

Pringle, Virgil  
Kellog

Journal of Virgil K.  
Pringle crossing  
the plains in  
1846.

~~117~~  
~~Fire King~~  
~~Gate drawer #1~~

Wednesday, April 15th, 1846. Left Hickory Grove this day with my family for Oregon. Went 7 miles, -stopped for more company.  
16th, Thursday, Absalom Faulkner and James Brown and their families joined us, and we went ahead 17 miles to J. Wheeler's. Parted this day with Octavius; having bid adieu to my other brothers and sisters the day before. Went along well, -teams and everything doing to my satisfaction.

17th. Went this day 15 miles. Virgilia had the ague. We gave her Champion's pills. The rest all well.

18th. All well. Made 18 miles, and camped on Harrison's Branch of Au Verre. All things in good order and agreeable.

Sunday, April 19th. Travel 12 miles. Well pleased with teams and company. 3 families from Georgia overtook us. They left their homes on the 10th of March. Camped at the house of Mr. Shock, Audrain County, Grand Prairie, on Harrison's Branch of Au Verre. All well and teams first rate, and everything agreeable. Went 12 miles and camped; well pleased with teams and company. This day 3 families from Georgia overtook us, on their way to Oregon. They started 10th March, from their homes. Camped in Audrain County, at the house of Mr. Shock, in Grand Prairie.

20th. Started in fine season, and traveled on fine road, generally on Grand Prairie. Went 20 miles, and camped at a Mr. Palmer's, near Grand Prairie, Boon County. Teams and all things in good order. Find our cows a great help to our living.

21st. This day went 18 miles over good road, generally on Grand Prairie, and camped at Mr. Austin's, in Randolph County; well pleased with wagons and teams. Weather good, so far; and health of all improving, with the exception of Mrs. Brown, who complains with a bad cold. This evening, Clark shot a brant and pheasant.

22d. Passed this day through Huntsville, county seat of Randolph. Traveled 13 miles and camped near the line of Chariton. Delayed by Brown and Falkner buying more stock. Road good and all things in fine order.

23. Traveled 14 miles over a fine farming country; the land good but too many lakes for health, and camped two miles from Chariton river; the roads good, but travel slow.

24th. Passed the Chariton this morning. Found the bottom very muddy, but difficulty in getting through, the river having been off the bottom but a few days. Passed through Keytesville, the county seat of Chariton county, a location similar to Cottleville, on the Musle Fork of Chariton; went 14 miles and camped 1 1/2 miles from Brunswick.

25th. Passed through Brunswick, on Missouri river, near the junction of Grand river, a place of considerable business, located on bottom land. Crossed Grand river at Cross's ferry; paid the extravagant price of \$2.50 for two teams and 5 head of loose stock. Traveled 13 miles and camped 11 miles from Carrolton; all in good health; roads in good order, over a rich country, thinly settled, but low and of an unhealthy appearance.

26th, Sunday, left camp in good season, passed through Carrolton, located on Wakendah creek, and traveled up Moss creek, a branch of the Wakendah, running through Wakendah, prairie which is Missouri bottom, and was the greatest curiosity we had met, there being a mill about 2 miles from timber, and propelled by a stream running through level prairie, and not a stick of timber on its banks; went 9 miles on the prairie and camped 2 miles from Pilot Grove, on the banks of Moss Creek; without any wood but drift we found on the prairie, that was left by the flood of 1844, 20 miles.

27th. Last night had a thunder storm, and continues to rain this morning. Left camp in the rain, the first we had since we started. Tried our new recruits, but they stood it well. Went 16 miles and crossed Crooked river and camped on wet ground; rained all night. In Ray county.

28th. Left our muddy camp as soon as possible, and made sail for Camden. Cool and cloudy, -roads good. Passed Camden in the evening, and arrived at Manthano Brown's, having traveled 13 miles; all well.

*Crossed*

*unhealthy*

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25th. Passed through Brunswick, on Missouri river, near the junction of Grand river, a place of considerable business, located on bottom land. Crossed Grand river at Cross's ferry; paid the extravagant price of \$2.50 for two teams and 5 head of loose stock. Traveled 13 miles and camped 11 miles from Carrollton; all in good health; roads in good order, over a rich country, thinly settled, but low and of an unhealthy appearance.

26th, Sunday, left camp in good season, passed through Carrollton, located on Wakendah creek, and traveled up Moss creek, a branch of the Wakendah, running through Wakendah, prairie which is Missouri bottom, and was the greatest curiosity we had met, there being a mill about 2 miles from timber, and propelled by a stream running through level prairie, and not a stick of timber on its banks; went 9 miles on the prairie and camped 2 miles from Pilot Grove, on the banks of Moss Creek, without any wood but drift we found on the prairie, that was left by the flood of 1844, 20 miles.

27th. Last night had a thunder storm, and continues to rain this morning. Left camp in the rain, the first we had since we started. Tried our new recruits, but they stood it well. Went 16 miles and crossed Crooked river and camped on wet ground; rained all night. In Ray county.

28th. Left our muddy camp as soon as possible, and made sail for Camden. Cool and cloudy, -roads good. Passed Camden in the evening, and arrived at Manthano Brown's, having traveled 13 miles; all well.

*Crossie*

*unhealthy*

and teams in good order. Broke the tongue of the first wagon I bought, about a hundred yards from Brown's house. 29th, 30th April and 1st of May remained at M. Brown's. and put new tongues in both wagons, and made 2 new yokes, and employed ourselves at other arrangements for our trip.

