. The road passed over a rolling prairie and across several small streams, which were well wooded, as is generally the case in this vicinity. Towards the close of the day the country became very broken, as we were still near the great Missouri [river] valley. But our trail began to diverge a little, [and] was soon to carry us from it. The beauties of woodland

⁴⁰ Walnut creek, about fifteen miles northwest of Fort Leavenworth.

scenery were to give place to an endless prairie country, which strikes one as being very beautiful at first sight but becomes tiresome beyond any description after the novelty wears off. It could hardly be expected to be otherwise, when you see nothing from day to day but the broad canopy of heaven above and the greensward below.

We arrived at Wolf creek ⁴¹ at half-past five o'clock in the evening, having made a march of twenty-two miles today. I had thrown away nearly all of the two loads when starting yesterday morning, so that we had but little more than our trunks to transport, which could be easily packed.

The country was not the least interesting in this day's journey. It was much more broken than yesterday, which made it very fatiguing to teams that were entirely unaccustomed to traveling. The weather moderated through the day, which made the evening delightful. It was the first pleasant weather we had experienced since the nineteenth, and it appeared to give new life to the whole party. We certainly stood greatly in need of a change. It was also very favorable for our mules, which had suffered much from the cold rains since starting. The thermometer had at six p.m. ranged at 70°, and we had every prospect for a fine day tomorrow.

Since leaving Fort Leavenworth we had met with no one, and our two days' march was very tiresome and monotonous. This evening our camp was visited by a Sac Indian,⁴² who was dressed, as is customary among that tribe, with a red blanket and head ornamented with feathers. He soon presented me a paper which had been

⁴¹ In southeast Brown county, Kansas.

⁴² In 1837 the government moved the Iowa, Fox, and Sac Indians from the Platte Purchase in northwest Missouri to their new home lying west of the Missouri river, south of the Great Nemaha, and north of the fortieth parallel. Cross overlooks the fact that the passage of thousands of wagons, animals, and people through this region worked hardships upon the Indians.

given him by the sub-agent, the purport of which was to request emigrants passing this way to make these Indians a small present for the use of their wood, which they had complained of having been destroyed by the emigrants. He also made quite a talk about the grass which the animals consumed, and appeared to be fully impressed with the idea that they were entitled to some compensation for it. We gave him something to eat and sent him off very soon after, evidently disappointed and much displeased at not receiving money. He had doubtless made up his mind on having a fine frolic on his next visit to St. Joseph and Weston, places which are frequently visited by them for that purpose, much to the annoyance of the inhabitants.

It is surprising why those employed with Indian tribes are disposed to humor them, as is often the case, with erroneous impressions. Here, for instance, was an Indian furnished with a paper to receive tribute from all who passed. If he should become displeased by not receiving some compensation the tribe was likely to annoy everyone by stealing horses or in some other way. If these people really deserved compensation for the wood used, which was of itself too absurd to think of for a moment, it was a proper subject to lay before the Indian department. To get rid of them these papers are furnished, which can have no other tendency than to annoy travelers and endanger their property.

MAY 23. We commenced making preparation at half-past three o'clock this morning and started as soon as it was light enough to see the road. It was a cold, misty morning. The thermometer was as low as 48° at sunrise, making a difference of 22° during the night. The country began to rise, and with the exception of the distant wood on the borders of several small streams and the valley of the Missouri river, nothing could be seen but a high rolling prairie.

We had been traveling for the last three days on a trail made partly by the Oregon expedition,⁴³ but had not proceeded very far this morning before a new scene broke suddenly upon our view. We here came into a road as large as any public highway in the United States, leading from St. Joseph and Weston. Large trains were coming in from all points of the Missouri river on trails intersecting this great highway,⁴⁴ which would lead them, after endless toil and much suffering, to the gold region. All these trails followed ridges, which placed the wagons frequently in such positions that they seemed to be crossing the prairie in every direction.⁴⁵ As their covers were well trimmed, they looked at a distance not unlike vessels on the wide ocean steering for different parts of the globe. For the first time we passed one or two wagons today that had broken down, and also several persons returning who had already lost their cattle, which they were ready, of course, to attribute to the Indians and not to their own neglect. The truth was, they had become discouraged, and were

⁴³ In his order directing Cross to join the Mounted Riflemen, General Jesup spoke of it as "the Oregon expedition." Jesup to Cross, April 25, 1849; U.S. Senate, *Executive documents*, 31 cong., 2 sess., no. 1, pt. 2, 8, 263.

⁴⁴ What was known as the "north branch of the Oregon trail" entered present Kansas opposite St. Joseph, Missouri, and ran west through Doniphan, Brown, Nemaha, and Marshall counties and joined the main branch at Marysville, Kansas. This latter route began at Westport, Missouri, ran along the south side of the Kaw river to the site of present Topeka, Kansas, where it crossed and followed a northwesterly course to Marysville. The point where Cross struck the "north branch" was in eastern Brown county, Kansas.

⁴⁵ The movement of emigrants westward in the spring of 1849 was phenomenal. The *Daily Missouri republican* reported as follows: April 11—about one thousand emigrants from every state except Delaware and Texas were camped at Independence; May 11—about three thousand emigrants for California had arrived at St. Joseph, and roads in every direction were lined with wagons; May 12—two ferry boats running day and night at St. Joseph could not accommodate the emigrants, and two steamboats entered the ferrying business; May 17—at least fourteen thousand persons were reported as being at the various places of rendezvous along the western border of Missouri, ready to depart. Nebraska state historical society *publications*, XX, 190, 191.

willing to make any excuse to return rather than to continue the journey.

In this day's march I overtook Captain Granger⁴⁶ of the rifle regiment, whom I passed. About six o'clock in the evening [I] made my encampment on the prairie, where I found a small stream which was entirely destitute of wood, there being only three solitary trees to be seen. The day was very fine, and the distance traveled was about twenty-five miles. At this encampment our horses found an abundance of grass. The evening was very pleasant, and the thermometer at six p.m. stood at 62°. I learned today that the command was not over seventy miles in advance of me. They had met with much difficulty with many of their teams⁴⁷ since leaving Fort Leavenworth, which had given us the opportunity of gaining already considerably on them.

MAY 24. The bugle sounded at three o'clock this morning, when all hands were immediately up and soon prepared for breakfast. At half-past four o'clock we

⁴⁶ Gordon Granger. New York. Brevet-second-lieutenant Second infantry July 1, 1845; transferred to Mounted Riflemen July 17, 1846; second-lieutenant May 29, 1847; brevet-first-lieutenant August 20, 1847 for meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, Mexico; captain September 13, 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico; major August 10, 1861 for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Wilson's creek, Missouri; colonel Second Michigan cavalry September 2, 1861; brigadier-general of volunteers, September 17, 1862; major-general volunteers September 17, 1862; lieutenant-colonel September 20, 1863, for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Chickamauga, Georgia; colonel November 24, 1863, for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee; brigadier-general March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service at the capture of Mobile, Alabama; major-general March 13, 1865, for distinguished gallantry and good conduct at the capture of Forts Gaines and Morgan, Alabama; mustered out of volunteer service January 15, 1866; colonel Twenty-fifth infantry July 28, 1866; unassigned March 15, 1869; assigned to Fourteenth infantry December 15, 1870; transferred to Fifteenth infantry December 20, 1870; died January 10, 1876. Heitman, *Historical register*, I, 469. He was engaged in measuring the distance from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Kearny with an odometer.

⁴⁷ For the experience of the regiment with its teams see Gibbs's account, pages 282-83.

were ready to commence our march, the thermometer standing at 60°. The day was extremely fine for traveling. We arrived on the Nemaha⁴⁸ at eleven o'clock, where we made a halt for an hour to rest the teams. This is a pretty little stream, about sixty feet wide, and is a tributary to the Missouri [river]. Wood is to be found in abundance on its banks, consisting of oak, hickory, walnut, ash, elm, and cottonwood. I judged the soil to be good from its dark appearance, and no doubt [it] would be productive. We continued our journey some distance farther, leaving many emigrants at this stream and [at] the several water-holes in the vicinity of the road, as the cholera had prevented many of them from traveling. One or two families whom I overtook at the Nemaha passed us at Fort Kearny, and by good management were able to keep with the command, which generally traveled faster than the body of emigrants.

