

# Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, Wilford Woodruff Journal, 1857 Jan-1853 Dec

Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868

## Source of Trail Excerpt:

Woodruff, Wilford, Journal, 1847 Jan.-1853 Dec., box 2, fd. 3, in Journals and papers, 1828-1898.

## Read Trail Excerpt:

Apostle Wilford Woodruff who had spent two years as a missionary in the Eastern States, arrived in G.S.L. City, in charge of a company of emigrating Saints. The following details of the journey are culled from the private journal of Wilford Woodruff: 15' We commenced to cross the Mo [Missouri] River today[.]

16". [At Kaneshville] I received instructions from Elder Hyde to organize our company whether they were few or many[.] I organized in part, but could not in full until I crossed the river[.]

16" Sunday we finished crossing the river today it was a tedious job

17" we Encamped on the Hill but the wood ticks & rattlesnakes made it bad Herding Cattle

18" we spent the day on the Hill

19" we left Rattlesnack Hill & travelled 5 miles to a livery & camped for the night[.] 6 miles

20" I returned to Bethlehem; bought some articles & returned to camp[.]

21st I called the camp together & organized them in the following order

we appointed Robert Petty captain of the Hundred, Leonard W. Hardy, Captain of the first fifty[.] Edson Whipple[.] captain of the second fifty, Joseph Hall captain of the 1st Ten[.] James Corrier[.] Captain of the 2d Ten[.] Miner Atwood[.] Captain of the 3d Ten[.] [George B.] Gardner[.] Captain of the 4 Ten[.] [Wm. Murphy], [Watts Bess] and Branch,

Total Persons Waggons Cattle Horses Sheep

Remarks were made by W. Woodruff concerning the order of the camp[.] regulations, etc. [He] Strongly opposed drinking[.] Swearing[.] gambling, whipping oxen etc. was followed by captain [Robert Cowen] Petty who sustained the remarks made by W. Woodruff. Ilos F. Carter Had ten waggons of merchandise & was appointed captain over them[.] but in consequence of the lateness of the season he concluded to return home[.] so we made out a report of the organization to send to Elder Hyde by him

22d we Parted with Brother Ilos F. Carter this morning, who left his business in my hands. He started to return Home[,] we took up our oxen & drove to Squaw Creek & camped for the night[,] 8 miles[,] I find it much more hilly than on the North road.

23d Sunday. we traveled to rock Creek in the rain & camped for the night[,] 8 miles

24". A Hard rainy day[,] we lay in Camp[,] I have in my possession 12 waggons[,] 27 yoke of oxen[,] 30 cows, including Mr. Carters merchandise[,] which makes me a vast amount of labour & care & we have in our company several men as drivers who are of the world[,] who are more difficult to manage than the Saints

25" A Hard rainy day

26" Rainy And very bad Roads And very hard Journeying for man & beast

27 Our Gentile teamsters manifested much of the spirit of the Devil And tried to make disturbance[,] we passed the grave of John G. Campbell & a Child buried today from Br Snows Company of Cholera

June 28th 1850 Our teamsters had another blowup this morning[,] 5 or 6 gold diggers who were driving baggage waggons said they would leave[,] their object was to take advantage of our situation and compel us to pay high wages for driving[,] I told them they might quit as quick as they pleased and they would none of them go[,] I turned off Williams[,] the ring leader[,] and the rest went on and were more humble, we crossed Salt Creek today

Br. Samuel Smith Died of cholera at 8 o'clock at night[,] aged 43 years[,] Brother [Alexander] Badlam & myself laid him out in his robes laid him on the ground in his tent[,] but we had but just got it done until a tremendous thunder storm overtook us[,] blew the tent down[,] we had to cover over the corpse and let it lie until morning.

29" We buried Brother Smith this morning & continued our Journey[,] Dr. Brailly was buried on the south side of Salt Creek this morning by Joseph Young & co[.]

