Kansas Before 1854: A Revised Annals
Compiled by Louise Barry

Part Seventeen, 1848

January 2.—Mountain man James P. Beckwourth (recently express from Santa Fe) left Fort Leavenworth to make the return journey. Across “Kansas,” and as far as Bent’s Fort, he had (it appears) but one companion.

The Santa Fe (N. M.) Republican of February 12, reporting his safe arrival, gave Beckwourth’s account of an encounter with 11 Pawnees (when two days’ travel west of Fort Mann). He claimed to have killed two Indians and wounded three others.

See, also, July 13 entry.

Ref: The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., March 31, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, April 1, 1848.

January 5.—Francis X. Aubry (alone) arrived at Independence, Mo., after a rapid (14-day) journey overland from Santa Fe (and several days in advance of an express which had started East three days before him).

Aubry had left behind “at the Cottonwood,” his servant—last to wear out of five men who departed Santa Fe December 22, 1847, with him.

See, also, May 28 and September 17 entries for swifter Aubry “rides.”

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, January 12, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., January 28, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis); The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, January 12, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, January 29, 1848; The Pacific Historian, Stockton, Calif.; v. 5 (August, 1961), pp. 111-123 (for Aubry article). By one account Aubry had 10 mules stolen by Mexican robbers; was detained by Indians one-half day; and lost another half day in a snowstorm. The Reveille's Independence correspondent wrote that Aubry saw no Indians en route; killed three mules by hard riding; had four days of “severe cold weather”; and traveled 306 miles on the last three days of his journey.

January 5.—Lt. Col. Stephen H. Long’s table “Probable extent of steam navigation on the western waters” (published in Col. J. J. Abert’s report [of above date] on “Commerce of the Lakes and Western Rivers”) gave these estimates for the Missouri and tributaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>Miles Navigable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>1,800 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowstone</td>
<td>300 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platte</td>
<td>40 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>150 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osage</td>
<td>275 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand</td>
<td>90 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Louise Barry is a member of the staff of the Kansas State Historical Society.

(138)
Died: Henry Jacquis (prominent in the Wyandot Nation), at “12 o’clock at night [of January 5],” in present Kansas City, Kan.

Subagent Hewitt wrote that Jacquis had been “one of their most active, useful, and influential chiefs.” The Rev. Edward T. Peery officiated at his funeral on January 7; William Walker was the orator.

Ref: William Walker’s “Journals” (in William E. Connelley’s The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory . . . [Lincoln, Neb., 1899]), January 6, 1848, entry; Comm’r of Indian affairs, Report, 1848 (Richard Hewitt’s report, therein). The Wyandots pronounced the name Jacquis “Jocko.”

Mid-January.—At Fort Mann, on the Arkansas (present Ford county), the troops—three companies of Gilpin’s battalion, Missouri volunteers—were said to be in good health generally, though some were suffering from scurvy; but the garrison’s horses—once numbering around 75—were reduced to “about a dozen . . . barely able to stand upon their feet”; only six or eight were left of 144 mules brought there in November, 1847; fewer than 100(?), out of 800 oxen, still survived, and the wolves were daily devouring them.

Ref: New York Weekly Tribune, February 26, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, February 7, 1848); Saint Louis Daily Union, February 8, 1848.

In January, at the Catholic Pottawatomie mission station south of Kansas river (on the Wakarusa? in present Auburn township?, Shawnee co.; or, on upper Mission creek?), where Father Christian Hoecken had removed (from Sugar Creek) in November, 1847—see KHO, v. 30, p. 554—a log house (residence and church under one roof) was started with the aid of Indians. It was occupied on February 26.

Short-lived “Mission creek” station prospered during the spring; then served as base of operations for the establishment of the mission where St. Mary’s College, St. Marys, Kan., is today. The Rev. Felix L. Verreydt (superior at Sugar Creek), after spring visits to Father Hoecken’s station, and to the reserve area across the Kansas, determined, in June, to locate the “permanent” Pottawatomie Catholic Mission at a site north of the Kansas. See September 9 annals entry for the founding of St. Mary’s Mission. In mid-October Father Hoecken, and some Indian families, removed to month-old St. Mary’s.

Ref: The Dial, St. Mary’s College, St. Marys, Kan., v. 2 (February, 1891), pp. 85-88; Augustin C. Wand, S. J., The Jesuits in Territorial Kansas . . . (1962), pp. 10-15. In G. J. Garraghan’s The Jesuits of the Middle United States (New York, 1938), v. 2, pp. 601, 603, 604, Father Gaillard is quoted that the “Mission creek” station was on the “Wagnerousse” [Wakarusa]; and W. W. Cone in his Historical Sketch of Shawnee County . . . (1877), p. 8, also gives that location. There is much confusion about the site of Father Hoecken’s station. The authorities who place it on upper Mission creek believe the site was in the area of present Keene, Wabaunsee county.

January 17.—“Mr. Glendy” (a “practical woodsman” from St. Charles county, Mo.), and one companion, who had set out from Oregon City on September 23, 1847, and traveled the Oregon trail
eastward (across present Idaho, Wyoming, and Nebraska), arrived safely (though with badly frostbitten feet) at “old” Fort Kearny (on Table creek; where Nebraska City, Neb., is today).

On their adventurous (and notable) winter’s journey, most of the time afoot, Glendy and his cotraveler had taken circuitous routes, on occasion, to avoid hostile Indians (and had seen none on the entire trip).

Ref: *The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo.,* February 4, 1848. Presumably Glendy was the “Glendey,” or “Glendry” who, in 1849, was guide to the U. S. mounted riflemen on their march from Fort Leavenworth to Oregon—see B. W. Sтель, editor, *The March of the Mounted Riflemen...* (Glendale, Calif., 1940), p. 284.

C January 21.—From Fort Mann (present Ford county) Capt. Napoleon Kosciakowski’s Company E (infantry) and a light artillery detachment set out (under orders received by express on January 15) to join Lt. Col. William Gilpin’s command (two cavalry companies) above Bent’s Fort.

After a tedious 35 days of travel up the Arkansas (delayed by their starving oxen—140 head reduced to around 70 by journey’s end), the Missouri volunteers reached Gilpin’s camp on February 24.

On March 10 (or 11?) Gilpin and his enlarged command—now close to 300 men—headed southward for Moro, N. M.; arrived there March 26; received supplies; and in the first week of April, set out, eastward, on a campaign against the Comanches, other hostile Indians, and renegade Mexicans reported to be collecting on the Canadian (preparing, as in 1847, to maraud on the Santa Fe trail in the spring).

Gilpin’s mule-mounted expedition force consisted of his battalion’s Companies A and B (cavalry), Company E (infantry—now mounted?), Lt. Phillip Stremmel’s artillery section (with a six-pounder); also, three Delawares, three Cheyennes, one Blackfoot, and three mountain men (as guides, spies, etc.); and there were 26 mule-drawn supply wagons.

A letter written from Las Vegas, N. M., on May 4, reported the arrival there of a Mexican (a prisoner among the Comanches for several years) who said he had escaped when Gilpin and troops surrounded a Comanche village and “made considerable slaughter” among the Indians. The Santa Fe Republican learned the Indians’ loss in men and stock had been great; and that one or two of Gilpin’s men had been killed.

See, also, May 30 annals entry.

Ref: *The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo.,* March 17, May 26, June 2, 1848; *New York Weekly Tribune, February 26, June 17, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, February 7 and June 3, 1848); Saint Louis Daily Union, February 8, April 11, May 23, June 9, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, February 8, April 12, 1848.

C January 24.—Gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill in California.

News of the gold finds began to reach the East Coast in August; but it was the arrival of firsthand accounts, in mid-September, and later, that generated public gold excitement. (See, also, October, and December annals entries, pp. 180, 190, 197).
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January 27.—Lt. Caleb S. Tuttle (Company E, Gilpin’s battalion) arrived at Fort Leavenworth, from Fort Mann. He, Lt. Christian Boecking, and 14(?) other Missouri volunteers had made the trip to the Missouri border, on foot, in 14 days, with a one-day stopover at Council Grove.

Tuttle’s party (11 to 16 men—reports vary) had left the post on the Arkansas on January 13. Some of the company apparently went directly to Independence, Mo. The Boonville (Mo.) Bulletin, noting “Lieut. Bicking’s” arrival there, January 30, stated he had reached Independence on the 25th(?).

Early in February, Lieutenant Tuttle, with only one companion(?)—Corporal Gaines—left Fort Leavenworth to cross “Kansas” again, and rejoin his company (then en route to Bent’s Fort—see January 21 entry).

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, February 6, 26, March 30, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, February 8, 1848.

About the end of January an express (several? men, with pack animals) from Santa Fe reached Fort Leavenworth.

This small party arrived at Bent’s Fort on January 8; left next day; reached Fort Mann on the 15th (bringing Gilpin’s order for troops to join him—see January 21 entry); continued east on the 16th; did not overtake Tuttle’s party on the road—see January 27 entry.


January—June—Licenses (new, and renewal) to trade with Indians in “Kansas,” as granted by agents and subagents of the St. Louis Indian superintendency, were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traders</th>
<th>Indians</th>
<th>Issued by</th>
<th>Rec’d at St. Louis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A. G.) Boone &amp; (J. C.)</td>
<td>Sacs &amp; Foxes</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Miamis</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Clymer</td>
<td>Pottawatomies</td>
<td>A. J. Vaughan</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. G. Boone &amp; Co.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(J. M.) Simpson &amp; (J. M.)</td>
<td>Pottawatomies</td>
<td>A. J. Vaughan</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. W. Cleghorn</td>
<td>Pottawatomies</td>
<td>A. J. Vaughan</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses H. Scott</td>
<td>Miamis</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. B. Scott</td>
<td>Sacs &amp; Foxes</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cummins</td>
<td>Sacs, and Miamis</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(R. A.) Kinzie &amp; (J. H.)</td>
<td>Sacs &amp; Foxes</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistler</td>
<td>Weas &amp; Miamis</td>
<td>S. P. Sublette</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porter[?] &amp; Chouteau</td>
<td>Shawnees and Delawares</td>
<td>R. W. Cummins</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Between January and July there were important changes at Delaware Baptist Mission (present Wyandotte county). (1) Early in January, the Rev. Ira D. Blanchard (long-time missionary to the Delawares—see KHQ, v. 28, p. 318) was dismissed. He and his family left, apparently, before month’s end. (2) On January 8 a new mission house—some four miles northwest of the old station (where the Blanchards had lived—at present Edwardsville)—was described as “advancing towards completion.” (3) The Rev. John G. and Olivia (Evans) Pratt, assigned to the Delawares, removed from nearby Stockbridge station (in the early spring?) to the new mission (not yet finished on April 1). (4) On July 3 the Delaware “boarding school” reopened—with Pratt as superintendent, and Elizabeth S. Morse (recently at Ottawa mission) as teacher. (There were 28 children at the beginning.)

New Delaware Baptist Mission (as described by John G. Pratt in 1851) consisted of “a principal dwelling-house 36 feet square, a frame building, with kitchen, and usual small out-buildings, a school, and meeting house.” (The church had been constructed in 1846—see KHQ, v. 30, pp. 410, 411.) By survey description the site was on the NW½ of Sec. 10, T. 11 S., R. 23 E., some four miles north of the Kansas river.

Ref: Barker Collection (in KHI ms. division); Comm’r of Indian affairs, Reports, 1848, 1851; The Baptist Missionary Magazine, Boston, v. 28, pp. 260, 408, 469; KHQ, v. 25, p. 179.
WHITE CLOUD (head chief): “not remarkable for any trait except an insatiably thirst for spirits”; “very regardless of the interests of his nation”; “has sustained his influence . . . heretofore, by . . . [treating] a few braves (so called) . . . [as] favorites . . .”; “offers no encouragement to the [mission] school”; “has three wives, and sometimes four”; “[is] a man of middle size, one eye out from the constant use of liquor”; “about 35 or 36 years of age”; “a poor speaker, and says but little in council, usually.” (White Cloud distinguished himself in May, 1848—see p. 159. Also, see his portrait facing p. 169.)

NA-CHE-XING-A, or NO-HEART-OF-FEAR (second chief): “the principal business-man of the nation [and] . . . is at this time chief speaker”; “under good influence will always be a fine man”; “shows some concern for the welfare of his people”; “[is] a friend to the whites”; “very friendly to education”; “the school and mission owe much to him”; “a man of good appearance”; “has but one wife”; “is almost 45 years of age.”

NEU-MON-GA, or WALKING-RAIN (third chief): “a man of most dignified and fine appearance”; “of a shrewd and cunning mind”; “modest and well-behaved among the whites”; “ambitious and selfish among his people, and generally of doubtful reputation”; “[is] a ready speaker”; “nearly 50 years of age”; “has one wife.”

Ref: Henry S. Schoolcraft's *Archives of Aboriginal Knowledge* . . . (Philadelphia, 1860), v. 3, pp. 259-265. This chief White Cloud (Mahaska) was also known as Frank White Cloud—see index to KHQ, v. 23; also, see, KHQ, v. 30, facing p. 64 (group illustration of Iowas) and p. 78 (for the Iowas’ trip abroad).

Early in February, Sup’t T. H. Harvey, St. Louis, visited the Miami; rode over their reserve; and selected a site for a Catholic mission school, also a place near by for a new Miami village (by designating where the blacksmith and traders should locate). This “Miamitown” or “Miami Village” was near the Marais des Cygnes, some seven miles southeast of present Paola, according to available information, in Sec. 18, T. 18 (or 19?) S., R. 24 E., Miami township, Miami co.

By early May (when Harvey returned, to pay annuities) a number of Miami families had moved up to the new site (the “old” town—see KHQ, v. 30, p. 405—was on Sugar creek, in the area of present Rockville, Miami co.); Joseph Clymer, Jr., trader (by contract, for $1,439), had fenced and broken 225 acres of land for the Indians; and the Miami Catholic mission school was in process of construction. (See, also, November entry, p. 195.) By September over half the Miami had moved to new “Mamitown,” where all the traders had been relocated, and where the Indians’ blacksmith shop was in operation.

Ref: SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, pp. 56, 142; 31st Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 11 (Serial 572), p. 6; Comm'r of Indian affairs, Report, 1848 (Harvey’s and Agent Rains’ reports therein). Harvey, after visiting “Kansas” a third time in 1848, wrote in a November 21, 1848, letter that “A large portion of the Miamies have moved up to the vicinity of the school and it is expected that nearly all will during the winter & spring.”—SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, p. 238. For location of Miami—town or Miami Village, see Ely Moore’s notation on a printed map in Moore papers, KHQ ms. division, which shows the site as on the W¼ of the E½ of Sec. 18, T. 18 S., R. 24 E. (The 1878 Miami county atlas, map of T. 18 S., R. 24 E. does not indicate where the town had been; but on the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Sec. 19, an “Indian cemetery” is marked.) Since Ely Moore lived at the Osage River Subagency in 1854 (his father
was agent), the location he specified for “Miami village & agency” has been presumed correct. (Note: Kansas Historical Collections (KHC), v. 9, p. 570, gives the location—wrongly—as Sec. 24, T. 18 S., R. 23 E., and ibid., v. 11, p. 463, gives it—wrongly—as Sec. 24, T. 18 S., R. 24.)