The cholera now began to make its appearance along this route, and the number who had died with it was sufficient evidence that the emigrants were suffering greatly from its effects. They are truly to be pitied, as no aid in any way could be afforded them. On the contrary, they were often compelled to travel when it was almost death to them to be moved. The country along here is high, and in fair weather very dry. [There was] nothing to aggravate the disease, as the atmosphere was as pure as the mountain air, and not the least decomposition of vegetable matter to engender it. Still the cholera continued to prevail among the emigrating parties. With every care they resorted to, it remained among them until they crossed the North Platte [river] in the month of July. In many instances [it] raged with such violence as to carry off nearly whole parties.

⁴⁸ South fork of the Nemaha in Nemaha county, Kansas. Apparently Cross left the route followed by the regiment in the neighborhood of present Atchison, Kansas, and cut across the country toward the junction of the Little Blue river and Sandy creek.

I arrived this evening on a small stream such as are frequently found among the hills near the Missouri [river]. There were many emigrating families here, who were necessarily compelled to stop in consequence of the prevailing epidemic. The evening was cloudy, and it began to rain very hard soon after our tents were pitched. The rainy season had now commenced. We would be compelled to endure [it] until our daily marches carried us to a section of country where rain seldom falls during the summer, which is generally the case with that section found between the North Platte, the Sweetwater,⁴⁹ and [the] Snake river[s]. On the prairie between Forts Leavenworth and Kearny it commences as early as May and seldom stops until the latter part of June.

MAY 25. The rain fell in torrents through the night and was accompanied by sharp lightning and heavy thunder. The bottoms of our tents were partly under water, particularly those that were not protected by an embankment, which should always be made, whether the evening is clear or cloudy. Little calculation is to be made upon the weather during the rainy season in this country.

When the call sounded at four o'clock this morning one of my teamsters was absent. This man, finding that he knew nothing of his duty and having exhausted the patience of all who endeavored to teach him, thought it the safest plan to relinquish his situation as teamster to the Oregon expedition. [He] had run off during the night, leaving us the wagons and but one teamster to get on [in] the most convenient way that could be devised by the party. The corporal of the escort scoured the country without being successful in finding him. We afterwards learned that he had returned to Fort Leaven-

⁴⁹ Though Cross consistently spelled this as "Sweet Water," the editor has changed it throughout to Sweetwater to conform to modern usage.

worth, satisfied, no doubt, that he was not destined to reach the gold region in the capacity of teamster and would wait for a more favorable opportunity.

The morning was very unpleasant. The thermometer at five o'clock stood at 52°. It cleared off towards the middle of the day however, after a drizzling rain all the morning, and the remainder of the day was extremely pleasant. During the day I met two wagons returning to the Missouri [river]. These people were already discouraged, and thought it more advisable to return than to attempt a journey of two thousand miles and run the risk of never reaching their place of destination. Many of them had started very unprepared, while others were entirely unacquainted with prairie life and little calculated to accomplish a journey fraught with so many obstacles as this certainly is. This day's march carried us over a high prairie, very much like that we had already traveled over, and brought us within five miles of a stream called the Big Vermilion.⁵⁰

MAY 26. It was cold and rainy this morning, which prevented us from leaving as early as usual. We left our encampment at half-past seven, and soon came to the banks of the Vermilion, a stream which is about one hundred feet wide, quite rapid, and barely fordable at this time. From this point the road commenced to ascend gradually. The ground was firm and the wagons were able to move rapidly through the day. The country was not so rolling as heretofore, but presented a series of plains rising one above another. This day's march brought me to a stream having on its banks cottonwood and scrub oak in small quantities. The soil bore much the appearance of that on the streams we had already passed. From the great exposure which the

⁵⁰ Now known as Black Vermilion.

party had been subjected to, a teamster was taken with pleurisy, while one of the escort was seized with the cholera. Having no medical aid along, our situation was certainly a very unpleasant one. We however administered to them such medicine as we had with us, and rendered them all the assistance in our power. Being compelled to continue our march, it was impossible to make them the least [bit] comfortable.

It would be useless to attempt to enumerate the deaths that had occurred among the emigrants. The graves along the road too plainly told us that the cholera was prevailing to an alarming extent. At this point we were one hundred thirty-eight miles from Fort Leavenworth, one hundred seventy-two miles from Fort Kearny, [and] entirely cut off from all assistance or the possible means of getting any relief. It was out of the question to lie by. Being in the rear, we were compelled to move rapidly on to overtake the command. It was a serious subject to think of, and I know of no danger that I would not sooner be exposed to, than again suffer the uneasiness of mind which I experienced at this time. We had not only full proof of the prevalence of this dreadful scourge along the road, but were actually carrying it with us in our wagons.

If I were to enumerate all the sufferings of the emigrants and enter into a minute description of our critical situation it would take more time and space than would be proper for me to devote to this subject. I feel that it is necessary to touch upon it, so as to give the department some idea of the peculiar position in which we were placed and the grave risk everyone ran who traveled this route. When we arose in the morning it was a question among us as to who might fall a victim to it before another sun.

We met at our encampment this evening two men

who were returning to their homes in Tennessee, having heard of the death of some of their relatives, which required them to retrace their steps. This presented a favorable opportunity to us to send letters back to our friends, who, hearing of the existence of the cholera along our route, would doubtless feel great solicitude for us and be much relieved on hearing of our safety thus far.

The distance passed over today was about thirty miles. Having a good road and traveling quite late in the evening enabled us to make a very long march, but it was somewhat necessary as water was scarce upon the route. I hired an emigrant last evening to drive one of my wagons as far as Fort Kearny in place of the teamster who had so unceremoniously deserted us. I found him a very efficient man who earned well his dollar a day, which I was compelled to give him while in my employment.

MAY 27. The bugle this morning called us at half-past four o'clock. The usual preparations for breakfast having been made, we were ready at half-past five to resume our march. The morning was clear and bracing. The thermometer, at six a.m., was as low as 54°. The road lay over a flat prairie all day, which was very muddy and difficult to pass in bad weather. We overtook at least one hundred wagons and met one man and his family returning to the states. Many of these people were from Illinois. They had crossed the Mississippi [river] at Palmyra and struck the Missouri at St. Joseph and Weston.⁵¹ Those destined for Santa Fe

⁵¹ In 1849 there were two main land routes across Missouri for emigrants. One began at St. Louis and followed the Boonslick road to Howard county, where it crossed the Missouri river at Franklin, Arrow Rock, or Glasgow and took the Santa Fe trail to Independence and Westport. The other began at the Mississippi river in the neighborhood of Palmyra (Marion county) and ran west across the state to St. Joseph. Many emigrants to California and Oregon outfitted at Liberty (Clay county), then either crossed the Missouri

generally stopped at Independence and Liberty, which are below the mouth of the Kansas river.⁵²

We crossed today two streams, one about ninety feet wide. In rainy weather it would be difficult to pass, but at this time the water was lying in holes and very indifferent to drink. Our teams were kept back by the number of trains we overtook today and did not reach our encamping ground on the Big Sandy⁵³ until nearly the close of evening. We found a large number of emigrants on this stream who were seen in every direction, above and below the crossing. A great number were also passed at the several water-holes along the road. It being the Sabbath, many of them had stopped to rest – some no doubt from religious scruples, while others believed it indispensably necessary to lie by one day in seven for the purpose of resting their animals. It is a very good plan and should be resorted to whenever time will permit.

