

A prospecting tour up middle fork Willamette intending to strike  
Deschutes prospecting West and East branches of Deschutes.

A.S. McClure

100000

A TOUR EAST OF THE CASCADE MT.  
Aug-Sept 1858

102-12

1. COWL, Mr. . . . . 20
2. DANIELS, Esquire . . . 20
3. DAVIS, Mr. . . . . 1
4. GREEN, Mr. . . . . 11
5. HERRING, Mr. . . . . 5, 9
6. McBride, Mr. . . . . 1, 20
7. McCLURE, Andrew S.
8. McCOY, Mr. . . . . 11,
9. MURPHY, Mr. . . . . 20
10. PETERS, Jason . . . . 5, 11, 14, 20
11. ROLAND, J. . . . . 20
12. THOMPSON, Dr. . . . . 11,
13. VAUGHN, Mr. . . . . 8, 11, 13
14. WOOD, George S. (Sen.) . . . 20

Residences stopped at

1. COX, William . . . . . 17
2. FOSTER, Mr. . . . . 19, 20
3. MOWKLE, Mr. . . . . 20
4. SLOOPS, John . . . . . 1

17 ... 17

Aug 20 1858 (First day)

Left Eugene City about 11 o'clock am. Twenty seven in number, traveling in detached bodies about fifteen miles. A part of the company stopping near Mr. John Sloops and the remainder scattered at different points above there.

Second day August 21st

The company concentrated today. Traveled about 28 miles to big prairie crossing river six times. Nothing worthy of remark occuring. Camped at dark about middle of prairie.

3rd day August 22nd

Moved one mile today to head of prairie. The main majority considering it necessary, officers were elected today, consisting of Mr \_\_\_\_\_ McBride, Capt. and \_\_\_\_\_ Davis. This prairie is about two miles long east and west and about one half wide in its widest place. The \_\_\_\_\_ is gravelly and covered with bunch grass of a rich quality. It is situated on the right or north bank of the Middle Fork of the Willamette. The hills north look bald and give the appearance of \_\_\_\_\_ grass (bunch). Those of the south are high \_\_\_\_\_ and heavily timbered.

4th day Aug 23

Started at 7 o'clock a.m. Traveled about 16 miles crossing the river 12 times. The bottom narrow and heavily timbered. Cedar, fir and pine of gigantic growth. A little scrubby oak on the adjacent hills. Vine maple and yew compose a part of the dense copses of undergrowth. Camped on the right bank of a stream at the foot of a bald hill where our horses got but scanty substance.

5th day Aug 24

Today our way led up the north branch of the Middle Fork crossing the river twice \_\_\_\_\_ after starting \_\_\_\_\_ six miles our way led through open pine \_\_\_\_\_ of twelve miles farther through heavy timber and thick \_\_\_\_\_. Ultimately led us to summit. The summit hill is \_\_\_\_\_ and steep. Summit prairie is not on the summit as would seem from the name, but a distance of one two or three miles, it being rather difficult

to tell just traveling to tell (sic) exactly where the culminating point is. The camp is two miles south of Diamonds Peak. Evening cool and comfortable.

6th day Wednesday Aug 25

The mountain scenery upon starting beautiful and sublime beyond description. Diamonds Peak on the north and three other snowy peaks on the south forming an obtuse angled triangle, and this whole country widespread with small lakes present a subject which language, art and even imagination will scarce do justice to.

Five miles brought us in sight of a fine lake laying east of Diamonds Peak and lying from northeast to southwest about five miles in length and two in breadth. Five miles more brought us to a small stream of water running northerly. Water poor for a mountainous region. Grass of a fair quality. Eight miles more over a poor uneven country. Crossing the above named stream brought us to a glade of prairie on same stream.

Very good grass, water better. South of camp a ridge of black basaltic rock lying from northeast to southwest and giving evidence from the distance of having once been subject to volcanic action. North of camp about one and one half miles lies a high pile of basaltic rock seemingly of the above formation, and strongly indicative of former volcanic action.

7th day August 26th (Thursday)

Our trail today led us over a part of the country exceedingly barren.

Fine timber of large size. The soil, is soil it may be called, is composed of course light colored sand. Traveled about twenty five miles down the stream. (Fall river) Some country along the stream which would do for cultivation but offers but few inducements and is confined to a narrow strip along the stream which is very crooked. But little timber along the bottom. Willows the principal undergrowth. Stream seems to run high being but a few feet below the bottom and the bottom but a few feet below the adjacent plain. Grass very good. Water tolerably good. Timber scrubby.

