

## DOCUMENT

### THE CALIFORNIA JOURNEY OF GEORGE D. MAGOON 1852-1854

*Edited by Mildred Throne\**

Recently Miss Edith Magoon presented to the State Historical Society of Iowa a box of papers, letters, and diaries of her two grandfathers, George D. Magoon and George W. Van Horn, both residents of Muscatine, Iowa. The diary of George D. Magoon, here reproduced, covers a journey by sea to California in 1852, his two years' residence there, and his return journey in 1854. Except for personal references to mail received and answered, the diary is here printed in full.

George D. Magoon was a native of Massachusetts. In 1840, at the age of fifteen, he came to Iowa with his parents, settling at Muscatine. In 1847 young Magoon took up the carpenter's trade which he followed all of his life, becoming one of Muscatine's leading builders and contractors.<sup>1</sup> In the spring of 1852 he and a group of men from Muscatine decided to try their luck in the gold fields of California. Instead of making the long overland trek west, the group went east to New York, took ship there for Nicaragua, crossed that country by river and lake boat, and took a sailing ship from the west coast for San Francisco. The experience, as detailed in the diary, gives a day-by-day account of the journey, of his life in California — both in the gold fields and in Sacramento — and of the return two years later via the Panama route.

The diary is of interest in that it illustrates so many different phases of life on a trip to California in the 1850's — the long journey; the trials and

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<sup>1</sup> Biographical sketches of George D. Magoon in *The History of Muscatine County, Iowa . . .* (Chicago, 1879), 610; and *Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa . . .* (Chicago, 1889), 412-14. Born on Feb. 11, 1825, Magoon lived in Ohio and Illinois for short periods before coming to Iowa in 1840. After his California journey he married Joanna Kincaid, daughter of Col. G. W. Kincaid and Louisa (Steinbergen) Kincaid. Magoon served as first lieutenant in Company H, 11th Iowa Infantry, during the Civil War. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers . . .* (6 vols., Des Moines, 1908), 2:362. He died in Muscatine, Mar. 22, 1900.

disappointments in the gold fields; the possibilities of employment outside the search for gold; and the inevitable return home with little or no profit. The journey from the west coast of Nicaragua to San Francisco by sailing vessel is a story in itself. Magoon describes the many different parts of his two-year experience — the crowds waiting for a ship in San Juan del Sur; the miseries of a voyage under sail, with its accompanying brutalities; the "returned Californians," who had given up the search; and the struggles to find even a little gold. His journey out took place in the fourth year of the "gold rush." The first excitement and hysteria had given way to methodical searches for gold, with companies of men employing the newest mechanical devices in mining, rather than individuals striking out on their own. Magoon spent from July 18 to December 1 of 1852 in the gold fields, with two different companies of men but with little profit. From December 1, 1852, to January 13, 1854, he tried his luck as a builder in Sacramento, a town growing rapidly but almost destroyed in that year by disastrous floods. Here he found plenty of work at good wages, but he closed out his year with only a profit of some \$1,100. In contrast to the journey out, which had taken 166 days, his return to Iowa, by almost the same route, took but 32 days, a striking illustration of the rapid development of transportation during those two years.

The diary is published just as written, with no punctuation, with erratic capitalization, and with the unconventional spelling so typical of the time.

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Monday 9 day of Feb 1852 I started from Muscatine Iowa for California at 1 Oclo P M the day is verry pleasant and warm we arrived at Grandview and stopt for the night at Dr Kingers

Tuesday 10 we left Grandview at six Oclo this morning and took dinner at Mr Brogans 35 miles from Home after dinner we drove to Mr Wares Inn 45 miles from Home and stopt for the night the wether [sic] is stormy and cold to day

Wednesday 11 left Wares Inn at six Oclo this morning and got to Burlington at 12 Oclo and took dinner at the Barret House after dinner we drove to Mr Highters 11 miles below Burlington and stopt over night the weather has been verry cold and windy

Thursday 12th left Mr Highters at six Oclo passed ft Madison and took dinner at Montrose after dinner drove to Keokuk and put up for the night at the Laclede House cold and windy to day

Friday 13th after breakfast left Keokuk and when we got to the Des Moines river we had some trouble in crossing it was so high got to Churchville at 12 Oclo I crossed the river to Warsaw and seen some old acquaintances left Churchville and got to Mr Roses 12 miles from Tulley Mo and put up for the night here nine of us slept in one bed there is some splendid farms in this section of the country the weather has been verry pleasant to day

Saturday 14th left Mr Rose at 5 Oclo and arived at Tulley at 10 Oclo a few minits to[o] late for the Boat and had to stop here till 8 Oclo at night when the stern wheel Caleb Cope made her appearance at the landing we took pasage on her for St Louis the weather has been fine to day

Sunday 15th we arived at Quincy Ill at 9 Oclo this morning here Mr Holister an old acquaintance came on board left Quincy and at 12 pased Hanible at 3 Oclo pased Louisiana 150 miles above St Louis cold and windy to day

Monday 16th arived at St Louis this morning at 7 Oclo we took pasage on Steamer Mt Vernon for Cincinnati for 7 dollars and took a stroll over the city the weather has been warm and pleasant to day

Tuesday 17th to day Capt Battelle Thornton and O Phelps came down to see us on board of the boat we left St Louis at 4 Oclo pased Jefferson Baracks 12 miles from St Louis at sundown the weather warm

Wednesday 18th to day at 10 Oclo we pased the wreck of the steamers Oswego and Robert Fulton they lay within one hundred yards of each other the river at this place is full of snags at 11 Oclo we pased St Genvie [Ste. Genevieve] a little town on the Mosouri side arived at Cairo the mouth of the Ohio River at 4 Oclo verry windy to day and ocasionly some rain

Thursday 19th to day we passed several little towns of little note at 11 Oclo we stopt at cave in rock on the Ohio river for a short time which gave us an opportunity to look at the Cave the banks of the river here is rather a romantic place we passed Shawnee town at 4 Oclo raining part of the day

Friday 20th to day at 10 Oclo we pased Boonsborough a little town in Ky we stopt a short time at Cannelton a flourishing town in Indiana here there is a Cotton Factory that is 4-1/2 storyes high and about 200 girls to work Hawsville is opposite quite cold and rainy all day

Saturday 21st we pased a little town at the mouth of salt river called

west Pt about 20 miles below Louisvill[e] we arived at Albany at 1 Oclo portland is opposite 3 miles below the Canal here they was building one of the largest steamers that runs the western watters the Eclips at 2 Oclo we arived at the Canal had to lay by a short time to let a boat get out of the canal this gave us an opportunity to go and see Porter the Kentucky Giant he is 7 ft 9 inches high but he is a verry feble looking man we got through the canal to Louisville at 8 Oclo this evening where we had to lay up till morning on the account of the fog and rain

Sunday 22nd I seen Tom Johnson this morning Jeffersonvill[e] is opposite Louisville we left Louisville at 10 Oclo arived at Madison at six Oclo one hundred miles below Cincinnatti middling pleasant to day

Monday 23rd to day we pased Aurora 20 miles below Cincinnatti Lawrenceville is the next town it is situated on the Ohio river a little below the mouth of the Miami river at 8 Oclo we pased the residence of President Harrison his tomb is on a high knowl in view from the river a little below Cincinnatti is some splendid residences we arived there at 11 Oclo and put up at the railroad Hotell after dinner or at 2 Oclo we took the rail Road for Dayton and arived there at 6 Oclo distance 60 miles stopt at the Devorese House weather fine to day

Tuesday 24th in the morning I went to see Johnson an old acquaintance after that John and myself got a Cariage took two of his neices [sic] and started for Ant Polly Bakers six miles in the country we found the roads verry muddy she was verry glad to see her Democrat as she called me we stopt over night

Wednesday 25th in the morning we left Ant Pollys for Dayton stopt and took dinner at Lafevers Johns sisters after dinner we left Lafevers we took Miss Lafever to Dayton with us and all took tea at Johns sisters I was quite unwell and did not enjoy my visit verry much pleasant to day

Thursday 26th left Dayton for Xenia at 5 Oclo by stage we found the road almost impasible we arived there in time for the 10 Oclo train of cars and took a through ticket to Cleaveland we took dinner at Columbus where we stopt 20 minits we pased through several little towns and arived at Cleaveland at 9 Oclo and put up at the Dunham House weather fine

Friday 27th Cleaveland is a verry clean pretty place streets are verry wide we left this place at 10 Oclo for Dunkirk went 35 miles by the rail road and then the rest of the way which was 65 miles by stage there was but six of us in our stage and all jolly fellows and got along first rate we

paid our driver extra and he put us through 3 hours ahead of the other coaches arrived at Erie at 3 Oclo P M and put up at the Reed House

Saturday 28th took Breakfast and dinner at the Reed House then after took the cars for Dunkirk we arrived there at 5 Oclo here we had to change cars we took supper at a station at 9 Oclo rainy and cold all day

Sunday 29th last night about 12 miles from Elmyra at 12 Oclo we met with an accident broak through a high bridg[e] and smashed the Locomotive and bagage cars all up and left one of the pasenger cars suspended in the air only one lady hurt staid here till morning and one of the coldest nights I ever saw in the morning there was a train sent for us arrived at Elmira at 6 Oclo and put up at the Brainard House this is 280 miles from New York we have to stop here till one Oclo to night the weather cold but pleasant

Monday March 1st to day we traveled through some verry rough country along the Deleware river we arrived at Jersey City opposite to New York at 2 Oclo crossed the Hudson river in the Ferry boat and got in New York at 3 Oclo and stopt at the Merchants Hotell Courtland St we found the streets very slipery and icy I went to the Broadway Theater to night to see Forest [the actor, Edwin Forrest] perform the Peice [sic] of Richard the Third he is a fine noble looking man cold to day

