

TRAVELS OF B. P. SLOAN

1846-51

The Mexican War - Overland trail to California - Digging
gold in California

These pages copied from a typewritten copy of
the original diary loaned by Mr. Leslie Lewis, 3904
Duncan, St. Joseph, Mo.

The original diary also in possession of Mr Lewis.

(Bracken P. Sloan was a brother of the grand-mother
of Mr. Leslie Lewis)

Copied by
D. L. Reynolds

5/65

TRAVELS OF B. P. SLOAN

In the summer of 1846 I volunteered to the army of the United states that was destined for New Mexico. On the 23 of July we was mustered into horsemen and received our arms (carbines and sabers) On the 9 of August we set out for Mexico. We camped on a beautiful creek called Stranger. On the 11 cross Caw River and pursued our journey over the wide prairie without any thing of note until we came to Council Grove. This is a beautiful grove of timber. There is a few trading houses here. We traveled on without anything of note until we came to Cow Creek. Here we found buffalo. It was great sport to see the boys in pursuit of them, many a fellow had to take it a foot back for his sport, some horses was broke down, while others threw their riders and soon was out of sight with the buffalo. The country along here is a level sandy. On the following day we struck the Arkansas River. Our course lay up it. We saw several tribes of Indians on the river hunting (to-wit Osage Arapahoes Chyans) On the 11 of September we landed at Great Bent. This Fort is built of adobies has two pieces of artillery mounted. It was a trading post belonging to Gov. Bent & Co. previous to the breaking out of the Mexican War since it has been made a depot for government. One Company of soldiers is stationed here to keep the Indians in subjection. On the 8 of November we came to some Spanish settlements. They was very friendly towards us, On the 9 we marched through Iaregin & on the same day passed through Tocalata and camped at the Burnel Springs or peak. On the 10 we passed through San Maguil. This is a beautiful town situated on San Wagon River. It is built of adobies the houses one story high the roof flat and covered with dirt. We camped that night in sight of old Paquis. This is the ruins of the same. A portion of the church yet stands. It has been three stories high. There is an altar here that the inhabitants say there was a fire always burning on it for two hundred years that Montazuma might return to them. There is a great many of the Indians still believes he will return to deliver them from their enemies. They may be seen on their house top watching for him to come with the rising sun. On the 12 we landed in Santafe. This is a large town. It is built of adobies. Colonel Doniphan & General Price was here in a few days after our arrival. Doniphan left for retreat with the Navajoes. A portion of our camp was sent about forty-five miles south of Santafe to what is called the pons for the purpose of grazing our horses as forage couldn't be had at Santafe. I went with the grazing party. In a short time we moved our camp down on the San Maguil River below Stanton checo. We remained here until in January in open ~~text~~ the snow sometimes six or ten inches deep. We were moved to Lavegus under guidance of Capt. Henly. As there was a great talk of insurrection, and

this talk soon become a fact, on the twenty fourth of January we received orders to march against the town of Moroe to bring the natives in subjection as they had rebelled and murdered in cold blood some eight Americans without any cause, some of them had wives living in that town. On the night of the 24 we camped in five miles of the train. On the morning of the twenty-fifth we was formed into line front face then our noble captain (Henly) rode out and addressed his small band and pointed out the glory and honor of victory the shame & misery of cowardice. He spoke in such lively terms of the future that made each bosom burn for victory, and each man was ready to die in his country's cause if needed. We then started for the Moroe, the wind blew from the north the snow flying thick and I think I never experienced a colder morning in all my life. When we got in about one half mile of town we stoped and made a fire out of some house logs whilst we were trying to warm ourselves we seen four Indians running into the Mexican Fort. Capt Henly ordered four men to charge them. The men pursued them til within gun shot of the Fort, the whole Mexican force then appeared in front of the fort. A general charge was then ordered and soon this little band was seen flying towards the enemy each straining his steed to his best. There was unfortunately a deep ditch that was hid by the snow, full one half of our horses fell in the ditch, yet those that had the good luck to leap the ditch faltered not but pushed forward. Those that fell got their horses out and came with redoubled speed, some left their horses and came on a foot. The enemy soon found their holes. We took eighteen prisoners. We then went to work to get in the Fort. There was a constant fire kept up for some two hours, our men shooting at the Fort holes whenever Mexicans dared to cross it. We were obliged to get axes for to get into the Fort. We had got within one room of the main Fort when our gallant Captain was shot. He died instantly, and I am sorry to say that the next in command was panick struck and ordered a retreat. There was a great dissatisfaction among the soldiers. The retr^eating Commander led the way from the field of strife when he ought to heve been foremost to lead his men to victory. He reached Lavegus, that night some of the soldiers did not come in till the next day. Sometime in February the 10 or 12 Capt. Morin was ordered out to take Mora. When we returned the town was evacuated. We took three prisoners. These took us to the main body of the Mexicans. We came upon them on the mountain. The men fled, women and children scattered. but they soon came back when they was assured that we would not molest them. We took the women & children to town, gave them houses sufficient for their protection from the weather. The rest was burned in a short time. Capt. Morin was ordered out to bring in a wagon train from Pickett when on our return we had our horses stole. The Indians had got the provisions in the safe. About the twentieth of March Capts. Morin, Robinson and Henley Jacob was ordered to _____, one hundred miles north of Santafe. On the tenth of April I got a furlow to go to mule town of the San

Maguil River in search of my horse. Two men accompanied me, William Har and Martin Brooks. On our way we fell in company with George Hopkins. On the 13 we came across about twenty-five Indians. We at first mistook them for Spanards and galloped up among their horses to see if any of ours was among them. We soon saw the mistake. They tried to surround us. We kept them at bay by leveling our guns. By this means we made our escape and got to mule town that day. On the same day the Indians had run off a caravan of horses from mule town and took a large lot of corn from the inhabitants. We returned to without further molestation. On the 28th of May Capt. Morin with 18 men was ordered out to treat and make present to the Utah Indians. We found the Indians about one hundred miles north of and 30 west of the Rio Grande. The Indians received us kindly. We gave them some powder, lead, tobacco and butcher knives, etc., etc. We returned and on the sixth of June I was on the battle ground of Sinege. I was not in the battle, therefore I forego giving particulars. Our camp lost their horses, five killed and 8 wounded out of 27 men.

