

Platte D. Lyman Journal
December 16, 1879 January 9, 1881
Hole-in-the-Rock Journey

January 11, 1881 — February 19, 1894

October 11, 1898 — March 10, 1901
President of the European Mission

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Hole-in-the-Rock Journey

[Monday Dec 16th 1878](#)

Returned to Leamington with Lucy and Fred. The latter intending to help me for a few days. Found my family as well as usual. The weather is still fine although cold and sometimes a little cloudy.

[Thursday Dec 19th 1878](#)

Joseph got home today from Nevada having done pretty well with his apples.

[Saturday Dec 21st 1878](#)

Went to Oak Creek in the evening, and on Sunday went to forenoon and evening meeting and listened to remarks from Elders C. Hansen. and [unreadable copy] Wade "Home Missionaries" from m Fillmore.

Today mother returned from Salt Lake City with Brigham Lovell. Monday I went to Leamington and found all well.

[Tuesday Dec 24th 1878](#)

Joseph went to Oak Creek today to spend Christmas. Snow began to fall about 4 P M today.

[Wednesday Dec 25th 1878.](#)

Christmas Snow is 3 inches deep this m[o]rning and still falling lightly.

[Thursday Dec 26th 1878](#)

The weather has cleared up beautifully, and last night was I think the coldest we have ad this winter so far

[Sunday Dec 29th 1878](#)

Staid at home and read most of the day.

[Monday Dec 30th 1878](#)

Chopped wood all day, wea[h]ter ver[y] cold.

[Wednesday Jan 1st 1879](#)

Joseph returned from Oak Creek yesterday and I went there today with my wife and children.

[Thursday Jan 2nd 1879](#)

[Thursday Jan 2nd 1879](#)

[A]ttended Fast meeting and in the afternoon got my horses shod, and in the evening went to a meeting of the Priesthood where I spoke a few minutes and assisted to ordain three Deacons, viz [unreadable copy] Hanson, August Nielson and Henry Huff

[Sunday Jan 5th 1879](#)

In the past 2 days Edward and I have hauled 4 loads of wood for [m]other, and to day I went to meeting in the forenoon and in the evening and to Sunday [S]chool in the afternoon all of which were pretty well attended. The testimony meeting in the evening was interesting many of the young men getting up to speak voluntarily and a general improvement being manifest in the spirit of our meetings. [A]fter coming home I administered to my little daughter [L]ydia who is rather sick.

Monday Jan 6th 1879

The baby is much better this morning. Drove to Leamington with my famil[y] and Fred. The weather has been very warm and pleasant for several days past with very good prospect for snow soon.

Tuesday Jan 7th 1879

Snow fell last night about 3 inches and continued to fall lightly through the day.

[W]ednesday Jan 8th 1879

Resumed cutting and hauling fencing.

Friday Jan 10th 1879

[A]bout 1 inches of snow fell last night.

Sunday Jan 12th 1879

Pleasant and warm although the past few days have been very cold with considerable wind.

Tuesday Jan 14th 1879

Yesterday was very warm and pleasant , but today is cold and stormy

Wednesday Jan 15th 1879

Since yesterday morning 4 inches of snow has fallen. [I]t is now rather pleasant

Thursday Jan 16th 1879

Very cold but cle[a]r. Joseph st[a]rted for Fillmore today. [F]red and [E]ddy went as far as Oak Creek

Sunday Jan 19th 1879

Staid at home and read in "Josephus" Last Friday was I think the coldest day we h[a]ve had this win[t]er. The weather seems settled and is quite pleasant now.

Saturday Jan 25th 1879

The weather has been very w[a]rm and pleasant all the week. So that the snow is all gone out of the valley. I cut fencing all the week and went to Oak Creek this evening.

Sunday Jan 26th 1879

Oak Creek (unreadable copy) Attended two very good meetings and a Sunday School today and had a good time. My sister Lucy is quite sick but still better than s[h]e has been for some days past.

Tuesday Jan 28th 1879

Came to [L]eamington yesterday in the snow which has fallen almost constantly since yesterday morning with no signs at present of ab[a]tting very soon.

Sunday Feb 2nd 1879

The past 4 days h[a]ve been cold and very cloudy and the weather is still very unsettled. Met with the Leamington Irrigation Company today and transacted a little business.

Monday Feb 3rd 1879

[W]ent to Oak Creek and met with the [unreadable copy] in the evening and spoke to them for a few minutes. A good influence seems to pervade their meetings, and the young people are certainly improving in many respects through attending these meetings which are held under the direction of Edward L. Lyman

[\[W\]ednesday Feb 5th 1879](#)

Snow fell night before last, and most of yesterday, but today the weather is clear. Returned to [L]eamington

[Monday Feb 10th 1879](#)

[W]ent to Oak Creek on [S]aturday and staid over [S]unday and attended 2 meetings and Sunday School, and returned home today. A strong south wind has blown for several days which is taking the snow off very fast, and making the weather much warmer.

[\[S\]unday Feb 16th 1879](#)

Hauled fencing all the week, and today attended meeting in Joseph Andersons house. The weather has [b]een quite warm and slightly showery during the week. but today is some what colder

[\[W\]ednesday Feb 19th 1879](#)

Finished hauling 56 rods of fence for the south line of my farm.

[Thursday Feb 20th 187\[9\]](#)

[W]e[n]t to [O]ak Creek on my way to Fillmore, to attend the quarterly conference of this stake.

[\[S\]aturday Feb 22nd 1879](#)

C[a]me to Fillmore yesterday and today met with the Saints in conference and in the evening attended a priesthood meeting and had a good time. All the authorities of the stake are present, also [P]res Geo Teasdale of the Ju[unreadable copy]b Stake and [E]lder Elmer Taylor of Levan.

[Sunday Feb 23rd 1879](#)

Attended a meeting and was called on to speak. Conference adjourned until May 24th. We have received much good instruction and a very good spirit has prevailed at all the meetings.

[Monday Feb 24th 1879](#)

Attended the funeral of Milly Callister aged 28 who died last night of dropsy. She was Bishop Callisters daughter by his wife Carolins.

[Wednesday Feb 26th 1879](#)

Leamington Came to Oak Creek yesterday where I found my wife and children who with the rest of my folks are about as well as usual. Drove to Leamington today.

[Thursday Feb 27th 1879](#)

Commenced [p]lowing today and found the ground very dry and hard, as there has n[o]t been storms enough so far to soak the ground.

The weather is still very dry and warm with little or no prospect for a storm soon

[Saturday March 1st 1879](#)

Went to Oak Creek in the evening and spent Sunday and had a good time attending 2 meetings and Sunday School. Found some of our family under the weather with bad colds.

My brother Frederic and Walter with George Dutson and Henry Huff have gone to Menti to work a month on the Temple.

[Monday March 2nd 1879](#)

Returned to Leamington and resumed my plowing. The weather is still very dry and windy and a little colder.

Friday March 7th 1879

Went to Oak Creek early this morning and found my sister Carlie very sick, staid with her all day, in the evening she was waited on by "mother" Carling for whom we had sent to Fillmore and gave birth to a fine boy

Sunday March 9th 1879

Yesterday Pres I. [unreadable copy]. Hinkley, Councillor [unreadable] Partridge and Marly Colgrove came from Fillmore and to day have attended our meetings and Sunday [S]chool and gave as much good instruction. Many of the Saints have been to meeting an[d] it has been a good time.

Monday March 10th 1879

Pres [H]inkley and company returned to Fillmore today, and I went to Leamington leaving my wife in Oak Creek to assist in taking care o[f] the sick folks who are doing all well as could be expected.

Friday March 14th 1879

[Unreadable copy] sent for early this morning and went ot Oak Creek with Joseph to see Carlie who is taken much worse, we found her very low and much discouraged, we sent to Deseret for Bro Callister and from there a message was sent to him at Fillmore, he reached Oak Creek about 7:50 P M

Wednesday March 19th 1879

Carlie has suffered dreadfully and prays for death to release her from her sufferings, sometimes s[h]e seems to be improving and at other times s[h]e seems to have no prospect of recovering. she has no hopes of living, she has given the baby to mother and has talked to all as a last farewell Bro Callister blessed, the baby and his name is Joseph Platte Callister

Thursday March 20th 1879

Carlie died this morning at 12:20 she had been apparently unconscious for a few hours and when s[h]e died appeared to go comparatively easy. [W]e think dropsy caused her death for she had been subject to it more of less for years.

[H]ere age was 27 years 7 months and 19 days. She has always been a faithful Latter Day Saint, and has suffered more mentally and physically than most women who live to a much greater age.

She was buried at 4 P M by the side of my children in the Oak Creek graveyard. The funeral was attended by most of the people in the settlement.

Monday March 24th 1879

My wife has weaned our baby in order to nurse Carlies. To days I went to Leamington with My family and mother and Lucy and the baby, found Joseph very poorly in health, he seemed to be su[f]fering from diabetes.

Friday March 28th 1879

Went to Oak Creek and on the following day hunted horses, attended meeting on the Sunday and on Monday returned to Leamington found Joseph much better and the rest as well as usual.

Wednesday April 2nd 1879

Started for Salt Lake to attend conference in company with Aunt Caroline and Ida, rain fell nearly all day camped above the mines in Tintio.

Thursday April 3rd 1879

[W]eather some better. Drove to Camp Floyd.

Friday April 4th 1879

Drove to Salt Lake, and put up at [A]unt [E]milys

Sunday April 6th 1879

General conference convened in the large tabernacle and held over Monday and Tuesday during which time much good instruction was given and considerable information imparted concerning the numbers and good works of the Saints. Elder Moses Thatcher was chosen to fill the place of Elder Orson Hyde in the quorum of the twelve apostles. A large number of missionaries were called to various parts of the earth

Thursday April 10th 1879

During the Conference I spoke to Bros. Jos. [unreadable copy] Smith and F. D. Richards about our circumstances at Oak Creek, the water being altogether insufficient for the number of people living there, and asked them if they would not be justified in releasing me with the privilege of seeking a better location in some parts of the country now being settled up. They said they thought it would be all right and promised to lay the matter before the council of the Apostles for their consid[e]ration. When it was left to the Presidency of this stake to decide, where upon [P]resident Hinkly intim[a]ted that they would appoint a man to succeed me as Bishop and release me.

Today Bro. Er[a]stus [S]now asked me if I selected any location and when I told him I had not he said he would like me to take my folks and move to Grand River and help to settle up that country. I told him I was willing to go wherever the Authorities of the Church said, but wante[d] an honorable release and [t]o have the approval and fellowship of the brethren and unless I could have this I would rather stay where I am. This he said I had as far as the Twelve were concerned, and if the residency of [f] the [S]take were willing it would be all right for me to go.

Yesterday I loaded my wagon with goods for Oak Creek and started home by way of Lovell where I staid over night with my brother F. [unreadable copy]. [L]yman

Sunday April 13th 1879

Yesterday Marion went to Grantsville and held meeting in the evening at which we both spoke. Staid over night at bro John Cooleys at whose place I saw two [unreadable copy] small artesian wells of small capacity. Returned to Lovell today drove [a]round the town and visited Lakeview and in the after noon and evening attended meeting in Lovell at both of which I spoke

Monday April 14h 1879

Drove about 25 miles and camped in Rushvalley rain fell on us more or less of today, weather very cold.

Tuesday April 15th 1879

Weather is much better today drove about 27 miles and camped in Tintio

Wednesday April 16th 1879

Drove to Leamington and found my folks all well and the next day went to Oak Creek and the following day returned to Leamington.

Monday April 21st 1879

Went to Oak Creek on Saturday with Joseph, staid over Sunday and attended meeting and returned home in the evening. The weather is rather stormy today

Sunday April 27th 1879

Came to Oak Creek yesterday with my folks, and attended meeting today and returned to Leamington in the evening

Monday April 28 1879

Sold my place in Leamington to H. [unreadable]. Neilson for \$400.00. Have lost about \$200.00 by selling mostly in improvements on the place.

Wednesday [A]pril 30th 1879

Started for Manti to get a load of flour for Fred and [E]ddy, drove to Warm Creek.

Thursday May 1st 1879

Drove into Manti bough my wheat and took it to mill, and called on Johnson McDonald who gave me much information about the Grand River Country he having been out there several times.

Sunday May 4th 1879

Drove into Oak Creek and left my load staid night and the next morning drove to Leamington and found all well.

Friday May 9th 1879

Finished moving my family and effects into Oak Creek.

Saturday May 10th 1879

Rode to Fillmore to attend meeting. T[h]e wind has blown very hard most of the time for the last 8 days.

Sunday [M]ay 11th 1879

Attended 2 meetings and listened to much good instruction from Elders Brigham Young, John Von Cott & Geo. T[unreadable copy]sdale who organized a Board of Trade for this Stake of Zion, the object of which is to protect the people in the sale of their produce of any kind.

Monday May 12th 1879

Returned to Oak Creek, the weather is beautiful

Sunday May 18th 1879

Attended meeting in Oak Creek and spoke to the Saints. Have spent most of the week gathering horses. Strong winds have prevailed for several days, and we have had some frost.

Wednesday May 21st 1879

[W]ent to Holden to a stock drive and returned in the [e]vening, the wind has been high all day.

Friday May 23rd 1879

Went to Fillmore with Delia and Mother to attend conference.

Monday May 25th 1879

Have had a very good time, returned home today in [a] terrible wind storm. Sister Robinson, Delias mother gave her \$400.00 on the Co-op Stock herd today, as her share of her property in that institution.

Sunday June 1st 1879

Attended meeting and spoke to the [S]aints, have been driving cattle nearly all the week.

Sunday June 8th 1879

Staid home most of the week, and the wind has blown so that it is hardly possible to do anything. Attended meeting today, and bros Finlinson F. R. Lyman and Antone Christensen went to Leamington and held meeting.

Sunday June 15th 1879

Spent three days of the past week attending a drive in Scipio, every one of which some rain fell, yesterday Pres. Hinkley bro Partridge and [unreadable copy] Kimball held meeting in this place, and today I went with them to Deseret where we attended meeting and all spoke to the Saints after which I returned home.

Tuesday June 17th 1879

Yesterday we sold cattle to Orson Holbrock, and today Delia and the children went with bro. Finlinson on a visit to Fillmore.

Sunday June 22nd 1879

Worked on the road in Oak Creek [C]anyon two days of the past week preparatory to hauling ties for the Rail Road. Rec'd a letter from bro Erastus Snow informing me of a list of volunteers who would start to Grand River about the 1st of Sep. and requesting me to attend the Sanpete Stake conference to be held Aug 16 & 17th at Ephraim.

Sunday June 29th 1879

Hauled ties all the week. Fred & Eddie started t Salt Lake City last Friday to buy some tools for blacksmithing

Thursday July 3rd 1879

Returned from Fillmore where I went day before yesterday to meet bro Snow who gave me some instructions relative to the settlement to be made on Grand River

Friday July 4th 1879

No celebration was held here today, Attended the funeral of Joseph Lovells little foolish boy 9 years old.

Monday July 7th 1879

This morning my wife and Lizzie Robinson came in from Fillmore with bro [unreadable copy]. A. Kimball.

Thursday July 10th 1879

Moved my folks up the Kanyon today to where we were hauling ties from. The weather is very warm and dry and the water failing fast.

Saturday August 2nd 1879

Moved my folks down from the Kanyon today. We have had a few slight rains in the mountains of late but not enough to do any good. Have been hauling ties since the latter part of June.

Tuesday Aug 5th 1879

Today Delia went to Fillmore to stay until our Stake Conference.

Thursday Aug 7th 1879

Have had heave rains in the mountains for a few days past. Attended fast meeting today and in the afternoon heard a charge of lying preferred against Simeon which was sustained by his own letters. The decision of myself and councellors was the [h]e confess his sins and ask the forgiveness of the ward in public meeting next Sunday. His conduct throughout the trial was been very insolent and he shows no penitence for his wickedness

Friday Aug 8th 1879

Attended the funeral of the infant twin daughter of Peter Andersen.

Tuesday Aug 19th 1879

Finished hauling ties, have hauled just 1000.

Wednesday Aug 20th 1879 [unreadable copy]

Attended the funeral of Sin[unreadable copy] Overson wife of Chris Overson, she has been sick 2 years, she has 5 children.

Friday Aug 22nd 1879

Went to Fillmore to attend the Stake Conference and found my little [L]ydia very sick

Friday [A]ug 29th 1879

Returned to Oak today Lydia is a little better, but had been so bad that I have been unable to attend any of the meetings during conference

Received a letter from Pres John Taylor informing me that the council of the [T]welve had decided to call me and set me apart to assist [E]lder Silas S. Smith who is appointed to preside over all the settlements made by our people on Grand River and Green River or their tributaries also at Monassa in Colorado and on the San Juan.

Sunday Aug 31st 1879

Simeon Walker was today cut off from the Church by the Bishop and Council for failing to comply with the requirements of the decision in his case

Friday Sep 12th 1879

Went to Fillmore to mill and returned the next day. My little girl is still very low and weak

Monday Sep 15th 1879

Went to [L]eamington to see Bo Sharp about receiving our ties which we have now nearly all on the track. Rode in the pay car to the end of the track about 10 miles below Leamington and back.

Stayed all night at Jos. Andersens and went home the next day.

Wednesday Sep 17th 1879

Started for Salt Lake with my wife and baby and Lizzie Robison and child and my brothers Walter and Joseph the latter having his wife with him. Camped at Leamington

Saturday Sep 20th 1879

Reached Salt Lake in the evening and put up with Aunt Emily where we were very well treated. Our baby is very low and weak.

Tuesday Sep 23rd 1879

Went with Marion to the Penitentiary and visited out brother Charles (Aunt Paulinas son) who is serving a term of 2 years for stealing, he however protests his innocence and has hope of a pardon

We also had an interview with bro Geo Reynolds who is serving 2 years for polygamy, he seemed to be in good spirits and felt willing to suffer for the gospels sake. We took breakfast with the Warden who seemed quite genial, and then returned to Salt Lake.

Friday Sep 26th 1879

Started for home and drove to the point of the mountain.

Monday Sep 29th 1879

Reached home and found all as well and usual our baby is better but still very low and weak.

Monday Oct 6th 1879

Our dear little baby died at 1/2 past 4 this morning she had been growing worse ever since we got home and is now a mere skeleton. She has always been to all appearances a very rugged healthy child but canker and teething with very hot weather have worn [h]er out.

Sunday Oct 12th 1879

[M]other and Delia went to Fillmore today with Eddy. It has been very windy.

Tuesday Oct 14th 1879

Our folks came home from Fillmore today I have been gathering stock for several days past but make poor progress.

Wednesday Oct 15th 1879

Rain and snow fell quite heavily last night and to day in the valley and the mountains are white down to the base.

Sunday Oct 19th 1879

The weather has settled down quite clear and pleasant. I went to meeting today and spoke to the Saints.

Monday Oct 20th 1879

Spent Most of the day in loading my wagons, and in the evening sold my house and lot to Geo Lovell for a span of mules and harness and \$100.00 in money.

Tuesday Oct 21st 1879

Started in the afternoon for San Juan drove 12 miles to Badgers Field and camped. stood guard over our stock all night. There is not a particle of feed, and but little water. Our company consists of myself my brothers Joseph, Edward & Walter, my sisters Ida and May, Josephs wife Nellie, Frank Rysert who is working for me. Ole Jensen his mother wife and 3 children, and F. R. Lyman and John Lovell who will help us out a few days with our stock.

We have 6 wagons 39 horses and mules and 180 head of loose cattle

[W]ednesday Oct 22nd 1879

Drove 17 miles to Scipio saw mill. no feed. stood guard over our stock. It has been a hard day on our teams on account of hard hills and heavy sand The boys lost 10 head of cattle on 8 miles creek

Thursday Oct 23rd 1879

Drove 10 miles and camped on the east side of Round Valley Lake. Coralled our cattle Feed poor and scarce

Friday Oct 24th 1879

Drove 20 miles and camped near I K Collys close by the Gravelly Ford on the Seveir. had good feed for our horses but none for our cattle

Saturday Oct 25th 1879

Fred and John started back. We lost one of our Saddle horses last night. Drove 10 miles and camped at Prattvill. had good feed and our Stock stayed without being guarded. this looks like a good country. plenty of water hay & grain

Sunday Oct 26th 1879

This morning Ole Jensen left us to stop at Richfield as he did not think he was prepared for the trip and his Mother was quite sick Drove 10 miles and camped near Monroe found pretty good feed in the stubble

Monday Oct 27th 1879

Drove 16 miles to Marysvale and turned into a pasture for 1 ct per head. The road to day has been mostly heavy up hill. no feed or water the whole distance

Tuesday Oct 28th 1879

This morning had to pay 1 dollar more for pasturage than we agreed to last night, because unconscionable Mrs Langly thought we were a little late in starting Drove 6 miles and camped at Bears on the river Stood guard over our cattle all night

Wednesday Oct 29th 1879

Lost 1 cow and calf. drove 12 miles to Junction and camped at Riddles grist mill. left 1 calf on the road

Thursday Oct 30th 1879

Drove 6 miles up the East Fork which we crossed 5 times got stuck in the mud and was delayed 2 hours. the road is very rocky and in places very sideling

Friday Oct 31st 1879

Drove 8 miles and camped near John Kings place on Kiota Creek good road most of the way. we crossed the river 4 times and got stuck in it one. lost one cow and a colt to day.

Saturday Nov 1st 1879

Drove 2 miles and layed out over on Poison creek shod some of our horses. no feed

Sunday Nov 2nd 1879

Traded my mules for another span and sold 2 give out calves for 100 cwt of beef. and left one sore footed cow. drove 12 miles over rough road and heavy rolling hills. camped 2 miles below Riddles Ranch on the East Fork. no feed.

Monday Nov 3rd 1879

Left a give out cow. drove 10 miles and camped in Sweetwater Kanyon. a little feed.

Tuesday Nov 4th 1879

Lost 3 head of cattle and spent some time hunting for them which made us late in starting drove 3 miles to the summit which is the rime of the Basin, and as far as we can see east and south the country looks very rough and broken. drove 5 miles down the mountain the first part of the road being a muddy steep dugway. the balance of it a good smooth evergrade. found a good camp some time after dark with feed and water in abundance. There is a fine growth of white pine all over the hills here.

Thursday Nov 6th 1879

Layed over yesterday and wrote letters, and to day rode 13 miles down the Kanyon to Escalante with Joseph Liston and staid over night at the house of his brother Perry. went to the Post Office but got no letters

Saturday Nov 8th 1879

Returned to camp yesterday. the day was very cold Snow has fallen all day to day.

Monday Nov 10th 1879

Snow fell all day yesterday and is still falling wrote more letters and sent them to the P.O.

Thursday Nov 13th 1879

The past two days have been clear and cold. we have looked after our cattle as well as we could and have hunted deer some Walter killed one 3 inches of snow fell last night but to day is fine and warm. We moved 1/2 a mile down the kanyon and camped in an old house.

Friday Nov 14th 1879

While in the hills gathering our stock this morning Walter shot 3 deer, but we could only get one of them. Moved 4 1/2 miles down the kanyon. we have had to leave 25 head of our cattle which we could not fine, and 1 horse that gave out.

Saturday Nov 15th 1879

Drove 6 miles and camped in Escalante field. have had considerable muddy road to day. got stuck once and spent most of the afternoon in getting out.

Sunday Nov 16th 1879

Eddy traded a yoke of oxen for a saddle horse. Bro Silas S Smith and a few wagons from Red Creek came down the kanyon this evening and camped opposite us. The day has been bitter cold

Thursday Nov 20th 1879

Have layed over the past 3 days. bought some corn for 2 cts per lb and potatoes for 1. Started on in company with two sons of Walter Stevens and his uncle of Holden. Drove 7 miles beyond Escalante onto the desert and made a dry camp. found some snow and good feed have had good roads to day.

