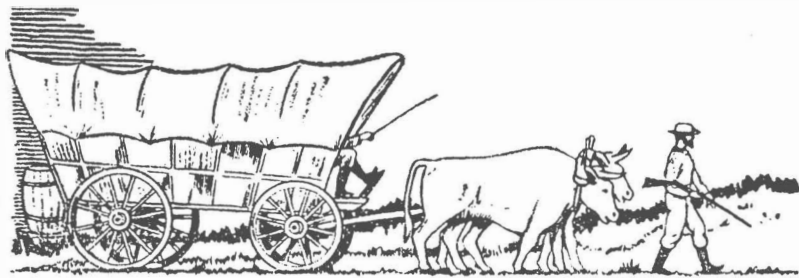


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*MEMORANDUM OF THOUGHTS,  
REFLECTIONS, & TRANSACTIONS  
as Transcribed by Basil Nelson Longworth  
on His Journey from Washington Township,  
Guernsey County, Ohio, to Oregon in  
the Summer of 1853.*



YE GALLEON PRESS  
FAIRFIELD, WASHINGTON  
1972

*At base + go north to Kanawale  
and.*

## MEMORANDUM

Of Thoughts, Reflections, and Transactions as  
Transcribed by Basil Nelson Longworth on  
His Journey from Washington Tp.,  
Guernsey Co., Ohio, to Oregon in  
the Summer of 1853.

Through the preceding winter James Edwards sold his farm and other property and made arrangements to remove with his family, which consisted of a wife and four children. In the preceding fall I made up my mind to accompany him, and after making the necessary preparations—on the eve of the 15th of March I left my native home where I was born and had always lived—bid adieu to my parents, brothers, and sisters and a number of relations and friends, and with rather solemn thoughts we commenced our long and uncertain journey. We traveled three miles and stayed that night with Mr. Lewis Edwards.

On the morning of the 16th, after bidding adieu to many relations and friends, we left Mr. Edwards and started for Wheeling, where we expected to get on board a boat. We traveled four miles to Antrim where we made some repairs to our wagon, used a board for a tarbucket and had some amusement. We then passed through Fairview and Henrysburg and stayed at the next tavern, where we were comfortably entertained.

On the 17th we paid our fare and pursued our journey, passed through Morristown and then Floydstown to St. Clairsville, the county seat of Belmont County, and arrived at Wheeling. James Edwards having gone before us by stage in order to secure passage on a boat bound for the west. While on stage he became acquainted with Mr. Wm. D. Hare, of Fairview, who joined us and we started with the intention of crossing the plains together. We spent the evening awaiting the arrival of a boat, which was hourly expected, to convey us to St. Louis.

March the 18th. While here we examined the chain or wire suspension bridge, which is a great curiosity and one of the noblest works of art. It is a single span of near a thousand feet in length and suspended something like a hundred feet above the water. The abutments over which the wires pass are forty or fifty feet above the bridge, there being an arch turned in the abutments through which the road passes onto the bridge, which is a double track, and is suspended to the

cables which cross the river by small wires attached to them and pass down perpendicular through the sills of the bridge, the cables coming within two or three feet of the bridge in the middle of the river.

After spending the day in changing our paper money for gold, and viewing the city, in the evening we took cabin passage on the David White, which was one of the largest upper trade boats, and bound for Louisville. This is a fine boat with good accommodations and runs well. We paid \$6 apiece for our passage, our baggage being included. Today we bid farewell to Lewis Edwards and Wm. Longworth, our brothers who had brought us to the river. Our parting was rather hard as we parted with the last relations which we would in all probability see for years.

