

Journal of George McFall

1/23/1829 – 1/2/1908

September 12th, 1851

After a long tedious and toilsome journey of 2000 miles, arrived in the Willamette Valley and a more tickled fellow than I was you never heard of, though I was much disappointed in the country, it being entirely different than anything I had supposed it to be.

JOURNAL SAYS "FROM" WHICH WOULD BE CORRECT.

September 15th

Hired out to W. Arthur and commenced digging potatoes for the enormous sum of one dollar and a half per day.

September 20th

Finished digging potatoes and began to look around for an opportunity to go to the mines.

September 21st

7 miles
Went to Oregon City. Found it a miserable cramped-up place situated in a rocky canyon to the Willamette river. Got back to Arthur's again just at dark.

7 miles

September 22nd

7 miles (1/ves)
Went to Oregon City again and hired out to Butler Ivis, deputy surveyor, for the consideration of sixty dollars per month.

September 23rd

Started out on a surveying expedition to Township No. 1, north of Range No. 1 East Willamette meridian.

September 24th

Arrived on work and made ready for coming operations and tomorrow.

September 25th

Was transmagnified into a mule and commenced packing and packed until October the 2nd.

October 2nd

(APE, MONKEY)

Commenced acting in the capacity of a simian.

October 24th

Finished contract of Township lines.

October 25th

Went to Oregon City. Arrived there in the afternoon after traveling a distance of 18 miles.

November 2nd

Started out on contract of subdividing Township No. 1 N R1 E and T 1,2,3,4 & 5 S of 1 E.

November 3rd

Arrived on work in Township 1 N R 1 E -- a cold, wet drizzly day.

December 17th

Finished subdividing T 1 N R 1 E. Had a very cold, wet and rainy disagreeable time.

December 18th

Gave three cheers and started for Oregon City.

December 19th

After two days of hard rowing against the strong rapid current of the Willamette river, arrived at Oregon City. The weather being so wet and disagreeable, we concluded to house up for awhile and keep 'bachelor's den' for a month or two until the weather becomes more settled.

December 25th

Christmas -- a dull and lonesome day.

January 1st, 1852

A cold unpleasant day, but little to do or to amuse one's self more than to think over the good times that he has had and others are now having in the states.

February 8th

Journal of George ... Page 3
3
After so long a rest in a snug retreat from the cold, drizzling rain and chilly winds, we begin to think once more of starting out again.

February 9th

Commenced getting things in readiness for starting out on the 15th.

February 15th

Started out on contract of subdividing T1,2,3,4,& 5 S of R 1 E.

February 17th

Arrived on work in T 5 S R 1 E and from the 17th to 30th had a cold and wet disagreeable time.

March 1st

Encamped near north boundary of 5 S 1 E. Snowed nearly all day and at night it lay on the ground about 7 inches deep, which lasted three days.

June 17th

Finished work and arrived at Oregon City. From March 15 to June 17 had good weather and a fine time, though our work lay in a very brushy part of the country.

July 3rd

Rain. Rain. Rain. Rain has kept me closely confined indoors all day and yesterday a.m.

July 4th

Still rains with no prospect of its stopping. May never stop.

July 5th

Started out on new contract -- one of subdividing T 1 S R 2 W & 2 S of 1 W.

July 6th

Arrived on work 15 miles west of Oregon City.

July 15th

Commenced to run the compass some on and off occasionally.

August 21st

Finished contract and arrived at Oregon City.

August 23rd

Hired to Hunt, deputy surveyor, to work a few days until Ivis got ready to start out on his next contract. Arrived at Portland and encamped for the night.

August 24th

After a day of hard rowing against the strong current of the Columbia river, we arrived on our work at dark.

September 6th

Left off work for Hunt and started for Oregon City, where I arrived at noon from a distance of 20 miles.

September 7th

Started out with Ivis again on his contract of T 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 & 10 S or R 5 W.

September 9th

Arrived on work in T 2 S 5 W.

September 11th

Was taken with chills and fever six miles in coast range of mountains, where I remained two days.

September 13th

Felt some better and started out towards the settlements. Traveled about three miles and stopped for the night on the side of a large mountain in the thick woods.

September 14th

Jogged on towards the Valley and arrived at Hibbards at 10:00 a.m. and remained there until the 20th.

September 20th

Commenced work again.

October 12th

Finished contract and started for Salem. Traveled 20 miles and encamped for the night.

