

COED - Census of Overland Emigrant Documents

PAGE 1: Document Description

Document ID: (60GRA01)

Emigrant's last name: Graham Surveyed by: MEK91

first & middle names: John Melvin Date surveyed: 8-18-95

Title: The Diary of John Melvin Graham

Year of journey: Apr. 23rd 1860 Year written (if different): \_\_\_\_\_ Page numbers surveyed: 1-14

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

Items in document: M K \_\_\_\_\_ (use all applicable codes)

M - daily mileages D - emigrant drawings P - emigrant maps Q - maps by editor K - biographical sketch  
I - Introduction B - bibliography N - Index X - photos F - footnotes/commentaries

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

**For PUBLISHED documents only:**

Published in: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_ Year published: \_\_\_\_\_

Place published: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor's (or translator's) last name: \_\_\_\_\_

first & middle names: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes about publication history: \_\_\_\_\_

**For UNPUBLISHED documents only:**

Notes about format of document: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes on back? Y

Emigrant's occupation: going to be a teacher

Origin: Brownsville Nebraska Territory

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: M

With family? (Y/N) N No. in family: \_\_\_\_\_

Departed from (code): J3

Arrived at (code): D1

Date of departure: 4/25/60

Date of arrival: 5/27/60 (use form mm/dd/yy)

Party: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of wagons at departure: 10

Number of people at departure: \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_ men 2 women \_\_\_\_\_ children

Draft animals of departure: \_\_\_\_\_ oxen \_\_\_\_\_ mules \_\_\_\_\_ horses \_\_\_\_\_ other (use X or a number)

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

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

Routes: \_\_\_\_\_ (use codes from the trail maps)

Notes on back? Y

## COED - Census of Overland Emigrant Documents

PAGE 3: Survey of Names (page 1 of 2) 18/2

Document ID: (166RAY1)

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	Codes	
								1	2
Favorite	John		M	Crownsville Webster		1	4-23		
Morrison	Joe		M	" "		1	4-23		
Arnolds	Dr.		M	" "		1	4-23		Q
Nease	Wm H		M	" "		1	4-24		G
Offens	Barnes d		M			1	4-25		Q
Lafflands	(Widow)		F			2	4-27		Q
Coleman	?					2	4-28		
Graham	H. A.		M			3	4-30		Q
Ferguson			M			3	4-30		
Ferguson	Geo		M				5-1		
Favorite	T. J.		M			2	5-1		
Healy	Andreas		M			4	5-3		Q
Wilcox			M			4	5-3		
Wilcox	Mr.		M			4	5-3		
Wilcox	Eli		M			4	5-3		
Hankstien			M			5	5-6		Q
Healy	A		M				5-6		Q
May	Capt.		M			5	5-6		N
Ferris	Edwards		M			6	5-9		
Bozman			M			6	5-10		

**CODES for column 1:**

A - birth  
 B - death, illness  
 C - death, accident  
 D - death, murder  
 E - death, other/unknown  
 F - name on grave

G - marriage (\*)  
 H - registered name  
 I - name on roster  
 J - turned back  
 K - traveling east

**CODES for column 2:**

L - capt. of party  
 M - guide of party  
 N - military  
 O - govt. surveyor/explorer  
 P - trader  
 Q - non-immigrant

R - Black  
 S - Indian  
 T - Hispanic  
 U - non-US citizen  
 V - Mormon  
 W - joined other party  
 or left party

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

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

COED - Census of Overland Emigrant Documents

PAGE 3: Survey of Names (page 2 of 2)

Document ID: (C. O. E. A. 67)

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	Codes	
								1	2
McDonald	Charles		m			7	5-11		Q
Langdon	Chester		M			7	5-11		
Morrison	Jack		m			7	5-12		
Whitney	Benson		m			7	5-14		
Guy	George		m			9	5-17		Q
Forbes	James		m	NY Cooperstown		10	5-19		Q
Morrison	R		m			13	5-26		

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Location	Page	Date
Nemaha	1	4-25
Muddy	2	4-25
Spring Creek	2	4-26
Big Nemaha	2	4-26
Tecumseh	2	4-26
Yankee Creek	2	4-27
Bear Creek	2	4-28
Big Blue	2	4-28
Beatrice	2	4-28
Cub Creek	2	4-28
Little Sandy Creek	3	4-29
Little Sandy	3	4-30
Big Sandy	3	4-30
Little Blue	3	5-1
Hackney's Ranch	3	5-1
Russell's Stone	4	5-2
Herrington's ranch	4	5-2
Liberty Farm	4	5-2
Parsons Ranch	4	5-3
Elm Creek	4	5-4
Clark & Mann farms ranch	4	5-4
Eighteen Mile Creek	4	5-4
Platte Bottom	5	5-5
Platte River	5	5-5

Location	Page	Date
Ft. Kearney	5	5-5
Kearney City	5	5-6
Plum Creek	5	5-7
Halliday House	6	5-10
Cottonwood Springs	7	5-11
Jacks Meadows	7	5-12
Fremont Bluffs	7	5-12
Fremont Springs	7	5-12
O'Fallan's Bluff	8	5-13
Platte	8	5-15
"Lower Crossing"	9	5-16
Upper Crossing	9	5-17
Sand Hills	9	5-18
Lillian Springs	10	5-19
Valley Stage Station	10	5-20
Beaver Creek Stage Station	11	5-22
Bigo cut off	12	5-23
the Stage Station	12	5-23
Platte Bottom Road	12	5-23
Bigo Creek Bi-fac 12 5-24	12	5-23
Virginia Springs Bi-fac 12 5-24	12	5-24
The Stage Station	12	5-24
"Eighteen mile stretch"	12	5-24
Living Springs	13	5-25
Rocky Mountains	12	5-24

Location

Page

Date

Ciwa Creek

13

5-25

Box elder creek

13

5-26

Cule Creek

13

5-26

Eight Mile Creek

13

5-26

CODE	Tribe name (leave blank if not mentioned)	Page	Date
D		7	5-12
D		8	5-15
D		9	5-16
D		9	5-17
D		9	5-18
D		10	5-19
D		11	5-21
K		11	5-21
K	Cumanches	13	5-26

**CODES (use up to 3 for each entry)**  
**A** - attacked  
**B** - begged  
**C** - robbed  
**D** - saw Indians  
**E** - imagined sighting  
**F** - worried about Indians  
**G** - were warned about  
**H** - traded with Indians  
**I** - other  
**J** - paid toll to Indians  
**K** - helped by Indians, visited/talked to Indians



Location	Page	Date
Ft. Kearney		
Kearney City		
Plum Creek		
Half-Way House		
Cottonwood Springs		
Jack Morrows		
Fremont Springs		
Fremont Springs		
O'Fallon's Bluff		
Platte		
"Lower Crossing"		
"Upper Crossing"		
Sand Hills		
Lillian Springs		
Valley Stage Station		
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Platte Bottom Road		
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The Stage Station		
"Eighteen Mile Stretch"		
Living Springs		

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Cub Creek	2	4-28
Little Sandy Creek	3	4-29
Little Sandy	3	4-30
Big Sandy	3	4-30
Little Blue	3	5-1
Hackneys ranch	3	5-1
Russells store	4	5-2
Herrington's ranch	4	5-2
Liberty Farm	4	5-2
Pawnee Ranch	4	5-3
Elm Creek (on handwritten copy)	4	5-4
Clark & Mumfords ranch	4	5-4
Eighteen Mile Creek	4	5-4
Platte Bottom	5	5-5
Platte River	5	5-5

## THE DIARY OF JOHN MELVIN GRAHAM

## Brownsville Nebraska Territory

Apr. 23rd 1860 John Favorite came to me this morning wanting me to go with their company to the mines - afterwards talked with Jno. Morrison about going & concluded if I could make the arrangement to go I w'd Afternoon went over into [Mo.?] [Helmane?] payed me some money for teaching Went from there to Dr. Arnolds - borrowed a horse of him & crossed the Nishenabotany river on the horse water up to his sides Staid at christians Wrote a letter to Father after the rest went to bed

Apr. 24th Bought a coat of Nicholson at Christians & left about seven. Went to Taylors got a due bill for teaching - from there went to Rock Port & got it cashed and also another one on the Fraisher district Allowed \$3.44 discount come back to Dr. Arnolds got an order of him on White & Russell then came to Brownville but had to wait 2 hours at the ferry before I could cross Got over to B. & found our company nearly ready to start Got my things together & loaded them in - or what I could think of Made arrangements with Wm H Hoover to do my business Didnt get through till a late hour tonight then went up to [Uellreg's?] & wrote till after one oclock tonight

Apr. 25th Got up about 5 o'clock ate breakfast & went down street Settled with Wheeler & rec'd some money on Glen Rock lots Bought some little notions in Brownville & started out of town 9 1/2 oclock on foot to overtake the team which started out last night & camped on the Nemaha I had not got but a few miles before my feet began to blister I first pulled off one boot then the other - then went barefooted - but my feet were so tender that I couldn't stand that I tried going barefoot several different times Stopped at Barnerd Ottens about two oclock to see him on business As I was very hungry got a piece of corn bread & butter It being the best they had; but it tasted sweet About 4 oclock started on By the time I got to [St Frederic?] my feet were so very sore that I could walk no farther - "just plum give out" I have had sore feet before from walking but never equal to this [St. Fredrick?] is on the [he has left a large gap as if he were going to fill in a word

before muddy] Muddy about 20 miles from Brownville Some hours travel behind our team yet Took supper at St F. Two of our company are still behind They expected to get a team in Brownville to start after dinner & bring them on till they overtake our team

Apr. 26th Started from [St. Frederick?] at 5 1/2 Oclock My feet are very sore & blistered badly Walked six miles & came up with our company which was still camped on Spring creek Messrs Morrison got into camp about 1 oclock this morning Camped for dinner on the Big Nemaha at Tecumseh 10 1/2 oclock The next stream is Yankee creek which we crossed 4 times & camped for night on Yankee creek where we came to it the 5th time Traveled 18 miles today Passed over some very beautiful country west of Tecumseh Some beautiful land on Yankee Creek bought 2 bushels corn for team tonight Weather pleasant

