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COPY OF A DIARY WRITTEN IN 1859

Name of Writer . . . . . William J. Baird  
 Name of Present Owner . . . . . Mrs. Lillian G. Douglass  
 Address . . . . . 140 Navajo Ave., Manitou Springs, Colo.  
 Date of Diary . . . . . 1859  
 Dimensions of Diary . . . . . 3" x 4 3/4"

Description:

One page for each day  
 Few entries until April 12, 1859; few entries after May  
 18, 1859  
 Written on a trip across the plains from Geneseo, Ill.  
 to Pikes Peak

accessioned 1981

The following are verbatim entries according to dates:

January 7

Get some letters and take our names off at golden  
citey got saddle & bridle harness lead bars long  
lariets with each poney pack  
Get some of George Banning if you can and tell  
him when he gets done hunting before going east to fetch  
my gun up here

January 8

Mrs Rhodes

Please let Mr Baird have my Buffalo Robe  
H. Warrin

January 9

Fanny, will you please give Jo all of our things that  
we left at your house. You may take the trimming off  
the bonnet and for I cannot get the money  
to buy the bonnet. then there is Georges' hat, that  
bed quilt flat iron Wills account book that red covered  
book, my pin will you please give things  
and if there is anything that I have not mentioned  
that you have seen will you please send them. those  
Collars suited me first rate

With love Emma

March 22

Emma left Geneseo for York state to day about eleven  
o'clock and twenty minits

April 12

Team with two of the boys Tomey & George left home  
for the gold mines I went with them about five miles  
got stuck once in that distance I then walked back  
home went to Gilberts paid him rained a little about  
noon received two dollers of Write Kider went to town  
had my watch mended cost fifty cents powder flask mend-  
ed twenty five cents belt made for knife & revolver  
paid seventy five cents settled with Stewart got a  
pair of boots & some stove pipe took supper at Rubin  
bones walked home stoped to ladys on the way got home  
at nine o'clock P M went to bed at eleven.

April 13

Got up at two o'clock A. M. eat our breakfast took  
our guns satchel boots & stove pipe bid our folks  
that was there good by and started for oakley to take  
the cars at five o'clock John & myself it was very dark  
and foggy and our load very heavy we had to keep elost  
to the fence to kep from geting lost the cars past us  
just before we got there walked on to colon I waited  
til one o'clock went to Rock island on the coal train  
spent the rest of the after noon in going around the  
city and looking for the boys found they was not there  
wrote a little to Emma and went to bed tired & sleepy

Diary-2

April 14

Got up about day light got our breakfast started out to see if we could meet the boys and team was very cold and windy ground froze and a little snow on it I found the boys and team about half way from home camped being about twelve miles they had left a part of the load about three miles back sent George back to fetch what was left on the cars took the team myself and drove in to Rockisland crossing Rock river on the brig that after noon crossed the Mississippi river on ferry in to debenport Iowa drove about a mile camped cooked some supper fed our team corn & straw went to bed in our wagon

April 15

Got up in the morning found it cold and windy ground frozen and snowed some charged one dollar for what straw we fed went back in to the city found George went back to the team hitched them up drove down to the river sold one yoke of three year old steers for forty five dollars sold the two cows for forty dollars put the other two yoke of oxen wagon one load on to the minnesota belle & steam packet bound for St Louis paid sixty three dollars for a through ticket for the hole four of us team and load to St Joseph started out about eleven that night went across the river & stoped we then got on the that george down

April 16

I can hardly mention any particular time of getting up this morning for it was a continual getting up and laying down all night there was aplenty of Irish on the boat sum cursing and swaring others singing & holering you may not wonder if we wished the boat in tofeit and our selves on shore but as you see the morning came and the boat run back across the river we got our powder & some eatables & about nine oclock we started down the river our wagon box was up on the hurricane deck we covered it put our bed in wrote to Emma past several handsome vilages one of them being muscoteen went to bed that night in our wagon box

April 17

Got up this morning rather late though feeling considerable refreshed from a good nights sleep went down below to boil some potatoes fry some meat & make some tea nocked a cup of hot tea over in to the fire & hot ashes which caused them to fly in all directions causing a regular smug scaring two or three girls & fourteen or fifteen Irish men to death or nearly however we got our breakfast and eat it it is quite warm and pleasant about noon we stoped at warsaw the capten left a large amount of corn & took on a lot of whisky we got some flour and we pressed on down the river.

