

This is a true copy of the pocket diary of Joel Palmer for the year 1856, from one of the original books, which were written in the camp, on the march, or at the Palmer home in Dayton. Where the original words are unreadable, the supposed word is followed by a question mark, or the omission marked. This copy made June 18, 1939, by Gertrude Palmer, granddaughter of Joel Palmer.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Joel Palmer was the third of the twelve children of Hannah Phelps Palmer and Ephraim Palmer. He was born at Elizabeth, Canada, February 4, 1810, while the family were living there temporarily. Their home had previously been at Lowville, New York. In a paper written for his children shortly before his death, he states that the families of his grandparents, the Palmer, Phelps, Osborne, and Loveland lines, all originally came from Connecticut. The generations from Walter Palmer, who came from London, England, to Charlestown, Massachusetts, in 1629, are as follows: Walter 1, Gershom 2, Gershom 3, John 4, Fenner 5, Peter 6, Ephraim 7, Joel 8.

At an early age he was put out with a farmer, and at twelve or thirteen years old, becoming dissatisfied with his situation, ran away. There is no available record of his life from that time until, at nineteen years of age he married Catherine Caffey. Left a widower with two small girls, in 1836 he was a construction foreman on the Pennsylvania Canal. January 21, 1836, Sarah Ann Derbyshire and Joel Palmer were married by John Binns, Justice of the Peace, or Alderman, of the City of Philadelphia. Sarah Derbyshire was one of five orphans, children of Elizabeth Asby Derbyshire and Alexander Derbyshire, who made their home with three maiden aunts in the Derbyshire homestead north of Philadelphia.

The young couple soon settled in the frontier town of Laurel, Indiana. Here four children were born. Following the Overland Trail in 1847, they came west to Oregon City, moving to the donation land claim at the mouth of Palmer Creek in 1850. Later, on this land, and on the homestead claim of their son-in-law, Andrew Smith, the town of Dayton was laid out. It was named for the native city of Christopher Taylor, who had crossed the plains with the Palmer's, and had accompanied them to their new home.

Commissioned by state and federal governments to several military and civil positions, in 1847 he was Commissary General of the expedition that went to the Palouse Country to rescue the captive women and children of the Whitman Massacre. In the difficult years of treaty making, and of moving the Indian tribes to the various reservations, was Superintendent of Indian Affairs. In the Civil War period, Brigadier General of the Oregon Volunteers. In the seventies, Indian Agent at Siletz. He died in Dayton June 9, 1881, and is buried in the pioneer cemetery which had been previously given to the town of Dayton.

#### COPY OF POCKET DIARY FOR THE YEAR 1856.

##### JANUARY.

Friday 25.

Went this day to Portland to obtain funds on draft & mail matter for department at Washington City, and to procure blank vouchers; accompanied by Ben Wright on his way to Port Orford. Paid ferries at Tualatin for Ben and self, .50. Horse gave out and left him at Richardson's, 8 miles west of Portland.

Saturday 26.

Today remained at Portland; bought tobacco. Sold drafts to following persons:

No. 4	A. D. Shelby	for	2454.45
No. 5	L. Snow & ----		2000.00
No. 6	Sellers & Brothers		3500.00

Sunday 27.

Remained at Portland. Steamer Columbia arrived at 11 A.M.







Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

JANUARY (Continued)

Monday 28.

Today I returned to Dayton. Paid for keeping horse at Richardson's to a boy, 3.50. Could not obtain a voucher. Paid ferriage over Tualaty, .37½

Tuesday 29.

Remained in office. Mr. Jennings and Smith having arrived with the Claskanine Indians, who had been sent for for the purpose of treating with.

Wednesday 30.

Today we held a talk with the Claskanines, several of the Clackamus, ten Twaltine Indians were present, as also the ----- bands. Continued council until one at night.

Thursday 31.

This morning the Indians again assembled and the treaty consummated and signed, and the goods given to the Indians. The Clackimus Indians returned home.

FEBRUARY.

Friday 1.

Remained at the office.

Saturday 2.

Went to Grand Ronde.

Sunday 3.

Remained at Grand Ronde. Visited Indian encampment. Quite a number are sick.

Monday 4.

Returned from Grand Ronde.

Tuesday 5.

Spent the day in settling accounts with persons engaged in removing Indians from Umpqua, and answering letters. Sent two loads goods to Grand Ronde.

Wednesday 6.

This day was spent in the office and in arranging materials for ----- house. In the evening the Mohawk and Spores band of Indians arrived on the Steamer Enterprise from Corvallis, about 90 in number.

Thursday 7.

Having learned that Gov. Stephens had reached Portland and desiring an interview with him, I took passage on steamboat for Canema. Started at daylight. Met W. W. Raymond on way to Dayton.

Friday 8.

Sold several drafts on Department, as follows: No. --- (Apparently erased) Did not take voucher. Returned to Oregon City on Guy Clark.

Saturday 9.

No boat on the river. Arrived at Oregon City. Sold following drafts on Department. No. --- (Apparently erased). Bought set tinner's tools, with ----benches, &c., for 325\$.

Sunday 10.

Remained at Oregon City.

Monday 11.

This morning I started on Enterprise for Weston at 6 A.M. Reached home at 12 M. Thompson arrived at 4 P.M. A few goods came up on Franklin. Failed to deliver bale pipestems and small bale.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

## FEBRUARY (Continued).

Tuesday 12.

Spent the day in writing letters and settling with Metcalf and other employees. W. W. Raymond remaining at the office so as to convey message and funds to G. H. Ambrose to defray expenses in removal of Rogue River Indians.

Wednesday 13.

Expecting the arrival of mail and instructions, and wishing to obtain additional funds on drafts in a large amount, and desiring an interview with commanding officer at Vancouver, I went on horseback, accompanied by R. R. Thompson to Portland. Thompson went to Oregon City.

Thursday 14.

Today went on Multanoma to Vancouver. Col. Wright could give no definite answer in regard to an escort of troops to proceed to Rogue River or Cayuse country until arrival of orders from Genl. Wool. Returned to Portland on Bell.

Saturday 16.

