

William Tappan's Diary 1848

	Foreword		
April	Tappan's journey begins	June 18	Return of hunting party
May 27	Group first sees the Platte	June 19	Stampede
May 28	Preparations for travel	June 20	Tappan tires of camp life
May 29	Tappan describes Indian village	June 21	Tappan finds his horse
May 30	Party aids in a buffalo hunt	June 22	Smallpox breaks
May 31	Tappan's sunburn	June 23	Military discipline
June 1	Rainstorm delays parties travel	June 25	Punishment on the prairie
June 2	Future site of fort	June 26	Mormons scuffle with Omahas
June 3	Party rests at End Camp	June 27	"Ethiopians" entertain troops
June 5	Site of future Fort Childs	June 28	Sioux give chase to Mormons
June 6	Tappan hunts for insects	June 30	Fort work in progress
June 7	Cheyenne war party	July 1	Omahas battle Sioux Indians
June 8	Antelope wanders into camp	July 2	Independence Day Party
June 9	Horsemen chase down game	July 5	Wildlife encounters
June 10	Tappan chases hare	July 6	Tappan chases a cat
June 11	Soldiers race horses	July 9	Camp observes Sabbath
June 12	Prairie dog village	July 10	Emigrants enroute to Oregon
June 13	Description of Sioux and Platte	July 11	Man dies from Small Pox.
June 14	Wind storm hits	July 12	Kit Carson visits Fort Childs
June 15	Lightning storm	July 16	Tappan sees a rattlesnake
June 16	Storm damages camp	July 21	Learning Indian war customs
June 17	Gambling, whiskey, roguery	July 23	Crossing the Platte
		July 24	Cold, wet buffalo hunt
		July 28	Pursuing Native train robbers
		Aug. 5	Fishing at Wood River
		Aug. 6	Captain encounters Indians
		Aug. 8	Meeting Pawnee over treaty
		Sept. 9	Party sees herd of 500 buffalo
		Sept. 14	Cherahtariche given leave
		Sept. 17	Sioux horsethieves strike
		Sept. 19	Tomahawk and unruly soldier
		Sept. 22	Pawnee hunter visits hospital
		Sept. 23	Supplies arrive at the fort
		Sept. 28	Pawnee overtakes party
		Sept. 30	Camping near Pawnee village
		Oct. 1	Pawnee gravesite
		Oct. 2	Honesty best policy
		Oct. 3	Tappan's truant horse
		Oct. 4	45 miles to Fort Kearney
		Oct. 5	16 hours in the saddle
		Oct. 6	Such pies!
		Oct. 10	Linden to Jackson
		Oct. 12	Party camps at St. Jo
		Oct. 13	Dinner in Bloomington
		Oct. 15	Off to Leavenworth
		Oct. 17	Party navigates falls
		Last 3	Last 3 Pages
		Pages	

Foreword

By Ellen F. Tappan, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

The 1848 diary of William Henry Tappan reproduced on these pages was passed down through the family of his nephew, Lewis. At a family gathering in 1993 I had an opportunity to look at it. I found that I could read the difficult handwriting. The first eleven pages were written in ink. The following sixty-six pages were in faded pencil and required great concentration and strong light to decipher. The 7-by 8 1/4-inch marbled notebook had unlined, blank, gray toned pages. I was given a photocopy of the diary. I would puzzle over a page, then read it slowly into a tape recorder, later typing it out in rough draft. Over the next few years I became more and more familiar with Tappan's spelling, lack of punctuation, letter shapes and words until finally the transcription was complete. Finally, I felt that there was so much interesting information in Tappan's diary that it should be shared with historians and the people of Nebraska. I am indebted to the Nebraska State Historical Society and the assistance of my co-editor, Richard E. Jensen, senior research anthropologist at the Society, for helping bring the William Henry Tappan diary to the public.

Introduction

By Richard E. Jensen, Nebraska State Historical Society

In 1848 William Henry Tappan spent nearly six months with the Missouri Mounted Volunteers in present day Nebraska. A civilian, he was invited to accompany the soldiers because of his proven artistic ability. Tappan's instructions during the tour were to make drawings and collections that would illustrate the botanical, zoological, and geographical features of the country. In his diary he did discuss his artwork. He wrote about a sketch of a Cheyenne warrior, which may not have been completed because the subject objected. He mentioned two sketches of Lakota men, one in some detail, and at least two Platte River scenes. There are also offhand comments about his drawings such as, "Remained in quarters making sketches" and "returned and redrew sketches." Unfortunately only four of his Fort Childs sketches, all reproduced here are known to exist. The Manchester (Massachusetts) Historical Society has three of Tappan's oil paintings depicting scenes in Manchester and a portrait titled Masconomo, a chief of the Agawam tribe.¹

Tappan's diary begins in April when he joined the Volunteers at Fort Kearny on the Missouri River. The unit was about to set out for a site on the Platte River to begin construction of Fort Childs, later renamed Fort Kearny. Tappan described a variety of events but tended to avoid the mundane. When he wrote about the weather, it was when conditions were extreme, including one entry that suggests he was dangerously near a tornado. Plains animals, which were largely exotic species to this New Englander, received more attention. Tappan also wrote about the people he met, but not always in complimentary terms. His early comments about the native peoples reveal an unabashed racism, but epithets later disappear suggesting a change of heart. Midway through the journal Tappan described an argument between an army colonel and a Pawnee chief, which the Pawnee clearly won. Although he made no further comment, Tappan must have smiled inwardly when the chief presented the soldier with a Bible and suggested he read it because it "would make him a better man." In early October Tappan left Fort Childs to return to Boston. The diary ends while he was on an Ohio River steamboat east of Evansville, Indiana.

William Tappan was born on October 30, 1821, in Manchester, Massachusetts, the home of four generations of the Tappan family, whose ancestors had arrived in nearby Newbury from Pately Bridge, Yorkshire, England, in 1632. His great-grandfather, the Reverend Benjamin Tappan, was the pastor of the Manchester church for forty-five years and his grandfather, Colonel Ebenezer Tappan, served in the Revolutionary Army. His father, Ebenezer, Jr., was a

storekeeper, ship builder, furniture manufacturer, builder of fire engines, member of the Massachusetts State Legislature, and the colonel of a regiment of militia.

William became an artist and an engraver of portraits in mezzotint and worked with the engraver Joseph Andrew in Boston in the early 1840s. While there, he and George G. Smith opened a business for engraving photographs in mezzotint. Somewhat later he found employment in Philadelphia as a draftsman for the federal government. Tappan was also employed by Jean Louis Agassiz to make drawings to illustrate the Harvard professor's books and lectures.²

In 1849 Tappan again became a guest of the regiment at the invitation of Secretary of War George W. Crawford. This expedition continued the work of establishing military posts along the overland immigrant routes and among the Indian tribes in Wyoming, Idaho, and Oregon.

Tappan stayed in Oregon where he was appointed postmaster in Oregon City and was also employed by the Office of Indian Affairs. In 1851 he helped to lay out the town of St. Helens and remained in that area where he served as a merchant and legislator. He designed the seal of Washington Territory.

In April 1857 Tappan married Margaret Anderson and in 1864 they moved to Colorado to partner with his brother, Lewis, in mercantile businesses in Denver, Golden, and Central City. After a disastrous fire in Central City Tappan returned to Manchester where he was engaged in surveying and dealing in real estate. He was elected to the state senate for a term in 1885-86 and was also one of the founders of the Manchester Historical Society, which continues today as a thriving institution. Tappan's wife Margaret died in April 1867, and in 1881 he married Augusta Wheaton, a Manchester native. William Tappan died in 1907 at the age of eighty-six. He was survived by his wife and a sister.

Tappan's hosts in 1848 were the Missouri Mounted Volunteers. This unit had been organized as part of a plan authorized by Congress on May 19, 1846, to build military posts along the trail to Oregon to provide protection and assistance to the emigrants. Proponents of the forts also argued that the presence of the military would be a major step in ending intertribal warfare, which had long been a goal of the government.³ Ten companies of mounted riflemen were approved, but by the time the division was assembled the war with Mexico took precedence and most of the troops were sent to Texas and then into Mexico. The original plan was not jettisoned, however. Earlier Col. Stephen Watts Kearny had selected a site for a fort on the Missouri River at present Nebraska City, Nebraska, which he thought would be a jumping-off place for the westward-bound travelers. Near the end of May 1846 two companies of the regular army arrived there and began construction of the first Fort Kearny. Before winter set in sixty log cabins and a blockhouse were erected.⁴

In the summer of 1847 five more companies of Missouri Volunteers were assembled to carry out the original purpose of the congressional act. This unit, dubbed the Oregon Battalion, was commanded by Lt. Col. Ludwell E. Powell. The unit was sent to Fort Kearny, arriving there in September to spend the winter. By this time the army realized that the garrison was too far up the Missouri River to fulfill its intended purpose. In the mid-1840s some travelers to the Far West did ascend the Missouri River to Bellevue, even then a sizeable community. There the voyagers turned west and followed the north side of the Platte River. By the late 1840s, however, most travelers opted for a shorter route beginning in St. Joseph or Independence, Missouri, that followed a more direct line northwest to reach the Platte River. The trail up the Missouri River to Fort Kearny became merely a local route.

In the fall of 1847 Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury set out to find a more suitable site for a fort on the Platte River. Woodbury chose a location upstream from the head of Grand Island, although he

admitted there were disadvantages, including a lack of timber suitable for construction.⁵ In the spring, the Missouri Volunteers left Fort Kearny and moved up the Platte to began construction of the new garrison, called Fort Childs in honor of Brig. Gen. Thomas Childs⁶, a Mexican War hero. Tappan accompanied what was probably the last group of soldiers to leave Fort Kearny. This left the old fort largely abandoned, and even the name was appropriated for the new installation on the Platte.⁷

Tappan stayed at Fort Childs until September 28 when he left with some of the Missouri Volunteers who had fulfilled their term of enlistment. Others would follow until fewer than twenty soldiers were left. Regular army reinforcements under Capt. Charles F. Ruff arrived at Fort Childs on October 28, 1848.⁸

The new Fort Kearny served the argonauts often and well. The fort offered an opportunity to rest and refit for the next leg of the journey, which took about thirty days when they again reached "civilization" at Fort Laramie. It was not long before stagecoach lines were established to cater to the more affluent travelers, and the road ranches operated by the coach lines provided services to other emigrants as well. In 1866 the Union Pacific Railroad began laying tracks across Nebraska signaling the end of the wagon trains and coaches as well as the demise of Fort Kearny. In 1871 the army ordered the fort's final abandonment.

Tappan's diary is one of the very few primary accounts relating to events at Fort Childs during its inception. Two other valuable sources for this period are the letters of William W. Ingraham, an enlisted man in the Missouri Volunteers, and the reports of Capt. Charles F. Ruff, commander of the fort just after Tappan and Ingraham had departed. Ingraham wrote about some of the same events Tappan records, but he was more concerned with military matters than the civilian Tappan was. Captain Ruff described some of the problems he thought he had inherited from his predecessors.⁹ Other military records during the time of Tappan's visit are extremely meager. Emigrant diaries and letters had much to say about the fort in later years, but it received only passing mention in 1848. The Ingraham letters and Ruff's reports follow Tappan's diary in this issue.

Editorial procedure

We have tried to keep this transcription as close as possible to the original. Obviously the line length has changed, and we have not indicated hyphenated words when Tappan broke words because he ran out of space at the edge of the page. He used capital letters almost randomly, but these have been retained since they create only a minor inconvenience for the reader. Occasionally Tappan lined through words, and these have been retained. Tappan often wrote long compound sentences without any punctuation. For easier reading these have been broken into simple sentences with a three-space separation. Paragraphs have also been added for reader convenience. A few words in the diary could not be deciphered either because of Tappan's penmanship or the condition of the diary. These words are indicated by _____, each blank representing one illegible word. In other cases when we were not reasonably sure that our transcription was correct we followed the word with [?]. Other editorial insertions are also enclosed in brackets. The diary was kept in a tablet of ninety pages. The marbled cover is cardboard with a strip of leather reinforcing the glued binding.

¹ We dare to hope that Tappan's drawings are buried in an unidentified collection in the National Archives or some other repository. In 1849 Tappan went to Oregon and presumably made a number of sketches during the trip. Many years later the State Historical Society of Wisconsin acquired 50 unsigned drawings of scenes along the Oregon Trail and historian Richard Settle speculated that they were the work of Tappan. Raymond W. Settle, ed., *The March of the Mounted Riflemen* (Glendale, Calif.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1840), 27-28. John A. McDermott disagreed. He uncovered additional data and argued persuasively that the artist was James F. Wilkins. John Francis McDermott, ed., *An Artist on the Overland Trail: The*

1849 *Diary and Sketches of James F. Wilkins* (Huntington Library: San Marino, Calif., 1968), 21-23.

Biographical data for Tappan are from two sources: *Biographical Review Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: Biographic Review Publishing Co., 1898) 28:138-39, and the *Manchester Cricket*, Jan. 26, 1907.

²*Biographical Review*, 138. Raymond Settle concluded that Tappan accompanied Agassiz on an exploration of the Lake Superior region but this cannot be true since Agassiz was there at the same time that Tappan was at Fort Childs. Settle, *The March of the Mounted Riflemen*, 28. *The Biographical Review* (138) states that Tappan accompanied Agassiz "on his tour in the South" but a date was not given.

³Indian Agent John Miller was concerned about the increasingly aggressive Lakota war parties who were attacking the Pawnee and other semi-sedentary tribes assigned to his agency. Miller was dismayed to learn that the fort on the Platte would be on the south side of the river. He complained to his superiors in the Office of Indian Affairs that such a location would be "protection in name only" for the Pawnee. His protest fell on deaf ears. John Miller to Thomas Harvey, September 10, 1847, Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, Council Bluffs Agency, 1847-51 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M234, Roll 217) Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75, National Archives and Records Administration, hereafter cited as Council Bluffs Agency letters.

⁴Data on the forts and the Missouri Volunteers is from Lillian M. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," *Nebraska History* 21 (1930): 21-27; Settle, *The March of the Mounted Riflemen*, 13-16.

⁵Grand Island was a number of islands resulting from the braided nature of the Platte River. They are near the modern town of Grand Island, Nebraska.

⁶In December 1848, the name was changed to Kearny to honor Stephen Watts Kearny, another Mexican War hero who died in October 1848. The original Fort Kearny on the Missouri River was abandoned. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 228; Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (Washington, D. C.: GPO, 1903), 299, 586.

⁷Albert Watkins concluded that Colonel Powell left for the Fort Childs site on March 12 and that the main body followed on April 28, the latter arriving on June 1. Albert Watkins, "History of Fort Kearny," *Collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society* 16 (1911): 238. These dates are suspect. Powell did leave on March 12, but his destination was not given in the records. He was back at Fort Kearny when the post returns were compiled in April. The main body of troops did not need thirty-five days to reach the Platte River site. Tappan's group accomplished it in eleven days. Tappan left on May 23 and caught up with Powell just five days later.

⁸Albert Watkins, "Notes on the Early History of the Nebraska Country," *Publications of the Nebraska State Historical Society* 20 (1922): 186

⁹William W. Ingraham Collection RG5237.AM., Nebraska State Historical Society; Fort Kearny Nebraska, Letters Sent 1848-71, Records of the U.S. Army Continental Commands, RG 393 (NARA).

April 1848

On April 24, 1848 I left Boston via Albany & Buffalo arrived at Buffalo a 9 P.M. was detained until 12. before I could find lodging in the morning crossed the lake [Erie] to Sandusky from there to Cincinnati down the Ohio up the Mississippi [Mississippi] and Missouri to St Louis where I concluded my purchases and left in the steamer Martha on the 9th of May reaching St Joseph where on the 20th bought a mule for 65 dollars and taking Maj Carnes' horse in tow left for Fort Kearney¹⁰ had some trouble 8 miles out and hired a boy to go with me to Savannah where I got another boy who accompanied me to the fort where I arrived on the 23rd where I was very politely received by my friend Maj Carnes who introduced me to the Officers of the Garrison where after some little drinking and eating we finished off with a stirrup cup at the Suttlers quarters and took up our line of march for Grand Island

Our company consisted of Maj. Carnes, Maj Dorethy [John Dougherty], Leut [R. J.] Watson, commander of the fort. Capt Vanveit command of our party Luei [Lt.] Warmcastle of the Volunteers and acting commissary and three minor officers all mounted.¹¹ Four wagons were started an hour or two in advance. Having bid our friends farewell we left at 12 o'clock on the trail of the teams which led through a fine rolling prairie the banks of the Missouri forming the horizon about 15 miles appeared beautifully diversified with grass and bluffs this was occasionally varied by a high roll which cut the horizon

we encamped met in the afternoon a company of 100 Iowa Indians returning from a war expedition against the Pawnee they had been very unsuccessful [unsuccessful] had no scalps.¹² The wagons were set in a gully and Maj Carnes Maj Dorety, Leut Warmcastle and myself were in advance some two miles when we discovered them a mile to the left and after reconnoitering drove towards them when a dozen of the first men and the son of the chief came galloping up to meet us when within a few rods we halted and were at once surrounded with the shaking hands with in such a way that it required no small skill in horsemanship to keep the saddle. It was a proud and wild sight to see their approach the fantastic costume scalp locks and painted faces some had but little clothing save the blanket others had frocks of calicos and brilliant colors one was enveloped in a buffalo robe. Gorge White Cloud is a good-looking lad of about 20.¹³ As this war party were on the way towards the settlements and very hungry, Maj Dorety feared they might commit depredation among his beef cattle at the fort and thereafter left us & hurried back.

At night we encamped on the side of the road near a point but were obliged to halt a tree a mile 1/2 for wood I occupy a tent with Maj Carney [Carnes]. I spent a very pleasant night and heard for the first time the howling of wolves. 15 miles The next morning were off by sun rise ~~Maj Carney the Capt~~ & myself taking the lead and but were soon overtaken by a smart rain storm which lasted two hours and cleared off pleasantly. Leu Warmcastle with a dragoon left us for the main body 30 miles in advance.¹⁴ the face of the country is much the same as yesterday. in the morning crossing a large flat of 3 miles. the roll here being becoming gradually longer. after crossing zig zag _____ we encamped at No 4. where our party was enlarged by Maj Miller ~~as it was~~ the Pawnee Agent an [in]terpreter and one other.¹⁵ camp was called at daybreak [May 25]. The Capt mounted his hunter called his hounds and accompanied by the Maj, party & myself took the lead the country becoming gradually flatter as we approached the Saline where we were obliged to make camp and raft across.¹⁶ the Capt, Maj & Co made their animals [swim?] and went on to the main body 15 miles in adv. to get 2 companies to rebuild the bridge which had been washed away. in ferrying we came very near losing one of the best men of the party by drowning. a camp woman recd a ducking by the tumbling of the cook. her weight kept him under water until after she had floundered about awhile when she was relieved by a teamster.¹⁷ every thing over safe the animals were then rowed across and we went, ourselves crossing on the drift wood of the old bridge, [w]hen the Maj got wet by falling between the timber but was soon dragged out and after a fine supper we encamped among the dry reeds in the rear of a most magnificent elm, and were little disturbed by the barking of our hounds & biting of the miscreants this day we had traveled but 8 miles.