Diary-3

April 18

Got up this morning rubbed our eyes stretched and gaped a little thought about getting breakfast but found we had no time for St Louis was in sight and there we was to leave this boat and get on to an other we find that things is much forwarder here than at home the trees are quite green the steam boats wer so thick that they had hard work to land but it was finally acomplished and we got our things the steamer McGill I then went to post office put a letter in directed to Emma traveled around the city some found it to be a large place and a great deal of business done there left about 5 oclock P M

April 19

Found ourselves this morning at St Charles got our breakfast this morning and am now writing down what has passed Toney is not very well I think it is on account of the water it is very mudey the rest of us fel pretty smart they just stoped for wood the fruit trees here are all in blosom and the weather is so warm as to be unecomfortable there is meny beautiful places along the Missouri river here we have been stuck twice on a sand bar today nothing of aney acount took place today

April 20

Got up this morning found the boat on a sand bar got on about twelve oclock at night did not get of untill about three this afternoon the bar we were first on was near the edge of the river about five rods from the bank of the river is a ledge rock I should judge nearly two hundred feet high I went ashore gathered a nice bunch of sweet williams ketch-ed a cup of water as it runing down from the rocks and drink-ed the wether is not onely warm but hot health pretty good

April 21

Once more morning has come and allso Jeferson City is in sight that is the capital of Missury there is a states prison there walled in with high stone wall I went ashore for some bread and along rase for it but I finely got some got back on to the boat and was wet and chilley for it was raining and rather cold went on to Pr nce stoped there night thicker than toads after a rain got us some supper and went to bed

April 22

we did not go far last night landed at Boomingto this morning it is a very pretty place went ashore bought some bread and aples went aboard again went down below one of the waters came down threw some orange pealing on Toney he got up hit him a rap side of the head kicked him and let him go guess he wont bother much more got to Glascow at night the water rather cool got our supper and went to bed rather early

Diary-4

April 23

Got up this morning found ourselves at miami went to a store and bought some pies eat our potatoes all up for breakfast our bread all up for diner saw some wild turkes and lots of wild geese in the river it is a pleasant warm day stoped at Perlin about four o'clock this afternoon could not get eney bread bought a few crackers guess we will have a rather dry supper dont you stoped at lexington about eight o'clock quite a prety place

April 24

You see that today is headed Sunday but to tell the trough they have no Sunday on the river it is a pleasant day but seems gloomey to me O how I wish I could spend today with Emma how glad she would be to hold my head in her lap and give it a good scratching but it is not so to be the biggest part of the day has been spent in reading and it is now evening and we are at kansas city it is a beautiful place I went ashore and bought some bread and pies

April 25

I shot a duck this morning while the boat was a going Saw some wild turkeys but did not get a shot at them got to levenworth citey at nine o'clock this morning went all over the city found things is cheap as in geneseo bought some quicksilver & some medisen left here a bout five this after noon we are haveing a nice warm house Tomey has just called me out to see a carage tip over we expect to get to St. Joseph to morow and glad I shall be for I am tired of this old boat

April 26

Got up this morning found our selves at Atchison got some breakfast packed our things fixed our wagon cover and pre pared to leave the boat got to St Jo a bout two o'clock it was near dark when we got our things loaded on to the wagon drove about 3/4 of a mile stuck our tent and eat some pie and bread for our supper went to bed

April 27

got up this morning baked some bisekit for the first time got a prety good breakfast found we had lost our box of groceres and a bag meal wrote a letter to Emma went in to the citey went to the office put a letter in but got none in return bought some more grocers some deming and hall from geneseo herd herd not very incourageing news from the peak found provision and grocers as cheap as in geneseo weather warm and pleasant

April 28

got up this morning got our breakfast and worke done up wrote two letters one to Frederick and one Alfred but found none for me george got one from his wife