Apr. 27th Got up before sun rise Heavy frost last night Slept rather uncomfortable Left camp about 7 oclock 4 mi. to widow Laflands - from there came on some 6 mi and camped for dinner on a large high pairie out of sight of wood & water Had bread butter beans stewed fruit (apples & peaches for dinner This pairie between Yankee and Bear Creeks is some 15 or 16 mi. wide an excelent road most of the way road nearly level A delightful looking country except that there is no timber Came To Bear creek about 3 1/2 o'clock & camped for night Some ten wagons in company Two women in the company My feet are so sore tonight that I can scarcely walk Several very large blisters on my feet Traveled some 20 mi. today Bear Creek is a sluggish stream some 40 or 50 ft wide

Apr. 28th Left Bear Creek about 7 oclock 3 miles Big Blue river Went to the P.O. at Beatrice & bought some letter stamps Beatrice is a little villiag of some dozen houses. We forded Blue river It has a stony bottom One ox yoke & one log chain broke going out of the Blue Crossed Cub Creek & came on 8 mi from Beatrice & camped about noon & staid the remainder of the day This after noon I did some washing & took a bath in Cub creek This is a delightful looking country about here Considerable timber along this stream Coleman etc came up with us tonight. 36 men & 2 women Eleven wagons in the train now

Apr. 29th Sunday The wind blew a gale this morning We concluded to stay in camp today; but the ballance of the train started out; then part of our co. wanted to go in company with them I could not prevail on our Co. to ley by today notwithstanding it is Sabbath - So we left Cub creek camp 7 1/2 oclock Camped for dinner on a high & dry pairie where there was no water or timber

in company with four other teams that crossed at Brownville making 15 wagons that camped together. Tolerable good grass. Crossed a prairie without wood or water for some 20 mi between Cub & Little Sandy creeks. Camped on Little Sandy Creek about 5 1/2 o'clock. It is a beautiful little stream. The road that we have traveled today has been level with a few ravines: but no water in them. This has not seemed like Sabbath. It has been cool - wore an overcoat the most of the day. Sixteen wagons camped near together tonight.

Apr. 30th Ate breakfast about Six o'clock. Noticed a train of wagons on the St Joseph road going south this morning. But little timber on Little Sandy; and that little is mostly willow & elm & a few cotton woods. We staid in camp this forenoon to let the teams rest & eat. Ate dinner early & started from Little Sandy about noon. From Little to Big Sandy some 3 or 4 miles - Sandy soil. A drove of horses enroute for California passed us. Walked over Big Sandy on a bridge but the teams forded the stream - it is a sandy bottom stream some 15 or 20 yards wide. There is not much timber on this stream. Quite a large level bottom along Big Sandy. A large ranch kept at the crossing. I mailed a letter here to H. A. Graham & bought a pair of socks for 25cts. After leaving Big Sandy bottom passed over a very poor country for 5 or 6 miles on a narrow divide between two branches of Sandy Creek. The soil was very sandy & broken with ravines. From there the soil appeared good but no water for 18 miles. Camped on a high prairie out of sight of wood & water. After supper saw 3 animals which some said were wolves & others said they were antelope. Several men with guns started in pursuit. Ferguson returned saying he fired once & that they were wolves.

May 1st Was awakened about 12 o'clock last night by a four mule team express wagon from Denver City to Leavenworth. Ate breakfast about sun rise & packed up ready for a start. While some of the men were after the oxen Geo. Ferguson went out & shot at a wolf & missed it: it then came running along near camp when we got some dogs after it but they soon went out of sight. T. J. Favorite and I then started on foot ahead of the teams & walked to Little Blue river & stopped at Hackneys ranch where the train came up & camped. Traveled some 8 mi this morning & camped about 9 1/2 o'clock. Ate dinner early & started about noon & traveled up the Little Blue & camped on the Blue about half after five. The Blue is a beautiful little river - gravel bottom - But a little timber on Little Blue & that is cottonwood. The soil along on this bottom is quite sandy. The grass is poor. Saw five antelope on the prairie between Big Sandy & Little Blue. Stopped at the stage station some 7 mi from Hackneys. Camped some 12 mi up the Blue. Traveled some 20 mi today. A Mexican train from New Mexico to Kansas City camped near us tonight. After supper went down to their camp & conversed with one of them that could talk English.

They sung for us. A warm & windy day.

May 2nd Left camp about 6 1/2 o'clock. Walked a mile up to Russells Store. Passed Herrington's ranch about nine o'clock - from there the road leaves the bottom & takes over the high prairie for 12 miles without timber or water. Camped about the middle of this prairie for dinner. This prairie is quite level & the soil looks good - grass good where we camped at noon. We saw something at a distance that some of the boys call a buffalo - others called it a mound. One foot is very sore today from a blister on my heel. Laid down in the wagon & slept while it was going this afternoon. Traveled up the bottom some 2 mi after striking the Blue & camped about 5 1/2 o'clock on the bank of Little Blue. Passed the Liberty farm about a mile below where we camped tonight. This is warm day.

May 3rd Took a bath in Little Blue river last night. Saw some trees that had been knawed off by beaver's. Some of the company saw some beaver in the Blue where we camped last night. Left camp this morning about 6 1/2 o'clock. Came up to Pawnee Ranch some 4 or 5 miles from where we started this morning & bought a pair of moccasins for \$1. From there came on about a mile farther & all but two teams of the train camped about 9 1/2 o'clock & concluded to lay over the rest of the day to give our teams a chance to eat & rest. Wrote a letter to Andrew Healy while in camp this afternoon. Some of the boys had a time with a mule - three of them got on one mule. Mers. Wilcox rode it & Mr N. jumped on behind & Eli Wilcox was just going to jump astride his neck over his head when Mers. Wilcox jumped off [believe he is referring to the two Wilcox men]. Some of the boys shot at beaver tonight but didn't kill any.

May 4th We ate an early breakfast & started out of camp about half after five this morning. We left the Little Blue about half a mile from camp this morning & came over a level prairie with but few ravines. Camped on Elm creek about 10 o'clock for dinner. No water in Elm creek except a little standing in pools. We got very thirsty. From Pawnee Ranch to where we camped last night one mile & from camp to Elm creek 13 mi. From Elm creek to Eighteen mile creek 4 mi. got to the latter place about three o'clock & turned out our teams & got supper - while here a drove of 94 horses from Kalamazoo Co. Mich. on their way to California came in & camped with us. Some splendid horses - one imported Suffolk draft horse - said to weigh 1700 lbs when fat. I presume there has not less than 250 head of oxen & 100 horses passed this Clark & Mumfords ranch since three o'clock today. But a very little timber along Elm & Eighteen Mile creeks & no water fit to use except for stock & difficult to get that. Met a train of Mexican teams at Eighteen mile

creek going east About seven oclock left camp on Eighteen Mile Creek & drove till about 11 1/2 o'clock - came some 12 mi & camped on the pairie out of sight of timber or water I laid down in the wagon & slept part of the way - very lame tonight - Traveled some 28 or 30 miles today very warm

**May 5th** I stood guard last night - laid down on the ground & went to sleep Left camp on the Eighteen Mile pairie 6 1/2 oclock Reached the Platte bottom about 10 o'clock Got to Platte river about noon & camped & drove our oxen over on the island to feed Good grass on the island A little sprinkle of rain this afternoon - the first on the rout About four oclock hitched up & drove up within thre or four miles of Ft Kearney & encamped Wind blew a gale tonight One of the wagon covers blew off Stopped at a ranch where some men were betting on cards - Three card monte One of our men bet \$125 & lost it all in a few minutes after I came away

**May 6th** Sabbath The train insisted on traveling today so I had to go with the crowd While some of the men were after the oxen I started on and walked up to the fort & a letter to Manktelow[?] & one to A Healy While I was there the soldiers were on parade Saw Colonel May who is a tall large fine looking man There is a very pretty public square enclosed by the fort buildings There is two or three pretty good buildings Staid at the fort about an hour & ahalf then came up to Kearney City two miles from the fort & stoped again about an hour This is mostly a sod house city From there came on some three miles a[nd] stoped for dinner After eating my dinner of crackers & coffee alone I walked on alone some four or five miles and laid down on the ground & read my testament Went to sleep lying here; but one of our men awakened me when he came up We traveled about 20 miles today This traveling on Sunday I do not approve of & have wished several times today that I had made some arrangements with the company so We would not travel on the Sabbath Somewhat tired - having walked most of the day to avoid the confusion

**May 7th** Left camp this morning at seven oclock & 20 minutes drove team this forenoon Saw something with the spy glass that I thought was buffalo; three of the boys mounted on horseback & armed with guns & revolvers started in pursuit; but they returned in an hour & a half saying that what we saw was the carcasses of dead buffalo; but they saw some antelope I started ahead of the teams on foot was overtaken by some Ohio & N.Y. boys in a wagon & walked with them till I came to a ranch kept by a Frenchman at the mouth of Plum creek I was there an hour & forty minutes before the teams came up I bought two grey wolf skins at this ranch for \$3,00 It was very warm till four or five o'clock then a few drops of rain fell & the wind changed from

South to N. W. very suddenly & grew cold the wind blew a gale Camped tonight on Plum creek near its mouth Some 33 miles west of Ft. Kearney

**May 8th** Awoke this morning & found it raining & blowing & very cold withal We concluded to lay by today After breakfast went up to a ranch near camp It rained & snowed this forenoon While at the ranch a wagon drove up laden with wolf skins from the upper country Afternoon tanned a wolf skin Saw some antelope - a man shot one of them in sight of our camp Wilcox had some false spokes put in his wagon to prevent its breaking

**May 9th** Left camp on Plum Creek at half after six & crossed the creek on a ceedar bridge a short distance above the camp Was offered some wolf skins for \$1,25 each after traveling some 4 or 5 miles this morning an axle of Edwards Ferguson & compays' wagon broke some ten or twelve of the men of the train staid to help put a new one in some of them went up to Plum creek 3 miles off to cut a tree for an axle - the rest of us drove on till about half after eleven & encamped for dinner about half a mile from Platte & drove the oxen over on an island to find good grass Drove on till near six o'clock; we then concluded to encamp for the night on the broad pairie without wood or water Some of us had a little water with us which we divided out among the company About half after eight tonight the ballance of the train came up not with "sore heads" but sore feet They were as mad as wet hens because we had drove so far & not waited for them to overtake us Some of the boys shot at an antelope Bo't one wolf skin of George Ferguson for 50cts

