

J.F. Jackson's Diary

Presented to Mrs. LF Jackson Mar. 3 1869

On the 22nd of October 1865 I arrived at Father's house in Clay Co. Mo. after being absent four years, during which time I was twelve months in the Alton Military prison. Found my brothers grown almost entirely out of my knowledge and Aletha almost a woman. Laura and Henry are yet children. If ever there was a dream realized meeting of my old Father & Mother was the realizing of one, one which had haunted my pillow from the day I set free from that miserable Alton. It often came into my mind while there, but I always tried to banish the thoughts of home, while there was no chance of seeing home or friends. I found them all in good health and did (tolerable well. Sam and I went to Kansas City the next day. Time passed on smoothly through the winter, until boys cut cordwood for Moseland. In the spring I set in with Father to make a crop. Sam at Burns' and Philip a Baynes. The spring was gone before we had got our corn planted and summer was here before we were ready for it. During the summer I got acquainted with several young ladies and among them all, Miss LFP (Louisa Frances Poe) is the pick, for good looks and good manners.

Aug 20th I left home to try my luck at making a living. Wyandotte was the first place I stopped to work, put up at

Monroe house, paying six dollars per week for board.

Aug 21st Set in to work at Garrets Brickyard at two dollars per day 22nd Made 1/4 day, stopped on account of rain. .

the afternoon I went to make some arrangements to cook for ourselves. I had met Chas Poe here and we went both working at the same place.

Aug 23rd Came back to the brickyard, got some grub, and commenced to cook and to eat our own grub with the exception of bread, which we got at the bakers.

24th Got a late start at work but put up ten thousand & five hundred brick. Had a fine night's sleep on the soft side a plank. Got slightly chilled before day. Got up and made a fire & warmed ourselves up and was all right again for another snooze. Done fine until daylight.

Saturday August 26th 1865 I intended to go home today but John Poe said that he would go down on Monday and could bring me such things as I wanted and save me a trip down and back. 27th Heard from home, some sickness. Met Lue, but did not get to talk much, I will now skip a few days. Saturday, Sept 1st As nothing of importance has occurred during the week I pass over the time until today. Went

home but will not state any reason as it is not for any but myself to know. When I got home Mr. Poe wanted me to dig a load of potatoes, as all the family were sick. I did so and stayed all the week. Started to Kansas City

Friday, got wet by a heavy shower and turned back home where I remained for some time. Sunday Sept 9th I at Mr. Poes today. Louisa was very sick, had a chill in the forenoon but appeared better.

Tues 11 Heard from Lue today. Heard that she had been out of right mind since Sunday evening. I went over

immediately, she was a little better and could talk a little. I sat by the bedside nearly all night. About midnig she began to get worse. I could see that her strength was failing very fast, and long before day she was enti helpless. Dr. Bledso was called in. He thought the symptoms favorable. The sickness lasted for several days sat by her bed every night, and about two hours on Thursday night, I thought that she was dying. My feelings that night could not be described, as I sat beside the only woman that I had ever seen who I could love, as a rr should love, one to make her his wife. I held her hand in mine the most of the time and could tell that her puls sinking verry fast. The family all standing around weeping and it seemed to me that they wondered at me bei so clam. O! had they only known my feelings they could not think me so strange. I felt as much trouble as if s had been my wife. On Friday night at the same time, what was my joy, to see her open her eyes as if just

awaking from a deep sleep, and call my name ask for water. I gave it to her. She thanked me and seemed to f; into a doze. In a few minutes Aily woke up and was as much supriised as myself, before the 14th she appeareo be getting well.

Sept 15th 1866 I was Mr. Poe's and Father came in a great hurry for me to go for Dr. Bayne. Mother had a

congestive chill. I then had to spend three more nights in anxious watching and giving medicine,

Friday 28th. Again I take leave of my friends as they are all well again. I couldn't describe my feelings as I partE

with one of my friends, but hope to wed that one ere long. Stayed at John Poe's Saturday night and Sunday.

Passed the time off as well as it was possible under the circumstances. Monday Oct 1 st Started south, stopped at Uncle EF Slaughter's. Tues 2 Stayed at EF's until after noon, started to Mr. Dean's on little Blue, met a fellow who told me of a man wh,

wanted a hand to attend stock. Started to the place where the stock were said to be. Stopped to inquire the w

They did not know of any such herd of stock so I turned back. Got to Uncle EF's before dark. Stayed overnight.

