



**THE JOURNALS OF
CAPTAIN NATHANIEL J.
WYETH'S EXPEDITIONS TO
THE OREGON COUNTRY**

1831-1836

Edited by
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INTRODUCTION

Nathaniel Jarvis Wyeth was born January 29, 1802, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Jacob and Elizabeth (Jarvis) Wyeth. Nathaniel Wyeth was married to his cousin, Elizabeth Jarvis, in 1824, and like many another capable New England man he embarked on a career in business and trade. Cold New England winters froze good thick ice on the ponds in New England and young Wyeth conceived the idea that this ice could be packed in sawdust and shipped to the West Indies for sale. This idea he successfully carried out until his ice merchant career was interrupted by a meeting with Hall Jackson Kelley, a rabid enthusiast on the subject of the Oregon country, then under joint occupancy with Great Britain.

What Kelley lacked in the way of sound judgment he perhaps made up for with grandiose plans. In the 1820's he actually enrolled some 400 prospective emigrants who were to travel from Massachusetts to Oregon, and his vocal agitation stirred thousands more. In addition he managed to get a number of paper bound booklets in print with the object of getting the Oregon country solidly settled by citizens of the young United States of America. Since our present form of government dates from 1789 when our constitution was adopted and George Washington inaugurated as our first president, the United States was approximately forty years old when Kelley was a fiery crusader determined to bring Oregon under the Stars and Stripes. Although considered an impractical visionary, Kelley did exert influence and one of the men he influenced was Nathaniel Wyeth.

The great Kelley caravan was delayed month after month while its leader tried to persuade a reluctant Congress to provide monetary support. It was not until 1831 that Wyeth fell under Kelley's spell. While Kelley was building cities on paper the more thoughtful and competent Wyeth organized a company of 21 armed and equipped men. This company of hopeful adventurers left Boston on March 11, 1832, and a remnant of it arrived at Fort Vancouver on October 29th of that year.

It was no easy journey. Only eight men of the Wyeth party completed the trip, the others deserted or died of exposure, starvation or wounds. When the Wyeth supply ship failed to arrive the leader released the remaining men and returned overland to Massachusetts, where he arrived at Cambridge on the seventh of November, 1833.

This stern experience would have cured a man of lesser determination of all interest in far-off Oregon, but Wyeth reorganized his company, outfitted a vessel, the *May Dacre*, and sent her around the horn to meet him at the mouth of the



Columbia River. He left Boston on February 7, 1834, to organize a more practical party of men in St. Louis. The second Wyeth overland group, consisting of 20 men, left St. Louis in May, 1834, and arrived at the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver, on September 14.

Men important to the history of Oregon accompanied the second Wyeth expedition, notably the missionary party of Jason Lee, sincere and cultured men who founded the Willamette Mission and left a lasting imprint on Oregon history, politically and culturally. This was a full two years before Marcus Whitman and Henry Harmon Spaulding arrived to found their somewhat better known missions.

Two other men of stature traveled with the second Wyeth expedition to Oregon, men perhaps not as well known today as they should be. John Kirk Townsend (*October 19, 1809 - February 6, 1851*) was an ornithologist, who gathered specimens of birds, including several species previously unknown. Townsend hoped to publish his own field notes but when he was unable to do so he sold his material to John J. Audubon, who made considerable use of it.

Thomas Nuttall (*January 5, 1786 - September 10, 1859*) a botanist, born in the Yorkshire district of England, was curator of the Harvard University botanical garden, which position he resigned to become a member of the Wyeth party. He collected plant specimens in Oregon in 1834 before going to Hawaii where he spent the winter of 1834-35, later returning to Oregon where he explored the countryside before returning to the states in that same year.

Nathaniel Wyeth established two trading posts in the far west, the first being Fort Hall in what is now southern Idaho. The second post, named Fort William, was located on Wapato (Sauvies) Island in the lower Columbia River. From Fort William lumber and salted salmon were exported to Hawaii and some effort was made to trade for furs with the natives. Although Wyeth was a man of considerable business ability his capital was inadequate to compete with the strongly entrenched Hudson's Bay Company and in time it became apparent that his best course was to sell out to the Company, which by this means acquired Fort Hall. Wyeth then returned to Boston where he again entered into the ice business, an endeavor in which he was quite successful until his death in 1856 at the age of 54.