May 2d. left M. Brown's and went about 6 miles and encamped on Missouri bottom about one mile from the ferry.

Sunday, May 3d, came to the ferry soon in the morning and found the crossing slow; occupied the day in getting ~~XXXX~~ our wagons across; the day showery; encamped at a vacant house on the south bank.

4th. Completed ferrying our stock, and went 3 miles and camped in Jackson county; make slow headway. Got my bacon this day, for which I paid \$3.75 per hundred. Fine county of land. All well. No loss of property.

Tuesday 5th. Got under headway for Blue Mills. Went ahead with my wagons and commenced loading in my flour; for which I pay \$2 for S. Fine and \$1.75 for fine. The first accident happened this day that has befallen us on our trip: The wagon in which Mrs. Jas. Brown and family were was overturned, and Mrs. Brown badly hurt; and one of the children slightly; the oxen taking fright by a drove of mules. All much alarmed for Mrs. Brown. 12 miles.

6th. Laid by this day, on account of Mrs. Brown. Completed taking in our flour. The weather still showery. The Blue Mill, the best water mill I have seen in the state; makes flour that passes the Boston market; to which place they often freight.

May 7th, 1846. Set sail for Independence, 8 miles from our encampment; at which place we arrived at 2 o'clock; finished our outfit and encamped 4 miles beyond Independence; all things in good order; our teams doing well, and not overloaded. 12 miles.

8th. This day the weather was fine, - the first for nearly a week. Went 12 miles, to the Blue, and encamped, it being too high to cross. Another wagon capsized at the encampment, a family from Pennsylvania. No injury to person or property. The country today different from any I have ever seen; it being prairie quite rolling, or broken, and rocks in ledges; the soil good interspersed with springs and patches of small timber.

May 9th. This day the weather fine; crossed the Blue soon in the morning, went 16 miles over prairie that is rich and beautiful, but no timber or water, and encamped at the Lone Tree; no wood, but green willows, such as are common on prairie branches; - made better fire for cooking than we expected; plenty of branch water;

Sunday, 10th. Fine weather; went about 9 miles and dined; then left the Santa Fe road, traveled about six miles over beautiful prairie and camped on a fine branch of running water with its banks well wooded with oak, walnut, linn and ash; timber, generally, scarce 15 miles.

Monday 11th. Rolled about 10 miles, to the Wakarussia, a fine stream of clear water, - between a creek and a river in size, with fine timber on its banks. About half of the emigration missed the road and crossed about 4 miles above. Traveled about six miles in the evening, and came into Gorel, with the whole emigration in sight. Divide into two parties. Our party organize with William Keithly for Captain, and O. Brown pilot for both parties. The other party choose a Mr. Robinson, from Illinois, for Captain. Our encampment, to night, on a high ridge of prairie.

Tuesday 12th. This day lost some cattle; delayed some time to find them; traveled only 9 miles, and on same prairie as last night.

Wednesday 13th. A fine, cool day; traveled 20 miles, to Kansas and camped on prairie near its banks; a shower in the evening and night cool Kaw Indians plenty about.

Thursday 14th. The foremost company crossed the Kansas, and a part of the other, myself of the number, and camped on the bank for the night.

3  
Friday, 15th. The remainder of the company crossed the ferry, which consists of two flat boats owned by a Shawnee Indian whose name is Fish. Went 4 miles, and camped.

Saturday 16th. A fine day, and a good road, the most of the day. In the evening crossed a creek with very steep banks; had to double teams, which delayed much time; rolled 16 miles.

Sunday 17th. Our course this day was over hills running parallel with the Kansas; the morning cool; drove ahead till, after two o'clock, it became very hot; several oxen overcome with heat; stopped about three hours on a branch at the edge of the Kansas bottom; country still very fertile and handsome; timber scarce; encamped this night near a Kaw village. Mr. Barnard, while on guard, caught one attempting to steal our stock; made, by our reckoning, 20 miles.

Monday, 18th. Delayed this day in crossing creek and branches; traveled about ten miles over broken prairie, and camped on a handsome branch, with some cottonwood and elm.

Tuesday 19th. Traveled over broken prairie and made good progress; passed some branches; but, generally, on the high lands between Kansas and the Blue; the land generally good, with plenty of rock and springs; camped at the branch where White and Brown ate their turkey; made 18 miles. This night Mr. and Mrs. Brown came up; the first of our seeing them since Mrs. Brown was hurt. A shower this night.

Wednesday 20th, pushed ahead for Blue river. The foremost of the caravan reached it in time to cross; found it rising fast; 20 wagons crossed; the remainder detained by the water Thursday and Friday; which was much to our advantage; our teams recruiting; and overhauling provisions, and washing.

Thursday 21st. Occupied this day in crossing the Blue river, by fording; raised our wagons by placing blocks between the beds and bolsters, and went over dry; camped on a beautiful spring branch, on the right bank of the river. A child born in camp this night; it being an addition to the family of Aaron Richardson. This is the most beautiful and convenient spot for a farm I have ever seen. Our company burst asunder this day; leaving 27 (wagons) with us. The Captain and others taking the lead, the sickness of Mrs. Richardson and the detention being the cause. <sup>This day</sup>

Sunday 24th. Traveled ~~ten~~ <sup>or</sup> 12 miles and camped on a handsome branch; found 8 of our runaway wagons waiting to join us; three went ahead, viz: Keithley and Barnard, with a company of hunters, ten in number. Price, and four families from Illinois, going, they knew not how; but headway was the word.

