

DOCUMENTS.

It is proposed to reproduce in this department of the Quarterly rare journals, diaries, letters or other documents throwing light upon the history of the Northwest. Effort will be made to reproduce such papers faithfully, errors and all, so that every student and reader may have them at face value.

Diary of an Emigrant of 1845.

Some two years ago Levi Howell wrote from Marshall Junction, Washington, saying that his father had come to the Oregon country in 1845 and kept a daily diary of the trip. If the Washington University State Historical Society cared for it he would have his sister make a copy of the diary. This was done, and the sister—Mary Howell Finegan—says she made a true copy, "the only changes made being a few in the spelling and capital letters."

In transmitting the manuscript Levi Howell gives this brief sketch of his father:

"John Ewing Howell was a native of West Virginia, born in 1806. Spent twenty years in the salt works of Kanawha, going from there to Missouri a few years before starting to Oregon. The little book from which these copies are made was carried by the author from Oregon to Eastern Ohio and then to Clark County, Missouri, where the author died just forty years after the time of starting."

Continuing, the son explains as follows:

"The journal includes nothing of the return trip, but extended general remarks on the country passed through and also Oregon Territory, now Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The marginal figures refer to distances traveled westward from Camp Oregon, in Jackson County, Missouri. These daily distances were estimated until some well known point was reached whose distance was known. Then new estimates for the continued trip. Oregon City is the terminus just six months from starting. My father helped to build the second house in Portland. He claims to have suggested the name. Portland, Iowa,

furnished the name and vanished from the map. The building in Portland, Oregon, was of hewed square logs bolted together and intended to be used for a warehouse. The starting point was five miles north of Luray, Missouri, and twenty-five miles west of Keokuk, Iowa."

Levi Howell's present address is Luray, Missouri. His father's diary, thus brought to light, will prove of interest and value to all who love the history of the Far West.—[Editor.]

Left John Thompson's, Clark Co., Mo., April 11th, 1845, Friday, in company with B. F. Briggs. Destined for Oregon Territory, one wagon, 3 yoke of oxen, 1 horse. Camp at B. Dies Scotland City.

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|----------------------------|---|-------|
| 12, Sat. | Camp at Myers Same Co. | |
| 13, Sun. | Camp at Fork Salt River. | |
| 14, Monday. | Camp at Jones on Chariton Adair Co. Warm & dry. | |
| 15, Tues. | Crossed Chariton. Camped at Judge Ringoes on Mussle Fork. | |
| 16, Wed. | Camp at R. Morris' on Yellow Creek. | |
| 17, Thurs. | Camped at R. Wilson's. | |
| 18, Friday. | Camp 4 miles west Locust. | |
| 19, Sat. | Camp on the west bluff of Grand River. | |
| 20, Sunday. | Camped on the E. bluff of West Grand River. | |
| 21, Monday. | Camped 2 miles N of Shoal Creek Caldwell Co. | |
| 22, Tues. | Camped 2 miles E. of Crooked River line of Caldwell and Clinton Cty. | |
| 23, Wed. | Camp Clay City near Fishing. | |
| 24, Fri. | Crossed Missouri R and camped between Independence and R. | |
| 26, Sat. | Camp at Camp Oregon, Jackson City on waters of Blue. | |
| 27, 28, 29, 30, May First, | Stationary. | |
| 2, Crossed Blue, | Camp at Spanish Camp West of the State of Mo. | |
| 3, 4, 5. | Stationary. | |
| | | Mi. |
| 6, Tues. | Camp in prairie by a grove. | 8—8 |
| 7, Wed. | Camp at Elm Grove which consists of one elm with all the limbs trimmed off. | 7—15 |
| 8, Thurs. | Camp on Post Oak Creek by the side of a grove, Kansas R. waters. | 18—33 |
| 9, Fri. | Crossed Wappaloosa R. West side, beautiful country. | 10—43 |
| 10, Sat. | Tra. Camp on prairie. | 16—59 |
| 11, Sun. | Camp on a creek, Kansas waters Camp wood & good water. | 17—76 |

- 12, Monday. Crossed Kansas River Camp on N. side, R. 400 yds in width Sand bars and sandy banks. Milky water, beautiful country, rather scarce of timber. 4—80
- 13, Tues. Camp on Indian Creek Wood plenty. Creek banks steep and miry—bad camp ground. 3—83
- 14, Wed. held a confused meeting and adjourned abruptly to meet at 8 o'clock next day. It was reported that Indians were driving off cattle.
- 15, Thurs. Met at the hour appointed and after some confusion succeeded in electing officers. Stephen H. Lettuk Pilot. Dr. Welch, Capt. Mr. Sawyer first Lieut. Dr. Carter 2d Lieut. H. P. Lock 3d Lieut. Left at 3 o'clock p. m. and traveled 4 mi. Water scarce. 4—89
- 16, Friday. Camp on Turkey Cr. on Little Soldier. 10—99
- 17, Sat. Camp on Owl Creek. 12—111
- 18, Sund. Crossed Vermilion, a large creek. Camp near a grove, hard rain this morning. the emigra(nts) gave Indians two lame oxen which they butchered and fought over the carcasses, using clubs, Bows, arrows &c. The Caw Nation Sund eve Pilot to a Miss Emigrant. 10—121
- 19, Mon. A meeting was called by the Capt for the purpose of collecting the pilot's money and make some divisions in company. An election was held for Treasurer which resulted in election of James Ramage. T. Stephens elected 2d Lieut in place of Dr. Carter resigned Divided company in three Divisions first division traveled 4 miles and camped on a small creek. Good camp ground. 4—125
- 20, Tues. Second division went ahead 1st and 3d stationary.
- 21, Wednesday crossed several small creeks, which afford wood and water, met 7 wagons from Ft Laramie, Camp at Spring wood inconvenient. 20—145
- 22, Thurs. Crossed Big Vermillion and Bee Creek and camp on the latter. A number of trees peeled at former with many names inscribed which shows the delays of former emigrations. 12—157
- 23 Friday. Camp west of Blue on a small creek Blue 70 yds, wide hard rain. 6—163
- 24, Sat. Met Col. Carmy with dragoons on an exploring expedition. Camp on a ravine to the right of the road. Plenty of wood and water. held court to try some offenders for deserting post and officers for misdemeanor in their official capacity. Maxon prosecuting attorney. 15—178
- 25, Sund. Traveled through tolerably level prairie and camped near a ravine. 10—188