30" Capt Joseph Hall drank free of slew water & in an hour was taken with the Cholera & died after 12 hours sickness[;] we all felt his loss[,] he was very useful to the Camp

July 1st We dug Capt. Halls grave[,] He had 4 men with him who made a covenant together that should any one of them die on the road they would not bury them the same day so to be true to their covenant they remained with the body through the day[,] we continued our Journey & at night camped with a company of brethren from the valley with the Mail[,] Brother Campbell Had Charge of it[,] we met in the evening[,] heard a list of Letters read[,] even several songs of Zion Sung & a cheering account of good news related from the valley

2d We parted with the Brethren from the valley[;] they go east[,] we west[,] A pleasant day[,] we have had much rain of late and the roads were bad[;] we passed several graves today

3d [Caroline] Matilda Hardy died of Consumption this morning at 2 o'clock[;] was buried this morning

4" We spent the day in Camp on the Bluff before going on to the Platte Bottom[;] washing[,] baking[,] blacksmithing was attended to. Lucy Johnson was taken sick at the river with the Cholera

5" Lucy Johnson Died this morning & was buried before we left Camp. Susan Woodruff was taken sick suddenly with extreme pain in all her limbs & could not move a hand or foot without her screaming[.] We administered to her & she was healed[.] Phebe was also taken sick[,] we administered to her and she was healed[.] Mrs Woodruff was also quite unwell. there is some sickness & death in all the camps we have heard from

6" Mrs [Bernard] Snow of Cambridgeport was taken sick in the afternoon with Diarrhea[,] took some medicine called Cholera Medicine, & immediately grew worse and Died at 3 o'clock at night[.] we traveled 20 miles today over a bad road on the Platte bottom & camped for the night by a stream[.]

7" Sunday we rode five miles and camped on the bank of the Platte where there was wood & water with both of our divisions. Also Brother [Jacob] Gibson ten & Brother [William] Snows Company[.] we had a meeting together at 4 o'clock

8" Drove 18 miles and Camped

9" Drove 17 miles and Camped; Had a Thunder Storm

10" Drove 20 miles on the Platte[,] Camped on the bank of the River[.] I Baptized 14 persons for the remission of sins & confirmed them 2 for Health[.] Emily Huntington Died and was buried this day[.] She was A Saint Aged 24.

11" Elder Hardy was sick[.] I laid hands up on him & he was healed[.] I had two teamsters whose names was Graham[.] their conduct was disgraceful in every sense of the word[.] they would steal, lie, swear & do almost every evil thing in their power; And we came to the conclusion to cast the family out of camp, for their wickedness

12" The Graham family all left camp this morning with Williams & went ahead we felt that we had got rid of many evil spirits[.] We continued our journey[,] had a hard thunder storm at night which scattered our cattle much[.] I think the road on the north side of the river is much the best for wood & water

13" It took us several Hours to gather our cattle[.] we started about ten o'clock & traveled 12 miles & camped with both divisions in one corral for the Sabbath, one on the bank of the Platte 10 miles East of Fort Carney [Kearney]

14" Sunday. A tremendous wind and Thunder Storm in the morning & through the night[.] I had A [---] through bursting a blood vessel[.] We held A meeting in the afternoon.

15 I wrote A letter to J F Carter at Fort Kearney[.] I visited the fort. During the Evening we were visited with A terrible Thunder Storm[.] the lightning struck all around us & while the teams were crossing a slew the lightning bolt struck into their midst & shocked many persons & beast & it killed three oxen & one man dead[.] it was Brother [William D] Ridge from Lane End[,] Staffordshire England, that was killed & his team. He was buried in the evening[.] He belonged to Elder [Edson] Whipples fifty. I bought 2 1/2 yoke of oxen of Mr. Booth at the fort. I had of Wallace \$80. Elisabeth Foss \$10. Father Atwood \$25. Wilford \$5.75 to buy them with two teamsters left, I got two more.

16" After I got my oxen I drove 15 miles & camped on the bank of the Platt

17" Traveled 25 miles & Camped near Plum Creek

18" Robert C Petty lost a child 6 month old[;] it was buried in the morning.

