



Map showing the route followed by George C. Duffield in driving a herd of 1,000 cattle from Texas to Iowa in 1866. (Drawing by D. C. Mot.)

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DRIVING CATTLE FROM TEXAS TO IOWA, 1866

Among Iowa pioneers no two were better known or more highly respected than George C. Duffield,¹ of Keosauqua, and Harvey Ray of Burlington.

The Duffields came to Iowa from Ohio in 1837 and settled in Van Buren County, where they lived the rest of their lives, and where many of their descendants are still living. They are mentioned often in the ANNALS, and their qualities are therein set forth.

Harvey Ray came from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Burlington in 1843. He was associated with George C. Duffield in a cattle enterprise of which Mr. Duffield preserved a partial record. Mr. Ray does not so often appear in the public prints of Iowa and at the request of the Curator of the Historical Department I have prepared the following sketch.

Harvey Ray was in many respects a remarkable man. He was a typical pioneer. The story of his life is a story of adventure, of the founding of important industries in untried fields, and of struggles to develop them. He had faith in the West. He was a man of tremendous energy, of the strictest integrity, and could command capital for undertakings of importance. He was born at Tyrone, Ireland, in March, 1817, of Scotch-Irish parentage, came to America in his youth and located at Wheel-

¹George Crawford Duffield contributed valuable recollections of early Iowa to the ANNALS in 1903, 1904, and 1906. His obituary notice appears in the October, 1908, number of the ANNALS.

The veracity of the late Emerson Hough in "North of 36" was challenged in its dominant fact-element, cattle-driving north out of Texas. He may have exceeded in his treatment the liberty historians would grant, but he carried into the attention and intelligence of Americans east and west, notice that there was an era and a system of cattle driving before railroads came. The art of fiction demands and harmony requires Hough's fancy.

The diary of Mr. Duffield and the novel of Mr. Hough treat of the same era and in future will be thought of as having been published almost simultaneously. The criticism of the one will be met by the diary of the other. Mr. Hough's fiction is as the flesh on Mr. Duffield's skeleton of fact.—Editor.

ing, where he married in 1843, and soon thereafter removed to Burlington. He lived in Burlington for sixty-two years, or until his death in 1905.

Soon after he reached Burlington a severe cholera epidemic broke out and hundreds were stricken. Mr. Ray was conspicuous in caring for the sick and dying and in burying the dead. His fearless devotion in that emergency is one of the traditions of the town.

In 1843 Mr. Ray was a manufacturer of stone buhrs for flouring mills which were operated in those days by water power, and in order to investigate the possibilities of such power along the upper Mississippi, he made extensive trips through that region. When he first settled in Burlington he added tombstones to his other business and imported marble from Italy and buhrstones from France. He was therefore entirely familiar with western conditions before he settled in Iowa, and had long been in successful business before he went into the Texas cattle enterprise with Mr. Duffield. He commenced business in Burlington three years before Iowa was admitted into the Union as a state.

Foreseeing its great possibilities as an agricultural state, he established a plow company at Burlington as early as 1852, which was very successful until the great financial panic of 1857, which brought widespread disaster to all industries in the West. During this period he acquired a magnificent tract consisting of 4,200 acres of bottom lands a few miles north of Burlington, which for many years was known all through this region as the "Harvey Ray Farm." The levees built by the government and drainage system installed in that locality have made this land valuable for farming, but in the early days its greatest value was for cattle grazing. The Civil War of 1861 to 1865, following the panic of 1857, greatly curtailed Mr. Ray's business activities, but his ambition was irrepressible and we find him in 1866, immediately following the close of the Civil War, going into partnership with George Duffield in the Texas cattle enterprise.

Cattle do not thrive in Iowa without especial feeding, owing to the long winters, and farming in that state was at a low ebb from 1861 to 1866, as most of the active farmers were in the army.

On the other hand on the plains of south Texas, which know no winter and where grass grows luxuriantly, immense herds of cattle accumulated during the war. It was reported that steers

could be purchased in Texas at eight to ten dollars a head and would support themselves on an overland drive to Iowa, with large profits, and several adventurous spirits went into the business, including Duffield and Ray. In the case of Ray there was the additional motive of stocking his Ray Farm partly with Texas "Long Horns," as they were called, and thus improving the breed of cattle.

A partnership was accordingly formed early in 1866 with the object of buying 1,000 to 2,000 head of cattle in south Texas and driving them north to Iowa, and the details of this enterprise are set forth in the remarkable diary of George C. Duffield, which this sketch is intended to supplement.

They went to Texas via New Orleans and Galveston, and the middle of March, 1866, found them in the Colorado River country west of Austin, Texas, where they contracted for 1,000 head of cattle at twelve dollars per head. After outfitting and getting their herd together, the cattle were all carefully branded, and as a considerable part of the drive was through the Indian Nation, and some of the tribes were hostile, the herds of many outfits were combined, so that at one time they comprised over 5,000 head.

Six weeks were consumed in Texas buying and branding the cattle, so that it was the first of May before the start for Iowa, which ended the last day of October, with a few hundred cattle, at Ottumwa, where 100 were shipped by rail to Burlington for the Ray Farm, and the remainder to Chicago.

The story of the events of that drive, as vividly portrayed in the Duffield diary, is a recital of endurance and courage amounting to heroism, that has few parallels in American pioneer life.

Two years later (1868) found Mr. Ray engaged in another great pioneer venture. The mining excitement in Nevada was at its height. Ray organized a company at Burlington to haul a stamp mill overland from Burlington to Virginia City, Nevada, and the next year they sent out a second mill. Later they established the first stamp mill at Butte, Montana, now one of the greatest mining camps in the world, and Ray is said to have once owned one-eighth of the city of Butte.

Although foreign born, he was among the best of his type of the American citizen of his day. He was public spirited, a great believer in our republican form of government, and our common

school system, and willing to contribute to every worthy public enterprise according to his ability.