- 26, Monday Trav. storm during night which the cattle to break coral and crush fire wagon in their flight. 13—201
- 27, Tues. Spent repairing damages.
- 28, Wednesday Tr. crossed L & Big Sandies and camped on latter. Big Sandy is a tolerably large creek but dry in moderately dry weather, has low rounded banks. 18—219
- 29, Thursday. Tr. Crossed several small creeks some of which afford wood and camped (on) the Republican Fork of Kansas. 20—238
- 30, Friday. Tr. up river leaving it once a few miles on the left. Camp on a ravine near the main stream. Scattering timber on the largest waters. 17—255
- 31, Saturday. Tr. up R and camp on point. 2 Horses lost. 18—273
- June.
- 1, Sund. Travelled. Camped on a small stream, wood scarce, hard rain. 15—288
- 2, Monday. Tr. over level prairie until within 4 miles of L. Platte where it broken. Camp on P. R. Antelopes &c in abundance. 20—308
- 3, Tues. Tr. held a confused meeting to reconcile some dissenters of the third division which resulted in greater confusion. Camp on Platte. 14—322
- 4, Wed. Tr. up R. passed a large hunting party of the Pawnee Indians. Camp on R. 18—340
- 5, Thurs. Tr. Crossed a small slough or ravine and camped. 18—358
- 6, Friday. Tr. up R and camped. 16—374
- 7, Sat. Tr. camp on Platte. I went out into the bluffs hunting. I was surprised to (find) the country so extremely broken with perpendicular sand pillows, low gaps and deep pits which present an awful appearance. This is the general character of the Platte country on the south side until 20 miles above the forks and much higher on the N side. Cedars are scattered through those bluffs and some other kinds of timber. Platte bottoms are wide and beautiful but generally poor and sandy, the river very wide perhaps 2 miles and very shallow with a sandy bed and low banks and muddy water. 16—390
- 8, Sunday. Crossed several dry creeks and camped one mile west of Ash Creek. About 10 o'P. M. there was an alarm of Indians. All hands were paraded. The alarm was false though there was some reason to believe they had attacked a detachment of the Emigration. 15—405
- 9, Monday. Tr. hard rain. Platte bluffs sloping and some rock visible. 7—412

10, Tues. Tr. left bottom across bluffs good road but neither wood nor water camped on bottom—good grass—wood.

15—427

11, Wednesday Trav. across bluffs camped on the river Willows and water plenty, 3 buffaloes slain.

8—435

12, Thursday. Stationary, held a meeting, resulted in confusion. 2 members expelled.

13, Friday. More quarreling and expelled members left and 2 others with them went in advance of the company.

14, Saturday. Travelled. Wood scarce, grass and water plenty. Wells were dug for cool water about 2 feet deep.

10—445

15, Sund. Tr. Camped at the crossing of South Fork. The country through which we have travelled varies considerably from the line of Jackson County to Kansas River. It is beautiful but there is a great lack of timber. Creek of clear water Kansas are generally good, also the bottoms between Kansas and Platte Rivers the country is more broken and rocky with a great number of small creeks which generally afford camp wood in abundance but is generally too destitute of timber to ever become settled to any extent. Those remarks hold good to the Republican fork or near it where the timber is scarcer and the face of the country more level near Platte bluffs. Platte differs very much from the Kansas the river as far as the forks is so wide that it is impossible to form any correct estimate of its width without actual measurement perhaps 2 miles wide. The South fork up to the ford will perhaps fall short of one mile. The river is full as large as high as the forks, from there up they are generally smaller and not so numerous. the river is full of sand bars and a sandy bottom in the whole distance with low banks not generally more than 4 feet high and often falling short of that height. It receives no accession of water except in time or a short time after heavy rains. The bottoms are beautiful to the eye with a sandy soil and short grass as high up as the Junction of the two main branches and some distance above there is some willows and cotton wood of a dwarfed kind; from thence up there is no timber except the willows and that is scarce and small. The bluffs are broken on both sides to the greatest extreme for some distance above the forks on the S. side. It then suddenly changes and on the North side about 100 miles higher up becomes more level. In the most upland there is considerable cedar some ash and shrubbery roses and— But all are concealed from the eye by the numerous columns of sand unless nearly approached. The upper part of the South fork presents, in many places, of

small extent a white surface destitute of vegetation caused by salt in an impure state. There is many kinds of wild game in this region. Buffalo, antelopes wolves in great numbers deer and elk are not plenty prairie dogs are in great numbers and live in towns underground. From where Oregon trail first strikes Platte to where we leave the south Fork is about 160 miles and I think that there is no place in the whole distance where timber enough could be got on ten miles square to fence ten acres.

14—459

16, Monday. Tr. up R short distance and crossed and camped on N side where the road crosses the highlands for the N Fork.

11—470

17, Tues. Tr. Left the south fork and crossed over to the N Fork. tolerable level until near the N Fork where it is more broken and rocky, and some cedar and ash timber on a dry branch which the road follows down.

20—490

18, Wednesday Tr. up North Fork, high rocky bluffs and some cedar at a distance from the road in bluffs Camped on R, no wood cloudy and very cool weather the last three days.

15—505

19, Thurs. Tr. up Platte. Oxen runaway and broke 2 wagons. Several teams run away without doing any damage. Camp on River near a dry branch very little wood. N Platte is about size of S Platte and resembles it very much. Water some clearer. The country more sandy and the bottoms narrower.

5—510

20, Fri. Tr. up R & crossed a brisk running creek of clear water. Camped on bottom—no wood—good grass.

20—530

21, Sat. Tr. up R and camped near the Chimney. This (is) a singular mass of chalky Clay resting on the summit is about 20 ft in diameter and 100 ft high. The name is applicable.

