

EXTRACT FROM KILLINGWORTH HEDGES' DIARY, 1872. PART I

KANSAS CITY TO COLORADO SPRING.

1872.
April 5th.

Breakfasted at Salina, 210 miles from Kansas, very good, only 75 cents. How the waitresses get here, I do not know! In a short time the Settlement became rarer, and the prairies flatter all timber disappearing, till we were fairly on the plains, the only object being the Bluffs in the distance which were often of very peculiar shapes. Occasionally saw Antelope, but chiefly noticed the frequent herds of 300 or more cattle, which are brought from Texas, and left here to fatten, being all branded with owners name. Passed the great Cattle Trail at Ellsworth, which extends from Texas to Kansas City and North; at the fall, thousands of cattle being driven to various points, (Kansas chiefly) where they are killed and packed. The driving is done by the owners, who have waggons and teams and numerous dogs, the cattle grazing as they go, as much as 20 miles a day, without harm. Passed several "Emigrant Waggons" or "Prairie Schooners," with their teams of 6 mules, the road following the rail the whole way. The latter is laid well, the joints all fished and run smooth, to protect the rail from snow, fences are placed on North side where snow is likely to drift, consisting of hurdle, wood work like

trestles about 6 ft. high, leaning away from wind, the average fall of snow does not exceed 3 inches. Passed several Forts and Fort Hays, where Duke Alexis got out to shoot Buffalo. Fort consisting of several wooden buildings in a quadrilateral, with stone house in centre, surrounded by a Stoakade, large Corral for horses near, all cavalry, and found very useful during construction of line to protect it from attacks of Indians. Noticed numerous Earth forts, small shanties sunk in ground, loop holed at sides near top, roof of turf.

Stations surrounded by 15 or 20 houses, a store generally selling agricultural implements, and several gambling saloons where worst characters assemble thinking nothing of shooting men down. Water for engines pumped up by Windmills, the wind acting end on the sail.

Dined at "Ellis", 340 miles, bill of fare comprised Buffalo steak, and Antelope both very good. This spot is one of the most famous on the line, after leaving passed numerous Prairie dog towns, the dogs sitting on hind legs, eating like squirrels and turning backwards into their holes at approach of train. Saw several herds of Antelope feeding, some quite near, and were fired at from train, their white tails show a long way off. Passed numerous dead buffalo on both sides of tract, some without

their hides, but many with, the ground strewn with bones of those shot last fall. They were then so numerous, travelling all day, one saw nothing else, the train frequently had to be stopped by them stampeding and blocking the tracks; it being early in the year they ^{now} never hardly got so far north, going South as far as the Arkansas River in winter, and as "South Platte" in Summer, but never as far North as Union Pacific ^WRay, so could never have seen them from there; shortly passed a herd of 14, they scampered off at a great rate at approach of train.

Got up at 5 a.m. to view the Sun-rise, which was very grand, though little cloudy on the Horizon the Rocky Mountains could be seen, the most notable being "Pike's Peak" which was 200 miles away, this ripened into a beautiful view. Found the Prairie covered with snow and intensely cold owing to the height, the track having risen all the way from Kansas, height 5,317 ft. Arrived at Denver at 7 a.m., found it a stragling town, but business portion full of well built stores, 40,000 inhabitants, doubled since last year, altitude, 5,105 ft., air very pure, situated about 15 miles from mountains, which appear quite close about 2 miles. Streets very muddy owing to snow melting, instead of soaking into ground

carried up in form of steam, owing to heat of sun and dryness.

Hotel, "American House", tolerable 4 dollars a day, recommended to Delmonico's, which is on European plan. Strolled round town, bought some good Buckskin gloves off Buckskin Jim an Englishman from Bristol, who has been all his life among Indians, also a coyote and Linx skins from 1¹/₂ dollars each. Buckskins pants 13 dollars per pair, Shirt 5 dollars, found many English settled in Town this being the rendezvous for mining districts, which are situated on all sides. Number of Chinese in Denver, and Colony of Chinese Women washing.

April 6th.

Left Denver at 7 a.m. for Colorado Springs, Narrow Guage 3 ft. line, made numerous stoppages and had a break down. Mounted up till at last reached the "Divide", so called from the River here dividing one going north and one south, 7,544 ft.