February.—“Fisher’s express” left Fort Leavenworth for Santa Fe. The men in this party “suffered much” on the journey, and several had their ears frozen—as reported by Tharp and his eastbound company who met them March 5, on the trail.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., April 14, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, April 8, 1848.

February 17.—Hugh Hamilton obtained the contract to furnish 30,000 pounds of flour (at $3.00 per 100 pounds) for the Sac & Fox Indians of the Mississippi—as approved by Agent Solomon P. Sublette.


Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Osage River Agency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 643). Amazon Hays was a son of Boone Hays, who had emigrated to western Missouri in 1837—see Lillian Hays Oliver’s Some Boone Descendants and Kindred of the St. Charles District (1904), pp. 38, 306.

February 23.—The Tamerlane reached Weston, Mo.—the first of 193 steamboat arrivals at that port in 1848. (See, also, April 5 entry.)

(Sixty-eight steamboats went to points higher up the Missouri before year’s end. The last boat of 1848 to arrive at Weston was the Cora, on November 22.)

Ref: The Western Journal, St. Louis, v. 5 (March, 1851), p. 326. The Tamerlane returned to St. Louis, from the above trip, on March 2—see The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, March 2, 1848.

February.—Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick (of the Upper Platte Agency), counseled with chiefs of the Kiowa Nation (in the Bent’s Fort vicinity?). Subsequently, the Kiowas severed their alliance with the Comanches (hostile to the white man), came up to the Arkansas, and joined the peaceful Cheyennes and Arapahoes. (See May 30 entry for Gilpin’s meeting with these three tribes on the Arkansas.)

Explorer John C. Fremont, writing from Bent’s Fort on November 17, noted his recent visit with Fitzpatrick at “Big Timber,” and commented: “He is a most admirable agent, and has succeeded in drawing out from among the Cumanche the whole Kiowa nation, with the exception of six lodges and brought over among them a considerable number of lodges of the Apaches and Cumanches. . . .”

Ref: Comm’r of Indian affairs, Report, 1848 (Fitzpatrick’s report, therein); New York Weekly Tribune, March 10, 1849 (for Fremont’s letter, reprinted from the Washington National Intelligencer, February 20).
Died: Nah-ko-min ("Captain Nah koo min"), principal chief of the Delawares (since 1835—see KHQ, v. 28, p. 513), "about the 1st March 1848," on the reserve north of Kansas river (in present Wyandotte county).

His successor was "Captain Ketchum." Following Chief Ketchum in rank were Sakendiathan (Secondine) and Sah-coo-sa (Sarcoxie).

Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Fort Leavenworth Agency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 303), R. W. Cummins' March 28, 1849, letter.

Early in March, Agents R. W. Cummins and A. J. Vaughan chose a location for "the smith & traders for the Potawatomies." Vaughan, in a March 7 letter, reported: "I have accordingly stuck my stake and christened it union town . . . ."; and Cummins (on March 12) wrote: "The point selected by us is on the south side of the Kansas ["on high ground, near the river"] . . . & very nearly in the center of their [the Potawatomies'] country, east & west & as nearly so north and south as good timber . . . could be had. . . ."

Union Town (or Uniotown), by survey description, was in the NE1/4 of Sec. 23, T. 11 S., R. 13 E., near the western edge of Shawnee county. The Potawatomies north of the river (where most of the "Council Bluffs" Indians had settled) were opposed to a single trading site for the Nation (Chiefs Me-ah-mies, Half Day, and many others, in a petition, pointed out the dangers of having to cross the Kansas, and asked for "our Blacksmith," and "our traders"). But Union Town was the only official trading point from 1848 until about 1853.

When Capt. L. C. Easton visited "Uniotown" on September 15, 1849, he remarked: "[It is] situated a mile from the Kanzas on the South side, there are a few dwellings and four or five Stores, which contain Indian Goods and a variety of such Articles as Emigrants would probably require at this point." (Beginning in 1849 some of the California-Oregon trail traffic followed up the Kansas valley on the south side of the river past Union Town—instead of ferrying, or fording, at present Topeka—and crossed the Kansas a little west of what is now Willard, Shawnee county.)

See the January and July annals entries (1848-1854) listing licensed traders for the Potawatomies (and other tribes).

Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Fort Leavenworth Agency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 302, for Vaughan's and Cummins' letters, and the petition); KHQ, v. 20, p. 412 (for Easton); W. W. Cone's Historical Sketch of Shawnee County, p. 11 (Cone gave the location as in the NW1/4 of Sec. 23, but rather, it was in the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Sec. 23—according to George Root's notations on Dover township map in 1873 Shawnee county atlas (in KHI map division), and other information. The main street of Union Town ran (north and south) just east of the present (1905) homesite of Ernest Ray Green—see affidavits relating to Union Town's location in KHI ms. division. The Oregon trail (crossing Union Town on the main street) forded Post creek "almost directly north of the present homesite," according to these affidavits. For other data on Union Town see Thomas N. Stinson Collection (in KHI ms division). One item therein seems to show that Simpson & Hunter (with Stinson as clerk) began trading at Union Town in April, 1848. Also, see J. S. Chick's April 19, 1906, letter, and an interview (1908) with
Chick which are in KHi ms. division; and “Memoranda” of an 1880 trip by F. G. Adams and W. W. Cone to the Union Town site, in ibid. See the Topeka Daily Capital of July 20, 1958, and August 17, 1961, for articles on Union Town, and the E. B. Green farm.

In early March a number of persons (mostly traders) reached Missouri from New Mexico. The Santa Fe Republican of January 29 had reported that “a party of Traders” including “Mr. M’Knight, Redmon, Murphy, Estes, Gardiner, Beck and Manies [Mayer?]” would leave for the States on February 1.

At St. Louis the Reveille announced the arrival from New Mexico of “Messrs. McKnight and Meyer [or, Mayer],” on March 8, with wagons, in 22 days (32?—to the Missouri-“Kansas” border?), and stated they had “met” (i.e., passed) on the way traders Bullard and Murphy whose mules were nearly worn out. The Union’s story stated “Messrs. McKnight and Owens, and four or five Mexican traders” reached St. Louis aboard the John J. Hardin; and in a later issue, noting the arrival on March 17 (?) of Murphy, stated he had left Santa Fe on January 28; had seen no Indians en route; and had carried a mail to Fort Leavenworth. (“A. B.,” writing from Taos on January 26, had reported that “Mr. Easter” [Estes] of that place would leave in a few days “with an express” for Missouri.)

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, March 9, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, March 10, 18, 1848. Perhaps “Manies” was trader Frank McManus.

March.—From Fort Mann, on the 7th, a correspondent wrote of a mutiny a day or two before, with such strong demonstrations made against the commanding officer—Capt. William Pelzer—that he had been forced to “order out the Battalion” to quell the trouble.

Another news item in the letter: a first lieutenant, wrestling with an Indian (the Pawnee prisoner?), had got his leg fractured.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., April 7, 1848. For Pelzer’s difficulty, in 1847, at Fort Mann see KHi, v. 30, pp. 555, 556.

March.—Andrews Drips (American Fur Company agent), from Fort Pierre (which he had left around February 8), reached St. Louis March 8 aboard the John J. Hardin.

Other steamboats on the Missouri in March included the Haydee (back at St. Louis on the 21st, after a trip up to Weston, Mo.), the Martha (which left St. Louis, upbound, on the 22d, reached St. Joseph and departed downriver prior to March 31).

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, March 10, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, March 21 and 28, 1848; St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, March 31, 1848. The Union did not state how far up the Hardin went; nor where Drips boarded her.

March 14.—Comment on fast-growing Kansas (City), Mo., appeared in St. Louis newspapers of this date:

“H” (in the St. Louis Union) wrote: “Kansas [is] one of the most thriving towns on the Missouri River. . . . The accommodations for strangers are fully equal to those of any town on the Missouri river. . . . Many of the largest traders for Santa Fe, all the Indian traders, and nearly all the mountain
traders[?], already make Kansas their starting point, and the time is not far distant when Kansas will be the main point for the great Western Prairie trade."

The *Revelle*, noting the growing importance of the Santa Fe trade to St. Louis, stated: "The Messrs. Leitsendorffer [Leitensdorfer] have shipped their goods to Kansas landing by which they save 40 miles of travel. Messrs. Webb & Doane, traders, intend traveling in company with . . . [them]."

On April 7, the Liberty (Mo.) *Tribune* wrote of Kansas, Mo.: "This is going to be quite a flourishing town. Within a few months, it has been gaining fast, both in trade and population. Some of the heaviest Santa Fe traders start now from this point. The landing is one of the best, if not the very best, on the Missouri river; there is a good road to the prairie, a good ferry, and a clever ferry-man—namely Mr. [John] Calvin McCoy."

Bishop James O. Andrew, viewing Kansas, Mo., on October 21, had this comment: "the site is a very unsightly one, being a perfect pile of steep hills, yet I think it is destined to be a thriving, prosperous place for business."

On October 29 Allen T. Ward (employed at Shawnee Methodist Mission), wrote in a letter: "The town of Kansas . . . now contains I think upwards of 300 houses & is rapidly improving. It is one of the best landings on the [Missouri] river, and the town is founded on a ledge of rocks that are as permanent as gibraltar; it is also destined to be the starting point to Santa fe California Oregon &c. A considerable portion of the goods for the Santa fe market are now landed at Kansas, besides all this it is as good a point for the Indian trade as can be found in this country. . . ."


In mid-March, weeks in advance of other traders, Francis X. Aubry (see January 5 entry) left Independence, Mo., for Santa Fe with some 15 merchandise-laden wagons. (To supply feed for his animals as far as Fort Mann, Aubry had corn hauled out to Diamond Spring—present Morris county.)

On April 21 he reached his destination, safely; and sold his goods at wholesale before the wagons got to Santa Fe. See, also, May 28 and October 8 entries.


In March 20.—Trader Lewis Tharp's pack party (eight men; 13 mules) which had left "Fort Spaulding" (an upper-Arkansas trading post, 80 miles above Bent's Fort) on February 25, arrived at town of Kansas (Kansas City), Mo.

(During a winter clash with Indians, Tharp had been robbed of merchandise, and three of his men had been killed. Also, a few days prior to starting East, his brother, Edward Tharp, had been murdered by a white man—James Waters.)
While on the Santa Fe trail, in March, Lewis Tharp and companions had been obliged to backtrack to Fort Mann (after passing it two days earlier) hunting their mules (which had wandered off during a severe storm). On this "retrograde march" they met three men express from Santa Fe, with wornout animals; and, after recovering their own mules, assisted the mail carrier's party to reach Council Grove (where trader Seth Hays provided further aid).

Lewis Tharp, aboard the St. Joseph, arrived at St. Louis, from "Kanzas," on March 26.

Ref: St. Louis Daily Union, March 27, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., April 14, 1848, New York Weekly Tribune, April 8, 1848. William Tharp, brother of Lewis and Edward Tharp, had been killed by Indians at Walnut creek in 1847—see KHQ, v. 30, p. 516.

* March 20.—An express from Santa Fe reached Fort Leavenworth. Newspapers dated as recently as February 24 were brought by the mail carrier—who was, apparently, "Mr. Palmer." (Palmer's arrival at St. Louis, aboard the Amelia, on March 26, was noted by the Union.)

The express was reported (by "Cacero"—writing from Fort Leavenworth on March 20) to have left Las Vegas, N. M., March 1; and to have made the trip in 26 days from Santa Fe. See, also, preceding entry.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., March 24, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, March 27, 31, 1848.

* March 20.—At a new location (selected by Dr. Johnston Lykins and Agent R. W. Cummins), near the center of present Shawnee county, Pottawatomie Baptist Mission (operated by the American Indian Mission Association) reopened, in temporary quarters (an old Indian log house).

The mission (1837-1847) had been in present Franklin county—see KHQ, v. 29, pp. 76, 77, and v. 30, p. 89. In the party which arrived at the new site (described in 1849 as a half mile south of the Kansas, nine miles below Union Town, and one and a half miles "west of the great California road . . ."); and by later survey description as on the NW1/4 of Sec. 32, T. 11 S., R. 15 E.), on the 24th of February, from Westport, Mo., were Dr. Johnston Lykins (physician to the Pottawatomies), Eliza McCoy (mission teacher), Robert Simerwell (blacksmith to the Pottawatomies), and his daughter Sarah Simerwell.

From March 20 to August 20 Eliza McCoy maintained a school for 17 children (16 boarders). There were 11 Pottawatomie girls (aged five to 14), five boys (six to 12), also one white girl (stepdaughter of a Pottawatomie man).

On September 1, 1848, Johnston Lykins was appointed superintendent; and in late October, the AIMA reported contracts with the U. S. government had been signed for establishment of a large (90-pupil) manual labor school; with
$5,000 for buildings, agricultural improvements, &c., and an annual appropriation of $4,500, to be provided for operation. See, also, September 30, 1849, annals entry.

Ref: Comm'r of Indian affairs, Reports, 1848, 1849; American Indian Mission Association (AIMA) Proceedings, 1848, pp. 9, 10, 19 (microfilm, KHi); Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin No. 23 (July, 1955), pp. 11-13 (includes Eliza McCoy's letter from "Kansas River, March 8, 1849"); W. W. Cook's Historical Sketch of Shawnee County, p. 9 (the account here is, for the most part, factual); Atlas of Shawnee County (New York, 1873), Mission township.

 Died: Osage chief Black Dog (Tchong-tas-sab-bee, Shonkah-sabe), March 24, at his home on Dog creek, near present Claremore, Okla. He was "about" seven feet tall and weighed some 275 pounds.

In 1834 artist George Catlin had met this chief; painted a full-length portrait of him; described his huge size ("in height and in girth, above all of his tribe"); noted that he was "blind in the left eye"; and remarked the admiration and respect accorded him by most army officers, traders, and other white men. Artist J. M. Stanley (in 1843) also painted this chief's portrait; and stated his height to be six feet six inches.

Black Dog (according to the Cherokee Advocate) was "courteous in his Indian ways," "warm-hearted, and generally beloved."


About March(?) a "double geared inclined wheel Grist Mill" for the Sac & Fox Indians (of the Missouri), was completed—at, or near, the Great Nemaha Subagency (present Doniphan county).

Subagent W. E. Rucker, in advertising for bids on construction (in the St. Joseph Gazette) under date of July 2, 1847, had specified the main wheel was to be 28 feet in diameter with 36 feet tread in diameter; and the mill was to be enclosed in a "substantial and durable frame" 38 by 50 feet in size. In March, 1848, W. H. High was paid $850 for "services as carpenter in erecting mill, &c." John W. Forman, the first miller, was succeeded before year's end by James F. Forman.


 April 1.—George Douglass, of Missouri, received a contract (from Lt. George W. Wallace, of the First U. S. infantry) to supply fresh beef at Fort Scott for one year, commencing April 1.


 April 1.—Crawford Seminary—a Methodist Church, South, manual labor school for the Quapaw Indians—reopened at a new location "about five miles distant" (i. e., upriver) from the old one (see KHQ, v. 29, pp. 453, 454). The new site perhaps was in "Kansas"—in present Cherokee county.
The Rev. Samuel G. Patterson (sup't) wrote (on September 8) that the buildings were "plain and substantial," and large enough to house "two families, several work hands, and 40 Indian children" (but the school's average attendance in 1848 was 24 pupils, only six of them girls). He described the location as "near the east bank of the Pomme de Terre, or Spring river, immediately on the military road leading from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Smith, five miles west of Newton county, Mo."