¹⁰ Peter A. Carnes was the civilian forage master for the troop. The military rank was honorary. Charles J. Kappler, ed., *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 3 vols. (Washington, D.C. GPO, 1904), 2:572.

¹¹ John Dougherty's long tenure in the West began in 1809, when he went to the upper Missouri country with a fur trading company led by Manuel Lisa. He probably worked for the company until 1819, when he was hired as an interpreter by the Office of Indian Affairs, and later served as an Indian agent for tribes in the central Plains. Agents were given the honorary title of major. In the 1840s Dougherty turned to freighting for the army and trading with the Indians. Merrill J. Mattes, "John Dougherty," *The Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, 10 vols. (Glendale, Calif.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1971), 8: 113-42. Dougherty's son Lewis took charge of the store at the new fort on the Platte in December. Ethel Massie Withers, ed., "Experiences of Lewis Bissell Dougherty on the Oregon Trail," *Missouri Historical Review* 24

(1930): 361. Capt. Stewart Van Vliet lived in New York City when he entered the military academy in 1836. He served in the Civil War and retired in 1881. Heitman, *Historical Register*, 984. In 1848 he served as the quartermaster for the Missouri Volunteers. Louise Barry, *The Beginning of the West* (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), 708. First Lt. F. M. Warmcastle was assigned to Co. C of the Missouri Volunteers. Post Returns, Fort Kearny, March 1848 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M247, roll 564) Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94, National Archives and Records Administration, hereafter cited as Fort Kearny Post Returns.

¹²The Iowa occupied a reservation in the northeastern corner of the present day state of Kansas. On May 14th his party attacked some Pawnees on the Platte River and killed six women, three men, and two children, but the Iowa knew it would not be prudent to brag about it to the soldiers. Barry, *The Beginning of the West*, 752.

¹³White Cloud, the Iowa chief, was about thirty-five or thirty-six years old. His son was described as "a young man of education" who had spent time in white settlements in the West. Barry, *The Beginning of the West*, 735, 752.

¹⁴Lieutenant Woodbury left Fort Kearny on May 13 with three companies of the Missouri Volunteers and arrived at the new site on June 2. He was followed by two companies who were escorting the supply train. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 256.

¹⁵John Miller was the government agent for the Pawnee. Council Bluffs Agency letters. Miller's Pawnee interpreter was John Deroine. Statement of Persons Employed... December 31, 1846, Ibid. Later the army hired its own interpreter.

¹⁶The Saline is now called Salt Creek. They crossed it upstream from the present town of Ashland, Nebraska. A year later James F. Wilkins camped on the banks of the creek but had only derogatory comments about it. The waters of the creek are so salt and disagreeable that we cannot use it. luckily we brought a keg of good water with us. they are reported to be very unhealthy, and have such a bad odour as to be smelt several hundred yards off. 3 men died here while building a log bridge across it last year. McDermott, *An Artist on the Overland Trail*, 36.

¹⁷Each company in the regular army was allowed four laundresses who received rations and a salary and "other allowances" given to soldiers. It is probable that the Missouri Volunteers followed similar regulations. Hans von Sachsen-Altenburg and Laura Gabiber, *Winning the West: General Stephen Watts Kearny's Letter Book* (Booneville, Mo.: Pekitanoui Publications, 1998), 149.

May 27, 1848

[May] 26 off soon after sunrise the while taking in my mule I discovered a newly made grave covered with timber to keep wolves off, probably some soldier. the Maj and I taking the lead kept it untill we met the Capt about 18 miles encampment on cotton wood on deer river,¹⁸ previous to which we met the two horse companys going to the brige, or where the bridge ought to be. on our way one of the Capt mules was bitten in the nose by a ratler snake after resting our heels [?] at deer River we again marched on eight miles & encampment in a beautiful tongue. saw an antelope and passed 30 or 40 US ox teams. the country after leaving in the morning began to form into short high rolls which lengthened as we proceeded. between every hill are zig zagging gullies. the land this AM was thickly strewed with pebbles. Saw no timber or water from deer river until we reached the encampment. the roll high and very long. obliged to keep the serpentine ridge road¹⁹

Broke up camp and commenced march at 4 AM [May 27] over high rolling prairie many of the gullies were very beautiful with clumps of oak in background. Grass rolls broke abruptly after 10 miles into a perfect plain 8 miles when it gradually rose into sharp rolls from this we first saw the platte [River] from the hight we descended rapidly into a dead level 27c [?] platt with wooded islands. here we overtook in camp Col Powell companies²⁰ Maj Carnes and myself rode into the camp in advance and were introduced to the officers by the Capt. about noon my mule ran with me and not being firmly seated, in the act of mountain was thrown by the raging [mule] was

soon caught. This day traveled 38 miles. made camp 1/2 past 3. on the way chased several antelope without success²¹ our camp presented a very singular appearance the tents containing some 400 men were ranged along the bank of the river and the cattle numbering some five or six hundred were picketed on the prairie in front the regularly broken only by the baggage trains and artillery²² I should have mentioned that all day but especially at 12 men were much annoyed by the winds which blow [blow] neigh great violence [violence] on the heights and flats we were obliged to lean against it to keep our saddles. It continued to blow from the south east west until near midnight when after a violent rain storm it turned to north east blowing directly into our tent which caused me to make a pillow on the foot of my bed. I find the tent a much more comfortable residence than I had expected for though the storm was a very violent one and (as the Indian Agent expressed it) "the rain seemed to be poured from buckets, yet I was not aware of its raining at all.

¹⁸ The Deer River is almost certainly present-day Wahoo Creek. Their camp would have been west of the modern town of Wahoo.

¹⁹ The remainder of the line is a largely unintelligible sketch consisting of two parallel lines. There are three small rectangles and several dashes on the upper line. Perhaps it served as a reminder to Tappan to complete a more legible sketch of the trail.

²⁰ A space was left and "Powell" was added in pencil probably at some later date. Ludwell E. Powell was mustered into service on August 30, 1847, as a lieutenant colonel in the Missouri Mounted Volunteers. He was discharged at Fort Leavenworth on November 11, 1848. Watkins, "History of Fort Kearny," 238.

²¹ Travelers mentioned the difficulty they encountered when hunting the fleet-footed antelope. James S. Pritchard wrote about the animals in his 1849 diary. He concluded that "All efforts to approach them within gunshot are entirely fruitless unless you can steal a march on them behind an object or hill." Dale L. Morgan, ed., *The Overland Diary of James A. Pritchard from Kentucky to California in 1849* (Denver: Old West Publishing Company, 1959), 66. William E. Taylor recommended that the hunter tie a handkerchief to a ramrod and hold aloft and "they will approach near enough for you to kill them with a pistol." Dale Morgan, ed., *Overland In 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California-Oregon Trail*, 2 vols. (Georgetown, Calif.: Talisman Press, 1963), 1: 131.

²² Eighteen officers and 375 enlisted men made the trip to the new site. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 246. John Dougherty received the contract to bring 500 cattle to the new fort. Mattes, "John Dougherty," 138.

May 28, 1848

Sunday 28th Was awakened about sunrise the trumpeter sounding the revellie and in a few minutes the whole camp was in motion tents were being struck, cooks busy at their fires, animals were being unpicketed and harnised, all were busy after we had risen from our mess chests orders were given to mount and all began to move. horsemen with glistening rifles and fantastic dresses of every color and form trains of bright artillery from whose brazen mouth missiles of destruction were belched [belched ?] forth last night, and trains of heavy wagons with their long trains lines of mules or oxen. our way led through a flat near the nebrasky here the Capt an Doct Walker with their packs [of dogs?] killed a prairie wolf.²³

On our way Maj Miller told us that we were in greater danger than we had supposed from the war party of Iowa; for Maj Dorety who understands their language heard one propose to attack us for he had never struck a white man. We encamp on the banks of the plate about noon having traveled 20 mile and were within 8 miles of the pawnee villiage. 3 indians were seen with our glasses reconorting but they did not approach us Had a fine dinner of elks flesh to day found it exceedingly well flavored though a little coarse the timber on the banks is almost entirely [entirely] cotton wood with hazel underbrush. timber of any kind is very scarce on the banks but

the islands are wooded which proves I think that it is fires that prevent the praries from being wooded.

²³ The "Nebrasky" is the Platte River. They would have been about opposite present Columbus, Nebraska. Asst. Surg. J. Walker was assigned to the Missouri Volunteers. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 246.

May 29, 1848

Monday. Again the trumpet woke us and after break fast saddled a large sorrell which had been sent me for trial we mounted and were underway soon after sunrise to the villiage, our command having some business to transact with the Pawnee governmet. The old cheif a short thick man about 55 years old met us and accompanied us towards the village. when within 4 or 5 miles he struck his horse into a gallop toward the bluffs where some indians were tending cattle.²⁴ After having dellivered his orders, which probably was to have some of the gov. cattle kept far from sight he regained us Our party consisted of the principal officers of the battalion the indian agent interpreter and myself with a guard of about 50 mounted rifles. the river as you approach the villiage (for you keep near the bank) is singularly beauf [beautiful?] the banks covered with vegetation of a luxuriant growth and doted with innumerabl islands some very small with only grass others large with timber on the road we passed numerous cornfeilds some unprotected others fenced on 3 sides and a few four whith bushes tied together with whithes²⁵ We saw many herding cattle scwas [squaws] at work in the fields with indifferent hoes.²⁶ Most all stopt to gaze at us as we past and near the villiage the wickett fences were grates to hundreds of little Indians engaged [?] in cornfields for the express purpose of having a peek at the pale faces. the house tops were covered with beings of every description from the atheletic brave who shone in all the magnificent of that vermillion white clay any _____ could produce the menial with a dirty robe or perhaps more often with only a breech cloth or the mother with the entire family including dogs. all turned out for a peep. The town is laid out with no apparent system the houses are built of earth and have generaly a stable adjoining in simple form of upright poles.²⁷

On reaching the house of the cheift all stopped while I rode with an officer throug all the streets to see the sights. It required no little skill in it to get our horses through their narrow ways amid the feirs barking of their wolfish dogs and the doling of the innumerable young ones who fled to their holes, there to peep at us in safety. before every warriors door hangs upon a pole his whitened sheild quiver and ornaments worn in war. in what appeared to be a principal square I observed one on three poles with painted devises which I have forgotten in a distant part of the villiage I observed two beautifully attired warriors painted robes and faces ornamted with vermillion and a brilliant white. their whole appearance indicated warrior or cheift of a different tribe. I spoke to them when they at once decended and disappared amid the houses.

on concluding our circuit I went to the lodge of the cheif and leaving my horse in charge of the Capt servt [servant] entered by a low hall some 6 1/2 high four feet wide and 12 feet long which brought me to the grand abode of "the blue shirt" the cheift of the most darring ferocious and warlike tribe in the US. probaly no tribe has caused the death of so many americans perpetrated so many robberies as these same pawnesse.²⁸

As I was one of the very first to enter I saw the old cheift with 4 or 5 of his principals ~~round~~ seated in a circle in the center of which hung a large kettle containing a soupy looking substance and in a smaller one was another dish having a decidedly dogish appearance.²⁹ The lodges are circular with uprights about 8 feet high then a row of longer pillars nearer the center support the roof runs from the outer row of uprights to the summit 30 feet high which is left open for the escape of the smoke.³⁰ width of the lodge 30 or 35 feet against the external wall is an elevated platform which makes the seats and also answers for beds and storage. opposite the entrance was a screen of white and red willows hanging from the sealing with a hole or door

through which his highness the cheift cralled when drowsy for it was the royal bunk. The building is made by placing against the uprights and rafters straw or rushes and after they are firmly united are covered with earth. I should say, the floor of the lodges were 3 or 3 1/2 feet below the surface.

Upon the entrance of the Col. agent interpter and staff the chief arose had the reed mats placed in a larger circle and all ~~were~~ seated upon them. the Col through the interperation enquired if all the cheifts were present and they were spedily brought. then the old cheift rose and shook hands with all sayin ho you do. was followed by all according to his rank the Col. then told them that the great Father at Washington had years ago bought this land and wish his people to leave it and go to the oposite side of the river but as they had planted they would be probably be allowed to remain until fall but no longer.³¹ told him to keep his young men from the plains and more especially prevent them going on marauding expeditions of the Comanches.³² Also that he was going to grand island to build a big house for his soldiers and one object would be to prevent the tribes warring with another and to protect the white brethren. After some hesitating the old chief replide the that he knew the land was his great fathers but he could not leave it for the other side for the siox [Sioux] would kill them all³³ they had taken many scalps and as many of their warriors were old they could not fight them they too were poor should have starved if the great father had not sent corn last winter. but when they heard that the great father was sending his warriors among them they were glad and felt rich for the expected presents his speech which was not long was full of cunning and weill [wile?] becomes the lips of proud begars. though their situation is a hard one for they are the targets for allmost all other tribes they are obliged to guard their womin in their fields theyer hunting parties are affraid to hunt the buffalo for fear of the siox who are deadly enemies and armed with rifles. but they are only suffering what they have made others suffer. Col Powell promised to protect them and invited them all to go to the river and see how he could destroy them with his great guns.

on the way to the river followed by the whole village we saw young men playing at a singular game. on a flat piece of ground smothened by servise a ring of iron 4 inches in diameter was roled while another threw skimming over the ground an instrument between 3 and 4 feet long.³⁴ ~~was thrown~~ the object being to take the ring upon the point of the instrument which I saw done the game was more agreeable to us than to our horses who plunged as the instrument came whizing towards them. But one ball was thrown from the howitzer as the indians either through fear or laziness refused to drive their cattle from the hill side so we left the Pawnee village and encampt five miles beyond on the bank of the river.

I should have said that at the council the Col. in consequence of their extreem poverty and hunger promised them some provisions if they would send a few of his people to his camp³⁵ but especially desired that all the young men should be kept from his campt and he would keep his soldiers from the vil[lage] this was followed by the guttural ough, and kept in true indian manner, for men had not been in camp an hour before long lines could be seen galloping towards us untill 6 or 800 all armed were in and about the camp, peeking into every thing & ready to steal any thing they might fancy. two attempts were made to lighten me of my belt knife. Most of us furnished ourself with moccasins which are indeed very comfortable. They are beautiful riders though most of them badly mounted it was a grand sight to see these wild sons of the plains some naked some the brech cloth others gaudily rided in skins, feathers, clothes of brilliant colors and glittering ornaments, rushing full tilt in to the camp guiding their wild steeds among our affritened animals who were rearing and kicking at their picketts tis a wonder that we escaped a stampede.

Our officers gave order to the cheift to have his men remove from the camp and all but the cheift and braves to form in front. the republican chief then sprang to his saddle and gave his orders, which mounted a score in a twinkle and they galloped among the tents driving the indians

before them with their whip, while the chief rode through the line scolding at a furious rate in a voice of extraordinary powder.³⁶ one sentence was interpreted as follows "we are four villiages, but there will be no distinctions made one shall be punished as soon as the other for wrong doing." The women though born and bred on war [?] are neverless timid a guard of 20 or 30 troops were dismissed and galloped in to the camp with a shout which drove a lot of the fair sex into the river, they mistaking it for a charge. At sundown they were dispersed each with a piece of pork on the end of a stick

²⁴ Tappan discusses the government business later. He would have been on the south side of the Platte River in present western Polk County, Nebraska. The archeological remains of three historic Pawnee earthlodge village sites have been identified in the immediate area. The tribe was divided into four bands. The Grand band and some of the Tapage and Republic Pawnees lived in a village, or possibly two villages, in Polk County. The Skidi band and the remainder of the Tapage and Republic bands were in Nance County. Roger T. Grange, Jr., *Pawnee and Lower Loup Pottery* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1968), 23. Later Tappan identifies the chief as Charetarish. The Pawnee were not herdsman at this early date. The cattle may have been acquired from overland trail travelers and would have been butchered before the Pawnee left for their summer buffalo hunt. The animals may also have been part of treaty payments owed to the tribe by the government.

²⁵ Tappan drew a very small sketch of seven vertical lines crossed by three horizontal lines.

²⁶ The traditional hoe made from a bison scapula was being replaced by iron hoes produced by government-paid blacksmiths assigned to the tribe after the Treaty of 1833. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 416.

²⁷ Later Tappan gives a more complete description of an earthlodge. Missionary John Dunbar paid a visit to this village in 1839 and counted eighty-four earthlodges. A year later he took a census of 1,683 inhabitants. He also noted the disparity between the numbers of men and women. Dunbar found there were 563 females over the age of ten but only 330 males in the same category. The decades-long war with the Lakota and other tribes undoubtedly accounted for much of the difference. "Letters Concerning the Presbyterian Mission in the Pawnee Country, near Bellevue, Neb., 1831-1839," *Kansas Historical Collections* 14 (1915-19): 638, 641.

²⁸ "The blue shirt" was Capot Blue or Blue Coat, head of the Republic band of the Pawnee. A. McElroy to J. Miller, May 17, 1847, Council Bluffs Agency letters. Tappan's assessment that they were the "most daring, ferocious and warlike tribe in the US" is far from the truth. William Clayton's assessment was more typical. He traveled through the heart of Pawnee country in 1847 and had "no fear [of them], however, because their only object appears to be plunder." William Clayton, *William Clayton's Journal* (Salt Lake City: The Deseret News, 1921), 87. Perhaps John Dougherty, who was the Pawnee agent in the 1820s and early 1830s, was having some fun trying to frighten the greenhorn Tappan with exaggerated tales of violence and murder. Tappan was writing with pen and ink but the phrase "perpetrated so many Robberies" was interlined in pencil.

²⁹ It is likely that boiled dog meat was offered to these distinguished guests.

³⁰ "30 feet high" was interlined in pencil.

³¹ Colonel Powell reiterated the government's wish to move the Pawnee north of the Platte to avoid confrontations with whites on the Platte River Road. The Pawnee relinquished their claim to the land south of the Platte River in 1833. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 416. Tappan either ignored or was unaware of the real purpose of the meeting. Colonel Powell was negotiating for the sale of a strip of land on the north side of the Platte and for rights to cut timber along Wood River, which flows into the north bank of the Platte. J. Miller to J. Harvey, June 17, 1848, Council Bluffs Agency letters. Tappan witnessed the signing of the formal agreement on August 8. At this time the "Great Father" was President James Knox Polk.

