

Emigrant's last name: Harrell Surveyed by: mem69
first & middle names: James Edwin Ray Date surveyed: 01/22/95
Title: Reminiscences of James E. R. Harrell

Year of journey: 1847 Year written (if different): 1923 Page nos. surveyed: 186-188
Type of document: R (D - diary; J - journal; R - reminiscence; L - letter; N - newspaper article; G - guide; A - autobiography; O - other)
Items in document: K (use all applicable codes)
M - daily mileages D - emigrant drawings P - emigrant maps Q - maps by editor K - geographical sketch
I - Introduction B - bibliography N - Index X - photos F - footnotes/commentaries

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

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Place published: _____

Editor's (or translator's) last name: Lockley
first & middle names: Fred J

Notes about publication history: _____

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Notes about format of document: _____

Harvell, James E.R. Document ID: (47HAR64)

Emigrant's occupation: _____
Age: 16 M/F: M Origin: ^{IN} Indiana, Covington
With family? (Y/N) Y No. in family: _____

Departed from (code): J3 Arrived at (code): 04
Date of departure: 04/47 Date of arrival: 12/47 (use form mm/dd/yy)

Party: William Jolly

Mode of travel: W (one code only: W - wagons; P - packing; L - passenger lines; H - handcart; X - other)
Number of wagons at departure: 640
Number of people at departure: _____ total _____ men _____ women _____ children
Draft animals at departure: X oxen _____ mules _____ horses _____ other (use X or a number)
Other animals: _____ (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? yes

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Harrell	Issac	40	M	OH	Jolly	186			
Hollis	Mary Ann	38	F	MD, Baltimore		186			Q
McComis	Mary Ann Jolly		F		Jolly	186			
Harrell	Emmaline J.	13	F			186			
McComis	John Taylor	13	M			186			
Harrell	Will	13	M			186			
Harrell	David Harrison	6	M			186			
Harrell	Mary Elizabeth	3	F			186			
Walker	James		M			186			
Harrell	Martha Ann		F			186			A
Jolly	William		M			187			L
^{Chapman} Brawley	Toke ^{capt.}		M		Jolly	187	188		L
Starr	Jerry		M		Jolly	188			
Whitman	Marcus, Dr.		M			188			Q
Whitman	Mrs.		F			188			Q
Owens	Tom		M	OR, Clatsop Plains		189			Q
Owens	Mrs.		F	OR, Clatsop Plains		189			Q
Owens	Diana		F	OR, Clatsop Plains		189			Q
Owens-Adair	Bethenia, Dr.		F	OR, Clatsop Plains		189			Q
Gray	William H.		M	OR, Clatsop Plains		189			Q

CODES for column 1:

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

CODES for column 2:

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

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

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

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Taylor	James, Colonel		M	OR		189			Q
Powers	Truman		M	OR		189			Q
Brock	Professor		M	OR		189			Q
Morrison	Wilson		M	OR		189			Q
Minto	John		M	OR		189			Q
Gray	Henry		M	OR		189			Q
Gray	Bill		M	OR		189			Q
Kamm	Caroline Gray		F	OR		189			Q
Gray	Mary		F	OR		189			Q
Kamm	Jacob		M	OR		189			Q
Smith Munson	Sophia, Mrs ^{captain}		F	OR		189			Q
Gray	Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Judson	L.A.		M	OR		190			Q
Judson	Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Parish	J.L.		M	OR		190			Q
Phillips	Miss		F	OR		190			Q
Olney	Cyrus		M	OR		190			Q
Olney	Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Raymond	W.W.		M	OR		190			Q
Abel	Ann		F	OR		190			Q

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Harrell, James L. R.