Killed, - Third Lieutenant Larkins

Corporeal Owens

Privates John A. Wright

William Wayson

George Cay

Wounded, - William Story

R. H. Lewis

A. Riley

C. Fuget

John Hanington

John White

A. S. Wilkison

Corporal Holand

The wounded was carried to on litters. Here we remained until the wounded was able to travel. Then we returned to Santafe. On the 2 of August we left for the States. The same day that we left Santafe we left six Mexicans swinging to the gallows. We came the Cimerone route - about 20 miles below the crossing of Arkansas there is a fort built called Fort Man. Nothing of note occurred through our travels homeward. We was discharged at Fort Leavenworth on the 23rd of September, 1847. In the following winter and spring I worked on the farm. On the 23rd of June, 1848 - I was employed as a teamster to go to Santafe. We got there after a long hard journey. We landed back at Independence on the 3 of December and the following spring I took the Calif. fever - yet I remained at home until the spring 1850.

B. P. SLOAN'S TRIP TO CALIFORNIA---May the 5, 1850.

Sunday

The California fever took a deep hold on me in the year 1850, and still seemed to grow worse, so I thought I would cool the fever-- in order to do so I started for the gold hills on the fifth of May, 1850. (I intend to give all the particulars of my journey as far as I am able) We pitched our tent on the west side of the Missouri for the night from Fort Leavenworth to Salt Creek five miles --

Monday the 6 --

Thence to Twins Creek

" 10 miles farther and camped for the night.

Tuesday the 7

3 miles to Walnut Creek 3 miles and camped on Rock Creek. On this morning we had light snow.

Wednesday 8

Six miles to Soldier Creek thence fourteen miles farther and camped on Little Wolf.

Thursday 9

Six miles to Big Wolf Creek, thence ten miles and camped in the open prairie.

Friday 10

On the morning of the 10 - 15 miles to the point Wolf Creek - thence 5 miles to Muescheto Creek and camped for the night. There was no grass at this place of any consequence.

Saturday 11

Five miles and turned off the road 2 miles in order to get grass for our stock.

Sunday 12

We lay by.

13^(?) We left our encampment and traveled twenty miles and camped for the night.

Monday 14

Rolled out two and a half miles to Big Nemaha. This is a beautiful creek. There is some fine timber grows on the creek.

Tuesday 15

Left our encampment four miles to Elm Creek, then eight miles to Dry Creek, thence four miles and encamped on Prairia Creek.

Wednesday the 16 May

On the morning of the 16 twelve miles to Big Blew. This stream is about one hundred feet wide. The ford is deep but good bottom. The stream affords timber sufficient for farming purposes in a small degree.

Thence one hundred miles and camped on the south of the road.

Thursday 17

We left our encampment and twelve miles to Mire Creek we had to unload our wagon in consequence of the mud and thence one and a half miles and camped on Willow Creek.

Friday the 18

Rolled out and thirteen and a half miles brought us to Vermillion Creek thence one mile and camped.

Saturday the 19

We rolled out and twelve miles brought us to Little Sandy then four miles and camped on the north of the road Here we had a rain it was very exceptable.

Sunday May the 20

We left our encampment and ten miles brought us to Big Sandy then four miles to Dry Sandy then four miles to Elm Sandy here we camped Here a man was tried for stealing a yoke of oxen. He was cleared another man was condemned in his place to be whiped he took foot ^{bail} ~~trail~~?

Monday the 21

Three miles travel brought us to Willow Sandy thence three miles to Little Blew. This is a beautiful stream. It is about seventeen yards wide, the growth is oak and cottonwood principally - then twelve miles up this stream and camped on the same.

Tuesday May 22

Traveled sixteen miles and pitched our tents on Little Blew.

Wednesday May 23

We struck tents and traveled twenty miles and camped for the night on Blew Here the road takes to the north west.

Thursday 24

We left our encampment and struck for Platte River four miles to t boxelder creek then five miles to pon creek then seven miles and camped. I and three other men went a hunting and lost our wagons and did not find them til next morning.

Friday May 25

We struck our tents and traveled eighteen miles and struck Platte River near the middle of Grand Island then six miles up the river and camped. Platte bottom is as good soil apparently as that of Missouri - the road from here to Fort Leavenworth is hard to beat. We remained at our encampment until three o'clock in the afternoon - then struck our tents and ten miles brought us to Fort Carney. I forego giving a description of this place as we past it in the night. Here we had a hail storm that turned tents up side down which made some sware and charge while others took it all in good humor although the storm ceased and the sun arose and all

Sunday May the 27

We left our encampment and traveled two miles and came to where a number of emigrants was crossing the river. The river is about one and a half miles wide at this place then twenty two miles and camped for the night on the Platte.

Monday May the 28

Rolled out five miles to Plum Creek then twenty miles and camped. Here one of our company left us.

Tuesday May 29

Traveled twenty-six miles and camped for the night on the Platte.

Wednesday May 30

We struck tents and sixteen miles brought us to Ash Creek. The sand hills on the south of the road presents a romantick scene to the weary traveler - then eight miles farther and camped on Platte.

Thursday May 31

We left our encampment and twenty six miles brought us to the lower crossing of South Platte - here there is a noble spring - then six miles up the river and camped - here there is no grass,

Friday June 1, 1850

We lay in camp half of the day on account of the rain we then hitched up and went fourteen miles and camped.

Saturday June the 2

We left our encampment and twenty five miles brought us to the upper crossing of Platte - here we had a terrible hail storm.

Sunday June 3

We cross the river the ford is deep and sandy we had to raise our loading - we got over safe and sound - then fifteen miles to Ash Hollow - this is a very bad hill to descend and requires great care - we got down safe and sound - then three miles down the hollow and struck north Platte (Here we found Mr. Gordon's Company - the Indians had run their oxen off the night before some of their men was out after them they came in next morning with their oxen) Here we had a heavy rain with hail - the grass was scarce here.

Tuesday June 4 -

We left our encampment and six miles brought us to the Castle Bluffs - then seven miles and pitched our tents on Platte. The road is very sandy - no wood of any consequence - we had to haul wood for cooking purposes.

Wednesday June the 5

We lay by

Thursday 6

We left our encampment and traveled twenty miles and camped. This day we came through part of the Sew nation. They was friendly. There was one hundred and six wigwams.

Friday June 7

We struck tent and six miles to Smith's Creek - two miles on on the north of the road is a good spring then twelve miles and camped on Platte for the night. The road is sandy - grass scarce.

