

The dates in **bold type** have been added for clarity .
Green text indicates insertion in original diary.
Red text indicates deletion in original diary.
Extraneous indicates material that appears to be extraneous to the dated entry.

Journal, 1850: electronic resource
Cobbey, John Furmes, 1827-1854

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[page front inside cover]

[\[2\]](#)
17
75
J F Cobbeys
Book
1832
[\[3\]](#)
I D

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John Furmes Cobbey of Ills....
[\[4\]](#)

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Page --1

[\[5\]](#)
Mission of St Anto
-no

[\[6\]](#)
This mission stands near the cost on the northern side the bay [^]of Bloutry in a tract of land remarkble for its agriculture capacities which is developed in the richest harvest
In 1830 This mission suclarized By order

Nomber of Land Warrents
William Kinmans No- 8,358
Thomas Cobbey's No3,963
Robert Anderson's " 70,466
Each calling for 160 acres of land

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2

Accounts

John F Cobbeys

May

13 Stephen Johnson Dr

To cash \$1000 Settled 00

[7]

Settled

July

[8]

"18 Thomas Cobbey

To cash-100-'1 00

" David Cohenour

To cash - 500 -" 5 00

27 Thomas Cobbey --1 50

Augst To cash 1.50-

30th Cash to Ap'legate & Clover -1 00

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3

Book A.D. 1852 =

Stephen Johnson Cr

July By cash.00, ..00

[9]

Settled

July

[10]

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Genealogy

John Furmes Cobbey

1827 - 1854

Lived between the above dates

He was my Uncle being my Father's
brother next younger my Father having
been born in 1824 -

Have just read the following

Journal or Diary of events occurring
upon his trip to California in 1850

It is very interesting and
shows us the perils and hardships

in a manner that could only be
done by one who made the trip

Dec. 3 1921 Thomas D. Cobbey

About 71 years

after the events described
occurred.

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1850

1

A. Journal of passing events as they occurred to the writer enroute to California in 1850. With a succinct account of the road and Natural curiosities as they presented themselves to view by John F Cobbey, Miner.

1850 _____

Introductory remarks

St Josephs, Is a flourishing city of 3 or 4 thousand inhabitants situated on the Mo river; the river forming the western boundary of the State at that place In the month of April 1850. the streets [^]of St Jo was thronged with people from all parts of the union, making this a point of concentration, subsequent to, bidding, (for a season) farewell to civilization; and lurching out on the ocean-like plains; and climbing, the rugged peaks, to aerial heights

The long abode, of the desilating snows, that fondly lingers from year to year in the light atmosphere; and proudly laughs to scorn ~~the~~ its pusillanmous attempts at exhalation. [^]after all these scenes & toils ~~And~~ joining his friends in the land of golden fortunes [-] Among those numerous aspirants for fortune and fame were 4 is nurtured sons, of the beautiful county of Pike in the State of Illinois By name

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2

1850-

David M. Cohenour. Wm. L. & Charles. Saunders. & John. F. Cobbey. These being provided with six good mares, wagon, Tent, cook stove, &c. ~~Ne~~ Next took in a supply of provisions, which consisted of 200, lbs hard bread; 300 do Flour 100 do Bacon 100 do. Sugar Rice 20 do. 25 do Cheese 24 do Coffee, 5 " Tea, 2 gal vinegar

April 1850

April 26, 1850

April 26

Etc Etc Etc

Our preparations being completed;

We took up our line of march,
To cross the river 4 miles
above St Josephs, after waiting
6 hours untill our turn should
come We crossed in safety.
Haveing lent a hand to ~~to~~ the
Ferryman: for these sevises we ~~was~~[^]were
rewarded with ~~a~~ good appetites
Ferryman's fees \$150. We now
joined or doubled tems with
A. Robertson & Co; (our traveling comp-)
and ascended the long and
steep bluff we gained the
sum[^]mit in one mile from the
ferry; we now camped spread our
tent, secured our animals
and dispatched with credit the
frugal repast that had been
provided. The evening was cool,
the sky [^]over cast with dense clouds
whose sable base seemed to
sweep the bold, pates, of the
towering hills.-

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3
Introductory
that marked the course of the
mighty Missouri ~~river~~; and thus
opposing, by their elevation
the straight course of the river
and curbing it unconfine a=
ble floods, untill it moved
on in that ~~Z~~ zigzag course, that,
emphaticly beats, the perambulations
of the serpent him-self.
The wind was gently blowing
from the .N.W. and the
rolling Thunder announced
in majestic peals, the approaching
storm at hand. We for the
first time realized that we
were in the red mans dominion[^]s
beyond the amediate command
of the laws of our country and
on our own resources; and for the
~~for the~~ first time felt the
importance [-] of vigilance and
courage pesonaly to insure our
safety. (We ~~was~~[^]were 8 in number)
and we accordingly set a wach
as guard for the night.

April 27, 1850

27th The storm passed away without
much effect. Still cloudy but

pleasant started at 9 ok A.M.
our road lay along a ridge that
run to all points of the
compass and continued
to none 6 miles brought us in
a sight again of the Mo
river. This is quite a rolling=

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4

1852, April country common to all countries
contiguous to great rivers.
This is an open country, and
on the summit of the lofties
swells we had an extended
view of, the land-scape. After-
traveling 10 miles from
our last camp we stoped
on a Musquito Creek. a
small branch that offored
watter, and wood. their
being Walnut Hickery,
Oak Elm &c. We concluded
to remain here a few days &c

April 28, 1850

28th Had a light shower of rain
last night. Wind N. W. cool and
damp. The boys sent me to
St Jo- to get 25 lbs sugar &c
I returned the following day

April 29, 1850

29th with the articles required.

April 30, 1850

30th We now began to gird ourselves
up; and stiffen the sinews, for
the trip the weather continues
cold and disagreeable Wind
North by West Companies, hourly
moveing by us. grass inficient
for the stock: but no hope the
season will soon be more
favorable we are well supplied
with provinder our animals
are in condition& we all well and
in good spirits &c &c -

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Sovereign. We traveled 12 miles to day.

May 2, 1850

2nd Wind from the S. Cloudy our road led us through a delightful section of country The rain commenced falling about noon. went 1/2 mile S of the road to a grove of young timber and camped. The place was already occupied by 50 or 60 wagons. Water good wether wet and disagreeable We brought our musculer powers, to bear. on the evening excersize rendered ergent by the inclement evening.  we soon had our tent spread and our cook to work we establishe our horses and was soom made comfortable in a warm supper. we made 20 miles to day

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3
Journal 1850

May 3, 1850

May 3rd Cloudy wind to the N. high, and extremely cold. We decamped at 8 o'k. Traveling hard, the first part of the day; the recent rain saturating the surface of the ground. The land continues delightful; rich alluvial soil; as good as I ever beheld Timber scarce the little streams (in which  the country abounds) clear and pure a sure indication of of a healthful climes Oh! what, an opportunity for "young America" to spread her ample wing. Trululy may we say "Wes ward the course of empire may take its way"

We traveled 22 miles to day and camped one mile N. of the road in a grove that skirted a small creek or branch the timber always being on the water courses. We passed a grave about the middle of the after noon on the board that marked the resting place of the head was inscribed L Halbert of Hancock county Ill; Died-

May 29th 1849 age 27. His grav[^]ve
is in a charming section, of
the country you may stretch
your longing eyes in various
directions and pierce the
soft clear air ----

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4
Journal 1850
1850 May
and nothing meets your vision
~~vision~~ but the roolling swells
of the naked plains such is
the resting place of his remains
and I can say the sight of
a grave, in such a wild, and
lonely place carried solemn
feellings to my mind.

May 4, 1850

4th An Early start-(cool and pleas
ant ~~pleasant~~ traveling). 15 miles
over rolling Prairie brought us
to Nimehaw a nice creek about
20 feet wide and 1 deep stoney
bottom roads good land more
broken to d[^]ay Timber mor frequent
some lost rocks in placis quite
large continued over broken
land (common to countrys cut
by numerous creeks) 9 miles and
came to a creek of pure watter
about 16 feet wide and 1 deep
We found it convenient to camp here
haveing made 24 miles

May 5, 1850

5 Quite cold wind to the north
lost rock more numerous
9 miles [^]travel brough us to a muddy
creek, mostly dry, the road
now lay over a plainn appear-
ntly undivided for 12 miles
when we came to a muddy
creek similar to the last
we turned dow [^]this creek a short way
and camped. ^ Wolves very plenty.

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5
Journal 1850

May
here and of the large size
yet insufficient to devour the carcases
of the dead horses that are
left along the road until they
badly taint. we turned our
horses out to graze the grass that was
just beginning to peep through
the soil. Made 21 miles to day

May 6, 1850

6th Clear and pleasant roads level
and good come 15 miles and arrived
at Big Blue River some of
the bluffs here are partly white
from the numerous flinty stones
that are scattered over the surface.
To your left as you descend, the bluff
is environed with cedar; trees not
-lofty, The country to the west
seemed to be much higher, than
that we have passed, Big Blue is a
healthy stream of clear water strong
current about 100, feet wide at this
time 2 1/2 deep Gravelly bed; good
crossing &c Our road continued
~~westerly~~ westwardly and we soon ascended
to the highlands. Country rather broken;
timber very scarce; grass short.
The sky has become over cast with
clouds we came 10 miles turned
1/4 mile S the road and camped-
making 25 miles at this time
there is 5 teams of us in Co-
and 16 men our guards are
regularly kept; 2 guards per night,
one on duty at a time

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6
Journal 1850

May 7, 1850

May 7th
A shower of rain during the morn-
ing cloudy and damp
broke up camp at a late hour
roads heavy, with deep slough to
cross 12 miles brought us to a
creek; 16 feet wide and 6 inches
deep 8 miles more we came to
a small creek running through
the prairie: but mostly dry
We have passed 11 graves up to
this point: that I have notice

all; died, 1849, save one; ~~one~~
which died, this. (1850.) Game
scarce I heare more prair[-]e chickens
at this camp than any other
~~The~~ old horns of Elk are scat=
tered through the land and som
of an emormous size
We have made 160 miles have not
seen a sign of a deer yet Wolves
numerous. They supply our solitary
nights with music &c &-

May 8, 1850

8th Clear, wind belowing a gentle
breeze, from the .N.W. Hilly roads
Watter not very good for 18 miles
we then came to Big Sandy
which is shallow stream about
30 feet wide gravely bed and
good water the soil has becom
quite sandy 12 miles ~~more~~ farther
brought us to dry Sandy a str-
eam running through a sandy
and gravely region.

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Journal 1850

May Mostly dry at this time: but
I would judge it is a stream of
considerable magnitude during
the floods of the country: but
soon sinks in the sands
after the clouds are disperse
some Prickley pear the first
I have seen, we saw 2 graves
the men died last year.
We mad 30 miles today and
camped we still let our horses graze
but we make no count on the
grass

May 9, 1850

9th. Clear and pleasant ~~passed~~ 3 dry suns not
much water in them saw 2 Elk
at a dstant It is said we are
in the Buffalo county: but
have seen none yet. 13 miles
traveling enabled us to descend
to the valley of the Little Blue
we continued 5 miles fasrther up
the valley and camped haveing
made 18 miles Little Blue is a
beautiful stream of pure water
has a rapped moveing current
It runs into Big Blue its cofluen~~ce~~

of is not far below where we
crossed that stream, our road
lay over the breakes untill we
reached its valley the stream
here is 60 feet wide and 3 deep
The banks spasesly set with cotton
wood and willowtrees
Wind South very warm, Some clouds &c.