8th day August 27th Friday

Traveled about fifteen miles in the vicinity of the river which seems to have received some large tributaries from the west. This days travel presents the only portion traveled over which presents any attraction to the settler. Much of todays travel has been through prairie land of a fair degree of fertility and will, when all danger is removed, offer inducements to the enterprising pioneer. Soil of a sandy formation and the grass, which is bunch grass mostly, is of luxuriant growth. Encamped in a large prairie on the east bank of the river at a crossing much used by travelers from California to The Dalles. This crossing is now too deep to ford and consequently must be so the most of the year. Three rafts here which must have been made by some of our predecessors on the road to The Dalles. We do not cross the river here but the trail is said to lead an easterly direction. The Three Sisters from this camp and ford, lie about north 80° west and are hid by the foothills of the Cascades. This prairie is about four miles long and two wide and offers inducement to settlers. The river here seems large and deep enough to navigate with small steamers but is no doubt much narrower and more rapid below.

9th day Saturday Aug 28th

Upon starting our trail led a north easterly direction entering the pine wood. About three miles travel brought us in the vicinity of a huge mass of basaltic rock, or cinder rather, covering acres in extent and forming something like a semi-circle around a butte about five hundred feet high and covered on the north side by pine and other species of timber. Upon examination of this butte it was found to be the crater of a volcano and the masses of rock here before spoken of are no doubt the production of it. The diameter of the crater is about one hundred and fifty feet and the opening extends to a depth incalculable. Passing around the volcano the trail leads in a northly direction for about five miles when it varies to the west and in about five miles more strikes Fall river. The stream is about eighty yards wide here and of a moderately swift current. Looks to be fordable at this time. This is a short right hand bend the river coming from the southwest passes off in a north westerly direction. The river bottom is narrow, but the narrow

strip of grass is good. Bounded by a pine \_\_\_\_\_ with mancinello with a little sage and greasewood as under growth.

10th day August 29th Sunday

We started today on a trail leading directly eastward at the start but upon traveling some distance the trail bore more and more southerly until it had turned to a course of about south 30° east. Having traveled about ten miles we mostly all became dissatisfied with the course and agreed to turn through the sage and juniper. The first ten miles of the days travel was for about two miles through pine barrens with a little sage and greasewood. Emerging from that we struck an open sage plain. Three miles through this plain. The scenery here is very beautiful. The Three Sisters with their seven peaks. Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Hood peering in sublime majesty about the Cascade range. On the south lay a range of lofty hills which at this season are mostly destitute of water judging from appearance. After traveling about ten miles on this trail we turned our course to north ten degrees west towards the canyon on east Fall river. Fifteen miles over a sage and juniper plain brought us to the river running through a wide canyon. Steep and rocky. Our horses slide. Crept and managed to get down about two hundred feet into the narrow valley. Some of the grass good. The principal plant, however, is a coarse water grass about waist high which might be made valuable as hay. Stream about ten yards wide, sluggish, and the water warm. A streak of willows along the bank the only wood. The canyon is about one half mile wide here and the height of the cliffs on each side is nearly equal in height. The stream drops as serpentine course through the canyon and its crooked course is plainly marked by the green willows on its banks which present a striking contrast with the black rock bound banks and parched vegetation. From this camp the northerly of the twin Sisters is distinctly visible. We are now about ten miles from yesterdays camp and are in the land of gold, upon which so large a portion of our company rest their most sanguine expectations. The noted bluffs of the followers of Meek are about five miles below here and which we will move tomorrow. Gold may be found here, but there are no striking indications of gold. That some have been the honest dupes of other men more designing I have no doubt. Be that as it may, we will

prospect this part of the stream and then move up to a point about twenty miles above here, to a point noted by the stories of an Mr. Herring, who was here in 1845 on the way to the Willamette Valley. Some disappointment as prospecting tours generally terminate. But to me no disappointment is incurred.