Gave order on J. O. Neal Wells Fargo & Co. Express to have purchased in eastern markets the following articles:

10 Fish gill netts for Salmon	3 to 800 ft. long
20 " " seins	2 to 400 " "
20 Herrin "	150 to 600 " "
10 Sardenes	60 to 300 " "
200 lbs. twine assorted sizes	
200 needles	

Reached home at half past nine P.M. Settled today with Doat Wright.

Wednesday 20.

Today distributed goods to Indians. Settled with A. T. Stone. Paid him 218.79- Paid Delashmut 2200, being in full. Gave C. D. Blanchard draft for 300 on account of salary.

Friday 22.

Today the Indians started for the Grand Ronde in six wagons and 2 carts and about 80 horses belonging to the Indians.

Saturday 23.

Today 17 Indians from Abiqua came. Issued 4 day's rations of flour, 68 lbs. Pork, 68 lbs. Sugar, 17 tea, 100 lbs. Potatoes, & 3 lbs. Salt.

(Several entries too dim to copy).

## MARCH.

Tuesday 4.

There is due J. C. Matheny on settlement 360\$ for oxen to be paid Smith. Started home from Grand Ronde. Put up after dark at Hibbs.

Wednesday 5.

Paid for one meal & horse feed on way from Grand Ronde to Dayton \$1.00. Reached home at ten. Received by --- --- draft amounting to 55250 - in 11 drafts.

Sunday 9.

Today at 4 P.M. I started for the Dalles on Steamer Hoosier and reached Butteville after dark, where the boat laid by till morning. Paid for supper .50.

Monday 10.

Started by daylight. Reached Oregon City at 8 A.M. Left on steamer Guy Clark at 9½ for Portland. Ordered three tons flour shipt to the Dalles to be furnished by Guthrie Island Mills. Paid at Portland for powder flask & cups 1 box -----







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MARCH (Continued).

Tuesday 11.

Remained at Portland. Steamer arrived at 3 this morning. Sold several drafts. Appointed A. E. Wright agent to procure title to lands ---- in Grand Ronde. Gave him six thousand dollars to take to Bla----

Wednesday 12.

This morning started on steamer Bell for Cascades. Reached at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  P.M. Gen'l. Wool left last evening for the sound. Obtained an order for troops if required to be used.

Thursday 13.

Today the wind was too high for boat to run. Spent the day in examining the road on the South side of river. Found it an excellent one. Visited the Indians in the vicinity. Steamer arrived from Dalles. Friendly Cayuses have gone to the Nez Perce country.

Saturday 15.

Had a consultation with Indians. Visited the garrison. Delivered order for troops to Col. Wright. Thompson and Olney with chiefs had visited Warm Spring Reservation. Indians satisfied with that location. Steamer returned to Cascades.

Sunday 16.

Remained at Dalles. Received a deputation from Deshoots Indians. Received letter from Simpson, and one from Baldwin, containing telegraphic dispatch from Ambrose calling for troops. Steamer arrived from Cascades.

Monday 17.

This morning called on Col. Wright. Received order for 20 troops from Vancouver to meet and escort Indians to reservation. Held a council with all Indians in the vicinity. Made arrangements to remove them. Informed Col. Wright that one company would be stationed on Reservation.

Tuesday 18.

This morning started on Wasco to Cascades, having paid in cash yesterday to Olney 1000\$. to Thompson 1000\$. Reached Cascades at sunset. Rained all day from Dog River down. Put up at Mr. Allen's.

Wednesday 19.

There is no boat going down. Desiring to ascertain the practicability of a road along the south bank of the river, I walked down to the foot of the rapids. A trail is already open, over which horses and cattle are driven. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles is already a good wagon road. The balance of the way, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles, one may be easily constructed, requiring two bridges, and the cutting down a clift of rocks for the distance of 100 yards, at a cost of 1000 dollars. The two bridges will cost 1000. The balance of the road is in timber, on good ground.

Thursday 20.

Last evening two boats arrived and start this morning for Portland. The rain has been constant for 2 days & nights. Take passage on Steamer Fashion at 8 A.M. Bell started at little past seven. Arrive at Portland 4 P.M.

Friday 21.

Today after purchasing one set Saw mills Irons, and other articles, I went to Oregon City. Halted at ----ges and ingaged garden seeds for reservations. In the evening had a council with Indians.

Saturday 22.

Today hired horse and came to Dayton. Paid ferriage over Mollalla River .25. Toll over Pudding River Bridge, .25. Ferriage over Willamette River .25. Reached home at 8 P.M.

Sunday 23.

This morning started to meet the imigrating party of Indians from Rogue River. Traveled to North Luckimauke, 38 miles. Put up at Hubbard's. No charge for entertainment.







Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

# MARCH (Continued)

Monday 24.

This morning started and soon met the train. Returned with them to Dallas. Total No. 391 souls. Went from there to Salem, reaching it at 2½ P.M. Took dinner. Started and reached home 9½ P.M. Paid ferryage over Willamette, .50.

Tuesday 25.

Remained in office writing letters. Indians remained to accompany me to the Grand Ronde. Obtained a surveyor to define boundaries of claims. Rogue River Indians reached the Reservation.

Wednesday 26.

Started to Grand Ronde with Henry Sawyer and 5 Indian chiefs to examine reservation, and assigned tracts of land to Indians.

Thursday 27.

Bought 4 yokes oxen, 5 chains of Wm. Cosper for 450\$. One wagon for 150\$. Traveled over the reservation. Some difficulty in arranging choice of farms for the chiefs and men.

Friday 28.

Spent the day in traveling over & assigning farms to Indians.

Saturday 29.

Accompanied by the Rogue River chiefs, I returned home. Received telegraphic dispatch urging the immediate removal of all Indians at and around Oregon City. Sent in Jennings directing the same to be done.

Sunday 30.

Started to Portland. Intense excitement caused by the massacre at Cascades. Resolutions had been posted by citizens to kill all Indians found about the place.

Monday 31.

At Portland, threats made to kill any Indian seen. Lodged a complaint. Obtained warrant, but it could not be enforced. Public meeting--made explanations. Loud -----talk existed. Went to Oregon City and held council. Indians agreed to go.

# APRIL.

Tuesday 1.

