

Documents

DIARY OF TAYLOR N. SNOW, HOOSIER FIFTY-NINER
By ARTHUR HOMER HAYS

Introduction

The memory book and diary of Taylor N. Snow stands as a tribute to the character of the man. This old book, bound in sheepskin, now dog-eared and worn with use, was found in 1862 abandoned to the fortunes of an old trunk. The latter reposed on the site of an old, unused camping place near the point where the overland trail to old Fort Hall in *Idaho* and that to California separated. Exactly where this camping site was located no living man knows.

The finder and preserver of this document was Benjamin F. Hawes, who, after spending some time in the Boise Basin gold fields of Idaho, returned part way over the old trail to meet his wife, Margaret, and his brother, Fletcher A. Hawes, who were coming from Cambridge, Ohio, to join him. From that day to this, the old book has been preserved as a memento of that journey.

Just how the old diary came to be in that old trunk may never be known. Benjamin F. Hawes, for years a cattleman in the beautiful Bruneau valley of Idaho, is dead. His wife is also dead. Fletcher A. Hawes, the brother, was killed by Indians during the Bannoch war. Even they knew nothing of the history of the document between the last entry, August 15, 1859, and the date of its finding. This leaves much that cannot be explained. We read in the diary, July 31, 1859, that the Fort Hall road was passed on that day. Also, that the diarist reached the Humbolt on August 6, and was still moving westward along that stream up to August 15. The Hawes family came southward from Fort Hall. How did the diary find its way back to the place where it was found in the trunk? What became of Taylor N. Snow? What led him to abandon the diary, his companion through so many hardships?

From the diary we find that Snow lived in Indiana until early in the year 1859, when he entered the long, dangerladen trail into the trans-Mississippi West. His diary tells a story of hardship and heroism of interest to every Hoosier—to every

American.

In reading words written by a hand long dead, one is inspired to reverence. Here we find set down the innermost thoughts of a sensitive soul, a soul wafted here and there by the breezes of an unkind fate, seemingly against his will. Many of the lines written in the old book are sacred—too sacred, perhaps, for living man to read.

Taylor N. Snow was a lover of literature, and appears to have treasured in his mind the lines of such poets as Shelly, Burns, Dana, and Moore. These, he quoted freely, evidently from memory, judging from certain imperfections of punctuation and spelling. An amorous being was the diarist for he speaks much of love. He was a philosopher, an observer of life, which, like many another man, he tried vainly to interpret. He was at heart a poet but a poet without technique. He left behind several of his efforts.

Why Taylor N. Snow left Indiana is unknown. It may have been to get away from the "call" to enter the ministry. Such is intimated in his diary. It may have been a love affair that sent him forth. One of his rhymes, which he inscribed to Miss M. E. C., indicates that he was a disappointed lover:

Farewell! Mary farewell! forever
 I will leave you for to weep
 For our vows of love are broken
 And I am going to the Peak

Farewell! Mary farewell! forever
 Tho that word is hard to speak
 Your [You're] the one that broke those vows
 And I am going to the Peak

Farewell! Mary farewell for ever
 You another's hand may take
 For you left me all alone
 And I am going to the Peak

Farewell Mary farewell forever
 Alas w'll soon our parting take
 No more I'll claim you for my own
 For I am going to the Peak.

It may have been the spirit of adventure that called him away from home. The student of history will recall that the Panic of 1857 had reached its height in the Middle West about

1859, sending men out in search of the rainbow's end. And too, these were the days of conflict over slavery in Kansas. The Lincoln-Douglas debates were fresh in men's minds, and the whole slavery question was nearing armed conflict. The Civil War was in the offing. Added to this was the lure of gold. The yellow metal had been discovered in the west. For ten years men had been going to California by the thousands, and news of rich finds fired the heart of youth. In 1858, a rich strike was made at Pikes Peak, and the following year, gold seekers started for the new field. Before the end of a year, a government had been set up, and a new Territory to be called "Jefferson" proposed to Congress.

And so we find Taylor N. Snow declaring that he was "going to the Peak", ready to join a vast army of seekers after adventure and wealth. While at Des Moines, he attempted to express his purpose in verse. In three stanzas, he said "Farewell to Indiana and to the girl he left behind." His plans changed, however, and he did not go to Colorado but pressed on toward California.

The girl left behind, Miss M. E. C., was evidently Mary Ellen Carskaden of Tarricopee, Indiana, whose name and address appear elsewhere in the book where he kept his diary, in a list of some hundred or more names with addresses. The spirit of abandon to pleasure seen in the last mentioned poem was that of the moment only for the diarist was a serious man, given to things worth while.