"Colorado Springs" present terminus of the D. & R. G. line, shortly to be opened to Pheblo, situated 5 miles from Springs and 3 from "Colorado City", first stake of City, driven in August 1871, now consists of about 28 houses and several shanties for Emigrants, beautifully situated on a rising plain between hills about 100 ft. in height, and about 3 miles from ^{the} Mountains, which appear quite close.

"Pike's Peak", 14,216 ft. nearest ^{about} Mountain situated $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from "Maniton" or site of Springs. Great altitude, 6,000 ft. renders atmosphere very agreeable and clear. Hotel good but waiting very indifferent. Terms $\frac{1}{3}$ - 50 per day, or 18 dollars per week.

April 7th. Blowing violent gale from N.W., at 10. a.m. commenced to snow violently drifting up to 5ft. outside House, snow almost blinding, impossible to make headway against it, train which started early had to put in, as it could not withstand storm. Several English here, Sheep farming in the neighbourhood, two men of 60th Rifles from Canada very agreeable.

April 8th. Storm somewhat abated, but snow everywhere, walked about Town, examined Printing Office which is very complete, paper called "Out West" published weekly. "General Cameron" Superintendent of Colony, very pleasant man, served during war. Major.... from St. Garstons? arrived, after beating about in snow 24 hours, having broken his waggon and lost his mules. Pueblo Coach lost on Prairies, wandering about for 4 hours, snow melting fast.

April 9th. Surveyed lots which are to be had all round Town, qualifying one to enter the Colony, ^{who} ~~which~~ ^{has} ~~possesses~~ all the lands, Colony strictly "temperence", so persons

desiring liquors must go to chemists, and be served out of vials; drove over to "Glen Eyrie", the residence of "General Palmer", beautifully situated in a romantic glen, shut in by rock, the falling of water and scream of the Eagles above, disturbing ^{the} solitude.

Noticed the "Echo", Cameron's base voice sounding well, drove out of the Glen, round the base of the Mountains for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the "Garden of the Gods," 3 rocks of Sand-stone red and grey, of peculiar form, one representing a "Camel kneeling", fine view at the opening, between two of the Rocks, called "The Gate", shanty in garden put there by a man who has pre-empted the place. Rocks very fantastic shapes, drove 4 miles on to Springs, tasted various waters, liked the "Seltzer" best, very like German Seltzer. Walked up the Stream called the "Fountain", examined the road, called the "Ute Pass" leading to the Silver Mines, being blasted out of the solid rock, drove back to Springs, looked at beaver dam on Creek, the trees all round being cut through by the ¹ "Beavers". Visited "Indian Encampment", consisting of 6 Lodges, tribe of "Ute's", who are not hostile to the white men, though very so, to their enemies the "Cheyemes", "Ute Chief" with whom we talked ~~to us and~~ described the way he tortured and scalped 3 prisoners at "Plum Creek". "Chief" dressed

like a white man, others had deer skins and mocassins, Squaws not so bad looking, but very dirty, after much parleying, swopped railway rug and $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars for Buffalo robe, the colour of mine, pleased immensely the Chief, so he made it a present to his youngest Squaw. Saw Squaws painting robes with Ochre cakes, like they use to paint their faces. Bought bow & arrows of boys, who were on horseback shooting game. One Indian was armed with a Winchester Rifle.

April 10th.

Walked up to Cheyenne Canyon, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Hotel, had to wade across "Fountain Creek", water being high, hills on all sides swarming with Prairie dogs. Climbed Foot-hills 100ft. high. Canyon superb, rocks rising overhead to an immense height, stream running swiftly below, walked to turn of Canyon, began to explore further, but stopped by the track of a Bear!

April 11th.

Selected lot for Offices of Colony, signed contract for same, for 1000 Dollars ^{each}, received certificates of "Membership of Colony". Drew up plan of building and Specifications ^{for my building corner of Kiowa + Tejon Streets}

April 12th.

Walked along ^{the} "Monument" looked at the "Low Lands", found them more fitted for grass than fruit. Drove in Buggy to top of hills, then across Colony for 3 miles to "Temple Gap", Sheep Ranch, not much to eat, everything

having been cleared off, had fine view of "Spanish Peaks", 200 miles away to [?]Raton Mountains.