Tuesday 2nd I took a walk about the city and finaly got to Barnams Museum on Broadway and went in he has every thing here that you could mention then in the evening went to Broghams Theater to see Mrs Forest she is a fine looking woman and a good actress weather cold and pleasant

Wednesday 3rd to day I went to Castle Garden this must be a nice place in the summer season it stands out by it self so that there is always a breese you also have a fine view from it you can see of[f] from the Bay and see hundreds of boats of all discriptions playing around the steamships all have to pass here you can have a good view of the old fort Broklin Staten Island Jersey City and up each river after we left the Garden we went to Vanderbilts Steam ship Office and bought our tickets for California to go on the steamship Prometheus Capt Churchill which was to leave for San Juan Del Nort on the 5th of March we then went up on Chatham and Wall streets the trinity Church is a most splendid building on Broadway the Stewart Block oposite the Astor House leaves the Astor in the shad[e] weather fine went to Theater

Thursday 4th took a walk around the city was at fountain Green and

several other places of attraction in the evening went to the Astor Palace Theater pleasant day

Friday 5th of March we bought our blankets and other articles necessary for our voyage and went on board the Steamer and left New York precisely at 3 Oclo P M it is quite a trying scene to witness to see men parting with their wives and friends about sundown we passed sandy Hook I begin to get sea sick cold and blustry

Saturday 6th to day the sea is rough and a good many sea sick the weather is changible raining considerable saw a great many fish

Sunday 7th the sea is rougher than yesterday and pasengers are verry sick getting much warmer and raines considerable

Monday 8th the wind blows to quite a gale all sails taken down some are getting over their sickness

Tuesday 9th the sea has Calmed down and is quite pleasant and warm and are getting acquainted

Wednesday 10th to day at 12 Oclo we came in along the coast of Meruy guano [Mayaguana] Island east of Cuba 40 miles seen some flying fish to day this makes the fifth day out [of] sight of land the Climate is butiful here

Thursday 11th we have been sailing to day along the Isle of St Domingo we were in sight of the Isle of Cuba very pleasant weather

Friday 12th we have a fine sailing breese and the climate is getting verry warm we seen some Porposes to day

Saturday 13th a fair sailing breese and pleasant for this climate rained some to day

Sunday 14th it is calm to day and verry hot we have preaching to day by a Methodest preacher . . . got in sight of land at 4 Oclo and at 12 Oclo at night cast anchor in the mouth of the river Nicuraugua [sic]

Monday 15th the weather is hot and sultry and at 12 Oclo we went on shore to San Juan Del Nort<sup>2</sup> and put up at Merchants Hotell I seen

<sup>2</sup> San Juan del Norte, on the east coast of Nicaragua, at the mouth of the San Juan River, near the border of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The river flows from Lake Nicaragua in western Nicaragua into the Caribbean at San Juan del Norte. Those going to California took river boats to the lake, then lake boats, and finally completed the journey to the west coast by mule. This Nicaraguan route, which was becoming more popular than the earlier Panama route, is described in Hubert Howe Bancroft, *California Inter Pocula* . . . (San Francisco, 1888), 198-202, and in his *History of California* (7 vols., San Francisco, 1890), 6:139-42.

some natives with a Turtle that was 3 ft over the natives are verry civil and well behaved there is some fine gardens of Orange lemmon pineapple and other tropical fruit growing here there is also some verry large snakes I seen one about 14 ft long and Lizards aligators without number

Tuesday 16th two of the river boats came down and took some of the pasengers verry hot and sultry

Wednesday 17th the weather is very hot in the day time but cool and nice in the evening we have to lay in the shade while the sun shines

Thursday 18th it is quite cool for this place the watter is verry warm and bad we cannot drink it without Ice which we get for 10 cts per pound we get better fare here than I expected

Friday 19th this is quite a business place there is a number of ships at anchor all the time we are preparing to go up the river buying our provisions for we have to board our selfs while going up

Saturday 20th I was fishing for crabs and caught a great many they are good boiled raines ocasionly

Sunday 21st raining to day one of the little steamers came down with a great many returning Californians but none that I knew

Monday 22nd the steam ship West Wind arived here with pasengers from New Orleans little steamer went up with pasengers

Tuesday 23rd this evening we had a serenade from the natives it was good

Wednesday 24th hot and sultry it rained hard I was weighed to day and had lost 10 pounds since I left Home more returned Californians

Thursday 25th raining again and more returned Californians they had a grisley Bear that weighed 1300 [pounds] the steam ship Promethius left for N York to day at 12 Oclo

Friday 26th we left San Juan Del Nort at 10 Oclo on the steamer Sir Henry Boliver for Castilia rapids this river is verry shallow so that we are aground often and [see] plenty of the largest kind of Aligators we got up 20 miles and stopt over night then we could hear the Tigres and Monkeys making a fuss all night all along the banks of this river grows plenty of Coconut Mahogany and india rubber trees

Saturday 27th got up steam and at Sunrise we was on the move again we pased a field of plantain we got to the lower Cuyaugua rapids and got fast on the rocks laid there all night rained some

Sunday 28 we could not get the boat off till we all got of[f] in the

watter and lifted her over the rocks and got over the lower rapids 3 miles farther up we all had to get off and walk about a mile around the other rapids we all went on board again and arrived at Castilia rapids at two Oclo where we change boats here is the ruins of an ancient castle it is said to be 300 years old it stands on a high hill or knowl and has underground passages the walls are about 3 ft thick and put up with brick stone and cement it is evident that workman [sic] built it

Monday 29th left Castilia at 8 Oclo and at 10 the boat ran on the rocks and got fast laid all day and the weather so hot I could hardly breath the current so strong we could not get ashore

Tuesday 30th still aground but [at] 8 Oclo got off and went on shore while the boat went up 2 miles to unload her freight women and children the boat returned in three hours for us went up and got the women and started up the river at 4 Oclo the capt said here was the place where he met the Lake Boat and would not go any farther but it was such a sickley place we prevailed on him to go on to San Carlos at the Lake he agreed to if we would take hold and wood the boat took on 8 cords at Sundown started arrived at San Carlos at 11 Oclo at night

Wednesday 31 San Carlos is situated on Lake Nicaragua at the source of the river Nicaragua [sic. San Juan River] and is a verry pleasant place we were pretty hungry and went on shore and got something to eat the natives make splendid Coffee and fruit is abundant of all kinds we went up to the fort to see the Gov we found him a Gentleman although we could not tak [talk] much to him for he is a Spaniard he treated us to fruit we went then back on the hill to a ruins of an old fortification you have a splendid view of the lake town and surrounding country the old cannon and balls are yet laying around in piles the cannon must be old ones for they are dated in 1600 there is abundance of Mahogany timber here this lake is a butiful sheet of watter 150 miles long and 60 wide from here you can see some verry high mountains

Thursday Aprille 1st we went to the shore for our breakfast but we have to pay the natives in dimes and them without holes in them some of the senoretas are verry neat about their dress which is only a skirt made of thin muslin and a scarf throwed over their sholders

Friday 2nd the lake steamer arrived here this morning at 4 Oclo she brought the news of the loss of the steamship North America the one that we was to go on to San Francisco we went on board of her at 6 Oclo



and went down the river 30 miles for some trancient pasengers that was expected that day we kicked against it verry hard but we had been waiting so long we finaly held an indignation meeting the result was that we would take posesion of the boat ourselves as we were all getting sick here the capt finally agreed to be back by 4 Oclo so it was aranged and the boat started for the pasengers got them and we got back at 9 Oclo to the Lake this is a butiful moon light night and had dancing there was two fidders and several ladies on board the lake is perfectly calm

Saturday 3rd this morning at 6 Oclo we arived at Virgin Bay this is not much of a place only a few canvass houses we got ashore at 11 Oclo procured our mules and started for San Juan Del Sur<sup>3</sup> at 12 distance 12 miles through a pleasant part of the country we got through at 4 Oclo traveling though the hot sun was to[o] much for me and I was taken sick

Sunday 4th this is one of the most god forsaken towns in the world this is the regular day for gambling cock fighting and drunkenness and every vices that man can do and what surprised me the most was to see the same preacher that preached to us on the steamer a few weeks before tending the bar at one of the gambling houses

Monday 4th [*sic.* 5th] I am quite sick today and getting worse there is a great many sick with the fever jigers are verry troublesome make our feet sore

Tuesday 6th we have a fine breese this morning the Brig Triumph left with pasengers for San Francisco this morning and the Alleghanian arived here bound for California to day I am takeing some Homopathist medicines and am no better

Wednesday 7th not as well to day I can not eat anything it is such stuff that a well man can not hardly eat we pay two dollars per day for board at that

Thursday 8th I am a little better and took a bath in the sea which is so refreshing and cool John went to work to day at 50 cts per hour

Friday 9th we are getting verry impatient to get out of this cursed hole I got a relapse and am verry sick again

Saturday 10th I am not so well to day there is a corpse laying in an old tent that has laid for 4 days the natives finaly buried him

Sunday 11th there is a great many people ariving here dayly bound

<sup>3</sup> San Juan del Sur, port on the southwest coast of Nicaragua, from whence California-bound passengers boarded ships for San Francisco.

for the land of God but it is so sickly here and chances of getting away so discouraging that a good many go back

Monday 12th the prospects begin to look discouraging of getting away at 5 Oclo there was a steamer hove in sight but how disappointed when she passed our port

Tuesday 13th I am getting better again there is some robbery committed here nightly there is a set of desperadoes here at 12 Oclo our hearts were gladened at arival of the steam ship Monumental City the one that the Agents told us would be after us but we were doomed to disappointment for when the Capt came on shore he said he would not take but four hundred and they should come on by the number of their ticket as we bought our tickets last we were left but the Agents told us that the Pacific was expected hourly and there was no doubt but we would all get off on her she arived this after-noon but we were disappointed again for the capt declared he would not take only his regular pasengers