Subagent B. A. James reported: "The Quapaws numbered, on the 18th August [1848], 53 men, 59 women, and 109 children total 221."

See also, August 22 entry.


April.—The Tamerlane (William B. Miller, captain), leaving St. Louis on April 5, finally reached St. Joseph, Mo., on the 18th—according to passenger Rudolph Friederich Kurz (Swiss artist). (The Missouri was at low stage, delaying steamboat travel.)

Kurz made St. Joseph (and vicinity) his headquarters from April, 1848, to May, 1850. In this interval he became well acquainted with Iowa chief "Kirutsche" (who, in the summer of 1848, taught Kurz the Iowa dialect). "Kirutsche" (one of the Indians who had gone abroad in 1844—see KHO, v. 30, p. 78, and facing p. 64) was described by Kurz in his journal (in 1848) as "a man of middle age, agreeable in manner, not tall but extremely agile," who had "seen a great deal of the world; had been received by Louis Philippe himself in Paris." He was chief of an Iowa band numbering about 30 lodges.

Ref: R. F. Kurz's Journal (Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin No. 115, Washington, 1937), pp. 27-29. "Kirutsche" was not the name by which this man was known on the European trip.

April.—Steamboats running in the "upper" Missouri river trade (to points above the Kansas river's mouth), this month, included the following:

St. Joseph (returned to St. Louis April 11; and again on the 26th), Wyandotte (left Weston April 12; at St. Louis on the 18th), Tamerlane (upbound for St. Joseph—see preceding entry), Cora (went to Fort Kearney—and Council Bluffs?; back at St. Louis on April 22), Boreas No. 3 (returned, from Weston?, to St. Louis April 20; and was again (?) at Weston on the 29th), St. Croix (returned to St. Louis, from St. Joseph, April 24), Julia (went up—to Weston?), Martha (was at Fort Kearny April 28; reached St. Louis May 2), Kansas (advertised to depart St. Louis April 11; at Weston on the 21st; back at St. Louis on the 25th), Mandan (advertised this spring as a regular packet to Weston and St. Joseph), Haydee (to Weston?), Alton (was at Fort Leavenworth on April 21). Some of these boats also went up past town of Kansas, Mo., in April: Bertrand, Mustang, Whirlwind, War Eagle, Lightfoot, Amelia, Mary, and Eliza Stewart.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, April 9, 11, 18, 25, 26, May 3, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, April 13, 22, 24, 1848; Oregon Historical Quarterly, Salem, v. 51 (March, 1930), p. 56. The above steamboat Kansas—the second of this name on the Missouri (see index to KHO, v. 23, under steamboats, for the earlier one) had been built in 1847. The Reveille of September 8, 1847, reported that the "Kansas"—"a stanch little craft, built for the Missouri trade," had "dropped down to the levese," and would "make
her first trip to New Orleans"; and that her captain was Isaac McPherson. The Kansas was 185 feet "deck length"; beam, 28 feet; had two engines and two boilers; her cabin was built by Bitts & Corey. In 1848, on the Missouri, the Kansas was commanded by J. J. Mitchell—see The Daily Reveille, April 11, 1848, and 30th Cong., 2d Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 17 (Serial 529), p. 90.

In mid-April a company of some 90 men (mostly traders) reached the Missouri border after a 27-day journey from Santa Fe. "Cpt. P. Emerson" (once of the steamboat White Cloud), and 15 to 20 others (including discharged soldiers) of the party, arrived at St. Louis, aboard the St. Joseph, on April 26. (They brought newspapers dated as recently as March 18.)


April 29.—The Independence (Mo.) Expositor, reported that many Santa Fe traders had been detained for some days due to lack of grass on the plains for their animals; noted that the season had been remarkably dry, also quite cold at times, retarding vegetation growth; and stated that rain had commenced falling the night of the 27th.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, May 9, 1848.

Spring.—James M. Simpson, Westport, Mo., supplied 40 yoke of work oxen for the Kickapoo Indians, and was paid $2,270 (an average $25 per ox).


April.—At Fort Leavenworth, as the month ended, there were, apparently, around 670 Mexican War volunteers—recruited overwinter in Missouri and Illinois—who would, in May or June, march for Santa Fe to fill depleted ranks of military volunteer units from the two states.

In the last third of April, the nearly 370(?) Missouri volunteers had arrived. The Kansas and Alton each had brought 100 men and 100 horses; the Wyandotte, 100 men and 50 horses. Two principal recruiters for these cavalry troops: Capt. Gabriel de Korponay and Lt. John K. Hawkins, both of "Ralls" (Third) Missouri regiment. Upwards of 50 other mounted Missourians, mustered in at Weston, Mo., by Lt. William B. Royall, apparently crossed the river to Fort Leavenworth in this same period. (Ultimately, Royall's command numbered over 70 men.)

As appears from a later mention, some 300 Illinois volunteers—infantrymen—under the command of Capt. Vantrump Turner of "Newby's" "First" Illinois regiment, their chief recruiter, were also at Fort Leavenworth in late April. But information about them is meager.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, February 8, April 14, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, April 13, 14, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., April 21, 1848; St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, May 5, 1848; 30th Cong., 2d Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 17 (Serial 529), p. 90. Lt. William B. Royall was adjutant of the Santa Fe battalion in New Mexico (not
of Gilpin's Santa Fe "trace" battalion as stated in KHQ, v. 30, p. 557). The Santa Fe
battalion in New Mexico (organized at Santa Fe in 1847) was composed, in large part,
of reenlisted Missouri volunteers from Doniphan's regiment and other units of 1846-1847
service. Its commanding officer was Maj. Robert Walker.

April-May.—Compared with 1847, the Oregon-California emigration of 1848 was small. Indications are it did not exceed
1,700 persons. Indian Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick, who (eastbound
in the spring) met nearly the entire emigration, provided the most
illuminating statistics of the year. He counted 364 wagons; and
estimated (on a five-per-wagon basis) that about 1,700 persons
were en route to Oregon, and around 150 to California. (The
"rule of thumb" Fitzpatrick, and others, used has been shown un-
reliable—four per wagon being a more nearly accurate calculation.)

By June 9 the St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette had concluded (from
"best information") that the year's Oregon-California emigration
would not exceed 350 wagons—about 1,600 souls. Out on the
trail, eastbound from Oregon, was Isaac Pettijohn (emigrant West
in 1847). Between June 23 (near South Pass) and July 2 (below
the North Platte crossing), diarist Pettijohn recorded meeting 343
wagons of emigrants for Oregon or California; and at Ash Hollow,
on July 10, "met the [Mormon] Brethren . . . 350 wagons
strong."

For a later perspective there is the statement of Mr. E. Whipple
(a Mormon from Salt Lake City), published in the New York
Weekly Tribune of February 10, 1849, that in 1847 the Oregon-
California emigrant wagons had numbered about 1,000, but in
1848, there had been only around 350.

The "St. Joseph" Emigration. The Gazette of May 5 reported that St.
Joseph had been "literally crowded" for the "last two weeks" with Oregon and
California emigrants "laying in their supplies"; also, that 210 wagons had
crossed the Missouri there, and some 40 or 50 others at the ferry (ferries?)
above. This was not the final count for the St. Joseph area. However, except
for one 11 or 13-wagon train which (inferentially) ferried the Missouri the
second week in May, no supplemental figure is available. The Gazette on May
5 noted, also, the arrival of Moses ("Black") Harris "from the front camp of the
Oregon emigrants," with a report the various trains for Oregon and California
were all getting on well except the last-met company (unidentified) which was
camped (some 35 miles from St. Joseph) distant from water, leaderless, and
"in utter confusion," having lost nearly all their oxen (strayed, or stolen by
Indians).

One company (the first?) on the road from this area had "Tom Fallon"
(William O. Fallon—see KHQ, v. 30, p. 540) as guide, and included Pierre
B. Cornwall, who recollected leaving St. Joseph "early in April." (It was
probably at least late April before any company left the frontier.) Most (if
not all) of this party (including Cornwall, Orvin Kellogg, emigrant West in 1845, and his son Joseph) were headed for Oregon. Fallon, and a man named "Guthrie" were killed by Indians west of Fort Hall.

At Mosquito Creek (present Doniphan county), on April 27, 42 men of a train then said to have 15 to 20 wagons, chose M. N. Wambough as "Camp Master." Oregon-bound Riley Root (in a diary) recorded that this company reached the Great Nemaha Subagency on the 28th; remained in the area three days; on May 14, in the Little Blue country, killed the first buffalo; on May 15 was joined by a "few wagons" coming up behind, "making in all about thirty wagons." This addition probably was the party of Joseph Clyman (once a mountain man; now California-bound to stay), including the McCombs family, and others, which (it is known) did travel with the Wambough company (later further enlarged?) out to the turning-off point for California. Clyman's statement is that his group left "west of Missouri" on May 1. Subsequently, he captained the train that went to California. The (later-written) narrative of Rufus G. Burrows (aged 14 in 1848), who left Kansas (City), Mo., with his stepfather Rufus Hitchcock, and uncle, Street Rice, to go to California in the spring of 1848, states: "After our arrival at Fort Laramie, our train was soon organized and... Wm. Wambo [elected] as the Captain."

Burrows' account says there were 51 wagons, about 200 people, 250 head of oxen, also 200 or 300 head of stock cattle and about 50 saddle horses; and that the company [now?] included mountain man Caleb Greenwood, together with his family. (Whether Burrows and his family traveled via St. Joseph, or started with a company out of Independence, is not clear.) His narrative mentions, also, P. B. Cornwall (see above), "a half breed Cherokee Indian and a man by the name of Stone" (see "David Stone" below) as being of the party (from Fort Laramie?).

Joseph Watt (Oregon immigrant, 1844; now westbound with his family, including brother Ahio Watt) was ahead of Porter's train (see below) on the trail (having started from the St. Joseph area?). Porter mentions a campsite (on the Little Blue?) where "Mr. Watts company had buried a child the day before." An account (1903) says that Joseph Watt was "looked to as a leader" for the party with which he traveled in 1848; that the Watt family had two large wagons, also a band of sheep; and indicates that William Greenwood, and his family, from Iowa, were among those in the company.

Oregon-bound William Porter's brief diary mentions leaving "Peters Creek six miles from St. Joseph" (in present Doniphan county) on May 5. His own party (then four wagons?) included John Purvine. Porter reached the Great Nemaha Subagency May 6. Perhaps the company was organized there with Bolivar Walker as captain. Porter, with Walker's train, reached Pacific Springs July 8. If Oregon-bound W. L. (?) Adams (who wrote a letter July 8 from Pacific Springs) was also in the company, there were some 50 wagons at that time. Walker's train reached Oregon City October 1. John Purvine (mentioned above), by one account, captained a train reaching Oregon. Five "packers," arriving at Oregon City August 30, were the first to bring news that Joe Meek (whom they had met on May 7, some 60-70 miles west of St. Joseph) had reached the States safely. One of these men was George Luther Boone, son of Alphonso Boone (an 1846 Oregon immigrant). Another was William Bristow (later) said to have been of Captain Purvine's train.
In a narrative, James D. Miller says the "last company [David Stone, captain?] that crossed the plains to Oregon in 1848" (i.e., the last out of St. Joseph?) was composed of 11 or 13 (?) wagons, with 31 men able to bear arms: that in the party were the Joseph Miller family (James D.'s father), David Stone and family, George A. Barnes and wife, and others (quite a few are named) including two Catholic priests—the Rev. J. Lionet and Father Lampfrit. He further states: "The ferryboat that brought our last wagon over [the Missouri] took back on the return trip . . . Joseph L. Meek . . . [and party]." (If this was so, the date was May 11, since Meek reached St. Joseph that day.) Some of the party had arrived at Weston, Mo. (via the Boreas No. 3 from St. Louis), on April 29; but others were en route overland from Indiana. Bancroft's History of Oregon states that David Stone captained the company with which George A. Barnes (of Fort Wayne, Ind.) traveled. Two added notes from Miller's narrative: He says that at Steamboat Springs they "found a part of Whitaker's train"[?]; and that his own company arrived at Oregon City the first week in November.

Daniel Hunsacker (and family—wife, at least), from Atchison county, Mo., were overland emigrants in 1848. Hunsacker's April 10, 1849, letter, from Benicia City, Calif., was published in the St. Joseph papers in June, 1849.

The "Independence" Emigration. James P. C. Allsopp (from New Orleans) recollected that his all-male party joined a train of "about 25 wagons" at Independence, Mo., around April 10. Though his party reached Fort Laramie early—May 31—probably the start from the frontier was not before late April. Allsopp's group went by way of Salt Lake City, where some of the men stayed. He and six others went on to California, reaching San Francisco in December.

California-bound Edward Smith (who kept a journal) left the frontier in late April, traveled 12 miles and encamped at "Elm Grove." His party then numbered, it appears, not over two wagons. Beyond the Wakarusa (and after May 8) there was a union, of sorts, with an Oregon-bound train of 23 (?) wagons. (Possibly this was the same company—"about 25 wagons"—with which Allsopp's party traveled.) Some four miles beyond the "Schunga-Lunga" these emigrants arrived at the bank of Kansas river (present Topeka area). The Oregonians forded it with great difficulty; the Smith party ferried over. Some days later Edward Smith's group was joined by some Smiths (a man, his wife, children, and his two brothers) who left the Oregon company—now forming a company of three families (nine men, plus women and children) and four wagons. But when they reached the Big Vermillion the Smith party formally united with the Oregon company. At the Big Blue, Edward Smith visited Alcove Spring—described it, and the grave of Mrs. Sarah Keys (see KHQ, v. 30, pp. 354, 379). Beyond the juncture with the St. Joseph trail (where Smith estimated 200 wagons had passed a few days earlier), the journal (or fragment thereof) ends abruptly.

Joseph B. Chiles' California-bound train evidently left the Missouri frontier (from Independence, Mo.) early in May. (Chiles was returning home—see indexes to KHQ, v. 29 and v. 30, for his earlier cross-country travels.) Having learned, by an express, that Richard May's party (which left Independence May 12) would join him, Chiles traveled slowly; but it was May 21 (beyond the Big Blue crossing?) before the latter group joined. On May 23 the Chiles-May
company (now 29? wagons) passed the junction with the St. Joseph trail. [May's party, earlier, had found the Kansas river "Verry Low (Fordable)" but the sand bar on which they crossed had tried the strength of their teams.] When the Chiles-May company left the Little Blue, on June 1, May recorded "We number Men Women & Children 112 . . . [37 being men]." More were yet to come—a train of 18 wagons and 12 men with pack mules. At the head of Grand Island, on June 3 the 29-wagon train "passed 4 Companies of the Oregon Battaleon. They were Layin off a fort [i.e., New Fort Kearny—see p. 162]. . . ." Two days later, Samuel J. Hensley (one of the 12 "packers") arrived in camp; and on June 7 the awaited 18-wagon train corralled just below the Chiles-May company. Among the newcomers were David and John Plemons, and evidently Peter Lassen. Richard M. May stated (on June 9) "The number now is 47 (Wagons) near 80 men, quite a formidable force." (No attempt will be made here to carry these travelers on to California. Chiles, Hensley, and Lassen, all pioneered new routes before reaching their destinations.)