**May 10th** Got up about sun rise Some of the men in the train were wrangling Some wanted to drive on about three miles to wood & water before breakfast; but finally Wilcox & Bosman went to the Platte river a mile & a half & got some water & they all ate breakfast before starting Started a quarter after six oclock passed a ranch after driving about three miles Drove on till half after ten oclock when the foremost teams turned out for dinner - our team stoped & we consulted a few minutes when I drove on Burgers Co. followed We drove till noon & turned out for dinner Stoped an hour & a half & started Watered our teams 4 1/2 o'clock & drove them till five & watered them out of a well at the Half-way House We then drove on about a mile & a half & encamped for night Have driven some 20 mi Soon after starting this morning saw some thing that looked like white covered wagons on the Platte river bluffs away on ahead kept in sight of them all day - at noon concluded they were snowdrifts which they proved to be when we got up opposite of them at night They must have been near 20 miles off when I first saw them Some six inches snow was said to have fallen along here on the 8th inst Some of the boys went to the Platte over a mile off after water

May 11th Left camp at six & a quarter oclock about nine oclock stoped to water the cattle in the river Just above this place we came to an indian wigwam made of 13 dressed buffalo skins - hair taken off - stretched over 16 polls A man that I took to be a half breed Indian lived here & is building a ranch - from here to Cottonwood Springs 5 miles - between these two points is one bad ravine to pass through Got to Cottonwood a little before eleven drank from a beautiful spring from which this place takes its name Went into a store & found it kept by Charles McDonald with whom I was acquainted Staid here three quarters of an hour Chester Langdon was here & came on in our train Stoped at Cottonwood till the teams had got out of sight then hurried on expecting to find them camped a short distance ahead; but after traveling 4 or 5 miles concluded we had passed the teams which had turned off the road to camp I then concluded to go on the top of the Bluffs & wait till the teams came on Among these bluffs as [is?] the most wild & romantic & dessolate looking place I ever saw. The gorges between the bluffs is filled with red ceedar trees Climbed to the top of a very high & pointed bluff which overlooks all others near it & much of the Platte river bottom - judged it to be 300 ft high & not larger on the top than a medium sized parlor - on one side it was nearly perpendicular Washed my hands & face with snow About four o'clock came down to the road and met our teams Drove some 2 miles off the road down on the Platte to camp The ballance of the Brownville train encamped some two miles below on the river

May 12th Left the encampment which was some two & a half miles below Jack Morrows a few minutes before seven this morning Stoped at Morrows a quarter of an hour this is 10 mi. from Cotton wood Springs While here a train of 19 wagons - six mules to each wagon laden with supplies for Utah passed us also three coaches from Chicago to Pikes Peak loaded with passengers Morrow has the best ranch I have seen on the road Stoped for dinner on Fremont Slough 11 miles from Jack Morrows Near Morrows went through the largest mud hole I have seen on the road A large snow drift just below it Saw some Indian lodges today Some of the boys went on ahead this afternoon & about 4 1/2 o'clock reported good water & grass off to the right of the road We drove a half a mile off the road down to Fremont slough; but when we got there found the grass & water so poor that we concluded not to encamp here; but drove back to the road & came on to Fremont Springs & encamped about sundown 8 miles from where we first struck the Slough There are three or four fine gravel bottom Springs here close together It was very warm today - strong south wind Just at dark the wind sudenly changed from S. to N.N.W. It changed in about fifteen minutes The junction of the North & South Platte rivers is some 10 miles N.E. of our encampment tonight A large pairie fire on the Platte bottom tonight

May 13th Sabbath Cold & very windy this morning - after breakfast it commenced raining & cold enough to snow Yoked the oxen & tied them to the wagon to prevent them from stampeeding before this storm I wraped myself up in a comfort & laid down in the tent & slept By 9 1/2 oclock it had stoped storming & our company wanted to travel on I could not persuade them to ley by today Just as we started the ballance of the Brownville train (7 wagons[]) came up Had not gone far when a dreadful cold windy rain storm commenced which lasted till we got to O'Fallan's Bluffs about noon - 8 miles from Fremont Springs I rode in the wagon all the way today We have all layed by this afternoon on the bank of the Platte This does not seam like Sabbath It is the most disagreeable day we have had on the road Bosman brought his sheet iron stove into our tent & we had a little fire out of wet & green Cottonwood I went out and sat in the wagon

May 14th Was a little unwell last night Weather clear & cool this morning After breakfast several of us waded the Platte after wood taking ropes & bags to carry it with After looking up & down the river for about half a mile without finding any better wood filled my sack with small & wet chips & brush; then carried it on my back to camp All of the train concluded to ley by here today for the purpose of cooking up victuals enough to last us for the next 100 miles as it is said we can get no wood on the road for that distance The road from Fremont Springs runs over the bluffs part of the way Dressed some wolf skins today Saw two sand hill cranes tonight when I was out looking for the cattle The boys had "lots" of fun in camp tonight with Ransom Whitney & performing circus feats Heard some wolves howl tonight for the first on the road

May 15th Arose before sunrise - quite cool & clear Loaded up & started a few minutes after six Stoped at the Post office at O'Fallan's Bluffs Heard the P.M. [Post Master?] say there was 3000 letters mailed here last week From O'Fallan's Bluffs to Ft Kearney 125 miles & to Denver City 270 miles Went off the road alone to some Indian lodges Saw one pretty squaw The road from O'Fallan's Bluffs for several miles runns close to the bluffs The Platte bottom along here is very narrow on both sides the river Grass is poor Good day to travel Walked on ahead of the teams this afternoon & stoped at an express station said to be 18 miles from OFallans Bluffs They hauled the ceedar logs to build this house & stable from Cottonwood Springs some 50 or 60 mi The land along here has a great deal of alkali - much of the ground is white with alkali salts The grass poor Could count 50 wagons this afternoon at once Encamped on the bank of the Platte some 22 miles from where we started this morning Took in wood enough this morning to last us 100 miles

May 16th Left camp this morning at six o'clock & traveled till eleven & stopped for dinner near a ranch kept in a tent made of buffalo skins dressed with the hair off & drove our cattle over on an island to eat on Walked on ahead of the teams this morning & laid down on the ground about three quarters of an hour & during that time counted 30 wagons that passed From where we stopped for dinner to the "Lower Crossing" 10 miles The nights are cool This afternoon visited some 10 Indian lodges Went into some of their wigwams A squaw wanted to trade me a buffalo robe for my shirt At the ranch near the Lower Crossing of the Platte saw various kinds of furs - one skin said to be a Rocky Mountain Lion Was offered wolf skins for \$1,50 each Camped about a mile above the Crossing & drove the cattle over the river Where we camped tonight there are a great many round cobble stone about the size of goos eggs Some Indians came up to our camp tonight We put a guard out to guard our cattle tonight for the first time in several nights

May 17th Started a little before six this morning Passed five Indian lodges ten miles above the lower crossing; and about a mile above this crossed a deep wide ravine through which the sand is very deep & bad Some had to double teams through here to pull their loads Soon after crossing this encamped for dinner One of my feet is very sore today Very little grass here Made a short drive this afternoon & encamped below the Upper Crossing Just where we encamped tonight the road goes up around a deep ravine & through this is a bad place - sand deep A train of 15 wagons from Omaha passed us I learned from one of the men who is acquainted with George Guy that George is clerking at Plattsmouth N.T. [Nebraska Territory] Counted 33 wagons that passed us after we encamped tonight over 50 wagons was in sight Met a train of 12 wagons afternoon just from Denver City six yoke of oxen to a wagon Drove the cattle across the river tonight The boys had to wade it The country that we passed over today is almost a desert - no grass to speak of & no timber along the Platte

May 18th Left the camp this morning about six A.M. which was some five miles below the Upper Crossing of the Platte Some two to four miles above the Crossing we came into the Sand Hills The road for a mile or two goes over one bluff & through one ravine after another Two or three very bad hills to go down & through the ravines the sand is from 8 to 10 inches deep - hard pulling Encamped for dinner on the bank of the river & drove the cattle over on a little willow island as there is no grass on this side of the river Shod one of our oxen at noon with a leather shoe to prevent his getting any lamer The land that we have passed over today is very sandy - much of it is almost a desert A train passed us just as we were starting this afternoon with six women in it dressed in bloomer - & all walking Passed 9 Indian wigwams in

one place They had a good many poney's Good grass on the river bank tonight Used "Buffalo chips" for fuel today An ox died in the road just behind us this afternoon

May 19th Arose about four o'clock & made a fire - cloudy & looked likely for a rain We got started about half after six after driving about two miles came to some more sand hills A very bad road for a mile then we came down upon the river bank close to the waters edge - high bluffs close by - just room enough to drive between the bluffs & the river From this point pretty good roads for a mile or two and just here one of Burger's oxen gave out (nine & a half o'clock) They unyoked him & put some fat meet [meat] down his throat thinking he had been alkalied He soon laid down & in about half an hour he died They opened him & a butcher who was present pronounced it the "Light disease" We took off a part of the hide & John Favorite & I brought it on till we overtook the teams which had driven on to make shoes for our oxen. About another mile of very sandy road just before dinner There is at least 100 islands in the Platte within a space of two miles all in plain view from the point where the road turns down on the river bank among the sand hills on our road this forenoon It is a beautiful view Met some Indians moving this forenoon The vehicles in which they move consists of one poll lashed to each side of a horse & the other end dragging on the ground and upon these polls is fastened a large willow basket in which their merchandise & household furniture such as paposes dogs & puppies etc is placed encamped for dinner close to the river about eleven & stopped two hours I drove this afternoon About two miles from where we took dinner turned down a new road down a steep bluff to the river Passed a stage station four miles below Lillian Springs A few drops of rain fell afternoon - wind shifted from South to North James Forbes & [long space] keep ranch at Lillian Springs They were both from Cooperstown N.Y. Encamped tonight a mile above the springs - good grass Traveled some 18 or 20 miles After supper John Favorite & I went down to the ranch

May 20th Sabbath Left camp near Lillians Springs half after six About 3 1/2 miles above the Springs came to a bad piece of sandy road about a mile long here I walked on ahead of the wagons - walked some 9 miles & laid down & read my testament While lying here went to sleep & the teams passed me after I had been there near an hour & a half Staid here till near two o'clock ate two or three sea biscuit for my dinner which I had in my pocket - went to the river & soaked them Didn't overtake the teams till they encamped for night - preferred to stay back by myself Not very well today in consequence of having eaten some thick heavy half baked batter cakes for breakfast Laid down beside the road again this afternoon & went to sleep Encamped tonight some 2 miles below the Valley Stage station just below

where we encamped tonight is about half a mile of a sand hill in the road which is about the worst sand we have yet come to. The bluff at this point [sic] comes immediately up to the river & are very high almost perpendicular at the waters edge. There was a company of men encamped a few rods below us tonight; a man out of this company went off into the bluffs hunting some three days ago & has not been heard of since. He supposed to have been lost or have died or been killed. The company have not looked for him; but have driven on without making any search.