19—549

22, Sunday. Tr. up R and camped near Scotts Bluffs which presents various appearances resembling dilapidated buildings. The whole viewed together has the appearance of a stupendous city in ruins with broken walls & their height are about 5 or 6 ft I stood on one of those points and plainly saw the Chimney 30 or 40 miles away to the East and the Black Hills 50 or 60 to the West. There is some cedar, pines &c in those bluffs and the pine on the Black Hills gives them a dark appearance when viewed at a distance. From this the name is derived. They show themselves far above the contiguous lands. The peculiarities of this country is its sterility, its extensive level plains. Large dry basins without outlets—Large tract extremely broken The soil is a chalky sand or sand some spots producing no vegetation at all but generally a very short grass

- slightly mixed with weeds and the best produces only a tolerable quality. 15—564
- 23, Monday. Tr. camped near the mouth of Horse Creek—wood—grass—water. 25—589
- 24, Tues. Tr. crossed bluffs—camped on R—wood—water—grass. 16—605
- 25, Wednesday Stationary.
- 26, Thursday. Travelled up R crossed plain and camp on River. 12—617
- 27, Friday. Tr up River—passed Ft. Laramie & ft Platte near the junction of Laramie and Platte rivers. Crossed Laramie R. 7—624
- 28, Sat. Tr. camped on River 12—636
- 29, Sund. Tr. through hills, bluffs rough roads. Camped at Big springs wood and water but no grass for three miles. 9—645
- 30, Monday. Tr. through hills and camped on Bitter Cottonwood Creek good water good grass and good wood of the kind indicated by the name of the creek. Compared with this part of the country is well timbered. 12—657
- July 1, Tues. Tr. crossed divide between B Cottonwood Cr. and Horse Shoe Cr. through pine hills. The main range of Black Hills on the left hand rough and rocky road. The highest peaks of the Black Hills are justly entitled to name of Mts. Camped on Horse Shoe Creek fine spring—wood—water and grass. 16—673
- 2, Wednesday. Tr. through hills. Crossed 2 small creeks which afford wood and some grass, no water at this season. Camped on Box Elder Creek 2 miles below ford,—the most difficult road since we left the States. Passed the high peak of B. Hills or Laramie Mt. 20—693
- 3, Thurs. Tr through hills and hollows red hills, and bald and rocky hills and high hills and camped on Box Elder the 4th good water and grass. Range of hills continue on south. 16—709
- 4, Friday. Tr. over tolerably rough road. Crossed Box Elder the 5th and struck Platte at the bend. Camped on P. 2 miles above. High hills continue on the South. 14—723
- 5, Stationary.
- 6, Sunday. Travelled up Platte and camped on the R. drove across the river for grass. 13—736
- 7, Monday. Stationary.
- 8, Tues. Trav. high hills continue on South. Camped on Platte 3 miles from ford. Good grass on an island. 10—746
- 9, Wednesday. Trav. Crossed Platte R and crossed high hills and camped on Bitter Water or Stinking Creek. No wood—poor water—poor grass. Red Buttes in full view. 15—761

- 10, Thurs. Trav. over hills and camped in hills. Some good grass, good water, cooking wood. 16—777
- 11, Friday. Trav. on plains and hills and camped on a creek, grass and water. Bald hills in every direction. 17—794
- 12, Saturday Trav. nooned Independence Rock. This is a singular mass of rock situated on the bank of Sweet Water, surrounded by a wide bottom. Five miles higher up Sweet Water is what is called the Devil's Gate in honor of his Satanic Majesty. A great curiosity. S. Water passes through a rocky mountain. The opening is about 100 ft wide with perpendicular walls on each side 200 or 300 ft high. the R is full of large loose rock in those narrows and has a great fall. There is another gap through this ridge where wagons pass on good roads and high sandy plains that terminate further south. Camp on S. Water 3 miles above Devil's Gate Good grass—no wood. 16—810
- 13 Sund. Trav. up R. camp on R between Rocky hills, south side the mountains are slightly timbered with pines. The north they are nearly all rock with here and there a pine or cedar shrub. Grass scarce. Shrubs on river and drift-wood. 14—824
- 14, Monday. Trav. up Sweet water and camped on R. Good grass high hills and numerous valleys or gaps some of which are quite extensive. 5—829
- 15, Tues. Trav. up Sweet Water and crossed three and passed through detached rocky ridges surrounded by plains. Camped (on) Sweet Water to the left of the road by the side of a large mass of rock. Company re-divided 12 wagons fell to our share. 12—841
- 16, Wednesday. Trav. cross plains & crossed Sweet Water. Camp. Some grass—no wood. 18—859
- 17, Thurs. Trav. cross hill & plain. Crossed Sweet Water twice. Camp on R. Shrubs and grass. 8—867
- 18, Friday Trav. hilly circuitous and rocky road. Crossed N Fork of Sweet Water and camp on small branch of Sweet Water in sight of the snow peaks of Wind River Mt. on the North. Shrub wood, tolerable grass. 18—885
- 19, Sat. Trav. Crossed Sweet Water and crossed divide between the two great Oceans. This pass as it is called is an undulating plain of considerable extent and the Mts. are elevated but little above the plain except on the N. E. they are higher and partially covered with snow during the year. Camp on Water grass branch a flush running little stream running south and is a branch of the Colorado that empties into the Gulf of California. It affords more grass than any stream of its size in this part of the country. The plains

