

A TRIP TO KANSAS AND RETURN

MAY 20, 1872, TO JUNE 27, 1872

BY BENJAMIN F. PEARSON

This record is part of a diary kept by one of the most generous of souls in southern and eastern early Iowa, a farmer, mechanic, contractor and builder. A valiant Christian and Union soldier in the Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry, his diary for the war days was published in the ANNALS from October, 1925, to January, 1927.

Earlier and later than this trip in 1872, many Iowa families from Van Buren, Davis, Lee, Henry and other counties made similar trips over the identical or parallel roads, and in the identical manner, with such variations natural in differing purposes, morals, and degrees of wealth. There followed the building of homes and churches in Kansas that remain tangible forces to this day in that state.—E. R. Harlan.

Monday, May 20, 1872. [Wind] Variable. At 7½ oc.¹ I left my pleasant home at Keosauqua Iowa & brother Wm & my son Augustus accompanied me to Pittsburg, there brother J. J. Miller and Jesse W. Hambleton met me, & we then started together, that is J. Hambleton, J. J. Miller & I for Kansas to look at the country & if we liked it locate our soldiers' clames. Brother Miller & I each furnishing a horse to my wagon, we pased on beyond Lebanon and stoped fed & then on to my brother Augustus's, Davis County called a short time and then on to Bloomfield, Co Seat of Davis Co & we put up with my Nephew John Campbell and brother Hambleton & I attended the Odd Fellows Lodge and my nephew Dodge Swearengen was initiated. After the lodge closed I went and stayed the night with Dodge and the other two stayed with my other newpew John Campbell.

Tuesday, May 21. Variable, wth showers and heavy rain at night. At 7 Oc A.M. we started from My nephew's in Bloomfield & passed along found the roads terably muddy and at about four Oc P.M. we got stuck in the mud got our horses both down but after unhiching we got our horses out and by the aid of a long rope we had provided we fastened to the end of the wagon tongue & got our horses on good footing & got out without serious damage & halted for the night at

¹We have generally followed so far as possible the original diary in its spelling, capitalizing, use of characters, punctuation, etc.—Editor.

Wm Clark's and found him a warmhearted methodist brother gave us good stabling & feed & hay for our horses & good accomodations. Supper, Lodging and breakfast and would take no pay. He had attended a camp meeting near Unionville Appanoose Co when Rev James Hare had charge of that work and heard me Sing and preach at that meeting before the war, & from impressions I made on him there, he gladly accommodated us and had me sing for him The Church Like A Ship &c. We had a good social religious time.

Wednesday, May 22. Variable, wth showers at 7 Oc A.M. we start from Brother Wm Clark's, 10 miles east of Centerville after the Social religious hospitalities of a good liberal Christian and passed on into Centerville. Then took dinner with young Mr. Packard and had our horses fed by him. Kindly, without receiving anything of us save our prayers and best wishes. He is Wm Packard's son, and while we were stoped here, I bought a span of large horses from Wm Packard and gave him a receipt for two hundred and sixty-five dollars to be credited on his Notes and Mortgage to me. After I bought the horses from him I hired a Mr. Levi Thomas to take My horse and J. J. Miller's that we had started with back to Keosauqua we wrote and sent a letter by him to our wives. After starting him we drove on into Centerville the Co Seat of Appanoose Co here we stop to get my new horses shod and get my wagon axles cut off & made narrow tread.² I find a hearty welcome by many old friends & I took supper and spent the night with Capt T. M. Fee, Cap of my Company in the 36 Iowa Inf't in the late war. I attended prayer meeting this evening with my former [Captain], T. M. Fee, bless the Lord.

Thursday, May 23. Variable, with appearance of rain. After a pleasant night with my old Cap T. M. Fee and his family I took breakfast with them, then called on many old friends among them Lieut. Col. F. M. Drake³ of our Regt. & Lieut Johnson and numerous civillians and had a very plesant time indeed. I took dinner with my old friend Michner in company with Lieut Johnson formerly of our Regt. P.M. we left Centerville and drove some 10 or 12 miles west & put up with Mr. Squire Bare and a very clever man & fine family his good wife is severely afflicted with Rheumatism. We had a real good social religious time with them and found them as we believe true christians.