Journal of George Melan
Page 5 of 27
5
October 13th

Arrived at Salem at noon and remained there the rest of the day.

October 14th

Remained 2 miles northwest of Salem and encamped until the 25th.

October 25th

Removed 4 miles farther west and encamped on the Lacreol river, where we remained until December 6th.

December 5th

Made preparation for starting out on another contract.

December 6th

Started out on contract of subdividing Township No. 15, 16, 17 & 18 S of R 4 W and T 15 S of 5 W. Traveled 20 miles and encamped for the night.

December 7th

Traveled within four miles of Marysville and put up at a house.

December 8th

Arrived at Marysville, where we were detained a week by the high water.

December 16th

Resumed our journey again and traveled 10 miles and encamped. It snowed about 3 inches at night.

December 17th

After a day's travel through mud, snow and water, encamped about 9:00 under a large Fir tree and if ever a supper tasted good, it was then.

December 18th

Arrived on work and stopped a week at Blair's waiting for the camp to arrive from below and to build a boat.

December 25th

Commenced working on T 17 S R 4 W. Snow is about 8 inches deep and weather is quite cool.

December 26th

Commenced running compass.

January 1st, 1853

New Year's Day. Ran seven miles on prairie. A cold, windy day. Snowed some.

February 1st

Fell in the Willamette river and lost compass and tripod while attempting to cross on a tottering log.

February 2nd

Got a boat and hunted for compass. Found tripod, but no compass.

February 3rd

Searched again for compass and found about noon -- slightly damaged.

February 4th

Commenced work again and had a wet, disagreeable wet time of it until March the 20th.

March 20th

Finished contract and gave three cheers and started for Oregon City.

March 25th

Arrived at Oregon City, where I remained 3 days.

March 28th

Went seven miles out in the country to Wm Arthur's, where I remained until April 15th.

April 15th

Went to Oregon City and commenced packing up and making ready for starting out on our summer's work.

April 18th

Started out on a contract of Township lines and subdivisions, including the townshipping of T 2,3,4,5,9,10,11,& 12 N of R 1 W and T 3, 4, 5 & 6 N of R 1 E and T E 10, 11 & 12 N of 2 W and the

subdividing of all within such tracts as is necessary. Encamped at Portland for the night and remained the next day.

April 20th

Went down the river as far as Linton and shouldered packs and started for the mountains and arrived at the place of commencement at night.

April 21st

Had a streak of the ague. Remained all day waiting for clear weather.

May 28th

Left Columbia bottoms on account of high water and started for Washington territory. Got as far as St. Helens and encamped.

May 29th

Arrived at Monticello, near the mouth of the Cowlitz river and encamped.

May 30th

Started at the Cowlitz river.

June 1st

After three days of hard rowing against a very rapid current, we arrived at the Cowlitz landing.

June 2nd

Shouldered packs and started for the woods.

June 4th

Arrived on work after a week's tedious traveling.

July 4th

Attended a general pow-wow at the Cowlitz landing.

July 6th

Finished town lines north of Columbia.

July 7th

Commenced the subdivisions of T 11 N R 1 W.

August 24th

Finished work on the Cowlitz and started for the Columbia bottoms.

August 25th

Started down the Cowlitz river and arrived at the mouth and encamped.

August 26th

Started up Columbia, went about 16 miles and encamped.

August 27th

Arrived at St. Helens and encamped, where we remained until the 31st waiting for an opportunity to cross the river, it being so rough.

August 31st

Commenced work again. Cloudy, rainy weather. Had a streak of the ague.

September

Had fine, pleasant weather, which continued throughout the month.

October

Had great deal of rain and a cold south wind, which made it very disagreeable to work in the low bottoms.

November

Rained about two thirds of the time throughout the month.

November 20th

Finished contract and wound up work for the year 1853.

November 21st

Started to Oregon City and got as far as Portland and encamped and had a jovial time.

November 22nd

Lay encamped at Portland all day.

November 23rd

Broke up camp and took steamer to Oregon City, where we arrived at noon. Called at post office and found 2 letters -- one from Iowa and the other from Wisconsin.

December 7th

Bought a draft of John B. Preston on Bradmore & Co. for the amount of seven-hundred and fifty dollars.

December 8th

Wrote two letters to John Mc -- one containing a draft for 750 dollars and the other containing four gold dollars. Both of which I put in the post office.