Today returned to Portland.

Thursday 3.

Started from Portland at 7 A.M. Left Oregon City at 2½ P.M. Loaned Joseph Geer 100 in cash. Paid it to Fred. Paid for dinner .50. Paid for dinner for employees 3.00. Went to Canema.

Friday 4.

Came from Canema on Enterprise. Reached home at dark. Franklin arrived at 8½ P.M. with 317 Indians. Heavy rain. Obtained the ball alley for use of Indians to lodge in.

Saturday 5.

Spent the day in office.

Sunday 6.

Labored in the office. Went to ----- Landing.

Monday 7.

Remained in the office. Distributed materials for tents to Indians.

Saturday 12.

Started this morning for Portland to obtain coin for drafts and secure set mill irons for reservation. Stopt at Butteville. Paid for dinner 50¢. Reached Portland in evening. Mail steamer arrived this morning. Sent by O. Neal 25850 in drafts to be cashed in San Francisco.







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APRIL(continued)

Sunday 13.

Returned to Oregon City. Brother Ephraim arrived on steamer yesterday.

Monday 14.

Started on Enterprise from Canema. Reached home at ten A.M. Wrote letters to Genl. Wool asking for troops. Wrote letter to R. Newell & R. R. Thompson. Sent messenger to Vancouver with letters. Went to Grand Ronde. Arrived after dark. Find over 60 men in Rinearson's company. Heavy rains. Visited the various Indian encampments--but few have land assigned them.

Wednesday 16.

Received of R. B. Metcalf 32 lbs. tobacco and distributed the same to the Indians in council held in school house on reservation. Visited Mr. Babcock and ----- to purchase his claim, but failed.

Thursday 17.

Today we defined the boundary line of Babcock's claim and directed Capt. Rinearson to erect fence so as to leave it out of the reservation. Assigned land to Indians &c.

Friday 18.

Today I returned to Dayton.

Saturday 19.

Remained in office.

Sunday 20.

Attended funeral of A. J. Hembree.

Monday 21.

Remained in office.

Tuesday 22.

Remained in office. Schookem John and his band, consisting of 3 men and 5 women, 4 children, arrived from Santaam.

Wednesday 23.

Remained in office. Tenas Mcky--3 men, 5 women, 3 children, Clickitats, came from Shoholum.

Thursday 24.

Remained in office. The Indians went to the Reservation in charge of C. M. Walker. Lt. Sheridan, with 9 Dragoons left here today for the reservation.

Friday 25.

Started for Portland and Vancouver to obtain coin and have an interview with Genl. Wool. Reached Oregon City at dark on Str. Franklin.

Saturday 26.

Went to Portland on Jenny Clark. Walked to Vancouver. Saw Genl. Wool--could not obtain an escort for Warm Spring Reservation. Paid for ferries on ---Slue and Columbia 1.37½.

Sunday 27.

Steamer Columbia arrived today at Vancouver. Gen'l Wool informed me that it is a favorable time to negotiate a treaty of peace with Indians ----Port Orford. Wishes me to go with him. I informed him by letter that I could not go till next ----- Paid 3 meals Vancouver 1.50.

Monday 28.

The coin came up on steamer. I make purchase of mill irons and other articles and start up on Guy Clark at 3 P.M.

Tuesday 29.

No boats are going up the river today, remained at Oregon City. Made a few purchases of tools, &c. Rained most of the day.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

## APRIL(Continued).

Wednesday 30.

As no boats are going up the river, I returned to Portland. First cross to Linn City to pay transportation bill at Falls Company, and attend to shipment of goods. Pay for ferriage across and back at Oregon City, 25¢. In the evening return to Oregon City. Obtained ----at Portland.

## MAY.

Thursday 1.

This morning at about 9 A.M. started up river on St. Franklin, with freight. Rained nearly all day.

Wednesday 7.

Paid Rinearson for advance to men under his charge 100.00. Covered by receipt taken by Blanchard.

Thursday 8.

A. Eads drove a team from Cosper's to Dayton. He was employed to go to Dalles, but dis--- as that work was abandoned.

Sunday 11.

Anticipating the arrival of mail Steamer today, and desiring to go to Port Orford and intending to bring the ----- to a close, I started on horse back for Portland, which I reached at dark. Steamer did not arrive.

Monday 12.

Steamer arrived Monday. Today I remained in Portland. Purchased following articles for shipment to Port Orford.

5150 lbs. flour of Lippencott at	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
1000 " " " Snow	" 4
5850 " " " "	" 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
6 Riding Saddles of ----	" 18\$
15 Pack " " "	" 10\$

Steamer arrived in the evening.

Tuesday 13.

Today I borrowed 1000\$ of L. Snow & Co. Sent to Abernethy & Co. by ----- and received of Capt. A-----tt 1000\$. Gave him an order on Abernethy & Co. for the amount to be applied on balance of draft. Wrote letters till one at night.

Wednesday 14.

This morning completed writing letters and started on steamer Columbia for Port Orford accompanied by Wm. Wright as messenger. ----- to Olney six tons of flour 15 pack and six riding saddles.

Thursday 15.

This morning at 8 oc A.M. we crossed the bar off the Columbia River and saddles ashore

Friday 16.

Today at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. we arrived at Port Orford. Took ashore the flour and saddles. Nothing has been heard from Col. Buchanan for several days. All persons have abandoned the country from this place to Smith's River. Found according to Olney's reports 365 Indians on reservation. Steamer remained but a few minutes.

Saturday 17.

Learned that John's band at the mouth of Rogue River did not wish to fight and were willing to come in. Find about 50 men & citizens at Port Orford. 25 or 30 regular troops. Today I held a council with the Indians at this place. The shief, Whiskus, says he did not suppose that he had to leave his country. That now when he knows it, it makes his heart sick.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

MAY(Continued).

Sunday 18.

The day is blustery and some rain. No tidings from Colonel Buchanan. The Volunteers had all left mouth of Rogue River. It is not deemed safe by the citizens to go below. No troops can be spared from the quarters for an escort.

Monday 19.

Remained without obtaining any information relating to whereabouts of the regular troops--all persons join in pronouncing it unsafe to attempt finding them.

