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DIARY OF SYLVESTER DAVIS

ONE of several typewritten copies made by the late Frank W. Clancy, at one time president of the New Mexico Historical Society, of the unpublished diary of Sylvester Davis, has been in the files of the Historical Society since 1915. Another copy, in the possession of the son-in-law of Davis, Hon. José Ortiz y Pino, of Galisteo, together with an interesting note-book of Mr. Davis, were brought to the officers of the society recently. The original of the diary is in the possession of Frank Davis, of Galisteo, a son of Sylvester Davis. While the diary covers only the period from April 21, 1859, to October 27 of that year, it is of real historical interest, describing a route taken by the argonauts to the Pike's Peak region before the Civil War so that it can be traced easily even on a modern map, giving a glimpse of the hardships met, undauntedly and as a matter of course, by these groups who became the forerunners of the railroads to the Far West. Even the report on the weather each day is of interest as are the remarks about the game which seemed to abound and the description of the simple method of organizing a mining district and administering its affairs. The trip from Denver south to Raton Pass and over the pass by way of the Santa Fé Trail to Canyoncito in Santa Fé County, while lacking thrills, is yet informative.

Sylvester Davis was a native of Massachusetts and probably of Puritan ancestry, for one notes the regularity of Sunday observance by the travelers, who rested men and beast on Sabbath. Davis was but a little more than twenty when he essayed on his western adventure. The diary closes with his last days at Canyoncito, from where, in the depth of winter, he went to Santa Fé and thence to Bernadillo, where he assisted in the construction and operation of a grist mill for the Perea family. In the spring of 1860, he started once more for the placer gold fields of Colorado

but went no farther than Galisteo, where he married Josefita Ortiz, sister of the late Juan Ortiz, and remained there for the balance of his life, with such exceptions as took him on prospecting trips to the nearby Sandía Mountains or to the Manzano range. At San Antonito, in the Sandías, he operated for a time a saw mill for Don Serafin Ramírez. Later he acquired the Cadial grant near Galisteo, became a sheep grower, and operated a saloon, the post office, and a store with government commissary at Galisteo. It was there he died some seventeen years ago at the age of 76 years. His widow, now 78 years of age, still lives in Galisteo, making occasional visits to Santa Fé. The sons of the couple, George, Joseph, Frank, and John, and a daughter, Mrs. Carlota Leyba, also live in this section.

The original spelling and orthography in the diary are followed in this reprint. Annotations were not deemed necessary for no difficulty will be found in identifying geographical names or allusions to customs and practices of the day.

PAUL A. F. WALTER.

Cordova, Thursday, Apr. 21", 1859.

Sylvester Davis Started with three other men for Pikes Peak, viz: Silas Hulbert, Esq., Nelson Bixby & C. C. Tucker. Crossed the Mississippi River to Prinston, Iowa & found good roads. This day we camped at a house where the folks had all gone to the mines.

Friday, Apr. 22". Had a snow storm in the morning. Lasted about one hour & one half. Found a sled & drew straw to fill up a slough we had to cross which took us about 2 hours. Mud 3 ft. deep. Went on a few miles & found the Roads so bad that we had to take down a man's fence & go through his field which he threatened to sue us for doing but we bluffed him off and went on & camped at Poston Grove & had a very pleasant night of it.

Saturday, Apr. 23". Went on all Right. Came to Tip-ton & bought a Sheet Iron Stove, Copper bottom Coffey pot

& camp kettle all for \$7.90. Davis paid for them. One Coffee Mill .60cts. four Iron Spoons .16cts. 6 small Spoons .15cts. 2 plates .20cts. 1 knife & fork .25 cts. We went on & camped 2 miles beyond Tipton.

Sunday, Apr. 24". Did not start out but laid over & washed our selves & clothes & took an Inventory of all of our Provisions.

While we were stopped 25 teams passed us all Bound for Pikes Peak. Wrote two letters to Day, one to my Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, & one to Mr. Samuel West.

Monday, Apr. 25" Started at 6 oclock & went to Cedar Bluffs, there being 10 teams ahead of us, so we were detained one hour before it came our turn to cross the ferry. On the opisite side of the Cedar River was a company of folks going to California with ox teams, about 20 men, women & children & 25 yokes of oxen. They had a brass band with them.

We got to Iowa City & bought 4 tin pt. basins .40cts. & one peck of onions .20cts. Davis paid for them then we went on & crossed the Iowa River on the toll bridge, toll .25cts & stopped 2 miles beyond the Bridge & camped for the night. It commenced to rain in the night & continued to rain until morning.

Tuesday, Apr. 26. Started at 6 oclock In the Morning. Raining as hard as ever. Went on about 2 miles & camped. It continued to Rain all Day so we did not start out until the next Day. We had a Duck for Supper shot by Mr. Bixby, and went to bed all in good Spirits.

Wednesday, Apr. 27. Started this Morning with the prospect of fine weather & had a very fine Day, although very hot. Passed through Homestead & about 6 miles beyond In a very Convenient place had Meat & onions for Supper & coffey.

Thursday, Apr. 28. Arose In fine spirits & cooked a Prarie Chicken & 7 other Small birds. Made a Pot Pie of them or a fricassee and they were very nice.

Then we went on & camped that night & made mush for Supper.

Friday, Apr. 29. Had a very nice Day of It. Passed Marengo In the morning. Had a rough Road and some bad road across one of the Tributaries of Skunk River. Got through all Right & camped 10 miles East of Newton.

Saturday, Apr. 30. Started In good season and got to Newton at Noon. Went on and bought Some Hay & Corn & backed It one mile then went on and crossed Skunk River on the ferry & camped one mile on the bottom & found a plenty of wood & water.

Sunday, May 1', 1859. Stopped on the bottom until afternoon when It began to look like Rain & we harnessed up our horses & drove off of the bottom about 3 miles and camped again & stayed until Monday Morning.

Monday, May 2. Drove about 6 miles. It Rained so that we camped & stopped untill afternoon when It cleared up & we went on and passed a town by the name of Rising Sun and from thier went on to Fort Desmoin. Stopped and looked around there & went on & camped about 2 miles beyond & had mush and Molasses for Supper & turned In.

Tuesday May 3. Very pleasant this Morning. Made a pot pie of some Quails & pigeons for Breakfast and went on about 18 miles and camped for the Day & Baked Bread & beans.

Wednesday, May 4. Started before 6 oclock and crossed the North fork of the Racoon River & arrived at Adel & put In a letter for Miss Whitehouse & went straight on and passed through Irish town & on through Morrisberg & camped about 2 miles beyond. Spent the night as well as usual and arose refreshed in the Morning from our nights Repose.

Thursday, May 5. Started 6 oclock in the Morning and went over some very Rough Prairie & high Eluffs. Houses were 22 miles apart & no road for 24 Miles & water very scarce & besides all this the wind blowed so hard that Mr. Tucker had to hold on to the waggon while he ate his Din-

ner for fear of being blown away. Camped on the Prairie and Killed two Massasorgess or Rattle Snakes & went $\frac{1}{2}$ mile for water.

Friday May 6. Went on over a very fine prairie & good Roads. Came on Rain and we stopped & all got Into the waggon & eat our dinner. After Dinner Started & went on to the next town $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Grove City, Cass Co. & went on about 5 miles & found wood, the Roads being bad & It continuing to Rain we camped for the night & it Rained all night. Our horses got away soon after we stopped & It took some 3 hours to catch them for they Started for home. Our men got lost & we built a large fire & fired our guns & that put them on the right track.