Wednesday 14th there is about one thousand pasengers in this place now we buried a brother odd Fellow to day by the rights and ceremonies of the Order

Thursday 15th Vandiburg and others left for New York some of our fellow pasengers [also] but we go ahead if possible

Friday 16th more pasengers arived to day provisions are getting scarce here and prospects looks more gloomy

Saturday 17th the Americans and natives have a fuss to day but we are two [sic] strong for them another Brig arived to day

Sunday 18th Rained verry hard last night the first we have had since I have been here another pasenger died last night

Monday 19th another man died to day and a good many sick

Tuesday 20 we almost dispair of getting away from here for if we stay here much longer we shall die

Wednesday 21st another death last night and it rained hard another sailer<sup>4</sup> arived to day

Thursday 22nd a good many leave to day on sailers and I expect that will be our fate

Friday 23rd more of our pasengers left for home to day and there is

<sup>4</sup> Magoon thus distinguished sailing vessels ("sailers") from the more modern steamships.

about two hundred of us North American pasengers here yet and the worst of it is we are like to stay here

Saturday 24th I took a job of work to day we have to go to work or starve and it is so sultry and hot that it is almost death to a man from the states two more men died to day

Sunday 25th there is a Brig leaves to day for San Francisco with one hundred pasengers

Monday 26th another Brig arived and all the Northern Lights pasengers from New York

Tuesday 27th A Spanish Brig ran ashore to day the mate and crew of another went to help them the mates got in a quarrel one killed the other the one killed was an American raised quite an excitement the murderer has given up in to the athoritys hands

Wednesday 28th it rained hard all night and I feel verry cross for I got wet through we have had to sleep out in the open air since we left New York we are getting used to hardship

Thursday 29 we begin to talk of going on a Brig that lays here but I cannot bear the Idea of it

Friday 30th to day we took a protest from the U S Consul with the expectation of gaining some damages for our detention

Saturday May 1st this is not the most pleasant may day to me because we are even deprived of the comforts of life . . .

Monday 3rd I went to work on the Barque Salem to day fiting her up for pasengers at five dollars per day

Tuesday 4th at work on the Barque the steamer Independance arived to day with 150 pasengers

Wednesday 5th we tried to get a pasage on the Independance without success and I went to work

Thursday 6th at work to day but I am low spirited but I think there is a better day comeing

Friday 7th we received our wages to day for work done on Barque John and Ewer are at work on Brig Dow

Saturday 8 we found that we would have to take a sailer so we engaged a pasage on the Brig C I Dow for San Francisco and left San Juan Del Sur at 10 Oclo with 115 souls on bourd we took a due west course with a fair breese

Sunday 9th last night had baffleing winds but fair to day a large

Shark following us and I expect he calculates to pick some of us up but I hope not our Latitude to day  $12^{\circ} 11'$  Long  $87^{\circ} 26'$

Monday 10th we have been lying in a perfect calm and almost suffocating with heat and our fare is horrible we caught a Dolphin to day and seen a verry large school of Porposes our Lat  $12^{\circ} 24'$  Long  $88^{\circ} 48'$

Tuesday 11th perfectly calm not a bit of air stiring Lat  $12^{\circ} 37'$  Long  $89^{\circ} 24'$

Wednesday 12th last night we had for four hours a good breese but calm to day allowed on Watter to day and some sickness on board

Thursday 13th sailing with a light breese west by south seen a curious fish called the Devil fish Lat  $12^{\circ} 57'$  Long  $91^{\circ} 44'$

Friday 14th sailing west by south with a 3 knot breese shot a black fish 14 ft long Lat  $13^{\circ} 17'$  Long  $93^{\circ} 6'$

Saturday 15th sailing west by north with a light breese Lat  $13^{\circ} 17'$  Long  $93^{\circ} 43'$

Sunday 16th perfectly calm to day saw a large Whale Lat  $13^{\circ} 44'$  Long  $94^{\circ} 40'$

Monday 17th this morning head wind after-noon good breese Lat  $13^{\circ} 50'$  Long  $95^{\circ} 24'$

Tuesday 18th sailing due west with a fair breese a Steamer pased us at our Starboard bow Lat  $14^{\circ} 27'$  Long  $94^{\circ} 50'$

Wednesday 19 Sailing with a good breese Lat  $15^{\circ}$  Long  $95^{\circ} 50'$

Thursday 20th Calm part of the day head wind the rest Lat  $14^{\circ} 53'$  Long  $96^{\circ} 20'$

Friday 21st a fair breese to day a sail in sight Lat  $15^{\circ} 12'$  Long  $96^{\circ} 53'$

Saturday 22nd dead Calm and sun burning hot Lat  $15^{\circ} 23'$  Long  $97^{\circ} 28'$

Sunday 23rd had a hard squall this morning land in sight about 150 miles below Acapulco Mexico where we have to put in for watter Lat  $15^{\circ} 45'$  Long  $97^{\circ} 44'$

Monday 24th we are following up the coast the cost [sic] here is verry Mountainous calm to day and hot Lat  $16^{\circ} 13'$  Long  $98^{\circ} 30'$

Tuesday 25th we [had] a land breese at night and with it a squall sail in sight verry hot Lat  $16^{\circ} 19'$  Long  $99^{\circ}$

Wednesday 26th this morning the sea is alive with fish of all kinds we arived at Acapulco at 10 Oclo this town is situated on one of the best

harbours in the world the entrance to the harbour is between two Mountain and after going about two miles you find yourself at the city on one of the pretiest bays about 3 miles long 2 wide Lat  $16^{\circ} 55'$  Long  $99^{\circ} 44'$

Thursday 27th I went on shore to day and to my surprise I found Metz Kingsbury who had got there and could not get away there is a great many Americans at this place in a suffering condition cannot get away and out of money the population of this place is about 5,000 all the best buildings are shook down by the Earthquake there is also a verry strong fortification at entrance to the town

Friday 28th at 10 Oclo to day we hoisted anchor and left Acapulco the steamship Pacific arived as we left crowded with pasengers for the States

Saturday 29th we left Acapulco with a strong breese which increased to a gale which lasted 36 hours I did not think we would see day light again Lat  $15^{\circ} 30'$  Long  $101^{\circ} 15'$

Sunday 30th I have always herd that after a storm there was a calm shure enough to day is perfectly calm and we are rolling dredfully Lat  $14^{\circ} 31'$  Long  $101^{\circ} 26'$

Monday 31st a fair sailing breese and on our course Lat  $14^{\circ} 47'$  Long  $102^{\circ} 46'$

Tuesday June 1st a fair sailing breese and was allowed on 3 quarts of watter this to do our cooking and drinking with Lat  $14^{\circ} 14'$  Long  $102^{\circ} 56'$

Wednesday 2nd the weather is verry squally I painted a sighn for the Capt I got five dollars for it Lat  $14^{\circ} 25'$  Long  $102^{\circ} 56'$

Thursday 3rd weather changible and warm to day considerable sickness Lat  $14^{\circ} 22'$  Long  $103^{\circ} 55'$

Friday 4th Sailing north with a strong breese Lat  $14^{\circ} 29'$  Long  $105^{\circ}$

Saturday 5th sailing south west by west with a strong breese our night course is north Lat  $13^{\circ} 45'$  Long  $105^{\circ} 46'$

Sunday 6th Sailing west by north with a light breese Lat  $13^{\circ} 11'$  Long  $106^{\circ} 40'$

Monday 7th sailing west I begin to know what it is to want for watter we are 400 miles from land Lat  $12^{\circ} 50'$  Long  $108^{\circ} 37'$

Tuesday 8th sailing west with a strong breese Lat  $12^{\circ} 15'$  Long  $109^{\circ} 50'$

Wednesday 9th sailing west with a light breese many sick with fever to day Lat  $12^{\circ} 15'$  Long  $111^{\circ} 14'$

Thursday 10th sailing north west card playing is our only amusement  
Lat  $12^{\circ} 28'$  Long  $112^{\circ} 50'$

Friday 11th sailing north west Latitude  $13^{\circ} 15'$  Longitude  $114^{\circ} 5'$

Saturday 12th Sailing west by north Latitude  $13^{\circ} 45'$  Longitude  
 $115^{\circ} 29'$

Sunday 13th Sailing west nor west with a light breese the weather is  
some what cooler to day Latitude  $14^{\circ} 5'$  Longitude  $116^{\circ} 58'$

Monday 14th sailing north west by west with a good breese more  
getting sick every day Latitude  $14^{\circ} 57'$  Longitude  $118^{\circ} 5'$

Tuesday 15th Sailing nor west by west Latitude  $15^{\circ} 54'$  Longitude  
 $119^{\circ} 5'$

Wednesday 16th Sailing west nor west we have two cases of scurvy  
on board Latitude  $16^{\circ} 17'$  Longitude  $119^{\circ} 40'$

Thursday 17th Sailing north west last night a man fell over board  
and was lost he had been sick for some time and was so weak that he  
could not hold on to a rope that the mate threw to him they made no other  
exertion to save him and left him to drown it was heart rending to hear  
him call for help and no one offer to save him the mate a perfect brute  
observed that there would be another allowance of soft tack Latitude  $16^{\circ}$   
 $25'$  Longitude  $121^{\circ} 20'$

Friday 18th Sailing north west by north Latitude  $18^{\circ} 29'$  Longitude  
 $122^{\circ} 40'$

Saturday 19th Sailing north west by north with a good breese but we  
are getting verry [short] of grub and watter and a thousand miles from San  
Francisco Lat  $19^{\circ} 53'$  Long  $123^{\circ} 14'$

