

Jonathan Letterman Correspondence and Diary 1860-1864

Trip from Santa Fe, N.M. to Fort Leavenworth

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Page 1

[Unlabeled calculations.]

Page 2

[Unlabeled calculations.]

Page 3

[Unlabeled calculations.]

Page 4

AW Robb

Fontain Le Beau

175 Miles

No 69741 Gov [...]

[Girth]

Magnesia

[Gin]

Gun

2 Rolls Bedding

Mess Box

Chest

Frying Pan, Stew Pan, Bucket

Bottle oil, Wash Pan,

2 camp stools

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Distances from Fort Leavenworth

To Salt Creek	2.88	
12.47 Stranger Do	9.59	
23. Creek. Hickory Point	13.54	
33. Grasshopper Creek	9.50	
47. Rock Do	6.50	
Do	2.00	
49 Chiltons Do	2.50	
51 Soldiers Do	4.57	
52.11 Upper Ferry Kansas River	2.25	
54.56 Pottawattomie Settlement	7.41	
----- Creek	5.75	
5.75 White Wankarusa Do	3.89	
6.27 " Creek	5.75	
.73 " Do	6.27	
5.72 Independence Road	.73	
2.51 White Wakarusi Creek	5.72	
2.82 " Do	2.51	
7.80 142 Mile Do	2.82	
5.77 Bluff Do	7.80	
5.08 Rock Do	5.77	
2.29 Big John Spring	5.18	
7.97 Council Grove	2.29	
8.06 Elm Creek	7.97	
1.42 Diamond Spring	<u>8.06</u>	
	131.15	

Water generally

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Hensley Russel & Co
Leareworth City
K T
2 Boxes marked
[Rx]
Hannibal
Oct 30th 1860 Mo
Water generally

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	131.15	
15.46 Diamond Creek	1.42	
9.25 Lost spring	15.46	No Wood
7.76 Mud Creek	9.25	“ Water uncertain
6.16 Cotton-wood Do	7.76	
12.44 Water Holes	6.16	“ Water generally
7.83 Big Turkey Creek	12.44	No Water
18.19 Little “ “	7.83	No wood Water uncertain
10.60 Little Arkansas	18.19	
6.39 Owl Creek	10.60	Water mostly above & below crossing
2.93 Little Cow Creek	6.39	“ occasionally
18.24 Big D Do	2.93	(Water hole 10 miles) no wood, water uncertain
6.66 Bend of Arkansas	18.24	
16.35 Walnut Creek	6.66	
5.28 Pawnee Rock	16.35	no wood (near Arkansas)
6.56 Ash Creek	5.28	Water above & below crossing generally
11.43 Pawnee Fork	6.56	

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46.58	Coon Creek	11.43	
5.01	Jackson's Island	46.58	
10.05	Dry route comes in	5.01	
25.34	Fort Mann	10.05	
15.68	Lower Crossing Arkansas	25.34	
30.02	Water Holes	15.68	Water uncertain no wood
14.14	2 Water Holes	<u>30.02</u>	“ “ “ “
		426.78	

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		426.78	
20.	Lower Cimarron spring	14.14	No wood
19.02	Pools of Water	20.00	Water uncertain no wood
12.93	Middle springs Cimarron	19.02	“ “
14.10	Little Crossing of Do	12.93	
19.05	Upper Cimarron springs	14.10	{No wood, Pools of water [7] miles water uncertain no wood
16.13	Cold spring	19.05	
21.99	Cedar Creek	16.13	Water bad & uncertain
15.17	Cottonwood Creek	21.99	No Water
26.40	Rabbit Ear Do	15.17	10 miles estimated spring
14.13	Whetstone Creek	26.40	spring no wood
16.62	Point of rocks	14.13	
10.05	Sandy Arroyo	16.62	{Water uncertain no wood crossing of Canadian River 5 miles
19.65	Rio Ocati	10.05	{wood 43 m to right of road, pond of W santa Clara springs
21.62	Wagon mound	19.65	
18.00	Canon del Lobo, Rio Moro	21.62	

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13.05	Las Vegas	18.00
14.	Tacolote	13.05
21.81	San Miguel	14
13.41	Ruins of Pecos	21.81
10.80	Stone Corral	13.41
	Santa Fe	<u>10.80</u>
		778.85

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Joseph [Godreau]
Ft Edson – Kansas City
got to Leavenworth 1st May
got 1 mos pay April from
Capt Van Vleet
Pay due from 1st to 30 May –
Jacob E New
Store Keeper –

Page 10

Mrs. A. W. Putnam
at H. Mendells.
Quarantine Landing
Staten Island
Office 176 Broadway.
New York
Mrs Bass
No 225 Vaughan st.
between Walnut & Locust
15th & 16th sts.

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Phil
H. Fenton

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Sept 27th Left Ft Union at 7 ½ O'clock and very gladly did I do so for neither pleasure or comfort have I seen since I went there. I took breakfast in camp & mounted my old mule & started joyfully towards "The States" we number over 100 men well armed & hope to reach the Mo River by Nov 1st camped near Burgwin Springs Dist 13 miles – weather delightful – campd at 12 – Wagons Phila make – best on the Plains

[written along side the above section on page 11]

Water & grass

Rose at 4 o'clock & eat –

28 Left Camp at Sunrise & had a very pleasant day to travel – rode most of the day with Bishop & Delaney [W] Mr. & enjoyed myself very much. Passed the Wagon mound celebrated for a terrible fight between the "Hickory Apaches" & a mail party in 1849, consisting of 12 men – We camped on the Ocate at 1 o'clock having made 20 miles. dug for water grass good. bareled our wood – everything pleasant –

[written along side the above section on page 11]

