DIARY OF CHARLES SARGENT

OVERLAND JOURNEY FROM BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

TO DEER CREEK, CALIFORNIA

May 5, 1849 to September 20, 1849

The diary is that of Charles Sargent written during the years of 1849 and 1850.

He left Belleville, Illinois, in 1849 and traveled to the coast of California and prospected thru the state of California.

He was born in New York and learned the jeweler's trade. When he finished his apprentice-ship, he and his wife came from New York to Belleville by wagon train. He established a small jewelry shop in Belleville shortly after his arrival.

Boill one doz eggs hard and mix to a past with olive oil.

One of cider vinegar, one tablespoonful mustard, one teaspoonful of tumeric, one teaspoon pepper

Cream Cake

3 eggs, one cup sugar, two tablespoons full of water, one and half teaspoons full baking powder. Cream a half pint of milk, one egg, three tablespoons of sugar, one tablespoonful of corn starch, one tablespoonful of butter, flavor to suit. Boil two minits spread while warm.

Cookies without eggs

Two cups of sugar, one of butter, one of sweet milk, two spoons of baking powder, nut meg, role out thin.

A fruit cake

Eight eggs beaten separate, one pound of butter, two pounds of sugar, two pounds of raisins, one and half pounds of figs, one pound of zante csic, currents, one half pounds of citron,

A fruit cake.

one pint of brandy, one and three fourths pounds of flour, two teasponnful of soda and spics.

Orange cake

Two thirds of cup butter, two cups of sugar, one half cup of sweet milk, three cups of flour, three teaspoon baking powder, grate the rine of two oranges. Press out the juice in the icing.

Cookies

One cup of butter, three cups of sugar, one half cup cream, three eggs, one teaspoonful of salaratus. Flavor to taste knead in sufficient flour to roll out.

- May 5th Crossed the River at St. Joseph and traveled to the bluff, 5 miles, had road -
 - 6th Traveled 8 miles to good grass and water.
 - 7th and 8th Laid by arranging load, herding cattle, etc.
 - 9th Crossed Wolf Creek traveled 12 miles.
 - 10th Passed Nemahau sub Mission, beautiful place, fine land, traveled 10 miles.
 - 1lth Traveled 10 miles beautiful rolling parari. Encamped
 1/2 mile from road.
 - 12th Joined the Illinois Union Band.
 - 13th Laid by, Sunday. Had preaching. (45 miles)
 - 14th Traveled 14m high parari country. Since left Mission timber very scarce have to leave the road from 1/2 to 1 mile to camp.
 - 15th Traveled 20 miles.
 - 16th Crossed big Nemahau 10 o'clock, fine creek, plenty of wood. Crossed little Nemahau and camped. Fine wood and water. Traveled 16m.
 - 17th Traveled 16m country rolling with wood in hollows from 1/2 to 1m from road. (66 miles)
 - 18th Crossed Big Blue 4 o'clock. Good crossing, water just touches the bottom of our waggon bed, took in wood and water and camped 2 miles beyond. traveled 22m.
 - 19th Intersected Independince road 10 o'c. not so much traveled

- as St. Joseph road. Traveled 25m. Water and grass bad.
- May 20th Sunday. Traveled 4m to find wood, water and grass on

 Wyaths run. Leid by the balance of the day, had preaching.
 - 21st Crossed branch of Little Blue. Traveled 18m.
 - 22nd Traveled 19m camped on Little Blue. Found good grass.

 Train clost by, lost 80 head of cattle stampeded a

 few nights previous in a thunderstorm. Many were going
 back to the states. (88 miles)
 - 23rd Still up Little Blue. Traveled 17m.
 - 24th Hard thunderstorm, lightning hail, and rain, traveled 12m. Camped on L Blue.
 - 25th Traveled 19m camped on Little Blue. Grass bad.
 - 26th Left Little Blue 6 miles took wood and water.

 Camped in sight of sand hills on the Platte. Traveled

 18m. No water, nor grass.
 - 27th Sunday traveled 16m to Platte. Grass bad.
 - 28th Passed Fort Childs 11 OC, camped in prarie. no wood, nor water. Traveled 20 miles. (102 miles)
 - 29th Traveled 19m. Camped on Platte.
 - 30th St. Clair boys 6 teams in all left the Union Band.