Snow was a young man of some standing at home. An older friend who controlled a scholarship in one of the Universities of the State, probably the State University at Bloomington, offered it to him in September, 1857. He probably did not take advantage of this opportunity to go to college. He must have served as township trustee in Steuben Township, Warren County, in 1854, since he left behind a copy of a contract with a Sophia Sailor to teach a term of school, the contract being signed "Taylor N. Snow". He likewise left among the records of his memory book rules for the conduct of children in school, a list of subjects for debate, and nine rhyming stanzas in relation to parts of speech.

It is not possible to determine the age of Taylor N. Snow when he started on his western adventure, but he must have been more than thirty years old. He stayed in Des Moines,

Iowa, for several weeks before taking the trail for the gold country. The diary covers the period from May 5 to August 15, 1859. At the latter date, the entries cease. From that day forward, the writer of this foreword has no information relative to the diarist. What became of Taylor N. Snow, some reader of the *Indiana Magazine of History* may be able to reveal. The entries in the diary, show the growing difficulty under which he kept his journal. At first he used ink and pen, writing carefully under evident conditions of leisure and ease. But upon the hard trail, we can picture him near the campfire, writing on his knee or on the ground—perhaps on the tire of a wagon wheel. Careful writing gives way to hastily scribbled lines; for danger lurks near in the night. Indians are camping in the shadows. Ink and pen are gone. Only the stub of a pencil remains. The diary stops abruptly with the entry of August 15.

[THE DIARY]

Minuets [minutes] of my traveling west. I started from Des Moines on the 5th day of May, 1869. I got to ride as far with Mr John Hinsey as Middle river [or] Coon River. First North River 2 Middle River 3. The 5th night [of May] I stayed within 3 miles of Indianola. Corn planted in Polk Co. & Madison. 6th day [of May] in Warren Con. [County]. 6th night as Evening got in company with a man going to ring Gold Con. [Ringgold Co.], stranded ½ day then got in Company with Dismore & Baker [in] Madison Co. [at] St. Charles [on] Sanel Creek. Camped 7th night [of May] 4 miles west of St. Charles¹

May 8 Camped for night 3 miles east of Wnterset.² 8th night I stayed all night L. B. Husses and he told me about the note on Enoch Hickman, That he left a note again that note in the hands of Robbert Patten The note he left was on a Quarts mill bidden [building] 9th [or May] camped 2 miles west of Wnterset for noon, 9th Camped 6 miles west for night and in company with thirty men and a Brass Band. the wether is plesant. Roads bad Country level.

May 10. Camped for noon at Middle River, Roads is good Land rowling fertile and corn is up. Camped 10th night at grand River in Company with thirteen wagons³ Brass Band Banjo Violin and vocal Music Roads Good a hard rain at midnight.

May 11 Camped for noon 1 mile west of Clark Stage Station and in

¹ Des Moines is in Polk Co. Warren Co. is just to the south, of which Indianola is the County Seat. Madison County lies to the west of Warren. St. Charles is in the eastern edge of Madison Co. Ringgold Co. is the second county south of Madison. Its southern boundary is the Missouri line. Snow did not go to Ringgold Co.

² Wnterset is the County Seat of Madison Co. It lies to the west of St. Charles about ten or twelve miles.

³ The upper part of the Grand River drains Adair Co., which lies west of Madison Co.

site of Fontinell Roads Bad Lands Good but Row[l]ing Camped for night 3 miles west of Fontinell

May 12 Camped for night 18 miles west of Fontinell in Company with 15 wagons Roads bad, No timber the land rowling and fertile

May 13 Camped for night 2 miles west of Lewis⁴ at Indian Creek Crossed East Botting at Lewis Stoped at Lewis one day Men on there return from the Peak [report] that no gold The wether is very Cold have to wair over coat Raining But plenty of music and Liquor and tobacco

May 15 Camped on the land of West Botting Rained all day [and] night and Cold Land good plenty of timber on the Creek Roads bad fifty wagons Camped in the Grove with us which looks well and Corn is up

May 16 Left Dismore with Parks and Parker and got in a Buggy with the Land lord from Madison & Came on the Counsil Bluffs Cost me one dollar. stayed all night at City Hotell [for] fifty cents

May 17 Tried to sell some Medison no luck feet very sore Great many on there return from the Peak went Back to the Tavern [and] stayed all night [for] fifty Cents

May 18 Part of the Company came to the City. very unwelll [and] went to Dr E. How. he says he can cure the white swelling with a plaster. I got three paid three Dollars for the Medison put one onun plaster [put one on, a plaster] I went to the Tavern again [and] paid 25 [cents]

May 19 Dismore Came to the Bluffs left the wagons out of town with Baker Dismore started Home [and] I got in Company with Hamilton & Kliplinger He that is Kiplinger does agree to take me to California for seventy dollars I paid thirty in gold and am to pay forty when I get to California my feet so sore I cannot walk put on some of that plaster got a p[pair] of Mocisons paid fifty cents

May 20 Stayed about the wagon all day [because] feet so sore Camped south of The City after part of the day crossed the Mosourie on a steem ferry boat with fifteen wagons on got a view of Omahaw City and state House Camped for night west of Omahaw one mile.