- are extremely poor Sandy or Rocky producing sage only which is the principal production of the plains from the commencement of the Black Hills. 18—903
- 20, Sunday. Trav. Cross plain. Good road except sand. Camp on Little Sandy to the right of the road. A flush running little R making its way to the South. Shrubbery and grass. 19—922
- 21, Monday. Trav. Crossed Little Sandy thence down. Camp on Big Sandy above the ford. Good grass, some timber. 12—934
- 22, Tuesday. Trav. Crossed Big Sandy. 70 or 80 yds wide. Sandy bed with low banks. Camp on Sandy no camp between. Scattering wood. 16—950
- 23, Wednesday. Trav. Crossed Green River. Water channel 100 yds wide swift smooth current, gravelly and rocky bed. Clear water 3 ft deep at the ford. Course from N to S Timbered with cottonwood along the banks. grass good in places Camp 3 miles below ford. 12—962
- 24, Thursday. Stationary.
- 25, Friday. Trav. Crossed hills and plains. Sandy road. Camp on Black Fork. grass and shrubbery. No camp between. 16—978
- 26, Saturday. Trav. Crossed hills and crossed Ham's and Black's Ford. Camp on Black Ford. Poor grass—wood. 16—994
- 27, Sunday. Trav. Crossed Black Ford 4 times. passed low rocky hills that I cannot describe. Camp on Black Ford 1 mile below Bridgers and Vasques fort good grass and wood. 16—1010
- 28, Monday. Trav. over some steep hills, crossed a small creek 8 miles from Fort, but little grass, no wood bad water. Camp on a small creek poor grass, bad water, shrubs. 18—1028
- 29, Tues. Trav. up same creek poor grass all the way over the hills Camp on creek, grass a little better. 12—1040
- 30, Wed. Trav 14 miles up creek to the head. good grass all the way, high hills, bad roads. Crossed divide between Black Fork and Bear R. 6 miles. Camp at a spring. Some grass and sage-wood. This divide and the country bordering is diversified with various colors: Red, green, yellow &c and all intermediate hues. Some very good soil. Some small cottonwood groves of a dwarfish kind. Some pines and cedars. This place has some pretensions to romantic beauty. 20—1060
- 31, Thurs. Trav. down creek and down Bear River and camp on Bear river at a large spring. Bear River at this place is about 50 yds wide and winds very much across its bottoms which are very wide. The direction of its valley at this place is a little East of North descending surrounded with high hills. 10—1070

Aug. 1, Fri. Travelled down Bear River and camped 2 miles above the mouth of Smith's Fork—good camping. For the last 15 mi shrub wood. 16—1086

2, Saturday. Travelled down Bear River. Crossed Smith's Fork, a clear and beautiful and rapid stream from the Northern mountains. The bottoms from this place are narrower. The gates are a few miles below, the river turns more westward and runs that direction for 10 miles then turns short again and continues that direction 10 miles further where we camped, then turns nearly the contrary direction for five miles then turns again to the South west and passes through a gorge in the mountains where wagons cannot pass. A few miles below this gorge the river connects with Bear Lake. On the south side here is cotton-wood timber but a small grove. The soil on bottoms I think is of good quality but dry. The hills are high and generally rocky, most of the rock have the appearance of being burnt, resembling old furnace walls, they are of different kinds. Mostly new to me. 20—1106

3, Sunday. Trav down R $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. foot of mountain 6 miles, top of first bench 7 miles, thence to cottonwood grove on B River 7 miles 14 in all rear of Bear lake rough road Cross the Mountain. 14—1120

4, Monday. Trav. down Bear River valley and camped in the plain at a good spring on the left of the road. Passed extensive bottoms or low plains and crossed several flush running small streams of pure water. The hills or Mts. have considerable timber either pine or cedar. the soil appears to be good generally but lacks rain. 14—1134

5, Tuesday. Trav. down Bear River Valley. Crossed several running branches and springs and camped at Soda Springs near Bear River. There is a cedar grove at those springs on Bear River bottom and pine plenty on Mts. near at hand. The soda springs are a curiosity but I was very much disappointed from reports, there is considerable gas rises at this place through the earth that gives the water a peculiar flavor but rather disagreeable than otherwise. Volcanic rock is abundant contiguous to those springs. Soil not good. 28—1162

6, Wednesday. Trav. 3 miles down Bear River and 4 through plains. Crossed several small streams and passed several good springs and some soda springs. This plain is about 30 miles in length and from 5 to 10 wide. Volcanic rocks are strewn in every direction. Some places scattered and other places presenting massive black and craggy walls. They must resemble the walls and cinders down below. 24—1186

- 7, Thursday. Trav. up creek and cross Mountains which divides Bear R waters from Lewis R and camped on the waters of the latter after passing groves of small cottonwood and pine and high mountains nearly or quite bald and some quite green and beautiful with some places covered with snow. plenty of good springs and running water. 18—1204
- 8, Friday. Trav. cross sandy plains and camped in Lewis R bottom at a spring 5 mi East of Ft. Hall. 18—1222
- 9, Saturday. Trav. down river passed Ft. Hall and camped on a creek 4 miles west of Ft. About this fort there is a tolerable plain bordering on Lewis R and a large bottom surrounded with lofty and snowy mountains in almost every direction. 9—1231
- 10, Sunday. Trav. down valley and camped on Portneuf River. 7—7
- 11, Monday. Trav. down valley crossed Portneuf R & creek west. Camp on L River 200 yards wide. At camp deep and gentle current, clear water. 14—21
- 12, Tues. Trav. down R crossed some road generally bad. Camp on a creek that I called Fall creek. passed the American Falls of Lewis R which are thirty-five or forty feet in a few yds—on the N. side where the greatest portion of the water passes. On the south side the descent is more gradual but there is several perpendicular falls of 8 or 10 feet. A great number of large rock are scattered in those falls. Below the great falls there is a succession of falls of less note. 18—39
- 13, Wednesday. Trav. camped on a creek where the Oregon and California roads part. Good grass. 9—48
- 14, Thursday. Trav. cross dry and rocky plain of the volcanic kind without water. Camp on Goose Creek Marsh. 15—63
- 15, Friday. Trav. down Goose Creek and dry plain. Camp on L river Coarse grass and willows.
- 16, Saturday. Trav. Crossed Goose Creek No 2. Crossed dry and rocky plain Camp on a dry branch. Poor camp bad water. 23—98
- 17, Sunday. Trav cross plain dry as powder. Camp on Rock Creek good camp and good water. 10—108
- 18, Monday. Trav. part down River and cross plain. Camp on L. R. bluff drove cattle to the river. one mile high bluffs. bad camp. 20—128
- 19, Tues. Trav. cross arid and barren plain. Camp at bend of L. River at the mouth of a small creek. Warm springs. bad camp. 13—141
- 20, Wednesday. Trav. down river crossed Falls or Little Salmon River. Camp at the Salmon Falls. poor camp. For the last 75 miles Lewis R is bound up with dark and volcanic walls to a tremendous height. The

plains are strewn in every direction with volcanic rock. The river is a succession of falls from the great falls to the Salmon Falls. The Salmon falls are the greatest falls except that the falls in the descent is more gradual being 60 or 70 feet in a mile at the termination. The River makes a great bend to the N. or N. West above the Salmon falls for 20 or 30 miles. A great number of powerful springs breaks out on the north bank of River, one that spreads its white sheet 2 or 3 hundred yards wide up and down the river. Some fall 3 or 4 hundred feet, dashing their foaming torrents headlong over the craggy walls below.