19" Traveled 20 miles[.] Camped on the bank of the Platte[.] I rode with Mrs Woodruff onto the Bluffs[.] took a survey of the Country[.] had prayers in a cavern and returned to camp[.] we passed many graves the of gold diggers today[.] I rode into the bluffs through the day[.] found a flat level country back of the bluffs

20 Robert C Petty was taken sick with the pleuricy in the side today[.] His teamster Mr. [Thomas] Srickney is dangerously sick[.] we traveled 18 miles & camped on the Platt

21 Sunday. Brother [Robert Cowen] Petty is dangerously sick this morning[.] we administered to him[.] Mrs Woodruff Mrs Foss both had dreams last night that appeared to be omens of death or distress. we lay in camp today[.] many of our oxen have sore necks and lame feet[.] We held a meeting in camp[.]

22d Traveled 8 miles[.] Capt Petty still dangerously sick

23d I went forward of my company to find the cold Cottonwood Spring but passed it and did not find it. I went on to Wm Snows company and spent several hours with him and took dinner of fresh buffalo meat[,] they killed three the day before[.] we have just struck the buffalo range. Our company killed An Antelope. I had 1/4 of it[.] we camped for the night on the Platt[.] Our men broke one tongue today

24" This is the day of Selebration in the valley[;] we lay still in camp

25 Three Buffalo was killed today[.] I killed one of them[.] we traveled 8 miles & camped on the platt[e]

26 we traveled 16 miles and Camped on the platt shore above the lower Crossing[.] we found a Cold Spring[.] A soldier killed himself drinking out of it

27. Crossed the Bluffs 6 miles[.] Camped by a grove of timber and made a colepit

28 Sunday. we stayed in camp[.] I had a severe attack of sickness[.] I was administered to & took herb tea & was better at night[.] I did not sit up any through the day[.] the Encampment of both divisions had a meeting[.] Bros. Hardy and [Edson] Whipple both addressed the meeting

Mon. July 30" 1850 Our Encampment[.] or the first division of it[.] was called to pass through one of those horrid scenes today which are so much dreaded by all emigrating companies on the plains which was a stampede of all the ox teams with the family waggons of the first division with the exception of the ten baggage who were in the rear. No person who has not experienced or witnessed one of those dreadful scenes cannot form any correct idea of them and it is almost impossible to give a correct description of it for to behold 30 or 40 ox teams from 2 to five yoke of oxen in each team attached to a family waggon of goods & women & children[.] all in an instant[.] like the twinkling of an eye[.] deprived of all reason, sense & government & be filled with madness frantic fright & all dart off with lightning speed[.] each running their own way, roaring[.] bellowing[.] rolling and tumbling over each other[.] waggons upsetting[.] smashing their wheels[.] axles and tongues[.] spilling the goods[.] women and children in the street, for the next teams to trample under their feet as they roar & charge on their way with their yokes[.] bows and chains flying in every direction is a scene not easily imagined or described. A Stampede of ox teams is much more horrid than horse teams as there is bits in the horses mouth that he may in a great measure be guided though under full speed. but not so with the oxen[.] He goes wherever his fancy or will may lead him[.] This Stampede in the following manner commenced[.] Wilford commenced getting on to his horse & while getting on[.] William Murphy started his horse into a run & the horse flung Wilford over his head on to the ground[.] the saddle turned under His belly & He ran And As He Approached one of the waggons Mr Cannons team became frantic & dart off with great speed & in A moment 20 or 30 Teams followed the same example And the whole Encampment apparently was rushing into the jaws of Death. I was by my carriage when it commenced[.] drawn by a noble fine black steed[.] Rhoda Foss & Susan Woodruff was in the carriage in the Head of the Company[.] At this moment I saw Mrs Woodruff rush into the midst of the scene where she was in danger of her life every instant with many other women and children. I told Rhoda to let Horse run into the Bluffs & do the best she could[.] I hit him a blow to start him into a run & left them to their chance & the care of providence & rushed into the midst of the stampede to try to save the life of my wife and as many others as possible[.] but I had hard work to save my own life[.] Mrs Woodruff soon found an opening & fled out of the midst of it[.] Brother Pettys two waggons were turned over[.] my family waggon with four yoke of oxen ran over one of his waggons & A waggon ran over one of his children. Brother [Alexander] Badlam' waggon or team ran over one of Samuel Hardys children[.] Prescott Hardy was knocked down by his own team and badly wounded in the thigh and arm[.] where ever I saw women or children in danger I done what I could to rescue them[.] little can be done at such times ownly for each one to judge the best he can and save his own life if possible. when I found I could do no more for the encampment in general[.] I ran forward to see what state my carriage & family waggon & family was in[.] I found my Noble Horse still A running, but on three legs. Rhoda was knocked out of the carriage & Susan was lying flat upon the bottom with her feet hanging out between the wheels & she was screaming aloud[.] I hollered for her to hold on untill I came. She did so untill I caught the horse by the bit & stoped him & rescued her. One of the ox teams Had run onto the Horse and carriage[.] Had bent one of axles[.] and smashed one of the Horses legs to peaces & knocked Rhoda out of the carriage[.] As soon as I got the Horse out of the carriage I went through the Encampment to see who was dead &