³² The Comanche were a far-ranging tribe, but their homeland centered in the Texas panhandle. Robert Norvall Richardson, *The Comanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement* (Glendale, Calif.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1933), 51.

³³ In the early 1840s the Lakota or Sioux began attacking the Pawnee villages on the Loup River about twenty miles to the northwest. The villages on the Platte soon came under attack and by 1849 the tribe moved still farther east along the Platte in hopes of escaping the molestation. John E. Barrow, "Council Bluffs Sub-Agency," *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs* (Washington, D. C.: Gideon and Co., 1850), 140.

³⁴ A small sketch of the "instrument" shows a rod or branch with three short branches extending from one side and two on the other. Tappan watched the ring-and-javelin game that was also a ceremony used to lure buffalo into the vicinity to assure a successful hunt. George Dorsey *Traditions of the Skidi Pawnee* (Houghton, Mifflin and Co.: New York, 1904), 84, 344.

³⁵ Attacks by the Lakota disrupted the Pawnee tribe's biannual bison hunts and also forced them to neglect their corn and bean fields. In March Agent Miller wrote to his superiors, pleading with them to purchase food for the Pawnee because they were starving. J. Miller to J. Harvey, Mar. 29, 1848, Council Bluffs Agency letters. The cattle Tappan mentioned may have been delivered in response to the agent's plea.

³⁶ The Republican band was led by La-lo-che-la-sha-ro. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 572. The phonetic spelling of Pawnee names varies considerably. When newspaper reporter George W. Kendall visited the tribe in 1851, he disclaimed any responsibility for correctly spelling Pawnee names. R. Eli Paul, ed., "George Wilkins Kendall, Newsman, and a Party of Pleasure Seekers on the Prairie, 1851," *Nebraska History*, 64 (1983): 55.

May 30, 1848

May 30 Broke up camp and were on the march by sunrise large bodies of indians passed us on their way to the plains on a buffalo hunt though it took the sport from our hands it put food into theirs for the would not have dared to go were it not for our presents [presence].³⁷ As usual we started several antelopes and an indian tried to run him but no go, too quick. encapt early having traveled 15 miles bad road over small hills deep gullies bad trails My face which had been swelling became painful made me restless during the night applied fresh butter ~~in the~~

³⁷ In the past the Loup or Skidi band of the Pawnee hunted around the forks of the Platte River, while the rest of the tribe hunted the buffalo in the western Republican River drainage. In 1848, fearing attacks by the Lakota, the tribe united for a hunt in the Republican River valley. George E. Hyde, *The Pawnee Indians* (Denver: University of Denver Press, 1951), 228. Tappan overstates the soldiers' importance; the Pawnee would have gone whether or not the army was present.

May 31, 1848

[May] 31 Face very much swollen was convinced it was poison thing I think increased by sun burn. The Capt three officers and Doct Walker with a mule eskort left to explore the north side of Grand island was invited to accompany them but declined as it will be a hard tour & I am not yet prepared for it. blue hard and encapt after a march of 20 miles. bathe in the Platte³⁸ face painfull during the night.

³⁸ The remainder of the diary was written in pencil.

June 1, 1848

June 1st Broke up camp at 6 marched over a good prarie trail until 12 having made 18 miles encapt after noon had a violent rain storm saw buffalo in the distance had fine negro dancing [?] It would suppris my friends to see myself & maj making a hearty meal of burnt and spoiled fat pork. mess chest in the train blowing so hard that we could not drink our coffee without spillage, and our tents in imminent danger of blown into the river. The scenery of the platte remains the

same though at times the islands are more densely timbred and islands larger opposite us the river [valley] including island is 10 miles wide. The hunters have just reported the buffalo to be deer, to our great regret as we are hungry for fresh meat.

June 2, 1848

June 2 Revellie was sounded before day light saddled and were off before sun rise After riding about six [miles] saw our friends they crossed the plate and joined us had been pretty suxsesful in killing vennison but saw no ~~vennison~~ buffalo or Indians reported the north side of Grand island as flatt but well timbered principlaly with cotton wood To day most of our travel has been upon the great Oregon trail.³⁹ saw a head of a buffalo lately killed, approached very near an antelope could have killed him were it not for the hounds giving chase they cannot overtake them. Finding no fit place for an encampment we were obliged to retrace two or 3 miles where after putting willow to fill a slew crossed and encapt near the river plenty of fine water and timber where we shall remain untill matters have so far progressed as to admit of our taking up an abroad [abode] nearer the site of the fort which is to be built immediately in the rear of our camp on higher land further from the river. have recd inteligence that some cows lost on the 29th had been killed by the Pawnesse the Colonel tells me that he shall take the same number of their best mules from the first party that he meets. Our provision train is to pass through their villiage which I think they will attack I hope to see our artilery opened upon this village which is a horde of villains. Had a fine dinner of venison brought in by the party from the island great eating with a prarie appetite which is such that I am constantly hungry. I started a large snake which Capt Cregg who shot it proved to be a wolf snake four feet long.⁴⁰ after eating [?] took my gun crost the platte (which is not more than 2 feet deep at the most) to an island hoping to get a shot was driven off by the snakes who are very numerous.

³⁹Fur trappers began using the Platte and North Platte river route to the Rocky Mountains in 1824. A party first reached Oregon country in 1834. The first emigrant parties went over the trail in 1841 although they were preceded by small groups of missionaries. Merrill J. Mattes, *The Great Platte River Road* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1969), 11-13.

⁴⁰Although Tappan consistently spells the captain's name Cregg he is probably referring to James Craig, a member of the Missouri Mounted Volunteers. Craig served as commander of Fort Kearny in the absence of Colonel Powell. *Fort Kearny Post Returns*, March 1848.

June 3, 1848

[June] 3rd As we have now reached our journeys end camp was not roken up So I amused myself by writing letters. suffered by an attack of the diareah after dinner a deer brok through the camp there was a rush for horses and the chase commenced but the dogs not seeing it it was not captured. the Capt brought to my tent two very fine prarie wolfs he had kild for me. So I made a skellton of the male during the afternoon. the arrangement and sollidity of the muscular system is astonishing in the fight one of the Doct hounds was badly bitten. A party of 35 emigrants wagons passed on the oregon trail bound to California⁴¹ one of the Capt sivr joined them. he is a Mormon. Had a squall and a little rain during the day and spent a very cold night.

⁴¹There were forty wagons in the train. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 256. Indian Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick counted 364 westbound wagons or about 1,700 people on Oregon Trail near Fort Laramie in 1848. It was a slight increase over previous years, but nearly insignificant compared to the rush for California gold in 1849. Barry, *The Beginning of the West*, 744.

June 5, 1848

[June] 4th Being Sunday the revellie was not beat so early as usual a little indulgence being granted on this day. Made the other skelleton. [June] 5th A very cold morning moved in the PM to the opposite side of the slue to the sight of Fort Childs that is to be. The doct killed two fine hares of which I made skelletons these animals run with great rapidity. they exhausted four grey

hounds, one after another for by doubling they gave them all an opportunity if they had the sagacity to keep strait on they would soon set the dogs at defiance. This day saw an example of the power of a taste and habit. My spirits having been broached with impunity by one of the Quarter Masters Clerk a good man whose ruin is inevitable.⁴²

A party of emigrants passed during the day & the Maj & myself rode up to them in the evening. black Harris is connected with the party. At the camp we had specimen of his fabrications.⁴³ Varied my camp life by getting board at a camp boarding house for the Capt, leaving yesterday for the States⁴⁴ it became advisable to break up our mess so the Maj an I took meals at Mrs Fugetts Hotell.⁴⁵ We have a small company consisting of only 2 officers besides ourself but this is as many as we can accommodate at presents our dining room being only a small tent, and the convivial board the top of a camp chest but we feed well, have fresh butter and sweet [?] and sour milk every day. So I am perfectly suited. Surprising as it may appear these folks who now hang upon the skirts of the battalion left a fine farm and hotell he enlisting and she following with her daughter (who has a husband in the ranks) her children & stock. they are of that singular class which are not uncommon in the west. they love to go, prefer to live the lives of pioniers than remain as occupants. This morning I concluded the bargain for the Mexican horse giving the Santa Fe mule in exchange tis a fine mule but has too much of the old mick under his skin to suit my fancy. Our quarters are now very comfortable our tent is a large on with wallsides finely located.

⁴² Later comments by Tappan indicate that whiskey (spirits) was readily available. A daily ration of whiskey to soldiers in the regular army was banned by an act of Congress on July 5, 1838, but the whiskey ration may have been continued in the Missouri Volunteers. William E. Unrau, *White Man's Wicked Water: The Alcohol Trade and Prohibition in Indian Country, 1802-1892* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1996), 6.

⁴³ Moses Black Harris entered the fur trade in 1822, and wandered throughout the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest for the next twenty years. In the 1840s he found employment guiding travelers bound for the Pacific coast. Jerome Peltier, "Moses Harris," *The Mountain Men*, 4: 103-15. Apparently Tappan mistrusted his veracity.

⁴⁴ Captain Van Vliet left for St. Louis on June 6, 1848. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March, 1848.

⁴⁵ Mrs. Fugget's hotel would have been no more than a tent. She was probably the wife of Lt. S. B. Fagett. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March, 1848.

June 6, 1848

[June] 6th A very windy day after breakfast went a hunting for insects and was very succesef. returned and redrew sketches. My skeletons which were hanging out [on] tent lines to dry were captured by dogs spoiling both, but the doct says we can replace them. ~~the her~~

June 7, 1848

[June] 7th before I was quite drest was called to the door to see a party of Indians moving towards the Camp. they proved to be a war party of Cheyennes⁴⁶ returning from an expedition against the pawnesse their object being to steal horses in payment for some taken last fall from them. they had been partly successful having about a dozen horses and mules. they were well dressed though are not so large and athelectic as the Pawnes and unlike them they leave their hair longer, generally tied into two quess [queues] with buck skin they are a more ingenious people than any I have yet seen. their horse furniture was in many instances very tastef [tasteful] saddle bags of white buckskin ornament neatly and wearing a fringe that nearly swept

the ground. I tried in vain to get one some had a kind of have[r]sack resembling a portfolio beautifully fringed & ornamented Mr. Fugett got a fine one a brave presented me with his whip finely ornamented with horses & figures which he explained to me but I was not much enlightened. in consideration I gave him a butcher knife for his larriatte which I did not need. Among these warriors I observed some pretty faces with mild expression ~~though~~ they sat as firmly and carried their lances with as grace as the braves I at length discovered them to be women. one was the pretties skuaw I have yet seen. This tribe are furnish with shose for their horses made of stout buffalo hide hair inside. Upon going to our hotel (which for resolution sake I call the Pavillion, was introduced to a new boarder in the shape of a young antelope a beautiful timid [animal] about 2 feet high there are severall of them in the camp are easily domesticated

⁴⁶The Cheyenne were a large nomadic tribe allied with the Lakota and enemies of the Pawnee.

June 8, 1848

[June] 8th Today an antelope rushed through the camp dogs gave chase and with the men soon captured it. the poor thing had been wounded in the bluff and had come some 8 miles on 3 legs the fourth dangling I went down to see it the first I have had a chance to examine took home the skull & cleaned it. tis a doe. had a violent rain storm in the PM one lasted all night got up at midnight to tighten fly which kept us awake with its flaping in the early part of the eve it was very warm even a blankett was uncomfortable. the Maj has been ill and still continues so.

June 9, 1848

[June] 9 Woke cold damp & shivering the change since last eve is asstonishing from mid summer to winter heavy fall of hail in a distant part of camp. heavy clouds cleared away at 8 when the hounds were called and saddling my Spaniard I joined the the party consisted of Dr Walker Capt Cregg, Luit Woodbery Doct Snell⁴⁷ we drove to the bluffs examined some heads of buffs [buffalo] &c then struck towards the river little expecting to meet game when a mile from the bluff saw a horseman driving toward is in right angles. saw that he was in chase. struck into a run the hound in full tilt. Spaniard proved himself a coarser soon placed himself at the head of the rush. the dogs comosed [commensed] the attack with caution but with firmness & soon had him on his back when my rapier decided the game It proved to be a large grey wolf I straped it on my Spaniard took it to my quarters and made the skeleton. In the PM resadle my bay and with one other to the bluffs to kill an antelope saw two but shot none. very pleasant this P.M Maj is rather better.

⁴⁷First Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury, Engineers, was from New Hampshire when he entered the military academy. He went on to serve in the Civil War. He died in 1864. Heitman, Historical Register, 1056. Asst. Surg. J. B. Snail was with the Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848. Later Tappan spells the physician's name correctly.

June 10, 1848

[June] 10th A fine warm day rode to the bluff hoping to find a knife sheaf dropt yesterday could not. added to my stock of flowers & gathered some insects. started several hare. tried the speed of Spaniard with one there bounding seems to partake more of the character of flying than running.

June 11, 1848

Saturday [June] 11th Kept myself busy about the camp drawing collecting &c. in the PM a race took place between ~~the~~ some of the horses [page 19] of the soldiers. the rider of the winning horse did marvelously his saddle girt breaking at the beginning was obliged to bring the saddle on his feet himself seated in front of it. purse 30 dollars.⁴⁸

⁴⁸This was a rich purse. William Ingraham was an enlisted man in Sublette's company and wrote that he received "twenty eight dollars a month and out of our first six months pay a hundred and twenty dollars are deducted to pay for our horses and their saddles and bridles and our clothing." See Ingraham's letter of July 28, 1847.

June 12, 1848

12th Sunday called as soon as up to have a crack at an antelope followed him two miles but did not fire returning to breakfast with two very wet feet. After breakfast went with Lieut Kelly and an eskort of 8 men to the village of prarie dog distants of about 15 miles.⁴⁹ They make a schrill sharp bark & live in burrows on the mounds they perch themselves in an upright position upon the approach of strangers bark very spitefully and work themselves into a great passion. on the report of a gun drop in the hole with a rapidity quite surprising. on their mount are very difficult to shoot I had three fair shots but could not procure one. others of the party were equally unsucseful.

⁴⁹2d Lt. J. W. Kelly was a member of C Co. of the Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848.

June 13, 1848

[June 13] A small party of Cheyennes came to camp early in the morning. exercised my skill in medicine by applying calomel to an old saddle bruise & resolved to dismiss Spaniard from active service until it should be well. I then took my folio and went among the indians seated myself among a party of 8 smoked talked & finally took a bit of paper and made a sketctch as soon as the subject discovered what I was at he became uneasy and as it approach complete they sprang up saddled their horses took their places & were off. many indians are very superstitious on this point.

At 10 the horizon was broken by a long line of 300 Sioux & Sheyennes they marched in beautiful order & went through an evolution with much nicety & halted a short distance from our camp. then a single man dismounted and walked up to head quarters with a manly dignity which I have never seen eaqualed he was the principal brave in stature a little below the average of his tribe his dress was remarkabl plain for his stature tho very rich his scarlet blankett was thrown over his left sholdr and under his right which was bare encircled with only a bracelet, at the wrist. a cavelry sword lay in the crook of his left arm. A blue naval cap with long black plumbs an gold bar sat on a finely shaped head⁵⁰ his hair was gotten into two ques covered with otter skin the legins and moccasins were of the finest white with no other ornamt than a very long fringe which swept the ground as he walked. On reaching the Indians camp we (the Col & myself) were presented to the great Cheift and the braves who were seated in a semicircle in front of the others who were busy with riding horses hauling poles for lodges && they are the finest looking indians I have yet seen clearly and many of them drest most elegantly ~~many~~ some of their dresses were litteraly covered with beads. buckskin dresses of every dye beaded ornaments & tasteful horse furniture in an infinite variety. Having no interpreter met in much delay (~~all~~ most of those familiar with the language being absent in the buffalo party) was occationed in procuring one. In the mean time I returned after look thing [?] the party talking in signs and smoking with them to my quarters where in front of which I found the Col interpreter and cheifts & braves seated in [page 21] council. the Col in accordance with his instruction had ordered them to return and not attack the Pawnees as they declared to be the object of the expedition which after some hesitation they promised to do.

While they were thus seated I made some sketch which one of the braves observed and came to me looked upon it with evident marks of astonishment. I asked him to sit which he did I made a slight sketch of his head which pleased him others came and gazing upon it with childlike amazement covering their mouths with their hands one desired to have his taken & seated himself. I soon completed a sketch in colors ~~of him~~ which delighted them. now came the

difficulty I was desirous of retaining it & he was determined to be the possessor I tried to make him understand that I wished to show it to the pale faces towards the rising sun, but he did not care for them. I then seated him to make another but he would not allow me to proceed stating that the one was good of this he at length got in his possession & ran out of the tent when I despaired of regaining it the Col with brave [bravery?] came up & took it & gave him to understand that I would make another which I had before promised to do.

Seating myself on the grass I at once commenced & in a few moment finished it to the admiration of the crowd of wondering warriors & braves who had surrounded me and watched the every movement, giving vent to their feelings by an _____ laugh as parts were represented, often pointing out that portion then being portraided. this brave was as desirous that justice should be done his sword as many with pailer faces are thus particular of a presentation in paint their stock of jewelry. He placed it in the most advantageous position & pointed out the savage figure & upon its blade and handle regarding which blue to be used. The copy finished something like my folio was wanted to put it in A news paper was made to answer the purpose. He then urged me to make him as he appeared when mounted but I was satisfied and wished to get rid of him.

He had been gone but few minuets when the principal Chief with an old warrior came galloping up to quarters entered the Col tent in high dudgeon. the old chief was wrathful and the brave looked daggers. The complaint was that a brave had been painted but the high & mighty Chieft had been neglected The Col. dispatched a messenger with him to introduce him to me which ceremony was performed and his troubles set forth as I had other matters to attend to I proposed to delay till tomorrow but it would not do for tomorrow he would be on his march. Finding no alternative this he was seated on a camp chest the favorite veteran at his side. And then after removing his cap arranged his hair smoothed his dress upon his fat round belly (for he ~~was~~ is quite a Fallstaff)⁵¹ taking care that every ornament was in a showing position then after twisting his face into numerous ludricous expressions he finally desided upon a very bland smile like that one fat old maid of sixty might be supposed to assume when told that she was handsome and for a while remained fixed suddenly recolecting his pipe & fan sprang up throwing a few words at the vetteran vanished his wrinkled companion explained matters by saying pointing after him & holding in one hand a pipe in the other the wing of a bird larger than a turkey which which he leisurely fanned himself & held the empty pipe in the other at which he puffed most industriously but finding that the fan only made its appearance in the working pickture, he followed the sketch & dropt the pipe upon his knees. Numerous great men of the tribe dropt in to wonder and when the portrait was done he ordered me to roll it up and they all hurried off as delighted as a cat with two tails. I affixed my name to it as the picture was good & likeness excellent.