One final note: The Independence Expositor of May 27 reported that a gentleman who had accompanied the Oregon (but meaning California?) emigrants out beyond the crossing of Kansas river 200 miles, had returned "this morning" with a report that they were in fine health and spirits. "There are 50? wagons in all, with a considerable number of loose stock."

Ref: (GENERAL) L. B. Hafen and W. J. Ghent's Broken Hand . . . (Denver, 1931), p. 209 (for Fitzpatrick—his June 24, 1848, report is cited as source); St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, June 9, 1848; Isaac Pettijohn's diary (some items from the original in Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif., courtesy Dale L. Morgan; others, from C. L. Camp, ed., James Clyman, Frontiersman [1960], p. 292); New York Weekly Tribune, February 10, 1849.

(The "St. Joseph" Emigration) St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette—issues of April and May, 1848; Camp's Clyman (op. cit.), pp. 236, 288 (for Cornwall), 235-237, 282, 283, 286, 287, 338 (for Wambough; Clyman, etc.), 237 and 288 (for Porter-Walker, etc.), 338 (Note 210, for "Mr. Watts" company); Riley Root's "Journal" in California Historical Society Quarterly, San Francisco, v. 10 (December, 1961), pp. 396-400; Rufus G. Burrows' narrative (typescript) is in the California State Library; Robert H. Dunn's A History of the Siletz Country (Portland, 1926), pp. 60-69 (for Wm. Porter's diary); H. E. Tobie's article "Joseph L. Meek in Oregon Historical Quarterly, v. 40 (September, 1939), p. 264 (for Purvine, Boone, Bristow, etc.); Tobie's No Man Like Joe (Portland, Ore., 1949), p. 160, states it was August 30 when Boone and four other packers arrived at Oregon City; Oregon Historical Quarterly, v. 42 (September, 1941), pp. 220-229 (for Boone relationships); H. H. Bancroft's History of Oregon (San Francisco, 1886), v. 1, pp. 751-754 (for items on the 1848 immigrants); Oregon Historical Quarterly, v. 4 (June, 1903), pp. 150-161 (for the Watts, Greenswoods, etc.); ibid., v. 40 (September, 1939), p. 263 (for Watt); ibid., v. 31 (March, 1930) pp. 55-60 (for James D. Miller); Bancroft, op. cit., p. 752 (for Barnes and Stone); St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, June 29, 1849 (for Daniel Hunsacker).

(The "Independence" Emigration) Camp's Clyman (op. cit.), pp. 236, 288 (for Allsopp); Topeka Daily Capital, July 19, 1959 (for an article on the Edward Smith journal—original privately owned); Camp's Clyman, pp. 257, 258, 289 (for the Chiles-May company); items from Richard M. May's diary (other than those in Camp), courtesy of Dale L. Morgan, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif.; Saint Louis Daily Union, June 6, 1848 (for Independence [Mo.] Expositor item). For Chiles, Hensley, and Lassen, and the routes they pioneered, see, in addition to Camp's Clyman, Georgia W. Read and Ruth Gaines, editors, Gold Rush—the Journals, Drawings, and Other Papers of J. Goldthorpe Bristow . . . (New York, Columbia University Press, 1949), pp. xxvi, xxxvii, 630, 631; and for Hensley and Chiles see Utah Historical Quarterly, Salt Lake City, v. 19 (1951), pp. 249-251. Lassen's journey to Missouri in 1847 (which some writers have questioned) is given specific mention in KIQ, v. 30, p. 551. The journeys of Hensley and Chiles to the States in 1847 are noted there, too.
Died: Dr. Jesse Harvey, superintendent since 1847 at Shawnee Friends Mission (present Johnson county), in the fore part of May (about the 11th?). He was a man “highly esteemed.”

His widow—Elizabeth (Burgess) Harvey (as superintendent), and the three Harvey “children” (all adults by 1848) continued to operate the mission until 1850 (or late 1849). Dr. William F. Harvey and Sarah T. Harvey were teachers; Thomas B. Harvey operated the mission farm.


May 11.—Overland from Oregon, Joseph L. Meek (bearer of a memorial to congress) and his escort of six (or eight?) men, arrived at St. Joseph, Mo.—in about 69 days, on horseback, and afoot, from the Whitman mission.

Meek, George W. Ebbert, Nathaniel Bowman, and others—10 in all at the outset—had started from Oregon City early in January; and two months later—March 4 (or 5?) had left the mission (where the massacre of the Whitmans, and others, on November 29, 1847, had touched off an Indian war which necessitated the memorial [request for federal aid] to congress).

Ebbert later recollected of the Oregon trail journey eastward that they had met westbound emigrant companies including those with which Sol Emeric and Joseph Watt traveled (on the Little and Big Blue); that at the “Kaw Agency” [i. e., the Great Nemaha Subagency] they “tried to get provisions, but failed,” and “in a few miles met a man who gave us some bread and a bottle of whiskey.” Four (?) days later on “the 4th day [i. e., the 11th] of May, 1848” they reached St. Joseph.

Meek took the steamboat Mandan to St. Louis (arriving there on May 17), and reached Washington the last week of May.

See, also, August 14, and September 10 entries.

Ref: The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., May 12, 1848 (which says Meek and escort of “six men” arrived there the 11th); Saint Louis Daily Union, May 18, 20, 1848; H. E. Tobie’s No Man Like Joe . . ., pp. 151-162; Oregon Historical Quarterly, v. 19 (September, 1918), pp. 263-267 (for Ebbert’s account); ibid., v. 40 (September, 1949), pp. 263, 264; H. H. Bancroft, op. cit., v. 1, pp. 755-757. The Mandan had been up to Council Bluffs, and left there on May 13, arriving at St. Louis May 17—see The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, May 18, 1848.

Died: on May 12, at the old Pottawatomie Methodist Mission (present Miami? county; on Pottawatomie creek), the Rev. Mackinaw Beauchemie, of pneumonia.

In the early 1830’s Beauchemie (half-Chippewa) had been converted by the Rev. Thomas Johnson; and in 1837, employed by him as a native preacher among the Pottawatomies. He was ordained deacon (minister), in the M. E. Church, South, in 1847. Bishop James O. Andrew characterized Beauchemie as “probably the greatest and best of the Pottawatomies . . . a man of rare gifts and ardent and consistent piety.”
May.—From Council Grove, “R” wrote, on the 12th: “The road from this place [east] to Independence is almost one continued encampment of Santa Fe and Chihuahua traders. McKnight, Mayer, Hall, Slaughter and Bean, Reynolds and Clarkson, Coons, and many others, in all perhaps 200 wagons, heavily freighted with merchandise of every description, are scattered all along the road from here to the State line, besides at least 100 wagons that have already passed on. The amount of goods taken out this year will far exceed the exports of any preceding year.”

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, May 26, 1848; SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, p. 151, for May 12 letter written by Sup’t Thomas H. Harvey, St. Louis, stating: “Since I have been here [he arrived on the 10th] some hundred heavy waggons have passed on to Santa Fe (commercial traders).”

Around May 15, five miles south of the Arkansas crossing (in present Gray county), Maj. William Singer (paymaster) abandoned “his entire baggage, including his pay rolls, horses, four mules and his wagon” to a large band of well-mounted Indians presumed hostile; and with six companions, fled to Fort Mann. (Singer, with driver and a servant, had left Santa Fe about May 3, escorted by a four-man express bound for the States.)

Fort Mann’s notorious Capt. William Pelzer (with 65 men) made a show of going after the Indians, but found it expedient to turn back when he discovered the “enemy” numbered around 150. Lt. Caleb S. Tuttle, continuing to scout the Indians, arrived at the camp of Leitensdorfer and Webb (bound for Santa Fe with merchandise). The traders went to the Indian village—Kiowas, newly friendly to whites—and recovered all Major Singer’s lost property.

From Fort Mann Singer accompanied a government train to Cow creek; then with his driver and servant journeyed the rest of the way without escort; and arrived at Fort Leavenworth on May 26 “having been but 23 days out from Santa Fe.”

Ref: The Daily Revilla, St. Louis, June 1, 10, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., June 9, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, June 17, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, June 3, 1848).

Between May 15 and 20 (as deduced from fragmentary information) some 300 Illinois infantry recruits and 71 Missouri cavalry recruits marched from Fort Leavenworth for New Mexico. (Remaining at the post, to depart in June, were about 300 other Missouri volunteers—see April entry, p. 151.) As far as Council Grove, Capt. Vantrump Turner (of “Newby’s” Illinois regiment) had charge of all these troops.

At Council Grove, Lt. William B. Royall and his 71 Missouri volunteers, were
assigned to escort Major Bryant (paymaster) to Fort Mann, and government trains to Santa Fe—see June 5-20 entry. (Royall reached Fort Mann on June 20.)

Perhaps 10 days later Turner and his Illinois troops left Council Grove, escorting other government trains. California-bound Orville C. Pratt, in his diary, recorded (on June 30) that near Fort Mann his party passed a train of 100 wagons and 400 head of beef cattle, and some 300 infantry troops under Captain Turner of Illinois, going to Santa Fe.

Ref: 30th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 1 (Serial 537), p. 141 (Royall says that on June 5, at Council Grove, he was placed "by Captain V. Turner, of the Illinois volunteers [who had the direction of all the troops who left Fort Leavenworth for Santa Fe on the 15th and 20th of May], in charge of two government trains . . . [etc.]"; Orville C. Pratt's "Diary" (microfilm of original in Coe Collection, Yale University Library).

¢ May 17.—James Brown (in a contract negotiated with Capt. Langdon C. Easton, AQM) agreed to transport 200,000 pounds of government stores from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe, N. M., for $11.75 per 100 pounds. Sureties signing his $50,000 bond were: G[eorge] R[appeen] Smith, John S. Jones, and David Waldo.

On the 18th, by another contract, James Brown agreed to transport from the fort to Santa Fe "such government stores as may be delivered to him by the said Easton," at the same rate; and to take, "at the price they cost the government," a number of wagons (not exceeding 120), also such ox yokes, chains, etc., "as can be spared," and to pay for them in specie on receipt. For his $600,000 bond, the sureties were Jabez Smith, David Waldo, John McCoy, William McCoy, S. H. Woodson, and Cornelius Davy.


¢ In mid-May two, out of three, Mackinaw boats which had come down the Missouri in Joseph Picotte's charge, reached Weston, Mo. Their cargoes ("upwards of" 800 bales of buffalo robes, consigned to Messrs. Harvey, Primeau & Co.) were put aboard the Amelia at Weston, and arrived at St. Louis on May 20. Earlier, above Council Bluffs, the third boat (carrying 100 packs of furs) had "snagged" and sunk.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, May 21, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, May 23, 1848.

¢ May.—Ceran St. Vrain, William Bent, E. T. Hempstead, "Mr. [Hugh N.] Smith, the Attorney General for . . . [New Mexico] Territory," and others, crossed "Kansas" eastbound on the Santa Fe trail, arriving in St. Louis, on the Whirlwind, May 21. They had
left "Fort William" (Bent's Fort) April 22; endured cold weather on the journey; had seen no Indians.

St. Vrain (Bent, and Smith, also?) had left Taos, N. M., on April 12 for Bent's Fort. He, and Bent, had gone to New Mexico, from "Fort William," early in March to procure supplies for Gilpin's campaign (see under January 21 entry).


￠ May.—White Cloud (head chief of the Iowas) and a band of his "braves" left their village (present Doniphan county) on the 14th; traveled up to "Nebraska"; ambushed the rear detachment of a large body of Pawnees (westbound after journeying to Council Bluffs for corn); killed six women, three men, and two children; returned home, rejoicing, about May 25, with the scalps of their victims. (A portrait of White Cloud faces p. 160.)

Sup't T. H. Harvey, St. Louis, called it "one of the most outrageous and inexcusable acts of butchery, even among the wild Indians" that had come to his knowledge. "White Cloud," he wrote, "is a desperate bad man . . . he [has] . . . seen much of the world [having gone to Europe in 1844] and is sensible of the criminality of his conduct." Harvey also stated that White Cloud's son (a young man of education, who had "lived a considerable time in the Settlements with the Whites") was in the war party, and had "committed the horrible act of cutting off the head of a wounded boy. . . ." Horse stealing by Pawnees was the Iowas' excuse for the massacre. Neither the Iowas' second or third chiefs had participated in the affair; nor had the Sacs & Foxes (of the Missouri).

Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Great Nemaha Subagency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 308), A. J. Vaughan's June 1, 1848, account, therein; SIA, St. Louis, "Records," v. 9, typed copy, pp. 206, 207 (Harvey's September 4, 1848, letter); Comm'r of Indian affairs, Report, 1848 (Harvey's report); The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., June 2, 1849.

￠ Died: Keokuk, celebrated Sac chief, aged 60(?), "Kansas" resident since late 1845, in May (or April?), at his settlement on the Marais des Cygnes, near the Osage-Franklin county line of today. (See his portrait in KHQ, v. 30, facing p. 520.)

It was June 6 when Sup't T. H. Harvey, St. Louis, first learned of Keokuk's death. The first report was that Keokuk had been poisoned by one of his people; that the "murderer" had confessed his guilt and had been executed (shot) by other Sacs. But in a June 14 letter to the Indian department, Harvey wrote that Keokuk's death was caused "by a dysentery brought on by a drunken frolic." Apparently Keokuk died near the end of May (but see below). Harvey had been in "Kansas" in May (e.g., at Council Grove on May 12) and (presumably) would have been informed of the chief's death then, had it occurred prior to his visit.
Keokuk's grave, in a Franklin county burial area a little west of the Sac & Fox Agency, subsequently was marked with a marble slab bearing the inscription: SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF KEOKUK DISTINGUISHED SAC CHIEF BORN AT ROCK ISLAND IN 1788 DIED IN APRIL 1848. (This slab, in 1883, was removed to Keokuk, Iowa, and imbedded in the east side of a monument to Keokuk erected in the town's Rand Park. "This monument [says the inscription on the west side] is erected by popular subscription in memory of the Sac Chief Keokuk for whom this city is named." It goes on to state that in 1883 his remains together with the marble slab were brought from Franklin county, Kansas, where he died, and was buried; and that his grave was located about 3/4 miles southeast of the "village of Pomona Franklin County Kansas," on the SE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 16, T. 17 S., R. 18 E., and had been covered by the slab above mentioned; also that his remains, and other matter of historical value are "deposited in the base of this structure." A statue of Chief Keokuk, sculptured by Nellie V. Walker, and placed atop the 1883-erected monument, was dedicated October 22, 1913.)