Towards the close of the evening very little was heard but the cracking of whips and a general talking among the parties coming in as to where their encampments were to be made and whether grass and water could be found contiguous to each other. They relished but little the idea of driving their cattle any distance from camp, where they would be compelled to guard them during the night.

Doctor Browne, of St. Louis, was kind enough to visit the sick this evening and prescribe for them, but pronounced one of their cases to be a very hopeless one. He rendered them every assistance in his power and

river to take the main branch of the Oregon trail or traveled northwest to Weston or St. Joseph to take the "north branch" of the Oregon trail.

⁵² Independence (Jackson county) was the main outfitting point for travelers and traders to Santa Fe, but other western Missouri river towns, such as Lexington (Lafayette county), Liberty, and Westport enjoyed more or less of the business.

⁵³ Tributary of the Little Blue river in southeastern Nebraska.

visited them again this morning before our departure.

Since leaving Fort Leavenworth I had seen no game of any importance, although this is a region where deer and buffalo are generally found in the greatest abundance. At this season herds of buffalo are always seen on the Little Blue, a stream which we were fast approaching, but the immense emigration that had already gone on would no doubt drive them from the vicinity of the road and cause them to become very wild. The few deer I had met with thus far were extremely shy and showed the effect the emigration had produced already in passing this spring. The distance traveled today was about twenty miles. The grazing at our encampment was very good, as I had generally found it since leaving Fort Leavenworth.

MAY 28. Wood being scarce on the Big Sandy we did not succeed in getting our breakfast before a late hour. It consisted, as usual, of nothing more than fried ham, stale bread, and bad coffee. It was, therefore, after six o'clock before we commenced our march. The land on the Big Sandy is of a light soil and poor. The wood on this stream is very scarce, consisting principally of cottonwood. The road today led over a prairie somewhat level, though much better than that of yesterday. It brought us on the Little Blue [river] where the road passes along its valley for at least forty miles.

Among the multiplicity of troubles which we had met with since leaving, one of the wagons today broke down and was abandoned in consequence of having neither timber to substitute nor mechanics to repair it. The sick, together with a part of the escort, were left with it. I was not with the wagon when the accident occurred, and this arrangement was made by a person in charge of the teams. It greatly annoyed me, and although near sundown when they came into camp, I

directed them to unload and return for the party they had left behind. This was accomplished, and they returned to camp about twelve o'clock at night.

By this time the man who had the cholera became entirely deranged and required the strength of one person to keep him in the wagon. His sufferings were very great and his cries most distressing, particularly as it was not in our power to render him any assistance or relief. The condition of the sick, as well as the general indisposition among the party, rendered it necessary to reach Fort Kearny as soon as possible or it would become necessary to lie by. I was now reduced to one wagon to transport the sick, my own outfit and that of the party, as well as the luggage of the escort. I determined, therefore, to leave all the stores that were not absolutely necessary for us for the next two days, hoping by that time to arrive at the fort or overtake the command.

MAY 29. The morning was clear and pleasant after a rainy night. I did not leave the camp until seven o'clock, for the loss of one of our wagons had greatly deranged our movements and compelled me to make entirely new arrangements. Beds, boxes, and all bulky articles were left behind, and having a heavy load I attached eight mules to it, with two of the drivers, who succeeded in getting them along much better than anyone anticipated. The remainder of the animals were driven by the escort and gave us much trouble. Being wild, they greatly preferred the prairie to being driven quietly along.

The road here passed along the valley of the [Little] Blue [river], except in one bend, where it crosses a high, level prairie about six miles wide, which I found very muddy. In wet weather [it] is extremely difficult to travel on. This is generally the case on all parts of the

The Diary of George Gibbs

March from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Kearny

We reached Fort Leavenworth the eighth of may 1849 and found that the regiment had encamped in a position about five miles off, called Camp Sumner. Riding out we were most kindly received by Colonel [William Wing] Loring and the officers, and passed our first night in camp. The next day was spent in the purchase of mules and saddle horses and in stowing the wagons. Orders had been given for the march of the regiment on the tenth, and we had little enough time for preparation.

The regiment is thus disposed; the main body consisting of five companies, which are to be hereafter joined by a sixth, all under command of Brevet-colonel Loring, is to march to Oregon, there to be posted in garrison at such points as may be deemed most advisable, Fort Hall being, it is understood, one of them. The companies are A, [Captain Michael E.] Van Buren; D, [Captain Llewellyn] Jones;²⁸⁰ F, [Brevet-lieutenant-colonel Andrew] Porter; H, Brevet-lieutenant-colonel [Jacob B.] Backenstos;²⁸¹ K, [Brevet-major Stephen S.] Tucker. Company I, [Brevet-major Charles F.] Ruff, is to join the regiment at Fort Kearny. Brevet-major [John S.] Simonson²⁸² with company B, [Cap-

²⁸⁰ Llewellyn Jones. New York. First-lieutenant Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; captain december 31, 1847; major september 28, 1861; colonel march 13, 1865 for meritorious service; died july 17, 1873. Heitman, *Historical register*, 1, 581.

²⁸¹ Jacob Benjamin Backenstos. Pennsylvania. Illinois. Captain Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; brevet-major august 20, 1847, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico; resigned june 30, 1851; died september 25, 1857. Heitman, *Historical register*, 1, 179.

²⁸² John Smith Simonson. Pennsylvania. Indiana. Sergeant, Captain Knapp's

tain Noah] Newton,²⁸³ to which on reaching Fort Kearny his own company G is to be added, is to proceed to Bear river, where he is to be stationed. Brevet-lieutenant-colonel [Winslow F.] Sanderson²⁸⁴ with company E, [Captain Thomas] Duncan,²⁸⁵ and company C, [Brevet-lieutenant-colonel Benjamin S.] Roberts,²⁸⁶ is ordered to Fort Laramie.

Field and staff officers are Major [George B.] Crittenden, Captain [J. P.] Hatch,²⁸⁷ adjutant, and Lieu-

company (Dobbin's regiment) New York volunteers may 1 to november 8, 1814; captain Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; brevet-major september 13, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico; major september 16, 1847; colonel may 13, 1861; retired september 28, 1861; brigadier-general march 13, 1865, for long and meritorious service in the army; died december 5, 1881. *Ibid.*, 1, 888.

²⁸³ Noah Newton. Connecticut. Ohio. First-lieutenant Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; captain january 8, 1848; died august 30, 1853. *Ibid.*, 1, 746.

²⁸⁴ Winslow F. Sanderson. New York. Ohio. Captain Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; brevet-major august 20, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, Mexico; major january 8, 1848; died september 16, 1853. *Ibid.*, 1, 859.

²⁸⁵ Thomas Duncan. Illinois. First-lieutenant Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; captain march 15, 1848; major june 10, 1861; brevet-lieutenant-colonel april 8, 1862, for gallant and meritorious service in action near Albuquerque, New Mexico; colonel and brigadier-general march 13, 1865 for meritorious service during the war; lieutenant-colonel Fifth cavalry july 28, 1866; retired january 15, 1873; died january 7, 1887. *Ibid.*, 1, 388.

²⁸⁶ Benjamin Stone Roberts. Vermont. Brevet-second-lieutenant First dragoons july 1, 1835; second-lieutenant may 31, 1836; first-lieutenant july 31, 1837; resigned january 28, 1839; first-lieutenant Mounted Riflemen may 27, 1846; captain february 16, 1847; brevet-major september 13, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico; lieutenant-colonel november 24, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the action with the enemy at Matamoros and Pass Galaxara, Mexico; major may 31, 1861; colonel Fifth New Mexico cavalry december 9, 1861; colonel february 21, 1862, for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Valverde, New Mexico; brigadier-general of volunteers june 16, 1862; brigadier-general march 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia; major-general of volunteers march 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service in the battles of Cedar Mountain and Manassas, Virginia; honorably mustered out of volunteer service january 16, 1866; lieutenant-colonel Third cavalry july 28, 1866; retired december 15, 1870; died january 29, 1875. *Ibid.*, 1, 835.