Water & grass

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set in rain at 3 o'clock and 2 at dark very hard – picketed [...] by my tent – on the Waters of the Canadian – county dry sandy & rocky, rock more or less impregnated with Iron – I was much amused at the mules standing around watching the men digging for water, with almost as much sense as men – Mules are excellent sentinals can scent Indians or Buff or the proximity of danger with a Keeness surprising –

29 The "Boys" couldnt sleep much last night, at 2 ½ o'clock they "stirred" & at 4 I got up & took breakfast & we sat around the fire telling stories until day broke we left camp at 5 ¾ the morning was cloudy but fine & we drove along in fine glee – most of the men out hunting – ↑ met ↓ passed the mail at Red or Canadian river & crossed at 9 ½ cut some white willow out of which the Apaches

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& Comanches make Killikenic – camped at 2 o'clock among the “Brakes of Red River” about 11 or 12 miles East of it, in a canon to the right where we found good water & grass

[written along side of page]

W & G

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but no wood used Buff chips with a little wood which we carry – had antelope steak for supper – men b[...] two – another rainy evening – made 22 miles – men very Kind & attentive to me. Mr Delaney issued cartridges this evening – still in view of Ratone Mts, loaded my gun with buck shot – & have my revolver & big Knife by my side – Boys singing & I'll take a smoke – County rolling & sandy with [Butes] in every direction Round Mountain in view

30 We left Camp just before Sunrise – the morning was beautiful & we travelled along finely. It rained yesterday eve & night & was quite cold. Graff lost himself & came in on the road about 5 miles ahead – said he had a bad night in his shirt sleeves & no fire. Saw numbers of Antelope in every direction. Wild horses also but them I did not see. Passed Point of Rocks & camped near it on Willow Creek to the right of the road. wood & water but poor grass – Mexican train came in from the States & camp just above us – drove 4 hours & made about 12 M men washing all day & cleaning & baking
Weather fine – “Round Mound” in view

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Oct 1st We had a fine night & a good day's rest yesterday & rose at 2 o'clock moved at 4 o'clock, passed the point where White was murdered at sunrise & came to Whetstone creek at 8 o'clock where we watered. Passed 3 ox trains bound for Ft Union about 2 miles apart – nooned at 12 & left at two & camped at 6 ½ o'clock on “Rabbit Ear” just after the moon rose – men & mules tired having marched 12 ½ hours – saw antelope in every direction during the day – but the Boys got none – One of our mess got lost but came in just as we were starting a volunteer party for him he had shot a deer just at dark & the big red wolves started up at the shot & he had to leave he said the “bloody things” snapped their teeth & he left in hurry having no shot. by luck he stumbled into camp. Round Mound in sight – Plenty of Water some wood – rolling Prairie with sand, stones & Iron Rock on the Canon Sides – made 35 miles – Slept well last night – The weather most delicious air bracing & pure – Delaney & I counted our force this eve – 130 men 72 guns 25 revolvers – 13.6 mules 212 horse wagon & two or three women & babies - & a number of dogs – on North Fork of Red River

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Oct 2 Rose at 5 & fed [...] & eat – Picketed [...] out & took a smoke wrote up my journal & now am ready for a start. the wagons are packed & the mules grazing – The morning Sun is shining brightly on a merry happy crowd “home ward bound” Left at 9 oclock & passed over rolling prairie with several holes of Water & came into camp at Cottonwood – 1 o'clock tired sick & warm – Dist 15 m – mail came in at 5 & camp near us & had a chat – reported water & grass good to the Arkansas & no Indians except the Arapahoes. feel quite well this evening. The Moon just rising & shining in our tent – Bishop lying down & chatting. [...] & [...] picketed near our tent – Mail just left at 4 ½ o'clock **3^D** At 4 I was up & dressed & by 5 had our breakfast at 5 ¾ left camp & travelled briskly over gently rolling hills & came into sand at 9 o'clock passed over an immense prairie which stretches into Texas – soil very sandy & much limestone formation. water impregnated with soda. Bishop Delaney & others had a fine chase after a grizzly bear which they

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Brot down after 2 hours run. he was of medium size & large enough for the supper of over 130 persons, his skin was superb [long] brown & silvery hair – very thick – came into camp 2 m West of Cedar Creek at 1 o'clock weather fine – Dist made 22 miles – met a mexican ox train of 6 wagons loaded with Buff meat – Passed Mc Nees creek at 9. He was killed by Indians in 49 whilst cutting his name on a rock which is by the crossing – Water & grass so, so, no wood –

4 Rose at 4 & moved out of camp at 5 ¾ & travelled briskly as the morning was cloudy & cook, Still moving over high sandy prairie with much gravel – in sight of Kansas – came into camp at Cold Spring at 11 having made 19 m – this afternoon we camped in the mouth of 3 Canons on sand of which I eat & drank a large quantity as the wind is filling every thing with dust. the first unpleasant day out – Passed several pools of water – Water & grass good – no wood except Cedar a good ways off – rocky points all around us. Saw a tarantula this eve ugly looking devil as large as your hand. black & hairy long legs – Just took a toddy – dust thick over

[written along side of page]

everything. Bishop Officer of the day – feel quite well this eve –

[written along side of page]

We crossed over to the Waters of the Arkansas today –

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5 22m

Left camp at 5 ¼ o'clock & passed the the Aubrey cut off at 6 ½ & Kept on ever high rolling sandy prairie road deep with sand & heavy travelling here & thee struck the Upper Cimaron spring at 11 ½ & campd at 12 having made 22 M found plenty of water & grass but no wood. Water like all we have had. saline or "Saleratus" as the Boys say – could see thick coats of it around the bed of the stream – weather fine but windy – feel very well to-day – better than since I started. Passed through a part & camped in Texas. Could see N. M. T & K at one view this morn- Dave our Cook sprained his foot & George is now at 4 ½ grinding coffee for supper We are camped on high rolling prairie where the eye grows weary in looking for an object – Slept in a regular Rattle snake & tarantula camp last night & the men killed some of each on the road to-day –