Saturday the 19th. At three in the morn we left Wheeling and passed rapidly down the river, and when we awoke in the morning all was strange. At nine we passed Marietta, which is a large town and the oldest in Ohio. The next town was Parkersburg, situated at the mouth of the Kenhawa. At 4:00 P. M. we took on coal at Pomeroy, which is a town on the Ohio side and extending along the river for six or eight miles, and its chief wealth consists in its coal mines and salt works. We left this place half an hour behind the Pittsburgh—one of the fastest sailing boats. The passengers waved their hats in triumph when they left, but our Captain said he would pass him before they made Cincinnati. Our boat then gave chase, the boat running at the rate of twenty-three miles an hour,

Sunday, the 20th, we landed at Cincinnati where we remained until 5:00 in the evening. While in the City we spent an hour or two in walking through the city and feasting our eyes on the taste, order, beauty and wealth which everywhere displayed itself in the handsomely paved streets and massive buildings. Cincinnati, including its suburbs, extends along the river for some eight miles and is really the Queen City of the West and embodies a great amount of wealth. The eye gazes with interest and delight on its many massive, rich and fanciful edifices. While here we went to Dr. Wm. Owen's office, he being an old acquaintance. He was not at home. We left a line and went to our boat. In a short time he came home and then visited us on the boat; we had a short conversation. He gave us some directions on how to preserve good health and a word of encouragement and an assurance that he would soon follow us and then left.

Leaving Cincinnati at midnight we came to Madison, Ind. Soon after leaving Madison the night became so dark and foggy that they had to lay by till late in the morning of the 21st. At 9:00 we landed at Louisville and paid a drayman \$1 for hauling our wagon three miles to Portland, and we got into an omnibus and drove a mile or two through the town. This is a rich business place. The Ohio here falls twenty-seven feet in the distance of two or three miles. There is now a boat canal cut around the falls, the locks admitting boats near two hundred feet long. Among the curiosities of Louisville are a man seven feet eight inches high, and another woman came in the Pittsburgh who weighed above 600 pounds.

We here took passage on the Pike, a rather rough sailing boat, and paid \$8 apiece for our passage to St. Louis, and at 2:00 in the afternoon we cleared the wharf and started for our future destiny. Noth-

ing special occurring, the steep and rocky hills for 100 miles came very near the river, there being scarcely a good farm or house along the river in all this distance. One curiosity was a grist mill which had a very large overshot wheel, and was driven by a spring of sparkling water which gurgled from the hill directly above the mill. These hills furnished no good timber, and were in many places a wall of limestone rocks.

On the morning of the 22nd we awoke and beheld as lovely a day as heart could wish. We soon landed at Evansville, a city of Indiana which looks like quite a thriving business place. The river along here is very large and crooked and we seem to be sailing in almost every direction. A little after sunrise we were sailing directly towards the sun. At 3:00 this morning we met the Vermont and turned our boat and lashed them together and sailed upstream with her while we took a number of Oregon emigrants on board with four wagons.

Today we are sailing through a most splendid looking country with not a hill in view. The eye can have full stretch over dense forests without an eminence to obscure the vision. One thing strikes you with surprise, namely, the severity of the cold, the motion of the boat raises such a breeze as will chill you in a few minutes, while it is pleasant were it not for the motion of the boat. Another peculiarity is this: Although we are sailing downstream we go so much faster than the water that it appears to run in an opposite direction with an extremely rapid current.

We now have a scene on board which exhibits quite a contrast. There is a corpse on board (which was killed by the exposition of a boat), while in the cabin there are three card tables in active operation. The bottoms have been low this afternoon and all overflow and, of course, but little improvements near the river. About 3:00 this evening we passed Cave Rock, which is a cave in Illinois with a small entrance in the rock, the extent of this cave has never been found. At sunset we left Smithland, a small town at the junction of the Cumberland and Ohio rivers. At 7:00 we landed at Paduca, a city at the mouth of the Tennessee. At 12:00 we landed at Cairo, a town at the mouth of the Ohio.

The morning of the 23rd found us sailing up the mouth of the Father of Waters. This is one of the most beautiful of mornings, but the river is not as beautiful as the Ohio, there being so many sandbars and so much driftwood and snags. The Illinois side is low and flat as far as the eye can reach, while the Missouri side appears to be hilly and in many places there are rugged limestone bluffs. There is but little improvement along the river in this region. This evening we saw quite a town some miles from the river on the Missouri side. All the way up the Mississippi, except where the river strikes the bluffs, the bank appears to be a bank of sand which, by the action of the water, is constantly tumbling in, and forming sandbars elsewhere, causing the channel constantly to change, which in connection with the snags makes navigation very dangerous.