Sunday 20th Sailing north west we are on allowance of bread our  
wood is gone and have to burn emty watter casks Lat  $21^{\circ} 39'$  Long  
 $124^{\circ} 9'$

Monday 21st Sailing north west by north with a light breese we amus-  
ed ourselves by catching boobys with a hook and line they are a large sea  
Bird the sailors made soup of them it was sport for us but death to them  
we crossed the tropical line [Tropic of Cancer] to day Lat  $22^{\circ} 43'$  Long  
 $125^{\circ} 14'$

Tuesday 22nd sailing north west by north with a light breese it is  
getting quite cool in the evening Latitude  $23^{\circ} 30'$  Longitude  $126^{\circ} 45'$

Wednesday 23rd sailing north west we have to run in the winds face  
as the sailors term it when we run close to the wind we herd from the

mast head the cry of sail Ho where aways off the Lea bow it proved to be a British Barque Latitude  $24^{\circ} 33'$  Longitude  $128^{\circ} 11'$

Thursday 24th Sailing north west by west head wind our provision is getting verry scarce and in concequence we were brought to a smaller allowance which was already verry short Lat  $25^{\circ} 58'$  Long  $129^{\circ} 9'$

Friday 25th sailing north west by north head wind I have had a touch of the ship fever for four days many of the pasengers have it Lat  $27^{\circ} 33'$  Long  $130^{\circ} 9'$

Saturday 26 Sailing north west head winds and strong so that they had to clue up the galant sail and single reefe the fore top and main sails there is a Brig standing for us off our weather bow at 2 Oclo tacked ship and run east north east that making 28 days on that tack Lat  $29^{\circ} 6'$  Long  $130^{\circ} 58'$

Sunday 27th to day the weather is squalley cold and misty Lat  $30^{\circ} 27'$  Long  $132^{\circ} 19'$

Monday 28th to day the winds are bafleing for a part of the day when it came of [f] calm a hard squall comeing it is verry discouraging to be bafled about this way and so short of grub Lat  $31^{\circ} 12'$  Long  $133^{\circ} 35'$

Tuesday 29 bafleing winds again to day it seems that providence is against us the capt says if there is not a change in the wind in three days we shall steer for the Sanwich Island [Hawaii] Lat  $31^{\circ} 10'$  Long  $133^{\circ}$

Wednesday 30th bafleing winds yet and a long set of faces to day Lat  $31^{\circ} 44'$  Long  $134^{\circ} 42'$

Thursday July 1st perfectly calm and cloudy we are on a still smaller allowance of every thing Capt could not get an observation so cloudy

Friday 2nd Sailing north by west with a light breese San Francisco lies North East from us 690 miles Lat  $32^{\circ} 52'$  Long  $134^{\circ} 12'$

Saturday 3rd head winds had a general row to day about our little grub getting desperate times Lat  $33^{\circ} 45'$  Long  $134^{\circ} 28'$

Sunday July 4th perfectly calm and would be a butiful day if in any other place but this but I do not admire a 4 of July at sea urley in the morning we hoisted the stars and stripes to the mast head and when the Dutch Capt came on deck he hauled it down but we taught him how to hoist it up again in a hurry he was wrothy but no use we are all very low spirited for we have serious thoughts of never getting to land for we have but 10 day watter and provision now and so far from land Lat  $34^{\circ} 42'$  Long  $134^{\circ} 43'$

Monday 5th last night we had a little rain accompanied with a squall I caught 3 bottles of watter which I prised highly for that was 3 days watter  
Lat  $35^{\circ} 22'$  Long  $134^{\circ} 22'$

Tuesday 6th Sailing east north east with a hard breese San Francisco lies north east by north from us the sea is verry rough there was a Clipper ship pased us under full sail while we were bobing about with our sailes partly clued up the weather is verry cold and I have been unwell for a few days Latitude  $35^{\circ} 15'$  Longitude  $132^{\circ} 24'$

Wednesday 7th Sailing east north east with a breese that has increased almost to a gale the [sea] is verry rough and looks angry we are 400 miles from San Francisco Latitude  $35^{\circ} 9'$  Long  $130^{\circ} 18'$

Thursday 8th Sailing east north east with a stiff breese and the sea is verry high the breakers often roll clear over her weather cold and cloudy  
Lat  $35^{\circ}$  Long  $128^{\circ} 13'$

Friday 9th it is perfectly calm and the vesel rolls about on the dead swell so that we have to keep our cabins the sky is over cast and misty a large shark playing around us Lat  $34^{\circ} 56'$  Long  $126^{\circ} 34'$

Saturday 10th calm yet and the sea rolls tremendous so foggy and cloudy he [the captain] could not get an observation

Saturday [sic. Sunday] 11th we have a fine breese we pased some thing of [f] to leaward that looked like a wreck with three men on it but the skipper would not run down to it no observation to day by dead reckonen Lat  $35^{\circ} 56'$  Long  $124^{\circ} 50'$

Sunday [Monday] 12th Sailing north east by north with a fair breese the sea is full of whale and some seals at 3 Oclo we herd the cry of land Ho we rushed on deck and when we saw it I never herd such a shout of Joy in my life we run in close to land and found that we were 37 miles below San Francisco pased a Barque loaded with pasengers it is very cloudy and cold that we have to wear our over coats by dead reckonen Lat  $37^{\circ} 8'$

Tuesday 13th we had a awful stormy night last night but to day it has camed [sic] down some got back to land at 11 Oclo and tacked out to sea again it is so foggy that cannot find the harbour the capt says we are within 10 miles of the entrance but he can not tell where lots of whale to day and our grub is almost gone

Wednesday 14 last night was the most stormy night that we have experienced nearly capsised several times it cleared up pleasant and we



found that we were 3 miles below Cape Blanco or White Cape 13 miles below San Francisco have to beat up against the wind and at 5 Oclo we cast anchor in the bay of San Francisco making 68 day out to sea

Thursday 15th San Francisco lies two miles from the entrance of the bay I beleive [sic] this was the hapiest day of my life to get my feet on tery firmy once more take it all together we had a narrow escape of our lives but it is all over now I went ashore and put up at Jones Hotell

Friday 16th today I found my old friend Mendenhall who had just got in with his wife after a voyage of 124 days around the Horn I saw Judg[e] Hastings he wanted me to stop there but I was for the mines so at 5 Oclo took pasage on the steamer New World for Sacramento City

Saturday 17th we arived at Sacramento at two Oclo this morning this city is situated on the Sacramento River at the mouth of the American River and is a flourishing City at 7 Oclo we took pasage on steamer Gov Dany for Marysville at 12 Oclo we left the Sacramento River and took the Feather river this river is low and hard to navigate Marysville is situated on the Yuba Riber about a mile from its mouth we got to the mouth at 2 Oclo and arrived at Marysville at three . . .

Sunday 18 we started for Fosters Bar in a waggon and rode 15 miles and then took it on foot 10 miles and stopt at a ranche the Oregon House over night with sore feet and awfully fatigued

Monday 19th left the Oregon House at six Oclo with our packs on our backs we are in the Mountains now and find it verry hard walking we can see plenty snow covered Mountains we arived at foster Bar at 3 Oclo this is a little town on the Yuba river 40 miles from Marysville it was a great curiosity to see the miners washing gold with the rocker and Long Tom<sup>5</sup>

Tuesday 20th we are so near used up we have to lay by a day or two Parse is sick

Wednesday 21st Parse and Hart Washburn started for Downieville this morning and John and myself went to work at a floom [flume]<sup>6</sup> at 7 dollars per day . . .

<sup>5</sup> The rocker, or cradle, and the long tom were types of gold-washing machines. For description of the rocker, see E. Gould Buffum, *Six Months in the Gold Mines* . . . (Philadelphia, 1850), 50-51; for the long tom, see Bancroft, *History of California*, 6:410-11.

<sup>6</sup> The flume was a channel for conveying water to the mining site. Bancroft, *History of California*, 6:413-14.

Thursday 22nd it is verry hard to go to work after being idle so long my hands are nicely blistered up

Friday 23rd at work to day

Saturday 24th at work at night received my pay

Sunday 25th John Martin Doct Nelson and myself started for Downieville at 8 Oclo this morning on mules went over some verry high mountains and dangerous places where if the mule should of sliped we would go down over rocks hundreds of feet we arived at Downieville at sun down and found several old acquaintances there

Monday 26th to day begins the mining operations the two Washburns John Martin Doct Nelson and myself we brought some provision and tools and started up the south fork of the Yuba river about 2 miles above Downieville to some claims that Washburn had taken up for us we pitched our tent mad[e] a windless [sic] and commenced sinking a shaft<sup>7</sup> . . .