[written along side of page]

The black bird & Raven with a very small bird are the only Kind we have seen – with a small duck along the branches – the black bird with yellow breast & tips on wings –

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30 m

6th Rose at 1 then at 3 ½ & got up good took breakfast & left at 4 ¾ the morn was fine – crossed the boundary between Texas & Kansas at 4 ½ near the mark & moved down the Cimaron through an immense plain & crossing 9 mile ridge campd at the Middle Springs at 2 ½ o'clock travelled 10 hours & made 30 miles. The wind blew very hard – Passed through a high sandy country with musqit & a little gramma & blue top grass – water plenty but brackish as usual. 7 oclock Bishop making a Pipe stream out of a leg of a sand hill crane Antelope steak yesterday & today – Boys gambling & raffling as usual – Saw a dove first since we left Union – Rode about 10 m in our wagon – 100 miles fro the Arkansas – mail fr Santa Fe passed us to night – water brackish grass good roads good

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7 Rose at 3 ½ & rolled out from Camp at 4 ½ o'clock – morning fine passed several Water holes with good rain water – met Harrison's ox train at 6 o'clock bound for Arazonia – met the mail at 1, & a gentleman bowed to me but I could not recall his name or where I saw him – could not get any papers as usual – The wind fro the North blew & it was the finest travelling day I ever saw – Bishop's men Killed 3 antelope I rendered the marrow into oil it is very fin & superior to any I ever saw – came into camp at 2 ½

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having made 28 m in 10 hours camp on Cimaron 6 m from the lower springs. Crossed 18 m prairie, Delany came up to our tent & he & Bishop concluded to drive to-morrow without breakfast – but Delany was to come down & take a toddy with us, in lieu of breakfast

[written along side of page]

met a Mex Bearu train laden with Buff meat – Sunday -not much like it – cleaned & re-loaded my revolver & also the one George carries –

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8 Left camp at 4 ½ without breakfast & drove until eight when we reached the Lower Cimaron Springs where we found good water in great abundance. The morning was quite cold. the coldest yet – but the Sun rose clear & bright & now it is pleasant as I set on my camp stool writing while the men are busy getting breakfast & the mules grazing around – took breakfast on antelope steak at 9 oclock & I enjoyed it. dined at 1 & left at 2. passing over a wide prairie we campd at 6 oclock on Sand creek where we found water – it is pretty good being rain water & not brackish The afternoon was delightful – rendered some more oil- camped below Kitchen's train on Sand creek, which left shortly after – ox trains start about an hour before day & take breakfast & graze fr 9 to 11 then drive until 3 & graze & dine until Sunset & then drive until 10 or 11 – or until they come to water the first essential – We are now on the West line of the Hornala or dead-man's route because for 30 miles there is seldom grass or water & the drive is generally made at night now on account of rains they are both made 23 miles – our 3d day down the Cim-

[written along side of page]

men in fine spirits, left the Cimaron at 2 & rode the ridge –

[written along side of page]

water & grass in abundance – roads finest I ever saw

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9 Left camp at 1 ½ o'clock having eaten a hearty breakfast of antelope steak & coffee – The morning was cool & we drove on briskly across the Hornala an immense plain stretching a dead level as far as the eye can reach – We campd at the Bone yard at 6 ½ having made 15 m the quickest drive we have made – We are now grazing our mules & campd by a large shallow pond of water where the boys are shooting the Summer duck – feel fine this morning just eaten a 2d breakfast – Left well & came into camp 2 m West of the Battle Ground at 4 where we found pools of water & poor grass. To day we passed over an immense plain perfectly level or nearly so

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you could not tell which way the water run here this plain is 38 miles wide with a shrub or any timber & no water but what is caught by pools when it rains – sandy & gravelly but the finest road I ever saw – here we see old Buff wallows. little round holes where when rail would fall the Buff would wallow & roll & thus a hole would be formed. The Hornola is so called fr the want of water & timber or the “dead man’s route” or journey as it is supposed the dead man wants

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none of these. The Bone yard consists of several large piles of bones – the remains of an ox train frozen to death the Winter of 49 – the men saved themselves by building mud huts & burning wagons until relief came to them – at 3 we caught the first glimpse of the Sand hills of the Arkansas which cause me to hurra – Antelope meat & ducks – plenty on our mess table – our cook Dave an old soldier [clearly] & nice & we live well – whole distance made to day – 28 miles – I was told by Delaney that the first train of wagons which passd over the Plains was taken by Cain & others fr West Mo in 38 making the trip to Santa Fe in 9 mos out & 3 mos in. It consisted of 26 wagons which ever since has formed a train & 12 oxen to each wagon – Before that time a small trade was done by Pack mules & beauraus.

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10 Rose & breakfasted at 4 ½ & before 5 we were under way – The morning was delightful & we moved briskly on, at 9 we came in full view of the Arkansas - & after a hard pull over the Sand hills & though a long bottom [...] of deep sand we camped close to the river – which has but little water in it – at 11 ½ o’clock – Gladly did we all hail the river as it is a great stopping & resting place – water & grass being plenty & no anxiety about water like we have crossing from Santa Fe to the River – as we drove down the Sand hills we saw a large train in camp which we found out was a Mex train laden with Buff meat & robes going home to Taos & Moro. It was a large out fit over 70 wagons & 100 men, I bot 2 tongues for 50c & 2 for 2 cups of sugar & have them hung on the wagon drying – They reported Comanches on the river below us – We have now a hard guard & corral guard. broke our only bottle of gin in honor of getting in – having been saving it in case of med – sickness or snake-bite – train passed down on the other side about 1 o’clock which we suppose was from Ft Wise in the Big Timbers –

[written sideways along page]