Thursday the 24th. Before day we landed in St. Louis, and as soon as it was day we set out to see the City and secure another boat to pursue our journey. After a little search we found the Banner State, which was bound up the St. Louis river; we secured a cabin passage

for which we paid \$12 apiece, and took our breakfast on board. After loading our baggage we commenced taking a view of the city. As we walked through the city I was surprised at the wealth and magnificence which everywhere struck my eye. The splendid Cathedrals, Churches and Court House, with the many large and splendid mansions which everywhere reared their lofty summits, and are the abodes of the high and opulent, but in the midst of all this we meet with objects of extreme poverty. As an instance, I saw an elderly woman gathering up wheat which had been spilled and which was, perhaps, one-third dirt. We also met with thousands of men and children peddling everything which you can think of, for which they want double price.

Along the wharf is exhibited the most business-like place I ever saw. The shore for a mile and a half is lined with boats while the wharf is piled high with merchandise of every kind and description, and the drays and wagons make a continual hum. The draymen and boatmen in their rough dress followed by the commanding harsh voice of the mate ordering the loading and unloading of boats consummate the scene.

The 25th. We occupied this day in buying our outfit for the plains. Our outfit cost us \$150, including provisions and cooking utensils, there being five or six in company.

In the evening we exchanged \$150 of paper money for gold and then bought us two gum coats and pants, in which we were completely bit, paying at least one-third more than their real worth.

In this town was a real curiosity, there was exhibited an OX raised in Illinois which was 19 hands high, 18 feet 6 inches in length from the nose to the tip end of the tail. He measured 9 feet 8 inches around the kidneys, and although he was quite lean he weighed 3500 pounds. He was the common scrub breed, was perfectly white and was sold to the butchers for \$75, they then failed in fattening him and sold him for \$150, and the persons now were offered \$1500 for him but they would not sell as they were exhibiting him, and intended to take him to the World's Fair at New York.

The 26th. Early this morning we left St. Louis and started up the river. There is a marked difference in the waters of the Mississippi and Missouri, the former being clear, the latter looks just as though it were full of ashes and is muddy indeed. About 8:00 this morn we passed St. Charles—a fine looking town of perhaps a thousand inhabitants. This was the only town which we saw this day of any importance. The river bottom appears to be five or six miles wide with hills on each side and in many places there are bold and rugged bluffs with rocky fronts of one and two hundred feet in height. On the top of these hills are the commencement of many fine farms. This day we traveled very slow, perhaps four miles per hour, the day being cloudy with heavy winds.

Sunday, March the 27th. This is a beautiful day with a cool wind. The river appears as usual except a remarkable rise. We passed no towns of note until 5:00 in the evening when we came to Jefferson City, the State Capitol, where they landed and took on board ten heavy wagons. In this town we visited the Capitol. This is a fine building outside but is not well finished on the inside. It is built of polished

limestone and looks beautiful. There is a circular portico in front one-half of the circle extending into the building. In front are round columns nearly four feet in diameter and nearly forty-five feet high which support the roof. I suppose the building is two hundred by one hundred twenty feet and stands on a bluff near the river. The city has a very poor and uneven location, and is tied to the earth by extreme poverty. The city being unsurpassed in native ugliness.

This day I spent much of my time in reading my Bible and meditating on the wretched condition of those who follow trafficking along the river and desecrate the Lord's Day by unloading and running on the Sabbath, when I felt to thank God that I was not a sailor and brought up in profaning the Lord's Day.

Monday the 28th. A beautiful day with continued rise in the river. At 8:00 we landed at Boonville on the west side, a business-like place with perhaps two thousand inhabitants, its situation rather rough—the sandbars are spotted with thousands of wild geese—many fine farms on the west side. At 5:00 in the evening we arrived at Glasgow, a pleasant town on the west side.