He was never in politics, nor politically ambitious. His great ambition was to establish and promote laudable enterprises, with the natural desire for personal profit along with the public good. He was ever honest, upright and generous minded. He lived to a ripe old age, notwithstanding his very strenuous life, dying at Burlington in his eighty-eighth year, honored and respected by all.

W. W. BALDWIN.

GEORGE C. DUFFIELD'S DIARY

MEMORANDUM OF GEORGE C. DUFFIELDS (OF PITTSBURG VAN BUREN COUNTY IOWA)²

Feby 17th 1866 Started from Keosauqua. Travelled up the Des Moines Valley R. R. to Pella then back to Ottumwa—then to Burlington at 12 that night.

Sunday 18th Visited R B Rutledge & went to Church Heard Mr. Hare Preach

19th Spent the day in B pleasantly among my *Friends*

20th Spent in Burlington

21st Left B at 6 AM on Chicago & Burlington went Galesburg by Chicago & Quincy to Camp Point Crossed Illinois R at Meredosia arrived at Camp Point at 1 P.M. left 4.35 P M on Toledo Wabash & Western R R for Jacksonville arrived there at 7.35 Visitor of Friend at School Stopped at Mansion House for the Night

22d Left Jackson at 715 on St Louis Jacksonville & Chicago R.R. for St Louis at arrived at 12 M Visited E O Stannard Stopped at Planters Hotel

23rd Started for Odin & Cairo at 6 A.m. arrived at Odin at 9 took Ill Central & Chicago & Cairo at 10 day damp & rainy. Rare sport with Boot Black Boys Dinner at Centralia—arrived at Cairo 630 rain pouring down Mud ankle deep & pitch dark Engaged passage on S. Boat Luminary for Orleans have had Supper & feel Very Much at Home It rained very hard most of the night cleared off cold & froze some.

24th we have been loading corn 20 miles below Cairo up to this time 4 p M & now we are once more on our way to Dixie.—are having a pleasant time.

25th Sunday Morning find our selves at the ever memorable Fort Pillow weather clear & cool—pleasant sitting around the stove arrived at Memphis Tenn. 2 P.M. Spent 2 hours in the city Noticed the

²We have followed Mr. Duffield's capitalization, spelling, punctuation, etc., as they appear in the original diary.—Editor.

Citizens put on a good deal of style & some Butternut Clothes—We had a very fine dinner.

26th we passed Helena before day this morning & arrived at Napoleon at 12 m to day I have spent most of the Morning on deck watching My *old Friends*. 20 years has changed the appearances of the Shores & the Rebellion the improvements I have noticed but one Fine Residence below Helena Napoleon looks Old & dilapidated & was it not for the Marine Hospital would have a poor show We passed Many Plantations having neither rails nor Houses & Nothing but the chimnies left to show where once had been pleasant & happy Homes Columbus once a pleasant little town has nothing but the chimnies left

27th Arrived at Vicksburg in the forenoon Spent two hours viewing the City City not much destroyed but some unmistakable evidence of War Many Houses bear signs of Shot & Shell. Negro troops plenty. Grand Gulf a Town of 2500 inhabitants 18 years ago now No's about 50 Most of the Town having washed in to the River The Remainder was burned by the Feds The country above & below Vicksburg has suffered very much all the improvements that fire could destroy being gone. The Villiage of water-proof is gone nothing but the Chimnies Standing as a monument to departed wealth & greatness.

28th Left Natchez at 6 this morning & Mouth Read River to day at 12 Noon—To Bayou Sara at 3—Left B Sara at 6—This place was nearly entirely destroyed by fire The Valley on either side of the River has presented a more life like appearance today than heretofore The Sugar Mills are Mostly burned but not many of the dwellings We see many hands at work repairing Levys & plowing Peaches are in full bloom. Peas Lettuce &c plenty—Waterloo is here 7 o clock P.M Baton Rouge is a very fine Town we passed it by moonlight

March 1st 1866 reached New Orleans Gumbles Hotel at 10 A M Spent the day pleasantly with my Friends Selbys & Slayback Engaged passage on the Iron Steamer Austin for Galveston & here we are

March 2d on board to sail at 8.A.M & if I don't be a sick Man very soon I will be greatly & agreeably disappointed 12 M Dinner over day warm & beautiful Scenery Lovely 4 P M here we are on the Bar 6 or 8 Ships lying aground A Gentleman got his ancle ground to pieces in the Rudder Leaver had to stop the engine awhile among the fast ships Great excitement and danger of collision Over the Bar—Ship begins to behave badly feel squamish went to bed got up tried to eat a little supper could not went back to bed—slept well—

3rd All right Gulf smoothe ate some Break Lovely morning had a fine days run felt [felt] squamish but was not sick

4th are laying off the Bar waiting for a pilot to guide us in to Galveston landed & had dinner at Palmetto House & then took passage on Steam Boat Silver Cloud for Houston. Arrived at San Jacinto on one side of Buffalo Bayou & Linchburg on the other at the mouth of San Jacinto River at dark

5th arrived in Houston at six AM stopped at Eldaroda remained there for the day & night

6th took the cars for Hempsted on Houston & Texas Cent. R R arrived at 2 P M Left for Brennans [Brenham] on [in] Washington Co at 2 & crossed Brazos River at 4 Church Hill 5 & reached B at 6 P.M. Put up at Crumpler Hotel

7th took a walk find the soil to be pure sand not productive—damp & cloudy visited 12th Ill Soldiers Started for Austin on Stage with 16 passengers—rode all night rained hard—in night. Stopped at Lagrange [Fayette] county for breakfast

8 to Bastrop for supper the country is very broken & covered with round rock we crossed the Colorado 4 times to day—*Very Warm*