Wednesday Oct 3rd Came back to Kansas City in Uncle EF's wagon. Went to Davis' brick yard. No work. The next

place was Wyandotte Kansas. Stopped at J Poe's. Went downtown, heard that Lue was in town. Went back to

with Chas, stayed overnight. Although it was under some peculiar circumstances that we meet at this place,

found it very hard to control myself. My first impulse was to snatch a kiss from those rosy lips, but a second thought came of where it was and who was there and I extended my hand I was received cordially, our eyes met etc., etc. The family noticed it and so they were confirmed in the belief that we were "engaged". Friday Oct 4th 1866 Mr Poe was going to clay with his wagon so I gained the company. Stopped in Kansas City. I got loaf of bread, some butter for our dinner, Lue and I eat, talked(?) and laughed over it while Mr P got his horse shod. Stayed at home (?) week hauling wood for Moseland. Monday(?) went to Caw River bridge to work at two dollars per day, paying (7) dollars per week board. Worked half day in water waist deep & left for some other good job. Went to Kansas City, stayed over night. Wednesday went to J. Poe's to get my (?). John's wife said

Charley had gone to work on a wood boat for fifty dollars per month. So I was in for a trip on a boat. Sold my watch to get money to pay my fair on the cars to Hall's mill. Got left and went back to John's, found Cha's that he had failed to get in to work and come back. I went from there to Kansas City, stayed there two or three days then started south in company with T.F. Jackson and V.J. Hall. The way we got through I will not record, as I don't wish any to know exactly how we managed, not that we did anything dishonest, or told any falsehoods of ourselves or intentions, but the way we fared in our search for a situation where we might make a living honestly, and get something good to eat, and a good bed. This is what I and both the others were in search of, a what we must find before we stop long at a place. We stopped at Lee's Summit, Jackson Co. We made some enquiries, heard of three places. Val hired to Mr. Wilson, Philip to Hargus and I to WH Colbern. Philip did not stay long at his place, he said that he wanted a stone mason. I stayed six weeks and came home, stayed eight days went back to Colbern's, stayed five weeks, went home again. Crossed Mo. River on the ice. Came near getting dunking. Got home, found all well. The next thing was to find out how she was getting along. Heard that she had gone to Liberty so the next day I went to town.

Monday Feb 18th Set(?) in at Stord's mill to drive the ox team. The time passed on slowly as it seemed to me, rain and snow and mixed all the time through the winter.

Saturday April 13th 1867 Went to Kansas City, got a new rig for the especial purpose of the.

Sunday 14th Rained all the forenoon and I was compelled to stay at home, but my thoughts were with someone about

3 miles away. After dinner I took my overcoat, started for the above named place. Arrived in due time. Found

to my satisfaction that she was in one room and the "Old folks" were in the other. So I passed most of the afternoon with the treasure of my heart. Parted late in the evening with a --, a sweet --- good night and a promise to meet again soon.

Sat 20th I went home heard that Aily Yost had got home, and of course I wished to see her, so I went. Found Lue in the suds, but she looked neater than some

other gals that I could name. Aily had got so fleshy and round faced hardly knew her, little George did not know me &c.

Sunday Apr 21st Took a ramble through the woods with Charles, Lena Elmwood and Louisa. I & Lue brought up th rear, went to the river. Mr Con(?) sent a string of fish to Aily. After rambleing through the woods and along. river side until noon, went to the house (Mr. Poe's) and got dinner, then back to the river. I & Lue took a book we read some, but I can't remember any of it now. We sat by a large tree on the bank of the river and talked (the past, the present and our hopes of the future &c. we parted late in the evening with the hope of meeting a! ere long. The Friday following Mr. Poe had to leave the bottom and move to the bluff, on account of the river

overflowing the bottom. I came home Sunday, heard of the move, heard that he had gone to Harington's place went there but found them not. Went to the camp, found Aily and Alice there but Lue, Lena and Cha's had gone the lake. I went back home and stayed as long as I could, then went back to the camp. They had not come back I was determined to see her before I left the place, so I sat down to await the return of the party. About 3

o'clock in the afternoon they came to camp. After they had just dinner we went to Shoal Creek, Lue, Aily, Al and I. We seated ourselves on the bank in the pleasant shade of an old oak. We had been there but a short tim« when Charley and Phil came up the creek in a skiff. Lue, Aletha and I took a ride, while Charley went after Le It was late in the night when I and Lue parted but we expected to meet again in a short time.

Sunday May 6th 1867 The time passed off very pleasant this week untill Friday. Lue left the camp for her home I the next week). We had been together every evening until Thursday. Friday morning we look leave of each otl with a parting kiss and a promise to meet again soon. This was to have been my wedding day, but owing to th overflow etc. had to set it a week farther off.