**May 21st** Found ice near a quarter of an inch thick this morning. Cool forenoon; but afternoon warm. Stopped at Valley Station. Passed over about half a mile of heavy sand this forenoon. Met upwards of 50 Indian warriors mounted upon horses & leading several other horses. We supposed them to have been out on a war excursion - At another place met some squaws moving. Turned off the road & visited some Indian wigwams. A little below where we camped for dinner I judge there is a stream running into the Platte from the North by there being a few scattering trees here & there from the Platte back towards the bluffs. This afternoon there was 30 wagons in one solid train including ours & several more a little ahead & others a little behind. Encamped about half after five near the river - at this point the river goes to the bluffs on the opposite side. Opposite our camp are some indians on the other side of the river - some of them came over to our camp tonight to trade moccasins for sugar and coffee. Some sand but not very bad today.

**May 22nd** We started at six & a half o'clock. I drove & took the lead. Some in the train soon began to complain that I was driving too fast & in a few minutes others complained that I was driving too slow. Impossible to please all. Saw several droves of antelope this morning - Passed a horse lying beside the road that looked to have died yesterday. Passed Beaver Creek Stage station half after ten A.M. From here to the last station (Valley Station) 28 miles. Arrived at Beaver Creek eleven & a half A.M. Drove across & encamped for dinner. Strong S.W. wind. At noon some of the men had their oxen thrown & shod by a man with whom we happened to camp at noon. One of the oxen broke off one of his horns while down. Stopped some three hours at noon. Drove some distance ahead of the others afternoon and about six o'clock encamped about half a mile from the bank of the Platte river just above some small islands upon which grows a very little timber. The only timber (with the exception of a very few trees) this side of O'Fallan's bluffs a distance of some [space left] miles - this is about six miles from Beaver Creek. One of our men dug a well & found plenty of water in three feet depth. I went [to?] the river & brought four pales of water for cooking. Took a bath in the Platte after dark.

**May 23rd** Our company held a consultation after we went to bed last night on which route to take & decided to take the "Bijo cut off". Passed through about three fourths of a mile of deep sand this morning before coming to the Stage Station. Stopped at this station unyoked our oxen watered them: but concluded to yoke up & drive on a mile to grass. At this point the train held a sort of consultation which road to take. Five teams concluded to go the Cut Off with us & four went the other Platte Bottom road. Took dinner at the junction of the two roads about eleven o'clock. Just below the junction met a large train just returning from Denver City that had been out with supplies & returning laden with pine lumber. A very hot day. Started twenty minutes after one o'clock this afternoon. A little sand - but most of the way the road good. Got into camp on Bijo Creek after sun down nearly tired out - The most so of any night on the [pro?]. Ate two crackers & some water before getting into camp; but ate no supper after I got in. A great many emigrants encamped here tonight. Plenty of wood; but not much water. There is a spring but the water tastes of sulphur. Went to bed early; but my feet ached so badly that I could not sleep till I got up & washed them in cold water - they then felt better. From the Junction to Bijo Creek via the round about road 15 miles by the other 12. but it is sandy by the latter. One of our party shot an antelope but didn't get it.

**May 24th** Arose this morning feeling pretty well except soreness. The warmest morning since we started. Left camp half after seven. Crossed the Bijou above the bridge - no water running now. It is a broad stream - some 20 or 30 rods wide. Along this stream is considerable scrubby cottonwood. Traveled up this creek which is now dry most of the way - for 6 or 7 miles then left it to the left. Encamped for dinner by the side of a dry creek which has a few very small holes dug in its bed in which a little water stands. This is about 10 miles from where we crossed the Bijou - It is called Virginia Springs - but there is no running water from them now. While stopping several teams passed just from Denver. Hitched up a little before three o'clock & drove about three miles to the Stage Station & watered our oxen out of a well & drove them about a mile to grass then got supper after which yoked up and drove [long space] miles starting about sun down. Excellent roads today - very level. A strong head wind - very disagreeable traveling on account of dust. Encamped about eleven o'clock near the middle of the "Eighteen mile Stretch". Very tired tonight & feet very sore. The road from the Stage Station that we traveled over tonight is a little rolling; but good roads. Bosman &c gave away one of their oxen at the Stage Station because he was too lame to travel. The country passed over today almost barren except here & there a small patch of grass. We have seen thousands of acres along the road almost literally covered with Prickly Pears or Cactus. Saw the Rocky Mountains last night &



this morning They were some 100 miles distant This evening Pikes & Long's Peaks loomed their snowy crested heads far above the South Western horizon

May 25th Yoked up our oxen & started about sun-rise & drove some two miles to some grass & turned out & got breakfast Passed through a Prairie dog town & saw some of the inhabitants sitting at the mouth of their dens barking One of our boys brought a Prickely Pear into camp this morning - different from any thing I ever saw - very beautiful Hitched up about half after eight & drove over a gently undulating prairie almost destitute of grass - plenty Prickely Pears - The sight of the mountains this morning is truly a beautiful one

The first range looks black from the timber on it but the Snowy Range raises its white crest far above this range in great sublimity John Morrison one of our company is unwell today Reached Living Springs half after eleven A.M. 18 miles from the last Stage Station & encamped for dinner We here came up with the Omaha company horse train again which passed us 9 or 10 days ago Good water Being very tired & sleepy laid down & went to sleep Started half after two & drove over to Ciwa [Kiowa] Creek 5 or 6 miles. Turned out the cattle intending to drive on 9 miles after supper but they all changed their minds & concluded to stay here till morning It was very hot in the middle of the day The Omaha train encamped with us tonight A great many people encamped on this creek Close to our camp tonight are two springs of very cold water within 8 feet of each other One of them is sulphur water No water running in Ciwa Creek now; but it has a broad bed & looks as though it was a large stream at times There is considerable wood along it There is a bridge over it but we drove above the bridge through the sand

May 26 A stage coach with six ladies encamped where we did last night on Ciwa Creek & with us at noon Drove from Ciwa Creek over to Box elder creek a distance of 9 miles & turned out for dinner close to a well of water about 10 1/2 o'clock Staid here till after one o'clock & drove on At noon some Indians came to our camp claimed to be Camanches From Box Elder to Cole Creek 9 miles - here is some heavy sand for a quarter of a mile Timber on Ciwa Box Elder Cole Creek & Eight Mile Creeks No water at Cole Creek & none in Box Elder or Eight Mile except in some little pools & wells that have been dug Roads good today From Cole creek to Eight Mile Creek 4 miles Came to the latter about sundown At this point is a toll gate - \$1,00 toll each wagon We all considered it a perfect swindle & refused to pay Some of the boys quarreled with the keeper a while when R. Morrison one of our company payed for our team & we drove through & encamped The other companies refused to pay & drove around & crossed the ravine below The gate keeper made some threats & said he had 200 Indian Warriors near

under his controll Twelve of them encamped close where we ate supper He intimated that they might loos some of their cattle Ate supper after dark & a little before eleven P.M. hitched up & drove 9 miles and got into Denver City about two o'clock A.M. The boys apprehended a little difficulty & took the precaution to load up all the guns & revolvers & put their knives in rediness Several of the boys considerably excited Save one Indian who passed us on horse back tonight no others made their appearance - well they did not make their appearance When we got to Denver City I was about as near tired out as ever I was - feet sore & legs lame

#### THIS IS END OF TRAVEL DIARY TO DENVER CITY

May 27th Laid ahead very late this morning When I did awake & look out of tent saw Denver City just a little below No wood water or grass here so some of the boys started after our oxen in order that we might drive to some wood & water & grass When they came with the cattle we drove down through town crossed the river - found no good camping place & drove back across another bridge into town near the river & encamped & got breakfast; but it was just twelve oclock when breakfast was ready There is a great excitement in town about the Indians The inhabitants are somewhat expecting an attack from the Indians They are collecting about the outskirts of town in large numbers it is said there is some 800 Indian lodges jus across the Platte Several different tribes are collecting near here This afternoon went up into town to enquire if there is any meeting tonight Called at Judge Bennetts house of Nebraska City for that purpose The Judge had just started for the mountains Mrs. Bennett told me that Jones Barnum was over on the Arkansas farming Went to bed & after having been to bed a short time the wind commenced blowing a perfect gale

May 28th About twelve o'clock last night some of the boys were up to fix the tent I awoke & heard them talking in an excited tone & then learned that the police of the town had been around to all the camps & told the men they had better stand guard as an attack from the Indians was expected Every one loaded up their revolvers & guns All of our boys laid down except one & he stood guard The others put their revolvers under their pillows ready at an instants warning I got up & put on my clothes & boots & laid down in bed Didn't sleep much till most morning Thanks to God no attack was made last night It was a dreadful night - the wind blew a hurricane all night Had the Indians set fire to the town as they had threatened nothing could have resisted the elements All this forenoon the wind continues and the rain pours down - very cold It snows on the mountains they look white today Went to the post office this morning but was disappointed in not getting a letter We all

laid abed very late this morning It was most noon when breakfast was ready this afternoon wrote to sister Huldah Cleared off tonight Don't see or hear much Indian excitement tonight Brought up our cattle & tied them to a tree top

May 29th Immediately after breakfast went up the Platte river some 5 or 6 miles to see O. B. Hewett & Bennett who were going to start for the mines on the Blue & Arkansas today but didn't find them: but found & drove to camp Burgers oxen that had been lost As I came back the ballance of the Brownville train that took the old road came into town A blind Indian came to our tent today After dinner we all about concluded to go over on the Blue Afternoon wrote a letter This evening went with John Morrison to a gambling saloon just for curiosity to see what dens of wickedness there is in Denver City Behind a gambling table sat a female - very good looking but degraded to the lowest depths of degradation From here went into a billiard room - a splendid hall - & from here went back to camp with my curiosity satisfied This town equals Callifornia according to its age in gambling