maimd And I was asstonished to find that no one was killed & but one badly wounded & but little damage done to waggons or oxen And to look it all over it looked like a miracle to see so many escaped. I had to shoot my Horse to get him out of his misery, which was painful to me but I was thankful my wife[,] children & friends were well & their lives preserved.

31st Elder L[eonard] Hardy was very low today And I am nearly worn out with hard labour & care[,] we travled 21 miles & camped on the bank at the crossing of the south fork of the Platte 20 miles from Ash Hollow

Aug 1st We forded the Platte River with our teams today[;] it was a hard days work[,] it required 8 or 10 yoke of oxen to draw a ton across the river as it was about half a mile across[,] I got some goods wet.

2d we lost 20 head of oxen which detained a part of the wagon[.]. I started out all that were able to go[.] The rest of us went out to hunt Cattle[.] I found them in the bluffs in a basin & drove them into camp[.] the men[,] many of them[,] had gone hunting cattle[.] I yoked the oxen & with the assistance of women and children I drove the encampment on & soon the men returned from hunting oxen they found their encampment gone & followed on & overtook us[,] we got along well untill we came to go down those tremendous Bluffs into Ash Hollow[.] Here Watts & Bess both smashed each a Hind wheel to peaces and broke evry spoke out[.] I worked untill 11 oclok at night to get the broken waggon into camp, & then left them by the wayside & walked into Ash Hollow & Camped for the night wearied out. 20 m

3d the day was spent setting tire & mending waggons

4" Sunday I spent the day in camp[.] Had a meeting with the Saints[.] As my men had broken down two wheels & I must stop to mend them[.] I Advised Elders Hardy and Petty to go on with the first division & I would stop & mend up and keep some of the 2d Division with me[,] this counsel was heard by the first Division with great surprise[,] they did not feel that they could leave me[,] there was much feeling upon the subject

5" The first Division left according to my counsel though with great reluctance[.] I spent the day at Ash Hollow mending waggons[.] we had good cold spring water in this Hollow which was a great benefit to the camp as most of the water we had to drink on the way was either slew or platte water And seemed to be unhealthy

6". We spent the day setting waggon tyre[.]

7" Wednesday After setting 80 tyre[,] filling two wheels all new[,] putting in some tongues and Hounds[,] we left Ash Hollow & continued our journey[.] we traveled 5 miles through deep sand And camped with Brother Whipple who went[,] the day before we made two divisions of our company, 5 mile[.] Elder Whipple & [George Bryant] Gardner was organized with me[,] we called ours the 3d Division[.] we had 26 waggons & the 2d Division 18[.] we made this Division to forward us on our journey as we would travel faster with few than many together

8" We travled 12 miles through deep sand in the region of Castle Bluffs & camped on the platte

9" traveled 15 miles through deep sand & camped on the platte in sight of Ruin Bluffs on the South Side of the river. Some of the soldiers who went to Larimie [Laramie] returned & camped by us tonight[.] they reported that President [Zachary] Taylor was dead

10" Travled 18 miles & camped on the Platte 25 miles east of Chimney Rock[.] 2d & 3d Division camped together