²⁸⁷ John Porter Hatch. New York. Brevet-second-lieutenant Third infantry

tenant [D.M.] Frost, quartermaster of the regiment. Major [James] Belger²⁸⁸ is chief quartermaster.

MAY 10. The regiment was put in motion by Major-general Twiggs²⁸⁹ at six o'clock and marched five miles,

july 1, 1845; transferred to Mounted Riflemen july 17, 1846; second-lieutenant april 18, 1847; brevet-first-lieutenant august 20, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, Mexico; captain september 13, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico; regimental adjutant november 1, 1847, to may 1, 1850; first-lieutenant june 30, 1851; captain october 13, 1860; brigadier-general of volunteers september 28, 1861; major august 30, 1862, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Manassas, Virginia; lieutenant-colonel september 14, 1862, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of South mountain, Maryland; major Fourth cavalry october 27, 1863; colonel march 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service during the war; brigadier-general march 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service in the field during the war and major-general of volunteers march 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service during the war; honorably mustered out of volunteer service january 15, 1866; lieutenant-colonel Fifth cavalry january 15, 1873; transferred to Fourth cavalry april 10, 1873; colonel Second cavalry june 26, 1881; retired january 9, 1886; awarded medal of honor october 28, 1893, for distinguished gallantry in the battle of South mountain, Maryland, where he was severely wounded while leading one of his brigades in the attack under a severe fire from the enemy while serving as brigadier-general of volunteers commanding division; died april 12, 1901. *Ibid.*, 1, 511.

²⁸⁸ James Belger. New York. Army. Private, corporal, sergeant, and sergeant-major Second infantry november 7, 1832 to october 15, 1838; second-lieutenant Sixth infantry october 15, 1838; first-lieutenant february 27, 1843; regimental adjutant february 1, 1840 to january 1, 1846; captain assistant quartermaster june 18, 1846; brevet-major may 30, 1848, for meritorious conduct particularly in the performance of his duty in the prosecution of the war with Mexico; major quartermaster august 3, 1861; colonel assistant aide-de-camp july 11, 1862; dismissed november 30, 1863; major quartermaster march 3, 1871; retired june 19, 1879; died december 10, 1891. *Ibid.*, 1, 207.

In addition to the above the following were with the regiment: Brevet-major Philip Kearny, Captain A. J. Lindsay, Brevet-captains Gordon Granger and Thomas Claiborne; First-lieutenants Charles L. Denman, Julian May, Thomas G. Rhett, James Stuart; Second-lieutenants Innis N. Palmer, J. McL. Addison, George McLane, W. E. Jones, George W. Howland, C. E. Ervine; Surgeons Israel Moses, Charles H. Smith; and civilians George Gibbs, William Henry Tappan, Alden H. Steele, J. D. Haines. Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, II, 81 footnote; Tannatt to Prosser, february 5, 1899.

²⁸⁹ David Emanuel Twiggs. Georgia. Captain Eighth infantry march 12, 1812; major Twenty-eighth infantry september 21, 1814; honorably discharged june 15, 1815; reinstated as captain Eighth infantry december 2, 1815

the principal object being to obtain a start. For the benefit of those to whom the order of the day on a cavalry march is as unknown as it was to myself, I give it here.

Reveille sounds at three a.m. and the roll is called, immediately after which follows the stable call, when the horses are cleaned and their pickets changed. At a quarter before five is the sick call, and at five the general gives the signal to strike tents and pack the wagons; at half past five boots and saddles, at five-fifty to horse, and at six advance. On arriving at camp guard is mounted and the horses picketed outside. An hour before sundown they are again cleaned, watered, and picketed inside the camp. At sundown the retreat is sounded, the roll called, sentinels posted, and at dark the countersign is given out.

The order of march is first, the advance guard; second, the pioneers; third, the regiment; fourth, regimental train; fifth, supply train, and sixth, the rear guard.

Today we had a specimen of the vexations of beginners. One of our mules was missing at daybreak, and leaving the wagon to remain until afternoon I rode into town to search for it. After a fruitless hunt I returned and reached camp late in the evening. Our new camp was called Camp Sally B.

FRIDAY, MAY 11. This day we passed in camp, all be-
with brevet of major from september 21, 1814; transferred to First infantry december 14, 1821; major may 14, 1825; lieutenant-colonel Fourth infantry july 15, 1831; colonel Second dragoons june 8, 1836; brigadier-general june 30, 1846; brevet-major-general september 23, 1846, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the several conflicts at Monterrey, Mexico; recognized by resolution of congress march 2, 1847, and the presentation of a sword "in testimony of the high sense entertained by congress of his gallantry and good conduct in storming Monterrey"; dismissed march 1, 1861, major-general Confederate army, 1861-1862; died july 15, 1862. Heitman, *Historical register*, 1, 976.

ing engaged in the numberless preparations for the journey, adjusting baggage in the wagons, and finishing all those minor arrangements that never are finished till necessity calls for them. A morning's amusement is afforded, at least to those who do not share in its annoyances, by the constant escape of mules and horses from their picket ropes. They are fastened out to graze, when not on actual march, by lariats some thirty or forty feet long, secured to the ground by a wooden pin, and not a night passes but some of them contrive to get loose and leave the camp. Most of the mules being still unbroken, and many of the muleteers also, and the horses being unaccustomed to their vocation, a daily chase on the part of the wagonmasters [ensues], which generally ends in the whole being brought in. Then the harnessing brings another scene of confusion, the mules kicking, plunging, and running off on every possible opportunity. All these matters will soon however adjust themselves.

MAY 12. The camp broke up at seven a.m. Our private troubles were not yet at an end, another of our mules having been taken by accident with the train. [This was] an annoyance for which, however, we soon found compensation in a better one left in its place. The vexations of a stranger on a march, when unaccustomed to the details of its arrangements and forced to make himself a general camp nuisance by asking questions of everyone, are no small ones at the time, but will soon become matters of amusement. One teamster, a Dutchman, is innocent of all knowledge, even of harnessing his mules. He seems however honest and willing. One other man, an Irishman hired as horse-keeper and general assistant, knows as little of his business, but he is equally good tempered and more intelligent. In these respects, therefore, we are well off, but until they shall be broken in we have everything to teach, and the lesson

to learn first ourselves. We have been treated with the utmost kindness and patience on all sides, and are particularly indebted to Mr. J. F—,²⁹⁰ the regimental sutler, and to his brother for every assistance.

Our route this day led through a beautifully wooded country with rolling hills. The trail [was] generally good until about noon, when a halt was ordered, the head of the column having reached a bad descent where a road had to be cut. Here was a brook of excellent water. The pass was difficult, but we escaped without accident, recrossed the brook and encamped about half-past four o'clock, the camp extending from east to west [and] fronting south on the brook. In the rear of headquarters was a high rolling hill, affording a fine view of the camp and surrounding country, which was singularly beautiful, the hollows, and especially the hills, being clothed with timber. The soil is deep, black mould, exceedingly rich, but light and changed rapidly into mud or dust by the weather. For this reason the rolling prairie is less fitted for cultivation than for grazing, for if broken by the plow the soil would be soon washed into the bottom. The hills are here in regular ridges, often of a grave-like outline with tables on the tops. Ledges of water-worn limestone occasionally crop out from the sides and fallen masses disposed in rows present a singular aspect from below.