Monday 25th. Our course today was over the high lands between the Blue and Blue-Earth rivers; road good. About 3 o'clock the most violent hurricane overtook us I ever experienced. The wind blew from every point of compass with utmost violence, but principally from south west; and the rain fell in torrents. Its severity was such as to blind a man and take his breath away to face the storm; it continued about 45 minutes, when it abated; and every prairie branch was a river. Went 12 miles, and camped; everything in our wagons appeared wet; went to bed tonight in wet beds.

Tuesday 26th. Examine our wagons and put out our clothing to dry; find our provisions, generally, dry and in good order, and but little damaged by the storm; a fine day for the purpose; spent the day in drying and repairs. In the evening a company of 13 wagons overtook us.

Wednesday, 27th. Left camp about 8 o'clock; made about 12 miles ~~KK~~ headway and camped on a high prairie; hauled wood about half mile; grass good; day showery. In sight of our new company all day, and at camp.

Thursday, 28: Made sail at 8 o'clock and traveled about 8 miles over broken country to noon, passed a stream with a sandy bed. The country more sandy, in the evening more level than for some days; crossed and camped on another sandy stream, 8 miles from place of dinner.

Friday 29th. Left camp at 9 o'clock, not finding teams to start earlier sooner; arrive at another sandy stream at 12 o'clock, and dine; find the country less rolling and the sand increasing; arrive

at the Blue Earth river at six, and encamping on its banks find the river up, and over the low bottom. This stream is generally known as the Republican Fork. Traveled 15 miles. The health of all, generally good. Charles complains of bowel complaint, and some others of our company.

Saturday 30th. A fine day for our teams, and road good; travel 18 miles; begin to find some antelope, and elk, and other game; the country still good, but more sandy and thin soil than before; grass short, but good quality; and more level country; the upland being but little above the bottoms.

Sunday 31st. A cold, unpleasant morning, and very cold rain in the evening, - cold enough for November, with high wind from N.E. Travel 10 miles; our course, up the Blue Earth; sometimes over the high grounds, but generally over the bottom.

Monday, June 1st. Continue our course up the river; a cold, disagreeable day; shower in the morning, with hail and high wind. 15 miles.

Tuesday, 2d June. A fine day for travel; leave the Blue Earth early in the day, and shape our course for the Platte, over ridges of level land of slight elevation; travel 15 miles and camp without wood; antelope been in sight for two or three days; the first one killed today.

Wednesday 3d. The weather disagreeably cool; started in fine season, and came in sight of the sand hills of Platte, in about 3 miles and arrived on the borders of the bottom about ten o'clock. This is the most romantic view I have ever seen. Made 18 miles, and camped by some willows on the banks - the sluice of Grand Island. Mr. Shelton, from Franklin, had a daughter die this night, from a swelling on her throat, occasioned by the scarlet fever, before they left the state; having lost another child since they left home, which they buried in Jackson county.

Thursday 4th. The weather still cold and disagreeable; went ahead till 12 o'clock, and made preparation to bury Mr. Shelton's child; which was done in a decent manner, considering the circumstances, in an elevation of the prairie bottom, near the head of Grand Island. Camped this night on the bank of the river, which looks very majestic, but, in fact, is nothing but a broad vale of sand, with banks about 3 feet high, which are full at high water, and the sand dry in a ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ dry time. There is now, just water enough to barely cover the bars, leaving them sometimes in sight. 14 miles.

Friday 5th. The morning cool, but the day pleasant for traveling, and the roads of the best order being level bottom and firm. Met 2 Pawnee Indians, returning to the north from a hunt; their horses heavy packed with skins; understand from them that about 30 lodges are a short distance ahead, coming down the river; and that we will find buffalo plenty in two days. Made 16 miles, and camped, with plenty of timber; antelope plenty.

Saturday, 6th. A fine, pleasant day; pass 13 boats, for St. Louis, from Ft. Larimie, all loaded with peltry and fur; they draw about a foot of water, and seldom float clear. Made 20 miles this day.

Sunday, June 7th. A fine day for travel. The scenery of the country very similar, since we came on the river, altho there is enough of change to render it agreeable; the breadth of the river, the numerous islands, and the variety of shapes in the sand hills, all keep the mind relieved from sameness. Buffalo sign is now plenty, and we see, occasionally, a dead one in the bottom, but they are all on the high land plains beyond the sand hills at this season; in the fall they come in the bottom for water. The appearance of the range is like an old field closely grazed. Have seen some dog-town for the last few days. Made 17 miles. Use buffalo chips for wood.

Monday, 8th. A good day, and cool. The sand hills the most romantic of any day yet; rising into high, irregular peaks, resembling majestic snow drift, in form. Camped near the junction of the two forks; traveling 22 miles.

Tuesday, 9th. Another pleasant day; and a great day for hunters; buffalo plenty; two being killed, and several wounded; and prairie-dogs, and antelope, also, plenty. The appearance of the country dif-

5  
ferent; the sand hills disappearing, on this side of the river, and the high lands but slightly rolling, and the elevation but little above the bottom. Make this day 18 miles.

Wednesday, 10th. The weather fine for traveling, but too cool for farming; the country destitute of timber; water plenty, but not good it being in standing pools, and warm, and bad tasted; the alkaline efflorescence plenty, intermixed with saltpeter. Buffalo in sight, almost constantly. Travel 20 miles, and camp near the hills, which are still low, by some standing ponds of water, - warm and bad tasted.