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Journal 1850

May 10, 1850

May 10th Cloudy damp and cool
this morning: the road continue
up the which is about 1 mile
wide which mostly prairie: but
and then a scrubby buroak
we left the river to day for the
space 6 miles and pass over
the ridges stretch the 15 miles
from our last camp We are in
a land game David returned from
ahunting aexcushion with the honor of killing an Antelope
5 miles more and we put into
camp Oh! we have a fine
feast: We are in the Panee
country. It is though the guard
should be strong and vigeleat
made 20 miles to day

May 11, 1850

11th Frosty this morning clear and cold
Roads dry and dusty came 18.
miles and left Little Blue con=
tinued 4 miles more and
camped on the Prairie without
wood or water[-]beside that
we had prepared mode 22 miles
Wm, and myself herding the
stock some large Wolves that
seem to menace us with their
superiority: but decline come
ing to the scratch.

May 12, 1850

12th Late before we took our horses
of the grass this seems to
be a region destitute of of
good watter and wood-

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Journal 1850

May 8 miles traveling brought in
sight of high hills of Platte
River This is rather a sterile countr
: but support a good groth of grass
~~the~~ land becomes more sandy
as we approach the bluff and
less productive 12 miles
more and we descende the sand
bluff to the valley of the great
Platte 5 mils more and we
put into camp on the banks
of the river. opposite to ~~gran~~^d

Grande Iseland. This stream
when united is near 3 miles with
quite shallow rappid current
very muddy water. passed 2 graves
to day traveled 25 miles

May 13, 1850

13th we conclude to lay by to
day and recriut our strength
and teams tolarbly good
~~erss tolarble good~~ crossed
our stock to the iseland
to pasture then we obtained
our wood from the iseland
olso, we spent the in washing
cooking up nicknack delicays
&c &c I wrote a letter home
The day rather warmer than
~~4~~usual.

May 14, 1850

14th Broke up camp at a late hour
and arrived at Fort Kerney
in 8 miles A garrison
of the United States situated

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Journal 1850

May in the valley of the great Platt
It is on a very level site lant
not as prolific as I have
Seen some small fields fenced
in with sod in the rear of the
fort 5 or 6 houses of wood
and as many of sod with a
square inclosed with a sod brest
-work a post office here we
was taxed 5 cts per letter for
sending letters back timbre
very scarce all brought from
the states we saw 2 Buffalo
here they belong to the fort
haveing been caught and

tamed. we continued up the valley 7 miles and camped having made 15 miles. Things look rather discouraging grass short and our feed exhausted yet our teams look well. We discuss the interest of the trip and thought it advisable to travel slow until they become more plenty &c. the grass of a good quality: but short and takes the stock a long time to take their feed.

May 15, 1850

15th Continued up the valley no wood on this ^aside the the river scenery monotonous not much to strike the attention of the traveler and impress

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Journal 1850

May its features indelibly on the memory Weather warm and dry roads good the best I ever saw The valley seems to be priginated with alkali or some such substance; it is left on the surface of the earth left by evaporation of the water that desolves it. Made 25 miles found some grass and put into camp and spent the night in sweet repose.

May 16, 1850

16th Warm with a fine breeze from the N.W. valley from bluff to bluff I think is 15 or 20 miles wide and the river is divided into numerous branches by iselands and would measure 2 or 3 miles wide many places The N. W. wind brought host of buffalo flies on us their averice for blood seem insaciable. after traveling 30 miles we camped on a slough  for the night.

May 17, 1850

17th Warm and pleasant some floating clouds. the extensive ^valley more rolling to day

We traveled 20 miles and camp=
ed on the banks of the river
Grass poor J.F. Cobbeys birth day
time engross with more waighter
than celebrating birth days
The River is abut 1 mile wide here

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Journal 1850 ---

May 18, 1850

May 18th Warm and sultry 15 miles trave=
ling we came to a good spring
of cool sweet water: but being
in a situation at the of a creek
is liable to be overflowed:
but the strem is now dry
and offered an inviting opportunity
for the Thirsty emigrant to slake
his thist on the luxury of sprng
water. Some U.S. troops camp
her It is favorable place furn-
ishing wood as well as water. The
Troops are a detachment from
Ft Kerney we saw timber ; or
trees in many places to day
cedar trees in places the valley
less expasive The bluffs which
are now grown bold and lofty seem
to intrude on the diminion of
the plains; they are composed
of a fine texture of sandy clay
and piled in all the fantastical
shapes; that might be s^uggested
by the whirling edies, counter-cur=
rents, and lashing billows of the
retireing "flood." we contined
4 mies from "the spring" and
camped ^u(making 18 miles) a little to the righ of
the road, on a creek supplied us
with water and also grass.
This is Saturdy evening we expect
to lay here till Monday and rest
on the Sabbath from our toil
may we have a pleasant, day.

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Journal 1850

May 19, 1850

May 19th Sabbath, The sun arose clear
and glorious air wam and sultry
Oh! how sweet to repose in profo=

und meditation on christian prvalege^{as}
and the benign influence of the
holy Sabbath. Afternoon The white
clouds begins to heave [^]their massive forms
above the horizon, prescently thers
sable fronts touches the zenith, [^]uniting growig
darker at the union. Now the ligh-
tning flashes [^]along the centre and the sig=
nal is given the rain to by the
thunders opening roar. then
comes the winds imperious blast,
and drove the watery/vapor from
our heavens ere it could saturate the
soil. The evening now became cool
and we be to think of retire When
our attention was arrested by an
unearthly cry or continuous shrieks
half wolf half man, now mule
half horse half Aigator now all
wolf. two thirds calf and one Baby.
On this discovery we found it was
one of our com. (a gentleman) fam Ad-
ans county Ill) Solution a bug or som-
ething of the kind had unware-
dly entered his ear and was acting
on the sensative organs of the head
and thus cause undescrible pain
only through his prolific bellows
it woul have been lughable if it
not been so serious, we tryed all
the cordals elixis oils in our -

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Journal 1850

May

possessions and soon he became came
and felt but pain and we retired

May 20, 1850

20th We are in the Midst of the Buffalo
countr we see herds composed of
numerous members both ~~same~~ small,
and great, young, and, old.
but they keep at a distat principa-
ly on the north side of the river
We see Elk frequently also
the scenery still monotonous dis-
tinguishhed for nothing: unless it
for want of variety. water
convenient for the most of the
day by mean of a large sprng
that ishues from the surface
bove the forks of the Platte
(which now is, at) and runs 16
miles parrellel with the river
before its confluence with its

waters. We continued up the South Platte a short distance above the junction and for the night we camped, on[-] the S p branch afore mentioned haveing come 25 miles

May 21, 1850

21st: Wind blowing briskly from S E the country destitute of wood no water convenient to the road; A heard of Buffaloes pass the road before us in the attempt they a was assailed of the huge animals were brough to ground

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and yealded their carcasses to the hunters will. The larger ones are as large as our domestic ox or would weigh 1 or 2 thousand lbs they are quite poor at this time and of litle use of killing only as its serves to gratefy the sportmans vain ambition some of the chois pieces is selected such as the "hump" Toung" &c. the flesh looks pretty much lik beef but rather darker. we made 20 miles camped grass poor wood 'minus"

May 22, 1850

~~22nd~~22nd We traveled 25 miles ~~up~~ to day
~~22nd~~ The valley less spacious the wanton bluffs continually encroaching on the valley. as we advance to the mountains We now camped 3 miles below the ford of the South Platte. &c

May 23, 1850

23rd .Eerly on the road expecting the scenery to change. In this we was not disopined 3 miles travel brought us to the ford the R 3/4 of amile wide from 2 inches to 3 feet deep with sand botton that is continuealy changeing we crossed with-out difficulty We now ascended the hill to the high lands between the North and South Platts We had a fine view of some Buffalo They are abold

and dareing animal

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Journal 1850

May

The boyes disposed to give them chase While at a distant they would front about and stand as on the defencive but as they was apperached they would obviate the contest, not by backing out but by indeaverin to come to an accom= idation by changeing their course from the path their vision then was wont to explore: a few degrees to the right or left as the case might be and save themselves by flight. Their is plenty of men at had that like the sport and give chase on horse back The Buffalo tuns clumsy but required the upmost exertions of the charger [^]To come up with himx his master  was pleased to extort from him,  ~~comence~~ his powers after a general assault and a dischar= ge of guns pistols they were driven off the field with the loss of 3 or 4 of their member only 18 miles from the ford brought us the summit of the hill as you descend the bluffs into Ash-hollow The bluffs are high, rocky and percipetous studded here and there with a cedar tree also thickly sit in places Huckel berry bushes. We now rough locked and pceed ed to desnd cautiously

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Journal 1850 ---

May

We now continued to wind along the narrow apperture between the hills and in 3 miles travild we emerged from the hills into the spcious valley of the N. Platte, and as we stood on the its banks its watters was an inviting sight there being nonein-between the rivers, after the useual introduction to the water we came one mile up the vally and camped on a

Slough in we made 28 miles to.d

May 24, 1850

24th Morning warm roads sandy
and heavy Cassel Bluffs
in sight to the left which
are a chain of high hills of
towering rocks At this time
thickly settled along here
with Indians we came throu=
-gh 3 villege to day the last
one contained 100 wigwams
and perhaps 1,000 inhabitan
they are of the Sou tribe
The are hale looking people
of symmetry forms They hav
Buffalo skins in a bund=
ance the women apper to
do the taning or dressing
of the roabs and in fact
all the domestic labor
We met several parties move=
-ing This is a noel sight

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Journal 1850

May

and is after this fassion
In their affects are done
up in bales square form to
suit their convenience and
then they prepare their vehicles
which are long poles which
answer the bouble purpose
of vehcles and wigwams
poles. They are fastened by
means of a collar to the
shoulders of the animal
by one end the other end
being left at liberty
drags far behind on the
ground on these ther bales
are place and and they
are ready for the hunting
tour or to pay avisit_____

~~ed~~

of ceremonid to a ~~distings~~
distinguished
friend these burdens are
generally drawn by horses
but Dogs forms no mean
portion of the caravan.
He will walk along with his
load as proudly as ever
the high cushioning steid
Joan (the maid of the Inn
with her ~~st~~ conscrate ban=

ner to the battle and
to victory The roads quite
sandy to day we traveled
20 miles and camped near
the river grass scarce --

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Journal 1850

May 25, 1850

May 25th Portions of the road to day
very sandy and heavy We
separated from our company about
noon to day at 4 o'clock this after
noon we was visited those quick
gathering storm incident to
the "plains" First the rushing
wind came bearing on us
bringing clouds of Sand and
dust thin the lightnings vivid
flash followed ~~by~~ in quick
accessions with deafening peals of
of thunder and now the
hail falls in torrents but
soon passes ~~like~~ like the
tornado and is gone. The
storm having ceased we contin-
ued 2 miles farther and camped
having come 25 miles to day
Court House or Church rock
16 miles distant in full view
and at this distance It
looks like some ancient
castle that might be built
by the hand of man also
Chimney or steeple rock 24
miles distant raising it
pyramidal form above
and give us a clearer view of it
the horizon. we camped
alone It seemed rather lonely
yet we had a fine nights rest

