

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY



ARTHUR M. MENEFEE'S TRAVELS ACROSS THE PLAINS, 1857



SPRING
1966

Volume IX
Number 1

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Founded in 1904 for the purpose of investigating topics pertaining to the early history of Nevada and of collecting relics for a museum, the **NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** has dedicated itself to the continuing purpose of preserving the rich heritage of the peoples—past and present—who have inhabited the land of Nevada.

The Society believes that it can best serve the State by arousing in the people an historical consciousness which it hopes will be carried to succeeding generations. Thus, through its director, the Society sponsors an educational program which carries the history of Nevada to the schools and organizations throughout the State.

The Society maintains a library and museum where historical materials of many kinds are on display to the public and are available to students and scholars.

The Society publishes the **NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S QUARTERLY** which publishes articles of interest to readers in the social, cultural, economic, and political history of the Great Basin area: Nevada, eastern California, eastern and southern Oregon, Idaho, and Utah.

The Society's membership is open to the public; application for membership should be made to the Secretary of the Society, State Building, Reno, Nevada.

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ARTHUR M. MENEFEES
TRAVELS ACROSS THE PLAINS, 1857

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INTRODUCTION

A. M. Menefee was one of the later covered wagon pioneers who did not reach California. His trip began in Missouri and ended in Carson City, Nevada, in the late fall of 1857. The reason for stopping off in Carson was probably because of the ill health that had plagued him in the late weeks of the journey. He died there, never making it across the mountains.

His diary, as kept on his trip across the plains, was presented to The Society by R. C. Hennigan, in December, 1932. Mr. Hennigan's maternal grandmother was Genevieve Menefee, one of the twin daughters who accompanied their father across the plains, at the age of sixteen. Genevieve married Charles H. Wolfe, their romance having begun on the trip west in the train of which her father was Captain.

In the spring of 1858 she and her husband crossed the Sierra to California and settled in Sonoma. Later they lived in Silveyville, Solano County, close to the present town of Dixon. Silveyville was a small settlement that grew up around the half-way house established by Elijah Silvey, on the road between Napa and Sacramento, in 1852.

When presenting this diary to The Society, Mr. Hennigan wrote: "I have sought and found safe keeping for this diary with The Society of California Pioneers because I know that to be the silent wish of these ancestors of mine; though not making the journey across the plains in time to be eligible to membership in The Society, nevertheless came as true pioneers to help settle and make this a great state."

HELEN S. GIFFEN, *Librarian*
The Society of California Pioneers

Oct 1st 1857 The number of

Cattle when we landed on Truckee	120	head	d.
HC Walcott & Co cattle	7	"	
Died on Desert or lost	8	"	
Died on Truckee	1	"	
Died in Washew	1	00	
Died at station	6	at	
Franklin took 3 yaks	4	"	
George took 2 yaks	7	"	
The rest in Eagle, died head	88	head	
The number left Oct 24 1857			

This is the final entry. The remaining pages of the small leather-bound journal were used for various accounts and entered by someone at a later date.

1857

- May 13th** Left Ralls County, Mo. about 2 o'clock P.M. Cloudy and Warm & Threatening for rain. Camped at Clark's school house. Had a thunder storm and a fine shower.
- 14** Next morning left about 9 o'clock A.M. Cloudy, windy & quite cold. Traveled on until night 3½ miles from Paris, there camped.
- 15** Left next Morning about 8 o'clock. Still cloudy & cold. Only traveling 3 miles, making 6½ miles from Paris Monroe County. Here we camped until morning, enjoyed ourselves shooting Squirrels, birds, etc. The women, sewing & nitting, and singing like nightingales, expecting the balance of our company to come up.
- 16th** Left next Morning about 9 o'clock A.M. Warm day & pleasant Traveling on to Madison, there we stop, & had some Blacksmithing done, about noon when we left. Traveled to Sqr. Alexanders about 5 miles from Madison, here we camped for the night.
- 17** Next Morning Cloudy and somewhat cooler continued cold. We traveled on passing through Woodville. Camped about 1½ miles from town, there we continued until the next morning, Killing Squirrels, birds, etc. and enjoying ourselves fine. Still waiting for the balance of our company.
- 18** Next Morning still cold traveled on through timber and some grain. Crossing the Railroad at Macon City. A beautiful young place & improving rapidly. Continued on to the east fork of Chariton. There we camped for the night.
- 19** Next clear & cool in the Morning, but more pleasant, started about 7½ o'clock A.M. about 2 miles to Bloomington, Macon County. Here we found our relations, stayed and dined with them, leaving about 1 o'clock P.M. Turned somewhat Warmer. Traveled on to the Main Chariton river. Here we ferried across. Camped on the West bank, finding fine grass for our stock, amusing ourselves fishing. We had a small fry next Morning, Which was fine.

- 20** Left about 9 o'clock traveled on through a very hilly country both timber & prairie at Wyandot. About 15 miles to Linies.
- 21** Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. Traveled Through prairie which was quite rolling, passing through Linens the county town of Linn County which is a very pretty business place. Continued our Journey to a small stream about 2 miles the other side, being fine and pleasant. All well & enjoying ourselves fine.
- Fri. 22** Left next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling through prairie and small Shorts of timber, Entering into Livingston County. Camped by Medicine Creek about 7 miles from Chillicothe still in good health & fine spirits.
- 23** Left next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling through a beautiful country to Chillicothe about Noon. Continued on to Grand River Ferried across and camped on the west side about 2 o'clock P.M. We amused ourselves a fishing the balance of the evening. Blew off a little cooler. The women washed, then took our supper & retired for the night.
- Sunday 24** Here we continued until next morning enjoying ourselves hunting & fishing, dining at noon. Nim and Ephraim coming up about 1 o'clock. Great Joy in camp. All supted together in mutual friendship & harmony and continued until next Morning when a little storm rose between Mary & Nancy. We oiled up our vehicles & pursued our Journey. We had a fine little shower which laid the dust.
- Livingston** Left next morning about 8 o'clock crossing the rail road
May 25 between Grand River and Utica. A fine fertile & well
26 improved country. Traveling on to Spinerr Creek out in the prairie still cold showers. This being Caldwell County. Here two of our teams were missing. We found them about 11 o'clock took a snack about 1 o'clock out in the prairie, then continued on to a creek about two miles of Kingston, the Capital of Caldwell County.
- 27** Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. passing through Kingston & through some fine country & some broken, took up camp on the head waters of Shoal Creek in a broken Shrubby prairie, all in fine health, with some few flaws in camp.