Thursday, 11th. The morning bid fair to be a hot and sultry day but the wind raised from southeast and rendered it very pleasant. Went in sight of the ford for dinner; after dinner went on to the ford and found ourselves too late to cross, and camped on the right bank. Found a company of thirty three wagons, from St. Joseph, on the other bank, having been there a week hunting cattle; a hundred head strayed from them last Thursday.

Friday, 12th. Crossed the river in the morning; found the water in no place over our forward axle, seldom that deep; the pulling hard through the sand; put double teams to our wagons; the difficulty nothing compared to the appearance; the distance, with the angle we took, being about one and a half miles. Traveled up the south fork to the place of leaving for the north fork, it being 12 miles; the day fine, wind from southeast.

Saturday, 13th. Our encampment last night was with the company that lost stock, and our travel today with them, which was all the chance excepting laying by; there being no chance for water till we arrive at the mouth of Ash Hollow on the North Fork. The road down Ash Creek, bad, for 3 or 4 miles. Arrived at the North Fork at 7 o'clock; found currants and choke-cherries plenty, and a fine spring near the mouth of Ash ~~XXXXX~~ creek; and a cabin called Ash Grove Hotel; inside, at the bar, we found the cards of all the companies that had preceded us, which was quite a treat. The distance from one fork to the other, 15 miles. Day fine, road dry and dusty.

*proceeds*  
Sunday, 14th. Left Ash Hollow and ~~traveled~~ up the river about ten miles and camped early, the day being warm. The hills on this Fork are more rugged and rocky than any we have seen.

Monday, 15th. This, and yesterday were very warm days. Proceeded on our journey 15 miles; the country poor and sandy, and has the appearance of being formed by the wind blowing out the sand in basins, some of which are forty feet deep. Camped on the river; feed good.

Tuesday, 16th. Laid by to recruit.

Wednesday, 17th. This, also another warm day. Proceeded ahead 15 miles; the sand not as heavy for our teams as the two last days; no other alteration in the country; camped at a fine spring; a thunder shower after sunset.

Thursday, 18th. The day pleasantly cool. Visited Parker's Castle. A most beautiful location on the meadows of a tributary of Platte; the castle having strong resemblance to a real castle of ancient date. Came in view of the Chimney, early in the morning, which was 20 miles distant. Divided our company into 3 parties, for the greater convenience of traveling; proceeded ahead 20 miles and camped on the river.

Friday, 19th. Passed the Chimney in the fore part of the day; and the formation of the cliffs have a tendency to fill the mind with awe and grandeur. The Chimney might pass for one of the foundries in St. Louis were it ~~XXX~~ blackened by burning stone coal. There is a marley bluff standing near it that reminds me of points that I have seen of the Capitol at Washington. Made 20 miles, and camped near Scott's Bluffs.

Saturday, 20th. Passed the Scott's Bluffs through a beautiful valley, near the head of which we found a cold spring at which we took dinner, then drove on to Horse Creek and camped; traveled 22 miles; a fine shower in the evening.

Sunday, 21st. Drove ahead over rolling upland and came again to the Platte; in about 8 miles and a handsome spring branch took

our nooning and remained in our position for a shower to pass, which was very heavy ahead of us; the grass the poorest we have found; made this day 15 miles.

Monday, 22d: Came, early in the day, in sight, a Sioux encampment of about 20 lodges. They were pulling up and moving on to the Ft. Larimie; where we arrived at about 4 o'clock, and found about 200 lodges of Sioux. This was a disagreeable day; the wind blowing a tornado, and the sand filling the air, which continued to increase till midnight, when it abated. Camped one mile from the fort, which was 15 miles from last encampment.

Tuesday 23d. Camped last night with about 70 wagons; this morning all united in giving our Sioux brethren a feast, with which they appear highly pleased. It was conducted with considerable order and regularity on their part; smoked the pipe of peace; and a friendly address from their chief; and a present of powder, lead, and tobacco on our part. This done, we went ahead about six miles and encamped on the river with fine feed.

Wednesday, 24th: We deviated the usual route, on leaving the Fort, which is over the high lands between Platte and Larimie Fork; ours was up the Platte; traveled about 9 miles and intersected the old road at the spring, which is very bold and rather warm. We now enter the Black Hills; rose from a valley onto high, rolling prairie; went 6 miles from this spring and encamped on the banks of a clear mountain stream; grass tolerable.

Thursday 25th: Our course, in the fore part of the day, was up the foresaid creek; passed a large, fine spring about 10 o'clock; found timber plenty on the creek, consisting of cotton-wood, box, willow, choke cherry, and ash. Passed over the high lands towards another creek; camped at a small spring. 14 miles, last encampment.

Friday, 26th: Detained this morning hunting cattle till 10 o'clock went to a bold, running creek to dinner. Met two companies returning from California dissatisfied with the country. Passed over the hardest pulling hill we have had on our route, to a small branch of spring water, and camped. 8 miles.

Saturday, 27th: Traveled this day 12 miles over hilly and rocky road. An axeltree broke in one of Mr. Shrum's wagons; which was replaced, and ready for start in the morning.

Sunday, 28th: The weather still continues fine; cool in the morning and evening, and warm in the middle of the day; the country well watered with streams; travel 20 miles and camp in sight of the Platte at a spring branch.