The first effort by Americans to trade in the lower Columbia River was by the Winship brothers. Few history books mention the Winship expedition, a little known effort that failed because of the hostility of the natives and because the location of the log post was unfortunately chosen. The Winship post was the first building put up by white men on the Columbia. It was flooded by rising river water soon after its construction. This was in 1810, one year before the Astoria effort and one year before the North West Company had their men on the lower Columbia. Winship, Astor and Wyeth all failed in their efforts to establish a commercial post in the lower Columbia River area, and when Hall Jackson Kelley

finally arrived with Ewing Young by way of California in 1834, he accomplished little. Kelley was particularly unfortunate in that his stock of trading goods had been confiscated by the Mexican government. Thus all four efforts failed. It might be noted that in trading for furs off the Northwest Coast of America ships from New England flying the Stars and Stripes in the years immediately following the Revolutionary War were very successful in the maritime fur trade.

The Wyeth company was set up as a joint stock concern and was largely financed by Wyeth himself, who furnished 5000 dollars of the capital. Profits were to be divided into 50 units, 8 of which were to go to Wyeth, 2 parts to the surgeon, and the remaining 40 parts were to go to the other men of the expedition. The expedition was of course a failure—instead of 48 men as originally planned, only 25 actually joined the company from Boston and Baltimore, and fewer actually made the journey to Oregon. Fourteen of the number deserted or turned back en route from Independence, Missouri to Pierre's Hole. Four of these men joined up with William Sublette to go trapping in the mountains, and of these four, one was killed that winter and another on the return journey. One went steamboating on the Mississippi River at St. Louis and the rest reached home safely. Of the eleven men who chose to stick it out on the road to Oregon one died on arrival, one died from dissipation in 1836, two became farmers in the Willamette Valley and two others became permanent settlers.

Two relatives of Nathaniel Wyeth were in the first expedition, Jacob Wyeth, in capacity of Surgeon; and John B. Wyeth, who was an 18-year-old lad and no more than a minor member of the company. As best we can judge today, Nathaniel Wyeth did not get along very well with either of these men and both turned back—Jacob because of ill health and John for reasons not clearly stated. John B. Wyeth's importance to the expedition has been somewhat magnified historically in that after his return to New England and after experiencing various hardships he wrote a book entitled *Oregon, or a Short History of a Long Journey*, which is described by Wright Howes in his reference work on Americana, *U.S. IANA (1650-1950)*, as the first printed account of the first emigrant party to cross the plains. The authorship of this book, printed in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1833, is cloudy in that it was edited and to some extent written by Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, a crusty gentleman not under the magic spell of Hall Jackson Kelley and a man quite out of sympathy with 4000-mile journeys to an uncivilized wilderness on the Northwest Coast of America. The John B. Wyeth book is a rare item today and a copy sold in the 1966 Parke-Bernet auction of Newberry duplicates for a price of 570 dollars, a price not out of line with its rarity and historical importance. The John B. Wyeth book was reprinted as part of a set of 31 volumes plus folio atlas volume, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites and entitled *Early Western Travels*, published in Cleveland, Ohio, 1904-1907.

The Nathaniel Wyeth journals were published at the University Press,

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Eugene, Oregon, in 1899, as part of the *Sources of the History of Oregon*. While references to the Nathaniel J. Wyeth Journals appear in a number of books, the journals themselves do not seem to have been reprinted before the Ye Galleon edition of 1969, which edition today is almost exhausted. Today, more than four-fifths of a century later, the 1899 original work is not easy to find on the antiquarian market. The fact that the 1899 edition was put out in paper covers did not assist in its preservation.

Please note: an extra space at the beginning or at the end of a text line does not represent a minor error in typesetting, but rather, a break in the text, as the author was somewhat allergic to punctuation marks.

Also; white bear means grizzly bear.

The portrait of Nathaniel Wyeth was furnished by the Spokane Public Library, to which source we give our thanks.