Friday Nov 21st 1879

Drove 3 miles to the 10 mile spring but could get no water for our horses. Here we sent our stock off the road to the east about 7 miles to the Harris Ranch, because of scarcity of water on the road. Eddy and Alma Stevens will stay with them for the present. We then drove 10 miles over a soft sandy road crossing several deep gulches where we had to double teams, and camped at dark at the 20 mile spring, where there is plenty of good feed but very little water

Saturday Nov 22nd 1879

Drove 15 miles and camped after dark at the Kiola Holes where we had to dig for water and got plenty of it. The road is much the same as yesterday and there is plenty of good feed.

Monday Nov 24th 1879

We layed over yesterday and started late this morning and rove 6 miles over very heavy road and was till after dark getting to the Cottonwood Gulch where we found water in a hole 1/2 a mile above the road. and plenty of good feed.

Tuesday Nov 25th 1879

Joshua Stevens and I walked 4 miles to the main camp at the 40 mile spring. spent most of the day there and walked back in the evening. found Eddy had come in from the herd.

Bishop Schow & bro Reuben Collett of Escalante camped with us on their way down to assist in locating a road across the Rio Colorado

Wednesday Nov 26th 1879

Bros Schow, Collett, Eddy and myself climbed a high point of the mountain close by and endeavored with the aid of field glasses to make out something of the country ahead of us but could not. Returned to camp and found that Joseph had undertaken to move some of was (sic) our wagons on and had them scattered all the way from one camp to the other.

Thursday Nov 27th 1879

Snow fell all lat night and is 2 inches deep this morning. hitched up early and got our wagons all into camp at the 40 mile spring. attended meeting in the evening and was called on to speak as were also bros Schow and Collet. bro Smith also spoke a good spirit seems to prevail and the most of the people feel like pushing ahead if possible, although the prospect is rather discouraging as there is no road beyond here and the country is tottally (sic) unexplored with the exception of a few miles ahead of us which is the roughest white men ever undertook to pass over.

Friday Nov 28th 1879

By direction of bro Smith I started with 12 others to look out a way for a road across the Colorado and beyond. we have a boat on one wagon and our luggage on another We drove 10 miles over the roughest country I ever saw a wagon go over and camped at the 50 mile spring. The company is as follow A.P. Schow, Reuben Collett, Wm Hutchings Kumen Jones, Saml Rowley, Cornelious Decker, Geo Hobbs, John Robinson, Jos Barton, Joseph Neilsen, Saml. Bryson, James Riley and myself.

Saturday Nov 29th 1879

Drove 6 miles over rough sandstone hills and to the "Hole in the rock" a cleft in the solid rock wall of the Grand Kanyon of the Colorado, which runs about a mile below us. the walls of the Kanyon rise 2000 feet from the water and are in many places perpendicular. We took our wagons 2 miles farther up the river to here the banks are not so abrupt but are still solid sandstone, and took the front wheels from under the boat and lowered it down about 1 mile onto a sandy bench from where we dragged it 1 mile to the river and slid it 200 feet over a rock into the river about 1 mile above the mouth of "Hole in the rock". after supper and a little rest we loaded our luggage into the boat and about midnight rowed it down the mouth of the "Hole" where we tied up and camped The river is about 350 feet wide. the current sluggish and the water milky but of a good taste the willow on the bank are still leaved in green

Sunday Nov 30th 1879

One of the boys caught a fine fish called white Salmon large eneough for our breakfast and dinner We loaded our luggage into the boat and 7 of us got in and started down to find the mouth of the San Juan, but after going 1 1/2 miles we ran aground in a rapid and were compelled to turn back to our starting point, from where 11 of us with our provisions and blankets on our backs started up over the bluffs to the east which were at first very rough and precipitous but soon we found a smooth open kanyon with water wood and grass in it which we followed up for 3 miles and then began to ascend the bluffs which are at first sandy and afterwards steep solid sandstone hills which continue as far as the summit 6 miles from the river. Went 1 mile farther and camped in the rocks where we found plenty of water in the rocks

Monday Dec 1st 1879

Started out to the east and after going a mile or two found the country so rough and broken and so badly cut in two by deep gorges all in solid rock that we gave up all idea of a road being made there. we then went back nearly to our camp and struck a kanyon on a line with the one we followed yesterday which we followed doun 4 miles right to the San Juan river, which is about 250 ft wide, with a rapid current, its color is slightly milky but the water tastes very good. The banks are nearly as high as those of the Colorado but not so steep nor solid. The little Kanyon we have followed down is a curiosity in its way. For 2 miles more of less its width is from 15 to 30 while the walls of bare rock rise perpendicularly 200 or 300 feet and the bottom is much of the way smooth and level as a floor and is covered with a little stream of water seeping from the crevices in the rock which spreads over the surface so evenly that one can walk for rods at a time without wetting the uppers of their boots although in running water all the time. The grass and willows which grow in small bunches here are very rank and still very green. There are deep holes in places in the bed of the creek where we caught several mud turtles about as large as a mans hand. The country here is almost entirely solid sand rock, high hills and mountains cut all to pieces by deep gulches which are in many places altogether impassable. It is certainly I ever saw, some of our company are of the opinion that a road could be made if plenty of

money was furnished but most of are satisfied that there is no use of this company undertaking to get to San Juan this way. We returned to our last nights camp after dark.

Tuesday Dec 2d 1879

Walked back to the Colorado, crossed over and hauled our cart back to the top of the bank which was half a days hard work, and then camped.

Wednesday Dec 3d 1879

Drove back to camp much of the way in the rain which wet me to the skin. IN the evening an informal meeting was held in bro Smiths tent when those who had been out reported the result of their explorations after which on motion of bro Jens Neilsen sen it was resolved unanimously to sustain bro Smith in whatever course he thought best for us to pursue Bro Smith then said he thought we ought to go ahead and all present expressed themselves willing to spend 3 or 4 months if necessary working on the road in order to get through, as it is almost impossible to go back the way we came because of the condition of the road and the scarcity of grass

Thursday Dec 4th 1879

Bro Smith called a meeting of the whole camp to take an expression of their feelings in order that bros Sckow & Collet may know what to report to those behind, when it was unanimously resolved to go to work on the road

Wednesday Dec 10th 1879

Drove to the 50 mile springs and camped have been four days beside this getting our wagons to this place. In the evening Alma Stevens & Edward L came in from the herd and brought a fat cow for beef and a little later 2 men from Red Creek came into camp and brought us papers and letters from which we learned that all was well in the settlements.

Thursday Dec 11th 1879

Killed our beef in the morning and loaned most of it to the camp, and afterward rode down to the "Hole" in the Rock" with bro Smith where we found about 15 wagons of the company camped. returned to camp in the evening.

Sunday Dec 14th 1879 "Hole in the Rock"

Have spent the past 2 days in moving our wagons to this place, and to day put our horses down over a trail which we have made to a bench next to the river where there is a little feed and water. There is neither wood water or grass near the camp. Bro Smith came from the 50 mile where his folks are camped and held a meeting in the afternoon at which the following travelling organization was effected.

Capt of company	Silas. S. Smith
Asst Capt "	Platte. D. Lyman
Capt 1 st Ten	Jens Neilsen.
Capt 2d Ten	Geo W Sevy
" 3d "	Benj. Perkins
" 4 "	Henry Holyoke
" 5th "	Z. B. Decker Jr
Chaplain	Jens Neilsen
Clerk	C. E. Walton.

Saml Bryson was afterwards appointed Capt of the 6th Ten. Bro Smith returned to his camp, and tomorrow will start to Parowan expecting to be absent 3 weeks from camp, and if possible secure an appropriation from the Legislature to assist in putting the road through. Bp Geo. W Sevy of Panguitch

came in today with several wagons from that place and Harmony Held meeting in the evening and had a good time

Tuesday Dec 16th 1879

With a square and level, I determined the grade of the road down the "Hole" to be for the first 1/3 of the distance to be 8ft to the rod, and for the second 1/3 -5 1/2 ft to the rod and the last part much better than either of the others.

Wednesday Dec 17th 1879

Realizing the necessity of having the country more thoroughly explored ahead of us, I have talked the matter over with bro Sevy and he has consented to undertake a trip through to the San Juan if it is possible to get through, and to day he made a start with Lemuel Redd, Geo Hobbs and Geo Morrell and 4 animals, expecting to be gone about 15 days There are about 47 men at work on the road and we are making good progress.

Sunday Dec 21st 1879

The wind has blown strong and cold and last night some rain fell, which makes water more plentiful Today I took the girls down to the river and gave them a ride in the boat. The weather being better we held meeting in the evening and had a good time. We are making good progress on the road.

Thursday Dec 25th 1879. Christmas

The weather has been so cold and windy with some snow that we have been unable to do much work so far this week. There is dancing in camp this evening.

Friday Dec 26th 1879

The feed has give out on the bench so that we were compelled to move our horses them (sic.) up to day and in doing so, got some of them badly cut on the rocks.

Tuesday Dec 30th 1879

Weather cold and foggy have had 6 inches of snow during the last few days. We are just getting at work again

Saturday Jan 3d 1880

To day we finished the road from the river up to where the solid rock commences, being about 2/3ds of the whole distance. The weather is warm and pleasant during the day but rather frosty at night

Sunday Jan 4th 1880

Warm and cloudy held meeting in the afternoon and evening and had a good time. During the week bro. Charles Hall of Escalante has brought down the material for a flatboat which he is building and will use as a ferry.

Tuesday Jan 6th 1880

Sent our horses back 10 miles on the road in charge of 2 men, as they are falling away fast while staying here

Saturday Jan 10th 1880

Bro Sevy and party returned last night all well but badly tired out. We held meeting in the forenoon and heard their report. They have had a hard trip and great credit is due them for the pluck and determination they have shown under the very adverse circumstances which surrounded them. They were lost 4 or 5 days in deep snow and blinding snow storms. were out out of provisions and talked seriously of eating a mule but finally reached the camp on San Juan having been 12 days on the road and having travelled 175 miles They found the settlers in a very destitute condition as regards

provision. They stopped 1 day and then started back, and were 11 days on the road and travelled 136 miles but thought a road might be some shorter Reported that it was possible to put a road through the worst of it being this end where we are now at work.

Monday Jan 12th 1880

Found one of my mules down in a ditch and so weak it could not stand so I killed it. We are making slow progress on the road for want of powder

Friday Jan 16th 1880

Received a letter from bro S. S. Smith informing me that he had secured some powder and would forward it as soon as possible

Thursday Jan 22d 1880

Today we received 25 lbs of giant powder by Azra Judd from whom we learned that bro Smith is sick at Red Creek Frank Rysert started for Kanosh on the 20th inst with James Dorrity. We have put in our time to the best advantage on this job and will now be able to move in a few days

Sunday Jan 25th 1880

Walked back to the herd on friday. stayed there yesterday and returned to camp to day with our teams. Received a few lines from Delia dated Jan 12th saying she had given birth to a fine boy 2 days before, and was getting along very well. Also a letter from Susannah Robison

Monday Jan 26th 1880

To day we worked all the wagons in this camp down the ?oleand ferried 26 of them across the river The boat is worked by 1 pair of oars and does very well.

Wednesday Jan 28th 1880

Snow fell most of yesterday and to day but cleared up towards evening.

Friday Jan 30th 1880

Bros Walton and Bryson moved one of my wagons 4 miles up on the creek where we will have to camp for a week or so. We moved the rest of them 1 mile onto the creek and camped. The weather is as cold as we have seen it on the trip

Saturday Jan 31st 1880

Moved up to the cottonwoods where the rest of the company are camped. Wagons from the 50 mile spring where half of the company have been during the winter began to come into camp to day. My brother Amasa M and 3 other men came in to camp, having been sent from Panguitch to work on the road. they reported that 1000lbs of blasting powder had been left at the 50 mile by a man sent from Panguitch to bring it to this company.

Sunday Feb 1st 1880

Held no meeting during the day as it was rather too cold but held one in the evening and had a good time The weather has been quite cold but is getting warmer and we are making good progress on the road, as we have got the powder in camp and are using it as it is needed

Sunday Feb 8th 1880

Have had a good force of men out during the past week and have made encouraging progress, as the weather is now very pleasant. Today we held 2 meetings 1 at each camp they being 1/2 a mile apart.

Monday Feb 9th 1880

Went 2 miles beyond the summit with the Panguitch boys who are going to work, and then returned to camp the road is going over the same rough country we passed over on our exploring trip and considered impassable for a wagon road Several of the boys started back to Potato Valley to day for the cattle we have had to leave there. I sent letters to my family and also to bro Erastus Snow.

Friday Feb 13th 1880

Have been busy during the past 3 days moving our wagons up the Cottonwood Hill where it took from 4 to 7 span of horses or the same number of oxen to move 1 wagon. The weather has been very cold and stormy a part of the time. We are now camped 2 miles from the summit at what we call the cheese camp. Two men from Panguitch came into camp a few days ago. they will stop and work on the road. They brought us 200 lbs of pork and 40 lbs of cheese from the Tithing Office to be divided among 70 men. The cheese was sold at auction hence the name of this camp

Sunday Feb 15th 1880

Four men have started to San Juan on their own hook with pack animals. We held meeting in the evening and had a good time

Tuesday Feb 17th 1880

While camped here we have been building road over and through solid rock, which we have now completed. Snow fell until noon to day when it cleared up and the company began to move. Joseph and I moved 2 of our wagons 2 miles when he camped, and I returned to the old camp

Wednesday Feb 18th 1880

Joseph brought the teams back and we moved the other wagons up and took his on one mile farther and camped in a gulch running through the bench over which our road now runs. We find plenty of grass here, the first for a long time, and the country is smoother and more open and looks much better The Henry Mountains lay directly north of us in full view and perhaps 25 miles distant our course is between north and northeast

Friday Feb 20th 1880

Worked on the road yesterday, and to day drove 7 miles over a smooth bench close to the banks of the San Juan which runs 1 mile below us in a gorge so deep and with banks so precipitous as to be completely inaccessible. camped at the top of the smooth rock over which we will build a road. Here the bench terminated abruptly, and a rough broken valley full of sand and low reefs of Sandstone lays below us, and to reach it we will have to build a road 1/2 a mile down through the steep hills and little pockets in the rock which extends from the top to the very bottom

Saturday Feb 21st 1880

Spent part of the day looking over the rocks for a place to put the road. The constable of Escalante and 2 other men came into camp looking for stolen stock went ahead to see some stock that had been taken a few days ago.

Sunday Feb 22d 1880

The boys returned from Potato Valley to day. found the snow so deep and their horses so weak they could do nothing brought us letters from the settlements

Thursday Feb 26th 1880

Amasa and the boys from Panguitch started for home yesterday. The constable and party returned to day having found 2 stolen horses in the herd of Jim Dunton & Amasa Barton

Saturday Feb 28th 1880

Yesterday we finished the road, and to day we moved 1 mile and camped. The past week has been very cold and windy

Sunday Feb 29th 1880

Drove 7 miles over a rough rocky and sandy road to the lake. a beautiful clear sheet of spring water 1/2 a mile long and nearly as wide, and apparently very deep. Cottonwood, willow, canes, flags, bulrushes and several kinds of grass grow luxuriantly, and it would make an excellent stock ranch. On a point of rock jutting into the lake is the remains of an old stone fortification, built probably several hundred years ago

Monday March 1st 1880

Layed over. wrote letters and shod some of my horses Lewellyn Harris a missionary to Mexico came into camp from the west and brought us letters & papers

Tuesday March 2d 1880

Drove 7 miles over sand and rock not so rough as coming to the lake. found plenty of grass, and snow water

Wednesday March 3d 1880

Drove 5 miles over road much as it was yesterday, and camped in the Castle Wash where we found good grass and water our course is now more nearly east. The country looks much better

Thursday March 4th 1880

High wind with some snow last night Drove 4 miles up the wash. The road has been very sandy, but even and tolerably good Joseph layed over to let his team rest.

Friday March 5th 1880

Moved 5 miles and camped at the head of the wash on the Clay Hill where there is a very abrupt drop of 1000 feet down which we have got to work on the road, and 3 miles farther into the valley beyond

Wednesday March 10th 1880

Returned this evening from a 5 days trip with bros Sevy and Bryson looking for a road across what we call the Cedar Ridge extending 30 miles each way and nearly everywhere covered with a dense growth of cedar and pinion pine. We found gulches with perpendicular banks 1000 feet high running from the extreme north 30 miles in to the San Juan on the south, but by going around the head of these we can make a passible road by following an old indian trail There is plenty of grass and some water most of the way. Found that the brethren had nearly completed the road down the hill

Friday March 12th 1880

Killed a very poor beef yesterday, and to day my bro Edward and Joseph Lileywhite and I rode 12 miles to the southwest where we struck the San Juan where the banks are low and there is a good ford found a small bottom of perhaps 200 acres of good land lying 6 ft above the water and covered with the heaviest growth of cottonwood I ever saw The river runs with a swift current most of the way.

Saturday March 13th 1880

We made ourselves as comfortable as we could last night in a cave with a big fire as we had no bedding, and this morning rode back to camp some snow fell last night and this is one of the coldest mornings I ever saw. Most of the camp have moved down the hill.

Sunday March 14th 1880

Moved down the hill and out 7 miles into the valley and camped. found good water on the rocks.

Monday March 15th 1880

Last night was the coldest night I ever experienced it was impossible to be comfortable in bed or anywhere else. Drove 8 miles over fair road and camped found plenty of good feed and plenty of water on the rocks

Tuesday March 16th 1880

Drove 4 miles and camped good feed and water

Thursday March 18th 1880

Drove 3 miles yesterday, and 6 to day and made camp in a sage brush opening in the cedars which are now very thick all around us. There is a force of men ahead chopping all the time. There is a good deal of snow and mud making the wheeling very heavy. We left one of wagons and a load in it this morning as our teams are getting very weak.

Friday March 19th 1880

Drove 4 miles mostly through sage flats, and camped at the head of the cedar ridge and close to the foot of a high mountain on the north covered with deep snow and pine timber (called by some Elk Mountain) Our course from the Clayhill has been northeast, but now we turn more to the east

Thursday March 25th 1880

During the past 5 days we have worked on the road and moved our wagons along 13 miles over the worst muddy and snowy road we have had. the mud and snow being from 6 inches to 2 ft deep. We are still in the thick cedars and have lost a part of our horses through there being no feed nearby for them.

Friday March 26th 1880

Found part of our horses and moved 2 of our wagons 4 miles to Snow Flat where there is some feed. the road much better and the cedars not so thick

Saturday March 27th 1880

Moved our other wagon up to camp. the boys have hunted all day and found nothing. the main body of the camp has gone on.

Monday March 29th 1880

By hand of Dan Harris We received letters from our folks. one from Marion to me contained a ten dollar bill for which I am very thankful I found part of our horses but there are still 4 gone.

Wednesday March 31st 1880

Eddy found the last of our horses yesterday, and to day we drove 8 miles and camped just before we got into the Comb Wash. The road is dry but rough and rocky and very sandy. The water is very bad and feed pretty good. Met Kumen Jones and Warren Taylor from the main camp with 6 animals to keep us in.

Thursday April 1st 1880

Drove 10 miles down the wash through very bad sand to the San Juan river where the company is camped and at work on the road. We cannot follow up the river, so we have to do some work to get up over the bench.

Sunday April 4th 1880

Pulled up over the rock 3 miles yesterday, and to day went 4 miles to the Butler Gulch most of the way on the rock. Good feed and water.

Monday April 5th 1880

Drove 7 miles over heavy sandy road and camped in bottom of the San Juan 2 miles long where we propose to locate for the present. This is 15 miles below where bro Smiths camp was last summer. This land is rich covered with cottonwood and about 6 feet above the river which runs with a pretty good current, but looks as if it would be hard to handle. the climate appears to be mild. There are 3 families by the name of Harris who have been here all winter There are about 70 men in our camp, about 85 wagons and we have expended Forty eight hundred dollars on the road in labor counting our time one dollar and a half per day. Several men will go above here 15 miles and settle with their families and a few (principally non-mormons) will go to the mining districts of Colorado 100 miles east of here

Tuesday April 6th 1880

Looked over the land and selected a site for a town and in the evening held meeting when a committee of 3 was chosen to manage the work on the ditch which we will have to make, and another 5 to lay off a field and a town. I being among the latter number.

Wednesday April 7th 1880

We began laying off the lots and land and most of the brethren began work on the ditch

Saturday April 10th 1880

As we have finished laying off the land and lots and finding the former much less than we expected it was motioned and carried in meeting this evening, that we draw lots to see who has the land here, and those who draw blanks can go farther up the river and make another location 22 blanks and 40 numbers were put in the hat and after the drawing was over bro Sevy and I had blanks with a number of others, and each of my brothers drew a number

Sunday April 11th 1880

Held meeting in the afternoon and evening. James Pace who drew a number proposed to throw the whole thing out and all share alike. this however was not carried. There is some disappointment manifested by those who have drawn blanks, and also a very illiberal feeling by those who are elected to stay here.

Monday April 12th 1880

Did not feel well and layed around camp most of the day and attended a very stormy unsatisfactory meeting in the evening, and tried to harmonize the discordant element that is aroused by some of those who drew blanks taking up land for themselves which it was understood was to be used by that part of the company that remained here. After a good deal of debate a motion for the holders of blanks to go farther up the river if a suitable place can be found was carried

Tuesday April 13th 1880

Because of a proposal made by some of the brethren I called the camp together to see if some arrangement cannot be made so that all may continue to work here, as it is out of the questions for us to move any farther at present Spent most of the forenoon in adjusting our difficulties during which a good and conciliatory spirit was generally manifest. It was decided unanimously to throw out the former drawing altogether and all share alike with the understanding the brethren who hold large claims taken up last season throw them into the hands of the field committee for disposal in the interests of the camp 59 persons then drew 1 lot each an a general feeling of satisfaction seemed to prevail work which has been almost entirely suspended on the ditch, was resumed this afternoon Our town lots are 12 rods square being made thus small owing to the limited space suitable for building on. The field lots vary from 8 to 20 acres to the man according to location and quality. The course of the stream here is almost west and the land lays on both sides although we will only utilize that on the north side at present. The valley is from 1/2 to 1 mile wide between the sandstone bluffs which rise 300 feet perpendicular beyond these there are benches partly smooth and otherwise generally covered with

grass and 40 miles to the north of us lay the blue mountains the nearest point at which we can reach saw timber We have learned that an appropriation of five thousand dollars has been made to Silas S Smith to be expended on this road and the people are looking anxiously for his coming expecting a little money for their labor during the winter. Last night in our camp a son was born to the wife of Alvin Decker. This is the first birth in this location

Thursday April 15th 1880

Joseph started yesterday for the wagon we left behind I was quite poorly yesterday but feel better to day and am at work on the ditch. Visited father Roswell Stevens in the evening who is very sick and liable to die at any time At his request I made an inventory of his property and the disposition he wishes made of it which he signed and which was duly witnessed

Thursday April 22d 1880

Most of the camp have moved down onto their lots We have moved onto our claim and put up a "wickiup" and dug a well getting good water at 16 ft. I have bought a loghouse 10 acres of land, a cook stove, table, 3 gals of coal oil, and some work on the ditch, and one town lot, from Geo Harris for 1 horse & 2 cows and calves We have had a great deal of high wind and a little snow and rain during the last few days.

Sunday April 25th 1880

Have had more wind and rain and snow and the weather is still cold and boisterous. To day we held meeting and by unanimous consent named our town Bluff City.

