

## Wagon Train Diary - 1862 Prather and Hamilton

Union City Iowa to Healdsburg, California Written by Cornelius Prather

## Wagon Train Diary of 1862 - Prather / Hamilton



Union City Iowa to Healdsburg, California, Written by Cornelius Prather

"At the time of the Civil War"

*(All the spelling and grammar is as presented and written in the diary all extra comments are in italics)*

May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1862	Started for California on trip across the plains.  <i>(Union is near the middle of Iowa, NW of Cedar Rapids above Marshalltown)</i>  <i>(The wagon train followed the route of the Pony Express all the way to Sacramento)</i>	
	Stayed at George's	15 miles

May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Got to Brookville 12 o'clock	12 miles
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Left Brookville, traveled middle Nodeway	12 miles
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Traveled to West Nodeway	2 miles
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	To Nishnabotany, rained at night	20 miles
May 12	To West Nishnebotany	21 miles
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	To Glenwood 14 miles, 5 miles to branch	19 miles
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	To Musqueto Creek	12 miles
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	To Bluff City... Population 3,000 <i>(Bluff City Iowa is now called Council Bluffs, Iowa)</i>	2 ½ miles
	To river 2 ½ miles	2 ½ miles
	Waited for Jones till Morning. Did not come. Left William Hamilton on east side of Missouri River.	
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Crossed Missouri River to Omaha. Population 3,000. Traveled to a Branch. Good roads. Fine Weather. <i>(Now in Nebraska)</i>	
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Was raining in the morning. Traveled ½ day in the raining.	10 miles
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	The wagon run over me. Traveled on Platts Valley	15 miles
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	A little rain in the morning. Cool day. Traveled	20 miles
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Traveled to Loop ford river	22 miles
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ferried the river. Traveled	13 mile
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Traveled, Wood scarce	20 Miles
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Traveled up Wood River to place of crossing good road..cool day.	14 miles
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Stopped at noon yesterday and lay over till afternoon today We are 156 miles from Missouri River. We stayed until Monday morning. William Hamilton came up Sunday. Jones also came up.	

May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Hamilton's Frank ( <i>age 5</i> ) got run over with a wagon, broke his leg. We traveled	20 miles
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Van Wagoner's cows was not this morning there we only traveled	15 miles
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	We have had first rate roads and plenty of wood and good Water until nights before last we had to use water of Platte. The water is muddy but not bad tasted. It being a very cool day, camped on the open plain by some pools of water and a little wood there. A little rain and some wind last night, not very severe. Bliss and Jones went gunning yesterday, have not returned. We garded cattle last (28) for first. We traveled	25 miles
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	We had muddy roads today on account of rain last night forenoon. Afternoon the roads better. Very cool today. Some rain in the evening. High winds. Traveled very late	30 miles
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Last night gard 1 <sup>st</sup> casttle get away we found them. Got late start	15 miles
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Good Road except some sand ridges and a few mud holes. Cool day traveled all day	25 miles
June 1 <sup>st</sup> 1862	Sunday laying by at the Springs. No wood some good buff chips. I saw two Buffalow. June 1 <sup>st</sup> (contin) Yesterday morning at a distance some of the boys gave them chase. Did not get any... Afternoon we started on... Traveled	10 miles
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bad road this morning we are on North Platte. Since noon Yesterday the road is better. Now we are out of mud and in the sand.. A little warmer afternoon. Some sand bluffs, some good level road traveled to North Bluff Creek. Good water	18 miles
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Over sand bluffs all forenoon , not so much in the bluffs in the Afternoon. Traveled	15 miles
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sandbluffs and mud nearly all the time today Traveled	25 miles
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	We doubled teamed to cross a heavy sand bluff today for the first time. We had the worst road today that we have met with...! Traveled	16 miles
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	We traveled half day on good roads to Castle Creek	11 miles