A valiant effort was made to hold to the original Wyeth spelling, and punctuation—or lack of it.

Letter 24 is reprinted with permission of the Champlain Society, Toronto, Ontario.

Glen Adams
Fairfield, Washington
June, 1984



JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN NATHANIEL J. WYETH'S
EXPEDITIONS TO THE OREGON COUNTRY.

FIRST EXPEDITION — 1832

[The book containing the journal has been mutilated. There are traces of the removal of four leaves which contained an account of the early stages of the venture. In this edition we have inserted statements from a letter which Wyeth addressed to J.G. Palfrey in December, 1847, briefly describing this part of his travels.]

On the 10th of March 1832 I left Boston in a vessel with 20 men for Baltimore where I was joined by four more, and on the 27th left to Rail Road for Fredrick Md from thence to Brownsville we marched on foot, and took passage from that place to Liberty Mo. on various steamboats, which place we left for the prairies on the 12th of May with 21 men, three having deserted, and on the 27th of May three more deserted.¹

[June 6th, 1832.]

gray and my face like a plumb pudding the skin is entirely bare [?] of skin is entirely off one of my ears On the bluff[s] the ghnats are equally troublesome but they do not annoy us much except in the day. Geese appear here mated and I have seen some broods of gooselings. Some rain last night. still barren and grass bad our horses about the same our men troubled with the relax toward night found buffaloe killed one which made a scanty meal for all hands for supper made 25 miles

7th Started out hunting killed two antelope about 10 saw a herd of Buffaloe crossing the River waited til they rose the Bank and commenced slaughter killed 3 and wounded many more these afforded a timely supply to the party and we ate hearty. Saw today the first appearance of muskrat since leav the settlements also Pelicans. Last night in cutting a tree for fuel caught two young grey Eagles one of which we ate and found it tender and good also a Badger saw some rattlesnakes and some other kinds not known to me the men [horses?] appear a little better the men [horses?] about the same Thr. 90 deg. wind S.E. my face so swelled from the musquitoes and ghnats that I can scarce see out of my eyes and aches like the tooth ache

9th I date this the same on acc of a mistake of a day hertofore made 30 miles and yesterday 25 arrived at the Chimney or Elk Brick the Indian name² this

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singular object looks like a monument about 200 feet high and is composed of layers of sand and lime stone in layers the sand blowing out lets the lime rock fall down and this action has in time reduced what was once a hill to a spire of nearly the same dimensions at top and bottom it looks like a work of art and the layers like the ranges of stone it is situated about 3 miles from the river. Rain and thunder at night wind strong S.E. river as muddy as ever the bluff[s] for the last 20 miles have occasionally a few stunted trees apparently Pitch pine and cedar the small streams that here empty into the Platte are frequently dry near the river during the day while above they are running free while at night there is running water entirely to the river Party in better order Horses about the same we now judge ourselves within 4 days march of the Black Hills

10th 28 miles, 2 Buffaloe

11th 30 miles, 6 Buffaloe

12th Nothing remarkable crossed Wild Horse Creek coming in from the

S.

13th Came in sight of the Black hills and crossed Larrimee fork of the Platte in getting over one of my rafts broke the tow line the raft went down stream lodged on a snag and upset wetting most of the goods on it and loosing two Horse loads as it lodged in the middle of the river and the stream very rappid the goods were with difficulty passed ashore here³ an alarm was occasioned by the appearance of 4 men on the bluff[s] behind us and an attack was expected every moment which would have been bad as our party was much scattered in crossing They However proved to be a part of a party of 19 men in the employ of Gant & Blackwell. They last winter lost all but 3 of their animals and in going to Santa Fee got enclosed by snow in the mountains and nearly starved to Death, and at first they were hard to tell from Indians or devils they are now in good health having felt well for some time all of them joined Mr. Fitzpatrick's party and proceeded on foot with us to the mountains.⁴ Killed an antelope

14th started late and left the river at which we had encamped and proceeded 16 miles killed one antelope and one elk

15th went out for game killed one antelope, 2 deer 2 Buffaloe made this day 20 miles and passed the first of the Black hills the country is now thinly wooded with Box Elder ash Pitch pine cedar and cotton wood and a variety of small shrubs among which are the cherry, currant and thorn wild sage here almost covers the country and is a plant of many years growth

arrived in camp found the company had killed plenty of Buffaloe and were encamped on a small stream coming in from the S. 20 miles.