Tuesday 27 we got down 16 ft to day with our shaft we have to raise some large boulders we washed some dirt from the Bar and got \$2

Wednesday 28th we are down now about 20 ft and a great deal of watter

Thursday 29th down 26 ft and got to blue cement only 3 of us could work at the shaft so that Doct hired out to work John took 1/3 of a claim with Healeys joyning us

Friday 30th we only dug 2 ft the watter and rocks are so bad

Saturday 31st only 2 ft to day cement so hard that almost imposible to dig it up

Sunday August 1st . . . went to town for grub and have to pack it on our backs

Monday 2nd to day we struck a ledg[e] of rocks that takes up half of the shaft we think that the bed rock [is] close by we raised the colour to day I am sick to day and took som[e] Medicine we got the damp[s] in the shaft and had to fix a furnace to drive in hot air

Tuesday 3rd got the damp[s] out by puting a hose down the shaft and connected with the furnace we got the colour about 25 cts

Wednesday 4 to day Doct and myself went up the river to work for

<sup>7</sup> In addition to placer, or surface, mining for gold, quartz mining — sinking shafts to a vein or lode of gold — soon came into wide use in California. This type of mining was more expensive and required more capital, thus companies were usually formed by a number of men who pooled their resources. *Ibid.*, 6:414-17.

the Pitsburg flooming Company at one hundred dollars per Month and found the miners life is a hard one

Thursday 5th Friday 6th and Saturday 7th worked till night and then walked town to the place where the boys are Parse and Hart took out of the bar 7 dollars to day

Sunday 8th the boys all went to town and left me on duty . . . Parse got two Muscatine papers we read them advertisements and all several times

Monday 9th the Doc and myself went back to work this company takes out 4 or 5 hundred dollars per day

Tuesday 10th at work as usual

Wednesday 11th we had to quit work we could not stand it used up entirely and went home if we might be allowed to call such home Parse [and] Hart took out yesterday and to day \$16

Thursday 12th John has got down with his shaft 39 feet the watter comes in our shaft so fast we had to abandon it and are prepareing to run a Tunnel from the [word omitted] to it so at to drean [drain] it 4 of us took out of the Bar \$17

Friday 13th this forenoon we got about 8 dollars then Parse and myself went to town for grub

Saturday 14th to day we commenced our Tunnell we have to work under a great disadvantage on not being able to get the propper tools

Sunday 15th the boys went to town I . . . done my washing an every sunday job they had great doing in Honor of Henry Clay and all the Principle Houses hung in mourning

Monday 16th John and Healey went off prospecting and we went at our tunnel we have some large rock to blast and had to buy a set of drills it takes a pile of money to get tools if it was not for eating and tools we could make money here

Tuesday 17th we got out the big rock and got to the bed rock and got \$1

Wednesday 18th we have to dig down the bed rock about 3 ft so as to make the tunnel level get along slow we have to carry out the dirt and rocks on a hand barrer we can not afford a wheel barrow we got \$1

Thursday 19th still diging down the bed rock we take the dirt that lays next the bed rock and carry it to the river and run it through a rocker got \$1

Friday 20th to day we struck a vein of rotten quarts [sic] and [it] pitches back in the hill which is more favourable we got \$2

Saturday 21st this fore noon we got about \$10, and went to town for grub and Medicines for Parse and myself neither of us have had our health since we left San Juan Del Sur . . .

Monday 23rd we drifted about four ft in the Tunnel and got about \$10, one lump that was worth five dollars . . .

Tuesday 24th there is four of us to work at our drift and we took out \$17 to day

Wednesday 25th we got \$22.25

Thursday 26th I am sick yet not got broke in yet to a miners way of living we sleep on the ground under a tent eat with an old log for a table and no plates or nife or forks all eat out of one dish we got \$16 in dust

Friday 27th I am making a Wheel barrow as we cannot get along with out any longer \$15 to day

Saturday 28th took out \$6, and Doct and myself went to town . . .

Sunday 29th we all went to town to day . . .

Monday 30th to day cleaned up our drift and fixed to run the Wheelbarrow

Tuesday 31st got \$10 to day

Wednesday Sept 1st we came to some large boulders that caused us trouble but miners have trouble after trouble and trouble with out end we got \$5

Thursday 2nd we got five and half dollars to day

Friday 3rd to day we found a pine ball or bud some 80 feet from the bank it is evidant that the river once run here we got \$5 to day

Saturday 4th our drift is getting soft and we begin to timber up to day a stream of water comes in from the top as big as my arm

Sunday 5th the boys went to town . . .

Monday 6th we come to the conclusion that we could not live like we have been living any longer and commenced cutting logs for a cabin we cut a noble old pine for claboards that was over two hundred feet high

Tuesday 7th we hired a yoke of oxen to day to haul our logs at 7 dollars per day had a hard frost last night

Wednesday 8th I am riving Claboards to day Parse went to work for Rodes

Thursday 9th finished hauling our logs and comenced laying them up Parse to work for Rodes

Friday 10th got our logs laid up Parse to work for Rodes

Saturday 11th to day got the roof on our cabbin Doct worked for Rodes

Sunday 12th to day Doct and I went up on the Mountains for poles to make our births [sic] with we stretch canvass over the poles for bed John has been to work the last week for floom com

Monday 13th Doc and myself went to work at the tunnel Parse comenced a shaft Hart to work for Rodes

Tuesday 14th we have to timber up all of the tunnel as fast as we dig it out it is getting dangerous to work it caves in on us by waggon loads we got \$8

Wednesday 15th drift continues soft Parse and Doct goes to town for blankets we took out \$4

Thursday 16th we are following up a butiful crevice in the bed rock one foot wide and 3 deep the verry place to look for gold but we dont git him \$3 to day

Friday 17th to day we struck a place that was so soft that we could hardly get in the timber kept droping from the top till it was ten feet high

Saturday 18th we cleaned up the bed rock to day and got the enormous sum of one dollar and half the weather is butiful as well as the climate but still some thing does not agree with me for I do not get my health

Sunday 19th I went to town and bought some plates nives and forks I thought as we now lived in a house we must do as people do that lives in houses . . .

Monday 20th I made a door table and some stools

Tuesday 21st I worked on Cabbin

Wednesday 22nd I compleated our Cabbin to day and we are going to have a house warming to night Doc went to town and got two kinds of liquor we had amongst our guests a live yankee from Main[e] we all mad[e] it up to get him drunk but I am ashamed to say that we finally succeeded but not till we all had a little to[o] much

Thursday 23 to day Doc Hart and myself went to work at Tunnel and got in 6 ft and timbered it up ready to clean up to morrow Parse Rodes and Hardy comenced a wing dam to day

Friday 24th Doct and myself worked the drift but it caved so we did not clean up the bed rock

Saturday 25th we helped Parse on wing dam to day

Sunday 26th I made a Coffin to day for a man across the plains . . .

Monday 27th at work at wing dam

Tuesday 28 worked at wing dam till noon and then Doc and I cleaned up Tunnel and got \$9

Wednesday 29th making clabboards for Hardy quite sick again this eve

Thursday 30th John quit working at the Pittsburg Co and went to work on Durgan Flat opposite to Downieville Doct and myself worked at drift after dinner

Friday Oct 1st Doc and I still work the drift and have to timber every foot getting more dangerous the watter comes in so fast I am some homesick being unwell and making nothing since we have been here and Winter comeing on and no clothing nor hardly enough to eat

Saturday 2nd last night we had a hard rain and cloudy and Cold I did not work to day being to[o] unwell and I took a big dose of Calomel

Sunday 3rd I went to town I sold out my interest in the Muscatine Drift Co to the Co for \$200 the reasons for doing so I shall not state here I then went and jumped some Claims in company with Geo Metz two Healeys and Garretson so John went to work at their tunnel

Monday 4 Oct to day we comenced our new claim which was a shaft 80 ft deep Geo Metz Healey Garretson went below Chet Healy and myself stopt on top and tended to the windless this Claim is on Durgan Flat we got \$2

Tuesday 5th last Sunday I took a soar throat and is verry bad to day

Wednesday 6th I saw five Women to day comeing down the Mountains with each a pack on her back and besides two had a baby in her arms they had one cow loaded down with their grub and beds they were just across the plains now who would not come to California we only got 25 cts to day

Thursday 7th we got about \$4 to day

Friday 8th we got about \$4 to day

Saturday 9 . . . we got \$13 to day . . .

Monday 11th we took out of the shaft \$15

Tuesday 12th took out of shaft to day \$16

Wednesday 13th took out of shaft to day \$19

Thursday 14th we made wages to day for the first time since I have been mining took out \$28 one peice [sic] weight \$10 which I kept

Friday 15th we done well to day and begin to look up we made \$67

Saturday 16th made \$48 to day we had a dividend to night of \$34 for this week and left \$23 in the hands of the treasurer . . .

Monday 18th we begin to be better in spirits for we got \$64 to day

Tuesday 19 the Alleghanians arived here to day and give a concert tomorrow eve we got \$40 to day

Wednesday 20th took out \$38 to day

Thursday 21st took out of shaft to day \$43, this evening I went to a Democrat meeting and herd Whigery tore all to smash

Friday 22nd we took out of shaft to day \$152

Saturday 23rd . . . we made \$7

Sunday 24th we had all the Muscatine boys to us to day

Monday 25th we are bothered by the watter to day made nothing

Tuesday 26th started a new drift in our shaft we do not expect to make anything for a week or two

Wednesday 27th I saw a mule fall down the side of the Mountain and killed him Cloudy and cold

Thursday 28th It commenced to rain last night and raines all day we did not work . . .

Friday 29th it clared up and is quite pleasant we made a shed over our shaft

Saturday 30th made nothing this week

Monday Nov 1st at work at shaft made nothing

Tuesday 2 conciderable excitement at election I put in a clean Democrat ticket

Wednesday 3 verry blustery and cold and occasionly some rain and snow

Thursday 4th at work at Shaft

Friday 5th we made to day \$8

Saturday 6th . . . we made \$48 this evening I visited the Mountain Shade Lodge of Masons

Sunday 7 Muscatine boys here again

Monday 8th took out of shaft \$60 to day

Tuesday 9 raining hard all day we took out of shaft \$34

Wednesday 10th Cleared up and pleasant we took out of shaft \$55 to day

Thursday 11th rained all day and cold we took out of shaft \$53 to day

Friday 12th took out of shaft \$11 still raining

Saturday 13th took out of shaft \$42 still raining . . .

Monday 15th took out of shaft \$18 still raining

Tuesday 16th took out of shaft \$3 raining

Wednesday 17th took out of shaft \$35 pleasant to day

Thursday 18th took out of shaft \$8 storming and some [of] the biggest snow flakes I ever saw

Friday 19th took out of shaft \$56 clear and warm which mad[e] the snow leave soon

Saturday 20th took out of shaft to day \$272 . . .