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Our company numbers 11 wagons at present. Traveled	25 miles
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Laying by on Sunday, all well. Bliss killed an antelope the first in our train. We are laying at Crab Creek	
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	We passed Cobble Hills today and the appearance of ancient Ruins good resemblance... Traveled	23 miles
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	We are corralled for the night oppisite Chimmey Rock and in sight of Court House Rock which was nearly opposite where we stayed last night and we are in sight of Scott's Bluffs which is 20 miles ahead. Wide valley on this side but rather wet. Platte very high, wood very scarce, all we have is what we can gather of drift along the river. Very scanty supply. We traveled today	23 Miles
	We had a stirring little scene in camp today noon. Hamilton caned his daughter ( <i>Amanda Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hamilton age 18 two days before her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday</i> ) A little affter talking to her about disobedience and she saucing him and she started for the river as though she was going to throw herself in.... One Mr. Skeen went and stopped her and she got in with another wagon.	
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	We had some very good road and in the evening we had a small thunder shower. Hamilton's girl went back to his wagon this evening. We traveled	25 miles
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	We passed a camp of Sous today, they were very friendly. We are now in camp near a French trading post.. the French have Indian squaws for wives. We had some mud today on account of rain yesterday. It threatens rain today. We lay up ½ day... Traveled	15 Miles
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bad roads on account of heavy rains.. Traveled	16 miles
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Weather cool, three hail storms today.. no damage done. All well but me and I am not sick but have rheumatism.. we are this evening oppisite Ft. Larimy. ( <i>Now in Wyoming</i> )	
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	We left Larimy this morning and in a short distance we entered into the Black Hills... rough road... Traveled	12 miles
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Very rough road stoped before noon there being plenty of grass... grass has been very scarce for some time... We traveled about	8 miles

June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Good Mountain road today.. traveled	17 miles
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Good road grass scarce. Fien day... met 53 Salt Lake teams Camped with or near 40 more Salt Lake teams.. traveled	25 miles
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	We traveled on good road till noon and the most of the train said they were gong to lay over until the next day and I did not think best to make such long drives and then stop so often and three wagons of us drove out and this day we traveled	20 miles
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	We joined a small train of five wagons today noon, Hamilton and Jones we had a very heavy hail storm this evening and half past 4 o'clock, we traveled about 12 miles, grass is short	13 miles
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	We had some very heavy road today, passed some trading Stations, grass short. We can see snow on the mountains that is South of the river we traveled about	15 miles
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Heavy fog this morning. We have 18 men in our train. 6 familes 6 women and 10 children. We traveled through some alkili swamps today and some very heavy sand...We crossed Platte on the lower bridge and camped on the south side... toll with ticket of free passage for the upper bridge was 50 cents for a wagon and team.. We traveled about	18 miles
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	We drove 4 miles and went into camp.. grass very good.. snow in site, road good.	4 miles
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	After staying two nights on the south side of Platte we crossed back to the north side on a good bridge. River high, road rough for 10 miles and then fine and good for 15 miles being sort of park. We passed some very strong alkali water	26 miles
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	We had no grass for our cattle last night and we hooked on soon after daylight and about 5 miles to good water and grass.. got breakfast.. after breakfast we started on, it being nearly 10 o'clock. We had very good road the through. We passed some very strong alkili today, we are camped on Sweetwater this evening. Grass short	23 miles
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	4 miles and we crossed Sweetwater on a toll bridge at a stage station at which place there was 100 soldiers in camp quatered... toll \$1.00 per team and wagon.. we pass Independent Rock, next the Devil's gate.. go into camp at noon for day. Grass and water good. We traveled	11 miles

June 27 <sup>th</sup>	There was a kind of grass or weed where we camped last night. That made our cattle sick. The most of them got better so we hooked up and traveled on to find better grass... late in the evening we stop and take our cattle four miles from the road for grass, find it good	20 miles
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Travel afternoon, cattle all right. Go 9 miles camp early, take our cattle off the road for grass, find it good	9 miles
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Heavy sand for five miles.. just as we got through two men came with news that the indians had stampeded 140 ponies of some Californians.. the emigrants soon got into a large train... the indians soon left.. got away with the ponies but left a few of the indian ponies.. We traveled all day. Very cool, no grass. 95 wagons in camp...	26 miles
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Got breakfast early and started on to find grass.. passed where two men were killed, on the 28 <sup>th</sup> inst by the indians, the savages got away without any injury. We near the south pass traveled	13 miles
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 1862	We had a stampee last night at midnight with our cattle they were in our correll. They run against some wagons and broke two wheels and tore a tent down with 8 or 10 persons in it, no one hurt.. we come to pretty good feed today, road good.. traveled	9 miles
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	We started out with 28 wagons, and one buggy all for California. We had the finest kind of road for shod animals but rather gritty for barefoot teams.. we passed a stage coach that had been striped of its cover by the indians. We passed the last of the sweet waters this evening. We are in camp a short distance north of twin mounds. We get our water from a snow bank, the weather very cool, we traveled about	20 miles
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	We started on this morning passed the sumit and stoped at Pacific Springs at noon, passed three companies of the Ohio sixth in camp three miles from springs... some little sickness in camp.. We traveled about	7 miles
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	No travel some drunk men in camp.... Cold. Very	
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	We start on the drive 25 miles without grass to little sandy. Grass scarce...Evaline ( <i>Cornelius's wife</i> ) sick... water high	25 miles

