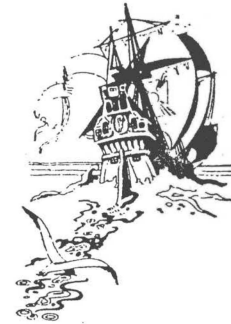


*Cross
at India*

**JOURNAL
OF
EDMUND CAVILEER HINDE**

**EDITED BY
JEROME PELTIER**



**YE GALLEON PRESS
FAIRFIELD, WASHINGTON**



While in St. Louis he spent several days in a fruitless search for work. On October 9th he was offered a job by a saddle maker but did not seem to be pleased with the prospects because it would take him to the small town of Madisonville, Ralls County, Missouri which lay about 120 miles north of St. Louis.

He "tossed his cap" to decide whether he would accept the saddler's job or move on up to Minnesota Territory and search for work there. Two of three flips of his cap decided his next move which was to take the Madisonville job.

In the above community he worked as a saddle and harness maker for H.P. Haley until the gold fever struck him the following spring, at which time our journal begins.

Jerome Peltier

Wherever possible, original spelling and punctuation was followed.

March 5th—For the last month I have neglected to keep any account of what has transpired. The California fever still rages at the highest pitch. I am its victim and have wrote to all of my friends and informed them of my intentions.

Mr. Haley¹ left for St. Louis yesterday to select all such articles we needed for the trip.

Tomorrow is our mail day and I hope to get some news as well as some assistance. I have not heard from home for sometime and if some of them do[es] not aid me I will be flat soon.

March 17. Sunday Evening.—I have been so dambedly taken off with the California fever that I have neglected the book which was once a pleasure to me when the Blue Devils was on me. On last monday week the 6th of this month I received fowling [*sic* following] letters one from Jno M.² Chas F.³ and Bell Hinde⁴ one from Martha⁵ one from Charles H.⁶ who by some fortunate means sent me \$50. which is all I looked for from him for which I thank him kindly.

March 24—All the nois [*sic*] stir and confusion is about California and Trains are continually pouring through here⁷ on their way. On last wednesday I received a letter from Charles T. I have sent for a small book to keep a memorandum of some of our scenes on the road. We are now making all the preparations necessary as speedy as possibly can be done. There was quite a fall of snow today but cleared off in the afternoon—I wrote a letter to my sister in Springfield but failed to send it so I will add more and send it on next Wednesday.⁸

March 30—Monday eve. and tomorrow I open a new book and am determined to keep it correct.

Madisonville Ralls Co. Mo. March 31st/50—In This book I intend to keep a record to my trip on the road to California as minutely and correctly as time and sircumstances will permit of.

Bad news has been brought from there by some of last years emigrants which is very discouraging to some. Not withstanding it is my

intention to keep persevering untill all means hope and fortune forsake me. Our wagon is partly loaded and we intend to go tomorrow as far as Mr. J. Elys three miles in the country. Part of the load we expect to get at the point of embarkation. The signs rather indicate falling weather soon.

April 1st—We have been detained by the great quantity of rain that has fallen from starting. Nothing of any importance has occurred of interest. If nothing turns up to prevent we will start tomorrow evening. I wrote and mailed a letter to my brother Jno. M. Hinde. the clouds have passed by and we may have clear weather to start in.

April 2nd—We have not got off yet as expected. there has been a constant fall of water ever since eleven o'clock which prevents crossing some of the streams not far from here.

Teams are continually passing by bound for the far distant land of Gold in the far west where the sun seems to go to rest.

April 3rd—Enroute to California. Today has been quite an unpleasant [day]⁹ but not withstanding we got our things in readiness and left about 2 o'clock and arrived at Mr. Elys in good time. The evening set in quite windy and cool, with rain at short intermissions.

April 7—Since the date I last made any note upon I have been absent from my book. On the day after our arrival at Mr. Elys I have returned to town and remained there until the present which is Sunday evening. The weather had been so damp that it detained us. however we intend to leave tomorrow if all can be got ready.

April 8—We made a start this morning from Mr. Elys and crossed the prairie which is twelve miles. the road is very muddy and we made slow progress. We are now in camp near a farm owned by a Mr. White.¹⁰ Miles travel today 14.