May 30th After breakfast packed our wagon preparatory to driving some three or four miles up the Platte above Denver to stay till we get ready to go into the mountains after this was done went to writing letters Called upon Judge Bennett this forenoon - from there went to the post office to enquire for letters Had to take my place in the file & wait till my turn came before I could enquire for a letter; it was three quarters of an hour by the watch before my turn came Disappointed in getting a letter Went to the express office to enquire how to get mail in [? word] into the mountains Then came back & wrote a letter to Jones Barnum & left it at Judge Bennett's as they are expecting him there every day From Bennett's came up where our team is camped & got dinner & supper together A nugget of gold was found in Russell's gulch the other day which weighed 160 pennyweights Where we are camped this afternoon the boys have been prospecting They all find some gold It is at the old Spanish diggings Burger showed me tonight large holes which he & other Brownville boys dug a year ago last winter in search of gold: but these mines didnt pay The Brownville train separated at Denver City today Some stayed there Some went to Gregorys mines & others to the Arkansas or Blue I feel more reluctance in starting out from here than I did in starting from Brownville We have now started to go into the mountains among the Wild Indians far from civilization except the miners

May 31st A beautiful day After breakfast J H Morrison went to Denver & I sent some letters to the express office by him one to H. A. Graham & one to Wm H. Hoover Washed a shirt this morning I believe for the first time in

my life Intended to start this morning for the mountains but some of the boys who went to town this morning didn't get back till after ten oclock & then it was so late we all concluded to eat dinner early & not start this forenoon About twelve o'clock left camp at the Old Spanish gold diggings three miles above denver enrou for the river Blue via the Bradford Cut-off Crossed the river Platte on a bridge 8 miles above Denver Payed 25cts toll for crossing this bridge Emptied a cracker barrel & a ten gallon keg that had lard in The boys were going to leave them but I told them I thought we could sell them for something I went ahead & sold them for 75cts to ranchmen From the Platte bridge to Bradford which is at the mouth of the Canyon just where the road passes into the mountain The distance from the Platte bridge to the base of the mountains is the most deceiving ground I've passed over it looked to be not more than two miles but is 8 When I got up so that it looked to be not more than 40 rods I paced it & it was nearer a mile Roads good to Bradford I walked on ahead of the wagons & climbed to the top of the first rocky range of mts from the eastern side Where the road enters the mountains there is a beautiful little pearling brook There is but just room enough for a road through this gorge At each side of the road every stratta of the rock can be seen They are thrown up at an angle of about 50 or 55 degrees Inclining to the East The first range of mts. are a regular ascent from the base on the E Side - all rock - to the summit & then pitch off to the West almost perpendicular I crawled down the cliffs out the W. side After passing through this range came into one of the most delightful & romantic looking valleys I ever saw It is about a mile & a half in width in the widest part & several miles long - surrounded on all sides by high & rugged mts We encamped in this vale just below Bradford Town cite The scenery is beautiful & sublime & to add to the beauty of the scene the Silver Moon shown down upon us in all her splendor The grass in this valley is first rate Cooked the last of our potatoes tonight

June 1st 1860 Soon after I got up this morning J. Favorite & R. Morrison of our company got into a quarrel: but no blows given or rec'd Greased boots this morning & started from Bradford camp at 7 1/2 o'clock I went across & climbed to the top of a Red Butes rock which stands in the valley - it is 60 or 75 ft high on the W. side perpendicular - looked over the edge Then came on and met the teams in the town cite of Bradford in which there is three or four houses built & as many more building As we commenced ascending the second mt'n came to a toll house - \$1,00 for each wagon 10 cts for a sadde horse The road here winds about through & up the mountains & is very steep - had to stop every two or three rods for a mile or more then it is not quite so steep the rest of the way The distance up the side of this range is about three miles I stoped before I got to the top and amused myself for awhile by rolling

stones down the mountain side - got one started that I think w'd weigh 2000 or 3000 lbs They acquired great momentum by the time they reached the bottom - w'd bound from 50 to 100 ft Upon reaching the summit of this (2nd) range road is nearly level for a short distance then commences descending a steep declivity which with a few very short interruptions is a mile long we then came to a spring branch & followed it 60 rods & came to a small brook which we followed up half a mile & encamped for dinner in the shade for the first time under some spruce trees - beautiful spot to camp From the summit of the 2nd range can see Denver City plain - it looks to be about 3 miles but is near 19. The scene from these peaks is an extended & grand one On the West side of this range of mountains is some good pine timber Some of the boys prospected for gold in this brook Not much grass along the road today Started at 2 o'clock & 20 min P.M. Followed up the creek three quarters of a mile & came to a small portable steam saw mill which was running Pine timber sells here at \$45,00 per M.[M=1000'] ft Plenty of pine & spruce close by The scenery along the road today has been varied & beautiful in the extreme It has been down hill part of the way The most of the time afternoon we were in thick pine & spruce Went off the road a short distance & came to an open space upon which the trees had been killed & had fallen & small spruce 3 to 5 ft has come up thick These look like Norweigh Spruce & are very pretty for shade trees Came in sight of several very high craggy peaks near the road Camped tonight 6 1/4 o'clock in a small mountain valley through which flows a small stream After supper John Morrison & I walked a mile to have a nearer view of a large rock which towers up about 100 ft high & upon its summit is another rock or bolder which would weigh several tons & looks as if it might be easily tumbled off It became dark while we were there & we were afraid to climb about among the rocks a great deal for fear of wild animals This was the wildest looking place by moon light I ever beheld Ate the last of our potatoes today

**June 2nd** On getting up this morning went to look for the cattle - walked some three miles & found them in three droves & brought a part of them to camp We all got started at half after seven In coming up this valley in which we staid last night had to cross some bad sloughs Wallingsford's wagon stuck in the mud & we helped him out Some two miles from camp came to a tent where is camped some men working on a bridge over a stream close by From here back to the toll gate 10 miles After passing this tent about a quarter of a mile come into the Mt Vernon road From here on half a mile the road is very bad & sloughy Wallingsford got fast again We lifted & tugged for half an hour at the wheels then he sent on ahead for one of the teams to come back & help pull the wagon out After hitching on six yoke of oxen they couldn't pull it out till we shoveled away in front of the wheels - broke some of the log

chains After working here an hour got the wagon out & I came on & came up with our wagon after they had turned out for dinner A little to the left of where we camped last night is a very high range of mountains covered clear to the top with timber so thick that the ground cant be seen for miles along the range - The largest body of timber I have seen west of the Mississippi river Came down through a deep canyon soon after starting afternoon & crossed a beautiful creek At this point Centers six narrow valleys - a beautiful spot - from here ascended a long gradual ascent for near a mile I came on ahead & laid down beside the road & went to sleep - didn't wake up when our teams passed Passed through several small valleys Encamped tonight in a narrow valley at our left is a pearling brook & at our right a short distance towers a perpendicular ledge of rocks I judge 500 ft high

**June 3rd** Cool this morning The teams started a little after seven I went away from camp & didn't help them to get ready to go as it is Sabbath - was opposed to traveling today but had to follow on as the rest were determined to go While they were getting ready & starting I was up the mountain side engaged in prayer After they had been gone near half an hour I started on & overtook the teams at the top of a very long hill I here laid down on the grass & went to sleep From this point I judge the road descends 1000 ft in a mile Some 2 or 3 miles from where we started this morning crossed quite a large stream Some good farming land in this valley Came to the Platte river again a quarter after ten & found they had just turned out the teams I got into our wagon & went to reading but soon went to sleep & slept till dinner was most ready Notwithstanding it is Sunday the most of the boys went along the bank of the Platte & prospected for gold - but I had no desire to go & see what discoveries they made After dinner I left camp again by myself & laid down & went to sleep They started the teams at two P.M. & crossed the Platte a little above For the next four miles came up & down one steep hill after another - with lofty mountain summits upon the right & left - till we came down into the Platte river valley again at 5 o'clock I have kept behind the wagons all day - occasionally overtaking them then sitting down to read my bible Followed up the Platte about a mile & encamped

**June 4th** After breakfast started up the Platte after the cattle found a part of them within a mile of camp - went on after the others & found them in an hour upon a hill Got started with the teams ten min. after eight After traveling a mile or two came where some men were encamped for the purpose of prospecting for gold We drove on a mile turned out the teams & most of the boys went back where those men were prospecting to join them if they found anything worth while keepers Morrison & myself took our tools went up into the mountain to prospect: but found nothing & came to camp about noon - had

been there but a short time when the other boys returned reporting no gold After dinner we got up the cattle & started Two of Geo. Louthan's oxen were missing so we stopped to wait for him He found his cattle across the Platte Finally got started half after two Came half a mile & crossed the Platte From this point on there is scarcely any valley along the river the river is narrow & very rapid The mountains come down almost to the waters edge on both sides And some places the rocks hundreds of ft high almost overhang the road Four miles above where we took dinner the Platte forks A lofty spur of the mountains comes down between the two branches & terminate immediately in the forks almost perpendicular two or three hundred ft high Cross the Platte 7 times this afternoon At most of the fords water most up to oxens sides & so swift with difficulty they could cross Came up the South branch Roads afternoon very bad - full of stumps & rocks sidling & steep in places For 5 or 6 mi could scarcely find a place where we could get our wagons out of the road to camp At half after seven came to an open space large enough to encamp & turned out: but scarcely any grass for cattle Passed through woods afternoon upon an acre of which I think there might be from 1200 to 1500 spruce & pine hop polls cut They grow so thick that a person can see but a very few rods - about the size for hop polls Saw some beaver dams

June 5th Found the water in the buckets frozen over about a quarter of an inch thick this morning Left camp 20 min. before 8 this morning Came half a mile & crossed over to the South side of the Platte followed it up a short distance & then took up another small stream & a mile up this came to a toll house situated in a narrow defile between the mountain \$1,25 toll From here I followed up an old trail over some high hills stopping now & then to roll rocks & stones down the mountain Overtook the teams after they had turned out for dinner near a small lake on the top of a hill A small stream issues from this Hitched up & started a little after two & after traveling about a mile & a half came to the top of the hill which overlooks the South Park By descending a long steep hill came down into the Park which is a depressed valley several hundred ft below the common level Where the road crosses it is some 10 mi. wide & it looks to be a good deal longer the other way [(said to be 80 mi long) is written above this last phrase] The most of the way it is nearly level where the road crosses; but there are some short hills to ascend & descend It has the appearance of having been the bottom of a lake at some past time We crossed 4 creeks in the Park A quarter after five two of the teams turned out & the other 4 came on 3 or 4 miles & encamped at [long blank space here] ranch Five men of our train went out hunting this afternoon Then three of our company came in a little after dark We fired several signal guns after dark for them but they did not get into camp Some men who are encamped

close to our wagon say 3 men have taken out \$120, in 1/2 a day

June 6th A part of our company went out prospecting this morning I did some washing & cooking Some of the men came back having found no gold The remainder returned tonight reporting somewhat favorable having seen from \$120,00 to \$150,00 taken out of one pan of dirt the result of 1 1/2 days work This afternoon Robert Morrison & I went out and prospected for gold; but found none Held a council tonight & concluded to go over on Blue river tomorrow Have been encamped today near a ranch at the foot of the mountains 2 mi below Hammilton Pleasant day froze last night