Monday April 26th 1880

San Juan county having been organized by the last legislature with Silas. S. Smith as Judge and P.D. Lyman, Jens Neilsen and Zechariah B Decker as selectmen, and C. E. Walton having been appointed County Clerk by Judge Smith the four latter met by appointment of the Judge and held the first term of court for this county and adjourned for 6 weeks after having appointed L. H. Redd Assessor and Collector. Several members of the camp have started back some of them for supplies and some intending to remain in the old settlements. I wanted to have started for Escalante but have not been able to find my horses. From a tree near here I learn that the altitude of this place is 4600, distance south of Salt Lake City 328 miles and east of Same 126 miles, according to Government Surveyor Ferdinand Deckert.

Thursday April 29th 1880

Have not found all our horses, but made a start to day for Escalante with my brothers Edward, Walter and Joseph, the latter going back for the wagon we left. Drove 17 miles and camped at the Navajoe Springs

Saturday May 1st 1880

Helped Joseph to fix up the wagon and he started for camp, and the rest of us went on to Harmony Flat 51 miles from Bluff City and camped. The road is dry and good and the grass is quite green.

Thursday May 6th 1880

Camped at the Cottonwood last night and drove down to the Colorado this morning and was ferried over. found several wagons here that started 3 days before I did. The river is 7 feet higher than when we crossed in January Rested our team and then pulled our wagon to the top of the "Hole" which was a 1/2 days hard work for 5 horses after packing up all our loose things.

Saturday May 8th 1880

Met bro S. S. Smith and a small company bound for San Juan. Received letters from my folks, also learned there was some flour and boots and shoes on the road for our camp. Was told by bro Smith that he did not think the appropriation would pay more than 40 pr cent of the expenses of the

road. The grass is very poor on this side of the river, but water is in abundance. the weather is windy and dry and rather cool.

Monday May 10th 1880

Met 3 wagons near the 20 mile spring loaded with flour for our camp. learned that some had been left in Escalante.

Wednesday May 12th 1880

Left my wagon at the 10 mile spring and rode into Escalante on horseback. got a letter from Mother informing me that my Sister Annie had left Wm Dutson to whom in my opinion she never should have been married. She is very sick and has been for many weeks I returned to camp in the evening.

Thursday May 13th 1880

Drove in to town and loaded in 1000 lbs of flour and Walter and I started for San Juan after parting with Edward who goes on to Oak Creek.

Tuesday May 18th 1880

Camped at the 50 mile last night, and drove to the ferry to day and crossed my wagon over. The river is very high and still on the rise, which makes it hard work to cross, as we have to tow up stream some distance in order to reach the landing on the opposite side.

Wednesday May 19th 1880

Crossed our horses and cows over, and moved up to the foot of the cottonwood hill and camped. We have left 2 cows and calves as they are too weak to travel through

Thursday May 20th 1880

Started on this morning, and on the big hill my wagon got loose from the team (which was hitched to the end of the tongue) and ran back and off the dugway and tipped over, breaking the reach, box, bows flour sacks and some other things and scattered my load all over the side of the hill. Spent the balance of the day in mending up and getting things in shape to move on

Monday May 24th 1880

Layed over yesterday and to day a the Lake, and Walter and I walked 8 miles down to the Colorado and 3 miles up the stream to where there is a good place for a road into the river on both sides. Here a stream comes in from the north, which I could trace for several miles by the green cottonwoods on its banks

Saturday May 29th 1880

Met bro Sevy and 4 others between the Grand Gulch and the Canebrake, going to the ferry for flour.

Wednesday June 2d 1880

Drove from the Butler Gulch home and found all as well as usual, the water is in the ditch and some seed has been sown which has come up and is looking well, but taken all together, I do not think the prosperity very encouraging.

Sunday June 6th 1880

Bro Smith came down yesterday from his camp 15 miles above here, and held 2 meetings to day and organized a Sunday School with James Decker as Superintendent, and installed bro Jens Neilsen as presiding priest in this branch. The day has been fine and we have had a good time.

Monday June 7th 1880

County court was in session all day, divided the county in 3 precincts, appointed Judges of election and some other officers to act until the August election.

Saturday June 12th 1880

Have been busy during the week clearing land and planting corn and potatoes. This morning our last horses were brought in, fat and fine from 15 miles up the Recapture by Geo Lewis Warren Taylor and John Pace, Bro James Lewis of Kanab and myself went up to Montezuma and put up at bro Smiths.

Sunday June 13th 1880

Attended 2 meetings and assisted to set Silas. S. Smith Jr apart as presiding priest in this branch, and John A Smith (both sons of Silas S. Smith) as superintendent of the Sunday School, also assisted to administer the Sacrament.

Monday June 14th 1880

Bros Smith and Lewis and I started today for a trip into Colorado and New Mexico. We have 4 mules 1 saddle horse and 1 spring wagon. Drove 10 miles and camped on the an Juan, the country is smoother and more open than below here, and the bottoms are still narrow, and so far the most desirable locations are taken up. some by our people and some by outsiders

Tuesday June 15th 1880

Left the river and turned into the hills on the northeast and after going a few miles took an east course over a dry rolling country with good road, and after driving 30 miles camped at Navajoe Spring.

Wednesday June 16th 1880

My mare having got so lame she could scarcely travel I traded her and my saddle to Tom Box Drove 18 miles and nooned at Mitchells ranch in the Montezuma Valley, then 9 miles farther and made a dry camp in the edge of the cedars.

Thursday June 17th 1880

Drove 9 miles over rolling hills covered with pine and cedar to the Mancos a clear mountain stream capable of supporting 80 families of Latter Day Saints, there are about half that number of gentiles owning claims scattered up and down for several miles. Crops of wheat, rye, lucern and potatoes are looking well, white pine grows close down to the upper end of the valley, and cedar and pinion pine are in abundance in every direction

We posted letters here and I received one from Edward L. at Oak Creek. After nooning we drove 10 miles over the mountains through big pine timber and green grass and camped at a Steam Saw Mill on Cherry Creek.

Friday June 18th 1880

Drove 3 miles up hill to Parrot a small mining town in the mouth of the La Plato Kanyon, here there are some places gold diggings said to be very good. After posting letters we drove 15 miles down the La Plato which is a swift running clear stream 20 feet wide and 2 ft deep, and camped in the river bottom We have got below the timber, and the benches which stretch out on either side of the stream are covered with sage brush and occasionally pinion pine and cedar but are utterly destitute of grass. We have passed 2 camps of Ute Indians who have a good number of horses of very fair quality.

Saturday June 19th 1880

Drove 20 miles down the La Plata (La Plato) and passed off from the reservation and into New Mexico, after which we found settlers all along the creek whose crops look good.

The road is excellent, but there is no feed with the exception of a very little on the river bottoms. The course of this stream is a little west of south, and it empties into the San Juan about 50 miles from Parrot

Sunday June 20th 1880

Turned to the left into the hills and drove 15 miles to Farmington a small settlement at the Junction of the Animas and San Juan rivers, then 2 miles down the latter to the mouth of the La Plato (La Plata) and camped, had a little rain this morning.

Monday June 21st 1880

More rain last night. I waded the river after the mules, pulled 8 miles over the hills onto the San Juan to Navajoe where there are a few settlers, took dinner with the Stevens bros who came out with us last winter. Saw old Peter Shirts. Feed seems to be very scarce I do not like this place as well as Bluff City and vicinity and drove back to the La Plato (La Plata) and camped.

Tuesday June 22nd 1880

Drove into the main road near where we left it on the 18th and turned to the east and after driving about 10 miles over a very pleasant looking mountainous country covered with grass and timber, and passing a toll gate where we paid [unreadable copy]0 cts we camped in a Kanyon on a clear stream called Cat Creek

Friday June 25th 1880

Drove 3 miles to Animas City a neat thriving mining town on the Animas River which is 1/2 as large here as the San Juan is at our camp, it runs very swift, has a rough rocky channel, and is crossed by a good wooden bridge.

After posting letters, and buying some supplies we drove 5 miles to the Florida a beautiful stream 40 feet wide and 2 feet deep. Then 12 miles farther and camped at a little spring with plenty of good grass.

The country from the Mancos here is made up of rolling hills, long divided and smooth narrow Kanyons all covered with luxuriant grass and splended white pine timbers and having a great number of clear mount[a]in streams and the roads generally are remarkably good.

Saturday June 25th 1880

Drove 3 miles to Los Pinos where there are a few houses a store and Post Office, corsed the Los Pinos a clear swift running stream about as large as the Seveir. Drove several miles ov[e]r the hills to Beaver creek which we followed for some distance and towards evening came to the [unreadable copy]dra a clear mountain stream not quite so large as the Los [P]inos and 20 miles from that stream. Camped 2 miles below the bridge We meet a great many w[a]gons loaded with freight or families, mostly for Rico a new mining town north west of Animas

Sunday June 27th 1880

Should have layed over today, but were compelled to go on as our provisions were nearly out, drove 18 miles to the San Juan and crossed on a toll bridge, the river here is swift and rocky and much clearer than at Bluff City. Pagosa Springs 1 mile above here are warm and considered to have great medicinal properties. There is a military post there and quite a cluster of private houses. We paid 7 1/2 cts for flour and 20 cts for bacon, drove out 2 miles and camped. There are a few settlers onmost of the streams we have crossed and all are doing a little farming but the vallies are very narrow and the climate severe.

Monday June 28th 1880

Drove 8 miles to the Blanco which we followed up for a few miles and crossed, then 11 miles to the Little Navajoe a small stream on which we camped. The country is becoming more rough and mountainous, and there is still a great abundance of good water and grass and timber

Tuesday June 29th 1880

Drove 3 miles to the Big Navajoe which we followed up for 3 miles and paid 75 cts toll. 3 miles further to the summit which is the grand continental divide the water west of here flowing into the San Juan thence into the Colorado and so on into the Gulf of California, and on the east into the Rio Grande and thence to the Gulf of Mexico. From the summit we drove 5 miles to the Little Horn and nooned, then 6 miles and crossed Wolf Creek and 2 miles farther crossed the Charmer which we followed up for 1 mile and then camped. Our course for a few days has been more to the south and we are now in New Mexico

Wednesday June 30th 1880

Today we drove 10 miles up a steep grade, paid \$1.50 at a toll gate. Nooned on the head of Pine Creek near a large grading camp of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Drove 10 miles mostly down hill and close to big fires in the timber, paid \$1.50 at another toll gate passed more grading camps after pulling up a 1 1/2 of steep hill camped near a small spring on the eastern slope.

Thursday July 1st 1880

The altitude here is marked on the map at between 9 & 10000 feet, heavy snow banks are seen in many places near us, and last night, ice formed 3/8 of an inch thick in the wash basin Drove 10 miles down the mountain and camped near the Conejos River in the edge of the San Luis Valley. We are now out of the pine timber for the first time since leaving the Mancos. Here we see all the indications of railroad building as the grade is close to us on [the south].

Friday July 2nd 1880

Followed down the Conejos 10 miles which we crossed after passing through the old Spanish town of Conejos, which has considerable life infused into it for the time being by the advent of the railroad which has its present terminus at San Antonio 1 mile south, and from where one branch of the road runs south into New Mexico and the other westward toward Animas.

Drove 8 miles farther to Manassa in Conejos Co. Colorado a thriving town being built up by Latter Day Saints, mostly from the Southern States. We put up with Bp Bertelson formerly of Fountain Green San Pete Co Utah. There are several families here from Utah among them bros Russel Robers of Fillmore and Jos H Parry of Salt Lake.

This is a beautiful valley, similar in appearance to Pauvan Valley, its width is 50 miles and its length 150 miles it lays very even and is well watered, the soil is generally black and rather gravelly, and appears to be productive, the climate is rather cold, and I am told there is considerable wind in the Spring of the year. The altitude is 7800 feet, crops are looking well but backward The rialroad runs 3 miles west of town

Sunday July 4th 1880

Yesterday we rode out to the townsite of [E]phraim 2 miles northeast of the Manassa, and today attended a very good Sunday School under the direction of bro Parry, who also leads the choir which is a credit to the ward. In the afternoon we met with the Saints in their large log School house and bros Smith, Lewis, and I each spoke a short time.

Tuesday July 6th 1880

Spent hesterday visiting the Saints who are located in the vicinity and attended a party in the evening, and today after parting with the brethren who have gone up the valley to look around. I went into the mountains 20 miles from town to cut ties with bors Perry and Behrman formerly of Utah but more recently from Brigham City on the Little Colorado in Arizona

Sunday July 11th 1880

I came down to town Friday and bros Smith & Lewis have returned from Alamosa. While away bro Smith in company with bro Ellidge bought a grist mill with 40 acres of land and several buildings included for \$3000.00 located at San Luis 30 miles north east of here

Today there was a general turnout of the Saints at meeting and we had a good time. I assisted at the confirmation of 17 persons who had just been baptized.

Thursday July 15th 1880

Went to the mountains again last monday to cut ties, and today returned to Manassa walking all the distance excepting 7 miles which I rode with a baptist preacher the Rev R M. Adams of Pagosa (Paejosa) Springs, with whom I had a very interesting time as he did not seem so bigoted as many religious persons do, and seemed pleased to learn of the faith practice and history of the Saints.

Saturday July 17th 1880

Learned yesterday from some of the boys from Bluff City on their way to Alamosa for freight; that Joseph with some others who had started up this way had stopped to work at Parrott
Bros Smith and Lewis started for San Juan today and I went with them as far as bro Sellers in the Kanyon where we staid over night 20 miles from Manassa

Sunday July 18th 1880

The brethren went on their way, and I walked 4 miles to the camp of Bros Berry & Behrman, where I am going to cut ties.

Tuesday August 3rd 1880

Today Joseph came in from Parrot with a team in company with several of the boys from camp. They reported the water out of the ditch and crops drying up at Bluff City and many of the settlers discouraged and some moving away

Thursday August 12th 1880

Have been chopping ties for a few days, and today commenced hauling ties 9 miles for 18 cts each.

Friday Sep 3rd 1880

Have done hauling ties, and today made a start for Alamosa to get supplies preparatory to starting back to San Juan, drove down near Manassa and camped We have done very well during the time we have been working our teams, having made from 5 to 13 dollars a day, according to the amount of teams used.

Saturday Sep 4th 1880

Received a letter from my bro Marion informing me that he is on the way to visit San Juan in company with Bros E Snow B Yound, Dame, Gillespie and others, and will be there about the first of this month

Sunday Sep 5th 1880

Drove to Alamosa which is situated 22 miles north of Manassa on the Rio Grand River, as we could do no business we layed over and wrote letters

Tuesday Sep 7th 1880

Snow fell on the mountains yesterday. Today we loaded in our supplies and some freight for Animas and made a start

Saturday Sep 11th 1880

Coming down onto the Charmer today Joseph upset his wagon on a steep dugway, and done some damage to the wagon and load, and came very near getting hurt himself

Saturday Sep 18th 1880

Drove into Animas and delivered our freight to M Kephart who paid us after deducting 75 cts for damage to the crackers

Sunday Sep 19th 1880

Met bro S. S. Smith who is moving to Manassa, he told me of the visit of bro Snow and party to San Juan, they were well pleased with the country and with the prospects of our people. They held several meetings and appointed Silas S. Smith Prest of this mission and P. D. Lyman as first counsellor who was left in charge in the absence of bro Smith. Bro Jens Neilsen was appointed bishop of Bluff City ward, with Kumen Jones as 2nd counsellor. [unreadable copy] B. Decker Jr. was appointed presiding priest at Montezuma, where bro [unreadable copy] Hyde of S. L. City has established a store for the purpose of trading with the indians

Friday Sep 24th 1880

Drove into Bluff City and found all well the folks are forting up by advice of bro [S]now.

Sunday Sep 26th 1880

Yesterday I qualified as Prosecuting Attorney for this county having been elected to that office at the August election.

Today I attended Sunday School and meeting and had a good time. There is a good spirit in this ward.

Monday Sep 27th 1880

Started for Oak Creek with Walter and 2 wagons and 10 animals, in company with Tom Williams who is going to cedar, and [unreadable copy] [unreadable copy]tchings who with his family is moving back to Beaver, disgusted with this country

Drove to Navajoe spring and camped.

Monday Oct 4th 1880

Drove down to the Colorado and ferried our wagons over and camped in the "Hole in the Rock" where there is no feed.

Tuesday Oct 5th 1880

Pulled our wagons up through the "Hole" and camped at the top.

Saturday Oct 9th 1880

Passed through Escalante, cold wind and some rain.

Wednesday Oct 13th 1880

We have had cold snow storms ever since leaving Escalante. Today is fair and pleasant. I broke the axle of my light wagon on the East Fork 1 1/2 miles above the Kingston Hill and spent 1/2 day fixing it up so I could travel. Met my brother Francis M. returning from Arizona and staid over night with him at Kingston in Circle Valley where the sons of bro Thos. R. King and a number of other families are living in the United Order, holding their property in common and eating a[t] one table, they seem to feel well satisfied

Thursday Oct 14th 1880

Rode part of the day with Marion and by driving very late camped with him at Mr. Ross's at the mouth of Clear Creek.

Friday Oct 15th 1880

Turned off on to the Clear Creek road for Fillmore, the mornings and evenings are bitter cold.

Saturday Oct 16th 1880

Drove into Fillmore and met my wife and children who were well. Learned that at the late conference, Elder John Taylor was chosen President of the Church and Geo Q. Cannon and Joseph {unreadable copy}. Smith his 1st and 2nd counsellors and my bro Francis M. and John H. Smith had been chosen as Apostles to fill 2 of the vacancies this created.

Sunday Oct 17th 1880

Attended meeting in Fillmore where bro Marion, bro Gillispie and I spoke each for a short time, principally on the country through which we have been traveling of late.

I spent the evening with bro Callister who is in a very feeble condition. Was afterwards blessed and set apart by bro Marion to Labor in San Juan mission

Tuesday Oct 19th 1880

Went to Oak Creek and found the folks as well as usual, although quite a number of them were away from home.

Wednesday Oct 20th 1880

Most of our folks came home today. I visited bro Lovell who is very low and feeble having been failing in health for sometime

Friday Oct 22nd 1880

Went to Deseret yesterday to visit Uncle Edward and returned to Oak Creek with him today. He is company with T. (L.) K. Lyman have just bought the Saw mill in Oak Creek Canyon

Saturday Oct 23rd 1880

Rode on horse back to Leamington and got onto the train at 9 am. reached Salt Lake at 6 pm and put up at bro Jonah Clarks

Tuesday Oct 26th 1880

Took the train at 7 am for Leamington with my wife Annie M. Clarke, reached our destination in good time in the afternoon, and met mother, Lucy and Eddy at the station, and drove over to Oak Creek

Friday Oct 29th 1880

Mother with Eddy and his wife went to Fillmore, and in the evening Uncle Edward came in from that place to spend a few days with us

Sunday Oct 31st 1880

Attended meeting in Oak Creek and bro Partridge and I each spoke to the Saints. Visited Soren Christensen who was been vey sick all summer. Mother and Eddy returned from Fillmore in the evening

Monday Nov 1st 1880

Uncle E. returned to Deseret, and in the evening Delia and the children. Mother, Lucy, Joseph P. Callister (Carlies baby) Aunt Caroline and her daughters Annie & Harriet and her Grandmother Effie Roper her Sons Frederic R and Walter C and Edward L Lyman with 5 wagons and 6 oxen, 23 horses and 1 mule, drove 8 miles and made a dry camp

Saturday Nov 6th 1880

Aunt Caroline with her daughters and granddaughter turned back with 1 wagon thinking we were too heavily loaded we drove 3 miles and camped.

Wednesday Nov 10th 1880

Camped at Willow Bend last night and after crossing the Seveir turned off on to the Grass Valley road and camped at Kings Meadow 7 miles from the river

Monday Nov 15th 1880

Drove 8 miles and camped near John Kings on Kota Creek, the weather has been bitter cold but is a little warmer today.

Thursday Nov 18th 1880

The weather is still excessively cold. Met bro Neilsen and Jos. A. Lyman Geo [unreadable copy]estwood and Joshua Stevens the former on his way to Cedar to winter, the latter 3 will return with us Camped on Sweetwater

Friday Nov 19th 1880

Drove over the summit and down about 5 miles and camped in a house in Escalante Canyon, the weather and road are still good.

Sunday Nov 21st 1880

Layed over yesterday because we could not find our horses an today drove down within 1 mile of Escalante

Thursday Nov 25th 1880

Layed over during the past 3 days, and today hitched up and drove 7 miles into the desert and camped, have found a few of our cattle. Snow fell 7 inches deep last night and the weather is now rather cold.

Friday Nov 26th 1880

Drove 4 miles and camped very late, the unbroken road is very hard on our teams.

Tuesday Nov 30th 1880

Layed over 3 days at our last camp and killed a beef bro Kumen Jones who has been to Cedar passed us on his way to Bluff City. The weather quite cold, drove [unreadable copy] miles

Wednesday Dec 1st 1880

Drove 8 miles, passed the 20 mile spring and made a dry camp 1/2 way between there are the Kiota Holes

Thursday Dec 2nd 1880

Some of the boys started to Harris Ranch to hunt stock, and the balance of us layed over.

Saturday Dev 4th 1880

Very high wind and some snow last night, our tent was blown over, and thing generally scattered around today is moderately pleasant, with a little wind.

Tuesday Dec 7th 1880

The weather has been cold and windy for several days but it is warm and pleasant now. The boys returned from Harris Ranch, we have found about 1/2 the stock we left here last fall.

Wednesday Dec 8th 1880

Made a start and drove about 7 miles.

Monday Dec 13th 1880

Camped last night within 2 miles of the "Hole" in the rock and today drove down to the river and ferried our wagons over

Tuesday Dec 14th 1880

Forded our cattle and horses, and moved our wagons a little way up from the river.

Thursday Dec 16th 1880

Rain fell most of yesterday and last night, but we got up the Cottonwood hill all right, and today in getting up the little hole in the rock one of my wagons came in two and we were detained 3 hours fixing things up, camped at the foot of the bench. Joshau Stevens started ahead this morning with his cattle.

Friday Dec 17th 1880

Snow fell this morning and the weather is still quite cloudy we moved over the bench and down the slick rock which is in very good condition

Monday Dec 20th 1880

Layed over between the Lake and Castle Wash because we could not find our horses.

Wednesday Dec 22nd 1880

Drove up the Castle Wash and camped on the Clay Hill the weather is still cloudy and squally, though not very cold.

Thursday Dec 23rd 1880

Drove down the hill which was very slippery, and had some snow during the day. Killed a calf in the evening to eat.

Saturday Dec 26th 1880

Lost 1 ox at this camp drove 5 miles and camped

Tuesday Dec 28th 1880

Camped 1 mile below Snow flat, here the ground begins to show bare again, picked up 8 head of cattle left by some one

Wednesday Dec 29th 1880

Snow fell in the morning, but afterwards the day turned off pleasant, broke a wagon tongue on the "Twist" camped in the Comb Wash, one of my horses gave out today, our teams are all getting very weak as our grain gave out several days ago.

Saturday Jan 1st 1881

Drove into Bluff City in the afternoon, and found the people enjoying themselves in celebrating the advent of the New Year, all were pretty well excepting my sister Ida who had sprained both her ankles badly by jumping out of a wagon.

Sunday Jan 2nd 1881

Attended meeting and spoke to the Saints in the log school house which has been built since I went away. A good spirit prevails in camp, and prospects for the future are good, quite a number of houses have [b]een built and the people generally are well supplied with the necessaries of life. Mother is quite sick today

Tuesday Jan 4th 1881

Mother is much better. I attended a party in the School house given in as a reception to our folks.

Sunday Jan 9th 1881

Attended Sunday School and afternoon meeting at both of which I spoke, also attended a testimony meeting in the evening and had a good time. Have hauled wood, killed a beef, and fixed up around the house some during the week. About a dozen Navajos came here yesterday and left today, one of their leading chiefs by the name of Charley Young who speaks English was with them.

Transcribed in 2010, from an earlier transcription located in the Utah State Historical Library.