Large masses of coarse red quartzose rock occur here and there, and pebbles of the same mineral are often intermixed with those of limestone rock, which is in this place. The trees are less advanced than a week ago at St. Louis and are just budding out. Beautiful flowers, many of forms familiar at the east, bloom amidst the grass, which though short is plentiful. It is not however

²⁹⁰ Probably J. Frost. If so the brother would be William Frost, agent for the regimental train.

sufficiently matured to afford healthy nutriment to our animals, [which are] accustomed to dry feed and grain, and an admixture of the old grass is sought for always in selecting a camp ground. Although upon Indian territory, the country being that assigned to the Kickapooos,²⁹¹ etc., the diminution of these tribes and the disappearance of grain render the burning of the grass much less universal. A consequence is the increase of timber, which in a few years will doubtless clothe much of the land. Our guide, one long accustomed to western life and a man of much observation, states that within his recollection the timber had increased whenever the practice of burning was discontinued. Our camp was named after the daughter of an officer, Camp Frederica.²⁹² The advance this day was about fifteen miles.

SUNDAY, MAY 13. Camp broke at seven a. m. Our march was about fifteen miles. The character of the country was the same as heretofore, and exceedingly picturesque. Our course during the day was generally northwest. About a mile out we had a last view of the Missouri river, some three miles to the right. Encamped some six miles from the river on excellent ground and with [an] abundance of fresh water. The road during the day was generally excellent, but with one very bad pass. During the ride a wolf was seen, some grey plover shot, and in camp a fine specimen of the swallow-tail hawk, *falco furcatus*, was seen. During the night we had a heavy thunderstorm with hail and high wind.

²⁹¹ These Indians, whose prehistoric homes were about the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, drifted southward to the Sangamon and Wabash rivers, where they were followers of Tecumseh and fought under Black Hawk. Under the treaty of October 24, 1832, they were given a reservation extending sixty miles west and twenty miles north of Fort Leavenworth on the west side of the Missouri river. They surrendered the major portion of this reservation to the government in 1854. Connelley, *Kansas and Kansans*, 1, 264-65.

²⁹² In honor of Frederica Jones, ten-year-old daughter of Captain Llewellyn Jones. Swift, "Personal memoirs."

The supply train, owing to detention in passing the ravine, did not reach camp.

MONDAY, MAY 14. The camp did not break up until late, owing to the detention of the train. We passed several bad hollows or sloughs [which were] rendered soft by the rain of last night and advanced only four miles. The ground selected was a low and small village [*sic*], with grass and good water, but a steep descent. The camping ground, I may here mention, is selected by the guide, who precedes the column with a small escort and fixes upon a suitable spot at about the distance intended for the day's march. The first requisites are of course good grass and water, and finally wood for the camp fires. Of the latter very little is indeed necessary, a few sticks furnishing sufficient for a mess. Some of the officer's messes are provided with portable sheet-iron stoves, but the fires are usually made in a small hole to protect them from the fresh wind of the prairie.

TUESDAY, MAY 15. The camp broke up at seven [o'clock]. The road [was] still somewhat broken. At about six miles out we reached Wolf creek, a small stream running toward the Missouri [river]. The passage was here very bad, with a steep winding hill to ascend afterward. These passages, [crossed] with considerable labor and anxiety, furnish at the same time much excitement and even amusement. As each team approaches in turn, the wheels are locked, the mules led down the hill, and then, the chain being taken off, amidst a storm of blows, curses, and shouts, are run up the opposite side. With unbroken or unmatched teams, as ours are at present, this is a matter of no small difficulty, the wheel mules often refusing to draw or hold back as required, the forward ones kicking out of their traces or plunging from side to side, sometimes getting the wagon stalled in the mud [and] at others running in imminent dan-

ger of upsetting on the bank. Occasionally a pole or axle breaks and the whole train is stopped for the time. The forge comes up, extra poles are obtained and put in, and the shouting and whipping commence. To one unaccustomed to mules it is a matter of wonderment that they are not oftener ruined. The little wretches involve themselves in most inexplicable ways in their chains and harness, plunging, kicking, and falling on one another with a vicious perseverance that would kill a train of horses, and generally with as little injury to themselves as if they were of hammered iron. The duties of the wagonmasters of [the] division and their subordinates are at these places harassing enough and demand no little patience and presence of mind.

All those brooks which have given us so much trouble could have been avoided, had the trail been run a few miles farther west of the Missouri river.

About three miles from Wolf creek the [Fort] Leavenworth [road] strikes into the great trail from St. Joseph, now the most traveled of all the routes. The town of St. Joseph, one of the principal outfitting towns in western Missouri, has been created entirely by the business of the emigrants and is of so late an origin that its very name is not given on the maps.²⁹³ We have begun to encounter the emigrant trains in numbers, winding slowly along with their white-topped wagons and trains of oxen and mules. In passing over this district, than which few can be more beautiful, the eye wanders in search of the familiar farmhouse and the barn, built

²⁹³ St. Joseph dates from 1826, when Joseph Robidou, trapper and Indian trader, opened a post a short distance above the present city on Roy's branch. In 1830 he moved to Blacksnake hills, now the heart of the city. In 1843 "Blacksnake hills," as the place was known until that year when the name was changed, had a population of five hundred. It became a county seat in 1846 with a population of nine hundred thirty-six. In 1849 its population was nineteen hundred and a year later three thousand four hundred sixty.

upon some little knoll by the brookside, that greets the eye in our eastern landscape. I often found myself almost cheated into the belief that the canvas covers of some emigrant train, seen in the distance, were the fixed residence of the white man. But no smoke except that of the campfire rises here. The Indian himself is unseen, and so peaceful is all around, that the weapon which every man carries seemed a useless plaything.

Our route was intersected or joined by a number of smaller trails, some of them the perhaps immemorial war paths of Indians. Others [were] distinguished by their wheel marks as the roads made by emigrants from distant points on the Missouri. I noticed today, and frequently afterward, circular spots or rings on the prairie where the old grass remained unburnt in the midst of an extent of fresh verdure. These the guide explained as places where horses had been picketed the previous year, or where a corral had been formed. We found a good camping ground about a mile southeast from the road, some twelve miles from the Missouri, and fourteen or fifteen from our starting point. The descent into it [was] bad, but [it] contained good water and [was] well protected. The evening was passed till a late hour round a campfire, and enlivened with merry chat and songs.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16. It being deemed advisable to rest the animals, the camp did not move today. I went on with Mr. Glendery [Glenday], the guide, and a party to seek a position for the next. We rode perhaps sixteen or eighteen miles. The trail, which is here very broad and beaten like a turnpike, was covered with emigrant parties, who continued passing at intervals during the day. These parties vary much in numbers and much in the appearance of the individuals and the apparent completeness of their outfit—some being in

excellent order [and] others hardly removed from destitution. I noticed that but few women or children accompanied them. They are chiefly made up from single towns or districts, less often of combined parties, and as yet they are not banded in large companies. Most of their wagons are drawn by oxen, from three to seven yoke to a team. It is hardly necessary to say that they are bound for California, and I learn that the most extravagant hopes animate most of them. Bitter disappointment is perhaps in store for all; distress and death for many most certainly. At points along the road we saw frequent cards and notes stuck on the top of sticks containing information to friends behind. The grass along the road is now almost eaten, and good camping grounds in its vicinity for so large a body of men as ours are scarce. The wood is also here less abundant, though patches of it show on either side in the bottoms. It should be noticed that the route is carried wherever practicable along the summit of the dividing ridges between the streams on account of a more level and drier track, [thus] avoiding the smaller ravines and swales. We are therefore often obliged to diverge for some distance. The turf on the prairie is several inches in thickness, very tenacious, singularly smooth in surface, and unless softened by recent rain affords a good road anywhere. This therefore seldom gives us much trouble. The country for some extent beyond this is well watered, and we rarely travel three or four miles without meeting places which would be suitable [camping places] in ordinary times.

We passed today a few sloughs, but the road generally was better, being drier. The sloughs are formed by the settling of the water in the swales or depressions leading into the ravines, which in turn empty into the streams. The turf once broken, the whole is converted,

by passing in wet weather, into a tenacious and deep bed of mud, through which the wagons are drawn with difficulty, as they sometimes sink to the axles. Ours are very heavy at present and detentions frequently occur.