May 12th, 1867 I & Lue was married, by Revt Mr. Blakely of the ME Church, Liberty. The forenoon was showe but the afternoon was fine. There was but few people at the wedding, which came off at 4 o'clock, PM

13th Came home & went to work at plowing. The grasshoppers are coming out as thick as they were here last fa and I fear crops will be destroyed by them. I will pass over the last of May. In June I traded for a crop partl planted, went on to finish planting, then went to plowing corn. The time passed on as smoothly it possible co of course we enjoy each other's company. Louisa is one of the sweetest women in the world, and if she does make me happy it will certainly be my own fault, for she does everything in her power to make me so. We are

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living in the house with Father, but hope to be in a house to ourselves soon. we are so much crowded that I want to get out as soon as it is possible to do so. October 3rd. Father moved us as far as Father Poe's and then went back home. On the 4th went into a cabin on E Deaver's farm paying 3 dollars per month rent. I get all the work that I can do, have plenty to eat of such as it is. Father and

Mother have been to see us once since we moved to this place. On the 26th day of January Chas D. Poe was married. Aily and Father went to the wedding and had a fine time.'

Feb 1. Went to Liberty. Saw Lizzie and Nealy both in good health. Lue has a sore jaw something like cutting a tooth.

October 30th 1869. We have been making preparations all summer to remove to some better place. and today we make a start for Ark Tex or some other place, to better our condition. Crossed the Mo River after sun set stoped at Uncle JM Frazier's. Sunday 31 st. Laid over.

Monday Nov 1 st. Left Frazier's in the morning, stoped at Independence, stayed there until one o'clock. and by 2

o'clock was fairly on the road. Drove slowly along, camped 8 1/2 miles from Independence, and 2 1/2 miles from Lee's Summit in Jackson County.

Tuesday 2nd. Left camp called rogues harbor, from an incident of the night. After we had all gone to bed, and some were asleep when my mare gave us notice of something being near, which she did not like, then we was in a bustle for a while but finally got settled down to sleep. Left camp at half past six. Drove 22 miles camped on Maxwell's branch 2 1/2 miles north of Harrisonville in Cass County.

Wednesday Nov. 3rd. Got up to find everything drenched with rain, but finally got a fire started and breakfast cooked, and late in the day rolled out of camp to find the roads verry sleek and muddy, drove 15 miles, passed through Austin, camped on Grand River, it was dark when we got to the river, and crossed on the bridge, which was unsafe, but did not know it untill morning.

Thur 4th. Left camp late, met Oliver Mitchell. Stoped a while with him, drove 22 miles. Camped on the prairie 2

north of pleasant gap in _ates (Yates, Dates or Oates) County.

Friday 5th. Drove about 23 mi. Crossed the Osage River at Cobbey's ford about 12 o'clock. Camped on the prairie,

but little wood and branch water, and cold wind all together made a bad night of it.

Sat. Nov 6th. Passed through Nevada City, tried to get something to eat but found nothing that we wanted but beef

and potatoes. Camped three miles south of Nevada City on Sandy creek.

Sunday 7th. Moved 6 miles, camped on Pleasant Run, a small stream filled with birch leaves. The water was black as

tar and we could not drink the coffee made of it. We carried water 1/4 mile, got some very good water at a

well etc. Monday 8th. Left camp on Pleasant Run, some rain last night, camped one mile north of Larmar(?) Tues 9th. Cloudy this morning but clear before noon,

passed through some fine country, killed some game. Passed

through Dublin, a little town of forty or fifty inhabitants. The buildings in a dilapidated condition. Camped on

Coon creek about 2 o'clock, on act (account?) of mother being unable to travil. Found a stray dog, called him Bab.

Wednesday 10th. Left camp Coon Creek. Passed Denver, a little town of 25 or so inhabitants. The town is situated on the north bank of Coon Creek in Jasper County. Crossed a beautiful stream, swift and clear, called Dry Fork.

Passed through Carthage, camped on Center Creek. This is a beautiful gravel bottom stream and very rapid, camped on the south side of the creek, in the bottom, used water from the creek. Drove 19 mi.

Thur 11th Left camp late, crossed Big Shoal Creek near Granby, passed through town late in the afternoon. Camped in the black jack brush w miles north of Newtonia. Carried water from the Sweet's well 1/2 mile. About midnight we were aroused from our sleep by the roaring of fire on the prairie, we thought that the fire would get into the brush and then to our camp, so we harnessed our teams, rolled up beds, and made all preparations for a move, but a closer examination found that the fire was on the opposite side of the road, so we did not move camp after all the scare.