10—151

21, Thursday. Trav. crossed bare plain. Camp on bluff of L. River one mile from water and three from grass, dry grass at that. high bluff.

13—164

22, Friday. Trav. cross plain some dry grass, no water. Camp on L. River at the mouth of a dry creek. Some grass.

12—176

23, Saturday. Trav. cross bluff. Crossed Lewis River about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, average depth $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Brisk current 2 islands in the ford. Camp on dry branch 3 miles from ford. Good grass shrub wood and sage.

9—185

24, Sunday. Travelled up bluff. Camp on a small mountain stream. Good grass. Shrub and sage wood and a shower of rain that laid the dust.

7—192

25, Monday. Stationary—Resting cattle.

26, Tuesday. Trav. cross plain. Camp on a small stream that comes from the mountains. Good grass water and shrub wood.

10—202

27, Wednesday. Tr. cross elevated though level and rocky plains the rock are of the volcanic kind. passed hot springs, the hottest of which is hot enough to scald hogs. bold running streams a range of Mts. on the right or N. presenting ledges of rock and volcanic rock. Camp on a bold running little stream that comes from the Mts. grass shrub and sage wood.

15—217

28, Thursday. Trav. over rocky plains in A. M. over very hilly and otherwise good road in P. M. good upland grass. Camp on a small stream. Wood.

20—237

29, Friday. Trav. over hilly road. grass generally but no water. Camp on Bosia R wood, grass &c.

20—257

30, Saturday. Trav. down Bosia River. Camp on bottom. Wood, water, grass &c.

15—272

31, Sunday. Trav. down Bosia R Bottom. Camp on Bottom. Wood, water grass etc. The Bottoms are wide sand and gravelly and afford grass weeds. Some cotton wood, willows and shrubs. Compared with the other streams of this country is well timbered.

15—287

Sept. 1, Monday. Trav. down Boisias R. Crossed and camped on N. side.

12—299

- 2, Tuesday. Tr. down Boisia R in part—passed Ft. Boisia situated below the mouth of Boisia R on the north side of Lewis R near the bank Crossed Lewis R 50 rods below fort it is about half a mile wide, depth half way our highest wagon Beds. Current not very strong. Camp on South side one mile from ford. Grass willow wood &c 7—308
- 3, Wednesday. Tr through poor and hilly country. Camp on Malheurs river a small tributary of Lewis R. grass and shrubs. 16—324
- 4, Thursday. Trav over hills good road camp on a small branch grass and shrubs 21—345
- 5, Friday. Trav. through hills and touch Lewis R. camp on Burnt river a small tributary of Lewis R. 10—355
- 6, Saturday. Trav. up B. river crossed numerous points considerable rock bad roads. Crossed R 8 times. Camp on R wood, water, grass. 14—369
- 7, Sunday. Trav. up B. river and Branches. Camp on small branch of the same. This river has no valley except a very narrow bottom that produces cotton-wood and shrubs, grass and rushes and is surrounded in every direction with Mts. but not of great altitude. They afford tolerably good grass. This is the most difficult part of the road to this point. 12—381
- 8, Monday. Trav. on the waters of Burnt river and touched on R once through mountains. Camp on a spring branch near a lone pine. grass and willows. 15—396
- 9, Tuesday. Trav. over hill and plain. Camp in bottom of Powder river. Wide bottoms, grass and willows. Timbered mountains near at hand. 20—416
- 10, Wednesday. Trav. down valley of Powder R. crossed 3 branches of the same. Camp on bottom good grass, willow wood, some excellent soil. 14—430
- 11, Thursday. Tr. through valley of Powder river Crossed ridges of Mts. Camp in the edge of Grande Rond. Powder river has wide bottoms and forms a considerable valley some of which is good soil producing willows and other shrubs grass, rushes, Flax clover &c on the west side of this valley a lofty range of the Blue mountains which produce the large straight and lofty pine, spruce and Fir in great abundance, good grazing on those mts & good springs near the valley but not plenty in the interior. 18—448
- 12, Friday. Trav. across the Grand Round a beautiful and rich valley of land probably containing one thousand square miles surrounded by the Blue Mountains which appear to be rich grass clover and is abundant here The mountain scenery is grand Camp at the foot of the Mt. on a branch. 13—461
- 13, Saturday. Trav. over mountains some prairie

and generally open along the road but the greater portion covered with the majestic pine and that densely, beautiful mountain scenery. Camp on Grand Round River in a dense forest the first camp of the kind on the whole route.

10—471

14, Sunday. Trav. through dense forest up 4 bad hills, rocky roads, very little water. Camp on Mt. Water unhandy.

11—482

15, Monday. Trav. crossed the summit of the Blue Mts. Camp on the Umatalow river Small branch all timbered country.

9—491

16, Tuesday. Trav. half through pine forest and nearly all down hill camp on Umatalow at the foot of the Blue Mountains. The Blue Mts are a beautiful range of Mts. They are well timbered and afford good grazing. Some places in them are covered with perpetual snow.

17—508

17, Wednesday. Trav. and camped on the Umatalow river.

The Indians raise corn and potatoes on this river horses are quite numerous. Dr. Whitman and lady visited our camp this morning and travelled with us and camped with us and worshipped with us. He had a wagon load of flour along not bolted \$8 pr. 100 lbs.