Document ID: (47HAR04)

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Trask	Eldridge		M	OR		190			Q
Trask	Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Eberman	N. E.		M	OR		190			Q
Hobson	William		M	OR		190			Q
Hobson	John		M	OR		190			Q
Hobson	Diana		F	OR		190			Q
Naylor	Thomas G		M	OR		190			Q
Wirt	Andrew		M	OR		190			Q
Condit	Alvah		M	OR		190			Q
Condit	Ruth		F	OR		190			Q
Kindred	B. C.		M	OR		190			Q
Kindred	Mrs		F	OR		190			Q
Moffat	J. W.		M	OR		190			Q
Motley	W.		M	OR		190			Q
Robinson	John		M	OR		190			Q
Taylor	James		M	OR		190			Q
Taylor	Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Welch	James		M	OR		190			Q
Welch	Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Ingalls	Daniel		M	OR		190			Q

CODES for column 1:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
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CODES for column 2:

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

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Harvell, James E.R. Document ID: (49HAR04)

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Thompson	Lewis Rev.		M	OR		190			Q
Carnahan	Hiram		M	OR		190			Q
Coffenberry	G.M.		M	OR		190			Q
McEwan	Robert S.		M	OR		190			Q
Powers	Truman P.		M	OR		190			Q
Powers	Truman P. Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Burnside	David		M	OR		190			Q
Boelling	Conrad		M	OR		190			Q
Boelling	Conrad Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Jeffers	Joseph		M	OR		190			Q
Jeffers	Joseph Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Lamphear	Hester		F	OR		190			Q
Morrison	R.W.		M	OR		190			Q
Morrison	R.W. Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
McKean	S.T.		M	OR		190			Q
McKean	Polly Hicks		F	OR		190			Q
Gearhart	Phillip		M	OR		190			Q
Gearhart	Phillip Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q
Adair	John		M	OR		190			Q
Adair	John Mrs.		F	OR		190			Q

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Harrell, James E. R.

Document ID: (49 HAR 4)

Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Ferrill	Ferdinand		M	OR		190			⊕
Pease	David		M	OR		190			⊕
Pease	David Mrs		F	OR		190			⊕
Callender	Philo		M	OR		190			⊕
Davidson	George		M	OR		190			⊕
Ferguson	A.W.		M	OR		190			⊕
Gilman	M.M. Captain		M	OR		190			⊕
Higgins	Joseph D.		M	OR		190			⊕
McCrary	Mathew		M	OR		190			⊕
McCrary	Mathew Mrs.		F	OR		190			⊕
Rogers	Moses		M	OR		190			⊕
Morgan	David		M	OR		190			⊕
Ross	J.W.		M	OR		190			⊕
Stevens	Charles		M	OR		190			⊕
Munson	J.W.		M	OR		190			⊕
Hall	Samuel		M	OR		190			⊕
Holman	Joseph D.		M	OR		190			⊕
Johnson	Philip Captain		M	OR		190			⊕
Montgomery	Fanny Mrs.		F	OR		190			⊕
Nolen	Michael		M	OR		190			⊕

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Last name	First names	Age	M/F	Origin	Party	Page	Date (mm/dd)	CODES	
								1	2
Nolen	Michael Mrs.	-	F		OR	190			Q
Ross	Mary Mrs.		F		OR				Q
Smith	Solomon		M		OR				Q
Shortess	Robert		M		OR				Q
Tuller	Jerry		M	✓	OR				Q
Taylor	Luke		M		OR				Q
Taylor	Lewis		M		OR				Q
Tibbitts	Mr.		M		OR				Q
Moore	Mr.		M		OR	191			Q
Fell	Mr.		M		OR	191			Q
Fell	Mrs.		F		OR	191			Q
*Moore	Mr.		M	OR		191		C	Q
*Fell	Mr.		M	OR		191		C	Q
Harvell	Hollis Eric		M	OR		191	05/15/79	A	Q
Harvell	Ona Myrtle		F	OR		191	04/07/85	A	Q

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CODES for column 2:

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

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Harvell, James E. R.

Document ID: (47HAR04)

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Location		Page	Date
St. Joseph		186	1847
Six-mile Prairie in Iowa		187	
The Dalles	Wolf River 187	187	
Willamette Valley	Whitman's Mission 188	187	
Wolf River	The Dalles 188	187	
Whitman's Mission	Columbia River 188	188	
Columbia River	Oregon 188	188	
H. Vancouver	Fort Vancouver 188	188	
Clatsop Plains	Clatsop Plains 188	188	