9th Arrived in Austin at daylight tired & worn out Austin the Capitol is a fair town of 3000 inhabitants soil sand & Gravel

10th Loitered around Town concluded to buy Ponies & go by our own conveyance weather warm & pleasant attended State Convention which is now in Cession

11th Sunday Bought a Poney & rode around Town

12th Mo Loafed & went to Convention

13 Rain got Pony shod &c

14th Started from Austin & travelled 32 miles stayd at a Mr John Russell in Williamson county. The country is Rough & *very* Rocky with a few scrub oaks & Cedars 2 or 3 small farms

15th crossed Burnett co travelld into Lampassas Co to Sulphur Springs Country very Rough & Rocky, Sulphur Springs are very large & clear & said to contain many Medical qualities Great excitement here at this time The Indians have just made a dash on the place & taken all the Valuable Horses in the neighborhood

16 travelled 22 Miles over rough Stony Mountanous country stopped for the night at Mr Wm Bagley (Hard fare)

17th Travelled 10 miles over rough country to Colorado River—crossed & continued our journey to San Saba in San Saba Co 10 miles S is a poor barren Rocky county pasture poor & cattle thin.

18th Sunday Warm Visited the Large Spring

19th Very Warm Trying to trade for Cattle this fore noon. Not trade Listened to Indian Stories until I began to look to see them coming—

20th Struck out to make a trade crossed the Cherokee & stopped for the night at a Mr Barbers contracted for 1000 Head of Beeves at 12\$ p. head

21st Headed for Austin rode 40 miles over the same rough country Stopped at Mr Ainsworths in Burnett Co recrossed the Colorado

22 am waiting for Breakfast & thinking that this day Delia Hartzell is to marry have travelled 33 miles & put up for the night hard rain today—Country more smoothe than common but the soil is not more than 6 to 10 inches to a solid lime stone rock. stopped at Mr. Brysons Ranch Williamson Co. for the night

23rd of early day *very* warm rode 20 miles stopped under a tree rested our Horses & ate a peace & off again reached Austin in the evening after a 35 miles ride

24th Beautiful Spring Morn concluded to go to Galveston Started in stage at 12 M. in company with two friends Partners Ray & Cantwell passed Webberville on Colorado 16 mi from Auston saw some fine farms got to Bastrop at dark & next morning to Lagrange for Breakfast

25th travelled down the Colerado Valley crossed the River twice passed through Columbus Colora[do] Co & then to Alleytown 100 Miles from Auston fine farms along the River & corn & cotton look well. Very Hard rain at night

26th started at 8 A.m for Galveston via Buffalo Bayou Brazos Colorado R R Arrived at Richmond for Dinner & to Harrisburg at 2 P M distance 80 Milcs. From Alleytown to Richmond on the Brazos River the Road ran through the Most beautiful Prairie that I ever laid eyes on Pasture was abundant & the Pairie was literally covered with tens of thousands of cattle Horses & Mules. Wild geese in great abundants. We could see Deer in either side of the Road which appeared to be very tame. this day I have seen over 100 of these beautiful animals. On the Brazos there are some fine farms Corn Cane & Cotton all look well Corn & cane is 4 to 8 inch high. From Rich to this place the country is Level good grass & thousands of cattle While waiting here (Harrisburg) I walked down to Town & saw very many beautiful flowers including a great variety of of Roses left at 3 for Galveston and arrived at 7 P.M Country level. put at Island City Hotel Fare 5\$ gold pr day

27th Spent the day in Town Ray left for Home

28 Started back to Austin & travelled the same road I went & got home to Auston at Mid night on the

30th & was sore & Tired

31st Loafed & rested

April 1st 1866 Hard rain. Laid our Stock of Provisions & cooking utensils

2 Attended Government sale of Mules. Bought 2 Wagons at private sale & began to fix for a start

3rd Bought our Provisions hardest rain I ever heard last night

4th Pretty day packed up for off but was disappointed about our Oxen

5th Started for Sansaba with two wagons & 5 yoke Oxen & Seven hands Travelled 12 Miles & camped. Rained hard during the night

6th Every thing wet Morning cold & stormy & rainy travelled 12 Miles Hard wind & rain cold put up at Mr A Branch.

7th Wet Cold Morning travel 8 Miles & camped for the night

8th Sunday Morning up & off at day light to Buy a yoke of Oxen & did so. Hard frost bit the corn to the ground, travelled 15 Miles over a rough rocky country grass poor went Fishing no bite—

9th Beautiful Morning traveled over a level Poor Barren country to a fine spring 15 Miles. *Hard* wind in the night

10th Cool & windy travelled 15 Miles Camped on Gabriel

11th 5 Miles over Rough Roads camped in McEnellys bend on Colorado River Caught two catfish went Hunting

12th Fitted up Camp Hunted & fished. & had excellent luck

13th Visited the Natives & Roamed over the Mountains Day *Warm*

14th Rode to San Saba 20 Miles over a very Rough road went to a Texas Dance &c &c

15th Returned to Camp found 4 new hands had come to Camp Making 20 in all. It Rained hard while we were gone & the River rose. great sport & Men wet crossing

16th Lay round Camp had two Horse races won two bits on each went in swimming—fishing & had a gay day—all the Fish to eat we want

17th Rode to San Saba 20 Mil Rain poured down all day wet as water could make me S. Saba River deep

18th contracted with Mr. Mayberry to deliver me 300 Beeves at Leavenworth for 19\$ per head. then started at 3 oclock & rode 15 Miles over a very rough country got lost & was out till 10 at night

19th Returned to Camp. 19 miles found all well but one yoke of oxen lost Hunted until night & no cattle

20th Rode 7 Miles & back Nice day no oxen

21 Rode to Mr. Harrells where Boys were hearding Cattle for Him. slept by cattle pen—cattle stampeded & 150 got away

22d returned to camp. wrote letters & as I had been up two nights I took a good sleep

