

This is a true copy of the pocket diary of Joel Palmer for the year 1854, from 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 was made June 12, 1939, by Gertrude Sarah 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. The American home was 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, 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, 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 been given to the town of Dayton.

COPY OF POCKET DIARY FOR THE YEAR 1854.

February.

Tuesday 28.

This day at 11 A.M. started for Portland to purchase goods suitable for Indians--to be used in negotiating treaty with the tribes in Port Orford District; and as no funds are on hand, we shall be compelled to purchase on credit. Arrived at Oregon City at 8 P.M.

March.

Wednesday 1.

This day left Oregon City on Steamer Bell. Arrived at Portland 10 A.M. where I mailed the following letters--2 to Gen'l Lane, 4 to Commissioner of Ind. Affairs; then proceeded to examine stocks of goods suitable for the Port Orford Indians. But few merchants could be found willing to sell on time, and no purchases were made.

Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the year 1854.

March (Continued)

Thursday 2.

This morning proceeded to examine stocks of goods. Made an arrangement with P. Raleigh for such articles as were deemed necessary, for which he is to await the transmission of funds from Washington City--Goods to be shipt to Port Orford on Steamer Petonia on her next trip--to Joel Palmer, Supt. The care of F. M. Smith, sub-Indian Agent. Returned to Oregon City on Steamer Bell.

July.

Saturday 1.

This morning, soon after daylight, upon getting up, we discovered 4 Indians near our camp, watching our movements. I sent my interpreter to invite them into camp, but they could not be induced to approach us. When we were about to leave, they ventured up. I gave them each a shirt and a fish hook and line. Country along the coast barren. About 20 or 30 Indians reside around Winchester Bay. We camped ten miles north of Umpqua on Moss Creek, one mile from beach.

Sunday 2.

As on yesterday, sand hills extend from two to 4 miles from the shore. After traveling some ten miles, I sent Mr. Flett ----- from the beach towards the timber looking for the camp of Indians. He soon returned with the requisite information, when we left the beach and struck ----- River, 3 miles above the mouth and followed up 2 miles and crossed.

August.

Friday 4.

The absence of an agent that could be assigned to duty in Middle Oregon, and the thieving propensities of the Indians residing about Clameth Lake, as well as a desire to obtain more accurate knowledge of the country between the Dalls of the Columbia and the Southern Oregon Road, previous to making my annual report, induced me to take a tour through that portion of the country. I accordingly made an arrangement with a Clameth Chief, whom I found at Oregon City, to collect his people at Clameth Lake, where I would meet them in council. With this object, I gave him a pipe and tobacco, and sent him to that point.

The business which had accumulated in the office during my absence detained me longer than I had intended.

The portion of the country to be explored being but seldom visited by whites and but little known as to the number of the Indians, I deemed it unsafe to travel with a party of less than 8 persons.

This day we left Dayton. Three of the government animals were so reduced and lamed in the trip from Port Orford as to be unable to perform the required service, and as none others could be purchased at reasonable rates, I hired three horses. My own riding animal was stolen or strayed, and I was compelled to ride one of the hired animals. We reached Oregon City.

Saturday 5.

At Oregon City we completed our outfit, and late in the day, we left and traveled eight miles to John Foster's, where we camped. As the grazing was poor, we purchased oats for our animals. Our party consists of Cris Taylor, John Flett, Wm. T. Cross, Martin H. McCain, Barney Buffim, Charles Charlton, Solomon Tise, and self.

Sunday 6.

Today we started at an early hour; 5 miles brought us to Philip Foster's, where we took the mountain road leading to the Dalls. We traveled about thirty miles; at the second crossing of the Sandy, we met 5 or 6 emigrant wagons, and a drove of cattle, being the first arrival of teams from Illinois and Mo. this season. They report it generally healthy on the road; their teams look jaded, but appeared in good heart.

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August (Continued)

Monday 7.

This day at 7 A.M. we started. Ascended the stream to the mountain and climbed Laurel Hill and traveled to the Summit Prairie, being about 13 or 14 miles. The party who we expected to meet at this point for the purpose of ascending Mount Hood had left the preceding day. The grass in this prairie is of poor quality, and there are numerous mire holes into which animals may tumble.

Tuesday 8.

Today traveled to Barlow Gate, a distance of about 35 miles. The grass has been much burned, but a sufficient quantity is left to subsist our animals. Here we found a party of packers on their return from Grand Rond, where they had taken supplies for use in a trading post for emigrants.

Wednesday 9.

This morning I sent a messenger to the Tih village, distant 10 or twelve miles, to procure an Indian who is acquainted with the trail to Clameth Lake. We turned to the right, intending to strike the trail at the base of a high ridge bounding the Hot Springs Valley on the north. After 3 miles travel, further progress was cut off by a deep ravine, running from mountain to the Tih. We were compelled to return and follow the road to Tih, and then down below mouth ----- and take the old trail. We reached Tih at 4½ P.M. & camped.