I soon after went to their camp where I found the affair had made me quite a lion one party would have me join a smoke another showed me to his friends. Some who were eating supper dinner a kind of root of the potato kind with which they are well supplied ~~would~~ invited me to join which I did found it rather a tasteless cooking⁵² after hearing someone calling looked round found my old Fallstaff squated on the ground quite disencumbered of the royal robes retaining only breech cloth & leggins. He shew me his two sons & offered me a mule & pony if I would paint them and give a coat to each. A great offer if I had had any such articles to spair. The brave I met on my return home he desired me to go with him & partake of the hospitality of his wigwam which honor I modestly declined. At sundown they moved off directly _____ the camp which they examined most minutely. we were all glad to be rid of them but knowing they would encamp near I took the precaution of picketing my horse near the tent where he would be under the supervision of the guard. before all had left the camp several were observed to be intoxicated one after dark rushed his horse into the center of the camp & called for whisky. About midnight the guard observed four of them within limits & fired they sprang their bows and

ran. alarm spread instantly through that part of the camp. one company was ordered out & a party of 20 mounted Leut Kelly & reconorted proceeding within 1/4 of a mile of the indian Camp. finding every thing quiet returned

next morning it was discovered that 4 horses were missing & a company of 150 mounted men was started off in pursuit. They formed in front of the head quarters one of the Lieut was observed to manage his horse very querrly it soon became evident that he was drunk & was captained off to the Col who sent for him & on his return was a perfect mad man & thundered forth the outrageous abuses against his Capt in presents of the whole command. he was ordered to his quarters. his conduct of today will undoubtly break him.

A few more words respecting the Sioux. In costume they are as varied as the faces ~~that~~ of the owners. The more begeting having a kind of jacket fringed or beaded at the seams finished with quills or beads round the neck & fringed around the bottom about the waist is belted the breech cloth which is allowed to hang down before & behind sometimes to the heels. this is met by the leggins which reach nearly to the thye kept in place by straps connected with the waist strap. The blanket or robe is generally worn which more effectively covers the otherwise naked parts. Some wear short jackets coats pants one or the other hanging behind. Some had traded for vests altogether too small. one was as proud as a peacock and strutted in a scarlet coat with blue facing probably once worn by a John Bull of 300 lbs. whereas the present posessor might possibly weigh 135 lbs. other dandies displayed a coat, vest, all else naked. The exchanges had an effect which was ludicrous among the volun-teers. see[?] and elegant frock between trousers & hat, &c. Many were naked save brech cloth & moccasins with a few ornaments. one was quite happy that his wardrobe contained two cog wheels 4 inches in diameter which had once been busy in a dutch clock. Their arms consisted of bow arrows lances hatchet & ⁵³ knives. a few had guns. The shyennens were less rich in costume but very neat. None of either tribe wore paintin scalp locks only like the pawnese but some had set aside or tied up a lock the division made more distinct by painting the skin with vermillion. this lock was generally thrown forward & sometimes hung over the fore head.

The Platte is a broad stream when unbroken by islands is usually 1 2/3 of a mile wide so shallow that it may be forded without difficulty though holes sometimes exist which are dangerous several dragoons were drowned last year in attempting to ford it. The stream is often divided into many lesser ones by the numerous islands of every size some containing many acres others but 2 or 3 feet in length in some places when this division occurs the river from one bank to the other is from seven to eight miles wide larger islands are wooded the smaller ones covered with luxuriant undergrowth reeds common & river willow young cotton wood &c. In collar & taste the water resemble the Missouri running on a bed of quick sands at the rate of ~~about~~ 3 miles an hour These sands are saftly traveled if no stop is made stationare objects gradually settle horses & mules understand this for while drinking they constantly change their position. my mule who was accustomed to the plains usualy walked slowly drinking the while Like all the western rivers this is subject to sudden rains though its unusual width generally prevents it from over running its limits. still the surface of the islands and plain in the vicinity of the stream bear evident marks of its having at some periods overflowed them the proof being the presents of the river sand over the surface. the surface of the islands & plains are level & uniform the latter is very rarely timbered which is universally so except in the immediate vicinity of the stream. some of the islands is heavily timbered at the edges with a prairie within. Elk, deer antelope prairie dogs &c are abundant on the islands. As a instance of its changes I ~~rode~~ went one day to a place where I had often crost a branch [?] to an island where I had some skeletons dring [drying] the day before the stream was in the deepest place 15 inches jumping my horse from the bank found myself submerged to the saddle skirts & the current much more rapid than usual. In short the stream pretending & beautiful but for purposes of navigation perfectly useless.

⁵⁰It is possible the Pawnee man received the naval cap from Past Midshipman Selim E. Woolworth. He went up the Platte River in 1846 on his way to Oregon to deliver orders to a U.S. Naval Squadron in the Pacific. Dale Morgan, ed., *Overland in 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California- Oregon Trail*, 2 vols. (Georgetown, Cal.: Talisman Press, 1963), 98.

⁵¹John Falstaff was the obese character in Shakespeare's plays *Henry the IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

⁵²A member of the pea family, the prairie potato can be found throughout the Plains. Waldo R. Wedel, "Notes on the Prairie Turnip (*Psoralea esculenta*) Among the Plains Indians," *Nebraska History* 59 ((1978): 155-79.

⁵³Here Tappan drew a very small sketch of a pointed hatchet head.

June 14, 1848

[June] 14 As my _____ friend Maj Carnes says "we must be in the immediate vicinity of the great bellows" for it blows & has blown every day a perfect gale. tents are bursting or being prostrated laundresses complain that they cannot wash cooks are unable to prepare food for dust and ashes. tuft [i.e. sod] houses cannot be built blacksmith can [not?] use his forge in fact every thing is at a stand still. I made some sketches of the platte in the AM Remained in tent all P.M. putting things to rights with thoughts of friends far away.

June 15, 1848

[June] 15 I believe I have made some mistake in my dates. Still it blows took Maj's horse who had become fat & proportionately saucy out to train & teach by practical illustration the use of the indian whip. Among other things jumped him into the platte finding it too deep paddled out. in the PM rain began to fall and in the evening we had the most magnificent display of heavens fire works I have yet seen. A storm was raging in vicinity of the platte and another at the south among the bluffs the opposing forces hurled their forked lightning in a profusion that seemed like prodigality. instead of a single fork or chain a dozen would burst from the dark mass & rush in every direction like serpents from a rocket. while laying in my tent I could see those chains through the double roof & at times the whole heavens would appear to be as a blaze for several seconds during which time the minutest object could be discovered. in the evening a part of the detachment came in that had been out after the Sioux they followed them without success seeing no Indians save two Pawnees that had been killed & scalpt one was a squaw whose arms were broken

June 16, 1848

[June] 16 Remained in quarters making sketches In the PM were visited by a storm "that beat the storms of bully Arkansas all to bits" about 4 a dark mass of indigo its form was circular the fringe of layering color covered its real force until it had risen high in the heavens then with naked violence the drapery separated displaying a huge threatening mass the bluff became suddenly hidden by a whitish mist then the tents on the left ~~among which a frightened horse ran madly~~ trembled and rapidly men dispersed to their houses. then the great roof of the hospital was visibly shaken we sprang to our tent in time to brace ourself against the pole & side of the marquees for the rain fell as in sheets and the wind threatened to tear every thing into rags. For 3/4 of an hour Maj Carnes & myself braced up that surging tent expecting every moment to find ourself buried beneath it horses broke their fastenings & plunged madly through the camp an ever and anon amid the crash of thunder could be heard the voice of the muleteers calling to his tribe _____ as they hurried to his home. tents trembled & shook until leaping into the air fell a mass of rags. Many tents fell in rags among them was our hotel the dining hal broke its back bone in the beginning of the contest. At night it was very cold and the floor of the tent was

sopping wet but upon this I made my bed and slept soundly til morning & all this upon an empty stomach our kitchen inoperative turned topsy turvy

June 17, 1848

[June] 17th Saturday. Cool but fine as the sun rose made sketch of the nebrasky in AM. PM went to the race like all such places full of gambling whiskey &c & races over went with Lieut Mara to Capt MacCausings quarters filled with youckre playing.⁵⁴ the camp is a great place for gambling whiskey drinking & roguery of all sorts⁵⁵ rainy evening.

⁵⁴2d Lt. William Mara, A Co., and 1st Lt. Thomas L. Mara, A Co., were with the Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848; Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 246. In June William Mara went in search of beef cattle that strayed or were stolen from Fort Childs. Fort Kearny Post Returns, June 1848. Capt. William McCausland was assigned to B Co., Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848. Heitman, Historical Register, 655, listed Capt. William C. McCauslin, assistant commissary of subsistence, as serving from 1846 until his honorable discharge in September 1848. Tappan's later mention of the officer's duties suggest they were one. Euchre was a popular card game.

⁵⁵It seems conditions had not changed a year later when regular army troops were stationed at the fort. William Kelly stopped at the fort and found the troops "a most unsoldierly-looking lot... unshaven, unshorn, with patched uniforms." Kelly also mentioned that privates especially, were willing to pay \$1.50 for a pint of whiskey. William Kelly, *Across the Mountains from New York to California* (London: Simms and McIntyre, 1852), 78.

June 18, 1848

[June] 18th Still raining cleared off in time for breakfast after which I gathered together my materials & put a patch or rather set in a piece the rod sockett having worn a hole in the back of my coat.⁵⁶ It would have amused my fair friends to have seen me squatting on the floor of the Tent with the wounded garment spread upon my knees wrapt in deep meditation as to the best mode of proceeding or at a later period to have observed the awkwardness with which this matter was managed, but after much patience, perseverance and profound study, the grand end was accomplished after pressing out the seams with a hot bullet mold it realy was creditable quite fair now & then a white thread was too visibl but a little yellow from my sketch box made all right in a trice. I felt so proud of the performance that without loss of a moment I immediately darned a couple of holes in a pair of stockings also to my entire satisfaction. It being Sunday no labor was performed in the Camp as the day was calm a most perfect & impresive silence pevail it only needed the sonds of church bells (the absence of which I have not yet accustomed myself to) to have given a solemnity to this vast plain far greater than ever was felt at village church or within cathedral walls.

Much anxiety exists for the safety of the buffalo party who have now been absent 9 days they consist of 3 captain 2 surgeons several minor officers two teamsters with 6 mules each & picked men enough to make the party number 22 all with but 4 or 5 exceptions first rate hunters & mountain men the whole under the command of Capt Sublett a man of great experience⁵⁷ I was strongly urged by the latter to join but declined against my inclination fearing that Fremont might pass here in the meantime.⁵⁸ ~~Remained at home~~ The Col informs me that if the party do not make their appearance to day he will detail 50 men to go tomorrow in pursuit he fears the indians have stolen their animals.

Remained at home reading Martin the foundling by Sue.⁵⁹ a real French invention filled with improbities & french extravagances but currious prove it very odd. While at tea the joyous sound ran through the camp "the hunters are coming" as this cry has so often been raised of late but little attention was paid to it In a few minutes however it was evident to all a line of mounted men appeared on the horizon Spy glasses were now brought into requisition & they were soon recognised. A trot soon brought them to camp they were much fatigued both men &

horses they had met the buff the 3 day out, killed many but were unable to bring it home fresh they brought the body of one wagon filled with jerked meat which was distributed 3 or four of their number had killed their maiden buff & of cours had to recite the incidents attending this slaughter I sat up till quite late listening to these hunters.

⁵⁶Tappan's rod socket may be a metal loop on his rifle that held the ramrod. Since rifles were frequently slung over a man's back the socket could wear a hole in the back of a coat.

⁵⁷Andrew W. Sublette entered the fur trade in 1830 but was plagued by financial misfortunes. In 1846 he joined the Missouri Volunteers and was elected captain. He left the military in 1848 and moved to California. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., "Andrew Whitley Sublette," *The Mountain Men*, 8: 349-63. Sublette was the commanding officer of Company A of the Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848.

⁵⁸Tappan may be referring to the explorer John C. Fremont who crossed Kansas in the fall of 1848. Mary Lee Spence, *The Expeditions of John C. Frémont*, 3 vols. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1982) 3: 50.

⁵⁹Martin the Foundling was written by Eugène Sue and first published serially in the United States Democratic Review in October 1846.

June 19, 1848

[June] 19th Hurried to breakfast to taste for the first time the flesh of the buff. Came home disapointed, at least with jerked meat. find it hard & dry, but I shall suspend all further opinion until I have an opportunity of trying it fresh from the beast. on returning to the tent was delighted at finding a most beautiful flower I have ever seen in full bloom its leaves were bright golden color with a gauze like transparency. the beautiful stem bright green the numerous matter [?] of the opposite sexs scarlet with yellow tuft. as large as an ordinary white rose leaves in but two layers. It happened that some 14 days ago I cut a sper of a small leaved cactus which is common in the prarie brought it home with some thistles &c which were thrown on the grass at the head of the tent & tho it had no roots had bloomed their. I shall try to civilize the rare beauty.

In the PM the cry of stampede was raised & followed by "look out for your horses" rushing from the tent I saw coming towards us with all the fury of affrightened horses the ~~entire~~ animals of one an entire company in their headlong gallop others were broken loose & thus their numbers were continually augmenting by great exertion on the parts of the Soldiers below and officers & servits in our neighborhood their main body became divided & the small portions were soon quieted. One who has never seen a stampede cannot imagine the terrifying effect of such a rush. The most quiet horse pricks his ears & tries the length of his larriett as they approach when nearer he rears & plunges desperately finaly the trembling stead is among them then runs against his rope or tumbling against himself then the pickett flies into the air & he joins the mad crowd who rush straight on over all obstacles making the very earth tremble beneath them. It was occasioned by the approach of a detail with spades on their sholders.

June 20, 1848

[June] 20 A fine summers day. A young man left the camp some days ago on a hunting excursion. he took nothing but his rifle, but little ammunition, no rations or extra clothing since which time he has not been heard from & has been posted as a deserter He is said to be a bold reckless fellow has seen something of mountain life. I fear that he has been cut off by indians. I am becoming heartly tired of this camp life. tis a wearisome, monotonous existence

June 21, 1848

[June] 21st The hunters who returned last Sunday inform me that they met a party of Cheyenens who informed them that they had been at our camp. since they had been to the pawnees village & taken the scalp of two squas which were doubtless the same as seen by our detachment. These Indians count the squass by telling [?] the small finger on the left hand.

About 9 in the A.M. our expresse galloped into camp bearing a white flag on which was inscribed the word "plag" the panic ran like wild fire fatigue parties broke up & ran to the quarters guards followed suit. Many of the officers not anxious to leave fat & lazy officers were less expeditious. For myself I spent the greater part of the morning in driving among the horses to find mine to whom I had given liberty of grazing in any part of the pasture. But upon reflecting that the said pasture was extensive being fenced by the Missouri & Missipies [Mississippi] on the east the barren plains & mountains of Mexico on the south, Pacific on the west, Artic ocean on the north I felt somewhat uneasy but found him after a 3 hours search 8 of the horses had left last night for Salt Creek 150 miles from the fort & I much feared that he had joined the party.

June 22, 1848

[June] 22d Delightful weather. Great excitement occasioned by the breaking out of the small pox. four cases reported & removed a mile or more from camp much allarm exist. A stampeed occured last night among the beef cattle and fifty have not yet been recovered. in their allarm they overturned & trampled upon 2 of the herdsmen.

June 23, 1848

[June] 23 Fine weather though last night was so cold that my two mackenaw were too thin to keep me comfortable woke from cold & added my overcoat. An ordinance Sergent who was put under guard for treating the Col. with disrespect, made his officers so aggravating by to days abuse that a chain & ball were added to his right trotter & placed under guard. tis a melancholy sight to see this victim of whisky going to his meals (when his wife does not bring them) between two soldiers with a large ball in his hand and chain some 12 feet long upon his arm. but he deserved it & such is military discipline. I am just told that I have broken a regulation which would place me under guard an arrest. my rifle having been loaded for better than two weeks I took it to the corner of our marquee & shot at a mark set up some 80 yards. the regulation makes it a serious offense to discharge a piece with 800 yards of camp & my discharge was within 80 feet of the Col. head quarters. but I have not yet heard the clatter of armed men near me & have the vanity to flater myself that the commander is too much of a personal friend to make an example of a cittizen & especially when I show him the little chip at which I shot, perforating its very center.

June 24, 1848

Sat [June] 24 Stayed at home & put house in order last night were serenaded by a very good band of eatheopian songsters⁶⁰ ~~it seemed strange~~ to hear those familiar airs which I had so often listened to in the cities of the east repeated in the midst of this vast plain where everything is savages & where our lives are guarded by the rifle & the bayonete. called to mind the many comforts of home & blessings of civilized life After indulging in such reflecting & had thought over a long list of friends I had left behind me wondered if they were all well & happy. I tride to believe it so but the ~~probability~~ of terrible havoks of disease & death were not unknown to me and I feared that some have suffered or were perhaps then writhing in pain. But roling my blanket closer around me and after adjusting my saddle (alias pillow) I fell asleep and such sleep! not that stupid unconciousness which those indulge in who streach themselves in heated closed rooms in within crowded cities but real solid, refreshing sleep which was unbroken untill the trumpet blew the revelie.

Had some conversation with Capt Miller who has been much among the Indians⁶¹ he mentioned a strange instance of Sack & Foxes whenever bread or any eatable is taken by them they first break off some small pieces for their dead friends always before drinking they also throw from their mouths a little for the departed ones. they bury in an upright position leaving from the chest up above ground. the Pawnees bury in graves with all arms. Black feet in scaffolds or in the crook of trees. Creeks lay extended on the ground & make a pen about & over them.

Large bodies of mormons were discovered encamped on the other side of the Platte. the smoke from their campfires to such an extent as to be seen for miles.

⁶⁰Ethiopian songsters was a minstrel show genre popular in the 1800s. The band Tappan listened to was probably African-American slaves or employees at the fort.

⁶¹Tappan probably meant John Miller, the agent and mistakenly gave the wrong honorary rank.

