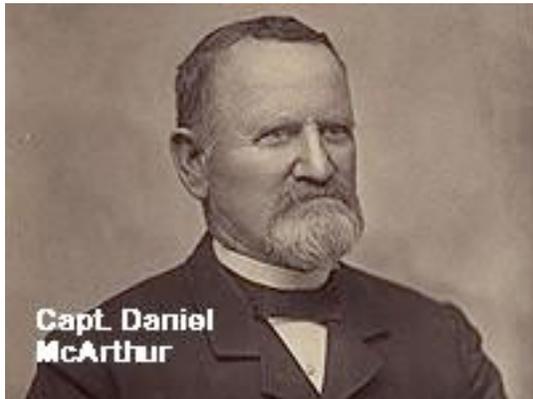


**Compilation of data gathered by Wilfred Peters of the Braithwaite Family who crossed the plains in Daniel D. McArthur's company.**

Wilfred Peters: "Following are extracts from the McArthur wagon train accounts. I have abridged them considerable and left out many days that Elijah Larkin recorded.

My main purpose is to give you a flavor of the Braithwaite's journey with this company across the plains.



Sangiovanni's excerpt tells how the wards formed the companies and the amount of trail traffic.

**Source of Trail Excerpt:**

Sangiovanni, G. G. R., "Overland Trips Across the American Desert," *Young Woman's Journal* August 1912) 427. (Note: this is an Italian woman from St. Geo.)

**Trail Excerpt:**

It was the custom every spring to send east five hundred ox teams to the Missouri river after freight and emigration. They were divided into eleven trains, fifty wagons in a company, each company led by a captain and an assistant. That was done by a loan. Every ward in the state had its quota to fill: for instance, "A" would lend a yoke of oxen, "B" a wagon, so on until the amount was filled. The drivers filled their position as a mission. I was one of them. We were furnished with food and clothing. Our captains, James Andrus [Andrews] and Dan McArthur, were fellow-townsmen. We started on our long trip April first. (1863) We took down to Omaha ten thousand pounds of Utah cotton for an experiment. It brought market price. I drove a team of four yoke of oxen, as did the rest, from St George to Florence, Nebraska, and back two thousand seven hundred miles. Returning we had four hundred souls in our company. They were principally English; some Swiss and some Italians from Piedmont. We had two deaths on the trip -- one old English woman, one Italian. Burials were very primitive. The corpse was rolled up in quilts or blankets sewed up neatly and put away to rest with the Mormon ritual. When the women were laying out the corpse of the old woman, her husband refused to let them have any bedding to roll it up in. They reported the trouble to the captain, Dan. McArthur. He told a couple of us to go and take what was needed for burial.

Some seasons the Platte river which we followed over five hundred miles, dries up. That was one of them. Towards Fort Laramie it was difficult in some places to find enough

water for the stock and camp. The water for miles was in holes. There were fish by the thousands -- cat-fish, pike, chubs, suckers, and principally improvised tackle was used to catch them. They made spears from butcher knives, forks or bits of iron. Many times they would wade in and catch them with hands. It surely was "manna" for the Saints. One cat-fish weighed seventy pounds. When we got within reach of Fort Bridger we took a trail to the north of the fort on account of grass. The next morning, while we were at breakfast (6 a.m.), there came a command of troops with orders for us to go to the post and take the oath of allegiance: we went over of course. It kept us out of a day's travel towards home. We arrived at Salt Lake on the first of October. Unloaded and returned to our southern home.

### **Source of Trail Excerpt**

Sloan, E. L. [Letter], *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*, 10 Oct. 1863, p. 653-54

I could not get time to mail this at Florence, so add a line previous to posting, to say that we are so far and feeling first rate. We are making good time and calculate being in by Conference. There has nothing of importance transpired since leaving, save that three more children have died the third one having just expired. These were all very ill on board ship and not expected then to live there is no much sickness in camp. Our captain is Elder D. D. [Daniel D.] McArthur; the train numbers about three hundred and fifty adults, exclusive of teamsters and independents and counts 62 wagons.

With kind love ever yours faithfully,  
E. L. Sloan

This letter is Sloan's description of the incident at Fort Bridger, I have placed Larkin description of the same incident from his diary in this booklet.

### **Source of Trail Excerpt:**

Sloan, E. L., Letter, in *Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 25 Sept. 1863, 2-3.