April 13th. Had a ride on horseback to coal fields, 7 miles off, found coal hardly worth the name, crumbling at least touch. First experience of a "Mexican Saddle", rough, trotting, rather hard, ponies went well.

April 14th. Took train to Denver, wind blowing hard, much snow about "Divide", the snow fences evidently had been of little use. Went to "American House" as trunks were there.

April 15th. Did all my shopping in a great hurry and caught the 12 p.m. train back. Freight very slow and cold, arrived at 8 p.m.

April 16th. Began work at office of Colony, had to reduce a Map, from various parts of ^{sketches} one. Found tools rather rough, and by scarcity of space, had to work in bed-room.

April 20th. Having nearly finished drawing, in afternoon walked down to Brickfield over by Cheyenne Canyon about 3 miles. Passed through a beautiful Gulch, where land was being irrigated. Found Peas $3\frac{1}{2}$ " out of ground, abundance of water, a lot above containing a valuable iron spring.

Property of 80 acres to be sold by proprietor for 11,000 dollars. Ball at new billard-room.

April 21st. Church in reading-room, bass having gone, I had to take his part, Congregation of 4 besides Choir - Lilley

- read Prayers. After dinner took a walk and saw ^{and shot a} large Jack rabbit, found good fossils.
- April 22nd. Went out in afternoon with Lilley shooting, tried at some ducks, shot a Prairie dove.
- April 25th. In afternoon, walked over to old town, saw M. Hubbard about property in "Gulch".
- April 28th. Rode up "Bear Creek" to Lime-Kilns. Lime-stone good, making dark yellow lime which stakes well though taking some time. Lime sold at 50 Cents at Kiln.
- May 6th. After Church drove over in Gen. Palmer's Carriage with Mr. & Mrs. Lilley to Glen Eyrie. Mr. Millen very pleasant. House elegantly furnished, hall decorated with flags from battle-fields and trophies, and a Singular Chair made of a young Buffalo.
- May 7th. Walked up Canyon, tried to get over Punch-bowl, but not succeeding scaled rocks at side for a great height, from top had a fine view. The little "Mellens" climb like Goats.
- May 9th. Busy at furniture for house, and making a Pillow, made a Desk and Wash-stand.
- May 12th. Slept in my house Ktowa & Tejon Streets, slept on Buffalo robe, rather damp, but did not catch cold. *Dr. Hatchell*
- May 27th. Left by early train for Denver, put up at "Tremont" *rented one room as office.*

House", found it cheap 3 dollars but not over good food. In evening went to "Cricket Music Hall", watched the gambling, the touters innocently asking strangers what the game was.


- May 28th. Bought an American Horse, 125 dollars. Bought a Ballend ^{an} Rifle, *pattern of U.S. army, had the wood round the barrel removed*
- May 29th. Went to Davenport's Seance in evening found performance very extraordinary, and entirely inexplicable. Guitars floating in the air without apparent help. Rogers, Editor of the "Rocky Mountains News" being under cabinet during performance.
- May 30th. Started on Horseback for Colorado Springs, dined at Littleton's, put up for night in a Farm house, slept in an upper room with one of the farmers and his 3 little boys, and only separated by a light screen from the ladies. (33 miles). Rode over "Divide" to Springs, arrived at 6 p.m. 44 miles. X
- June 7th. Horse strayed away, sent a man after him without success, so advertised him 20 ~~75~~ reward.
- June 11th. Horse brought back, 15 miles from Colorado Springs. Ascended "Pike's Peak", saw Sun rise at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 a.m., slept at Timber line, descended next day.
- June 17th. By Neaves' invitation left with him in his waggon,

drawn by his train of Mares, Rhoda & Eva, towed my horse.

X Prater scared, by seeing a large party of Indians ~~the~~ ^{riding} towards the town, but relieved to find they had their squaws, with them, and had come to be vaccinated, as ¹⁰ ~~all~~ ^{some} all ~~had~~ ^{had} broken out.