June 7th Found ice half an inch thick on water standing in vessels this morning After breakfast walked some 4 or 5 miles in getting up the cattle Found them all - hitched up & drove up into the town of Hammilton - there concluded to store part of our load in our tent & left Robert Morrison to take care of it Ate dinner & half after one started for the Blue Passed through the Tarraall [?] gold mines - saw them sluice out gold for the first time Visited the spot where a man was burried alive by the earth's caving in upon him in a shaft sunk for gold mining a few days since He lived two days under ground but finally died before he could be gotten out They got down so that they handed him a cup of coffee; but the earth caved in again A train 45 Mexican packs on which men were packing supplies for the mines passed us this afternoon Encamped tonight on a creek on which mining is done - some 4 mi. from Tarraall with snow drifts all around us

June 8th Slept on the ground under the wagon with snowdrifts closeby on either side last night Found ice half an inch thick this morning After breakfast walked two or three miles getting up the cattle - while looking for them found a sack of flour sitting in some bushes - left it sitting Came on with the teams till about ten o'clock then borrowed Smith's revolver & spy glass & started to ascend to the top of one of the highest peaks of the Snowy Range In passing through a spruce wood saw the tracks in the snow of some large claw animal supposed to be bears tracks The snow in the woods in many places is three or four ft deep It was warm & pleasant along the road when I started to go up the mountain & I swet freely, but as I ascended it grew cold & colder - snow froze hard - between 10 & 11 o'clock very much fatigued in climbing the mt. Had no coat with me - my wrists & toes ached with cold Experienced some difficulty in breathing in ascending From this mountain could see a great distance in every directions The south & S.E. side of the mountain is covered with deep snow drifts N. W. side mostly bare - snow blown off And that side is one mass of stone & no soil It was so cold up there that I could stay but a short time The South Park heads just a little

S.E. of this peak Could see down along the Park for scores of miles As I was picking my way down the W. side among the stone & rocks discovered at a little distance below me what I took to be two Mountain sheep & two lambs with them Came down over a snowdrift 1/2 a mi. which I judge to be 20 ft deep in places Judge the summit of this mountain to be some 3,000 ft above the road where I came to it And a little below that point found our company encamped & dinner almost ready of which I was very glad for I had a craving appetite after ascending & descending the mt After dinner went up a gulch to prospect for gold but found none - came to camp & started on our way This afternoon traveled down hill - steep most of the way - for nearly two hours & a half then struck Blue river From Tarryall to the Blue 15 miles roads very very bad Some places wagon in the mud to the hubs - other places three or four men were under the necessity of holding the wagon with ropes to prevent its upsetting & still other places had to go up & down hills at an angle of 45 or 50 degrees Came into a small park of 10 to 20 acres on the Blue about five o'clock & encamped just as it commenced snowing Snowed fast about 1/2 an hour; but melted as it fell Found a tent built of boughs of trees in which 8 of us staid tonight Some of the boys appear to feel very happy for they have made the wilderness ring with their voices till 10 o'clock

**June 9th** It froze last night; but pleasant today After breakfast all of our company but myself went out prospecting I staid to guard the camp & to cook Put some beans over to boil & went into the wagon to do some mending - went back to see to my beans & found them badly scorched at the bottom - took them out & threw away the burnt ones Put back those that were not burned & put fire under them again & went to a neighbor camp - came back & found them burned worse than before Took them out & filled the same camp kettle with rice & scorched that That is the extent of my cooking today The boys returned tonight - having taken two claims; but reporting not very favorable A pleasant day: but it has the appearance of a storm again tonight Hired out oxen ranced for one week

**June 10th** Sabbath Arose this morning & found it snowing & quite cold Wraped a heavy bed comforter about me - went into the wagon laid down & read Staid there most all day sleping a part & reading a part of the time It has snowed at intervals all day Had pie for supper for the first since we left Brownville

**June 11th** Smith [,] Morrison [,] John Favorite & myself started out prospecting this morning - went down Blue river prospected several claims as we went Went up Iowa gulch prospected some there; but found nothing big - from the head of this gulch struck across the mountain to the head of another

gulch but nothing in it Smith shot a grey squirrel with his revolver When we came out of the timber into a park on the river I was completely turned around - the needle of my compass seemed to me to point south Was offered several claims but came home tonight tired & hungry a[s] dogs without having found or purchased a claim It has snowed & rained several times today Slept in the wagon last night instead of on the ground

**June 12th** This has been a comparatively warm & pleasant day Did nothing but to dig in a prospect hole just below our camp at the mouth of a gulch: but found nothing worth speaking of We sent John Favorite over to Tarryall after the remainder of our load of provisions

**June 13th** Smith [,] Morrison & myself sank a shaft a little below our camp at the lower end of the small park in which we are encamped some 20 ft deep Found the color but nothing that would pay working & abandoned it After noon I staid in camp while the others went prospecting Joseph Douglass of Cincinnati came to our camp this afternoon & staid with us tonight Warm today The boys have returned to camp saying some claims we had taken is jumped Read Doniphan's expedition to Mexico

**June 14th** Our company went over on Illinois gulch & jumped six claims & went to work on them - prospecting them by sinking a shaft A man came to our camp this forenoon & tried to sell one of the claims on which we were at work to one of the boys who staid in camp for \$500 Got a very good prospect this evening Tonight nearly all of the Brownville boys that went into Gregory's diggings & those that stoped at Tarryall came over & encamped with us some [blank space] in all

**June 15th** Wrote a letter to W. H. Hoover & sent it to him by Joseph Douglass who staid in our tent last night & today starts for his home in the east Helped to make a windlass for sinking a shaft Drove our animals up & put them on a rancheo [spelling unclear] This afternoon went to digging for prospecting Found the hole that we had dug yesterday filled with water I went down into the shaft to bail the water out The water was above my knees & nearly as cold as ice water but I stuck to it till it was diped out though I suffered some with cold Robert Morrison came up where we were at work & said he had just seen a deer close by. He went up a little way above & got a gun & several men went down with him & among them they shot it & brought it back with them I helped to skin it We had half of the meat & the skin Sold some of our bacon today for 40 cts per pound

**June 16th** We made a pump this forenoon for prospecting Just before dinner

the air appeared to be full of smoke We also heard the roaring of fire So Smith & I went to the top of a hill in the rear of our camp where we could get a view of the mountains on the opposite side of the river There we beheld a magnificent sight; the pine woods were on fire The blaze ascended to the hight of some 200 ft - far above the tops of the most lofty tree The roar could be heard for more than a mile It is the foliage of the green pine & spruce trees that burns with such violence The sound is like that of a vast cataract After dinner went over to our claim on Ill. gulch & after working about an hour succeeded in getting the water nearly all pumped out of the shaft when the pump gave out While we were studying what to do Eli Wilcox came riding up in great haste saying we must hurry to our camp as it was surrounded with fire & was in danger of burning We shouldered our tools & started as fast as possible when we got to camp found some of the wagons drawn out in the middle of a small pairie comparatively safe from fire T. J. Favorite who staid at our camp all the afternoon had got all our provisions & other things carried out into the little pairie & nearly all covered with earth All this had been the work of a short time as the fire had crossed the river & come within sight of our camp within a few minutes Fortunately the fire didn't damage us: but many who lived down along the river were not so fortunate as we Those who were at home & had time buried their good Several cabbins were burned & all their contents Among these was the house of a crippled shoemaker who had his feet & legs so badly frozen in the mountains last winter that he had them both amputated When the fire came up he was in his house asleep & was awakened by some person after the house took fire He barely saved his life by crawling off on his hands & knees; but every thing he had in the world was burned He came up to our camp This was an exciting afternoon During the afternoon some sparks blew across this small park or pairie and caught fire on the opposite mountain; but a few minutes had elapsed before one of the most terrific scenes I ever beheld took place The mountain side was enveloped in flames which raged with great violence The flames shot up to the hight of some 300 ft And the heat could be very sensibly felt at least 100 rods against the wind This evening Geo. Louthan returned from French gulch saying he had a narrow escape from the fire today & that two men some 4 to 6 miles from here were burned to death in the woods yesterday Since dark the sides of the mountains looks like the firmament set with sparkling stars as it is covered with small bright fires. Our Co. took some claims on Ind. gulch today

**June 17th Sabbath** After breakfast awhile I went up on the mountain by myself & spent the forenoon many pleasant recollections of the past have been called up today in contrast with the present Ice a quarter of an inch thick in the bucket this morning notwithstanding the extensive fires yesterday &

smoke last night A pleasant day

**June 18th** Myself & three others of our Co. went off prospecting this morning Followed up Ill. gulch - from there went into Junction gulch - from there over into French gulch and prospected along up it as far as the mouth of Rich gulch & there took our dinner which consisted of dry bread & some meat which the boys rosted on sticks - the bread was not baked through so we baked that on sticks After dinner went up French gulch till we met Jones & co. coming back Came back with them & went up Rich Gulch & commenced prospecting a claim; but soon some man came along & said it was already claimed From there came on towards camp prospecting along the way Have found the color at nearly every place we have tried today; but nothing to pay very big. At the mouth of Junction Gulch I found a stone which is full of some kind of mettle Several call it silver ore Took no claims today

**June 19th** We as a company went up the river & jumped claim No. 49 This forenoon dug a ditch on the claim Afternoon mooved our things into a log cabbin close to the claim Then worked on the ditch This evening wrote a letter to G. W. Likens At noon while in camp heard the roaring of flames of fire but could see no smoke During the afternoon went around the point of the mountain & from that point could see a gigantic cloud of smoke rolling up in awful majesty above the mountains & could hear the roar but could see no fire as it was over in Negro Gulch Those mountains of smoke made one of the most sublime scenes I ever beheld I wished for a daguerotype of the scene