29th. This morn fair with some towns on the west side—I had a hard raking on free agency and falling from grace—and a hard contest with a Campbellite minister on the essentials of Baptism. This day we passed a fine prairie of some five miles in extent. It was really beautiful to the eye, the ground was apparently as level as a house floor, and covered with dry grass a yard high and as thick as it could stand. At 12:00 this night there was a card table surrounded with five abettors who seemed to handle each other's money very freely. How long this continued I do not know.

This night I went to bed feeling that I was among a band of thieves and robbers. After commending my soul and body to God in secret devotion accompanied with an ardent desire that He would save me from the sin and infamy of gambling in all its forms, I sunk quietly to rest.

Wednesday, the 30th. At daylight we landed at Lexington, went into the town and visited Cousin Ezra Boyer, formerly of Maryland. He came on board and talked what time we had to stay. Lexington is situated on a level piece of ground perhaps one hundred and fifty feet above the river and has a considerable population.

We continued up the river, occasionally landing passengers and freight. At 10:00 at night our Campbellite minister, so noted for debating, gave us the parting hand and left. Again the card table was surrounded by four anxious abettors striving to rob each other of their money.

31st. This morn we found our boat at Independence, the day clear and warm. At 10:00 we came to Kansas, a town near the mouth of the Kansas River which separates Missouri from Nebraska territory. There was a peculiar contrast between the waters of the Kansas and Missouri, the former being very clear and seems to run over the waters of the Missouri, while in many places the muddy waters boil up and make the stream look spotted, which reminds one of the horizon when it is bestudded with numerous clouds. At sunset we landed at Fort Leavenworth, a Military Station in Nebraska. There is a splendid

stone warehouse at the landing, and upon an elevation of two hundred feet is the barracks and town, and back of this is a prairie as smooth as a floor and dotted with timber. This surely is a handsome place, while the soldiers look beautiful.

Nebraska will soon come into market and it is one of the richest countries in the world and is very inviting to emigrants. At dark we halted at Platt City Landing and loaded much freight. At 9:00 we came to Weston. Here James Edwards landed for the purpose of purchasing a team.

April the 1st. This morning we saw a tent and four wagons belonging to Oregon Emigrants. At 4:00 in the afternoon we landed at St. Joseph and put up our provisions and boarded at Mr. Blackstone's, a man who formerly lived in Middle Town and had recently moved to Missouri. We paid \$3 per week for board.

On Saturday, the 2nd, I remained in the house with my sister, as my brother-in-law had not returned and the children were unwell and very cross.

Sabbath, the 3rd. There was preaching in a number of places in town, but on account of circumstances I remained at home.

The 4th. Today Edwards and I went some twenty miles and brought home four yoke of cattle which he had purchased and for which he had paid \$285.

On the 5th we continued making arrangements, the weather continuing warm and dry.

On the 6th we purchased another yoke of oxen and some other necessities, the oxen cost \$70. This day we also secured an old wagon which needed considerable repairs and cost \$50 when ready for use.

The 7th. Continued preparations. While here court was in session, and a criminal case was investigated. In July last, four men formed a plot to whip a man to death because he owed them a few dollars which was ill-gotten gains, and which he refused to pay. For the accomplishment of their plot they secured handcuffs and went into the store and purchased cowhides, and then went to his own house in St. Joseph and compelled him to leave a sick bed and drove him by force out of town, handcuffed him and tied him to a bush, stripped him and commenced whipping him. While the whipping operation was going on they sent one of their number two or three times into town to buy liquor; thus they continued drinking and whipping him until he was dead, the operation lasting from four to six hours when death relieved the suffered from further bodily pain. Then they threw his clothes up in the bush over him to point out his remains. Mr. Jennings was tried, found guilty, sentenced to be hung, and the third of June was appointed for his execution. The trial of the remaining three will take place soon and they in all human probability will share a similar fate. This was surely one of the most shocking, cold-blooded murders ever committed and the perpetrators should not go unpunished.

On the 8th our wagon was ready and we loaded some of our provisions.

The 9th we secured another yoke of cattle and at 4:00 in the afternoon we started on our journey and felt glad when we were out of the city. The last yoke of cattle cost \$80 and our boarding \$24.