Tuesday 20.

This afternoon a pack train of 200 mules with an escort of about 50 troops arrived under command of Cpt. Ord, three days from Colonel Buchanan's camp on Illinois River. They report having seen George with 75 warriors. Prospects of all coming in and making peace appears -----.

Quite a number had done so.

Wednesday 21.

The ----- does not return till Saturday. I think of going tomorrow. There is a heavy storm. A vessel has blown ashore and is a complete wreck. Here after lumber for San Francisco market.

Thursday 22.

Remained at Port Orford. Visited the ----- ranch.

Friday 23.

Today I deposited with Mr. R. Dunbar Six hundred dollars for safe keeping till my return from Rogue River.

Saturday 24.

Today at 9 A.M. we started for Colonel Buchanan's camp on Illinois River. My party consisted of N. Olney, Wm. Wright, George L. McFerson and 5 Indians. We overtook the pack train at Humbug Mountain, and then went in advance. Rained nearly all day. We crossed and encamped one mile south of ---qua Creek. A sargeant and one soldier got drunk, fell behind, and as one of my Indians was passing, leading our pack horse, these men started to shoot him. He left the pack horse in the brush and ran his horse till he overtook us, one mile in advance.

Sunday 25.

This morning we started at 8 A.M. in advance of the train. Reached Rogue River at 10 o/c, where we found 2 canoes and crossed. I sent 2 Indians down the coast with a message to Pistol River people to meet me at the Col camp, & at 12 o/c we left the beach and took the trail to Illinois River Camp. The horse that I am riding gave out, and we camped on the mountain west side of main divide, at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  P.M. The trail is muddy, but very good for a mountain trail. I ----- Olney a little q----, as he said he would risk his head where I did, but if we got through safe, it would be surprising.

Monday 26.

This morning at 7 we started. Upon saddling up, my horse was unfit for duty. I put my saddle and blankets on him, and allowed him drove by the Indians and walked ahead to the top of the mountain. This point of mountain is prominent from having numerous peaks of craggy rock looming up above the ridge, which is partially bald, quite rocky, and patches of grass. The trail is a curious one, rough and brushy. We reached Illinois River after dark. Camped one mile back but made no fire and went supperless to bed. No Indians or signs of such.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

MAY(Continued).

Tuesday 27.

This morning we started at 7. Went to the River. Found it too high to cross. Turned down and in three miles reached its mouth or junction with the Rogue River. On the north bank we found a camp of regulars. Buchanan had left the camp and formed an encampment on the mountain. ----- had gone to Big Bend to hold a talk with George and his people. The regulars put a canvas boat together to ferry us across the river. We swum our animals, and crossed at 10 o/c. The entire management to close the river had been well managed by Colonel Buchanan. All the bands with the exception of Old John's, had agreed to come in. Various reports had been circulated of the intentions of hostile parties and great efforts made to stampede the entire camp.

Wednesday 28.

This morning orders were given for Cpt. Angus to proceed with his company and open a trail up the river to Big Bend. In a few minutes after they left, the messengers sent to Cpt. Smith returned and reported that his troops were and had been engaged with Indians all night and that morning. That they had been entirely surrounded, and that he was unable to get nigher than three hundred yards of the camp. Orders were immediately given for Angus to return and take rations for two days and proceed to rescue.

Thursday 29.

Early this morning the two squaws started for George's camp, which they said was ten miles up the river. I desired them to say to George, ----, and their people that if they wanted peace, they must come and see me. That I was told they wanted peace, and was willing to go and join Sam's party; if so, to come at once, and quit fighting. That I had been told they were not in this fight. I hoped this was true. That all hostile Indians were great fools to suppose they could conquer the whites. That as Colonel Buchanan had told them, it would be so.

Friday 30.

This morning two messengers were again sent out to repeat my message to George and his people, and say to them if they did not come in today, I should return and there would be no more talk with them. In the evening these messengers returned to camp and informed us that George and his people were coming in. I at once ---- and met them one mile from camp, and accompanied them in. They were then requested to give up their arms as an assurance of friendship. They cheerfully complied and brought forward 14 rifles and 6 revolvers.

Saturday 31.

This morning I sent out two messengers to Indians. They had proceeded but a short distance when they discovered a party of volunteers coming down the river, which alarmed them and they returned. A detachment of troops was then sent with them to the point where one was to cross the river, and escort back several Indians said to be near that point, wishing to come in. The messengers then left them and the troops returned to camp. The party of Indians could not be found, and the messenger to cow---- met the volunteers and again returned. These volunteers ----

JUNE.

Sunday 1.

This morning the volunteers returned. The same messengers were again sent out, and in the evening I went out, accompanied by an Indian, but soon came upon a party of volunteers hunting Indians. This ----- all hope of finding those wishing to come in, and we returned to camp. I then addressed a letter to Major Latshaw, requesting him to turn over to me the Indian Women and children retained by them as prisoners, and assigning reasons for the same. The men from his camp returned at night, carrying this letter. Today I learned that the ----Indians----

Monday 2.

This morning an Indian came opposite our camp and commenced haranguing the village inside the sentinels. It proved to be Regota, who desired to come in, with his people, but had been held back by the constant firing of volunteers. The Indian afterwards swam the river, approached a party of squaws hunting roots, and then returned for his people. Three men from the Cow Creek band came in this morning. Two of them were sent back at







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JUNE(Continued).

Monday 2 (Continued).

after the chief and his people, promising to return tomorrow. Mr. Olney visited the Volunteer camp and brought back a negative answer to my request asking the delivery of prisoners.

Tuesday 3.

This morning two messengers were sent by the volunteer company to Major Latshaw's command; but in about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles they saw a party of Indians appearing hostile, flanking out to cut off their passage, having guns. They hurried back, and the company was immediately ----- and proceeded up the river. The Colonel ordered one of his company to follow and support this command, and at 11 A.M. they were on the march. Mr. Wright went out as messenger. In the afternoon, I took a man and followed ----- miles, where I met the troops returning. The Indians had fled. I then returned on other trail, but saw no Indians.

Wednesday 4.