### **Read Trail Excerpt:**

Brother E. L. [Edward Lennox] Sloan wrote the following:

On the morning of the 25th of Sept. 1863, a little before 9 o'clock a party of 21 mounted men, calling themselves United States soldiers from Fort Bridger, rode into our camp and informed Captain Daniel McArthur that he must go with them to the Fort, taking his rain with them. We were traveling along the road known as "Muddy", following the

river, the road being much superior in many respects for our cattle in the condition in which they were.

Brother McArthur represented this fact to the posse; and as they stated that we must take the oath of allegiance for citizens and neutrality for aliens, also, that the wagons must be searched for freighted ammunition, he offered to string out the wagons on the road that they might be searched and to march his men from the “crossing of Muddy” to Bridger, a distance of 12 miles, that they might take the oath, if no other place would answer for the purpose; pointing out the injury it would cause to cattle and wagons to force them over 10 miles of the admittedly worst road between the Missouri River and Salt lake City. He called their attention to the illegality of the act, no order having been published nor notice posted, where we could learn of this requirement; neither any official stationed at Ham’s Fort to notify us that trains traveling West were required to pass Bridger, calling at it.

These reasonable representations were met with a steady declaration by the officer in charge, that his orders were to convey us to the Fort and to the Fort we must go; while his men gave utterance to a variety of expressions, intimating their strong desire to pitch into the damned Mormons, one fellow saying, “Why the hell don’t he give us the order and let us end the matter without all this damned palavering”?

The Captain inquired what the result would be if he refused to take the train to Bridger, when another replied abruptly “We’ll take it”.

Allowing us time to have our breakfasts and yoke up, during which they remained at a short distance dismounted; they then divided, one moiety forming an advance guard, the other following in the rear of Jakemen (Jackman) and Shurtliff’s fright train which had camped with us the preceding night; and thus guarded, the trains moved on to the Fort occupying about nine hours in making the distance and most of the passengers and teamsters having, at one juncture to assist in pushing the wagons up a steep incline, while the whole of the road was much calculated to try severely the cattle, already suffering from sore feet.

On arrival at the camping ground within a mile of the Fort, our guard which had been renewed on the road left us, having enjoyed the, to them, satisfaction of indulging in an abundance of jeers course jokes and abuse at our expense especially while the wagons were being assisted up the steep ascent alluded to before.

The officer in charge at Bridger, in the absence of the officer commanding, who had gone to Ham’s Fork to meet the following trains as he should have done with us, affected to look upon us as Secessionists; but upon the Captain (McArthur) expressing his feelings and intentions in plain and marked language, suddenly became wonderfully civil, took the Captains word for the contents of the wagons, and postponed the ceremony of searing until the following morning.

Saturday 26th

The citizens of the Republic were mustered inside the corral this morning, and not at the Fort and had the oath of allegiance administered to them, after which the aliens were sworn to neutrality between the belligerent North and South. This concluded the entire business for which we were dragged across the country like prisoners taken in arms, and which could have been attended to where we lay camped and previous morning, with equal ease.

We wrote out a protest and demand for \$500 compensation for the Captain, which he handed to the officer in charge who declared his inability to do anything in the matter.

### **Source of Trail Excerpt:**

Larkin, Elijah, Diary, 1854-1867, 470-506

### **Trail Excerpt:**

31st July 1863[.] We Started again at day break, & arrived at Florence at 8 A.M. w[h]ere we landed with our Luggage very thankful were done with the Boat which was the worst Hell hole I ever was in. I bathed with my boys & others in the River but the Teams were soon down to the River to fetch us & off we Started for camp about four Miles above the City[.] .....We soon fetched wood & the fires were going all round the camp, & we had a hearty meal of first Class, bacon & Hot Cakes made with Soleratus [saleratus - defined as baking soda] that was served out with dried Apples. I got Bro. [Edward] Sloans & [William] Pinnocks familys next to mine & the cambidge Saints except M. A. Wagstaff who had Stoped at Florence with Sister Sykes & Saw they had Wood to burn & were as comfortable as we could be under the circumstances which was Heaven itself, compared with the Railway & Steam Boat Traveling & after Singing & praying we retired to rest.