Monday, 29th: Came to the N. Fork in about 10 miles from camp, after passing a stream with fine grass, water, and timber. Went up the river 5 miles and camped on another of these handsome mountain streams; the road good.

Tuesday, 30th: Our route this day was up the river, generally on the bottom; traveled 12 miles and camped on the river; the weather dry, roads dusty and sandy.

Wednesday, July 1st: The day fine, with considerable wind in the evening; found three trappers at the ford, when we arrived at noon; they had been quite successful in catching beaver this spring; had been on ground that had not been trapped for fifteen years. Crossed the ford, went up the river two miles and camped. Traveled today 12 miles.

Thursday, July 2d: Left the North Fork and took to the mountain desert; the first time we have seen land that appeared perfectly sterile; saw plenty of buffalo. The wind blew very severe, and moved X the sand in clouds all day; traveled 15 miles to a plentiful spring, and camped, the grass flourishing, but closely grazed.

Friday, 3: Traveled 18 miles; dined at a place of very singular, miry wells; 2 of our cattle got mired before we discovered them. They show no appearance until I placed my foot on them, then there was no more resistance than water. Camped tonight at a fine bold spring; a buffalo killed after we camped.

Saturday, 4th: Camped about one mile from Independence Rock, after traveling 18 miles over hard pulling sand, on the banks of Sweetwater river. We begin to discover that we are in a high region, there<sup>a</sup>



being frost both this and yesterday morning, and the days pleasant for the season. But the 5th and 6th, laid by to recruit our teams.

7th, Tuesday: Our lame oxen being much better, we made sail and traveled about 12 miles and camped on the banks of Sweetwater. The boys took a ramble on the mountains and saw plenty of mountain sheep.

Wednesday 8th: Laid by.

Thursday, 9th: Traveled 15 miles

Friday, 10th: Our route up the river, generally on its banks; passed a narrow defile of the mountains; made 15 miles.

Saturday, 11th: Left the river on our left and traveled a country of barren, rolling prairie for 15 miles and came onto the Sweetwater and camped.

Sunday, 12th: This morning Mr. Townsend had a daughter born; which detained us this day. My health for the last two days has been bad, being threatened with an attack of fever.

Monday, 13th: Our route in the fore part of the day was up the Sweetwater; everything having the appearance of a high altitude; the Wind River mountains having been in sight, at times, for several days. After dinner, we ascended the high lands to the right of the river; the highest ground we have been on; made about 17 miles, and camped on a branch with fine grass; passed several fine springs in the high lands.

Tuesday, 14th: Our road this morning more level and pretty good; 12 miles brought us to the last crossing of Sweetwater, where we made our halt for noon; our road in the evening was equally good; traveled six miles and camped on Sweetwater, one mile north of the road and between Table Rock and the Wind River mountains.

Wednesday, 15th: Passed the divide about two miles from camp; travel twenty six miles over level country without water or grass; had a hard shower in the evening, - and a light one yesterday; camp on the Sandy.

Thursday, 16th: Travel 15 miles, to Big Sandy; the weather cold and disagreeable.

Friday, 17th: Our route was down Big Sandy; traveled 15 miles and camped on its banks; road level, rather cool.

Saturday, 18th: Reached Green River in about 8 miles or 9 miles; crossed it at a good ford; went down the river about 7 miles and camped on the right bank; road good.

Sunday, 19th: Left Green River in the morning and traveled 18 miles over high, broken and desert country, to Black's Fork of Green River and camped at a place of good grass. XXXXXXXXXXXXX

20th, Laid by.

Tuesday 21st: Traveled 15 miles over tolerable road, and camped on Ham's Fork, a clear stream.

Wednesday, 22d: Still travel up Ham's Fork; went 18 miles, to Fort Bridger; found grass plenty.

Thursday, 23d: Left Ham's Fork, and travel in a more northerly direction; went 8 miles and camped at a small stream of salt water.

Friday, 24th: The morning and evening cool; travel 22 miles and find very little water or grass; camp late; our course up the Muddy.

Saturday, 25th: Find water and grass plenty; travel 7 miles and camp.

Sunday, 26th: Pass over the divide between the waters of Green River and Bear River; found the road good; for a mountain pass; travel 22 miles, and camp on Bear River.

Monday, 27th: Travel down Bear River 10 miles and camp; grass good, and willows plenty, for fire.

Tuesday, 28th: Met this day a village of Shoshone Indians, 600, traveling up the river; took dinner on Smith's Fork; found plenty of yellow currants, nearly ripe; travel, miles 15.

Wednesday, 29th: Travel 7 miles, and camp to recruit teams, on Thomas's Fork.

Thursday, 30th: Passed over 12 miles of mountain that shuts in to the river, and camped again on the river.

Friday, 31st: Travel 12 miles of good road, and camp at a fine spring, with good grass for teams.

8  
Saturday, August 1st: Pass through a gap in the mountains, with a good road, and reach the river bottom in 8 miles from camp; the bottom high and rolling. Travel 18 miles, and camp 2½ miles from Soda Springs.

Sunday, August 2d: Travel 2½ miles to the Soda Springs, and camp to enjoy the novelties of the place, which are many and interesting.

Monday, 3d: Made an early start from the Springs, intending to go to the Portnouv; but was stopped by an awful calamity, in 3½ miles. Mr. Collins's son, George, about six years old, fell from the wagon, and the wheels run over his head, killing him instantly. The remainder of the day occupied in burying him at the place where ~~the road leaves the river~~

Tuesday, 4th: Leave Bear River and travel up a plain, covered in places with volcanic rock, and camp on Portnouv, a branch of the Columbia. Made 18 miles.