When we left St. Joseph a number of reflections crossed my mind. St. Joseph is a hard place. Mechanics charge extravagantly high for their work. It contains 4000 people and is a stirring place. A few days before we were there four negroes were sold at public sale, an old man, woman and two children.

We went four miles and stopped for the evening. We watered and tied our cattle to the wagons, got our suppers, breakfasts and a bed for Mary and the children and grain for the cattle and paid \$2.15. We slept this night in the wagon.

The 10th. Being late on our journey we traveled twelve miles to Savannah, the county seat of Noble County. This day was dry and cold.

Monday the 11th. We started early this morning and traveled on till a little after noon, when there came a violent storm of rain and thunder. I had my gum coat on and was in all the rain but did not get much wet. This morn we purchased a cow for which we paid \$16. We traveled a mile or two after the rain, when we took up our lodgings in an old deserted cabin where we baked bread for the two days following. This night was very rainy.

The 12th. This morning we started and traveled over a very muddy road and about 2:00 or 3:00 in the evening we came to a large prairie which was eight miles across. We drove pretty fast and reached a lodging on the west side. There were no buildings, nothing but prairie hens, cranes, ravens and turkeys. This prairie is one of the beauties of nature. It is rolling or hilly land and would certainly be rich and very productive if cultivated. This night we pitched our tents and for the first time found ourselves enjoying the realities of a trip to Oregon. The wind blew a gale, and a threatening storm hurried us in our preparations. We kindled a fire, made our coffee and fried meat and spread a quilt in our tent, placed our supper on it, seated ourselves on the ground and commenced helping ourselves. I enjoyed the feast very well. Mary, James, and the children slept in the wagon while Hare and myself slept in the tent. We were happily disappointed in the rain shower.

Wednesday, the 13th, we traveled five miles, came to the Nodaway —paid \$1 for ferrage. This day was very cold and windy and in the evening snowed some. We slept in the house this night and in the morn we started and traveled five miles and came to one of the mud-diast roads; we doubled teams and consumed three hours in going one mile.

This evening, the 4th, we crossed a prairie five miles wide; while in the middle of this prairie two yoke of oxen balked and it was late at night before we found a resting place.

The 15th. This morning Edwards left in order to buy a yoke or two of oxen. He purchased one yoke for which he paid \$85 and returned at 5:00 in the evening.

On the 16th we yoked our cattle and started. This day we traveled thirteen miles and camped for the night.

On Sabbath, the 17th, as we were late in meeting our company we thought it advisable to drive a short distance. At 10:00 we came to a river and had to ferry. In going to the ferry we had to drive through back water as the river was over its banks, and I got in over my boots. When we got to the ferry the oxen would not draw the wagon into the boat as the mud was deep, so we had to unload. We got over and paid \$1.25 for ferrage. We camped this night and carried our feed and water a quarter of a mile.

Monday, the 18th, we pursued our course—the day windy and cool. In the afternoon we entered a twelve-mile prairie and had to travel until 9:00 o'clock before we found fuel and water.

On the 19th we came within twelve miles of Caynesville, passing through Coonsville, a dirty little shiretown, and camped for the night.

The 20th. This morning Edwards went to Caynesville to see the arrangements of the company in which he intended to travel across the plains, but to his surprise he left the town without hearing from them. On his way to camp he met a Brethren minister, who told him a number of the company would come next day. This night we had quite a rain.

The 21st. This morning Edwards and Hare went to Coonsville to get the wagon tire and to buy corn, and purchased sixteen bushels at 40c per bushel.

They returned Friday the 22nd. This night it commenced raining and we had a very heavy wind and rain from the east, and about 3:00 o'clock in the morning of the 23rd, just as it was raining, our tent blew over—which raised us rather early in the morning.

This day continued very rainy and cold and Mary was quite unwell. We got some breakfast and gave her a good drink of brandy and covered her quite warm and then she felt better. This night it still rained heavy and blew up very cold and late at night snowed considerable.

Sunday, the 24th. Very cold and windy.

The 25th, pleasant and Edwards went with the wagon after corn and bought sixteen bushels for which he paid 65c per bushel. This evening three Indians came to our camp and wanted money and something to eat—after eating some bread and meat they left.