This morning I ---- to command of 20 men. Took 5 Indians and proceeded up the river. At 3 miles the troops halted & I went 2 miles further with the Indians, when one swam across the river in search of 2 canoes that were seen Saturday. They had been taken during the night. No trail could be found and no means for crossing the messengers. We then returned to camp. Learning the Galease --- Applegates were encamp south of a mountain bordering the south bank of this river, and distant some ten or fifteen miles, I requested Colonel Buchanan to have his boat put up so as to cross.

Thursday 5.

Today one of the messengers sent out ten days since returned with a small boy, son of the Cow Creek chief. He reported the chief and one man and three women as coming in. At 10 A.M. they arrived in camp with three children. This closes the entire band of Cow Creeks, but there are 4 other Umpquas still out. There are now in camp 206 souls, 55% of whom are warriors. A command of 2 companies were ordered today with one company of volunteers to proceed down the river and disarm the lower bands. They left at 9 A.M.

Friday 6.

Early this morning two messengers arrived from Port Orford, bringing intelligence that the Pistol River Indians taken a few days since had made their escape; that Rinearson with horses had arrived. One of the Umpqua Indians appeared on the mountain and desired a talk. I took George Quintusou and met him at the foot of the mountain. He was a messenger for four other Umpqua Indians, with their women, who desired to come in. He accompanied us to camp to procure food for himself, and a little to take to his people. He then returned and is expected in tomorrow. About noon Sambo and Charley -----

Saturday 7.

Still raining. Today 2 Cow Creek's came in, but left their women in the mountains. Messengers were sent for them. A company of Volunteers under Genl. Lamenic(?) came from the Meadows, arriving in camp at 4 P.M. With them was Mr. Metcalf, Davidson and 2 Indians from the reservation. The women and children taken prisoners by them were also turned over to Metcalf by order of Genl. Lamenich, and were brought along. There is no intelligence from the Indians expected from the South side of the river. Mr. Tichens(?) left for Port Orford.

Sunday 8.

Today 4 men 12 women and 10 children of the Gallers Creek band came in, bringing with them three guns. They report Old John as being about 10 or 12 miles from us with about 20 warriors. That 4 or 5 men will be in tomorrow. Colonel B. sent detachment of troops to the mouth of Illinois River, and with them went 20 Indians to bring up canoes to transport his wounded men.







Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

JUNE(Continued).

Monday 9.

Today a number of Indians came in. Among the number, the chief of Inttusteres(?), or Galese Creek Indians. Gen'l. Lameniche command, which had been left at ----- arrived. Wounded men started down in canoes.

Tuesday 10.

Today the entire encampment took up its line of march. Accompanied with Indians I went to Capt. Angur(?) camp, where I found the lower tribes collecting. Col. B. campd 10 miles in our rear.

Wednesday 11.

Col. B. command came up. We learned that John's party were on the river near us. Sent a message to us for a talk. We sent Bill and a Gollers Creek Indian. The Indians continued coming in. John's three sons came to our camp.

Thursday 12.

This morning John's sons returned to John's camp, 3 miles below, and then to ---- camp, up Illinois River. They will try and prevail upon the entire party to come in, but should the camp ----, they will come in. A census shows 431 Indians at Cpt. Augur's (?) camp. The command was ordered to join Col. B's camp, which was done, and there had over 700 Indians, together.

Friday 13.

Today I took George, Sambo, and one of Io--- people, and with my party returned to Port Orford, but the horses were too much reduced to reach that point. We campd at the ---- Brett ranch. On the way met a messenger with letters and papers from home.

Saturday 14.

This morning we reached Port Orford, where we found all things quiet, so far as Indians are concerned. There had been great excitement. Families had been in the habit of lodging in the citizens' fort, and guard kept round the town. But the circumstances were not such as to justify such wild excitement. It has been generally induced by a set of grog shop dealers and squaw men.

Sunday 15.

Today I returned and met Col. B's train, and at 4 P.M. all arrived in camp on the military reservation. Port Orford Indians all agreed to go quietly to the reservation, and with the exception of the Upper Coquilles, would go by steamer. Joshua ---- band of ----- would do the same. News came this evening that 200 Indians had arrived at the mouth of Rogue River, and were in the custody of Major Reynolds.

Monday 16.

Today I held a council with the Port Orford Indians. A good deal of dissatisfaction is expressed by the Indians just come in, on account of camp ground and attendance upon the sick and proper distribution of the rations. But as they are held as prisoners of war, I am unable to remedy it.

Tuesday 17.

Nothing occurring worthy of notice.

Wednesday 18.

Today we received intelligence that an additional number of Indians had come in at the mouth of Rogue River.

Thursday 19.

The day has been spent in counseling with the Indians, in which many of them agreed to go by steamer. In the evening, a rumot gained circulation that a plan was on foot to murder all my men, then the soldiers, and then attack the town. This became so general, that I deemed it best to take charge of the chiefs and keep them in custody till morning.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

## JUNE (Continued).

Friday 20.

The chiefs were liberated early this morning, and I went with them to their camp. Their whole deportment indicated that the reports were groundless. I spent the greater part of the day in their camps. Great excitement among the people. It appears the business of many persons to cause alarm in order to retain the people in town.

Saturday 21.

Last night the steamer Columbia (arrived?) at about 12 or 1. I visited the Indian camps so as to have them in readiness, and by 9 A.M. about 600 were on board. A convoy of troops were sent down, which delayed us until eleven oc. The Indians comprise portions of nearly all the tribes in South Oregon, but chiefly those friendly ones who have been, during the war, camped at Port Orford. Many were sick. They are very much crowded on the forward deck.

Sunday 22.

Today we crossed the bar at about 6 P.M. The passage has been rather rough. The Indians suffered on account of sea sickness and being crowded up, and for want of proper covering and diet.

Monday 23.

This morning at about 9 A.M. we reached -----, where we were detained about 2 hours. Paid for transferring baggage at Portland 1.00. Paid Blanchard 200\$. He pays Chamberlin. Paid Blanchard 100.

Thursday 26.

Paid Sambo an Indian 5.00.

## JULY.

Monday 7.