Friday, May 24. Variable. After a good social time and a good breakfast we started from Squire Bare's & passed on through Promise City a small town 9 miles east of Corydon Co Seat of Wayne Co Iowa & on through Corydon, halted at a small creek near a farm, names forgotten.

Saturday, May 25. Variable and warm with clear evening and night

²Up to this time the ordinary farm wagon in Van Buren County had been of a width of 62 inches between the tread or mark made by wagon wheels. They later became standardized at a width of 56 inches as was done here by Mr. Pearson.

³Later governor of Iowa.

raining the minutes of this day as kept on a slip of paper is lost & I cannot make a correct record & pass it by.

Sunday, May 26. Variable with appearance of rain & very warm at times, we had a heavy rain through last night and we got a little wet in our wagon. The evening being beautiful & clear we neglected to spread our gum⁴ over our cover. At 8½ Oc A.M. we started from camp & drove into E[a]gleville, hoping to have the privelege of attending church, but as there was no meeting we drove on to Bethena [Bethany] Co Seat of Harrison Co a very nice town with a population of about 1500 good court house & very nice M.E. Church at 3 o'clock P.M. Brother Miller & I attended the singing in the Church after which I stoped with Rev Alfred Cave a M E Minister at present Located [here] evening he preached & I exhorted after him & after service went and staid the nite with him. We passed through some nice country today.

May 27, Monday. Variable at night or after midnight it rained on us. Camped on the prairie near Mr. Earnest in a fine country. At noon of this day we left camp in Bethena [Bethany] Co Seat of Harrison Co, Mo, and passed some fine country but the roads are very bad and bridges unsafe.

Tuesday, May 28. Variable with frequent showers at 6 Oc A.M. we got some nice corn bred of Mrs Earnest & started from camp & passed on through some very fine country Crossed the west fork of grand river at Gentryville in Gentry Co. we forded the stream, it is about 30 yds wide & being up some it came up just to our wagon bed we passed on through King City Same co & we passed on into Andrew Co & camped on a beautifull high Prairie with but little timber for miles around but the country is beautifull and soil very rich.

Wednesday, May 29. Variable with showers & with a terrible storm of wind & rain just before day & until about 6 Oc A.M. when it slackened up & we left camp & passed on through Andrew Co passed Rochester a small town & crossed Platt river on a bridge it is a small creek some 20 yds wide & we crossed it near Rochester & we passed into Buchanan Co & into St Joseph on the Missouri River we found it a lively City and a while before night we crossed on a Steam ferry boat into Doniphan Co Kansas we passed through a little town Elwood & camped on the rich Bottom. The inhabitants here seem to be near half of the Coloured race.

Thursday, May 30. Variable with a lite sprinkle evening and the appearance of rain tonight. At 6 Oc A.M. we started from camp near Elwood in Kansas just Opposite St Joseph Mo & went out on the pike to Wathena & passed on through Troy, a nice little Live town and Co Seat of Doniphan Co the land over which we have travelled after leaving the bottom at Wathena to the Co Seat is mostly rough and poor & we passed on through Highland a nice little live City with every

⁴A rubber blanket or sheet customarily alluded to by Van Buren County old settlers as late as 1876, as "a gum."

appearance of thrift & enterprise about it & evening we camped near a cotton wood grove planted on the high Prairie near the Co. line between Brown & Nemahaw County & on through Hiawatha Co Seat of Brown Co & a nice live town Surrounded by a excellent Prairie country & very little timber.

Friday, May 31. Variable with heavy rain on us. Soon after we passed Sabetha it is near the co line of Brown Co but is in Nemaha it is a thrifty little town surrounded by a most beautifull high rich prairie the country is much more settled than I had expected to see it and by people of enterprise and taste but like many in Iowa and Mo their corn penns very many are full and no cover over them the roads are very much better in Kansas thus far than we had them in Iowa and Mo we made between 30 & 40 miles travel this day & camped near the St. Joseph & Denver City R.R. on a beautifull high rolling Prairie very sparsely settled. We crossed walnut crick in this day's travel it has some little timber skirting its banks & fine rich Prairie rolling on each side.