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, May 29, June 8, 1848; St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, June 16, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, June 7, 1848; SIA, St. Louis, "Records," v. 9, typed copy, pp. 162, 168 (for Harvey's letters); KHC, v. 11, pp. 337, 343; OIA, Letters Received from Osage River Agency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 643), also has Harvey's June 6 and 14, 1848, letters; Ottawa Daily Republican, October 22, 1883, p. 4, col. 3 (has account of Keokuk's "removal" to Iowa in 1883); Charles R. Green's In Keokuk's Time on the Kansas Reservation (Olathe, c1913), pp. 8-12; Edward McCoose's letter of August 24, 1875 (in KHi ms. division) tells of Indian graves—Keokuk's and Hard Fish's included—in Franklin county, being robbed (medals, etc., stolen) and bones strewn about. The inscriptions (all four sides) on Keokuk's monument in Rand Park, Keokuk, Iowa, were copied for this compiler by a friend, who also sent a clipping from The Daily Cate City, Keokuk, Iowa, March 11, 1965, p. 16, which contains a story on Nellie V. Walker, sculptor of the Chief Keokuk statue. James B. Finley's Life Among the Indians . . . (Cincinnati, 1857), pp. 531-543, contains vivid word descriptions of Chief Keokuk. George Catlin, Charles Bird King, and John Mix Stanley were some of the artists who painted Chief Keokuk. Stanley's portrait of him was destroyed by fire. F. W. Hodge's Handbook of American Indians . . . (Washington, 1907), v. 1, pp. 673, 674, mentioned a bronze bust of Keokuk—in the Capitol at Washington, D. C.

May.—The arrival at St. Louis, on May 30, of “Mr. Fink,” who had left Santa Fe April 18, was noted by the Reveille, which stated: "The party he was with was attacked, when about 30 miles this side of Fort Mann, by [about 25 well-mounted] Comanches. One of the traders, a Mexican, was wounded by a lance."

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, May 31, 1848.

May 28.—Francis X. Aubry (who had left Santa Fe, N. M., the night of May 19) rode into Independence, Mo., about an hour before sunrise—having traveled the 780-mile length of Santa Fe trail in "the incredible short space of eight days and ten hours!!!" (This broke his own previous record—see January 5 entry—by about five and one-half days. But see September 17 entry for Aubry's fleetest Santa Fe trail trip.)
An 1837 painting of "Young Mahaska" (White Cloud)—Iowa head chief, attributed to artist Charles Bird King. White Cloud was deposed in 1848 for murdering defenseless Pawnees (see p. 159).

Sac chief Moses Keokuk (Keokuk, Jr.), born in 1824(?) near Rock Island, Ill.; came to "Kansas" late in 1845; became head chief in 1848 (see p. 170); removed to "Oklahoma" in 1869; died there in 1903.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To:</th>
<th>Aggregate miles</th>
<th>John A. Bingham—1848</th>
<th>Josiah Gregg—1844</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Line</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Elm</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull creek</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Jack</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 creek</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge [or, Switzer’s] creek</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluff creek</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big John Spring</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Grove</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Spring</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Fork</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey creek</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Arkansas</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Owl creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Owl creek</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow creek</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum Buttes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Bend of Arkansas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut creek</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawnee Rock</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash creek</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawnee Fork</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coon creek [divides into Big Coon and Little Coon]</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mann’s Fort</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossing of Arkansas</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand creek</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Springs</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle creek</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>775</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Tables of Distances on the Santa Fe Trail ("Kansas" Section)

From Fort Leavenworth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To:</th>
<th>Aggregate miles</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>To:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper ferry [mouth of Wakarusa]</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>&quot;Camp Kanzas&quot; [south of lower ferry—&quot;Delaware,&quot; or &quot;Grinter&quot;]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Lone Elm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54.91</td>
<td>Bull creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64.19</td>
<td>Black Jack Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Spring</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Miller’s Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>76.52</td>
<td>Pelican creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 creek</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>110-mile creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>102.43</td>
<td>11.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>114.54</td>
<td>Waldo creek, Big creek, &amp;c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragoon creek</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>129.81</td>
<td>140-mile creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluff creek</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>15.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Grove</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>13.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>152.94</td>
<td>Rock creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Spring</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Spring</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>One mile beyond Council Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>Diamond Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Turkey creek</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>Lost Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Arkansas</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>Cottonwood Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>246.22</td>
<td>Little Turkey creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26.60</td>
<td>Little Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Cow creek</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>Owl creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>267.92</td>
<td>11.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>285.92</td>
<td>10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Big Cow creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut creek</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Arkansas river (&quot;Two miles above Osage camping ground&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>314.07</td>
<td>Ash creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawnee Fork</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>Pawnee Fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coon creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>On the Arkansas (&quot;Guide called 'Love's defeat'&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>337.74</td>
<td>On the Arkansas (&quot;&quot;&quot;&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>354.65</td>
<td>&quot;Near Fort Mann&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Mann</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>&quot;Crossing of Arkansas&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>373</td>
<td>At a water hole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>418.59</td>
<td>Found two water holes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossing of Arkansas</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>Lower Cimarron Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>420.09</td>
<td>Some pools of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>435.77</td>
<td>Middle Springs of Cimarron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand creek</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower spring on Cimarron</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>465.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>479.93</td>
<td>30.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Spring</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>499.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>518.95</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>757</td>
<td>19.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td></td>
<td>821.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bvt. Maj. James H. Carleton (using data from Bvt. Capt. Alexander B. Dyer’s notes) compiled the table (above, left), which was published (reprinted) in Stryker’s American Register and Magazine, v. 4 (July, 1850), pp. 247-249. Carleton’s covering letter was dated February 1, 1850; but Dyer had crossed the Santa Fe trail during the Mexican War period. Bvt. Maj. Henry L. Kendrick’s table of distances (measured by viameter) was compiled between May 16 and July 22, 1849, as he traveled to Santa Fe. It was published in 31st Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 17 (Serial 573), p. 92.
South view of new Delaware Baptist Mission (see p. 142), published in the May, 1851, Baptist Missionary Magazine, along with a letter by teacher (and artist?] Elizabeth S. Morse, describing “Briggsvale School.” The framed main building (56' x 56') had eight rooms; the log (18' x 20') addition served as “kitchen and dining room”; next was a storeroom. On the far right was the “too-small” school house (20' x 20'). In later years this institution was known as “Pratt Mission”—for long-time missionaries John G. Pratt and wife.
The Independence Expositor published an extra on May 29 to herald Aubry's feat. On June 3 the St. Louis Republican, reporting his arrival in that city on the previous evening, wrote of Aubry's "unexampled" travelling that "he lost, from detention by the Indians [near Pawnee Fork], more than a day [also lost his "baggage, provisions, packages of letters, &c."], and really made the distance . . . in seven days"; that six men who left Santa Fe with him gave out in the first 300 miles; that he "killed three horses and two mules [by hard riding]"; walked 40 [about 30!] miles to Fort Mann, where he got a horse; was three days without provisions; slept "only four or five hours on the route."

See, also, July entry, p. 171.

Ref: The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., June 2, 1848 (reprinting the Expositor article of May 29); New York Weekly Tribune, June 17, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, June 3); Saint Louis Daily Union, June 5, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, June 8, 1848; The Pacific Historian, v. 5 (August, 1961), p. 113; G. D. Brewerton's Overland With Kit Carson . . . (New York, 1950), p. 252.

May 29.—Mail carriers A. Smith and G. R. Gibson (who had left Santa Fe on April 28), reached the Missouri border—one day after Aubry (who had brought Santa Fe newspapers of May 19 date).

Ref: New York Weekly Tribune, June 17, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, June 3); Saint Louis Daily Union, August 23, 1848 (from Santa Fe Republican). See, also, June 29 annals entry.

About the end of May a large traders' caravan left Council Grove for Santa Fe and Mexico. It included the wagons of John McCoy, Independence, Mo., John Simpson, Westport, Mo., and others—a train of some 75 wagons and 100 men.

McCoy (who went to Chihuahua; and came home in 1849) wrote his recollections of the outbound journey after his return. His account mentions the passing by of Aubry (on his swift May ride); the finding of large buffalo herds on the "third of July" [i. e., June?] east (?) of the Little Arkansas; the arrival at "Mann's Fort" where disgruntled Missouri volunteers (of "Gilpin's battalion") destroyed the caravan's "hospital stores" of "costly wines and brandies." (A day earlier, Lt. Col. William Gilpin had confiscated two wagon-loads of beer brought to the post by a German trader, and caused the beer to be poured out.)

"Fourteen miles from the Caches near Mann's Fort and eight miles from the crossing of the Big Arkansas," they experienced a "fearful" storm; but were able to ford the river next day. By the Fourth of July the caravan had reached "point of rocks"; and probably the wagons arrived in Santa Fe in midmonth.


May 30.—The Mexican War came to a formal end with the ratification, this day, by the Mexican government, of the February
2 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (which the U. S. senate had accepted on March 10). New Mexico and California now became part of the American Union.

On July 4 President Polk issued a proclamation declaring the termination of the war between the United States and Mexico.


● May 30.—Lt. Col. William Gilpin and his 300 (?) Missouri volunteers, ending the Indian expedition begun in March (see January 21 entry), arrived in the vicinity of Fort Mann (where the rest of "Gilpin's battalion" formed the garrison), and set up a cavalry camp on the south side of the Arkansas.

They had left the Canadian river on May 18, in western "Okahoma," at a point near the "Antelope buttes" (and near the 100th meridian), to strike northward for the Arkansas. En route they had crossed the Wolf, Beaver, and Cimarron rivers—the last-named after entering "Kansas" in present Clark county.

In the Fort Mann area Gilpin found "the chiefs of the Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Arapahoe tribes" awaiting his return, and "desiring to enter into treaties of peace." He ordered them to move their villages away from the Santa Fe road, and to "wait further instructions upon the waters of the Platte." These tribes complied.

News reached St. Louis (a month later) that Gilpin, immediately on his return from the "Comanche tour," had placed Fort Mann's Capt. William Pelzer under arrest; and had taken other disciplinary action at that post.


● Late May, or early June.—At Walnut creek, one man in "Brown's train" was killed by Comanches. He was, so far as known, the only white man killed by Indians in "Kansas" in 1848.

A Fort Mann correspondent (writing June 21 from the "Cavalry Camp" there) referred to the large band of Indians (mostly Comanches) which had infested the "Coon Creek Bottom" for "some weeks past," and succeeded in "robbing several trains, as well as wounding several persons," besides murdering (James?) Brown's employee.


● At the beginning of June, in "Nebraska," a new military post (first known as "Fort Childs"; officially named Fort Kearny December 30, 1848) was established near the head of Grand Island on the Platte river, and near the Oregon-California trail. (The site had been chosen in October, 1847—see KHQ, v. 30, p. 542.)
These were some of the developments at new Fort "Kearny" in 1845: June 1.—Lt. Col. Ludwell E. Powell and three companies (Sublette's, McCausland's, and Craig's) of his "Oregon battalion" Missouri volunteers arrived at the new post site—after an overland journey (of about 190 miles) across "Nebraska" from Fort Kearny (on the Missouri). June 3.—Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury (U. S. engineers), in charge of construction, proposed the name "Fort Childs" for the post. About this same time the Pawnee Indians agreed to cede certain land as the fort reserve (see August 6 entry for formal treaty). June 6 or 7.—The rest of the "Oregon battalion" (Rodger's and Stewart's companies) arrived. June 26.—Capt. A. W. Sublette was reported in charge; and a brickyard (for adobes) and sawmill was said to be in "full operation." August 22.—A Missouri volunteer wrote (in a letter dated "Fort Childs, Nebraska Terr'y") that two buildings were "nearly half completed," one of them a sod stable; that the "Oregon battalion" men (construction workers by necessity) were "tired of the war" and anxious to return home; and that old Pawnee chief "Si-re-cherish" [Shah-re-tah-riche] was a prisoner at "Fort Childs"—held for past misdeeds. (He was released prior to October 6.) Early in September, Lt. Col. L. E. Powell allowed three "Oregon battalion" companies to go home; leaving at "Fort Childs" a portion of Sublette's and McCausland's companies. October 6.—The "entire garrison" at the post consisted of "the [Oregon battalion] headquarters [soon to depart] . . . and some 18 or 20 men." Those left would be able to defend themselves "as each man is armed with a fine brass 12-pounder, and some 500 rounds of fixed ammunition." About October 28, Capt. Charles F. Ruff and two companies of U. S. mounted riflemen (127) arrived—relieving Lt. Antoine Lefevre and the few remaining Missouri volunteers. (See October 15 and November 16 annals entries.) October 31. Lt. D. P. Woodbury reported the first buildings completed at "Fort Childs." (Others were finished by December 7.)


C June.—In one of the westbound merchant trains on the Santa Fe trail this month were Preston Beck, Samuel Wethered, G. Estes, Lucien Maxwell, Elliott Lee, Charles Towne, his brother, Smith D. Towne, Thomas O. Boggs, and H. O'Neil. By report, their company had left the Missouri border (i.e., Council Grove?) around May 28.

At the Arkansas Crossing the train took the Cimarron route, but Lee, Maxwell, Charles Towne (and others?) went upriver to Bent's Fort. Subsequently, near the Raton mountains, en route to Taos, on June 19, a company of 14 men (including these three) was attacked by Apaches. Killed were Towne, a Mexican, and a Frenchman; while Lee (reported killed; later found alive by a search party) and Maxwell were wounded.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, July 20, August 23, October 10, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, August 8, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, August 12, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, July 20); W. A. Kelcher's Turn-of-the York in Texas, 1846-1855 (Santa Fe, c1852), p. 128, note 54 (for some data on Preston Beck); The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, April 11, 1848, had noted the arrival at St. Louis on April 9 of Charles Towne,
June 5.—“Mr. [John S.] Shaw,” fur trader with the Sioux, arrived at St. Joseph, Mo., from “Fort John on Platte river.” He had met around 300 wagons of Oregon-or-California-bound emigrants, and some 200 wagons of westbound Mormons.

Emigrant R. M. May, of Chiles’ company noted meeting, near the end of May, on the Little (?) Blue, 22 fur traders’ wagons “Ladened with Buffalo Robes & Tongues principally”; and stated that one train of seven belonged to “Mr. Shaw who [in 1847] commanded the Steamer Tobacco Plant [on the Missouri].”


June 5-20.—Lt. William B. Royall, U. S. V., with a command of 71 “raw recruits” (mostly young backwoods Missourians—signed up for the Santa Fe battalion), set out from Council Grove about June 5 to escort government trains (Messrs. Burnham and Fulton’s 60-some wagons; Fagan’s 425 beef cattle), and Maj. Thomas S. Bryant, U. S. paymaster (accompanied by his nephew, John Y. B. Dietz), to Fort Mann.

Royall’s recruits—see p. 151—having spent part of April and May at Fort Leavenworth, departed for Council Grove on (or about) May 18.

West of Walnut creek, on June 14, Royall’s command was augmented by the arrival (from the west) of Lt. Phillip Stremmel and 64 “Gilpin’s battalion” artillerists, with two six-pounders (see June 7 entry). The combined military-civilian party totaled upwards of 200 men.

On June 17 this company “encamped on the Arkansas, about five miles from Lieutenant Love’s fight in 1847”—Royall’s statement. (For “Love’s defeat”—which, on best available evidence, appears to have occurred near present Garfield, Pawnee county—see KHQ, v. 30, p. 524.) Birch’s later-day account states: “Crossing Coon creek we spread our tents on the banks of the [Arkansas] river, close by the present town of Kinsley.” But it would appear that the camp was several miles to the northward—perhaps near the Pawnee-Edwards county line of today. (One writer in 1848 referred to Royall’s “Coon Creek Bottom” camp; and another gave the locale as “near the mouth of Coon Creek.”)