April 9—We decaped¹¹ this morning from Whites about 7' and arrived at a point fixed upon from this day's travel, which was short and soon performed. The mans name where we stoped was Simpson¹² and in some way related to Dillard Fike¹³ on[e] of my partners. We left the Florida road to the right on the account of its being cut up badly by the number that have went that way. The forks of Salt river were in a good fordable state

Mile 10 & 14 = 24

April 10—This morning we left Mr. Simpsons between 7 and 8

o'clock and arrived at Parris¹⁴ the county seat of Monroe County about 10 o'clock which was about 6 six miles from Mr. Simpsons. here we received some information of the bad state of the St. Joseph road Which caused us to take the Glasscow road¹⁵ which is not so badly cut up by travel which is but little on it. We passed on some eight miles to Mr. Grants¹⁶ and encamped for the night.

24 & 14 = 38

April 11th—Early this morning we left Mr. Grant's in the county of Monroe about seven or earlier. The first part of our road was very good with some not so good towards the last. We are now encamped at Mr. Dankins¹⁷ in Randolph county, and are hard pinched to obtain food for our horses and mules.

Miles today 22 & 38 = 60

April 12th—We are now encamped at Mr. Holley's¹⁸ in Howard county some eleven miles from where we encamped last night. the road continues very bad and food very scarce. The weather is cool and very windy. Glascow is twelve miles and if the weather keeps clear we will make an effort to arrive there tomorrow.¹⁹ The cholera is reported to be on the river and we daily meet returning emigrants who thro fear and cowardice are induced to turn back.

Miles today 11 & 60 = 71

April 13th—This morning it was very cold and windy which made it unpleasant traveling. We reached Glascow in the forenoon about eleven o'clock. Left Holleys about seven (7) this morning.

We crossed the Missouri about 5 o'clock and are now encamped on the south side of the river 2 miles from Glascow in the river Bottoms in an old log cabin on the right side of the road.

Traveled today Miles 14 & 71 = 85

April 14—This has been a cold damp disagreeable day. We left our encampment this morning early and took the Lexington road.²⁰ After traveling two or three miles on the bottoms we struck a large prairie twenty-five miles across it.

We are now twenty one miles out from our last camp at an Irishman's. the roads are very good considering the time of year and abundance of rain late[lly] fallen. This is the Sabbath and we are compelled to travel on account of obtaining food for our horses and mules. Corn is worth fifty cents per bushel, and hay is not to be had at any price.

traveled today miles 21 & 85 = 106

April 15th—I have been pleased at the good roads we have had of late, and should be contented if we could get enough corn for our stock with less trouble. There has been a gradual raise of corn since I left Madisonville. it is now worth one dollar per Bushel and hay one dollar per cwt.

We passed out of Saline county to day into that of Lafayette. This part of the country is thickly settled by rich farmers and has a good soil. We are now encamped at Mr. Beauford's²¹ some sixteen miles from Lexington.

Miles Traveled 22 & 106 = 128

April 16th—I am nearly worn out this evening, on last evening it commenced raining and still keeps it up, we left our camp last evening and took supper at Mr. Beauford's as we could not cook for ourselves in the rain.

We are now in camp at Mr. Will Shelbys 10 miles from Beauford's and six from Lexington.

Mrs. Beauford is a fine old Lady as the county can boast of and seems to want all comfortable around her, tho her house was full she made the niggers keep a fire in the kitchen for us to dry ourselves and cook us a good supper. how different would Yankees of the North with as much wealth as she possesses would act so kindly, but few²²

Miles Traveled 10 & 128 = 138

April 17th—This has been a cold damp disagreeable day. The roads are very sloppy and slippery which added much to our disagreeable feelings as well as our poor miles. This portion of the county is not so well improved as what we have passed through, altho we see some beautiful residences and well improved farms as I would desire.

We passed through the suburbs of Lexington today about 9 o'clock and continue on our road some thirteen miles towards Independence.

We are now encamped 28 miles of Independence in site of a residence of some Doctor whose name I can not make out.

Miles Traveled 19½ & 138 = 157½

April 18th—We are now encamped upon a point of a narrow rugged ridge in all its appearance. which I will call the Devil's back bone. We are in sight of the Blue Mills situated on River which is very high at this time. so much so we may be detained sometime. One of our company has crossed over to hunt food and has not yet made his appearance.