Saturday, May 7. Rained most of the A. M. Went out Hunting after Deer & wild Turkeys. Saw some of each but did not get any shots at them. Stopped raining about noon & then I baked Beans & Bread & after supper Mr. Bixby & my self went out after some Turkeys, we had not gone far before we Started a deer. Mr. Bixby shot the Deer through the fore shoulder but did not get him. We went on a little farther & we saw some wild Turkeys. We got up within 6 Rods of them & Mr. Bixby shot one of them through the head although It was quite Dark. It was a large Gobbler & weighed 23 lbs. Took It home to our camp & the next Morning which was Sunday we Dressed him & gave one half of him to 3 other fellows that camped In company with us. The rest of It we made into a pot pie.

Sunday, May 8. Sunny all day. Did some Baking for our journey the coming week and so passed the Day.

Monday, May 9. Arose Bright & Early. It was a beautiful Morning. Wrote a letter to Geo. M. French. Went on as far as Lewis some five miles & stopped there & got our horses shod which detained us a good part of the Day. Let Mr. Hulbert have 2.50 to pay for Shoeing his horses & then we went on $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and crossed the Nishnabotna on the ferry & then we came to Indian Creek. It was Bridged. Crossed and went on to Walnut Creek & camped for the night.

Tuesday, May 10. Started In good Season & kept the left hand Road & Made Wheelers Grove, then we crossed over a small Stream called Jordan. It was bridged. At Noon we crossed the West Branch of the Nishnabotany & took our Dinner on the other side close to the Mill. In the afternoon crossed all 3 of the Branches of Mud Creek & 2 of Indian Creek & crossed Silver Creek & camped about one mile beyond. It Rained very hard all the fore part of the Night & thundered & lightned very hard. During the Night cleared off. In the Morning very bright.

Wednesday May 11. Beautiful Morning but wet under foot. Started early & killed several snakes, Bull & Rattle & Got to Councill Bluffs In the afternoon & stopped until very near night. Saw some of the Paunee Indians & then crossed the Missouri River. Councill Bluffs Is a small village situated on a level flat of Ground just below the Bluffs which are very high. It is some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Missouri River & quite a business place for Its size. Crossed the Missouri just before night & camped $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Omaha City. It Rained all night very hard but cleared off In the Morning for It never Rains only nights and Sundays In this part of the country so the Inhabitants say.

Thursday, May 12. Arose & got Breakfast & spent the day In looking around & pricing Provisions & Groceries. Omaha Is a fine village situated on the West side of the Missouri River. They have got a court House & State Buildings, It being the capitol & a very large Hotel & several tribes of Indians, Paunees & Sioux.

Friday, May 13. Very windy Morning & quite cold. Saw a large number of teams coming back from the Pk & selling there outfits at any price at all. Traded boots with Mr. Lee Eaven.

Saturday, May 14. Rained all of the Morning. Saw teams coming back all of the time. Bought 73 lbs. of Beans and hay for 75cts. of a man Returning. Bought 24 lbs. of Sugar of McCormick of Omaha City.

Sunday, May 15, 1859. Rained all Day. Baked some Beans & Bread.

Monday, May 16, 1859. Cloudy Morning. Payed Mr. Hulbert \$15.00 in gold this morning. Payed 3.40 for Meat, 38 lbs. at 9cts. per lb. 2 lbs. Sodi 20 cts. 20 lbs Coffey 13½cts per lbs. 2.70. Payed 6.00 for flour.

Tuesday, May 16. Dull morning. Packed our things and left Omaha for the gold Diggins and found a good Road all the way to Elkhorn River, 21 miles & a fine prairie. Camped this side of the River & had a nice place although Misquitoes & Indians were numerous. Traded my Shot Gun for a Rifle to one of the returning Miners Eaven.

Wednesday, May 17, 1859. Very cool this morning. Started at 6 oclock & crossed the Elkhorn River by the Bridge. The town contains a saw mill, Brick yard, Hotel & 3 houses close to the Bridge & a Beautiful little place It Is. After crossing the Bridge & about 10 miles beyond Is a Stream called the Raw Hide. At or about this place the Indians Skinned a white man alive In 1849 for Shooting one of the Squaws & the Rest of the party had to Stand & look on. Passed on right up the valley of the Platt & the nicest Scenery you ever saw all level as a house floor & to Day we passed about 100 teams Returning from the Mines. Came to a Small town by the name of Fremont 16 miles from Elkhorn & put a paper In the office for Miss Whitehouse. Went on about 8 miles beyond Fremont on the Platt River and camped for the night.

Thursday, May 19. Beautiful morning. Arose & started early & came up to North Bend 15 Miles from Fremont and called Buchanan by name, from there to Shell Creek 12 miles from North Bend & camped by the creek for the night. Rained very hard all night and Stopped In the morning.

Friday, May 20. Fair but windy and a bad Road. Made but 10 & camped within 2 miles of Shinns ferry on Platt River. Came up with Brown from Omaha, the Man that was agoing to take out an Iron Safe, but did not. He

solicited our company up the South Side of the Platt, so we consented to go.

Saturday, May 21. Started & went down to Shinns ferry. Forty teams being ahead of us we had to stop there from 8 o'clock A. M. to 5 P. M. before it came our turn to cross the ferry. We ferried about half way & drove the other half in the water up to the horses' bodies then we drove $\frac{1}{2}$ mile across the Island to the other or Main Channel of the Platt. I bought a tent for 4⁰⁰ Dollars and crossed the Platt & camped for the night. As soon as our horses were put out they started for home right down the Platt towards Plattsmouth. Mr. Hulbert got a horse from one of the party travelling with us & went after them & caught them about five miles off & brought them back.

Sunday, May 22. Started up the South Side of the Platt River to Elm Creek about 9 miles and found 15 teams camped there, but feed was not sufficient for our horses & we went on about 3 miles & turned off to the left across the prairie about one mile to a small stream & found a plenty of wood and water & feed. Camped & baked beans & bread.

Monday, May 23. Killed some pigeons & cooked them for breakfast then went on and crossed Clear Creek about 9 miles from Elm. Went on with the Platt on our right all day & camped on the bank. The wind blew like seven devils & rained very hard. We watched our teams this night for the first time.

Tuesday, May 24. Fine morning. Met a large number of teams coming back as usual. Tried to trade our horses for oxen but there was so many owners that we did not trade but traded our tent for another one again. I bought 6 lbs. of chemical soap for 55 cts. Let Mr. Bixby have 10 cts to pay for caps. Drove on & camped on the Platt about 40 miles from Elm Creek.

Wednesday, May 25. Rained in the morning. We started about noon and drove on about 10 miles & camped on the bank of the Platt.

Thursday, May 26. Passed an old village or the Remains of an old Paunee village & the grave of an Indian Chief with 56 horses Skulls around It. Passed on & camped on the Bank of the Platt.

Friday, May 27. Fine Day. Drove about 22 Miles. Met 20 Government teams with about 150 head of cattle. Passed on & camped for the night about 1 mile from the Platt River.