Sunday 21st snowing hard provisions is verry scarce and so much snow on the mountains the train can not get here at present

Monday 22nd we took our of shaft to day \$96 warm and pleasant great many left [for the] south to day

Tuesday 23rd took out of shaft \$2 snowed again to day

Wednesday 24th took out of shaft \$51 pleasant and cold it frose hard last night

Thursday 25th took out \$13 pleasant

Friday 26th took out \$27 to day

Saturday 27th took out \$2 raining

Sunday 28th I sold my Claim on Durgan flat to Muscatine Drift Co for one hundred dollars I stayed up there with them to night raining all day and still raining

Monday 29th John comes down to work the claim raining yet

Tuesday 30 I started for Sacramento City on a mule took dinner at Negro Tent stopt over night at Foster Bar rained and snowed all day

Wednesday Dec 1st left Fosters Bar and arived at Marysville after dark as wet as a drouded rat and almost frose

Thursday 2nd left Marysville on a steamer and arived at Sacramento in the evening<sup>8</sup> rained all day I started out to find Martin house after wade-

<sup>8</sup> For founding and rapid growth of Sacramento, see *ibid.*, 6:447-63. The town was laid out in 1848 by John A. Sutter, son of the Sutter on whose lands gold had first been discovered. For description of Sacramento in 1849, see Bayard Taylor, *Eldorado, or, Adventures in the Path of Empire* . . . (New York, 1855), *passim*.



ing in mud knee deep through several streets and found him on the corner of 0 and 9 Street

Friday 3rd almost imposible to get about

Saturday 4th looking around to see the Fashions . . .

Monday 6 I went to work on K st for Mr Miner at \$8 per day and worked till Thursday noon got the job done received my cash

[here the diary skips several days]

Friday 10th I found another Job on 8 St to day of Mr Pope and went to work after dinner at \$8 per day

Saturday 11th worked to day received my money we do not work for store pay here . . .

Monday 13th I went to work and worked all the week except Friday fore noon

Sunday 19th bids fair for a pleasant day but about 9 Oclo the bells all over the city commenced ringing and soon you could see men women and Children running here and there we enquired what the matter was and was told the levy on the bank of the American river had broken and the city was being flooded<sup>9</sup> but the watter soon got to our House it came verry rapid we sprung to work putting the things in the garet and mad[e] a frame on top of the bed posts and piled that full by the time we got the things put away the watter was around the House we took the Family down in the city but could not get any place to put them then we had to get a team and take them to the grave yard the only high ground near by where hundreds had all ready got there and all the cattle hogs and horses about the city were brought there we took the carpet and made a tent for Mary and Children and would of have done first rate had it not rained but we did not stay long on thursday evening the watter fell so that we went back to our house but the watter was in the back part of the house and over a foot deep all around it the watter had been 3 feet deep in the house

Wednesday 22nd the watter is yet 8 inches deep in back part of house the weather is pleasant and warm Tom waded to town for we had no boat

<sup>9</sup> Sacramento's first flood had come in the winter of 1849-1850, after which \$250,000 was spent on a levee nine miles long. In March of 1852 another flood caused this levee to give way; on December 19 another break occurred — this is the one here described by Magoon. For floods, see Bancroft, *History of California*, 6: 453, 458.

Thursday 23rd Mary and Children come to day they were at one of the neighbours a day or two I waded to my work

Friday 24th almost imposible to get to my work for the mud it is belly deep to horses and they use little flat boats insted of waggons this puts me in mind of the man who was seen going along on 2 st all under but his head a man say to him you are in a tight place aint you Oh no says he I have a good mule under me and other places I saw posts stuck up with notices stuck up on them that a man was lost there

Saturday 25 the watter is on a stand it is raining I worked all day Cristmas is no better day here than any other

Sunday 26th this would be a pleasant day if you could get out of the house

Monday 27th I went to work

Tuesday 28th at work raining

Wednesday 29th the levy broke again to day and the watter was about two feet higher than before it raised 12 inches to the hour Martin then rented a room 13 feet square and took his family in it and thought to be out of reach this time but it was nearly a foot deep in it Tom and myself eat to a resturant and sleep in the building where I work . . .

Thursday 30th at work yet the boats are gliding up and down the streets with out number and all kinds from the splendid sail boats down to rafts and dry goods boxes have to pay 5 cts to be sot across the streets

Friday 31st watter still on the rise and the people have to take to the high ground and second storys again

Saturday Jan 1st [1853] the watter is falling this day one would think a busy day for the streets are crowded with men in their little boats and even the ladies are out a pleasure riding

Sunday 2nd the watter has left I street up to 4th

Monday 3rd I received a letter from John from Downieville he says that provisions are scarce and not to be had at any price Tom and I went to Martin to day we caught considerable lumber and wood

Tuesday 4 we are moving Martins thing[s] to day from his old house

Wednesday 5th Tom and myself went back of the city hunting but got nothing

Thursday 6 rained and we staid in dores

Friday 7 went down in the city

Saturday 8th went to the post Office the post Office is not like it is at

home you get there you have to go to the end of the row of people that are waiting for letters and wait your turn some times it takes half day before you can get up to enquire . . .

Sunday 16th during the last week nothing has transpired of much importance except the falling of the watter which has left the most of the city I can not say dry for the mud is awful the weather is most of the time stormy but to day is verry warm and pleasant where the watter has left is quite green the times are verry dull and not much doing in the way of building but it is expected when the weather gets settled business will be good this has been a remarkable hard Winter boath in this and Oregon the Columbia river frose over so as to bear up teams where ice was hardly known before the most of the emigrant cattle starved as there was no feed to be had and in this country a great many drowned on the account of the floods Mary and Martin are sick to day . . .

Sunday Jan 23rd the last week has been most disagreeable weather rainy and cold mud is awful yet . . . business is verry dull yet I have been sick all last week and all the rest of the family . . .

Sunday Jan 30th the weather most of the time has been pleasant . . . I have been to work this week for Doct Aflick on a ranch joyning town on last Friday there was a Sweed got one hundred lashes for a horrid crime . . .<sup>10</sup> the watter has nearly all left the City but it is verry muddy yet the gardens about the city are growing fine today it rains

Sunday 6th of Feb to day I went out to the grave yard . . . we counted about 75 graves that had been mad[e] during the last week the weather has been delightfull the past week and every thing looks green and the flowers begin to bloom . . . I have been idle this week the business is verry dull yet and the miners are doing nothing of any account they are fixing the streets some and we can get about again although far from being dry

Sunday Feb 13th cloudy and has the appearance of rain during last week the weather was fine but nothing to do . . . Miss Kate Hays has a Concert here the first chois of seats sold for twelve hundred dollars yesterday I commenced a house for Turner Isreal this morning Old Lafe Parvin come to see us he had not shaved for over a year there was a horse

<sup>10</sup> This is probably Conrad Sacksin, who was tried and convicted, and his punishment put to a vote of the people, through the intercession of a minister, the Rev. O. C. Wheeler. Although some were for hanging and others for mutilation, the decision was for 100 lashes. H. H. Bancroft, *Popular Tribunals* (2 vols., San Francisco, 1890), 1:448.

race here to day and one of the riders got throwed off and hurt some . . .

Sunday 20th I was at work last week on Isreal House the weather has been fine . . . the small pox is verry bad here now 60 or 70 dies every week . . .

Sunday 27th of Feb the weather last week was pleasant except one day it rained I worked 2½ days we comenced to work for Mr Meegar on K street on Saturday last Monday evening I visited Gehama [?] Lodg[e] No 3 of Masons they work to perfection . . .

Sunday March 6th 1853 I worked all the week for Mr Meeker the weather has been butiful verry much like our May weather with out the showers business is more brisk we have plenty to do at present I went to the circus the other night it was a poor concern for this place Martin comenced his house yesterday small pox is raging yet there was one hundred and forty deaths on the Golden Gate on her last trip from panama to San Francisco died with the Cholera yellow fever and ship fever

Sunday 13th of March the weather continues verry pleasant we are at work and have five men to work for us . . . business is dull and a great many men Idle the gambling houses are well patronised . . .

Sunday March 20th it rained one day last week the rest verry pleasant we have not got our contract done yet for Dr Parris there is a good deal of excitement about the titles to the town lots whether the Sutter or squatter title will be decided good<sup>11</sup> yesterday we had a fire one house burnt down . . . to day I was out to sutter fort it is much decayed business has been brisk . . .

March Sunday 27th been at work all the week the weather is verry pleasant and to day it is raining hard . . . business dull . . .

Sunday Aprille 3rd we had rain all the fore part of the week till Thursday when it clared away and on friday the American and Sacramento rivers raised verry fast the American raised 10 ft one night the Sacramento was within four inches of the top of the Levy and on Friday it comenced to back up on the city and to day the city is all under watter to I st but falling a little this flood has knocked all kinds of business dead and I fear that it will not recover again this season the Losses have been imense during this flood Turner Isreal lost all his brick about one thousand dollars worth and all the other brick yards shared the same fate all the rances on the rivers

<sup>11</sup>For the complicated story of land titles in California, see Bancroft, *History of California*, 6:529-81.

were destroyed theys cattle drouned and crops lost I have been unwell for a few days I see by the paper that Marysville and all the upper country has been under watter the rivers all through the mountains were verry high

Sunday 10 Aprille the weather was fine all the last week last Monday the City elections come off all Democrats elected with the exceptions of two Whigs business verry dull here but a great excitement about sutterville I worked half a day this week the watter leaves the city verry slow

Sunday Aprille 17th 1853 during the last week we have had considerable rain the watter has not left the City yet nothing doing streets impasible rained hard all last night and I never saw a harder thunder shower than we had to day and has the appearance of another . . .