May 26, 1850

26 .Sabbath Morning cool Pleas-
ant with a balmy ~~+~~
atmosphere

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We broke up camp early with
the intention of stopping
at the first inviting opportu-
nity in 6 miles we crossed a

beautiful little stream about
12 feet wide and 6 inches deep
4 miles more we found the
desired situation and stopped
having made 10 miles Grass
good after arranging matters
David and I started for
Court house which south
of the road and at right
angles with it from our Camp
Wm, having left the road previous
to our camping in order
to anticipate the distance of
reaching the structure we
continue to traverse the
sand ridges and still the
object of our mission continued ahead
But after our patients was
greatly worried and our limbs
not a little fatigued we at
length the base of the Bluff
or Knoll for it is nothing
more composed of fine sandy
clay set in many places
with stone It rises from
a sand hill almost perpendicular
nearly 200 feet the ascent
difficult and looked rather
dangerous to those reared

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in the Prairie But we continued
to wind cautiously
back and forth up its front
In many places we could ~~only~~
ascend only By the aid
of notches cut in the clay or
soft rock we finely gained
the pinnacle I was surprised
to find the top so narrow
I was startled back as I
looked down a perpendicular
wall of 200 feet in height
In 3 feet further when I gained the
summit It being the opposite
side of the edifice
Among those that novelty had
prompted to scale the [^]wall to the
top we found Wm who was
enjoying the luxury ere
we arrived. The top is mostly
covered with rock some
6 or 8 rods long and
not over 20 feet wide in
the widest place about 200
yards to the S. E. Stands a
square column of the same
material not quite as high

as the house The sides of
this square measure 30 feet
and are perpendicular and in-
accessible to us At a distant
It looks like it was joined
to the house in the capacity
of a chimney

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Journal 1850

May

Our curiosity being satisfied
We descended and returned
to camp thinking our
fun was like the boys
coasting or sleighing who
~~draw~~ draws the sled to the top of
the hill for the sake of
riding down. But our
toil was soon forgot in a
hearty dinner Charles had pre-
pared We are lying by here
with a team from St Josephs
We formed an acquaintance a
few days since we expect
to travel together some flying
clouds with a light shower
of rain this evening

May 27, 1850

27th Cloudy Wind high cold
and disagreeable some
light showers of rain 12 miles
brought us at right angles with
Chimney Rock This is a
column shooting to the
high of more than an 100 feet
of the same material
Its base rests on a round hill
sand and clay joined to so
as to form a compound of
considerable tenacity: but
when once broken easily driven before
the wind This structure at
a distance resembles a Chimney
We traveled 11 miles farther and camped
on ridge that quite to the

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Journal 1850

May

banks of the river grass

good water inconvenient
We have our last view of
Chimney rock, It looks
like the naked trunk of
a tree &c We traveled 22 miles to day

May 28, 1850

28th Frosty and cold this morning
after traveling 3 miles we
left the banks of the
river and in the rear of Sco=
tts Bluffs roads good but
No water for 16 miles we then
arrived at Mr Rubadore's trading
post A blacksmith shop her
and a store for the Indians
trade after saciateing oure
thirst We ascende the hill
and ravished our eyes with the
magnificence of the lofty peaks
of the Rocky Mountain
Laramies Peak with its snow
caped summit towering aloft
to the heavens in full view
distant 150 miles but from the
clearness of the atmosphere appea=
-ed much nearer This was our
first introduction to moun-
tain scenery and we beheld
with wonder and admiration
no water or camping place
Huntill we came
12 miles we then came
Horse creek astream of good

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Journal 1850
May water 16 feet wide and 8 inches
deep We camped her haveing
come 32 miles

May 29, 1850

29th Foggy this morning On the
road at an Early hour water
inconvenient far 10 miles
our road lay over a continuations
of low sand ridges after travi-
eling 30 miles we turnd to
the right of the road and
set down for the night.near
a spring Etc Etc

May 30, 1850

30th Morning Pleasant
10 miles brough us to Laraimie

River as swift stream rushing
down from the mountains abund-
antly supplied by the
melting snows near 180 Ft
wide and 3 feet deep crossing
good On the west side 1 mile
above Ft Laraimie is situated
this is a Ft of the U.S. similar
Ft Kerney It is a romantic
situation within the confines
of the Black hills, and forms
a poor appology civellization
and refinement We took
our leave from the Ft at 12 o'k
M. and ascended the
hill and in 8 miles des-
cended to the river we
now had a light shower
of rain but we ~~re~~ wrapped
our selves up in our blankets

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Journal 1850

May (Gumelastic) and continued
to travel we now descended a steep
bank near 30 feet high inclin-
ed about 20 degrees from zenith
We passed through a scattering
Grove of timber or some
trees Haveing found a good grazing
camped estimated our journey
to day at 20 miles

May 31, 1850

31 Continued up the valley 3 mile
and ascended a steep hill
and amediatley descended
3 miles farther brought us near
the Zhi warm Springs We
now left the river 22 miles
brought us to Heber Springs
20 miles farther we came to Bit-
ter Cottonwood a creek 16 Ft
wide and 6 inck deep
we found this a good camp-
ing place and we piched our
~~we~~ our tent we come 30 miles
to day over a broken country
well supplied with wate
We have been in the regions
of the Prairie Dog" for ^{some time} but
they are more numerous
to day This celebrated
little animal lives in clans
~~H~~ or villeges and Burrow
in the ground sometimes
there is several acres in

their towns they are nearly

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Journal 1850

June

as large as a rabbit of a
dirty orange color
They are restless and sprightly
quick and sensitive, quite
noisy very affable to their
fellows. Their repeated tones
resembles [^]those of the small puppy

They give the th alarm ~~of~~
on the first approach
of danger and fly to ther
cells "Etc Etc"

June 1850

June 1, 1850

1st Cloudy ascended and descended
steep hills came to the river in
10 miles after traveling a few
miles we turned towards Laraimie
peak which is still in view
country high and broken
in fact the hills rise in
mountain like appiarncce
These are the Black hills
We continued our course along
the foot of the Rok whose
top was now hid from our view
by reason of the murky clouds
that continued deep lowering
around its head then send-
ing ~~front~~ forth a copious
draught (from the amp=
litude of their stores) on the
deep indented sides of the
Mountain The air become
very cool we now descended
a long hill to Labonte creek

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A rappid stream 20 Ft wide & 1 Ft
deep We supplied [^]ourselves with water
crossed and asscend the hill
and camped we m de 35 miles
not much grass weather very
cool. &c

June 2, 1850

2nd Cool and clear This morning broke
 up camp early and continued
 to recede from from Loramies peak
 roads rough short steep hill of frequent
 occurrence 5 miles brought us to
 a beautiful little stream a tributary
 of the last. Plenty of timber
 Throughout the country for camp
 -png ~~+~~ purposes 13 miles
 farther over hilly road we came
 to Laprele R. It has a swift
 current about 24 [^]Ft wide and 1 1/4
 deep 5 miles farther and we
 camped on a creek (now dry)
 A good spring near the road
 but the water soon sinks in
 sand We advanced 23 miles to day

June 3, 1850

3th Continued our journey this
 morning In 2 miles we cross
 -ed a fine spring branch
 which made the arid hills smile
 with gracious presents
 3 miles farther brought us to
 Fourchebois R. This stream is
 near 25 feet wide 1 Foot deep
 We now have gained the victory
 over the Black hills roads

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Journal 1850

June

good 4 miles farther and
 we came to the Platte roads
 rather sandy 5 miles more brought
 us to Deer creek a delightful
 little stream coming rippling
 down from the mountain
 We arrive here at noon. come 14 mi
 The grass is good here and we
 decided to remain here the remain=
 inder of to day and to morrow
 We had a big shower this evening [^]g
 Busily engaged in readjusting
 things making all necessary
 repairs and improvements
 &c
~~time~~ &c &c at the same
 time took proper care palates
 was duly consulted &c &c --

June 4, 1850

4th Cool and clear Wash a day

among the domestick &c.
David and Wm starte'd for
the mountain to the S. E.
on a hunting tour day
warm and pleasant after
the day was far spent our
hunters returned with
Great stories having seen
great sights in those
~~Mon~~ perrific region they
a Bears foot a the prop[-]ly
or earnest of their victory
We had a rice and Bear paw
sood Oh! a delicate
dish ~~for~~ for stout hands

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June Journal 1850
June

, and strong stumachs
such viands might Justly
be coveted by the city epicurean
We are 717 miles fr om the fronteers

June 5, 1850

5th Clear and frosty we decamped
early croossed the creek and
continued down untill we
intercepted the road The roads
continues up the Platte for 10
miles the are good and then we
came to Big Mudy A stream
about 16 feet wide 2 deep
very muddy bottom and bad
crossing ~~15 miles from~~ In the
next 15 miles we crossed 5 mudy
similar to Big mudy but ^{not} so
larg This is a barren country
almost destitute of vegetation
save wild sage and remk
able fror nothing it produces
but its counless herds of
crickets They seldom leap: but go
in hurds or caravans and
move leasurely in a sold
troop as if on the sane, noted
mission We advanced 25 miles
We are drawing to the upper crossing
of the north Platte we have already
passed one Ferry The valley of the
Platte is some wider now than som
days back The Bluffs very high to the
left while to the west a leveve plain
seems to stretch out before us &c Etc

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Journal 1850

June 6, 1850

June 6th

This is a delightful morning
Oh! what a luxury to enjoy the
Mountain air 2 miles brought us to a
small creek steep and muddy banks but
A gravelly bottom 1 1/2 mile more and
we arrived at the ferry The ferry is
kept by some Missourians They have
4 boats in operation here and doing
good business In one hour we was
all safely landed on the opposite
bank The river here is 150 yards
wide rapid current and of great
depth We paid for crossing \$4 for
wagon and 150 cts for our horses
We now bid adieu to the Platte
ascended the Bluff The hill
long but not steep the country
barren but lays well in gradual
inclined plains Curious rock ~~at~~
rising above the ground in plac-
along here 7 miles from the river
the road turns South down through
a ravine This region looks like
it had been tried in the anti-
quarian fires. 5 miles farther we came to
a mineral Lake or pond and spring
the water is clear and not
repulsive to the taste: but
said to be poisonous The next
10 Miles we found the rocky
and sandy we had ~~a~~ a gust
of wind that hurled the sand
about one persons in frightful

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profusion our next object of note
is Alkali Spring apparently set
on all sides by lofty hills the spring
and soil highly charged ~~ed~~ with
alkali 4 miles from here we found
a good spring We now camp we are
[-]30 miles nearer ~~ed~~ Cal-. no grass
here. Wild sage for fuel We had
the good fortune to capture some
Sage Hens to day They are pretty
much same color of the Prairie Hen: but
not so smooth a bird and nearly
twice as large They might
justly be considered a great
delicacy and always superabundant

ant to an emigrant who carries
the requisite trimmings (a good appetite) -----

June 7, 1850

7th ,Up at dawn and made an early start In 1 mile we passed willow spring a fine spring isheuing forth in the steril region the steam marked by a line of Willow bushes and affording little grass which long since exhausted by the forward trains 6 miles more and we came to a slough mud deep crossing bad We found some grass and stoped and breakfasted heres. we found watering places frequent the next 7 miles. ~~S~~ 6 miles more brough us ~~+~~ Salaeratus or Alkali lakes mostly dry the soda left on the ground after the evaperation of the water

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Journal 1850

June

4 miles more and we beheld Independence Rock we now camped we traveed 24 miles to day. This celebrated rock, of vast dimentions stands or rest in the valley close to Sweet-water. entirely independent of all earth save its ~~pillar~~ pillow The rock is about 400 yards lond. and in the widest place near 200 wide and its greatest altitude about 200 Feet It is of a daark red color with a mixture of gray and extremely hard Sweet water is a beatiful stream at this place about 40 yards wide water clear and filled with fine scales of yellow mica, which we took for gold no wonder we should be deceived when our minds were filled with golden vision

June 8, 1850

8th We now crossed the river, fording good 3 miles found us in the rear of Devels gate which is a narrow Fishure in the sollid rock Bluff through th river pours its foming floods This is asublime spectical as you stand at the entrance of the gorge and look down

the rocky channel as the
water is hurled by the force of
gravity from rock to rock and
frequently converted into

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foam and mist and as it arose
high on the wall it caused our
vision [^]to wander on those everlasting roc=
=ks which rise on either hand near
300 feet in perpendicular highth
We stood in admiration and reveren=
tial awe we admired the power
of the elements power; and we
reverence Him, who weildeth it aright
1/2 mile from here we cross a fine
litle creek 12 feet wide of ice
water fed from the snow caped
mountain in full view
some 10 miles to the left this
country abounds in game We
dispatch Charles and David on
a hunting excusion we then
continued 14 mils farther.
we crossed several samall creek
the generly sandy not very good
we now camped Grass tolarbly
good we are quite surrounded
with ~~with~~ loty knolls of huge
rocks of rough and gross form
Our hunters returned to camp
with a fine antelope and as
to morrow is rest day it is
a seasonable supply The
wolves are of the large size
and their croakinghs and howl=
lings vibrating and reverbrat=
ting from rock to rock and throu=
gh the horrid defifiles tend to
inhance the wild and ferocious

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Journal 150
June
features of this region &c.