Saturday, May 28. Fine Day. Passed fifty Salt Lake teams & some Government teams & some going back. Camped on the bank of the Platt & had to swim the Platt for wood. Mr. Hulbert traded his Horses for oxen, 2 yoke & 45 Dollars & one watch. Took part of It In Provisions, 400 lbs. of Flour, 3.75 per hundred lbs. 15.00. 22 lbs. Bacon at 10 cts. per lb. 2.20. 32 lbs. of dried apples, 12½ per lb. 4.00. 2 Miners Pans 62½ apiece 1.25. Payed \$.100 for Mr. Tucker Difference between boots.

Sunday, May 29. Started & drove up within 3 miles of the Fort Karney & camped for the day. Saw the first House today we have seen for 125 Miles & this one was made of Sods & covered with cloth. There was 4 of them all Rum Shops, 25cts. per drink.

Sunday, May 29. Fine Day. Baked Beans & Bread.

Monday, May 30. Started & came up to the fort & stopped about 2 hours & wrote two letters, one to Miss Abigail Whitehouse & one to G. M. French. Then went on & camped on the Bank of the Platte 7 Miles from Fort Kearney, cooked our Supper with Buffalow chips for the first time.

Tuesday, May 31. Cool this Morning. Started early. Drove by about 1500 cattle & passed Plum Creek & camped on the Bank of the Platte 40 Miles from the fort.

Wednesday June 1, 1859. Fine Morning. Mr. Hulbert unwell. Bin so for several Days. Drove about 20 miles & camped on the bank of the Platt In Company with 5 more teams.

Thursday, June 2. Started In good Season & at Noon

Drove 2½ to the River for water and at night found a good camping place with wood & water & grass on the bank of the Platte.

Friday June 3. Started In good Spirits & had a fine Day. Camped at night at Cotton Wood Springs, 45 miles from Plum Creek & did some Baking.

Saturday, June 4. Very fine Day. Laid over & enjoyed our selves. Baked some Bread. & did some washing.

Sunday, June 5. Beautiful Day. Had Buffalow Meat for Dinner & Supper and baked bread & beans.

Monday June 6. Very fine Morning. Started early & Drove untill noon. After Dinner I & Mr. Bixby went out Into the Bluffs & shot an antelope & brought It Some 8 miles before we Reached our camp. It was Splendid Meat. Gave most of It away to some Gentlemen Camped near by. The Rest we Sliced and Salted It.

Tuesday June 7. Splendid Morning. Drove on & I bought 2 gallons of Mollasses 1.00 per gall. Passed Ofallons Bluffs & put In a letter for Geo. L. Davis & camped 2 miles beyond the Station.

Wednesday June 8. Stopped for Mr. Clippinger In the Morning. Made an Encampment of Indians In P. M. Cheyennes. Stopped & let our cattle graze. Started & drove about 10 miles & camped on the bank of the Platte River.

Thursday June 9. Beautiful Morning. Passed the upper crossing of the South Platte & saw a number of teams going across the River to California. The water at the ford was from 1 to 4 feet. I bought 4 lbs of Sodi 25.cts per lb 1.00. Passed 7 lodges of Indians & camped 5 Miles beyond & Stopped untill Morning.

Friday June 10, 1859. Started this Morning before Breakfast & drove 2 Miles to get good grass for the Cattle. Got Breakfast & then Started on as usual & camped on the Bank of the Platte & found good feed.

Saturday June 11. fine Morning. Started Early & Made a good Drive but had hard Roads, Steep & Sandy.

Bought 3 lbs of Powder of a Man Returning. Gave 50.cts per lb. 1.50. Camped at night on the Bank of the Platte.

Sunday June 12. Stopped & did some Baking & rested the Cattle.

Monday June 13. Camped at night on the bank of the Platte as usual.

Tuesday June 14. Very warm day & Sandy Roads. Camped on the Platte & had good grass & plenty of water but not any wood.

Wednesday June 15, 1859. Cool Morning. Started Early & saw Antelope on the Prairie in flocks but did not get any. Passed Beaver Creek at night and found a good spring of water. Camped one mile beyond. Here We found some wood, the first we have seen for 100 Miles or More. We have to carry wood to cook with over this piece of the Road although you can get Willows & Buffalo Chips but they are very Scarce on account of their being Sutch an Emence Emigration.

Thursday June 16. fine Weather. Drove 16. Miles, the most of the way the Roads were very Sandy and on high table lands, to day we came In sight of the Mountains. they were 120 Miles from us & looked like clouds. Made Bijou Creek & camped for the night.

Friday June 17. Started Early. had heavy Roads all the way & very hot weather. Mountains In view & covered with Snow. Distance about 100. Camped on the bank of the Platte & had Venison for Supper.

Saturday June 18. Started Early as usual & Drove about 12. Miles & Stopped at noon In a valley by the Platte & fed our cattle and then went on & camped at night about 2 miles from the Road on the Bank of the Platte.

Sunday June 19. Stopped to Day as usual to Rest. had a good Camping ground with the exception of grass that being very scarce although we found some about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from camp. The Day was Extremely Hot. In the afternoon one of the Party that was camped with us went out & shot a doe. So we had Venison for Supper. had a little Shower during the night & cleared off in the Morning.

Monday June 20. Cool but fine weather for Traveling. got away by Sunrise. had good Roads & level. Made Duglass City. There was only one Shanty, one White Man & he living with two Indian Squaws. had 4 Papposes. Went on & camped at St. Vrain's fort. It is an old mud fort. No one lives there at the present time and has not for years. The Roof has bin torn off & the fort is going to Ruin very fast.

Tuesday June 21. got an Early Start. about an hour after we were on the Road one of the party Shot an Antelope. We Skinned It & our party took one hind quarter & gave the rest away. Went on & during the day passed several old forts, Bents or Lancasters & Lupins. There is a Ranch at one of them kept by a man by the name of Williams. at this point they talk of building a Bridge or ferry so that those wishing to go into the mountains need not go on up to Denver City, Some fifty Miles out of their way. Camped at night on the bank of the Platt. Wood, water & grass plenty and misquitos.

Wednesday June 2. Started at 5 oclock & Drove on within five Miles of Denver City & passed some cool springs of water. Stopped to let our cattle graze & get our Dinner. after Dinner Started and Drove Into Denver City. Stopped and looked over the letter list & Did not find any thing for me. This Is quite a place, a good many houses are commenced but not finished. Every thing Is hurry & bustle. Cherry Creek Is nothing but a Dry Sand Hole and Separates Denver from Orora. There is two Express Offices In this place but there will be a Regular Post Office & Is Established at the present time but the mail has not got In as yet. Camped just Below the city & Slept like a good fellow.

Thursday June 23. Very warm and Men have gone up into the city. Lost ours and this other company's cattle to Day & had a good Tramp after them. Found all of ours & one yoke of the others but one yoke are still missing. We

found them across the River In a crill [corral]. Took them out & paid 5 cts. apice & drove them across the Bridge & back to our Camp.

Friday June 24. Cool Morning. Started for the Mountains. Crossed the Platte by Bridge. 1.00 ferriage or toll paid by Davis then came on & crossed clear Creek by Bridge. It Is a very Rappid Stream. Ferriage or toll 1.10 paid by Hulbert, then camped at the foot of the mountains & stopped over night.

Saturday June 25. Arose, got Breakfast and settled up with Mr. Hulbert ballance Due Hulbert \$7.22. paid It & then went & got a stick of timber for a pole on our hind wheels so that we could pack them Into the Mountains then drove down to Mr. Clippingers Ranch & fitted up our cart.