16th Warm in mng. cold and rainy in the afternoon a little hard snow on the Peak of the Black hills a white Bear was seen this day Black ones for some days past.⁵ The lime rock still continues primitive peb[b]les in the streams and on the knols the hills pointed up very sharp from the same cause as the Chimney

WYETH'S FIRST EXPEDITION

the country appears desolate and dreary in the extreme no one can conceive of the utter desolation of this region nevertheless the earth is decorated with a variety of beautiful flowers and all unknown to me hard travelling disenables our botanist to examine them⁶ we have on the whole meat enough but the supply is too unsteady. There are here two kinds of Rabbits the largest weighing about 15 lbs ears 6 inches long plover and other marsh birds a[re] common and some 2 or 3 kinds of Gulls. Struck the Platte river again here about 100 yds wide the water high and rapid we here find a small kind of Parsnip the blossom yellow root about 5 inches long 1/2 inch thick of more than one years growth the men appear better Horses about the same made this day 20 miles

17th Wind high N.W. Ther 40 a drear[y] and cheerless day made 25 miles killed 3 buffaloe 1 antelope 1 Deer crossed 2 small streams from the Black hills running into the Platte saw some rabbits & white bears Hops.

18 reached the place for fording the platte

19th Passed over my goods during a severe wind without accident

20th Mr. Subblettee (sic) passed over his goods and at night mooved on about 3 miles

21st Made a long march of 30 miles during which one of my Horses gave out killed this day 3 Buffaloe and fired at a white bear arrived at camp at 11 ock at night. I have ommitted one day on the other side of the Platte I date this right we arrived at Rock Independence at noon after a march of 15 miles

23 Yesterday we left the Platte and struck the Sweet water on which this rock stands it is situated in a gorge within 30 feet of the stream and is granite today is warm last night frost and the two last days cold and disagreeable from this time to 2nd July frost each night and snow once our course lay in various directions from S.W. to N.W. following the Sweet water and leaving the first snowy mountains on the right hand on the 29th we crossed on to the head waters of the Colorado during all this time we found abundance of Buffaloe the travelling good but the grass poor the streams all fordable but rapid five streams have been crossed to this time and we are now encamped on the 6th all running into the Colorado trout are found here also some beaver Some of my men talk of turning back and I give them all free liberty many of my horses have given out and the rest are failing fast and unless we soon come to better grass they will all die and leave me on foot the waters running into Lewis river are not more than 8 miles distant, on the creek where we are there are pine trees in shape lik[e] a Balsam tree leaves like a pitch pine Bark rough yellowish and scaly The mountains in this region are not conspicuous are isolated and admitting free passage between them in any direction the creeks are sufficiently numerous for watering but feed is poor the 1st July we rested all the afternoon a respite quite acceptable to our weary legs Our average during these days about 20 miles but in some cases quite circuitous White bears are seen but none have been killed.

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day continuing until 12 ock at night it was dark and we were nearly upset by a snag but our fears of starvation impelled us to haste did not see an animal all day during the latter part of the night it rained in torrents and wet all our things and persons.

15th. Commenced pulling at 7 ock. Still blowing fresh ahead and raining a little about 3 ock cleared off and stopped to cook during meal time killed a fawn which was very good luck after supper pulled 5 hours more and found a keel boat of the Am. F. Co. alongside of which we stopped for the night in the morning of

16th. Put ahead with a fine wind not having been asked on board of her and immediately passed the Ponca village but I believe not in its usual place saw and delivered a message to Mr. Sublettes agt. here and gave the Chief some tobacco. Made with a wind which as usual soon died away and pulling 13 hours when we ran on a sand bar and was unable in the dark to extricate her and slept all night on it the musquitoes almost murder us rained most of the night.