June 9, 1850

9th , Sabbath we have a fine mor
ning warm and pleasant
our Company has since Deer Creek
consisted of 5 wagons 3 from
Peoria Ill. and the St Jo team
afore mentioned [^]and ourselves of course and 16 mem
This evening blustry some

wind and rain The river
quite full of this floteting mica

June 10, 1850

10th Morning clear We feel some what
invigorated we started and left
2 of the Peoria wagons behind
and 5 men the river is [-] very
crooked and we only touched
the river at points in one
instance we passed through a
narrow glen in the rear of the bluff
or independent Peak in which the
country abound. after 18 mile
travel we come to a cross ing of
the river the road said to be good
on the the opposite side crossing rath-
-er deep so we turnd to the left
and kept the old track we
found the very sandy and and heavy
for 6 miles we then come to the
river and Camped after
a travel of 24 miles, grass poor.
The snow covered summits
of the great rocky mountain chain
begin to break on our vision
They appear like white clouds

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Journal 1850

Juny

obscure at the base of our can=
opy

June 11, 1850

11th Continued our journey roads
still sandy traveled 2 miels and
again come to the river
we now left the river for
20 miles and traveled over
asandy and steril country
roads heavy little grass and
no water (save an alkali slougth
which dangerous for stock to
drink) between these points
after you leave the rivers till we
struck it again We now crossed
the river filled our Kegs with
water and ascended the
hill continued one mile from
the river and camped the
evening cold and rainy This
is abarren mountainous county
little grass and less wood we
use wild sage for fuel Etc
We traveld 23 miles to day

June 12, 1850

12th Quite cold This morning, A dense fog envelope us and hid the glories of the mountains from our view. We contin our journey and came to the river in 3 miles we now ascended and then descended hills The descent very steep when gained we found ourselves at the river we call a hault forded our horses over in order

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Journal 1850**June**

to graze Grass poor but the best we could do. A few miles farther and we left [^]the valley and asscends the mountain like bluffs Asscent long and rugged huge rocks in place to pass over We now gained the summit and found the road generally level we passed several good spring that issued from the modest furrows of the plains these shone forth conspicuouly and inviteingly in an arid region we passed several little stems yet fresh from of the recent vanished snow David Killed another Antelope this evening we now cone to a creek about 16 feet wide 1 1/2 deep large banks of snow on eith[-] side came 2 miles this side the creek and camped m keing 25 miles to day-.

June 13, 1850

13th Cold and clear 2 miles travel brought us to Willow creek a nice stream of ice water 18 feet wide and 1 deep 4 miles farther and we arried at the ford across Sweetwater,, This is the last view of this stream at this place it is about 30 feet wide and 3 1/2 deep we crossed and began to asscend towards the summit of the South Pass

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Journal 1850

June

Roads good the track lay along
a gentle inclined plains which
we continued to ascend hardly
made conscious of our near
approach to the summit of
the great and mighty Rocky chain
of Mountains The Pinnacle of
of the pass is said to be between
2 low hills or ridges 19 miles
distant from their most
contiguous points; with a moderate
rolling plain between
In various directions was raised
to our view the lofty mountain
environed with the eternal snows
that dwell in those lofty
regions: or snows coexistent
~~this~~ with the time enduring
Mountains themselves.
I had a severe attack of
the Mountain fever so severe
I could not ride horse back,
16 miles from our last camp brought
the summit of the pass no water
after crossing sweet water
4 miles farther brought us to Pacific
springs 2 miles more and
we went into camp on a prairie
from Pacific Spring making 22,
miles to day &c

June 14, 1850

14th We found the road good to day
20 miles brought us to dry sandy
sandy we passed one watering place only
to day we crossed and camped made 20 Mi

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Journal 1850

June 15, 1850

June 15th,

Cold with a light air peculiar
to the mountains 8 miles brought
us to big sandy This stream is
near 25 feet wide and 2 deep
crossed, filled our Kegs and prepared
to cross the uninviting region to
Green river distance of water
we found some grass in place
David was also taken down
with the mountain fever and all
the work devolved on our traveling

"chums" I was reported to be
convalescent, We found some grass
and camped: but no water made
25 miles to day -----

June 16, 1850

16th Earley on the road after traveling
over at broken country for
28 miles we came to green
river (about 3 o'k P.M.) being
45 miles from Big Sandy to
Green without any water between
The weather cold, cloug, & windy,
with some rain a very disagree-
-able time We found this bank
a sterrile and inhospital Shore
and we was forced to urge
our horses into the impetuous
waters of Green river and swim
them to the opposite banks
they were both to launch out
into the sweeping current of
the stream, but at length
with renewed and continued

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exertions and not alittle hollowing
the boyrs gained the victorry and
got them a crossed safe and con-
tinued 4 miles above and found
some grass. our wagon remain-
-ed at the ferry waiting its term
to be ferried some little snow
Fell this evening. &cEtc Etc

June 17, 1850

17th Cold and gloomy this morn=
ing floating clouds with a
strong wind. Green river is
a rappid s stream, near 100 yards
wide and this time quite deep
This strm is a tributary of the
Rio Colorado of the West.

June 18, 1850

18th W had a light shower of snow
last night the land looks white
this morning ground frozen 1 inch
thick The morning was clm
and clear and the snow
arose in all its vigor and glory
and the snow soon vanished
from [--]s brilliant presence
I have so far recovered I can
be about some David is recovern

fast Our turn came at noon
and we crossed. fare 7 dollars per
wagon and \$1 a head for stock.
We continued our journey 10 miles
and camped grass good, water
abundent and excellent.

June 19, 1850

19th We continue along the stream
on the which we camped 5 miles
roads good, we now crossed -

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and ascended the hill the
country high and deeply cut
with numerous little streams
no lack of water and grass very good
8 miles farther brought us to a
grove of tall timber a species of
Pine or Cedar, A tall pole
erected here and dedicated to the nation
on the National anniversary. This
being the point reached by some
companies in the previous year,
on the glorious fourth" 8 miles
farther and we descended 2 long and
steep hills our road stretched along
the glade rendered delightful from
the numerous springs that ushered
from the surface in various places
after traveling 4 miles farther
we camped the lofty hill shutting
us on either hand, We traveled 25 m-
iles to day over a broken country
that abound in springs and
brooks and furnishing the
necessary supplies of grass.

June 20, 1850

20th Our road lay along the glen
for some distance we then
began to ascend the mounta-
in which is long and
steep and quite rough and
stony in places. we soon
descended a hill equally steep
with the one we had just climb[-]
and came to a crick 25 feet
wide and 3 deep

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banks steep and precipitous cross=
ing bad crossed in safety

and now began ascend the
mountain like hill, the steep-
est we have ascended yet and
very rocky and rough ~~in~~ the
greater part of the way We are
with-in the great basin of the
interior of this vast continent
What a ponderous thought? to conten-
-plate the wonderous resources of this
interior world! Its lofty mountains
Its, everlasting snows, its magni-
ficent rivers, its fertile vallys
and its grassy meads. all waled
-in by tme enduring mounta-
-ins. and thus ~~setting~~
closeing in the elliments of
that portion of the earth and
retrenching the comming gl[-]ry
with ~~the~~ other eliments of
of other portions; they continu[^]e
~~to~~ follow the laws requisite for their
government and thus nature
purforms her work all com-
plete ~~and~~ in [^]a region that is a
world within a world --
from this point the roads
is good at our elevation
we find the snow still
lingering and we can
be supplied with water at
any point almost

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Journal 1850

June

We now camped on a hll side
at the edge of a quaken asp-
-grove musquitos numerous &c &c
We made 22 miles to day. The
invalids so far recovered they
purform thduties requisite for the
trip &c,Etc

June 21, 1850

21st Frosty this morning We contin=
ued to wind our way through
groves of Cotton wood to the
summite of a lofty chain of
hills and then the road
begins to run than, and that,
way as if looking for an
easy place to descend fror its
lofty flight We took the
left hand track (found this year)
Thus by deviateing from the old
track we deprive our-selves of
the vain glory letting our

wagons down with ropes or
otherwise, besides the usual
method the way we descended
the descent is long and in
many precipitous but we
proceeded in the usual way by
locking the wheels and
Charles and my self condu-
-ted the vehicle safely to the
valley below we now continued
to Our way along bet[--]ce the
mountain ranges for 4 miles whe
when we usherd into the valley
of - Bear River

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No watr convenient we contin
ued down the valley traveling a
North West course, We now passed
under the range of huge mount-
ains whoes summit seemed to embra-
-ce the clouds that then floted in
the heavens We now come to
Smith fork of Bear rivr. This
stream is about 25 feet wide and
3 deep at this place so extremely
crooked we had to cross it several
times, ^{in afey,} 100, yeards, It running back and forth
from side to side of the valley
We ~~are~~ now have safely acrossed
and at the base of a high Mount
tapering to a point the princi-
pal part of this mount is a huge
mass of rock shooting up to a
point It is called needles point
The road for a Short dstance
very rocky we now found our
-selves in a spacious valley
surrounded by majestic mountain
the sides coverde with timber an
the tops with snows the valey
carpeted with a luxurient groth
of grass gentle waveing and
gracefully bowing to the
passing breeze Who could not
feel animated at sight of this
variety of contrast? with one
one view we behold, the bold
and steril rock ^{reacting} its bald patate
in stern defiance ~~of~~ to the combined

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journal 1850
June
attacts of the wind, snow, hail

and rain, resting on a throne
of drapery snow and casting
its solitary and gloomy shades
far down the gidy hith untill
it reaches the dark forest of pines
below the commingling of these
shades across those luminous
banks of Snow that intervene
seem to make the scene more
sable as I beheld The snow,
the forest nay the very atmospher
seemed chained in midni[-]ght
silence at the towering audacity
of the rocky peaks but jus as
these gloomy secnes ~~was~~ began
to ~~in~~ oppress our wonted cheerfu=
lness, with one sweeping desc=
ent we were viewing grassy
meads and pleasant lawns
I would ask a gain who would
not feel an animation of soul
after viewing this scenery? after
traveling 4 miles this beautiful
valley is suddenly converged to
a point, at the banks of the
river. The valley soon widens
again road good for several
miles and good for camping
the set in a cha[-] of Alkali
sloughs. no good place
to camp ~~as~~ untill we
came near the river we
now camped

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Journal 1850

June

haveing come 30 miles. Grass
good and abundant. Wood
scarce, Bear River is near 100
yards wide strong curent: yet at
this place much less rapped, than
Green river at this time it is
not fordable myriads of musqu-
itos assail us here. &c

June 22, 1850

22ond Pleasant this morning
3 miles travel brough us to afine
spring branch 2 miles more
and we come to Thomas fork
a stream 30 feet wide and 3 1/2
mudy banks and bad crossing
here we began to to leave the
river asscending the hill
which is long and steep found
water the first 5 miles the

road somewhat hilly we now
had some ligh showers of
rain we now began to
descend descent in many
places quite precipitous
we descended in [^]safety to to
the valley haveing left it
for 10 miles after watering
&c we continued down
the valley 5 miles and
camped on a small creek
comeing down from the
mountains this is a pure little
stream being fed from
the melting at its source

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Journal 1850

June

We traveled 20 miles to day.
This is Saturday night and
this place has all the requisite
qualifications for recruiting so
we ditermined to re main here
untill Monday &c &c.