I hear the sentinell’s challenge & call which makes one listen –

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10 Our trip thus far has been blessed & we have been most fortunate – but one gun shot wound not serious - & but little sickness – across the Hornala we were particularly fortunate water & grass – At day-break we passed the “Battle Ground” called so from the fact that years ago many human bones were lying scattered around. Legendary lore says a battle was fought between some Texans & Mexicans in 36 or 38 - & also that a battle was fought here between some Indians tribes, which legend is true it is hard to tell – for 4 days past & now we are in the County of the Kiowas & Comanches the most powerful warlike & numerous tribes of the plains – ranging from the vast plains of the Rio Grande to the Platte – at present they are hostile & the troops have been hunting them all Summer – [both] from Ft Union & Pawnee Fork but with little success – Dist made 18 m –

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11 We were called up at 2 but were sent back to sleep an hour longer, at 4 I got up & eat breakfast at 4 ½ & was under way before 5, crossed the Arkansas almost dry shod at Sun Rise, when were met by a cold blast from the North which chilled through & through I rode & walked but could not warm up – as the heavy clouds hung over the Sun, at 9 we came into camp just below the ox train which passed yesterday & after eating dinner at 10. I got well warmed – having eaten bacon, rice & dissectioned potatoes, with a cup of coffee & a smoke – mules are grazing – men eating & cooking, washing & gambling & smoking & sunning themselves – road good – down the river bottom – the low Saleratus bluffs. 2 Pike’s Peak wagons in eight with Whiskey &c to sell, at 12 ½ we started, from our morning 10 m below the lower crossing – I rode with Mr Delany all afternoon, just after we left passed the hill side where Brown & his men were Killed by the Comanches in 48 & his train burned whilst it was burning 3 [Cos] of

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troops came on the Indians & Killed a number, at 3 we rode over the ruins of old Ft Mann – built of adobe & deserted after 3 years use, about ½ m below Ft Man are the ruins of Ft Atcheson built by Mo Volunteers in 47 where they wintered – the fort they built for protection from the Comanches – at 4 we camped having made 24 m – As I am writing & smoking it is getting dark & the camp fire begins to shine – George washing the dishes & grinning – The fire is Buff chips & willow. 7 ½ o clock the mail has just come up from the States reports Buff in great numbers from a few miles below here – as far as Cottonwood – could not get any papers, most dead for some ox train passing down – fine grass & some wood – water in the river & Buff chips abundant, Delany & others sitting around our camp fire

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telling stories.

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12 I rose about 6 & by 7 had breakfast – The clouds hung heavy & the wind blew cold, in a little while we had a small snow storm on the Arkansas. I visited my patients & found one well the rest doing pretty well. I cut several loads of wood and dragged it to camp, built up a good fire with the help of dry “chips” & sat by it – took the snow flakes in a very “cool manner. Hines passed up on his way to the Big Timbers with a train I did not know him, he recognized me at once & we had a long friendly chat glad to see each other. he gave me a paper – told me Buff were very numerous – dined at 11 on Buff Tongue & Bean Soup – bread & coffee for dessert. The wind is in the South & it is warmer. I have a tack make of the end gate of our wagon braced up by Picket pins & a blanket to keep warm & soft – feet nearly in the fire & pipe in my mouth – Pike Peak “outfit” of 10 rickety wagons oxen & jackasses just passing East

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Oct. 4 at 4 another train from Pike’s Peak of 15 Wago passed down fr which the men bot whiskey & “little necessities” The clouds are breaking away & I hope for a fair day to-morrow – Sat by the fire & fed it until 8 telling stories & smoking – It is quite cold men in fine spirits – Laid up to-day to rest & graze the mules from the leg-wearyness of the trip – we have good grass. Second camp on the Arkansas – Coyotes howling around our camp as usual -

Page 29

13 Left camp at 4 ½ o’clock, on down the Arkansas. Last night it was very cold made ice on our buckets – camp for noon- ing at 9 o’clock, dined at 10 & got warmed up – at 12 ½ we started on our way the day clear but the cir keen & frosty drove until 5 & camped by the river – picketed all our mules saw one Indian this afternoon first one we met on the road – Came in sight of Buff & saw several small herds – The men in our mess shot one & we had a feast for supper. I got the tongue – passed two ox trains this afternoon – just done a piece of steak – trailing it over the coals on a stick & listning to Dave’s yarns of Soldiers life on the Arkansas 10 years ago. Our mess table is covered with steaks & stews ready for breakfast & as it is nearly 8 I will retire as it is my bed time – Made 29 m –

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it is quite cold this evening & the fires are well hugged by us all – Cuyotas are barking their shrill sharp cry around us & near to camp – they follow the trails of the Buff all the time –

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14 Breakfasted at 4 ½ & left at 5 it was quite chilly & we travelled briskly on meeting 3 ox trains, 2 of them filled with [mdse] of Russell first destined for Arazonia & now ordered to Fontain Le ____ near Pike's Peak to winter there – we nooned at 9 ½ & took dinner digging holes in the bed of the Arkansas to get water There being none in it except a pool here & there – started at 12 ½ & met 2 more trains bound out. Hickman was in chge of one. I had quite a chat with him. Graff & Curley saw a large number of Indian lodges south of the river among the Sand Hills. The Arapahoes we suppose, we came into camp at 5 having made 30 miles – The river bed was dry for miles by digging a foot or two we got plenty of water – Camp 4 miles West of Coon Creek & 17 from Pawnee

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15 Rose very late this morning at 4 ½ & left at 5 ½ passing a large herd of Commisary Cattle grazing on Crow Creek – also a Govt Hay Camp & a large mule train of six, eight & ten mules to a wagon bound for far New Mexico – Delany Bishop & I rode in into Garned where I got 2 letters & mailed 2 – Drank some champane with Dr Bell & saw several trains moving about. the county for miles was alive with mules, oxen, wagons & men going every way – we got forage & went into camp at mouth of Pawnee Fork having made 18 miles – at 2 o'clock – Evening fine sat around the fire & broiled Buff steaks, men killed a number of Buff across the river in the Sand hills, Wolves & Cuyotas howling around