This morning the arrangements being ready, the Indian camp took up the line of march to the -----. Directions were given to take the road by Nisebos(?) Mill, and a person sent ahead as guide. But by design of teamsters and conductors, or some other cause, the train got separated. Twelve wagons taking the Cummegees (Comegys?) road, as also about one third of the Indians. The result was that most of the Indians were without blankets and cooking fixtures, nor could we obtain beef for supper, but used flour alone.

Tuesday 8.

This morning beef was slaughtered. 700 lbs. distributed to Indians. At 8 A.M. the train started on. The day was warm. We made crossing of Willamina.

Pd. Lady 3 m 3 hrs. 2.75

Friday 11.

Paid ferriage over Yamhill	.25
" " " Tuality	25
" dinner at Portland	50
" horsefeed	50
" ferriage over Willamette	
at Portland	25
" toll on Clackamas	20

Tuesday 15.

Today goods designed for the coast band of Indians arrived, but not in time to do anything towards giving them out. We commenced separating them.

Wednesday 16.

Today we commenced the distribution of goods, but did not complete it. Adesire to obtain an accurate enumeration of the different bands, rendered it slow and tedious paying out the goods. One object was to ascertain the relative strength of the bands compared to the last census.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

JULY(Continued).

Thursday 17.

Today we completed the distribution of goods, but not in time to start the train, although several teams were in readiness.

Friday 18.

This day the entire encampment started for the Grand Ronde. The teams reached & encampd at Mr. Comegus (Comegys) I passed on to Grand Ronde, reaching it at dark.

Saturday 19.

The day was spent in traveling over the farms, giving instructions what to do & settling difficulties with Indians, examining Mill frame, point of erecting mill dam, saw mill, &c.

Sunday 20.

Today the Indians arrived at Grand Ronde. Having rained during the night and nearly all day, and they mostly without tents, they suffered a good deal. All, however, appeared cheerful. One birth and one death on the road.

Monday 21.

All matters being in readiness, with Lieut. Sheridan, John Flett, and 12 Indians, I started for the coast over the ----- road, designing to travel down the coast as far as Yo-quo-nah, and then across the mountain to the head of Celetz River, and thence to King's Valley and home. We left Grand Ronde 11½ A.M., and reached the coast at 6 P.M. Rained all day. Met returning teams from coast.

Tuesday 22.

Paid .50 for canoeman. The day is rainy. Spent the early part of the day in exploring a road and examining the entrance to Salmon River. On the afternoon started for and reached Celetz River. We were joined by 3 Indians and one squaw. Could not cross. Camped for the night, and as it is difficult crossing, we will be compelled to remain until tomorrow at 10 A.M., low water.

Paid two Indians for canoe	1.00
" " " " crossing baggage	1.25

Wednesday 23.

The morning is pleasant. The tide turned at sunrise, and when going out is very ----- . We find here 3 lodges of Indians, 6 men 5 women and 7 children. At 7 A.M. accompanied by Lieut. Sheridan, I found a canoe and two Indians and traveled about 4 miles up the Celetz River. Bottoms low and too wet to cultivate, as far as we went. ----- for grazing in summer. Returning to upper end of bay, we left canoe and crossed the sand ridge to the beach, and traveled down the coast 4 miles, where we overtook the party and traveled within 4 miles of Yoquna Bay and campd. At this point headlands make small bays, suitable for anchorage and discharge of freight from vessels.

Thursday 24.

This morning we packed up and proceeded to the bay, where we found one lodge of Indians. Saw others on the opposite side. We learned that an agent had been ----- several days on the opposite side of the bay, but had gone. Supposed to be E. P. Drew. I left here with Indian Jake a fine sein for the use of those Indians and packing parties, and also a letter for packers and then proceeded to Seletz River, which we reached at a distance of about 15 miles over a brushy but very good trail.

Friday 25.

Today we swum our horses across Celetz River and with punchens from an Indian lodge, we constructed a raft and crossed. On the north side of this river is a brush prairie of about 1500 acres. Several prairies passed along the trail. We went up the river for about 9 miles. A --- of prairies, surrounded by mountains, well adapted for settling. Here will doubtless be amilitary post.

Saturday 26.

After examining the prairie which extend up the river over 2 miles, Lieut. and myself were on the trail at half past 8 A.M. Having been







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

JULY(Continued).

Saturday 26(Continued).

preceded by the balance of the party, we rode until half past 5 P.M. quite steadily, making, we suppose, about 18 miles. The trail now runs a part of the way over a high ridge, but may, I think, be opened up the ----- fork of the river. We followed to nearly the head of this fork, then passed over the divide to Yoquona and thence up a hill and struck the waters of Marys River. Our course has been nearly east. This route may be made a good wagon road.

Sunday 27.

This morning we started early. 6 miles we reached King's Valley, on the south fork of the Luckemuke. Here we met Capt. Augur & Company, remaining 2 hours, then left. Proceeded to Dallas, where the party encamped, and I went home, reaching Dayton at one oc at night.

Tuesday 29.

Paid Warchino 4.50

Thursday 31.

In this month there has been given to Indian 75 meals.  
Given to employees, teamsters, interpreters, &c. 62 meals.

AUGUST.

Thursday 7.

Paid ferry at Dayton for self, Metcalf, and ---- .75  
Ferry at Tuality .25

Friday 8.

Draft Ivison & Phinney at sight for 700\$ No. 40.  
J. C. A----tt 716-69/100 No. 39.

Saturday 9.

Remained at Portland.

Monday 11.

Remained at Portland till 2 P.M.

Thursday 14.

There has been given to Indians this month 68 meals & to employees 27 meals.

Friday 15.

Having received notice by mail on the 11th by letter of Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the appointment of A. Hedges to the office of Supt. Ind. Affairs, this day I close my official duties and turn over to Mr. Hedges the public property.

Saturday 16.

Today Mr. Hedges assumed the duties of Superintendent Ind. Affairs. Desiring me to accompany him to the Grand Ronde, I left home to introduce him to his new field of labor.

Sunday 17.

Today we were at the camp, visiting the Indians in their lodges. Had an interview with Old John. In the afternoon attended preaching at the school house.

Monday 18.

Today we held a council with the Rogue Rivers, So--s, Ca--tos, &c. They express a decided disapproval of the changes in affairs, and a determination to move to other locations.