- Caldwell** Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. passing through pretty good country & some broken. Dined on a little creek 1 mile west of Pariston & 6 miles from Farrington, Traveling on into Clinton County and passing through Plattsburg about Noon. Continued on one mile into the prairie & dined. Left about 3 o'clock P.M. & traveled about 8 miles into the prairie in Buikhanan County.
- 28** Left next Morning about 9 o'clock A.M. traveling on through a fine, high, rich & rolling Country, onto the Platt river, arriving there about 2 o'clock P.M. A small shower about that Time.
- 30** Still at the River, which is Saturday, We spent our time in fishing & hunting & shooting at a mark. There was a jovial crowd collected at a little Store.
- 31** Yet remaining here, cool and somewhat showery. This is a beautiful stream of Water emptying into the Missouri river, Here we continued until Monday Morning.
- June 1** Left Next Morning about 9 o'clock A.M. Passing through a very hilly country & fine land. Passing through St Joseph about 3 o'clock P.M. Ferried across the river about 2 miles from St Joseph. Here we camped for two days waiting for H. Wolf the 2n & 3r of the month, he landed here on the 2 about 9 o'clock P.M. & came to us next Morning, the boys put out to St. Joe for their outfits & returned to camp & packed up & left about 5 o'clock to the begining of the everlasting Plains about 3 miles where we took up camp, until next morning.
- 4** Here we tarried a while. Some fixing their wagons, some minding the Stock & some returning to St Joe to Marry. Mr J. Westfall to Mrs L. Underwood escorted by her father & Mrs R. Menefee, returning in the evening to partake of a traveling California Supper, after supper we past the remainder of the evening in a jovial manner.
- 5** Starting our journey about 8 o'clock A.M. parting with old man Wolf & passing through a poor broken hilly prairie country making 13 miles on a little creek called Muscutoe. Fine, pleasant & dry & light Nights. All in good health except Myself with a little headache & bile in my nose.
- June 6** Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. Traveling through a poor hilly country & thinly settled, traveled

about 15 miles to a small creek called Walnut it being between two towns just laid off. (name I do not)

Sunday 7 Left next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling through a beautiful Prairie country thinly settled, dined at the Sporting Tavern, started about 2 o'clock P.M. Still in a fine country, to Rocky Creek, making 19 Miles. Had a fine thunder shower which baptized us all finely.

8 Left Next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. Still in a fine country, traveled into a creek & dine, distance 7 miles. left at 2 o'clock P.M. Still in a fine country on a creek South of the old Road about two Miles, distance 10 miles, fine and pleasant.

9 Left next Morning about 7½ o'clock. Traveled onto a creek called Nemaha. Distance 11 miles. Here we took up camp the balance of the evening, fishing & shooting. Warm & some appearance of rain; No rain.

10 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. crossing Turkey creek about 2 miles Traveling up the Bottom, crossing Clear creek 2 miles, thence Traveling up the creek & dining on sand creek leaving about 2 o'clock P.M. and traveling about 10 miles, leaving the road on the south about 2 Miles. Took up camp on a little . . . Name unknown.

11 Left next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling in a beautiful country & fine roads unto a little creek called Vermillion & dined. Left at 2 o'clock & traveled on about 5 miles unto a creek 2 mile south of the Road on the creek.

12 Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. & traveled unto Bigg Blue River & we dined. Distance about 8 miles & fine roads. Here we found a trading post, leaving about 2 o'clock P.M. & traveled about 10 miles on a little creek Name not known.

13 Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. Traveling through somewhat broken country 10 miles to a little creek name unknown & dined. Left about 2 o'clock P.M. thence continued on our journey unto rocky creek distance 12 miles. Here we camped to the left of the road to the South.

Sunday 14 Left next morning about A.M. traveling about 10 miles through quite a broken Country a good many ravins,

into a creek called . . . Dined & left about 3 o'clock & traveled on unto Bigg Sandy & continued onto about 2 miles & camped to the North of the road on sandy. Here the Muskeatoes were bad. Distance about 6 miles.

- 15** Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. traveling about 4 miles unto big Sandy where we found a trading post. We stopped & took fine ice water, this is somewhat a broken country, after traveling a few miles we had a fine road to the little Blue River. Here we took up camp for the night. Which past off tolerable well, but not without some tantalizing from that fountain from which all such flows & the distance 18½ miles from Big Sandy. The weather cool & windy.
- 16** Left morning about 7 o'clock A.M. traveling up little Blue over a sandy & deep hollow and dining on the bank of said stream continued on after dinner & the road pretty much, same, & took up camp near the bend called the 8 mile stretch, here we had an attempt to steal some of stock, the guard fired several times on them & run them off so the night passed off without any further interruption.
- 17** Left next Morning about 7 o'clock A.M. traveling on to the next point on the same stream, distance 10 miles road somewhat better. Here we dined. Some 3 or 4 of the boys were quite unwell of the diarriaa, but not very serious, leaving about 1½ o'clock P.M. & traveling over a poor, sandy & broken country making 22 miles in the course of the day, camping on the same Stream. Had fine grass & water & wood. All things passed off Well.
- 18** Left next Morning about 7 o'clock A.M. Leaving the stream over a very fine road, dry & pleasant, making a distance of 15 Miles to a small stream, name not known, where we found a train of Mormons deserting from Salt Lake. We dinned here & left about 3 o'clock P.M. traveling 4 miles unto another small Stream name not Known, distance 4 miles and 32 miles from Fort Kearny here I. Westfall lost his Mare. Some of our cattle Missing which caused a delay calculating to make a noon start found our cattle. Left about 12 o'clock P.M.
- 19** Traveling over a poor country, full of hollows, until about sun down when we stopped & Supped. Left & traveling on untill about 2 o'clock A.M. when we came to the Platt River we struck camp & tarried until next Morning.