Sunday June 26. Fine Morning. The wind a little fresh from Mountains. Washed ourselves clean & showed Due Respect to the Sabbath.

Monday June 27. Took one Share In the oxen & wagon. Mr. Hulbert set the whole team at one hundred & fifty Dollars, Making $37\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per share. we concluded to take them & pay for them after we had mined and got the money. bought one Mining Pan for 25 cts. and started for the mountains In good Spirits. found a Rough Road up through the gulches of the Mountains. It was up one mountain & down another. In the gulch or ravine we crossed one Small Stream about 50 times to the Mile. The Water as cold as Ice. Camped at Night In one of the Gulches & drove our cattle up into the Mountains to grase.

Tuesday June 28. Very cool. awoke almost froze to death, built a fire on the ground & got our Breakfast & Started on slow but sure. The woods has bin on fire In the Mountains & Several Men bin burned to Death while they were asleep In their tents. Passed a great many teams going & coming Into the Mountains with 4 yoke of oxen to one pair of hind wheels with about 4 or 5 hundred lbs. on & hard work at that. got to Gregory's Diggins In the afternoon, a Distance of 27 Miles from the foot of the Moun-

tains & found every thing In operation. Drove about 2½ beyond & camped for the night. found plenty of wood & water but feed for cattle very scarce.

Wednesday June 29. Arose & made a new Rack for our cart & Started one of each party back to the foot of the mountains for the Rest of our Provisions then five of us took our packs on our back & went out to Prospect. We went from Gregory's Diggins over the mountains to Jacksons Diggins & prospected a little & got the color but not enough to pay. at 4 oclock went over across Clear Creek to a meeting of the Miners called for the purpose of establishing some Laws to govern the Miners In regard to their Holding claims. Chairman was appointed & a committee appointed to draft the Res. and By Laws to Regulate the Mining District. The committee Retired to a brush Hut & drew up some Resolutions which were adopted. Resolutions 1" Res. that these diggins shall be called Jacksons Diggins & Shall extend one mile down & one mile up Clear Creek and one mile up Chicago Creek. Res. 2. Resolved that a bar claim shall be fifty feet In front & 200 ft. back & that a man shall have the privilege of bringing his water across another man's claim If he Dont Interfere with the other Mans Arrangements. Resl. 3". Resolved that a River claim shall be 100 ft. In length & extend from Bank to Bank. Resl. 4. Resolved that a man Shall not hold a claim unless he leaves one man or his tooles on It & then If vacated 4 Days he shall loose his claim. Resl. 5. Resolved that a man Shall not hold a claim In these Diggins If he holds one any where else. Resl. 6. Resolved that five men Shall Settle or Decide all Disputes which may arise between the Miners & which cannot be settled amongst them selves. Resolved that these Resolutions be wrote off & Posted up In several public places so that all may see them & the Meeting then Adjourned & we went back across Clear Creek to our little house which was made of Pine Boughs & got our Supper. Rolled up in our Blankets & went to sleep.

Thursday June 30. Arose bright & early & went out to prospect but found nothing that would pay but Returned to our Hut Hungry & tired. Got Supper & Retired to Rest & Slept like a brick.

Friday July 1, 1859. Went out on to the Mountains & prospected most of the Day without any success. Went back to our camp, got our Dinner & felt better but finding our provisions was getting short we started for our camp & got In just at Dark. got Supper & Retired to bed In our tent.

Saturday July 2. Beautiful Morning. Started out to look for a quarts leed & examined several. Went over to Gregory's Diggins & to the Express Office but got no letters or papers. Returned to camp In the afternoon. went out & prospected & got about 10cts. to the pan.

Sunday July 3. fine Morning to day we Rest. We have news that two men were killed by the Utes Indians. The third man got away by Hiding under a Rock untill Dark and then Started out to make his way back but got lost & had to sleep In the snow about 7 ft. Deep and almost froze himself. The next day he came into camp very hungry, not haveing any thing to eat for 2 days & his clothes all torn off of him by skulking through the bushes. A Meeting of the Miners was called that evening & several hundred miners volunteered to go out & fight the Indians, so they got up a Subscription & furnished them with provisions & they were off the next morning by Day light. Some on horses & Mules & some on foot. We have not heard from them since. We had Preaching In the Mines to Day. Went out & got a pan of dirt & paned It out & got 12 cts. to the pan. to night the boys came up from the foot of the Mountains with another load of Provisions.

Monday July 4, 1859. the Miners burnt some Powder this Morning but worked about all day & some of them untill 12 oclock at night. We went out Prospecting to day but found nothing to pay us although we made several claims which as soon as [illegible] is plenty will pay to work. Mr. Homes found & jumped 5 or 6 claims.

Tuesday July 5. Started this morning over the Mountains to Prospect. Staked Several claims & prospected same. Found something that would pay 10 cts. to the pan & from that to 30. So we stopped & concluded we would drain the creek & go to Mineing. Sent Mr. Homes after the team & Provisions & to order Some Lumber for Sluices. the Rest of us Stayed in the woods & built us a brush House for the night & went to bed but Had not been In bed one half of an hour before we heard fire Rushing through the trees turned out & fought with our shovells & water and put It almost out & then went to bed again, but had to turn out several times During the night to save our Lives.

Wednesday July 6. had a fine Day. Staked out a Rout for a ditch to drain the creek. Made it about one thousand ft. carried the water up about 800 ft. fire Raging through the woods all of the time. Some Sixteen men were burnt to Death In the woods & Mules. at about 2 oclock 4 of the party went down the creek to cut a road for our team to get In but they did not get In within 2 miles of us that night, so we being out of Provisions had to go to our wagons for our Supper. got It. Rolled up In our blankets on the ground & went to Sleep.

Thursday July 7. Started for our claims with the wagon. Mr. Paine & Party went on a head & cut a Road through the woods over the Mountain. got to our claims about 10 oclock & Started the men back after the Remainder of the Provisions & Some of us went to work Digging & clearing off the brush & digging a hole to put our provisions In In case of fire.

Friday July 8. Mr. Lee Surprised us about 10 or 11 oclock at night & Stopped with us all night & Showed us Some quartz he had found & then he went back to his train In the Morning. We then went to work, a part of us Digging a tail Race & the Rest of us clearing the land & getting Ready for Mineing. at night Mr. Hulbert came up with the team & the rest of the provisions that we had in the Moun-

tains. they bought a whip saw & gave 20. Dollars for It & a frying Pan which he gave 1.00 for.

Saturday July 9, 1859. arose got Breakfast & Made Preparations for Sawing Lumber. then the Rest of us went to digging our tail Race. got along very well with all of our work. one of the Men in the Party below us Shot himself to day through the bowells through mistake & carelessness.

Sunday July 10. fine Morning. Went to Gregory's Diggings to Meeting about 7 miles. there was 4 Meetings held all out of Doores & good Meetings too. went & took Dinner with the Hall Boys & then Started for home. got home just at Dusk. had a little Shower In the Afternoon the first we have had for 2 Months.

Monday July 11. Cool Morning. had Some dispute about our claims but Made It all Right. Worked hard all Day Stripping off the top dirt.

Tuesday July 12. had a Smart Shower & Hale Storm so we did the day before but kept ground Sluceing & Digging on our tail Race. to day Mr. Homes went to town for Letters but got none for himself. got one for Mr. Hulbert & one for Mr. Paine, they were Dated almost 3 months ago.