Tuesday 19.

Today we returned to Dayton, reaching it at night. Mr. Hedges wishes me to settle with Mr. Flett & Wright and charge him the amount. Paid for 3 meals & horse feed 2.25.







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

August (Continued).

Wednesday 20.

Settled with Mr. Flett. Was in office attending to unsettled business, of which there is very much to do yet.

Thursday 21.

In office.

Friday 22.

In office.

Saturday 23.

Having a quantity of articles belonging to the Superintendency at ---- and Portland, and a few unsettled accounts at Oregon City and Portland, I started down today to turn property over to Hedges and close up accounts. Reached Champoege after dark.

Sunday 24.

Paid for supper &amp; lodging .75.

Paid for passage Steamer Hoosier from Dayton to Canema 2.00

Monday 25.

Paid bill at Oregon City 1.25.

" for dinner at Portland 1.00

Passage on Guy Clark from Oregon City to Portland 1.00

Passage on row boat Clackamas rapids 1.00

Loaned to C. D. Blanchard 60\$.

Tuesday 26.

Remained at Oregon City.

Wednesday 27.

Paid bill at Oregon House 3.50.

The following noted appear in the front of the diary.

2 horses killed in breaking on 3d July, 1855.

One horse strayed in Jany. 1855.

One " broke loose from Flett.

One " gave out on trip from coast --left.

One pack horse sent from Coquille to Too--- chief.

2 horses to Wapatos to Kin--- &amp; Old six.

One horse at Parrishes.

One mule injured so as to render his ---- to be receipted for by Raymond.

2 strayed in the summer of 1854.

2 that strayed from band brought from -----

One horse with Rinearson.

Two mules with Rinearson.

3 horses here.

2 died at Umpqua in Jany.

Mr. Lippencott sends in Samuel Williams ten Dollars to cash Jany. 8, 1857.

The following notes appear in the back of diary.

Pay to Ben Wright for receipts signed

1790.06 Jany. 25, 1856.

1300.

490.06

Paid 1300.

Census of Indians at Olney's camp, Jany. 2, 1856.

Men and boys	
over 12 years	93
Women & girls	122
Boys under 12	62
Girls " "	26
Total	<u>303</u>







## Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

Notes in back of book(Continued).  
 Census of Indians(Continued).

## Clameths

Males over 12	7
Females " "	12
Males Under 12	5
Females 00	
	<u>24</u>

## Tihs

Men	5
Females	5
Males under 12	1
	<u>11</u>

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Wascoes	138	179	48	38	403
Dog Rivers	48	57	9	17	131

Indians removed to Reservation April 3d, 1856, total 872.

Clackamas	22	30	12	8	72
Wallalla					
band of ---	14	18	11	8	51
Cloewalla					
band of ----	12	9	4	2	27
Clameth	42	64	14	17	137
Thomas					
(remnants)	10	14	7	3	34

One yoke of oxen given to the Clowe Walla band of Indians not receipted for.  
 4 yoke oxen 1 wagon 7 horses 2 plows 1 fanning mill wheat oats  
 April memorandum of articles to be bought at Portland for reservation.

May 17, 1856.

Mr. Chance was appointed local agent by Ben Wright on the 5th day of November, 1855, and served until the 9th of April, inclusive, and he alleges that Wright agreed to pay 4\$ per day for said service.

May 23.

Mr. Dyer informs me that he signed a voucher for Mr. Parrish for amount alleged to have been paid for blankets which were not purchased, but alleged to be in his possession, and which he ---- to put into the Indian Department. Mr. Dyer thinks it was included in a voucher with bill of shirts.

List of goods to be paid Indians upon their arrival at the Grand Ronde encampment, who have not been previously paid.

## Principle Chiefs.

1--3 point Mack--- blanket  
 1 Blue cloth coat  
 1 " " pants  
 1 hat  
 1 Flannel Shirt  
 1 White Shirt  
 1 Pair shoes  
 1 Pair half shoes  
 1/4 Yds. scarlet cloth  
 1 Plug Tobacco  
 1 Pipe and stem

## To be given women.

One 2 1/2 Point blanket  
 6 yds. linsey  
 7 " prints  
 3 " shirting  
 1 Pair shoes  
 1 " half shoes  
 1/8 Thread

## To the men generally.

1--3 point blanket  
 1 pair satinet pants  
 1 flannel shirt  
 1 hickory shirt  
 one hat  
 one pair shoes  
 one " half shoes  
 3/4 yds. scarlet cloth  
 One pipe and stem  
 One plug tobacco

Boys of 5 & Upwards  
 Jeans or denim for pants  
 One hickory shirt  
 3 yds. shirting  
 Thread for making

Girls of 5 & Upwards  
 Calico for dress  
 3 yds shirting  
 Flannels for Undergarment  
 Thread for making.







Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

Notes in back of Book (Continued).

List of goods to be paid Indians upon their arrival at Grand Ronde(Continued)

For children under 5 years.

Flannel for dress and

5 yds. Shirting, if girls and

denim for pants, if boys

with 3 yds. shirting

Thread for making.

Drafts drawn.

No. 13, Feb. 21st for \$500.00, at sight, payable to order of C.D. Blanchard.

No. 14, Feb. 22, for 1,000.00, payable to order of J.B.P. Piette.

Mr. Abram Roby lives below Vancouver, owes Io---on Joseph twenty dollars borrowed money.

Wm. M. Pitman 38 651-75/100 August 5, 1856.

Memorandum of amounts settled with Snow & Co., and for which a draft on Departmant was given March 10/56.

Cash on order to Cyrus Jacobs	350.73
Cash on order to Jos. Jeffers	50.00
Amount of 100 tents at 5.05	505.00
" " Desk for office	52.50
	<u>957.23</u>

Paid Oregon Weekly Times for publicity notice \$67.50

Engaged for service on the Wasco Reservation Reynolds ----- at usual rate, 8.00 per day.

Porter Holdredge at ----- month.

James Carter

George W. Carson paid me 30\$ for a mare left at his house.

Lack-pasa has a trunk at Palmer's store Cascades, filled with beads one coat, pants, &c.