- 20 Left about 10 o'clock A.M. traveling up the bottom of the Platt dined on the bank & in sight of Fort Kearny. Leaving about 4 o'clock P.M. & camping in sight of the Fort: distance 15 miles.
- 21st Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling up the river 11 miles & dined on the same leaving about 2 o'clock & traveling up the river about 12 miles & camped for the Night.
- 22 Left next morning about 7 o'clock A.M. & traveling a few miles when we saw a buffalow, having a fine chase & success in getting one, traveling on until night, a distance of 12 miles. 24 mile in the course of the day. Took up camp & had a fine feast. Had thunder, lightning & a small shower.
- 23 Next morning there were a good many buffalow in sight, the boys turned out & had fine sport after them, shooting from 1000 yds to close quarters, then we had a fine parcel of fresh meat left about 8 o'clock A.M. and traveled up the river about 10 miles & stopped for dinner. Whilst there we shot another & left him lying, as we had plenty. Traveled about 24 miles & camped on the same River.
- 24 Left next morning & traveling on untill Noon distance 12½ miles leaving the Road about 2 miles to the right & dined, leaving about 2 o'clock P.M. traveling on until night about 12½ miles & took up camp, seeing but few buffalow. Muskeatoes bad.
- 25 Left next Morning at 7 o'clock A.M. traveling some distance from the river & passing through a considerable dog town where the boys had considerable sport, but without success, Traveled on until noon leaving the road about 1 mile to right distance about 12 miles. Dined & left about 2 o'clock P.M. & traveled on somewhat a broken road, making 24 miles. Camped to the right of the road about 2 miles off appearance of rain, with thunder & lightning but little rain.
- 26 Left at 1 o'clock P.M. Detained on the account of our horses leaving. Here we had some sport after buffalow, but without success. Traveled on until night & camped to the right of the road on a small Slough. Here we had considerable time starting some of our wagons. Had some more thunder.

Saturday 27 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. Cool & Windy
Here a large and dry, traveling over Sandy & hilly Road, landing
train of on the South Platte at Noon where one of the boys
traders Killed a Antelope. We dined & rested & then pursued
camped in our journey, leaving at 2½ o'clock P.M. Thence trav-
sight, Had eling up said river, over great sand hills, a distance of
no corres- 10 miles & stopping on the south Side of the river
pondence about 1 mile from the road, where we tarried for the
night, which was quite cool.

Sun. 28 Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. traveling
until noon left the road to the right & dined on the bank
of the river leaving at 2 o'clock P.M. and continue our
journey until night, when we left the road to right about
1½ miles & camped, a distance of 20 miles. Some
with Mumps & some with the diarrharer. Clear and
pleasant Weather.

29 Left Next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. & traveling
about 5 or 6 miles & came to where a train of traders
were crossing the river. We prospected a while & con-
cluded that it was not Safe for us to attempt it, there-
fore we left and traveled within a few miles of the old
crossing and campd.

30 Left next Morning about 7½ A.M. & came to the cross-
ing. Took us all day to cross, but we crossed with Safety
& camped on the North Side of The River.

July 1st Here we are & expect to continue until tomorrow to
& Wednesday rest our cattle. There is about 9,000 sheep here trying
to cross & have been for the last 10 or 12 days (All
tolerable well) & enjoying ourselves well.

July 2 Left next morning about 9½ o'clock A.M. over the
distance 18 M bluffs & hollows. Came to Ash Hollow about 4 o'clock
P.M. which is a novelty to those that never saw the
like before. We traveled in the hollow about 3 miles
when we came to North Platt where we camped. There
are a great many graves here.

3 Left about 7½ o'clock A.M. traveling under the bluff
over a deep sandy road until Noon where we dined
distance 10 miles. Leaving about 2 o'clock P.M. &
continued our journey about 6 miles, traveling over the
same kind of a road & camped. Cool & pleasant.

4 Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. & traveled
over the same kind of a Road until Noon, where we

camped until morning. The boys took a hunt & in the evening we had supper then we had a joyful time in dancing, etc.

- 5 Left next morning about 7 o'clock A.M. traveling over somewhat better road until noon, dined on the bank of the river. Left about 2 o'clock P.M. and traveled up the river, making a distance of about 17 miles camped near Clear Creek.
- 6 Left next morning about 9 o'clock A.M. traveling up the river on a still Sandy road until noon to a pond where we dined. Left about 3 o'clock P.M. & traveled on to Clear Creek opposite the Courthouse rocks & in sight of the Chimmney Rocks & in 13 miles of it. Making a distance of 13 miles.
- 7 Left next Morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling on a low & rough road until noon where we dined & left about 2 o'clock P.M. & continued our journey on the same kind of road where we camped opposite the Chimney Rocks, at which time we had a fine shower. Some of the company had left for the Rocks, it being about 2 miles off. They came in about night, completely immersed by the shower.
- 8 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. at which time we pursued our journey over pretty much the same kind of road, near an old trading post where we dined, leaving at 2 o'clock only traveling about 14 miles where we took camp. Here a final separation took place between Nim's family & Bacca and not others.
- 9 Left next morning about 7 o'clock A.M. leaving the Platte, under Scott's Bluff's, over a good road, until we arrived at Renbadoes Springs, arriving there about 2 o'clock P.M. fine water & plenty of wood, but poor grass, at which place most of the company engraved their names, leaving at 6 o'clock P.M. traveling over the Bluffs about 4 miles to water, south of road, and camped. Had a little rain & wind. Blew quiet & pleasant.
- 10 Left about 2 o'clock P.M. and traveling over sandy road, 10 miles unto Horse Creek where we camped at a fine spring in bottom of the Platte. Had fine grass, also finding a good many Indians. Bought several pair of mockasons with buscuits, stealing my axe.