Diary-5

O how I longed to get a letter from Emma went back to our tent took it down hitched up our team and with three other teams that came up the river with us we started for the river crossed on the ferry in to Kansas drove a bought two miles camped turned our cattle out to grass in a field

April 29

Got up this morning found some of them wanted to leave but John and I thought we could not leave without looking once more for a letter so we went back & crossed the river John got one but I got none I left word if there was eney come to have them forwarded on to Ft Kerney I also sent a line to Iowa city so if there was eney there to have them sent on to fort kerney I then went back fixed some cough medisen and some biters got some super and went to bed

April 30

Whoraw for the peak I was the first one up this morning and as soon as we had eat our breakfast we all started for the peak stoped at noon baked bread for diner and drove on about a mile beyend cotton wood springs and camped being about twelve miles there we found a nice little spring and grass for our cattle but no wood we cut up a cople of old posts though and got some supper we then concluded to have a watch there being fourteen of us incompany there wer two to stand to time it fell on John & me to stand first he was sick & I stood a lone

May 1

I did not get up this morning very early some were farce for going on but John and I and the boys with one other team would not go so they concluded to stay there has several teams passed here to day but I think they will not gain much in the end

May 2

Got up this morning and John was shaking with the fever anague we fixed a bed in the wagon went on untill noon found good feed for cattle got some diner and then drove about a mile beyond cotton wood springs and camped for the night we had aplenty of good water but not very good feed

May 3

The weather is fine the roads dry the perrarie beautiful and our health good with the exception of John we drove today about eleven miles to wolf crick where we found a plenty of wood and water but feed rather short Tuesday today we drove to little grasshoper crick where we found a plenty of wood and water feed short indians plenty

Diary-6

May 4

Got up this morning or rather I was up for it was my watch the later part of the night got our breakfast greased our wagon and I took the whip and drove about fifteen rods when I missed my revolver I knew that I must of lost it out of my belt while I was a greasing our wagon I went straight back but it was gone I thought that some Indian boys had taken it and so they had and we had quite a chase before we got it we then drove to big grasshoper crick and camped

May 5

John had got smart again and we all feel pretty well I have a cough yet we drove about sixteen miles to day and camped on the perrarie where there was no wood and no water but slew water but we had good feed for our cattle

May 6

drove about eight miles and camped for diner had a bad rain hitched up and drove about seven miles farther roads rather muddy

May 7

passed sixty mormon wagons going to Salt lake roads muddy herd rather poor news of the peak camped on the perrarie at night it is Johns and my watch to night

May 8

the day is pleasant and warm Arnet passed here today I rote to Emma & had some sweet corn for supper got the milk of an Irish woman

May 9

Got up this morning found the the wether fine drove on till night drove about a mille and ahalf off the road and camped for the night by a little crick timbered white oak land good

May 10

Got up this morning at four oclock got our breakfast started on got to the big blue about ten oclock crossed on the fery camped for diner found lots of teams coming back said pikes peak was a humbug and said three of the men that had got up the excitement had been killed and evry city was burnt to the ground we drove a few miles farther that after noon and camped for the night had a tremendus thunder shour took us all to hold up our tent and it was hard work strained my stumack some

May 11

Got up this morning out of a wet bed lame and tired started on though we had but little faith in the peak stoped at coton wood crick for diner drove on in the

Diary-7

afternoon camped at night by a creek found lots of teams camped going back passed fifty one before camping had a tremendous hail storm thunder and wind blew our tent down and raised hob with us wet all of our bed clothes

May 12

We did not get up very early this morning and did not leave here until noon then we started back drove about five miles and stopped talked the water over and concluded to go on once more until we were better satisfied we then camped for the night

May 13

Got up this morning found the weather very cold got our breakfast and started on drove about twenty five miles met I presume one hundred and fifty teams found that two steam mills had turned around and come back and saw some men we were acquainted with on the boat so we concluded it was not best to go farther and turned drove back four or five miles and camped for the night slept in our wagon

May 14

It rained nearly all night last night got up very late this morning did not leave here until noon then we drove six or eight miles where we found a plenty of wood and water got our supper red a little in the evening and went to bed