December 15th

Went out in the country to Wm Arthur's.

December 22nd

Went to Oregon City and back again. A cold, frosty day.

December 31st

Went to Oregon City again, where I remained two days.

January 1st, 1854

Went to preaching at 10:00 at the ME church and again in the evening.

January 2nd

Went out in the country again to Wm Arthur's where I remained four weeks.

February 5th

Went to Oregon City and back again. A very pleasant day.

February 8th

Went to Oregon City and engaged to Henry to go out on a surveying tour.

February 9th

Started out on a surveying tour and reached field of operations at night.

February 21st

Finished subdividing T 1 S of R 2 E and went into Oregon City and attended preaching in the evening.

February 23rd

Started out again to subdivide T 1 N R 1 W. Went as far as Portland on Steamer Prytona and took the rest of the way afoot. Took upon myself the responsibility of 'first cook.'

March 12th

Finished work and arrived at Portland at 2:00 and stopped two hours and started for Oregon City. Reached within 5 miles and stopped for the night.

March 13th

Arrived at Oregon City at half-past 8 and took up quarters at the Main Street house.

March 14th

Went to court in afternoon.

March 15th

Started on an errand for Dr. Henry, a distance of 30 miles.

March 16th

Arrived back to Oregon City and went to preaching in the evening.

March 18th

Started out surveying again to subdivide T 2 S R 2 W. Arrived at place of commencement at night.

April 2nd

Finished subdividing T 2 S R 2 W. Had a pleasant time. People were just making garden.

April 3rd

Went to Oregon City and found the company making preparation for starting out on the summer's work.

April 6th

Packed up for leaving Oregon City.

April 7th

(SEWELL TRUAX?)

Started for the head of Willamette Valley in company with S. Trucase. Got within 8 miles of Salem and stopped for the night. Found riding horseback very tiresome, not being used to it.

April 8th

Arrived at Salem at 9:00 and at ^{SANTIAM} Santram at 2:00 and at Albany at half-past 5:00. So lame I don't know which leg to limp on.

April 9th

Left Trucase at Albany and started to foot it the rest of the way -- a distance of fifty miles. Traveled thirty miles and put up at Richardson's on the Longton.

April 10th

Arrived at Blair's at 6:00. Very tired and lame.

April 12th

Started for Calapooya creek to meet the rest of the company. At noon met Trucase who informed me of a terrible disaster that happened at Canimak by the explosion of the boilers of the new Steamer Gazelle which killed --as I understand ---27 and wounded many more. Among the killed was Hunt, an acquaintance of Ivis who was just starting out with a company to fulfill a contract of surveying when he met the accident by which he lost his life. And in consequence of this, we were detained a week longer than we otherwise should have been. Stopped at Vangher's where I remained until the 16th, during which time we had fine weather and with an occasional game of ball passed the time off pleasantly.

April 16th

Stated in company with Turchill to Calapooya, where we arrived at noon.

April 17th

Started to Albany with two mules to meet Ivis. Arrived at journey's end at 4:00.

April 18th

Ivis, Hyde & company arrived from Oregon City at 2:00. Pitched camp below town. Showery day.

April 19th

Remained in camp all day arranging packs for starting tomorrow. Stormy day.

April 20th

Disappointed in starting as we intended in consequence of a mule's straying off.

April 21st

Left Albany at half-past 10 in company with 14 others, all armed and equipped and in fine spirits for Rogue river. At 6:00 arrived at Burlington and traveled one mile further and encamped.

April 22nd

Left campground at 9:00. Had good day and excellent road and traveled 22 miles and encamped at half-past 5.

April 23rd

Left campground at half-past 8 and arrived at ^{EUGENE ?} Oregon City at half-past 11 and at encampment at 5:00. Had good road and fine day and traveled 17 1/2 miles.

April 24th

Left encampment at 9:00 and traveled 10 miles and encamped at 4:00. Had a rough and hilly road and a rainy day. Disagreeable traveling.

April 25th

Left encampment at 9 and traveled 15 miles over the Calapooya mountains and encamped at 5. Had muddy road and a showery day.

April 26th

Left encampment 9:30 and traveled 14 miles and encamped. Had rough hilly road, but a fine day.

April 27th

Left encampment at half-past 8 and arrived at Winchester at 2:00. Traveled 4 miles farther, making 10 miles in all and encamped. Had good road and fine day.