We are now in Jackson County it is not so well improved in this part as those we last passed through for richness the land can not be beaten and some is very low and wet.

The roads are bad and much cut up teams gone on ahead of us. There are something near one hundred wagons camped in the woods for river to fall. There has been no rain today but a fine prospect of some soon.

The report of cholera at Independence is false so we hear if there was no turn back now.

Miles Traveled 20 & 157½ = 177½

April 19th—I have been laying idle most of the day on the Devils back bone. In the afternoon we made arrangements with Mr. Rice owner of the mill to take our load over in a large five yoke ox wagon. All went off well with the exception of one wagon which came uncoupled and left the hind wheels in the creek, but we soon got them out. We are still in site [*sic*] of our last camp. All our load is in the tent drying. One of the owners of the wagon is unwell and perhaps will turn back. I may buy him out as he proposed it this evening. We are encamped in the bottoms.

April 20th Independence, Mo.—This like all frost days has been cloudy altho we had but little rain. We loaded our wagons and left the mill about 8 o'clock. The roads to Independence were very bad and cut up. the county here is well improved. and the land very rich. But more flat and [word left out] than heretofore. We are now at the place we intend upon staying at some days as we have got provender for our stock which is 8 miles from Independence on the Sante Fe road.

Miles Traveled 14¾ & 177½ = 192¼

April 21st Independence, Mo.—We are still encamped where [we] stopped yesterday. We intend upon going to town tomorrow for our flour and other necessities [*sic*] if the weath[er] will permit, and one is going ahead after corn.

April 22nd—Today has been assuredly the fa[i]rest day we have had for a week yet quite windy. with all we had some rain. Yet it will do to brag on a fair day compared to the rest.

One of our company took sick today and keep [kept] us from going to town today he talks of going back home.

Fike went on and engaged some oats for us to take along.

We daily came across all kind of conveyances to the Gold region mans

invention can produce.

Today I saw two men one with a sack of flour on his back and other with other necessities on their road to California.

April 23rd—Today has changed the appearance of affa[irs] Mr. Hay left today and put all things in my charge with thirty dollars to bear expenses.

I conveyed him to Independence in the wagon today and bot [bought] our flour for the trip which cost me thirteen dollars and fourty five cents.

April 24th—Today we have been making preparations to go off on our way soon as convenient.

The weather has been clear but very cold.

The emigrants are still rooling [rolling] on by great floods and occasionally settling down arround us until the woods has assumed a living aspect and the hum is keep [kept] up from morning until Night.

April 25th—I went to Independence today to see Mr. Haly^{23A} who put me in charge of all interest in team and expidition. Also to act as his agent. he also put Bill a boy he has going on shears [shares] under my charge. We are in all readiness and intend to go to Blue River tomorrow.

I am much disappointed at not hearing from my friends. I directed them to write to St. Joseph and by coming this rout I will miss the opportunity. Emigrants are sill [still] passing on to point locations and procure food. I can form no estimate of the number but it is immens[e] that are on the roads and camped 10 to 15 miles off where ever food can be had.

We are camped 9 miles from Independence on Santa Fee [sic] road in sight of Co²⁴ Grants residence

This portion of the country is well improved. The land is rich and bears a high price from ten to twenty five dollars per acre.

The weather is clear and very windy as well as cool.

April 26th—About 7 o'clock we decamped on our way for the Blue River. On the road we discovered our Hind Axeltree had given away which was in one sence fortunate had it broke when out from all timber we would have been in a nice predicament. Altho broke we took in our food and crossed Blue River and sent back for a new one. Today has been cloudy but no rain until evening after dark. We are now only three miles from the plains and then we leave all settlements.

I will add the nine miles we wer [sic] from Independence to this and

commence anew.

Miles traveled Today 10 & 9 = 19

We got our axeltree in by 5½ oclock and started by 9 c'clock. We struck the plains in two or three miles traveling. We saw two or three Indians at a distance on their way to trade.

The roads are tolerable good so far. and no rain today but dark cold and windy with distant thunder.

The grass has sent out some little sprouts but not of sufficient quantity to do any good.

We are now in Indian Territory encamped upon the head of Indian Creek ¾ of a mile to the right. This part of the country is somewhat rolling and no timber except what we left behind and what grows upon the margin of all the streams. So far we are in no company all except Mr. Underwoods team which has been in our company since we left Paris.