On the right of the road we had occasional glimpses during the day of the high and wooded banks of the Missouri, now at a considerable distance. We returned early in the afternoon, having selected the ground for next day's encampment. At night we had more rain, and the howling of the prairie wolves made a doleful accompaniment to the storm.

THURSDAY, MAY 17. Broke up at seven [o'clock]. We found the road good except the crossings, and reached camp at an early hour without accident. The ground was a good one, situated to the left of the road, about sixteen miles from the last. In the evening some of us went to bathe in the brook, which was no small gratification after a week's toil. One of the men caught a striped prairie squirrel, a female with young.

FRIDAY, MAY 18. Camp moved at six [o'clock], the regular hour for moving being resumed. I again went forward with the guide to select a position for the night. We passed a number of emigrant trains, some of which had now become old acquaintances. Two or three meetings constitute such on the prairie, and hearty salutations were exchanged as we went on. There are odd characters and odd vehicles among them too. Every profession and every class in society are represented, and every mode of conveyance from the Conestoga wagon and its lumbering oxen, and the light draft mule-team, to the saddle horse. We even saw a doctor's buggy with a bell-pull fastened to the hinder axle. The route today grows more monotonous, the divides longer, and the timbered streams more distant from the road and of less frequent occurrence. On either side we saw ves-

tiges of campfires, but all [made by] whites, for the Indians are now mostly at their villages engaged in planting corn. A practiced eye readily distinguishes the fire made by an Indian from that of the emigrant or even the hunter. The white man lights his wood in the center of the sticks; the Indian always at the end, moving it up as it burns. The scarcity of wood in the prairie has taught him this lesson of economy. We passed today two bad sloughs on the opposite sides of a hill, and after five hours' march selected a camp to the left of the road, some twenty miles from that of last night. It had been previously occupied and the grass was thin, but the situation [was] good and water plentiful. The trees in this bottom, as in most of those we have visited, were sour elm and scrub white oak. I strolled with my gun up the stream, but shot nothing. The birds particularly noticed today were the turkey buzzard, common crow, buffalo birds (the cow bunting of the east), doves, small woodpeckers, and a number of the sylviae, upon which I could not waste shot. The yellow-throated blackbird was also constantly seen in the flocks of the buffalo bird. Flowering plants were numerous, but none of them [were] of rare varieties.

To this camp was given the name of Camp Mary.²⁹⁴ We passed another merry evening at the tent of an officer, to whom a benevolent Irishman had given a bottle of ancient whiskey on condition that it should be drunk beyond the bounds of civilization, and heard the next morning's reveille with our usual regret.

There was another thunderstorm during the night, fully justifying, in our opinion, the anathemas which our guide passed upon this district, [which is] said to be particularly subject to heavy rains.

²⁹⁴ In honor of Mary, daughter of Brevet-major Charles F. Ruff. Ruff to Davenport, n.d.

SATURDAY, MAY 19. A slight fall of rain occurred early this morning. Our course today lay nearly due west over the tops of long ridges. A heavy shower with hail fell about ten – the sky clearing off at noon and exhibiting the exquisite valley of the Great Nemaha. The approach to this stream on either side of the road is beautiful, the banks of the ravines being covered with wood. The river itself is small, notwithstanding its name, being at this time only some twenty feet wide and about a foot deep. The general course is here northwest, but its bed is very winding. The banks are high, disclosing horizontal strata of fossiliferous limestone, some of the inclosed shells preserving the nacre. I noticed also a number of recent shells in the mud of the bottom, but found no live specimens to preserve for identification. The pioneers had here constructed a tolerable road and we passed safely. The passage itself was highly picturesque, and I spent a pleasant hour or two in watering the teams and reading the various inscriptions which the Pilgrims of the West had left upon the trees announcing their arrival at this point of their long journey. Ascending the opposite bank we found a pretty and level plain, from which again arose the spurs of another dividing ridge. Here stood the newly-made grave of an emigrant marked by a rude headboard, with his name and the date of his death affixed on a scrap of paper. His search for the gold of the Sacramento had been soon ended. How will it be with the rest? About five miles farther on, and some twenty from our last place, we found our camp, which was named Almira. Strolling around the hills, I picked up some fragments of the lily-like stems of a zoophyte, and noticed an abundance of quartz pebbles and large boulders, one of which was split as if by lightning. The evening we again passed round the campfire of an officer, and the

scene that our party exhibited was one not to be forgotten. The night was blackness itself; a wind such as blows only on the prairie or on the sea roared around us, a blazing fire was built under an enormous mass of red quartz rock, [and] around it lay on their blankets some twenty men in the rude costume of the march – our old guide among them. On its top stood some half dozen others leading the chorus which thundered from beneath to the good old song of “Benny Havens, O!”²⁹⁵ As the firelight danced on their faces I could not but recall the pictures of Salvator²⁹⁶ and regret that the inspiration of such a pencil was wanting here.

SUNDAY, MAY 20. Again went in advance with our guide, leaving camp a little before six [o'clock]. About five miles out struck a branch of the Nemaha [river, where] there were two crossings that needed repair. It has been a matter of regret all along that the government did not send a body of pioneers a month previous to prepare the road between [Fort] Leavenworth and Fort Kearny by throwing bridges over the most difficult places, or marking out roads that might avoid them. The expense would have been trifling in comparison to the immense advantage both to the emigrants and ourselves. In most cases sufficient wood could be found for the purpose in the immediate neighborhood, and in others a few wagonloads of brush, easily procured within a mile or two or carried along from one place to another would have saved hours of delay and often the breakage of wagons. The crossings rarely need mending for more than twenty feet, and a number of the worst could have been turned by a circuitous march of a short distance. These we had of course no time to explore.

²⁹⁵ Written by Lieutenant O'Brien.

²⁹⁶ Salvator Rosa (1615-1673), an Italian painter, etcher, satirical poet, musical composer, and chief master of the Neapolitan school of painting. He painted historical subjects, landscapes, marine views, and battle scenes.

As it is, we have been of great service to the emigrants who follow us. I could not but pity some whom we occasionally met on the road, with their wagons broken and no means of repairing them. The regiment was unprovided with materials beyond their own immediate wants, and though our forges have been kindly employed in many cases for their relief, our march is necessarily too hurried to delay a moment. It is, however, gratifying to observe that the emigrants are generally kind to one another, as well as that their conduct for the most part is exceedingly courteous and orderly. A few companies, we hear, have earned themselves bad names, but all that we have met have been as well behaved and well bred as [those] one would meet on a country road in the old states. Many are, in fact, led by men of high standing and composed of the most substantial class of the community. [It is a] pity that such should leave the comforts of civilized life to endure the sufferings that must await them before they reach the Utopia of the West.

This morning we again encountered heavy showers. The camp was selected to the right of the road, with good water, but wood scarce. This last item, the least important in our own calculations is, I observe, one of the most in that of the emigrants. "How far is it to timber?" is a question often asked of us as we return from our morning scout.

MONDAY, MAY 21. We have now reached the dividing ridges of the waters running directly eastward to the Missouri and those running more southerly into the Kansas or Kaw, which empties into that river below our own starting point, our general course having been at first much to the north and west. Since crossing the Great Nemaha we have kept more westerly, following the ridge between that stream and the Little Nemaha,

and we are now approaching the Big Blue. Leaving camp a little before six [o'clock] I overtook the guide, and at a quarter before nine reached a small branch or ravine running about westward. Here we found a very bad passage, but it was fortunately turned by the pioneers who followed. At ten [o'clock] we struck the valley of the Big Blue itself. Crossing the river the guide selected a camp about a mile beyond to the left and with the rear to the road. We then returned to witness the passage of the column. The river was at this time about twenty-five yards wide, and up to our saddle girths at the ford, with steep banks some twenty feet high. The bottom [was] hard and covered with pebbles of flint, quartz, and red jasper. The spurs approaching the valley are terraced with great regularity, strata of limestone and blue flint appearing on their edges. The highest of these terraces, it may be observed, are often more fertile than the second tables, from which the soil is generally washed. In the bed of the river were quite extensive bars of quartzose sand. Its banks were lined with sour elm, maples, cottonwood, and willows, with an undergrowth of seringa and other shrubs. The scene of the crossing afforded the usual amusement, the mules being most unwilling to take to the water, and often obliging the teamsters to rush through up to their middles. All however passed in safety. Our camp here was called Camp on the Big Blue. A short distance from it was a beautifully wooded bend of the river in which we bathed. In the evening we had another squall of rain. Our general course during the day had been to the south of west, and the viameter, now for the first time used, and which was attached to the forge, gave sixteen miles as the distance traveled.