REMINISCENCES OF JAMES E. R. HARRELL

By FRED LOCKLEY

James E. R. Harrell lives at 5725 72nd Street S. E., Portland, Oregon, on the Mt. Scott carline. When I visited him recently, he told me of his trip across the plains and of the early history of Clatsop County. "I was born in Covington, Indiana, September 7, 1830," said Mr. Harrell. "My father, Isaac Harrell, who was born on January 9, 1806, in Ohio, was a cabinet-maker. My mother's maiden name was Mary Ann Hollis. She was born in Baltimore, Maryland, September 5, 1808. My parents were married September 5, 1827. They had five children and raised three of them. My mother died on December 23, 1838, my father outliving her by more than 55 years. Father didn't die till August 5, 1893. On November 24, 1839, my father married Mary Ann McComis, a widow with one son. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Jolly. She outlived my father, dying on December 18, 1897. My father's first child, Emmaline J. Harrell, was born June 6, 1828. I was the next child and was christened James Edwin Ray Harrell. I will be 93 on my next birthday. My step-mother's son, John Taylor McComis, was born July 12, 1833, the same year my brother Will was born—he was born on September 21, 1833. The first child my father and my step-mother had was David Harrison Harrell. He was born on November 7, 1840. My half sister, Mary Elizabeth, who married James Walker, was born October 31, 1843. She and I are the only ones of the family still alive. Six weeks before my folks started for Oregon, my step-mother had a baby, whom they named Martha Ann Harrell. She was born on March 8, 1847. We started for Oregon that spring. We drove to St. Joseph and waited there for the emigrants to assemble. It was quite a sight to see the camp fires of hundreds of families with the new canvas covers on their wagons, the old folks talking around the camp fire, while the children skylarked around and enjoyed themselves.

11/19/94
COED 47 HARRELL
JAMES E. R. HARRELL

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It was quite a sight too, when we crossed the river at St. Joe, as there were 640 wagons that crossed. I was about sixteen and a half years old and I drove a wagon with three yoke of oxen from Six-mile Prairie in Iowa, clear through to The Dalles. Before we had traveled many days, we found that we would have to go in smaller trains. They elected my father's brother-in-law, William Jolly, captain of our train. Captain Chapman had been captain of the train before we divided. There were about fifty wagons in our train when we elected William Jolly captain, but some wanted to travel slower, some wanted to go faster, and everybody more or less wanted to boss, so the train kept dwindling down till there were only four wagons left in our train when we got to Whitman station. The people that go across the country now in three or four days on a Pullman, think it must have been a monotonous trip to spend six months on the road from Missouri to the Willamette Valley, but it wasn't, because you never knew what was going to happen from day to day or even from hour to hour. For example, one day I let my young brother drive the oxen while I was attending to something else. He could drive them pretty near as good as I could. My step-mother's brother, Captain William Jolly, thought he was too young to manage the oxen, so Jolly started to drive them. The oxen didn't know him, his voice was rather loud, because he was a preacher, so the oxen got scared, cramped the wagon and tipped it over. This happened just as they were crossing a small stream called Wolf River. Pretty near everything in the wagon got wet, including our corn meal. It mildewed and we had to throw it away. My father was a pretty good provider. He had laid in a supply of corn meal, flour, bacon, brown sugar, rice, beans, coffee and tea and then we had lots of antelope meat and buffalo meat, so we lived pretty well. The result of Captain Jolly tipping our wagon over and spoiling our corn meal was that we had to buy two sacks of ground wheat of

Dr. Marcus Whitman, paying him six dollars a hundred for it.

"We stopped a couple of days with Dr. Whitman. As I told you, there were only four wagons in our train when we got to Whitman's Mission, our wagon, that of Captain Jolly, old man Tobe Brawley and that of Jerry Starr. Jolly and Brawley were both preachers, so they had plenty to discuss with Dr. Whitman, who was also a preacher. The Indians had stolen some of our stock and so Captain Jolly and my father were kind of suspicious of the Indians. The Indians of the Whitman mission were acting rather surly; they had had a lot of measles and a good many of the Indians had died. Captain Jolly and my father both thought it wasn't safe for the Whitmans to stay at the mission that winter and they urged him to come on down to the valley. Dr. Whitman said he couldn't very well move this year, though he was planning to move to The Dalles, where he had bought property. He said several times before the Indians had become restless and surly but he had always been able to talk them out of it and he thought he could do so this time also. He wasn't able to fix up the trouble this time, though, for less than a month after we left, he and his wife and a lot of the others there were killed by the Indians. Whitman was a tolerably heavy-set man, about my size, but better looking. His wife was a large woman and had a rather pleasant voice. She was very polite and agreeable to the emigrants. After visiting the Whitmans for a couple of days, we pulled on to The Dalles where we put our wagons on rafts to float down the Columbia River, while the women and children went in a Hudson Bay batteau. We camped on the Oregon side of the Columbia just at the head of the island across from Fort Vancouver. We camped there six weeks, during which time father looked around to find a good claim to settle on. He finally decided to go to the mouth of the Columbia. We settled on Clatsop Plains, our claim joining