Saturday June 8

We rolled out two ad a half miles to a creek - two and a half miles more brought us opposite the Court House or Church hill. (this is a hill or mound that resembles a church or court house) thence thirteen miles brought us to the chimney Rock (as it is called) It is not a rock, but composed of sand and clay. It is said to be 250 feet high - it will in time wash away. Here we had a hail storm that stamped horses women and men I may say for they was all running in the same direction.

Sunday June the 9

We traveled twelve miles and camped for the night on Platte. Here the road leaves the river for some distance.

Monday June 10

We left our encampment and seven miles brought us to Scott's Bluff - then five miles to Cold Springs - it was on the north of the road (One mile onward to the north of the road a fine view can be had of the mountains) -- then five miles to a branch - then eight miles to horse creek - here we camped for the night.

Tuesday June 11

We rolled out and ten miles to Platte River - five miles up the river and camped, here was a trading post broken down stock bought &C

Wednesday June the 12

We struck tents and twenty miles brought us to Larima Fork. We forded this river. The Ford is deep and very swift one mile to Fort Larima. This Fort is on the west side of Larima River ad on the south side of Platte and about two miles from the mouth of the former. It has several fine buildings, some frame and one circular saw mill. We went three miles and camped on the Platte - the road good grass scarce.

Thursday June 13

We left our encampment and three miles to a steep hill to descend then two miles to the forks of the road (the right hand goes up the river and crosses it three times. We took the left hand it goes through the Black Hills) - then seven miles to the warm spring. It is on the north of the road. It is about luke warm - then three miles and camped at some pons on the north of the road. - grass good no wood

Friday June the 14

We struck tents and five miles to a creek. We crossed it four times - seven miles from where we struck this creek the road leaves it and takes to the west - here we camped - grass scarce - wood plenty.

Saturday the 15

We rolled out and six miles to a spring on the north of the road - then 7 miles to a large creek about ten yards wide - then three miles brought us to a long and steep hill to ascend then 4 miles and camped on a small creek.

Sunday June the 16

We left our encampment and 10 miles to Labonty River - it is about 40 feet wide good crossing then 5 miles to a small creek then 5 miles onward water can be had about one half mile north east of the road. Here we camped - grass scarce - sage for fuel - road bad.

Monday the 17

Eight miles to A La Crele River. It is narrow but deep and swift - after crossing two more small creeks we _____

Tuesday June 17

Came to Fourcher de Bois River a distance of 8 miles. It is about 16 2/3 yds. wide - the banks are steep then 4 miles to Platte River timber can be found on the point - grass rather scarce, here we camped.

Wednesday the 18

On the morning of the 18th we had a snow - struck tents and five miles to Deer Creek - this stream is 13 yards wide swift and gravily - here fish is plenty - here we camped - it is said to be 28 miles to the upper ferry on Platte up the south side of the river.

Thursday the 19

We crossed Platte in four canoes lashed together and part in a wagon bed - paid \$5. dollars per waggon swom our stock.

Friday the 20

We left our encampment and past through several fine bottoms of timber

and grass - twelve miles from the mouth of Deer Creek coal can be had, on the north of the road 12 miles farther and camped - no grass road hilly and sandy

Saturday the 21

We struck tents and 4 miles brought us to the upper ferry on Platte (here there was ferrie boats running - we left the river and traveled 7 miles west then turned to the south - 5 miles brought us to a mineral spring or pon (this should be avoided as a camping ground & stock should not be allowed to drink of it as it is poisonous to most stock) Then 14 miles to Willow Springs. This is a noble spring of pure cool water - here we camped - no grass - sage for fuel.

Sunday the 22

We left our encampment - 13 miles to Sage Creek - four miles farther brought us to a low marshy bottom covered with salvartus in places then five miles and struck sweat water this is a beautiful stream - grass plenty - no wood - here we camped.

the 23 Monday

We lay by

The 24 Tuesday

Struck tents and two miles to the Independence Rock - it is worthy of the travelers attention - here we crossed sweatwater - the ford is deep - three miles brought us opposite the Devils Gap - it is about one ½ mile north of the road and is worthy of the travelers attention - it is a gap in the mountain where sweat water passes its way through the granate rock- the bluffs are verticular and are said to be 400 feet high - in the next three miles we crost two small branches - then three miles & camped on sweat water - grass good - sage for fuel - roads heavy.

the 25 Wednesday

We rolled out 1 mile and cross a creek 8 miles and cross a cross six more miles and left the river for six miles

June 25 Thursday

when we struck it we camped - no grass - sage for fuel.

the 26 Friday

We crossed the river & and ½ mile & crossed the river again, then 100 yds and crossed it again. Here we had to raise our loading one fourth of a mile from the last crossing of the river there is a lake on the north of the road three and three fourths miles we left the river 4 miles and struck the river, here we crossed it again here we nooned - then 16 miles and struck the river again - here we camped - no grass.

June the 27 Saturday

We rolled out and crossed the river - then six miles to the river - two miles and nooned then two miles to a spring 3 miles and left sweat water

2½ miles and camped on the summit of a hill - grass good, - sage for fuel, (from upper Platte Ferry the country is volcanic in its character for over 60 miles water is sufficiently plenty but is thoroughly impregnated with poisonous matter so that it is dangerous for drinking purposes. therefore those that drive milch cows along for the use of their milk should abandon it for using the water and pasturing poisoned herbage of this district with the heat of the sun renders the milk of such cows unfit for use.

June the 28 - Sunday

We rolled out and past two small brooks a distance of 10 miles then 3 miles to Willow Creek then 4 miles to sweat water here we crossed it for the last time - here we camped - grass scarce Willow for fuel (there was a snow bank one hundred yards from where we lay 8 feet deep.

the 29 Monday

We left our encampment and 10 miles brought us to the south pass (distance from Fort Larima 254 miles or Fort Leavenworth 906 miles altitude 7490 feet above the level of the sea in latitude 42 deg. 27 M 15 seconds Longitude 109 deg. 27 mi 32 seconds) three miles to Pacific Spring. Here we camped - grass good - no wood.

Tuesday the 30th

We rolled out and ten miles brought us to a alkali creek - stock should not be allowed to partake of it - should be avoided as a camping ground - six miles to the forks of the road (the left hand goes by way of Salt Lake) We took the right hand it is sublets cut off) Six miles to Little Sandy It is about 30 feet wide - at this place we camped - no grass or any wood of any consequence.