17. Started at 5 ock. Pulled this day 10 hours rained some in the course of the day saw Powquet [Carolina parakeet] the first since leaving the states also mulberry trees Bass wood.

18th. Started early after a rainy night and pulled 10 hours saw wild Turkeys this evening but killed none nearly out of all kinds of provisions saw this day a herd of Elk tryed hard to get some but failed.

19th. Made with a strong and fine wind 12 hours and camped without meat supped on a little flour boiled in water Saw during the day 3 deer looked with folly at them and fired two shots and they ran off.

20th. Stopped until ½ past 6 to hunt caught one goose which we eat for breakfast afterward put ashore the hunters for game they were fortunate enough to kill a fat doe in which we feasted right merrily and having lost so much time we concluded to run until the moon went down altho we were before informed that it was not safe a few hours we got along well enough but at last went over a snag with limbs above which taking our mast and the boat swinging broadside she was taking in water at a jolly rate and in a little she would have gone with the suck under the rock I immediately had the mast cut away just in time to save her escaped from this I determined to try more we ran a little and were driven head foremost on a large tree lying across the river We stopped about midway and lay swinging like a pendulum with much danger and difficulty we extricated her not being yet discouraged we ran on but soon were driven into a large drift we narrowly escaped being carried under and half full of water and our oar broke we made the shore as soon as possible resolved to run no more nights, after making 10½ hours.

21st. Made 9 hours with a head wind and camped at the old post of Council Bluffs it is now grown up with high weeds a memento of much money spent to little purpose it is a beautiful situation the magazine and three or four chimneys only remain.

WYETH'S FIRST EXPEDITION

22nd. After 5 hours in a dead current we arrived at a trading post of the Am. F. Co. Mr. Josh Pilcher agent by whom we were entertained with the utmost hospitality I had met Mr. P. at St. Louis on my way out on this account I had much pleasure in stopping we found a good assortment of vegetables and a supply of such things as we wanted. dined with him and made three hours more and stopped to hunt Killed a fat deer and camped for the night.

23rd. Made 2 hours pulling and passed an agency ½ mile farther a trading post of Mrss. Dripps & Fontenelle. Made in all 13 hours and camped during the day killed one deer from the Boat from Council Bluffs to this have found the Hic[k]ory Shagbark Sicamore and Coffee Bean trees not seen above also Night Shade Brier. Ducks Ge[e]se and Pelicans have been very numerous but shy for about 8 days stopped at the above trading post found only an old negro at home the rest out cutting wood.

24th. Made this day 10½ hours Killed one goose saw plenty of deer

25th. Made 11 hours Killed one Turkey from the boat saw this day the first Pawpau fruit and trees wounded one deer from boat and stopped to search for him but without success

26th. Made 11 hours at 8 hours came to a trading house of the Am. F. Co. called Rubideau [Robidoux] Fort at the Black Snake hills and on the N. bank of the river on a little rise of ground in the rear of a beautiful bottom. Today saw the Black Locust for the first time the lands are here quite fine and the hills as far back as we can see clothed with timber and verdure of the most luxuriant appearance the country is one of the most pleasant I have ever seen

27th. After 7 hours pulling arrived at the Cantonment Leavenworth on the route we saw several Indian canoes with Squaws children ect. I had no letters of introduction at the fort and therefore could not expect any great extension of the laws of hospitality but was received with all the politeness that expected was offered all the stores which I might require by Leiut. Richardson the officer of the day. My boy Baptiste and the Indian wer[e] vacinated by Doct. Fellows. It was amusing to observe the actions of Baptiste [Payette] and the [Nez Perce] Indian when I went from the boat towards the Barracks the Boy followed me until I was hailed by the sentry at view of one so strangely attired and with a knife on the end of his gun he broke like a quarter Nag crying Pegoni [Blackfeet] and the Indian was only prevented from taking the run also by being assured that he would not be harmed. I took the two to Doct Fellows quarters to be vaccinated the Docts wife and another lady happened to be present they were really beautiful women but the eyes of the two were riveted on the White Squaws Baptiste who speaks a little English told the other Boys when he returned to the boat that he had seen a white squaw white as snow and so pretty.