11" Sunday morning[.] Our men found a large splendid Bull on the north side of the river[.] they went over & drove him across the river to our herds[.] we have many lame oxen & cows which we doctored this morning[.] we spent the day in camp[.] Held a meeting at 2 oclok[.] Elder Whipple addressed the meeting upon the first principles of the Gospel[.] spoke of the difference between Jew and Gentile[.] I followed him in few words

12" Travled 18 miles[.] camped within 6 miles of Chimney Rock

13" I visited Chimney Rock in company with others[.] Br [William Henry] Branch measured the base of the foundation or mound upon which the main shaft or pillar stands[.] found it to be about 600 yards in Circumference, 100 feet high from the base etc. the pillar is 50 by 21 feet in diameter & holds nearly that proportion about 125 feet High making about 225 feet high from the base. the whole Column appears more of a hard clay formation than rock except a few veins runing through it of white stone[.] we travled around it & clumn the pillar as far as possible[.] Mrs Woodruff[.] myself & many others engraved our names as high up the pillar as possible. the whole appearance of Chimney Rock would indicate that the Ancient Nephites or someone els had built the mound & created a great tower upon the top of it And the whole formation of the Bluffs in this region of Country Appears more like the ruins of Ancient Cities than of Nature, we had a hard thunder storm & travled several miles in it[.] we camped 6 miles east of Scotts Bluff

14" Travled to Scotts bluffs & Elder Alexander Badlam & myself explored Scotts Bluffs from top to bottom for about 10 miles[;] they had many grand formations of Nature in some places[.] we rolled off large rocks of near a tons weight that would go thundering down the mountains & into the vale beneath[.] leveling the cedars to the earth & starting the woolves from their Hiding places as it bounded on its way for half a mile from its starting point[.] After spending several Hours of Hard labor[.] though pleasant[.] among those grand ruins or Bluffs[.] we left them & returned to camp[.] we passed Burdoe trading post[.] He inquired for me but I did not see him[.] Brother [James] Corrier turned his waggon bottom side upward down[.] A Bluff broke things t[.]nd. The Indians tried to raise a stampede among us but did not do it[.] travled 20 miles and Camped

15" Rode to Horse Creek & camped[.] 12 miles[.] good grass and water

16" Drove 16 miles without water[.] camped on the platte

17" Drove 12 miles & camped on the Platte near Indian lodges[.] the Indians had the small pox[;] many Died with it[.] one child left to Die [when] the lodges departed[.] the child cralled out [and] came towards us as we passed by for bread[.] we gave him some to eat

18th A rainy day[.] drove to Laramie fork[,] crossed it and went to Fort Laramie[.] drove 1½ miles from Laramie[,] camped on the Platte[.] Had a cold rain storm through the night

19" The rain continued through the day[.] An exceeding Cold day through the day & night

20" I have one fine ox dead this morning[.] the Camp moved on 5 miles & camped[.] we remained in camps[.] I traded some

21st I bought three yoke of oxen at \$10 each[.] I went on to our encampment 5 miles & spent the night

22d Traveled over The Hills to Bitter Creek 15 miles & camped

23d We traveled 20 miles on the river road and Camped for the night on the platte[;] saw one Buffalo

24" I met with Elders J A Stratton & Hanks[,] sent as messengers from the valley to look out camping places & feed for the Company through the Mountains[.] they traveled with me through the day[.] they brought a good report of things in the valley[.] we camped on the platte [.] Held a meeting[,] Herd the Letter of instructions from President Young read to us

25" Traveled 18 miles & camped on the La Bonte [River]. Brother Stratton camped with us[;] we traveled together through the day

26 Elder Whipple took some of my loading to carry, one sack of Coffee from Bess Waggon[,] 160 lbs[,] one box of paper from Watts waggon 200 lbs[.] We traveled over 17 miles of the worst road on the journey[.] Our oxen wearied out & darkness overtook us in the Hills[.] we camped on a branch or near the La Prele river[.] we find but little of any grass for cattle in this region & expect to find grass very short on much of the journey[.] The first and 2d Division of our company was camped on this creek[;] they killed two Buffalo this evening.