that of Tom Owens. He settled there in 1843. I got well acquainted with Tom and his wife, but I knew the girls best. Diana Owens taught me to dance. She was a fine girl and a perfect lady. Her sister Bethenia, now known as Dr. Owens-Adair, was just the reverse of Diana; she was a harem-scarum tom-boy, up to all sorts of devilment, and she thought she could do anything a boy could, and was just as good and maybe a little better. Tom Owens, her father, was about six feet high. He was well-built and he could lick anybody in that whole country. His wife was not well educated in the line of books but she was one of the smartest women in that country. Another neighbor of ours was William H. Gray. He came to Oregon in 1836. He ran a dairy. Colonel James Taylor loaned him some money to go east and get a flock of sheep. Dr. Gray drove them across the plains and got them as far as Astoria safely. At Astoria he got a scow to take them across the river to his place. Colonel Taylor urged him not to and said: 'If you go across the river with this southwest wind blowing and a storm coming up, and lose your sheep, I'll make you pay for every one of them.' Gray was a man who couldn't stand opposition, so he said he was going across anyway. A squall came up, the river got choppy and the scow filled with water and became unmanageable. He finally got to Chinook Point but his blooded sheep were drowned.

"I got my schooling on Clatsop Plains. I went to school first to Truman Powers and later to Professor Brock. Wilson Morrison's children went to school at the same time I did. John Minto married the oldest of the Morrison girls. Then there were Henry and Billy Gray and Caroline and Mary Gray. Caroline married Jacob Kamm, the steamboat man, and I think Mary married the son of Governor Abernethy. Then there were Clatsop Smith's children, and quite a few others. I never saw the inside of a school house till I was 17 years old.

"Among the pioneers of Clatsop County were William

H. Gray, who came to Oregon in 1836; Mrs. Sophia Munson, a pioneer of 1837; Mrs. Gray, who came in 1838; Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Judson, who came in 1840; J. L. Parish and Miss Philips, who also came in 1840; Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Olney, also pioneers of 1840; W. W. Raymond, who came the same year; Ann Abel and Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Trask, who came in 1842; N. E. Eberman; William, John and Diana Hobson; Thomas G. Naylor; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Owens and family, Andrew Wirt, all of whom came in 1843; Alvah and Ruth Condit, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Kindred, J. W. Moffat, W. Motley, John Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor, and Mr. and Mrs. James Welch, all of whom came in 1844; David Ingalls and Rev. Lewis Thompson, who came in 1845; Hiram Carnaham, G. M. Coffenberry, Robert S. McEwan and Mr. and Mrs. Truman P. Powers, who came in 1846; David Burnside, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Boelling, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jeffers, Hester Lanphear, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Morrison, S. T. McKean and Polly Hicks McKean, who came in 1847; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gearhart, who came in 1848; Mr. and Mrs. John Adair, Ferdinand Ferrill and Mr. and Mrs. David Pease, who came in 1849; Philo Callender, George Davidson, A. W. Ferguson, Captain M. M. Gilman, Joseph D. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Mathew McCrary, and Moses Rogers, who came in 1850; David Morgan, J. W. Ross and Charles Stevens, who came in 1852; J. W. Munson, who came in 1853. Among other pioneers who were early settlers on Clatsop Plains were the Elders, Samuel Hall, Joseph D. Holman, Captain Philip Johnson, the Marlins, Mrs. Fanny Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nolen, Mrs. Mary Ross, Solomon Smith, Robert Shortess, Jerry Tuller, Luke and Lewis Taylor, and Mr. Tibbits.