Platte D. Lyman Journal
January 11 1881 — February 19 1894

Tuesday Jan 11th 1881

Six of the boys who have been out 5 or 6 days after stolen horses, returned today with 5 head for which they paid the Navajos \$2.00 a peice [sic], they found them in the Comb Wash 10 miles above the road.

Wednesday Jan 12th 1881

Attended the Young Mens Meeting and had a good time, was enrolled a member of the assosiation [sic].

Thursday Jan 13th 1881

Fred and Walter returned from Montezuma where they had been for the mail, and brought a quantity of papers and letters, among the later one from my, brother Marion informing me of the death [sic] of Jp Thomas Callister on the 1st of Dec. also of the appointment of Peter Andersen as Bishop of Oak Creek with Geo Finlinson as his 1st and C. H. Jensen as his 2nd counsellor [sic]

Attended a ditch meeting where Wm Robb, Joseph Barton and P. D. Lyman were elected a comittee [sic] to attend to all matters connected with the water ditch and field fence for this season

Sunday Jan 16th 1881

Rain fell mostof [sic] last night and today until towards evening, when 1 inch of snow fell.

Monday 24th Jan. 1881

The weather is quite cold, but clear and dry. Today Colonel Critchlow Engineer on the Denver & Rio Grande R. R. passed here with 6 men looking for a route for a railroad through to St. George. He called on me for information concerning the country [sic] from her westward.

Thursday Jan 27th 1881

Cleared and burnt the brush off my lot, and in the evening attended a very pleasant party and supper got up by the officers of the Y. M. M. I. A. who are C. E. Walton prest. and Jos. F. Barton and Jos. A. Lyman counsellors [sic].

Monday Jan 31st 1881

On Saturday last bro Jones and I went to Montezuma and put up at bro Thales Haskells, and on Sunday we attended Sabbath School, and in the afternoon and evening held meetings where we both spoke and had a good time. A good feeling seems generally to prevail and we were coridally [sic] received by all the Saints.

There are 7 families here and room for 4 times as many. Bro Hyde is putting a wheel in the river for the purpose of raising water for irrigation which bids fair to be a success. Today we returned home and found all as well as usual. Some rain fell yesterday, but not enough to do any good.

Thursday Feb 3rd 1881

Today 5 families with 10 wagons and 35 children came in from the older settlements intending to locate with us.

Friday Feb 4th 1881

Our Baby has been quite poorly for a few days, and this evening he seemed so much worse that we called in Sister Haskell who is a very good nurse, and she worked with him till almost midnight when he seemed to be some better. Some rain has fallen today, and a few hands have commenced work on the ditch

Saturday Feb 12th 1881

The baby is well as usual now. I have worked on the ditch all the week, there have been occasional squalls of snow, but the weather generally is very good.

Saturday Feb 19th 1881

Worked all the week on the ditch, there have been about 18 hands out, and we are making good progress. The boys who have been herding the horses brought them in today and gave up the herd.

Saturday Feb 26th 1881

Have worked on the ditch most of the week. Day before yesterday a report was raised that the Indians were driving off our horses. I started with 4 over the bench to the northwest to ascertain the truth of the matter, and when out about 4 miles and just about sunset we met 1 Ute, whose actions and words confirmed us in the belief that there was something wrong. We sent 1 man back to camp for provisions and more men, and the rest of us followed the trails as far as the Butler Wash 10 miles from town, where we found a camp fire and as the night was dark and the ground rough, we passed the fire and followed the trail 2 miles farther, and watched until daylight when we went down to the camp and found 2 indians with 14 head of horses, but all their own. We then returned home, meeting on the way 3 of the boys who were bringing out provisions for us. Today our horse herd took another start it having been arranged for the men to herd in turns according to the number of horses they have in the herd.

Sunday March 3rd 1881

Worked on the ditch all the week, and on the evening of the 3rd attended a very pleasant party in the School House given by the Relief Society. Attended meetings and Sunday School as usual, which are generally well attended and always interesting

Saturday March 12th 1881

Have been partially disabled during the week with a lame back. This morning 3 children were born in the Fort 1 of them a twin girl belonging to John and Pualine [sic] Pace being dead at its birth was buried this afternoon.

Tuesday March 15th 1881

Had a furious wind storm with some snow on Sunday and the weather has been cold and raw ever since, had a blustering snow squall last night, but today is plaesant [sic] although rather cold. Several of the boys started out yesterday ond [sic] a stock drive intending to be absent 4 days.

Monday March 21st 1881

Mr. Critchlow and party passed through here today on their return from Escalante, having satisfied themselves that there is no chance for a railroad from here west. From them I learned that a new road is being made from Escalante by way of the 10 mile wash and Escalante Creek to the Colorado River at a point 5 miles above the mouth of the Lake Wash, at which place bro Hall has located his ferry, having moved his boat up from the "Hole in the rock" which is an abandonment of that road.

Mr. Critchlow and his party came over the new road and thought the distance a little longer than the old road and very little if any better

Wednesday March 23rd 1881

Yesterday and today I have done a little fencing in the Butler Wash. We have just received our mail from Mancos for the first time since Jan 13th, I learned from it that bro Lovell died on the day just written.

This afternoon Jos. F. Barton while hunting horses on the South side of the river came on to Navajoe [sic] Frank who was driving off 3 head of horses belonging to this camp, and when he found he was discovered he left the horses and got away as fast as possible. He had been in the Fort in the morning friendly as usual, but he is a bad Indian [sic] he has stolen our horses before, and has also insulted the women on several occasions.

Monday March 28th 1881

In company with bro Jones I went to Montezuma to attend the funeral of bro Harrimans little daughter who died yesterday, and after the burial held meeting with the Saints and heard all the brethren speak from which I learn that there is some bad feeling existing in the branch, which appears to be the cause of the meetings not being kept up. I advised them to make a settlement of all their grievances, and get a better spirit and keep up their meetings regularly. Slept at bro Hydes.

Tuesday March 29th 1881

Today bro Hyeds wheel began to raise the water and pour it into the flume in a way that is all that could be desired

The wheel is 16 feet in diameter and 12 foot breast and has a capacity of 23000 gallons per hour. In the afternoon bro Jones and I returned home.

Saturday April 2nd 1881

The river has raised about 17 inches and today we turned a stream into our ditch which broke the bank in several places as it is not yet sufficiently settled to stand well

Sunday April 3rd 1881

Attended Sunday School, and afternoon and evening meeting as usual and had a good time. We will now discontinue our evening meetings as the evenings are getting very short.

Wednesday April 6th 1881

This being the anniversary of the arrival of the greater part of the camp was appropriately [sic] celebrated, with a meeting with speeches & songs in the forenoon, and a childrens party in the afternoon, and in the evening a party for the adults was had, and all went off very agreeably and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Sunday April 10th 1881

Joseph and I have been herding the horses for the past 3 days commencing at thursday [sic] noon, and ending at noon today. Our stock is generally doing well, but for some inexplicable reason, quite a number of our horses are going blind.

Monday April 11th 1881

Weather warm and windy. The river has fell [sic] so that there is no water running in our ditch. My wife Annie is quite indisposed, since yesterday evening.

Tuesday April 15th 1881

Returned home from hunting stock, have been 30 miles northeast of here and found a good stock range about the head of the Butler & Cottonwood Washes
The weather is very hot. Killed a beef in the evening.

Tuesday April 19th 1881

Went with several other [sic] 10 miles up the river to work the road

Thursday April 21st 1881

Finished work on the road and returned home, the brethren on the Recapture have completed a low water ditch. The river has raised so that the water comes into our ditch.

Saturday April 23rd 1881

Hauled fencing heaterday [sic] and today. Our ditch breaks so often that quite a force of men are kept at work most of the time repairing it.

Sunday May 1st 1881

Attended meeting and Sunday School as usual have sowed and watered some lucern during the week and have helped some to enclose the field and worked at repairing the ditch which still breaks.

Thursday, May 5th 1881

Attended Fast meeting, during which Joe Neilsen came into the fort and reported seeing indians [sic] among our horses on the bench, who also shot at him. Some 8 or 9 of the boys immediately mounted horses and rode to the Butler Wash where they found about 30 indians with 60 or more squaws and papooses. They had some sheep and goats and about 150 head of horses, among which were 11 head belonging to the settlement 2 of them having been taken from here last season. These they however gave up, after a little flourishing of their guns. The boys then returned to the fort, all but 4 who stayed on the bench to look out for our horses. About 11 in the evening bro Jones and I and 5 others rode out to the herd where the boys were and camped with them.

Friday May 6th 1881

Started this morning very early and rode to the indian [sic] camp just as they were gathering their horses to move. They seemed very friendly but a few of them were very mad when another stolen horse was taken from them. As they moved off up the [sic] was another stolen horse wast [sic] taken from them. We travelled [sic] with them for several miles and as we returned found that they had been shooting down our cows and destroying the calves

This band are renegade Utes & Navajoes [sic] whose camp is principally in Arizona between here and Moancoppy (Moenkopi). They had about 40 horses branded B some of them fine large horses of good stock, they also had plenty of greenbacks to which they attached very little value. It is very evident they have raided somebodys [sic] ranch as in addition to the horses and paper money, they have harness lines and blind bridles and halters.

Saturday May 7th 1881

Fred and Eddy and Walter started for Colorado with their teams to work on the Railroad, quite a number of others will go in a few days to work for supplies

My lucern [sic] was up good 4 days after it was watered. We have just heard that bro Neilson is near the Colorado on his way here, and his son Jos will start back tomorrow to assist him in.

Monday May 9th 1881

Started for Colorado with Delia and the children and several of the brethren who are going to work for supplies.

Wednesday May 11th 1881

Layed over at Montezuma yesterday and fitted up a team and wagon of bro Hydes which I am taking on shares and which I have hired James Jensen to drive. Today drove 10 miles and camped where the road leaves the San Juan River

Sunday May 15th 1881

Drove from Mancos to the saw mill on Cherry Creek, much of the way in a heavy rain storm which made the road very bad. There are 15 teams in our company. We have learned that the indians [sic] whom we saw had killed 3 men at Yellow Jacket Springs near the Blue Mountains and plundered the ranch.

Monday May 16th 1881

Several of our horses were poisoned last night be [sic] eating some poison weed and two of them were so bad we had to leave them. Drove to the La Platt.

Tuesday May 17th 1881

This morning the boys went back and found the sick horses so bad they were compelled to kill them. Drove to near Durango a new town just below Animas and camped with some familes [sic] from Bluff City. Today met 2 men who own most of the stolen horses in the possession of the Indians.

Wednesday May 18th 1881

Passed through Durango and camped on the Florida

Saturday May 21st 1881

Have layed over for 2 days and tried to find a job but have not found anything to suit us, and today 7 of us started for the terminus of the Railroad in New Mexico for freight, the balance going back to Durango for work.

Wednesday May 25th 1881

Drove to the Amargo in New Mexico 90 miles from Durango and the present terminus of the D. & R. C. R. R.

Thursday May 26th 1881

Loaded freight for Durango and drove out 12 miles. I think this is the wickedest and most lawless town I ever was in. One of bro Kelsys horses was stolen last night.

Thursday June 2nd 1881

Drove into Durango and unloaded our freight. Bro Kelsys horse was found in the streets here hobbled.

Saturday June 4th 1881

Left my family near Durango with some families from Bluff City, and started for Amargo again, met bro Allens folks on their way to San Juan from Manassa in Colorado.

Sunday June 5th 1881

This morning early when the boys went out for our horses they found 2 mounted men among them who made off in a hurry as soon as they were discovered, they were evidently after our horses and in all probability are a part of the gang who have robbed the stage several times on this road during the past few months.

Wednesday June 15th 1881

Returned to Durango with our loads and found our folks all well although Delia has been quite sick. While coming in this trip met quite a number of men from Bluff City who left sometime after I did.

Friday June 17th 1881

Moved my folks down to the grading camp of the Juab Contract Co on the Florida

Monday June 20th 1881

Loaded up freight at Arboles the terminus of the R. R. at the Junction of the Piedra and San Juan about 40 miles from Durango.

Tuesday June 21st 1881

Returned to Florida and heard alarming reports of indians [sic] troubles near the Blue Mountains which may affect our settlements on the San Juan.

Friday July 1st 1881

Saw bro Hyde from Montezuma who reported all quiet on the San Juan

Saturday July 2nd 1881

Eddy and several others started for the old settlements in Utah today, and some of the boys are going to Arizona for work. Times are very dull here now.

Thursday July 7th 1881 Durango

Four of our horses have been gone 4 days and I am afraid they are stolen. Several of the boys started for Silverton on their way to Gunnison.

Saturday July 9th 1881

Have hunted 5 days for our horses but can find no trace of them, they are undoubtedly stolen. Three of them are out of Walters team and as he cannot move his wagon he will stay here awhile and look for them. I started for Silverton loaded with grain.

Wednesday July 13th 1881

Sold my corn and flour in Silverton at little or no profit, and continued on our toad [sic] up the Animas toward Gunnison.

Thursday July 14th 1881

Pulled up an awful hill and passed over the summit several thousand feet above snow drifts 50 feet deep, drove down the summit and camped on the head of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison.

Saturday July 16th 1881

Camped at the Lake last night, and today passed through the Lake City and overtook the rest of our party sold a span of mules

Tuesday July 19th 1881

Stopped at the Grading camp of Grover McCune & Read on the Denver & South Park R. R. on the Ohio Creek 22 miles north of Gunnison City. Put some of our teams at work on the grade

Monday July 25th 1881

Four of us (K Jones, O Kelsy, Joe Neilsen & myself) started to Hancock 60 miles distant for supplies for G. Mc. & R got a card from Walter saying that one of our stolen horses had been seen in Durango.

Wednesday July 27th 1881

Drove over the Alpine Pass over the Continental Divide 11000 feet above sea level down to Hancock a little town in an awful mud hole and the terminus of the D. & S. P. R. R.

Sunday July 31st 1881

Returned to camp with our loads which we got \$1.65 per cwt.

Tuesday Aug 9th 1881

Started for Hancock and met Walter with our horses he having paid the thief \$55.00 to bring them in.

Monday Sept 26th 1881

Have finished freighting for G.M & R and settled up with them and today started for home.

Tuesday Sept 27th 1881

Met F. R. Lyman in Gunnison who will go with us to Bluff on his way to Oak Creek.

Saturday Oct 8th 1881

Drove into Durango and layed over to buy supplies. We have had snow or rain most of the time since leaving Lake City.

Monday Oct 10th 1881

Finished loading up and drove a few miles and encountered a fearful rainstorm

Tuesday Oct 11th 1881

Received a letter from Mother informing me that Joseph had been shot through the leg by horse thieves at the Colorado Ferry. I left my team and started for home at once on horseback with Walter.

Thursday Oct 13th 1881

Reached home 1 hour before noon, and very soon after Joseph was brought in, and in a much more comfortable state than I expected to find him. He is shot through the left leg and the bone broken just above the knee. Two men from Colorado stole some horses from the settlement and were followed by L. H. Redd, Hyrum Perkins, and Joseph who overtook them at the Ferry (Halls) on the 2nd inst., and succeeded in recovering our horses and also those belonging to the thieves together with their saddles and some of their clothing, and were recrossing the river when they were fired on from the other bank by the outlaws who until now had kept out of sight. Our boys returned the fire quite a number of shots being exchanged during which Joseph was shot just as he was getting ashore to make the boat fast.

[After dark the boys started this way, Joseph riding 6 miles on horseback when he became so weak they were compelled to stop until help could be got to move him. He layed on the ground 3 days and nights before his leg was dressed and then was moved to the Clay Hill where he stayed until Mother, Bp Neilsen and some others could go from here and bring him home.

Saturday Oct 15th 1881

Started back to meet my team went as far as Montezuma

Sunday Oct 16th 1881

Rode to Navajoe [sic] Spring and met the wagons all well

Saturday Oct 22nd 1881

Drove into Bluff City and found all as well as usual excepting Joseph who has been quite sick since I was here but is now some better

Thursday Oct 27th 1881

Fred and Walter started for Oak Creek today in company with Joseph Neilsen and some others, we have had considerable rain of late.

Thursday Nov 10th 1881

Snow fell yesterday last night and today, and it is still very cloudy. Joseph is a little better, but his condition is rather fluctuating. The bone is shot worse than I first thought. I probe the wound once aday [sic] and have taken out several fragments of bone, and there are more to be taken out.

Saturday Dec 3rd 1881

Today bro Edward Dalton of Parowan came in having been sent to Pres. Taylor to visit the Saints here and counsel with them relative to their labors and prospects on this river. He brought a letter of counsel from Prest. Taylor to the Saints here advising them to Fort up and take small peices [sic] of lard all of which we had done more than a year ago.

Josephs condition seems to be about the same he feels moderately well, but does not seem to gain strength nor improve much in anyway [sic]

Monday Dec 5th 1881

Yesterday we had 2 very good meetings, bro Dalton spoke at both of them and gave the Saints good advice. Today he went with us over the ground between here and the head of the ditch some 4 miles above the Fort and conluded that the work we have got to do this winter in order to get the water out in the spring is a great deal for the few men that are here.

Tuesday Dec 6th 1881

Today bro Dalton went to Montezuma, 5 wagons came in from the west and a few have lately come from above so that we now number 25 men all told in this place. Some have been at work for 2 weeks on the ditch. I am so tied at home waiting on Joseph and looking after the wants of the family that I am unable as yet to do anything on the ditch. The weather is very fine. By letters from the west, we hear that one of the outlaws in the Skiff from Halls ferry, reaching the former place alone and in possession of all the arms previously borne by himself and comrade whom in all probability he had killed, he journeyed as far north as Parowan and then went west unmolested the report of his deeds not having reached there until after his departure.

Saturday Dec 10th 1881

Attended meeting in the School house this morning and on the suggestion of bro Dalton the settlers voted unanimously to throw out all credits for work on our old ditch which is an entire failure, and count as valid only that done after Nov 1st 1881 and on the new ditch. Bro Dalton started for home today. I think his short mission among us has been productive of good from the instruction he has given, and some of suggestions he has offered. During the afternoon some of the brethren were rebaptized [sic]. Joseph seems about usual.

Monday Dec 26th 1881

Yesterday (Christmas) passed off very quietly, our meetings and Sabbath School being well attended as usual One inch of snow fell last night but today is very pleasant. The weather for some time past has been rather cold Some of the brethren who have been freighting in Arizona are returning home and we have a pretty good force at work on the ditch which is progressing favorably. Joseph seems to be gaining slowly all the time, we lift him into a chair every other day and he is able to sit up 3 or 4 hours at a time very comfortably

Saturday Jan 7th 1882

During the last week of the old year, work on the ditch was suspended, the brethren spending their time in hauling wood looking after stock, killing beef and doing some dancing. This week they have resumed work on the ditch. The last of our people have returned from Arizona and we have now 32 men in the fort, 2 Herd the horses. Joseph seems to be surely growing better, can help himself considerably in getting into a chair, his knee is quite stiff and the break pretty well grown up. Last night a little flurry of snow came, but all fair now.

Thursday Jan 12th 1882

This evening about 8 o'clock, Josephs wife and her borther [sic] Alvin Roper arrived her from Oak Creek

Joseph seems to be gaining all the time and has a fair prospect for recovery. The weather is quite cold

Monday Jan 16th 1882

Snow fell during the forenoon, and melted as fast as it fell. Helped Bp Neilsen and bro Jones to make up their tithing report for the past year. The whole amount of tithing paid in this ward is \$760.00 over \$400.00 of it in cash. Most of the brethren are at work on the ditch

Sunday Jan 29th 1882

Alvin Roper and I spent the past week looking after cattle and horses. Sold some cattle to Mr. Ryman of Rico who paid a very fair price The weather is a little colder than usual and there are occasional falls of snow very light.

Thursday Feb 2nd 1882

Attended fast meeting in the forenoon, with only one other man, but a good congregation of women had a very interesting time.

In the evening Special Mail Agent J H Mahony came in from the west, looking up the necessity for a mail service from Mancos here, seemed favorably impressed and promised to recommend to the Department that service be put on at once. Requested me to go as far as Montezuma with him.

Saturday Feb 4th 1882 Montezuma

Came to this place yesterday with Mr. Mahoney who continued his journey towards the Mancos this morning with John Allen Jr. I returned to Bluff. Alvin Roper started home today with Hall & Barney

Sunday Feb 12th 1882

Have worked most of the week on the ditch which is progressing very well. The weather is getting warmer. Today Joseph came in and took dinner with me, he walked on crutches while some one held up his lame leg, he is getting along slowly, his knee will be quite stiff, and the leg 2 or 3 inches shorter than the other one.

Monday Feb 13th 1882

A Mass meeting was held in the School House this morning for the purpose of organizing an Irrigation Company, at which 5 Trustees a secretary and treasurer were elected I being one of the first.

In the afternoon bro L. C. Burnham who presides over the Saints at Burnham 80 miles southeast of here on this river in New Mexico came in on a visit he had his wife and one child with him and staid [sic] over night with us.

Tuesday Feb 14th 1882

Spent the forepart of the day showing bro Burnham some of our surroundings, which he seemed to think is very good, and in the after noon [sic] he started back and went as far as the camp at the head of the ditch where the brethren are at work, here we held meeting in the evening around the campfire and had a very good time.

Wednesday Feb 15th 1882

Bro Burnham continued his journey this morning and the rest of us went to work on the ditch

Saturday Feb 18th 1882

High wind prevailed all day yesterday until late in the evening and this morning about 3 inches of snow lay on the ground most of which however melted away during the day which has been quite warm and pleasant.

Monday Feb 20th 1882

Bros Haskell, Jones & Redd went over the river today in to the Navajos country to try and recover some of our stock supposed to be in the possession of the indians. The balance of us went to work on the ditch

Saturday Feb 25th 1882

Bro Haskell and party returned yesterday, having failed of getting anything, excepting 3 ponies belonging to his place.

We have succeeded well with our work and will soon have the water in our ditch, although the river is unusually low.

Sunday Feb 26th 1882

Bishop Neilson having chosen Kumen Jones to set as 1st counsallor [sic] in place of Geo Sevy who had resigned, and having chosen Lemuel H. Redd to be his 2nd counsellor [sic], and they having been sustained by the vote of the ward. I set them apart to these offices, and also ordained bro Redd a high priest. Wm Robb was then set apart as a teacher in the place of bro Redd, by the Bishop and his counsellors [sic].

Joseph is improving, and was able to attend meeting to day [sic] for the first time since he was hurt. The weather is quite good and we have light rains occasionally, which will be a help to the grass

Thursday March 9th 1882

A party of the brethren who have been out for 7 days after horses stolen by the Navajoes [sic], returned today having accomplished nothing. The horses are supposed to have been stolen by Frank from whom they took a horse a few days ago.

Sunday March 19th 1882

We have strong west wind nearly all the time, making work on the ditch very unpleasant. The river has raised about 1 foot, and we have a good stream of water running about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in our ditch. Joseph is not so well as usual, being somewhat troubled by heart disease and liver complaint. On the 10th inst, H Perkins started for Cedar City with Jon Gower who is nearly dead with consumption

Monday March 20th 1882

Started up the Cottonwood Wash with Jos F. Barton and Orrin Kelsey to make locations in the little valleys at the head of the wash in the interest of the people of Bluff City.

Sunday March 26th 1882

Returned home, have been as far as the summit of the Elk Mountains 60 miles from here, to which point there is a good chance for a road from here, and the country beyond towards the Henry Mountains looks favorable and this is likely to be the place where a permanent road across the Colorado will be located. Found a good stock country and one nice stream of water. Made 3 locations in the most desirable parts of the country.

Monday March 27th 1882

Election of officers for Irrigation Company came off today, every thing [sic] passed off very pleasant. Most of the men are at work on the ditch which is progressing rather slowly, it being a very big job.