Wednesday July the 1

This day we traveled to Big Sandy a distance of seven miles - Sandy is a beautiful stream and is about 29 yds. wide. the ford is shallow and sandy - grass scarce - no wood (here we left our wagon. I and James G. Lewis swoped our oxen for a horse apiece and sold our provisions all that we had to spare and fixed for packing.

Thursday the 2

We left camp at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and struck for green river we made it by ten o'clock on the morning of the third - a distance of fifty miles.

Friday the 3rd

We landed at green river this stream is a very rapid and deep and is dangerous to cross numbers of lives have been lost in it. (the 1 of this inst a man and his wife and one child was crossing this river in a boat the woman and child by accident was nocked over board her husband and another geltleman jumped overboard to save the woman and child -

they all four sunk to raise no more. - we crossed the river in a wogon bed and swam our horses. Fuel is scarce.

Saturday the 4

We lay by on the evening of the fourth the hills and mountains echoed with the roar of guns and loud huzzahs of the emigrants if they was far away from their native homes they still cherish in their bosom the love of liberty that was declared on that immemorial day.

Sunday the 5

We packed up - 5 miles to a branch in those five miles the road is very bad 3 miles onward we crossed the creek - grass good - then 6 miles to a small branch - no feed, then 6 miles and camped on a small creek - grass tolerable good.

Monday the 6

We packed up and four miles to a creek - 1 mile to a creek in the next five miles we past a number of springs in this ten miles we descended several steep and rocky hills which requires great care with wagons - feed is plenty numerous 4 miles to Ham's Forks in this four miles we ascended and descended several long and steep hills - one mile from the crossing of Ham's Fork we commenced ascending Ham's hill - it is about one mile long and the worst hill that we have past over yet four miles onward to the left of the road we found a spring on the edge of a grove of quakinggrass - 4 miles onward we camped at a spring on the north of the road - feed plenty - here various plants grow.

Tuesday the 7

We packed up and 1 mile brought us to the rund of a hill -- then a descent of 3 miles to a creek bottom ascend a hill 3 miles and descend the same to a creek - then 5 miles to Smiths forks by keeping the road next to the bluffs a low marshy bottom strongly charged with Akali and sulphur can be avoided we went through the bottom - Smiths forks is deep and rapid after crossing it 2 miles to a small creek then 1 mile to Bear river this stream is about 33 yds wide we followed down 3 miles then we left it and turned to the north in order to shun a large low marshy bottom 7 miles from Bear river we crossed a branch about 10 yds. wide. Here we camped grass good here there is some flax willow for fuel.

Wednesday the 8

We left camp 2 miles down the valley then one mile over the mountain then 2 miles down the valley then ascended the mountain again 1½ to the summit then 7 miles of descent and we struck Bear river valley. The soil is good in many places the valley is from one to five miles wide, but there is no timber in the valley or on the mountains flax

grows here in great abundance from where we struck the valley it is 5 miles to a branch 6 miles to a creek then 5 miles to a creek - here the snake Indians was camped they was very friendly towards us - then 1 mile and camped at a spring on the south of the road - grass good sage of fuel.

Thursday the 9

We left camp and 15 miles brought us to the Soda Springs in this distance we past a number of springs and branches. The Soda Springs takes their name on account of the water boiling up like a fountain of soda and tastes the same a few yards from Soda springs is the Beer Springs - two in number - then about 150 yards is the warm springs a pases from this is the sulphur springs. (in my opinion the 5 springs are caused by volcanoes) - there is a number of soda springs for something like a mile and some of them roales and bluber like boiling water in a pot and some have formed rock in a tapering form some three feet high is still boiling out of them from the soda spring to the Steam Boat Spring one mile this spring acts in the same as the scape pipe of a steam boat throwing the water from one to three feet in the air the water is about luke warm and tastes like soda water. (it was told by an old mountaineer that someyears ago that it would cook a ham of meat in a very short time) Where we left Bear river 3 miles to the forks of the road (the right hand by way of Fort Hull, distance 115 miles) we took the left hand (negroes cut off) then 5 miles and camped - no water - grass good - the country is volcanic in its character the valley is full of holes and the rocks in many places look as if they had been tossed to and fro by an earth quake or volcanic eruption The earth in places looks as it was covered with ashes, or something like lime.

Friday the 10

We left our encampment and six miles brought us to a creek then five miles across the mountain to another creek (as we ascended the mountain we found some sugar trees) and in the valley the whole face of the earth was covered with crickets some of them as large as patridge egg and was all traveling to the north east) then 2 miles we struck the elbow of a stream some 10 feet wide then 7 miles to Black creek - the soil is tolerably good on this creek then to summit of mountain 7 miles the mountain is covered with a growth of cedar then one mile and camped on a small branch - grass abundant willow for fuel.

Saturday the 11

Five miles to a creek then 7 miles to a branch in this seven miles the road is good -- grass flax ad wild wheat grow in great abundance) three miles from the crossing of the last creek we came to the mouth of a deep canon then three miles up it then desend a steep hill five miles onward

we found water to the east of the road - here we camped - grass good - sage for fuel - here we over took Robert Tate and com

Sunday the 12

We packed up and started and 7 miles to a spring on the south of the road then 3 miles brought us to the mouth of a cannon (pronounced canyon) then 3 miles up it there is water then 3 miles and camped in the cannon with Tate & Co we had to dig for water the sides of the cannon is clothed with grass flax sage and groves of quakingrass.

Monday the 13

This morning Robert Tate concluded to pack and go ahead with us having taken out his part of the provision we packed up and started being 3 of us in company now 2 miles to a spring on the south of the road then 5 miles we struck a creek at its head and followed it 7 miles in these seven miles we crossed two small branches that empty into it They are very hard to cross owing to their being very mirey then to Baft river 10 miles This stream runs to the north and is divided in to three prongs where we struck it it is deep and muddy to cross - grass is scarce and no wood in it then five miles and camped at the crossing of a creek and the junction of the roads.