23rd Packed up for off Travelled six Miles to first pen & camped Rode 15 More to Mr. Montgomerys

24th back over the mountains to Camp at Harrells Recd 241 cattle & finished Branding Pen hearded *all* night

25 Recd & Branded cattle

26th Branded all day

27th finished Branding Started for Salt Creek with 835 Beeves Landed safe

28th Lay at Salt Creek Met with Many Difficulties was stopped by Officer & Spent the day arranging heard that San Saba cattle had stampeded & started Man there

29 Settled up & Recd last cattle started in evening from Salt Creek & travelled 5 miles to Alexanders gap between Colorado & Brazos

30 *Mo* All well in my Heard Travelled through Pansgath & to Bennett Creek 18 miles

May 1st Travelled 10 miles to Corryell co Big Stamped lost 200 head of cattle

2nd Spent the day hunting & found but 25 Head it has been Raining for three days these are dark days for me.

3rd day Spent in hunting cattle found 23 hard rain and wind lots of trouble

4th Continued the hunt found 40 head day pleasant Sun shone once more. Heard that the other Herd has stampeded & lost over 200

5 Cloudy damp Morning rode 16 Miles & back to see the other Boys found them in trouble with cattle all scattered over the country

6th Started once More on My journey left Cow House River & got to Leon crossed & camped in prairie 5 miles north of River dark & Gloomey night hard rain Stampeded & lost 200 head of cattle (Milts Herd)

7th Hunt cattle is the order of the day—found most of our Cattle & drove 12 miles & camped on a large creek in Bosque Co

8th All 3 herds are up & ready to travel off together for the first time travelled 6 miles rain pouring down in torrents & here we are on the banks of a creek with 10 or 12 ft water & raising crossed at 4 Oclock & crossed into the Bosque Bottom found it 20 ft deep Ran my Horse into a ditch & got my Knee badly sprained—15 Miles

9th Still dark & gloomy River up everything looks Blue to me no crossing to day cattle behaved well

10th Crossed Bosque at Maridian & travelled to Brasos River & find it very high 14 Miles Pleasant day

11th Beautiful warm day lay in camp waiting on R Rode 3 Miles to Kimbleville & back. viewed River & Killed Beeffe

12th Lay around camp visited River & went Bathing

13th Big Thunder Storm last night Stampede lost 100 Beeves hunted all day found 50 all tired. Every thing discouraging

14th Concluded to cross Brazos swam our cattle & Horses & built Raft & Rafted our provisions & blankets &c over Swam River with rope & then hauled wagon over lost Most of our Kitchen furniture such as camp Kittles Coffee Pots Cups Plates Canteens &c &c

15 back at River bringing up wagon Hunting Oxen & other lost property. Rain poured down for one Hour. It does nothing but rain got all our traps together that was not lost & thought we were ready for off dark rainy night cattle all left us & in morning not one Beef to be seen

16th Hunt Beeves is the word—all Hands discouraged. & are determined to go 200 Beeves out & nothing to eat

17th No Breakfast pack & off is the order. all Hands gave the Brazos one good harty dam & started for Buchanan travelled 10 miles & camped found 50 Beeves (nothing to eat

18th Every thing gloomey four best hands left us got to Buchanon at noon & to Rock Creek in Johnston Co distance 14th

19th Traveled 6 Miles to Mr Bs Ranch & Camped to wait for some of the other party to come up bought some flour & meat two pleasant days Killed Beeffe

20th Rain poured down for two hours Ground in a flood Creeks up—Hands leaving Gloomey times as ever I saw drove 8 miles with

5 hands (359 Head) passed the night 6 miles S.W. from Fort Worth in Parker Co

21st drove 6 miles & crossed clear fork of Trinity in Tarrant Co Other Herd came up divided all the cattle into two Herds. & divided Hands

22nd This day has been spent in crossing the West Trinity & a hard & long to be remembered day to me we swam our cattle & Horses I swam it 5 times upset our wagon in River & lost Many of our cooking utensils again drove 3 miles & camped

23rd Travelled 10 Miles over a beautiful Prairie country such as I expected to see before I came here stopped for dinner on Henrietta Creek & then on to Elisabeth Town & creek & stopped for the night—Hard rain that night & cattle behaved very bad—ran all night—was on my Horse the whole night & it raining hard

24th Glad to see Morning come counted & found we had lost none for the first time—feel very bad. travelled 14 miles crossed Denton Creek

25 Travelled across Clear fork & Elm fork of Trinity passed through cross Timbers Passed the town of Denton County seat of Denton & camped one Mile from Pilot Point Traveled 20 mi (Lost my Knife today)

26th Passed through Pilot Point & travelled through a high rolling Prairie country—some fine wheat fields—wheat is ripe & being Harvested—14 miles

27th drove over Prairie road & passed some fine fields of wheat came in sight of Sherman in Grason Co 13 miles

28 Cold Morning wind blowing & all hands shivering are within 12 Miles of Red River moved up 6 Miles

29th Moved up to River & after many difficulties got all my Drove over but 100

30th worked in River all day & 50 Beeves on this side of River yet—am still in Texas

31st Swimming Cattle is the order We worked all day in the River & at dusk got the last Beeve over—& am now out of Texas—This day will long be remembered by me—There was one of our party Drowned to day (Mr Carr) & Several narrow escapes & I among the no.

June [1]st Stampede last night among 6 droves & a general mix up and loss of Beeves. Hunt Cattle again Men all tired & want to leave. am in the Indian country am annoyed by them believe they scare the Cattle to get pay to collect them—Spent the day in seperating Beeves & Hunting—Two men & Bunch Beeves lost—Many Men in trouble. Horses all give out & Men refused to do anything.