Saturday April 29th 1882

The water came into town today in our ditch, for the first time this spring. Most of our force have worked water ditch until now, and will soon be at liberty [sic] to do something else towards raising a crop. The river has not raised very high as yet, although the weather is quite warm, and the trees are looking considerably green. On the 24th inst. a Co-op store was organized here, with P. D. Lyman Prest., Jens Neilsen Vice Prest., C. [copy unreadable] Walton, Kumen Jones and Hyrum Perkins Directors and L H Redd Sec'y [sic] and B. H. Perkins Treasurer.

During the week I received a letter from bro F M L informing me that Uncle Edward was sent on a mission to the Sandwich Islands and would take his family with him. Also that S. S. Smith was released from the Presidency of the San Juan Mission, and that I had been selected to take charge of the settlements of the Saints on this river both here and in New Mexico.

Saturday May 6th 1882

Have been herding most of the week. The water has raised and washed around our dam and headgate so that both are useless, and has carried away 30 rods of our ditch, beyond the possibility of repair.

Monday May 8th 1882

Yesterday we decided that our only hope for a crop this season was in making a new ditch at the head so today we have commenced laying off 214 rods of ditch which will have to be made before we can get the water to town, This makes our ditch 5 miles long from the head to the fort.

[Sunday May 21st 1882](#)

Joseph Neilsen and wife (my sister Ida) and several others from Iron Co came in during the week. We are making good progress with our ditch

[Monday May 22nd 1882](#)

Bro J. S. Smith Passed through here today with his family on his way to Manasas, where he intends to locate permanently as President of that mission

[Saturday May 27th 1882](#)

Completed the new ditch today and have the water in it

[Sunday June 4th 1882](#)

The river is falling considerably, but we have the water in the ditch and the men are busy watering their land preparatory of planting

[Sunday June 11th 1882](#)

Our Co-op Store opened yesterday with J. A. Lyman as salesman

[Sunday July 2nd 1882](#)

Have planted some corn and garden, and during the last week make a trip to the valleys in the Cottonwood looking after stock. Found the water to [sic] low to be of any use for irrigation

[Tuesday July 4th 1882](#)

Attended a celebration in Bluff City

[Saturday July 22nd 1882](#)

The river is down to low water, and all hands are at work cleaning out and deepning [sic] the ditch. The weather is very hot and dry, although we have had some rain of late. During the for part of this month the Pah-utes [sic] killed some of our cattle in the Butler Wash and stole some horses which have since been brought back by the Navajoes [sic].

[Monday July 24th 1882](#)

Attended a celebration in the School House to day [sic] and had a good time. We have plenty of water in the ditch and a good deal of the crop is doing very well.

[Thursday Aug 3rd 1883 \[sic\]](#)

Delia gave birth to a fine daughter, at 3:30 this morning both mother and daughter are doing very well.

[Sunday Aug 20th 1882](#)

Delia is getting along very well and the baby is doing nicely. Joseph is gaining slowly all the time, he has discarded his crutch and walks with a cane, during the past week he has been with me after fencing, and is getting so he can use an ax a little. Our crops are looking very well, we have plenty of water. The weather has been very hot since the 1st of this month. I am 34 years old today.

[Wednesday Sep 13th 1882](#)

Bros Jones & B Perkins and I went down the river to the Comb Wash in search of cattle supposed to be in possession of the Navajoes [sic]. Camped with some miners.

Thursday Sep 14th 1882

Crossed the river and rode south through the hills and entered the Chinalee Wash 6 miles from its mouth and followed down and on our way found 7 head of cattle which were being kept out of our way by Hos. Kay the Navajoe [sic] Captain to whom 2 of them belonged, the rest being our own or belonging in the settlement. After a little talk with HosKay [sic] we brought ours away without any trouble, and returned home that night

Sunday Sep 17th 1882

It has rained yesterday and today, and this morning a stream of water 3 times as large as the Seveir [sic] came down the Cottonwood Wash and spread over a good deal of the best crop in the field.

Monday Sep 18th 1882

This morning the flood is almost stopped and I think has not done much damage only in preventing the men from getting their crops in for some time.

Last night we had the first frost of the season which killed some of the small vines but did not damage anything else.

Some are very busy hauling corn which is a very good crop. Everything we have planted has done well considering the lateness of the season.

The people feel well with regard to their prospects.

Wednesday Sep 20th 1882

Yesterday finished fencing one of my lots, and today commenced hauling corn. The corn crop here is beyond all comparison the best I ever saw anywhere.

Wednesday Oct 4th 1882

Today bro Kumen Jones started back to Utah with his wife, her sister and my sister Lydia M., my wife Annie also went back, with a son and daughter of bro Hydes, on a visit to her parents.

Bro L. H. Redd will start back tomorrow

Sunday Oct 8th 1882

The weather is very good. The people are busy hauling corn and cane and making mollasses [sic].

Wednesday Oct 25th 1882

Our first mail by regular service from Mancos, came in today, Joseph A. Lyman is Postmaster. I received a letter from bro S. C. Burnham of Farmington, informing me of the sudden death of his wife Matilda who left a boy baby a few hours old.

The Navajoes [sic] have brought many of their sheep onto this side of the river eating up a great deal of grass and scattering our cattle badly. The Utes who have been around here lately, have in their travels shot some of our cattle, leaving them to rot on the ground

Thursday Nov 2nd 1882

Attended Fast meeting and blessed my little daughter and gave her the name of Mary. Spent the balance of the day and also the evening attending to business of the Irrigation Co.

Reports reach us from up the river of the killing of a Ute by white men, and the likelihood [sic] of an Indian outbreak [sic] on account of it.

Monday Nov 6th 1882

Today our Co-op Store paid a dividend of 10 per cent [sic], having done business a little less than 5 months.

Tuesday Nov 7th 1882

The election today for Delegate to Congress, resulted in 31 votes being cast for John F. Caino, as the peoples candidate [sic] and none for any one [sic] else.

Thursday Nov 9th 1882

Started for Mancos for a load of potatoes and grain

Wednesday Nov 15th 1882

Reached Mancos yesterday. This morning bro Walton and I blessed a little child of James Dunton and one of Juan Hobb, and loaded up our wagons.

Thursday Nov 16th 1882

Started home the weather is quite squally and has been stormy

Monday Nov 20th 1882

Reached home and found all well, a company of 10 wagons came in yesterday from Iron Co. The weather is quite pleasant

Sunday Dec 3rd 1882

During the week we have had a little more reinforcement [sic] to our number from Iron Co. and have also had some excitement [sic] owing to the sale of a large newly discovered copper mine 50 miles southwest of us for ¼ of a million of dollars, and the probable establishment of a mining camp in that vicinity

Thursday Dec 7th 1882

This morning I baptized Eberhardt Meskin a german [sic] who came down from Colorado a few months since and has been investigating "Mormonism". Also re-baptized Geo Ipsen, both were confirmed at the Fast meeting in the School House. In the afternoon I wnet [sic] on the ditch to work

Sunday Dec 10th 1882

Bros Jones & Redd returned from the old settlements on the 8th. Today I attended Sunday School and assisted to set apart several teachers who had been chosen by the Superintendent, to assist him in the management of that institution

Wednesday Jan 3rd 1883

Have been hunting cattle for several days and today Joseph and I sold 18 head of cattle and 1 horse for \$465.00 to Mr Emerson of Animas City Colorado. The weather has been severely cold for a few weeks, but is milder now and a light snow is falling

Thursday Jan 4th 1883

Attended Fast meeting. Snow still falling

[Monday Jan 15th 1883](#)

The weather is still quite cold, and there are occasional snow squalls, not enough however to keep the ground white. Most of our men are at work on the ditch which is progressing finely. Parties of miners are almost constantly passing here to or from the mines, and new discoveries of fabulous richness are frequently reported.

Our meetings are well attended by the Saints and often by strangers who listen with respect to what we have to say. There are now 50 men here and nearly that number of families. During the past 6 months there have been 13 children born in this place.

[Sunday Jan 21st 1883](#)

Attended meeting in the afternoon, but dispensed with evening meeting because the weather was so cold. I have been looking after cattle for several days past and find them badly scattered. The cold weather continues and is beyond all comparison the most severe we have know since we settled here.

[Saturday Jan 27th 1883](#)

Spent the past week in hunting stock and hauling wood

The weather is much milder than for weeks past. This afternoon Brigham Young and Heber J Grant of Salt Lake City accompanied Joshua Stevens of Burnham came to this place to hold meetings and visit with the Saints.

[Sunday Jan 28th 1883](#) [Bluff City](#)

Three meetings were held in this place today all of which were well attended by the Saints with some unbelievers and some Lamanites, much good instruction of a general character was given, and some instruction relative to the conduct of the Indian mission about to be established in this part of the country was also given

[Monday Jan 29th 1883](#)

Today the Apostles held a Priesthood meeting in the forenoon and a general meeting in the afternoon which was well attended. Several saints from Montezuma being present. We have had a very good time during the visit of our brethren and I hope their instructions to us will be productive of an increase of faith and good works among us.

[Tuesday Jan 30th 1883](#)

Today Bros Young and Grant started back and went as far as Montezuma where they stayed over night at bro Hydes. I accompanied them as they had asked me to go to Burnham with them and visit the Saints at that place.

[Thursday Feb 1st 1883](#)

Yesterday we layed over at Montezuma and held one meeting and had a good time, and today started for Burnham accompanied by bro Kumen Jones who came from Bluff yesterday. Drove 25 miles and camped, road snowy and muddy, and a cold wind most of the day.

[Friday Feb 2nd 1883](#)

Drove 10 miles to the fork of the road and took the right hand road drove 15 miles and nooned on the Mancos about 2/3 of the way down from the settlement of its mouth on the San Juan

Drove 10 miles a trifle east of south over a miserable barren stretch of clay hills covered with mud and snow camped on the San Juan river, no feed, a light fall of snow

Saturday Feb 3rd 1883

Drove 15 miles up the bottoms of the San Juan to the Hog Back a rough rocky ridge running in to [sic] the river from the north and which compels the road to cross to the south side from where it crosses to the north side after going half a mile. We nooned here and continued our journey 10 miles farther up the river to Burnham which at my first visit nearly 3 years ago was called Navajoe [sic]. Here are Walter Stevens formerly of Holden, his sons Joshua and alma [sic] with all their families. Jeff and Henry Slade of Pine Valley with their families and bro Luther C. Burnham formerly of Cache Co who presides over the few saints located here. The vallies [sic] both above and below here are easy of cultivation and are filled up with gentile settlers. Bro Jones and I stayed with Joshua Stevens and were very well treated.

Sunday Feb 4th 1883

Attended 2 meetings for worship in Walter Stevens house when bros Young and Grant gave good instruction to the Saints and also to the few gentiles who were present, bro Jones and I spoke a few minutes as also did bros Burnham and Walter Stevens

In the evening an informal meeting was held and the condition and needs of the mission were talked over, and I was set apart by the Apostles to preside over the settlements of Bluff, Montezuma, Burnham, and Mancos.

Tuesday Feb 6th 1882 [sic, should be 1883]

Spent yesterday in looking at some of the facilities of this place and visiting among the Saints, stayed last night and the night before at bro Burnham, and today bro Jones and I started down the river for home.

After parting with bros Young and Grant who go to Durango where they will get on the care for our settlements in Arizona going by way of Manassa Santa Fe and Sunset on the Little Colorado.

Bro Jones and I rode 30 miles and camped on the river

Wednesday Feb 7th 1883

Passed miles of splendid coal deposits, crossed the line into Colorado passed the mouth of the Mancos and passed into Utah, going within 2 miles of the 4 corners of Colorado New Mexico Arizona and Utah [sic].

Stayed over night [sic] with bro Haskell at Montezuma 40 miles from where we camped last night.

Thursday Feb 8th 1883

Rode 15 miles to Bluff and found all as well as usual. The weather is beautiful and the ditch is progressing finely. Just before I reached home Joseph and Orrin Kelsy had located claims for themselves and me on a ledge of rock bearing gold and silver which Joseph and I discovered 2 miles up the Cottonwood Wash about 8 months ago.

Sunday Feb 11th 1883

Helped to lay off work on the ditch yesterday and the day before and today attended meeting afternoon and evening and had a good time

Thursday Feb 15th 1883

We were favored with a fine rain monday [sic] night and Tuesday, and last night ½ an inch of snow fell. The mail failed to come last night for the first time since it began to run in October last.

Sunday Feb 18th 1883

Spent 5 days laying off work on the ditch, during the past week, and today attended 2 meetings and spoke in the evening. The weather is quite pleasant.

Sunday Feb 25th 1883

The measles are among the Navajoes [sic], and the children of the settlers have also got them, so generally that day School and Sabbath School are discontinued for the present. The weather is beautiful and work on the ditch is progressing finely

Sunday March 4th 1883

Cloudy and moist, had rain last night, have been working on the ditch and looking after cattle during the week. The children are getting better

Sunday March 11th 1883

The weather is quite warm. There is still considerable sickness among the children. The ditch is progressing very well. I have spent most of the week looking after cattle

During the week bro Herriman of Montezuma had a little boy die, who was just recovering from the measles

Wednesday March 14th 1883

Weather is cool by spells and some what [sic] cloudy. There is still considerable sickness here among the children.

Thursday March 15th 1883

Bros Ben Perkins and Sam Wood and I started for the valley in the head of Cotton wood with a team and wagon and some saddle horses, intending to make a house and other improvements

Friday March 16th 1883

Reached the valley this evening and found 4 families of Navajoes [sic] there with a good many sheep and horses.

Sunday March 18th 1883

Today the Navajoes [sic] moved out with all their effects going south towards the river.

Monday March 19th 1883

Have been hauling fencing for a corral. The Piutes [sic] have been straggling around here for a few days, and this evening 2 of them passed our camp with 3 loose horses which we suppose they have stolen from Bluff. They however did not allow us to see the horses so as to recognize them. Bro Perkins and I undertook to over haul [sic] them but it was too near dark for us to follow their trail.

Tuesday March 20th 1883

This morning bro Perkins and I followed the tracks until they went over the summit into the Comb, when we turned back to camp, and decided we should get word to Bluff as soon as possible, and the brethren desiring me to go I started at 12:30 and reached Bluff at 6:12 p m found many of the people had been sick and some were still far from well. Bro Rowley had a little boy die during my absence.

Wednesday March 21st 1883

Bro Haskell and 3 others started out to recover the stolen horses, and bros Wood and Perkins came home from the valley.

Friday March 23d 1883

Bro Haskell and party returned having recovered 2 horses, but not of the lot which I saw on Monday evening.

Saturday April 7th 1883

Bro Haskell and 5 others started out today to try and recover some more of the horses, stolen by the Utes

Thursday April 12th 1883

Started for Durango with a load of wool for the store in company with 3 of the brethren

Wednesday April 18th 1883

Reached Durango last night and loaded our wagons today and started home.

Tuesday April 24th 1883

Reached home in the worst sand storm I ever saw found all as well as usual. Have had a cold windy trip and some snow

Saturday May 5th 1883

Parties have been in here from above buying saddle horses and cattle for which they pay a very good price

The weather is quite warm, the water is in the ditch but still requires considerable labor to watch it and keep the banks from breaking

During the week I found 4 head of cattle which the Utes have killed and left most of them to rot.

Monday May 7th 1883

Our co-op Store declared a dividend of 25 per cent [sic] today, and this evening at the election of officers for the ensuing year the former board were re-elected with the exception of B Perkins whose place was filled by J. A Lyman and Kumen Jones, by Wm Adams

We have had a good deal of hard wind of late making working out of doors very disagreeable. The ditch still requires almost the entire attention of all hands, the water has been in the Fort but owing to constant breaking of the banks nothing has been done as yet towards plowing or planting

Sunday June 10th 1883

All hands are busy watering and planting, the ditch stands very good, and everything is prosperous at present.

Wednesday July 4th 1883

Attended a celebration in the School house and had a good time. Everybody has been busy for a month planting and now the head of the ditch is filled 2 ft deep with sand and will have to be cleaned out before we can get any water

Thursday July 5th 1883

Attended Fast meeting today. After meeting bro Kumen Jones and Thales Haskell Jr. started out for a visit to the Navajoes [sic] northwest of here to learn the language, as they have been selected to act as missionaries among that people.

Saturday July 14th 1883

The water was turned in the ditch again today, after being out about ten days. The weather continues very hot and dry. Bro Jones and companion returned today

I finished planting last Monday, but some are planting a little yet.

Wednesday August 1st 1883

The ditch has broke a great many times lately and the crops have suffered seriously in consequence but within the past week we have had several refreshing showers that will help materially.. A great deal of water is coming down the Cottonwood was and flooding much of the crop but doing very little harm

Thursday Aug 2nd 1883

Attended fast meeting in the forenoon, and in the afternoon started for a short exploring trip to the Colorado river in company with bros K Jones & H Perkins

Thursday August 9th 1883

Returned home today having found some excellent stock country on the summit of the Elk Mountains and some very rough and worthless country beyond. We went within about 25 miles of the river and found the prospects so poor for a road that we returned back.

Bp Neilson started for Cedar City today on visit. Crops are looking well and people are moving onto their lots.

Saturday Aug 18th 1883

Bro L. H. Redd and I went to Montezuma and staid [sic] overnight at bro Allens, and on Sunday attended Sunday School and meeting, and found the people feeling very well, returned home in the evening.

Sunday Aug 26th 1883

During the week moved one of my houses onto one of my lots, preparatory to getting all my effects out of the fort. The weather is still quite warm but we have occasional storms of rain.

Thursday Sep 6th 1883

Moved my family onto my lot in the afternoon after attending Fast meeting in the forenoon

Wednesday Sep 19th 1883

Went to Montezuma and met my bro F. H. Lyman and Elders John Morgan President of the Southern States Mission, who are visiting us for the purpose of holding conference and further organizing this stake.

Took dinner at Bro Hydes and returned to Bluff.

Saturday Sep 22nd 1883

The past 2 days have been spent by visiting brethren in looking at our ditch and the ruins in this vicinity. This morning Conference at 10 o'clock A M with a good attendance and a fair representation from the outlying settlements

Sunday Sep 23rd 1883

Conference adjourned at 4 p m today, we have had much good instruction and a liberal outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord. L. C. Burnham was chosen and set apart as Bishop of the Burnham ward in New Mexico with W. J. Stevens as his 1st and Albert Farnsworth as his 2nd counsellor [sic]. The resignation of Wm Hyde as presiding priest of Montezuma ward was accepted and John Allen Jr was installed to preside in that place, which was attached to Bluff City Ward. An elders quorum was organized with Wm Hobb as President and Saml Wood and Orrin Kelsey as his counsellors [sic]. After meeting bros Lyman and Morgan started for Salt Lake via of Durango & Denver and I started a little later for the same destination in company with Lars Christensen, expecting to overtake bro Marion somewhere on the way. Stayed at bro Hydes

Thursday Sep 27th 1883

Reached Durango this morning and started east about 10 a m on the D & R G R R in company with Sis Abigail Stevens of Burnham N. M. was joined about 9 p m at Antonito by Pres. S. S. Smith of San Luis Stake

Friday Sep 28th 1883

Reached Pueblo this morning and layed over several hours and in the afternoon rode on to Salida and stopped over night at a hotel

Saturday Sep 29th 1883

Started west this morning in company with bros Lyman and Morgan who have just returned from a detour to Leadville, crossed the Marshall Pass 10852 feet high and passed by Gunnison City and down the Gunnison River to its Junction with the Grand which we crossed and son [sic] on to the desert between it and Green river, before reaching which night overtook us.

Sunday Sep 30th 1883

Reached Provo at 4:20 a m 899 miles from Durango. Stopped off and attended ward meeting and a Missionary meeting at the B Y Academy [sic] at both of which I spoke for a short time.

Monday Oct 1st 1883

Went into Salt Lake City and reported the San Juan Mission to Prest Taylor and the Apostles who were somewhat divided with regard to the wisdom of continuing that Mission under the unfavorable circumstances which so far have attended it. Attended the Theatre in the evening with Marion and saw Dion Boucecauet the great actor and dramatic author

Tuesday Oct 2nd 1883

Went to Tooele with Marion and met my wife Annie who is stopping with his wife Clara

Thursday Oct 4th 1883

Annie and I went to Salt Lake and stayed at her fathers

Friday Oct 5th 1883

Conference convened at 10 this morning in the Assembly Hall with a fair turn out, and in the afternoon met in the large tabernacle

Sunday Oct 7th 1883

Conference colsed [sic] this evening, we have had a good time, much good instruction has been given and there have been representatives from the most distant stakes of Zion

My brother Walter C was married on the 4th to Sylvia Lovell and my Sister Harriet to John Lovell at the same time in this city.

Tuesday Oct 9th 1883

Have attended several meetings since Sunday and at 3 p m started for Oak Creek on the cars with Aunt Caroline. Reached Leamington at 10 and was met by Fred and Eddy with a conveyance in which we rode to Oak Creek reaching there at 1 a m.

Wednesday Oct 10th 1883

In the forenoon attended the funeral of a child of Simeon Walkers and spoke for a few minutes and in the afternoon went up Oak Creek Canyon and the mill which the boys have improved considerably by putting a circular saw in place of the upright saw, and also attaching a shingle mill, all of which do very well.

Saturday Oct 13th 1883

Went to Fillmore day before yesterday with Eddy, and spent one day with the people there and returned to Oak Creek today.

Monday Oct 15th 1883

Attended meeting in Oak Creek yesterday and spoke to the Saints, and spent today visiting my friends, and at 9 in the evening Eddy and I started for Leamington from where I took train [sic] for Provo at 2 a m.

Tuesday Oct 16th

Reached Provo at 7 this morning and stopped at bro Marions until 1 p m when I started east on the Dand R G, in company with several missionaries going to the States

Thursday Oct 18th 1883

Reached Durango at 10 p m and met bro K. Jones and Joe Neilsen who reported all well at Bluff

Thursday Oct 25th 1883

Reached Bluff in the afternoon and found all well but some of the people considerably exercised [sic] over a report of the probability [sic] of the abandonment of this mission, which however strikes many of the people quite favorably

Sunday Oct 28th 1883

Attended meeting and spoke to the saints has [sic] a rather slim turnout owing to many of the brethren being away to Mancos & Durango after supplies

Saturday Nov 3rd 1883

Went to Montezuma with Delia & mother and stayed at Sister Hydes.

Monday Nov 5th 1883

Held meeting at Montezuma yesterday with the few Saints who live there, and today returned to Bluff

Saturday Dec 1st 1883

Today Bp Neilsen came in from Utah with a company of three wagons. He brought a letter from Apostle Erastus Snow giving the privilege of leaving the mission to myself and any others who might desire to leave, at the same time putting [sic] it in such a way that the only inference to be drawn is that those who leave are destitute of faith and a contented spirit. Some may take advantage of this release but I do not consider it an honorable release and in consideration of my labors here I think it is unjust to me to say the least of it, to speak of me alone personally in the way bro Snow had done in a letter written to the people generally, and to be read and re-read by them

Monday Dec 3rd 1883

Yesterday a majority of the brethren from Montezuma came down here to attend meetings which were well attended, and at which the propriety of leaving this place was freely discussed, a majority desiring to remain here, at least for another season, as they did not consider we had yet given the country a fair trial.

Some of the brethren whose sentiments may I think be materially changed by circumstances aside from the general welfare of the place, spoke in a very bigoted and inconsistent way in favor of remaining here. Most of them however take a rational view of the matter, and will no doubt be governed very much by the success of the next season.

In the evening a meeting of the Irrigation Company was held at which an entire new board of trustees were elected, and a tax of \$29.00 per acre was levied to complete the ditch, this swells the tax to \$69.00 per acre making a total of \$48300.00 on 700 acres, and the end is not yet.