TUESDAY, MAY 22. [The] column moved this day only eight and a quarter miles by the viameter and

camped a short distance to the right of the road, the mules needing rest. Grass excellent, the water [was] not so good, [but] enough however [was] found in pools. We now pass the graves of emigrants daily along the road, their inscriptions generally giving cholera or dysentery as the cause of their death, and on inquiring [we find that] almost every company has lost one or two members. [We] noticed cows frequently yoked in the teams with bulls and oxen. They are said to draw very well, but their milk must be unwholesome. The ox-teams keep very well up with the train, making fifteen miles on an average per day. In some respects they are preferable to mules, as they improve in condition so long as the grass holds good, are more easily tended, and less liable to escape. When, however, the grass is more exhausted I apprehend that they will suffer much. We are now on the war grounds, and although we have literally not seen an Indian since leaving Camp Sumner, greater precautions are deemed necessary, and for the first time we form a corral. This is made by enclosing a space within the wagons and tents, into which the animals are driven at night. The emigrants are nightly losing horses and mules, but whether from carelessness or theft it is difficult to tell. There is a report that buffalo have been seen today by one of the companies, but it is doubted. Our camp is called Camp Ann.²⁹⁷ During the night another shower fell.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23. A heavy shower early in the morning. The country is now losing its character of rolling prairie proper, as it is near Fort Leavenworth,

²⁹⁷ In honor of Annie Elizabeth Dougherty Ruff, wife of Brevet-major Charles F. Ruff. Mrs. Ruff and her youngest daughter Margaret spent the winter of 1848-1849 at Fort Kearny, leaving her other daughter, Mary, with her grandmother at Liberty, Missouri. Early in the spring Mrs. Ruff in company with her father, Major John Dougherty, her brother, Lewis Bissell Dougherty, Captain Stewart Van Vliet, and an escort returned to Liberty for Mary. Ruff to Davenport, n.d.

the ridges becoming longer [and] the ravines of water less frequent. We met none until one mile before camp, where was one running to the westward. The great trail from Independence²⁹⁸ joined ours shortly after leaving camp of last night. The junction is said to be [about] one hundred twenty-three miles from Fort Kearny. During the day an antelope was shot by one of the rear guard. Some of the hills passed were very barren and covered with quartz gravel. Where this red quartz, so often found in this district, occurs in place, I have never seen mentioned, and there is no surface rock by means of which the direction of its movement can be ascertained from the diluvial scratches. A range of hills, seen to the left, is supposed to bound the valley of the Little Blue which we are approaching. We marched twenty-five miles by the viameter and encamped half a mile to the right of the road on the Little Sandy [creek],²⁹⁹ about one hundred ten miles from [Fort] Kearny and one hundred eighty-six from [Fort] Leavenworth. Camp fronts due west. The night was overcast with rain.

THURSDAY, MAY 24. Left camp as usual in advance. At a quarter before nine [o'clock we] passed a gully which the pioneers, who had come on, halted to fill. At nine [o'clock] we passed a small branch running into the Little Blue [which was] fed by springs at no great distance. The bottom [was] hard and [the] crossing pretty good. The guide allows from three to four miles an hour as the rate of his horse's walking, according to the state of the roads, and our distances are calculated accordingly in fixing the day's march. At half-past eleven [o'clock] we selected our camping ground about

²⁹⁸ Near the junction of the Big Sandy creek and Little Blue river in Jefferson county, Nebraska.

²⁹⁹ A tributary to the Big Sandy creek in northwestern Jefferson county, Nebraska.

a mile to the left of the road and facing south on Big Sandy [creek], another tributary of the Little Blue [river, which was] about ten or twelve feet wide and rapid. Its banks [are] of granite sand and gravel, with pebbles of agate and jasper, some of which are very good specimens. Our course today has again been to the north of west. The viameter gave twenty-one and one-quarter miles, [which was] rather over our estimate. The country during the ride [was] about the same as of late, except that in some places the terraces are deeply cut into by rain, which before has not been observed. The banks disclosed are light colored and sandy. The road runs upon very long divides and is as fine as possible, with the exception of a few swales. [The] sky was overcast at noon and [there was] lightning to the northwest. [We] first noticed the prickly pear in this bottom. Soon after arriving in camp we had a small stampede, some thirty horses starting at the sound of a gun (mine, by the way) and running several miles before they could be stopped. Another heavy storm tonight.

FRIDAY, MAY 25. In consequence of the storm the departure of the column was delayed until eight o'clock, and I rode forward with the guide at seven o'clock. Our course was generally north-northwest and west. At eight-forty [o'clock we] crossed the stream we had encamped on and found sandy flats along its banks and the sand bluffs to the left. At eleven and twelve o'clock [we] crossed branches or ravines leading to the Little Blue river, and at twelve forty-five o'clock reached that river itself. It lies in a deep bottom, from one-eighth to one-quarter of a mile wide, and the approach is not noticeable until gaining the summit of the hill overlooking it. The river itself is beautifully fringed with trees, among which the cottonwood predominates. We found the bottom in the immediate vicinity of the road

much pastured by the emigrant trains, some of which were already halted. The sites for camping grounds are excellent, and having chosen one at a short distance we rode back. The regiment had, however, been already forced to halt some five or six miles back. The position was to the left of the road, about a quarter of a mile from it, with the rear and one side covered by a channel containing pools of good water. We find the buffalo grass, as it is called, now becoming common. It grows in small detached clumps, very thick and short, and curled. Along the road we now find frequent buffalo skulls and elk horns, the remains of races that have already well nigh disappeared from this region.

Today [we] met one party of emigrants returning. Their cattle had stampeded to the amount of sixty head, and the company in consequence broke up. They had counted five hundred forty wagons passing since the morning before. I noticed some trithorn acacias on the bank of the stream, and among the birds the red-headed woodpecker. Plover are very plent[iful] and tame, as they are now hatching. Some of the emigrants reported that they had seen wild turkeys near our camp of last night, and the guide states that they, as well as the honey bee, precede by short distances the advance of the whites and are not known beyond the mountains. Some of the gentlemen are cooking the stems of the young milkweed and of Solomon's-seal instead of asparagus and find them excellent. The camp is named Camp Lily. The night cold and rainy.

SATURDAY, MAY 26. We marched today some fifteen miles on a course varying a point or two either side of west. The trail does not pass the Little Blue [river], but continues up its right bank. Our camp was selected on the left side of the road, with its rear to the river. We found the stream rapid and swollen with the late

Journal of Distances
travelled by the Regiment of Mounted Rifles during
a march from Fort Leavenworth, Mo.
to the Dalles of the Columbia,
in the Summer of 1849³¹⁷

		MILES		
May	10th	Regiment marched from their Camp "Sumner" near Fort Leavenworth, making their first camp from that place	8	
"	12	To Small stream	9	17
"	13	" " creek	15	32
"	14	" " "	15	47
"	15	" " "	12	59
"	17	" Camp, water $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant	15	74
"	18	" " near a creek	20	94
"	19	" " four miles beyond the Nemahaa	20	114
"	20	" " beyond Big Vermillion	24	138
"	21	" " on branch of Blue	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	22	" " "	8	162 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	23	" " "	24	186 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	24	" " on Big Sandy	21	207 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	25	" " on Dry branch (water scarce)	13	220 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	26	" " on Little Blue	15	235 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	27	" " do do	20	255 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	28	" " beyond the Blue	20	275 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	29	" " "	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	292
"	30	" " near Fort Kearny six miles	12	304
"	31	" " beyond Fort Kearny two miles	8	312

³¹⁷ Hitherto unpublished table of distances, kept by Dr. Israel Moses, from the original manuscript in the National archives, Washington, D.C.