Wednesday July 13. beautiful Morning. Mr. Bixby went for the cattle which had got Lost the Day before & I & Mr. Hulbert finished making the Sluece boxes. got them done at Dinner time & In the Afternoon went to work In the tail Race & at 4 oclock went to a Miners Meeting about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below our camp & I was appointed one of a committee of three to Draft Some by Laws & Rules to govern the Miners & Mineing District. our Report was accepted with but few amendmets & then I was appointed by Resolution Clerk to Copy & put up notices of the Laws & keep the minutes of the Meetings.

Thursday July 14. Went to work digging our tail Race. had a Rain & hale Storm In the afternoon about 3 oclock. Dug a Ditch to Drain our tail Race.

Friday July 15. Went to work Digging In the tail Race trying to get down to the bed Rock, thought we Reached It at noon. In the afternoon put In 7 sluces & went to ground Sluceing from the bank into the Sluce boxes. had a Shower In the afternoon.

Saturday July 16. went Sluceing. Mr. Hulbert unwell. Mr. Bixby went to hunt the oxen. had a call from 2 Miners Requesting me to call a Meeting. I wrote two notices & gave them to put up & at 5 oclock went down about 2 miles & attended the meeting but the opposing Party Did not appear & the meeting Adjourned with Instructions how to Proceed as per Resl. 8.

Sunday July 17. Went to town to meeting & to Express office for Letters but did not get any. had a Shower as usual In the afternoon. got home at Dark.

Monday July 18. put In three more Sluces & went to work. did not clean up because we were Running off our top Dirt which did not pay much.

Tuesday July 19. Rained In the night but cleared off In the Morning & was very cold. Worked all Day Sluceing. Had a Hale Storm at Noon.

Wednesday July 20. Worked all Day. Reached the bed Rock at night but did not find any gold on It. Had a Rain & Hale Storm at Noon & again at Night. Tucker & Paine who had bin gone to the foot of the Mountains Since Monday Morning for the Remainder of our Provisions Returned to night & brought Mr. Homes & Companys wagon & all of our Provisions & traps.

Thursday July 21. Slept wet all Night & got up In the Morning as stiff as a tent Pole. went to work & Prospected a hole In one of our claims, In the A .M. but It Rained In the afternoon So we Did Not do any thing but paned out the Dirt In the Sluce boxes & got about 500 corse gold.

Friday July 22. Cool but clear. bixby out hunting the oxen but did not find them. we worked all of the Morning & at about 9 oclock I was called upon to go down below 2½ miles to Settle a dispute In Regard to some Claims. 5 men

were chosen as arbitrators & gave the claims to the complainants. got back at Dinner time but It rained all of the afternoon so we could not work.

Saturday July 23. Fare weather this Morning but set in and Rained again at 8 oclock & continued to Rain all Day. I & Mr. Paine, Homes & Hulbert went out to hunt the oxen. travelled all day over the Mountains & found them at last. Returned wet to the skin. bought $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of beaf steak $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per lb. had Some of It for supper.

Sunday July 24. went to Gregorys diggings to meetings & to the Express office & got a letter from Abigail Whitehouse, Glochester, New Jersey Dated June 20, posted up Some Notices to call a Meeting on Monday Evening at 5 oclock got back home at 6 oclock.

Monday July 25. Cool Morning. organized into a company & put Mr. Holmes In as Pres. Mr. Hulbert as treasurer & Mr. Bixby as Secretary and made a law that if a man was sick & could not work that he should pay one ninth of what his share was & not to exceed 2.00 per day. went to a Miners Meeting & Amended some of the old Resolutions & made some new ones and was elected as Recorder of this District.

Missouri Gulch, July 13th, 1859.

A Meeting was held this afternoon for the purpose of adopting some Rules & by Laws to govern this Mining District & the following were adopted. on Motion Mr. Charles Homes be President of the Meeting.

Resolved that three men be appointed to Draft Some by Laws & Regulations to govern this mining District. the Committees Report was accepted with but few amendments.

1". Resolved that these diggings be called the Missouri Gulch & shall extend from the catarack or water fall up to its head & its tributaries.

2". Resolved that a gulch claim Shall be 100 ft. In Length & Extend from Bluff to Bluff.

3". Resolved that a dry claim Shall be 100 ft. Square

on a dry gulch or draw & a notice shall hold good until water can be obtained.

4". Resolved that a quartz claim Shall be 100 ft. by 50 ft.

5. Resolved that each Miner or Company of Miners shall have the privilege of Cutting a tail Race through below him or them so as to drain his claim.

6." Resolved that a Miner or Company of Miners Shall not take the water by any other claim or claims so as to conflict with the Interests of any Miner or Company of Miners below him or them & that the oldest claim Shall have the first privilege of the water If necessary.

7" Resolved that no claims shall hold good longer than six days If not worked.

8" Resolved that five disinterested men shall settle or decide all difficulties In regard to Mining holding claims. (Torn away here.)

9" Resolved that a Man May hold one claim of each Kind, quartz, gulch & dry claim as named In Resolutions 3 & 4 & one by purchase of each kind.

10" Resolved that persons on this gulch may hold a claim although he or they may be at work In company on another claim not connected with his.

11" Resolved that Sylvester Davis be appointed Clerk & shall have the power to call a Meeting whenever nessisary as by a request of the Miners.

SYLVESTER DAVIS, *Sec.*

Missouri Gulch, July 25th, 1859.

MR. HOMES, *President.*

A meeting was held this afternoon & the following Resolutions were amended.

Resolution 8. as amended. Resolved that five disinterested men Shall Settle or decide all difficulties In Regard to Mining holding claims by a meeting being called of the Miners. Each Party Shall choose two Men & the four Shall choose the fifth & If Either party does not appear they Shall be nonsuited & that Shall Settle the case or Dispute.

Res. 10. as amended. Resolved that persons on this gulch May hold a claim although he or they may be at work in company on another claim not Connected with his, provided he puts up a Notice to that effect as where he may be found on the gulch & his name.

12 Resolved that each man Shall have the privilege of buying & holding as Many Claimes by purchase as he will work or cause to be worked.

13 Resolved that the purchaser shall have the claim or claimes purchased recorded within twenty days after—
(torn away here)

the price of Recording a claim. Resolved that It be one Dollar.

Tuesday July 26. Worked hard all day. had one man call to Day to have his claim Recorded. did not Rain to day. Benjamin Lake came up to Day & I sold him one half of my claim for a Sharps Rifle.

Wednesday July 27. Went to & dug our tail Race deeper.

Thursday July 28. fine Morning but cool. dug In our tail Race & sluiced the Dirt & got some gold. did not Rain to Stop us from work but it showered all Day.

Friday July 29. very pleasant Morning. Worked hard all day & got Some gold. did not Rain to day.

Saturday July 30. Mr. Tucker Started for the States to day & Mr. Holmes for Denver to the convention.

Sunday July 31. cloudy in the A. M. & had a violent Hale Storm In the P. M.

Monday August 1, 1859. Very cool but clear. Cleaned out our tail Race & dug Into the bank some but did not get much gold. Mr. Hulbert & Bixby went to sawing out lumber for a tom.

Tuesday August 2. fine morning. Extended our tail Race In the fore noon. In the after noon brought our Sluices up & put them In above but the Rain & Hale drove us out for a while.

Wednesday Aug. 3. Cool Damp Morning. got some gold. did not Rain but haled very hard.