Saturday Augt 1st 1863. Provisions were Served in abundance to all the Camp. Ours was the Dixie Train. Danl. McArther [McArthur] Captain, the Boat with the remainder of our Luggage & Passengers & also the Cynoshure [Cynosure] Saints & Baggage arrived at Omahaw [Omaha] Yesterday & landed her freight & Passengers as she could not get any further up the River. we went & claimed our Luggage which was all weighed before we removed it from the Ground. Bros. Sloan & Pinnock arrived quite worn down with care & fatigue. they informed me after we left Bro[ther] Wm Day of Luton Beds [Bedfordshire] England Bathed in the River at St. Jo[seph] & was drowned on the 29th ult & that a Scotchish boy 9 Yrs of age fell down the Water Pipe Hatchway comeing up the River & was drowned & his Boddy [body] could not be found I went & Saw Wm. & Hannah to day.

3rd Our Luggage was all weighed for the plains & we began to repack it. I made a mistake in my Son Jos[eph Smith Larkin] Age & so he crosed the plains as an adult. Wm. Read arrived at Camp to day much better & Ruths Knee was also better My wife & Hannah washed all our Clothes ready for the Journey.

Thursday Augt 6th 1863. Camp rolled out between 3 & 4 P. M. to little Pappillion [Papillon] a distance of five miles & camped for the night. Bro Sloan was appointed chaplain & to go ahead of the Passengers so that none might be lost or stray especially when we were in the Indian Country by our beloved Capn. D. McArthur.

7th The Camp was awoke at daybreak & as soon as all was readdy was moveing & travelled to Elk Horn & carroled for the night[.] the day was hot[.] counry verry Hilly which made it heavy work for the Oxen. Pra[i]rie chickens & other birds were verry plentifully & some of the Boys went Shooting[.] at the Sound of the Horn evening & morning the Saints assembled in the centre of the Carroll for prayers & c.

8th Camp rolled out at 7 1/5 A.M. & travelled to the Platte River & stoped for the night. Wild Grapes & flowers were in abundance especially Sunflower. the Road was Sandy & Heavy[.] Several myself included decided to walk the whole of the Journey health permitting[.] Jas Andrews our 2nd Captain Shot the first rattle Snake I had ever seen from his Horse through the head[.] it was 4 yrs old[.] Bro. Sloan had the rattle

9th Sunday. Camp rolled out at 8 1/4 A.M. Nooned by the Platte were we saw the first Indian lodge & Indians of the Pawnee tribe the day was verry hot & traveling very heavy camped by the Platt at, 6. P.M. Bro. Sloan Killed a four year old Rattle Snake[.] I had the rattle. To night we had a verry heavy Thunder Storm & the rain came down in torrents[.] Wm. Read better & walked Ruths Knee also better.

11th. We started on our Journey at 7 1/3 A.M. The first death that of Bro & Sister Kings Child aged three years took place to day at 3. P.M. the Child had been sick for some time. Traveling verry wet Muddy & heavya cross a flat Country. Thunder & Lightening at intervals all day. Camped for the night Nine Miles East of Columbia.

12th Bro. Kings Child was burried before we left Camp this morning[.] we Travelled nine miles & croosed the South Fork of the Platte by the Ferry, at Noon, got over all safe, most all the Saints waded the shallow part of the Stream,([several Painted Indians were at the Ferry & begged for food which was given to them.) we Travelled on about a mile & camped for the night

14th Started at 6 A.M. passed numerous islands in the bed of the Platt to day which looked beautiful, & presented quite a romantic appearance[.] Nooned by the river my wife bought a bottle of Painkiller at a Store we passed with a Gold dollar I gave her in england, for which she was allowed a dollar & ten cents in Greenbacks[.] my Son George W. was taken sick to day. the boys went fishing & a black catfish 80 lbs & a gold Cut [catfish] 50 lbs were brought into camp, near the River.

21st Started at 6 1/2 A.M. & went Shooting with Bro. Pinnock[.] Lydia, Daughter of Jno. Court of Birmingham aged 5 Yrs & 5 M died to day. Sister [Ellen M.] Athen [Athey] of Whitechapel branch was also delivered of a Daughter at 9. P.M.

22nd Started at, 8 A.M. about 100 of our Oxen haveing Strayed during the night. I took my rifle with Bro. I took my rifle with Bro.[.] P.M. saw Antelope on the Bottom but could not get near them. we went over the Hills but could not find any Game. Ed Jas. son of Ja[me]s. Bell of [blank space] died at 3 1/2 A.M. & was burried with Bro. Courts Child between 60 & 70 Miles above Kearney.