5—513

18, Thursday. Trav. down Umatalow river and crossed. Travelled and camped on bluff 2 left of road 2 miles from water from camp down high and steep hill.

14—527

19, Friday. Trav. struck the Umatalow at 12 miles Camp on Umatalow R.

14—541

20, Saturday. Travelled down Umatalow and Sand plain Camped without water. The camps on the Umatalow should be first where first struck at the foot of the Blue mountains. Camp 2 at first crossing 3 where road strikes river after crossing. Camp 4. 3 or 4 miles below second crossing. by making the above encampments water and grass will be convenient at each. From the last camp mentioned to the Columbia fifteen miles there is a sand plain without water and very poor grass.

18—559

21, Sund. Trav. Started at sun-rise Camp on the Columbia. Good grass some wood. The Columbia river at this place about 50 miles below Walla Walla is about one mile wide gentle current. The banks are about 20 feet high Narrow bottoms. But a sand plain extends back from the river 15 or 20 miles and rises tolerably gradual the whole distance and attains a considerable height This portion is very poor and unfit for cultivation further out the country is more rolling and continues to rise probably to the mountains.

The soil becomes better suited to cultivation. Dr. Whitman says it is good wheat land. Water during the dry season is scarce in this portion of Oregon ex-

- cept the rivers that have their rise in the mountains. There is some timber on those streams but not of good quality being principally a kind of cotton-wood and shrubbery of various kinds. The Columbia is nearly destitute of timber or shrubs. 5—564
- 22, Monday. Stationary and annoyed by the Walla Walla Indians begging etc.
- 23, Tuesday. Travelled down Columbia Sandy road good camp 16 miles camped at a poor camp by a narrow slew of the Columbia. 20—584
- 24, Wednesday. Trav. down Columbia Crossed sandy and rocky plain. Crossed Quisnel 7 miles excellent camp Camp on Columbia at the mouth of a dry branch high rocky banks. bad camp. No wood. 16—600
- 25, Thursday. Trav. down Columbia left river in two places Travelled under high and rocky bluffs near half the day Camp on the river under high basaltic walls. The road again leaves the river No wood. bad camp. No good camp has been passed this day. 15—615
- 26, Friday. Trav. up one hill and down another to John Day's river. Camp on J D river No wood but green willow and small shrubs. 4—619
- 27, Saturday. Trav crossed J Day's river at rocky ford near camp thence up steep hill. balance good roads camp on the Columbia at the head of a rock Island which appears to fill the valley of the river nearly up. Willow and drift-wood. 20—639
- 28, Sunday. Travelled four miles to the falls Du Chutes river. This river is not less than 150 yds wide. Swimming deep for horses and swift Crossed in canoes by Walla Walla Indians. high ferriage Immediately above the ford which is near its junction with the Columbia there is a fall of about 20 feet in a short distance. It is rapid to the mouth and rocky thence up a steep hill and down on another to creek up another of the same kind and down onto a creek where we camped. The three last streams are about 6 miles distant from each other and afford good camps. Grazing is generally good in this section. There is oak timber on the last creek the first I have seen since I left Kansas river waters. 16—653
- 29, Monday. Trav. camp at the Dalles where the wagon road ends. I was not close to the Dalles but the Columbia R winds its way through rugged a great many miles which rise in benches to a great height. The river is generally contracted and some places very narrow. Timber begins to approach the river about the Dalles, principally oak and pine. 9—662
- 30, Tuesday. Remained at the Dalles.
- Oct. 1, Wednesday. Same place.
- 2, Thursday. Trav. with cattle. Camp on the eastern slope of the Cascade Mts on a small creek after

travelling over hills thinly set with oak and pine timber.

16—677

3, Friday. Trav. up eastern slope of Cascade Mts. part through dense forests of pine, cedar and fir Camp at a mountain spring in the neighborhood of some small rich prairies at no great distance from Mt. Hood.

18—695

4, Saturday. Travelléd over steep rough and rocky road down steep but on a creek and followed creek 4 miles to Mt. Hood Camp near Mt. Hood's southern extremity. poor camp but there is a great many springs in this place which afford tolerable good grass. There has been a great land slide at the head of the last mentioned creek from Mt. Hood which covered the valley of the creek to a great depth and the timber is still standing but deeply rooted in this treacherous foundation.

16—711

5, Sunday. Trav across the foot of Mt. Hood. Crossed several snow banks and camped in a deep hollow. Excellent grass Mt. Hood stands erect high above its neighbors and wears winter clothing during the whole year and immense quantities of water descend from the Mt. in every direction.

8—719

6, Monday. Travelled part of the foot of Mt. Hood and part down Sandy Creek. Crossed several awful gulfs at the foot of Mt. Hood Sandy rocky &c Camp on creek Poor grass.

15—735

7, Tuesday. Trav. down Sandy bad road camp on east side tolerably good grass. Very large timber.

9—744

8, Wednesday. Trav. down Sandy Camp on a small stream poor grass fallen timber good soil.

18—762

9, Thursday. Trav. Tolerable road good soil. Camp on waters of Clackamas. Good grass, good water.

20—782

10, Friday. Trav. down Clackamas Camp near its junction with Willamette.

16—798

11, Saturday. Travelled. Camp between Clackamas and Oregon City. Emigrants arriving at Oregon City with cattle or other stock will as well in all cases to proceed on up the valley to the prairie as soon as possible and all others that intend farming for their living.

2—800

The face of the country in Oregon Territory is diversified with mountains plains and valleys and the soil is as various as the face of the country. Commencing in the eastern section on the wagon road there is a large plain bordering Green River valley lying on both sides of the river, all except some small spots on what few water courses there is in this section of the country approximates nearly to desert without wood or water with a tolerable level surface surrounded with high mountains in different directions.

The next river (Bear) the valley is much smaller, but superior in soil water etc. surrounded by hills and mountains generally bald but not universally. There is a cedar grove at the Soda

Springs. The valley is very circuitous and the bed of the river much more so. The river perhaps from sixty to eighty yards wide not more than half the width of Green River and much shallower.