April 28th

Traveled 14 miles, most of the way up the south fork of the Umpqua river. Good road and fine day.

April 29th

Stayed encamped all forenoon in consequence of rain. Towards noon showed some signs of clearing so decamped at 1:00 and traveled 14 miles, which brought us to Canyonville. Rained all afternoon. Very

disagreeable traveling.

April 20th

Sunday passed the day in camp. A dull cloudy day.

May 1st

Moved 2 1/2 miles east to place of commencing work and made packs for starting in the mountains tomorrow.

May 2nd

Shouldered packs and started in the mountains. Ran 3 miles and encamped in deep ravine. Had to build platform to sleep on.

May 3rd

Ran for three miles and in the whole distance didn't have three-hundred feet of level land. Had to build platform to sleep on.

May 4th

Ran three miles. Myself, Hyde and Hadlock went out to the canyon to meet the pack animals and get a new supply of provisions. Met pack animals and encamped on Cow creek.

May 5th

Laid encamped on Cow creek waiting for good weather.

May 8th

Shouldered packs again and started in the Cow mountains. The highest points covered with snow.

May 12th

Reached the south side of the Cow creek mountains and encamped on Grave Creek.

May 13th

Ran 4 1/2 miles to the south boundary of T 34 S and encamped 1/2 mile south of Jump Off Jo Creek.

May 14th

Ran six miles and encamped on Rogue river bottom.

May 15th

Laid encamped waiting for fair weather.

May 16th

(T365)

Shouldered packs and started east on offset between T 35 & T 6 S and 5 W. Ran 5 1/2 miles.

May 18th

Stopped two hours at noon on small stream and prospected for gold. Found several small pieces, but not in sufficient quantity to stop working. Arrived in Rogue river valley at dark.

May 19th

Early in the morning just as we were getting up we were visited by a party of 8 or 10 Indians, all armed and equipped and headed by their chief who came to ascertain what our intentions were ---whether peaceable or not. We were told by their interpreter that the chief had all he could do to prevent his men from attacking during the night, they thinking we was a war party. But their chief was hoping for the better and wanting to wait until morning when we could have a 'wa wa' (talk) with us and find out find out how matters stood. We explained our business and they went off satisfied. Ran seven miles and encamped on Rogue river. Great deal of excitement among the Indians -- rather suspicious of our movements.

May 20th

Ran five and half miles and reached the end of offset and started south on true meridian.

May 21st

Ran nine miles through prairie and oak and pine.

May 22nd

Ran six miles and encamped at the foot of the Ciskion mountains.

May 23rd

Shoulder packs again and started in the Ciskion mountains. Ran five miles.

May 24th

Ran three miles over a high mountain and went in company with three others to a high peak of the Siskion mountains where I had a splendid view from the highest elevation I was ever on, being over five-thousand feet high. We wrote our name on the summit, which is composed of granite some 80 or 90 feet high and partly covered with snow on which we had some rare sport in sliding down.

May 25th

Ran four and half miles and had some rare sport in killing a young grizzly bear.

May 26th

Left off work on the meridian at T ^{39 40} 35 & 4 S R 1 & 2 E. Had splendid view of an eclipse of the sun.

May 27th

Started to Jacksonville and traveled 21 miles and encamped within half mile of town.

May 28th

Stayed encamped and went to Jacksonville to see the place. Found it quite a stirring little place, it being Sunday -- the busiest day of the week when the miners come in to lay in their week's provisions and recover their letters.

May 29th

Moved seven miles on towards our work and encamped.

May 30th

Companies separated and Hyde's went to running town lines and ours to adjusting instruments etc.

May 31st

Commenced running town lines. Ran 2 1/2 miles round and then direct some.

June 4th

Commenced to run the compass.

June 10th

Went to Jacksonville, a distance of 10 miles.

June 11th

Sunday moved 8 miles north and encamped and washed our duds etc.

June 12th

Arrived on work. A cloudy, showery day.

June 13th

Commenced the north division of the meridian. Ran 8 miles. Between June the 13th and July the 8th, ran

the boundaries of T 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 S in R 1 E and T 36 & 39 S of R 2 E. Well 'mired.

July 9th

(SISKIYOU)

Started in the Ciskian mountains to extend the meridian south to the 42nd parallel of north latitude. Ran 3 3/4 miles and encamped south of summit of Ciskian mountains.