Saturday, June 1, 1872. At 6 Oc A.M. we started from camp, pased on west on a beautifull high rich prairie until about 9 Oc we Crossed Harrison Creek on a good bridge & after crossing it until we came to Nemaha Creek, we passed through a poorer section of country than we had seen for 2 days. Seneca a nice little town of about one thousand inhabitants is just on the west Side of Nemaha Creek and is Co seat of Nemaha Co. They are a live enterprising people & have a most Beautifull Brick Court House, & the surrounding country is far behind the town in improvement of every kind. We passed on by Ash point, 9 miles west of the County Seat it has two houses in it & one family and on we went to Black Vermilion Creek and camped near the nice residence of George Eatan who settled here 15 years ago among the Otoe Indians and is an old Frenchman & nicely fixed.

Sunday, June 2. There was a heavy wind storm in last night and thunder lightning and rain to the north of us. This day has been variable & in this evening a terrible storm of raine wind thunder & lightning at 7 Oc we left camp and Drove into Marysville, Co Seat of [Marshall] Co, a nice little live town we got in about 11 Oc and there was no religious services by the Methodists & none by any Denomination P.M. nor night as the storm at night was terrific it blew down a new frame house only raised & inclosed last week and it broke limbs from an elm close to where we were camped and the storm was so great that we took Shelter for the night in the Marysville hotell, and near the R.R. on the east bank of the Big Blue river Just below us a tree was blown down over a wagon & tent of campers from Iowa, breaking the bed and axle & sandboard & front wheel of the wagon, but hurting no one in person, thank God.

Monday, June 3. Variable with some appearance of raine at 10 Oc A.M. we left camp at Marysville & crossed the Big Blue on a good

bridge close to the town, drove on through a somewhat rough Prairie country and crossed Little Blue river on a good iron bridge at Water-ville, a nice live town on the west side of Little Blue. There we fed and nooned. There is but little difference in the size of the two streams I think at the above crossings each about 60 yds wide I judge and they are high we drove on to the west side of Coon Creek, a small Stream and camped the country this P.M. has had a rough and picturesque appearance & as we took out in the South & west this evening, the rolling distant high ridges and mounds have the appearance of grand mountains in the distance but the ascent and descent as one advances is not so abrupt as a distant view would indicate.

Tuesday, June 4. Variable with the appearance of rain. At 6 Oc A.M. we started from camp on the west bank of Coon Creek Washing-ton Co 25 miles west of Marysville, & passed on crossed Elk Creek just at the edge of Clide [Clyde] a live little town 50 odd miles west of Marysville & situated on the east bank of Republic [Republican] River. We passed on up Republick [Republican] river 3 miles to Bull run ferry kept by Nathaniel Fox a clever good kind of a sinner & we camped on the east bank of the river & bought 8 bushels of corn of him and shelled it, paid 45 per bushel the river is about 75 yds between banks and filled with Sand bars & has a beautifull wide bottom extending miles out on each side the scenery in view of camp we left this morning was romantic with elevations & mounds.

Wednesday, June 5. Variable with a little rain at night, it was near 10 Oc A.M. when we started from camp as we had not finished Shelling corn we bought last evening and we left crossing Republic [Republican] River at Bull Run ferry 3 miles west of Clide [Clyde] in Cloud County we passed on to Concordia 15 miles west of Clide [Clyde]. It is Co Seat of Cloud Co & the land office for this district of Kansas is here We made what inquiry we could & got some information in relation to homesteading started north, crossed republic [Republican] river on a ferry boat at the town & passed on $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north and camped on a beautifull Prairie in sight of Concordia and on the beautifull farm of Mr. R. W. Chapman overlooking a most beautifull country of prairie, the country over which we have travelled today has been mostly beau-tifull, but the one great defencency is everywhere visable that is timber. At Concordia we took a view of the work in progress of building a new stone Jail mostly of magnesian lime stone, white as chalk & they saw them in blocks with crosscut saws about as easily as hard wood.