Caught in heavy thunderstorm, roads much washed out.
Stopped at Mr. Arkens' on "Turkey Creek" who entertained
us, hospitably refused to make any charge. His son has
a good collection of Stuffed Birds.

June 18th.

Left early for "Canyon City", arrived there about
1 p.m. Sand all round of adobe cracking off like
cocoanut shells (in the heat of the sun). Distance
about 48 miles from Springs. Rents gone up owing to
railway coming, several brick blocks, chief Store, "Rocks".
A fellow who does good trade with Miners. Bridge across
Arkansas rickety, single truss  several spans,
river rushes along at 15 miles an hour, bearing great
trees in its course. Penitentiary of stone, very near
rocks, which get very hot, and as it is crowded ^{heat} must be
fearful. Prisoners walk about streets in striped uniform,
apparently unguarded; warders carry navy revolvers. Soda
Spring in town, not as good as at Manitou. Very hot at
night by reason of heat given out by cliffs of Building
stone all round the city. Looked up Clarke, Engineer of
Coal Mines.

June 19th.

Rode over to coal bank, 9 miles. Seam not very deep
worked by horizontal shafts in side of cliffs. Rode all
along Oak Creek till at the Canyon perpendicular climb

for 3 miles, then 10 miles in Canyon, very fine scenery, foliage luxuriant, arrived in a large valley, with a winter stock ranche. Misunderstood directions (as trail was obliterated) followed Creek for 8 or 10 miles, struck no trail, so thought it best to turn back, and not seeing anyone had to come right back over the bluff to a Ranche, the other side of Canyon. Very dirty, though tired, slept well.

June 20th.

40 miles from Canyon. Started again to cross "Green Horn" with better success arrived at Neave's Wet Mountain Valley, at 12 p.m. Splendid view of Spanish & Snowy Range. (vide article in "Out West"). Numerous Elk Horns lying about. Valley is about 20 miles long, 8 broad, struck it 4 miles from Neaves', had to ride in a swamp, having to break fences to get through. Constructed a bed out of a cheese cloth, which I sewed up and stuffed with hay, had my own blanket. As a lady guest was expected made the furniture for her room and fitted paper blinds.

June 22nd.

Visited Legard's Ranche $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. Rough shanty not so good as Neaves', so did not go for their invitation to stop with them. (Neave who was the son of an English Baronet, was killed in a fray I think same year). Cooked their supper, and showed them how to fry potatoes and boil preserved peaches. Have 800 acres, and expect

soon to get it under fence. Will not make much out of hay this year.

June 23rd.

Tried fishing for Trout, without success. Shot some small ducks. Did not even see fish although heard there were many. Had good shooting later, ~~on~~ a Curlew, taking Cock-birds as Hens had young. Got flying shot at 4 Antelope, who came within 30 yards, not having rifle or revolver, did no damage. Cooked and plucked Curlew for supper.

July 2nd.

Left Neave's going via "~~H~~ardscrabbe" to Pueblo, had difficulty in finding road, having to travel for ~~80~~ miles in great swamp, horse behaved very well. Struck source of "~~H~~ardscrabbe", luckily following it, got on road pretty good when in Canyon. Stopped night at Crane's Stock-ranch, got well treated and not charged. Crane thinks of going to Kansas soon, as he cannot keep "high blood stock" here.

July 3rd

30 miles from Valley. Struck (on short cut across plain) Arkansas river, 10 miles from Pueblo, land all along South bank belonging to "Arkansas Valley Pool". Numerous Cacti grow on cliffs of large size, covered with purple flowers. Halted at "Rock Canyon" to lunch, river here runs with great rapidity through a narrow passage in the rocks. "Pool Company" have built a

bridge here, pretty view. Arrived at Pueblo at 3 p.m. Put up at "Chilcott House" strolled about town, not at all agreeably pleased, population chiefly Mexicans. Rowdy look on all. Mexican quarters curious in evening, great many drunk preparing for the 4th. Excitement near hotel, moving a house, large winch set up in street, worked by numerous Mexicans.