June 23, 1850

23rd Sabbath sweet is the day of
rest surceased emigrant
We passed this lovely day
in resting and meditating
on pleassing incidents, &c -

June 24, 1850

24th The weather still continues good
We remained here till non Then
after dineing on speckeld trout
which are a good fish; we pulled
stakes and started on our journey
vigerous We continued to travel
for 5 mils over a level bottoms Clothed
with exuberent grasses; being
wild clover and rather a
blue grass some what resemb-
ling red-top of the gray species
and intersperced with wild flax;
all the difference I could
see between this and our com-
mon domestic Specie was the
root of the former does not die
but produces the new stalk from
the old root & c,
This is one of those beautiful
Sections of the valley through
which Bear river winds its way
the mountains are regularly

with drawn from, and too

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the river, closeing in the
arena with grand and sublime
beariers the mountains rise
abriptly one above another
like stupendious seats of an
amphithter fronting the vast
area below The lower seats
might subserve the pende[-] & fair
or silken lady and gentleman
from a sunny clime; for
they are arayed in a light
drapery of grass The second
seats might be ocupied[-] by the
back woodsman or the red man
of the forest and occasionnally
one that is afraid of sunshine
and breezies for they are coverd
with dense forest the third
seats would fall to the
Laplander and Rusian for
here the everlasting snows glitter
in the suns rays. The fourth
might be of service ~~the~~ to
such piotle as the swiss or
to people of small statue that
are found near the poles It being the
[-]jar[-] points of the peaks that will suffer the snow to lay on them
Thus all the world migh be
accomidated. Now ~~and~~ what is the
drama to be seen? Why a troop
of young and old visionaries
all urging their[-] course
to the mystic land of Cal-
some with horses some with mules
other with Oxen some have

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Journal 1850

June

4 wheels to ther wagons some
have 2 only while some have
none at all going on hores
or mul back: yet some are
some are so-compasant as
to take it a foot. 5 miles
more and the valley is quite
narrow and rolling we now
turned to the right up a valley
and left the river ~~2~~ mils
miles farther and we passed
a good spring at the road side
some goose bery bushes here

2 miles farther and we camped
in the midst of the hills
water and grass sufficient for
our use ~~with~~ we had a light
shower of rain this evening
we made 17 miles this
afternoon -----

June 25, 1850

25th Our journey continued this morning
with a delightful atmosphere
cool, soft, and balmy; with a
pristine freshness and sweetness on
every passing breeze, 2 miles more
and we descended to the valley
again the bottom lands continue
rolling for 17 miles with little
striking features: but grassy
lawns and rippling brooks and
picturesque scenery with which the
eye has now become satiated with
but new scenes are at hand
we are now at Soda Springs, or

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fountains The first are situated
at the right of the road a short
distance on a rocky eminence, elevated
40 or 50 feet above the surrounding valley
the western ~~knoll~~ side of the rock-
ey knoll is washed by a lovely
brook sweeping down from
the neighbouring mountains
This knoll has some marks
that might justify the idea
~~of~~ that it once had been a lofty
mount and had been destroyed
all but the base by volcanic
action. The water stands in
several places in the solid rock (for
there is not much emitted) and holds
communication with the interior
regions below for the pass is continually
~~to~~ rising in bubbles to the surface
and keeping the particles of water
in agitation and thus a solution
of soda is left in the water
the taste somewhat corresponds
to the mineral, or soda, water (used in
cities) after the gases have escaped,
Members of Indians here with large
herds of the finest horses I ever saw
2 miles farther and we crossed
the creek [-] mentioned above a fine
cedar grove on the banks of the
creek here with a mixed company
of whites and red men from

Fort Hall. Several of the mineral
sprngs here the valley is rappidly

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convergeing to a point
by the closing mountains
In the sunny valley at the
base of these everlasting;
and, frowning mountains
rests secure the proud son of the
forest ever exulting in natures
lovely domain, and this as made
thrice lovely by the horable
distorted features of the surrounded
view, Just as the sun can only
gain his brights [-] glory after the sable
clouds have vanished from his
presence and all of his beams burst
on our vision One 1/2 mile
frm the creek the the road passes
near the river which turns south
and ~~which~~ is the last ~~point~~ touched
by the road a little below the
road is Steam boat spring.
This spring is a great curocity
The gass and water emitting and
colapsizing with a noise like a
steam boat hence its name
The waters are of the soda order
The river now enters a deep cannon
and foaming and splashing
/down the rocky channel
with ~~with~~ a perpendicular walls
of solled rocks 50 or 60 feet
and thus this beautiful river
passed from our ~~ried~~ view
6 miles fater and over a rocky
road we come to the California[-]

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Journal 1850
June
and fort Hall roads Traders
advised us to go the Fort Hall
road. but we chose to the
left hand road struck a cross
the rolling plain This is a
peculier place the country
has been racked by the volcano
boundless power and while
the sollid rocks parted to to
let the pent up flames
h at at liberty and as
the firey flames mounted
above the ~~airey~~ ~~vo~~farey crater,

the lofty mountains sunk
down and humbled it took
the place of a valley
These fissure in the plains
or along the rocky surface
of ground in these fissures
we could ~~through~~ throw stone
and hear them rebound dow
from side for some seconds - -
we are now traveling
a, S, W, direction 6 miles
farther and we camped some
sink her good grass no
wood ~~at~~ nor water since we
left the river 12 miles back
we made ~~3~~ 31 mile

June 26, 1850

26th Up early and recommenced our journey
towards the the lofty hills 10 miles
brought us to snow banks glitterin
in the burning suns rays but
the soil drinks ~~the dri~~ the

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Journal 1850

June

melted snow up with such facility
we could obtain none 2 miles mor
and we descended to a fine little
brook 12 feet wide and 2 deep
being abundently fed from the
amplitude of the snows in the mountians
We now began to ascend the mts,
In 2 miles [-] we began to descend
down a valley between lofty mountains
road rough steep and sideling
5 farther and we came to a small
creek grass good here 7 miles farther
brought us to a creek running
West, by North a petrefied beavor
bam which makes a fall in the creek
This stream is 20 feet wide and
2 deep after traveling 9 miles
farther over a barren country
we came to a sluggish stream
about 24 wide and 3 deep we camped
here ~~after~~ haveing advanced 33 miles
to day the general featur of th
road good, of the mountaneous and
steril the water pure and good-
We had the pleasure of camping
with a teams we first traveled
with

June 27, 1850

27th Morning pleasant We went 1
mile above [^]the old ford to cross ford good
we now began to ascend the
mountain ridge gained the
summit in 6 miles in 1 mile
we are descending down a deep
cut between the mountains.

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found some small springs just below
the summit We continued along the mountain
gorge for 5 miles again found
water The hills recede and the
country becomes more open
8 miles farther and we cross a small
creek or branch 10 miles travel ovr
ahigh and rolling country a beautiful
little stream running South
We now camped grass good made
32 miles to day we hav
quite a refreshing shower
of rain this evening --

June 28, 1850

28th morning cool and refreshing We
now began to ascend the long [^] and
graduel hill the summit once
gained we soon descended along
the mountain pass we now began
to ~~pass~~ approach to other Mountans
and began to ascend along the
narrow glen for 5 miles when we gain-
-ed the summit ascent long and
gentle: but we found ourselves
on the brow of a lofty hill which we
must now descend descent precipitous
for one mile We proceeded cautiously
tied our long larrietts to the
hind part of the wagon and we
held back with our conjoined force
and thus we placed our wagon
to the fort of the Mountain our
road is good for 6 miles descending
along a valley the road then turns
to right a cross the hills We tured to

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left one mile and found water the
first since our last camp 16 mils
back Our road is smoothe and
good, in 4 mile the smmit is reach
-ed and after traveling five miles
along a descending road we
come to several fine springs of

good water we filled our vessels
with the preciuos liquid and ⚡
climed the hill and camped
Makeing 26 miles, to day we had
a heavy shower of hail about
4 o'k this Evenng &c ---

June 29, 1850

29th Early on the road country descen
-ing for 4 miles we now passed
into or along a narrow hollow
3 miles farther and we came to
a good spring of water
our road lay along the mountain
gorges and through the opening
gaps of the mountains for 14 mils,
adding the the picterresque scenery
[-] the comfort and beauty of numerous
springs and rippling brooks
and shady groves of Cotton wood
and Pine with an abundent supply
of grass. We now proceeded to
cross the creek we have passed
down for some distance crossing
not very good we ascended the
low hill ⚡ found ourselves on
a,large & level plain with an extende
and favorable view of the landscape
This is an arid plain producing

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nothing of importance but wild sage
and Lizards; But I might remark
The lizards, do not seem venemous
and hostile and the country has
abounded with them ever since Ft
Kerney more or less, our road
is now descending for 10 miles
we then came to swamp Creek
a deep and sluggish stream we now
camped [-]Grass of an inferior
quality; but abundent we mad 31
miles to day &c &c &c &c &c &c.

June 30, 1850

30th, We crossed the creek this morning
which is here about 30 feet wide
and 3 deep with deep mud in the
bottom. The next mile we crossed
3 sloughs the last one very deep
and bad crossing we now have
a level road for 4 miles we then
came to a creek running North
⚡ 20 feet wide and 3 1/2 deep we
gained the west bank and we are
at the Fort Hall ~~road~~ and California

road. The united roads now lead up
the creek over the rough swells of
the table lands at the base of the
lofty mountans at the right
5 miles farther and we camped
we made 10 miles to day
Grass tolerably good ~~so~~ and as
it is the sabbath we continued
here the remainder of the day in
sweet rest from our weeks and
months work for it is also the last day of June

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Thus as the retiring sun
sinks behind the western hills
and their sable ~~shade~~ shades
insensibly environ us and cast
its balmy and invigorating breeze
around. we have come since
the 5 of June from our camp at
Deer Creek 531 miles we have
passed pretty much all of the breadth
of the Interior mountans of this vast
Continent We ~~are~~ are 1248 miles
from St Joseph Mo and between
7 & 8 hundred miles from California
After inspectin our stock of
provision It was found after compu-
tation we could not lay-by any
more only when it was indispensible
necessary and as our old friends
for St Jo could not travel before
some days rest we decided to advance
in the morning and leave them
behind We found these men pleasant
and accommodating social and
prudent, traveling Companions
We were loth to leave them
behnd but such are the necessity
of human affairs desire must
give place to interest.