Thursday, June 6. Variable & warm, at $6\frac{1}{2}$ Oc A.M. we left camp and wended our way east on the Prairie to Salt Marsh & we passed directly through the marsh to Sepo Po Office, a little village close to the southeast side of the marsh. The marsh is a grand curiosity acres of land eaten or licked out by Buffaloes and wild beasts to the depth of from 1 to 6 feet & the basin covered with beautifull fine Salt and some Salt wells are dug producing excellent salt. We went to James

Cave's and remained with him for our dinner as he said we must have dinner or a fight with him. this last marsh is in the east side of Republic Co After a good dinner and good social time, we left Mr Cave's & took a different way from what we had come west up the west side of the Republican river passing beautiful prairie Country and we passed in Sight of Concordia on the west side of the Republican River. We passed through a small town called Lake Sibley and on west fording the Republican River some 4 miles west of Concordia & wended our way on over a beautiful stretch of bottom prairie, crossing through a salt marsh in Cloud Co. It is of less dimensions than the one above spoken of but a grand curiosity also, and we passed on to the high prairie & camped near the house of Mr. Misner M. Jones, 11½ miles west of Concordia and in Cloud Co.

Friday, June 7. Variable with some rain P.M. & a good shower after night. At 6½ Oc A.M. we started from Mr. Misner M. Jones' 11½ miles west of Concordia we had a little scare this morning thought our horses had left us but they were in a low place in a prairie within 150 yds of the wagon. We came off and left our gum to put over our wagon cover at [Mr.] Misners we hope to get it on our return. We stood at the east end of big Salt Marsh within some 5 or 6 miles west of the Misner Jones' & kept up in it some 6 miles. It is surely a very great curiosity hundreds if not thousands of acres of ground eaten off, that is the soil to the depth of from 1 to perhaps 8 feet & the bottom level has not a spear of grass or anything living on it but it is perfectly white with beautiful fine Salt there are perhaps thousands of barrels of salt over it and at a distance has the appearance of a lake or inland sea and appears so until one is just at it. All around it there seems to be a vast empire of prairie dogs yelping at one from every quarter, but careful to be at the door of his dwelling and drop in before you can take him. We saw one wolf near the marsh We passed on up near the edge of republic Co and then bore south in Jewell Co by Johnsonville Post Office & on over a branch of Buffalo Creek, and on the Prairie we jumped a buck Antelope and my dog Bruno went for him and for 1½ or 2 miles we saw the most beautiful race I ever witnessed. When the dog caught him we stripped the harness from the horses and J. Hambleton and J. J. Miller mounted and Hambleton rode up and shot him. after dressing more than we needed we passed on to Jewell City, county seat of Jewell Co on one branch of Buffalo Creek & took over the prairie northwest some five miles northwest of Jewell City & camped on a branch of Buffalo Creek.

Saturday, June 8. Variable with very light sprinkle of rain. We had a nice shower last night, at 6½ A.M. we started from our camp, 5 miles northwest of Jewell City on one branch of Buffalo Creek, and wended our way over the Prairie to the center of Jewell Co and met with an intusiastic gathering of the people from various parts of the [Co.] to complete an organization to locate a town site & make an effort to

have the Co Seat located at the site [It] is on very high rolling prairie with good stone quarries in the banks of the location and the organization feel confident of success. We remained through the meeting and was then shown some very beautiful Prairie claims by Mr. Melvin Farnum, and we then took him home to his excellent farm site on the White Rock Creek, about 8 miles from where they made the town location and about 18 miles from Jewell City the present Co Seat of Jewell Co, and within six miles of the South line of the Co. while the location made today is in the center & the name given the place is Jewell Center. We saw some 16 Antelope today and had some 3 beautiful chases with our dog, but they had perhaps more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile the start each time & did not take any of them today, but the chase was grand to witness.