**June 20th** Slept in a house (or rather a log cabbin) last night for the first time in about eight weeks After breakfast went down to our old camping ground to give Clark Edwards a letter to carry to Likens We talked of buying a claim (No. 50) on the river Afternoon the boys all went down to the election I staid & wrote a letter to John Ullrey Morrison came back & I went down & voted just for the sake of voting in Utah Voted for no laws

**June 21st** Morrison & Smith went down on French Gulch to look for claims The rest of us prospected along the river This afternoon all the boys went away I staid in camp & tried my hand at baking some bread & washing dishes The boys returned at dark having taken no claims today

**June 22nd** Staid in camp this forenoon while the other boys went down the river to buy a claim Commenced a letter to father We bought one claim this forenoon & payed \$400,00 Afternoon bought the one half of another joining it for \$300, - traded one yoke of cattle towards the first claim for \$80 &

traded a sack of flour for \$20 Traded our wagon on the other claim for \$60,  
& the other yoke of our oxen at \$100,

**June 23rd** Went to work today building a log cabin close to the claims that we bought A light thunder shower came up a while before sun down There was a great excitement & rush up the Blue near the Snowy Range in consequence of a new gold discovery there Tonight saw several coming back they say the new discovery is a humbug

**June 24th** Sabbath Spent the day at at [sic] our cabin today reading & writing a letter to father All of our company but myself went down the river to a miners meeting A heavy thunder shower this afternoon

**June 25th** Worked at our log cabin today Nearly every thing I have done today some one of the company has wanted done a little different [in?] consequence of which my temper became a little riled A little rain tonight

**June 26th** Helped to build a fire place & chimney & to level off the floor of our cabin A small shower while we were at dinner

**June 27th** Went to work on the cabin this morning About ten o'clock for a change in the routine of business & change in the program had a little knock down which occurred in this way I was chinking up the cabin when Jef Favorite came along to chink in the same place I was at work & insisted on my going somewhere else to work I didn't like to do that & came around on the inside of the house & said to Jef I see we can't work together, for what I do you come along & tare it down For you have don it several times Said he it is a lie I then said to him I can't take that as an insult from you as you are not worthy of notice He then came at me with a stone hammer drawn to strike cursing & swearing & threatening to smash my head & commanding me to "dry up" During this time I stood still leaning on an axe which [sic] I had been using with the end of the handle in my hand & the axe sitting on the ground Several times he drew back as though he was going to strike - Sometimes with the hammer & sometimes with his fists close to my face; but I had no idea that he would strike though he did at one time make a grab at my throat & give me a push At this moment John Morrison came up & took him off We still kept talking He demanding me to shut my mouth or he would "smash my face" I told him he could not make me shut up; but during all this time he was raving mad & I a part of the time was laughing at him All of a sudden - when I said something about his carrying a bowie knife in his bosom to stab Robert Morrison - he rushed like a wild tiger with a heavy club & when he got near enough he drew back & struck - to all appearance - a blow with all

his might with both hands I whirled & dodged & rec'd the blow on the lower part of the back of my head which blinded me & sent me reeling After that the next thing I saw & heard R. Morrison & John Favorite had J Favorite down & John Morrison & others standing by Some saying "hang him to a tree" - "Throw him in the river" - "beat him to death" "Tie him up & whip him to death And saying to me reek your vengeance on him if you feel like it But I said I w'd not raise a finger against him After lying on the ground awhile I got up & had my head washed in cold water Morrison went with me up to camp & bathed my head in whiskey & camphor It swelled very much - a lump nearly as large as my fist At noon the company held council & decided that T. J. Favorite must leave the company Afternoon was spent in trying to settle; but without finishing A rainy afternoon & evening

**June 28th** We moved down to our new cabin this morning Then went to digging a ditch on the claim Afternoon finished the ditch & went to sluicing gold thought tonight we had some \$5. in gold dust It rained again today which is the seventh day it has rained in succession I have been able to work again today

**June 29th** It sprinkled a little today Fixed the sluices & sluiced about half of the day. Supposed we took out some \$12,00 Tonight divided the provisions etc with T. J. Favorite

**June 30th** Spent nearly all the forenoon in trying to settle with T. J. Favorite for his interest in the claims Afternoon went to work sluicing Eli Wilcox came over here from Hamilton & staid with us tonight Supposed we took out some \$12 in 3 hours - one piece worth \$1,75

**July 1st** Went down to the post office at Breckenridge this forenoon & rec'd a letter from M. J. Davy - afternoon finished some letters & gave them to Wilcox to send to Brownville by John Ponne [?] After finishing the letters went up on the mountain side by myself that I might have a little quiet as Jefferson Favorite was here trying to sell his interest in our claims to our company They finally bought it

**July 2nd** Sold the one sixth of our claims to Mr. Adams this morning - then went to work on the claim Hired one man to work today This evening attended a miners meeting on claim No. 46 for the purpos of organizing Division No. 2

**July 3rd** Five of us worked on the claim today Washed some \$20 The dirt & gravel in the sluice boxes was frozen this morning when we went to work

July 4th 1860 On Blue River U. T. the day was ushered in by the firing of guns & pistols After breakfast went to work diging gold instead of spending it in the celebration of the Fourth of July Worked hard all day & was tired tonight Since dark there has been a good many guns fired - aside from this saw no signs of the Fourth any different from any other day

July 5th Saw ice on the stones down at the river this morning Six of us worked on the claim today This evening hired two more men to work for us & are to commence tomorrow A \$5, nugget was taken out on the claim below ours today

July 6th One of the company & the two hired men went to work on the ditch this morning The other five of us dug down through a hard cement of gravel & clay - very hard diging indeed but we got but very little gold this forenoon - afternoon did much better

July 7th Nothing of importance occurred today The Messrs Bergers started home this morning

July 8th Sabbath Ate a very late breakfast after which I went up on Illinois Gulch where I heard there was to be preaching; but when I got there learned the meeting was in the afternoon Went from there to Breckinridge & rec'd per express one letter from A. C. Pierce & one from Emma P. Smith both forwarded from Brownville Ex ch'gs [express charges] 35 cts each Came home ate dinner & went to Ill. Gulch to meeting This is the first preaching I have heard west of the Mo. river

July 9th Worked in the mines today as usual Rained afternoon so that we quit work Took out some \$18, or \$20,

July 10th A warm morning - rained some today Commenced writing a letter to A. C. Pierce this evening

July 11th It sprinkled a little again today

July 12th McCoy[,] McGee & Clark Edwards came where we were at work The heaviest shower I have seen in the mountains occurred today Five of us worked three fourths of a day each & got some \$25 or \$28 Worked in shallow dirt today

July 13th Another shower today We worked with a tom washing gold today After supper cleaned out the sluices but didn't do as well as last night

July 14th A pleasant day and it has not rained any through the day The first day without rain in about a week Rec'd a letter from Huldah

July 15th Sent two letters to the P. O. which C Bennett brought up to me last night; but they were not mine as they were addressed to James M. Graham Wrote some in a letter to Huldah Intended to go to meeting on Ill. Gulch; but it rained about that time & I didn't go Frederick Roper staid all night with us

July 16th We sent one of our company over towards Hamilton to examine a quartz lead which has recently been discovered and to take claims for us This afternoon Adams quit work & withdrew from our company I was summoned as a juryman to serve on a suit about a contested claim (No 26) Went to the trial to night but didn't sit on the jury

July 17th This forenoon did nothing much except to try & settle up the business of the Co Afternoon dug 2 or 2 1/2 dollars of gold each Evening went over on Ill Gulch where McGee is encamped

July 18th Spent this day diging through a very hard black & yellow cement among rocks & boulders to get a place to sit our sluices This evening went down to the Post office & got a letter from Wm H Hoover When I got back found Warren Levansler at our cabbin where he staid tonight About ten oclock Robert Morrison came home - having been lost on his way over the Range from the Quartz leads He has taken a claim for each of us on the Eureka lead Mine being No. 16

July 19th This morning settled up with Jas Coleman who started for the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains & probably for Brownville

July 20th Finished writing some three or four letters before going to work this morning Afternoon bought a sack of flour of Clark Edwards for \$15 Payed him \$18 for one the other day also payed Coleman \$18 for a sack this week Sent some letters to Denver by Edwards to be mailed

July 21st Only worked half a day as it rained Poor pay for that

July 22nd Sabbath Went to meeting on Ill. Gulch at three o'clock The preaching was out of doors The most of the congregation wore their hats & caps during service Some with badly tattered coats others without any Noticed some with a large bowie knife and revolver suspended to a belt & buckled about their waist in full view Others chopping wood within a few yards of the preacher while he was preaching



July 23rd Worked in the forenoon Afternoon it rained & accompanying it a heavy hail storm which lasted nearly an hour

July 24th J. S. Favorite & R. Morrison went up on the headwaters of the Blue to prospect a quartz lead The rest of us worked two or three hours then it rained

July 25th We mooved our sluices from the lower claim to the upper one & set them above the race & used water from the hill which we hired of Berry Favorite & Morrison returned about dark bringing specimens of quartz

July 26th Worked about half of the day & were but poorly payed for our labor We are all nearly discouraged & ready to quit the claim

July 27th We went to work late this morning & very reluctantly too on account of poor pay One of the Co said this is the last day he is going to work with so poor pay Made only half a days work on account of rain Some 800 ft down the river from our claim there was almost a shooting affair about a claim that had been jumped One man drew a revolver ready cocked upon another man who was but a few ft off & threatened to shoot but for some reason did not

July 28th Went to work today & deepened the race from the dam and mooved the sluices below the race on the Hughes claim ready to go to work on Monday We bought 15 lbs of Grizely Bear meet which had been killed four or five miles from here

July 29th Sabbath Staid about the cabbin & read till after Supper I then took a walk around the lake up the mountain in the rear of our cabbin

July 30th We all worked hard today & only got a little over \$11,25 River has fallen considerable today

July 31st Rather reluctantly we went to work washing gold & worked about half a day - only got about \$5,50 and concluded not to work the bank claim any more Before breakfast sawed through my thumbnail - before noon came near to getting my wrist or arm broken by getting my hand and elbow caught between two rocks one of which fell back against my hand while I was pushing to turn one rock over It has rained nearly every day this month - the rain commenced about the 25th of June