- 11 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. & traveled up the bottom several miles before we struck the road, thence over a sandy road, stopped in the road & took a snack about half an hour then pursuing our journey unto the Spring on the river about 3 o'clock P.M. where we stopped and camped, passed off the time writing back to our friends. Making 15 miles in the course of the day (All well)
- 12 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over still a sandy road near a trading post, where we dined on the bank of the river. Continued our journey about 2½ o'clock P.M. Still a gravelly & hilly road, until we arrived at another trading post, distance 12 miles.
- 13 Left next morning about 10 o'clock A.M. Here we had some black smithing done & George bought some cattle. Had fine Spring water & poor grass. Traveling on over a hilly & sandy road, going down a very rough hill to the Larama fork, where we crossed below the Bridge with Safety, leaving the Fort about 1 mile South of us, continuing our journey up North Platt about 5 miles, had a small hail shower, after which I a fine . . . storm, distance 8 miles to the Fort & 5 miles to the other side, where we took up camp had plenty of Wood & river water & grass short.
- 14 Left next morning about A.M. o'clock clear and hot, over a dry sandy & over some pretty smooth hills, dined on the river bottom near a trading post where we had some black smithing done, thence continued our journey a few miles & left the main road to the South passing the lime or Warm Springs up the hollow, which is sandy & rocky, going up a very bad hill after which we had a very good road arriving on bitter Cotton Wood Creek in the Night. Took up camp. Supped about 11 o'clock P.M. This is an awful country that the eye ever beheld. Poor grass, wood & water plenty. All Well. Distance 20 miles in the turn of the day.
- 15 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. only traveling about 3 miles, where we found good grass. Stopped & grazed until 2 o'clock P.M. We caught a fine mess of fish. Thence continued our journey over very Mountainous country making a distance of 16 miles. Here is some pines & grass now. We came to a creek at 11 o'clock P.M. Name is horse Shoe Creek. We took supper & went to bed at 1 o'clock A.M.

- 16 Next morning we tarried here until after diner. Shoeing some of the stock & Washing, left at 2 o'clock P.M. traveling over a hilly country about 8 miles, where we took up camp. Here a malee took place which resulted in the leaving of one of my wagons.
- 17 Left next morning about 7½ o'clock A.M. traveling over a very mountainous country in the fore part of the day traveled on until about 2 o'clock where we took up camp for the evening. Pass off the time in hunting and fishing. Feelings no better etc.
- 18 Left next morning at 8 o'clock & traveling over a very hilly & rough road & through the red hills, until 2 o'clock P.M. finding no water and grass. Stopped in the road & took a snack & having over somewhat better road until we arrived at a Creek called . . . where we took up camp, a distance of 20 miles, hot & dry, but cool nights.
- Sunday 19** Left next morning at 8 A.M. traveling over a little better road to Little Deer Creek where we camped & remained until next day. Pass off the time in fishing & feasting high. Thunder & no rain. A distance of 12 miles, All well.
- 20 Still on the camp, recruiting our stock & shoeing, etc. This is a beautiful stream affording fine fish & plenty of Beaver. Had fine grass & water, wood, etc.
- 21 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over tolerable road unto Deer Creek at a trading post where we had some of our line cut, remaining on until next morning. All well.
- 22 Left next morning at 9 o'clock A.M. traveling about 15 miles camping on the bank of the river having to drive our stock off the road about 1 mile. All well.
- 23 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a road that is a little better, crossing over the North Fork on a bridge, toal \$2 per wagon & continued our journey up the north side of the river about 2 miles where we camped. A distance of 10 miles.
- 24 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a very hilly & sandy road unto where we leave the Platte, a distance of 15 miles. A trading post on the South Side of the river. No sporting at this, but all well.

- 25 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a hard sandy road & some hills, unto Willow Springs where we had to drive the Stock South of the road about 1½ miles had a fine thunder shower & quite Cool. A distance of 15 miles, all well.
- Sunday 26** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over somewhat better road unto Sage Creek, where we dined. Continued our journey over a sandy road unto Sweet Water Spring where we camped. Distance 22 miles.
- 27 Left next morning at 8 o'clock traveling over some sandy road, passing the Independent Rock about 5 miles, leaving the road to the North about 1 mile where we dined. Thence continued our journey, passing the devil's Gate & Mail Station about 2 miles, where we camped, all well.
- 28 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over pretty good road to the second cut through the Mountain & took our dinner left about 3 o'clock P.M. to a point on the river north. Water where we camped little grass & plenty Chips, distance 18 miles & all well. Killed an antelope & some sandy road in this evening. Nothing more of interest.
- 29 Left next morning at 7:30 o'clock A.M. and traveling over a very good road where we arrived at the Cross of the river, took our dinner. Killed some ducks and dogs. Continued our journey through the mountains, crossing the river several times, over quite a sandy road, leaving the road to the south about 1 mile on the river bank where we took up camp. Grass short, chips & water plenty. Distance 18 miles.
- 30 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a hard gravelly road until noon where we took a snack and then continued our journey over the same kind of road leaving the road to the North about 2½ miles to the river where we found good grass, water & chips distance 20 miles.
- 31 Still on the same camp resting & grazing our stock, shoeing, etc. Killed 3 antelopes. Very hot & dry. Not well myself. Left at 10 o'clock P.M. traveling over a tolerable road until we arrived on the river near the leaving of the . . . about 3 miles, thence over a very Mountainous & rocky road until we arrived at some
- Distance 10 miles**
August 1

springs on the South side of the road where we took dinner, but no grass for our cattle, leaving over a better road until we arrived at a branch of the Sweet Water, grass poor, where we took up camp.