Sunday, June 9. Beautiful clear & calm At 1 Oc P.M. we started from camp and drove $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sabbath School at 2 Oc P.M. there was a good gathering for so new a country & at $3\frac{1}{2}$ Oc I endeavored to preach to them, had a fair congregation and good attention. Brother J. J. Miller spoke after me and we hope some good was done after meeting we drove a short distance to wood creek & camped on a high bluff Prairie near the creek.

Monday, June 10. Beautiful clear & calm. At 7 Oc A.M. we started from our camp on the high prairie near White Rock Creek & travelled s east over some very broken prairie until about 11 Oc we came into beautiful country on marsh creek & we went on to Mr. Gilman Noyes on Marsh creek & camped for dinner and P.M. we prevailed on him to go with us & show us the country we went down to the salt marsh in Jewell Co & then into Republic Co & then out on the divide between Marsh creek and the Republican River of as beautiful Prairie as I ever Saw and we camped on the beautiful claim of Mr. George Morrison very clever folks living in a nice Dugout in Republic Co on beautiful Prairie. They are very kind people & anxious to have the country settled. Jacob Shiver also joined and assisted in looking claims for us Their P of is Norway, Republic Co.

Tuesday, June 11. Beautiful & clear with fine breeze at $6\frac{1}{2}$ Oc we started from Mr. George Morrisons & he and Mr. Gilman Noyes accompanied us to assist us in looking claims we passed over beautiful prairie country & soon were joined by Mr. Jacob Spivay anxious to assist us in finding good locations & we got some numbers & then started homeward. We had been passing in view of Oak Creek & Beaver Creek timber & not far distant from both where we took the numbers. We came on through Big Salt Marsh It is partly in Jewell and partly in Cloud and partly in Republic Cos. Our Numbers are in Republic Co. We passed on crossed Buffalo Creek & on to Concordia Co Seat of Cloud and where the land office is. Then we crossed the Republican river & passed on to the lower Salt Marsh, Sepo Po & we put up with Mr. James Cave. They are real clever good people & treated us very kindly.

Wednesday, June 12. At 8 Oc we started from Mr. James Cave's near Salt Marsh, Republic Co & passed over rough broken Prairie crossed Fox Creek passed through a small place called Branford [Brantford] & crossed over Beach Creek by a store called Strawberry the Prairie Broken until we came in view of Washington Co. Seat of Washington Co. the country is better the town is a small brisk place on the north side of Mill Creek & there is a fine stone flowering and saw mill just above the ford of the creek & near the town we halted in town but a short time and passed on down Mill Creek some 3 miles and camped on a high Prairie. I have been very poorly all day and am very unwell this evening the day has been clear with wind and very dusty and now night as the appearance of rain. Traveled 35 to 40 miles from Salt Marsh Republic Co to Washington, Wash Co.

Thursday, June 13. Variable with showers & a terrible storm of wind last night with thunder lightning and rain. At 6 Oc A.M. we started from our camp on the prairie 3 miles east of Washington, Co Seat of Washington Co. We travelled north east and then south east in the Co Forded Little Blue River at Hanover, a R R passes through the town and on to the Marysville & there crossed the Big Blue on a good Bridge, we passed on from Marysville crossing Scotch Creek & we camped at Mr. Charles D. Marsh's on a beautiful high Prairie, 8 miles N. E. of Marysville, Co. Seat of Marshall Co. My dog was wrongfully shot & severely wounded today poor Bruno ran & jumped into the wagon, seemed to ask my protection and the first time he has asked to ride on our entire trip thus far. Traveled over 40 miles today, at least 45.