Page 33

16 Rose at 4 ½ & at 5 ½ we left, the morning was fine & we made time passing Pawnee rock at 8 ½ The morning was smokey & the day was one of the most delightful I ever saw – fine Indian Summer – we saw number of small bands of Buff mostly old Bulls driven out from the herds by the young bulls who guard the cows & calves with great care – The Buff are diminishing very rapidly having disappeared fr many of their old haunts within a few years from the Sweet-water & the mountain ravines around it. where they were formerly found in great numbers & also fr other places – They are found now between the Ark river & to within 200 m of the mo on

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the vast ridges & plains of the Smoky Hill Walnut & Pawnee forks In the Fall of the year in great numbers along the wide bottoms of the Ark – This year however they are scarce on the Ark it being dry as a powder horn –

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We had a fine chase after a big bull this morning which we brot down after an hour's chase of the finest sport – took the hump, tongue & liver – The head of the Buff is immensely large & when running they lean to one side lifting both fore feet at once & hind feet in same way making a rolling or lumbering appearance. They seem to run slowly, but it takes a pretty good horse to catch up with good dogs to bring one to bay fine sport can be had. when wounded they will often turn & fight – must be shot with a heavy ball under the fore shoulder about the head a pistol ball has no effect. Bishop (4 o'clock) has just come in with some fine meat having Killed a fat cow its meat being good & tender whilst the bull is tough as thunder –

Page 35

we came into camp at Walnut creek on the Rily road – having left the Independence road at Pawnee creek. made 28 miles – The eve is one of the most deligh-tful Indian Summer hazy all around fr the smoke of burning prairie which we smell very plainly – Camped at 1 o'clock found pretty good water the first thing sought on the plains – slept ↑ lightly ↓ ~~[...]~~ under the ~~[...]~~ of the Fork – lightly as men do in the Indian Country -

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17 Left camp at 5 ¾ o'clock leaving the road at Pawnee Fork over which we travelled going out we bore southward passing a wide bottom where we killed a fine fat cow, we came into camp at 10 o'clock on Big Cow Creek where found but poor water & grass but wood in abundance. we camped for the night it being over 22 miles to Smoky Hill where is the next water. I jerked some Buff meat – which I have on the wagon drying very rapidly as the air is so pure & dry, with a gentle breeze in every direction the guns are firing as the Buff are all around us. The day is another fine Indian Summer – Saw a spot on the Sun as it rose through the smoky atmosphere – made 16 miles – Camping on Big Cow Creek –

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18 Rose at 4 ½ & left camp at 5 ¾ as we had to wait for light to see the dim trail which we missed at last & by standing East we soon struck, coming into the Sedwick's trail at 9 o'clock & crossed the Little Arkansas where I gathered some nice black walnuts much

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smaller than the States – we nooned at the springs about 10 miles west of the Smoky hill at 12 o'clock till 2 ½ when moved on crossing the Smoky & camping on its north bank at 5 o'clock having made 27 miles – to day we saw large bands of Buff on the hills & valleys. Our train is fairly [loadened] down with Buff meat – At the crossing there is ranch of 5 hunters from whom I bot 8 tongues – they were drying meat rending tallow & trapping – had many White wolf & badger skins, the day has been very fine could not have been

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better – mules & men travelled well – We are now drawing near the settlements being 35 mils West of Salina – hope soon to greet my friends once more I am very well & enjoying the trip very much from the Ark crossing – camp quite to-night whisky having run out – Now 8 ½ o'clock I'll made my “lay-out” & take a sleep

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19 Rose at 4 ½ & left at 5 ¾ The morning was frosty keen & clear ice having made during the night – We left the Smoky behind us & in four miles came to the Tower Rock & the big spring – in 5 m crossed to Clear Creek when we found a ranch & plenty of Buff Tongues & meat – nooned at 9 ½ 14 miles East of Smokey Hill on a creek – water & grass & timber good Left at 12 ½ o'clock & saw several Camps of Hunters & a wagon going out I asked them for papers & they replied we could get some down in town. It sounded [queerly] to me I am now at 3 o'clock setting on a Knoll or round mound with which the country is dotted & can miles in every direction – little herds of Buff dotting the hill sides & ravines – 10 m East I see the smoke of Salina the last settlement on the western frontiers the train about a mile behind

Page 40

coming up – The day has been most charming – Passed & met 3 or 4 hunting parties this afternoon – Came into camp on Spring Creek, 6 m West of Salina at 5 o'clock having made 25 miles – feel now that we can sleep soundly & not be disturbed by Indian or Buff – as we are near the most western settlement – The night is beautiful & clear & Keen we have a fine fire in front of our tent around which the men are spinning yarns – To day we shot the first prairie chicken – have plenty of ducks – Van Vleet's party sent us apples they tasted & smelled most deliciously & tasted of the Settlement.

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20 Left camp at 6 o'clock & passed through Salina the border town on the banks of the Smoky Hill at 9 bearing down the river we nooned at 11 on the West bank of Salina near its mouth – leaving at 2 o'clock we passed across the low lands (guided by stakes) between Saline & Solomons fork where we crossed at 5 our crossing are now bad owing to the deepness of the ravine just like ditches dug through a level plain – which on approaching you can tell only by the tops of the trees which grow down near the water on the steep sides – saw several small bands of Buff & had a run but no shot – The day is most delightful as sit writing on the East bank of Solomon's at 5 – Some hunters just crossing before our train – Camped on East bank of Solomons Fork

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close to a [squatter] where we got some milk – several cabins in sight – made 26 miles – camping at 5 ½ & supper being now ready at 6 ¼ we will sit down to fresh fish Buff steak & fried bacon coffee &c & [stewed] Buff meat & gravy – day most delightful – Saw the first signs of politics – a Lincoln pole in Salina with a lot of laz loafers around the 'store' – found quail the first we have seen – had milk for supper which we got from a squatter nearly at 15c per quart