June 25, 1848

[June 25] rode to the head of grand island. Some of the men went some 15 miles up and crossed to the mormon encampment. as the river is high this is attended with much difficulty several entered but retreated. it being a fine day went with the clerk through the store house of the camp. windy as usual. Miller mentioned the fact of an pawnee who had been to Washington on his return on being asked of the number of the whites & amount of wigwams &c declining direct answer because they would not believe him. when urged as to the number of warriors replied that they were as numerous as the blades of grass on the prairie. this was too much for their creduty [credulity] & in punishment his eyes were put out with red hot nedles.⁶²

⁶²The first Pawnee leaders went to Washington, D.C. in 1821. Hyde, *The Pawnee Indians*, 174. It is likely that Pawnee commoners underestimated the numerical superiority of the whites. It is equally likely that the story about blinding a chief was apocryphal.

June 26, 1848

[June] 26th Fine weather wind more gentle. A saw mill driven by horses for the first time started. Some persons from the mormons report a brush with the Omahas⁶³ two of the former wounded 4 of the latter killed. The mormons are said to have been hunting their cattle when the were fired upon. they returned it with revolvers.

⁶³In 1846 pressure from the Lakota forced the Omaha to abandon their earthlodge village in northeastern Nebraska. They built a new village just north of present-day Omaha, Nebraska. The Mormons established Winter Quarters only a short distance to the south about the same time. John Miller to Thomas Harvey, September 10, 1847, Council Bluffs Agency letters. Pawnee missionary Samuel Allis explained "It is a great pity they [the Mormons] ever were permitted to stop here on the Indian land, they are cutting their timber fast, the Indians are also killing the Mormon cattle almost by hundreds which is makeing them bad." "Letters Concerning the Presbyterian Mission in the Pawnee Country," 739-40.

June 27, 1848

[June] 27th Collect during the morning & bought a suit of buck skin paid 12.50 in the P.M. the mail brott in the later inteligens of peace and the nomination of Gen Taylor for presidency. the nomination of Gen Cass was recd two weeks since. great excitement.⁶⁴ In the evening the camps were illuminated. I joined the Adjutant, Capt Sublett & 2 quartermasters accountant in getting up a grand blaze with two tar barrels. the band discorsed fine music & torch light prosesions were formed after marching over camp came to quarters played several airs. The eatheopian minstrels came up with a great display sang several agreeble airs up on the whole it was as a very creditable affair. it wond up by a foot race by torch light.

⁶⁴The Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo ended the war with Mexico on March 12, 1848. Zachary Taylor, a Whig and a Mexican War hero, was elected president in 1848. The Democratic party split on the issue of slavery, which contributed to the defeat of Lewis Cass.

June 28, 1848

[June] 28 Devoted to writing and drawing Two of the mormons encamped on the other side were in search of game & saw what appeared to be four buffalo leaving a distant ridge. They hurried on & they turned another ridge then they started some 3 horses when upon aproaching them up ran 4 indians (Sioxs) threw off their buffalo robes uttered a loud yell, at which some

dozen mounted dashed up the hill and gave chase. the mormons evaded by keeping the hollows & reached their camp in safty though hard pressed.

June 30, 1848

[June] 30th This being muster no work was done in Camp went to see the wall of the fort which is now in progress it is built of adobies measuring 4, 8, 16 inches, in all 32 inches.⁶⁵ Put the saddle upon John who I am sorry to say acted very unbecomely.

⁶⁵On August 2 Lieutenant Woodbury reported that sixty men were "moulding adobes" and by December an adobe storehouse was completed. Capt. William Sublette had experience with adobe construction. He had found "strata [that] will make good sun-dried bricks" and believed that "the climate will justify their use." Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 252, 256-57. Sublette's assessment proved to be incorrect and the experiment with adobe was soon discontinued. James F. Wilkins went past the fort a year later and wrote, "passed fort Childs or New fort Kearney as some call it. and a Miserable looking place it is, being built principally of sods. there are however 1 or 2 frame houses." McDermott, *An Artist on the Overland Trail*, 39. Tappan's mention of the "wall of the fort" would suggest that work on a fortification had begun. There was an initial plan to enclose the fort with pickets but the plan was never executed. Mattes, *Great Platte River Road*, 181, 186. Perhaps Tappan's wall was the sod fence around the corral.

July 1, 1848

July 1st Sat. Saddled John determined to take the mischief out of him. was joined by the doct. Walker we rode in the bluffs started two wolfs & several antelope one of the latter the doct tried to shoot but was unsucsefl I have several times tried with the same lack of success & have now given up in despair. After riding some eight miles met two Germans of McCauslins who had just met four buffalo, but had left them run from them without killing any.⁶⁶ The Doct & I drove in the direction which they ran. after traveling 4 miles ascending all the highest bluffs seeing no signs of them turned home and in the midts of a smart shower, arrived just in time for dinner & set the whole camp in excitement by the buff report of buffalo being so near the camp. The Col's mouth watered for the dainty bits and the Corpulent Adjutant saddled & with the suttlar set off full of eagerness & expectation. if he kills one Sir Fallstaff would have made a good fox hunter. these bluffs run like the waves of the ocean rather uniform in shape but of every form the soil is poor, very sandy, bearing sage [?] grass in bunchs & in the valles is generly found buffalo grass. in some willd sage. the willd sage in masses is very purple. I should mention the buffs wallows circular holes dug by the buff in which they lay and role like hogs. the plain about the fort is thick with them & the skeletons of Buff every where about here. many were killed by Capt Subletts party last fall & many by the Indians.⁶⁷ those killed by the latter are readily distinguished by the skull which is broken to get the brain which is used for dressing the skins. the Adjutan returned after a ride of four whole miles & strange to say he saw no buffalo I should here say that I am of the opinion that buffalo skelletons do not last on these plains two years.⁶⁸ "

A war party of Omahas met on the plains 3 Sioux to home they gave [chase?] it was a long and _____ at length the siox despering of escape from so large a party determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. according, as they approached creek they hurried ahead desended the bank crossed the stream and dug (with a rapidity known only to Sioux warriors) a hole at a point which comanded the only fording place in this they placed themselves the pursuants aproached with caution but did not discover the foe till saluted by arrows which brought three of the persuants out of their saddles in this way they killed some dozen but were finaly ridled by 30 ball from the enraged besiegers." Miller.⁶⁹

⁶⁶ As assistant commissary of subsistence, McCauslin probably hired the two men to hunt wild game.

⁶⁷During the previous September Captain Sublette with about seventy men had escorted Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury on a trip up the Platte River to find a suitable location for Fort Childs. Willman, "The History of Fort Kearny," 250.

⁶⁸Thirty years later settlers in this general area were collecting buffalo bones and selling them to fertilizer companies in the East. Rolf Johnson, *Happy As A Big Sunflower: Adventures in the West, 1876-80* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press: 2000), 36.

⁶⁹It is clear that Tappan was quoting Agent Miller but it could not be determined whether the quote was from a letter or a conversation.

July 2, 1848

Sun. [July] 2nd Fine day.

July 5, 1848

3d Rode to the Platte with Maj. intending if we could cross it to spend the Forth in fishing from a clear stream where there is plenty of fish went up about four miles after trying it several times gave it up as too deep. width of stream to the first island 3/4 of a mile. returned with the Maj then started for the purpose of taking the wild out of my poney. drove rapidly to the highest bluff which is about 3 miles from camp on its summit is a heap of buffalo skulls while looking them over I saw an object a long way off on the prairie as it did not look like a horse my curiosity was excited & building a abundance of skulls I leveled my spy glass (for the wind was too high to hold it steady enough without a rest) I could see that it was an animal hurrying towards the platte. I was quite sure it was a buffalo bull & springing to the I saddle gave chase after a run of 3 miles I discovered it to be a black horse with a rider who wore dark pants & coat & hat of a tint so muted as to be invisible at that distance so I gave up the idea of running a buffalo bull & turned for home on the way met two antelope half grown _____ by his furious running, gave chase, which race lasted for about two miles when our attention was diverted by the appearance of a big gray wolf these fellows are becoming plenty & too familiar last night one drove the hounds to quarters & howled most horribl close to my tent. this occurred just before day light. the night before they attacked & severely wound a horse. Our pack is now incomplete having lost three by running on a warm day when no water was to be had & unfortunatly the best fighting dogs were among the number. but the Capt will reinforce them when the weather is cool we will give them Jesse [?]. the days have been very warm The. 96 in the shade.

The glorious 4th was ushered in by no firing of guns or ringing of bells the sun rose splendidly [?] & threatened to finish the baking of yesterday. the Camp was as still as Sunday work was suspended it was too warm to ride. horses stood motionles upon the plain & their masters gathered in shady places or lay in their unpeged tents trying to keep themself cool. but not so with me a few of us determined that the day should have an mornings salute had prepared a bottle filled with powder and had wrapt with spun yarn which, after several failures we exploded the report was tremendous. afterwards the Doct. called and desired the Maj to step to the Col. quarters & turning to me with a melancholy look said 'he also has business with Mr. Tappan' his unusual expression alarmed me, but it was dispeled by the Col. who introduced us to quantities of fine punch. the staff were there & at it & soon full toasts were given & we had a fine time. Those of the minor officers & men who could get liquor got glorious drunk. The express mail arrived & at sundown the a salute of 13 guns were fired. The. at 94 - July 5 The. 92

July 6, 1848

[July] 6th Fine breeze with comfortable temperature. A buffalo party of 25 with 5 non commisioned officers the whole under comand of Lieut Mara. I accompanied them for 12 miles on there way found it very difficult to leave them they were so desirous of my going with them. they were willing to share their coats blankets eatables &c &c if I would only go but after taking a

swig all round bade them farewell & galloped home meeting several antelope, wolfs, and a large animal of the panther kind I gave chase but my horse being tired could not overtake it.

July 9, 1848

[July] 9th A more delightfull Sabbath was never ushered in by church bells or pealing organ than this which rose & smiled upon us in this far off wild dessert the camp was as still as death not a voice was heard or merry laugh the horses grazed in silence even the music of the birds was hushed. As the day advanced the soldiers ushered from their tents quietly went & attired themselves in their Sunday best breakfast was prepared & eaten without the usual noise & bustle. It was one of those Sabbaths on which every thing awaits and as a virtue seems to bow down in silent adoration and perhaps the effect was heightened by the announcement that had been previously made that divine service would be held for the first time since the battalion had left civilization. at an early hour a party of soldiers gathered in the carpenter shed which had been prepared for the occasion & they sang methodist hymns at 10 the congregation began to gather. officers came in full uniform without weapons. the camp women were dressed in their gayest colors and the soldiers were nicely rigged. after all were seated in this rude shed which stands upon the living prairie Leut Woodbury read a hymn which was most sage he then read a passage from scripture, another hymn was sung. he then read an excellent episcopal sermon from the text of labors of the vineyard, during which service a young antelope bounded in to the space in front of the speaker where the graceful creature stood gazing about him in mute astonishment at so unusual a proceeding in his native plain. but the choir commenced the concluding hymn at which he sprang over the seats and bounded over the prairie. I have never listened to church music with so much satisfaction as to the rude choir of bearded untutored soldiers the whole service was peculiarly impressive listened with undivided attention.

July 10, 1848

[July] 10th A party of 10 emigrants arrived to day from Oregon they had left about the last of April. it is evidently impossible to dress with nicety on such a route for such a collection of hair, grease & rags I never before saw. among them was Doct Derby a well known phrenologist lecturer. also the architect of Navoo temple from the salt lake with his family⁷⁰ he is from Nantuckett & appears like an intelligent man. gives a sorry account of the mormons at the salt lake. he says there is much suffering there & many are coming back. They report the leader of the Oregon Troop, Gen [Gilliam] as killed by the accidental discharge of a rifle, & the indians at present having an advantage over the whites⁷¹

⁷⁰Phrenologists studied the shape of the human skull to determine character traits and intelligence. It was considered sound science during much of the nineteenth century. Charles Colbert, *A Measure of Perfection: Phrenology and the Fine Arts in America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1997). William Weeks was the architect of the Mormon temple at Nauvoo, Illinois. He arrived in Salt Lake in September 1847, but soon became dissatisfied with the church. In the spring he left for the states without permission, which led to his excommunication. Juanita Brooks, ed., *On The Mormon Frontier: The Diary of Hosea Stout* (Salt Lake: University of Utah Press, 1964), n. 41, 162.

⁷¹Apparently Tappan did not know the general's name and left a blank. Cornelius Gilliam was elected colonel and commandant of the Oregon militia near the end of December 1847. The command was ordered out to punish the Cayuses accused of the murder of missionaries Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and their associates. Gilliam chased the elusive Indians and engaged in small skirmishes. Then on March 20, 1847, he was attempting to remove a length of rope from a wagon. The rope caught on the trigger of a rifle, which discharged, killing the colonel. By this time many militiamen had served their enlistment, food and ammunition was running low, and no funds were available to purchase additional supplies. The campaign was forced to close late in May. Hubert H. Bancroft, *The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft: History of Oregon* (San Francisco: History Company Publishers, 1886), 676-736.

July 11, 1848

[July] 11 A man buried in camp having died of the small pox. he was anoculated when the disease first appeared here but foolishly washed the matter from his arm. there exist all through the west a strong prejudice against anoculation & a dreadful fear of the small pox.

July 12, 1848

[July] 12 Kit Carson with 9 men & pack animals arrived & encamp'd some two miles above Kit came down in P.M. was received & introduced by Capt Cregg He is 35 about 5' 7 1/2 rather large frame, bow legs most entelegent face and in manners & conversation very modest. He is bearer of dispatches from the city of St Angelos by Santefee from thens [thence] took a northern course to avoid the Comanchies who are troublesome. Some of our men returning from a buffalo hunt met him & among other things asked why he should have taken so northern a course. he replied, "the route from Santafee is at present very unhealthy a mans hair is apt to fly off." he left the City on the 5 of May having made a remarkable quick trip but his animals were in such a condition as to make it necessary to turn over 10 of his mules & take as many from the quarter masters department. His dispatches & mail amounts to a mule load. Some of his men were with Fremont in his travels. ⁷²

⁷²On May 4 Kit Carson set out from Los Angeles carrying mail and government reports bound for Washington, D. C. When he arrived in Santa Fe he learned that the Comanche had closed the Santa Fe Trail so Carson turned north to the head of the South Platte River and followed it downstream. At the forks of the Platte he met fifteen east-bound traders from Fort Laramie and they continued on together. Edwin L. Sabin, *Kit Carson Days*, 2 vols. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press Bison Books, 1995), 2: 584, 603.

July 16, 1848

[July] 16 The Capt (VanVleit) who had been sent to St. Louis for the indians goods, returned.⁷³ the old Mexican (as the Col calls him for his immense beard & mustash) was everywhere greeted with hearty wellcoms. he is a gallant officer & finished gentleman. about sundown met a large rattle snake on the Prarie.

⁷³The goods were promised to the Pawnee by Colonel Powell as a partial payment for surrendering the strip of land north of the Platte River.

July 21, 1848

[July] 21 Two bands of emigrants & traders from Oregon most of them are bitter against the country. also yesterday a train of traders from Larrime & a few families from the Salt Lake they represent the mormons in a starving condition crops cut off by the large black crickets.⁷⁴ Last night the interpreter Jefferies arrived⁷⁵ in conversation with him he explained some of the customs of the indians which I did not understand. No warriors is allowed to ormatate [ornament?] his person with a hand unless he has laid his hand on his enimie then he can wear one on the same place if he can steal a robe from his enemies he may pant [paint] one on that article of his dress but not otherwise. When a war party returns from the war tract the chiefs & braves investigate the achievements & reward acordingly. When one tribe would make peace with another a brave or cheift daubs himself with black mud his arms are tied at the elbows holds in his hands a well filled pipe & advances his enemies enclose him. the pipe is then offered to the chieft first he takes a whiff & it is passed to others. The person of him who hold the pipe is held sacred so long as his arms are tied. All pledges &c made over the pipe is considered sacred & tobacco is highly venerated.

⁷⁴The fur trading company of Sublette and Campbell built a post near the mouth of the Laramie River in Wyoming and christened it Fort William. It was sold, rebuilt with adobe and then on June 26, 1849, was purchased by the U.S. government and became an army outpost. Construction of log and timber buildings of Fort Laramie adjacent to the old structures began the following year. Remi Nadeau, Fort

Laramie and the Sioux Indians (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1967), 64-65, 303. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints began settling around Great Salt Lake in 1847. In 1848 their existence was threatened when grasshoppers or "locusts" descended on their crops, but the food supply was saved when sea gulls appeared and devoured the insects. Andrew Love Neff, *History of Utah 1847-1869* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1940), 234.

⁷⁵F. Jeffery Deroin was the interpreter. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties* 2: 572. George Kendall described him as "a mulatto well known as a sharp and skillful interpreter." Paul, "George Wilkins Kendall," 56.

July 23, 1848

[July] 23 Crossed the Platte with Liut Kelly had some difficulty in ascending the opposite bank & were amused to see a party of 3 headed by one of the hospital men in white pants affect a landing horses scrambling up a muddy bank have no respect for clean trousers & water will fill holsters.

July 24, 1848

[July] 24 Left with Capt Sublett & Capt VanVleit & two hands & pack mule on a buffalo hunt had a fine time past the second night in a smart rain & cold storm no protection but in blanketts. returned on the afternoon of the 27th rode for miles through dog villages.

July 28, 1848

[July] 28th Indians having robbed the trains of some cattle Capt Sublette with 50 mounted men were sent in pursuit one of the teamsters shot one of the red skins.

August 5, 1848

[August] 5 Went with Capt Rogers Lieut Mara Lt Kelley & soldier to the wood river fishing⁷⁶ found plenty at noon next day killed a buffalo calf. the soldier a good hunter & myself killed it he breaking the fore shoulder my ball breaking the thye of the hind leg.

⁷⁶Capt. W. Rodgers commanded Co. D of the Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848.

August 6, 1848

[August] 6 Capt Sublett returned [?] having had an encounter with some 100 Omahas.