Aug. 1st Did not work today - have given up working the claim for the present

Roper & Spencer came to our cabbin afternoon & took supper Roper staid all night

Aug. 2nd We all went up on the mountain S. E. of the park to examine some quartz leads this forenoon I was taken ill while on the top of the peak & staid there an hour or two after all the others had gone down From this point had a splendid view of the country around with a telescope Afternoon mended a boot & did some sewing None of us worked except to "tinker" Some mending boots Some mending clothes Some cooking & others fixing a gun

Aug. 3rd Went to work on the race after we had tried to sink some prospect holes & had to give them up on account of the water coming in In undertaking to jump across the race fell into the water

Aug. 4th Worked at the race again today & got the river turned into it Smith & I walked out over the dam on a tree top & hitched a rope to another tree top for the purpose of pulling it out of the water While pulling our rope slipped off & we both went off the log head foremost "casouse" into the dam We soon crawled out like two drowned rats Now being wet I went into the water & removed some boulders that were in the bottom of the rase

Aug. 5th Sabbath Staid about the house all day & read J. H. Morrison & Smith went over to Hamilton I sent a letter by them for Mr. Roper to carry to Hoover when he goes to Brownville

Aug. 6th We dug a drain in the old channel of the river to drain off the water Afternoon not feeling very well for a little while went up to the house & laid down & went to sleep & slept till almost supper time While I was getting supper Morrison & Smith returned from Hamilton

Aug. 7th Dug a ditch in the river

Aug. 8th Sat the sluices in the river today ready to go to work on the morrow It rained snowed & hailed a little today

Aug. 9th Worked in the river today Got rather poor pay Jno. S. Favorite returned from a prospecting tour on Georgia & Humbug gulches last night He reports having seen "big pay" taken out there Some get as high as \$30, to the man per day & even more

Aug. 10th Worked about 3/4 of the day & only took out \$13,

Aug. 11th The claim pays so poorly that we are all nearly discouraged R. Morrison wouldn't work today but went prospecting & took some claims near French gulch for each of us Worked in the bank Quit about the middle of the afternoon because we thought we were not getting much pay - had \$2 each when cleaned up

Aug. 12th Sabbath - Spent the day at the cabin Read Pauls Epistle to the Romans After supper went out on the hill back of the cabin where I could see a plenty of snow drifts

Aug. 13th Three of the boys went up French gulch to prospect the claims we took Saturday on the newly discovered gulch - they prospected poorly As there was nothing else I could do to advantage I sluiced nearly half of the day by myself - made \$2,13

Aug. 14th We did nothing this forenoon but parley about what was best to do - afternoon R. Morrison went over to Hamilton I sent a letter by him directed to W. H. Hoover The rest of us went to work & mooved the sluices over on the bar on the other side of the river It rained

Aug. 15th Five of us run the sluice today but didn't wash up tonight Rained a little today

Aug. 16th Immediately after breakfast Hughes in company with several others came along & called at our cabin & John S. Favorite went with them on a prospecting tour up the Blue this forenoon four of us sluiced on the left bank of river - afternoon went down to work but the prospects looked so poor that we finally gave it up & Smith & I went down to the P.O. Came back & found Morrison had returned from Tarryall & Roper with him A great excitement in consequence of the newly discovered Silver mine Our claims have been "jumped" & fifteen feet square sold off of one of them for \$500, - Some value their claims from \$25,000-to \$50000,-

Aug. 17th This afternoon R. Morrison [,] Smith & myself went prospecting for Silver mines up the Blue Examined the Utah Lead - while there it rained hailed & snowed till the ground looked white Came back & encamped for the night near the mouth of a long deep gulch in the timber not far from Wilcox ranch My supper consisted of a piece of a squirrel which Smith shot with a revolver - rosted on the end of a stick with Salt or pepper & some bread Built a good fire to keep off the wild animals then sat a few brush against some polls, spread a comfort on the damp ground - laid down to pleasant dreams of Indians & wild beasts either of which might attack us before morning

Aug. 18th A heavy frost last night - the snow & hail of yesterday still on the ground tried to shoot a squirrel with a pistol for breakfast but missed him therefore was obliged to make my breakfast of bread and cold water After breakfast took up our line of march for the "Blowout" on the Quandary Silver lead Took some claims & from there went up over the mountain near the head of the Blue & down into a deep wild looking ravine which we followed to its mouth It being about three o'clock we started for home notwithstanding it rained hard all the way for five or six miles Reached our cabin about sun set nearly tired out Snowed while we were on the mountain & old snow drifts far below us

Aug. 19th A pleasant day Staid at home all day Read Pauls first epistle to the Corinthians & wrote a letter to Rev. T. W. Tipton

Aug. 20th R. Morrison had a lame back & didn't work The ballance of us about half worked & took out some thing over \$20, - out of the left bank of the river

Aug. 21st Came down to go to digging & washing dirt - found the pit filled with water & finally after studying what to do till most noon concluded to dig a tale [tail?] ditch - Heavy frost & I saw ice nearly a quarter of an inch thick Wrote a letter to Elizabeth Cook last night

Aug. 22nd No rain today - worked at the ditch

Aug. 23rd Worked at the ditch

Aug. 24th Sat the sluices & washed some John Favorite went across the Range It snowed quite fast for a few minutes - large flakes J. B. Weston [,] Fred & Ford Roper staid all night with us

Aug. 25th Worked about half of the day washing gold in the river A great excitement about some new discoveries of quartz & silver leads A large miners meeting at Breckinridge about the Quandary lead Roper & Weston staid with us all night tonight Robert Morrison started for Brownville today - sent two letters by him Wrote a letter to N. L. Mason tonight

Aug. 26th A warm pleasant day Have been about the house all day Read the Chicago Press & Tribune & the Testament John Morrison took the picks to the black smith shop to be sharpened It being Sabbath I protested against it; but to no purpose

Aug. 27th Five of us worked with a sluice three shoveling in dirt & two striping off the top gravel Made something over \$3, each

Aug. 28th John Morrison is sick today Made near \$4, each

Aug. 29th It rained so much afternoon that we quit work for a while but made about \$4,50 apiece

Aug. 30th Worked this forenoon & about two hours this afternoon when it rained hard Smith & I went down to Breckinridge to the Post office Saw two flocks of ducks flying North - the only ones I have seen in the mountains Bought some beans at 15 cts per lb. There has been ice frozen in the sluice boxes two mornings this week Sent an order to the post master of Denver City office for letters is [if?] there is any at that office for me

Aug. 31st Got up & built a fire & was going to be very smart & get an early breakfast this morning - as I was peppering the beans which were then boiling[,] the lid of the large pepper box which was full came off & the contents went into the bean soup & entirely spoiled it Cleaned up & mooved the sluice boxes after the rain today Weather cool This closes closes [sic] the Summer season & I have experienced no hot weather Snow on the mountains yet it has not seemed like Summer

Sept. 1st Four of us worked today & made made [sic] about \$4 apiece J. H. Morrison has been sick & has worked but one day this week

Sept. 2nd A pleasant day - Staid about the cabbins all day - read the Scriptures

Sept. 3rd & 4th Morrison worked making five of us in all Took out \$40, - These two days

Sept. 5th It rained today & hindered us about half this afternoon - made about \$2,50 each I went down to the Post office after Supper - rec'd a letter from Father Came up from Breckenridge after dark

Sept. 6th Mr Akin from California gulch called here today Rained again today so that we quit work awhile afternoon W. F. Wilson called here

Sept. 7th Settled with Michael Flanery and payed him for his work this forenoon Afternoon settled up among ourselves & made a dividend of the gold on hand I rec'd \$82,02 Sent a letter to G. W. Likens by Wilson It has rained all day at intervals. Did no work

Sept. 8th Four of us worked, three shoveled & one attended the tom When we cleaned up had \$21,85

Sept. 9th Sabbath Read the Life of General Putnam & Pauls epistle to the Philippians & Colossians A beautiful day

Sept. 10th Went to work early this morning - made \$5,90 today by working after the rest quit

Sept. 11th Wrote a letter to Father Worked tonight after the others quit work - Made \$3,08 apiece

Sept. 12th Mooved a large pile of stone this forenoon - afternoon mooved the sluice boxes & 4 of us made \$12,60 After supper went down to the P.O. & mailed a letter to father & rec'd one from Huldah Lost the path coming back after dark

Sept. 13th Four of us maid \$17,57 today

Sept. 14th Smith & Morrison were unwell today & didn't work Favorite & I worked alone I worked a little while last night & this morning before breakfast & made \$1,25 Favorite & I made \$3,60 It snowed most of the forenoon & quite cool

Sept. 15th It froze hard last night So cold this morning our Co. concluded not to work & all but myself went over on French gulch I went to work alone & worked till nearly sun set Wrote a letter to E W Barnum & one to George H Guy tonight

Sept. 16th Sabbath Read the Testament & wrote a letter to cousin Alzaville After supper went up on the mountain N. W. of the Park to take an extended view of creation with the aid of a telescope

Sept. 17th None of us worked this forenoon Afternoon sat the sluices; when Smith & I dug & shoveled about an hour & made \$1,00 each

Sept. 18th Three of us worked till about the middle of the afternoon & quit - made about \$2,00 apiece The dirt payed so poorly today that we decided to work no more Weather rather cool Smith & Morrison went to Louthans

Sept. 19th A cold day Smith & I started on a hunting excursion Stopped at Louthans till afternoon & got Geo. to take his team & go with us Got down

to the lower ranch on the river about sun set I staid at a cabbin & built a fire in it on the ground & took care of the team while Smith & Geo. Louthom went down to the deer lick They came back after dark & brought a deer which they had killed

Sept. 20th We ate an early breakfast & all went hunting Saw no deer - went over to Ten Mile creek Afternoon I went off alone - when I came back found the boys had taken the team & gone I tho't I was elected to walk home; but fortunately found they had stoped at a cabbin a mile & a half above

Sept. 21st After breakfast all started for home I drove the team while the other boys went around through the woods to hunt I waited on the hill till one of them came down to the road We then went on nearly up to the Fort & there waited for Louthom some three hours or more thinking he was still behind; but at last ascertained that Louthan had got home We then came on home - stoped a[t] Breckenridge & got a letter out of the express office from Hoover

Sept. 22nd This day I have spent mending boots & clothes & washing preparatory to starting East next Monday

Sept. 23rd Sabbath A warm & beautiful day Read Pauls epistles to Timothy & Titus & wrote a letter to H. A. Graham Some men called here this afternoon to buy some tools which we have to sell; but I would not sell them as it is Sabbath