11th day Monday Aug 30th

The bluffs of rock below excited the curiosity of some of the crowd and Mr. Peters more particularly, who came through with Meeks in 1845. Traveled about three miles down the river when we found the river enter a narrow canyon about one hundred and fifty feet deep and generally not more than sufficient to admit the stream when swollen during the inter floods. One mile down the canyon we came to the upper end of the rocky bluff which will in a future serve as a valuable land mark to the weary travelers on these plains. The bluff is irregular in form. Forms a semicircle with a diameter of about one and a half miles, the river running immediately at its foot. The growth in this region is sage and a little greasewood which extend to the brink of the canyon and give the appearance of one unbroken plain. We traveled about three miles down the canyon when from reasons unknown to me, and after which I have not inquired, we turned about and proceeded up the river, crossed at the head of the canyon and during the afternoon took a due Easterly course along the sandy hills on the north side of the stream. Struck the stream late in the evening. Traveled up it a short distance and encamped one half mile above a high table rock on the north side of the stream, and about four miles above last night's camp. Willows on the stream. Stream sluggish and full of small fish resembling the chub of the western states. While of the hills this evening we saw willows before us and on the left indicating a stream of water and was told by some of the knowing ones that it was produced by a spring.

12th day Tuesday August 31st

We were delayed in camp this morning until a late hour by an unruly horse which broke loose last night. And it was with much trouble that we were enabled to obtain him. We took a snack before starting with



the intention of driving until night. Upon traveling about six miles we arrived at the forks of the river which produced some hesitation and we concluded to camp and examine the rivers and look for Meeks trail, which was found upon traveling the last six miles. We traveled on the north side of the river today. A narrow strip of grass along the streams which is fertile. The borders of the valley are sage plains composed in many places of sand so loose that a person will sink to shoe tops in the sand. There is some fertile land in the forks of the stream but this is but little. The bluffs on the south are high and precipitous in many places, presenting features pleasing and sublime. From the valley here Mt. Jeffersons snow capped peak may be seen peering above the high hills between here and there. Camped here about 1 o'clock p.m. and some of the men have been out looking for the trail. Upon close examination it was found that the main stream comes from the south. The river is supposed to make a large bend above this and Meeks trail cuts across the mountain making a days drive for an ox team across the bend. Some are in high spirits this evening expecting in one day more to find the shining ore. Others say that the point looked for is some fifty miles off. Time will determine and maybe disappoint them. The weather since we have been on this stream has been beautifully clear. The nights cool the days warm. The soil very loose and the dust flies at a disagreeable rate. The hills on the north are rather pretty, rising gradually and, although poor, pretty to look at. Some little old signs of Indians here they most likely only giving this country an occasional passing visit there being little to induce any division of the human species. Wild rye here in considerable abundance and our horses are feasting on fine grass and wild pea vines. We see alkali here. The first of the trip.

13th day Wednesday September 1st

Today our route really lay up the river which comes from a southerly direction. But upon starting the company became divided, which was considered by all to be short, but such was the nature of the country that we became so separated that we have not met yet. We were about equally divided, there being thirteen men in this part of the company and fourteen men in the other. Upon starting we crossed the stream upon which we were encamped and proceeded to ascend to the table land upon the south, as it is called.

But it is nothing more than a succession of hills in a long bend in the east branch of the Fall River, passing through a low gap on the dividing ridge. Our course was changed from a southeast to a south course and passing down a deep ravine finding several weak springs and a high rock on the right about one hundred feet high in a leaning position which will, by the wear of the weather, fall here. The country changes its appearance. The \_\_\_\_\_ quartz and slate assume the appearance of gold. Traveled down the ravine about two miles and came to what we suppose to be the east branch of Fall river. Encamped at 7 o'clock and have remained in waiting for the remaining of the company. High mountains on each side. Traveled in a circuitous route of about twelve miles which may be called about eight miles on an air line. Cool nights, frost last night. The grass from two to five feet high. The bunch grass of a nutritious quality. The hills are high here and closing in upon the stream in high hills and precipitous bluffs. Crystallized quartz in considerable quantities.

14th day Thursday Sept 2nd

Cool weather here during nights and warm during the days. Froze ice one fourth inch thick. Some prospecting done. Quartz found in considerable quantities. Some slate. No gold found. Waited until 9 o'clock for the remainder of the company. Traveled about five miles and unpacked about 11 o'clock to wait for our comrades. They arrived about 1 o'clock p.m. having crossed the dividing ridge lower than us and turning to the right struck the river about seven miles below our camp, when they camped for the day and prospected, finding small prospects. Started at half past 2 o'clock all together and traveled about six miles making about eleven miles for our portion of the company. After crossing a high point in a left hand bend of the river we camped on the north bank of the river. No wood but willows on the flat, cedar in the mountains. The stream is sluggish and the water poor. Stream so variable that its width cannot be stated with accuracy. Today the hills have receded from the stream and the country appears to open out with hills somewhat inducier to the miner. Opposite to camp comes in a small stream coming in from the south out of some timbered mountains. Doubtless a good hunting ground. The hills are red here and to miners from some localities

would be called a gold region. Some of the men have been prospecting and got a few small particles, but not sufficient to pay.