August 8, 1848

[August] 8 An old Pawnee warrior came to camp to announce the approach of the tribe & recd orders as to camping. Par/kee (name) We shew him a wall piece at which he was much astonished and rubbed it with his hands.⁷⁷ then rubbed his body at the same time saying to the great spirit that some of the power of the great medicine may impart itself to him. Cannon & fired forge were shown all of which he rubbed in the same way & then rubbing his breast said "I thank you great father for have allowed my eyes to see these great medicines of the white man" In the morning I saddled early & rode up the Oregon trail to meet them. some 5 miles from the camp I met a few warriors one of which could speak a little english he told me the people were on the march & made several enquiries of the condition of the pawnee village state of the corn crops &c to all of which I gave the most favorable replies. The son of Chef malane was then dispatched with me to meet the main body⁷⁸ we rode on for 5 or 6 miles constantly passing warriors mounted & on foot (all of which came to shake hands with me & utter the guttural "howe" "howe") women leading pack animals many of whom were packed themselves, boys practicing the bow & arrow on the birds, little girls of every age leading & driving horses & mules or carry dogs. The old cheift coming up I rode by his side untill we they made camp where they made signs for me to alight which I did while preparations were being made for a "smoke" Capt VanVleit Capt Sublett & interpreter came up mats were spread while the tents were being

pitched which is done by the women with great facility. their tents are of buffalo skin without hair stretched over bent poles of this shape⁷⁹ and tied to tall uprights the form is circular. The tent being made we adjourned to it sat upon the mats and leaned against the bales of skins &c ranged against the out side in front were the chiefs & braves and behind the rabble several grim old fellows were kept busy at whipping off the boys who stopped up the [page 46] entire tent making it hot & uncomfortably close. The old cheift stated that seven of their men had been scalp since they had left the village & many of the children had died of the whooping cough. They also stated that they had been desirous of making peace with the other nations and their overtures had been favorably recd. by two of the smaller tribes. A little girl gave us a basin of dried buffalo meat. it would not have been bad if it had been salted. After giving instructions for their march through camp and stating the number for each tribe that would be expected at the treaty we left. After dinner they made their appearance the four bands headed by their respective cheift and 25 warriors they came into camp armed "cap a pie" [head to foot]. The Col. & staff seated themselves under the shadow of the stable. by invitation of the Capt I joined them in a semicircle were formed the indians squatting on the grass behind them stalked the sentinels to keep the soldiers from pressing too closely.

Business commenced by the reading of the treaty which was interpreted to the Pawnese. the document was simply a deed of land on the north side of the Platte embracing a part of wood river. (I presume the object of buying it to be for the sake of the timber on its banks) for which they were to be paid 150 guns 500 lbs lead 200 lbs powder 500 flints 50 blankets.⁸⁰ (After the deed had been interpreted it was signed by the principal cheift and the first & second chiefs of each band. to spell some of their names solely puzeled the adjutant, such long and strangely sounding [names] could barely be spelt with english letters.⁸¹ the promised articles were then brought forward and placed in four heaps before the four bands. ~~Old Cheft malane then ran and with great facility and energy accompanied with violent gestures spoke as follows~~ My friends this morning The Col then said that he had some articles which he intended to present to them whose behavior had merited reward, but some of them were bad men to them he should give nothing. Sha re tah riche he said was a bad man and he should give him nothing but if he did not behave better in future he would hang him like a dog.⁸² during this conversation the stern features of the old cheift underwent no change but after the interpreter had concluded the old man rose gathered his robe about him spoke in this maner "The white cheift says I am a bad man & he will hang me what have I done that he should talk thus?" The Col replied "He had been a bad cheift had given his people bad counsel (alluding to the fact that he was the principal means of preventing the nation from complying with the wishes of the US who ordered them to remove to the north side of the Platte) and when the great father (U.S.) sent for the gov mules which they had stolen, he told the agent that if their father wanted them he must bring some of the big guns they talked so much about. And he had long been troublesome to the whites and his great father at washington had long been angry with him. The old Cheift replied that some time ago his son was killed on the Santa fee road he had supposed it was done by whites & had felt badly towards them, but his heart had been opened. he had been led to see that the whites were good. Col. told him that promises were empty he should so act & time would prove the changes. As he sat down the Col said that the two man cheift was also a bad man⁸³ to him he should give nothing but all the others he believed to be good peaceful men & shall be rewarded. The Two man cheift then rose to inquire what he had done. he was told that he had been insolent to Capt Van Vleit when he & the whole village met him on the bluffs he keeping his animals in the road and obliging the Capt wagons to turn out. moreover he was a liar stating at the first council that the horse which he had found (Capt. Sublett's) had been in his possession 10 months when in fact he had been lost but about 10 days. he tried in vain to establish his innosence but without success the raskale should be hung for his ugly looks if nothing more. Old Chef malane the principal chift then rose & after shaking hands all round as is their custom before speaking proceeded as follows. My friends this morning we were poor & naked now see our riches. We are rich wealthy and our heavy hearts are made light. wherefore

comes these blessings? our great father has given them. you see that he is good you see that he will reward ~~th~~ us if we do right & will punish if we do wrong. do you think you have merited these blessings? do you not feel ashamed to take these things? no. take them and as you look upon them think of what I have so often told you and look upon the whites as your best friend. he is rich and in trouble can help you I am poor and old and can only talk at your councils." (before writing this speech I should have ~~said~~ observed that the col. had said that to all others, save the two before mentioned he should give presents.) red blankets were then given to the chiefs & principal brave. white ones to those who had on several occasions rendered services to the Americans. blue cloth, calico, vermilion looking glasses bells, rings & so forth were added to the heaps of goods. Several of the Chiefs made speeches. the most remarkable was the chiefs of the Loup's.⁸⁴ In a loud voice with violent gestures the fat chief said "Look before you, see what your great father has given you. do you not feel ashamed when he tells you that it is all yours now? if you do not you should. you know that you have not done as he has told you. try now to do differently though I dare say that before the sun goes down in the west you will have done something wrong you will have stolen something, for so it has always been" All matters having been satisfactorily arranged the different bands packed their respective parcels off to different parts of the grounds and proceeded with their distribution first the guns were handed round beginning with the principal braves and going down as long as they lasted. powder lead blanketts were pass round cloth cut up and all packed off to their lodge Early the next morning the entire nation passed back of the camp an immense procession of some 3 or 4 thousand people & as many animals a few of the older warriors remained in camp untill all had left among them was Share ta riche who with the Two man chieft had left the council in a great passion. the former telling the Col that he wanted none of the white mans presents for they had killed his son. The old man complained that injustice had been done him by exposing him before his people and again argued his innocents, but seing his case to be a hopeless one he drew from his robe a bible and presenting it to the Col advised him to read it & he hoped it would make him a better man. The Col replied that he had often read it and believed it to be a good book ~~for~~ by it he was condemned for it taught him that the good should be rewarded & the wicked punished.

A few days after report came to camp that the two bad chieft had been very angry there had been much quarreling and "Capane" blue" (a young chief) had killed his wife.

On the night of the 13th ~~an express arrived~~ the assemble call was sounded all started from their beds & rushed to head quarters. An express had arrived from below the village and stated that the two Lieut & escorts with mail were stopt near the village and told by Chef malane who spoke by signs that they should not go through the village as Chare ta riche was no good and would kill them. they therefore pased round the village among the bluffs and met the wagon train escorted them back 15 miles where they were coralled for defense & were daily expecting an attack. The exp crost the river & traveled day & night 125 miles to camp. Under these cirmstant the Col. decided at once to take 300 men & two peaces of artillery and move at break of day to their protection and to destroy the pawnee village. the remainder of the night was spent in hunting horses cooking meatpacking coffee &c. In the morning [August 14] all was bustling until after breakfast when company after company began to move. As for myself I at once volunteered Capt Van Vleit was apointed to the comand of the artilery which being ready six horses were harnessed to a piece and we began the march in high spirits all furious for a brush. First days march was 20 miles encamped on the border of a clear slue which empties into the Platte (it is called the lake) rolling myself in my blanketts resting my head on the saddle slept delightfully until morning. Saddled & were on the march by "sun up" marched some 30 miles and camppt among the bluff some distance from the river. Reveille was sounded at 12 oclock at night. after hurrying up a cup of coffee a bit of fried pork & buiskits were on the march with matches burning on the loaded field piece. it was a fair moon light night and all moved on in solemn silents not a sound could be heard by the dull tramping of 350 horses or the or the rumbling of the artillery and wagons as they rolled up & down the rugged road. we soon crossed the bluff and were in

the plain through which we moved until we ascended a little elevation from which the cornfields of the pawnees were visible we were now within 10 miles of the village & as yet undiscovered here we waited an hour for day which at length appeared & on we went with one company of rifles in advance of the staff to which I was now attached (the Col having requested me to act as aide in case of attack) and artillery and other companies in the rear all unnecessary noise was stopt and command in silence moved in snake like form along the road when within some four miles from the village a spy was seen galloping off to give the alarm others soon made their appearance until every elevation was capt with a red skin. several were questioned concerning the people and presents of the Chiefs but their answers were contradictory at length Old Chief malane rode up from him we learned that all the Chiefs were at home we rode through the village and turning immediately to the right ascended the bluffs sufficiently high to command the village with the artillery and halted. The indians regarded these movements with suspicion and great uneasiness. A Council of the Chiefs was convened and the cause of the alarm investigated. It seemed that it all arose from a misunderstanding of the signs of Chief malane who ment for them not to stop in the village lest their young men might steal something. when he spoke of Cheretariche he was telling him of a quarrel in his family in which he was an actor. it ran as follows "Capan blue" quarreled with his wife & struck her she attacked him with a stick and was getting the best of it when he drew two arrows and shot her. She was Cheretariche's daughter and according to indian laws it was his duty to kill him. they quarreled & the old man struck him over the shoulder & head with his tomahawk wounding him severely but not killing him. the bands of the chiefs now joined in the quarrel of their chiefs & things began to wear a serious aspect seeing which young Capan blue called for his gun and placing the muzzle to his breast told them he would settle the difficulty and touching the trigger with his toe shot himself dead.⁸⁵ Another band interfered and the quarrel was arrested. The Col. finding nothing that was questionable reprimanded the two man chief who made a speech in which he said that ever since he had left the fort it had been his constant study by day & night to understand what he had done that his great father should think hard of him & give him no presents. The Col turned to Cheretarich and said he should take him prisoner as he had been instructed to do by his great father at washington. at this many of the red ones moved off lest their names should be also mentioned as prisoners. the old man rose and said he was willing to go anywhere that his father wished but requested time to get a horse which he was allowed to do the Chiefs being held responsible for his return.⁸⁶

Order being given to mount we moved down the hill on nearing the bottom an amusing incident occurred. Our attention was attracted towards a strange looking object trotting leisurely towards the river. its color was green in form it bore more resemblance to a hedgehog than any other known animal. a volunteer whose curiosity was bolder than the others galloped trotted his uneasy horse towards it at which upon nearing the nondescript the frightful monster made a furious charge upon the trooper whose horse becoming frantic now galloped at the top of his speed toward the command the race well contested & created great mirth among the ~~reders~~ spectators not so with the horses the afrightened creatures reared & plunged many dismounted to hold their trembling animals while others sped forward to head the monster before the alarm should become general in this way they were partially successful ~~for the~~ and a soldier dismounted seised the larret which was trailing behind the animal plunged & dragged the hero after him for a few rods but the soldier soon proved the better of the two at which the nondescript reared & plunged more furiously finally succeeded in shaking off the green exterior an appearing in his natural coat which proved to be that of a horse. he had been packed with long thatch which covered him from the tip of his nose to the tip of the tail. Fortunately this hapened at the end of a long & tedious march had our animals been fresh it would have created a most disastrous stampede.

we moved down 4 miles below the village & encamped on the bank of the platte where we feasted on green corn for two days most of which time I spent in & about the village.

Cheretariche made his appearance in due time he was most alarmed & finding Capt. Sublett got him to accompany him to the Col. whom he told that he was at his service if he intended to kill him he hoped he would do it at once for he was prepared those who saw him part from his friends at the village described it as being very touching several of the braves went & embraced him as he left the village it was generally believed that he would be hung. the second night we were encamped here a severe storm came up in the evening and the old chief rose from the bushes where he had built a wickey and turned towards the storm cloud comenced a song to the great spirit. it was more like a chant than a song first low & very melancholy then wild & firm again the voice would sink to a low wailing and then burst into a savage scream accompanied with & so he continued untill the old man was hoarse. then he stopt & in a low voice spoke a few words & came towards us after shaking hands told us that he had been speaking to the great spirit. He then gave us a sketch of his life. he had been a great warrior. he was known everywhere in the east the white man knew him for he had been at washington & trenton in the cities of the east he then enumerated the surrounding tribes they all knew Cheretarich he ~~was~~ had been a great man but now he had fallen he was a prisoner. He was very melancholy & said he would go and speak once more to the great spirit, then sleep. Going over more to the bank of the river he comenced the red bead song. I shall never forget that evening a great storm was ready to burst upon & amid the terrible roar of the thunder was heard the melancholy whaling or frightful scream of the grim old warrior whose face was only visible when the red lightning relieved his tall figure from the chaos which enveloped him. At the termination of the song he again appealed to the great spirit in these words. "Great father, look at me. I am in trouble. thou knowest it. pity me & watch over me." He stopt a moment [?] to look at a signal fire which some indians had built on the opposite bank sought his cot for the rain soon began to fall in big drops.

we all followed his example as for me I had built a little roof with willows & over them my rubber cloak & cloth. into this I crawled & laying my head on my pillow (saddle) embraced my rifle soon fell asleep. but soon awoke by great drops of rain falling upon my face. the wind had changed removing the gum elastic⁸⁷ from the willows spread it over me & fell asleep keeping myself dry until morning though it rained in torrents until near morning. Broke up camp the next morning [August 19] Capt V Vleit & myself rode down a few miles to see the trains ford all right. took dinner at Capt Sublett's who was sent down a few miles to protect the trains. we spent some little time in the village & reached the Capt 12 miles above in time for tea. At night an express came from the village stating that several tribes of Otoes &c had crept near the village below & were to attack it tomorrow.⁸⁸ These indians were greatly alarmed. The next morning Capt V Vleit interpreter & myself started to ascertain the truth. from the lower company took an escort of 5 picked men with a non commissioned officer found that the alarm was wearing off in the village Squas were going out to work in the fields &c. we went to the village found that they had been badly scared. I spent the day in and about the village & bluff & returned to Capt in time to escape a tremendous rain. broke camp next morning & made our own way home. next day [August 22] Leut Impey broke [brought ?] the leg of a fine eagle. I crossed the Platte to Grand island to finish it. on my return crossed other islands & was obliged to put my horse into water so deep as to make swimming necessary. John is a duck in the water. Capt Van Vleit Leut Impey Sgt Wells Job & Codey & myself took an unsuccessful hunt on Wood river.⁸⁹

On asking Cheretarich what he knew of the early history of his tribe, that the history was in a measure lost by their fore fathers but as far as they knew they first lived on the Rio Grand with the Pawnee people.⁹⁰ they were one nation until one day they offended the great spirit of the buffalo & left for the north. it happened then their fathers were hunting [?] & had made a circuit then the spirit who appeared in the form of a great bull became enraged & from his nostrils blew upon them which instantly killed every hunter. then the others of the band being alarmed left for the north & settled on the Loup fork.

Of the history of the red man he said formerly they were all very large (spirits) but one day a brave becoming proud boasted that he had as much power as the great spirit who to prove his own omnipotence destroyed the brave with lightning which was followed by a great storm when drowning the remainder. Some time after, the great spirit peopled the world with a race much smaller & that they might not become so proud he endowed them with much less intellect & less power of the wild beast. so they were obliged to make arrows with heads of stone [page 56] hatchets of the same rude material.⁹¹ ~~They say they had~~ These things tho rude supplid them with game but they had no fire to cook it. it had all been extinguished by the great rain. In vain they tried to produce it by rubbing together two pieces of wood it would smoke but would not blaze at length the great spirit took pity on them & told them to put between the sticks a little fine sand which they did & fire was produced which they say has never been suffered to go out. they have the same stick to this day. the medicin contains the very same hatchet & arrow of the forefather. They say that the whites have been less robing & have been more attentive to the word of the great spirit and are consequently more favored ~~& have~~ being endowed with more wisdom. On being asked if he supposed the world to be flat he said that he had crost the mountains, knew them to be high and the rivers ran to the east & to the west. he considered the rocky montains to be the greatest height & the rest comparatively level of its limits he was ingort [ignorant]. he knew the river ran to the great salt [lake] which he supposed swallowed them up (lake of which he had heard) of the limits of the ocean he knew nothing but from some indians who had seen it he had learned that it was as big as the dry land. Of the disapearing of the sun at evening he knew of no other answer than it went to sleep. (Jeffery [?] wolfs & crows, sacred pipe, medicins packed by the capt who allows no one else to handle it.)

⁷⁷A wall piece refers to a large gun or small cannon.

⁷⁸Tappan first wrote "Shef malane" and then changed it to "Chef malane." Colonel Powell called him Ma-laigne and considered him the "principal chief" of all four bands of the Pawnee. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 572. George Kendall mentioned him and indicated he was an old man. Paul, "George Wilkins Kendall," 58. Densmore's informants told him in 1920 that Man Chief was the leader of the four bands when he died in 1858 at age seventy-four. Frances Densmore, *Pawnee Music* (Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution B.A.E. Bull. 30, 1929), 86.

⁷⁹Tappan drew a short vertical line with a curve to the right near the top.

⁸⁰The treaty, dated August 6, transferred ownership of a strip of land about sixty miles long and about five miles wide along the north side of the Platte River from the Pawnee to the U.S. government. In addition, the army could remove timber from the Wood River valley to the north. The Pawnee received \$2,000 in "goods and merchandise" for the tract. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 571-72. The payment included 160 pounds of tobacco, 150 knives, and 500 gun flints. J. Miller to J. Harvey, June 17, 1848, Council Bluffs Agency letters.

⁸¹The adjutant was Thomas J. Todd. The Grand chiefs names were rendered Sha-re-ta-ricke and Ah-tah-ra-scha. The Loups were Ish-Ka-top-pa, French Chief, and Big Chief. The Republic band leaders were La-lo-che-la-sha-lo, A-sha-la-cot-sha-lo, and American Chief. The Tapages were La-pa-ko-lo-lo-ho-la-sha, La-sha-pit-ko, and Ta-ra-re-tppage. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 572.

⁸²Charetarich or Angry Chief was the chief of the Grand Pawnee. Hyde, *The Pawnee Indians*, 151, 227. Lt. James H. Carleton, traveling with a troop of mounted dragoons, met the chief in 1844. Carleton described him as "intelligent, dignified and courteous, and seems to possess a good deal of firmness and strength of character." J. Henry Carleton, *The Prairie Logbooks*, Louis Pelzer, ed. (Chicago: Caxton Club, 1943), 64. George Kendall described him as "a tall, straight, well-formed and intelligent looking man of some sixty years... and evidently a natural orator of no little power." Paul, "George Wilkins Kendall," 56-57.

⁸³The number of synonyms for certain words results in differing translations. Two Man Chief was also called Double Chief. He was influential in both the Tapage and Republican bands. Paul, "George Wilkins Kendall," 55.