July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Traveled to buig Sandy it was very high, run into our wagons crossed over	10 miles
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	We have elected a captain for our train last evening... grass better that is good, Evaline is better. Several in train are sick (diarheoa) we traveled today...	17 miles
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	We start very early this morning to reach the ferry at Green River before a large train get on the bank.. find about 100 wagons ahead of us river high, we traveled, (grass scarce) Very windy in the evening so we could not ferry the river	8 miles
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	We crossed our wagons in the ferry and swam our cattle, the price for a wagon is \$3.00 and 75 cents for animals apiece.. we drove about two miles	2 miles
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Grass very short and but little of it and no water for 20 miles... a sultry day.. James Hiram Prather is sick with fever. We drove to Ham's Fork, new road.	20 miles
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	We stoped all day at Ham's Fork, very windy	
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	We crossed Ham's Fork on toll bridges three \$3.75 a team of three yoke and wagon, over 30 wagons in company. We drove to a stream called Buddy	14 miles
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cool windy day with plenty of dust good roat to Ft.Bridges, good grass and water	22 miles
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	We had hard road on team very gravelly. We drove to a small stream of good water. Grass good	13 miles
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Road very hilly but not rocky, plenty of good grass but no good water for 18 miles... quite dusty.. we are near Bear River in camp for night we drove	18 miles
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	In the morning we came to bear river, some of the wagons forded and some of them crossed on the bridge. I crossed the bridge toll \$1.00 a wagon we had a very hilly road and dusty. We have good grass and water.. traveled	22 miles
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	We camped in the upper end of echo canion last night good grass and water... we traveled to the mouth of the canion at Weber river, we had rough road we traveled	23 miles
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	We started up river to find a ford. We came up about 8 miles	10 miles

	and found a ford.. current very swift.. belly deep... We got over safe, late in the evening came to wate for a part of our train. We had some lettuce and onions this evening for the first.. Traveled	
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Our train did not get over until noon. We start on at noon up Silver Creek canion side cut road very good, rain a little snow all around	7 miles
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Up one canion and down another, good road for mountains. We camped at noon 11 miles from Salt Lake City at the junctions of two Canions. Plenty of grass and water... grass on the mountains .. traveled	13 miles
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	We drove into the city today forenoon. We had very hilly road.. narrow canion. City is well shaded, plenty of onions, peas, currants and other fruit and vegetables were on the square for sale... We had to buy hay for our stock, hay 90 cents (per hund) I bought \$3.00 worth. We stayed un the city on night and part of two days to get some oxen shod, price per yoke \$5.00 we traveled about 14 miles to get 11	14 miles
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	We leave the city at 10 o'clock and rode out to find grass... We cross the river Jourdan on a bridge toll \$4.50 for my two wagons and teams.. we traveled 19 miles found some grass... water bad...	19 miles
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	We traveled up Jourdan to its head which is Utah Lake, Jourdan runs North we leave the road two miles to good grass... we have been having rather Short grass for some time... we have good grass tonight we came 15 miles. We have 6 jack rabbits for this evening supper for a change.	15 miles
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	I have lost one day some where and know where and when.. We lay over today 35 miles from Salt Lake City ( <i>Utah</i> ) Grass good was will do cattle in good fix considering.	
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	We drove 6 miles to Cedar Fort and then miles to Camp Floyd it being 23 miles to g water. We stop at Camp Floyd for the day. The weather is warm for the last three or four days. The mormons are very friendly and all for trade.	11 miles
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Leave Camp Floyd cool day cloudy and windy, road dry and dusty cattle in good fix. We traveled 21 miles without water. We are in Rush Valley	21 miles