Tuesday the 14

We struck out 7 miles and crossed three small branches and recrossed the same we camped on. The soil is good in places in this valley then 7 miles to a creek then 6 miles to warm springs on the north of the road then 1 mile to ripple river. It runs to the west then 3 miles to a creek, and the Steeples or Rock City this is one of the most romantick senes that I have ever yet seen some of the rocks lift their points far above the rest representing the steeple of a church while others case in huge masses representing a great castle and some look like the lowly cottages then 2 miles to the junction of the Salt Lake road 3 miles and camped on a creek - grass good sage for fuel.

Wednesday the 15

We struck out 3 miles to a creek then 5 miles to a creek the road is very bad in this distance then 2 miles to Goose creek This valley is from 50 to 400 yds wide the soil is good in places. We traveled 20 miles up the creek and camped where the road leaves it 13 miles from where we struck the creek there is a hot spring on the south of the road. There is some alkali in this valley - grass is good sage and willow for fuel Some of this country looks like it had been burnt in time some places the hills look like lime banks.

Thursday the 16

Three miles we past through a deep gap in the granite a small stream runs through the gap then 12 miles to Thousand spring valley then 8 miles to canon valley & creek here we camped - grass scarce sage for fuel the road in the distance is rocky and hilly this is a barren sagy country with now and then a few scattered seder trees with a portion of alkali The country is volcanic in its appearance.

Friday the 17

We left our encampment and traveled twenty seven miles up Canon valley (grass is good the soil in many places is good) but is generally wet and heavy the valley is from 100 yds to four miles wide the water is brackish with a portion of saltaratus) then five up a small creek then two miles across a steep hill to a small spring - here we camped - grass scarce sage for fuel.

Saturday the 18

We left our encampment and five miles to water then the road runs over a rolling sagy country twelve miles to Deep Spring valley the grass is good in the sage brush where we struck the valley there is a spring then two miles to Deep Spring (it is partially sulphuric this valley is from one to a half mile wide) then 15 miles down the valley to Humboldt or St. Maries river (the river here is about 40 feet wide - here we camped - grass good.

Sunday the 19

We crossed the river and traveled twenty five down the river and crossed a large creek and six miles and camped here we traveled most with two foot packers.

Monday the 20

we struck out 15 miles and left the river and took up a canon twelve miles to a valley just before we struck the valley to the right of the road is several boiling springs - then 2 miles down the valley we crossed a small creek - here we camped - grass good - sage for fuel.

Tuesday the 21

We rolled out three miles to the crossing of Clear Creek - then one mile and turned off to the river 1½ miles and lay by - here our provisions gave out except our rice and four or five lbs. of fruit - here we caught some fish that was not had to take - grass good - willow for fuel.

We left camp and struck across a range of hills (or rather mountains) to the river again distance 20 miles here we nooned and to take our stock across the river to get grass (we had the good luck to trade THEN WE LEFT THE RIVER FOR TEN MILES WHERE WE STRUCK THE RIVER some fish for some bacon with Mr. Hinz of Holt Co. Mo. - we camped grass scarce grease wood for fuel.

Thursday the 23

We struck out and traveled 15 miles over a level bottom covered with sage brush and greasewood the dust from 1 to 10 inches deep the road runs from 2 to 5 miles from the river when the river is fordable, the south side is much the easiest. We stopped on account of the heat and dust and lay by till the sun was down - then packed up and traveled thirty miles and lay by till night - this is the first time that we have been out of sight of snow since we came in sight of Larimer Peak - grass good, sage for fuel.

Friday the 24

On the evening of the twenty fourth we packed and traveled twenty miles and camped. I and Robert Tate went hunting in order that we might kill something to eat (for he had nothing but a little rice soup, nor haven't had for some days and money won't buy grub of any sort) we killed two small snipes on the side of the river. Then we cast lots who should swim over to get them. The lot fell on me. I swam over and got the snipes and went to camp. We had a fine mess of snipe soup.

Saturday the 25

We left our camp and 5 miles to the mouth of a canon then 5 miles to the river and camped. Here Mr. Duncan of Holt Co. gave us some bread which was the best bread that I ever eat - grass scarce sage for fuel.

Sunday the 26

We left our camp and traveled ten miles and stopped to graze our horses. Here I had the good luck to kill two small prairie dogs which made us a fine pan of soup - then 5 miles the road turns to the right up a slew 3 miles and crossed the slew - then three miles to the river and camped - here we bought some 7 lbs. of beef 25 cents pr. lb. and one pound of bread for one dollar. Here we had to swim the river to get grass.

Monday the 27

We lay by to rest our horses for we was told it was only 25 miles to the desert.

Tuesday the 28

We started and traveled ten miles and camped on account of Robert Tate being taken with diarrhea - grass scarce - sage for fuel.

Wednesday the 29

We left our encampment and traveled thirty miles and camped. I and R. Tate swam the river for to get grass but all in vain.

Thursday the 30

We left camp with one horse less than we came to camp with as one of R. Tate gave out. We traveled 8 miles and stopped and cut some grass for our horses - then ten miles over a level bottom covered with alkali - then over the hills ten miles and turned off the road 2 miles to the river and camped - no grass had to feed on willow.

August 1

We left our encampment and ten miles to the river then eight miles and turned off the road - two miles to the river and found some grass but it was so that our horses could not eat it.

Here we saw a number of Diggers - Indians on the other shore - then 8 miles down the river and camped - here we got some grass by pulling it out of the willows - here Robert Tate lost his last horse.

Friday the 2

We packed up and took it a foot for I let Tate have my riding nag to pack - twelve miles to the big meadow or slew and lay by for the rest of the day.

Saturday the 3

We remained at our camp to make hay to carry us across the desert. We had to waid in water from nee to waist deep to get grass (the country around here is volcanic in its character.

Sunday the 4

We traveled twenty-five miles and camped at the sink of the St. Mary or Humbolt - no grass or wood - here we took the desert next.

Monday the 5

This morning we crossed the last slew of Humbolt about two hors by sun and started across the desert. The road at first is rocky in places for a short distance - then it is full of small hills or mounds from one to six feet high - then over a Salaratus plain for a short distance - then it over a sinder plain for some distance this part of the road is highly volcanick in its appearance the rocks look like they had been melted once in time - then through the sand fourteen miles to the river ten miles before we struck Pilot or Samon Grant or Carson river call the same) we met a wagon load of water for sale at twenty-five cents per quart, and in all my life I was never as glad to pay that price for some of our tongues was swelled for the want of it as we had but a short allowance at the start - one of my horses gave out and I and Robert Tate had to carry his blankets on our backs as our horses that was left was too weak to carry them I had to leave my gun. We struck the river just as the sun was setting. The river is

about 50 feet wide and runs to the east. We bought 3 lbs meat for \$4.50 and had to buy grass for our animals - here we camped.