Page 43

21 Rose at 6 ½ & by 7 had our breakfast – The morning was delightful & we washed & had a general "fix-up" every-one was busy during the morning at something during the afternoon some were sleeping or fishing or hunting or laying about talking the day has been most delightful I done a hundred little things during the day – Last night was cold & keen ice made pretty thick – Saline water cant boil beans in it – Lay in camp resting our mules dont seem much like Sunday. The night is beautiful & bright

Page 44

22 Rose at 4 ½ & at 5 ½ left our camp - & kept down for a mile or two & struck the Smoky Hill [severe] fairly into the frontier settlement – some few good log houses, fences & cornfields – the cabins hung around with Buff meat - & children nooned at 10 ½ on the Smoky near our first camp as we came out – passing the first whisky shop – 25 m fr Riley – a few Buff I am told back on the hills – passed & met a goodly number of hunters going & returning fr Buff range – The day is most charming & delightful One week from to day we expect to be in Fort Leavenworth – nooned until 1 ½ & kept on down the Smoky Hill camping on its banks 6 miles West of

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Junction City & 11 from Ft Riley Sent letters by [Hoy] to Mother & Saml Klealdwell. This afternoon was quite warm. the evening beautiful made 25 miles – Water of Smoky very salty. passed several good springs

Page 45

23 Rose at 4 ½ & by 5 had breakfast & am now awaiting our mules to be driven in the morning is clear but most delightful giving tokens of a warm autumn day – Day is just breaking & the mules are in the corral – having saddled my mule Delaney, Bishop & I started off & cantered away to Junction City which we reached at 7 the drowsy people were just opening their shops & stores & rubbing their eyes – We “smiled” & had a chat with the Editor of the paper & passing on crossed the Republican Fork at 8 o'clock & receiving a hearty welcome fr Clark we eat a very hearty second breakfast which Mrs C got up for us – nice steak coffee & pancakes – riding up to the Fork I spent ½ hour with Gordon & got plenty of Papers hearing how Penna had gone I gave up all politics & am now in for [money]

Page 46

as I write 1 m fr the Fork the men are lying around on the grass reading papers. The day is most delightful – We nooned from 10 ½ to 1 Last night was a most delicious night & this morning exquisite for a canter over the hills & wide river bottoms – The tops of the timber as they peep over the deep banks of the river present a beautiful variety of colors fr the deepest to the most delicate hues – We passed the Ogden 6 m fr Riley at 3 & camped at 4 ½ on the Kaw 11 m fr Riley – fine eve & night made 22 miles –

Page 47

24 We stood off this morning at 5 ¾ crossing Wild Cat at 6 ½ & Big [Blue] at Manhattan at 8 striking across the hills we nooned from 10 ½ to 1 at some pools of good water 9 miles from [Louicritte] on rock Creek – Camping on the East bank of Rock Creek at 5 o'clock The day has been most delightful & our marches being fine & moderate I enjoy it never being tired for & week past I have eaten like a saw-mill. We are nearing our destination rapidly but four more camps to pitch – to day we passed a goodly number of cabins The country rolling with much sandy soil – on the hill tops The grass is fine good & very nutritious – my impressions are Kansas will become a stock country – raising corn on the bottom lands where the farms are & grazing the

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hills – along the little streams in the valley you can only see the cabins now & then one a hill – The grass of the bottoms is coarse & rank – timber mostly cottonwood – with a little “black Jack” here & there – made 22 miles – night bright & beautiful

Page 49

25 Left Camp at 7 o'clock having been detained by a fight in which one man was mortally wounded whom we left at Louisville – passed thro a fine rolling county down the Kaw crossing Vermillion at 8 ½ lost creek at 9 & deep creek at 10 nooning until 12 when we passed thro [Pot] mission & camps at 4 on East bank of Clear Creek 6 miles West of Silver Lake. The wind has been blowing hard all day & rendered travelling very unpleasant – We have been travelling thro the Potta Reserve to-day there is much good land on the Kaw & tributaries but the hills are more or less sandy made 23 miles – The night is beautiful & bright to the East & North the Prairies are on fire shooting up bright jets of flame heard the Cuyotas for the last night –

Page 50

26 Left Camp at 5 ¾ keeping down the wide valley of the Kaw coming into Camp on Soldiers Creek one mile from Indianola on the lower rode - & 2 miles fr Topeka – The morning was very pleasant towards noon & strong wind set in & by 3 o'clock we had a thunder storm which lasted at intervals until midnight Being in the bottom & in timber we were sheltered – This is the first unpleasant day we have had – made 21 miles – The only bad dusty day we have had

Page 51

27 Rose at 6 & left at seven travelling briskly on we came into camp on the West bank of Grasshopper near Osawkee at 2 o'clock – The day has been cloudy & chilly – wind blowing The roads were heavy & the wagons travelled slowly – making but 18 miles – The camp fire feels very comfortable as I set & write by it – We are now but 35 miles from Fort Leavenworth & I am glad of it as the trip is now growing dull being out now 31 days – We are on the Grasshopper on a low rich bottom among the timber & are well sheltered – no one can imagine the difference in the warmth on a chilly windy day between the camp on prairie & in the timber –

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28 – Rose 4 & by 5 had my mule saddled – We delayed in camp 1 hour to find a stray mule The morning was fine, leaving at 5 ¾ we travelled over a well settled county, high rolling & rich & came into camp at 2 ½ 1 m above Easton on the West bank of the Stranger 12 m fr Fort Leavenworth – The day has been delightful for travelling – The whole camp is alive cleaning & fixing up to “go in” tomorrow As I write on my camp stool by the fire the moon is just coming up over the hills – wonder if any of my friends in other parts are looking at it – made 23 miles – our last camp –