Thursday Aug. 4. beautiful Morning. worked all day did not Rain. got some gold.

Friday Aug. 5. Cool but fair worked all Day & got a little gold.

Saturday Aug. 6. warmer than usual. worked all day & did very well. Struck our pay dirt to day.

Sunday Aug. 7. beautiful Day went to town to day. did not get any letters. people most all left Gregories diggins for the Collarado.

Monday August 8. fine Day. ground Sluiced all Day.

Tuesday August 9. had a lame back & did not work to Day. the party got Dissatisfied on account of Some Lazy ones not doing their part & divided the claims & each man took his claim of 100 ft & went on his own hook.

Wednesday August 10. Did not do any thing to day but went to town. traded for a pair of India boots. paid one brest Pin & recorded 8 claims for them. In the morning Mr. Hulbert gave me his watch worth 50 cts. & told me to trade It off for something so I did & got him a double barrelled Shot gun. & traded some vinegar, one gallon for 18 lbs. of Beans.

Thursday August 11. Mr. Powells party left to. Rained In the afternoon. went down & worked on Powells claims to try them. did not pay very well.

Friday August 12. Cool Morning. did Nothing to day.

Saturday August 13. very cool Morning. Mr. Bixby & my self went out to take a hunt. we went up on to one of the highest peaks with the exception of Pikes peak & Longs Peak. had a fine view of the Snowy Range & Surrounding Country & the valley of the Platte.

Sunday August 14. Rained all Day. did Some washing to day. Mr. Hulbert went to Gregories Diggins & got a letter for Mr. Bixby.

Monday August 15. went down the gulch & Made Arrangements for a wagon to take our Provisions down to the

foot of the Mountains & I went the whole length of the gulch & Recorded all of the Claims I could get to Record & at Night took our Cattle out of the Ranch & I paid for the Ranching of them four Dollars then hitched them to the wagon & brought It up to our tent.

Tuesday August 16. Packed all of our traps & I & Mr. Bixby bought out Mr. holmes half of the whip Saw gave him after deducting out what the saw had earned, 11.80 & took out what had bin payed out for beaf 5.85 then we gave him 6.00 for his Share 3.00 apiece & then we started with our team for the foot of the mountains & got about 4 miles & camped for the night. after Supper It Rained very hard & wet us all through & our brush House also. after It Stopped we built a large fire In front of our House & Dried our selves & bed clothes & went to bed & slept sound on the ground.

Wednesday August 17. Arose before Sun Rise & let our oxen out to feed. three of our men went out & took a Hunt & got a black tailed Deer. they brought In the hind quarters & then we Started & drove to the Toll Road which saves going over Several large hills which are very Steep. the toll was 100 but he let us through for 75cts. Mr. Hulbert payed one half of the toll 37½cts. & the other party the other half & went on & camped for the night on the top of a high Hill. It Rained very hard in the fore part of the night.

Thursday August 18. foggy & Rainey. got our Breakfast & Started on & got to the foot of the Mountains or Rap-pahoe about 2 oclock & put on our traps Into our wagon & found several pieces of the wagon missing & did not pay the storage nor Ranch Bill but Started for a Black Smith Shop to get it Repaired. took our wheels off & put them into Clear Creek to Swell.

Friday August 19. very pleasant Morning. Started for Denver & got there after Dinner & bought some bacon 30 lbs. 25cts. per lb. Mr. Bixby paid 3.45 & Mr. Hulbert 4.05 got some Molasses 2 gallons 2.50 per gallon. Hulbert

paid 2.25 & Davis 2.75 & then we bought 20 lbs of Sugar 20cts. per lb. Davis paid for It 4.00 & wrote & put a letter in the office for George L. Davis, Shrensbury, Massachusetts, then took both of my guns up to Mr. Hawkins, the gun smith to get them Repaired. had the tumbler which was broke mended & a new tube put In.

Saturday Aug. 20. got up early & Mr. Hulbert took the team & Started out to get some feed for the oxen & Mr. Bixby and My self stopped In town to get our guns. I bought one bottle of olive oil & paid 1.25 for It & paid 2.00 for Repairing Guns & then went on & overtook Mr. Hulbert about 6 miles up the Platte above Denver. here we camped for the night.

Sunday August 21. travelled all day to catch up with some waggons which were ahead of us but did not see them. went across & did not get any water all Day but saved 10 Miles travell & camped at night within one mile of the Saw Mill on or about Plum Creek.

Monday Aug. 22. pleasant Morning Started on & went by the saw mill and struck the platte Road on Plum Creek & followed It all Day & camped on Plum Creek at night.

Tuesday August 23. Cool Morning. Drove one half Day & then Stopped & went up Into the Mountains & Casems. Some of which were very Large 60 ft. long by 20 wide & 30 ft. high & other smaller ones. the Rest of the boys Hulbert & Bixby went over the Mountains to look for gold & returned late In the evening & brought some Relics of the Indians or which had bin used by the Indians, Arrow heads & curious pieces of stone.

Wednesday Aug. 24. very fine Morning. Arose & got breakfast. bought 2 quarts of milch of a man that was camped close to us 10cts per qt. I paid for one half & Bixby the other then I & Bixby went out to prospect. went about 5 miles & dug a hole a ft deep & did not get the cholor. tried It on the bed Rock & did not get It & gave It up & picked our

pan part full of Raspberries & came home & made them into Pies. & Made a pot pie of Antelope for supper.

Thursday August 25. very cool but clear. Hitched up our team and Started on. Mr. Bixby & I went out a hunting & did not get In until 4 oclock P. M. Saw 25 Antelope but did not get any. Made a Dinner out of choak cherries & goosberries. Came In to the wagon & got a bite & Mr. Hulbert & I went out & stayed untill Dark but had the same Luck. Got In, took our supper & gave a Stranger his supper & let him sleep In our tent. he had Lost his team & could not overtake It that night.

Friday August 26. beautiful Morning. Started & Drove on to Red Rock & there met one of the Hall boys & Mr. Sargents party & camped with them for the night.

Saturday August 27. fine Morning. Started on Leaving Pikes Peak, Sodi Springs & a small town by the name of Red Rock on our Right a few Miles & followed fountain quiboulle right Down. Mr. Bixby killed a wolf In the afternoon. We made a good Drive to Day & passed the Road that Leads to Denver by way of Cherry Creek & camped on the fountain quiboulle at night. Thundered all night off In the Mountains beyond Pikes Peak but did not Rain on us In the valley.

Sunday August 28. OH! tis a beautiful morning, a fine breeze just cool enough to make a fellow feel good. comes down from the Snow Range & here we are without our coats on & bare footed & as hearty as bucks, thank god for our good health & the pure Mountain that we breath. After Dinner Yoked up our oxen & Drove on about 5 miles to get feed for our cattle. Striped our selves & took a wash in the water which comes Down from the mountains.

Monday August 29. foggy & Rainey untill about noon then cleared off & was quite pleasant In the afternoon. we killed three Jack ass Rabbits which will last us several Days for meat for they are very large. Camped at night on the fountain quiboulle.

Tuesday August 30. pleasant. Drove on & came to Fountain City, a small place with about 15 mud houses. the Inhabitants were about all Americans. they Raise some vegetables, water melons & musk melons, cucumbers, corn, turnips &c by irrigating the soil. we passed on to the right of the town & forded the arkansas River & camped for the rest of the day & had Splendid feed for our Cattle. Got some grapes In the weeds where we camped.