⁸⁴The Loup or Skidi band chief's name was rendered Ish-ka-op-pa on the 1848 treaty. Kappler, *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, 2: 572. It was translated Wicked Chief. Hyde, *The Pawnee Indians*, 227. George Kendall thought he was about forty years old "with a face rather indicative of good nature than any other quality." Paul, "George Wilkins Kendall," 66. Perhaps Tappan was mistaken about the band designation since there was a Tapage band chief whom the whites called Fatty. Paul, "George Wilkins Kendall," 55. Lieutenant Carleton met him in 1844 and said his nickname was Big Greasy, but his real name was He Who Has Killed Many. Carleton, *Prairie Logbooks*, 91. Oehler and Smith met him in 1851 and remarked that obesity was "something very unusual among wild Indians." Gottlieb F. Oehler and David Z. Smith, "Description of a Journey and Visit to the Pawnee Indians," Reprinted from the *Moravian Church Miscellany of 1851-1852* (New York: 1914), 21.

⁸⁵A lengthy account of these events by "Nebraska" appeared in the *Missouri Republican*, Sept. 7, 1847. In this more likely version Charretarich killed his son-in-law. Suicide was extremely rare among the Pawnee. Watkins, "Notes on the Early History of the Nebraska Country," 180-83.

⁸⁶"Nebraska" confirmed the chief's arrest. The reporter obviously felt the arrest was unnecessary when he sarcastically noted that it was "not for what he has done lately... but for the misdeeds of a past life." Later "Nebraska" reported that Charretarish was released by the end of October "and is again at his old amusements of killing Sioux and hunting buffalo." *Ibid.*, 187.

⁸⁷Gum elastic was a rubberized and waterproof cloth.

⁸⁸The Oto were a small tribe composed of several bands. They had lived in a village on the Platte River west of Bellevue, but in the early 1840s they moved downstream to near the mouth of the river. John Miller to Thomas Harvey, September 10, 1847, Council Bluffs Agency letters.

⁸⁹First Lt. F. M. Impey was with D Co. of the Missouri Volunteers. Fort Kearny Post Returns, March 1848.

⁹⁰He refers to the Wichita who then lived in southern Kansas.

⁹¹John Brown Dunbar lived with his missionary parents at a Pawnee village on the Loup River until 1846. Later he wrote an ethnographic account of the tribe, which told about the first race of giants. John B. Dunbar, "The Pawnee Indians," *Magazine of American History* 8 (1882):

September 9, 1848

[September] 9th went with Capt Sublet Van Vleit, two enlisted men [?] and two spectators on a buffalo hunt to plum creek. buffalo very plenty saw in one herd 5000 grey wolf very abundant. I only [had] encounter with wolf & snake ~~bull snake~~ while out had a very soaking [?] rain lasting two nights & one day rather severe but had a plenty of meat & plumbs & a suply of news papers.

September 14, 1848

[September] 14 Leave having been granted to Che rah ta riche to accompany his sons & nephews home he left after a very ingenious beging speech. this I should have mentioned that we met an advance of a large party of Pawness on a horse stealing excurtion among the sioux. they beged hard for meat but we gave them none but directed them to the buffalo which was within 15 miles but they liked the idea of beging it better than hunting it. but would like stealing it better than either if they dared undertake se anything of so doubtful a nature. Were received [?] by all at camp in particular the old cheif and followers who were too affectionate in their embraces.

September 17, 1848

[September] 17 A large party of Pawnees arrived. they are on a buffalo hunt with sqwas & dogs. The nex day was another party of horsethiefs who report that the Sioux have robbed them of half their horses & they are on foot for now

September 19, 1848

[September] 19 The Loup cheift [Wicked Chief] at the head of 150 men are going out on a war party against the Sioux. The old cheift has lost all of his horses and is full of wrath. With one of their braves I swapt tomahawk he told me a long story of his famous exploits with the instrument & bade me keep it, love it, for his sake & he would keep mine near his heart of course I shall keep the pledge.

Immediately after having made the above trade a soldier came to head quarters in a state of intoxication enough so to be sassy & insulted the Quarter master & shamefully abused Capt Sublett to whose company he belonged. the Capt ordered him to his quarters & was answered that he would not go. the Capt struck him with a chair. he was then more abusive than ever. the Capt seized or was handed a club by the Capt of Co B. [McCausland] which he used over his shoulders. the soldier caught the Capt by the cholar when Doct Snail who was at that moment with me looking at my tomahawk, observing rushed up & most vigorously applied it to the neck & shoulders of the drunken fool. Knowing the temperament of Kentuckians I lost no time in taking so dangerous an instrument from his hands. we certainly expecting the enraged surgeon would be the death of him & he afterwards declared he should have been if he had not relinquished his hold. The poor fool was woefully beaten but he may thank his stars that he escaped with his life. We have had several such scenes one soldier was threatening the Col who had drawn his pistols & was in the act of shooting him when the officer of the day (Capt Sublett) seased him & drove him to the guard house at the point of the sword. the raskal made several passes at him with his bayonett which the Capt paried with his sword An officer in the regular service would have cut down either of the above without a moments hesitation Maj Carnes is so unwell from an attack of the rumatism as to be obliged to take to hosp [hospital?] so I am left in sole possession of the marquee.

September 22, 1848

[September] 22d A pawnee was returning from the detachment of hunters ~~in the~~ with a few of the tribe for help & horses to pack meat. he reached the fort but was so weak as to be unable to proceed & was there fore recd into the hospital the Doct informs me that it was an attack of the "Chills" & he found him a ready medicine taker.

September 23, 1848

[September] 23 a train of 13 wagons arrived from Fort Leavenworth with 8 12 pounders & ammunition. we have now at the post 12 12 pounders & 15 _____ 12 ox wagons of fixed ammunition.⁹²

⁹²Construction of Fort Leavenworth began in May 1827, by troops of the Third Infantry. The fort overlooks the Missouri River in northeastern Kansas. Elvid Hunt, *History of Fort Leavenworth* (Fort Leavenworth, Kan.: General Service Schools Press, 1926), 20. In his letter to the Missouri Republican "Nebraska" mentioned twelve brass cannons and 500 rounds of ammunition. Watkins, "Notes on the Early History of the Nebraska Country," 186.

September 28, 1848

Thursday [September] 28 Everything being packed they were soon placed in the wagon selected for our use and it started at about 9 1/2 for the train 2 miles below. The old maj being sick had his bed spread on it and accompanied it. The Doct (Snail) Sargt Wells & myself remained untill after dinner when we bid farewell to all our friends at Grand Island & turned our horses towards the east.⁹³ Capt MacCauslen of Co B. had some two hours the start of us we traveled moderately & did not overtake the train until they had made camp some miles be low

Co B. and two miles below the fork of the Kearny & Independence trails, being 14 miles below the Fort.⁹⁴ The camp was on the bank of the Platte without timber but a team dragged enough from the Camp above to answer all culinary purposes The day had been very pleasant but the night was quite cold & frosty as we slept on the ground we were not comfortably warm in the morning. We roused camp early [September] (29th) and hurried in the cattle, but the necessary delay of yoking 150 oxen prevented our getting the start of the Company. The day proved a pleasant one we rested our animals in the midst of fine buffalo grass & when the train came up regaled our self on Army biscuits & molasses washed down with the clear waters of the Lake drank from no other goblete than my old hat whose broad brim wrightly managed it no mean affair after I had waisted a charge of buck on flying ducks we rode off past the Co & encamped 7 miles below them in the beginning of the bluff it having [been] an old Indian camp we found plenty of dry timber & good grass we have traveled some 26 miles

(I should have mentioned in the journal of yesterday that when about 3 miles from the fort we met an indian (Pawnes) soaking his larriet in a branch of the Platte. his pack of at least 150 lbs of buffalo meat lay beside him (we recognized him as one of several hunters who I had met when returning from the hunt at plum creek. he had found plenty of meat & was now going for his tribe. About sundown of the same day this indefeguable traveler pack & all, passed our camp in a gait which would carry him far below us ere dark. The red skin had traveled between the hour of two & sundown no less than 11 miles to our certain knowledge & when last seen was still trudging on. after dark a little fire was seen for a few minutes & then vanished. with a few things he had prepared his supper & was probably moving on. I have reason to believe that he had that pased over 30 miles. The Indians consider the Pawnese the best travelers on the plains. the Otoes say that they went to the mountains with them "and found they were like mules") Night cold with heavy frost on our blanketts.

⁹³During the summer approximately 450 soldiers were assigned to Fort Childs. By September the Missouri Volunteers began to fulfill their enlistments and more than 300 troops departed. Fort Kearny Post Returns, June and October 1848.

⁹⁴The trail to Fort Kearny on the Missouri continued to the east, while the one to Independence, Missouri, branched to the southeast.

September 30, 1848

Sat. [September] 30. Started by sun up had not proceeded far in the bluffs before we met scouting parties of indians with families & pack animals. they became thicker as we progressed untill we had passed some 2 or 3 thousands. then in a little bottom we were surprised at seeing a host of what we supposed to be whites puting up tents picketing horses &c & but upon nearing them two proved to be the remainds of the pawnee nation. selecting a good piece of grass we unsaddled & picketing our horses left a guard & went to the camp were soon overtaken by Chef malane the younger who escorted us to his fathers lodge which his squas were puting up. the old man appeared glad to see us especialy when I told him that the buffalo were plentf at plum creek. after siting a half hour with him we prepared to leave but he so strongly urged us to stay all night that we were obliged to make a partial promise to do so. The old man's head was ornamented with a handkerchief which I recognized as the one of which my pocket was lightened when siting on my horse in the villiage some month ago. he had undoubtedly traded for it for I know him to be innocent of the theft. With his son we now went to the train which were now turning the bluffs & presented him with some bread & meat we left him with the promise of returning. Having again mounted we were so encircled by the gathering multitude that it was difficult to move as all were beging something at length a Tappage cheift made his appearance when it was proposed that I who had little knowledge of their language, should get up some story that would so please them as to make them forget begging. I immediately shook hands with the cheift & told him that the buffalo were very plenty at the forks of the Platte & plum creek that the prarie was covered with them on both sides & that the "skeedies" had killed them

in heaps.⁹⁵ The old chieft let fall his robe & ~~hugged me to~~ gave me an embrace that was more affectionate than agreeable for the old sayvage had just arraind himself in his gaudiest paints a large part of which I found transferred from his flesh to my clothing. At the same time Lowrah!! Lowanah!! Turah ha!! Tur sah hah ta!!⁹⁶ ~~roled in great abundance from his~~ was uttered with great vehemence & ~~velocity~~ with surprising velocity. It had the desired effect for the old chieft in a loud voice proclaimed the joyful news to his people who lost no time in taking it to the camp, but Loupt cheif had his little clerk about and had a thousand things to ask. And the rascaly looking republican chief [Two Man Chief] with his lame leg & sneering lips stood in our path & condescended to shake hands. but the same story answered a good purpose with them. After riding a few rods we met on a little mound near the road a group of magnificent looking fellows In front stood the old war chieft of the nation Cheretarich his fine head had been freshly shaved & painted his numerous ornaments glistened in the sun his arms were folded on his manly breast from the folds of his pleated robe (which he wore with a grace which a roman might envy) peeped his shining firelock. He was the very personification of Mars. ~~Around~~ behind him stood some 30 of the favorite warriors ~~fully armed~~ with full quivers & glistening tomahawks with no drapery to conceal their _____ forms, no covering save gaudy colors daubed upon the skin. No one that has seen the savage in his native wilds [page 63] can for a momen consider the exclamation of West when he saw for the first time the statue of Mercury as anything but a high compliment of the highest order.⁹⁷ The high & graceful forms of Appolo & Mercury are to be seen in any war party but you see no Herculese with his irony mussels or Venusis with rounded limbs. For the lives of the indians while it promotes grace & activity are not such as to produce great strength. I have never seen an Indian who could lift a heavy weight. But in running walking feats of horsemanship or anything requiring great indeavor they by far surpass the white. The females as a general thing are stronger & more muscular than the males for on these "poor things slaves" fall all the drugery of the camp & when pack horses or mules are scarce they supply the diference.⁹⁸

The old hero was glad to see us & made numerous inquiries respecting the whites. The story of the buffalo failed to rid us of his company for when he found that he could not induce us to stay all night with him he insisted on following us to the train for a supply of white mans food. as they were some distance in advance he proposed to hurry & started off upon a ~~trot~~ gait which required smart ~~trotting~~ running of our horses to keep pace with. this was kept up for some two miles without making the least visible difference in his respiration although he numbers at least 65 years. We gave him as much bread as we could spare. when he desired whiskey we were surprised at the request & told him that we had none. but he replied that his friends had some given them by the party. he then called up his son who had kept with the train who guided him to the wagon occupied by an unprincipled fellow & who doubtless furnished the desired potable. In justice to this tribe I must say that I have not seen a single drunken man among them & I have seen the Loups refuse it saying it was "no good" However vicious these people may be they have not yet learned to be drunkards In that branch of civilization they are behind the Sioux who never lose an opportunity of getting tipsy. Charetariche returned & again prest us to return with him & spend the night but the plea of being ordered by the Col to remain with & protect the train seemed to satisfy him & bidding us goodbye he moved off. After riding a few miles still among the bluffs saw the melancholy form of a savage behind a knoll stood the fat cheift of the Tappage leaning on his bow he seemd very melancholy & upon inquiring the cause was told that his child had died that morning his grief was too great to admit of his ~~speaking~~ saying good bye so he wrung our hands & as we turned he agin bent over the grave of his child & again commenced his wild requium [?]. As we drew near a tall sharp bluff we saw siting on its side the last sentinel he was young warrior I hailed him Indian fashion loo-ahaloo!! which he answered inquired his band he was a Tappage we had not proceeded far before he hailed us and directed us to wait for there was something on the island that we would like to see. He then called in a low voice to the supposed somebody. he kept us waiting some half hour when we mounted &

rode off leaving him in the delightful conviction that he had finally fooled us. These rogues relish a good joke.

we encamped at sun down in the bottom of the ~~beginning~~ end of the bluffs in the midst of fine tender grass where the prairie had been recently burned. As usual retired as soon as dark on the green mattress of nature and there lay looking at the stars winking at the moon until we fell asleep, but alas though we ate a light supper of fried fat pork, hard crackers & molasses & a small sprinkle of coffee we were all dreadfully annoyed with the night mare. The Capt of the train had tied his spotted charger on the outside of the corral to the fore wheels of the very wagon which protected us from a charge or stampede in the middle of the night I woke & found the heavens suddenly darkened at first I thought a great storm cloud was ready to burst upon us but upon a further examination it proved to be a horse who was slowly picking his diffident way over our bed. Supposing it to be the Doct mustang and fearful that he would do some harm for he had gone as far as the larriatt would admit & was still over the bed and in a position which would make a kick anything but agreeable to us. So I roused the Doct who was nearest the wagon to clear the rope he did so & drove the animal back & tied him to the hind wheel of the next wagon. Again we went to sleep [page 66] but I woke near day light from a horrid dream that a big savage had mounted me & stood with his foot upon my breast crushing me to death. upon opening my eyes I was delighted to find no savage but the pressure was still there & every moment becoming heavy I tried to spring up but could not. At this crisis Wells who lay at my right sprang up uttering terrible threats against somebody the lad nearly scraped his nose off. he at once saw the case & severed the larriatt soon released myself & the Doct who was now writhing under its pressure for the horse had crossed our bed a second time and the larriatt was pressed close to the ground by the wagon wheels between which we lay. The animal was now removed to the opposite side of the corral & a dozen well administered kicks canceled the damage done the nose

⁹⁵Tappan may have been referring to the Skidi band of the Pawnee but his penmanship leaves room for other interpretations.

⁹⁶Tappan provided a partial translation later in the diary as "Buffalo, very good." 97

⁹⁷Benjamin West was popular painter in the early years of the nineteenth century. He was primarily a painter of historical and religious subjects. William Sawitsky, "The American Work of Benjamin West," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 62 (1938): 433-62

⁹⁸The physical tasks performed by many Indian women were often cited by whites as evidence that they had not evolved into the graces of "civilization." David D. Smits, "The 'Squaw Drudge': A Prime Index of Savagism," *Ethnohistory*, (1982): 281-306.

October 1, 1848

Sunday [October 1] Off by day light when near the village saw placed on a pole the worldly goods of some defunct pawnee it consisted of two horn spoons a piece of wood that once contained a looking glass riding whip whipping stick & a few other matters equally _____. One who had a lazy horse took the whip & after wishing peace & a plenty of buffalo meat for the soul of the departed left the grave with [out] dropping a tear.

It being Sunday the Doct & myself rode to the buffalo church. The household gods had been increased & freshly painted.⁹⁹ The village was deserted by all but flies who reveled in the halls & frolicked in the streets. below the village as met by Eusti who now completed our party.¹⁰⁰ Camp 9 miles below the village having traveled 28 miles.

⁹⁹Tappan's "buffalo church" would have been skulls painted and arranged in a Pawnee ceremony.