Tuesday the 6

We traveled four miles up the river and lay by the rest of the day.

Wednesday the 7

We traveled four miles up the river - then left it for fourteen miles where we struck it - we camped - grass and wood plenty.

August - Thursday the 8

We packed up and struck across a desert twenty-six miles to the river - then one and a half miles down the river to get grass - the road is very sandy in this distance.

Friday the 9

Left camp and eight miles up the river then do not strike it for twelve miles good feed where we struck the river - here we camped. (there is a great excitement among the emigrants here about the gold mines on this side of the Siere Nevada (or snow mountains) There is plenty of prospectors in this vicinity and some say that gold is to be found in small quantities while others say that it is plenty) The road is bad in this distance being very sandy.

August - Saturday the 10

We packed up and traveled five miles up the river - then the river turns to the left and we took the right - then 15 miles and camped - grass good (in this distance we past several warm springs and a hot lake - ^{AND IS COVERED WITH TULAR (OR BULRUSHES) THE VALLEY GENERALLY SPEAKING ABOUNDES IN GRASS AND SOME CLOVER AND SOME TIMOTHY} the valley along here is full of slews and marshy places and I think would grow wheat very well

Sunday the 11

We left our encampment and fifteen miles travel brought us to the mouth of a large canon (here we over took Dr. Martial of Platte, Mo. He gave us some meat, and we borrowed \$15.00 of him as we was out of money here we divided money with Mr. Talkington of Pike Co., Mo. a foot packer as he was like ourselves empty and hungry) then we took up the conon - there is a large creek runs down to canon it is ten miles through the canon to canon valley - here we camped - the road up the conon is very bad and almost impassable with wagons owing to the road being full of large boulders or oval stones - the bluffs rise to a great height on both sides of the road and is covered with pine & cedar and fir trees some of them two and three hundred feet high.

August - Monday 12

We started and five miles to red lake - then over the mountains ten miles to Carson lake - here is a magnificent forest of pine and cedar in view of the great pass and amongst the sublime senery of the siera

nevady (or snow mountains) here we nooned - then four miles up the steep ascent brought us to the summit of the pass in (latitude 38 DEG. 44 MIN north of the equator and Longitude 120 DEG 20 Mins. west and at an elevation of 9,338 feet above the level of the sea (See Cookes (the snow is from one to ten feet deep on the mountains) - then we took down the mountain and traveled 10 miles and camped.

August - Tuesday 13

We traveled fifteen miles over a rocky country without seeing anything like feed for our animals until we came to the leak springs - here we camped and found grass two and a half miles south of the road.

Wednesday the 14

We traveled twenty seven miles and camped on a small creek - no grass - this days travel is a gradual slope.

Thursday the 15

We struck out and seven miles to the forkes of the road - the left goes to weaver town - we took the right by way of Johnson's ranch twelve miles - here we camped without money or grub - here was diggings - some said that they were doing well.

August - Friday the 16

This morning we sold our animals (for we was compelled to) to get money to get something to eat and took our packs on our backs and six miles brought us to Hang town - this seems to be a flourishing little town - then twelve miles and camped.

Saturday the 17

We struck out and ten miles to the White Rock Springs (here is a tavern) here we hired a teamster to hall us to the city of Sacramento (and paid \$9.00 for the same. We landed in the city about 10 o'clock in the night.

Sunday the 18

This morning I awoke surrounded by houses on all sides. I walked down the K Street to the wharf to look at the famous Sacramento river. It was covered with steamers schoners sailors and crafts of all sorts and sizes. In the evening we left the city and went out about three miles with Jackes & Owens to their camp across the American fork. This river is about 150 yds wide and ebbs and flows once in twenty four hours.

Monday the 19

We started for the Yuba diggins and traveled 23 miles and camped.

Tuesday the 20

Three miles to a little town called Nicklos. It is situated on Rio de la Plumes (or Feather river) and is in the most beautiful part of the valley that I have seen yet - the whole country seems to be dried up

the grass is perfectly cured) We remained at Nicklos all day on account of James Lewis being taken with a diarear.

Wednesday the 21

We traveled twelve miles (over a level plain it is gravily and sandy the dirt is of a reddish cast) and came to Bear river. This is a beautiful stream - then eight miles and camped.

Thursday the 22

We traveled six miles and camped on deer creek - traveled fifteen and came to Nevada City - here we staid all night - here we left R. Tate.

Saturday the 24

We traveled fifteen miles to the Spruse Springs - then five miles to South Yuba - here we found Richard Lewis and Com. at work. Sunday, Monday Tuesday and Wednesday we staid with R. Lewis on account of myself having a diaree.

Thursday the 29

We struck for the fork of the North Yuba - we travel ten miles to the middle Yuba - then ten miles to Williams Creek - here we camped for the last trail.

Friday the 30

We traveled ten miles and came to the north Yuba - this is a considerable town at the forks called Downavill - here we made inquiries for Willis Lewis & Co. but found them not - so we lay our weary selves down to rest.

Saturday the 31

We started to hunt Lewises Co - we found them on the north fork of the North Yuba.

September - Sunday the 1

We remained at the camp with Martin and Isaac Lewis and Chamberlain William Lewis was gone to Sacramento City.

Monday the 2

I and James G. Lewis bought a shovel pan & some grub and started a prospecting - we struck the north branch of Willow Creek and camped.

Tuesday the 3

We sunk a hole in search of the precious metal but found none.

Wednesday the 4

We returned to the South Yuba at Lewises bar the people is leaving the river daily there is plenty of claims to be had near.