May 21 Left Omahaw in the after part of the day and Come to the Tecker Creek Camped for night and had some rain roads good Land fertile and rowling with no timber as many coming back as going.

May 22 Camped for night on bank of the Elk Horn River one mile west of the town of Elk Horn Indians plenty stand guard for the first time fore men out of the crowed

May 23 Crossed Eagle Creek and came to the flat Plat River The Plat River is very wide Muddy and full of drift wood. all the timber there is a

⁴Lewis is a town in the western part of Cass Co., the second county west of Madison Co.

little Cotton wood and Ceder we have high winds thunder and litening but no Rain the Bottom Land is very level we Came threw Freemont a bout noon⁵

May 24-25 [Entries missing]

May 26 Very heavy Rain last night all got wet. Very Cold had to wear over Coats and gluvs. Roads have a great deal of water in them but not very bad 14 miles today. Houses all along the road. No tim[b]er. Land sandy but very productive. We have Campe on a small Creek by name of Columbus The Creek affords a little Cotton wood. Thirty wagons in sight. Two sick in Camp Headache and Cold. Very Cold this Eavening We have fine music at night and some fun, but no quarling nor fighting in Camp as yet. Water is Plenty Feed good for Cattle. Land level still in the Platte Valy or Bottom

May 27 We crossed the Platte River at Genoa Ferry 2 miles from Genoa City. Genoa City affords one store a Black smith shop and about one hundred Families. There are about Fifty teams here to cross at the Ferry at one dollar a wagon. The land here is very sandy. Genoa is one of the old mormon town[s] it being on the mormon trail. The City is principlly Built of sod. We have Camped on the Bank of North Platte The Platte here is very wide and muddy and full of quick sand. The up Land is very rowling and sandy Saw two Antelope. Hamelton Sick. Balance in good spirits Fine day, 18 mile to day.

May 28 Got an erly start had a fine day saw some antelope and one Wolf. Camped in the open plains without wood or water Moved some half dozen times Land level and sandy but no settlers nor Indians had plenty of feed for Cattle I have written one letter to Lady Jane one to George W. Hickman and one to Tyler Kidwell Had plenty of good Vocal music at night. All are well and in good Spirits

May 29 God in his tender mercy has granted us an other Lords day While the sun pours down its effulgent rayes upon each and every one of us are lovely and gay while the Cool refreshing breezees so softly Cheers us on our journey Our number is fifty nine men three woman and two Children. Seventeen wagons Camped five miles of Ferrairia [Prairie] Creek no timber water not so good all are well Land sandy and row[l]ing six miles of slough Saw one Company from Desmoines. Cattle got lost but found

May 30 Camped on Perairia Creek again. and some little timber. Cotton wood and Elemn Land not sandy but very level. Caught three woofls. Had a fine day very warm but no sickness. in site of Platte River Timber Had no trouble but all in good spirits

May 31 Camped East of Ft Carny [Ft. Kearney] seven miles on Wood Creek. The Land is beautiful and Level. The mormons have commenced a settlement Timber is white ash, Elemn, and Cotton[wood]. We are one the old Ft. Laramy road all are well in Camp. woolves are plenty

⁵ Elkhorn City and Freemont in the eastern part of what was then Nebraska Territory.

one man has kiled four Buffalow. The land is fertile but not so Sandy and very productive. We are about five miles from the Platte River. We have overtaken fifteen or twenty teams for Calafornia.

June 1 Camped West of Ft Carny on the north side of the Platte River The bottom land here is very beautiful. The little Creek Caled Elemn Creek makes a very pretty turn. I herd that my friends from Walnut had found there Cattle. Lew is Sick with the Colery Morbus. and I have the Headache and Tooth ache very bad. The rest are all well. All the timber her is Elemn and but little of that water not good

June 2 Camped On Elemn Creek just where we were Yesterday We stay[ed] here all day. Waited for Button to get back from the Post Office. Farber kiled an antelope and it eats well. Buffalow is on every hill and in eve[r]y valley. This is a fine day some of the Bois [boys] are hunting. Men Camped all along the Creek. Land very fertile

June 3 Camped On Buffalow Creek 17 miles east of Elemn Creek. All are well. There has ben some forty wagons in Company to day. The Land is rowling beatiful and fertile but very Sand. Water not good But little timber Ash Cotton wood.

June 4 Camped On Platte River; But little wood or water and what wood there is, is between the chanenls. No water but [in] River. all are well but me. My eye is sore. Fin day. John Ziglar kiled a Buffalow Mr Pierce went a hunting and got the Fore quarters of a Buffalo. The land here is very fertile One man thinks he saw three thousand Buffalo.