July 10th

Finished the meridian -- extended it to the south boundary of the territory and established a post, the first established between Oregon and California.

July 11th

Started for Jacksonville, traveled 18 miles and encamped.

July 12th

Traveled 12 miles and arrived at Jacksonville at 11:00 p.m.

July 13th

Traveled 22 miles and encamped on Gold river. A very warm day.

July 14th

Commenced the boundaries of T 34 & 35 S of R 1 W & T 35 of 2 W.

July 19th

Finished the boundaries of T 34 & 35 S of R 1 W & 35 S of 2 W.

July 20th

Traveled 15 miles down Rogue river towards western part of work and encamped in the mountains three miles north of Rogue river.

July 21st

Commenced the boundaries of T 36 S R 1 & 5 W.

July 27th

Finished the town lines and started to Jacksonville.

July 28th

Went to McFadden's and encamped and washed.

July 29th

All hands lent a hand to McFadden in harvesting which we found to be very different work from surveying, it blistering our hands and giving us a back ache and a strong desire to be back once more in the woods again.

July 30th

Went to Jacksonville and encamped.

July 31st

Moved to the place of commencing work. A fine, pleasant day.

August 1st

Commenced the subdivisions of T 38 S of R 1 E.

August 9th

Finished the subdivisions of T 38 S R 1 E and commenced the subdivisions of T 37 S R 1 E together with Trucase and company.

August 14th

Finished the subdivisions of T 37 S 1 E.

August 15th

Went to Jacksonville and encamped.

August 16th

Commenced the subdivisions of T 36 S of R 2 W.

August 28th

Finished subdividing T 36 S R 2 W.

August 29th

Commenced subdividing 36 S R 4 W.

September 9th

Finished subdividing T 36 R 4 W and went to McFadden's, where we remained over Sunday.

September 11

Surveyed McFadden's claim and went to Jacksonville where we busied ourselves in replenishing our camp etc, preparatory to going to the head of the valley.

September 12th

Started to the head of the valley. Traveled 15 miles and encamped.

September 13th

Arrived on work and remeasured four miles of south boundary of T 35 S 2 E.

September 14th

Commenced the subdivisions of T 39 S 2 E.

September 19th

Finished the subdivisions of T 39 S 2 E. Had very warm weather and it still continues.

September 20th

Commenced the subdivisions of T 39 S 1 E.

September 25th

Finished subdivision of T 39 S 1 E.

September 26th

Went to Jacksonville and encamped.

September 27th

Started to work again. Traveled 15 miles and encamped.

September 28th

Arrived on work and commenced subdividing T 34 S R 1 W. Had a shake of ague at night.

October 11th

Finished subdividing T 34 S 1 W and moved in T 35 S 2 W.

October 12th

Commenced subdividing T 35 S 2 W.

October 19th

Finished 35 S, which finished the contract and wound up our work for 1854.

October 20th

Went to Jacksonville and found that the other company had been there two days.

October 21st

Settled up accounts etc.

October 22nd

Bid good-by to comrades and started for home ---yes, home. How odd it sounds. Traveled 16 miles and stopped for the night. Slept on a bed the first since last winter.

October 23rd

Started early and traveled 27 miles and stopped for the night at Cottonwood, a small mining town on Clamath river, Ca.

October 24th

Started early and after climbing over some rough rugged mountains for six miles, arrived in Shasta Valley about 10 and in Yreka about 3:00. Remained the rest of the day and put up at the Yreka House and at night visited the fashionable resort of the bloods of the town. Saw much to amuse but little to admire.

October 24th

Had a good road and traveled 30 miles and put up just at dark.

October 26th

Traveled 12 miles and arrived at the commencement of the ascent of Scott's mountains at noon. Made a short rest and commenced climbing mountains. After traveling sixteen miles over a high rugged stony

snow-capped mountain, arrived at a house on south side and put up for the night.

October 27th

Started at 10:00 and traveled 24 miles down the Trinity river. For the most of the way had good road. Put up for the night at the ferry.

October 28th

Started by daylight and after traveling two miles commenced the ascent of Trinity mountains. Found very good, but crooked, path and at noon reached a house on south side of mountain. Rested a while and in the afternoon traveled down clear creek -- a branch of the Sacramento ---8 miles to French Gulch. After looking around a while, traveled 3 miles farther down the creek and put up for the night at the town house.