At sunrise on June 18 an alarm was given. The whole plain seemed covered with (Comanche and Apache) Indians—some 200 off to the north, about the same number to the south, and from 200
to 300 warriors coming at full gallop towards the camp. There was a "short, severe fight" with the attackers. Royall's recruits, the artillerymen, and the civilians "gave them a hot reception." An attempt to charge through the tents on Major Bryant's side was foiled; next a penetration on Royall's side was turned back; and after that a strike at the corralled wagons was repulsed. When the Indians began to withdraw, effective use was made of the two six-pounders. Nine of the enemy were believed killed in the fighting. The camp's losses were 15 "military" horses, five horses and four mules from the trains.

Lieutenant Royall and 38 mounted men then pursued a body of Indians across the river; were soon surrounded by 500 to 700 savages; managed to charge through to an elevated point; fought off several attacks, killing probably 14 of the enemy, and wounding a good many others. (During this action they saw a female dressed in scarlet, with silver ornaments, who rode about the field of combat directing care of the wounded.) When the Indians drew off some distance, Royall got his command (with four wounded men) back across the river to "Coon Creek Bottoms."

Royall (whom one writer described as "cool and heroic") had praise for Lt. Phillip Stremmel and 2d Lt. William "Khulan," also for their artillerymen, his own recruits ("my men acted gallantly"), Mr. Dietz, Lance Sergeant Selkirk, and others. He noted that Major Bryant had killed two Indians (with a six-pounder), Johnston (a teamster), one, and Mr. Burnham, one. The four wounded men (apparently all recruits) were James Moody, J. L. Henry, John C. Slocum, and James Roop.

By 10 A.M. Royall had his company "on the road" and the night's encampment was made about 10 miles upriver. Two days later—the evening of June 20—Major Bryant, the troops, and the trains arrived at Fort Mann. (Bryant was at the fort till about July 1; then returned to Missouri.)

Royall and his recruits subsequently continued the journey to New Mexico. A Santa Fe newspaper of July 18 noted the arrival, on the 17th, of "Lt. Royal [three or four days in advance of his men] and Mr. Owens."

Ref: 30th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 1 (Serial 537), pp. 141-144 (Royall's report), 146; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., July 28 (from Weston Herald) and August 11 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis), 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, July 29 and August 19, 1848 (from Missouri Republican); Saint Louis Daily Union, July 29, August 23, 1848; KHC, v. 10, pp. 409-415. One account says Royall was a nephew of Sterling Price. "Khulan" is "Khlow" in some accounts, and also is found as "Khlow," "Khow" and even "Cooley." The correct spelling has not been ascertained.

June 7.—Eastbound (detached from Fort Mann's force on June 3, to meet and escort Major Bryant [paymaster]), Lt. Phillip Stremmel and his command (64 artillerymen, Company C, "Gilpin's
battalion”; with two six-pounders), while encamped at Pawnee Fork, underwent attack by a large band of Indians, believed to be mostly Comanches. (Some 200 of the enemy were seen—armed for the most part with lances, or bows and arrows.)

“We were . . . surrounded on all sides,” Stremmel reported. “We succeeded in keeping them from our animals with our small arms, doing some execution among them.” The Indians began to retreat; but when one of the six-pounders was fired, the troops’ animals stampeded. 2d Lt. William “Kul-an,” with 30 men, went out and recovered five mules; the Indians (using a white horse as decoy) got away with 22 mules and horses. No artillerymen were wounded in the 10-minute engagement. It was thought the Indians lost five killed and twice that number wounded. See preceding entry.

Stremmel sent an express back to Fort Mann, and Gilpin (on June 10) dispatched Lt. Ashley Gulley with 50 mounted men. This force, after relieving Stremmel, set out to scout the surrounding country. The artillerymen (now accompanied by a Santa Fe-to-Fort Leavenworth express) continued eastward on the Santa Fe road; and on the 14th, a little west of Walnut creek, met Major Bryant and accompanying troops under Lt. William B. Royall (who assumed charge of the united command).


June 7.—In “Nebraska,” Sioux Indians crossed the Platte, destroyed a deserted Pawnee village, and the nearby cornfields—as witnessed by Capt. Stewart Van Vliet (AQM at “Fort Childs”).

Two days earlier (the day he left the fort, with three companions, on a mission to St. Louis), Van Vliet had met 300 Cheyennes “lying in wait” for the Pawnees; and on June 6th he had met the “whole Pawnee nation—several thousands” heading for the buffalo grounds.

Ref: The Daily Record, St. Louis, June 20, 1848; Nebraska State Historical Society Publications, v. 20, pp. 177, 178; Saint Louis Daily Union, June 21, 1848. An Oregon-bound traveler, writing May 26 from the forks of the Platte area, stated the Pawnees had lost 20 braves and 60 horses some two weeks earlier in a fight with the Sioux—Saint Louis Daily Union, June 19, 1848. In his 1848 report, Agent John Miller stated: “The Pawnees number about 2,500 . . . owing to their potent enemies, the Sioux, they still reside on the south side of the Platte. . . .”—Comm’t of Indian affairs, Report, 1848.

June-July.—From Fort Leavenworth on June 9 a Santa Fe-bound supply-and-specie-carrying government train (53 wagons) set out with an escort of 143 Missouri mounted volunteers (recruits—see p. 151), all in charge of Capt. George W. Hook (of “Newby’s” Illinois regiment). Maj. Noah Johnston (paymaster), Capt. George H. Kennerly (QM’s dep’t), and Orville C. Pratt (a lawyer en route to California, who kept a diary of the trip) were of this party. At Council Grove (reached June 16) Hook halted his command to await another company coming up behind. (Kennerly, while here, got orders to return to St. Louis; and left on June 21.)
On June 10 a “detachment 150 strong [of Missouri mounted volunteers—recruits—under Capt. Gabriel de Korponay], besides wagons and traders,” left Fort Leavenworth; headed southward on the military road; and on the 11th camped seven miles south of the Kansas river crossing (“Delaware,” or “Grinter” ferry), not far from Westport, Mo., to wait for Bvt. Col. John Garland (Fourth U. S. infantry) and Col. Clifton Wharton (Fort Leavenworth’s commandant). These two officers—under orders to Fort Mann to investigate charges preferred against Capt. William Pelzer and other officers there—arrived late on June 13(?). The company (under way again on June 14?) reached Council Grove on the 17th (but Wharton, ill, had turned back for Fort Leavenworth).

At the end of June, Hook’s and Korponay’s commands reached the Fort Mann vicinity and went into camp. (It is not clear what escort was provided the government trains from this point to Santa Fe.) Colonel Garland began his investigation of several Fort Mann officers; and on July 7 (after seeking lawyer Orville C. Pratt’s advice) Capt. William Pelzer and Lt. Amandus Schrebel resigned. (Garland left for the States about July 8.)

Late on July 7 Pratt joined Captain Hook’s command (at camp 12 miles above Fort Mann). Hook’s force proceeded up the Arkansas to Bent’s Fort; thence to Santa Fe (reached July 31). Pratt went on to California—setting out from Santa Fe on August 27.

Korponay (by one report) was still in the Fort Mann area on July 10. But 100 of his Missouri recruits (instead of continuing to Santa Fe) were homeland-bound (the end of the Mexican War having brought about change of orders); some, or all, served as escort to Bvt. Lt. Col. John Garland; and reached Fort Leavenworth at the end of July. Maj. Thomas S. Bryant (see June 5-20 entry), and Garland, both arrived there near the end of the month, within a few days of each other, but with separate escorts.

The St. Louis Reveille of August 3 reported the arrival (on the 2d) of the steamboat Wyandotte having on board as passengers, Garland and Bryant, Lt. Dillon and 50 mounted men of Captain de Korponay’s company, also 30 discharged soldiers, Company A, First U. S. infantry (from Santa Fe and Chihuahua). The St. Louis Union of August 5 reported the arrival (on August 3?) of the “remainder of Capt. Korponay’s company”—56 men with 24 horses—aboard the Mandan.


June.—The St. Croix (G. W. Atchison, Jr., master), a regular packet to Weston and St. Joseph since April, made a record trip this month. She returned to St. Louis on June 13(?), having gone up to Weston and back in the unparalleled time of five days and 18 hours.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, June 14, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, April 9, June 13, 1848.
June.—The Mandan, coming down from St. Joseph, Mo. (and arriving at St. Louis on the 14th), carried a cargo of 1,833 packs of buffalo robes consigned to R. & W. Campbell, P. Chouteau, Jr. & Co., and Houseman and Lawry.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, June 15, 1848.

June.—The St. Louis Reveille of the 15th stated: “Maj. [Thomas] Fitzpatrick [of the Upper Platte Agency—headquarters at Bent’s Fort] arrived a few days since [via the Platte; and the Oregon trail, to Westport, apparently] from the plains. He has taken an extended tour through the Indian tribes whose hunting grounds skirt the base of the Rocky Ms.” On the way in Agent Fitzpatrick had met almost all the emigrants bound for Oregon and California.

Ref: L. R. Hafen and W. J. Ghent, op. cit., pp. 208, 209; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, June 15, 1848. Fitzpatrick’s valuable June 24, 1848, report (which Hafen and Ghent cite) was not seen by this compiler.

June 15.—Some 170 government wagons, in charge of (David) Waldo & Company, passed Fort Mann. (This was one of the trains operating under James Brown’s government contract—see May 17 annals entry.)

Ref: New York Weekly Tribune, July 29, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis).

June 18.—A few miles below St. Joseph, Mo., an American Fur Company Mackinaw boat struck a snag and sank. Baptiste Picotte drowned; and the boat’s heavy load of furs was lost.


June.—Council Grove’s white inhabitants (as listed by traveler Orville C. Pratt) were: William H. Mitchell (blacksmith for the Kansa Indians), his wife (“a sprightly good natured old lady”), his son (assistant smith), “Mr. Brown” (wagonmaker and repairer), Charles Chouteau and Seth Hays—both Indian traders.

Mrs. William H. Mitchell—Council Grove’s first white woman resident—earlier had lived among the Pottawatomies “several years” according to Pratt. He also noted that she spoke the Kansa language “quite well,” and seemed to be popular among the Indians.

Ref: Orville C. Pratt’s “Diary,” entry of June 19, 1848 (microfilm of original in Coe Collection, Yale University Library. In 1844 William H. Mitchell was farmer for the Kansa (see KHQ, v. 30, p. 90); his name is not on the list of 1845 employees; on January 26, 1846, he was appointed blacksmith for the Kansa (ibid., p. 411), and was so employed in 1847 and 1848; but not in 1849. It appears he went to New Mexico and was a clerk for St. Vrain and McCarty. In late 1849, James S. Calhoun (newly arrived Indian agent at Santa Fe) referred to “William H. Mitchell” as being of little assistance to him because of poor health.—James S. Calhoun, op. cit., pp. 49, 535. In KHQ, v. 18, p. 556, it is stated that the “Chouteau brothers’” store (“a small log building”) was on the site where the “Pioneer Store” later was erected.

June.—Traders Ebenezer W. Pomeroy, Joseph P. Hamelin, Edward J. Glasgow, all from Chihuahua, and others, crossed “Kansas,”
eastbound, reached the Missouri border about July 2. They had left Santa Fe early in June. (On the 4th some of these men were at Lexington, Mo.)

Westbound traveler Orville C. Pratt had met Pomeroy's train on June 26 at a great bend of the Arkansas. He remarked "Their train looked bad."

Ref: Missouri Historical Society Collections, v. 5 (June, 1928), pp. 306, 307 (Aull correspondence—Robert Aull wrote, in a July 14 letter, that Pomeroy, Hamelin, and Glasgow had brought the "balance of effects of Owens & Aull"—the sum of $51,295.82—from Chihuahua. Perhaps referring to the same party, the St. Louis Reville of July 16, 1848, reported the arrival there, on the 15th, of "Mr. J. S. Glasgow [with $41,000 in bullion] and several other men recently from Santa Fe," aboard the Whirlwind.

C June 29.—James S. Rains, appointed Indian agent to succeed Solomon P. Sublette (resigned), reached his post—the Osage River Agency.

The Osage River Agency—new in 1848—included the Sacs & Foxes of the "Mississippi" (their former "Sac & Fox Agency" being abolished), the Kansa (formerly in the Fort Leavenworth Agency), the Ottawas, Chippewas, Weas, Miamis, etc.—all recently in the Osage River Subagency (abolished). For the changes in 1848 (from 1847), see KHQ, v. 30, p. 558, and v. 31, p. 198 (i.e., this issue of the Quarterly).

Rains' tenure as agent was brief—he was removed early in 1849.

Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Osage River Agency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 643), Rains' letter of June 29, 1848. The headquarters of the Osage River Subagency had been on Pottawatomie creek in the southeast corner of present Franklin county (see KHQ, v. 30, pp. 58, 210); and the Sac & Fox Agency headquarters had been established in west-central Franklin county of today, about four miles from the present Osage county line (see KHQ, v. 30, p. 534). In his September 7, 1848, report Rains stated "the Kansas (Indians) . . . [are] about ninety miles from the agency." This would seem to indicate he was making use of the quarters at the Pottawatomie creek location.

C June 29(?)—Expressman A. Smith left the Missouri border for Santa Fe. He arrived there the evening of July 17, in "precisely" 19 days from Fort Leavenworth. The Santa Fe Republican believed this "the quickest trip ever made by any person who has had charge of the mail."

See, also, May 29 entry.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, August 23, 1848 (from Santa Fe Republican).

C July 1.—William R. McClure announced he had "just opened" the "Missouri Hotel [on] Water st[reet], [in the town of] Kansas, Jackson County, Mo." His "house for the accommodation of travelers and boarders" was in "a large new brick building, with commodious and pleasant rooms. . . ."

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, July, 1848, and later, issues.

C Early(?) in July, "high up" the Kansas river—in the buffalo range—a hunting party of Pottawatomies, accompanied by a few Sacs and Kickapoos, was invited to join a large body of Kansa, who also were after buffalo. The united company, in a day or two,
met some Pawnees (long hostile to the Kansa) hunting with a band of “Comanches.” There was a show of “friendly greetings by smoking, &c” by the chiefs of each group, and an agreement was reached to meet next day for a council and feast. However, an incident occurred which resulted in an Indian battle—a conflict which thenceforth made the Pawnees enemies of the Pottawatomies and Sacs.

Conflicting versions of what happened make it difficult to determine the true events. Just after the Pottawatomies returned a detailed account was written, dated “Kansas River, Pottowattamie Nation, July 26.” In this it was stated that two young Pawnees with a peace pipe approached the Kansa camp; a Kansa brave shot and killed one; a Pottawatomie (defying his chief) pursued and dispatched the other Pawnee with a spear. Then the Pawnees and “Comanches” attacked. In the fight (it was said) they (the attackers) lost a good many warriors. The Pottawatomies brought home five scalps. Father Gaillard (on September 17) wrote that the Pottawatomies “killed many Pawnee warriors and ponies.” (The version which reached official quarters apparently made no mention of the murder by the young Pottawatomie, for the report to Washington suggested the Indians in company with the Kansa were blameless.)