 Went in advance. Traveled 16m.
 - 31st Roads heavy for two or three days past in consequence of

heavy rains. Wood very scarce on the Platte, obliged to haul wood in our waggons from day to day.

June 1st - Saw buffaloes crossing the river. traveled 16m.

2nd - Traveled 18m.

3rd - Sunday - laid by.

4th - Crossed South fork of Platte, 5 OC, 2 ft deep, 3/4
mile wide. traveled 22 miles (109 miles)

5th - Traveled up River, pass through the Sioux Village.

300 lodges, 11 OC 10m. Struck across for North Fork.

3 miles across. traveled 18m. no wood.

6th - Travel over a point of the bluffs. 17 miles.

7th - Passed Cedar Grove 3 OC - camped clost to the bluff, several fine springs of cold water. traveled 20m.

8th - Traveled 18m - passed through Ash Hollow.

9th - Heavy sandy roads - no wood. traveled 16m. (89 miles)

10th - Sunday. Laid by. Throwed away 200 lbs bacon, 30 lbs lard to reduce load. Some oxen lame and sore necks.

11th - Traveled 20m. Camped opposite Court House Rock.

12th - Passed Chimney Rock. Traveled 16m.

13th - Traveled 18m.

14th - Ascended Scotts Bluffs - got a glimpse of Laramie Peaks in the far distance to N.W. Crossed Horne Creek at 4 OC. traveled 22m.

15th - Traveled 18 m. Camped on river, good wood and water.

- June 16th Came up to Fort Laramie 11 OC. 6 miles. Went 7 miles further and camped. Wood and grass plenty. traveled 13m. (107 miles)
 - 17th Sunday. Laid by.
 - 18th Laid by, cut off waggon bodies. Threw away bread, meat, powder, lead, alcohol, etc. etc. to lighten loads.
 - 19th Passed warm spring 11 OC. Camped on Dead Timber creek.

 Traveled 20m.
 - 20th Traveled 15m. Camped on Thorn Creek.
 - 21st Traveled 19m. Camped on La Bonte. No grass, plenty of wood and water.
 - 22nd Traveled 18 miles. Camp on La Prele. Good grass, wood and water.
 - 23rd Traveled 18 miles. Camp on Deer Creek. Good grass and wood. (90 miles)
 - 24th Sunday. Laid by.
 - 25th Traveled 10 miles. Camped on crooked muddy creek.
 - 26th Arrived at ferry at 2 OC. Traveled 14m.
 - 27th Crossed the ferry on North Fork and camped on the opposite bank of the River.
 - 28th Traveled 19m and camped at Mineral Springs and Lake.
 - 29th Passed Rocky avenue and Alkali swamp. Camped on small creek not far from the road. Drove cattle 1 1/2m to graze. Traveled 22m.

- June 30th Arrived at Sweet Water. Traveled 16m. (81 miles)

 July 1st Sunday Laid by.
 - 2nd Some oxen sick. The effect of alkali water. Passed
 Devils Gate, traveled 15m.
 - 3rd Camped at 2 OC bend of river. traveled 16 miles.

 l of our oxen died.
 - 4th Saluted the rising sun by a discharge of fire arms and the blowing up of a keg of powder buried in the ground.

 In the course of the day came in sight of the Wind River Mountains covered with eternal snows. Camped at the 4th crossing. Traveled 12m.
 - 5th Camped at 5th ford. Traveled 18m. (61 miles)
 - 6th Camped on Strawberry creek. Traveled 16m.
 - 7th Laid by.
 - 8th Sunday. Drove to Sweet Water, 11m. Saw quantities of ice and snow on the north side of the hills.
 - 9th Crossed the summit of the mountains. Camped on Pacific Creek. traveled 15m.
 - 10th Crossed Dry Sandy. Took Sublett's cut off. Camped on Big Sandy. Traveled 26m.
 - 11th Started at 3 OC across the desert 43 miles, without
 water. Travel all night. Arrived at Greene River 12 OC
 next day. Rocky Mountains 40 miles. (111 miles)
 - 12th Ferried over and camped.