Friday, June 14. Beautiful clear & pleasant, at 6 Oc. we started from Mr. Charles R. Marsh's on the beautiful high prairie 8 miles east of Marysville & where I had been very kindly treated being unwell, they kindly gave me an invitation to lodge on a bed. We passed on crossed Elm Creek, Mission Creek and Turkey Creek near Pawnee City. We paused a short time in Pawnee City, Co Seat of Pawnee Co [Nebraska] & they have a very nice live town & fine Stone Court house Jail &c built out of Magnesian limestone the Jail is in the basement of the Court House. After passing out of town some 2½ miles, Brother Jesse W. Hambleton in loading his gun by accident had his gun go off & shot off the fore & middle fingers of his Right hand. We turned and drove on the double quick back to town & got Dr Alexander S Stewart of Pawnee City [to] cut off the stubs of his two fingers & believe him a kind good brother Oddfellow & I think did a good job. After the wound was dressed we passed out 1 mile to Dr. J. W. Lindsly where we camped & were kindly treated by the kind family & Doctor. We made over 35 miles travel.

Saturday, June 15. Variable with the appearance of rain morning & noon, at 6½ Oc we started from camp 1 mile east of Pawnee City, Dr. J. W. Lindsly an Odd Fellow, where we were kindly treated &

brother J. W. Hambleton staid the night in their house & we all ate supper at their table last evening we passed a small town called Table Rock there we crossed the Nimihaw [Nemaha] creek on a good bridge a railroad passes the town. We passed on leaving the town of Humbolt [Humboldt] to the south of us in full view on over Kirkham Creek and on over Long Creek, next Little Muddy Creek, then some runs & on over Big Muddy then on over the Nimihaw [Nemaha] River crossed on a bridge & a mile further we came to a small town called Nimihaw [Nemaha] City. It is five miles west of Brownsville and 1 from the river.

Sunday, June 16. Beautifull except morning, strong appearance of rain & being camped on the Mo bottom in Nebraska near Brownsville we harnessed & left camp at 6½ Oc A.M. crossed the Mo River in a steam ferry boat from Brownsville, Nebraska, to Star and Rockport landing Missouri & passed a small town on the Mo Bottom 3 miles from the ferry called Rockport. The place where the ferry lands I believe is called Phelps. We crossed the west Nishany Botany [Nishnabotna] & on through Linden former Co Seat of Holt Co. Mo & passed out of Mo into Iowa after passing Dr Moores & we camped on the farm of Hezekiah Lamb & near his son's house on the Prairie. They are very clever people. We passed some good & some rough country.

Monday, June 17. Variable. At 6½ Oc we started from camp at Hezekiah Lamb's 20 miles S. West of Shenandoah Leaving Sidney Co Seat of Fremont Co Iowa in fair view on our left we passed through Riverton a small town on the R Road in Fremont Co on the East Nishany Botany [Nishnabotna] River a nice stream some 30 odd yds wide & a beautifull rich well watered country good springs. We passed on through Shenandoah & then through Essex a small place on the B & M. R. R. on the Nishany Botany [Nishnabotna] and we stoped at Brother Augustus B. Jackson's on the Nishany Botany [Nishnabotna] 1½ miles North East of Essex in Page Co Pierce Township. We passed a very pleasant visit & had a good social religious time being old friends & brethren & he being the father of my son Amandus's wife & he & I haveing worshipped together in Van Buren Co more than 20 years ago. We have passed through a beautiful rich country this day & found Brother Jackson & family all well.

Tuesday, June 18. Variable with light showers passing & thunder lightning & strong appearance of rain at night. At 10 Oc Jesse Hambleton and I left my old Friend Augustus B. Jackson he is my sons wife's father & we had a very pleasant time together & we came on to My Nephew Charles Westley Campbell in Red Oak Co Seat of Montgomery Co. Iowa & his mother is my oldest sister Temperance Ann & her son Albert Sweangen is married & lives here & I had the pleasure of finding them all well & we have had a real good social time & I have had the pleasure of seeing Capt & William Stidger & Joseph Barker & family.