Miles 10 & 19 = 29

April 28—I am now on the road so far that it will be out of the question for me to back out. Altho I had no such intention yet from fear something might turn up to prevent.

This is the sabbath but we decamped as usual. We were completely innitiated into the planes [plains] today. The rain and wind seemed to be at war and wet us all through. The roads are very slipery [sic] and pull hard. We are now camped on Bull creek a short distance from the forks of the road one to Santa Fee and other to Salt Lake via Forts to California and Oragon [sic]

Miles Traveled 20 & 29 = 49

April 29—Clear as a Whistle cold and windy We arrived on the opposite side of the Wakendau River ^{24A} about 3 o'clock. While a fishing this evening Perry Smith who once lived in Wabash county came wher I was. he was some what surprised and called me by name I told him he was not right that he certainly did not know me. he hung around but kept his eye on me all the time. after I keep him in suspense sometime told him of the joke. he had in his company Jno Clark and Lewis Higgins of Richland Co. Ill. thes are the first succors I fell in with I could scrape any acquaintance they fill in our company and we have now three wagons in all.

Miles Traveled 15 & 49 = 64

April 30—We decamped this morning about sunup. The Wakendow

flat two or three miles was very bad and decidedly the longest heavy pull we have had. We are now camped on the right of the road at the Cool Springs, five miles from the Kansas River.

The wind is very high raw and cold today. The last part of the road today has been good The character of the country since our decamp from Big Blue has all been prairie except on the margins of the streams where [*sic*] few shrubs and trees grow, and not enough within two miles to fence ten acres properly.

Miles Traveled 25 & 64 = 89

May 1—May, I greet thee with pleasure, and well Might I do so, for since our departure we have not so far seen one pleasant day, and vegetation [*sic*] very backward and we hail thee and look to the bright and pleasant prospects you promis[e] us.

On last evening just as I had closed my book a company of Indians came in sight composed of men women and children. They were out upon a hunting expedition. We are within seven or eight miles of Coyl or Kansas River. We learn from some of the Indians today that the Indians upon the other side of the river are in for annoying the emigrants. We have only four wagons in company and will have to wait for some more if we find non[e] on the river. We are camped on the east side of a creek the name unknown to me.

Miles Traveled 25 & 89 = 114

May 2nd—May so far is no better than cold bleaching April. We decamped about 6 o'clock this morning and camped about 3 o'clock on the west side of a small creek the name I know not nor care so little that I will not bother to find out The country here is all Prairie except upon the margin of streams and very little of that The country with large hills and ridges. We crossed Kansas River at the upper ferry²⁶ they are supplied with good boats.

We passed thro a small village today the inhabitants are chiefly Indians and Half breeds.

Miles Traveled 10 & 114 = 124

May 3rd—May. Alas! for the pleasure we expected are all blasted. The 3d has been cold and rainy.

We are now camped waiting for company before we start out amongst the Pawnees.

May 4th—On the last evening we came across five wagons with six

mules and five men to a wagon. we united and proceeded upon our journey. We passed through the Catholic Mission,²⁷ and arrived at the Vermillion river and there camped. This evening we elected a captain frome Saline Co. Mo. By name of Hays also sergeant²⁸ We have a guard out tonight for the first time.

Miles 20 & 124 = 144

May 5th—From the Vermillion we started about 6 o'clock and traveled until about 7 o'clock, the first part of the road was bad. The after part good except a great number of ravens [ravines] we had to cross. For the first twenty miles there^{28A} there is plenty of wood and water and after that none until we got within a mile and a half of the Big Vermillion. The Banks of this river we had to cordell²⁹ our wagons down.

We passed four graves along the road that died last year. I had an accident happen to me today while walking at the side of my wagon to keep warm. The mules took fright and ran off. The fore wheel ran over my toe and throwed me down and the hind one ran over my ancle [*sic*] which had just partially recovered from a severe strain. We camped on the Big Vermillion.

miles 40 & 144 = 184

May 6th—We have not traveled far today, on account of our Mules and the long stretch we had to make from the springs We are now camped upon Blue river We are in the Indian Territory and have to keep a sharp look out. No Indians show themselves.