- 2 Next morning at the point of leaving a conflict took place, which terminated in the death of E. Brown. Buried him & left at 12 A.M. traveling over a tolerable road until we arrived at the Mormon Station, distance 11 miles. Grass short. Had ice next morning. Still not satisfied with the justice unfortunateness of the past day, owing all the Women's tounge. I feel somewhat better health.

August 3 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a very hard and gravelly road & leaving the road to the north about 2 miles, where we dined & grazed until 4 o'clock P.M. when we continued our journey over a very good . . . until we arrived 3 miles below the Pacific Springs, where we took up camp having no grass, no wood, but water. This was tolerable rough times for me. Distance 14 miles.

- 4 Left next morning at 7:30 o'clock A.M. over a very fine road, unto Sandy where we took dinner Distance 7 miles. Continued our journey over a very fine road, but very windy & dusty, until we arrived on the banks of the Little Sandy, about 3 Miles North of the road, where we had tolerable fare for our Cattle, plenty of fine Sage wood & good water, times somewhat abated & night passed off very well, all well & Whole distance 17 miles.

- 5 Left next morning at 7:45 o'clock A.M. traveling over a beautiful road until we arrived at the crossing of the Bigg Sandy where we dined, leaving at 3 o'clock P.M. & continued our journey down the river about two ½ miles where we camped on the North side of the river. Making 14 miles. Had plenty of chips & water but no grass.

Aug 6 Left next morning at 5 o'clock A.M. traveling over a very rock road, until we arrived on the same river. Crossed it on the South Side, traveling down it, over a very rough & sandy plain about 3 miles. Crossed it on the North side & stopped to graze our stock & dined. Also shewing some of our cattle. Leaving at 6:30 o'clock P.M. over a very good road about 17 miles where we tarried until morning. No water & little grass. All well & pleasant.

- 7 Left next morning at 7:30 A.M. over a very sandy road, until we reached Green River about 10 miles. We dined & crossed the river; on the South Side where we Camped, fine & pleasant weather, nights quite cool, all well.
- 8 Left next morning about 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a very rough road until we reach Fountainvell Creek where we dined. This is a beautiful little creek. Killed several Sage hens. Continued our journey over a fine sandy & gravelly road about 6 miles of the Colligeah where we had no water even to drink as to cooking we fried a little meat, which we eat with our Crackers, then retired to bed, distance 20 miles, all well.
- 9 Left next morning at 6:30 o'clock A.M. over a somewhat little harder road ascending a long rize, thence decending a long Sandy hill, where we found fine Springs & Water, arriving here about 10 o'clock A.M. Took up camp & drove our cattle about 3 miles North of the road, where we had fine grass & water for them. Continued here until Noon the next day. Distance 6 Miles, & all well.

August 10 Still on the same camp, resting our cattle, washing & renovating our loads. All well. Leaving at 3 o'clock P.M. over a very rocky & mountainous road, traveling about 7 miles unto Cedar Springs leaving the road to the North about 1½ miles where we took up Camp. All well. Theft in anticipassion by one of the boys.

- 11 Left next morning at 8 o'clock, traveling between two mountains & passing a trading & trading for a steer by Nim. Dining on a small creek, name not known. Here we tried the Boy & dismissed him from the Train after finding him guilty, thence persuing our journey, over a very good road, until we passed over the Summit of the two mountains, thence down a very long hill, until we reached the bottom on Ham Fork of Green River, traveling up the river about 2 miles & took camp, had a fine shower, Grass short & plenty water & wood, distance 14 miles. Mumps in camp. Here is a trading post.

OREGON TERRITORY

- 12 Left about 8 o'clock A.M. & traveled up the river about 1 mile unto the Crossing, then commenced ascending a very high Mountain which is very Steep, taking 2 hours

to ascend, after which we had a very good road for a few miles. Had a fine Thunder Shower, stopping about 1 mile before we reached the quaking Asp Springs, where we dined & grazed our cattle. Turner's Train pass us here, leaving at 2 o'clock P.M. when we commenced ascending another high Mountain, which took us 2 hours before we reach the summit, passing through a pretty grove of pine & Quaking asp, then commence descending the Mountain which took us 1 hour, where we reach Marsh Creek & fine Springs. Here is several graves, had poor grass & wood. Mumps yet, distance 15 miles.

- 13 Left at 8 o'clock A.M. over a very high & rough mountain into the valley of Bear River bottom, where we dined, thence down the bottom having a fine road, crossing the Smith Fork of Bear River at which place there is a Bridge & Trading post. Still continue our journey 2½ miles further, where we took up camp on the bank of the river in between two mountains distance 16 miles.
- 14 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling still up the bottom, finding some bad spring branches to cross until we reached the bend of the river where we dined & rested a while. Then traveled on to the Bridge & post where we had a toal to pay, this is Thompson's Fork of Bear River, continueing our journey down the river where we took up camp. Here we spent the balance of the evening in fishing & shewing of cattle, having a fine feast Next Morning, distance 8 miles.
- 15 Left next Morning at 8 o'clock A.M. passing over a mountain into a pretty little valley with fine water, distance 3 miles. This valley is about 1½ miles long, after Which we ascend a very steep & high mountain then down a pretty good hill, thence up a deep Canion, passed through the devil's Gap. This is a narrow pass between the rocks, hubs touching. We dined & rested a while then continued our journey still ascending a very long & tedious mountain. Then commenced descending a very steep, rocky & long hill about 2 miles, where we reached the bottom of Bear River traveling down until we came to Tallies Creek, where we took camp. This is one of the beautifulest of beautiful water that is. Distance 18 miles.

Sunday 16 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling down the bottom & crossing several fine small streams until we

reached one called Willow Creek, making 11 miles, where we dined & grazed a while, then continued our journey down the bottom, crossing two or three streams & passing several springs & passing over a pretty smart mountain unto a valley leading down to Bear River where we took up camp in about two miles of the river, having fine grass & wood & but little water owing to the distance we had to go after it, distance 18 miles. Myself very unwell with the diaraha.