June 5 Camped Again we are permitted to enjoy an other Lords day. and remained on the Platte and enjoy the fruits of the 4th day. While the ladies are doing the washing. A gentleman from Salt Lake with a train of mules going East after Meshenery [machinery] stoped and took dinner with us to day. All are well

June 6 Camped On the Platte River. Timber between the Channels, no water. Part of the road to day was hilly and nothing but barren sand banks. The day was very warm. Had thunder and liting at night but no rain. Had the Diarrhea all nite. Right eye very sore. Some four or five of the Oxen's feet is sore. All well in Camp but me. Musketoes bad.

June 7 Camped On the Platte River. No wood or water But plenty of Buffalo Chips to bern. Got some good water on the road at a large Biling [boiling] Spring by the side of the road. Saw no Buffalo since satterday. We Can see a great many on Both sides of the River going to Calafornia all well but me I have got the sore eyes. Dr had the tooth ache

June 8 Camped Three miles west of the North fork of the Platte. On the Platte River. About two hundred yards this side of North Platte We saw a fresh grave, and the name was W. W. Payne, Died May the 17th 1859. The roads Before we got to the Platte fork was bad, the day

was pleasant Feed for Cattle was good Land very Sand all well but me. No timber No Buffalo or game of any kind Water not good

June 9 Camped On the Platte. No timber but plenty of good water; two large Boiling Springs. The Road to day has bin nothing but barren Sands banks or Bluffs Cattle had hard work to travil and some of them gave out Crosed one or two small streams. No Indians as yet And no game. One hundred and Sixty five miles to Ft. Laramie⁶ all well but me. Found an Indian Skull. Sixty men in Company. Flyes are getting bad

June 10 Camped Crooked Creek near the Platte next Camp Creek These are two Creeks only a few rods apart water and grass good Woolf Creek, Wach Creek, Lone Tree, all well in Camp but Sam Martin he has the sore eyes Saw a fine stove on the road that was left oposite the Ceder Grove. Camping not good, Roads bad. Left one Ox on the road feet to sore to travil. Had music and dansing 21 miles

June 11 Camped On Castle Creek Quicksand bottom Good camping Trading post on the south side of the Platte oposite our Camp. Indians plenty on the south side of the River. Post Office at trading Post. all wel in Camp. A large drove of Cattle on the other side of the River going to Calafornia No timber. Plenty of sand stone. High sand Hill to cross This is Satter Day Nebraska [June] 11, 1859.

June 12 Camped On the River Again No water but river water; no wo[o]d, but plenty of grass for Cattle Crosed or pased Sand Hill Creek Crab Creek and Crab Lake No game but Praria Dogs. Roads good and no sand hills The day was pleasant had a little rain at nigth. All well. The Land here is very fertile and not so Sandy We have celebrated this the Lords day by traveling. Distance 25

13 Camped on the River three miles from Bluff Runns. No wood or Water but Rivers water crossed no streems. The road at the Ruins was hilly and sandy the Land here is full of alkali feed not good all well in Camp The day was very warm but got some good water at the Ruins. Passed two Graves

June 14 Camped an[d] laid over to let the Cattle rest The Ladies done up the washing. I done some mends Examined some 12 or 13 heads. Had Some little Rain The day was warm feed not good no wood All well in Camp

June 15 Camped Opposite Chimney Rock No wood or water Musketoos and Buffalo nats very bad Got to ride with Mr Fowler and Wells, and Mr Nelson and had the pleasure of examining four Ladies heads and some 10 or 15 mens heads The day was very pleasant All weel in Camp

June 16 Camped On the River opposite Scots Bluff No wo[o]d or water Grass is not good The day was very pleasant Got in Company with Mr. Jounson and Mr. KirkPatric of Gale Burge [Galesburg], Ex-

⁶ Ft. Laramie, about 300 miles west of Ft. Kearney, on the North Platte. In Nebraska Territory at that time, but now in eastern Wyoming.

amined three or four heads Mr. KirkPatrick is Going to Origen [to] Portland All well in Camp Some [?]

June 17 Camped On the River opposite Cottonwood Bushes, and, opposite A tradeing post no wood or water all well in Camp. Pased Spring Creek. The day is very warm. Gras is not good Land is not very fertile: too sandy my eyes are very sore, got a pair of gogles

June 18 Camped at Cottonwood Grove 15 miles East of Fort Laramie, all well in Camp Stayed there one day the 19 [of June] Wrote a letter To Mr Kidwell and went in a Swiming with Mr Hamelton. The Grove is a very beautiful one

June 20 Camped Opposite Fort Laramie Passed two trading Posts with the Indians crossed one or two streems of water All well in camp High winds and a little rain Grass was good Cottonwood Timber of a very small growth. There are some fifty or a hundred wagons in the grove. Water is good No very good news from the Peak.