July 27 <sup>th</sup>	We left Rush Valley this morning for Point Lookout station which we reached by noon a distance of 10 miles.	10 miles
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	We started on without breakfast and drove to Indian Springs against late breakfast time we stop the rest of the day	9 miles
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	We lay till the afternoon 3 o'clock pull out for the desert, fill all the water vessels, travel till dark, turn out one hour, yoke again drive till the morning star rises, turn out lay down sleep till sun up.	
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	Yoke up start on windy and dusty mountain to cross hug our way over it. All day travel, team stood it well, we got to Fish springs...the water is warm but no very bad taste. No wood grass poor, plenty rushes	5 miles
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	We start for Willow Springs which is the west side of the desert pretty good road, very crooked. Salt water 12 miles a Boyd Station well 12 feet deep. 23 miles we reach a small stream of good water we go two miles farther and camp among the Willow Springs water good grass plenty. Our cattle looks a little worsted at 75 miles travel on the desert poor water short grass. We except to stay here a few days and rest our cattle.	25 miles
August 1 <sup>st</sup> 1862	At Willow Springs all day	
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	At Willow Springs all day. water not so good as we expected, grass half rushes.. no bottom to many of the springs.	
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	We start for deep creek early, road rough. Up hill 18 miles down Hill 4 to deep creek... my Joe ox was sick all day turned him out of team in the evening got to camp late in the day after dark	22 miles
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lay up today about 20 Indians around camp this morning.. started out 2 o'clock traveled up Deep Creek about 8 miles.. grass and water tolerable.	8 milkes
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Start early 3 miles a little poor water... on we go... Road good except dust. To Antelope Springs fiirst rate water but no grass.. on we go up canion to top of the mountain to very	30 miles

	weal spring. God water grass shot 26 wagons and teams in camp, traveled	
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	We start after all of the teams got away and traveled about 3 miles and found good water and grass. We stop and spread our tents. Jones stoped with us one of Jones oxen died we suppose from Alkili	3 miles
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	We start on and travel about 7 miles and find Hamilton in camp alone in spring, it being good grass and water we stoped til morning heep (indians go shoots)	7 miles
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Our cattle being somewhat rested we start on go to Shell Creek station.. 9 miles it being 15 miles to the next grass and water we stoped for the day	9 miles
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	We take an early start, road good. We stop at the station at two o'clock get our supper, rest our cattle (oh yes) we swop, flour for raspberries with a squaw, the best dish of berries we had we started on a little before sundown drive six miles, turn out, stop for the rest of the night grass good. No water, plenty of wood cedar.	23 miles
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	We go again, good road the most of the way, we stop at a station in the mountains good spring mountain grass plenty	11 miles
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rough road, cool weather, we are in the mountains all the time. Water scarce 12 to 15 miles to one spring 1 to another and some of them not good water... we stop a little after noon at the first water we came to...traveled	13 miles
August 12	We had a spinkle of rain last night, cold this morning. We have 9 miles down hill to Ruby Valley good roads... Jones and family stoped at this place... at 80 dollars a month, there is to be some solidiers quartered here. We go on six miles,,,	15 miles
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	We go again. We cross the Diamon mountain very steep for half mile double team up hill.. six miles down hill to the spring...good water and grass...	20 miles
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	We start with the notion of only driving 14 miles but missed the water and came on til night Nothing of importance occurred today except a nice shower of rain which layed the dust....	22 miles
August	We had good road, light shower, did not lay the dust.	18 miles