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Journal 1850

July 1850

July 1, 1850

July 1st

According to previous arrangement we
set forward this morning cross the
creek road rocky, we are now traveling
along a broad valley or glen some
what resembling the South Pass

as we began to emerge from the passes of this chain of mountains we found the country moderately rolling and after crossing a number of ravines or branches In 10 miles from our last camp we come to a nice creek 12 feet wide 1/2 deep [-] The road turns towards the broken chain of Mountains to the right curious stone or rock to the right, shooting up independent of the hills, in a conical form and some the highth of a hundred feet. In 2 miles we had ganed the summit of the gap and descended to a villege of rocks similar ~~to the rocks above mentioned~~ but more numerous at a distance they might represent the begining of a City many of them are in the form of a cone and are elivated near 200 feet above the surrounding country 5 miles farther brought us to the Salt Lake road this is the road the emigrats from salt lake travel to Californa we have been seperated from the emigrats that went by Salt Lake since 19 miles this side the South pass.

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Journal 1850

July we are now in a country laying long, high, and rolling swells after crossing ~~several~~ several little streams the next 5 miles we found good grass and camped made 22 miles to day

July 2, 1850

2nd Early on the road the country continues broke for 8 miles when we came to Goose creek. ~~pe~~ we[-] passed several creeks or branches one bridged with ~~with~~ wagon wheels and covered with earth Goose Creek is 20 feet wide and 2 deep The valley in many places 1 mile wide and some places very mirey This valley produces some good grass but more of an inferior quality We found the road good up the valley ~~for~~ for 8 miles, the next 8 miles we had many bad and deep sloughs to cross This country seems to have been deluge by the continual

freshe[-] from the melting snow
for in many places we had to
climb the rocky and precipitous
and avoid the solid and beaten
paths of last year now made
mirey from the recent floods
Just as we was passing these
rocky points the deep lowering
clouds as if burthened with
their treasure opened their ample
stores and poured torrents

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Journal 1850
July of hail and rain on the care
worn and weather beaten emigrants
We went into camp early this evening
made 24 miles to day -----
Some few willows on the this creek
this is all the timber it produces.

July 3, 1850

3rd Clear and cool This morning.
1 mile up the creek and we
left it turning up a small
branch (a part of the way through
a deep hollow road rough and rocky
in places). in 4 miles travel we
ascended from the glen to the
rolling plain; covered with
wild sage. and not much
grass; no water for 10 miles at
this distance we descended
to the a valley and found water;
no abundant, nor good,
grass all of an inferior quality
5 miles down the and we passed
by some round pools or holes of
water resembling wells 7 miles
farther across the low and sandy
plain and we came to a small
creek with a broad valley
running from the South West
to the North East came (1) +Mile
up this valley and camped
plenty of grass in this valley
course and tall but not fit
for a horse to eat. We made to
day 28 miles Etc,

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Journal for the year 1850

July 4, 1850

July 4th

The sun arose in all his
majestic splendor and was at
once the ruler and glory of the
day; so may our lovely; and, wide
spreading republic; [^]That arose on this day long continue

the ~~morrel~~ moral ruler and glory
of the world! We continued up the
valley for 16 miles and crossed
ford muddy and deep struck across
~~the~~ the bottom and followed
up a small branch for 6 miles
plenty of good water in the
ravine the next 3 miles we crossed
over a ridge and descended to
a valley and camped no water
at this camp we [-]traveled
25 miles to day The country
through which we pass to day
rather barren and dry of a
porious soil and easily broken
; hence the road very dusty The
season has become quite warm
and the meridian sun makes us
pant for the shady Grove & cooling
brooks our fancy would gladly
emagine was at the end of o[--]
journey: or the unbidden sigh
would escape our lips ~~for~~ the
for the leafy bowes we have
left behind. Etc(Etc Etc

July 5, 1850

5th We resumed our journey this
morning 5 miles over the plain
and we found water in pools or
wells we continued along the

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broad valley 3 miles we then left
it and passed over the steril
plain for 4 miles we then came
to a valley; and creek; which now
dry This is a tributary of Humbolt
River we found water here in the
natural wells or pools of the country
we travelde down the valley 3 miles
and left the valley for 2 miles and
crossed the low sand ridge the sun
is now high in the heavens and
the heat reflected from the heated
sands is oppressive, we now descended
to the valley; of the creek which
covered with good grass, 3 miles
farther down and valley brought us
to the ford; The creek here is 16

feet wide and 2 deep crossing
tolerable we continued the creek
6 miles farther and camped.
This is quite a creek here having
been greatly augmented by tributary
streams. We learned here that we
were in the domain of the ~~the~~ Dig-
ger Indians The wildest fiercest
and most theiveish of all the
tribes we have been among
A man just above us died
this evening from a ~~wound~~ wound
received on the morning of
the 20nd ist. I suppose the red
villen sought his oppertunity
this he found just as day light
as one of the gaurds went

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to arouse the company; the
lurking red-skin stepped from his
ambush and let fly the fatal
arrow and then escaped with
impunity. Great are the stories
of Indian depredations; It is
represented; we hold our stock
and even lives on a very precariou^{as}
tenure We Traveld 26 miles to
day -----

July 6, 1850

6th Continued down the valley 5
miles crossed a low plain 1 mile
to the Middle forke of Hum-
bolt river This stream is about
40 feet wide at this time 4 feet
deep crossed safely we now
have two slougs to cross the
mud or /mire almost bottomeless
Horses, mules, and Oxen foundered
some mules only saved from
the dominion ~~of~~ of the mud; by
fasning ropes to them; & useing
violent force, make the mire
yeald its bony prey. We had
been so long accostomed to success
we began to think we were almost
invincible We supposed we could
take our wagon across with out
unharnessing and sending our
stock a cross singly and crossing
our wagon by hand. We found
a favorable ford, (as we supposed)
and advance to the triel, we dis=
coverd our mistake to late

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We swamped; but by plunging into the water and mud waist deep We soon recovered that which, our temerity lost, and we were all stock and baggage on the sollid soil, We now continued down the valley 20 miles keeping at a distance from the river which is high and filling all the sloughs and low lands of the valley with water, as the soil is exceedingly porious it readily becomes saturated with water; It is so mirey we could not approach the grassy meads with our stock hence We had to become acquainted with the depth of the bogs and slough, of Humbolt valley in order to procure grass for our ~~amit~~ animals which we mowed and carried to them This was our first introduction to these menial labors at this camp. We traveld 27 miles to day the road generally dusty and weather warm -----

July 7, 1850

7th Sabbath a fine air ths morning 1 mile brought us to the North fork of the river this fork is near 50 feet wide at this time 3 1/2 deep tolarble good crossing we left the river here for a short distance and crossed over the high sand ridges we traveld 6 miles from the ~~river~~

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----- Journal 1850

July

crossing of the North fork and camped for the day. In view of the length of the road the depth of the sand; and the ruged mountains, to cross; and the scarceity of provisions. It was thought (by some) advisable to go to packing. On the other hand it was erged (by some) we was makeing a good time almost as packers and we should not be, discouraged, continue to persevere in the way we then knew; offer no new schemes

and we would undubtl[-]y arrive
safe in California. We come
to an accommodation; by
agreeing to the proposials of
our traveling companions
(The team from Peoria Ill,
.3 Men & 5 horses) They offered
to join teams leave one wagon:
work 6 horses at a time. Leave
that which was not indespensable
necessary, Eat all together; and
as they had an eaqual quantity
with us we had no objections
on that head; After due delibration
we subscribed the articles and
we joined teams Etc Etc Et c
Quite windy this after noon
The sweeping curent of air
bears ↗ dense clouds in its
train - &c We made 7 miles to day

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Journal 1850

July 8, 1850

July 8th Started this morning with
our coach and "6".
Continued dow the valley ~~for~~
for 20 miles we then left
the valley and asscended through
a narrow hollow or ravine, to
the high lands of the surrounding
country. gained the summit
in 2 miles we now began to
descend through a narrow hollow
In 1 mile ~~throug~~ we now again
asscended alittle we had descending
roads for 2 miles we then came
to a creek we found good water
here; no good grass thick copse
of current bushes along this
creek of the black species; They
are loaded with fruit, (most
ripe at this time) We traveled
a sotherdly direction dow this
creek 4 miles quite to the valley
of the river we then turned
up a creek ↗ comeing in from
the west traveled up this creek
5 miles and camped Grass of
an inferior quality not fit
for horses to travel on, W advanced
34 miles to day road generally
good to day but extremely
dusty: but we give up to
to suffer the dust and dirt
untill we get through &c Etc

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Journal 1850

July 9, 1850

July 9th We arose early this morning
We now left the creek and
ascended the hill road dry and
dusty and ~~is~~ hilly, In many
places rocky and rough. In
14 miles from our camp and we
descended through a narrow
ravine between lofty hills
We found some good springs of
water here. 10 miles farther over a rough
road brought us to the river We now
left the river again and: passed
over a sterile ridge remarkable
for its want of moisture & its
deep rust. In 6 miles travel
and we again descended to the
river, and camped. No grass that
we could approach with our horses
And we again waded the sloughs
through mud and water waist
deep in order to obtain feed for
our horses. It is no wonder we
should feel dissatisfied with the
accommodation of this river
when we expected to find good
pasturage but instead of this.
after traveling 30 miles (as we done
to day) through clouds of dust,
under a burning sky; had
to wade sloughs and collecting
the scattered grass and raising
the bundles to our shoulders & then
force our way ~~to~~ splashing [--] to
the camp through mud & water

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Journal 1850 -

July 10, 1850

July 10,th
Continued down the valley 18
miles, we then to the right up a creek
5 miles to the crossing ford good
we now made a short elbow and
came down the ~~river~~ creek 5 miles
to the river. Road good plenty of
good grass here to mow The next
5 miles we traveled ~~along~~ near the river,

The road somewhat rough; for th
we pass a-long the base of two
rockey Points; or lofty knolls,
From this point we receded from
the river; over a low plain
covered with alkali. The soil
here resembles, the dregs, of, the soap
boiller's hopper. The road is quite
dusty no water for 5 miles we
then came to a slough, highly
charged with alkali 1 mile from the
slough and we camped we traveled
31 miles to day &C &C &C &C.