Tuesday, the 26th, I walked to Caynesville to see our Company, but could hear nothing from them, as the Rev. Mr. Connor had not yet arrived. Received a letter from my brother at home and found all things well.

The 27th was cloudy and after night it commenced raining and rained very hard until 7:00 in the morning.

The 28th. After it ceased raining we made arrangements and moved to another camp where we could get hay for our cattle.

The 29th and 30th were dry and cool.

Sunday, May the 1st. Edwards went to the Brethren Camp, and found a number there, but neither of the Missionaries had arrived.

The 2nd. Nothing of interest happened and in the evening Edwards went out to kill a deer; he saw one and the first shot brought it to the ground. There being another brought into camp all were served with venison.

The 3rd. I went to Caynesville, put a letter into the office and received one from my brother Peter and found all my relations well at home. I here formed an acquaintance with Brother Connor as he came in the office while I was in, and also made arrangements with the rest of the company to move near the ferry.

The 4th continued cold.

Thursday, the 5th, a fine day and we moved to the camp near the ferry and camped with the Colony, who were busy in making preparations to cross the river.

The outfit consisted of the following articles:

800 lbs. of flour, 100 lbs. of ham, bacon, 60 lbs. of dried beef, 5 lbs. of pepper, 5 bu. of dried apples, 50 lbs. of rice, 3 lbs. of vinegar, 26 lbs. of cheese, 2 bunches of fire kindling, 20 lbs. rosin, 20 lbs. tallow, 5 lbs. of tartaric acid, 3 gals. of brandy, 5 cans of powder, 3 gals. of alcohol, 130 yds. of rope, 5 lbs. Salaratus, 2 bbls. of pilot bread, 160 lbs. of sides, bacon, 13 lbs. of tea, 2 sacks of salt, 1 bu. of beans, 3 lbs. of allspice, 3 gals. of pickles, 1 box matches, 1 lb. of ginger, 20 lbs. of black lead, 1 10-gal. water keg, 1 3-gal. water keg, 100 lbs. of sugar, 6 lbs. of mustard, 10 lbs. candles, 12 lbs. of lead, 5 lbs. of soda.

On the 6th we intended to cross but by delays and inaction we failed.

Saturday, the 7th of May. About 10:00 in the morning we commenced crossing and by 4:00 in the afternoon we were all safely landed on the western shore, and for the first time felt that we had left civilization—turned our backs to happiness while our faces fronted dangers, hunger, and fatigue while we traveled through an uncultivated region of two thousand miles in extent.

Our company consisted of thirteen families, numbering about eighty persons, and twenty-six wagons and carriages, and near three hundred head of cattle besides a number of horses. The number of teams being much too large for the number of men, which made the labors of the camp very laborious. Our ferrage cost \$4 per wagon and 25c a head for stock. We drove four miles and camped, where we remained over Sabbath and let our cattle graze.

The 9th. This morning we put a tongue in a wagon which had been broken and in the afternoon drove seven miles, crossing Papillion creek, and camped for the night.

The 10th. This morning is very cold with much frost and the ground froze a little. This day we drove near fifteen miles and camped on the bank of a creek where our stock was nearly without grass. The

bridge being so very poor that we had to unhitch our teams and run the wagons by hand. There were two or three logs thrown across the stream—brush thrown across the logs and dirt on the brush—and this was so narrow that there was scarcely room for the wagon wheels:

The 11th. We crossed this bridge, drove about eight miles and camped. This evening they drove their cattle over a slough to an island which had good grass. When a large number of them mired and we had to wade through the water to our waists to get them out.

On the 12th we moved to the Elk Horn River, paid \$3 a wagon for ferriage, swam our cattle and drove some distance, making ten miles this day.

The 13th day fine. We traveled near twenty miles and camped in the open prairie without wood and nearly without water—we made coffee and baked bread with weeds for fuel.