		MILES	
June	1	To Camp	
"	2	" "	2.21 314.21
"	3	" "	9.76 323.97
"	4	" "	12.42 336.39
"	5	" "	14.64 351.03
"	6	" "	11.98 363.01
"	7	" "	10.87 373.88
"	8	" "	12.86 386.74
"	9	" " Junction of N. & S. Forks of Platte River on a Branch	6.21 392.95
"	10	" " Six miles above the Lower Crossing of S. Fork of Platte	19.08 412.03
"	11	" "	25.07 437.10
"	12	" "	15.75 452.85
"	13	" Crossing of South Fork of Platte, upper ford—3271 ft. wide	11.81 464.66
"	14	" Camp beyond the Crossing on N. Fork of Platte	13.31 477.97
"	15	" "	6.65 484.62
"	16	" "	16.86 501.48
"	17	" "	17.75 519.23
"	18	" " 3 miles east of Chimney Rock	20.85 540.08
"	19	" " near Scott's Bluffs	21.30 561.38
"	20	" " on Horse Creek	23.51 584.89
"	21	" " on N. Fork of Platte	19.28 604.17
"	22	" " one & a half miles beyond Fort Laramie	19.33 623.50
"	25th	From Fort Kearny to Fort Laramie, 327½ Miles. To Camp beyond "Bitter Cottonwood Creek"	15.50 639.00
"	26	" " on Horse-shoe Creek near Heber's Spring	21.74 660.74
"	27	" " Among the Hills	14.20 674.94
"	28	" " On Spring branch	19.52 694.46
"	29	" " Deer Creek	21.08 715.54
"	30	" " Crooked Muddy Creek	26.62 742.16
July	2d	" " Crossing of N. Fork of Platte at Mormon ferry	10. 752.16
"		" "	11.75 763.91

		MILES	
July	5	To Camp near Marsh & Spring (Mineral)	18.63 782.54
"	6	" " near Willow Spring (on Spring 3 miles beyond)	18.85 801.39
"	7	" " On Sweet Water—2 miles from Independence Rock	15.08 816.47
"	8	" " on Sweet Water	7.32 823.79
"	10	" " do	10.5 834.29
"	11	" " Branch of do	18.75 853.04
"	12	" " Morass where ice was found at the depth of 12 in.	16.5 869.54
"	13	" " on Sweet Water	16.25 885.79
"	15	" " on stream, 9 miles from South Pass	25. 910.79
"	16	" " Spring branch (9 mi. beyond is Sublette's cut off)	16.25 927.04
"	17	" " on Sandy (Little) (13 miles back is Sublette's cut off)	20.75 947.79
"	18	" " on Big Sandy	11.25 959.04
"	19	" " Green River Ferry	23. 982.04
"	21	" " on Black's Fork	20.5 1002.54
"	22	" " on Muddy	18.966 1021.506
"	23	" " on Black's Fork, two miles from Fort Bridger	15.07 1036.576
"	24	" " on Big Muddy	18.695 1055.271
"	25	" " on do	16.948 1072.219
"	26	" " on Bear River	25.527 1097.746
"	29	" " on Spring branch	23.447 1121.193
"	30	" " at Foot of Big Hill, two miles from Smith's Trading house	17.09 1138.283
"	31	" " on "Camp Spring"	18.22 1156.503
Augt.	1	" " on Bear River, 2 miles beyond Soda Springs The California Road by way of G. S. Lake turns off 4 miles beyond.	21.923 1178.426
"	2	" " On Portneuf	23.351 1201.777

		MILES	
Augt.	3	To Camp on Rock branch	15. 1216.777
"	4	" " four miles from Fort Hall	22.846 1239.623
"	7	" " beyond crossing of Port-neuf	12.789 1252.412
"	8	" " on Snake River bottom, near a spring	13.75 1266.162
"	9	" " on Snake River	14.20 1280.362
"	10	" " on Raft River	15. 1295.362
"	11	" " on Snake River	25.44 1320.802
"	12	" " on do do	13.817 1334.619
"	13	" " on Rock Creek	16.116 1350.735
"	14	" " on do do where it runs in a very deep cañon	14.424 1365.159
"	15	" " on Shute or Salmon Fall Creek	23. 1388.159
"	16	" " on Snake River, on bluffs	19.5 1407.659
"	17	" " at first Crossing of Snake River	13.292 1420.951
"	20	" " on Dry Branch	6.816 1427.767
"	21	" " on Snake River	12.205 1439.972
"	23	" " " "	20.194 1460.166
"	24	" " Catharine Creek	11.715 1471.881
"	25	" " on Snake River	21.946 1493.827
"	26	" " Small Creek	6.461 1500.288
"	27	" " Snake River	13.92 1514.208
"	28	" " do	14.4 1528.608
"	29	" " near Fort Boiseé at 2d Crossing of Snake	14.244 1542.852
"	30	" " on Malhern River	15.515 1558.367
Sept.	3	" " on Birch Creek	22.308 1580.675
"	4	" " " Burnt River	9.192 1589.867
"	5	" " do do	11.355 1601.222
"	6	" " on Spring branch of Burnt River	13.515 1614.737
"	7	" " Spring branch in a mountain gorge	10.373 1625.110
"	8	" " on Slough of Powder River	17.59 1642.7
"	9	" " Second Fork of Powder River	13.66 1656.36

		MILES	
Sept.	10	To Camp in Grand Rond	16.50 1672.86
"	11	" " on branch of Rond River	7.25 1680.11
"	13	" " in Blue Mountains	12. 1692.11
"	14	" " Lee's near some springs of water	16.647 1708.76
"	15	" " at base of Blue Mts. on branch of Umatillah	14.604 1723.36
"	16	" " at Crossing of the Umatillah	13.948 1737.3
"	17	" " on plain. Water ½ mile distant	12.71 1750.0
"	18	" " on Umatillah	16. 1766.0
"	19	" " on the Columbia	13.523 1779.5
"	20	" " do do	16.213 1795.7
"	21	" " on Creek, ¼ mile from River	12.502 1808.2
"	22	" " on Columbia	14.871 1823.1
"	23	" " do	12. 1835.1
"	24	" " on John Day's River	5.373 1840.5
"	25	" " on Columbia	17.265 1857.7
"	26	" " at Dalles. 10 miles back after crossing a creek, the main road over the Cascade Mts. turns towards the left.	19.646 1877.4
"	29	" " on Spring branch N.E. from Mt. Hood	6.75 1884.1
"	30	" " on 1st branch of Chute's River. The road here strikes the main road, where it comes from Dalles Creek	9.21 1893.6
Oct.	1	" " near an Indian Village, on a large branch of Chute Creek	15.41 1908.0
"	2	" " on small branch of Chute Creek	12.06 1920.0
"	4	" " on Sand Creek	15. 1935.0
"	5	" " on Sandy, passing a dividing ridge	8.75 1944.0

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				MILES	
Oct.	6	To Camp	on second prairie	7.	1951.592
"	8	" "	on Sandy, having crossed it four times	13.75	1965.342
"	9	" "	on Fern Prairie, water in springs	14.	1979.342
"	10	" "	at opening on the woods (no water)	13.50	1992.842
"	11	" "	at Foster's Farm, being the first house met with on the road	4.	1996.842
"	13	" Oregon City		20.	2016.842

Head Quarters of the Army,
New York, Feb. 15, 1850.

Official:

IRWIN McDOWELL
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

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