Wednesday, June 19. Variable with fine rain in the evening. Jesse

Hambleton & I spent the day pleasantly with my friends & relatives in Red Oak Co Seat of Montgomery Co. we took Breakfast with my Nephew Ch Westley Campbell my sister his mother is there & her son Elbert Swaengen Jesse Hambleton & I took dinner with my Old friend Captain Stidger.⁵ & we had a real good social time & we took tea with my nephew Elbert Swaengen his mother was with us & we spent the night there I spent part of the day with my old friend Joseph Barker an old ex-sheriff of Van Buren Co Iowa & I had the pleasure of seeing quite a number of old friends & acquaintances & spent really a pleasant social time this day.

Thursday, June 20. Beautiful at 10 Oc AM we left our friends in Red Oak Co Seat of Montgomery Co Iowa & on by the Nishany Botany [Nishnabotna] on over the West & Middle Nodaway Creek, good mill streams, & camped one mile west of Quincy⁶ Co Seat of Adams Co the country quite Rolling we had the company of Mr. Lot Timbrel & son on this days trip on their return from the Solomon River in Kansas & we spent the hours very agreeably they lived in Mahaska Co Iowa.

Friday, June 21. Clear & very warm at 6½ Oc A.M. we started from camp 1 mile west of Quincy Co seat of Adams Co stoped a short time in the town but little sine of life about it, the country very rough we passed on leaving Corning a thriving R. R. town ½ mile on our right but in good view & a little further we passed a little almost forsaken town called Queen City^{7a} & close by it we crossed the East Nodaway on a bridge it has the appearance of a good mill stream beyond it a little we crossed the R Road & near that passed through a welch town of some 30 to 50 houses mostly cabins all seemed to be inhabited but we saw no living thing in or about the town except vegetation. We ascertained it is an Icarian community.^{6b} P.M. we pased through a nice Prairie country & in view of Creston a nice looking R R town we pased in fair view & left it 1 to 2 miles on our left we camped in a valley ¾ mile west of Afton.

Saturday, June 22. Variable & extremely warm at 6 Oc we started from camp in the hollow just west of Afton halted a short time in the town they are just building a court house the Stone work near done & the brick work commenced we passed on crosed Grand river on a bridge & passed on through a broken country & nooned at Murray a little town on the R R. before crossing Grand River we pased in view

⁵This is Captain John S. Stidger who with his son William Stidger was owner of the *Red Oak Express*. Both were former Van Buren County men and members of companies of Union soldiers enlisted in Van Buren County during the Civil War.

^{6a}A town, now abandoned, then located about six miles northwest of the present county seat, Corning.

^{6b}A town, now abandoned, then located in the southeastern part of Section 25, Quincy Township, and the southwestern part of Section 30, Prescott Township, Adams County, one mile north and two miles east of the present county seat, Corning.

^{6c}A village, now abandoned, then located in the northern part of Section 31, Prescott Township, Adams County, one-half mile north and two and one-half miles east of Corning.

of Thair [Thayer] a thriving little R R town leaving it $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to our right. Evening we pased a much more heartsome country this PM we passed through Osceola Co seat of Clarke Co & there it is a live town from appearance we then bore south leaving a little town called Green Bay⁷ in sight to our right & on & camped in the Prairie some 7 miles N. West of Garden Grove of Mormon noteriety.

Sunday, June 23. Variable with the appearance of rain at night At 7 Oc. A.M. we left camp & drove into Garden Grove Decatur County at 10 Oc. listened to a good sermon by brother George Peck Bennit in the M.E. Brick Church & acompanied him home to dinner. Spent a pleasant social time & then acompanied him to his appointment at High Point 5 miles south of Garden Grove he preached a good funeral sermon at 4 Oc PM & I followed by an exhortation. The woman was 94 years of age when she died. I had the pleasure of meeting my old friend Wm A. Ketcham at church at 10 Oc AM at evening I preached in the M.E. church in the Grove & the minister closed after me Text Hebrews 4th 16th after meeting Brother Hambleton & I went home with Brother Ketcham & staid the night we did have a precious social time we had not had the pleasure of Seeing each other for nearly eight years & our meeting was a happy one.