25th Camped rolled out [at] 7 A.M. Travelled to the north Bluff fork of the Platte & crossed over. Then Crossed over two terrible Sand Hills one was more than two miles over. the Sand sinkind down several inches at every step. Camped at Crabb Creek, a few minutes after Sundown haveing Travelled about 17 or 18 miles during the day.

26th Started at 7 1/4 A.M Crossed very heavy sand Hills, & several Creeks over which I carried as many of the Sisters as wished to save the Oxen. Hills on the East. Bluffs on the West of the River with Peaks & Craggs all around us. made a most romantic & pleasant Picture. Passed Sam[(ue)] Hoyt with four Waggons of Freight this morning. a[t] Noon Bro F Little Wm. Clough & party our Emigrating agents at florence passed us & stopped in camp a short time haveing made the distance in eight days. At 1. P.M. Cha[rle]s. Lenney [Linney] of the Southampton Conference died & was buried this evening near [the] Camp at two Springs. he had been ill a long time.

Thursday Augt 27th 1863 Camp started at 7 A.M. Crossed Rattle Snake Creek at 9 1/2. nooned at 11, & left at 2. P.M. Travelled about 18 Miles & Camped by the Platte. travelling very hard, & sandy during the day. Saw & gathered ground Cherys [cherries] for the first time to day. one of Bro Spragues Oxen (an independent Waggon gave out but arived about two Houres after we camped) we passed the greaves [graves] of two Irish femals Killed by a Stampeede

31st I sounded the Horn about 6 A.M. & Started on ahead of the Train according to appointment & led the Camp until noon. weather Hot. Road sandy & Hilly. went fishing this afternoon with Wm. Read & caught five Pike. Chimney Rock & Court House Rock in sight to day(.) crossed a dry Slough, w(h)ere Peppermint Grew abundantly. gathered some for Tea(.) Geese, Ducks, & Crane were plentiful on the Platte & verry tame. Antelope Footprints, were seen on the bed of the River[.] camped after sun set by the Platte having travelled about 20 miles during the day. Wolves commenced howling shortly afterwards & continued all night, but none were seen.

Tuesday Sept 1st 1863 Started at 7 A.M. Nooned by the Platte also for the night just before Sun down haveing travelled about 20 Miles. Passed Court House & Chimney Rocks Also a band of Sioux Indians. lost one of our Mules but the Indians had not seen him, but the Guard found it again[.] came in sight of Scots bluffs to day[.] the west side of which in front & Chimney & Court House Rocks behind presented one of the most beautifull scenes I ever beheld, & requires to be seen, to be able to form any conception of.

3rd Started at 6 1/2 A.M. but some of the cattle being lost the camp did not rool out untill an hour later, Bro. Sloan went to the Bluff on the East side of us & brought 3

stones for me to look at & called my attention to the apparent water mark near the top of the Hills, that confirmed our opinion we were upon the bed of a once mighty Ocean. as we were resting my Son Jos. S. called my attention to the largest snake we had seen on the Journey. Nooned at a bend of the Platte. Afterwards I was traveling with our Capn. when Bro. Chas. Wilson of Birmingham called us & showed us the largest Rattle Snake I ever saw. I Killed it & cut off the Rattle which proved the reptile to be ten years of age. we Camped at the Big bend of the Platte, 18 miles to day

Friday 4 Sept 63 Started at 6.55 AM Just afterwards we passed two Wigwam inhabited by Traders, Squaws & ther half breed children. Nooned at a small Poplar or cottonwood grove about half mile from the Platte, & at night at a place verry simular, the weather was excessively hot & vegetation scarce & burned up exopt the Prickly Pear, & a few Ferns[.] the Country was Barren & Sandy as far as the eye could see[.] the cattle were faint for want of food. to night we commenced to burn wood again after having burned nothing but dried dung for several days[.] Traveled 22 miles & camped by the river. Chas. Reads Foot much better & he walke(d) about 3 miles to day.