July 13th - Moved over to Fontinelli, a branch of Green River.

Traveled 6m.

14th - Traveled 14m.

15th - Sunday - laid by.

16th - Traveled 20m. Camped on Ham's Fork.

17th - Road very mountainous and rough, traveled 20m.

18th - Traveled 12m. Camped on Bear River.

19th - Traveled down the River and camped - 14m.

20th - Traveled 12m. Camped on River (98 miles)

21st and 22nd - Saturday and Sunday. Laid by.

23rd - Traveled 22m.

24th - Passed Bear and Steam Boat Springs. 4m from here took

Hadspeth's cut off, leaving Fort Hall to our right.

Camped on small creek. Traveled 20m.

25th - Traveled 17m.

26th - Traveled 15m.

27th - Traveled 26m.

28th - Traveled 10m.

29th - Sunday. Traveled 10m. Salt Lake in view from the tops of the mountains.

30th - Traveled 20m. Camped on Raft River.

31st - Traveled 16m. (156 miles)

August 1st - Traveled 16m. Broke waggon. Made cart.

2nd - Traveled 17m. Camped on Goose (Grouse?; Creek.

August 3rd - Traveled 22m.

4th - Traveled 13m.

5th - Sunday - Laid by.

6th - Traveled 14m.

7th - Passed boiling Springs or hot spring valley. Traveled 20m.

8th - Traveled 14m.

9th = 6 miles further struck Humboldt River. Down river 12m.

Travel 18m.

10th - Traveled 20m.

11th - Passed other boiling hot springs. Traveled 14m.

12th - Sunday - Laid by. (168 miles)

13th - Traveled 29m.

14th - Traveled 10m.

15th - Traveled 19m.

16th - Traveled 18m.

17th - Traveled 16m.

18th - Traveled 16m.

19th - Sunday - Laid by.

20th - Traveled 18m.

21st - Traveled 17m.

22nd - Traveled 17m.

23rd - Traveled 11m.

24th - Traveled 24m.

August 25th - Traveled 23m.

26th - Sunday - Moved down the Slue cSlough R.? 4 miles to grass.

27th - Traveled 4 miles to where we cut and made hay to feed across the desert. (226 miles)

28th - Traveled 18m to the Sink.

29th - Arrived at Hot Springs at 5 ofclock. Traveled 20m.

30th - Arrived at Truckee River at 11 o'clock having traveled a part of the night. 20m.

31st - Laid by.

Sept. 1st - Crossed River 11 times - traveled 12m.

2nd - Sunday - laid by.

3rd - Crossed River 10 times - traveled 14m.

4th - Crossed the River 5 times. The road here leaves the
River and begins to ascend the mountains. Traveled 18m.

5th - 5 miles to summit of first ascent. Traveled 15m. (117 miles)

6th - Traveled 15m. Near our camp are the cabins built by the Donner party in 1846.

7th - Crossed the summit of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Traveled 11m.

8th and 9th - Saturday and Sunday. Laid by.

10th - Traveled 10m.

11th - Let our waggons down by ropes. Traveled 7m.

12th - Traveled 10m.

Sept. 13th - Laid by.

14th - Are obliged to let our waggons twice with ropes. Camped in Bear Valley. Traveled 3m. Sierra Nevada's 26 mi. (56 miles)

15th and 16th - Laid by. Gathered pice rims (?) to piece the waggons. 30m.

17th - Traveled 13m.

18th - 6 miles further to Strip Hollow, 6 miles further to camp. Traveled 12m.

19th - Traveled 8m. Camped in grass valley.

20th - Arrived at Deer creek. Here we stopped and went to digging gold. (35 miles)

To Johnsons 100

1905 miles

Amount made from 16th of March to 1st of April, inclusive:

At mining \$139.00 For use of mule 8.00

A German Recipe

6 good sized potatoes, peal and grate, beat in two egg, some hot lard in a frying pan, spread out thin, let it brown nicely.