October 29th

Sunday started in good season and took it leisurely to Shasta --a distance of 12 miles --where I reached at noon and stopped the rest of the day in town.

October 30th

Took passage in stage for Marysville. Started at quarter to three and drove 10 miles and stopped and took breakfast and started again just at daylight. Had excellent road, good day and a fine country to travel over. Traveled 100 miles and stopped and took supper just at dark and started out again and reached Marysville at quarter to twelve, making the whole distance of one-hundred and forty miles in twenty-one hours.

October 31st

Felt a slight touch of the ague. Find I am too late for the steamer of the first, so conclude to take it leisurely the rest of the way to San Francisco.

November 1st and 2nd

Remained in town expecting steamer from below on which I have bought a passage. On the night of the 2nd went to Mike Goodwin's concert at the Methodist church.

November 3rd

Took passage on the Gov. Dana for Sacramento. Arrived in city at half-past 3:00. Took up lodgings at Lavis' hotel on 1st, where I remained until the fifth.

November 5th

Took passage on Steamer New World for San Francisco. Left Sacramento at half-past 2:00 p.m. and arrived at San Francisco at 10 and put up at the Kassuth House on Ballery St.

November 6th

Took a ramble through the city and went to the Metropolitan Theater at night.

November 7th

Bought passage ticket for New York on board of the Steamships Cortez and Star of the West. Visited the art union and went to the American theater in the evening to hear Cristy minstrels.

November 8th

Took a walk down the bay about half a mile and climbed a high sand hill from which I had a splendid view of the bay and city and the first view I ever had of the Ocean. In afternoon visited the art union.

November 9th

Went aboard of the Steamship Cortez at 9:00 and at half-past 10 bid good-bye and took the last look at San Francisco. Had rough sea all afternoon. Passengers all in high glee, cracking their jokes and laughing at each other's clumsiness as they go tumbling over each other in their efforts to walk the rolling decks. Towards night began to grow more serious. Some began to empty the contents of their bread basket over the bulwarks.

November 10th

A fine pleasant day, still rough. Passengers look rather serious and little inclined to chat. Saw four whales.

November 11th

Still rough, though calmed down towards evening with a fair breeze. Passengers begin to feel more lively and talkative.

November 12th - 16th

Fair weather with a fair breeze the most. Joked the time off very pleasantly.

November 17th

A cloudy day with a strong southeast wind and an occasional sprinkle of rain.

November 18th

Clear pleasant day with a strong head wind, which made it very rough towards evening and caused the ranks to look think around the supper and breakfast tables.

November 19th

Clear day with a strong headwind which caused the spray to fly very high towards evening -- so high indeed that it completely showered your humble servant who laid down on the hurricane deck with the peaceable intention of taking a comfortable snooze, when splash came the spray entirely dispelling the sweet influence of old Morpheus and causing my mother's son to make a precipitous retreat.

November 20th

Clouded up towards night and slightly with rain.

November 21st

Arrived at San Juan at half-past 10:00 and eat dinner and all hands straddled each a mule and started for Nicaragua lake, where we arrived about the middle of the afternoon and remained until dark and went aboard the Steamer La Virgin and at 2:00 weighed anchor and started.

November 22nd

At 2:00 p.m. arrived at San Carlos on opposite side of the lake and at Castillo at dark. For the first time on our voyage laid over night.

November 23rd

At 2:00 p.m. met the California- bound passengers and saluted each other with three cheers. Arrived at Virgin bay at 4 and went board of the Star of the West and sailed at half-past 4:00 p.m. Cloudy day with an occasional sprinkle of rain.

November 24th & 25th

Fine pleasant days, though very warm and the sea quite calm.

November 26th

Clear pleasant day with a strong headwind, which raised to quite a gale toward night. At 4:00 p.m. came in sight of Cuba.

November 27th

Had a very rough sea all day which caused a singular gasping among the passengers, myself excepted. At 5:00 p.m. put in at Key West to coal, where we remained until 1:00.

November 28th & 29th

And until December 2nd --was out of sight of land and had a rough sea and a strong wind mostly from the north. Weather begins to get quite cold.

December 2nd

A very cold morning. Passengers all in a flurry and a bustle --anxious to get ashore. About 10:00 came in sight of land and at half-past 2:00 landed in New York City and put up at the Philadelphia hotel on Battery place. In the evening went to the American museums on Broadway and Ann St, opposite St. Paul's church.