Page 53

29 – Rose at 4 & before 5 had breakfast & was ready to start. The morning was very windy but warm at 9 Mr Delany & I were in the Fort having made 12 miles – & at 12 o clock I was in Leavenworth stopping at the Renick House – Thus ends our trip which has been very pleasant & agreeable - & which I enjoyed very much – Being out [or] rather getting in on the 33rd day out – making 672 miles fr Fort Union –

Page 54

1 Trunk
1 Chest
2 Boxes
1 Gun –

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6 wagons
12 sets [wheel barrels]
36 [Lead] Do
180 [halters] to be with horses
160 [...] bags
160 [...] (60 long 100 short)
23 riding saddles
wagon Do

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6 [...] [brackets]
24 water Do (18 got at Riley)
17 Bridles
2 Lead Bars
30 horse brushes
30 [Curry] combs
6 Breast chains
6 Wagon hammers
12 prs extra [Hames]
180 Lariat
25 open links
201 Picket pins
12 Lynch Pins
20 open Rings
2 jack screws
21 [surcingles]
35 [Hame] strings
8 Wagon timbers
18 single [trees]
1 Double tree
25 [Tees]
1 monkey wrench

Page 56

6 Wagon whips.
6 Gang ropes-
6 lb tent cord [apended] –
6 ~~H~~ Bottles British oil
1 do Calomel

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1 spring
½ [...]
6 Bottles Mustang linement
½ [...] twine
2 needles
1 side Bridle Leather
12 lbs nails
10 lbs Do horseshoe
62 ---- Do
50 mule Do
20 lb wagon greess
50 coupling straps (Brian got most)
6 axes & handles
5 spades
2 shovels
1 hand axe
3 augurs
3 chisels
3 gimblets
1 drawing knife
1 hatchet
2 saws

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1 shoeing harness
1 pr pincers
6 mule collars-
3 Pick axes –
160 horses –

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25 mules – (horses train)
 6 stretchers
 3 coils (3/4 Rope)
 Pay Capt V Vleet 13.00
 Maj Macrae Watch 2.00
 Do Do 10.00 Mrs McN
 From Capt M Ferran- 25.00
 Sept 24, 1860 –
 Ft Union, N.M.
 Colts Pistol 87,288
 Big Cow Creek Oct 17, /60
[written sideways along page]
 Bishop

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Report of Persons for May

Name	Occup	fr	to	note	mo amt	due
1 R Letterman	Clerk		31			41.10
2 J Bishop		1	“	65\$		65.00
3 A W Putnam		30	“	45	3 off to	2.90
4 T S Towne		1	31	45	(3 off to 20)	30.96
5 Jas Robertson		1	“	45	“	30.96
6 M White *		1	31	20/25		29.66
7 Jas Buckley *		1	“	“	“	29.66
8 R Esler *		1	“	“	“	29.66
9 Osborne Smith *		“	“	“	“	29.66
10 R Dalton *		“	“	“	“	29.66
11 Thos Leeson *		“	“	“	“	29.66
12 Jas Newberry *		“	“	“	“	29.66

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NLM Finding Aid

13 Jos Egan *		“	“	“	“	29.66
14 Wm Phelan *		“	“	“	“	29.66
15 Thos Thornton *		“	“	“	“	29.66
16 Jno Fitzgerald *		“	“	“	“	29.66
17 Thos McGuire *		“	“	“	“	29.66
18 Dan Flaherty *		“	“	“	“	29.66
19 Jas Wallace *		“	“	“	“	29.66
20 Jas McKenna *		16	31	“	“	29.66
21 Robt Brown	16	16	“	\$25	“	12.89
22 N Miller		22	“	“	“	<u>8.06</u>
						595.67

*\$25 from 30th May

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23 C. C. [Avey]	25	31	\$25 per month		5.64
24 J. H. McHolland	24	31	“		6.44
25 Geo Anderson	21	“	“		8.86
26 D O'Brien	25	“	“		5.64
27 J W Lewelling	23	“	“		7.25
28 Jas Henly	21	“	“		8.86
29 P A Doyle	20	“	pd & died at Pawnee		9.67
30 H. G. Lewelling	23	“	“		7.25
31 Saml Harlan	1	“	“		25.00
32 H Goodrich	24	“	“		6.44
33 D Robertson	20	“	“		9.67
34 E M Morgan	25	“	“		5.64
35* Thos Buckley	30	“	“		1.60
36 Jas Brain. Asst W Master	1	“	45\$	“	45.00
37 Jacob Lutman Teamster	1	“	25	“	25.00

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38 W H Truman *	1	“	30 25 “	29.66
39 Dan Dunworth *	1	“	“ “ “	29.66
40 E A Copeland	1	“	25 “	25.00
41 I Kuttner	1	“	25 “	25.00
42 Mick Fallon *	1	“	30 25 “	29.66
43 G Dalay	1	“	25	25.00
44 J E North	25	“	25	5.64
45 R Kirk	“	“	25	5.64
46 D Kirk	“	“	25	<u>5.64</u>
				358.86

See page 4 for [ostlers] *25\$ for 30th May

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47 Peter Howard	14	31	\$25 pr month	14.51
48 S Armstrong	25	“	“ “	5.64
49 I Ruger	“	“	“ “	5.64
50 Jno Fullam	14	“	“ “	14.51
51 H Waldron	25	“	“ “	5.64
52 G Dorsey	“	“	“ “	5.64
53 R H Bangs	29	31	“ “	2.41
54 Wm Anderson	30	“	“ “	1.61
55 R K Wade	“	“	“ “	1.61
56 C Knight (Employed by JCW)	“	“	“ “	1.61
S Adam				
57 Joseph Galigo (taken up) [...] Do	“	“	\$15	.96
Fred Kiffler (taken up) Do	29	31	\$25	<u>2.41</u>
Joseph Godrow				62.20
George Miller				