Wednesday August 31. foggy & Rainey. Drove 15 Miles without seeing wood or water but the road was as levell as a house floor. got to wood & water there being no feed for our cattle we took a cold bite under the largest cotton wood tree I ever saw. It was 25 feet in circumferance then went on, It Raining all the time as hard as It could pour untill we found feed then camped but the Soil was so clayi that we could not find a place to pitch out tent so we had to sleep In the Wagon. When we were Stakeing our oxen I killed the largest Rattle Snake that I ever saw. he Had 11 Rattles on. Rained all night very hard. Slept with our wet clothes on & came out as limber as eels In the Morning.

Thursday September 1. Rained as hard as ever all Day. passed one old Stock Ranch 700 Cattle In it & forded severall small Streams which had Raised very high since the Rain had commenced & were very rappid. camped at night on the bank of a small stream, built us a fire In front of our tent and went to bed but the wolves Disturbed our Slumbers Several times During the night & we got up & tried to get a Shot at them but It was so Dark we could not See them.

Friday September 2. foggy & cool. Drove on untill about Noon & camped on the bank of a Stream that was so high & Rappid that we couldnt ford It with Safety. Saw Several flocks of Antelopes During the A. M. but got none of them. In the afternoon Mr. Hulbert went out & shot a wild Turkey which was very nice.

Saturday Sep. 3. fine Morning but the water was so

high that we could not cross so we all went out a Hunting & got several Turkeys.

Sunday September 4. foggy. the water had fallen Several Inches so we yoaked our oxen and Drove across & camped on the other side all Day, It being Sunday. Mr. Hulbert & I went up the creek to see if we could find one of the turkeys that Mr. Bixby shot but did not get the day before. We found It & tracked a large bear for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles but could not find him.

Monday September 5. Cool & Raining. got our cattle & Started & Drove untill two oclock & camped by the side of a small stream called the Green Horn. Some of our boys were out a Hunting & did not get in untill late so we Did not Start untill the next Day. Mr. Hulbert & Bixby brought In an Antelope we skined It & had some of It for Supper. Rained at Night.

Tuesday Sept. 6. Repaired the bridge a little & Started on with a fair prospect of fine weather & made a good Long Drive over beautiful Prairie leaving the Snow Covered Range of Mountains on our Right. Camped at night on the bank of a small [torn] In company with two other wagons from Mora loaded with flour bound for Bolder City.

Wednesday September 7. fine Morning. Drove on to a small creek over good land & camped & found the bushes covered with wild plumbs the Largest I ever saw & very Sweet.

Thursday Sept. 8. fair but cool went out & picked about one bushell of the plumbs & then forded the creek & went on our way which was over the Rattoon Mountains & we had a nice Mountain Road as ever I saw. Camped In the Mountains at night & found a plenty of Choak Cherries where we camped. our cattle Strayed away or was frightened by a Bear During the night.

Friday Sept. 9. Went after our cattle & found them about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond where we camped. Drove them back & got our Breakfast & Started on. met two wagons & several Men, Mexicans & Americans on Ponies. Drove on

& In the afternoon had Some very bad Road but got over It & got to the foot of the Mountains & camped for the night.

Saturday Sept. 10. beautiful Morning the Sky as clear as a bell & the air mild we Drove untill 7 oclock In the Evening & found no wood & not any water but camped for the night & took a cold bite & went to bed.

Sunday Sept. 11 fogy & Rainey arose before Daybreak & Started on to find wood & water & Drove untill 10 oclock A. M. before we found any water & not but little wood then we camped for the Day & the Dutchman that were In company with us went on again at noon for the want of Provisions. we stoped untill

Monday Sept. 12 & It continued to Rain so thought we would not Start untill It stoped & It continued on untill night So we did not Start at all. In the Evening just as we were going to bed we were Supprised by a party of Comanche Indians. they crossed the creek & Drove up to our camp I expected we were gone up there being only three of us but they were friendly & we gave them a pot of coffey & some bread & they made a fire by the side of our tent & all Sat Down & eate their Supper After they were through they went about 4 Rods from our tent & cut some bushes Stuck them Into the ground, twisted the tops together Spread their blankets over It & went to bed. we kept watch all night but they did not come near us.

Tuesday Sept. 13. before Day Break we heard some more Indians coming. we hardly knew what to do but concluded to Stay where we were & If they molested us to Sell out as Dear as possible so we got out Rifles all In Readiness for a life or Death Struggle. they came on about 50 of them all on mules, Men, Squaws, Pappooses. They Stopped a little while & wanted some thing to eat but we told them there was too many of them they would Eat us all out & they all went on but 6 & we got them a hard buscuit apiece & on they went. after breakfast we hitched up & went on after them as they were going the same way that we were. Camped at night In Rio Valley, a beautiful place where

there were thousands of Sheep & Cattle & had a fine nights Rest.

Wednesday Sept. 14. foggy but quite warm. Drove over beautiful Prairies & passed the little town called Rio, Leaving It on our Right about two miles. the Comanches were there trading their mules for ponies. Rio Is a Small place. there Is a few Spaniards & 5 or 6 Americans. we passed on & came to some men cutting Hay for the government cutting & stacking for 5.00 per ton. we conversed with them some & went on & camped at night In a valley by the side of a lake which was covered with mud hens. the valley was Surrounded by Mountains on all sides but It was one of the pleasantest you would find In a days Drive.

Thursday Sept. 15. Oh! Tis a Splendid Morning & warm as July I went out & shot some of the Ducks they were as fat as a ball of butter then we started on & got to the Okata Creek at noon Took Dinner & went on following behind 10 Government wagons loaded with Hay bound (to) fort Unions. we camped at night by the side of the Road & close to a Small Lake but had not any wood So we took a cold Bite & while we were doing that out oxen got away & we could not find them that night.

Friday Sept. 16. pleasant Morning arose before Sunrise & went after the oxen & found them about three miles from camp. Drove them back & got breakfast & started on & got to Fort Union at noon, there being no feed about the fort we took a cold bite & drove on to find feed for our oxen & wood & water for our selves which we found about 3 miles from the fort, up a canon, on the road to Mora. In the Mountains camped at night by the side of a little stream where we had a plenty of water, wood & grass for our cattle.

Saturday Sept. 17. fine but cool untill the sun comes out & then very warm. Started for Mora, 18 miles from fort Union through some of the Beautifulest valleys I ever saw all Encompassed by high Mountains & the Rocks set up edgeways. we Drove within 3 miles of Mora & camped

In the Suberbs of the town or the valley of Mora, where they Raise wheat, corn, potatoes In abundance & the nicest wheat I ever saw. they thresh It on the ground In large yards 25 ft. In Diameter. turn In cows, Mules, goates, sheep &c & Drive them around over It to clear It up they use wooden bowles & a little whisp.

Sunday Sept. 18. Splendid Morning got some milch & some green corn & kept the sabath. Did Some washing & took a bath our selves.

Monday Sept. 19. fine Morning. got some more Milch & corn 35 cts. & Started for Mora & got there about 10 oclock A. M. & camped within a few rods of town & went In & saw the fashins.