July 4th

Woke up early, by firing of guns and anvils, which on this day are made to do duty for cannons. Great feed at hotel, immense rush for dinner, room decorated with cheap prints, illustrating "life of Washington" left at 3 p.m. for Fountain, 35 miles, road leading right hand side of railway, all the way. Passed Lincoln, (station called 'Little Butte's from numerous conical hills) Good hotel at Fountain, owned by Dr. Bell, run by a Kentuckian. Ball here^{te} at night, great day for little boys with crackers, which in every city are fished off in the streets.

July 5th

Left early and comfortably rode the 15 miles ~~from there~~ to Colorado Springs, found all as I left it, except 'Judy', my "Prairie Dog" dead.

July 16th

Left with ^{Sully} Sillery on horseback, joined party Dorr (a celebrated Explorer) and 12 Philadelphians, one

Secretary of General Thompson (Phil Central) who spoke well of "Arkansas Pool". Rode to Stage Station, 15 miles, dined and contrary to original intention, went to "Bergum's Park" 15 miles to the North. Passed several Saw-mills. Park filled with fine trees, land owned by "National Land Co." Also by Dr. Bell. Stopped night at "Chris' Rancho" 24 miles from Springs.

July 17th Left early alone (others are returning home) taking a short cut up a Canyon to "Castello's" found short cuts a mistake. After wandering for 3 hours had to return to go round, got to "Castello's" at 6 p.m.; found "Judge Castello" a jolly old fellow, but having a sore point on subject of beds found ^a railway out-fit ^{and} camped there with Judge Kelly and Capt. Nevin 24, miles.

July 18th Left for Salt Works, stopping for dinner at Sulphur Springs in South Park, tried the water, it made both horse and self ill, View of South Park and range (Mt. Lincoln) very fine, from top of "Divide" - disappointed with Park, contrary to "Bergum's Park" no vegetation, hardly grass, more scanty than on the Plains. Stopped at "Salt Works" admired the collection of minerals. Salt Works used to get salt out of Salt Springs (not very saline) not running now. 42 Miles.

- July 19th Went from Salt Works to "Granite" crossing over a high range in the midst of a violent thunderstorm. After crossing range followed Arkansas river up to "Granite". Scenery very grand, river dashing along at 15 miles an hour, mining has ^{taken place} gone on both sides of bank, principally in winter when river is low. Found 'Granite' almost deserted only about 10 houses out of 100 being inhabited. Town made when there was the great "mining rush" in 1860. Fine Lode called "Yankee Blade" close by, now stopped, set of stamps also. "Cash Creeke Gulch" mines in the neighbourhood, where purest gold in Colorado is found, 32 miles from "Salt Works".
- July 20th Left early for "Twin Lakes" about 8 miles, crossing "lake creek" which nearly caused horse to swim. First view of Lakes very fine, mountains in background about 6 miles away covered with snow, ~~by lake~~ ^{the} or lower ~~Twin~~ ^{Lake} about 3 miles long by 1 mile wide. Stopped at hotel, well kept as a sort of boarding-house. At the house a number of campers. Tried a little fishing, with only moderate success, not having a good rod.
- July 21st Took rifle, but saw nothing to shoot, except a "Prairie Grouse" saw a "Wood Chuck" an animal almost like a young Bear. Tried again fishing, and caught several fine "Trout" in stream.
- July 22nd Rowed a boat (flat bottom very crank) to end of Lake,

3 miles, fished there using a fly with a little piece of Grasshopper to hide the hook, caught a lot of very fine fish. Seeing a storm coming, started to row back, was caught however in middle of lake, in a very violent hail, and thunderstorm, boat nearly filled with water, winds so high, impossible to row against it, and very hard to land, succeeded in getting under the lee of some rocks, wet through, left boat and walked home two miles, had to borrow a pair of "pants", not having a pair - in less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of an hour after storm was over, lake was again calm. Altitude, ^{about} 10,000' [?] above the sea. X

July 23rd. Left for "California Gulch", 15 miles, struck river and followed till entrance of "Gulch" then followed "Gulch", passed a ^{Woodman's} "Tree Camp", where trees were being got out for railway to be floated down to Ft. Dodge. Went through Orr City, which was made in 1860, but is nearly deserted. Found "Capt. Bruce" and his partner "Mr. Wells" at the "Upper Town". Showed round works in evening, attended a Meeting to elect a Delegate, to choose Delegate to Congress. Bought some gold nuggets, ^(partly paid for by my large box of trout) saw one very fine one worth \$5. ^{sterling} Stopped night at "Hartsell's Ranch", having to go to "Fairplay" by the "Rocky Point route", Capt. ^{and} telling me that to cross range only 18 miles was not safe. X on the way, nearly rode over some bear cubs which were playing in the Chaparral, told by miners that they were "grizzly cubs", and that I was lucky not to be absorbed by the mother.