Wednesday, 5th: Travel up the Portnouv to its head, and pass through the mountains to another branch of Snake River, and camped. Traveled 17 miles.

Thursday, August 6th: Our travel today down the branch on which we camped last night 12 miles, and camp 4 miles from Fort Hall.

Friday, 7th: Pass the Fort and camp four miles below, on Portnouv. Find the Fort located on a rich, fertile plain, well watered with springs and creeks; and some scattering timber. 8 miles.

Saturday, 8th: Traveled 14 miles and crossed the Portnouv and Pannock at good fords; the road good; camped at some springs on the edge of ~~Pannock~~ river bottom.

Sunday, 9th: Passed the American Falls, about 2 miles from camp, and some interesting springs half a mile above. Traveled, today, 18 miles of bad road, and camped on the river bank, with indifferent grass. Met Mr. Applegate, from Oregon, who had viewed new route.

Monday, August 10th: Went 10 miles, to the Casue, or Raft River, and ~~back~~ our nooning. At this place, the Oregon and California roads fork. We took the California road, intending to follow it about 300 miles, and then to take the new viewed route. Went up the river four miles and camped. (14 miles).

Tuesday, 11th: Traveled over a level ridge to save a bend in the creek, and dined on the creek, 10 miles from camp. Went 2 miles in the evening and camped. (12 miles).

Wednesday, 12th: Run out the Casue, to the gap where the road crosses the mountain to Goose Creek, and camp on the head of the stream. (14 miles).

Thursday, 13th: Cross a low ridge, by a gentle ascent of a branch, and camp by a spring that ~~XXXX~~ rose among some broken, rocky knobs ½ mile above our camp. (10 miles).

Friday, August 14th: Traveled today 16 miles, some part of the way bad road, through ridges of Snake River mountains, and camped at a spring in a narrow gap of the mountains, with kobs(?) - holes(?) - ahead, of various shapes and forms.

Saturday, 15th: Traveled 7 miles over very broken ground, and road rough, to Goose Creek, and dined; and went up the Creek 8 miles, in the evening, on good road, and camped on the Creek. (15 miles.)

Sunday, 16th: Traveled to the head of the creek and camped at the last crossing. (12 miles).

Monday, 17th: Passed over a chain of low, broken ridges to the head of Hot Spring Valley, 12 miles; went down the valley 6 miles, and camped by some singular springs that rise in the level bottom forming little wells, of various depths; the road good, with the exception of some rocks. (18 miles).

Tuesday, August, 18th: Traveled today, ~~20~~ 20 miles, in Hot-spring Valley, and camped by the branch of a hot spring that is quite large, and the water warm. (20 miles).

Wednesday, 19th: Took our nooning 8 miles from our last night's camp, at the place where the road leaves the valley. Passed over a ridge in the evening, to the first spring of Mary's River, 9 miles and camped. (17 miles).

Thursday, 20th: Traveled 17 miles down the valley, on good road,

and camped near the river; water and grass fine. (17 miles).

Friday, 21st: Rolled down stream today 13 miles; the river generally dry.

Saturday, 22d: 14 miles.

Sunday, 23d: 13 miles.

Monday, 24th: 16 miles.

Tuesday 25th: Made our camp on a mountain, at a spring 8 miles from the place we left the river, and 19 miles from camp of last night.

Wednesday 26th: Found the river again in 9 miles, and went 2 miles down the river and camped. (11 miles).

Thursday, 27th: 13 miles down the river.

Friday, 28th: 14 miles.

Saturday, 29th: 15 miles.

Sunday, 30th: Travel 17 miles.

Monday, 31st: 16 miles.

Tuesday, September 1st: 15 miles. (15 miles).

Wednesday, Sept. 2d: 15 miles.

Thursday, 3d: 16 miles.

Friday, 4th: 2 sand points. 12 miles.

Saturday, 5th: Arrived at the place where the Oregon road leaves the California road and Mary's River. 6 miles.

Sunday, 6th: The new road takes immediately to desert of fifty five miles extent, with two weak springs on the route. We arrived at the first spring at four o'clock in the evening. (15 miles). Took our supper, and gave our teams what water we could get, and started for the second (spring); where we arrived at four in the morning; found the spring weaker than the first. Slept and rested till morn of the 7th. (19 miles).

(Monday, 7th) Then started, the last stage of the desert; our stock weak, and working badly—getting very little water, and nothing to eat. Arrived at Black Rock, at 8 in the evening. Left 2 sters belonging to Collins on the road,—they being too weak to come in,—several others barely getting through. Found a large hot spring and plenty of ~~first~~ first rate grass. This desert is perfectly sterile, producing nothing but greas-wood and sage; and some of it perfectly barren, and the ground very salt; the road good and level and generally firm; the mountains barren and dark-looking rocks.

Tuesday, 8th: Laid by for the benefit of stock. (21 miles).

Wednesday, 9th: Traveled 8 miles to another good camp, with several hot springs,—some of them very hot,—and one cold, in ten yards of a hot one; the country barren, with the exception of the places watered by the springs.

Thursday, September 10th: Travel 20 miles of heavy pulling road, and camp at a grassy flat with plenty of water, but bad for drinking.

Friday, 11th: Moved across the flat, and camped; our teams being badly jaded; and the desert country still continuing. (2 miles.)