27" Hardy and Morfats companies moved on[.] we found 92 of our oxen gone this morning & knew not where to find them[.] men went sent out in every direction & returned & could not find them[.] two horsemen went back on the road 6 miles & tracked them back on the road to a small creek & lost track of them[.] returned at night & brought 3 oxen with them[.] I went on to a High mountain & with my glass could explore the country for many miles[.] I saw many Herds of buffalo on the platt bottom[.] Brother Stratton and Atwood followed a grisley Bear A distance But did not kill him[.] Sommars shot at a Panther near camp[,] did not kill him[.] The country abounds with Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Antelope, Bears, panther and wolves &c.

28" Our situation seems to be serious this morning, Have lost more than half our cattle[.] Elders Stratton[,] Hanks & Whipple started on Horsback after the oxen & 4 men on foot to try once more what could be done[.] I staid in camp & took care of the Herd

29" The brethren returned & brought in 39 of our oxen



30" The Brethren brought in the remainder of our oxen[,] all but 4[.] Brother A[braham] O. Smoot brought in about 30 of them[;] the other four could not be found[.] I went out with several of our men to get some meat[.] I killed one Buffalo & Capt Bess & co one Buffalo[.] I got mine into camp[.] they did not get any of theirs in & the wolves eat it up at night[.] we were all much rejoiced to hear that our cattle were found so that we could continue our journey

31st We traveled 11 miles & camped on the platt

Sept. 1st Sunday We traveled 13 miles and crossed Deer Creek & camped on muddy Creek[;] saw Br Smoot.

2d traveled some with Brother Smoot[.] we traveled 13 miles & camped near the upper crossing of the platt

3d We forded the river without difficulty but for several days we have had much Difficulty in finding grass for our oxen.

4" Traveled 8 miles[,] camped on the Platt[.] A[braham] O Smoot camped near us[.] we drove our oxen Across the river for feed.

5" Traveled 14 miles[,] camped on the willow spring. the creek was full of Dead cattle[.] Also the road is strewn with Iron of every description[,] tyres, bars[,] plates[,] chains[,] boxes[,] waggon irons of all kinds[.] we found no grass for our oxen

6 Traveled 16 miles[,] camped on the greesewood near the Sweetwater 8 miles below independence Rock[.] Brother Hanks caught a wild mare[,] the fastest and most beautiful Animal of the Horse kind I ever saw[.] He rode [rode] by the side of Her on a small bay Horse[,] flung a lariat over her head[,] flung himself from his Horse on to the ground[.] the wild Horse drew him half a mile over the sage plains until she was stopped by being choaked down. She then tried to bite, kick & strike him but he fought her by whipping her with a rope until He conquered Her & led Her in triumph into the camp.

7" We traveled 8 miles & camped under Independence Rock[.] A[braham] O Smoot Camped A mile Above on the Sweetwater[.] men[,] women & children went onto the rock to visit it[.] Some wild Animal[,] supposed to be a Panther[,] jumped onto one of my cows & nearly killed her

8 Sunday We traveled 15 miles[,] camped on the Sweetwater[.] In company with Mrs Woodruff & several other Ladies I went through the whole length of the Devils [Devil's] gate.

9" Traveled 9 miles to the Sandy Bluffs & camped[.] I shot One Antelope[;] cut his throat with a bullet

10" I turned off Mr Case Hedges & Sommers [Somers] went also[.] it was no loss to us as they were stirring up strife daily[.] we traveled 8 miles & camped on the Sweetwater

11" I went on to the Mountain[:] saw two saleratus Lakes 1 mile north of the Sweetwater[,] traveled 16 miles & camped at the Ice Spring[:] But we found it a poor place to camp[,] All swamp and saleratus water[,] A O Smoot camped there also

12. We crossed the 5" Crossing of the Sweetwater by the guide & traveled 15¼ [miles.] some cattle gave out[:] I had hard work to get them into camp

13" The air feels like snow this morning[,] The wind River chain of mountains is in sight[,] covered with snow[,] we traveled 6 miles & camped on the Sweetwater[,] we killed A Cow for the evening one of Br Whipples[,] I had about 200 lbs for the men [beef]