Monday, Dec 10th 1883

Spent yesterday at Montezuma with Bp Neilsen and Bros Jones & Adams held meetings and had considerable talk with the brethren some of whom are quite dissatisfied with their scattered and isolated condition and think seriously of moving either the Burnham or this place

Tuesday Dec 11th 1883

Bros L. H. Redd and John Pace returned today from the old settlements with their families where they have been on a visit since last Septmber

Saturday Dec 22nd 1883

Today our Quarterly Conference convened in Bluff City, with a very good attendance. Rain has fallen almost constantly for 48 hours.

During the week most of the brethren have been at work putting an extension of about 14 feet on the north end of the School house which gives us much more room

Sunday Dec 23rd 1883

Conference closed at 8 p m today, we have held 5 general meetings and in Priesthood meeting all of which have been well attended, there has been a good turn out [sic] of the Saints from Burnham, Mancos, & Montezuma, and although we have had none of the Apostles or any brethren outside of their own stake to instruct us we have had a time.

And no doubt much good has been done, the people all seem to feel very well and all the speakers were possessed of a good spirit

Tuesday Dec 25th 1883

This day passed off very quietly. At 11 A M by request I married Theodore Moody and Laura. M. Barney, and in the afternoon joined in partaking of a family dinner at Bro K Jones's where bp Neilsens family and ours filled the house to its capacity. I have been busy the past 3 weeks building and getting nearly done

Thursday Jan 10th 1884

Attended the funeral of my sister Ida's baby girl aged [copy blank] days, the day is very raw and windy.

Monday Jan 14th 1884

Have been busy for the past 7 days gathering cattle to drive back to the lake as the feed is very poor here.

Tuesday Jan 15th 1884

Started to the lake with bro Redd and 3 hired hands having 225 head of cattle

[Wednesday Jan 23rd 1884](#)

Reached the Lake today have had a very good trip and lost a very few cattle

[Friday Jan 25th 1884](#)

Started for home today

[Tuesday Jan 29th 1884](#)

Reached home today and found all well, have had some snow and rain, and the weather is still unsettled being rather cold and squally.

[Wednesday Jan 30th 1884](#)

Received a very good letter from Bro Marion relative to this mission, which is very gratifying to me, he stated that the Presidency and Apostles had taken no action in regard to this mission. and that some felt it very important to continue this settlement and others (Prest Taylor among them) did not feel like requiring men to remain in any places they were not satisfied with

[Tuesday Feb 5th 1884](#)

Today Bp Neilsen, bro Redd and I started for Burnham to visit the Saints at that place. Drove to Montezuma and stayed at bro Allens

[Friday Feb 8th 1884](#)

Reached Burnham this evening and found all well, put up with the Bishop, have had muddy roads snow storms and cold weather making altogether a very disagreeable trip

[Sunday Feb 10th 1884](#)

Yesterday attended a Teachers meeting for the purpose of settling a difficulty between W. J. Stevens and his Father, which however resulted in nothing. Today I confronted bro A. S. Farnsworth with the charge of exposing his person and taking indecent liberties with some of the young sisters of the branch which he at first denied, but after laboring some time with him he expressed a willingness to do whatever was required of him to make the matters right I told him I thought he should make a confession before the meeting and ask forgiveness of the people and then resign his office as counsellor [sic] to the Bishop all of which he done, and the people forgave him and accepted his resignation. During the day W. J. Stevens confessed in meeting to using improper language in a party two days before to his Father and to the people and asked forgiveness of all interested which was readily granted. Held 3 meetings.

[Monday Feb 11th 1884](#)

Finished up some tithing business and in the evening met with the Priesthood of the ward and had a very good time in talking to them and listening to some of the brethren

We have attended 5 meetings and done considerable business of various kinds. The Saints have treated us well and seemed glad to see us. They have built a good school house (adobie [sic] not quite finished) and their being now in ward 12 families, and more coming

[Tuesday Feb 12th 1884](#)

Started home today in a blinding snow storm drove 14 miles and camped the weather is very cold

[Friday Feb 15th 1884](#)

Reached home today, have had a bitter cold and disagreeable trip, found all as well as usual excepting mother who has been troubled for several days with a very severe pain in her head

Saturday Feb 23rd 1884

This morning bro Kumen Jones little son aged about 5 months who has been sick 6 days, died having suffered greatly most of the time, his mother was my sister Lydia May.

Sunday Feb 24th 1884

Bro Jones baby was buried this morning, the funeral being attended by most of the people in the place. We have had more snow and rain this winter than I ever knew here before, the roads are quite muddy, and the ground is sufficiently wet to bring up any kind of crop. Work on the ditch is progressing favorably and the prospect is good for a crop this season

Saturday March 1st 1884

Today bro L. H. Redd, John Adams and I started for the Lake to look after our cattle

Sunday March 9th 1884

Started back today, have had rain nearly every day for a week, found most of our cattle doing well and no worse scattered than we expected. Found one small herd at the head of the Cedar Ridge where there is about 10 inches of snow

Monday March 10th 1884

Left the road at the "Wind Camp" and turned off to the left crossed the Clay Hill range and struck into an open wash leading northwest towards the Colorado follwed it down hoping to find a better way for a road across to the settlements in the basin

Tuesday March 11th 1884

Reached the river today about 35 miles from where we leave the road. The wash is favorable for a road but so far we have seen no chance to get away from the river on the west side

Wednesday March 12th 1884

Looked up the river today as far as we could gon [sic] on foot and think we discovered a much better wash to take a road down from the head of the Cedar ridge, and that apparently will strike the river almost or quite directly opposite to the route booked out from Rabbit Valley by bro A. H. Thurber 2 years ago

Started for home, rode 8 miles and camped

Saturday March 15th 1884

Reached home today, and found everybody as well as usual. The excessive rains have raised the river about 7 feet causing considerable damage to our ditch by washing some of it away, and filling much of the deep cut several feet deep with quick sand

The Cottonwood Wash also sent down a large body of water which deviating a little from its usual course struck the Southwest corner of the port filling a number of houses with water and mud to the depth of 8 or 10 inches, and causing the inmates to move to higher ground. Cellars, pig pens, an [sic] chicken coops were flooded, and corn in the stock buried from 1 to 2 feet deep in mud, doing in this way hundreds of dollars damage, besides burying fences beyond the possibility of redemption, and covering a part of several of the best claims on the river 18 inches deep with worthless white sand

Some of the people seem a little discouraged by these misfortunes, but most of them seem as determined as ever to hold on until they conquer all the various obstacles to be met with in reclaiming this forbidding looking country

Saturday March 22nd 1884

Our Quarterly Stake Conference convened today we had a very fair turnout, although there were very few present out side [sic] of the Bluff ward, held 3 meetings.

Sunday March 23rd 1884

Held 3 more meetings today and adjourned for 3 months, most of the people seem to have enjoyed themselves pretty well. I have not enjoyed myself as well as I like to on such occasions, owing to a feeling that some have foolishly worked up between a few who talk of moving away and the balance who may desire to remain here

Sunday April 6th 1884

At 12 M [sic] today I preformed [sic] the marriage ceremony for Jesse J. Smith son of Silas S. Smith and Margaret A Haskell daughter of Thales H Haskell

Saturday April 12th 1884

The weather is quite variable being warm and cold wet and dry, windy and pleasant by spells
During the week I have sowed wheat and planted potatoes. The river is quite high, and the Cottonwood wash sends down a very regular large stream of water

Monday April 14th 1884

Bro Ben Perkins and I started today for the Lake to look after our cattle, camped in the Comb Wash

Monday April 28th 1884

Returned home today in a fearful wind storm having found all well at the Lake.

Found the people at home as well as usual, another flood has been down the Cottonwood raising higher in the Fort more than the previous one but doing less damage. The weather is still quite chilly at night, and all kinds of vegetation are very backward.

Old man Mitchell and his sons and son in law who live 20 miles above here on the river, had some difficulty with the Navajoes [sic] about a week ago and shot and killed one and wounded two more. Troops were then sent for to Fort Lewis who came down but so far have done nothing

Sunday May 4th 1884

Today a party of Navajoes [sic] came in to trade for the first time since the fracas at Mitchells. They are all back 2 days ride from the river and very much afraid of the Soldiers

They are as usual very friendly to our people

Tuesday May 20th 1884

For several days past, the people here have been growing into the conviction that they have very little if any prospect of establishing themselves independently in this place, and today they almost unanimously signed a letter to President Taylor setting forth som [sic] of the obstacles they have to contend with and also some of the sacrifices that have been made in endeavoring to establish this place and asking to be released from this mission unless suitable help is forthcoming at once to enable them to stay. The head gate and head of the ditch is washed away with the high water, also an extension of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile at the head of the ditch which has cost the most of the labor done during the past winter.

Sunday June 8th 1884

Joseph has been quite sick of late with some liver disease [sic]. We are having higher water than ever was know here at the spring of the year. Bros Hydes and Adams wheels have been washed down the river

The ditch is considerably damaged, and the river is getting higher all the time. We have the water in the ditch about 1/3 of the time. A very little crop has been planted. Most of the people have their minds made up to move and are only waiting the answer of the Apostles.

Our range is better than ever before since we lived here. Stock are doing well but money is very scarce and times are dull

Wednesday June 18th 1884

Last Saturday evening a heavy rain storm broke our ditch bad in several places and filled it up with sand in others. Yesterday the river raised about 2 feet higher then [sic] we have ever known it before, and flooded nearly all of our field lying east of the settlement, and ran 2 ft deep into bro Adams house in the lower part of town. It has damaged the ditch by washing away the bank of filling up so that we have no idea of attempting to repair it and consequently will not raise a crop [sic], all the people feel anxious to move away. Mitchells place is entirely washed away, and bro Hydes place and the Fort at Montezuma, and bro Allans houses are flooded so that his family are compelled to move out on to higher ground. Bro Hyeds house at Rincon are filled 4 feet deep with water, and some damage done to his goods and household effects.

Friday June 27th 1884

Started for the Lake with bro Redd and bro Adams son

Monday July 7th 1884

Returned home today having found everything well at the Lake, during my trip, went to the Colorado River which is very high and has carried away all the boats from Halls Ferry. During the past week a difficulty occurred between cow men and Indians on the South Montezuma during which 2 Indians were killed and 2 white men were wounded. This may yet lead to considerable trouble

Monday July 20th 1884

Troops and cowboys have been following the hostile indians, and about 5 days ago came on them somewhere west of the Blue Mountains near the Colorado River and were driven back after having 2 men killed. The indians suffered no loss

Wednesday July 23rd 1884

Bishop Neilsen today received a letter from the First Presidency urgin [sic] all who would to remain here and try and build up a place. He also received one from Bro Snow saying that Bro Joseph Fand himself would be here on August 3rd to visit the Saints.

The letter from the Presidency was a copy of one sent to Apostle Young and Lyman but it never reached them it suggested Bishop Neilsen as a suitable man for Stake President in case of a vacancy which would certainly occur if I was released which was suggested by the letter

Friday August 1st 1884

Bro Thales Haskell and I went with 4 horses and a spring wagon to Montezuma to meet bros Smith and Snow. Put up at bro John Allan Son [sic].

Monday Aug 4th 1884

As our brethren have not come and we donot [sic] know when they will. I returned to Bluff today and bro Haskell went on up the river to see if he could find our visitors

Bro Wm Hyde has parted with his first wife who is living in Bluff, and he with his other family are moving up the river, intending to locate at Peak 25 miles above here

Wednesday Aug 6th 1884

Bp Neilsen today received word by letter from Apostle Snow, that their visit was postponed until Sep 21st. This is quite a disappointment to the brethren, some of whom have come from Mancos to attend meeting

Tuesday Aug 12th 1884

Today Bp Neilsen, Bro Haskell and 5 others started to look for a valley which is supposed to be somewhere between the Blue Mountain and the Colorado River.

Friday Aug 15th 1884

Today my bro Joseph A started for Oak Creek by way of the Blue Mountain and Grand San Castle Valleys. He took his family and also Mother and Lucy. I took my team and helped them a few miles as the road is rather bad.

Saturday Aug 16th 1884

Went a half days drive with Joseph and left him about 25 miles from Bluff, in company with 11 other men most of them with families going back to the old Settlements to live.

Tuesday Aug 19th 1884

Bishop Neilsen and party returned today, having found the valley they were looking for. It is about 75 miles from here, northwest of the Blue Mountains has 2 streams of water in it capable of watering all the available land about 1200 acres, which is scattered in patches along the stream for 15 or 20 miles, and would necessitate the scattering of homes miles apart which would be unsafe as it is in the heart of the country claimed and infested by the renegade Utes and Pah-Utes [sic] who work up all the Indian deviltry that has troubled this section for a few years past.

This evening at ½ past 10 Delia gave birth to a fine 10 pound girl, both mother and baby are doing very well

Wednesday Aug 27th 1884

The mail today brough [sic] us news of the killing by a masked mob at cane creek Lewis County Tennessee on Aug 10th of Elders Wm S Perry of Kanarra and John H Gibbs of Paradise missionaries and also two other brethren residents of Cane Creek and the serious wounding of a woman who is a member of the Church.

Bishop Neilsen received a Telegram from Bp Lunt, informing him of the death of his (Bp Neilsen) wife Katrina at Cedar City, on the 23rd of Pneumonia. She leaves 3 small children.

Friday Aug 29th 1884

Today Bp Neilsen first wife and her daughter Julia started back to Cedar to take care of his children.

Sunday Aug 31st 1884

I joined in marriage Amasa Myers Barton and Hariet Parthenia Hyde

Sunday Sep 7th 1884

Bro Redd and others returned from the Lake and reported that the Indians (Utes) had been on the ranch and killed some of our cattle

Monday Sep 8th 1884

Started to the Lake with some hands to gather up and bring in our stock

Monday Sep 22nd 1884

Returned from the Lake having got all of our cattle but 11 head, some of which we found dead

During my absence Prests J F Smith and E Snow have visited this place and held meetings at one of which I was released from this mission and any who felt like doing so were requested to stay and hold the place if possible

Saturday Sep 27th 1884

Sold our (Lyman) cattle to Callan and Smith of San Miguel Colorado.

Monday Oct 6th 1884

Returned from a 6 days trip back on the Cedar Ridge looking for cattle lost as we were coming in. Thos Talbot and Loren Neilsen, Sent [sic] from Oak Creek by my brothers with teams to help me move in came in today.

Tuesday Oct 7th 1884

Commenced to load up our wagons

Wednesday Oct 8th 1884

Still loading up. Attended a party in the evening got up as a farewell to me. Did not enjoy myself.

Thursday Oct 9th 1884

Started late in the afternoon, and drove as far as the mouth of the recapture and camped. My sisters Ida and May are with me and will travel with us until we meet Joe Neilsen Idas husband who is returning from Utah.

Monday Oct 13th 1884

Camped at Peters Ranch on the northeast of the Blue Mountains. Were overtaken today by bros Perkins, McKleprang and Bartons on their way to Iron Co. They left Bluff 2 days after we did.

Tuesday Oct 14th 1884

Rain most of the day. Got one wagon stuck in the mud and lost about half a day, so did not overtake the rest of the company.

Thursday Oct 16th 1884

Camped last night 14 miles from Grand Valley, at the forks of the road. Met J Neilsen this morning, and parted with Ida and May who go back to Bluff with him. Today Soren Neilsen tipped his wagon over but did not do much damage. Camped at night in the upper end of Grand Valey

Friday Oct 17th 1884

Drove down through Grand Valley to the ferry on Grand River where we overtook bros Perkins and company. Stayed all nith [sic] at Orlando Warners

[Saturday Oct 18th 1884](#)

Unloaded our wagons and took them to peices [sic] to ferry them over in a skiff, which took us until dark

[Wednesday Oct 22nd 1884](#)

Crossed Green River on a very good ferry, large enough to carry 4 horses and a wagon at once

[Saturday Oct 25th 1884](#)

Camped last night on Huntington Creek and today passed by Cottonwood Settlement and drove to Ferron where we camped

[Tuesday Oct 28th 1884](#)

Climbed the mountains all day, passed Sam Gibsons Ranch in the afternoon and camped on the summit or rim of the Basin.

[Wednesday Oct 29th 1884](#)

Drove down the mountain past Goosebery [sic] and Salina and camped in the bottom of the Seveir [sic] River

[Friday Oct 31st 1884](#)

Passed Round Valley Lake and drove to Seipio where we put up at Willis E Robisons, Delia's nephew

[Sunday Nov 2nd 1884](#)

Camped last night below Duggins Ranch and today drove into Oak Creek where we were welcomed by our folks all of whom were in good health

We have made the trip in very good time have had no mishaps of a serious nature, and have had good weather most of the way, and everything considered have had a very prosperous trip, for which I feel to thank my Father in Heaven.

All the Settlements through which I have passed show every indication of prosperity. Making a marked contrast to affair on the San Juan.

[Thursday Nov 6th 1884](#)

Took Delia and the children to Fillmore to visit her folks

[Monday Nov 10th 1884](#)

Returned to Oak Creek

[Tuesday Nov 11th 1884](#)

Joseph and I went to Leamington and put up at bro C Oversens, at the old place which used to be mine

[Wednesday Nov 12th 1884](#)

Got on train at 2 o'clock this morning and rode to Salt Lake where we arrived at 10 A M and were met by Annie and my brother Marion

[Sunday Nov 16th 1884](#)

Met Fred this morning just up from Oak Creek on his way to the Southern States on a mission

[Tuesday Nov 18th 1884](#)

This morning Jodie and Fred and I started south on the D & R G and went as far as Provo where we parted with Fred who went on east and in the evening we went on to Leamington and put up at bro Oversens

[Thursday Nov 20th 1884](#)

Came to Oak Creek yesterday, and today rode over the mount in to Scipio and stayed with W E Robison

[Saturday Nov 22nd 1884](#)

Came to Fillmore yesterday, and today attended the Stake Conference and had a good time

[Sunday Nov 23rd 1884](#)

Attended more conference meetings today and enjoyed myself very well

[Saturday Dec 20th 1884](#)

Delia has been gone to St George nearly 3 weeks with her mother and Brother to do some work in the Temple. Our 3 older children are here (Scipio) with Sister Lillas Robison. I think of locating here and will stay this winter on J V Robisons farm about a mile from town and in the mean time look for a suitable chance to buy a home. Went to Fillmore today expecting to meet Delia

[Wednesday Dec 24th](#)

Delia and the party got home last night all well and today we drove to Scipio over dreadful muddy road

[Tuesday Dec 30th 1884](#)

Moved down to the farm through a good deal of mud and snow, and began keeping house after a rest of nearly 3 months

[Sunday Jan 18th 1885](#)

Bishop Yates presented my recommend from Bluff and I was received into the Scipio Ward

[Monday Jan 26th 1885](#)

My brother Joseph and his wife came over from Oak Creek on a visit to us.

[Wednesday Jan 28th 1885](#)

Today I bought 10 acres of land and 5 acres of water for \$150.00 from Hans Eskalund

[Friday Jan 30th 1885](#)

Joseph and his wife went home today and I went afterwood [sic]. Yesterday I bought Josephs cattle which were left at bluff. 7 or 8 head.

[Sunday Feb 1st 1885](#)

Attended Sunday School and meeting and set apart as a Sunday School Teachers [sic], and was informed by Bp Yates tha [sic] had been selected to act as one of the Ward Teachers.

[Thursday Feb 19th 1885](#)

Bros F M Lyman and H. J. Grant held meeting here this evening, and gave much good instruction

[Sunday Feb 22nd 1885](#)

Today the Quarterly conference of this Stake closed in Fillmore having convened yesterday morning. We have had a very good time although the weather is quite stormy.

Bros F M Lyman, H. J. Grant & S. B. Young have been with us had given the people much good counsel

During the conference Bp Jos D Smith resigned as Bp of Fillmore as he is going on a mission to England in a few weeks. Thomas C. Callister was chosen as Bp with Alma Greenwood and James A Melville as his counsellors [sic], all of whom were unanimously sustained by vote of the people. I was chosen to fill a vacancy in the High Council.

[Tuesday Feb 24th 1885](#)

Yesterday the Mutual Improvement and Primary Associations and Relief Society held their Conferences all the meetings of which were very interesting and well attended. Today we returned to Scipio over wretchedly muddy roads, found all well at home.

I have made a homestead of 160 acres of land in this (Round) Valley

[Saturday March 14th 1885](#)

Went to Oak Creek to visit the folks, found all well as usual

[Tuesday March 17th 1885](#)

Spent yesterday and the day before in Oak Creek and returned home today.

[Monday March 30th 1885](#)

Today bought a place in Scipio (Round Valley) consisting of house granary and other improvements 3 lots, 20 acres of land and 22 ½ acres of water for \$800.00 in cash.

Today put in 5 acres on my own land, have got some grain sown, but much of the land is too wet to work on yet, although the weather is very pleasant. I hear from Fred occasionally he is in Mississippi in good health and enjoying his missionary labors.

[Friday April 3rd 1885](#)

Went over the mountains to Oak Creek on horseback and then on to Fool Creek and staid [sic] at Alvin Ropers, had a very heavy rain storm today.

[1885-94]

[Saturday April 4th 1885](#)

Drove some cows to Round Valley, had another heavy rain storm. Joseph came over after grain

[Sunday April 5th 1885](#)

Helped Jodie to load his wagon and saw him started for Oak Creek. More rain

[Sunday April 9th 1885](#)

Went to Fillmore to see Uncle Partridge who has just returned from a mission of almost three years to the Sandwich Island, found him well

[Friday April 10th 1885](#)

Had a good visit with Uncle Edward and then returned home. There has been so much rain and much of the ground is so wet that we are getting in very little crop.

Saturday April 18th 1885

Paid Br Clousen the Cash (\$800.00) for his place and received the deeds for the same. He intends to start for the east in a couple of days, and identify himself with the "Josephite" faction

Sunday April 19th 1885

Uncle Edward came in last night from Fillmore on his way to Salt Lake, and stayed over today and spoke to the Sunday School and meeting

Monday April 20th 1885

Clousens folks went to Juab today where they will board the train for Omaha. It has snowed nearly all day, and is quite muddy underfoot.

Wednesday April 22nd 1885

Snow has fallen more or less all day, but Uncle E and I have taken most of my things up to my house. We all stayed over night at Sister Lillas Robisons. She and her folks have all been very kind to us since we came in from San Juan

Thursday April 23rd 1885

This morning Uncle E. went on to Juab from where he will go on to Salt Lake by train this afternoon.

I took my family and the rest of my effects up to my place and took possession of the house
The weather is still squally, and the ground so wet that no planting can be done

Thursday May 7th 1885

Finished putting in small grain. There is still considerable rain, nearly every day, grass and all kind of crops are looking very well. The prospect of a fruit crop is very good.

Friday May 8th 1885

This evening a meeting was held here to ratify the action of the Mass meeting in Salt Lake and express our sentiments with regard to the course of the Government toward us as a people. The meeting went off very well and bro Thomas Memmott and I were elected to represent this place at the Mass meeting in Fillmore

Sunday May 10th 1885

Yesterday bro Memmott (Mermnolt) and I went to Fillmore and attended meeting where we had a good time This morning we attended Sunday School in Fillmore and then drove to Holden and went to meeting and spoke to the Saints and then drove on home to Scipio.

Sunday May 24th 1885

Yesterday and today attended the conference of the Willard Stake, had a very good time.

Monday May 25th 1885

Drove home to Scipio and met Ole Jensen who started with me to San Juan, nearly 6 years ago. He comes now from Castle Valley and in on his way to Idaho. Within the last few days frost has entirely destroyed the apple crop in this valley.

Saturday June 13th 1885

Delia and I went with bro Daniel Thompson to Deseret where we met Apostles F M Lyman and J H Smith and a number of grethren [sic] from other parts of the county. Put up at bro M. M. Bishops

Sunday June 14th 1885

Attended two meetings, and was called on to speak [sic]. Had much good instruction from the brethren, and a very good time generally

Monday June 15th 1885

Drove to Oak Creek after attending one meeting this morning, found our folks all well.