15 <sup>th</sup>	Traveled	
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rain last night, the boys got wet. The dust is layed complete, we came today about 17 miles without water for oxen	17 miles
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	We go again, the grass was not very good last night grased down short. We have 22 miles without or grass we fill our keg for cattle go arounf, the cut off being very rough 15 across and 25 around. We have clover for our cattle this evening (rain)	22 miles
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	We go again up the canion 7 miles to the station, here I sold a cow for \$22.50, we went on 6 miles (rain) traveled	13 miles
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	We drive to Reese River, 8 feet wide 2 feet deep. Good water, then up the river 5 miles and camped for the day. No rain We had 10 ducks for supper this evening	13 miles
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Stoney road for 12 miles 10 of first rate roads, warm day, No water or grass for 22 miles. Come to a stream of good water and plenty of high rye for cattle, they don't like it well.... We camp.. rain shower	22 miles
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	We hitch up travel up Smith Creek to where the road leaves it, camped forenoon.... Good grass and water...gather four gallons of currants...	6 miles
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Go again, met about 1,000 soldiers cavalry and infantry, 2 canon, 2 mortars.... We go nice peace of beef of (Uncle Sam) present...we met in a narrow canion consequently we was hindered in our travel, very bad road today, rough	12 miles
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	We start early. Good road except dust, 11 miles brought us to Cold Spring station, water...no grass, 11 miles more to Middle Gate Station. water...grass three miles	22 miles
August 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Filled all our kegs with water...go on 55 miles to a well, Tolerable good water, grass 2 miles. It is Sunday we stop..... 4 o'clock we go on, travel until midnight, turn out, no grass of any account. Got our breakfast, go on to Sand Springs Station...lay here tell 4 in the evening good grass three miles from camp.. water not good and scarce at that, for the amount of stock, from 2 to 5 hundred head a day to water....	5 miles 22 miles
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	At four o'clock yesterday we started out and found the road good for 15 miles, which we made in the night, and them	24 miles

	wating for daylight we took a sleep...no grass here.... Morning came we go again 1 mile. We were at the sink of Carson River...crossed the water on a bridge, toll \$3.00 water good no grass go on about 8 miles on the river, found some grass, good water and the best greswood timber for fewel that we met with...we lay over having traveled since yesterday evening 4 o'clock to 9 this morning..	
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	We go again to the old riverbed where the water ran into our wagon beds and until this season the oldest setlers never knew any water to be there more than a wet weather slough...well we got over all safe and dry.. road either dusty or sandy.. warm day.. we find good grass to camp at	15 miles
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	We are off again, road rough, warm day nothing worth remark occurred	17 miles
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	I had stop to fix one of my wagon wheels, got it fixed and sold the wagon for 35 dollars...we stoped all day. Grass good.	
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	One of my hands stoped here to mow at 50 dollars a month...we Start on 12 miles to water and then 10 more to water and grass.. I sold Bliss for \$20.00 and 10lbs potatoes and the same of beef..	22 miles
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	We go on.. dust or gravel all day, very rough about Chinatown...came on to Empire City quarts mill running day and night, Sunday not excepted.. at this city we pay 25 cents per head for pasturage over night...we are in 4 miles of Carson City ( <i>Nevada</i> ) business lively here....	17 miles
September 1 <sup>st</sup> 1862	We drove to Carson City today, it is (all alive) a great many Whiskey shops. We drove out about eight miles, warm day.. got pasture for cattle as 12 ½ per head	12 miles
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	We drove up Carson Valley along the eastern part of the Siere Nevada Mountains.. all hay ranches well fenced.. pasture 12 ½ per head	14 miles
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	We stoped last night with ano old man that I knew in Lee County Iowa by the name of Mott, today we came to the head of the valley and a little Farther, we are this morning in camp in the mouth of the canion that we pass over the	15 miles

	mountain...Bliss is not well today...Evaline was sick yesterday, she is better today...we had rough road today.. we have to pasture our stock tonight, 15 cents per head....	
September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Very cold nights...we are amongst the pines and sedars of the Siere Nevada, we go up the canion come to Hope Valley...very rough.. we caut a mess of trout.. camped on the first summit....	9miles
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rolling again...some good road and some very rough.. we cross the second summit which is the heist sumit of the rout and stop in the thick tall pines on the western slope...we had cut pasture last night also for tonight.. grass is good, we are surrounded by snow near by...	9 miles
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	We are off again..... some very rough road, pass good grass crops, the Macalama river, ruged hills to go down before we cross the river, and then a ruged hill to go up, camped in a small valley.....	10 miles
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday lay over, worked all day, fine pine and hemlock timber.. good water and grass...musketoes very saucy in evening	
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	We got a late start, very rough road...we came abut 9 miles.. had a shower of rain to lay the dust.... We camped early at an old deserted ranch.. the ranches are all deserted here in the winter, it broke in the roofs of their cabins..	9 miles
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	On we go.. we had poor grass last night but plenty of weeds.. no grass for dinner and we stoped on top of a mountain to spend the night...we get our water down down about three hundred yards.. we came about	10 miles
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	We got up our cattle after a long time...we are at the junction of the west point and big tree road.. we have rough road...the miles of the the roads get smoter, down hill most the way...we pass Black Spring. Good water very cold...icy cold.. also pass mud spring, water not so good nor cold...stop at the old wood Rough Ranch...Good grass, good water, 12 ½ cts per head for pasture over night...One of the company lost a cow, they found her nearly dead this morning, drove in the cattle, went back and she was dead supposed poisoned.... (California)	12 miles
September	We go down again and take a look at the big trees...mother	15 miles