Tuesday Sep. 20. heavy Dew During the night almost like a Shower of Rain but the Sun Is very warm when It Strikes Down Into the valley & Dries It up very fast. to Day we Drove out to the base of the mountain & to the mouth of a canion & found grass, wood & water & camped there for a while & went Into town to see if we could (find) any thing to Do for the winter. to Day they Started the first Reaper that they ever had In New Mexico & all of the people In Town were out to see It run. we got some peaches to Day & they were very good. they were Raised at San Miguel about 45 miles from Moro where they Raise apples, peaches, plums, charries, water mellons.

Wednesday Sept. 21. Splendid Morning. Mr. Bixby & my self went up the Canon to see If we could find any gold but without success. came back & did some washing.

Thursday Sept. 22. Very fine Morning. went to town to Day & Stayed untill noon but Saw Nothing of Importance. Sugar of all kinds sells for three bits per lb. calicoes 6 yards for 100 all kinds. Shoes of all kinds from a fine Ladys Slipper up to a mans brogan 1.75, flour 700 per 100 lbs. wheat 150 per fanego 2½ bushells.

Friday Sept. 23. nice but cool. at noon yoked our oxen & Started for Las Vegas which was about 18 miles from Mora. we passed through one Small villiage & camped at

night in a beautiful Valley where there was a plenty of wood, water & grass & all hemmed in by lofty Ranges of Mountains. The valleys are generally covered with Sheep, goats, cows & oxen, mules, Ponies &c.

Saturday Sept. 24. fine Morning. Started on & passed one small town, and came to Sapio, another small town with one store & that kept by an American. there was a flowering mill to be Started the same Day we were there about 2 miles above town on the creek by the same name (Sapio). there is also a saw Mill in the vicinity of Sapio. we Drove on & camped in a valley without wood & nothing but alkali water for ourselves & cattle, the ground was covered with white & very poor grass.

Sunday Sept. 25. beautiful Morning. the men & women are Returning on mules & Jack asses from the fandango which they have bin to during the night at Las Vagas. A Man & woman are on an ass & both astride of him & a baby in her arms. we packed up & Drove out about 3 miles & found a stream of better water, feed & grass, wood &c. camped for the Day within 2 Miles of Las Vagas, at night just as we were going to bed a thunder storm arose & the wind blew violently & the rain was very cold but it Stopped in about one hour & we went to Sleep.

Monday Sept. 26. Very cool. the Mountains off north of us were covered with Snow During the night. Mr. Bixby & I went on to Las Vagas & looked around. It is quite a place but business was very Dull & we found nothing to do. we Returned to camp at night very tired.

Tuesday Sept. 27. fine morning. Started & Drove our team up to Las Vagas. Made Some Enquiries about the Road & went on. we carried Water & camped at noon where the grass was Rather Short took a cold bite & Drove on & Drove untill late in the Evening before we found water & that was not fit for man or Beast to Drink. we Drove over the best Road I ever saw the color of the Soil was Red & the valleys were Dotted with trees all the way Saw the tree called the Pinone. we camped & took a cold

bite & then watched our cattle all night for fear of their being Stolen.

Wednesday Sept. 28. fine Morning. Started & Drove on over a nice Road through the Mountains. passed one Mud House (by the way I wish to have it understood that all of the Houses In this country are built of mud.) he had a small garden, beans, turnips, onions & tobacco were all the productions. we went Into the House & found things very neat. the ground was partly covered with buffalo & sheep Skins & a bench ran along $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way around the Room & just large enough for one to lay on. besides this was one table, a bottle of whiskey. the family consisted of one young man, two women & about one Dozzen children all about of one Size and all naked. we passed on & camped In the valley but found no water except what stood In pools & that was thick as mud & full of sheep & goat manure but we made It go. watched our cattle all night.

Thursday Sept. 29. cool & windy. Drove on & came to Antoncheco, a Small town. here we crossed a River & Drove on over a very Rough Road up over the mountain & the wind blowing a liveing gale from the north west. we camped on the top of the Mountain & found no Water & grass very short but we had some water In our Keg to cook with So we made out. two waggons camped with us, both American men & they had a Dog. we Did not watch our cattle.

Friday Sept. 30. Cool, water froze $\frac{1}{4}$ of an Inch In our water bucket. Drove on & camped at night In the Mountains & did not have any water for our selves or Cattle but found good feed. the Nut Pine grows In abundance all through this Section of the country & the nuts are very good.

Saturday Oct. 1, 1859. fine Morning. Started & Drove on to find water & Drove about 18 miles before we Stopped or found any & then In Small ponds but we were glad enough to get that for we were very Dry & our cattle to for it was almost night when we got there. we filled all of our

kegs after letting our cattle drink all they would & got our Dinner & then Drove about one mile to get wood & grass & camped for the night.

Sunday Oct. 2. very cool but pleasant. did not Start to Day. Laid by & Rested our Cattle & Drove them about one mile to get water but had good feed.

Monday Oct. 3. Cool. Ice In the () $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch thick but very hot as soon as the sun came out. Mr. Bixby went out & Shot an Antelope & came on & overtook the wagons & got two Mules & went back after the Antelope. We Drove on untill about 11 oclock at night & found Some grass but no water. built a camp fire & let our cattle feed a little then drove them up & staked them down and went to bed.

Tuesday Oct. 4. fine weather. found water for our Cattle at 11 oclock & then drove on untill noon & stoped & got our Dinner & then I & Mr. Bixby went on a head to find the mill at Canion Seat [Cañoncito]. found It & all three of (us) got jobs. we Drove our team up by the Mill & camped for the night.

Wednesday Oct. 5. cool but fair. went to work for Mr. Hubble, as Engineer on a new Steam Engine just Set up & the first job I had to do was to make a joint under the boiler to connect the mud or blow off Pipe then repaired some Small joints & screwed up the bolts In the Drum.

Thursday Oct. 6. Splendid Morning. Started up & run a few Moments & the joints under the Boiler gave out & we had to blow off the Boiler & make a new joint.

Friday Oct. 7. filled the Boiler with the assistance of all carrying water In buckets & got ready to Start In the morning.

Saturday Oct. 8. Started up & run all Day & sawed lumber.

Sunday Oct. 9. very fine. Did some washing & went up to the Spring.

Monday Oct. 10. Fair. Started up & run all Day very well.

Tuesday Oct. 11. Cool. had a violent Hale Storm.

Wednesday 12. All went well but the saw. the Sawyer could not make It Run Right.

Thursday Oct. 13. fair. we run the mill day and night. things began to go very well & the lumber to Roll out.

Friday Oct. 14. The Mill goes very well but Shakes some as yet.

Saturday Oct. 15. the Rain Stopped us from Running the Mill not being covered. we cast the belts off & worked about the engine.

Sunday Oct. 16. worked all Day about the Engine Packing.

Monday Oct. 17. Cool but showery. went to Board with Mr. Hubble at noon. Mr. Bixby came to learn to run the engine to Day.

Tuesday Oct. 18. Fair but cool. bought one pair of Shoes of Mr. Hubble, 1.60 paid for them.

Wednesday Oct. 19. To day we sold Mr. Hubble the Remainder of our Provisions & Everything went off well until

Saturday 22 when one of our valves Stopped working & we had to blow off the boiler & examine It & found It completely coated over with a sort of Lime & Sand. got them all Right again & run very well untill

Tuesday Oct. 25 at night while I was gone to my Supper Mr. John Hubble Started the Engine with Sutch a head of Steam as to break the Saw Sash Pitman.

Thursday Oct. 27. had a Snow Storm but the snow all went off in the Morning.