Sunday 6th Sept/63 Started at 7.50 A.M. crossed some verry high sand Hills. the Bluffs on either side were covered with ceders[.] Firs & Cypress Trees hundreds of ft. high. passed the corps[e]of an Indian in a Tree covered with a Bufaloe Robe & Red Blanket[.] on the highest craggy peak sat an Eagle as through centry over it. Nooned by a bend of the platte[.] food for our cattle still verry scarce. Bro Geo Baithwait[e] went to Laramie, then to Capn. Hights Train camped just above where we crossed the River yesterday. all well. we struck a good road this afternoon by the Telegraph Poles but it was a continual assent for miles[.] when we reached the Top I turned round to look at the Scenery which baffles all description. we were between verry high Bluffs on the east, & Cliffs on the West. bedecked as far as the eve([eye] could reach, with Trees, Shrubs & Water courses & lo[o]ked lik many large Parks & Gardens & was truly sublime with Pikes the Peak the Highest Mountain we had yet seen in full view[.] when the Sun was setting the Sky presented the most Noble Grand glorious appearance we ever beheld. at one time it appeared as if there were Splendid Palaces [.] Castles & Land scenery, & just as the Sun Set behind the mountains it presented the most Sombre Grand appearance any in camp ever beheld. Kept on travelling untill Midnight in consequence of the Creeks being all dried up there having been no rain for 3 Months. the road was verry winding & in some places steep & Craggy. I went ahead of the Train assisted the Capn. to pick out the road as he had never traveled it before[.] Struck the Platts & Camped haveing travelled about 30 Miles.

8th Started at 7.50. A.M. Traveling pretty good to day I with my Son Geo. W. Cut 20 Tent Poles for the use of the Church Tents which were occupied by the aged & Sisters[.] Forded the Platt were it was a verry Strong current, & Stoney bottom. Met an Indian with his two Squaws & Papposes in cradles made with Poles attached to his Horses. they had about 20 dogs with them[.].....

11th Started at 7.10 A.M. Travelling good. The Train went along way round on our left. I with my wife & Ruth started in as straight a direction as we could which brought us up

the sides of the bluffs & down some craggy rough deep ravines especially one where we had to travel single file which was between forty & fifty Yds deep which brought us out on the bed of the Platt near some Indian lodges where lived a Man from Utah with a Squaw. Nooned on a sage plain about a mile from the river(.) the North bank presented the appearance of a fort with loop holes for the Guns for quite a considerable distance. About six miles from the Platt bridge where we arrived at 5 P.M. the Capn. took in flour which he had left on his way down, & several of the brethren traded flour for buffalo Robes[.]. the flour at four dollars per Hundred & the Robes from four to eight dollars each[.] A few Soldiers were quartered there. there[re] was one Store & a few Log Houses & Huts inhabited by the Traders & Squaws & the half breed children a few Indians, crossed over the Bridge Camped about a mile above for the night by the River[.] the water was muddy caused by the late storms which was the first time we had seen it so all the miles we had traveled by its sides which amounted to hundreds[.] I was better today & Geor. Ws Foot was also better. The bark & Howl of the Wolves was heard very plain at intervals during the night

Sunday Sept 13th 1863 Started at 8.50 A.M. good traveling [.] shortly after starting we struck Grease Wood Creek & watered the Cattle as we had a dry camp last night. The stream was beautiful cold & clear & yet not more than a yard or two from it was several pools of Alkali [alkali] Water so poisonous the Capn told me if a man drank it it would Kill him in an hour & an Ox in 3 or 4 Hours. Nooned for the first time by the Sweet Water River [Sweetwater]. We Struck the base of the Rocky [Rocky] Mountains today[.] the Plains was covered with Sage brush & Greasewood. passed Sweet water Station & camped at 9 P.M. for the night between Independence [Independence] Rock & Devils Gate. Independence Rock is a large mass of Stone near a quarter of a mile in length at the base & stands alone[.] the Top is a little rolling but almost flat & has a large cistern in it Cistern in it & is about fifty Ft High. Devils Gate is a mass of Rock about three rods wide & between two & three Hundred ft High, & has a large aperture through it through which the Water rushes with tremendous violence[.] some Soldiers were quartered at the Station one of our female passengers Staid there but I learned afterwards came along.

Wednesday 16th Sept 1863 Started about 8 A.M.....This morning before we buried Bro. [John] Farn[e]s from who died suddenly. Lou[i]s Chalvin a Deaf & dumb Frenchman also died today[.] he had been ill for some time, & was buried at Noon at Sweetwater crossing[.]