Friday Nov 12th. It was daylight when we got up, and consequently we were in camp until about 8 o'clock. Passed Newtonia at 10 o'clock. About 12 o'clock began to rain and continued until near night. Camped in a new schoolhouse.

Saturday Nov 13th. Left camp early, traveled over some rough roads, and some very broken country, the road is like a pike or Mcadamised road. Passes the little town called Rocky Comfort, situated in the SW corner of Baren County Mo. Passed Keetsville in the afternoon, last house in the town, camped 5 or 6 miles south of the town.

Sunday 14th. Moved ten miles. camped near T Ratliff and in the afternoon moved to his house where we remained until we built a house. I will now pass over the time that we stayed in Arkansas on to the day we started on our road to Texas.

May 26th 1870. We loaded our wagon today for Texas and I now resume the task of writing a few of my thoughts and the most interesting part of our trip. to the land of milk etc.

Friday 27th. Started about ten o'clock, part of us on foot and some in the wagon, and Father to drive the team, which was anything but agreeable, the team had not been worked for some time, and had never been worked all

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together before. Stopped at a fine spring near the road, for noon. Camped 2 miles NE of Bentonville, Benton County, Ark.

Sat 28th. Cold this morning, passed Bentonville in the forenoon, bought a pair of shoes, some sugar, coffee etc, passed some of the best country today, that I have seen in Ark. There is less rock than the Pea Ridge land, 4 miles SW of Bentonville we stopped for noon. After resting and grazing our team we again rolled on, drove 5 miles farther, stopped at Dr. Mulkey's, a cousin of Mother. Father & Mother stayed at the house and the rest of us camped near by.

Sunday May 29th. Camp No.2 This beautiful sabbath morning reminds me of the days when I first knew Louisa Poe, lovely and confiding girl, a sweet smile always for me. But alas, what a change have I wrought in her. She is no longer the light hearted girl, but a sad and thoughtful woman and I am to blame for it all. How shall I ever SUCCEED in making her happy again. It is my greatest earthly desire and ambition, is the happiness of my Family and I hope to see all work out right yet, if I can but get a home. I know that I love my family as well as ever any man loves his family. I would sacrifice everything (except my hopes of future life) for their present happiness. I blame myself for trying to get to Texas, at the sacrifice of all the friends, relations and the happiness of my company(

Monday May 30th. Camp No 2. Started from Mulkeys between 7 and 8. Stopped for noon 2 miles east of Bloomfield

Ark, a little town 2 mi from the line of the Cherokee Nation. in the afternoon a heavy cloud came up, about 5 o'clock in the evening the rain began to fall faster so we had a fine time getting a fire and coffee made. The rain continued to fall all night, after supper was over and some of us had gone to bed, a Cherokee Indian came to camp. He had

neither coat or blanket and was wet to the skin. He said that he was lost, had been to Bentonville Ark, and had taken the wrong road at the forks and wished to either sleep by the fire or get some fire and go a little farther and stay until daylight. I was sick, and so Father stayed up all night and kept watch. We were afraid that he wanted a chance to take a horse, and we could not get along without all of ours.

May 31 st. Laid over today to dry beds and clothing. I was sick most of the day and did not get to see much of the

country. We get water from a fine spring near an Indian farm house.

Wednesday Jun 1 st. (Camp No.3) Left camp as early as possible. the day being warm we have to go very slow. Had to stop for noon where there was no water, drove several miles before we found any either for ourselves or horses. We were all suffering for water before we got any, we came to an Indian house near the road and asked for water but he would not talk, but I finally got him to make a sign by which I found the way to a splendid spring We filled our Keg and went on our way rejoicing. We drove until near dark over hills and rocks etc. and finally camped where the grass was not good and no water for man or beast. In other respects we had a beautiful place to camp, we had to make out with little water, not knowing how far we would have to go before we found water.

Thursday June 2nd. Camp No.4. Left camp very early, drove 6 or 8 miles before we found water. It is as fine a spring as I have seen in the nation. About 11 o'clock we stopped to graze and in a short time we found that it would be best for us to pitch our tent, because of a black cloud in the NW. Before we were ready for it the rain was pouring down upon us. Rained very hard for a short time and then stopped until near night, when it began to rain again. After a few minutes gentle rain, it began to pour down in torrents and continued until near dark, then the rain was gentle again and all this time Lizzie is crying like she could not bear her pain, but with the aid of

warm teas and cloths etc. she finally went to sleep.