"We settled on Clatsop Plains not long before Christmas in 1847," said Mr. Harrell. "In the spring of 1849 father moved to a place on the Lewis and Clark River, not far from Carlos Shane's place. Father built a sawmill

there, which we ran for eight years. Like lots of other young fools, I got restless and so I hoofed it across country to Corvallis. Here I ran across two men named Moore and Fell. Fell had married Moore's niece. They were buying cattle throughout the valley, to drive to the California gold mines, and when I tackled them for a job, they put me on as a driver and furnished me a mule to ride. We went to Yreka where they sold the cattle, paid me off, and I went to mining. Moore and Fell did pretty well. After a few years they had made a stake and decided to go to their old home in the East. They went by way of the Isthmus of Panama, but the boat they were on was wrecked. Among the last to leave the boat were these two men. The little boat they were in was tipped over and they were both drowned. Mrs. Fell with her two children were saved, and she managed to put her small hand-trunk in the boat with her. It had in it \$12,000 in gold dust.

I followed placer mining for five years at Yreka. It's a hard game to break away from, particularly if you are mining in pocket ground. Some days I'd strike a pocket and clean up a hundred dollars, and then for a week I wouldn't make more than wages.

"In 1859 I came back to the Willamette Valley and settled on a place near Forest Grove. I stayed at the Grove till 1864, when I went to the Eagle Creek mines in eastern Oregon. I mined there for the next seven years. Time kept drifting along and I kept drifting with it, till I found I was 48 years old and I figured that if I was going to get married, I'd better be getting at it, so on April 21, 1878, I was married. I was married about ten miles north of Hillsboro on the place joining Joe Meek's place. Our first child, Hollis Eric Harrell, was born on May 15, 1879. He works for the Union Pacific Railroad Company here in Portland. Our next child was a girl, Ona Myrtle Harrell, who was born on September 7, 1885. I have lived in quite a number of places in the

West. First I lived on Clatsop Plains till 1849, then on the Lewis & Clark River, then at Yreka, California, then at Forest Grove, then east of the mountains on Eagle Creek for seven years. From there I went to the Cowlitz River where I ran a stock ranch for ten or twelve years. Then I took a homestead on Elk Creek near Seaside. There were lots of big bands of elk there when I took up my homestead. My homestead was two miles back from the ocean and was covered with a heavy growth of spruce. I lived on it five years and sold it for \$2,000, but I found out afterwards that the company that bought it said there was at least \$10,000 worth of spruce on it. From my homestead near Seaside, I moved to Tigardsville, where I farmed on a 40-acre place for about five years. My wife died in 1911. I sold my place at Tigardsville and came to live in Portland. I will be 93 on my next birthday, and for the last year or two I have been taking things a little easy, for I have worked pretty hard for 75 years and I feel that I am entitled to ease up a little now."

JAMES DOUGLAS, CHIEF FACTOR OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, FORT VANCOUVER, TO GOVERNOR GEORGE ABERNETHY, OREGON CITY

Fort Vancouver 31st. Dec 1847

George Abernethy Esqre
Governor

Sir

A rumour having been in circulation for some days past, that it is General Gilliam's intention to levy contributions on the Hudsons Bay Company's property, for the purpose of compelling the equipment of the troops ordered out in your late proclamation for the intended operations against the Indians of the interior, I feel it my duty to communicate with you frankly on the subject; as it is most important in the present critical state of our Indian relations that there should be an entire absence of distrust, and that the most perfect unanimity should exist among the whites of every class.

From my personal knowledge of General Gilliam and his highly respectable character I should be the last person to believe him capable of committing an outrage, which may prove so distrustous [sic] in its immediate and remoter consequences, to the peace and best interests of this country; and at the same time, as the representative of a powerful British Association it becomes my duty, to take instant measures for the protection of their property, until I receive, through you, a distinct disavowal of any such intention, as I have herein stated.

Difficulties of that nature were certainly not contemplated by us, when we dispatched a large part of our effective force, into the interior for the purpose of rescuing the unfortunate women and children, the survivors of the massacre at Wiillat poo, who remained in the hands of the Indians;—it was never suspected that our establishments would be exposed to insults or injury,