Tuesday June 16th 1885

Attended two meetings at which we received much good instruction from the Apostles.

Wednesday June 17th 1885

Returned to Scipio in company with bros Thompson and Yates, found all well at home

Thursday July 2nd 1885

In company with bros D. Thompson and J. A. Vance I went to Fillmore as a Delegate to the Legislature and some county officers. Wm H King was nominated as Representative from this county to the Territorial Legislature

Saturday July 18th 1885

Bros J. B. Martin and I started to visit Leamington as Home Missionaries, and went as far as Fool Creek Flat and put up with Bp L E Christensen

Sunday July 19th 1885

Drove down to Leamington and attended Sunday School and meeting at which we both spoke. After meeting by request I blessed an infant child of Geo Morrison. He was cut off the church for adultery, by the High Council on the 24th of May last. His wife is still a member of the church.

In the evening we drove over to Oak Creek and put up at Aunt Carolines.

Found all as well as usual. Mother is away on a visit to Salt Lake

Monday July 20th 1885

Drove home and found the folks all well

Friday July 24th 1885

The people had made all preparations to celebrate this day, but learning of the death of General Grant which occurred yesterday morning, suspended all operations on that account.

Saturday July 25th 1885

Bro J. B. Martin and I went to Fillmore and attended a session of the High Council which lasted until 11 o'clock at night, settling a difficulty between Bp Black and two members of his ward, and between F. [copy unreadable] Robison and Edward Trimble

Sunday July 26th 1885

Attended Sunday School and meeting in Fillmore and listened to very instructive discourse by Bro K. G. Maeser of the B Y Academy of Provo

Monday July 27th 1885

Went as far as Holden with bro Martin and stopped there to meeting and heard bro Maeser preach and then rode with him to Scipio where he held meeting in the evening.

Saturday August 1st 1885

During the last three days, have made a trip to Lyman Brothers saw mill in Fool Creek for lumber

Saturday Aug 8th 1885

During the week have made another trip to the Saw Mill have had some quite heavy rain which has done some damage to crops, destroying entirely 5 acres of wheat for me

Saturday Aug 15th 1885

During the week have cut a part of my second crop of lucern [sic] and today went to Oak Creek as a Home Missionary taking my little boy Albert with me. Found all well.

Sunday August 16th 1885

Attended Sunday School and meeting both of which were well attended and at both of which I spoke and had a good time.

Monday Aug 17th 1885

Returned home today with a load of shingles. The weather is very hot and the sand on the road is very bad. Just as I reached home, one of bro W. E. Robisons children a little girl about 4 years old was being buried, having died early this morning of croup

Saturday Aug 22nd 1885

Have been hauling and stocking hay and wheat most of the week, and today went to Conference at Holden leaving my little boy rather sick at home.

Attended 3 meetings in the new brick meeting house and had a good time. Apostle J E. Smith was present and there was a fair representation from all the wards in the stake. During the afternoon and evening we had an unusually heavy rain storm. I put up at bro B J Stringhams

Sunday Aug 23rd 1885

Still somewhat rainy. At the opening of the meeting this morning. Apostle Smith offered the dedicatory prayer. Two meetings were held today both very interesting and well attended. Conference then adjourned for 3 months. I returned in the evening and found the little boy still ailing. The balance of the family are well as usual.

Sunday Sep 6th 1885

Our little boy has been quite low with fever but is now mending and in a fair way to recover, for which our thanks are given to our Father in Heaven for it is his power alone that has saved him.

We have got all of our grain and most of our lucern [sic] cut but have got about 10 days hauling to do yet. Most of the crops in this valley are first class.

Most of the crops in this valley are first class [sic]. Two threshing machines are running and everybody is busy. The weather is somewhat cooler than of late and we have some wind and occasional squalls of rain, which make it rather unpleasant handling hay and wheat.

Friday Sep 11th 885

Rain fell in the valley this morning and snow fell on the mountains, but most of it disappeared before night.

Saturday Sep 12th 1885

Cut my corn which has matured very well. We have had no frost yet but are threatend [sic] occasionally with it. Although the weather seems now to be pretty well settled.

[Saturday Oct 17th 1885](#)

Bro Daniel Thompson and I went to Oak Creek, most of the way in a rain. Met Apostles E Snow, [copy unreadable] Lyman and H J Grant, and Uncle Edward Partridge

[Sunday Oct 18th 1885](#)

Attended three good meetings today, at the first of which bro Snow spoke, after which he went on to Holden to hold meeting, and the rest of the brethren stayed in Oak Creek where all had a very enjoyable time

[Monday Oct 19th 1885](#)

Returned to Scipio and took Mother with me, found the folks all well at home. Attended meeting in the evening and heard bro Snow preach

[Saturday Oct 24th 1885](#)

Have been threshing part of the week. This evening J A Lyman & Jos. Andersen came in from Oak Creek as Home Missionaries and put up at my place. Attended an infidel lecture in the School house.

[Monday Oct 26th 1885](#)

Mother went home with Jodie today

[Tuesday Nov 10th 1885](#)

Finished threshing had 525 bushells [sic] of grain, and would have had more but was damaged by storms during the summer.

[Saturday Nov 14th 1885](#)

Went to Oak Creek yesterday with a load of potatoes and returned to day [sic] with a load of lumber

Some snow has fallen during the past week but at present the weather is very pleasant

[Sunday Nov 15th 1885](#)

I learned today that Apostle Albert Carrington is cut off from the Church for adultery. This reminds me that ten years ago when I was on the sea on my second mission to England James Sharp (now Mayor of Salt Lake City) told me that bro Carrington had committed himself with a woman but I thought he was talking wild.

[Sunday Nov 22nd 1885](#)

Yesterday and today attended the quarterly conference at Fillmore. Has [sic] a moderately good time.

[Saturday Dec 19th 1885](#)

Went to Kanosh as a home missionary with bro W.E. Robison, and put up at Bro Jas Abrahams.

[Sunday Dec 20th 1885](#)

Attended Sunday School and 2 meetings all of which were well attended, and had a good time. Had a visit with Bp Kimball who has been sick for more than a year, but is mending slowly and has a prospect of recovery

[Monday Dec 21st 1885](#)

Returned home, had a little rain in the evening

[Wednesday Dec 30th 1885](#)

Plowed part of last week and this and finished today. There has been a little snow and rain and frost but not to amount to much. The ground is bare now and there is very little mud.

[Friday Jan 1st 1886](#)

The weather is quite cold and the ground is froze up solid. There is about 1 inch of snow on the ground.

[Monday Jan 18th 1886](#)

Have just had a 2 days snow storm which leaves about 15 inches of snow on the ground. Today we have had a pretty general rabbit hunt and a good many of the little pests were killed.

[Thursday Jan 21st 1886](#)

Went to Fillmore today with bros D. Thompson & Yates and met with the Presidency, High Council [sic] and Bishops of this stake and assisted to organize the "Church Association of Millard Stake" for the purpose of securing the church property from our enemies.

[Saturday Jan 23rd 1886](#)

Attended 2 meetings yesterday considering matters connected with this Stake, and returned home today. The snow is almost entirely gone, and the loads are quite soft.

[Friday Jan 29th 1886](#)

This evening Uncle Edward came in from Fillmore on his way to Provo, having left his wagon between here and Holden on account of the muddy roads.

[Saturday Jan 30th 1886](#)

Took my team and went back with Uncle after his wagon

[Tuesday Feb 2nd 886](#)

Uncle Edward spoke to us in meeting on Sunday last and layed over yesterday on account of the rain and today I helped him with my team as far as Chicken Creek where we camped for the night
The roads are fearfully bad.

[Wednesday Feb 3rd 1886](#)

Helped Uncle up to just where he shipped most of his load on the cars for Provo, and went on with his team and wagon and I returned home.

[Saturday Feb 6th 1886](#)

Yesterday I came to Oak Creek and stayed over night and found our folks well as usual, and today I went to Deseret to fill a home missionary appointment and met Bros Thos Memmott and W E Robison who have been traveling through a part of the county visiting the Seventies. I attended a meeting of the Young Mens Improvement Association in the evening and stayed wiht [sic] bro J F Gibbs

Sunday Feb 7th 1886

Attended Sunday School and 2 meetings today at which bros J. S. Gyles, Thos Memmott, F. F., W.E. & J L Robison and I spoke. The people turned out well and we had a good time.

Tuesday Feb 9th 1886

Came to Oak Creek yesterday with bros Memmott and W. E. Robison and stayed all night, and today drove to Scipio and found all as well as usual.

Wednesday Feb 10th 1886

Yesterday evening our dam at the Lake broke and this morning a large force of men with teams went up to repair the damage. We found the head gate and flume entirely gone and a gap about 35 feet wide washed in the dam through which a stream of water larger than the Seveir [sic] was rushing with frightful velocity

Thursday Feb 11th 1886

We succeeded today in checking the water after it had run for 36 hours and towards evening had it pretty well under control.

Saturday Feb 13th 1886

We have got the dam pretty well secured and all hands went home today

Sunday Feb 14th 1886

Attended Sabbath School in the forenoon and spoke on the Sacrament. Also meeting in the afternoon and in the evening I spoke by request on the coming [sic] forth of the Latter Day work, the house was well filled and all paid good attention.

Monday Feb 15th 1886

Heard today of the arrest of Prest Geo C Cannon at Humbolt, Nevada by Federal Officers.

I have been into the feild [sic] today to see what damage was done by the water, hundreds of acres of land are under water, much of which was plowed and would have been sown in a few days much damage has been done by land being cut up by the water running over it, and considerable fencing is washed down and floated away.

We have still all the water in the Lake we will need for irrigation this season.

Friday Feb 19th 1886

Have been hauling manure so far this week, and today drove to Fillmore in the forenoon, and in the afternoon met with the High Council and heard two trifling cases of damage by Stock, between Ed Trimble and John Call and Bp Thos Callister and also the confession of Soren Christensen guilty of adultery, who was by unanimous vote of the council cut off from the Church

Sunday Feb 21st 1886

Yesterday and today attended the Stake Conference and had a good time, the weather is pleasant and the roads are dry and good, and the people have turned out well to all the meetings. Mother came to Fillmore but has been quite sick all the time and not able to attend meetings

Monday Feb 22nd 1886

Drove to Scipio and found everything as well as usual and some of the people at work putting in grain

Sunday Feb 28th 1886

For a few days past the weather has been and still is quite cold with occasional snow squalls which however amount to very little

Tuesday March 2nd 1886

About 3 o'clock this morning my Brother Walter came in from Oak Creek to tell me that Mother who has been sick ever since conference is much worse I immediately started on horse back over the mountain, and reached Oak Creek at 9 A M. and found that Mother had died at 5 minutes to 3, or about the time Walter reached my house. She has never been a strong woman since I can recollect and has had much poor health. The complaint of which she died was I think Pneumonia or congestion of the lungs. She would have been 66 years old if she had lived until the 20th of next April. She had been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints from her childhood and had reared her children in that and had herself obeyed ever [sic] law and order of the church so far as the privilege had been given her to do so. She was a kind and affectionate Mother, very solicitous for the welfare of her children and esteeming nothing which she could do for their comfort or happiness a hardship or a sacrifice. May she rest in peace until the Saints of God are called forth in the morning of the first resurrection [sic] in which she will surely have a part.

Mother was buried on the 3rd (Wednesday) in the Oak Creek Cemetery beside my 3 children and my sister Carlie.

BPs Yates (of Scipio) and Anderson (of Oak Creek) spoke at the funeral which was attended by most of the people in the settlement.

Thursday March 4th 1886

Returned home (Scipio) part of the way in a snow storm. We have more or less snow nearly every day.

Saturday March 13th 1886

The weather is still quite unsettled, and I have worked at Joiner work in the house all the week. Today Alvin Roper and my sister Martha (his wife) went to Oak Creek they have been here on a visit since last Tuesday.

Saturday March 20th 1886

Finished up my work in the house. Have made a flour box, cupboard and book case, and some other little things, the weather is some better.

Thursday March 25th 1886

Commenced to sow wheat. The weather is quite pleasant but rather cold.

Saturday March 27th 1886

A very cold day. Rode to Fillmore in the afternoon and attended a meeting of the Y. M. I. A. of the county

Sunday March 28th 1886

Attended 2 meetings of the Young Mens Conference and had a very good time.

Monday March 29th 1886

Went to Fillmore to attend a High Council meeting and took Delia and 2 of the children with me.

[Monday April 19th 1886](#)

Snow has fallen almost constantly since Saturday night and has melted so that the ground is quite muddy. Drove home and found the road dry and dusty in Round Valley.

[Wednesday April 21st 1886](#)

Finished sowing wheat, have 18 acres in

[Monday April 26th 1886](#)

Went to Saline to get a cow of mine that had got in the Stray [copy unreadable]. Stayed at bro Gates

[Tuesday April 27th 1886](#)

Sold my cow and returned home, and shortly after my bro Joseph and his family and my sister Lucy came in from Oak Creek on a visit

[Friday April 30th 1886](#)

Jodie went home leaving Lucy who will stay with us for a while

[Saturday May 8th 1886](#)

Finished sowing oats. Have been clearing new land most of the time for the past six weeks. The weather is very dry and the wind blows nearly every day.

[July 1st 1886](#)

Lucy has gone back to Bluff. The rabbits are destroying many acres of grain in this valley and in other parts of the county. I have lost all that I put in on new land (17 acres) from rabbits, lack of water in time and failure to fence.

[Wednesday Sept 15th 1886](#)

Had my grain threshed today, had 440 bushels good grain The season has been very dry with the exception of about 2 weeks in August when it rained almost incessantly for several days and done [sic] considerable damage to hay and grain, and in some parts to the Kanyon [sic] roads grain crops in this valley are much lighter than last season. May has come in from Bluff on a visit.

[Monday Sep 27th 1886](#)

There is considerable sickness here (fever) among both children and grown people, and there have been lately quite a number of deaths mostly children

I am making arrangements to go out to San Juan this winter with a herd of beef steers which I have bought on time from Almon Robison. We have raised a fair crop of apples and plums and a few peaches in this place

[Nov 1886](#)

Bp Yates and I have bought a bunch of stock cattle of Mr. Webber and in the early part of this month started for San Juan in company with other parties who are hunting range for their stock. When we left Scipio our company consisted of Daniel Thompson, Thos Yates, Henry Thompson, Wilmer Thompson, Wm Partridge, James Johnson, Chas Walsh, Jos A Lyman, Esdras Martin, Stephen Martin and myself.

We were joined in Rabbit Valley by bro L H Redd Jr. We have a little over 1000 head of cattle about 40 horses and 2 wagons. Delia has a fine boy born on the 11th of Oct who we have named Edward Partridge

Jan 4th 1887

I arrived in Bluff today alone having left the company on the Colorado river Bro Thompson located his stock on Fells Creek on the west side of the river and Bro Yates located his steers with my cattle which I put on my old ranch at the Lake

Nov 1890

We have a little girl named Caroline born May 15th of this year. Since 4 years ago I have spent my time looking after my stock in San Juan and in going back and forth to Scipio where all my family are with the exception of Annie who has been in Bluff for some time.

At the Quarterly Conference of the San Juan Stake of Zion held at Mancos in Colorado on the day of this month I was sustained as 2nd counsellor [sic] to Prest F A Hammond, and was set apart to that office by Apostly F M Lyman.

After this conference Prest Hammong [sic] his 1st counsellor [sic] Wm Halls and I visited all the wards and branched in the Stake as follows. La Plate and Burnham in New Mexico and Bluff, Moab and Monticello in Utah

March 1891

During the winter I went from Bluff to Scipio (my 10th trip over the road since Nov 1886) and sold my place there Chas E. Petersen for \$1100.00 and about the 26th inst started with my family and effects in 2 wagons for Bluff going by way of Rabbit Valley and Dandy Crossing

April 18th 1891

Reached Bluff today all well. Have had more or less snow and rain on the trip. And have pulled through 4 feet of snow and 2 feet of mud in place, besides a great deal of heavy sand.

March 1892

Took Wayne H. Redd in with me to help me take care of my cattle, as I have about 700 or 800 or my own and belonging to other parties which I have on shares

March 1896 [sic]

During the winter we have been in the midst of a mining boom caused by the reported discovery of gold on the San Juan river about 100 miles below here. But the reports have been greatly exaggerated or entirely without foundation, and as a consequence the country is full of disappointed and disgusted men many of them in destitute circumstances.

In company with Bros Benson Hanson and Benjamin and Hyrum Perkins I have spent some time in digging for relics in the old ruins and cliff dwellings which about everywhere in this country, and have made a very good collection of mummies skulls, stone and bone implements, and a great variety of other articles including corn, cotton, beans, squash seed, pottery and basket work. All of which we have loaned to the worlds Fair for the Season.

April 1893

Attended the general conference of the church in Salt Lake City and also the dedication of the temple. At which we had a most enjoyable time. Delia and Annie were both present the former having come in from Bluff ahead of me to visit her mother and relatives in Fillmore, and the latter is attending School in Salt Lake.

July 1893

We have spent between two and three months in gathering and driving steers which we have sold to B. F. Saunders and have delivered in Montrose and vicinity in Colorado.

August 1893

Attended Stake conference in Monticello. I should have mentined [sic] that in Feb of this year, O. C. Roberts of La Plata was excommunicated from the church by the High Council of this Stake of Zion for not complying with a decision of Apostles B Young and John E Smith. As Prests Hammond and Halls were both directly or indirectly interested in the case, I presided alone over the council and was very thankful when the council unanimously sustained my decision. The decision of the Apostles was given 5 years before the action of the council.

Oct 16th 1893

Today my brother Jos. A. and his family started for their home in Oak Creek having spent about 6 weeks visiting us at Bluff. We have had a good time

Nov 1893

During the latter part of the last month and the early part of the present I made two trips to Cortez in Colorado for flour and potatoes, and about the middle of the month I went to Monticello where I met Prests Hammond and Halls and Apostle B. Young and Elders R.S. Watson and Andrew Jenson. The last named is travelling [sic] in the interest of church history and goes from here to Bluff. While the rest of the party went to Mancos where we held conference and from there continued our Journey down the La Plata to Jackson in New Mexico where we held meeting and then went on to Fruitland where we met Bro Jensen and Bro Edwards who had brought him from Bluff. We tarried here several days and held meetings and reorganized or completed the Bishopric by choosing Walter Stevens as 1st and John H. Young as 2nd counsellor [sic] to Bp L. C. Burnham. From here Bros Young and Watson will go to old Mexico. Bro Jensen to Manassa [sic] [copy unreadable] Mancos, and Bro Edwards and I returned to Bluff. arriving there in two and a half days and found all as well as usual. My trip has occupied 16 days

Jan 13th 1894

With some of the brethren have spent the past ten days digging for cliff dwellers relics with poor success.

Today I was chosen by the people of Bluff to visit Salt Lake and wait on the Legislature now is session and if possible defeat the passage of a bill giving to Grand Co on our north one third of our county and about the same proportion of the county revenue.

Jan 15th 1894

Started for Salt Lake in company with Nephi Bailey of Monticello

1894 Jan

I reached Salt Lake on Jan 20th having travelled [sic] by team to Thompsons Springs where I got on the train at 4 A M and reached Salt Lake about noon. The following monday [sic] I visited the Legislature and made the acquaintance of several members and learned the statue of the San Juan Co division bill.

I have been before the Committee on counties and have waited until the bill was killed in the house and have turned our collection of relics that was loaned to the worlds Fair over to the Deseret Museum to whom we sold it last summer

The 26th of this month I went with Bro Marion to Ogden where we visited Nathan Farmer Jr. also our bro Edward and his family and called on Father Bailey whom I knew in London 25 year [sic] ago We then took the train for Logan where Bro Marion got off, and I went on to Smithfield and staid [sic] at Bro Jonah Clarkes [Annies Father] until Sunday noon the 28th and I went to Logan with Bp Ferrel and attended Stake Conference and on the morning of the 30th returned to Salt Lake City

Feb 6th 1894

Went to Leamington by train and then to Oak Creek by wagon where I spent the 7th and on the 8th went to Fillmore and stayed over the 9th and returned to Oak creek where I spent Sunday the 11th and spoke to the Saints.

Spent the 12th in Oak Creek and on the 13th went to Provo where I was met by Uncle Edward Partridge with whom I stayed over night.

Feb 14th 1894

Spent the day with Uncle Edward in visiting the Acadamy [sic] and friends in Provo and in the evening at 10:34 I got on the train for Thompsons which I reached about 5:00 o'clock the next morning.

Feb 18th 1894

Reached Monticello last night, after a cold ride from the Railroad and having encountered bad snow from the Peters Hill. Attended Sabbath School and meeting at both of which I spoke to the Saints. After which I rode over to South with Willard Butts and attended a very interesting meeting of the improvement associations at his house.

Feb 19th 1894

Willard furnished me a horse and I rode to Bluff much of the way through deep snow my folks as well as usual.

Platte D. Lyman Journal
October 11, 1898 — March 10, 1901
President of the European Mission

This is a copy of the journal of Platte D. Lyman which was in the possession of Mr. Alfred Lyman, Postmaster at Blanding, Utah.

This copy was completed January 22, 1937, by Bernice McKinnon of the Historical Records Survey Project of the Works Progress Administration at Ogden, Utah.

The original spelling and punctuation have been followed.

Occasionally the words are not decipherable and an interpretation of the word or phrase has been inserted in parentheses by the copyist.

The page numbers of the original journal are placed in parentheses. The pages in the copy of the Journal are numbered from 1 to 165.

This diary embraces the period from October 11, 1898 to March 8, 1901.

This is the third of three journals kept by Mr. Lyman that were permitted to be copied. One journal covers the period from October, 1875 to December, 1879, and another journal covers the period from December, 1879 to 1894.

The originals were returned to Mr. Alfred Lyman.

The original journal is written in a heavy cardboard book, leather trimmed, with heavy lined paper. The book measures 7 inches wide by 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. The book is in excellent condition, and was purchased in England.

The journal is written in ink in the man's own handwriting and the pages are numbered from 1 to 272.

[Bluff Oct 11th 1898](#)

Received from the Presidency of the Church a letter notifying me that on the 5th inst I was appointed to succeed Elder Rolun Wells as President of the European Mission. And asking when I would be ready to leave Salt Lake City.

By the same mail I received a letter from Brother Franis (Francis) [copy unreadable] stating that Bro [copy unreadable] and Bro Henry [copy unreadable] Naisbitt would be my counsellors [sic] also informing me that I was expected to reach Liverpool as soon as possible. Bro Marion said that the unanimity of the Brethren and the inspiration that accompanied their action left no doubt in their minds that it was the will of the Lord. This is a great comfort and I trust will be a support to me, for I feel very keenly my incompetence [sic] and lack of ability to successfully perform the duties of this office which was for so many years filled by none but Apostles. However I am willing to do my part to the best of my ability, and having the confidence and support of my brethren who preside over me. I hope to have that assistance from my Father in Heaven which I so sorely need, and which he alone can give. By the next mail, I answered President Snow that I would be in Salt Lake on the 27th inst. and be ready to start of the 31st.

Bluff Thurs Oct 20th 1898

I do not know if it is possible for an Elder to "get ready" to go on a mission. I have filled two foreign missions, and certainly did not "get ready" for either one of them but went at the appointed time without being able to arrange affair [sic] at home satisfactorily. It is somewhat the same now. I had not a dollar in my pocket when I was called, but I have done what I could (and it is very little) towards fixing up things about home, And have borrowed Two hundred dollars from Bro Neilson with which to pay my expenses. And at noon to day [sic] I started for Salt Lake, in company with Bro Hyrum Perkins, and my nephew Joseph P. Callister We drove 20 miles and camped for the night. It seemed to me almost brutal to leave my family weeping, and I evince so little feeling, but it would not do for me to give way to my emotions, for we must part, and I must set my face like flint and say "good bye" as though I had no affection for them

Friday, Oct 21st 1898

Drove 25 miles to Verdure and took dinner with Bro Geo Adams, and then drove to Monticello and put up with Bro Sam Wood.