Sunday Aprille 24th 1853 last week we had some rain on Thursday we comenced a house for Mr Meeker on fourth street business is verry dull the watter falls slow the streets are drying up a little bit but I st is impasible yet with Teams we go to work in our boat

Sunday May 1st 1853 last week we had some rain I worked all the week only the 29th of Apr day I went to see three men hung Stewart Ackerman Thompson<sup>12</sup> . . . it was estimated that there was five thousand present at the exicution

Sunday May 8th the last week was verry hot and sultry and mud disappears verry fast worked all the week on Mr Meekers house on 4 st . . . this week Adams and Co Express was robed of 7 thousand dollars

Sunday May 15 had some rain last week we got done at Meekers on Thursday and went to work on Friday for Isreal & Carlile . . .

Sunday May 22nd during the week we had fine weather all but one day which rained hard on Wednesday one of the fire company was buried with the honours of the company headed by the Brass Band and American flag all dressed in uniform which had quite a Military appearance I was at work all the week at Turner Isreals house

<sup>12</sup> In his account of law enforcement by the vigilance committee in Sacramento, Bancroft has this to say of this hanging: "On the open plain near Sutter Fort in April [1853] three men were executed by the sheriff for the killing, near the corner of B and Tenth streets, of one John Carrol, known as Boot-jack. Shrived by the Rev. O. C. Wheeler, salvation they considered sure; and while in this pious state of mind they humbly confessed that they could not tell a lie, that they did not do this murder, but that it was done by a cunning child of perdition, who made his escape; nevertheless they were hanged. The position held by the Sacramento Committee of Vigilance during the past two years made it incumbent on the courts to hang somebody." Bancroft, *Popular Tribunals*, 1:448.

Sunday May 29th 1853 the last week has been verry fine weather I was at work at Isreals house all week . . .

Sunday June 5th 1853 last week at work at Isreals on saturday evening went to Theater Mrs Sinclair the star of the evening She used to be Mrs Forest<sup>13</sup>

Sunday June 12th finished up all our old jobs ready to comence on a two story Brick to morrow I bought a new suit of cloths last night cost \$60 . . .

Sunday 19th during last [week] the weather was verry hot the thermometer ranged from 95 to 115 in the shade I worked nearly all the time on last Thursday evening I went to a supper given by the Lodges of this City I took my Lady and went out on the balcony in company with several others when it fell with a dreadfull crash to the ground distance 20 ft several got seriously injured my injuries were slight they received for tickets over nine hundred dollars . . .

Sunday June 26th 1853 the last week has been quite cool and pleasant the Masons had a Celebration on the 24 of this month there was a big turn out marched through the streets up I st to 9th down 9th to K st down K st to 6 st up sixth to the Church where they had an address by the Hon Mr McDougal Senitor of this state<sup>14</sup> in the evening had a grand supper at one of the Hotells while marching headed by a good Band of Music there was quite a number of Knight Templers they were mounted on Horse back and dressed in style . . .

Sunday July 3rd 1853 last week I played nearly all the week the weather has been fine . . .

Sunday 10 July last Monday the 4 was a verry fine day with a considerable amusement in the morning the Sunday school scholars of the several [churches] met at the church of the Presbyterian at 9 Oclo where they were addressed by the pastor of the Church then they were formed in procession headed by the Cadets of Temperance and a band of music and escorted to the Boat by Sacramento fire Co No 3 all in uniform the Boats got up Steam and went up the American river to a splendid grove where there was a sumptuous feast prepared there was about four hundred chil-

<sup>13</sup> Catherine Sinclair married the famous actor Edwin Forrest in 1837; she divorced him in a sensational suit in 1852.

<sup>14</sup> James Alexander McDougall, United States Senator from California, 1853-1855, 1861-1867.

dren in all I never saw so pretty a sight before each school was designated by the diferent coloured ribands they wore in the after noon the several fire Co were out on parrade all dressed in uniform headed by a Band of music they stopt in front of the Orleans Hotell and gave three cheers to Lola Montez<sup>15</sup> she appeared at the door and mad[e] a verry nice bow and a scrape to them in the evening they had a Ball . . .

Sunday July 17th 1853 the weather is fine to day verry much like a spring day at home last week I bought 3 tickets in Hiller & Andrews grand raffle to come of[f] on the 26 inst I see they have got the railroad track nearly down so they will comence bringing in the dirt next week the streets are to be filled up from 3 to 4 ft . . . Lola Montez gave the firemen a benefit on Thursday eve they marched from the engine room in uniform headed by a Band of Music they made a respectful appearance on parade the health of the City is remarkably good we are verry busy at the present time

Sunday July 24th now is the time to go home the pasage from San Francisco to New York is but \$15 we have been verry busy of late

Sunday July 31st during the greater part of the past week the weather has been excessively hot so much so that I had my back all blistered through my shirts while working in the sun Last evening there was two men ascended in a baloon and during the day sent up several small baloons

Sunday Aug 7th 1853 the weather has been verry Hot the last few days the Steamers runing between this City and San Francisco are in opposition and take pasengers for nothing to the Bay I have for a few days been unwell . . . there is considerable sickness here in the shape of Billious fever and ague there is a great many brick buildings going up so much so that I st is all in a confused state and raising buildings to the grade

Sunday Aug 14th . . . there was some excitement about the gold found in this City it has been took out as high as twenty dollars to the pan I have not been well for a few days.

Sunday Aug 21 last night there was a grand whig rally at the Orleans Hotell Col Baker and several other distinguished men it Broke up in a row as usual the weather is quite hot yet

Sunday Aug 28 verry windy and cool to day last week we finished

<sup>15</sup> Lola Montez, Irish adventuress, came to America in 1851 after several sensational marriages and traveled over the country in a play called *Lola Montez in Bavaria*. She died in 1861.

our job on I st and cleared eight dollars per day on it I am now working on a mill at eight dollars per day Politics are raging here now as Election is close at hand

Sunday Sept 4 the Last weeks I have been at work at a large Flouring Mill last night the candidates for Governors and Senitors were here I herd them speak politics are raging last week at the bay they sent up a baloon with a boy in it but did not give him any instructions how to let off the gass he kept going up till he likeed to frose and as he passed through the clouds a couple came in contact with the baloon and broke it which caused it to come down in a hurry so fast that it nearly took his breath so soon as he struck the ground it began to ascend again when his weight was off he tried to hold it till it carried him some 11 ft up again when he let the tarnal thing go as he said he came to the ground not far from Benecia the folks at San Francisco had give the boy up as lost as the boat landed that brought him back and as soon as they found that the baloon boy had got back there was an awful shouting the boy had his adventures printed and is making lots of money out of it the first day he sold over three hundred dollars worth he is considered some of a hero

Sunday Sept 11 . . . I worked all week at the mill at \$8 per day

Sunday Sept 18 the weather is fine yet but the rainy season is threaten- ing us some we had several little showers during the past week Chas Browning and Geo Anson arived here on Friday morning last only 5 weeks from Muscatine they leave for Nevada City on saturday . . . we had a duel fought here last week in the street one of the parties got killed dead on the spot nothing done with the other<sup>16</sup>

Sunday Sept 25th this day I have been quite unwell on account of tak- ing medicine the weather is quite hot now and sultry . . . I worked at the mill all week our City is full of all kinds of fruit and some of the finest mellons I ever saw

Sunday Oct 2 the weather is verry hot and sulty to day . . . to day the trotting race came off Six thousand dollars bet the victorious horse troted one mile in three minutes and five seconds last night I saw a clock runing by steam it had a verry small engine attatched it was quite a novelty I went to church this evening had a verry good discourse to young men the house was crowded I am still at work at the mill there is considerable sickness now in the city there is a large fire and a great racket I went

<sup>16</sup> See Bancroft, *California Inter Pocula*, Chap. 24, for dueling in California.



down to the fire it was a Steamer burnt down at the foot of K st

Sunday Oct 9th the weather is quite cool today but verry dusty . . . I am yet at work at the mill we started it on last night it workes verry well I went to church to day

Sunday Oct 16 last Tuesday I stopt work at the mill and we have three jobs of our own to rush through one for Wood and Kenyons two at Horse market the weather has been quite hot all the last week I went to theater last night we took in a partner one week ago last Wednesday Mr Henderson . . .

Sunday Oct 23 the weather has been quite hot during the past week and business brisk . . . last Thursday night one woman killed another by stabbing her she died in two hours they were both abandoned Women the one that got killed had five thou[sand] dollars she requested that to be sent to her Mother the other was taken to the prison brig to wait her fate which I think will prove fatal . . .

Sunday Oct 30th . . . our business is good the health of our City is good

Sunday Nov 6 . . . I am verry lonely to day and thinking the time is short for my stay in California last night the Squatters had a meeting on the Plaza I have not herd the proceedings yet

Sunday 13th Nov the weather is quite cool today and has the appearance of rain . . . last Night I went to the theater it was Mrs Sinclares benefit night the play was School for Scandal and was first rate on Friday we had quite a shower which made those that live in cloth Houses look wild and prepare for the winter which makes our business good at present I and K Streets are now graded and planked out past 9 st the city is building a watter works the watter will be carried through the city in iron pipes

Sunday Nov 20th on last Wednesday I finished up all our work and Saturday Started for Marysville by Stage there was 28 passengers in and on the Stage we arived at Marysville about 10 Oclo in the evening I found John Martin Olds and Branham also Downie my old instrumental Teacher of music I was at Marysville all day today and leave in the morning for Sac City Marysville has improved verry fast since I last saw it on Friday last John Quinn arived here from home in 32 days his tale of Muscatine rather cooled me down a little about comeing home

Sunday Nov 27th it has rained all day and has for several days back and of course mud is in order but how could we expect fine weather the

year round I got back from Marysville on Monday evening last on Thursday Healey one of my old Mining Companions came to see me he says he is sick of the mines and has gone below work is getting scarce Martin and myself dissolved partnership last week and I find due me clear of all expenses \$1155.38 . . . the plank road is done out 10 miles from the city and the City improvements still go on

Sunday Dec 4th the weather is fine to day it clared up on last Monday and has been pleasant since I worked the week betwen G and H streets building an Ice House for the Sitka Ice company the Sacramento river is raising slowly to day . . .