June 21 Stayed at Ft Laramie The Band Boy's Went to the Ft and got Drunk and Played all day and all night About one hundred Solgers [soldiers] at the Barix [barracks]. Moris got whiped at the Ft The day was very warm. Had to pay thirty cents for crosing the River George Perce and Wade Parted because Wade agreed to take Clap [?] and Post [mail] ceper [cheaper] than he did But little timber

June 22 Camped Crossed the Black Hill 26 miles Pased the cold water springs about noon and came to the River The day was very warm We camped with an Indian Trader who had married and [an] Indian Grass not good No timber or wood of any kind Gold Mines One Grave on the road

June 23 Camped on Pond Creek with some thirty Mormons that was going back to the States saying they had a nuff of Mormanism Grass is good but Pore water No timber One grave

June 24 Camped on the river Crossed Bitter Spring Creek. No wood or water Grass good All well in camp Killed a Hare No game but Hares Came over some very mountaneous Country Plenty of stone Coal

June 25 Camped on the Platte No wood or water Crossed one little Creek and a great many very high hills G[r]ass is good Some stone-coal and large beds of Icen-glass [isinglass] Large herds of Cattle on the opposite side of the Platte River

June 26 The Lords Day has come again and we rest as we remain on the Platte [where we were on] the 25th I have had to Barber five mens heads to day the wohan [women] are going up there washing All well but sore eyes Major Russells twenty six wagons are on the opposite of the River

June 27 Camped on the Platte Past one Cold Water spring Crossed a part of the sand hills Grass not good no water but Platte water All well in camp Plenty of fire wood but little timber and that is Cotton

wood. Some of the sand hills are very high Dr Bata's Grave from Illinois who died in Fifty four.

June 28 Camped by the Platte Plenty of wood and Grass. The roads is very sandy and roling Passed the lower ferry on the Platte. Passed an alcali spring and crossed one Cold water ravine. Saw the best quality of stone-Coal. The American fur Company are statuned at the Lower ferry All well in Camp Mr T. N. Snow

June 29 Camped on the Platte Passed the Bridge and there is a large trading post at the Bridge The roads are very rowling and sandy A great many ded Cattle on the road Leave one wagon on the road All well no timber Grass not good

June 30 Camped on the Platte at a stage station one mile from a store, The road was very sandy and hilly There is plenty of wood and water, and grass for the Cattle. All well Snow ten ft deep on the hills Met some Mornons going to the states Ded cattle all a long the road

July 1 Had to stay at the Platte for we could not get our Cattle across the River until noon we then came to the willow springs and took supper The yellow springs are very numerous and the water is very cold and good to drink we then left the willow springs and traveled as far that night as crooked creek all well in Camp had no bad luck the Day was very warm. The road was hard and level and but fiew hills

July 2 Camped on Crooked Creek The water was good [but] little grass for the Cattle. got here at three in the morning stayed until noon and then came to sweetwater River⁷ Camped On the Sweet water at Independence rock There is a trading Post at the rock. All well in camp. plenty of Grass for Cattle. No timber A Bridge at the rock the day was very warm and dusty Saw a great many Cattle on the road were ded by drinking Acali [Alkali]

July 3 Camped on sweetwater A half a mile this side of Devils gate at a stage station⁸ The day was very warm and the roads dusty Grass was very good All well in camp no timber but plenty of chips at the station

July 4 Stayed at the station where we camped on the third to selebrate the fourth Some two hundred persons were there Had two spekers Mr Button of Wisconson and Mr Jourdan of Ilinois Two toasts drinkers Had the Bras Band to Play and a man to read the Decliration of Indipendence

July 5 Camped on the Sweet-water at Charleys wigwam the Highway man Had plenty of Grass no tmber Passed one trading Post All wel in camp no Indians or game

July 6 Camped on the sweetwater near a large high rock. Plenty of

⁷ It was here that pen and ink gave way to pencil, as the diarist continued his entry of July 2.

⁸ The Sweetwater River is a tributary of the North Platte. Devils Gap is a canyon cut through a granite ridge by the Sweetwater.

grass no timber A man got shot accidental in the side but not killed
The day was warm and dusty Passed the cold water spring and one
trading Post

July 7 Camped on sweetwater All well but W Cook Plenty of grass
[but] no wood Had a shower of rain at night [part torn out]

July 8 Camped on willow Creek No timber Plenty of grass All well
A great many ded Cattle on the road [part torn out]

July 9 Camped at Pacific Springs⁹ stayed over

July 10 Sabbath had a dance at night and a general fine time no wood
All well A black smith shop at the springs Roads good Ded Cattle on
the road

July 11 Camped on the Banks of little sandy Grass not good no timber
roads good Met Uncl's Sam train of Forty wagons and Eighty Dragoons
Had a shower of rain All well in Co

July 12 Camped on the Banks of Big Sandy Passed the Second cam-
pany of the Dragoons Eighty in No Passed two trading Posts and Post
Office No grass or wood Men and woman returning from Salt Lake
Roads good All well in Camp One more wagon in Company two men
and two girls¹⁰