Saturday 19th Sept 1863 Started at, 7 3/4 A.M. We crossed the South pass this morning[.] Struck the Pacific Springs & two miles further on crossed the Pacific Creek, & from the pass the Waters all run west whereas up to this point they run East.) & Nooned by Jackman & Shirtleffs Train. .... We also left Wind River & struck the Rocky Mountains

22nd Started at 8.10 A.M. Bro. Robt. Locks Child died this morning & was buried at a bend of the Big Sandy where we Nooned[.] Started again at, 3. P.M. & Crossed Green River where it was 16 Rods wide with a very strong current & pebbly bottom

23rd Started at 8 1/2 A.M. Arrived at Hams Fork at 1. P.M. & rested the remainder of the day. Capt. Canfields Train arrived afterwards & done the same[.] We washed bathed & got all the baking done we could & at night both camps had a dance

Thursday 24th Sept 1863 Started at, 8. A.M. Travelled to Blacks Fork (about 11 Miles) & Nooned[.] Started again at 6 P.M. Travelled seven hours & had a dry camp[.] Capn. Canfields Train camped beside us. we took the Muddy Road & crossed the Stream at 7 1/2 & to the surprise of all[,] the Stream was clear & beautiful, although the Capn. & Teamsters expected it would be dried up. the two captains had gone on ahead & soon we could hear nothing of them & the passengers of both Trains were alike [alike] anxious [anxious] about them but shortly after we had camped they arrived & told us they had taken the Bridger Fork of the Road by mistake, the ground now became more Loommy & large Sage grew in the hollows but the rising ground was very bare, as were the Mud Hill all over the Country[,] some of which were very high with Shelveings of Sand Stone projecting from their sides, which plainly showed the water mark.

Friday 25th Sept 1863 A day long to be remembered by both Trains as the following will show. This morning at half past seven o'clock, A company of Armed Mounted Men Calling themselves, U.S. Soldiers, which they turned out to be, wrode into or rather between the two Camps & d(e)manded the Capns. to take their trains to Bridger & reprimanded our Capn for not going the Bridger Road. he told the Officer in command he had come the Muddy Road to save the Cattles Feet as they were very tender & protested against taking the Train to bridger as he had had no orders to do so but had made the inquiry at Hams Fork & the Officer in charge there told him he could go which Road he chois [chose] & there was no nessesity for him to go the Bridger Road unless he liked, & Offered if they had any right to search his Wagons to do so & he would go with all the Men in his Wagons Train to bridger & take the Oaths required of them, but they said they had orders they said & were determined the Train should go The Capn. again appealed as the Oxen had had no water for two days & but very little food & he was afraid on account of the Roughness of the Road they would give out & die & informed them he had to travel to the Virgin River after he got to G[reat]. S[alt]. L[ake]. but was told if he would not take the Train they should & that they had 500 Men ahead to assist them if wanted. The Capn. then told them he did not care if they had 5000000, five hundred thousand as he had broken no Law & had the right to travel which Road he Knew to be the best for his Cattle & also for the Passengers, under his charge but all was of no avail the Train must go Bridger (during the time the Parley was going on A fiend in human shaps addressst his comrades & said why done he meening his Officer give us orders to Pitch in[,] we have all got our Rifles readdy & not Stand parleying there, & his looks showed he was readdy if he had it in his power to Murder us there & then, but they did not know the God whom we served & that he would protect us as long as we done right & Served him.) So the Capn. told them after his Passengers had had something to Eat & were readdy to go which would take about two hours he would go, at the same time protesting against it[.] the armed Men then went on up but our captain was to wise to offer resistance & hawed the Wagons at the turne of the Road they then rode on untill we came to a very steep hill. the armed men Staid at the Top untill we had got several of our Wagons up they then went on. we got our Train up

about two Hours before Sun Set. we had to double our Teams to do so & the Bretheren trode the Wheels & otherwise assisted so that we got up all safe[.] Capn. Canfields Train came along with us & had to get up the Hill after us[.] we then went on to Bidger & camped for the night, & some few of our people were so mean & foolish as to go to the Fort Theatre. A Large bang [band] of Shooshone [Shosone] Indians came to our camp[.] they had some splendid Horses with them & were the best looking Indians we had seen

Saturday 26th Sept 1863 This morning A G Auston per [blank space] 2nd Lieut. 3rd Inft. Cal. V Post Agt. came with Sergt. Jacket & administered the Oath of Allegiance to the citizens in bouth camps & Neutrality to all the Alians from 18 Yrs of age & upwards[.] We travelled to the Little Muddy Spring about 12 Miles & camped for the Night. the Road was Hilly & Steep[.] we went the two or three Miles by the New Road[,] A Kanyon [canon] between the Mountains which were of a reddish Colour

Monday Sept 28th 1863 .....we reached the mouth of Echo Kanyon [canyon] were we camped for the night to the left of Cache Cave it was now very cold & frosty. we burned Chips or <dried> Ox Dung with difficulty as they were wet. Sister Weebs [Weeks] Child that had been born on the plains & had been sickly ever since died this morning & was burried at this place.