Thursday 10.

This morning our animals could not be found till a late hour, and we could only travel about 3 miles, as our next day's drive is a long one without water. We desired a guide on account of these long, dry reaches, but had some difficulty in procuring one, as they wished to drive a hard bargain. We finally obtained one--named Cup-up.

Friday 11.

This morning at 5 o/c we were on the road; ascended the bluff and traveled over a high, stony plain in a southerly direction for 14 or 15 miles, which brought us to the foot of the ridge mentioned on the 9th. Here we found a little water in a pool. We then followed through the gap over a very stony trail four miles, which brought us to a small valley where we found springs of water. We halted 2½ hours, and then traveled over an undulating country for about 14 miles and descended to a deep ravine, where we camped at half past 5.

Saturday 12.

This day we started at 7 A.M. and traveled about 20 miles over a broken country, crossing three streams putting down from the mountain through deep ravines. The country is stony and broken in the extreme, the coated with bunch grass. Occasionally there is a good-looking tract of land. We passed some hot springs, near the margin of a stream 20 yds. wide. This was in the Hot Springs Valley, the head of which presents some fertile country.

Sunday 13.

Today we started at 7. Ascended the bluff and traveled over a rolling plain for 6 or 8 miles, then down a stony bluff about one mile to one of the main branches of Deshoots River, then up about 3 miles and crossed. One trail crosses half a mile below. The upper is the better. This stream is 100 yds. in width, very rapid and cold. This undoubtedly comes from Mt. Jefferson.

Monday 14.

Today we left camp at 6 A.M. and ascended the mountain for 1½ miles. Scattered timber with bunch grass for 4 miles, which brought us to the top of a ridge, at the summit of which, to the left of the road is a marsh, or lake. 15 miles from there, we struck a branch of Shoots, where we halted 2 hours, then crossed and traveled about 15 miles over a sage plain, through timber of yellow pine & scrubby cedar or juniper. Bunch grass as usual.

Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1854.

August (Continued)

Tuesday 15.

Today we started at 7--course east of south through timber for 5 miles, when we struck a rapid branch of 12 or 15 yds. in width; there turned Southeast for about 4 miles to Deshoots River, which is here over 100 yds. in width, and averaging about five feet in depth. Crossed up one mile, where we left the river. The banks are low and along the margin afford good soil and grass, but a little back, sandy and too poor to cultivate; here we struck the wagon road and traveled about 20 miles, when again struck the river and camped,

Wednesday 16.

This day we followed up the river about 20 miles, and as our trail here left the river for some distance, we camped about 5 miles above last night's camp. The river forked; we followed up the eastern branch, which is the smaller of the two. The bottom along this stream at some points is several miles wide and is of rich soil.

Thursday 17.

This morning at 7½ A.M. we were on the trail and traveled over twenty miles, when we again struck the creek on which we were camped last night. An arm of the prairie which we followed near its margin, extends some 8 or 10 miles, averaging about a half mile in width, coated with excellent grass. We then struck a sandy ----- country, and followed over undulating ground, to camp. No grass or water in the timber. 4 miles -----we found a little water. Saw an antelope.

Friday 18.

The night has been cold and the morning frosty. We started 6½ o'clock. Left the creek and took a southerly direction over a timbered, sandy country for forty miles, which brought us to Clameth Lake bottom. At the distance of 20 miles, we found a little water in pools to the right of the road, with a little grass. 6 miles farther, we found good running water, but continued on to camp. The country over which we passed is rolling, and but for the timber, would be equal to the deserts of Arabia. Abundant signs of antelope.

Saturday 19.

This day we sent messengers to the different villages of Clameths and the adjacent Modocks, informing them of my arrival, and desiring them to meet me in council on Monday. By one P.M. about thirty men and 8 women had arrived. We met here Willeptaleki, a ----- chief, who resides on the Taik, on his way home from -----.

Sunday 20.

This day at 8½ A.M. I started with my interpreter, the head chief and our Deshoots guide to make the circuit of Clameth Lake. We traveled in a southern direction for about 10 miles, then turned easterly. Crossed the lake, which here narrows down to about 200 yds. in width, (there) being a small island, in the center of which Indians formerly lived. The water swam our smallest horses.

Monday 21.

Today the Indians assembled in council, and, after explaining to them the objects of my mission and our determination to punish those who committed acts of violence and theft against our people, and listening to their replies and promises of good conduct, I made them a few presents, and the council broke up with an apparent good feeling. A few men and women (stayed?) in camp to spend the night with us.

Tuesday 22.

This morning is rainy; several showers through the night, with thunder and lightning. Our Indian friends, as well as those of our own party, have spent an uncomfortable night. The half-----children stand shivering around the fire. At 10 o'clock it cleared off, and we made about 15 miles on our homeward journey; we camped on a small creek with very good grass.

Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1854.

August (continued)

Wednesday 23.

This morning is rainy. We started at 8½ o'clock A.M. 6 miles from camp we left the Dalls trail and struck for the gap through which the new wagon road passes. Following an old trail 4 or 5 miles, we struck a spring branch which runs a short distance and then sinks. 7 miles brought us to a fork which runs a short distance and then sinks. 7 miles brought us to a fork of Shoots River, heading in the Cascade Mountains. This (river?) does not, as has been supposed, take its waters from Clameth Lake-3 miles.

Thursday 24.

This morning was quite frosty. We started at 7 and took the wagon road over the mountain. 12 miles brought us to the summit, and 16 to an opening in the timber with a small branch, where we camped. A lake one mile from the road and three from the Shoots camp, I found about 6 miles long and 2½ wide; clear, but not very cold, surrounded with spruce timber, at the head of which stands a snow butte. The gap through which we pass is immediately south.

Friday 25.

We left camp at 7. Traveled till one & halted to bait our animals on rushes. The road follows down the river, crossing and recrossing 9 times within the last 12 miles. We made about 18 miles, always through timber, the mountains either side much broken; the bottoms narrow, affording but little grass. In the afternoon, we traveled about 12 miles, passing three small prairies. Very good claims may be taken.

Saturday 26.

We left camp at 7½. On our way we passed 5 emigrant waggons from Iowa. Last night it rained nearly all night, with thunder and lightning. We traveled 30 miles--27 brought us to the settlement. For the last few miles the bottoms became wider. One body of several thousand acres of upland bottom, but covered with scattering timber, appears very rich and would produce well.

Sunday 27.

Today we traveled about 20 miles, reaching Spores(?) ferry. On the way I halted during a heavy shower of rain, the party going on. On starting, we took the road to the ferry, and found the party had not crossed the river. We tarried for the night; they did not come up. It has rained all day. A few of the Cha--ers band of Calapooia Indians visited me. I gave Mr. Spores ----to supply Indians when necessary.

Monday 28.

This day it rained till 3 P.M., when we started and traveled 12 miles to Mr. Fountain's. Soon after starting it commenced raining, and continued till after dark. Our party did not come up. I noticed a large proportion of wheat standing in the shock that must be much injured by the continued heavy rains. Traveling bad.

Tuesday 29.

The morning is clere. We traveled about 40 miles, reaching the Luckamuke at sunset. Put up at Mr. Davidson's--crossed the Willamette River at Albany.

Wednesday 30.

This morning is foggy--we traveled 32 miles & reached home at 3 P.M.

December.

Tuesday 5.

Today, after perfecting arrangements and purchasing goods to send-----to Rogue River Indians, as per agreement, and leaving Mr. Geary the loading, and arrangement of teams with Cris Taylor, I started on my way to Salem. Reached Mr. Reed's and put up for the night.

Pocket Diary of Joel Palmer for the Year 1854.

December(Continued)

Thursday 7.

This day is rainy. We reached Salem at 3 P.M. Made arrangements with Mr. Grover for publication of commissions, notice, &c.

Friday 8.

Today at 5 P.M. reached home--and in the evening examined the correspondence which had accumulated in the office during my absence.

Saturday 9.

This day was spent in answering letters.

Sunday 10.

This day was spent in writing letters.

Monday 11.

This day has been spent in examining accounts.

Friday 15.

This morning at 11 A.M. started on steamer Hoosier for Portland, in order to get draft of Six thousand Dollars cashed, and to get notices assembling of the Board of Commissioners appointed to audit indemnity claims in Rogue River Valley printed.

Friday 22.

This day I have written a letter ----a report of the ----case, and giving reasons for my action thereon.

Sunday 31.

Total amount of ---- salary, office and incidental expense for quarter ending 30 September, 1853-

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| original | 768.87 |
| Deduct | 116.59 |
| | <u>\$652.28</u> |

Quarter ending December 31.

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| original | 1040.19 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Deduct | 67.75 |
| | <u>972.44</u> |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Quarter ending March 31 | 964.85 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| June 30 | 802.13 |

| |
|---------------|
| 972.44 |
| <u>652.28</u> |
| 3391.70 |

Horse hire for quarter ending 31 March is not included.

NOTES

The Indian's name who killed Smith and 2 others on head of Shoots River is Calanukus.

Name of women belonging to Weptilike(?) residing in the ---- Sophia.

Sa-lo, henchman of Indian to whom I gave a horse in payment for acting as guide and messenger and interpreter for ----- Logan-Quisht-do.

Indians on Mackenzie Fork:

Yelintamapho--name of Mackenzie Fork of Willamette.

Chafen is the name of country which they inhabit.

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| 21 | Men |
| 19 | Women |
| 16 | Children |
| <u>56</u> | |

Name of chief Chanipa