28th. Made about 45 miles to Liberty where I found Mr. E. M. Samuel an old acquaintance who received me with all hospitality supplied me w[ith] money and all that I wanted.

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29th. Rained all day did not start

30. Went to the landing after breakfast a boat arrived going to the Garrison and joined her as I shall arrive at St Louis as soon by this means as any other and more comfortably

Shall close memorandum here with Boat I after returned to Leavenworth and was treated with great politeness by the officers of the garrison especially a Capt. Nichols who invited me to dinner.

Memo of distances on the Columbia according to the estimates of the English Traders.

From Boat encampment to Colville	309 miles
" Colville to Oakenagen	150 "
" Oakenagen to Walla Walla	207 "
" Walla Walla to Vancouver	203 "
" Vancouver to Cape Disappointment	80 "
	<hr/>
	949

From Ermatinger.



JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN NATHNIEL J. WYETH'S
EXPEDITIONS TO THE OREGON COUNTRY.
SECOND EXPEDITION
1834

On the 5th of May having crossed the Kansas at the agency without accident and in one Half of a day and traded as many cuds and apishemas [saddle blankets] as I wanted and some deer skins for which I paid Bacon. We started with 3 less men 4 having deserted and one new one engaged. Made this day along the Kansas about 16 miles on a small stream having crossed one called the Lautrelle

6th. Moved along the Kansas and made about 12 miles to noon and took an observation found the Latt to be $39^{\circ} 38'$ made this day about 18 miles

7th Made about 15 miles and camped on Little Vermillion

8th. In the morning Mr. [Milton] Sublette finding that his leg would not bear travelling turned back³⁵ made this d[a]y about 15 miles This day left Kansas River

9th. Made about 20 miles and camped on a small river this day our hunter killed our first deer

10th. Made 15 miles to Big Vermillion and then 5 miles more and camped in the praire with but little wood and a little stagnant water

11. Made 9 miles to a small run then lost the trail and crossed a sluggish muddy stream running N and recrossed the same it rounding and heading North and camped at noon this day Latt. $40^{\circ} 18'$. Sent a man to hunt the trail.

12th. Spent the morning mending hobbles and endeavored to get an observation for Long. but it was too cloudy in afternoon started and in about 8 mils found a camp of [William] Sublettes for nooning and marched until dark and camped³⁶ the horses having had nothing to eat all day did not tie them up at 1. ock at night was awakened by a furious running & snorting of the animals who all broke from their hobbles and left camp running in their course over any thing opposed to them spent the night in looking them up and found all but two about sun one hour high three Otoes came to us who I suppose occasioned the fright and got the two horses.

13. Started and travelled 7 hours and camped on a fork of the Blue and found the Long. to be $96^{\circ} 7'$.

14th. Made W.S.W. 21 miles and struck the main Blue

15th. Made about W. 9 miles and found our Lat. to be $40^{\circ} 17'$ then made 12 mils W. by N. over a very level prairie and again struck the main Blue and camped

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16th. Made 10 miles about W. by N. to Dinner Latt. $40^{\circ} 23'$ and 12 more to the Pawnee trail to the head of the Arkansas and found that a very large party had passed it about 10 days before and a smaller one this morning.

17th. Made 3 miles up the stream crossing a very small run course W. by N. then struck out N.W. 3 miles and crossed a little run the same as passed in the morning then same course 6 miles and took an observation for Latt and found it to be $40^{\circ} 22'$ then 5 miles more same course and got sight of the Platte then W.N.W. 5 miles to the river and camped

18th. ³⁷ Raining in morning caught some Cat fish found fresh track of Indians a small party Rained hard all day moved camp 15 miles to a small grove of timber on the main land found our horses very skittish during the night.

19th. In the morning had just raised camp when we discovered two Indians who were shy of coming to us but after a while suffered us to approach them they said they were Pawnees but as we did not know the Pawnees this might be so or not perhaps Ricarees afterward saw several more on the blufs who did not come to us at noon found our Lat. $43^{\circ} 1'$ after traveling 13 miles W.N. in the afternoon traveled 13 miles W. and found our Long. to be $98^{\circ} 30'$ this night doubled guard.