Monday, June 24. Variable with lite showers in the morning. at 8 Oc we started from Brother Wm Ketcham's where we had been kindly entertained the night. he lives $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles N E of Garden Grove we travelled over very good Prairie Country passing through New York⁸ a small place & then Bethlehem⁹ a small vilage & Confidence¹⁰ an other little place & passed on out of Wain [Wayne] Co into Appanoose & camped at the [edge of a] village of Appanoose called _____ [Millidgeville].¹¹

Tuesday, June 25. Beautifull at 6 Oc A.M. we started from camp on the west Side of Millageville [Millidgeville] crossed over the west branch of the Shariton [Chariton] River pased through the little deserted looking village of Millageville [Millidgeville] & on through Iconium¹² a plesant little place & good Country & on to Moravia & there dined & feed with my old friend & brother Alexander A. Monroe and we had a good social time talking over former incidents &c. At 1 Oc.

⁷A town, now abandoned, then located near the southwest corner of Green Bay Township, Clarke County, eight miles south and one mile west of the county seat, Osceola.

⁸A town, now abandoned, then located near the center of Union Township, Wayne County, six miles north and three miles east of the county seat, Corydon.

⁹A village, now abandoned, then located in the southeast corner of Section 24, Union Township, Wayne County, five miles north and six miles east of Corydon.

¹⁰A village, now abandoned, then located in the southeast corner of Section 11, Wright Township, Wayne County, seven miles north and eleven miles east of Corydon.

¹¹A town, now abandoned, then located in the western part of Section 10, Independence Township, Appanoose County, ten miles north and eight miles west of the county seat, Centerville.

¹²A village, now abandoned, then located near the center of Section 5, Chariton Township, Appanoose County, eleven miles north and four miles west of Centerville.

PM we started passed through Moravia & on to Soap Creek & halted to see Rev H. P. Morrison an old comrade in the army, found him well & doing finely after a social interview we started on crossed Sope [Soap] Creek & on to Unionville. there called on Doctor Sawyer our first Regimental surgeon & had a pleasant interview. Saw Joel Staley there an old friend then onward through Unionville to Drakeville halted a short time & passed on $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east & camped for the night.

Wednesday, June 26. Beautifull day but warm with showers at night at a little after daylight we started from camp $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Drakeville Davis Co Iowa & we drove into Bloomfield Co Seat & took breakfast with my Nephew John Campbell & spent a pleasant hour with them then drove to Mr. Kirk England's near Pulaski & spent a pleasant interview & took dinner with them he married Brother Augustus' daughter Maria. we left & called a short time to see Elisha L. Kirk in Pulaski & then on & called an hour on my Eldest Sister's Daughter Mrs. Henry Tootwiler & then on to Brother Augustus's & put up with them for the night we found my friends (sentence unfinished).

Thursday, June 27, 1872. Variable warm at 7 Oc A.M. we started from Brother Augustus's & passed round to Troy spent an hour in the village & then started for home on through Lebanon¹³ & Pittsburgh¹⁴ forded the Des Moines River there & arrived home at 12 Oc noon & thank the good Lord found my family well. After dinner I hitched up & took Jesse W. Hambleton over the river called a short time at my Son's & then went on with Mr. Hambleton to Mr. Gaggses to his Barn Raising & assisted a short time & then returned to my son's & then on home thank the Lord for a temporal home as I pass to a heavenly & an eternal home which by the grace of God I hope to gain.

¹³A village, now abandoned, then located at the cross roads or common corners of Sections 1 and 2, Jackson Township, and 35 and 36, Chequest Township, Van Buren County, six miles west of the county seat, Keosauqua.

¹⁴A town, now abandoned, then located on the west bank of the Des Moines River, in Section 27, Van Buren Township, Van Buren County, three miles northwest of Keosauqua.

DES MOINES TO TOPEKA MAIL ROUTE ESTABLISHED

A bill has passed the House of Representatives establishing a new mail route from this city to Topeka, Kansas, by way of Saint Joseph. This route is much needed by the entire people of Iowa, and we hope to be able to chronicle its active operation soon.—The *Iowa Tri-Weekly Citizen*, Des Moines, February 6, 1858. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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