July 11, 1850

11th Continued our journey over
~~low~~ the steril plains 12 miles
and then come to the banks
of the river, No grass on this side
of the river From this point we
traveled over a succession of low
sand ridges. Passed near the river
in two place 14 miles travel found
us on the banks of the river
no grass on this side. A notice up
here (signed by "Cobden") ("Mr Cobden
Is a gentleman from, Mich- . has traveld
the road once before and now is Cap. of a train)

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stating we were approaching the
"sink" and the "emigrants" told to
repair ~~to the~~ "meadows" 6 or 7 miles to the right and
prepare for the "deasart" We like
some others, who arrived at this point
late; Thought to remain and get
our ~~supplies frf~~ supplies from
the [-] other side of the river
We accordingly swam the river
commcd a fruitless search for
grass, We now encountered, a countless
number of musquitos These are
very affable fellows, ~~in~~, they
readily, form, an acquaintance; my
they even embraced us like like old
acquaintance; but I must
confess I have reason to suspect
their affection was nothing, but
self interst. For as soon as
they would light on us ~~we~~
they would drive their beaks through
our shirts; and draw from our
veins the purple flood of life.
And notwithstanding repeted
slights, the pursued us, with a
fanatical zeal. We could not
indure this; and soon give up the

project, we now plunged our
bodies beneath, the turbed waters
of Humbolt's, river and drove
the assailents off; We now recr-
oss took supper reharnessed
and proseeded to find the grass
in the valley to the right of the

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Journal 1850

July

of the road. After grooping our
way some time ~~tim~~ through
the dark we at length arrived, (about
2 o'k A.M.) at the encampments,
We now retired and I think the
boys ~~was~~,werenot long till they were
holding sweet communion with
"tired natuers sweet restorer",
We advanced 26 miles to day
This is a good place to obtain grass: but
rather deficient in water fine tracts
of clover & a seedy grass resembling
red top of the gray specia, &c -

July 12, 1850

12th We arose with the sun this mor-
ning (our eyes being heavy,)
we looked for a favorable place
to make hay requisite for the
supposed "desert." about 2 mils
to the right our camp we found
a level plain thinly set with grass
we mowed; and made our hay
loaded, and set forward at 4 o'k P.M.
We come to the river in 10 miles travel
Continued down along the river
banks 2 miles; then turned to the
right, through a spacious gap
in the sand and rocky hills
The road is sandy; and in many
places rocky; after travelin 10
miles farther we again descended
to the valley of the river. Day-
light has reappeared and Humbolts
is still seen undiminished winding
its course towards the in gulping

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Journal 1850

July

sands, of the devouring "Desert"
we now continued dow the
valley 3 mils, and as the sun

arose we went in to camp on the banks of the river: or a detached part of the river, we have advanced 25 miles ~~from~~ reckoning from our last camp

July 13, 1850

13th ,After the usual refreshment, and indulging in sleep sufficiently We again started on our Journey at 4 o'clock .P.M. Continued down the valley 3 miles the road then turns to the ~~right~~ right up a creek bottom 4 miles travel brought us to the crossing of the creek ford deep. we now continued over a rocky road for 4 miles passed in the rear of a rocky point or bluff and then descended to the river continued 2 miles farther and camped for the night We have come 13 miles this evening

July 14, 1850

14th we arose somewhat invigorated this morning. Continued down the ~~5~~ valley 5 miles one road then led us across the low sand ridges almost destitute of vegetation. sand deep and road heavy. 7 miles travel and we again came to the river no grass here, Continued down the valley 8 miles over deep sands.

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Journal 1850 -

July

The road makes a short bend ~~here~~ to the right, but we kept straight forward a short distance and camped on the sand ridge near the banks of the river, we obtained feed for our animals from the opposite side the slough, This valley has, (and doubtless will to the end) abounded we made 20 miles to day[-] in sloughs, After resting a short time we resumed our our journey at 10 o'clock P.M. The sand still continues deep and the road seems thrice heavy to poorly ~~at~~ fed and fatigued teams continued down the valley 5 miles and as the road left the river we

filled our kegs with water vainly
hoping it might be the last
desert,

July 15, 1850

15th we now continued to cross the sterl
plain prolific for nothing but
its deep dust. This is a very level
plains or table lands at the
foot of lofty bluffs we
found this plain 18 miles wide
and destitute water &c, we are
now at the river stop a few
hours to feed &c, had an interview
with Dt Climens; a returning Califor-
nian, and formerly of Pike County
Ills he does not speak very
[-] flattering of California.
I sent a letter home by him &c

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Journal 1850

July

We now continued down the the
valley our road runs in a circle
for 6 miles around some sloughs
or lakes, alofty peak: or mount
~~on~~ to the left on the opposite of
the river we provided feed here
and at the dstance 6 miles from
our stopping we left the river
and lauched out on a dusty plain
in all respects similar to the
one we traversed last night we
come 10 miles on this dusty waste
and we camped for the remainder of
the night -(making 39 miles ^{since} 10 o'k
the previous evening & 59 since
our last sleeping place Etc Etc
There is no accommodation here
And as we were distributing the grass
provided to the animals; an incident
occured: both startling and instructin[-]
Mr Martin, Scott of Peoria Ill (our
traveling Comtanion) was struck
by one of the animals throwing
its head around: he was brought
to the ground with a heavey fall. I
saw him fall, and started to his relief
: but as he began to struggle as
if in the last agonies of life:
And not fully knowin the cause.
I suppose it might be a stroke
of: or an arrow from an Indians
quiver, I paused; thinking the
liveing might need more assistance
thn, those already dead

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Journal 1850

July

I viewed [^]"The Camp" with a quick glance, and no frightful met my view. And as Scott began to show more signs of life I hastened to him: by this time some of the boys came up. We helped him to his feet. ~~and as soon as he~~ his senses were gone; and soon as he could stand; he threw us from him frantic with rage. It was with the up most difficulty we could dissuade him from the belief, that some of [^]us had struck him. This was a very startling scene from its severity, and attending circumstances. Instructive as it caused us to weigh the importance of a sane mind, and caused us to vie[-]w with silent awe, the tottering throne of boasting ~~reason~~ reason's vast domain

July 16, 1850

16th We arose early this morning took breakfast and continued over the barren plain 15 miles we then came to the river watered our horses and followed the example of some others; and cut some willow bushes for our horses; that luckily grew a long here after resting a little we swam the river and cut [^]with butchers knives the ~~state[-]ing~~ scattering bushes of grass ~~with~~ whithersoever we could find it The river is a very rapid stream here, and extremely crooked running back and forth across the narrow valley -&c, &c,

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We resumed our Journey at 4 o'clock P.M. 12 miles from this point- over a dusty plain, destitute of water & grass - brought to the river no grass at this place we now left the river continued our journey over and inhospitable desert for 18 miles we then come to willow creek & spring This is a good spring and would justly be celebrated, in any country: but in this arid desert it is courted by, all, who pass. &c

5 miles from here we arrived at
the meadows This is now early on
the morning of the 17th, and we
camped making 48 miles since our
last camp - - -----

July 17, 1850

17th The "meadows" are broad plains
or grassy meads divided by sloughs
or numerous channels of the
river We layed by to day.

The water is near the surface
can be obtained by any place
by sinking a weell 2 or 3 feet
the water is brackish or salty
In many places the salt that
was in solution with the water;
is left, very pure, in ~~solution~~
little parcels, on the surface of
the soil; by the evaporation of the
water. - - - - -

We spend the day in cutting grass
for the long [--]lked of Desert &c &c

[11]

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After the labor of the day was finished
we retired and were soon, raped in profound
slumber. morpheus held us chained
in her gentle imbrace; painting in
exquisite beauty; the fairy fields of
visionary at mostphere: untill, Aurora's
rosey fingers, gently touched, the eastern hills.

July 18, 1850

18th We arose greatly invigorated this morni=
ng after breakfasting &c &c
we filled our kegs loded our hay &c
We were in motion at 3 o'k P.M.
Traveled 15 miles over alevel plain,
destitute of all, that might be of
comfort; to the emigrant; and camp
for the remainder of the night

July 19, 1850

19th Started early this morning.
Came 2 miles miles and come to
the slough some grass along here
6 miles down the valley and came to
the last Slough of the sink (as we
supposed) we now camped untill
the heat of the day should pass
water very poor in this slough.
At 5 o'k P.M. We continued our
journey asscended a low sand ridege,

and found the sloughs of the ~~sunk~~ sink
still extended farther In 4 miles
we crossed the meagre sloughs, the
remains of Humbolt; that, had escaped
the devouring sands. We now began to
ascend to the Summit of the
desert road sandy for 1 mile we
found this part of the desert

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a level plain for 12 miles and looked
like it might have been covered
with water in times past
It is a complete arid waste.
these 12 miles the road is good the
plains then becomes more rolling
with some heavy sand
Dead Horses are frequent on
either hand, having performed only
a small portion across this desert.
But these sand hills are more
fatal still to wagons. They with all
other property are thrown away with-
out any regard to cost; if it
is not ~~indeed~~ indispensably necessary
The[-] wagons are crowded together
so closely that when a bonfire was
made of one (which was practiced) the
flames would rapidly spread from
wagon to wagon And thus the
desolate region is lit up
by the flames of the emigrants
burning mation.

July 20, 1850

20th We held a council at day-break
this morning. and discussed the
propriety of leaving our
wagon, our team were greatly
fatigue from the depth of the
sand, after various suggestion, we
decided to light up and take
the first light or one horse
wagon we could find. We accordingly
seized our tents, wagon covers, Picks
&c and hurled them ~~of~~ over-board.

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Emptied our kegs and left them
We now continued our on our way
the road remaining sandy and heavy
we soon found a high wagon (such
as would be a one horse wagon in the
states) Threw our things into it put

on 6 horses and got along much better As we advance the destruction of property becomes greater This is a mixed road ~~of~~ that is some deep sand with a little solid road between the road continues thus until came within 12 or 15 miles of Carsons river; then we had continual sand heavy and deep the remainder of the desert.

Many people alone here have left their wagons drove their teams to the river and after recruiting return some of the weaker animals are not able to traverse these burning sands and thus great numbers fall an easy prey to the desert We continued to move steadily along and had the good fortune by 11 o'clock, A.M. to arrive at the river in safety. Carson's river is a good stream water at this place no grass after watering taking a lunch and so forth We continued 5 miles up the valley found some grass & camped. Making 55 miles

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from our Camp on the slough. performed in 18 hours over a sandy desert. with a team that had been greatly injured from alkali water; that was worn down by long traveling and last of all fed on grass or hay of little ~~vally~~ value, and even an injury, being salty it created a thirst just when it should be otherwise

July 21, 1850

21st We traveled 3 miles this morning and camped, having found some good grass ~~we camped~~ we concluded to remain here the remainder of the day Carson River is a beautiful stream, about 80 yards wide and not fordable at this time. We are 483 miles nearer California than our last computation at our camp at the Junction of the Fort Hall & California road. We traveled 3 hundred miles on Humbolt river & 50, of a desert proper, We are now 1731 from St Joseph's Mo.