20th. Moved camp from the pickett and 12 miles W. to breakfast fine clear weather old Buffaloe sign and antelope after dinner started and soon saw a band of elk one loose horse took fright at them and ran back on our trail there being no person mounted on a swift horse in camp I followed myself after going to a little creek where we nooned they struck out S. 15 miles to the heads of some little streams with timber probably the Blue where I overtook three of them my horse having failed I lost 2 fine horses. After riding about 12 miles found the Platte at our nights camp and followed it to the camp making in all a ride of about 50 miles arrived about midnight camp moved on 11 miles.

21st. Moved about N. 10 miles Lat. $40^{\circ} 33'$ afternoon 10 miles W. and camped after a little 3 Pawnee Scouts came to us and slept with us in the morning 12 more came and wished to persuade me to go to their camp $1\frac{1}{2}$ days travel N. over the river which they forded here they stole some small things from us

22nd. Moved from the pickett and 15 miles W. about to Latt. _____ just before nooning passed a little creek then West 11 miles and camped.

23rd. 20 miles W. to the crossing of the South fork of the Platte about 8 miles above the forks found Latt. to be $40^{\circ} 41'$

24th. Crossed without difficulty and made up the N. side of the South Fork about 4 miles W. then struck N.W. about 1 mile to the North fork which is here the largest then made about W. by N. about 15 miles and near to some cut blufs which come close to the river

25th. W. by N. 12 miles passing another place where the blufs cut the river and here found much cedar on them and camped on the river in a wide bottom

WYETH'S SECOND EXPEDITION

found no Buffaloe today killed one antelope. Afternoon 10 miles W.N.W. at night found the variation of the compass $1^{\circ} 30'$ west at midnight our horses took fright but being strongly picketed and hobbled but few got out of camp.

26th. I date this the 26th having over noted one day heretofore in afternoon 12 miles W.N.W. passing some steep cut blufs which cut the river afternoon made 12 miles and camped still no buffaloe Latt. $40^{\circ} 22'$ at night.

27th. Made this day 20 miles during a severe gale from the N.N.W. the sand cut like a knife and it was altogether a most disagreeable day this day saw a little timber on some hills to the south of the river about 5 miles distant also 2 bands of wild horses killed one Bull so poor as to uneatable.

28th. Killed Buffaloe plenty today Came in sight of the chimney about noon made 22 miles wind still high N.N.W. One of our outriders saw six Indians mounted today.

29th. No[o]ned at the Chimney Lat. $41^{\circ} 51'$ After travelling this forenoon 11 miles afternoon 10 miles

30th. Passed through between two high blufs through a pretty good pass and avoided going between one of them and the river where there are bad ravines. Made this day 22 miles to Horse creek.

31st. Made after crossing Horse creek at starting about 20 miles.

June 1st. Made 15 miles to Laramies fork just before coming to which we made a cut off of about 3 miles over and about 5 miles by the river forded this fork with ease and made 8 miles up the Platte in afternoon. At the crossing we found 13 of Sublettes men camped for the purpose of building a fort³⁸ he having gone ahead with his best animals and the residue of his goods he left about 14 loads.

2nd. Made along the river 5 miles then struck out into the hills about W.N.W. and made 12 miles to a little creek in the afternoon made 13 miles to pretty large creek and camped for the night the whole course this day about W.N.W. Left at Noon camp a bull and cow whose feet had worn out.

3rd. Made 15 miles and nooned on the river this course N.W. by N. and cut over the hills about $\frac{1}{2}$ the way the river taking a bend quite to the N. and passing through bad rocks. Afternoon made 6 miles cutting two very bad blufs but still following the river and camped on it

4th. Forded the river and made W.N.W. 17 miles along the river and camped on it Sublette one day ahead.

5th. Made along the river 24 miles along the River

6th. Made along the river 24 miles W. by N.

7th. Made 12 miles along the river to the red Butes so called and is the place at which the river turns S.W. and we leave to strike for Sweet Water Sublette 2 days ahead weather chilly and windy. Poor grass for several days.

8th. This morning I had intended to have turned out the horses at 2 ock.