15th day Friday September 3rd

Frost last night. Traveled about six miles and lost Vaughns trail to which we had paid considerable attention. After some deliberation we concluded to proceed up the valley. Now passing up the low land and now crossing some high spur of the adjacent hills. The hills continued to lower for most of the days travel. At length passing over a ridge we came in sight of the noted canyon for which we had looked for so long. Passing upon the south side of the stream we saw several varagated hills on our northeast and north side of the river. Some look red others blue and others white or of a light lead color. On the north side of the river I noticed a streak of white seeming to issue from a high hill of red color. Some of the men pronounced it salt some salertins or alkali. After crossing the creek the trail led to the left of a small mound and then the trail of '54 leads over the hill north of the canyon while Meeks trail passes through. This canyon is four hundred yards long and the hill on the south side rises to the height of four hundred feet width. I suppose from a passing view to be one hundred feet at the narrowest place. I should have spoken of some sulphur springs about eight miles below the canyon. These springs contain sulphur enough to make the water valuable and may become a future resort for valetudinarians. Encamped just above the canyon in the forks of the stream in a small cove. Fine grass, water rather poor, wood sufficient for camping purposes. Small branch putting in from the mountains on the north. Some prospecting, no gold found. The most sanguine say the gold is fifteen miles distant. Tomorrow will determine. Wild flax is found in considerable quantities along the stream and upon a cursory trail the lint seems to be tolerable good. Traveled about 14 miles.

16th day September 4th Saturday

Upon starting this morning our trail led up the river about two miles when it turned short to the right and ascended a steep hill leaving the emigrant trail of 1854. Here, for a short distance, the country assumed the appearance of table land but a travel of a short distance brought us among a succession of regular shaped hills and buttes which look rather picturesque. Twelve miles \_\_\_\_\_ brought us to the point so long sought, the famous dry creek which Mr. Herring and others have rendered so remarkable in their journals of travel as containing the precious metal. Encamped in a cover like opening with the western bluff refreshed by several springs of good water. Grass tolerably good. Course grass, high enough to mow. Wild flax, bunch grass and wild rye. This stream upon first approaching it from the north, seems to flow to the south but upon close investigation it is found to flow northerly and I suppose through a canyon into east Fall river. The water stands in pools here. The little rivulets from the springs being the only running water. I have seen a few small willows along the creek and a few scrubby juniper on the hills. The hills here present a bold front and come peering, as it were, into the small valley as if anxious to keep a vigilant watch over their sister. A high butte on the south smooth and covered with juniper. A craggy butte on the north side with a rugged rocky face. Most of the men have been prospecting, some returned without the color of gold.

17th day Sunday September 5th

Not being satisfied at this camp a majority were in favor of moving up the valley to the point where Meeks first struck this stream. Traveling up three miles the valley widens and presents quite a wide flat, covered by luxurious grass. Here the company was divided again for a short time and those in the lead, irrespective of the guides or the men in advance, kept around the base of the hills on the right and followed up the valley. The remainder, and those in the rear halted, seeing the men who were ahead, to hunt the trail on the base of the hills on the left.

Here all concentrated and the trail was found to ascend a steep hill on the east about four miles from the point when it strikes it. The water in this creek stands in pools and looks bad but there are springs innumerable bursting from the adjacent hills. Encamped opposite where Meeks first struck this valley in a cove or inlet in the high hills on the West. Grass good, water good, small willows for fuel. Juniper on the mountains. This valley bears but little appearance of a gold bearing country. Nothing encouraging, not even an attainable bed rock in many places. Much discouragement in the company today. Six men went ahead this morning and from land marks pronounced this to be the long looked for creek beyond any a doubt. The color has not been raised yet which act most discouragingly upon some of the more sanguine of the party. The grass in some places in the valley is a high course grass which would make good hay. In many places it produces a nutritious bunch grass upon which our horses are now feasting. On the benches adjacent to the first bottom is covered with sage and greasewood. Alkali visible, present in many places. This valley widens from a canyon on the north to one mile in width at camp and extends in a south westerly direction, but how far I know not. Wind has been high today, sufficiently so to be uncomfortable. It commenced blowing yesterday evening. Has continued to blow unabated. A fire by some means occurred yesterday which filled the atmosphere with smoke and shut out the sun. It occurred possibly from our fires or those of Mr. Vaughns but most likely was fired by the Indians. There are but few Indians in these desolate regions and they are shy savage and treacherous, dragging out an existence even more miserable than their associates the coyote. The men who went out prospecting have returned, nothing found. Some have become discouraged.