Friday June 3rd. Camp No 5. Got up found all right as far as the family is concerned. Lizzie appears well as usual. Heavy clouds but driving southward. After two or three hours the sky was once more clear. Passed a little Indian town called Tah-le-quah. This is to be the national capitol, the council house is in progress. It is a large brick building and is to be finely finished. There is also a printing office, 2 or 3 stores, a hotell, blacksmith she etc. Crossed Pecan creek before we came to this town. Passed a fine seminary 1 11/2 mi from town. Cloud) this afternoon, verry heavy rain after dark. We fell in company with a family from Mo. Their names were Burris. They were on their way to Texas. There were two drovers with them on their return to Texas, Mr Barnett and Finley.

Saturday June 4th Camp No 6. Everything is rather damp this morning from the rain which fell in torrents half the night. The little branches and creeks are all full to the banks. Some overflowed. Passed Fort Gibson about 12 o'clock. Stopped to get a horse shod. Crossed the Ark River at the mouth of Grand River and Vardigris 2 miles from town. Drove 6 or 7 miles from Fort Gibson, camped on a little dirty creek. The water bad, and wood

scarce. Shot a rattl€ snakes? about 5 feet long. Some rain at night.

Sunday June 5th. Camp No.7. Started late this morning. Fine day but warm. Stopped on a little creek for dinner an(

to dry beds and clothing. After dinner drove about a mile, stoped near Mr Money/ow's in the Creek Nation whE

we

Monday June 6th Camp No 8. Looked verry much like rain when we left camp. After we had started the rain came

upon us. Father did not get wet, only his feet and legs. I and Henry got the full benefit of the shower. We stopec

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at a house after the hardest of the morning rain was over. Stopped near one Mrs. Indian's house. Stayed in c all day, continued to rain unti" 12 o'clock.

June 7th Camp No.9. Started early, drove 9 miles stoped for noon near Fisher town in the Creek Nation. Near!: the way through prairie, and verry good road, but water scarce. Drove 10 miles after noon. Crossed North Canadian River, which was considerably swollen and verry rapid. I had to ride the lead horse to keep the rig track. Got over safe. Passed a little town called North Fork.

Wednesday June 8th Camp No.1 O. Shot at the Indians last night to save a horse from being stolen. Left camp ea but was delayed at the South Canadian River, which we had to ferry, the boat being pushed across with long poles. The crew consisted of six "big Injuns". There was four wagons ahead of us and we had to wait our tur cross. The first wagon went over all right but we had a little scare. The wind was blowing down stream, anc current verry strong, which made it verry dificult to manage the boat and when about the middle of the the stream, the waves began to roll over the bow and the hands showed some uneasiness, but we finaly got out

Stoped for noon about 2 miles from the river. Dinner over, I thought of trying to kill some game. Left the ro; and took to the woods, but found it imposible to make any speed at traviling, so I gave it up as a bad job and returned to the road. The road is worse today than any which we have passed. we are now in the Choctaw(? Nation, the S. C'n River being the line between the Creeks and Choctaw's. Drove 10 miles today. Camped on south edge of a small prairie S of Scales Ville. Bad water.

Thurs. June 9th (Camp No. 11) After a fine nights rest I feel as if I could stand a prety fair day's march. Left ca about the same as usual. Crossed a Mountain call the d_l's backboan, we had a hill of considerable size to cl and one to go down which would be dangerous for a person to cross on a dark night. especially if he was ridin blind horse, we have heard so much talk of this mountain that the women were all afraid to stay in the wagol it went down the hill. After crossing the mountain I got a shot a some turkeys. Crossed Coli creek. It has bE up lately but is down now and the crossing is good. The place where we stoped for noon reminds me of Ark, 1 rocks are some larger and about as thick on the ground, the water is not as clear as the Ark springs, but it answers the same purpose. The roads are verry rough today, the rocks are larger and more of them. CampE three miles north of Perry Ville. There has been two men traviling with us since last Tuesday, on their way Texas. Their names are Barnett and Finley. They have been to Kansas with a drove. I and Henry get to ride r the time since they have been with us.

Friday June 10 (Camp No. 12) Father is sick this morning and we got a late start. We had thought of laying over part of the day at least, but after breakfast Father felt so much better that we got started as quick as posib Passed through Perryville, a small town. The business men are all white and I suppose married to Indian wor We are now stoped for noon on a little prairie branch and there is a strong indication of a storm. Heavy thur and black clouds in the N.E. this is a rough country but there is a spot of land here and there that a man ??? (missing?)

noon, stoped near the gap to eat and grais. There is a toll bridge over a small stream. The bridge is 15 or 2(feet long built upon a few logs thrown into the creek to answer the purpose of ?? This is the only pass throu the Mt (?). After dinner I left the wagon and started up the side of the mountain which lays parallel with the which the wagon will travail. After I had began to climb over the big limestone rocks, I had half a notion to 1 back t the road but finaly made my way to the top. The rocks are all set on edge and the tops lean tot he Nort They look like they had been set up by some mechanic camped at the forks of the road 19 miles from Baggy depot. Got water at the foot of the hill where it seeped out and stood in little holes.