- 17 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a hilly road until we reached the river about 1 mile south of the road where we took diner & rested, then leaving at 2:30 o'clock P.M. down a very good road until we reached the Soda Springs. Here are a great many curiosities, Soda Water, Beer Water, Sulphur Water, hot water & water that spouts puffs like a steamboat. Here we camped amongst these curiosities on the bank of the river & passed off the time very agreeable, distance 18 miles finding a great many Indians. C. Wolfe lost his Poney.
- 18 Left next morning at 9 o'clock A.M. traveling down bottom, which is very rocky, full of rocky Sinks, dined on the road without water, but had grass. Continued our journey about 2 o'clock P.M. traveling a few miles, then commenced ascending a very high & lengthy mountain which took us 1 hour to ascend, then descended until we reached a fine spring branch where we took up camp having fine water & wood & pretty fair grass. All well & mutual, distance 17 miles & very dry & dusty which makes it very disagreeable traveling.
- 19 Left next morning at 9 o'clock A.M. traveling over a very rough & high mountain unto a very fine little stream of first cool water where we tarried until 4 o'clock P.M. (distance 5 miles) then left to the bend of the creek, distance 3 miles, left the road about 1 mile North where we camped on the same stream called Beaver Creek.
- 20 Left next Morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a mountain, but a good road for mountains, until we reached Marsh Valley Creek, where we nooned. Distance 9 miles, leaving at 3 o'clock P.M. over a very high & lofty mountain until we reached a small creek on the side. Very dry & quite dusty distance 9 miles, making 18 miles in the course of the day. Not well myself & still Mutual.

- 21 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over quite a mountainous but good road until we reached gravelly Willow Creek, where we nooned. leaving at 2 o'clock P.M. over a very good road until we reached Gravelly Creek, where we took up camp. Distance 17 miles.
- 22 Left next morning at 7 o'clock A.M. Traveling over a very high mountain & through a very deep & long canion called the devil's passage being 8 miles to the Summite, thence down the said Mountain over a very steep & rocky hill about 3 miles to the bottom, where we took diner & rested. Then left at 5 o'clock P.M. traveling through a valley which is a very good road, about 5 miles, then commence ascending another Mountain, but a very good road, then decending on a very good road about 4 miles, until we reached the Gravelly Springs, about Mid Night, very dry & dusty & quite cool. Making 25 miles in all.
- Sunday 23 Left next morning at 10 o'clock A.M. Traveling over a long hill, about 3 miles, where we stopped to graze, leaving at 3 o'clock P.M. still over hills about 4 miles where we struck a canion, traveling about 4 miles to the Pine Springs where we campted for the night. Passed a spring about half way, say two miles up the canion. This canion is varigated with thickets of quaking asps. Distance 11 miles. Some unwell & a little flawy, etc.
- 24 Left Next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. Still down the canion & a very good road, until we reached another fine spring branch where we watered our stock, then continued our journey a few Miles & Stopped to noon, leaving at 3 o'clock P.M. Still down the canion, crossing the creek 3 times until we reached the last crossing of the creek, where we took up camp for the night distance 14 miles. All Well. Here we found a good many dead cattle.
- 25 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. Traveling over a very good road about $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles to the crossing of the East Fork of Raft River, then up a pretty Smart hill, where we had a very fine road, but very dry & dusty until we reached the Middle fork about 3 o'clock P.M. where we rested & dined, then left until we reached the main or West Fork of Raft River where we campted, having grass & water & wood. All well, distance 18 miles.

- 26** Left next morning at 8½ o'clock A.M. traveling over a very good road but a little rocky in places. Nooned on said river about 8½ miles up it where we nooned leaving at 2½ o'clock P.M. when we took up camp after Wandering about in the Night sometime before we could find a camping place but succeeded after a while & got along very well, distance 17 miles. Not Myself.
- August 27** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. Traveling over a very rough road until we reached the City of Rocks where we took up camp, distance 18 miles. All well.
- 28** Left next morning at 7:45 A.M. Still over a rough road until we reached the Springs near the Summit at Noon, then continued our journey over the roughest of roads until we reached a branch of Goose Creek where we took up camp, had fine water, wood & grass, all well. Distance 16 miles.
- 29** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. Traveling over some hills until we reached the main Goose Creek, continuing up it 17 miles where we took camp.
- Sunday 30** Left it next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling about 3 miles to the first creek, my Wagon broke down. Here we tarried all day fixing it up.
- 31** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. Traveling up it for several Miles, up the creek, when we struck a very rocky canon, still up the creek until we reached the last crossing, which we dined & left up the rockiest kind of a hill & down the worst kind of a one, then a very good road until we reached a spring. No grass & but little wood. Here the Indians killed a steer, unwell myself. Distance 20 miles.
- Sept. 1** Left next Morning at 6 o'clock A.M. traveling about 3 miles, where to the east about 1 mile, where stopped
lost my & took breakfast & grazed a while, then left for 1000
steer Spring Valley, where we took up camp, distance 20 miles. Myself still unwell.
- 2** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a very good road, passing a good many notable springs, boiling water & mineral water. Camped in a Mile and a half of the boiling springs. No water, grass but wood secured.