18th day Monday September 6th

Quite cold last night. Froze ice one half inch thick with frost. Three men, Dr. Thompson, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Green started for home this morning. Four men went to search for Mr. Vaughn on the trail cutting across the mountain. They expected to shorten the distance. Some of the men went down the creek to the canyon to prospect. Nothing found. Mr. Peters started a hole on the flat near camp but did not get to the bed rock. Nothing found. Some discouragement in camp this evening. The golden dreams have vanished before the dawn of birth and what will be our next move cannot be foretold. Did not move camp today. Horses are feasting on excellent grass. Beaver in considerable numbers on this stream. Rats, mice, snakes and scorpions claim a residence in this abandoned land. No game of consequence here. No deer to be seen. No elk. No antelope. Here and there a rabbit and sagehen.

19th day Tuesday September 7th

Lay in camp today. No prospecting done today. All seem satisfied with yesterdays passing examination. Weather beautifully clear and warm. Nights cool. Froze ice last night. The four men who went to look for Mr. Vaughn and company returned after dark. They traveled about thirty miles in a westerly direction. Report favorable for gold. Think that diggings might be discovered to pay moderate wages.

20th day Wednesday September 8th

The general opinion this morning was forward. Started about 7 o'clock and ascending a high hill and traveling fourteen miles over a sage plain we came to East Fall River and found it running through a low alkali plain nearly level and seems to issue from a lake or lakes above. Water impregnated with alkali. Ground covered and white with it. The river here is about twelve feet wide and runs with a sluggish current. This plain from slight observation I judge to be about twenty five miles long from east to west and about twelve miles from north to south. From this end of the plain the river seems to come from a south easterly direction and enters the hills at the northwest corner of the plain, giving a canyon like appearance.

Camped on the river against the foot of the hill on the west side of the river and opposite camp is a high ridge on the east side of the river. Arrived here at half past twelve o'clock. Stopped to graze. Much discussion ensued. Some wishing to go south in the vicinity of Dry Hollow. Others wish to return to yesterdays camp. The alkali seems to cover the whole plain wherever it is visible above the sage and greasewood. The water in the river tastes of alkalie and the grass no doubt receives it as an ingredient.

21st day Thursday September 9th

Much dissatisfaction existed this morning owing to the choice of some of the men who wished to prospect the mountains south of this plain. This notion prevailed and striking a south westerly direction in five miles crossed a wagon trail which we supposed to be the trail broke in '53. Continuing the same course we came to a deep ravine descended to the stream which we found dry and traveling up the ravine some distance we came to an Indian ranch, deserted, and some water which rises out of the ground. Some distance futher up we stopped at a spring or rather a series of seaps out of the hill. It took some time to water our horses which was done by digging holes which collected some water. From thence we bore to the right ascended to a dividing ridge and turning still further to the right we came to a series of deep ravines. In one we found water. Where a part of us have camped the others were before and passed the ravine regardless of a messenger who was sent down the ravine to look for water. Good water, bunch grass and wood. Traveled about 16 miles.

22nd day Friday September 10th

Weather more moderate last night, no ice. Upon starting we took a northerly course, directing our course towards the highest peak of the timber covered mountains on the north. After traveling about two miles we struck a level plain and one mile further brought us to the trail of '53 bearing here a westerly direction towards the northern base of an isolated mountain about fifteen miles distant. Crossing the plain we entered the hills or mountains and following down a ravine running a northerly direction passing over some red land and by some red hills. About twelve o'clock

we came to quite a little valley of good grass and a spring of water rising out of the bed of the creek. This is supposed to be the creek we camped on the evening of the 5th and remained on it until the morning of the 8th. Quartz found in small quantities. Red hills and \_\_\_\_\_ Springs here and there bursting forth and furnish good water to the weary prospector. Traveled about twelve miles today and camped about twelve o'clock. Red hills, blue hills and grassy hills form our scenery this evening. Wile rye and wild flax.