Sunday June 12th (Camp No. 14) As it is Sunday morning I took a shot at a deer before breakfast. Left camp late crossed North Baggy creek on a toll bridge. Bad road today, drove about 15 miles, camped on the edge of the prairie, carried water 1/4 mile.

June 13th (Camp No. 15) Left camp about the usual time. Drove slow, crossed one stream that I don't know the n of. Crossed the middle and south Baggy's (toll

bridge). Passed Baggy depot, crossed Sandy creek and Rock cr Stoped for noon at Rock creek. Camped on the prairie, gad the best grass that we have found for some time.

Tuesday June 14th (Camp No.16) An Indian came to camp this morning with a led pony, which he proposed to sell first for fifty dollars, then down to five dollars, but we did not bite. Left camp late and the road is verry ba Crossed Blue this morning. There is a large toll bridge across the stream. Found a fine spring near the road c dead 'possum in the lower edge, or hanging on a root with the head in the lower edge of the spring, but we fil our buckets above and the women don't know anything of the 'possum being in the spring. Crossed the seconc bridge today. It is over a small branch and about 20 feet long. Passed a little town called Mt. Vernon, 7 milE from where our road crossed the line between the Choctaw's and Chicasaw's. Crossed two small streams sin we passed town. Stoped near one for noon. Passed the largest farm since noon that I have ever seen in the Ir country. The road is very sandy and we only drove 6 miles since noon. Camped near carage point. Carried w 1/4 mile and used water from a prairie branch.

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Wednesday June 15th (Camp No. 17) As we only aim to cross the river today we did not hurry to get started from camp. Traviled slow all day. Crossed Red River about 3 o'clock. Drove 1 1/2 mile and camped on the prairie near a fine spring on Mr. McHenry's place. In a short time after we stoped it became appearant that we were to be greeted with a refreshing shower, but thought to get supper over first, but before we were done eating the storm was upon us. The women went to the house, Barnett Henry and I went into the tent. The wind blew a small herican and it required considerable effort for the three of us to keep the tent form going over. Father stood at the end of the wagon untill the storm had spent its fury and then I got into the wagon to make room for four to sleep in it, and then the others got in and we had a gay time in there all mixed up together st that one could hardly tell his legs from someone elses, only by pulling at them.

Thursday June 16th (Camp No. 18) After the fine night's rest we had, we all done ample justice to the morning meal. Breakfast over, we spread out our bedding to dry. Barnett, Father and Henry went after a load of wood. I got some beef and beans. In a short time after the woodhaulers had came back we had to geather up beds and clothing on account of rain. Barnett is on a bender today. The rain is not over yet I guess.

Friday 17. Still camped at Mr. McHenry's spring and no prospect of leaving verry soon. The roads are bad and team

tired and we may stay here several days, posibly a week.

Wednesday June 22nd (Camp No. 18). Left camp at McHenry's after six days rest to ourselves an eam. I and H worked one day in the cotton field and got some hard money. Passed a sawmill at the head of an ul bad lane. Passed Sherman about 4 o'clock P.M. Stoped for noon at a creek call Iron Oar. There is a new bridge ver it and it seems strange to cross a bridge and not pay toll. Old

Charley fell over the bank and rolled down into the water. Got some milk and onions for dinner. Camped 1/2 mile from Canadian Creek.

Thur. 23rd. (Camp No. 19). Started later than common this morning. Good roads, only an occasional mudhole. Got stuck once. Stopped on the prairie for noon, some signs of rain. After noon we drove to the halfway house between Sherman and McKinney. Passed a little town called Farmington. Camped in a little grove near the road and 3/4 of a mile from the Buckhorn tavern. Killed some rabbits and birds.

Friday June 24th (Camp No. 20) Fine morning after the fog went off. About 11 o'clock it began to shower, and in the evening rained hard. Passed Weston 11 o'clock. Had to stop on account of sickness, the women all have some sort of bowel disease.

Sat 25th. Laid over. Got milk, beans and onions at Mr. Smith's. These we got free of charge. Bought two young chickens nearly grown. Got them for 10 cents each. I went fishing and hunting. Had poor luck fishing, but killed some rabbits, which tasted good after so much?