December 3rd

Sunday at half-past 10 went to preaching at St. Peter's church and in afternoon took a walk up Broadway. Very disagreeable weather -- snowed, sleeted and rained nearly all afternoon.

December 4th

A cold freezing day. Bought passage ticket for Chicago to leave by the evening train. In forenoon took a jaunt up town and in afternoon bought some books, clothes etc, but it taking longer than I expected I was obliged to wait another day. In the evening went to the Metropolitan theater and subscribed to the NY Tribune.

December 5th

Clear pleasant day, but quite cold. Took a stroll up East river and back. At half-past 6:00 went board of the cars and started for home. Arrived at Albany at 4 a.m. where we remained until half-past 12:00 p.m.

December 6th

At half-past 12:00 left Albany. A fine, pleasant afternoon.

December 7th

Just at daylight arrived at a general smash-up caused by the collision of two trains. Detained until 8:00 p.m.

December 8th

Just at daylight arrived at Rochester and remained until 10:30 and at 1:00 arrived at Albion and remained until after dark.

December 9th

At half-past 2:00 arrived at suspension bridge and at 10 crossed over. At 1 p.m. left suspension bridge and arrived at New London at 6:00 and remained until morning.

December 10th

Left New London at daylight and arrived at Windsor at 11:00 and crossed over to Detroit and remained there until in the evening of the 12th waiting for baggage.

December 12th

Left Detroit at 9:00 p.m. and arrived at Chicago at daylight next morning.

December 13th

Left Chicago at 3:00 p.m. and arrived at Galena at 12:00.

December 14th

Remained in Galena all day in consequence of not having any conveyance to Platteville.

December 15th

Left Galena at half-past 3:00 and arrived at Platteville at half-past 8 and at home at about 10:00 a.m.

Amen.

Don McFall
117 Cypress Dr.
Williamsville, FL. 62693
217/566-2200
mcfalls@gcctv.com

{ The following poems were found at the back of the journal. Authorship uncertain. }

Do they miss me at home?

Do they miss me at home?

Do they miss me?

It would be an occurrence most dear

to know that this moment some loved one

were saying I wish you were here.

To feel that the group by the fireside

were thinking of me as I roam.

Oh yes, would be joy beyond measure

to know that they miss me at home.

To know that they miss me at home.

When twilight approaches the seashore

that ever was sacred to song

does someone repeat my name over

and sigh that I tarry so long?

And is there a chord in the music

that's missed when my voice is away

and accord in each dear heart

that maketh regret at my wearisome stay?

Regret at my wearisome stay?

Do they place me a chair at the table

when evening's pleasures are nigh?

When lamps are lit bright in the parlor

and stars in the calm azure sky?

And when the goodnights are repeated

and each lays down to sweet sleep

do they think of the absent and wish me

a whispered good-night on the deep?

A whispered good-night on the deep?

Do they miss me at home?

Do they miss me

at morning, at noon or at night?

And layers once gloomy shade round them

that only my presence can light?

Are joys less willingly welcome,

are pleasures less hailed than before

because one dear one is absent?

Because I am with them no more?

Because I am with them no more?

Ballad

The traveler may boast

of the climes he has seen

where wonders of nature abound.

He may tell us of winter arranged in its gown

or summer in icicles bound.

He may visit the cities of classical form

Alexandria, Athens or Rome

but all his enjoyments deserve not a name

compared with the sweets of a home, a home.

Compared with the sweets of a home.

Then be not inflamed by the traveler's tale

to fly from your country and kin

to think if your fireside blessing should fail

what novel afflictions begin.

How lovely to wander from village to town

a stranger, an alien to roam.

How oft must he think of the joys that abound

with those that are blessed with a home, a home.

With those that are blessed with a home.

How oft must he breathe the sad sigh of regret
when thinking of earlier years.
What once was his home he now tries to forget
but still the sweet vision appears when fancy has painted
the field and the yard, the gate, the brook and the dam.
He feels of a truth 'tis exceedingly hard
to live destitute of a home, a home.
To live destitute of a home.
Be mine the delights of a family firm
where nature is quite at her ease.
On which of an evening
by-times may return and always find something to please.
A cheerful companion to sing me a song
or read me some favorite tome
to quietly reprove me when I'm in the wrong
Oh such are the sweets of a home, a home.
Oh such are the sweets of a home.