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JOURNAL  
OF  
WM. SCARGE  
SCEARCE

Presented to the Society November, 1953, by Mrs. Etta M. Mariger,  
Leeds, Utah. This is the diary of her great grandfather.

The Leanys' were in Second Hundred. Capt. Edw. Hunter, 2nd Fifty, Capt. Jacob Foutz. Officially left Winter Quarters June 17, 1847; arrived October 1, 1847. Had heard some wagons really entered in last days of September, among them the Leanys.

These were Leanys:

Isaac and wife, Sarah Ann; Children, Margaret E. and George Calvert, William and wife Elizabeth, Child Sarah Ann; Elizabeth's father William Scearce, who says they were ready June 14. He infers they may have driven out of Winter Quarters.

#### SKETCHES OF JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS

Left Winter Quarters 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 1847, and proceeded to the Horn 27 miles; rafted over the wagons, five hundred and forty in number.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. On being curiously organized in a company of tens, fiftys, and hundreds, struck the north fork of Platte and traveled up the same.

The fifth of July fired two cannons, before reaching the Missionary Station.

July 6<sup>th</sup>. Passed the old Pawnee village now in ruins. Saw no Indians. Traveled. We were 20 miles farther up and crossed over and struck across for the main Platte and reached the same opposite grand Island. 56 (?) Saw two buffalo. Travel up from the Platte, which is beautiful, wide sheet of water very shallow. The hunters began to kill some antelope which abound in this region. Cold wind.

Elders Taylor and Pratt captured two stray horses supposed to have strayed from the Oregon Company on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Some buffalo are killed on fifteenth. Numerous herds of buffalos appear in many directions and our hunters killed several at night. Capt. Grant's cattle took fright and ran off.

Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. More buffalo killed. Camped at night on the beautiful Platte, destitute of any timber. Company alarmed at night by bellowing of vast herd of buffalo on the opposite side of the river.

Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Held meeting at 11 and 4. After meeting a number of youths were baptised and confirmed and many children blessed. Some letters are received from the pioneers.

Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Remained in camp for the purpose of hunting the lost cattle of Capt. Grant's Company. Several buffalo were killed and some antelopes found and drove in three oxen from south side of the river, supposed to have strayed from the Oregon company.

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Elders Pratt and Taylors companies removed 7 miles up the river to get better grass and receive a contribution of oxen and send to Capt. Grant's Co.--29 travel on a short distance. This day 7 or 8 buffalo were killed and brought in. Immense herds appear on both sides of the river.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Resume our journey. Several wagons are crippled. At night Capt. Smoot's Co. came up and are encamped near us.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rain in the morning. Camp moves on to where P. P. Pratt is encamped. All encamp to await Capt. Grant's Co. to come up. Are honored with a visit from a band of Sioux, both men, women, and children. In the evening they entertained us with a dance and some of our people returned the compliment. Capt. Grant's Co. is not yet come up.

July 24. Capt. Grant's and all travel on. Indians accompany us. Much traffic with them for robes and skins. A heavy rain at night.

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>. No traveling today. Early in the morning Brother Phineas Young and Elsworth and others arrive in camp from the pioneers, which much rejoiced our hearts to see them and to hear from the brethren ahead.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. Started our journey. Ascend the sand bluffs and cross several small streams and encamp at night by fifties.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. Started early. Crossed large creek. Made good day's travel. Good feed at night.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. Start early. Heavy thunder shower lays mostly to the south of us. Encamp at poor feed.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. Very cool. Reach a sand bluff and cross several deep sand beds. Camped at night opposite Jardes Mountain. Good feed.

July 30<sup>th</sup>. Start early. Tolerable good road. Encamp at night opposite the Stone Steeple. Good feed.

July 31<sup>st</sup>. Start early. Tolerable good roads. One of our wagon tires came off. Stop and put it on. Wedge it on. Very warm. Tolerable good feed. Encamp on the river.

Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Remain in camp. Take a walk in the evening. See first white bear, also a gang of antelope.