2ond Hard rain & wind Storm Beeves ran & had to be on Horse back all night Awful night. wet all night clear bright morning. Men still lost quit the Beeves & go to Hunting Men is the word—4 P.M. Found our men with Indian guide & 195 Beeves 14 Miles from camp.

almost starved not having had a bite to eat for 60 hours got to camp about 12 M *Tired*

3rd Dividing cattle & seperating is the order of the day. 4 Oclock all tired & Ponies give out. through dividing & have counted & found ourselves minus 55 Beeves

4th Concluded to start the Hurd & leave men to hunt with others who have lost Beeves crossed Blue River & camped 13 Miles further on our way Indians very troublesome

5th Oh! what a night—Thunder Lightning & rain—we followed our Beeves *all* night as they wandered about—put them on the road at day break found 90 Beeves of an other mans Herd travelled 18 Miles over the worst road I ever saw & come to Boggy Depot & crossed 4 Rivers It is well Known by that name We Hauled cattle out of the Mud with oxen half the day

6th Cattle Behaved well More Boggy roads & trouble miring stock travelled 12 miles & found the other herd in trouble 50 Beeves lost

7th last night was dark & gloomy but no rain We are now in the Chickasaw Mountains in the Indian Territory Crossed Limestone another bad creek & camped in Mountains

8th travelled 4 Miles & camped for the day to waid for 12 Beeves that is in another Heard. this is another gloomey evening & I tremble for the result of this night—Thunder & rain all night was in the saddle until day light am almost dead for sleep

9th Travelled 12 Miles crossed a large Creek & camped in Prairie Two men came up with us and agreed to go with us got to sleep all night.

10th Feel much refreshed this morning & am ready for the duties of the day crossed Elk & Canion Creeks & camped near S. Fork of Canadian

11th crossed both south & north Canadian Rivers travelled 21 miles through a very muddy brushy road & camped on the large Prairie

12th Hard Rain & Wind Big stampede & here we are among the Indians with 150 head of Cattle gone hunted all day & the Rain pouring down with but poor success Dark days are these to me Nothing but Bread & Coffee Hands all Growling & Swearing—every thing wet & cold Beeves gone rode all day & gathered all but 35 Mixed with 8 other Herds Last Night 5000 Beeves stampeded at this place & a general mix up was the result

13th finished seperating our Cattle & Moved up 4 miles. Very warm day—

14th Last night there was a terrible storm Rain poured in torrents *all* night & up to 12 M today our Beeves left us in the night but for *once* on the whole trip we found them *all* together near camp at day break. *all* the other droves as far as I can hear are scattered to the four winds our Other Herd was all gone. We are now 25 Miles from Ark River & it is Very High we are water bound by two creeks & but Beef & Flour to eat. am not Homesick but Heart sick

15th Beautiful warm day makes us all feel thankful for some sun shine. Beeves behaved well. Are camped at the old site of Honey Springs where a great Battle took place between the Confederates Indians & Federals there is no part of a House left. The other Herd are still out 50 Beeves are still water bound & time moves slow

16 Last night was a dark Gloomey night but we made it all right to day it is raining & we have crossed Honey creek & am informed that there is another creek 6 miles ahead swimming twelve o'clock to day it rained one Hour so hard that a creek close by rose 20 ft in the afternoon. all wet

17th Beautiful clear night & this morning I went on guard so cold that my teeth chattered the day is nice & clear. We are now within 10 Miles of Arkansas River & it is Reported from 3 to 6 Miles wide. We moved up 2 miles this Morning & have gone into camp for an indefinite period with nothing but flour & Beef to live on & no better prospect

18th Nice day went to Ft Gibson got some coffee & Beefe. River very High but falling. Gloomey prospect out of Money & provisions got back to camp & found the Indians had been there & claimed & tried to take some of our cattle The Indians are making trouble stampeding cattle here. We expect it Cook dinner under a tree on the A K River Bank with two Ladies

19th Good day 15 Indians come to Herd & tried to take some Beeves. Would not let them. Had a big muss One drew his Knife & I my Revolver. Made them leave but fear they have gone for others they are the Seminoles

20th All quiet last night Have called on the Military from Ft Gibson & have the promise of help River falling slow & weather cloudy. all quiet last night

21st—Still Cloudy & we waiting for the River to fall—one Herd is going to try to cross this afternoon. Longs Herd cross with a loss of 25 head. weather pleasant

22 Off for the River early to try to cross worked all day hard got 200 Head across Indians killed one steer & we took it from them.

23rd worked all day hard in the River trying to make the Beeves swim & did not get one over. Had to go back to Prairie Sick & discouraged. Have not got the Blues but am in *Hel of a fix*. Indians held High Festival over stolen Beef all night. lost 2 Beeves mired & maby more

24th Beautiful Sabbath Morning am going 8 miles up the River to Agency. Sold eleven Beebes for 20\$ each. The Herd that would not cross below come up & on Monday the

25th We hired 20 Indians to help us cross. We worked from Morning until 2 O'clock & finally got them over with a loss of 5 & camped near the old Mission between the Ark River & the Verdigris

26th here we are with an other Deep river before us 2 Miles off—We crossed the Verdigris without any difficulty & travelled 12 Miles

when we struck the Main road & joined the others of our Party. The other Herd has $\frac{1}{2}$ of its Beeves over Ark River & like ours the rest refuse to swim

27th Beautiful Bright Morn appearance of warm day My Back is Blistered badly from exposure while in the River & I with two others are Suffering very much I was attacked by a Beeve in the River & had a very narrow escape from being hurt by Diving this day has been very warm travelled 10 Miles & rested

28th another Bright Morning after a cold night—Travelled about 10 Miles through a beautiful Prairie country & stopped for the night on a creek where we caught a nice mess of Fish.