Saturday, 12th: Our first six miles was rocky, bad road, with a steep hill to go down into a kenyon; we then pass a flat into another beautiful, grassy kenyon with plenty of springs; road good. (12 miles).

Sunday, 13th: Travel up the kenyon 5 miles; the road good, but crooked and narrow in places; the branch dry, except where springs break out.

Monday, 14th: Eight miles from our last camp the mountains recede and a grassy flat opens, offering a good camp to recruit our jaded teams; the weather cool, and clouds look like snow; yesterday and today, roads dusty. 29 wagons ahead. (8 miles).

Tuesday, September 15th: The first 4 miles through a narrow, rocky kenyon, road bad; the rest of the day's travel, the road good, but rolling; camp at a spring at a gap of a hill; little grass. (10 miles).

Wednesday, 16th: Travel today 17 miles; road slightly rolling, but heavy pulling; the country improving in appearance; the sage mixt with grass in the plains, and small cedars and grass on the hills. Camp at some springs, at a high ~~XXXXXX~~ elevation; plenty of grass, but dry and yellow. (17 miles).

Thursday, 17th: Moved our camp 3 miles over a ridge to another spring; nights and mornings quite cool.

Friday, 18th: Pass out of the mountains by a good road into a plain and camp at a warm spring, 14 miles from last camp.

Saturday, 19th: Found one of my oxen shot with an arrow; and two cows belonging to the company also shot. One soon died, and another wandered off. Our travel today was 10 miles, 8 of desert and 2 of fine rich XXX soil. Our camp was at a pretty mountain stream, with plenty of pine timber. This is very pleasant after traveling so long through desert country.

Sunday, 20th: Cross over a mountain; the ascent about 2 miles, and quite steep; travel 9 miles, and camp in a beautiful plain surrounded by stately pine and cedar; excellent feed for our stock.

Monday, 21st: Travel today 8 miles, principally through large, lofty pine timber, and camp on the Goose Lake.

Tuesday, 22d: Travel 14 miles, on the bank of the Lake; road good.

Wednesday 23d: Our road today was over a high plain and very stony and well timbered with pine and cedar. Camp at some holes of water at the head of a creek; grass good. The country, generally, less mountainous than before. (12 miles).

Thursday, September 24th: Travel today 8 miles down Pool Creek; road tolerable.

Friday, 25th: Traveled 14 miles of rolling road, and very rocky; camp at a good spring.

Saturday, 26th: Travel 8 miles of stony road, but generally level, but little timber, today; good camp.

Sunday 27th: We are now in the range of country of Lakes, of which the Klamath Lake is the largest known; make 9 miles and camp by a pretty lake; road good and weather fine.

Monday, 28th: Our route, for 9 or 10 miles, over a rocky ridge; the balance of the day's travel level bottom, and quite extensive. Make 22 miles.

Tuesday 29th: Overtook the foremost company, last night, which makes our company 50 wagons strong. Found some cattle missing this morning; owing to the insufficiency of our guard they were driven off by Indians. The day spent in trying to get them back.

Wednesday, 30th: Find all our cattle but 10 head that the Indians succeeded in getting off. Went ahead 12 miles, and camped on the Klamath Lake. Crossed the Sacramento River on a singular rock which made a good, shallow ford; the river, generally, swimming; road good, except one steep XXX point which was bad.

Thursday, October 1st: Made 12 miles on the coast of the Lake, and camped on a creek that enters the lake; road good.

Friday, 2d: Still crooking around the inlets of the lake; make 8 miles, and camp at a fine, bold spring, but not cold.

Saturday, 3d: Make our last drive on the lake; travel 12 miles, and camp near the outlet of Klamath river; road good.

Sunday, 4th: Cross the Klamath river four miles from camp at a very rocky ford, and cross a ridge four miles and camp on the river (8 miles).

Monday, 5th: Cross a spur of the Sisque- (or Sisqueu)-Mountains, and camp without water or grass; road bad and rough. (10 miles).

Tuesday, 6th: Move six miles to a tolerable camp; road fair.

Wednesday, 7th: Cross another spur of the mountain and camped at a high flat; good grass and water; road tolerable, except a steep hill to go down; our teams very weak. (6 miles).

Thursday, 8th: Rest our teams, and improve the road.

Friday, 9th: Travel 10 miles of tolerable road, and camp on the head of a branch of Rogue River; timber very heavy and fine, and the land good, but very rough and broken, between this and Klamath river.

Saturday, 10th: Engaged all day in making 3 miles, - the branch so near impossible; found a tolerable road at last.

Sunday, 11th: The Valley opens, and we pass some very pretty locations; timber, a great many varieties, some entirely new to me; make 10 miles, and camp at a considerable sized creek, - the best camp we have had for several; road very good; high mountains around.

*Locally at a station.*

*Ed. Carter shot at Indians*

*Emigrant Creek.*

*near creek*

Monday, 12th: Travel 15 miles of very pretty, mountain country, and camp in a fine prairie, without water.

Tuesday, 13th: Move about 1 mile, to a spring, and spend the day to explore ahead, -the road not being marked. (1 mile).

Wednesday, 14th: Travel 12 miles of good road and camp on Rogue River, a beautiful, pure stream, about fifty yards wide, but shut in by mountains.

Thursday, 15th: Move down the river 10 miles and camp; plenty of Indians about, but none come near; lose some cattle by them.

Friday, 16th: Cross Rogue River about 4 miles from last camp; ford good; camp on the right bank.