July 22, 1850

22nd We now resumed our journey
Traveled 2 miles ~~at~~ up the valley
and ascended the hill leaving the
valley to the left, and traveling over
a sandy and barren plain for
12 miles we then descended to the
the river We found the road only
touched the river here and immediately

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ascended an the sand ridge and crossed
a desert ~~for~~ 26 miles in extent
In view of this, We we a gain summone[^]d
a parley: in the object was to improve
our way of traveling. After various
suggstions on either interest; "The Packers"
prevailed. and It was decided we sould
pack through we accordingly went into
camp, and commenced prepareing in good
earnest. Threw a way all that was not
absolutely necessary. ~~only~~ only takeing
the new; or best cloths, We were
determined to make this last place
we could throw any thing away
We were all ready and in motion
at 10 o'k P.M. after travelig
all ~~day~~ night over heavy sands we
arrived at the 8 o'k A.M. 23rd
We continued 5 miles up the valley and
camped for the day. Makeing 45 miles
since our last camp

July 23, 1850

23rd we found some grass, but this being a
general camping place the grass has
been fed off &c We have now
met traders from California with
provisions for sale, Flour selling for
\$150, ~~Bacon~~ per lbs Bacon the
same we mad a purchase of 6 pounds
flour at that rates, &c ours being
exhausted As provision becomes
scarce our appetite seems to increase
we can only teell to stop eating
when the plate is emtied Etc,

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Journal 1850

July 24, 1850

July 24th

This morning is cool and pleasant
We continued up the valley 4 miles
and then cross a narrow, and stoney
ridge; or hill. Asscent & descent
steep. We now traveled ~~over~~ up
the valley 4 miles farther, and then
left the valley, traveling for 8 miles
over a barren waste; covered with
wild sage and other stinted
shrubry: on this plain we passed
a ridge of white earth, or clay
When we descended to the river
we found good grass
We only touched the valley here
and left it again, traveling through
a narrow valley 2 miles we now
ascended a low hill and crossed
a sandy ~~ridge~~ plain for 5 miles we
then came to the valley again
The valley here is wet and
marshy and clothed with a heavy
groth of grass the sod is strong
and it is quite easy to cross.
This is delightful vally, and view
while to our left and frount
the broad and expanded valley
is in view, as far as the
eye can dstinguish; the grassy
meads are luxuriently carpeteted
with blue grass and red clover.
and along the right, the massive
mountains rearing their towering foms
to ~~aeriet~~ aerial hights; and

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Journal 1850

July

presenting its bold front to us; which is
covered with dese forrest of majestic
pines; The timbr commencd at the
base of the mountans and continues
quite to the summit. After traveling
this beautiful valley 12 miles, crossing
~~Mu~~ numerous little brooks of pure
water rippling down from the mountains
and thus adding comfort and beauty,
to the already enchanting scenery-

July 25, 1850

25th The valley continues much the same
for 25 miles, being clothed with the
richest garses of ~~of~~ the world, and
watered at short intervils by numerou
brooks ~~into its bosom~~ sweeping down
from the mountain to the valley,
and pouring moisture into
its bosome we then passed nearrer

the mountain over a sandy and gravelly bench; or "Table" at the foot the mountain after traveling along these stupendious mountains 8 miles we descended to the river, just as it emerges from the snowy mountains- Splashing, hurling, foaming, and bounding, down the rocky channel it flows on its way to the tranquil valley below. We now entered the mountain gorge which have rapidly converged to the banks of the river, The river at this place is diminished to a small creek or brook We passed along, this Canyon, through groves of pine timber

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Journal 1850

July

2 miles and camped making 30 miles travel to day, grass not very abundant.

July 26, 1850

26th This is a delightful morning and we are in a romantic place The valley is about 200 yards wide and walled in by lofty mountains of huge rock; with their bold front frowning on us; These walls, rise in many places ~~and~~ almost; & in some, quite perpendicular and when lit well amidst the sides are covered with (Pine trees. After breakfasting we continued our journey up the canyon the next 4 miles we crossed the creek three times, on bridges made of the trunks of Pine trees which are plenty along here just below the last crossing We crossed over a steep hill or point, ascent extremely precipitous, and rocky barely possible for a wagon to pass. The valley now widens a little in many places the road is rough, but as we are without wagon we hardly notice it 12 miles farther up the and we are at the base of the first mountain ridge or spur The road is extremely crooked, rough and rocky we found the ascent precipitous and rugged This mountain is covered with timber some of the trees ~~covered with~~ of great size and lofty height

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Journal 1850 - - - -

We gained the summit in 17 miles travel. The road continues rough and we began to descend. The descent longer, but not so precipitous as the ascent. In 5 miles from the summit we had gained the valley at the base of the main chain of mountains we cross a creek here 20 feet wide & 2 deep This creek runs into a small Lake just below. we now camped having come 23 miles to day &c

July 27, 1850

27th After sleeping soundly all night long we arose; and found we were enveloped in a very heavy frost. This is just the spring of the year here. The young and tender clover has just opened to the sun's genial rays; and his strong, but gentle bidding. But, Ah! in his absence: The treacherous frost has environed its tender leaves, in his cold, and unbidden embrace. We now commenced the ascent. ~~the~~ road led us up the mountain ridge; through groves of majestic ~~tim~~ timber after ascending (with a little descent) 1 1/2 miles we arrived at the base of the main chain of the snowy mountains: or the loftiest peak, ~~of~~ or ridge of the "Sierra Nevada." The day was clear and the sun bright in the heavens. but his powers seemed to be combined and latent, for the snow banks looked him full in the face

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Journal 1850

July

[-] without blushing. we found the ascent not so precipitous, but longer than [^]the mountain yesterday after ascending 2 miles over banks of snow we stood on the summit of the Pass, amid the teeth of this snowy "saw" The loftiest peaks are rocky and almost destitute of vegetation and entirely bare of snow. we now wound along the mountain ridge and soon commenced descending the descent not so regular as the ascent but in many places; more rocky and more difficult 5 miles

from the summit and we had
fairly gained the mountain and
descended to a little valley a trading
house here provisions have got down
to 50 cts pr lb. &c. we crossed the
little creek that runs by here
and ascended a little and continued
along the mountain ridge 13 miles
and camped estimating our travel
to day at 22 miles. We traveled through
the most majestic forest I ever
beheld. The trees for numbers (to the
rod) size and, altitude, straightness,
and clearness of limbs. is surpassed
in few countries; if in any
Every thing is young and
fresh having lately awoke from
a long and desolating winter

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Journal 1850

July 28, 1850

July 28th

Our road lay along the mountain
ridge through the heavy timber,
the land now has become thirsty
the grass dried up and withered
In fact this ridge produces but
little grass. The soil looks red
being a redish clay, We see men
out "prospecting for gold" (as they
term it,) frequently. It looks odd
to see a man with his pan, pick,
shovel, & blankets; with his provisions
strapped on his back, and then
laden he traverse these lonely
regions in quest of gold-
the above is a miners outfit
for prospecting. The "pan;" is a common
tin pan with a strong rim this
is made by soldering a concave
piece of tin to the pan so as
to be convex to the hand as you
take hold, of the pan, The shovels &
Picks are such as are use on
public works; the; point of the
shovels are rounded he takes his
bed and board along with him
and is at home where ever night
over takes him-. We turned
some distance south the road and
found some grass and camped
making 20 miles to day --

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Journal 1850

July 29, 1850

July 29th

The sun arose warm and pleasant this morning we breakfasted, and continued our journey reminating on the past; and trying to divine on the future, aftr traveling 10 miles We arrived at Pleasant vally we are in the edege of the mining district. This is a beautiful little valley founishing water but at this time no grass. 3 stores here with provisions and provendrs for animals, flour worth 35 cts per lb Pork 35 do Buttre 125 cts do &c Hay \$10 per cwt, Barly 30 ct per lbs, &c, ~~but~~ we had no money and of couse could not buy. Aftr ~~ea~~ stoping and dineing, in which devoured the last of our provisions, We now thought propper to devide our remaining affects, so each one would be at liberty to make such disposition, of his portion, as his needs might require. We accordingly starde two & two David Cohenour and my self a little behind the rest. we soon had an oppportunity of selling one of our horses, This caused such delay we were unable to ~~to~~ overtake our companions. and thus we were seperated ~~from~~ accidentally, and unintentially, from

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those with whom we had traveled more than half the breadth of this continent. With those we had united our energies, and asscended the ~~ff~~ loftiest moun=
tains, and descended to the deepest vallys=
With those we have alike traversed the pleasant fields and plains and burning sands of the arid deserts and with those we had alike subjec=
ted our persons to toils, stormes, and dangers, incident to an over land journey a cross the Continent. 10 miles from Pleasant vally we arrived at Weber-town This a little villege in an~~e~~ extensive mineing region (Termed dry diggins)

It is situated in a broken country
on the head branches of Weber Creek
and built of logs cabbins just to
suit the Mineers for the time being
the most of the ravines are appear=
antly, to us exhausted of their gold. Now
dry and deserted The whole country
in this region seems to be turned
up side down; that might lay bare
the precious mettle. This was the
first impression. From here we took
the Sacramento road and continued
on to Mud Spring from thence
we struck a cross the country to
cold spring. Cold spring is a little
villege on Weber creek and the
seat of a good mineing district

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The miners (that were working here)
and with whom we talked, all spoke
very discouraging of the country
they said, "It is a hard old country"
We traded for a Pick & Shuvel,
and the day we arrived at Culloma
5 miles dstant from Cold Spring.
And commenced mineing with
little success, Culloma is the
county town of Eldorado County
and is situated on the south Fork
of the American River being on
both sides of the river and surround=
ing Sutters mill made notorious
from the first discovery of gold here.
We are now 50 miles from Sacramento
180 from our computation on
Carson River, & 1,911 miles from
St Joseps Mo,-----

[12]

The End. "Finis"

[13]

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Extraneous

Essays Walnut Grove Academy, 1852.
Time.

Time is the duration, or numbr, or days,
given to the existence of our wourld; and to
the laws that govern its motion, and perpet-
uate its' existence. When we view the affects
of time, on worlds; we are silenced and cour=
ed in the very budding of self essteem, at

the stupendous strides of time; and his gigantic achievements. Starts set, and rise no more; new ones are discovered, sure indications of times dissolving power; also as time; as the essence preceeding and that moves the hand of Omnipotent power.

In the fulness of time, we read the sun and his dependencies shall be blotted from the universe - nay the very heavens will flee from the presents of Him who fills the immensity of space But need we revert to these ovrwhelming steps of tim, to have our dignity chrushed beneath his heavy tread? no! Let us look at tim as embraced in the days of man and the object with which we are more intimatily acquanted. All things beneath the sun seem to suffer from the ravages of time. The precious metals waste, from the usages of time. The stately oak decays and withers and decays, while its once wide spreading branches waved in the passing breeze Time now see those branshes torn from their airy situation and mouldering

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on the earth beneath, back to their prmitive element. Time has seen the rise and fall of the most hardy plants, and majestic trees. Time has witnessed-"Mountains sink down and valley rise." But are these his greatest works? Me thinks I hear "Father time respond, no, I have seen the rise and fall of empires. With my ample sweep I have swept kingdoms from the face of the earth. I have been giddy with the blood of the mighty and strong. Sages philosophers lords, potentates, and peasants; all alike have, bowed to my power. In short, I reign king ; their is non to great for me; yet none so mean that is beneath my ~~no~~ impartial call all live by my permission for I only lend one moment at a time What vaunting language is this from "old time" he ~~lends~~ gives moment by moment of our short existence. This shor existence on on which depends our happiness in time Those moments in which we form acquaintances and revolve in social converse Oh! how short and precarious our social bliss when in the hands of such an iron hearted master. May we duly appreciate the time that now is!

Walnut Grove Academy John F Cobbey
September 24 1852.

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Notes

- [1] A green journal 8" by 12" with a leather binding. The cover has various scribbles on it, such as numbers, letters, and the word "Book".
- [2] This page was written in pencil and in a very large handwriting. The initial capital letters are about 3 inches tall, and the rest of it was about 1/2" tall.
- [3] The following line was written in black ink vertically in the bottom right corner of the page in a large handwriting (about 1/2 inch tall).
- [4] Page [0.5] is blank.
- [5] The following 2 lines are each as tall as 2 lines of normal text.
- [6] Regular-sized writing continues.
- [7] The following 2 lines were written diagonally upward across the previous two lines.
- [8] Horizontal writing continues.
- [9] There is a large X through the previous 2 lines, and the following 2 lines were written upwards diagonally across the previous 2 lines.
- [10] Pages 4 through 95 are blank. The journal-writer has numbered these 4-35, XXXVI-XXXVII, and 36-51. Pages 54-95 were not numbered by the journal-writer.
- [11] There is a page torn out here between 174 and 175, but it doesn't appear that any text has been torn out.
- [12] Thirteen lines are blank here.
- [13] Pages 189 through 191 are blank.
- [14] The rest of the journal (pages 194 to 292) is blank.