14th. This morning is rainy—we started and about noon came to one of the most miserable sloughs I ever saw. It was three rods wide and the wagons went into the mud up to the wagon beds. When most of our company were over, after breaking many chains, there came an awful wind and rain storms such as I had never seen and I took it all after wading the slough. We drove six or seven miles, passed an Indian who had been lying shot, and was lying to the side of the road. After camping for the evening I concluded the day rather unpleasant, and eventful for a birthday.

Sabbath, the 15th. This morning at 9:00 we had a sermon by Br. Connor, from the first six verses of the 10th chapter of Corinthians—drove twelve miles and camped; had a sermon at night.

16th. This morning we divided our company and drove twelve miles to the Loup Fork. At 4:00 this afternoon there was quite a rain and wind, and about dark there was a tremendous rainstorm which continued through the night. This night there was a daughter born in Mr. Mason's family.

17th. Some fifty wagons which were waiting to be ferried over, and our turn should come next morning. This evening it again rained very hard.

18th. This morning is very cold with a perfect gale of wind which prevented ferrying, and we continued in camp all day.

19th. I being on guard this morning raised a whoop in camp at 4:00 to awake the people. They were soon up and had breakfast when we moved to the ferry, drove our cattle a mile upstream to the ford and drove them over. This was a hard task for me, as I with a number of others had to wade over and drive the cattle. When they got into the river the cattle struck down the stream and waded perhaps a mile before we reached the opposite shore. The river was sixty or eighty rods wide with sandy bottom and runs very swift, being from one to two and a half feet deep. Our wagons were all across by noon and we drove some eight miles and camped on the banks of a little lake, the water being as clear as crystal. Here strong dissatisfaction between different members of the company appeared.

The 20th. The day beautiful and we traveled until noon when we came to a slough where the rear wheels of Edward's wagon sunk in the tough sod to the hubs—he started his cattle and to his surprise they drew the wagon out. This day we traveled sixteen miles.

The 21st. This day was very warm, the first warm day we have had this spring. At noon we came to another swamp where a number of wagons stuck and had to double teams. This night we camped in the Loup Fork after traveling sixteen or eighteen miles.

22nd. This morning is again wet and we remained in camp all day and in the evening we had a sermon by Mr. Lichtenhaler.

The 23rd. This morning we started up the Loup Fork bottom as we had been following that stream for the ford, the road was bad and near noon we came to the bluffs—we passed into them and found a strange looking place. The ground appeared to be piled up with heaps of from one to ten acres in extent—the sand being some six inches deep in the road. The Loup Fork bottom is a bed of gritty sand, the grass being very scarce. After a hard day's drive we struck the Platt Bottom.

24th. This morning we traveled ten miles and came to a swail which was very deep and muddy. We raised our wagon beds a few inches, doubled teams and drove over without much injury excepting the upsetting of one of Mr. Lichtenhaler's wagons and wetting some of his goods. We camped on the bank and dried our things.

Next morning, the 25th, we started and traveled through the rain, as it commenced raining just as we started and rained all day; after going seven miles we came to Wood River, where we found a brush bridge and toll gatherers; we paid 40c a wagon, crossed over; drove four miles and camped. The paying of the toll was unjust and imposed by a set of rascals.

26th. The day fine. We drove sixteen or eighteen miles over a muddy hard road most of the way and camped near where four oxen died this day from drinking alkali water. This night a young woman died of the measles in a camp near us.

27th. Fine cool day. We traveled eighteen miles; in the evening we crossed two deep ravines and camped on the bank of a small stream, had fine grass. This evening there was a grave near us, the body being dug up by the wild beasts, there being some of the bones

28th. We traveled ten miles and came to a creek—crossed over the bridge, ate a bite of dinner when our company divided, a part camped while Edwards and Connor drove until evening and camped. This evening it rained some and at night rained very hard.

29th. It ceased raining with a light wind and we continued in camp over the Sabbath—held prayer-meeting at night. I think I am as tired today from exposure and hard labor as I ever was in my life. I could scarcely get up when sitting or lying down.

Monday, the 30th, we traveled ten miles up Buffalo Creek, crossed over and made twenty miles this day and found nearly an entire absence of grass. It again rained very hard at night.