Miles 10 & 184 = 194

May 7th—On last evening it set in raining and keep [*sic*] it up all night. also snowed some during the time³⁰ We crossed the Big Blue river today and traveled some five or six miles and struck camp on the left of the road.^{30A}

There is no timber here. We provided at the river No scarcity of wood and water have yet been felt The grass is very backward. I have no idea how far we have traveled today.

Miles 14 & 194 = 208

May 8th—We are camped on the prairie fourteen or fifteen miles from our last camp, We struck the St. Joseph road after we traveled about seven miles, and never have I witnessed such a sight nor ever do I again expect to [see] such another or near its equil [*sic*] The road was far as the eye could see upon the plains crowd [crowded] thick with wagons in three

and four collums [*sic*] some passing on and some holding in. The road side all along was spotted with Tents wagons and Mules and stock of all kinds.

On our road there has been no suffering or loss of stock but we learn that on the St. Joe's road a great number were lost, as the grass is not so good as on the Independence road.³² I have to use my own judgement as to the distance we travel.

15 & 208 = 223

May 9th—Early this morning we struck camp amidst all kinds of quarling and cursing, the best of friends here find something to stir their feelings³³ We traveled in the most thronged crowd I ever yet witnessed and all going the same road.

The country is growing more level and wood and water scarcer. Stock is commencing to look a little worse of their use and exposure of the hard weather of late with little or no grass.

We left our company we joined today and are now camped by ourselves. the four wagons that we had when we went with them are yet all together.³⁴ We are now encamped upon the ridge between the separation of the roads³⁵

Miles 15 & 223 = 238

May 10th—The road has been thronged all day with emigrants we can not lose sight of wagons for a moment. Altho they begin to thin out. some go fast and some slow so they separate along gradually. Grass is no better and weather continues very cold.

15 & 238 = 243

May 11—We left our camp on big Sandy about 6 o'clock and traveled along with tolerable good speed and arrived at the Little Blue River at one o'clock in the afternoon. The country is still Prairie. The Little Blue is a beautiful stream the banks are lined with trees, the bottom smooth and even

16 & 243 = 259

May 12th—This is the Sabbath and we are laying by One of the wagons left us today.

The weather is getting warmer. we will leave tomorrow. I wrote home today to CH Constable

May 13th—Early this morning we decamped and traveled up little Blue without crossing it.

We have suddenly struck upon a different climate and atmosphere

which has changed to excessive heat, and enormous quantity of dust that almost hid the mules from my sight, and stoped [*sic*] my breath The road part of the way is rooling [rolling] and high part upon the bank of the Little Blue when we camped We see where trees have been cut for Mules to bark and bud that got out too soon. also dead stock and sick ones that have been left and some wagons³⁶

Miles 24 & 259 = 283

Remarks: the last portion of this belongs to the 14th of May

May 14th—We left our camp 6¼ o'clock the road was thronged and dirty. Part of our road was high and rooling and part upon Little Blue When we were camped on Sunday eleven head of horses took the stampede and left for parts unknown, and their owners left afoot.

A sudden change has taken place in the weather. The ground is perfectly baked. The grass is so bad and scarce I fear we will loos [*sic*] all our stock if we do not have a sudden change.

The Prairie is clear of all kind of weeds or brush I saw some prickly Pear upon the Little Blue which is the only kind of flower I have seen We are now camped upon a branch of Little Blue
Miles 22 & 283 = 305

May 15—The camp we left was upon a slew [slough]³⁷ four miles from Blue River. two miles this side is another slew, with timber and water. After which we found no timber or water until we arrived at the Plat [Platte]³⁸ river, where we encamped oposite [*sic*] the Grand Island.³⁹

We saw a cow Buffalow killed today for the first time. The roads good but roolling.

I will describe the Plate after I see more of it. one thing I know it is very sandy and the water so thick with it we can hardly swallow it.

Miles 18 & 305 = 313

*May 17th*⁴⁰—On this day we layed by, and swam our stock over to grand Island. I wrote two letters one was to my sister Bell and one to friend Haly.

May 17th—About sunup or so we left our camp on the right of the roads and arrived at the Fort Karney⁴¹ about 10 o'clock here I left my letters⁴²

The Fourt [*sic*] is roughly built of doubies⁴³ which are made of large mud cakes dried in the sun The road runs up this river about 150 miles. the grass here is better than we have had back. This is all prairie with no