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Report of Person for June 1860

1 R Letterman	1	30	
2 I Bishop	1	“	65.00
3 A W Putnam	“	“	45.00
4 T S Towne	“	“	45.00
5 I Robertson	“	“	45.00
6 M White	“	“	25.00
7 Jas Buckley	“	“	25.00
8 R Esler			25.00
9 O Smith			25.00
10 R Dallow			25.00
11 Thos Leeson			25.00
12 Jas Newbery			25.00
13 Joseph Egan			25.00
14 W Phelan			25.00
15 Thos Thornton			25.00
16 Jno Fitzgerald			25.00
17 Thos McGuire			25.00
18 Danl Flaherty			25.00
19 Jas Wallace			25.00
20 Jas McKenna			25.00
21 R Brown			25.00
22 N Miller			25.00
23 C C Avery			<u>25.00</u>
			650.00

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24 J H McHolland	1	30	25.00
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25 Geo Anderson	“	“		25.00
26 D O Brien	“	“		25.00
27 I W Lewelling	“	“		25.00
28 Jas Henley	“	“		25.00
29 Pat A Doyle	“	13	Pd & disc 13 at Pawnee	40.79
30 H G Lewelling	“	30		25.00
31 S Harlan	“	“		25.00
32 H Goodrich	“	“		25.00
33 D Robertson	“	“		25.00
34 E M Morgan	“	“		25.00
35 Thos Buckley	“	“		25.00
36 Sam Adams	6	30		20.83
37 Jas Donlon	“	“		20.83
38 Wm Heberd	“	“		20.83
39 M Sullivan	“	“		20.83
40 Jno Sanderson Guide	“	18	Pd & dis on 18 th	39.00
41 Jno A C Moore	14	30		(14.16) 14.16
42 Jas Brian W Master	1	“		45.00
43 Jacob Luttman Teamster	“	“		25.00
44 W H Truman	“	“		25.00
45 D Dunworth	“	“		25.00
46 E A Copeland	“	“		<u>25.00</u>
				567.27

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47 J Kuttner	1	30		25.00
48 M Fallon	“	“		25.00
49 G Daley	“	“		25.00
50 J E North	“	“		25.00

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51 R Kirk	“	“		25.00
52 D Kirk	“	“		25.00
53 P Howard	“	“		25.00
54 S Armstrong	“	“		25.00
55 J Ruger	“	“		25.00
56 Jno Fullam	“	“		25.00
57 H Waldron	“	“		25.00
58 G Dorsey	“	“		25.00
59 R H Bangs	“	“		25.00
60 Wm Anderson	“	“		25.00
61 R H Wade	“	“		25.00
62 C Knight	“	“		25.00
63 F Kiffler	“	“		25.00
G Miller		with new Mexican		25.00
J Godrow		teams returning		25.00
Joseph Galigo		herder		<u>15.00</u>

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Report of Persons for July 1860

1 R Letterman	clk	1		85.00
2 I Bishop	P	“		65.00
3 A W Putnam		“		45.00
4 T S Towne		“	transfd July 26 to Mg Donaldson	37.70
5 Jas Robertson		“		45.00
6 M White	ostler	“		25.00
7 Jas Buckley	“	“		25.00
8 R Esler	“	“		25.00
9 O Smith	“	“	“ “ “ “ “	20.97
10 R Dallow	“	“		25.00

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11 Thos Leeson	“	“	“	“	“	20.97
12 Jas Newberry	“	“	“	“	“	“ “
13 Jos Egan	“					25.00
14 Wm Phelan	“	“	“	“	“	“ “
15 Thos Thornton	“					25.00
16 Jno Fitzgerald	“					25.00
17 Thos McGuire	“					25.00
18 Danl Flaherty	“	“	“	“	“	“ “
19 Jas Wallace	“					25.00
20 Jas McKenna	“					25.00
21 R Brown	“					25.00
22 N Miller	“					25.00
23 C C Avery	“					25.00

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24 J H McHolland	“					25.00
25 Geo Anderson	“					25.00
26 D O’Brien	“					25.00
27 I W Lewelling	“	transfd to Major Donaldson on July 26				20.97
28 Jas Henley	“					25.00
29 H G Lewelling	“	“	“	“	“	“
30 S Harlan	“					25.00
31 H Goodrich	“	“	“	“	“	“
32 D Robertson	“					25.00
33 E M Morgan	“	pd & dis 11				8.87
34 Thos Buckley	“					25.00
35 Saml Adams	“					25.00
36 Jas Donlon	“					25.00
37 Wm Hebbard	“	transfd to Major Donaldson on July 26				“

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38 M Sullivan	“		25.00
39 Jno A. C. Moore	“		25.00
40 Jas Brien	“	transf to Major Rucker on July 26	30.70
41 Jacob Luttmann	“		25.00
42 W H Truman	“	“ “ “ “ “	20.97
43 D Dunworth	“	“ “ “ “ “	“ “
44 E A Copeland	“		25.00
45 I Kuttner	“	“ “ “ “ “	20.97
46 M Fallon	“	“ “ “ “ “	“ “

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47 J Daley	“	transfd to Major Rucker July 26.	20.97
48 I E North	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
49 R Kirk	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
50 D Kirk	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
51 P Howard	“		25.00
52 S Armstrong	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
53 I Ruger	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
54 Jno Fullam	“	shot himself on the 29 th	22.57
55 H Waldron	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
56 G Dorsey	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
57 R H Bangs	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
58 Wm Anderson	“	“ “ “ “ “	“
59 R H Wade	“	owes 89 cts balance	25.00
60 C Knight	“	transfd to Major D on Juy 26.	20.97
61 Fred Kiffler	“		25.00
62 Joseph Godrow	“		25.00
63 G Miller	“		25.00
64 Joseph Galigo	“	herder pd & dist= on 17 July	8.16