29th Clear Morning and prospect of warm day. Last night I lay Cold with 3 Blankets over me crossed Cabin Creek a nice Mill Stream. Noted at this point as the great Battle ground of this Nation travelled about 12 Miles & Camped at foot of Mountain

30th travelled over m't & crossed Horse Creek & camped in a Beautiful Valley by the finest spring I have seen with plenty of wood travelled about 8 M. Boys caught 25 Sun fish

July 1st—Bought 24 head of Beeves for 25\$ per head. & then travelled up to a creek within 2 Miles of Neosha River & then got dinner Moved up & camped on River Bank for the night

2ond Moved our Herd 2 Miles North of River & then started back in search of the other Herd Travelled back 15 Miles & stopped with a Mr Six of Quincy Ill. who had a Herd & I had a sick headache bad.

3rd continued My Journey back 12 Miles & Met the Boys all well. Turned & got back 8 Miles great time gathering Black Berries. (Bot Pistol)

4th Big Stampeed in this Herd & it is now 10 oclock & but 60 Beeves to be found the Beeves took fright by a Horse running through the Herd at 12 to day we had found all but 60 of our Beeves Some 12 Miles of in other Herds I left for My Herd & rode 18 Miles & found the Boys & Beeves doing fine

5th M Cline came to camp to day & reports that they will get all their cattle & He & John Wharton started for Fort Scott to try to get men & letters & I am to take care of the Beeves until they return Scott Cushman & Birkhaill quit work to day (Snow commencing work)

6th Hard Rain for 6 Hours but cleared of very nice at 5 Oclock this evening the other Herd has not come up yet We had nothing to do but herd & then go & see the Natives They are very friendly (very dark night)

7th dark gloomey Morning Heard a big stampeed over the River last night Have not Heard who today it Poured rain until 2 oclock & has now cleared off I stood 6 Hours out in the rain & it seldom rains harder we caught 20 of Taylors Beeves to day. They stampeded last night Taylor came in my absence & took his own Beeves & one of Mine.

8th Last night was another of those nights that try a man it thun-

dered & Lightened all night & rained one hard rain we stuck to our Beeves all right but could hear others in trouble, rode round all day with the cattle

9th Still cloudy followed a man that drove off one of My Beeves & got him. Other Herd came up & went on. it camped $1\frac{1}{2}$ Miles from us & that night at 9 O clock it stampeded & ran one Mile & over. the next Morning

10th the Boys are hunting cattle & at noon they claim they have them all—We Moved up 12 Miles & camped 2 Miles from Baxter Springs we are now on the Quaw Paws land & have moved off the Shawnees land (were ordered off hard rain today

11th are camped near Spring River Wharton got back from Ft Scott with the information that all our letters have been sent to the dead letter office Very warm Herded all day

12th went to Baxter heard of my Poney very warm looks like rain.

13 Went to Baxter & on to the other Camp. Found my Poney & returned to camp. We Killed a beefe this Morning by the persuasion of Indians & after we had it Butchered they would not buy it & we had to give it to them

14 Hirded alone until 4 oclock when our partners Cantwell & Cline came to our camp

15th went to other camp & spent the day with the Boys Ray came to our camp in evening

16th 3 Horses gone & hunt is the order of Morning Horse found & all right went to see Ray & other boys at Baxter Springs spent the day buying Hors & arranging things

17th Spent the day with Ray & others at Baxter

18th Spent the day trying to settle up with partners preparatory to starting around Kansas to get Home Horse stolen last night

19th Hard Rain & wind Beeves stampeded & ran most of the night was on my Horse all night out 25 Beeves this morning found all our Beeves & got the Hird all straight at dark

20 last night we had another of those Miserable nights rain poured down Beeves ran wind blew was on my Horse the Whole Night are out 100. at 10 Oclock Mr. Davis commenced work today found all our Beeves & are now ready to go to settling up with the other Party to get ready to take my share & go around Kansas.

21st Spent the day settling

22 tried to hire a new out fit of hands & continued the settlement sold our co property at auction

23rd finished our settlement & divided our Beeves—drove 3 Miles & camped for the night Made a contract with Mr. Bumbarger of Honey Grove Fanin Co Texas & Mr Augustus Goff of Paris Lamar Co Texas who had 300 Stock cattle—to go through together & join Herds—

24 All arrangements completed we started & Recrossed the Neosho & camped for the night

25th We left the Beeve Road & started due west across the wide Prairie in the Indian Nation to try to go around Kansas & strike Iowa. I have 490 Beeves travelled about 11 Miles

26th Was notified that I could not go farther on that direction & we turn south west the day was warm & the Flies was worse than I ever saw them. our animals were almost ungovernable travelled about 12 miles over a grand & Picturesque Prairie camped far out in the open prairie We are in the Shawnee nation

27th continued our journey about 12 miles & crossed a creek had trouble crossing

28th are in the Osage Nation but have seen none yet have not seen a living thing only our own animals & some wolves for 3 days crossed two very Bad creeks & camped on one that looks as if it was impossible to cross

29th Sunday Excitement in camp thought our Horses & oxen were stolen but found them after many troubles we got down the Mountain & across the Creek weather very *Hot* Travelled 8 miles Lost my coat & went back after it. Osages visited our camp Are great Beggars

30th Drove 6 Miles & crossed Verdigris had to give the Indians a Beeve for the right of way. Indians saucy Went Bathing 5 miles in afternoon & camp

31st Find ourselves out two Horses Hunted for them Most of the day Two of the Boys came to a camp of Indians returning from a Hunt They were very saucy & when asked about the Horse threatened to shoot. Was glad to get away without the Horse

Aug. 1st No trouble last night but lost a Cow have travelled about 10 Miles today & while I sit here in the grass in the Broad prairie the Rear of the Herd is coming up Weather pleasant & no flies

2nd This Morning just at day break we had a Mule & Horse stolen & followed the Fellow so close after a big race that he had to let them go. I think He was a white Man We are stil travelling in the Indian Country & see but few & they generally away on the mountain top watching us. We have been for several days in a high Mountainous Prairie with Lovely vallies & very fine grass