23rd day Saturday September 11th

From our camp we struck a northerly course until we struck the timber. Here we struck camp to prospect. No gold found. Remained in camp about three hours and starting wound along the summit ridge of this divide pursuing nearly a westerly course passing through an open pine country and over some ridges of excellant grass. Camped on the ground of an old Indian ranch at a fine spring of water. This camp is in the gorge of the mountains and is quite pleasant at this season. Traveled about eight miles. Making quite a circuit say one hundred degrees of a circumference. Fresh signs of Indians here. An old ranch which has not been deserted long, with pealed pine trees indicate that a few red skins have lived or rather stopped here lately. Pretty pine timber. Water. Traveling along the side of the mountain every few miles some prospecting has been done, no gold found.

24th day Sunday September 12th

Upon starting we bore a southerly course to meet, if possible, with our companions who it will be remembered parted company with us accidentally on the evening of the 9th. \_\_\_\_\_ ten in number and who are somewhere south of our trail. After traveling until about 10 o'clock a.m. nearly south we stopped and turned our course north and traveled up a ravine. Crossed the divide about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 o'clock and by a steep long descent found ourselves in the stream whose mouth is opposite to our camp on 2nd \_\_\_\_\_. Upon examination we found that Mr. Vaughn and company had ascended this stream when they left the valley of this stream (East Fall River). Camped about one half mile south of the river on the



spring branch. Course grass. Bunch grass. Wild rye, sage, greasewood and juniper. Passed through some beautiful pine timber today. Each side of the summit or divide crossed is covered with pine timber. Summit bald, getting asy, willow and birch in the gulches. Traveled about twenty miles today on a circuit perhaps not more then ten miles on a straight line.

25th day Monday September 13th

Moved one half mile today and encamped on East Fall River at the mouth of spring branch. The day spent in prospecting. No gold found. Encamped immediately opposite the ground camped on the evening 2nd \_\_\_\_\_. Some of the men caught large quantities of small fish which are very numerous in this stream. A few speckled mouth mostly chub. Mr. Peters in a short time caught forty four. The weather is more pleasant then when we were here before. Nights warmer, days cooler.

26th day Sunday September 14th

Some discussion arose this morning. Some of the party wishing to take the trail for home, others wishing to go up the river again and take Meeks trail and endeavor to find Meeks trail on the mountains lying on our north. The first notion prevailed by a small majority and we accordingly turned our faces westward. Passing over the ridge we soon came to the river again. Near the mouth of a dry creek with willows growing along it, butting in on the north opposite the mouth of this stream is a high point with curious shaped rocks which look like a conglomerate from the road. Some of them look to be ten or fifteen feet high and the wear of the weather has left them in many curious shapes. Crossed the river four times and came to our camp of Aug. 31st when we left the river and crossed over to north branch of the river. Camped over our camp of Aug. 30th. Traveled twenty five miles. Hard days travel. Road rough, very dusty. One of the men killed antelope today, the first fresh meat of any account we have had. Good grass here. Willows for wood. Juniper on the mountain. Wild rye, wild flax and bunch grass.

27th day Wednesday September 15th

Started and soon striking Meeks trail tried to follow it. Followed to the summit of a divide which it crosses. Northeast of the rocky bluff loosing the trail we continued a course of N.W. by N for two hours passing north to rocky bluffs a distance of five miles. We had not passed the bluffs far when our course was changed to N.E. by E and followed for some distance a dim Indian trail. Pursuing this course we came in sight of a rocky canyon on our east which we had passed around in our circuit. Followed the the canyon with a hope of finding some water followed down five miles when we found it to widen and the rock bound bluffs recede and open out into a kind of valley. There we succeeded in finding a little poor water where we watered our horses and concluded to camp, having been in our saddles ten hours without water. This is a barren God forsaken country fit for nothing but to receive the foot print of the savage and his universal associate the coyote. Course grass here. Bunch grass on the hills. Sage and greasewood, juniper on the hills. This is a dry creek of considerable size. By dilligent search we found a small pool of water when by digging into the bank we obtained tolerable water for ourselves. The atmosphere has appeared hazy or smoky all day. Which seemed to indicate fire in the Cascade mountains. Cannot see but a few miles. All the snowy peaks of the Cascades are hid from view. No satisfactory land marks visible. But little indication of game. Now and then a lonely buzzard or crow wanders from the land of vitality and soars aloft over this hateful land. Traveled about thirty miles. It is perhaps eighteen or twenty miles from last nights camp on a straight line. This wet weather stream turns to the left one mile below camp and enters a canyon which leads a westerly direction.