We then cross plain and mountain and strike Lewis river at Fort Hall where there is a considerable of moderately fertile land near the river and other waters. After passing Great Falls there is a wide extended valley of great length resembling that on Green river. The Salmon falls are within this valley of sterility.

After leaving this plain the surface is more diversified and the soil more various but generally very poor until 20 or 30 miles east of the Blue Mountains where the soil improves to such a degree that large valleys of very good soil and fine timber in abundance on the mountains.

West of the Blue Mts the greater portion is high rolling prairie to the eastern spurs of the Cascades. Scarce of water with occasional sand plains nearly sterile.

The Cascade Mts. are high and in many places very broken heavy timbered except the peaks of perpetual snow. At the western termination of this range is the Willamette valley through which the river of the same name flows. The width of this valley is perhaps 40 miles and probably over 200 long from N to S. The Wilamette enters into the Columbia 6 miles below Ft. Vancouver on the latter. About 25 miles above the junction there is a fall in the Wilamette of 25 or 30 feet nearly perpendicular. It receives the waters of the Clackamas 2 miles below the falls.

From the east a river of considerable magnitude 8 or 10 miles higher up receives the united streams of the Molally and Pudding Rivers when united something smaller than the Clackamas. The next river from the east is the Santyann about 50 miles higher up. This is the largest tributary of the Willamette below the forks. It comes from the Cascade Mts. in 4 considerable streams but all unite near one place several miles from the Mts. and 4 or 5 from the Wilamette. The next is the Calopia a small river having its source in the Cascade Mts. from thence the main forks of the Wilamette a distance 25 or 30 miles there are no streams of any considerable size.

The first stream entering on the West of any note is Twality River. About the size of Pudding river 2 miles above the falls. Next the Yam Hill about the same size, 25 or 30 miles higher up. next Rickerol a small river, About 15 miles higher up. next Luckamuke larger than the last mentioned, 10 miles higher up, then Mary's R. 20 higher up something larger than the Luckamuke.

Long Tom Bath 20 miles higher up, larger than the Mary R. The tributaries on the east side are more rocky and rapid than those on the West.

Ten or twelve miles above the mouth of Long Tom Bath the Wilamette forks and the forks branch out into a number

of streams. Of course the navigation must cease for large craft. Below forks to the Columbia I think the navigation of the Willamette will be found good for steamboats of common size with some slight obstructions by ——— the Great Falls at Oregon City. But as far as Mary's river at least. There is a rapid at the mouth of the Clackamus that is very swift but there is a sufficient depth of water at the low stage for boats of light draught.

Face of the country in the Willamette valley is something various, large sections quite level others nearly with conical hills occasionally and some parts hilly. Below falls the valley lies exclusively on the east side and with the exception of some small on the Clackamus and a few other small spots, is a heavy timbered country with a tolerably level surface. The settlers being a few on the main Willamette and on the Clackamus Beside the heavy growth of timber and undergrowth there is a species of Fern that is very hard to subdue.

From the falls to the Molally there is no prairie and but few farmers although there (are) several claims taken here hilly but not broken on the east side of the W. R. Above Molally there is more prairie but the greatest part is timbered for about 40 miles higher up surface mostly level. Pudding R. drains a large Portion of this section tolerably well watered only. Above this prairie predominates as far as the waters of the Santy ann extends up but is tolerably well supplied in most places and a sufficient quality on the waters of the Santy ann. Fire wood more abundant than building and fencing timber as fir and cedar is used almost exclusively for fencing.

Hills and valleys in this a great portion of hills red soil, mostly timbered with oak &c. A considerable portion of the low land is gravelly and some portions with soil generally good and the best watered part of the whole valley. Above the waters of the Santy Ann the country is very level as high up as the forks with but very little timber except at the Mts. and near the Willamette and a narrow strip bordering the Calopia which flows across not far from the center of this prairie.

Above this point timber seems to be quite plenty. Soil near the Mts. excellent. On the west side of Twality River there is a small section of prairie called Twality plains surrounded with excellent. But from the Yam Hill up fir timber is generally very scarce except on the Willamette and at the Mts. The face of the country variegated with hills and valleys, intersected with low gaps or valleys running from one water course to another, the upper end of this valley being much the levellest. For twenty miles above Long Tom Bath the soil generally (good) but the central part excellent but not so well timbered nor watered as the east side of the valley though fire wood is generally plenty and there is an inexhaustible supply of Fir timber in the Mts and on the Willamette which is not entirely out of reach of any portion of the valley. Above the Willamette forks timber more abundant.

The timber in the valley consists of red, white and yellow fir,

white oak, cedar, spruce, cottonwood, Willow, ash, yew, alder, cherry, maple, Dog-wood, Bay or Laurel, Pine of pitch species. The shrubbery is various and large consisting of elder, hazel, crab-apple, service, skunk-wood etc. Above the forks of the Willamette there (is) Black oak but none in the lower part and no spruce in the upper that I have seen besides the Willamette Valley.

It is said by recent explorers that there is a more extensive country N. of the Columbia bordering Puget's Sound well adapted to grazing and agriculture and south on the Umpqua, Clamet and Rouge rivers. There is said to be considerable of excellent soil well adapted to grazing and tillage perhaps the whole country west of the Cascade Mts between 42° and 49° that is not mountainous will not excede 25 or 30 thousand square miles though it is generally estimated much larger. The mount (ainous) country will undoubtedly be settled to a considerable extent at some distant day the principal difficulty is the immensely heavy growth of timber.

The tillable portion of the Willamette valley is well adapted to wheat and other grains cultivated in the United States with the exception of Indian corn which owing to the peculiarities of the climate does not succeed so well as in the States of equal soil. Cabbage, beets onions turnips parsnips & carrots thrive remarkably well. The Rev. Mr. Parrish raised on new prairie land a turnip that weighed 28 lbs and a beet that weighed $13\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Potatoes as well as pumpkins squashes melons tomatoes tolerably. It is said that gourds will not do any good.