Aug. 3rd All right but 2 men one down with Boils & one with Ague Travelled about 10 Miles over high Rocky Peaks & 2 creeks with fine grass

Aug. 4th Lost a cow last night could not reach wood nor water & had to stay on the Prairie without water or fire the country continues rough & Rocky all most impossible in places Found a Human skeleton on the Prairie to day Struck the old Mormon trace this evening (used in 1852)

5th Sunday travelled about 6 Miles & are laying over washing & resting our selves & stock saw a fine drove of antelope to day. Splendid spring We have been travelling a little south of West & are now near the Arkansas River but we dont Know How far nor where we are now going to turn North & trust to luck

6th Travelled 10 Miles N.W. over a high Mountainous Prairie the grass was dried by the sun that it would have burned Killed a fine lot of Chickens & had a Pot Pie. (good water) Beefe died last night

7th Cool & windy travelled 10 M to little Walnut Creek. Two white men visited us—are within 10 Miles of a settlement

8th Come to Big Walnut cattle stampeded & ran by 2 farms & the People were very angry but we made it all right was visited by Many Men was threatened with the Law but think we are all right now (Plenty of vegetables)

9th Mr Goff & D are selling out their stock cattle to day & we are laying by resting weather very dry & every thing Parching up by the sun Prairie Burning all around us—Cattle trade Made & tomorrow they are to be delivered.

10 Separating cattle is the business of the day. Appearances of rain (no rain)

11th still laying in camp & our purchacer hunting money. begin to think all is not right

12th This Morning we continued our journey & our buyer still with us he says he will pay for them today we have now stopped on Spring Creek for dinner I was sick last night had a chill & the cholic this morning—feel badly yet Every thing parching under the scorching sun. We have taken an Indian into the Party this Morning. Trade played out & man gone back Camped on White Water.

13 Rain & Stampede last night hunted cattle all day & at dusk brought the last 47 Head in

14th Rained all night Stayed with cattle until near morning & they then left us & we went to camp started at day break & by 8 oclock had them all. Have travelled 6 miles & stopped to rest—no wood nor dinner. Travelled 3 Miles farther & camped for the night & one small green cottonwood tree was all the wood we had. lost a fine cow.

15th Travelled until noon & came to a creek with some wood on it had all we could eat & feel better. I had a chill last night & have suffered with cholic today. camped in a Beautiful valley with fine water & no wood

16th Crossed cotton wood—saw antelope traveled 12 Miles camped on Prairie no wood very sick man in camp has had two severe fits—I got struck by a Horse (in the face) & have a very sore eye as stil troubled with cholic

17th Travelled 6 Miles struck the long looked for & much talked of Santafee Road 5 Miles from the Lost Springs & camped for the night. I was very sick & slept none had severe shake

18th went to 6 mile ranch & camped

19th Travelled to Diamond Springs 6 miles for Dinner—Ox had a fit & frightened some of us—continued our journey 8 Miles to Elm Creek Poor grass cool nights

20 arrived at Council Grove & crossed the Neosho & Pitched camp without any tent

21st Divided the herd & left the stock cattle & 4 Men and the other 5 of us continued our journey 5 miles in afternoon we are in Morris Co.

22d We have travelled about 20 miles today & camped on Mill Creek I am on herd tonight it is now 11 oclock a beautiful moonlight night but cool. I have to stand half the night the day was cold & some rain—There is but little timber in all this country none only on the water courses there are some fine springs I have a severe pain in my neck

23rd Horses all gone had to herd & Hunt Horses on foot—grass wet. found Horses about 10 oclock & travelled down Mill Creek about 15 Miles camped in Indian country the Potowatams—bought Potatoes of them night cold

24th Travelled 15 Miles & crossed Caw [Kansas] River at St Marys Mission or St Marys—find a R Road completed from Kansas City to Waubensee near Ft Riley. good country no timber

25th Travelled 15 Miles in Potawatamy Nation & camped on a Beautiful creek Look like rain

Aug 26 Traveled 3 Miles which took us out of Potawatomie nation into Nimehah Co & through the Town of America are within 28 Miles of Nebraska. think there is some hope for reaching Iowa yet. Grass Poor saw a Meeting House yesterday

27 am on herd. Very foggy morning Travelled through the Town of Lincoln & camped near the very Pretty little villiage of Senica in Nemakah Co very fine Spring here

28th crossed the Nimahah & travelled by some fine farms & stopped for dinner 8 miles from Senica & 4 miles from Nebraska line Think I see a showing to get Home some day yet have travelled 2 miles since dinner & have stopped to let the cattle graze while I set her writing I can see over into Nebraska & expect to get there in one hour from this time—(did so)

29th Travelled down the Nemegah crossing it twice each time at a Mill stopped for the night one mile from Table Rock a Town we got our cattle scattered in the Bottoms & had great trouble in getting them out

30th Dark Morning looks like rain I am setting on a steep mountain side watching the cattle while the Boys are eating their Breakfasts. Cloudy day crossed another Nemahah & stopped for the night 30 miles from N City

31st Last night was one of those old fashioned rainy stormey thundering nights just such as we used to have in Texas was up with the cattle all night They travelled where they pleased but we stuck too them until morning. Today we crossed Big Muddy & camped on North fork of Nimehah It commenced raining at dark & rained all night was up with cattle until midnight & then went to bed found them all in the morning

Sept 1st moved the herd up to within 5 miles of Nebraska City— & went to Town took a good look over into Iowa got my dinner & no tidings from Ray & returned to camp prospects of more rain This is a fine country without timber

2nd Sunday lay around the wagon (for that is all the camp we have) all day feel very tired & lazy cattle all got up & stole off from the Herder while he was asleep—could not find them until morning—