July 13 Camped three miles west of the Ferry on green river Grass
was good A little cotton wood All well in Camp there is a trdaing
post at the fery

July 14 Camped on Spring Creek no wood or feed, and water not good
The roads not good All well in Camp

July 15 Camped at the foot of the Hill where there are four Springs
and plenty of grass and brush to burn All well but John Sraslader¹¹
he has a bile on his chin

July 16 Camped on Hams fork of Green River water good and brush
to burn Grass is good and plenty One hundred and fifty Snake Indians
All well in Camp no grass Saterdag

July 17 Camped over Sabbath An other Lords Day At Hams Fork
All well in Camp Plenty of grass no timber Plenty of good water Land

⁹ After crossing the North Platte on July 1, the caravan ascended the Sweetwater toward the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains, which must have been crossed on July 8. On July 9, the camping site was at Pacific Springs. On July 11 on the Little Sandy River. This and the Big Sandy are tributaries of the Green River which flows into the Colorado. South Pass is not mentioned by the diarist. Though nearly 7500 feet above sea level, it is not high above the adjacent plateaus and the ascent and the descent are easy. Two travelers who went over the gap in 1848, for which they used the name *Grand Pass* wrote: "Both the ascent and the descent were so gradual, that, had we not been told, we should have passed over the dividing ridge in the Rocky Mountains, without knowing it." See *Route Across the Rocky Mountains* by Overton Johnson and Wm. H. Winter, reprint of 1932, p. 22.

¹⁰ The name, *Charles H. Comerse*, follows this entry of July 12. He was probably a friend of Snow, whose name he wished to preserve.

¹¹ It is possible that the diarist meant to write *Straslader*. In the last entry, that of August 15, he included the information "John Strasser is on a spree." It is entirely possible that the same person is meant in the earlier entry.

in the first bottom is fertile Beautiful flowers are in Bloom

July 18 Camped on the Bottom of Bare [Bear] River¹² four miles from the river Plenty of spring water No timber Passed two or three Ferr tree groves High mountains to cross in Origan [Oregon]¹³ (part torn out)

July 19 Camped on th Bank of Bare river. Plenty of grass No timber High Mountains on both side of the river. Snake Indians are Plenty Mr Fasker is sick.

July 20 Camped On Bair River P[l]enty of grass and Spring water Indians P[l]enty Musquetos very bad No game All well in Camp Crossed two or three streems A shower of rain at night N (part torn out)

July 21 Camped On Bair River P[l]enty of grass and water Had six miles of Mountains to cross and one or two stream All weell Musquetoes bad Plenty of wood (part torn out)

July 22 Camped On Bair River Grass good water plenty. No timber Musketo's had Indians Plenty Land fertile All well in Camp Grizly Bair Cold Springs No Buffalo (part torn out)

July 23 Camped at a cold water Spring on a little raviene in the Bair River Mountains one mile from the river Grass is good No timber but pine on the top of the Mountains All well in Camp Roads good Land is good in the bottoms

July 24 Camped At the Soda Springs.¹⁴ These Springs are caused by a volcanic eruption. The shock opening the Stratta of rock leaveing an orifice for the water to run out These Springes are very numerous throwing out a yellow Substanc or matter that terns to rock by which it has made an elevation of some fifty feet The water tastes like Soda or a very tartish affect

July 25 Saterdag Staying at the soda Springs to recruit up the Cattle grass being plenty. Good water. Plenty of sedar pine and cottonwood. Had a dance at night at Mr. Fairbanks Train They had the Band to play for them Good Music and good danceing Mr Day is sick Sam Martin first lesen in Music

July 26 Camped On Spring Creek Crossed over some very high mountain and some very butifull fertile land The Marsh Creek bottom is level and fertile where we ate dinner Got in a frakes with beaver took out my Beuey [Bowie] nife and you would of laughed to se him runn. Went to see a vo[lcano] two miles off of the road and seven miles from the soda springs. The volcano some one hundred and fifty feet The crater being a bout one hundred ft high [and] debth one [hundred] fifty

¹² Bear River flows into Great Salt Lake. The trail crosses the divide between the Green [Ham's Fork] and Bear rivers about 25 miles northwest of Fort Bridger.

¹³ When the diarist stated that he was "in Origan", he meant that he was north of 42° in what had long been known as Oregon.

¹⁴ This place is in what is now southeastern Idaho about fifty miles southeast of Fort Hall.

ft while the melted lava is scattered in all directions. and large mountains bursted and la in all directions in massive stone.