Monday June 27th (Camp No 21) Laid over yesterday, and take an early start today. Crossed Honey creek soon after we left camp, some bad road. Passed McKinney at 1/2 past 10 o'clock. got some whiskey and quinine. Crossed a little stream, name unknown. Crossed two streams after noon. Camped on the prairie, carried wood 1/4 mile. Splendid water, four good springs within one hundred yards. Camped near Mr. McMillen's. The ladies visited our camp to enquire for news of a husband.

June 28th (Camp No 22) Father is sick this morning, consequently we got a late start. Good road today, crossed two fine streams this forenoon. Passed a little town called Plains, it consisted of three stores, one smith shop and a few dwellings. Stopped for noon 13 miles NE of Dallas, and stood on the wagon and counted the houses in sight. 58 in number, 57 farmhouses, a saw & grist mill and a cotton gin. This is the most beautiful country and large amount of land in cultivation and as much more laying idle. There are many fine houses in this county. The people are generally well fixed for living. The soil is generally black and waxey but in some places it is slightly sandy. Crossed a creek called White Rock, which is a beautiful clear stream, found a splendid spring running out of the bank a few feet from the road. The rock is soft and looks like soapstone when it is first taken out of the ground. but becomes hard after laying a few days in the air.

Wednesday June 19th (Camp No 23) Passed Dallas this forenoon. Stopped to make enquiry and to gain what information we could. Crossed Trinity River and 3 1/4 miles south crossed Cedar creek. Here we found some splendid water, filled our cag and drove on to find grass for the team and finally had to stop where the grass was not good. Drove 3 miles after noon, camped on the top of a hill, just after crossing a beautiful stream (10 mile) and carried water from a spring that came out of the bank a few feet above the creek. Stopped about 6 o'clock and it was late before we went to bed.

Thur 30th (Camp No. 24) The country in the neighborhood of this camp is very broken and rocky. The road is splendid with the exception of the steep banks of the streams. Came through Landcaster, a little village which the people in the country call Possumtrot. Crossed two fine streams this forenoon, Bear creek was the name of one of them. Got some of the best water for dinner and some butter milk. Passed Red Oak, a little town situated on a stream of the same name. Filled our cask and camped on the prairie at the edge of the red oak bottom.

Friday July 1st (Camp No. 25) This is a beautiful morning. There is a brisk breeze on the prairie and it is very pleasant. Passed Waxahachie about ten o'clock. Crossed the east fork of Waxahachie creek, stopped on the west fork for noon, and while stopped we were informed that we were on the wrong road, and changed our course.

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After we had gone a mile or two old Charley began to fag and we stopped on a ravine where there appeared to be neither wood or water, but we had plenty of wood and splendid water. Well I have heard of the Jack rabbit or mule eared rabbit and have wished to see one for the last ten years, and today is the first chance that I have had to see the wonderful little animal. I shot one this afternoon and we had a gay supper off its hams.

at July 2nd (Camp No 26) Had to put a shoe on old Charles this morning and that gave us a late start. Drove to Chamber's creek before noon. This is a swift clear stream of considerable size. We passed some of the finest land today that we have seen in the state of Texas. It is situated in Ellis Co. and on Chambers and Had creeks. Camped on Mill creek and near Melford.

unday July 3rd (Camp No 27) As it is Sunday and the team is very tired we will lay by today. We had a heavy rain last night. An old man and a young one camped near us and when it began to rain they crept into the tent and the old man got possession of a part of Henry's bed and they had a few words but the old fellow got his head on Lue's feet, pushed her dress and shoes and my shoes out of the tent. Mashed my head as flat as a flitter etc. This is the hottest day that we have had on this trip.

Monday 4th. Still we are in camp on Mill creek, owing to the rain last night and the bad condition of the road. We

will remain here today and maybe tomorrow.

Tuesday July 5th. Got up early this morning and began to make preparations to move forward to our destination. Crossed Mill creek and passed Melford early. Crossed Richland creek and Duck creek all in the forenoon. Stopped on Big Whiterock for noon. Drove 2 1/2 miles after noon. Crossed Little White Rock, camped on a prairie branch, good grass but water scarce.

Wednesday July 6th (Camp No. 28) After a good night's rest and a fine breakfast we packed up. and was soon on the road again. Our road today lays across some good, and some bad land. Some of the land is level enough for good farming land, and some is too rough for anything but pasture. Make a little detour in order to shun some bad road on Ash creek. Traveled the Waco road 7 or 8

miles, then took the Hillsborough and Calvert road. Stopped on the head of Ash creek for noon. Camped for the night in sight of where we nooned. Had a fine place to camp.

July 7th (Camp No 29) Left camp at the usual hour. Drove very slow all day.