September - Thursday the 5

We sat in to work on claims that had been worked and made	\$12.50
the 6	5.00
the 7	16.00

the 8	Saturday William Lewis & R. Tate came	
the 9	R. Tate and Jimey and I made	\$30.80
the 10	" " " " "	29.40
the 11	" " " " "	37.20
the 12	" " " " "	16.40
the 13	" " " " "	20.40
the 14	" " " " "	10.00

this evening Jeddiah Lewis came to our camp

the 15 Sunday Jimey Lewis started to the north
Yuba to work for Isaac Lewis for one third
that he made.

the 16 (Sept. 1850) Jediah and Tate went to
work and made 44.40

17 made 5.80

18 " 8.80

19 " 18.60

20 " 50.60

21 " 22.40

22 Sunday I received a letter

23 made 18.20

24 " 1.40

25 " 7.00

26 " 29.40

27 " 19.80

28 " 5.50

29 Sunday

30 made 30.20

October 1850

1 " 29.80

2 " 4.80

3 "20

4 " 23.80

5 " 18.40

6 Sunday

7 made 15.80

8 " 1.00

9 " 41.40

10 " 33.40

11 " 31.00

12	made	\$17.00
13	Sunday	
14	made	17.40
15	fixed our camp - this day James G. Lewis came from the north forkes he made in 24 days	350.00
16	four of us made	32.50
17	I started to Sacramento City in company with William & Martin Lewis, and on the 25th landed back at camp with provisions, While I was gone the boys made	150.00
26	made	26.00
27	Sunday	
28	made	36.40
29	(
30	(Built us a cabin	
31	(

November 1850

1	made	8.80
2	"	16.20
3	Sunday	
4	made	10.60
5	"	26.40
6	"	22.00
7	"	13.40
8	"	23.00
9	"	5.60
10	Sunday	
11	(Jimey & Tate went prospecting and made	1.50
12	(and I made JED BEING SICK	22.40
13	made	20.20
14	"	12.60
15	"	14.80
16	"	15.00
17	Sunday	
18	made	14.20
19	"	23.40
20	R made	11.20
21	R (R) made	1.80
22	made	10.00

23	RD NW	00
24	Sunday	
25	made	35.80
26	"	38.80
27	"	40.90
28	"	40.40
29	B D made	4.40
30	R D D made	10.80

December 1850

1	Sunday	
2	S. A. D. went a hunting - killed one deer	
3	V. C. hunted	
4	V. C. hunted - killed 2 deer	
5	V. C. " " 1 deer	
6	C. " " 1 deer	
7	V. C. sat in house	
8	Sunday	
9	I started to Sacramento City for letters and got back on the 17 --	
	The boys made while I was gone	30.00
18	made	29.40
19	packed the loads up the mountains for - -	15.00
20	made	6.40
21	"	6.40
22	Sunday	
23	made	24.40
24	fixed to run a ton	
25	made	33.40
26	made	\$27.80
27	"	17.00
28	"	10.00
29	Sunday	
30	made	22.80
31	"	10.80

January 1850¹

1	made	16.40
2	"	18.40
3	"	5.00
4	"	30.20
5	Sunday	
6	S.A.D.	
7	Sat trouves to run a ton and made	12.20
8	made	22.00
9	"	28.40
10	"	43.40
11	"	37.40
12	" Sunday	
13	made	73.40
14	"	79.20
15	"	126.00
16	"	21.00
17	"	23.40
18	"	15.40
19	Sunday	
20	(Jed started to Nevada to get	15.00
21	letters for us and on	13.00
22	He got back no letters	16.40
23	made	30.40

24	made	\$25.80
25	"	13.40
26	Sunday	
27	(
28	(made	611.00
29	"	24.60
30	"	53.60
31	"	11.60

February 1851

1	- prospected made	00.75
2	Sunday	
3	made	26.37
4	"	26.00
5	"	18.00
6	"	22.00
7	"	20.00
8	"	6.90
9	Sunday	
10	(I and Robert Tate started out	
	(prospecting on the 12 we got	
11	(to on the north Yuba	
12	(the snow was so deep and soft that	
	(it was very laborious traveling we	
13	(crossed the snow fur capt. mountains	
	and camped on Canon Creek - the 14	
14	we got to onion valley -	
15	We prospected Poor mans creek	
16	Prospected Hopkins creek - found nothing	
17	Prospected Nelsons creek and feather river	
	the middle fork	
18	We struck back for our cabin on account of the snow.	
19)	It is from 3 to 6 feet deep and still	
20)	snowing	
21)		
22)		
23)	On the 23 we got to our cabin	
	While we was gone the boys made	\$96.00
24	Sunday	
25	made	14.00
26	"	17.50
27	"	50.50
28	"	54.50

March, 1851

1	made	27.50
2	Sunday	
3	made	3.90
4	"	28.40
5	"	17.05
6	"	11.75
7	"	30.25
8	"	13.25
9	Sunday	
10		
11		33.73
12	The boys went prospecting	
	and I made	13.00
13	I made	6.70
14	made	10.75

15	made	\$5.87½
16	Sunday - Jed got back - he found nothing	
17	we made	7.66 2/3
18	made	5.33 1/3
19	snoused all day	
20	snowed	
21	raised - made	3.65
22	I made	3.40
23	Sunday	
24	rained	
25	Snowed and rained	
26	made	6.26 2/3
27	Snow & rain	
28	snowed	
29	snowed	
30	Sunday - snowed	
31	clear	

April A. D. 1851

1	made	10.66 2/3
2	"	10.50
3	rained	
4	"	
5	made	33.00
6	Sunday	
7	made	17.50
8	"	14.75
9	"	9.75
10	I started to Hamburg creek	
11	helped put in some	
12	trauves to turn the water	
13	Sunday	
14	built us a shanty	
15	packed over parts of our things	
16	rain	
17	Commenced sinking a hole to prospect	
18	rain	
19	"	
20	Sunday	
21	rain - made	1.00
22	made	1.00
23	"	8.00
24	Cut a ditch	
25		
26	made a dam	
27	Sunday I went to Nevada	
28	got back	
29	made	65.80
30		17.40

May the 1, 1851

1	made	16.25
2	worked on rase	8.00
3	Do	
4	Sunday	
5	made	35.00
6	"	20.50
7	"	27.40
8	"	10.00

9	made	.....	\$12.40
10	"		1.00
11	Sunday		
12	made		62.50
13	"	.....	60.50
14	"		53.50
15	"		64.40
16	"		53.00
17	"	.....	10.00
18	Sunday		
19	made		33.00
20	cloudy and rainy		
21	made - cloudy	.....	21.00
22	"		12.25
23	"		27.00
24	-	-	
25	Sunday		
26	made		26.00
27	"	.....	64.62
28	"		20.00
29	"		31.50
30	"		15.00
31	made a pump		