- July 24th, Started up the road, scenery very fine, road passing over range at an altitude of 12,000 ft., arrived at "Fairplay" in afternoon, 38 miles from "Gulch".
- July 25th. "Fairplay" straggling little Town of 100 houses, mostly log huts as there is no saw mill near. Got two rings made with gold from "California Gulch", Gulch mines formerly very successful here, bed of "Platte" having been much widened.
- July 26th. Walked over to "Gulch Mines", very long flume, having sections of round wood (probably pine trees) laid side by side in bottom to collect gold. "Clinton Kruse" where I stopped kept by an English woman, who said she was once very well off, and had cousins living at Highgate, she spoke French well and her daughter played on piano. Left for "Sulphur Springs at 1 p.m., 28 miles off, arrived at 6 p.m.
- July 27th. Hotel kept here by "Girten" of Col City, Sulphur baths said to cure rheumatism. Left for Castello 20 miles being glad once more to set out home. Saw fine horns of "Mountain Sheep" at Ranch, want ~~5~~ 5 \$ for them, also ^a young *live* Antelope at the same price. Visited "Pettrified Stumps", 3 miles from Castello, had some difficulty in finding them, as a great many had been removed, only holes remaining, one Stump 16 ft. diameter, formerly 20ft. Happy to say

Castello did not offer me any more bear for supper.

July 28th. Started for Col Springs, 26 miles, stopped at Half-way House" 1 hour to rest, and of course very dirty and shabby, met everyone going to "Soda Springs", horse tired and slipping in the abominable "Old Town" road, hurt his knees slightly.

August 7th. Started on horseback for "Young's Ranche" to hunt Antelope, stopping at what was Corne's Ranche at Jimmy's Camp (10 miles from town), left with a man driving a bull going to his (Randall) ranche, killed a large Rattle-snake, great difficulty in getting the bull to go; six miles out sighted a herd of 15 Antelopes, started after them, but soon scared them away, met them again a mile away, and followed till near a cliff, crawled cautiously up it and found them grazing the other side, crawled on stomach till within 200 yards, then fired wounding one but not seriously, followed again and got another shot, horse being too lame to follow them. Returned to Ranche and stopped the night, "Frances' Son" keeping it.

August 8th. Returned to Town, horse still lame from effects of fall so spoils any further trip.

August 10th. Left by 1 p.m. train, using General Palmer's "Pass" to ride on Locomotive, and not requiring a ticket at all - Engine very unsteady when going at a high speed, everything very cramped. Speed kept up well, averaging 13 miles on

the steepest grade (75 ft. to mile). Engineer very surly making me leave Engine at "Divide" and not liking me making notes; no water-guage used. 3 cocks connected with boiler blowing into a brass tube, driver tells by sound whether water or steam escapes, a blast lead from front of boiler under fore-grate - very little extra room on this narrow guage Engine. Arriving at Denver went to "American House" which has been extended, 4 ^{ft.} ft.

August 19th. Spent morning at railway office, making extracts of Profile of Line,

August 20th. Left by "Denver Pacific Railway" for "Cheyenne". Passed through "Greely", ar very slow, broken ^{down} place. At Cheyenne changed into "Union Pacific" car for "Omaha". - road much less interesting than "Kansas Pacific" no buffalo or Antelope to be seen and very few "Prairie Dogs". On entering the district, 100 miles West of Omaha, the rolling verdant prairie is struck, grass 4ft. high, very luxuriant.

August 21st. Got to "Omaha" at 1 p.m. changed into Transfer Car to go to "Council bluffs" - Fine bridge Spanning the "Missouri". Omaha prettily situated on rising ground. Took cars of "Rock Island & Pacific" for Chicago.

*K. Hedges
April. 1927*