April	Amt. made ea.day	weather 1	State of weather evening	Promis- cuous remarks
M. 1st T. 2nd W. 3rd T. 4th F. 5th S. 6th S. 7th M. 8th T. 9th W. 10th T. 11th F. 12th S. 14th M. 15th T. 16th	\$20.50 9.75 25.50 23.75 13.00 3.50 1.00 11.50 18.50 2.50 12.50 12.00	pleasant pleasant P. C. C. R. R. C. R. R. P. R. C.	pleasant pleasant P. C. R. C. R. R. R. P.	n.d. all day " all day " A D " A D " " " R & H " " " n.d. " " 1/2 da " A D " A D " A D " A D K & H " CL&D A D
	\$170.00		·	
W. 17th T. 18th F. 19th S. 20th S. 21st M. 22nd T. 23rd W. 24th T. 25th F. 26th S. 27th S. 28th M. 29th T. 30th	5.75 11.50 7.00 14.50 43.50 54.50 26.00 21.00 11.00 7.00 2.00 3.75 208.00 170.00	P. P. P. C. C. P.	P. P	U.R. Prospect Gone 2d 1/2 day A D 2 1/2 fr " " " " 1/2 da A D " " 2 1/2 ft. high " "

May	Amt. made ea.day	State of weather morning	State of weather evening	Fromis- cuous remarks
W. 1st T. 2nd F. 3rd S. 4th S. 5th M. 6th T. 7th W. 8th T. 9th F. 10th S. 11th S. 12th M. 13th T. 14th W. 15th T. 16th	\$11.00 6.00 2.00 9.25 7.50 15.00	P. P	P. P	A D O D R & H N D 1/2 O D R & H
F. 17th S. 18th S. 19th M. 20th T. 21st W. 22nd T. 23rd F. 24th S. 25th S. 26th M. 27th T. 28th W. 29th T. 30th F. 31st	1.00 24.00 24.00 7.25 1.75 11.50 6.00 7.00 82.50 50.75	P. P	P. P	R&H rain Rs falling

\$133.25

June	Amt. made ea.day	State of weather morning	State of weather evening	Promis- cuous remarks
S. 1st S. 2nd M. 3rd T. 4th W. 5th T. 6th F. 7th S. 8th S. 9th M. 10th T. 11th W. 12th T. 13th F. 14th S. 15th S. 16th	\$18.00 10.00 11.00 10.00 17.25 19.00 22.50 20.00 21.50	P. P	P. P	R H R falling M & E Cool West, cool R falling
M. 17th T. 18th W. 19th T. 20th F. 21st S. 22nd S. 23rd M. 24th T. 25th W. 26th T. 27th F. 28th S. 29th S. 30th	\$14.50 3.25 8.50 13.00 29.00 33.50 11.00 16.00 12.50	P. P	P. P	
	\$155.75 149.25			

\$305.00

July	Amt. made ea.day	State of weather morning	State of weather evening	Promis- cuous remarks	
Mo. 1st Tu. 2nd We. 3rd Th. 4th Fr. 5th	\$ 2.25 2.00	P. P. P. P. P. P. P. P.	P. P. P. P. P. P. P. P.		
Sa. 6th S.	20.00	P. P.	P. P.		
Mo. 8th Tu. 9th We.10th Th.11th Fr.12th Sa.13th S. 14th Mo.15th	20.00 3.00 6.75 6.75 5.50				
Tu.16th	7.00				
	\$90 .7 5				
We.17th Th.18th Fr.19th Sa.20th S. 21st Mo.22nd Tu.23rd We.24th Th.25th Fr.26th Sa.27th S. 28th Mo.29th Tu.30th We.31st	\$ 7.00 2.00				

Note: The diary was ruled for the months of August, September, and October but were not filled in - so were not copied.

JOURNAL OF INCIDENTS ON MY TRIP HOME

- Aug. 6th On this day started from the cabin homeward bound.

 Traveled 20 miles. Staid all night with Thos.