Tuesday Sept 29th 1863 Camp roled out & traveled to within a mile or so through Echo Kanyon & camped again for the night. This morning at daybeak I went with my boys & paid a Visit to Cache Cave[.] it was with some difficulty we assended the Mountain. The cave is in the shape of a large Bakers Oven & in the Centre a tall man can stand upright in it & it will hold as near as I can tell 50 persons comfortably & has altogether a singular appearance & is about two thirds up the North West side of the Mountain. As soon as we reached the Mouth of the Kanyon the Mind is struck with wonder & amazement high rugged mountains of various coloured Rock of all immaginable forms & Shapes on the right hand side. I noticed in particular one of the Monstrus Elephant in a Kneeling position[.] Another that of a Woman the attitude of prayer. others the remains of Ancient Gothic Buildings[,] Castles[,] Palices[Palaces], & c & on the face of many the appearance of Hyroglipics [hieroglyphics] Figures almost as natural as if they had been the work of Man, wilst on the left side the Mountains are covered with Brushwood & slight herbage. A beautiful stream ran through the Kanyon with Willows on either side. when we reached that part of the Kanyon were the Rocks were purpendicular it was very dificult traveling[.] some of our Teamsters that were out to vex the Soldiers in the Utah war of 57 showed me the fortifications on the Mountains also were the General quarters were, & the embankments made to fill the Kanyons with water. some of the Rock & Stones that were got to the edge of the highest Mountains readdy to hurl down were laying there then & could be seen from the bottom[.] we Nooned about the Middle of the Kanyon in a beautiful spot & got our fire wood from the Sides of the Mountain on our left hand. Bro. Mansfield from Portsmouth England died this morning after a long illness & was burried at this Place. This was one of the most usefull interesting &

instructive days we had had on the whole Journey & as long as I live I shall not forget Echo Cannon [Canyon]

Wednesday Sept 30th 1863 This morning my Wife & Son Jos. W.[.] Ruth[,] Hannah[,] Wm Read & Self started on before the Train & Passed some beautiful scenery. just at the Mouth of the Kanyen, on the right side the Rock[y] Mountains were verry high & of Red Sand Stone, with two large masses of gothic shape Sand stone on the top & all around Ceeders [cedars] were growing between the two masses of Stone above named[.] the Moon was going down & oposite the Sun had risen above the Mountains reflecting its bright Rays on the High Rocks oposite presenting the most beautiful Picture imaginable we went on by the Weeber [Weber] river about four miles & then found through a bro Franklin at the crossing we had come the wrong road. we then returned & was more than ever interested by the beautifull Mountain scenery with its high peaks towering up to the Sky. the Tops & sides of which was covered by beautiful varigated vegetation. Passed through Chalk Creek the first Mormon Settlement we had come to [.] it was about five yrs Old, & situate[d] by the Weeber River & saw the fields Irigated for the first time & were told by the settlers they yielded good. there were some splendid Farms [.] the principle one was owned by Bro. Eldreidge [Eldridge]. Capn. [John W.] Wooleys Train was just comeing out of the Kanyon as we passed & he camped at the Settlement & we Stopped & had some refreshment with our friends that were in it[.] they were all well & had had a good time crossing the plains[.] Bro. Lemon one of our Teamsters comeing up at the time we went on with him & were treat[e]d exceedingly Kind by the Setlers[.] we went through fine cultivated fields & passed Capn. Canfields Train & arived at our camp a[t] Silver Creek about 9. P.M. well satisfied with our days work[.] the Brotheren & Sisters gave us Bread Cheese, Butter Milk & some Peaches as we passed along, which was quite a treat

Saturday Oct. 3rd 1863 This morning I started early with my boys & arrived at my Unkles [Uncle's] Clarks Sugga[r] House Ward, Salt Lake City about Noon were gladly received[.]