14" We traveled 14 miles[,] the whole Distance of Strattons new cut off or road[,] it was 3 miles further & 5 miles worse without watering or feeding our oxen on the road[,] the road ought not to be traveled

15" Sunday We traveled 6 miles & camped at the crossing of the Sweetwater[,] 8 miles east of the South pass[,] Brother Woolley and his Company camped near us[,] Brothers. Woolley and N[athaniel] H Felt Attended our meeting in the evening & we had A lengthy meeting[,] They preached some strong doctrine for some of the congregation. we had a good meeting And the spirit of the Lord was with us

16" A pleasant morning[,] we traveled to the South Pass[,] There found Capt Petty & Hardy & company camped on the Sweetwater[,] Capt Hardy was stuck fast[,] one yoke of His Oxen had died & the Indians Had stolen his Horses & He could not move[,] He was furnished with A team & we all moved on to the Pacific Springs & camped[:] distance 16 miles[,] We turned our cattle on to the ground at the Pacific Springs[,] it was all quagmire[,] yet covered with grass[,] I waded to my knees in mud & water until midnight among the oxen to keep them from the mire

17" Our encampments started on their journey about noon[,] I mounted my wild mountain pony and in company with Brother. Atwood[,] I started in search of the Indians who had stolen Br Hardys Horses[,] they were encamped at the foot of the wind river chain of mountains[,] when we came in sight of them they were moving[,] We headed them on the Sweetwater where they stopped and pitched their lodges[,] there was about 500 Indians & 1000 horses[,] I had an interview with the chief[,] informed him that they had got three of our Horses And I wanted them[,] I made him some presents. they were the Snake Indians going to war with the Chians & after Buffalo. He treated us kindly[,] invited us to his camp or wigwam which we excepted. I had no interpreter yet He informed me that Our Horses were taken away & He would send after them[,] He started many Indians on Horseback to seek after them[,] they brought in one Horse to me at sundown[,] another at midnight[,] I sat in council with the chief & warriors until 12 o'clock at night[,] they wished me to draw on the ground the river & road & tell where the Buffalo were[,] I did so[,] They wanted me to tell where the Indians were[,] the chief showed me where He had been shot & some scalps He had taken[,] they had their whole band with them[,] men[,] women & children. they brought in much Antelope & gave us some to eat. we lay down at 12 o'clock[,] slept 2 Hours[,] awoke at 2 o'clock very cold & chilly[,] we got up[,] made a fire[,] the chief & squaw got up & sat up also & talked much about going to war & the Buffalo

18" At Sunrise the Indians came in & informed me that the 3d horse had got away from Him & could not be found & the chief wished us to get on our Horses & [--] their Horses & see if we could find the him[.] we did so[,] rode many miles untill 12 oclok & could find nothing of him. And Brother Atwood went with two Indians several miles & they showed him the track where the He got away from them[.] He returned at 2 oclok & we made up our minds to return today[.] we were over 30 miles from any of our encampments[.] we took our 4 Horses & started[,] rode Hard for 30 miles & arived at Br Woolleys encampment at 8 oclok & Both man & beast was weary & Hungry

19" We started early in the morning to find our camp. we travled 5 miles & met two of the Brethren on their way back to Woolley camp to enquire after us & if they did not hear from us were calculating to raise all the armed men they possibly could & go into the mountains after us[,] but we soon arived at our camp[,] which ended their fears concerning us And their shouts of joy on our arival made the welkining[.] We got herd up[,] our teams travled untill night & camped on Big Sandy

20" We travled 15½ miles & camped on Big Sandy[;] our oxen began to fail

21st We Travled 15½ miles[,] camped on the Big Sandy[,] our old buffalo ox died at night[.] He had drawn timber for the Temple in the pine country, Had been in the Ponkah expedition & had picked his living for several years past through hard winters & died after a hard 3 months work in drawing goods towards the valley.

22d Sunday Drove 8 miles & camped on Big Sandy within 4 miles of the Green River Ford[.] we were informed that Elder Hyde would call upon us in a day or two[,] many wrote Letters to send by him to the States[.] I wrote a letter to [-] F Carter & gave him an extract from my journal of each Days travel up to this date.