From Independence, Mo., on August 21, “Roving Bill” wrote that the trouble had started when a Pawnee struck a Kansa; and that the Kansa Indians had brought scalps back to Council Grove. (An 1849 account said the Kansa lost seven warriors; and had Pawnee prisoners, but were forced to release them.) Agent J. S. Rains, in his September 7, 1848, report, stated that “while Keokuk, a Sac [i.e., Moses Keokuk, son of the recently deceased Chief Keokuk] was handing to a Pawnee the pipe of peace, a Kansas Indian that was in company fired and killed the Pawnee”; and that in the fight which ensued “they killed and scalped five of the Pawnees. No other Indians were killed but several wounded.”

(The Pottawatomies—since many of them lived north of Kansas river—were vulnerable to attacks from the Pawnees. Within two months after the fight, the Pawnees had retaliated by stealing some 40 horses from their settlements; and other depredations occurred later.)


**E July 7-12.—Capt. John C. Griffin and 100 Missouri volunteers** (of “Gilpin’s battalion”), with a six-pounder, set out from the Fort Mann area on a Comanche-hunting expedition, at noon of July 7.

July 7.—They marched southward 25 miles; camped on Crooked creek.

July 8.—They continued downstream (across present Meade county) to Crooked creek’s mouth; then followed down the Cimarron’s left bank till near sunset; crossed to the south bank and camped (the day’s march had been more
than 40 miles). July 9.—Next day, after traveling 12 miles, the Missourians reached a grove (sighted the day before from an eminence) where they found "the deserted camp of the enemy"—a village of "thousands" (Griffin's estimate). Lt. Joseph C. Eldridge and 20 men went scouting; came upon a Mexican boy; learned the Comanche village was "not more than three leagues off, down the Cimarr[on]." Griffin at once marched his force in pursuit. "In three hours," he reported, "we came in sight of their warriors, about 600 strong, posted on a well chosen piece of ground on the north side of the Cimarr[on]." At noon, on July 9, the engagement commenced; lasted three hours; ended with a retreat by the Indians. Griffin also reported: "The enemy could not have lost less than 30 of their best men. . . . We lost on our side, in killed, none. Wounded: Lieutenant Eldridge . . . slightly . . . and Sergeant Gibson . . . slightly." (By contrast, letters from Fort Mann to Missouri indicated that only a few Indians [not 25 or 30] had been killed, and several wounded; and one stated that Captain Griffin's conduct in the action had been censured.) The locale of this fight must have been in what is now Woods county, Okla.

Griffin's force encamped on the battle ground; found no sign of the enemy next morning (the 10th); and marched northward towards Mulberry creek (in Ford county of today); reached the stream on July 11 "almost famished for water." On the 12th the expedition returned to Fort Mann.

Ref: 30th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 1 (Serial 537), pp. 146-149; The Daily Rassell, St. Louis, August 24, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, August 19, September 9, 1848. The latter issue reprints a Fort Mann letter of July 28, from the St. Louis New Era, which stated: "On the 7th a party went out under Capt. Griffin, who broke up a village of about 1,000 lodges of Comanches, though without serious fighting."

‖ July.—One Santa Fe-bound merchant caravan on the trail this month consisted of "some sixty-odd heavy mule wagons" which were "for the most part [i.e., 30?] of them" owned by Aubrey [Francis X. Aubry]," according to 2d Lt. George D. Brewerton (whose eastbound company met the westbound traders at the Arkansas crossing in late July).

Aubry, taking his second train of the year to Santa Fe (see mid-March entry), arrived there August 5, in advance of his wagons. See, also, September 17 entry.


‖ July 13.—Express from Santa Fe, mountain man James Beckworth (accompanied by half-Cherokee Charles McIntosh, and Henry Hamilton) arrived at Fort Leavenworth. It was stated the trio had left Santa Fe on June 26(?) and had made the journey in 17 days. (An express from Chihuahua to Fort Leavenworth passed Fort Mann on July 2—as recorded in O. C. Pratt's diary.) Hamilton, aboard the Wyandotte, reached St. Louis on July 18.

On July 15 Beckworth and McIntosh started back to New Mexico. (At a later time, Beckworth said of this return trip that "we overtook Bullard and Company's train of wagons, which were on their way to Santa Fé with supplies
for the army”; and that Bullard and his partner [leaving the wagons in charge of employees] traveled “with us as far as the Moro . . . where we were compelled to leave them, as they were tired out. . . .”

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, July 20, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, July 19, 1848; T. D. Bonner, ed., The Life and Adventures of James F. Beckworth (1931), pp. 342, 345; Oervices C. Pratt’s “Diary” (microfilm of original in Coe Collection, Yale University Library). In Georgia W. Read and Ruth Gaines, eds., op. cit., p. 559, is a compilation of some data on Charles McIntosh. For the return east of Bullard, in 1848, see annals entry of September 28.

Died: Lt. Col. Clifton Wharton, First U. S. dragoons, aged 46; on July 13, at Fort Leavenworth, where he had been post commandant since 1844(?).

“He was a man of fine accomplishments and stood high in the esteem of all who knew him,” according to “Roderick” (writing from the fort on July 14), who also stated that Wharton “leaves a wife and five ["Kansas"-born] children.”


On July 13 Sup’t Thomas H. Harvey, St. Louis, forwarded to Washington (for approval) the licenses Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick had granted: (1) William W. Bent (of Bent’s Fort), and (2) Messrs. Ward & Guerrier, to trade in the Upper Arkansas and Platte Agency.

An article (1878) on Seth Edmund Ward’s life states that in 1848 he formed a partnership with “William Le Guerrier,” in the Indian trade, “each of them having about $1,500 in cash”; that five large goods-laden wagons (the merchandise purchased at Westport, Mo., from Boone & Hamilton, on 10 months’ credit) were taken to the upper Arkansas; and that the partners made a very successful expedition, “securing 6,000 buffalo robes, with which they returned to Westport, May, 1849.” (The robes were shipped to New York; and Ward went East to attend to their sale.)

Ref: SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, p. 179; The United States Biographical Dictionary . . . Missouri Volume (1878), p. 468. For other data on Ward, see KHIQ, v. 29, p. 154, v. 30, p. 251. The SIA “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, pp. 348, 461, 569, 693, and 918, show that “Ward & Guerrier” also were granted licenses to trade within the same agency from 1849 through 1854 (and later?).

July.—The Martha (Joseph La Barge, master), under charter to the American Fur Company, returned from the upper Missouri (having left the mouth of the Yellowstone June 29), and reached St. Louis July 14.

Her passengers included F. C. [Ferdinand] Culbertson, from Fort Benton, and British sportsman John Palliser (see KHIQ, v. 30, pp. 544, 545). In her cargo were 1,722 packages of buffalo robes, 262 bales of furs, and 5,000 buffalo tongues.

On May 9 the Martha had set out from St. Louis for the trip upriver.
Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, July 15, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, July 17, 1848; John Palliser's Solitary Rambles . . . (London, 1853), pp. 286, 287 (Palliser later recounted that the Martha reached the upper Missouri "Late in July"—but it was June, rather); H. M. Chittenden's Early Steamboat Navigation . . . (1863), v. 1, p. 184, gives confused details of the Martha's trips for the fur company. The Saint Louis Daily Union of July 20, 1848, stated that "Major [Joseph V.] Hamilton, Mr. [Alexander] Calhertson, Mr. [Pierre Didier] Papin," and 70 men connected with the American Fur Company had arrived "yesterday" (but probably meaning July 18) aboard the Wyandotte. Missouri Republican, St. Louis, May 11, 1848 (for the departure from St. Louis).

Jul 14.—At Weston, Mo., 10 or 12 Mackinaw boats, containing large quantities of buffalo robes had arrived from the upper Missouri (having started downriver on May 17). The Wyandotte would carry the boats' cargoes from Weston to St. Louis.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, July 20, 1848.

Jul 15-23.—Capt. Thomas Jones with a command of 101 mounted Missouri volunteers (of "Gilpin's battalion"), seven guides and hands, and a "brass six-pounder," set out from the Fort Mann area July 15, to hunt Comanches.

On the 15th and 16th Jones and his troops marched down the Arkansas; camped the night of July 16 at a point below the mouth of Mulberry creek (present Ford county); learned from Bullard & Hook's Santa Fe-bound train that no Indians had been seen on the trail. Leaving the Arkansas on July 17, Jones' command traveled southward; camped on the Cimarron July 19; and on the 20th marched "up" [i.e., east, and downriver] to locate the Comanches. Captain Griffin had dispersed on July 9. About 10 A. M. Micheau (guide) came up with news of Indians seen in timber ahead.

Jones deployed his troops so as to hide the six-pounder, and dispatched Lt. Oliver Bain with 30 mounted men to examine the woods. Bain's force "on entering, was quickly attacked and hotly engaged" by Indians "lying in ambush." Jones then sent Lt. Joseph C. Eldridge with 50 men to the head of the grove; and they "met and drove back" the ambushers who were retreating from Bain's troops. The fighting was (by Jones' report) "hand to hand, and muzzle to muzzle." "The two parties having the Indians between them . . . soon completed their destruction." Of 41 Indians seen, 21 were killed, six escaped unhurt, and the rest (not found) either fell in the creek, or crawled into the brush. Of the Missouri troops, Lieutenant Eldridge and Privates Phillip Kinchle, G. W. Vance, James B. Hoover, and Robert Williams were wounded severely by arrows. Jones wrote: "These Indians I believe to have been a war party of Pawnees, but they refused to make themselves known, and began the fight."

The locale of this engagement was not far from the abandoned Comanche village (in present Woods county, Okla.) that Griffin had dispersed. After the battle Jones reconnoitered the area and found the large village, where lodge poles, saddles, bags of salt and provisions remained strewn about.

Having injured men to care for, and finding no signs of Comanches in the area, Jones marched his troops back to Fort Mann; arrived there July 23.


Jul 17.—Bvt. Capt. Abraham Buford and Company H, First U. S. dragoons, set out from Fort Gibson ("Okla.") for Santa Fe,
N. M.; and arrived there on September 9, having explored a “hitherto untraveled route” across “Oklahoma”—a route which he considered the “best and shortest” between the States and Santa Fe.

Buford’s path followed up the north side of the Cimarron; and “by the way of the Salt Rock, through the Cross Timbers”; thence south, and westward, to the Santa Fe trail, striking it at the Middle Cimarron Spring. One of his party was lost on the march—supposedly killed by Comanches.

Ref: New York Weekly Tribune, October 7, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, September 23—which got its news from the Santa Fe Republican extra dated September 12); Saint Louis Daily Union, October 10, 1848; Chronicles of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, v. 27 (Summer, 1949), p. 190; R. F. Bieber, ed., Southern Trails to California (Glendale, Calif., 1937), pp. 325, 326; Grant Foreman, Macy & the Gold Seekers (Norman, Okla., 1939), pp. 7-9. 35th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 104 (Serial 958), for map “Boundary of the Creek Country,” which shows part of Buford’s path. Evidently Buford’s party returned to Fort Gibson via a Canadian river route—see New York Weekly Tribune, February 17, 1849 (from Fort Smith [Ark.] Herald).

\[Midsummer.—The Santa Fe (N. M.) Republican of July 18(?) stated: “Not a day passes now without the arrival of large trains from the United States, laden with all kinds of merchandise.”

Lt. Col. William Gilpin (at Fort Mann, on the Arkansas) wrote, August 1, that more than 8,000 government and traders’ wagons had already passed that post “during the present season”; along with perhaps 12,000 persons, and some 50,000 head of stock (which he considered “probably a low estimate”).

A traveler reaching St. Louis on August 27, from Chihuahua and New Mexico, reported a train of 250 wagons had come into Chihuahua before his departure; on his journey east he had met “over 1,000 wagons in different trains, bound for Santa Fe, El Paso and Chihuahua” (of which nearly 400 belonged to the government); and another large train on the Santa Fe trail was not met because it had gone by the Bent’s Fort route.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, August 23, 1848 (quoting the Santa Fe Republican of July 187); 30th Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 1 (Serial 537), p. 139 (for Gilpin); New York Weekly Tribune, September 16, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, August 30).

July 21.—Overland from California, and en route to Washington with official dispatches, Christopher (“Kit”) Carson, with his pack train, arrived at Fort Leavenworth. (On July 25, on the St. Joseph, boarded at Weston, Mo., he reached St. Louis; and set out next day for his destination—reporting at Washington in the fore part of August.)

Accounts state that Carson made the entire journey (to the Missouri border) “with the same set of animals.” From Los Angeles (left May 5) to Santa Fe his company had numbered 28 persons; but he set out from Taos, N. M., (in late June), with only three(?) men (who later turned back, after Carson joined eastbound fur traders on the Platte). His route from Taos was northward (avoiding hostile Indians) to the Pueblo (Colo.), and to Bighorn creek (South Platte tributary), thence cross-country, eastwardly, to the Platte, down that river past new Fort Childs ( Kearny), and presumably to Fort Leaven-
worth by the established Oregon-California trail(?). Though as Carson later put it, from "Fort Kearny" he had "then struck for the Republican Fork [i.e., Little Blue?] and from thence to Fort Leavenworth, having no trouble on the march."

See, also, October 2 entry.


Ⓒ July 21.—Ten men, direct from Oregon by way of the Oregon-California trail, arrived at St. Joseph, Mo., after an 87-day journey, and no serious difficulties en route. One of the travelers was "Dr. Derby" (emigrant West in 1847).

R. M. May (of Chiles' California-bound train), on June 28, near Fort Laramie, noted meeting the 10 men from Oregon. "7 out of the ten disliked the Country and was returning home," he wrote.

Ref: St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, July 21, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., August 11, 1848 (from St. Joseph Adventure); New York Weekly Tribune, August 26, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, August 3, 1848; Charles L. Camp, ed., op. cit., p. 269; Richard M. May's diary quoted courtesy of Dale L. Morgan, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif.


The Bertrand (purchased in May, for $8,000, by Harvey, Primeau & Co.—the St. Louis Fur Company) had left St. Louis, uppound, on June 1; had gone 50 miles above the Yellowstone's mouth—higher than any other steamboat had voyaged (so accounts stated); and had made the round trip in 53 days—"the shortest yet accomplished."

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, May 17, July 25, 1848; Saint Louis Daily Union, July 26, 1848. For the early-1848 journey (mostly afoot) of "Messrs. [Alexander M.] Harvey, [Alexander K.] McLean, and three others" of the company, from the upper Missouri to St. Louis, see the Reveille, March 30, 1848; and the Union, March 31, 1848.

Ⓒ July 28.—James T. V. Thompson, of Platte county, Mo., contracted (with Capt. L. C. Easton, AQM) to transport 400 head of beef cattle from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe.

Ref: 30th Cong., 2d Sess, Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 17 (Serial 529), p. 56. For items on James T. V. Thompson see W. M. Paxton's Annals of Platte County, Missouri ... (1897).

Ⓒ During July Auguste A. L. Trécult (sent from Paris by the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle to gather plants and animals in America) arrived in "Kansas," and was at work on the prairies west of Missouri.

Trécult collected botanical specimens on the Marias des Cygnes in July, and from the vicinities of "Sugar creek au Neosho," the "village Osage de Neosho," the "Mission de Sugar creek, chez les Potowatomies [the about-to-be-closed
Catholic mission in present Linn county," also around Fort Scott, in August. He was on the Neosho in late August and early September; then moved westward to work on the Arkansas and Little Arkansas, till some time in October, when he turned southward to the Grand Saline (of "Oklahoma").