June the 1

1	Sunday		
2	made	.....	19.10
3	"		32.50
4	"		20.50
5	"		17.50
6	"		2.40
7	"		1.85
8	Sunday		
9	made	.....	10.75
10	rain in the evening		
11			
12	made		15.15
13	started		
14	prospecting - made	.....	4.50
15	Sunday		
16	made		6.75
17	"		3.56 $\frac{1}{4}$
18	"		18.60
19	"		2.40
20	"	.....	.66
21			
22	Sunday		
23			
24			
25			
26	Bob started prospecting		18.50
27	made	.....	18.05
28	29 & 30 moved to Yuba		

July 1851

1	made a cradle riddle		
2	made	.....	1.00
3	"		10.75
4	that memorial day made		3.00
5	made		5.00
6	Sunday		

7	made	\$21.00
8	"	8.75
9	"	21.50
10	"	48.00
11	"	33.00
12	" JIMMY CUT HIS KNIFE	12.50
13	Sunday	
14	made	10.50
15	"	20.85
16	"	82.50
17	Removed rocks out of the river	
18	to the water - made	15.50
19	made	17.15
20	Sunday	
21	made	13.90
22	moved rocks out of the	
24	river - made	113.25
25	floated planks down the	
26	river to make pumps	
27	Sunday	
28	made	55.86 3/4
29	"	72.90
30	"	108.50
31	"	84.00

August 1851

1	made	8.50
2	"	159.50
3	Sunday	36.25
4	made	
5	commenced making a dam	
6	" " "	
7	" " "	
8	" " "	
9	Went to Nevada	
10	Sunday	
11	Worked on the dam	
12	Do	
13	Do	
14	Blasted rock	
15	" "	
16	" "	
17	Sunday	
18	Completed our dam	
19	made	25.50
20	"	112.50
21	"	26.00
22	"	76.50
23	"	66.00
24	Sunday	
25	made	73.50
26	"	156.50
27	"	120.50
28	"	49.00
29	"	28.50
30	"	16.00
31	Sunday	

September 1851

1	Cash made	31.00
2	" Do	137.00

3	Cash made	\$49.33	1/3
4	" "	55.66	2/3
5	" " rain	12.25	
6	" " "	10.50	
7	Sunday		
8	I & Jed left for the Southern mines -		
9	passed through Illinois town then crossed		
10	the north fork of the river		
11	at bar then made for		
12	Bar (Sandy) then south at		
13	then through the Cola Springs to Diamond Spgs.		
14	Sunday		
15			
16	Commenced throwing up dirt		
17	Prospected		
18	Do		
19	Do		
20	Do		
21	Sunday		
22	Prospected		
23	Do		
24	Do		
25	Started back to the Yuba		
on)			
the)			
28	) landed on the Yuba - While I was gone		
	the boys made	622.20	
	Sunday		
30	Robert Tate and Jediah Lewis		
	started to return to Missouri		

October 1851

1	I and James G. Lewis made	22.80
2	cash in all	33.25
3	Do	16.00
4	Do	19.50
5	Sunday	
6		56.70
7		20.70

I and James G. Lewis started for Missouri on the took the stage and came to Sacramento on the San Francisco.

On the 12 I went to This is a beautiful site for a town - returned to Francisco the same day. On the fifth Jeddiah Lewis took sick - on the 15 Robert Tate started home.

October the 1

1	I and James Lewis made	33.25
2	Cash	16.00
3	"	19.50
4	"	56.70
5	Sunday	
6	Cash	20.70

We left the Yuba and came to Nevada City -
 On our way home on the 8th we came to Sacramento
 City on the stage in one day a distance of ninety miles.

On the 10 we left Sacramento City at 4 o'clock in the afternoon (on the Steamer Senator) and touched at Bernecia at eight o'clock, thence three hours to San Francisco. On the morning of the 11 (Sunday) we found R. Tate J. Lewis Smith & party at the Pacific Hotel and was sorry to find J. Lewis very sick with the typhoid fever.

On the 15 R. Tate & party left for Panama on the Steamship Orleans - myself and J.G. Lewis remained with Jeddiah Lewis. On the morning of the 21 at half past three o'clock Jeddiah Lewis died, on the 22 at 10 o'clock he was buried at the grave yard at San Francisco, the number of his grave is 1424 grave at that grave-yard. The same evening at 4 o'clock we came up to and stopped at the California Hotel kept by Mr. Samuel Brown & Son. On the 29 we returned to San Francisco - On the 30 we bought tickets on the Steamer Pacific.

On the first of November we left San Francisco, on the third we passed an island on the south of our course. On the 9th we landed at Amahalao. Here I went ashore and strolled through the orange and citrus groves.

Here I seen the old fort by a
It is the largest that I have ever seen it is held by a army of Mexicans. On the morning of the 14th we landed at St. Juan. This is a very small bay with a few houses on the shore made of sticks and barks. One frame house is all there is in St. Juan. On the 16th we left St. John for Virginia Bay. Hired a native to carry my baggage. The road was extremely muddy. The country is hilly. The soil is very rich and is covered with all kinds of timbers & shrubery the cane grows to an enormous size. The only thing I seen worth noticing was some monkeys chattering in the trees. Arrived at Virginia Bay the same day the 16th. There is only some ten or twelve houses at this bay and they could not furnish anything there more than eatables. On the evening of the 18th we left Virginia Bay on the Central American and crossed the Nicuraugua, the same night the 19th we started down Nicuraugua about 12 o'clock we landed about three miles above the Tora rapids and lay there until next morning (without anything to eat) about six o'clock we got on board the Director and proceeded down to the Castillian rapids. Here we landed and had to walk below the rapids (some 400 yds) There was scarcely anything to be had to eat at this place. We then got board two strong iron steamers. On the 21st we landed on board the Prometheus.

Here an English man of war fired on us and compelled us to let down our anchor owing to some difficulty about the harbor finally we got it all settled and sailed the same evening on the night of the 24th we passed Cape San Antonio. On the 25th we landed in the harbor of Havana. This is a beautiful place. the port is one of the most sublime scenes that my eye ever witnessed and at the same time is calculated to fill the mind with fear to see the canons that overlook the whole city and appears to frown upon you as you enter the bay. On the 26th we sailed for New York. On the night of the 30th we was run into by a brig but fortunately done no great damage. The same night we went a ground but go off with the tide on the morning of the first of Dec. the same day we landed in New York.