28th day Thursday September 16th

Today we traveled a northerly course over sandy sage and juniper plains. Six miles from camp we passed around the head of a canyon which runs a northerly course. We passed down the east side of the canyon for about three miles when we were compelled by canyons putting in from the east to descend. Passing down this canyon, or deep ravine, we came to the second canyon which may be considered as a canyon within a canyon. Traveling on the side of this canyon we came in sight of willows and soon after water many hundred feet below us. This was a happy discovery.

And we soon struck an Indian trail which led us to the bottom of the canyon. Here we found a small stream of warm water which seemed to quinch the thirst of our weary horses. Passing down the canyon a short distance we came to a large stream of water which we soon found to be Fall River, much to our joy and surprise. Traveled about twelve miles today. Weather so smoky we cannot see more than three miles. River one hundred yards wide, deep and rapid. The river here is hemmed in by high mountains and may properly be called a canyon. Good bunch grass for our horses. The water of the river good. Willows, sage, greasewood hockberry \_\_\_\_\_ sumack, a little juniper. Hills on west of white clay and rocky. Those of the east rocky and lower, A high castle like point on the south.

29th day Friday September 17th

For about five miles down the river over a tolerably good trail. When the trail left the river and wound around the base of a high mountain presenting on the west side little else but basaltic rock. The river appears to run near the base of this mountain through a deep canyon like bed. After passing over or around those hills we came upon a level plain of salt and basaltic rock and sand. When fairly upon this plain we discovered Meeks trail which we followed for two or three miles when we left it and followed down the pack trail into a ravine. Followed down the ravine some distance and found water and camped along the trail. We found bunch grass of the best quality much of which has been burnt off by the Indians. The hillsides near this ravine are covered with rich bunch grass. Wild rye in considerable quantities. A little muddy water in a pool. But little wood. The road passed over today presents a degree of sublimity worthy of a more enchanting pen. Traveled about twenty miles today without water for our animals. Found a weak spring at one o'clock pm which afforded a little water for the men.

30th day September 18th Saturday

From camp the trail led down the ravine by gradual descent after which we arose on the table land by going up a short but steep hill. But we were not destined to enjoy level road long for the trail soon led us across a deep canyon like ravine. Both ascent and descent were steep

but to detour is unnecessary. Suffice it to say that the country is very rough. Not from its high mountains and deep valleys so much as from the precipitous canyon, which the wear of every ravine cuts through what otherwise would be considered almost a level plain. About 12 o'clock we came in sight of the river. Near one thousand feet above it. The descent was steep. We found the river variable in width in some places one hundred yards and others not more than thirty feet. What is more remarkable some places so narrow, flow with such a degree of rapidness and with a current so smooth that it would leave a person to believe that it is a small rivulet rather than a considerable river. Passing down the river one fourth of a mile (in meantime meeting three Indians and contracting with them for crossing ) we came to the falls. The river here falls over semicircular ledge of rocks about fifteen feet and is forced into a channel of about fifteen feet in width and rushes madly onward. Here we unpacked our animals and our \_\_\_\_\_ were transported on a kind of bridge of poles constructed by the Indians.

They swim our horses above the falls where Meeks trail crossed their stock and also part of the train of '47. We succeeded in getting everything over safely. The fee was one dollar or twenty five pounds of flour per man. At these falls are a few destitute looking mortals who seem to possess neither good health nor energy or purpose. I suppose they are living here by fishing. Once across the river we proceeded up a deep ravine which finally terminated in the "Valley of the Lye" or "Indian Creek" five miles from the river. We camped near the house of William Cox who fortunately had a beef killed and of him we got some oats for our horses. The grass being very short probably owing to the amount of stock which we see here. Wm. Cox has taken to wife a native and appears to live comfortably. The hospitable to passersby never permitting the hungry to pass his door. There are six or seven small farms here but the inhabitants lives mostly by grazing. The grass is very poor near the river. So poor that we were compelled to pay two dollars per dozen for oats to feed upon. Traveled about fifteen miles.

31st day Sunday September 19

Much delay occurred this morning owing to our dividing ourselves of a superfluity of provisions which we \_\_\_\_\_ to the inhabitants of this valley just as we found \_\_\_\_\_ it. Six men parted company with us here intending to go to the Dalles to recruit their horses. Eight of us now left. Started late. Traveled to Barlows Gate, eleven miles and camped. Road much used, very dusty. Grass scarce near the road. I saw Mount Hood this morning for the first time since I started home. Cloudy near the summit of the mountains. This country provides a luscious bunch grass and some of it might be cultivated to a limited extent. After leaving the lye the road leads over a high table land gently undulating with large plains, skirted by pine timber. The small creeks afford the best of water. The smoke which a few days ago obscured nearly everything has almost passed away and followed by thin passing clouds.