August 2. Start early in the morning. Pass the beautiful Mission Bluffs on the south side. A wagon tire came off. Stop to wedge it on. Get in camp late.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Make a good day's travel. Encamp at night. Good feed. Work all night. Set five wagon tires.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. Made through deep sand. Encamp at night. Poor feed.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. Stop at noon. No feed for the cattle. Go a short distance and encamp to wait for some that were behind. Poor feed. Trade some with the Indians.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. Made a late start. Cross the river at Laramie. Go a few miles. Encamp. Put up a coal pit to burn some coal.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. Remain in camp to repair wagons and travel a short distance to get feed. Encamp early in evening.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. Remain in camp. Put up a coal pit to burn some coal.

August 10<sup>th</sup>. Remain in camp and repair wagons.

August 11<sup>th</sup>. Start on. Pass the Warm Springs. Stop at noon on a high ridge. Little feed. Camp at night at the ?

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Start early. Some bad road to pass. In the evening camp at night with Rich, Grant, and Harns companies at the Hot Springs. Remain in camp to repair wagons. Smoot's company came up at night. Had lost 12 head of horses by the Indians.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. Go on six miles to camping ground. Good feed.

August 15<sup>th</sup>. Burn a coal pit and remain in camp to set tire and shoe oxen.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. Three bears and an antelope killed.

August 17<sup>th</sup>. Move in a short distance. Bad road. Poor feed at night.

August 18<sup>th</sup>. Make good day's travel. Lost one of my cows by her thigh getting broken. Rough roads. Poor feed at night.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. Make a late start. One of the brethern upsets his wagon in a trench. Stop early in the evening on a large creek. Pretty good feed. Wet evening.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. This day muddy road. Reached the Platte about 10 A.M. Travel about 10 miles. Good feed on north side of the river.

August 21<sup>st</sup>. Made a late start. Cross a creek. Good road. Encamp at night. Drive cattle over river to good feed.

Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Travel up to the cross place. Cross and camp. We take four oxen on the river. Several cattle are taken sick by drinking the slew water, which is strongly impregnated with mineral substances, but by careful attendance none of them died.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Start early. Travel to the water. Encamp early. No wood and poor water. I went out hunting. Saw one antelope.

August 24<sup>th</sup>. Late. Capt. Shurtleff went in advance of the Company. Went past the feed and camp where there was no feed or much water. Travel 4½ miles.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. Late start. Heavy fog. Travel a short distance. Capt. Grant killed a buffalo.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. Start early. Travel through hard sand. Cross a beautiful creek. Deep sand continues to Sweetwater, where we encamp and remain on the 27<sup>th</sup> to rest our cattle.

August 28<sup>th</sup>. Go on and pass Independence Rock. Travel ten miles and encamp. Good water and good feed.

August 29<sup>th</sup>: Start early. Rough, heavy sand road. The teams got alarmed. Run some distances; break an axle. Stop and repaired. Encamp at the river.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. Go through some deep sand. Pass the two chimneys. Encamp on the river. Good feed. Distance and miles.

August 31<sup>st</sup>. Remain in camp. I wait for Brother Taylor.

September 1. Start late. Cross the creek. Water three miles. Travel nine miles. Encamp on the Bear River.

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Travel seventeen miles. Poor feed.

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Travel 8 miles to good feed on the river.

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Remain in camp. Bro. Taylor preaches in the evening.

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Travel 15 miles to a branch of the Sweet Water and on this way discovered some of the Wind River Range of Mountains capped with snow.

Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Travel 7 miles to the last fork of the Sweet Water. Good feed.

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. An outfit arrives from the Twelve and Pioneers, requesting us encamp until they meet us. Agreed.

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This is from the diary of Wm. Scearce, father of Elizabeth Scearce Leany, wife of Wm. Leany. Last page of diary undecipherable.

Wm. Scearce, a well-to-do merchant of Richmond, Indiana, embraced the L.D.S. Faith in Indiana in 1842. He and 18 year old Elizabeth were the only ones of the family to do so. His wife was already dead, but his older children refused to listen to the new faith.

The two went to Nauvoo, and Elizabeth met Wm. Leany, a convert from Kentucky. They were married 1845, journeyed to Kentucky, then to Richmond, Indiana, where they visited their relatives, and Elizabeth obtained money and other belongings left behind.

Wm. Scearce died in January, 1851, in Salt Lake City, Utah.