May 15

Got up this morning rather late the rest of the teams that were camped there were all leaving George wanted to drive on but John and I did not so we staid where we was it was pleasant in the forenoon but about two o'clock there came up a thunder shower that lasted until near morning this is the same place we were camped when we had the hail storm it is an awful place for storms

May 16

Got up this morning found it very foggy so much so that we were bothered to find our cattle we drove about seventeen miles to the big blue and camped for the night where we found a plenty of wood and good water

May 17

We drove to the ferry this morning and found a large number there the ferry men would not let them cross unless they would pay two and a half dollars a team and they said they would take the ferry we crossed for fifty cents the rest backed down on taking the ferry I believe we then drove some twelve miles and camped for the night without wood or water



Diary-6

May 18

Started this morning and drove about four miles to black vermilion creek found the creek so high that we could not cross sold some flour lard and beans and helped our load and divided it the creek was not low enough to cross at night so we lay over till morning

May 19-22 pages missing

October 26

Left denver about middle of the afternoon drove some five miles camped for night got our supper and set around awhile and went to bed

5

October 27

Got up this morning bright and early got our breakfast and started again on our road camped for dinner and then drove on till night drove about twenty miles today the moon looks very dim tonight I remarked that I thought we would get a storm before long some strangers came to us for some meat & coffee let them have it and again went to bed

20

October 28

Got up this morning before light to our breakfast for we see we going to get a storm we just got our teams hitched up as the snow began to fall we drove five miles it was very cold and our mules feet

October 29

Got up this morning rather late it is very cold though the storm is over the mules ball very bad this forenoon eate give out this afternoon I had to put in burts mule drove twenty miles and camped took the logs to a cabin for our fire prety cold & windy the boys are having quite a scale

20

October 30

Rather cold this morning however we have got a very good start drove twenty five miles today within two miles of colorado camped at a house where no one lived

25

October 31

Rode in to colorado this morning saw banning & some others that I knew then went on and over took the teams drove twelve miles and camped for night

12

Diary-9

November 1

got up this morning found the ground covered with snow drove on killed an antelope had some for dinner then drove on till night drove about thirteen miles

13

November 2

Got up this morning drove fifteen miles to pueblo and camped got some mules shod ketches some fish and went to bed

16

November 3

Concluded to lay over today done a little washing ketches a few fish our grass is very poor through here cate is very poor a little afraid that she will not stand the trip weather pleasant

0

November 4

Started this morning drove twelve miles camped for diner nearly give out burts mule lame drove eight miles more this after noon and camped for the night

12

8

20

Page missing

November 7

It is quite warm this morning gets quite cool towards noon drove some fifteen miles today & camped on the Warfane the night before there was a span of mules stole here and there was a train robbed here a short time ago

16

November 8

Started this morning and drove some four or five miles before breakfast the weather is fine we are a crossing the range there is some snow here and the mountains are steep and stoney drove about twelve miles today and camped for the night we are not the range

12

November 9

Got up this morning pretey earley got our breakfast and started over the range we had to put six mules on a wagon to get over and then it was hard work comenced snowing a bout eight oclock and has snowed nearley all day baked bread again to night about twelve miles to day it is snowing like all getout now

12

Diary-10

November 10

It is very cold this morning the ground covered with snow we past fort garlen about three o'clock stoped a little while at the fort and then drove on about three miles and camped had a jack rabbit for super drove some fifteen miles to day

15

November 11

To day the road is good & the weather fine drove to and camped wood and water went to a Mexican fandango or dance had a great old time drove fifteen miles

15

November 12

Started this morning and drove to Cas arie and camp- ed wood & water no grass went to a fandango again drove twelve miles

12

November 13

Wether pleasant roads good drove to reo-colerado or red river a Mexican town water & wood grass poor baked drove twenty five miles

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November 14

Roads very hilly had to double teams bought some corn and at night some eggs drove ten miles to a little Mexican settlement and camped for the night

November 15

Cold snowed some passed a Mexican town about ten o'clock got to touse at twelve drove fifteen miles

15

10

254

279