To day [sic] I met Bro Wayne H. Redd returning from a mission in the Southern States. I had but a few minutes to visit with him, but could see that he is full of the spirit of his mission and I have no doubt he has done a good work. He is a fine young man.

Monticello, Saturday Oct 22^d 1898

Met several of the Bluff people returning from conference in Salt Lake, among them my Son in law Hanson Bayles to whom I leased my sheep for 3 years, at 20% per annum. Secured passage with bro C. H. Christensen and drove to Hatch Wash and camped.

Sunday, Oct 23^d 1898

Drove to Kane Springs for dinner and from there rode to Moab with Mr J. M. Cunningham, and put up at the Maxwell House Kept [sic] by Bro John Baily, who charged me nothing for my accommodations

Moab Monday Oct 24th 1898

Started at 4:30 AM with the stage for Thompson, where I got on the train at 1 p.m. for Provo, which was reached at 8 p.m. Uncle Edward Partridge met me at the Station and took me home with him.

Provo, Tuesday Oct 25th 1898

Went with Uncle Edward on to Provo Bench and visited his farms. In the evening I met my Bro Joseph A. who had come up to see me. And with him I visited our young people who are here attending the Academy. Also visited our cousin Jos D C Young.

Provo, Wednesday, Oct 26th 1898

Joseph and I went to Salt Lake this morning and were met at the depot by our brother Marion, who had a team and buggy, and took me with him over a great part of the City, and valley, visiting with each other and our relatives and friends. Joe and I stayed over night with my Cousin Mrs. Harriet Kimball. Learned from Bro Spence that the missionaries would not sail before, Nov 12th from New York.

Salt Lake City, Thursday Oct 27th 1898

Joe and I visited Aunt Emily Young at Liberty Park, And in the evening Bro Marion and I visited Bro David, S. Emery who is very sick. Afterwards we called on some of our relations. Joe and I stayed at Sister Kimballs

[Salt Lake City, Friday Oct 28th 1898](#)

Joseph and I started for Oak Creek at 7:30 a.m. Learnington at 3 p.m. Took dinner with my Sister Martha Roper, who took us over to Oak Creek in the evening. Found our folds there well, with the exception of Walkers oldest boy Clisbee, who is quite sick with heart disease. Slept at my brother Freds.

[Oak Creek Saturday Oct 29th 1898](#)

Spent the day visiting my relations.

[Oak Creek Oct 30th \[sic\] Sunday 1898](#)

Attended Sunday School, and two meetings and spoke twice, although, I have a bad cold, and am quite hoarse.

[Oak Creek, Monday Oct 31st 1898](#)

Visited the folks, And blessed Jodie and Nellies twins, and named them. Amasa, De and Eliza. Rain fell during the night.

[Oak Creek Tuesday Nov 1st 1898](#)

Fred, Ann, Joseph and Walter went with them to Learnington where I bid them and Martha and her family and other friends of mine goodbye, and went on to Salt Lake. Reaching there in the eveing. Stayed at Hatties

[Salt Lake City, Wed Nov 2d 1898](#)

Visited Aunt Emily, And [sic] called at the Presidents office and received some instructions from the brethren, relative to my mission

[Salt Lake City Thursday Nov 3d 1898](#)

Secured to R. R. ticket. Bought a watch and some other things and wrote letters home.

[Salt Lake City Friday Nov 4th 1898](#)

Dr Fred Clawson filled a tooth for me, and charged me nothing as I was a missionary. AT 1-15 p.m. [sic] I was set apart and blessed for my mission under the hands of Apostles Young & Lyman, and Pres Snow, the latter being mouth. The brethren have all treated me with the greatest Kindness [sic], and have expressed so many good wishes for me that I feel quite encouraged. In the afternoon 14 Elders (12 of them for Europe) met at the Temple Annex and were blessed and instructed for their missions, by Apostles Lyman and Grant, and Pres Jonathan O. Kimball

If the missionaries can but Keep [sic] in mind and live up to the teachings they have received this day, their success is assured.

In the evening I attended a grand republican rally in the Theatre. After which I wrote some letters, packed my valise and went to bed, after Midnight. Following is a list of cash gifts from my friends which with other favors received enabled me to return to Bluff \$100.00 of the money borrowed from Bro Neilsen.

Peter Allan	" 75	H J Nelisen	3.00
W H Redd	2.00	Wm Adams	1.50
L Brunson	1.00	H Perkins	2.50
J. S. Decker	5.00	Geo Adams	2.50
Aunt Caroline	"50	W. C. Lyman	5.00
Jos A Lyman	5.00	F. R. Lyman	3.00

I feel very thankful for these and all other favors I have received and pray the Lord to reward the donors for their Kindness [sic] to me

Salt Lake City, Nov 5th Saturday 1898

Rose at 5.30 [sic] and started at 7 AM changed at Ogden on the U. P. R. R. Bro Naisbett joined us here. There are now 9 Elders in our company with Mrs. Susan Duerden who is on a visit to England. Night found us in a very desolate and uninviting part of the State of Wyoming.

Julesburg, Sunday Nov 6th 1898

Daylight found us in the N.E. corner of Colorado and at Sundown we were at Omaha where we crossed the Missouri river, on the east side of which we passed a railroad wreck. About dark we left Council Bluffs for Chicago on the C & N.W.

Chicago Monday Nov 7th 1898

Reached Chicago at 7.45 [sic] A.M. and changed cars for the first time since leaving Ogden. Secured tickets over the B & C. and resumed our Journey at 10.25 [sic] A. M. Rode nearly all the day in the state of Indiana and passed North Baltic in the State of Ohio just about Sundown. About 3 in the evening, as we were pulling out of Mt. Vernon Station, Ohio, The engine of our train for some unexplicable [sic] reason ran off the track and was capsized, hurting the engineer Seriously. We were detained 2 hours waiting for another engine.

Tuesday Nov 8th 1898

Rode through a corner of West Virginia, and passed Terra Alta on the summit of the Alleghenies 3000 ft above sea level and followed down the Potomac a good many miles. Passed Harpers Ferry and reached Washington at 2 p.m. Found good home-like quarters at Mrs. Bradleys 227 1st St. NW. Received a telegram from Bro Spence saying the ship will not sail from New York as we had understood but that one belonging to the same company will leave Philadelphia on the 12th. In the evening we visited the National Library which I think is the finest building I ever saw.

Washington Wed Nov 9th 1898

Went to Philadelphia (150 miles) and arranged for the passage of our party to Liverpool on the S S "Adria". Returned to Washington and in the evening done some writing.

Washington Thurs. Nov 10th 1898

Visited the White House, Corcoran Art Gallery Washington Monument, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, National Museum, American Museum, and Smithsonian Institute.

Washington Friday Nov 11th 1898

Visited the Capitol and the Navy Yard, and at 1.15 [sic] pm, Our party started for Philadelphia (p. 10) where we arrived at 4.35 [sic], Met Severin Neilsen who belongs to our party and left Salt Lake 2 days after we did. We had expected to go right on the steamer but she is not yet ready. So we put up at Greens Hotel in Chestnut St.

Philadelphia, Sat Nov 12th 1898

Done some business, and looked over the "Adria". The shipping agent paid us one dollar each for the time we were compelled to wait for the steamer.

I visited Independence Hall and saw the old cracked Liberty Bell.

Also went through the immense dry goods and notions establishment of John [copy unreadable, anmaker?], where there are 5000 clerks and sales people employed and where there must be at least 20000 or 25000 visitors and customers, all the time In the evening we went on board the steamer our accommodations seem to be very good The officers and crew are almost entirely Germans [sic].

Our party is as follows (4 having joined us at Chicago) Platte D. Lyman, Henry W. Naisbett, Severin Neilsen, August Mineer S. B. Tenney, Oluf Larson. F. M. Zarbock, Joe Holland, Jos C. Poulsen. Andrew Fuhriman, John C Neilsen, Chas. D. Ahlstrom, John A. Blomquist, John A. Pearson and Mrs. Susan Duerdon.

Philadelphia Sunday, Nov 13th 1898.

This morning the Stevedores finished loading the Ship at 12 minutes to 9 we were towed out into the river and started down the Delaware river. The sky is cloudy and the air is cold with sharp breeze blowing in our faces. The Pilot left us just before dark. We are now out of sight of land, and there is a light rain falling. I posted 2 letters for home this morning and sent one to Eva to be posted by the Pilot.

At sea Monday Nov 14th 1898

Rested well last night. We have good commodious rooms, and good provisions, and all of our accomodations [sic] are good, and everything is convenient The morning is cloudy and the sea is smooth.

At sea Tuesday Nov 15th 1898

There is a strong north wind, which makes the air cold and the sea a little rough. Several of our company are touched with seasickness. Today we saw two steamers and one sailing vessel going west one steamer going east.

At Sea, Wed. Nov 16th 1898

A fine day and our sick are mending

At Sea Thurs. Nov 17th 1898

Another fine day. But rather cold with a northeast wind. Saw 2 Steamer [sic] at a distance.

At Sea Friday Nov 18th 1898

Clear and cold, with a north wind.

At Sea, Sat. Nov 19th 1898

The wind is almost due east. The air is not so cold, and the sea is quite smooth.

At 6 p.m. the steamer St. Louis passed us going east and was soon out of sight.

At Sea, Sunday Nov 20th 1898

Saw 6 steamers. We held no religious services today as we have no suitable place and no singers.

At Sea, Monday Nov 21st 1898

Three steamers were in sight at daylight, and Soon after breakfast we saw a whale about 75 ft long

At Sea Tuesday Nov 22^d 1898

Cloudy in the morning, and wind steadily rising. During the afternoon the sea became very rough, and the Sailors lashed [sic] everything more securely than before. They are evidently expecting a storm.

[At Sea, Wed. Nov 23d 1898](#)

The ship rolled so that sleep was almost impossible last night. The waves are 25 or 30 ft. high. The upper or "poop" deck dipped the water frequently and the spray flies ever the whole ship like a storm of rein. All passengers are kept below and about half of our number are dreadfully seasick.

[At Sea Thursday Nov 24th 1898](#)

"Thanksgiving Day" at home. The storm does not abate, But we have been on deck some to day [sic] as it is intolerable to stay below all the time. It is impossible to walk, or stand, or even sit down anywhere on the ship without something solid to hold to. Some of the Elders still very sick have not been out of bed since the commencemnt [sic] of the storm.

[At Sea Friday Nov 25th 1898](#)

The storm continues as bad as ever, And in every direction, the view resembles very much a "blizzard" snow storm in the tops of the mountains. The flying spray from the breaking crests of the waves looking just like the drifting snow in a furious winter storm. The worst of our sick still keep in bed, without the nerve to get out.

[Off the Irish Coast, Sat. Nov 26th 1898](#)

When I woke this morning, my first sensation was that we were in smooth water, for which I am truly thankful. We have had morning and evening prayers throughout the voyage and during the storm we have asked that we might be preserved from destruction and the Lord has mercifully answered our prayers. We are all happy this morning, even our sick folks are all out on deck and we are truly thankful to the Lord for his deliverance. The sea is smooth and the vessel is going as smoothly as possible. We are now within 3 miles of the Irish coast. At noon we stopped at the mouth of Queenstown Harbor, where we were met by a tender that brought us a Pilot, and took off some steerage passengers, and some letters which we are sending home. During the afternoon we passed entirely out of sight of land again. We have had a pleasant trip with the exception of the bad weather. The officers have treated us well, And I shall remember the voyage with pleasure, and a good feeling for all our associations together.

[Liverpool Sun Nov 27th 1898](#)

Landed at Liverpool about noon, and were met by Mr. Fleetwood agent of the "American Line" and Bros Attewall Morton, and Joseph McFarlane, of the Latter Day Saints, Publishing and Emigration Office at 42 Islington Liverpool. We were made at home 42. Presidents Wells and McMurrin are at Newcastle attending conference, Received a letter from Annie. In the evening we all attended a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of 7 or 8 members. All the missionaries and several others spoke.

[Liverpool Mon Nov 28th 1898](#)

Received letters from Delia and Mary dated the 10th all well at home. About 2 pm Bros Wells and McMurrin Came home, and during the afternoon 9 of the missionaries started for the Continent.

[Liverpool Tues Nov 29th 1898](#)

Bros Tenney and Holland went to their field of labor in the Newcastle Conferences, and Brother [copy unreadable, erbock?] started for Germany.

[Wed Nov 30th 1898 Liverpool](#)

Done considerable writing in my journal

Liverpool Thurs Dec 1st 1898

Done some writing, and in the evening attended a meeting of the Liverpool Branch, and when we returned to 42 and found 7 Elders who had just arrived from Utah by the S. S. Russia. Received a letter from Annie who is at Verdure.

Liverpool Friday Dec 2d 1898

In the morning, Prest Wells held a meeting with the missionaries, at which they were instructed in their duties, by Bro McMurrin, myself, Bro. Nuisbett, and Prest Wells. The Elders for England were then assigned to their fields of labor. And in the afternoon, all departed to take up their missionary work, 3 remaining in England and 4 going to the Continent. At 5.15 [sic] Bros Wells, McMurrin, and I left the Exchange Station on the L & Y RR for Glasgow, where we arrived at 10-30 [sic] and were met by Prest David O McKay and the other Elders of the Scottish conference, who conducted us to the conference house at 53 Homhead St. where we found good comfortable quarters.

Glasgow Sat Dec 3d 1898

Called on Mr. Aitchison agent or manager of the Anchor Steam Ship Line, which carry our emigration and returning missionaries to New York. During the day the travelling [sic] Elders came in from various parts of the conference, and in the evening a Priesthood meeting was held at the conference house, when the Elders reported their labors and were given encouraging and timely instructions by the Presidency of the mission.

Glasgow Sun Dec 4th 1898

The Glasgow Semi Annual Conference convened in the North Saloon Candleriggs 11. Twenty Elders from America present The meeting was partly occupied by reports and presenting the authorities [sic] of the Church. I was sustained as President of the mission for the first time in this land. The afternoon meeting was occupied by Prest McMurrin and others and the evening by myself and Prests Wells & McMurrin. There has been a good attendance of Saints and Some strangers. We have been blessed with good order, and some very powerful testimonies have been borne to the truth of the gospel.

Glasgow Dec 5th 1898

Bid the Elders goodbye and Bro Wells and I rode to Ayr, and visited the birth place of the poet Burns Also his monument. "Alloway Kirk", and the "Auld Brigo Doon". After resuming our Journey we changed cars at Kilmarnack, and having 40 minutes to wait. we walked $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the Burns Monument, said to be the finest tribute erected to the Poet in Scotland. Here we saw the original Manuscript of "Tam o Shanter" in the authors own handwriting. At 3.30 [sic] we started again and reached Liverpool at 9.45 [sic], and found all as well as usual. 3690 people have visited the Burns Cottage in the past 12 months, 2d admission to the home and the monument make \$3000.00 a year.

Tuesday Dec 6th 1898

Spent the day writing and getting hold of some points of the business of the mission. In the afternoon, Bro Naisbett returned from Halifax, where he has been visiting relatives for a few days.

Liverpool Wed Dec 7th 1898

Bros Wells and McMurrin are busy packing and getting ready to leave, and I have been writing home. We spent the evening at Bro Haltons.

Liverpool Thursday Dec 8th 1898

Received letters from home, all well. At 3.30 p.m. Bros Wells & McMurrin, Started for Utah on the Steamer "Canada" of the Dominion Line. We all went down to see them off.

Liverpool Friday Dec 9th 1898

In the house all day writing letters and my Salutatory as Editor of the "Millenial Star". and as President of the European Mission. and at 10.30 [sic] pm. Bro Naisbitt and I started for Belfast, on the S.S. Magic.

Belfast Saturday Dec 10th 1898

The boat pitched considerably at times during the night so that I did not rest well At 9 am we reached Belfast and were met by Bro. [copy unreadable] J. Krell who took us to the Conference house at 5 My Ladys Rd. where we ate breakfast, and met Pres A.A. and the other Elders of the Irish Conference, Also Elders Smith and McQuarrie of the Scottish Conference After Breakfast we took a walk through Ormean Park, and visited the Queens College and Museum and Park and ornamental grounds. In the evening we held a priesthood meeting at the Conference house and had a good time.

Bro Naisbitt and I slept at Brother Samuel Kingsburys where we were made very comfortable.

Belfast Sunday Dec 11th 1898

The Irish Conference convened today at 11 am in the Whitehall Buildings Ann St. Meetings were also held at 2.30 and 6.30 pm. The attendance of both saints and Strangers was fairly good. Bro Naisbett spoke in the afternoon and I spoke in the evening.

Several others spoke during the day, and the unbelievers who have been present have had an opportunity to learn something of the Gospel. We have had a good attention. There were 11 Elders present from Utah.

Belfast Monday Dec 12th 1898

Sat with the Brethren for a group Photo, and in the afternoon went through the Belfast Co rope works which cover 50 acres of ground and employ 3000 hands mostly women and girls, and a good many boys. There [sic] a good many rooms, some of them of a mile long, and filled with fine machinery, or the finished goods, or the raw material which is drawn from nearly every part of the Known world, and which in return receives back the twine, rope, or nets made here.

The product comprises, everything from fine wrapping twine up to the heavy 3 inch cable, including Sash or window cords or cotton braided by a very ingenious machine of American invention. In the evening we held a meeting of the missionaries at the conf. house and Bro Naisbett and I instructed them further in relation to some of their duties. Also transferred Elders McMuarrie to Scotland and Knoll to London to visit and labor with their relatives, and appointed Elder P. Lonsdale, Allen to preside over the Irish Conference, which appointment the brethren all promised to sustain.

The Elders are earnest in their work, and I have been agreeably surprized [sic] to find the prospects for the work in Ireland so good and the prospects for conversions so good as they appear to be.

At 8 pm Bro Naisbitt and I bid the Brethren and Belfast good bye [sic], and went in the boat for Liverpool.

Liverpool Tuesday Dec 13th 1898

We had a quiet trip, and good nights rest and reached Liverpool at 7 am and were at 42 in time for breakfast, found all well, spent the day in writing.

Liverpool Wed Dec 14th 1898

In the house all day, reading and writing, in the evening, I received letters from Albert, Mary and Joseph.

Liverpool Thurs Dec 15th 1898

Reading and writing in the house nearly all day. In the evening attended a meeting of the Liverpool Branch and latter [sic] met 13 missionaries and one visitor from Utah and adjoining States.

Liverpool Friday Dec 16th 1898

Instructed missionaries and signed letters of appointment for 8 who will labor in England.

In the afternoon the brethren for Scandinavia & Germany (6) departed for their fields of labor. I wrote several letters, and have been busy all day.

Liverpool Saturday Dec 17th 1898

Busy in the house all day, and towards evening, Bro Naisbitt and I, with Elders [copy unreadable] & Bateman, who have been assigned to the Liverpool Conference went to Wigan 19 miles distant where we met, conf Prest Amos M. Merrill and the Elders laboring with him and held a Priesthood meeting at the house of Bro Griffiths

Bro Naisbitt and I staid [sic] at the house of a non-mormon by the name of Bissek and paid a shilling each for our bed-Nice people.

Wigan Sunday Dec 18th 1898

During the day we attended 3 meetings of the Liverpool conference in the Public Hall King St. Wigan, and had a very good time although the attendance has been very light, which is somewhat disappointing to the Elders who have gone to considerable expense in hiring a hall and advertising the meetings. After the meeting we returned to 42.

At Wigan I met [copy unreadable] Norton a missionary from Central Arizona who arrived here on Nov 9th last, and is now thoroughly imbued with the idea of going home. I talked with him in relation of the matter and tried to show him the folly of his course, but I could make no impression on him. He complained of poor health and hard circumstances, all of which may be correct, But he is indulging in the use of cigarettes, and seems to be utterly destitute of the missionary spirit.

Liverpool Monday Dec 19th 1898

Busy in the house all day reading and writing.

Liverpool Tuesday Dec 20th 1898

Began a letter to Prest Snow. In the house all day. Bro Norton sent a letter to the office Stating his intention of going with the Elders who will leave on the 30th. Poor boy he does not realize what a mistake he is making.

Liverpool Wed Dec 21st 1898

Done some writing, And read Hall Caines "The Christian"

Liverpool Thursday Dec 22^d 1898

Done some writing. Called on Mr. Roberts of Ramsden & Co Brokers. Then came back through the Market. All the shopkeepers and dealers are making a great display for Christmas.

In the evening Mr Worten and I went to the Branch meeting house but there was no one there so we held no meeting

Liverpool Friday Dec 23^d 1898

Reading and writing. Received an invitation to spend Christmas with the Saints at Bradford in the Leids Conference. The weather is getting colder and is now dry and clear, and still above the freezing point. Bro Morten went to Ayside

[Liverpool Saturday Dec 24th 1898](#)

Was busy about the house until afternoon, and then we scattered out for Christmas. Bro Naisbett went to Halifax, Sister Dutchison to Newcastle, Sis Bereham to Macclesfield and Bro Holther and I to Bradford and several other Elders who are laboring here. In the evening the Saints met in the Temperance Hall and had a pic-nic [sic] and a social entertainment, consisting of

of the death of my Brother-in-law Jos. C. Owens who died on the 1st of Feb at Woodruff, Arizona. Prest. McMurrin started for Holland on a general tour of the Continental Missions.

[Liverpool Fri Mch 1st 1901](#)

Spent the day in the house reading and writing letters.

[Liverpool Sat Mch 2-1901](#)

Wet and disagreeable. Spent them in doors. Bros [copy unreadable] and Jenkins came up from Birmingham, and spent the afternoon and evening with us. (p. 271)

[Liverpool Sun Mch 3d 1901](#)

Wet, attended Sunday School in the forenoon. 10 present, and meeting in the evening 13 present.

[Liverpool Mon Mch 4 1901](#)

Wet. Busy all day in the house.

[Liverpool Tues Mch 5 1901](#)

A rather pleasant day. Made a report to the [copy unreadable] (Bro Lund) of all the Presiding officers in the European Mission.

[Liverpool Wed Mch 6 1901](#)

Wrote several letters, and in the evening attended meeting in the Hall ten present.

[Liverpool Thurs Mch 7 1901](#)

Cold and rainy. Got letters from home also a friendly note from Prest [copy unreadable] Smith, and Bro [copy unreadable] and I crossed over to [copy unreadable] and witnessed the unloading of [copy unreadable] grown cattle and 140 sheep from [copy unreadable] by the Dominion S.S. [copy unreadable]. We were surprised to see the good condition of the stock, afterward visited the [copy unreadable] where 6000 cattle [copy unreadable] stabled and fed also visited the slaughtering pens.

[Liverpool Fri Mch \[copy unreadable\] 1901](#)

A fair day. Received a telegram from Bro Haynes urging me to come to Birmingham to see Bro [copy unreadable]. Went down in the evening and found him some better than he has been, but still a very sick man. His trouble is principally with his [copy unreadable], still I have [copy unreadable] that he will be able to go home.

[Birmingham Sat Mch 9th 1901](#)

Left [copy unreadable] 1.25 [sic] pm and went to Sheffield where I met Bro Naisbitt and went onto Hull, where we found all well.

Hull. Sunday Mach 10 1901

A beautiful day. Conference convened in a fine respectable hall at 10 am and 2.30 and 6.30 pm [sic], all meetings were well attended and very orderly. Many strangers were present and the good spirit was abundantly bestowed on both speakers and hearers. This has been a day of rejoicing and no doubt much good has been done. This is one of the most prosperous conferences in the British Mission.