Climate. The winters are much warmer and wetter than in the same latitude in the states and the summers dryer and cooler, the nights in particular.

Internal improvements consist chiefly of some small improvements on roads the principal of which is Captain Barlows over the Cascade Mts. called the Mt. Hood road and that is very difficult to be passed and something dangerous owing to the ruggedness of the country through which it passes and the dense forest. This road was cut in 1846 by Barlow and associates for toll by authority of the legislature of the Territory. There has been another route explored by Applegate, Harris, Goff & leaving the old road about 50 miles west of Ft. Hall down Mary River and coming in the southwest side of the Willamette valley. But one emigration has come this route which caused great delay and loss of lives and property some of which remained on the Umqua River. Great suffering was the consequence.

May 16 I am now lying on a small stream called Zig zag on Capt. Barlow's road on my way to the States, 45 miles from all humans. We made the attempt to cross the Mts. with our pack animals but was prevented by the snow it being 10 ft deep on Mts where road passes through solid enough for a man to walk on. Our animals were unpacked at the commencement of the snow and taken back to grass by the rest of the company. I remain with the packs my only companions Grizly Bears and their habits are rather unsocial and not much to be desired.

Review of the Oregon Road Pack horse trail and wagon road alternately. Left the Willamette valley on the 26th May travelled the wagon roads it being difficult on (account) of high waters and deep snow in the Cascade Mts. For 10 or 12 miles on and near the summit the snow varied from 2 to 10 ft in depth, sufficiently solid for horses to travel on top. Crossing streams on natural bridges of snow. After passing the snow about 30 miles the grass was in its bloom and very fine until I reached Ft. Bosia.

We then took the pack trail on the south side of Snake River and passed through the most barren part of the territory that I have been in. From the Salmon Falls to Ft Hall, I found the grass much superior to that of '45.

From Ft. Hall eastward to this point Smith's fork of Bear River the grass is excellent. We are waiting here the arrival of Emigrants which are hourly expected. The Southern company from the Willamette valley arrove here by the southern route ten days in advance of us and Major Harris had been to the pass of the Rocky Mts. and returned meeting two hundred emigrating wagons.

July 4th 1847 we were one month later reaching this place in 1845. On our return trip with packed animals, we reached Ft. Hall in 31 days from the settlement in the Willamette valley meeting with no very serious obstructions crossing streams being the greatest difficulty with the exception of swarms of mosquitos.

On reviewing the road on which I travelled in 1845 and Greenwood cut off which leaves the old road about 2 miles east of the Little Sandy and intersects again near the mouth of Smiths Fork of Bear river. This route is generally rough and circuitous and Sweet Water is generally level but very sandy and heavy road which continues some distance eastward.

Notes taken of the road leading from the Independence road to St Joseph in Buchanan County Mo. Camp to the right of the road on a small creek 8 miles west of the forks of the road.

Big Blue 8 miles east of forks of the road third camp is E. of Blue on a small creek at the road waters of the Blue. Fifth camp 5 miles on small creek, where road crosses there is another small creek about one mile East. Sixth camp on main fork of Wolf River 15 miles fine prairie bottom on West side Bluff on the East. Camps may be made at different points by turning a short distance off the road unless the weather is very dry. From this point eastward there is no good camp for about 18 miles. Then they may be had on either side of the road by leaving it some distance. Another good camp 6 miles east of the latter on a small creek south of the road at a great bend on the creek. From this camp there is no camp on the road but may be had at a reasonable distance on the left hand or South 8 miles from the Agency. From this to St. Joseph distance is about 25 miles camps are plenty the road broken.

The following is a list of persons that perished in the California Mts by hunger or cold in the winter of 1846 & 47.

Jacob Donnor, Betsy Donnor, Isaac Donnor Wm. Donnor, Lewis Donnor, Samuel Donnor, George Donnor, Mrs. Donnor, John Denton, Balus Williams, Milford Elliott, James Smith, Mr. Graves, Miss Graves, Franklin, Graves, J. A. Fausbic, C. T. Staunton, Patrick Dolon, Samuel Shoemaker, Mr. Murphy, Samuel Murphy, Andrew Murphy, Geo. Foster, L. Eddy, James Eddy, Eliza Eddy, Katherine Pike, Harriet McCutcheon, Dutch Rignhart, Mr. Hardcope, Mr. Spilcer, Charles Berger, L. T. Kethburg, Bethy Kethburg, Antonio Spaniard Lewis and Salvado from Suiters.

Oregon City James Watson Ephraim Stout John or James Stout.

Seeds not generally difused through Oregon Territory.

Timber:—Chestnut, beech, sugar maple, Linn, Elm; hickory, hackberry, walnut, buckeye, cucumber, Sasafras, plum, poplar, paw paw, persimmon, honey locust, black locust.

Orchard and garden:—Grapes, currants, gooseberry, apple seed, cherry, peach, pear, tansy, rue, mint, catnip, burdock, horse raddish, calamus, hoarhound, shallot, garlic, white rye, sile, oats, mulberry, persimmon.

Distances from one noted place to another on the Oregon road.

To Kansas R.....	80— 80
Platte R.....	228— 308
Where road leaves Fork.....	162— 470
Strike N. Fork.....	20— 490
Scotts Bluffs.....	74— 564
Fort Platte & Laramie.....	60— 624
Cross N. fork Platte.....	125— 749
Independence Rock.....	57— 806
Divide of the Oceans.....	97— 903
Cross Green River.....	59— 962
Fort Bridger.....	48—1010
Bear River.....	60—1070
Soda Springs.....	92—1162
Ft Hall on Lewis R.....	69—1231
Salmon Falls.....	151—1382
Ford of Lewis R.....	31—1413
Ft Bosia and second crossing of Lewis River.....	126—1539
Powder R. E. side B. Mts.....	108—1647
Umataallow W. side Mts.....	92—1739
Columbia R.....	55—1794
Dalles.....	98—1892
Oregon City.....	138—2030

Since the above was written a part of the road has been measured which varies about 23 miles from Ft Laramie to the divide of the Oceans.