32nd day Monday September 20

Started at the usual hour but upon leaving camp the company came upon a fat fine deer of the black tail species. The killing & dressing occupied about one and a half hours which made our start late. We drove very hard until sundown when we arrived at summit prairie, a distance as it is called, of twenty six miles. There we find a small prairie of short grass, some very steep hills. This prairie is south of Mount Hood a distance of ten miles from its foot. The summit here is covered with heavy timber. Fir principally. Some gigantic growth measuring three or four hundred feet in height. Very little grass on this road. The trail is very plain having been much used by drovers supplying the Dalles and upper country generally. Much fallen timber across the trail. This prairie is about three miles west of the summit ridge.

33rd day Tuesday September 21st

Today travel led us over several steep hills of which Sound Hill stands most prominent. Stopped a short time about 1 o'clock. Crossed ZigZag several times and came to its confluence with Sandy about 3 o'clock. Here the valley widens out considerably and the point may be easily known by looking up the stream coming from a north westerly direction and the opening seems to be cut in two by a round butte which seems to cut the valley in two.

The timber in this vicinity has been killed by fire and much falled timber across the trail. Traveled about twenty five miles today and camped on bluff of Sandy without grass. Horses rambling through the timber and among the logs trying to get a scanty subsistance. The camp is situated in a fir grove with plenty of wood.

34th day Wednesday September 22nd

This morning we were up at 4 o'clock and ready for a start. The horses would not leave the trail to browse yesterday evening on account of the darkness provided by the density of the timber and the quantity of fallen timber. Started up past 6 o'clock and traveled until 9 o'clock a.m. when we stopped on the backbone to graze. Previous to striking the backbone we came to and crossed Sandy. About two miles after crossing we ascended on the ridge which is narrow. The water on the south side flowing into Sandy, that on the north side into its tributaries. On the highest point of this ridge is a one horse trading post which the proprieter calls "The Mountain House". Having grazed about two hours near this station without water we saddled and drove to Mr. Fosters. Traveled twenty two miles. Our horses are much injured by the last three days drive across the mountains, but are refreshing upon oats and hay which Mr. Foster always keeps the best. About Mr. Foster there are three houses situated one on the backbone, two on the lower crossing of Sandy, one on each side of the river. Sandy is about sixty feet wide here. It flows from the west side of Mount Hood and although there are no high falls here it may be considered one continual cascade as far as I saw it. The distance from one crossing to the other is called fifteen miles. The backbone produces some of the finest specimens of fir timber I ever saw. This of seven or eight feet diameter and common and with them grow the tall tender sapling to the height on one hundred and fifty and two hundred feet. Could some of the Willamette farmers have some of this timber on their farms they would rejoice, but an all wise creator knows best.

35th day Thursday September 23

Mr. Murphy and myself parted company with the remainder which consisted of Captain McBride, J. Roland, Sen. Geo S. Wood, Mr. Cowl, Esquire Daniels and Jason Peters. We started up the valley for Salem while they remained behind in camp intending to make their way to Yamhill county via Oregon City. We lost the road soon after leaving Mr. Fosters and wound around along neighborhood roads all days, making our way back to the main traveled road about sundown. Made about fifteen miles today but traveled \_\_\_\_\_ twenty. This part of the country is generally settled. The land is rich but the fern grows very rank and is a formidabe enemy to the farmer.

36th day Friday September 24th

Started early and made a steady drive of thirty four miles camping at the house of Mr. Mowkle of whom we recieved very gentlemanly treatment. Four miles from Salem in a northeasterly direction passed over some beautiful rolling prarie land lying on the borders of Howell and Salem praries. The most remarkable features of this prarie is that they are skirted by a scrubby \_\_\_\_\_ underbrush which prevents the ground of grass and prevents the plowing of much good land.

37th day Saturday September 25

Commenced raining last night about 12 o'clock and continued at intervals until daylight. Traveled four miles to Salem and I parted company with Mr. Murphy, he crossing at Salem while I kept up the east side of the river. Traveled thirty six miles and put up at the Calipooia. The weather being too bad to camp. Rained at intervals all day and with a southerly wind made traveling in that direction disagreeable.

38th day Sunday September 26th

Horse very lame, traveled steadily all day and arrived at home about 5 o'clock pm a distance of thirty miles.