Saturday, 17th: Travel 8 miles; road good, and a good camp, which is not common, the country being mostly burnt.

Sunday, 18th, October: Have some bad road, that takes till after XX dark to go 6 miles. Miss Ireland Browning died.

Monday, 19th: Move one mile to a camp, having none last night; and spent the day burying Mr. Crowley's daughter, who died yesterday evening, aged about 14 years.

Tuesday, 20th: Our route continues over spurs of mountains, with steep hills, and thick timber and under-brush; make 6 miles.

Wednesday, 21st: The time, from this, to XX Monday, 25th, we were occupied in making 5 miles, to the foot of the Umpqua Mountain, and working the road through the pass, which is nearly impassible.

Start through on Monday morning, and reached the opposite plain on Friday night, after a series of hardships, break-downs, and being constantly wet, and laboring hard, and very little to eat, -the provisions being exhausted in the whole company; we eat our last, the evening we got through. The wet season commenced the second day after we started through the mountain, and continued until the 1st of November, which was a partially fair day; the distance through, 16 miles. There is great loss of property, and suffering; no bread; live altogether on beef; -leave one wagon.

Sunday, November 1st: Move 3 miles; find our oxen very stiff and sore from scrambling over rocks with wagons.

Monday, 2d: No rain today, but partially cloudy; make 5 miles.

Tuesday, 3d: Clear in the morning - rains hard from ten in morning to midnight; make 7 miles. Octavius goes ahead for provisions to X the other side of the Calapooya Mountains, forty miles distant.

Wednesday, 4th: Make 4 miles, and cross a steep hill, oxen very weak. The new grass is no support; very rainy.

Thursday, 5th: 3 miles today; rains all day. Pherne and the girls obliged to walk, -the oxen so weak.

Friday, 6th: Go to Umpqua River, 6 miles to the upper ford; no XXX chance to cross - the river too high.

Saturday, 7th: Go to the lower ford and commence crossing in canoe; get all over but the wagons; no rain. (5 miles).

Sunday, 8th: Cross the wagons and go 1 mile. Had nothing to eat yesterday for supper; a beef killed in camp, and we got the paunch and upper part of the head, which done us till Monday for breakfast; rains all day.

Monday, 9th: Eat the last of our tripe; start with heavy hearts; meet some Indians and get six venison hams, -a great relief to our minds; go 1 mile further and meet Octavius with half bushel X of peas and forty pounds of flour, which gives us joy; no rain today; the happiest day to us, for many. (4 miles).

Tuesday, 10th: Travel 5 miles and cross Elk creek, and camp in first-rate feed; a rainy, cold day.

11th, 12th, and 13th: Lay by to repair shoes, and lay in a stock of meat. Get 3 deer and a salmon from the Indians, and our teams much improved, and ourselves rested.

Saturday, 14th: A fine day, but cool; travel 6 miles of hilly road and camp on the side of a branch; bury Mrs. Bounds, who died the day before, -wife of J.B. Bounds.

Sunday, 15th: Travel 4 miles, find a good camp and stay 1 day for the benefit of teams; road muddy and heavy.

Tuesday, 17th: Make 4 miles, to the foot of the Calapooya mountain

S.

*Indian struck knife in cow this morning. Mrs. Crozier shot by Indians. Vanderpool lost sheep.*

*pulls Jack Jones met us with several cattle*

12

Wednesday, 18th: Go over ridge of the mountains, and make 3 miles.  
Thursday, 19th: Climb another ridge, with double teams, and make 2 miles headway, and camp with little feed.  
Friday, 20th: Move forward to the top of the mountain on gently rising ground and camp with the foremost wagons; four miles from last camp; one steer dies at this camp.  
Saturday, 21st: Make 2 miles headway and camp; rains yesterday and today.

Sunday, 22d: Help finish the road, and complete the passage of the mountain, and camp 2 miles from the foot, in the Willhamette Valley. My wagons and one other the first that entered the valley. All in good health and well pleased with the appearance of the country. Headway, 5 miles.

23d, and 24th: Rested and feed our teams, and move one mile, and make arrangements for a small supply of provisions. About seventy miles from settlements.

Wednesday, November 25th: Travel down the Valley 6 miles and pass over some spurs of the mountain and camp on the Willhamette River. The handsomest valley I ever beheld; all charmed with the prospect and think they will be well paid for their suffering.

Thursday, 26th: A very cold, rainy day; went 3 miles and camped; this day and next; lost 2 steers by the cold.

Saturday, 28th: Traveled 6 miles.

Sunday, 29th: Traveled 4 miles, and made a halt near where I intend to make a location.

Monday, 30th: Commenced making a canoe, for the purpose of going to the settlements for supplies, in company with Robert Lancefield and Isaac Lebo; and continue our work until Thursday, 3d December. I then start ahead for beef; on horseback, leaving the others to finish the canoe, and go down the river for flour, &c. I arrived at Long Tom Bath on the 4th, (of December); found it swimming; was detained until Sunday, 6th, in making a canoe; and crossing in the evening, met Orus Brown in company with some others, coming back with pack-horses to bring in those behind. I returned with them, and was, from this, to the twenty fifth of the month getting my family to Salem; the weather, all the time, rainy, and swails of water to wade every day: left my wagon and cattle at the forks of the river.

I would conclude this journal by saying, that I was well pleased with the society and location of Salem, was kindly received, and such indulgence granted me as I needed; but our living is poor; can obtain nothing but bread and meat, vegetables being very scarce, and we nothing but our labor to give.