Stopped on Elm creek to eat dinner, did not unhitch the team because there is no grass here that would do them any good. So we drove on to find good grass and kept going until camping time. Drove 13 miles today. Stopped 2 1/2 miles North of Mount Calm. Used water out of Mr. William's well. We are nearly out of money and provision. We kill some game as we go along, but not enough to supply the demand. Killed 3 mule rabbits today.

Friday July 8th (Camp No 30) Father is sick this morning and we will all lay by today. It is raining a little this

morning. Cora is still bad in the bowels and cough.

at 9th. Started on our journey again. Killed some game, passed Mt. Calm. Got half bu(?) meal 75 cents. Met a man who gave the? some of the evil reports of Calvert. He said that it was not so sickly as we have heard that it was. But there is a set of rascals living in and about the town and a man does well if he gets away from here with his money and property safe. Drove 14 miles, camped on a prairie branch. The water standing in holes and very bad.

Sunday July 10th (Camp No 31) Crossed a toll bridge over a little stream called Christmas creek. Old Charley is nearly played. Passed Horn hill where we got some good water. Stopped for noon 2 miles south of the town. Got some butter milk near where we eat dinner. Drove 4 miles after noon. Left the road 1/4 mile to camp for the night. Not much timber of any kind but muskeet, and there is plenty of that.

July 11 (Camp No 32) As we are getting near our journey's end we all are getting in a hurry. We had the wagon loaded this morning before breakfast. This is very unusual. Drove 5 miles, stopped to rest and get some good water. Stopped at a pond for noon. Some ox drivers stopped here for noon, let their teams into the pond 3 yoke fastened together and had to go in to get the oxen out. We failed to get our butter milk today and the dinner appears to lack something to make a "square meal" such as pork, beans, mutton chops or a piece of fresh beef. Drove 4 miles afternoon and old Jim was so near played that we camped early.

Camped on a stream called polecat. Got water from a well for cooking purposes. The man who lives here has a large herd of horses, and a considerable flock of sheep and goats.

July 12th (Camp No 33) Left camp late. Had a fine place to camp last night. The ground is so hard that it seemed like sleeping on a plank floor. We are in doubt as to what is the best to do. The road is so sandy and the team is so near worn out, that we fear to try to go farther, lest we get into a worse place than we are now. After some deliberation, we concluded to go on and risk the consequence. We are only able to go about one mile per hour and so it will take some time yet for us to get to a stopping place. We are in a sandy post(?) oak country and it is very difficult traveling. Got a bucket of Clabber and we made a fine meal of it and what we had before. Drove through the sand to Bremond the present terminus of the Houston and Texas Central R.R. Camped 1 1/2 mile south of town at a

pond and RR tank. Bremond is a fast growing place at this time, but as soon as the cars pass is some other place will go ahead of it.

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Song

Ballad

Do they miss me at home do they miss me It would be on assurance most dear
To know that thiz moment some loved one Was saying I wish he waz home
To know that the group at the fire side Was thinking of me as I rome
A yez it would be joy beyond measure
To know that they miss me at home
When twilight approaches the season
That ever is sacred to song
Does some one repeat my name over
And is there a chord in the music
Thats missed when my voice is away
And there a chord in each heart that awakes Regret at my? stay

Do they set me a chair at the table When evening houre pleasers is nigh When
the candles are lit in the parlor And stars in the azuer sky
And when the good nights are repeated And all lay them down to their sleep Do
they think of the absent? me
A whispered good night as they weep

Do they miss me at home do they miss me At morning at noon or at night
And linger one gloomy shade round them That only my presence can light
And joyless inviting and welcome
And pleasure less whole than before Because I am missed from the circle
Because I am with them no more.

Written by James A. Jackson Apr 12 1874. Falls Co. Texas

Names of towns Fort Gibsen
Red Oak
Fisher Town Waxahachie North fork Melford
Seales viffe

which

we passed on the road to Met Cafin
Perry ville
Hornhiff
Baggy Depo

Bremond
Carage point
Sherman Tex.

Names of Streams Ark River
Red Oak
North Canadian River Waxahachie
South Canadian River Chamber's Creek Cole Creek
Hog creek
North baggy Creek Miff creek

South and middle baggy Richland
Sandy
Duck Creek
Rock Creek
big White Rock
3 streams unknown litte White Rock
Red River
Ash Creek

Texas Farmington Weston Plains Dallas Lanacaster

Iron are Christmas Creek Cannadian Creek pole cat creek houay Creek White
Rock Trinity R.
Cedar Creek Ten Mile
Bear Creek