Sunday Dec 11th the weather is butiful to day but oweing to the recent rains it is quite muddy under foot the small pox begins to make its appearance again a great many have the ague . . .

Sunday 18 of Dec the weather is fine to day the State mail arived last night and was opened to day at 3 Oclo I went and stood in the line for two hours and great was my disappointment in not getting any news from home

Sunday 25 of Dec the last week I worked on a large Hotell on I st at 7 doll per day I worked to day for the first time on Sunday since in California the house is rented and they take posesion on the first of next mont[h] and we will have to work night and day to get it done what a wide difference in this Christmas and last last Christmas it rained hard all day

Sunday Jan 1st [1854] I worked again and this eve the proprietor treated us to a champaign supper the weather has been verry cold and clear the past week on Saturday the filibusters windy Guard [?] was out on parade it is useless to pretend to give a discription of their uniform only they represented all kinds of hideous objects with fals faces on

Sunday 7th Jan last night I got through work and now for Home the weather is cold . . .

Jan 13 1854 leave Sacramento at 2 Oclo bound for home on steamer Urilda for San Francisco and arived there at 2 Oclo Am and put up at the Mercantile Hotell

Jan 14 I took a walk about the city and found Judg[e] Hastings and Lafe Parvin old acquaintance of mine Lafe was at work in the Courier Printing Office I was taken sick and went to bed

Jan 15 a little better this morning Lafe came and then we went up to

Ed Mores House found them well then we went to see the different Ocean Steamers the Cotes just arived from Nicuraugua with 500 pasengers the streets are quite muddy and rains at intervals during the day

Mon 16 took pasage on bourd the Steamer John L. Stephens bound for Panama Cabin fare \$100 left San Francisco at 4 Oclo the Siera Nevada left at 2 for Nicuraugua the weather rough

Tues 17 the weather is quite cold and stormy we have good fare as could be desired our Long 34-42 Lat 125-55 distance made 215 miles

Wed 18 calm and pleasant Lat 31-17 N Long 118-10 distance run last 24 hours 248 miles

Thurs 19 Spoke a Whale ship this morning raining to day climate getting moderate Lat 22-44 Long 115-20 distance made 261 miles

Friday 20 getting quite warm and fair weather Lat 24-02 Long 111-55 dist run 290 m

Sat 21 crossing the Gulf of California to day and have a verry high sea Lat 20-47 Long 108-17 distance run 281 miles

Sunday 22 verry calm and hot Lat 18-3 Long 104-20 distance 264

Mond 23 arived at Acapulco at 12 Oclo<sup>17</sup> I went on shore this being the second time I was here it is a nice clean Mexican town we left again at 4 Oclo the weather is verry hot

Tues 24 this morning we have a verry high sea we are crossing the Gulf of Tchauntepec the capt informs us that the sea is always rough at this place the wind blows to a severe gale the sea breaks clear over the ship Lat 15-20 Long 97-64 dist 200 miles

Wed 25 last night they doubled lashed the small boats and every thing els that was loose and let her run off before the wind the Gale got so strong this morning a large breaker struck her and carried away her bulwarks and part of the main deck and flooded the steorage pasengers out and frightened them more or less Lat 14-29 Long 94-10 distance run 180 miles

Thurs 26 a strong head wind Lat 12-37 Long 90-05 distance 256 mi

Friday 27 strong head wind and a high sea Lat 10-20 Long 86-45 distance run 210 miles

<sup>17</sup> Note that in 1852, aboard a sailing vessel, the trip from Acapulco to San Francisco had taken 47 days — from May 28 to July 14. Now, a steamship made the same trip in 7 days — January 16 to 23.

Sat 28 running close in to the land it is a beautiful coast low and level covered with pretty trees we have a two mile current to run against calm to day Lat 8-3 Long 83-15 distance run 250 miles

Sunday 29 we spoke the steamer Ohio in distress she was out of coal at 12 Oclo a meeting of the passengers was called for the purpose of expressing our Thanks to the Capt and officers of this boat for their good behavior Gen Moran of Oregon was called to the chair after passing several resolutions adjourned with three cheers for officers of the John L. Stephens we had a strong head wind all day . . . Lat 8-25 Long 79-40 distance 276 miles at 12 Oclo 28 miles yet to Panama arrived at Panama at 3 Oclo and put up at the Aspenwall Hotel<sup>18</sup>

Monday 30 left Panama for Aspenwall on mules through a very rough and Mountainous route last night 4 of our passengers were Murdered this road is full of treacherous desperadoes who would cut a man's throat for fun we arrived at Gorgona at 1 Oclo and at 3 Oclo got on the cars and arrived at Aspenwall at 10 Oclo and stopped at the City Hotel this is a low filthy place surrounded by swamps

Tuesday 31 to day we heard of the loss of the Steamer San Francisco 2½ days out of New York 100 passengers lost I took a walk out on the coast and gathered some shells

Wed Feb 1st left Aspenwall at 7 Oclo this morning on board of the steamer Geo Law bound for N York last night we set up all night waiting for our baggage to come from Gorgona Lat 10-02 Long 80-8 west distance from Aspenwall 45 miles

Thurs 2 the weather is pleasant at 8 Oclo we passed Old Providence Island the capt showed me the chart of the route and it is full of sand banks and reefs of rocks that nearly come to the top of the water Lat 73° 58 North Long 81° 34 west distance from Aspenwall 295 miles

Friday 3rd at sundown last evening we passed over Muskeetoe reef we pass several to day the weather is fine and pleasant Lat 18° 3 Long 82° 43 distance last 24 hours 255 miles from Aspenwall 550

<sup>18</sup> On his return, Magoon had chosen the Panama route, rather than the longer Nicaraguan route taken on the journey out. Originally the Panama route had been the most popular, but the overland journey had been long, and when the Nicaraguan route by river and lake boat was opened, the Panama route declined in popularity. But in 1854 the Panama Railway had been opened part way across the Isthmus (it was completed a year later), and this route, now faster than the Nicaraguan route, again became popular. Bancroft, *History of California*, 6:139.

Sat 4 Cloudy and a rough sea Lat  $21^{\circ} 38$  Long  $84^{\circ} 50$  west last 24 hours run 246 miles from Aspenwall 796 miles at 11 Oclo we passed the Cape San Antonio the western extremity of Cuba at 12 Oclo spoke a British ship Gambria bound for London 7 days from Kingston at this cape is a verry large coral reef puts out and extends over 100 miles a fine light House is erected at this point the sea has a verry heavy swell on to day

Sunday 5th strong head winds and heavy sea exchanged signals with an American Bark at 9 Oclo 4 other sails in sight the high land of Cuba are in sight Lat  $23^{\circ} 28$  N Long  $82^{\circ} 34$  west distance last 24 hours 206 miles from Aspenwall 1020 miles

Monday 6th weather fine spoke several vesels and a great many in sight Lat  $26^{\circ} 17$  North Long  $79^{\circ} 30$  west dist last 24 hours 254 miles from Aspenwall 1256 miles

Tuesday 7th the wind began to blow from the north last night at 12 Oclo and has kept on the increase till it is now a severe gale and still blows harder every hour the waves roll frightfully she lays over on her Beams end so we can not walk about Lat  $31^{\circ} 4$  Long  $78^{\circ} 50$  dist last 24 hours 288 miles from Aspenwall 1544 miles

Wednesday 8 the gale is still strong and sea awful to look on we are kept below most of the time it rains and is cold last night we came near runing in to a ship so near that her yard arm rubbed our wheel house we passed Cape Haterass alwass a rough and stormy place Lat  $34^{\circ} 3$  N Long  $76^{\circ} 8$  west dis last 24 hours 230 miles 1774 from Aspenwall

Thurs 9th the sea has calmed down some the wind blows from the North west and is stinging cold Lat  $37^{\circ} 12$  N Long  $74^{\circ} 45$  W dis last 24 hours 204 miles from Aspenwall 1978 miles and from Sandy Hook 198 miles one pasenger died last night

Friday 10 at 6 Oclo this morning we arived off Sandy Hook was detained some time there on account of pilots arived at New York at 10 Oclo and put up at Lovejoy Hotell oposite the City Hall at 5 Oclo left for the west by the evening train

Sat 11 took brakefast at a station dinner at Dunkirk supper at Cleaveland and went to Toledo and stayed over Sunday on Monday morning at 3 Oclo started for Chicaugo arived there at 2 Oclo and put up at the Tremont House I parted here with my last California companion

Tuesday 13 [sic. 14] left Chicaugo at 7 Oclo and was detained at Blue Island station 5 hours on account of two trains comeing in colision took

dinner at Joliett supper at Geniseo 22 miles from rock-Island which we had to stage arived there a 2 Oclo at night and stopt at Rockiland Hotell

W 14th [sic. 15] left rock island and crossed on the Ice to Davenport where we took stage for Muscatine and arived there at 2 Oclo being absent 2 years and 5 days<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> In 1852 it had taken Magoon and his companions 20 days to reach New York from Muscatine by boat, stage, and railroad. Two years later, the return trip took only 5 days, almost all except the last few miles by railroad, an indication of the rapid growth of transportation in these two years.