 Hinkly & co.
 - 7th Started early in the morning for the city arrived there at 4 o'clock.
 - 8th After transacting my business left for San Francisco for steamer Hartford. Distance 200 miles.
 - 9th Arrived this morning at 7 o'clock. After breakfast went and engaged passage for Panama on board bark Wentworth Jane, \$70.
 - 10th Went on board at 2 O'clock weather very cold.
 - 11th Sunday a number of passengers came on board.
 - 12th Finished laying in provisions, wood and coal.
 - with the tide out of the harbor. At 10 O'clock passed the fort 10 miles from San Francisco. 5 miles further brought us into the open sea. A light breeze from the north west which increased till night giving us a very good run. At sun set seen a hump back whale puffing and blowing a short distance from the ship.
 - 14th A moderate steady breeze from N.West giving us a tolerable fair run. The wind went down with the sun, during the night - a light breeze sprung up.

- Aug. 15th Had a very light breeze all day, about 4 O'clock saw
 the smoke of a burning volcance. Supposed to be about
 one hundred miles off. This volcance is about four
 hundred miles from San Francisco and near the line of
 upper and lower Cal.
 - 16th This morning our run becalmed until about 2 O'clock.

 A very light breeze springing upp, carried us along about 3 knot.
 - 17th This morning there was a perfect calm until 10 O'clock
 a light breeze sprung upp, which lasted but a little
 while, and so on through the whole day, the wind frequently rising would blow for a short time then die
 away and be a perfect calm.
 - 18th The wind blowed quite fresh but dead ahead in consequence of which we made but little headway.
 - 19th The wind today, the same as yesterday. at 2 O'clock we made the entrance into the bay of Sandego. Ascending about one mile we cast anchor opposite the lower town where most of the vessels land. Just before entering the harbour, and near the shore we passed through great quantities of kelp, a kind of sea grass that grows upon a rock in the bottom of the sea. It grows and flourishes in water varying from 50 to 300 feet keep and so thick that bessels pass through it. In and about this kelp we caught

- (Aug. 19)- a fine mess of fish, mackerel and other fish. In many places the water was perfectly alive with them.
 - 20th Sandiego is an old Spanish town settled by the Spaniards many years ago before the acquisition of this country. This place was occupied by onley a fiew Spaniards, who were engaged in killing cattle, drying their hides and shipping them to the U.S. and other countries. The country back of this is admirably adapted to the raising of stock. The valleys are said to be very large and fertile and almost covered with wild cattle. There are three towns now instead of one. The Lower, Middle and Upper. The lower town is about 1 mile from the mouth of the harbour where the most of the shipping stops. This place is settled by Americans and has been built upp within 5 months. There are about 20 houses besides a number of tents. The Middle town is about 5 miles further upp the harbour. This is the old Spanish town and is about the size of the lower town. The most of the residents are Spaniards, Mexicans and Indians. The most of the buildings are very old, and many of them in a very dilapidated condition. The Upper town is one mile further upp the bay and is smaller than either of the others at present but bids fair to rival both in a very short time. It was laid off and settled

Aug. 20th - by Bostonians but a fiew weeks since. The Middle and upper towns possess great advantages over the lower town being at the foot of a range of mountains where there is some wood and a plenty of water. Water sells as high as two rials a gallon - wood is worth \$20 a chord at the lower town. The bay of Sendiego and the coast for many miles upp and down are notable for its Mackerel Fisheries. These and other fish are so plenty that in many places the water is perfectly alive with them. I am told that a man with a hook and line can catch from a half to one barrell a day. This morning while laying in port the passengers caught a fine mess of mackerel. This bay on a coast is also notable for its sea-shells. Labouring men and mechanics were in great demand at this place. The former were gitting from five to eight dollars a day, and board themselves, the latter were getting from 10 to 12\$ a day. Provisions were about the same here as in San Francisco. Boarding from 7 to 10\$ a week. It is reported that very rich silver mines have lately been discovered some 2 or 3 hundred miles above this but it is not generally believed. It sounds to much like many of the big Gold stories we are so used to hearing about but which generally proved to be to much like the Irish-

- Aug. 20th mans flee (when you thought you had your finger on him come to look for him, hes not there) At about 10 O'clock we weighed anchor and set sail out of the harbour with a fair, and strong wind, which continued throughout the day and night carrying us along about 8 miles the hour.
 - 21st A fair strong and favourable wind blowing very steady
 all day and night, during the last 24 hours made 180
 miles in longitude besides many miles in latitude.
 - 22nd Today we are sailing with a very light wind. At night the wind reised carrying us along about 8 miles the hour. During the last 24 hours made 160 miles.
 - 23rd The wind about the same as yesterday at 11 AM. Saw at a great distance or what appeared to be three vessels under sail but upon nearer approach found them to be three rocks each one about the size of a ship and rising about 200 feet above the surface of the sea. These rocks are something of a curiosity there being no land within a hundred miles of them.