Pah-ham-o-ta, Son of Kas a ken Staweeek, or Bill, formerly lived at Cascades, had a brother killed at that place, wishes the brother's widow and children, 6 horses and one colt brought to the reservation

Name of Brother \_\_\_\_\_

Received on Staples	1000.00
" from Snow	3000.00
" on Staples draft	3000.00

Paid on acct of construction of Boat to John Hopper for articles brot by steamer \$17.85--to Dunbar

Meals given to Indians

April, gave 26 meals to Rogue River Inds.

To Wapato

" Calapooia Chiefs

" Umpqua

26

1

6

20 53

The notorious Eneas had been in the friendly camp 6 miles below, sowing seeds of discord and ----- to induce those Indians to break their word given for peace, and stating that Old John had 100 warriors united with him to carry on the war, when Col. Buchanan avers he has not more than 45. The Colonel states that he shall consider all the Indians coming in and delivering themselves up as prisoners of war until they reach the reservation, but will expect the Indian Department to foot the bills in removing them thereto. This arrangement will relieve me from the necessity of remaining in the country, and the annoyance of their removal. I make a proposition to the Colonel that he will take the entire management of the removal of all Indians from the district to the Reservation, and that the Commissioner be requested to transfer the expense to this department, as the matter is by mutual consent, that the management of their removal is given to the military department.







Notes in back of Book(Continued).

(Battle of the Meadows).

Big Bend(?)

In the evening a messenger from Capt. Smith, at Big Bend, 7 miles above this, came with the intelligence that John's band, --- and others were designing to attack them. This message reached Col. Buchanan at his camp, 4 miles north of this, and he sent the messenger back, and returned with his command to the river, having sent orders to Major Reynolds to join him with his company at this place. ----- Capt. Smith's command. I resolved to accompany this company, and accordingly took Olney and Wm. Wright and at one P.M. proceeded on foot and overtook Augur's company & traveled with them. Upon reaching the prairie at about 3½ or 4 P.M., we found the adjacent hills covered with Indians. Capt Smith had formed an encampment on the top of a hill, where he had thrown up a little breast work and sunk pits. He was entirely surrounded by Indians.

The hill was sparsely covered with timber, and the Indians would crawl up within a few yards of the camp and fire, unseen, upon such of the troops as were uncovered. They had made numerous charges to within 30 yards of the breastwork. They generally showed a determination to conquer at all hazards. The men had been kept constantly on duty 36 hours, and without water the last 12 hours. 7 men had been killed, and 17 wounded. Their situation was such that they were unable to retreat and carry their disabled men.

On reaching the prairie bottom, and before we knew the position of Capt. Smith, the Indians were seen running to the river bank at the upper end of the prairie. Orders were given to charge in that direction. The bottom is about one mile long, and exhausted as the men were, it was some time before the troops could be in range of the Indians. The larger proportion of the first seen proved to be women, who ran to the river, took canoes and crossed. A few shots were fired at them, but at too great a distance for effect.

The warriors had concentrated on the hills screened by trees and the crests of the several ridges. A few shots were fired by them at us, whilst in the bottom, but without effect. Orders were given to charge up the hill, which was done, and all Indians driven from their position, fleeing to the higher ridges, impractical to be approached by the exhausted men. In the several charges made in routing them from the hills, Cpt. Augur had 2 men killed and three wounded. In the meantime, as the charge was made up the hill by our men, Capt. Smith and those with him charged those in the rear of his camp and the rout became general, and a junction formed of the commands. The killed and wounded were gathered up and all proceeded to the encampment, and the entire command moved from this camp to the center of the bottom prairie, where we camped for the night.

On leaving the field, the Indians were seen collecting on the slope of the mountain above the upper end of the bottom. The scattering parties were called in, as there were persons calling with a loud voice, and Indians seen at that point. A few shots were fired on both sides, but no harm done to our camp.

Sentinels were posted and the men proceeded to cook a meal, a luxury which they had been denied for nearly 36 hours. No Indians were seen during the night, and the camp rested quiet. The wounded suffered for need of proper means to provide for them. Several are dangerously wounded. Three young Indians belonging to George's band have been engaged with the troops and fought bravely. 2 squaws, Eliza's daughters, but married to Clameth men, had been in the camp since the commencement of the fight. In the evening, I had a talk with them, and in the morning, intend sending by them a message to George.

Strictly adhered to, that so far as John's party was concerned, I had little to say to them. They had thrown away my words, and they must now obey Col. Buchanan, and my advice was that they had better stop fighting







Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1856.

Notes in back of Book (Continued).

and listen to his talk. If they wanted to fight, they would soon get enough of it.

About noon, the two women and another and a boy on horseback came into camp, informing us that the Volunteers had attackt George's band at or near the Meadows, killing George, Jo Lane, and the Galeose Creek chief, and a good many women and children, and taken prisoners all their families. Limpy and most of the men were at the Big Bend, but insist they had no hand in the fight. Limpy sent word that he wanted me to come up, and stop the Volunteers from killing their people, and they would quit. The messenger boy named Tom stated that they now had no chief, and it was likely they would all join the war party; that if I went up, no one would hurt me. But, doubting their sincerity, I chose to avoid giving them an opportunity to take my life in exchange for their chief's. But sent Limpy word that if they desired peace, to come to our camp today, with all their people and arms, and deliver the latter up to us. That they would be protected and fed, and as soon as the war was closed, go to the Northern end of the Reservation. That if they came in today, we would know them friends; but if not, we should regard them as enemies.

The messenger inquired whether the ----- might come. I stated they had thrown away my words, and I had no talk from them. But they must hope to our ----- chief. If he said they could come, it was good, and what he promised them it would be fulfilled.

No other Indians were seen. The women and boy say it is very likely they will go and fight the Volunteers at the Meadows. They don't know where the lower ---- have gone. They may have gone down river. My fears are that they have gone below to attack the pack train expected up with supplies. In the evening, Jo Lane and Tom returned, informing us that George and Jo Lane and Galeose Creek chief were not killed as supposed, but they were attacked and the latter taken prisoner, together with 8 women and 2 children. That George and Jo Lane had swum ---- (Seven pages of notes partially torn away).