October 2, 1848

Monday Off at sun up. very cold. at noon tried to catch fish in a clear stream. they would not bite. Camped on the edge of a canyon at the foot of the bluff. Co B a little above. That day an old dutchman stole corn for the mules & gave [it to] his horse it foundered him the old mans misery is quite delightful especialy as it proves that "honesty is the best policy" breakfast at sun up

October 3, 1848

Tuesday Oct 3d. Discovered that Spaniard had eloped with Doct Snails mustang or rather Jerusalem had vanished with Spaniard for he is too good a camp horse to wander. Borrowing a horse I rode one way & the Doct another & the Doct black boy was sent in the third we traveled for 3 hours when we despaired of meeting them unless they had gone on. So we determined to go on to the train which was now four miles in advance. to shorten the distance we decided to cut off the large angle of the road which followed the divide but it was a fatal mistake for we encountered all sorts of obstacles steep hills to descend broad deep slews with myrey banks to jump. in fact it proved long, fatiguing & dangerous to man & beast. We found ~~that~~ them 12 miles from the Camp. My friend Wells did not like the idea of leaving two fine horses for the indians & besides said he it will spoil our party. As he had ridden none that day he volunteered to return if we would accompany him. this I was glad to do for I did not like the idea of losing so fine a horse but the Doct was blown & would not go back for anything short of the "State of Kentucky" so throwing my blanketts on my saddle (which I had placed on the Maj pony) we rode off keeping the road untill they forked then we divided & met again in the bottom hurried on to our old camp where we rekindled the fires which we afterwards found to have been an unnecessary trouble as the grass had been fired and was still burning in the timber. we had determined to camp here if we did not find the horses before dark & being without provisions or means of killing game we searched the camp for any scrap of pork &c which might have been thrown away but the ravens & buzzards ~~had~~ those scavengers of the plains had cleaned the camps and as we could not feast we rode on assending ocasionally a knoll with my glass I examined the distance for miles around it was quite broken by ravines & ridges where whole troops of horses might be concealed at length we saw some few miles ahead an object which looked less like a bush than its neighbors dismounting I look with my glass but the wind was too high to hold it steady enough to be shure the object moved. I pulled off my boot drove the spur into the ground & laying flatt on the grass rested the telescope over the toe of the boot it answered an excellent purpose for after merely adjusting the glass I could discern the nature of the animal it raised its head & looked toward us I was sure that it was either Jerusalem or an elk so rode on confident of success again we halted for an other object was visible which I soon satisfied myself was a horse again we hurried on & after a long and anxious ride during which time we ~~could~~ were in land too low to see far at length ascending a little ridge there were the two truants with loud yells we dashed after them & Spaniard recognizing his master prick his ears & ran towards me evidently right glad to see me Our saddles were soon transferred to fresh horses & we rode gaily back stopping a few minutes at the old camp to get water & wish for supper for I had tasted nothing since sun rise & now the sun was setting

Again in the saddle we pressed on taking a trail along the bluff said to be ~~nearer~~ a cut off. on this trail we hurried ~~quick~~ The moon gave light enough to enable us to disurn the trail with some difficulty. At length we entered the old tracked [?] road we now felt confident that the camp could not be far off. Periodically we fancied that we could see the camp fires flash on the horizon but they all proved delutions At length fatigued & hungry we dismounted picketed our hungry horses and making a pillow of our saddles rolled ourself in our blanketts to sleep but ~~saving~~ least that should any thing make it necessary to start be fore the sun should direct us we laid a bridle in the road with the bits towards the east the way we wanted to travel when feeling the hands of my friends watch found it near 10 oclock. the wolfs wasted their lul la bys for ~~we for~~ nothing less than an earthquake could have kept us awake ~~with out them~~ I was awaking by the wolfs at

midnight the moon was just setting but I could see the gray raskalls all about us & among our horses if I had been armed I should have disturbed them for there was great danger of their cutting loose our horses it was very cold laying closer to my companion soon fell asleep & did not walk [wake] untill near daylight the melancholy cries of the wolfs had become unendurable. they were all about us It seem as though they recognized the big tail that my horse wore on his head stall [?] as an appendage of some valued friend & were determined to steal it but as it lay under my head none were quite bold enough to hazard the attempt. finding sleep impossible we concluded to strike camp which was soon done for we were very cold our beards were hard with ice the frost had changed our green blanketts to white ones. our larrietts were too stiff to be handled with comfort in short it was the coldest night of the season once in the saddle we rold ourself in blankets & rode briskly off & overtook the train at 12 oclock.

October 4, 1848

Wednesday noon as I had not eaten anything since Tuesday morning & had been in the saddle for 16 hours without rest but little time was lost in getting lunch. Met Company B at 2 o'clock dined with the Capt on a wild turkey on the banks of red horse. After a days travel of 23 miles camped on Elk Creek.

October 5, 1848

Thursday [October 5] 6, our bed was made on bunch grass slept poorly all night. Off at sunrise took an indian trail leading to the left supposing it to be a cut off followed it found it the longest way for 5 or 6 miles & were obliged to jump several streams. in attempting to ford Saline mired my horse badly. This is 10 miles from Elk Creek. We stopped about 2 hours on this stream to allow the horses to drink its waters of which they are very fond and to graze in the meantime my friends slept while I tried fishing without success and taking my rifle stroled through the fine timber on the little tongue [?] to the right started a fine turkey but it was off too quick for a shot. this thicket see to be a favorite camp ground of the indians "powerful lot" of signs. The elms at this place grow to an immense size and are rendered still more beautiful by great vines which cling to them, hang from the monstrous arms sent back to the earth take root, & shoot up again in every direction & assuming every form this grove is as fantastic as it is beautiful

10 miles from the Saline we encamped on a little stream. here the teamsters played at Monta until near morning at midnight was awaked by rain took up our bed & walked to an empty wagon ~~where~~ in which we slept very pleasantly until near sunrise it had rained heavily but was now abating.

October 6, 1848

Friday Although there was every appearance of a rainy day we determined to make a rush for the fort which was now some 45 miles off after breakfast left the train the roads were very slipery from the rain which continued to fall at intervals during the day. We however reached Fort Kearny before sun down a tired, wet & muddy set of fellows but in fine spirits which was not impaired by the sights of the comforts of civilization, for the keeper of the post Mr Harding has an excelent boarding house where we at once established ourselves by a roaring fire. The cocketing of chickens soon proclaimed preparations for supper to which we soon sat down & made a tolerable havock [?] the corn bread honey in the comb & a heap of things too numerous to mention. never did so small a party devour so much and in turn the fleas devoured us at night as we had so long slept on the hard ground it was impossible to sleep on a bed which I soon exchanged [for] the floor where I slept comfortable (barring the fleas) At this beautiful place we were delayed 2 days by the rain as there was some appearance of its breaking up we started for the states on Monday 10 [October 9] when with one of the teams belonging to the train to carry our baggage

in a few minutes ferried the Missouri & were now in the "glorious union" under the cooling influence of an occasional shower we passed a small rich prairie, stopping at a house of entertainment for men & beast to feed our famished horses for corn & grass were both rare at the Fort & here they had aplenty of oats, and as they had prepared dinner & prest us so hard to partake (the charge being 15 cts) we at last consented ah scissors what fun!! & such pies upon inquiry was told they were apple who would have thought it? we shook off the dust from our feet as we turned from the Lake house & after crossing the ~~Nemahas~~ Nishnabotna rode through a fine rich country with good farms stoped at the principal hotel in Linden.¹⁰¹ in the eve were invited to a real western breakdown. the hall was a log cabin containing 2 beds with the kitchen & _____ there were some 1/2 dozen corn fed girls & as many fellows. with spured & muddy boots we made the timbers squeek almost as musically as the fiddle it takes a pluck [?] to move gracefully through the "maying dance"

and frontier calling is unequaled.¹⁰² At 9 the gall [gals] bolted leaped the fence & were off before the fellows could get their hats. During the ball all were invited to go to the well & water. we declined but the galls went.

¹⁰¹The Nishnabotna River joins the Missouri River in the northwestern corner of the state of Missouri. Tappan then passed through several small communities, most of which are now abandoned, before arriving in St. Joseph.

¹⁰²The maying dance may refer to an English dance popularized by songs written by Thomas Morley in the sixteenth century.

October 10, 1848

Tuesday left Linden which is pleasantly situated on a hill traveled a beautiful fine country with occasional farms the whole is beautifully diversified with hills & plains. Wells & myself reached Jacksons at sundown & were surprised to find that the Maj Doct & Eusti had not arrived for we had allowed them to get some distance ahead of us. At dark they made their appearance. they had taken a "cut off" which led them some miles out of the way the Maj. was furious. Some 8 or 10 travelers now arrived on their way up. after supper we were amused by a mormons description of the a canal & the danger of traveling them. The post boy arriving the mail was opened & examined nothing for us. As the Doct Wells & myself had not shaved for many months were decidedly hairy so much so as to attract great attention & in the morning while it was supposed we slept one blaguard made himself quite merry at our expense his act was so delightful that he repeated it. fortunately I was the only one awake or he might have had some trouble. I was surprised to learn at breakfast that it was a party of missionays going out to convert the heathen pawnees.¹⁰³ some acted like gentlemen but one of the disciples would disgrace even a pawnee. During the night Eusti was bekame violenty sick with the Colera & we were obliged to leave him.¹⁰⁴ at noon saw a young lady jump a 10 rail fence¹⁰⁵ we stopped here to lunch she was Jacksons sister a fine girl of 19. in the PM crost the Nodaway & reached St Joseph at dark. (I should have said that we all stopped in Oregon where I got shoes put on Spaniard who had been tender footed.)¹⁰⁶ here we met several officers of the batteries. Stopt at Edgers Hotel St. Jo.

¹⁰³The mission to the Pawnee was abandoned in 1846, when the Lakota attacked a nearby village and threatened the missionaries. The party Tappan mentions was probably bound for Edmund McKinney's Indian school in Bellevue, which was focused on the Omaha and Oto. Edmund McKinney Collection, Manuscripts Dept., Kansas State Historical Society.

¹⁰⁴Cholera was caused by ingesting water or food contaminated with fecal matter. Doses of calomel with a dash of opium was the standard remedy, but probably had little effect. Eusti would have contracted the disease two or three days prior to the appearance of the symptoms. Vomiting and diarrhea resulting in severe dehydration caused death in about half of the cases. Lyle E. Mantor, "Fort Kearny and the Westward Movement," *Nebraska History* 29 (1948): 188.

¹⁰⁵A ten rail fence would be about five to six feet high. Jumping it would not be impossible but would be a notable athletic feat.

¹⁰⁶Oregon, Missouri, is about twenty miles northwest of St. Joseph. The Nodaway River enters the Missouri southeast of Oregon.

October 12, 1848

Thursday [October 12] looked about the place which is one of considerable interest being the most enterprising town on the river a large slew unfortunately runs through the centre of the town which is doing great damage by undermining the buildings bridges &c

October 13, 1848

Friday the wagon arrived in the P.M. to which I had Spaniard tied & packed my saddle rifle, ect. And on Friday Saturday took stage for Weston as did also Doct Wells Eusti the Maj. having left the day before. Took dinner in Bloomington & arrived at Weston at 3 P.M.

October 15, 1848

Sunday Left for Fort Leavenworth on horseback with Leut Watson on his roan horse & Wilson & Eusti in a buggy. ~~ford~~ crossed the river in a ferry boat & reached the Fort after traveling some 3 miles through the timber found Co. A campt near the post awaiting the Col. After riding about the grounds with the Leut. went to the Suttlers with Maj Dorethey & several other gentlemen. it was a busy day there the cattle 200 oxen & 100 mules were to be let out on contract scores of bidders present.¹⁰⁷ Wilson & Eusti rode on & over took the two companies going to Fort Childs.

two refractory ones were tied behind the wagons. they were 2 miles on the road. This post is beautifully situated has 3 block houses & a plenty of good buildings for 6 or 8 companies. the site is a high bluff overlooking the river for miles.

Took dinner at the Mrs Horn & left soon after as a great storm was approaching. it burst upon us while we were in the ferry boat. before entering which we met the old post rider & examined his mail he brought us one letter from our friends at Ft Childs. jumping our horses from the boat we ran them to Weston & escaped the brunt of the rain. as there was a great methodist revival I went to the church in the eve & was so stared at that I left after remaining there a half an hour. There I saw some thing were drest in a serious barbarous coats vests highly colored shirts worn outside of the pants caps with gaudily colored ribbons tomahawks.

¹⁰⁷ The bidders may have been teamsters who contracted with Dougherty to use his animals to haul supplies to Fort Kearny.

October 17, 1848

Tuesday [October 17] morning left for St. Louis in Steamer Cora. after the usual notice of snags & sandbars arrived at the desired haven at 4 oclock Sunday evening Called on my friend Laurie took tea with him & his friends at the planters. then took a long walk to Carr St but was so unfortunate as to find my friend [?] Leach & his family away from home The numbers of assaults on strangers made me more anxious for the welfare of my scalp than I had ever before been, so much so that I kept my dirk knife in readiness to do sirvise if necessary but fortunately had no use for it for I returned in safety to the Consignee where I with some friends had engaged passage.

At 10 on Monday A.M. we left for the Ohio [River] the mouth of which we made at 10 on the second day ~~At the arbor~~ The first real obstacle we encountered was the wall built by Gov. for the purpose of turning the river by Smithville but it proved a failure for the deepest water still remains on this side of the Island here the water was pouring over the wall making a fall which by moonlight appeared to be four feet high. to my astonishment the boat still kept on with increased velocity nearing the wall went half her length over it then slid back again it was tried & the third effort proved successful & we moved gallantly over amid the cheers of the passengers whistling of the engine & howls of the several boats which were expecting a job to haul us over. At French Island the difficulty proved still greater for there we were delayed all day with 8 other boats some of which had been here for three day¹⁰⁸ we male passengers were all sent ashore where we amused ourself by gathering shickory wall & ~~peean~~ hickcorns nuts. in the evening a meeting was call for the purpose of drawing up some resolutions expressive of our thank & esteem for having so safely navigated the river at so low a stage & also for the qualty and work of the Capt & officers of the boat. A committee of 5 was therefore appointed of which I had the honor of being one. The resolution was read & adopted will be published in the various papers of Louisville & Cincinnati. Booth the tragedian who had been a passenger left us by early day light while we lay at the head of the Canall waiting for day that we might pass through. His son whom he had left asleep soon missed him & set off in pursuit.¹⁰⁹ I met him in the city of Louisville to which I had walked with many others in order to lighten the boat.

¹⁰⁸ Smithville remains elusive. It was either a very short lived community or Tappan misunderstood the name of the community. French Island was about twenty miles east of Evansville, Indiana. A post office was established there in 1847, to serve the small community. Ronald L. Baker, *From Needmore to Prosperity: Hoosier Place Names in Folklore and History* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), 127.

¹⁰⁹ Junius Brutus Booth (1796-1852) was a leading actor of the period. He had three sons, one of whom would assassinate President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. Tappan's comments about the younger Booth suggests he may have been Junius Jr. Stanley Kimmel, *The Mad Booths of Maryland*, 1969.

Last 3 Pages 1848

[Tappan skipped to the last three pages of the tablet]

Chare ta rich believed the stars to be the children of the Sun & moon.

Oh jean	1	The Sioux count by 10s. for instance 12 is 10 plus 2.
Nom pah	2	25 is 2 10s plus 5. for 100 they have a name. 1000 is a
Yah ma nah	3	big hundred - The Pawnese differ for all but the
To pah	4	raddigers. [sic, integers?] they count by men one man
Sa ph tah	5	being 20 the number of fingers & toes. when they
Shake pahe	6	would say we saw 100 horses- five men- mosts of the
Shake koh	7	tribe manage the large number like the Sioux.
Charche con do chee	8	
Nome che winche	9	
Weeke chem nah	10	

Sunset the horizon near the Sun red orange blending into greenish gold with red orange clouds tipt with light gold further it becomes more purple in sky & clouds lowring thick clouds of dark gray as they approch the sun become purple tinged with orange - right angles - with the sun the sky cobalt with purpleish grey clouds. change the darkness becomes more broken, those parts hid from the rays of the sun, rich purple. in the rays red orange.

twiligh is the absents of bright light & sharp shadows. the whole is broad & massive. grass is of de more desided but subdued green. folige in distance flat & misty at base.

The spirit of the Buffalo is described as a great buffalo bull who had shed his hair but his mane was long and the hair of his fore legs was as long as half of the fore arm and hand.

Talla ha (buffalo) Ket to (all over) Char rah (rat) Sioux Man che tel la (Washington) At teache (great father) Cor kee (no, none, without) Allii shat (horse) Car ra cat (mule) Tu rah hah (good) Tu rah hat ta (very good) Low ish card (cigar) Tow ish card (pipe) Saux tah cow id (filling a pipe) Soux tah (tobacco) Ska pa duche (shell) Chir riche tah ca (white man)

Nos ko	1	Skeix sar peix	6
Peite ko	2	Peit ko skeix sar peix	7
Tow ite	3	Tow ite sar peix	8
Skei e texe	4	Youx she di wall	9
Le oxo	5	Youx she di	10

Tuco at ah siox Charr ah rat sioux Pawnee

1800 men Pawnee

1200 warriors

7-8000 inhab

[Loose sheets¹¹⁰]

13 11

6 18

76 29

Left fort after dinner on Thursday encamp 3 miles Befor the fork of the road pleasant all day but it cold[?] at night lay on the ground. very cold with frost in morning. Friday. pleasant started with the camp moved at the lake & encamped [?] in the beginning of the bluff 7 miles below the compny vey cold & clear heavy frost & ice on our blankitts. met in the bluff hundreds of Pawnese going up for buffalo in a bottom between the bluff Grand Pawnese & Pappage & Republican had encamped & were just ~~striking~~ their lodges. insidence [?] of shot distance above & walked towards them, soon met young chef maligne who tooock up to the lodge of his father where we sat and smoked. the old complaint of hunger was eskou [?] The old cheift told me that he had been to the missionaies to see the agent Maj Miller he wore upon his head a _____ handkerchief that I ~~left with~~ had pulled from my pocket while there some months before. With the son we went to the wagons gave some bread & met all the chiefs good news - buffalo _____ Having past through the bluffs we encamped on the bottom near the bluff in fine fresh grass. ~~Sund~~ In the night the mare. very cold. Sund up at sun rise, cold. went to the buffalo church & thru the deserted village encamped with (Estie) 9 miles below village up at day light Camp at a canon at the foot of the bluff 5 miles from the Platte. Tuesday. Breakfeted at sunup & discovered that John and Doct Snail's horse were off Mounted & rode all about for 3 hours & finally despared of finding them unlesse they had gone on so we started across the bluff to meet the train had great difficulty in crossing the gullies - when 12 miles from the camp met Wells who was anxious to go back and look again we took a few biscuits & blankitts rode back found them 2 [12?] miles above old camp. saddled & moved on at 5:30 encamped on the _____ bluff at 9 very cold, larrett stiff with ice, mustash do. oft before day light and gained oak grove after travelling 10 miles before reaching the grove whas a long surpeting canon the road overlook a vast extent of rolling bluff with wooded & high green grain in the slews such openings are seen severall times in also _____ the plain over took the train 11 ocl _____ creeks are frequent in this vicinity - Dinner in the PM with Capt McCauslin on wild turkey this was at elk red horse creek. Camp 10 miles from salt creek on the elk 23 miles. Grass very _____ slept poorly. Off at sunrise foiled in cut offs, nearly mired, crost the saline at noon tried fishing &c but failed. great vines and fine trees. camp after traveling 10 miles (gambling) soake by rain, waggon. took the road again for civilization rain during the day particularly after noon arrived at fort before sundown 45 miles rain at night fleas, the ~~Platte~~ saline runs ~~nearly parallel~~ with the road & it's timber is Saline visible for some miles from the tops of the bluffs which are less abrupt as you approach the Missoura the bluff of which are saw 10 miles off timbered creeks are more numerous.

[One loose sheet has a simple line sketch of a mule.]

¹¹⁰Two leaves from a smaller notebook (7 1/2 x 10 inches) were inserted in the diary. Most of the entries on these smaller pages appear to be notes describing events from September 30 through October 6. Tappan may have recorded these notes on the smaller pages as they occurred, then entered a full narrative of the events in the larger notebook at some later date.