White cup cake

One cup butter
Two " sugar
Three " flour
White of 8 eggs
Small tablespoon salartus
One table spoon of Rose Water
Milk or cream to make a thick batter.

Composition cake

2 cups butter
3 " sugar
5 " flour
1 " milk
1 teaspoon dissolved salaratus
2 tablespoons of brandy
1 lb raisens
1/2 nutmeg grated

Pound Cake

l pound flour
l " sugar
l 1/4 " butter
l0 eggs
l nutmeg grated
l wine-glass rose water

For white cake adde one cup of milk and three teaspoons full of yeast powder.

On the 1st day of April held a settlement with my partner of all our business affairs up to this date and divided our earnings up to this date. I had for my share in gold dust \$64.00, in silver \$8.00. Besides this the half of a mule which cost us one hundred and seventy-five dollars \$175.00 and provisions enough to lest us 60 days.

Amount of monies received from various sources other than mining commencing with the 1st of April AD 1850.

April 4th received for use of mules - two days	\$8.00
" 24th for use of mule 2 days	8.00
Received for flour sold	7.50
Received for skillet	4.00
Received of Thomas for Molasses	1.25
May 13th - Sold my share of mule	75.00
June 20th received for molasses	8.00
June 20th received for hammock	2.00
July 19th my share of lead (?)	15.00
Crow bars	3.00

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x 12 cups saucers
x 12 dinner plates
x 2 potatoe dishes
x 1 terrene
x 12 small plates
x 2 salt cellars
x 2 besenu dishes
x 1 stake dish
x 6 tumblers
x 2 cup plates
x l water pitcher
x 1 pepper box
x l vinegar cruit
x 6 earthen pie dishes
x tea pot sugar bowl
x cream cup & slop bowl
x coffee mill
x set knives and forks
                            1.25
x large and small spoons
                            1.25
x pr snuffers
tin teapot
cot
x table
x crib
x cooking stove
cloths basket, line and pins
3 tin pans
x 15 lbs feathers
x wash board
x wash tub
2 gall sinsua oil
1 keg white lead
gum camphor
10 lbs rapping chord
                            2.25
small coil packing yarn
Tooth ache medicine
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3 yds Delane for sack 50 lbs buck wheat flour

x tape line

A recipe for pickle

1 gall whisky to 3 1/2 gall water. Require no salting put upp in this way.

March 25/50

Paid	out	for	sundry	articles:
بسلامت سقتي ماس		£ \U.	SHILL V	WI PICTOR!

10 lbs beans at 35¢	3.50
8 lbs dried apples 90¢	7.20
6 1/2 1bs cheese at 62 1/2	4.05
1 lb cheese at 1.50	1.50
1 small oven	2,50
1/2 1b butter at 1.75	.87
1 lb potatoes	•50
4 lbs meat at 50¢	2.00
1 bottle mustard	1.50
1 bottle pepper sauce	2,50
ferriage	4.00
1 pr pockets	•50
(?) lbs butter	4.00
Barley for mule	1.00

37.62

March 25/50

Received of Mr. Black for 20 lbs flour at 20¢	4.00
Sold 10 lbs sugar at 40¢	4.00
To Mr. Bush - not paid for	15.00
Sold skillet to Mr. Amos & Cc. at \$8.00 not paid for	8,00

10 lbs beans at 28¢	2.80	
21 lbs pork at 37¢	7.88	
Q The abases of 1 00	9 00	

Bill of provisions bot May 1st, 1850

8 lbs cheese at 1.00 8.00

9 1/2 lbs butter at 1.20 11.40

ferriage 2.00

bread 2.00

Field Harrison & Co.,

Exchange Brokers

Sacramento,

Cal.