3rd Went to Town crossed into Iowa—examined the shore to see if it was mirey returned spent the day viewing the Town & waiting for Ray in vain weather cool cloudy damp & unpleasant laying on the open Prairie with but cow chips for a fire

4th Cold Wind Blew hard last night suffered with cold trouble with cattle damages to Pay went to Town come Home sick had chill sever Headach & pains in limbs no tidings from Ray

5th spent sick night am better today but have been in bed all day still cloudy & damp no Ray yet am tired waiting here I am having unpleasant time

6th Went to Town no Ray resolved to cross the River tomorrow help or not

7th Up & off for the River got to Town found Ray tried to cross cattle would not swim. ferried 100 Head corralled the rest

8th got all over but 75 after many troubles & working until after dark in the Rain which poured down all afternoon—

9th Sunday hunt cattle all day am at the Hotel in Nebraska City & very tired

10th continued the hunt found 6 head

11th Same occupation with but poor success ran our selves & Horses down & got no Beeves

12th concluded to try to cross the twelve we had collected put them with another herd & let 4 of them get away again went in search of the herd which was on the Iowa side & found them at Sidney

13th Returned 15 Miles to Nebraska City to continue the hunt as we still have 8 head out yet. got dinner at river & then crossed into Nebraska once more Rode hard until night & no Beeves

14th Hunted corralled & Tied 3 Beeves & a hard day it was

15 crossed with 3 Beeves & went to Sidney Fremont Co Iowa to find that the Boys had left 43 head get away & that go to hunting again was the order

16th hunted all day found 39

17th Rode hard all day found one it has been raining for three days & nights & is cold

18 Hunted & found 2 Beeves & concluded to quit the hunt & start

19th moved up 5 Miles & crossed the two Nishenabotany Rivers last night it poured down rain all night

20th moved up to Page Co line & camped Hard frost last night are within 23 miles of Clarinda Bought 52 oxen & Beeves

21st Drove 5 miles for dinner Bumbarger & Brooks left for Home

in Texas I bot them out today left the herd & went to Clarinda ten miles & back to McDonalds

22 Have had a pleasant time last night & today with McDs herd has moved on to Town & I am stopping here

23rd Started after Herd & overtook it 10 miles east of Clarinda rained all day & night put up at.....Taylor County Iowa crossed two Tarkios day before yesterday & two Nodaways yesterday

24th Travelled 12 miles passed the Town of Bedford Taylor Co

25th Turned northeast for Afton Co seat Union Co travelled 12 miles frost last night pleasant day

26th warm travelled 12 miles over beautiful Rolling Prairie no timber nor farms

27th Very warm passed the village of Union City Union Co crossed Platt Creek & camped on Prairie

28 Travelled 14 miles passed through Afton & stopped for the night at Mr Falls weather warm

29th Crossed Grand River & put up for the night at Mr Fridays country the same weather do

30th Sunday have travelled 12 miles & stopped within 2½ miles of Osceola in Clark Co Heard that Geo Ray was in Town & have sent for him Have rode Horse back today for the first time for 8 days

Oct 1st Passed through Osceola Clark Co travelled 9 miles weaether warm & pleasant

2on Came within 9 miles of Chariton & stopped the Herd left it in charge of G. Ray & settled with Sexton & Taylor went to spelling school

3rd Taylor & I left the Herd & started for Home travelled 28 miles & put up at Hardeys

4th Rode to Eddyville 25 m & then by Rail to Ottumwa

5th On down to Summitt & then Home, Found all well

6th Visited Friends & had a General good time & it continued untill the

12fth when I started back to Herd & reached it on the morning of the

13th found all well

14 Cut out 90 head of the Scalawags & started them for Burlington & myself & Rice Remained with the rest 5 miles East of Chariton at a Mr. Threlkedas

15 Herded in Meadow

16th Herded in Meadow & on Prairie

17th Cattle behaved so bad in field we could not keep them out of Corn—& had to go to Prairie hard shake of Ague sick night

18th cattle on Prairie all day & I in Bed (yesterday the same) wrote to Ray

19th Started with 101 Steers for Ottumwa & went to Mr Hareys 13 m

20 Hard shake & high fever last night stopped at Mr McFaddens over night Hard rain

21st Sunday Travelled through Eddyville & put up at Mr. Stouts two miles below

22 Drove 8 miles alone & put up at Mr. Birns

23rd to Caldwell's 6 Miles

24th carred the cattle & started them for Chicago

25th started to chariton after other cattle got to Albia 26 miles & put up

26th continued My journey & arrived at Mr. Threlkeld in evening found all well

27th Started the cattle for Ottumwa & got to Mr Jones'

28 Drove to Mr Haskells

29th Frosty Morning. Crossed the River at Eddyville and stopped for the night at Mr. McFaddens

30 went within one mile of Ottumwa & stopped at Mr Caldwell's

31st Shipped cattle from Ottumwa to Burlington

Nov 1st Shipped cattle from Burlington Chicago

2ond Spent day at Union Stock yard & in evening drove cattle to Slaughter House to have them packed

3rd Viewed City & attended to packing

4th Busy all day at Work & looking at the wonders of a fast city

5th returned to Ottumwa

6th Got Home sick & tired & glad to get to rest

7th Spent Most of the day in Bed & feel badly

NEW FERRY

Across the Mississippi River at Eagle Point, 2½ miles from Dubuque on the road leading to Galena and Wisconsin. The subscriber would respectfully inform the travelling public and others that he has established a ferry at the above named place. Persons going from the northern part of Illinois or Wisconsin into Iowa will find this much the best, nearest and cheapest route. The accommodations at the ferry are good, having just built a strong large, and swift

TWO HORSE POWER BOAT

of the most substantial character, and it will be attended by careful, accommodating and experienced hands. Ferrying done at any time between sunrise and sunset.

T. M'CRANEY.

Dubuque, December, 1850.

—Advertisement in the *Fairfield Ledger*, December 24, 1851. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

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