- Sept. 3** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a very good road until we reached a canon, where we found Springs. Dined & rested a while, then renewed our journey through the canon & over some rough spurs of the mountains distance 14 miles. Found some good grass, grazed & took Supper & then left at 6 o'clock P.M. into a small valley, where we took the right hand road, arriving on the east branch of St. Mary's River. Found grass, took up camp for the balance of the night & being quite cool and dry. Distance 18 miles.
- Nancy lost her ox**
- 4 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. down this branch, and through a very deep canon. There are 7 or 8 crossings going down this stream, some quite difficult to cross & the rockiest road & the most difficult to get along. Here we found the finest Warm Springs, say about blood heat, here too the weared traveller may cast his eyes to the heavens & scarcely see the tops of the Mountains on each side at the junction of this canon there are several alkilye springs. Continued our journey about 1 Mile down the Branch where we dined & grazed a few hours & then continued our journey down the Valley over a fine level road. Left the road to the south about 1 mile, where we took up camp. Plenty of grass wood & water. Distance 16 miles All well. We now are in the most difficult part of our journey where the Indians are very bad. Not yet disturbed.
- 5 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a beautiful valley road until we reached the second fork of the St. Mary's River, where we dined & rested, etc. a while, then continued our journey. Still down the valley, making 18 miles, where we camped had fine grass & water and in peace & quietness. Lost one Steer.
- Sunday 6** Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over some hills & crossing the North fork of St. Mary's River & camping on said river, where we had a Steer shot by the Indians. Distance 20 miles.
- 7 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a fine bottom road, but very dusty. Crossed the South Side of the river, where we camped. Nothing of importance here, distance 20 miles.

UTAH

- 8 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. down the river about 10 miles, where we camped until next Morning, washing, fishing, etc. Nothing more, but passed the time very well.
 - 9 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a rough road, crossing the river four times, passing a deep canon, until we came to a small stream at the mouth of which we took up camp. Had good grass, water & wood. Distance 20 miles. All well and mutual.
 - 10 Left next morning at 7:30 down the bottom about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to the foot of the mountain, at which place there are several hot springs & a grave in which there are three poor Souls interred that were Slaughtered by the Indians. Thence we commenced climbing the mountain, which is very long & high & somewhat rocky, taking us 4 hours to reach the top. Then going down deep canon 1 mile from the summit there are several springs. The branch of is quite difficult to cross. This canon is very rocky & quite a bad road, until we reached the bottom of the river, where another poor soul is laid, also slaughtered by the Indians. Traveled down the river about 2 miles & crossing the river on the south side, thence down about 1 mile where we took up camp, distance 21 miles. All well & docile.
 - 11 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a fine bottom road. Nooned on the same side. Crossed over in the evening on the North side, thence down the bottom still over a very fine road, where we found fine grass, wood & water. All passed off well & mutual.
- Distance**
16 miles
- 12 Left next morning at 8:15 over a fine bottom road, passing a grave where there were 7 emagrins interred, which was slaughtered by the Indians. Called away train, within 4 or 5 miles of the Stony Point, this point is quite rocky for 1 mile, continueing our journey about 8 miles, where we came to the river & took up camp. Grass short, wood & water plenty. All well & mutual Distance 22 Miles.
 - 13 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a very good road, until we arrived to a hill or mound, where we camped near the river, here was a considerable excitement about Indians. They surrounded Capt. Rankins 8

Miles ahead of us. It seems that they committed no harm & he got off before we reached him. Nothing more. All well. Here was 6 trains, strung along the road for 16 miles, all in sight of each other, expecting an attack from the Indians We heard there were 500, but it seems that it turned out to be only about 60. All well. Distance 16 miles.

- 14 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. traveling over a somewhat worse road, passing the field of attack, until we made out the day traveling about 4 Mile more we took up camp. Several of the Trains joined Together & had a considerable dance, which passed off finely & joyfully. All well & peaceable. Distance 14 miles.
- 15 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a road, up a considerable hill & through a canon of deep sand & some rocky places. This canon is about 5 Miles through it. Thence down the river bottom about 6 miles, where we crossed the river on the south side & took up camp on the bank, having fine grass & wood & water all well & mutual. Distance 12 miles.
- 16 Left next Morning at 8:30 o'clock A.M. crossing a Slough into the South road which we found to be a deep sandy one, then into the river bottom where the road was better. All well & peaceable distance 14 miles.
- 17 Left next Morning at 9 o'clock A.M. over some very bad & steep, sandy hills, thence down the river bottom, which is level & good road distance 15 miles. All well & docile.
- 18 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over some sandy road & down the river bottom, crossing the river three times, the crossing of which is bad. Passing a trading post, continueing down the river bottom about 3 miles, where we took up camp. All well, distance 12 miles.
- 19 Still on the same camp, resting & grazing our cattle. Here Nancy Brown left us & four other wagons. All well. Passing off the time in fishing & washing, etc.

UTAH TERRITORY

- Sunday 20** Left here at 1 o'clock P.M. traveling down the river bottom about 1½ miles, then struck the Sand hills where we found the sand very deep. Entering down into the

river bottom down it about 1 Mile, where we took up Camp, having plenty of grass, wood & water. All well. Distance 5 miles. Fine, clear & pleasant.

- 21 Left next morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a somewhat Sandy road for 5 miles where we struck the river. Tarried a while, dined & grazed our cattle, thence continued our journey down the bottom & over some sand hills, until we reached a trading Post in the bottom, continuing our journey down the bottom for 1½ miles when we came to another trading Post, still pursuing our journey for two miles, where we took up camp. Grass very scarce, wood the same, water plenty. All well but Mr. Britten, distance 16 miles.
- 22 Left next at 11 o'clock over a very good bottom road, but very dusty, making 8 miles where we took up camp on the bank of the river. Grass, wood & water plenty. Mr. Britten still unwell, two Indians took up with us, which has the appearance of being friendliest we have seen. One of them can talk some English.
- 23 Left next morning at 7:30 o'clock A.M. over a somewhat sandy & quite dusty road for 16 miles where we struck the river again, here the Bluffs are very high, rugged & sandy. Thence continuing our journey up a deep & long hollow until we reached the summit again, there leaving the road to the South about 1 mile, when we took up camp on the bank which is high dry & dusty, being about ½ mile from water. Grass, wood scarce this is quite a desolate looking place. Mr. Britten still sick distance 18 miles.
- 24 Left next morning at 8:30 A.M. over a very dusty & somewhat sandy road until we came to the river again, about 16 miles, continuing our journey about 2 miles thence leaving the road to the South about 2 Miles, where we camped, having grass wood & water. Still very dry & dusty & very cool nights. Mr. Britten still sick. All mutual at present.