23d Traveled to Green river[,]put in 6 spokes into a waggon wheel[,] crossed the river & camped 5 miles below[.] 9½ miles

24. Drove 18½ miles & camped on Hams fork[;] many cattle failed[.] I left one Ox & one cow Died after ariving in camp[.] Bess leader & read cow[.] I met two men from the valley[.], Brothers Robinson and Stringham[,] who informed me that their had been some Difficulty with a party of Snake Indians[.] they had commenced stealing & made war on our people[,] they had killed one of the Brethren & one Indian was killed[.] they had made an Attack on Brownsville[.] The Brethren had sent 200 armed men to their assistance & had sent these men to warn us of the danger that we might be on our guard[,] fearing that they might attack us while on the road. I called both Divisions of the camp together at night and required them to Have their guns & ammuniion ready for inspection early in the morning[.] I spent a sick night

25" I was quite unwell this morning[.] the Encampment came out in companies of tens & 50" armed for inspection[.] there were 22 men in 3d Division & 12 men in the 1st division[.] their were 34 guns and 50 Pistol shots[.] we travled 12½ miles & camped on 3d crossing of Blacks fork

26. Drove 10 ½ miles[.] left one ox that [William] Murphy Drove

27" Drove 8 miles[,] camped at Fort Bridger in the evening[.] I took my brook rod & line & caught 22 trout in one hole in 30 minutes[.] we lost at night 6 oxen that went back on the road

28" we Had to lie in camp while men went back for the oxen[.] many went to fishing as there was a roiling creek which abounded with trout[.] I caught 30[,] Another man 32 And many caught about a dozen each[.] the men returned at night with the oxen.

29" We left Fort Bridger this morning[.] I went forward with my Division today And the first Division[,] or some of them[,] complained or murmured much about it & their was sin committed by so doing[.] I called them together at night & gave them a sharp rebuke & reproof for I was contrained by the spirit of God so to do. And I Advised that division to go ahead in the morning & not wait for me[.] we came down a long tedious hill& broke down one axle tree & one wheel[.] Traveled 11 miles & camped on a small stream

30" The first Division went ahead & we staid in camp to mend the Ex & wheel.

Oct 1st Drove 15 miles & camped[;] lost one cow

2d Travled 8 miles on a bad Road & camped on Bear River

3d Travled 10 miles & camped on Yellow Creek[.] lost another cow

4" Travled 10 miles[,] visited the cave [Cache Cave][.] Had an interview with Elder O[rson] Hyde who past us with His train on His return home

5" Travled 7 miles[,] Camped with Hunter's[Edward Hunter] camp on the echo creek[,] found Bad Road

6" Sunday traveled over a Rough Road 9 miles & camped on Webber River

7" Lay in camp, caught 15 trout

8 Travled 12 miles on a bad Road[,] camped on a small creek 2 1/2 miles from Canion Creek[,] met with Brothers Atwood & [William Henry] Branch with cattle from the valley to our assistance with 12 Yoke which we much stood in need of

9" We Had a rain & snow storm[;] we lost some oxen but found them[;] lay in camp

10" Travled 8 miles & camped on kanyon Creek[.] Brother Tross turned my family waggon over & made quite a smash up inside, my family was inside the waggon & ran a narrow chance of being killed but escaped unharmed

11" Travled 8 miles[,] left kanyon Creek, turned up the big mountain travled 2 miles[,] broke evry spoke out of one wheel & one tongue out[.] Stopped & mended waggons

12" Traveled 8 miles over the second mountain And Oh Horror, what A road[.] We had to repair the road near one third of the way gutted out by the late storm[.] we were in danger of breaking waggons

13" We traveled & stopped within one mile of the Kanyon & President Young came to see me but He Returned And I Did not see Him

14" I Drove to the mouth of the kanyon[,] met L[eonard] Hardy & company And I drove into the city of the G S C at the Head of the company[.] I was truly glad to gaze once more upon the city of the great Salt Lake & valley of the mountains[.] I met with Elder G A Smith & many others[.] I drove to the two rooms that I made while in the valley before

[Wilford Woodruff's private journal on file in Historian's Office]