27 Camped at Ball Creek Good grass willow but no timber day warm and roads dusty. Cold nights. All well in Camp A man by the name of Humble aged forty years, got Shot by a boy, for shoot-ing at the boy The boy being too fond of the old man[']s] nice little Girl aged 13 years

July 28 Camped at little Muddy. Good feed No timber. Came threw tenn miles of canon to the top of a very rugged hill. After getting to the bottom of one of the most dangerous hills on the road to Calafornia five mules ran a past our train and Stampeeded our Cattle and hurt one man a little but not dangerously. No Cattle hurt or wagon broke Day very warm. No water for twenty-five miles. But before we got in Camp we herd that one train was murdered by the Indians & when we got to the Campe every [man] had his gun reddy to shoot. They then gave a history of the so troubled affair. relating that one of these men Mr W Hall was shot ded and one more Shot threw the shoulder while they pointed to the grave of the unfortionate man We then Saw the Seven returning men that escaped, the number saved out of twenty they reported that five were mortally wounded and one woman to di[e] and four Children and one woman to meet these dredful fate when we had got our guns reddy and talking about the dredful affair. For war was declared when Mr Button Hollowed to the Company that Some one was Calling for help. We got our guns and ran to help when we looked farther up the hill and saw one of the gard raiseing a lady in his arms that had escaped. She was give out and was in state of insanity. She stated when She came to her reson She stated she had held her husband in her arms until he was ded she then fled for life and Came Eight miles part of the way on her nees leaving the wounded in there diing groans This brought sorrow to our ears and caused our blud to boil with revenge But the sun went down below the hurison and night had drawn her mantled roabe of darknes over us and we to protect our Selves we drove our Cattle all to gether put out eighteen Gards for the night But the night pased away without one being hurt

July 29, 1859 Camped in the Canon at A Spring branch. No timber grass not good. left little mudy with fifty Seven wagons, one hundred and Sixty me and all well armed. We came on to See what had become of the wo[u]nded men and woman. We came four miles to the foot of the mountain and there we put ten men on both side of the top of Canon and ten in front of the teams; and two men to every wagon and some fifteen of a rear guard and onward we marchew threw the massive canon we found the lost child some half mile this side of the masacree a live and well. the Child belonged to the Lady who made her escape, but we went on withe blud boiled vengence and Soon came to witness some of the most horrouble seenes that men ever witness. Four men lay ded on the ground and one man w[o]unded and one woman badly wo[u]nded and her childs leg broken but think they will get well. The four wagons partly torn to p[i]eces and trunks broken open fether beds tor open and

fethers scattered all over the ground and the pore woman and men lay growning in a gore of blud. but we did not know but what danger was aproaching and we gathered up the fragments and three wagons and the ded and wo[u]nded and come on to where we camped in making a calculation they had taken thirty Six mules and horses and six hundred dollars, but the blud thirsty vilins were gone. We berryed the ded all together and come on to Raft River this is a small streem or creek the bottom land is fertile and wide. No timber plenty of grass The wo[u]nded is better but the day is vary warm and roads dusty

July 30 Camped on Raft River for the day: so as to let the sick get better. The day is very hot. Had two foot races run and some betting and a little excitement but no fighting. The young man Mr Joseph Scelic that shot Mr Humble was hung on the 29 of July. The boy only 17 years of age has died that ignoable deth but men have not got wise enough to quit taking life for life

July 31 Camped on West Raft River Good place to camp plenty of grass no timber but willow to burn All well in camp but the wo[u]ndid they are not so well Land here not so good very sandy. The mountains on both sides are very high and snow on the tops of them Herd from Mr Davis Passed the fort hall road about noon three or four miles back¹⁵

August 1 Camped five miles from the Salt Lake road on a small rocky stream.¹⁶ Good camping plenty of good grass and water. No timber. All well but the wonded and they are very unwell and the supposition is they will hardly live. Had a shower of rain. The day is very warm and no little dust Land fertile but roling and rocky.

August 2 Camped on goos creek and valey this valey is about a mile and a half wide with plenty of good grass and water but no timber all there is is willow to burn Mountains not s[o] high Land fertile in the valey Part of the mountains covered with the smalll groath of Pine and sedar All well in Camp Herd from the stolen Cattle [and] mules

August 3 Camped on Goos creek at the head not far from the mouth of a three mile canon The valey here is a bout the same All well in camp but the wonded They are no better The day was plesant but the roads very dusty Snake Indians Some seventy or eighty wagons camped with us to night

August 4 Camped on a small stream five miles from where we struck the thousand springs valey This valey is fertile and affords plenty of grass but no timber we came thirty five miles and part of the way the road was very rocky. we came threw five miles of canon and was s[h]ot at by eight Indians but no person was killed but four hed of cattle shot

¹⁵ The caravan was now between the Snake River and the Utah line something over 100 miles west of Soda Springs. When the diarist mentions the Fort Hall road, he does not mean the Oregon Trail between Soda Springs and Fort Hall, which had been left behind on July 26, but a road from the California Trail down the Raft River Valley northward to the Oregon Trail, joining the latter about 80 miles west of Fort Hall, near the mouth of the Raft River.

¹⁶ A trail to Great Salt Lake led from the Raft River southeastward to Salt Lake, while the California Trail led southwestward toward the source of the Humboldt River.