11 <sup>th</sup>	of the forest 327 feet high, 116 feet circumference with bark off...father of the forest 450 feet high, farther on and we came to the house built on the stump of one of the big trees.. timber large and thick on the ground.. two miles farther we leave the Stockton Road and the last of our old train.. Nutt and Wattenburger 4 wagons.. now we are alone, we bore more north.. night comes on us without water or grass...go on, find a ranch about 10 or 11 o'clock.. no person there, no water, we turn our cattle in the field, some good feed...	
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	At daylight we get out after our cattle, find them and start on before breakfast, come 1 ½ miles to or near R.R. Flat, find water, get our breakfasts, come on about 1 ½ miles to Mr. Fields ranch, get our stock in and stop for the day.....	3 miles
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	We conclude to stop here at Mr. Fields today, here we get some vegetables...all the peaches we could eat and good grass for our stock	
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday we stay at the same place	
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	We start on again.. pretty good road, but dusty...we drove to the town of Mocalomy Hill...	12 miles
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	We pay \$5.60 for hay last night for our cattle...on we go again, we cross the Mocalomy River on a ferry \$2.50 2 yoke and wagon. Pass through Jackson the county seat of Amador County, lately burnt...we come on 4 miles farther to a ranch.. 25 per head for dry feed	9 miles
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	We go this morning...we pass through Iaon Cith, go down loan valley 2 miles and stop at Mr. Burriss for a few days	10 miles
September 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	A great many persons sick in this valley with ague.	
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	We start out again. Horace traded his oxen...good road (toll. 50) we traveled.....	18 miles
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	We are on the move...we drove within 5 miles of Sacramento City and camped...we saw the cars passing by...12 ½ cts per head for cattle to run to straw stack (one dollar).....	14 miles
September	We are in the city in the day...there is a great deal of	16 miles

23 <sup>rd</sup>	business and bustle here, we made a short stay and left before noon...crossed the river on the bridge (toll \$1.00) drove out a mew road, or at least on not much traveled, crossed a small lake in a boat (toll 1.25), drove on late good road...	
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Today our road run out and we had to go through fields yet nothing serious occurred...warm day...the country level for some distance...each side the road we pass some large flocks of sheep...heard of Samuel McVey. (did not go to see him) We traveled....	18 miles
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	We had good road the most if the time...we left Suisun City to our left, though in sight, Fairfield also to our left...got our stock in a stubble field...	18 miles
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	We are off again...we go up Suscol canion through the valley and to the Suscol ferry, toll \$1.50...traveled...	14 miles
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	We come through Sonoma, a nice valley and nice town.. came on to a Spaniards...got our stock in his field.. about 3 miles form Sonoma.. we came about	14 miless
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, cool day, good road gravelly land, the most of the way we are within 4 miles of Santa Rosa	16 miles
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	We leaving Santa Rosa to our left, and pass through some very fine country, good farms, good roads, except dusty in places...we cross rucian river and camp on the bank (12 ½ cts per head) last night on stubble...	18 miles
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	We drive to Healdsburg ( <i>California</i> )	1 mile
	Making the entire travel.....	2082
	C. Prather	

*(Note: The diary does not say where the Hamilton's left the train, but it is believed that they stopped off early in Nevada, as Mary was going to have a baby. Last recording of Hamilton in diary was August 7<sup>th</sup>. By October 1862 the baby died most likely at birth, and is buried in Ft. Churchill, Nevada; the Hamilton's continued on later to Stoney Point, Somoma County, California. William Hamilton's oldest son George Washington Hamilton was living there, and this is where William eventually died at age 63. The motivation for the trip in not explained but in thinking about it; the promise of California (the Gold Rush was in 1849) the on-set of the Civil*

*War (Iowa was on the western outer edge of the conflict), William Hamilton was 51 years old, his oldest son (George) was in California at the time and the fact that Cornelius's Brother was already there too, since 1855, most certainly played a role in their decisions).*