UTAH TERRITORY

- 25 Left . . . at 8:30 o'clock A.M. down the river & through the grease wood for 4 miles, where we struck the road, which we found to be quite fine, coming to a dry Slough, where we took a snack, thence continuing our course down the bottom, which is ornamented with the grease

wood, until we reached a running Slough, thence up it for 1½ miles, where we took up camp. Mr. Britten still Sick. Cutting grass to cross the desert & washings etc. Distance 20 miles.

- 26** Left next evening at 1:30 o'clock P.M. over a sandy
Sunday 27 & dusty road until we reached the Sink, thence continuing our journey across the desert, traveling all night & all next day over good portion of the road which we found very rocky, finding a great many irons which has been left by the emigrants in former years, reaching the boiling springs at 5:30 P.M. where we stopped & took supper. Susan Westfall fell in one of These Springs & got badly scalded. At these springs is the greatest reck of wagons & carriages that my eye ever beheld. We made Tea & Coffee out of these springs which drank very well.
- 28** Left here over a very good road, but dusty, until we came in about 10 miles of the Trucky river, then we had a pretty hard time to get to the river, reaching the river soon after light, leaving several of the cattle behind & several lost & died. Number
- 29** Still here. One or two of boys have like to have suffocated for the want of water. Some of the boys went back & found 41 of the cattle, carrying water to the poor suffers, returning at Night with them in camp. Have two in camp not expecting to live, Susan Westfall & Mr. Britten. From the Sink to the boiling springs is 40 miles & from the Springs to the River is 20 miles & from the Meadows where we started from is 15 miles.
- 30** Still on the river at the same place resting & returned back to the Springs hunting some More Cattle. The sick not much better, none found.
- Oct** Still here Sick no better & no cattle found & moving up river about two miles at some large cotton trees remaining here until the 2nd, hunting & resting our cattle. No cattle found. Sick not much better.
- 2nd** Left at 9 o'clock A.M. traveling over a deep sandy & some very rough road, crossing the river 11 times. At a very difficult pass in the road, where we took up camp on the side of the river. Tolerable grass & wood & water plenty. Several sick, Lost one cow distance 12 miles.
- 3** Left next morning over still a very bad road & crossing the river 6 times where we took up camp. Had fine grass,

water & wood. Still several quite sick. Lost an ox & cow distance 13 miles.

- 4 Left next morning at 9 o'clock A.M. over a very bad road & crossing the river 3 times & Slough once & reaching the Valley, where we took up camp on the river bank near a shanty of the traders. Grass, water & wood plenty. Distance 8 miles.
- 5 Still here and about half sick. Some very bad, lost one cow.
- 6 Still here, several Sick some better. Lost my favorite ox. Rainy & cool. Here Ely came to us & returned back to meet his Train. Game quite scarce. This river is a beautiful Stream of clear water, though we have quite bad luck, having a very Sick Train & losing our stock.
- 7 Still here, some of the sick on the mend. Mary no better.
- 8 Still here, sick mending, Mary a little better. Ely's & Arkasas train left.
- 9 Left about 8:30 o'clock A.M. across the Valley & over very good road. What's called the Johnson's Cut-Off passing the Steam Boat Springs, which is the greatest curiosity that I ever saw of Nature's Works & continuing our journey over a little stoney road, until we reached Wassow Valley, where we took up camp at the head of a lake, water, wood & grass rather scarce. Sick a little better. Lost one heifer distance 18 miles.

Oct. 10 Left next morning at 8:30 A.M. down the Valley, where we came to a pretty settlement, Blacksmith's shops & Mills & finding plenty of Vegetables, butter etc. There was the greatest inducement that I have seen for me to stop as yet. Supplying our-selves we continued our journey a few Miles, when we stopped & took a snack & rested our cattle about one hour then continued our journey over a fine road until we reached Eagle Valley. Here we met a trading wagon with some fine Beef bought some at 16 cts. Per lb. continueing down the Valley, until we reached a fine Settlement, having large Baches & plenty of everything that the weared traveler could Wish. We made no stop here, but continued our course below the farms, where we took up camp at a Spring to the right of the road. Making out finely on our new stock of provisions. sick all on the Mend distance 20 miles.

- Sun. 11** Left next Morning at 8 o'clock A.M. over a beautiful road, till we came to Carson Valley thence down the Valley until we came to Station. This seems to be a newly settled place. Has a Flouring mill & Sawmill, one or two Stores, Black Smith Shop, etc. We continued our journey about 1 mile to the Springs where we took up camp. Sick nearly well. Distance 15 miles.
- 12** Still here, branding our cattle, shewing horses, washing, etc. Sick on the mend & fixing to start over the mountains, but intend to leave the cattle here to Winter.
- 13** Leaving at 10 o'clock A.M. Over a somewhat sandy road, up the Valley unto a little greenery where we took up camp. All well, distance 8 miles.
- 14** Left next morning at 8:30 o'clock A.M. up the Valley, over some sandy & rough road until we reached the Mouth of the Canion. Here is a sawmill & a very good dwelling. Took up camp a little above. All well and Mutual distance 8 miles.
- 15** Here we parted with George & Westfall & the boys. Myself returned back about 8 miles, where I tarried two days, looking around for a situation to take up winter quarters, finally rented a house 6 miles above the Station and Moved into it the 18th. Two of the children a little unwell.

The *Arthur M. Menefee's Travels Across The Plains, 1857*, was brought to the attention of the Nevada Historical Society last year by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Douglass of Woodland, California. Bill Douglass is a direct descendant of Arthur Menefee. He and Mrs. Douglass hoped the Society could locate the burial place of his ancestor. We did not succeed. During our search, we received a copy of the diary from them. The diary is now in the library of The Society of California Pioneers, San Francisco, California.

Feeling the journal contained much information of importance to researchers, we asked permission to publish it. This was graciously given by both the Douglass family and the California Pioneers. Our thanks to both.

The journal is presented in the form in which it was written more than 100 years ago.

. . . . *the editor*