All well in camp but me. I have the (Ticdolereany) The wo[u]nded are no better

August 5 Camped again [in] the valey of a thousand springs Good grass and plenty of good water. no timber road dusty but day plesant *Mr James D. Wright died this morning at eight o clock he suffered no little by his woonds Mrs Wright is better All well in camp The valey is from one to two miles wide.*

August 6 Camped on the hed of the Humbolt at the large cold springs. Passed the hot springs about 10 oc[lock] The hot springs are in the thousand springs valey The day was very warm and dusty Some forty Indians camped two miles from our Camp Came to a small stream and traveled up that a bout 2 miles and came to a large spring of cold water All well in camp Met a company of the infantry and a company of the dragoons returning to camp floid [Floyd]. They shot a deserter and [an] Indan

August 7 Camped a Sunday on one of the forks of the Humbolt About 8 miles brought us to worst canon [on] the rout quite a large stream flows through it which has to be forded Several times. It is very rocky and rough. One or two Cold Springs in the canon. Indians were seen in the eavening Had ice last night a half an inc[h] thick. Road good but dusty and plenty of Alkali No timber. Plenty of good feed for Cattle In sight of the snow caped mountains

Aug 8 Camped Monday On the Humbolt We have now entered a beautiful valley covered with the best of wild tall grain Had a stampede to day ca[u]sed by woods little white dog. C Webber got ran over, but not badly hurt. Plenty of good grass and water No timber All well in Camp Nights so cold that it is impiabile to ceep warm Mrs Night is getting better

Aug 9 Camped On the Humbolt not over a half a mile from the north fork of the Humbolt The day was plesant but roads dusty Hamelton sick Alkali very bad ded cattle on the road plenty of good feed but no timber Plenty of willow to burn roads very levell and dusty

Aug 10 Camped Again on th Humbolt with plenty of good grass for Cattle No timber All well in Camp but Hamelton he is better one or to hills to cross roads dusty valey sone two miles wide No timbeer The nights are geting warmer No game but hare

Aug 11 Camped on the Flat. This morning we came four or five miles to the forks of the road the right hand road run over the hill. but we came the left hand road threw a very long rough hilley canon and it being to cross two or three times. No timber but plenty of good grass. The day was very warm and dusty. No sickness The valey here is not very wide the river winding threw very high rough hills

Aug 12 Camped On the Humbolt one mile fro[m] gravelly ford Here the Male [mail] road comes in from Salt Lake it is five miles from here to the first male station The valey here is beautifully covered with

yellow flowers. There is plenty of good grass for the Cattle. All well in camp. Passed threw a long rough rocky road crossing a small stream a number of times and come very near upsetting Companys should prepare well before going threw on account of the jolting

Aug 13 Camped On the Humbolt after coning some twenty eight miles to the second post office No water but slough [?] and no timber but plenty of grass Plenty of Sho Shonee Indians but they are mixed with french and Diggers Indian they are very dirty and nasty having no clothing Grass is good but [no] timber the valey here is fertile and levell. No game. All well in camp Musketoe[s] bad

Aug 14 Camped on the Humbolt after coming some twenty miles over a very levell road traveling all the tine in the valey. the valey is very wide with high mountains on both sides of the river. Before coming or getting to camp in crossing a sloug[h] we mired two teams but got them out safe Good grass and plenty of willow to burn All well in Camp Musketoes are bad

Aug 15 Camped At the third station without wood, but there is a good spring of cold water at the station The valey is wide here but very sandy and is covered with Greece wood and sage. There is a little grass a bout three miles from the post along the river There [i]s some three or four road[s] that can be traveled. There is plenty of Alkali here It is 35[350] miles from here to Placerville¹⁷ All well in camp and John Strasser is on a spree

ORIGIN OF THE TERM *Hoosier*

[The following item relative to the origin of the term *Hoosier* clipped from the *Pittsburgh Statesman* by the Logansport *Canal Telegraph* of May 17, 1834, was discovered and sent to the *Indiana Magazine of History* by Esther U. McNitt of Indiana State Library. It is one of the earliest, though not the earliest, of the several explanations that have been offered in regard to the origin of the appellation *Hoosier*, so universally used to designate a citizen of Indiana. This statement by the *Pittsburgh Statesman* was not noticed by the late Jacob P. Dunn in his very full treatment of the question which appeared in his work, *Indiana and Indianians*, 1121-1155. See also Dunn, "Origin of the Word Hoosier", in *Indiana Magazine of History*, I, 86-96, and "The Word Hoosier," in *ibid.*, VII, 61-63. Other matter pertaining to this question may be found in *ibid.*, IX, 27-28; XVII, 305-6; XXV, 101-103; Indiana Historical Society, *Publications*, IV, No. 2.]

¹⁷ Placerville is about 40 miles east of Sacramento. The diarist wrote *35 miles*, but he probably meant to set down *350 miles*.