Where Trécul spent the winter of 1848-1849 is not indicated in his records. But during March, 1849, he was in "Kansas"—on the Pawnee and Little Pawnee creeks of present Bourbon county, and also at, and around, Fort Scott. His last "Kansas" notation was in March, from "Prairies du Neosho à la frontière de l'état du Missouri. . . ."

Ref: Susan D. McKelvey's *Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West 1790-1850* (1955), pp. 1048-1052.

C Summer.—Alexander Majors, of Jackson county, Mo., supplied the Kickapoo Indians with 19 cows and 19 calves. He received $237.64.


C July-September.—Licenses (new, and renewal) to trade with Indians in "Kansas" as granted by agents of the St. Louis Indian superintendency, were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traders</th>
<th>Indians</th>
<th>Issued by</th>
<th>Month received at St. Louis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William F. Dyer</td>
<td>Delawares, Kickapoos, and Pottawatomies</td>
<td>R. W. Cummins</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josiah Smart</td>
<td>Sacs &amp; Foxes (in the Marais des Cygnes country)</td>
<td>J. S. Rains</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Walsh</td>
<td>Pottawatomies (in the Kansas river country)</td>
<td>R. W. Cummins</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehead &amp; Peltier</td>
<td>Pottawatomies (in the Kansas river country)</td>
<td>R. W. Cummins</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac G. Baker</td>
<td>Sacs &amp; Foxes (in the Marais des Cygnes country)</td>
<td>J. S. Rains</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles and Frederick Chouteau</td>
<td>Kansa</td>
<td>J. S. Rains</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer &amp; Gardner</td>
<td>Miamis</td>
<td>J. S. Rains</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay [Hays? &amp; Stateler</td>
<td>Miamis</td>
<td>J. S. Rains</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. D. Mosier</td>
<td>Miamis</td>
<td>J. S. Rains</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert A. Kinzie</td>
<td>Pottawatomies (in the Kansas river country)</td>
<td>R. W. Cummins</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter A. Sarpy</td>
<td>Pottawatomies (in the Kansas river country)</td>
<td>R. W. Cummins</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ref: SIA, St. Louis, "Records," v. 9, typed copy, pp. 169, 195, 201, 208, 211-213, 233, 301. Kinzie's clerk in the Pottawatomie trade was Paul Campbell (p. 211, *ibid.*). In OIA, Letters Received from Osage River Agency (National Archives Microcopy 234,
Around August 1 a company of 36 men, overland from Oregon, reached St. Joseph, Mo. (They had set out early in May.) Other arrivals from the West were Mr. Gray (a Virginian) and his small party from California (left early in May).

Some of the Oregonians had been (evidently) in the party with which Isaac Pettijohn started East. (Pettijohn, on May 1, had written “on tomorrow we start on our Journey [from Oregon], being about 35 in number besides three small children.” But there was a division en route; and on June 10 Pettijohn wrote: “Oure company now consists of twelve men and the children.” Subsequently his party reached new Fort Kearny on July 17; and took “the new rout down platt”; and on the 25th crossed the Missouri at “old” Fort Kearny.) California-bound R. M. May, on July 4 (below the North Platte crossing), recorded in his diary: “took a Stroll up the Creek to an encampment of about 20 Oregon Gentlemen Rough & Rude were their appearance. . . .” He noted that one of them was “Mr. Umphet” who was returning to Ohio. How to account for a party of 36—rather than 20—is a problem yet to be solved.

Gray’s party (as reported) carried “a copy” of the San Francisco California Star special (see p. 179). Incidentally, this issue stated that San Francisco had a white population of 575 males, 177 females, 60 children of school age; 912 white persons in all.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., August 11, 1848 (from St. Joseph [Mo.] Adventure of August 4); The Daily Recueil, St. Louis, August 12, 1848 (from the Adventure); New York Weekly Tribune, August 26, 1848; Isaac Pettijohn’s and Richard M. May’s diaries quoted courtesy of Dale L. Morgan, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif.

August 6.—The Pawnees signed a treaty (negotiated in early June by Lt. Col. Ludwell E. Powell of the “Oregon battalion”) giving up claim to Grand Island (in the Platte), and a strip of land adjacent on either side of the river.

Finalities of the treaty, made at new “Fort Childs” (“Neb.”), had awaited the arrival of $2,000 worth of Indian goods (brought by Capt. Stewart Van Vliet, AQM, U. S. army). “Ma-laigne”—as principal chief of the four confederated bands—headed the list of Pawnee signers.

Ref: C. I. Kangler’s Indian Affairs; Laws and Treaties (1904), v. 2, pp. 571, 572; The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., June 16, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, June 24, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, June 20); Nebraska State Historical Society Collections, v. 20, pp. 182, 183 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, September 8, 1848).

August 10.—In a train of 25 goods-laden wagons leaving Independence, Mo., for New Mexico was Alexander Majors, of Jackson county, Mo., with a “little outfit of six wagons and teams”—his first venture in freighting to Santa Fe.

En route this company met homeward-bound Mexican War volunteers, and, in mid-September, Francis X. Aubry on his fleet ride to Independence.

In his memoirs Majors stated: “I made that trip [to Santa Fe and back in
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92 days] with remarkable success . . . the quickest on record with ox teams." (The good condition of many of his oxen, when he returned, gave him "quite a reputation among the freighters and merchants. . . .")."

Ref: Alexander Majors' Seventy Years on the Frontier . . . (Chicago, c1893), pp. 74, 75, 156; Kansas City (Mo.) Globe, February 10, 1860 (or, see The Pacific Historian, v. 5 [August, 1961], p. 115) for Majors' statement: "I was on my way to Santa Fe with a train of 25 wagons [in 1848] . . . and knew nothing of Aubry's design . . . [etc.]"

· August 14.—Oregon territory was created by act of congress.

For governor, President Polk appointed Joseph Lane, of Indiana, recently a brigadier general (for two years) in Mexican War service; and appointed as U. S. marshal Joseph L. Meek (see May 11 entry). Within a month Lane and Meek were in "Kansas," heading for Oregon, overland—see September 10 entry. (Other officials went by water.)


· Mid-August.—"Mr. Estes and another individual," express from Santa Fe, in 25 days (having left there July 21), apparently reached Fort Leavenworth August 14; and were at Weston, Mo., on the 16th. From Fort Mann eastward, Lt. Col. William Gilpin had accompanied them.

Gilpin (ill) went downriver to Independence, Mo.—arriving there August 18—and took rooms at the Noland House. His battalion troops (to follow later) would be mustered out at Independence.


· August 15.—Jacob Thierer, of Weston, Mo., signed a contract (Capt. Langdon C. Easton, negotiator) to supply fresh beef at Fort Leavenworth for one year, commencing September 1.

Thierer, emigrant from Germany to St. Louis in the early 1840's, moved from Weston, by early 1855, to Riley county, Kansas territory. A farm on which he settled in the 1850's still (1965) is owned by his descendants.

Ref: 30th Cong., 2d Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 17 (Serial 529), p. 11; Matt Thomson's Early History of Wabaunsee County (Alma, 1901), p. 261 (has sketch of Gus Thierer—son of Jacob, which says he was born [1831] in Weston, Mo.). Jacob Thierer (but not his family) is listed in the 1855 Kansas territorial census.

· August—Arriving at Independence, Mo., during this month was a large caravan (three trains—totaling more than 100 wagons and about 500 loose cattle) which had left New Mexico in July. In the company (made up of some 100 teamsters—mostly young Missourians, plus "sundry traders, travelers, and Mexican herdsmen") was 2d Lt. George D. Brewerton, First U. S. infantry (who later wrote an account of the journey).

Brewerton referred to Mann's Fort as "a little government post, or half-way dépôt, then garrisoned by a handful of volunteers, who drank corn whisky, consumed Uncle Sam's bacon and hard tack . . . [etc.]."
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Ref: Brewerton, op. cit., pp. 219-232 ("In the Buffalo Country"). Brewerton had traveled from California to New Mexico with expressman Kit Carson. For the liquor situation at Fort Mann in June, see the entry on John McCoy, May, 1848, annals entry.

 revoke August 21.—Traders Joseph H. Reynolds, John Hurd, and others from Independence, Mo., who had taken wagons out to Santa Fe in the spring, returned home with their trains "in fine condition." Very likely they came with the caravan mentioned in the preceding entry.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, September 6, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., August 25, 1848. The Tribune reported they had left Santa Fe on August 4 (i.e., July 4, probably).

August 22.—A post office was established at Crawford Seminary (a Methodist Church, South, school—see April 1 entry) on the Quapaw Indian reserve, and on the Fort Leavenworth—Fort Scott—Fort Gibson—Fort Smith military road. The school's superintendent, Rev. Samuel G. Patterson, served as postmaster.

It is believed Crawford Seminary was in "Kansas"—near, and east of, present Baxter Springs. The other "Kansas" post offices in 1848 were at Fort Leavenworth and Fort Scott.

Ref: Robert W. Baugham's Kansas Post Offices . . . (Topeka, c1961), pp. 31, 156.

August.—A private overland mail from San Francisco (a special California Star express) reached the Council Bluffs ("Neb.") Mormon headquarters "about the middle of August." Some of the mail carriers traveled down the Platte, from Fort Laramie (either via the Mormon trail, or the "old" Fort Kearny route) to the Missouri.

On March 25 Samuel Brannan had advertised in his newspaper: "The 'California Star' Express (60 days) to Independence, Mo., will leave this place on the first of April, and New Helvetia on the 15th. Postage on letters 50, on papers 12½ cents." William Hawk, his son Nathan, four other Mormons, and four gentiles started East, as scheduled, with this mail. Leaving Salt Lake City, there were nine in the party. Four men (the Hawks, and two other Mormons, presumably) were (later) mentioned as arriving at the Council Bluffs Mormon headquarters in August. (The journey had required more than twice 60 days!) It appears that the four non-Mormons (Mr. Gray's party?—see p. 177) may have carried a mail to Independence, Mo., by way of St. Joseph, Mo.


August.—A contract to transport, in covered wagons, from Fort Gibson ("Oklahoma") to Fort Leavenworth, 14,260 pounds of clothing, equipage, etc., for the sum of $4 per 100 pounds, was signed by James Wilkins at Fort Smith, Ark., on the 14th.
(Presumably the wagons reached Fort Leavenworth in late August, or early September.)


Late in August, Jesse B. Thompson, of Buchanan county, Mo., reached Weston, Mo., from Chihuahua (left July 15), by way of Santa Fe (left August 1).

Thompson reported meeting several government trains and trading companies on the plains—getting along well; and that all was quiet at Fort Mann.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., September 1, 1848 (from the Frontier Journal, Weston, Mo.). The size and character of his party is not stated.

August 28.—The Osages' subagent, John M. Richardson, forwarding (for Indian department approval) a trading license he had issued to Elias Brevoort, stated that Brevoort "heretofore had been a clerk for the Messrs. [W. G. and G. W.] Ewing."

Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Osage Subagency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 683). The Osage Subagency was not in the St. Louis superintendency.

September 9.—The Pottawatomie Catholic mission named St. Mary's, north of Kansas river, was founded with the arrival at the site (where St. Mary's College, St. Marys, Kan., is today) of Fathers Felix L. Verreydt (superior) and Maurice Gaillard, four Ladies of the Sacred Heart (headed by Mother Lucille Mathewen), a lay brother, Charlot (an Indian boy), and Joseph Bertrand (as guide). On the grounds were two half-finished log houses—alike in dimensions. The west building, assigned to the nuns, had two stories and five rooms.

The site had been selected in June (see January entry, p. 139) by Father Verreydt. On August 16 his party had left old Sugar Creek mission (in present Linn county—see KHQ, v. 29, pp. 165, 166) en route to St. Mary's; had spent from August 19 to September 7 at Father Hoeckner's mission station (see January entry, p. 139); and then set out again on the 7th. Father Gaillard's diary records that they were "delayed a whole day" at "the trading post" (Union Town), because of a rise in the Kansas river; but, on the 9th, forded the stream "some in wagons, others on horseback"; and arrived, in the afternoon, at St. Mary's Mission.

Some events during the rest of the year: Brother Mazzella arrived (from Sugar Creek) on September 26; at St. Louis, on October 4, an Indian department contract was signed, providing financial assistance for operation of the boarding school; Father Christian Hoeckner (from the station south of Kansas river) removed to St. Mary's on October 12; a small temporary chapel was erected, and first used on November 12; between November 25 and December 11 five male boarding students were taken in, also about the same number of girls, in the same period.

C September 10.—Two of Oregon’s newly appointed territorial officials—Joseph Lane, governor, and Joseph L. Meek, U. S. marshal—set out, overland, from Fort Leavenworth, to travel by way of Santa Fe, other southern trails, and California, to their destination. (See, also, May 11 and August 14 entries.)

Escorted by Lt. George W. Hawkins and 24 (?) men of Company C, U. S. Mounted riflemen, their party also included Doctor Hayden (of the military detachment), Lane’s eldest son, Nathaniel, a guide (or guides), teamsters (for the 10? wagons), and servants—a company of perhaps 50 (?) in all.

On the 14th Lane, Meek, and party were at Willow Springs (present Douglas county); about the 16th, at Council Grove, the eastbound Francis X. Aubry met them; on the 22d they were at the “Big Bend of Arkansas”—where troops returning from Mexican War service encountered them. It was probably on the 23d, between Great Bend and Pawnee Fork, that two Mexican War generals (U. S. volunteers) met on the Santa Fe trail—the Oregon-bound ex-Bvt. Maj. Gen. Joseph Lane, and Missouri-bound Brig. Gen. Sterling Price.

The Lane-Meek party entered Santa Fe on October 18; remained about four days; set out (with pack horses) to take the Cila route to California. Subsequently, on March 2, 1849, just two days before President Polk’s term of office expired, Lane and Meek reached Oregon City; and on March 5 (having been sworn in as governor) Lane proclaimed the establishment of Oregon’s territorial government.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, September 2, 10, 16, 19, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, September 30, October 7, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis of September 18 and 23); SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, pp. 204, 205, 215, 216; The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., December 1, 1848 (from Missouri Republican of November 23); H. E. Tobie’s No Man Like Joe, pp. 180-185; Bancroft, op. cit., v. 1, pp. 777, 778; F. B. Heitman, Historical Register . . . of the U. S. Army (1903), for Lane’s and Price’s military ranks. The Biography of Joseph Lane, by “Western” (Washington, 1852), p. 24, says Lane arrived at Fort Leavenworth September 4, and left on the 10th with “22 men including guides &c.”

C In September (?) “Reed’s train from Lexington” crossed “Kansas” bound for Santa Fe. (J. M. White, who left Santa Fe October 18, met Reed’s wagons at “Cedar Springs” on the 25th.)

Ref: St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, December 1, 1848.

C Mid-September.—On the Santa Fe trail between Fort Mann and Pawnee Fork these were some of the eastbound travelers swift-riding F. X. Aubry (see next entry) passed, about the 14th and 15th, on his journey to Missouri:

Lt. Col. Alton R. Easton’s infantry battalion, at the fort; Maj. William W. Reynolds (see p. 185) with three companies of Rails’ Third Missouri (mounted) regiment, the Santa Fe battalion (Maj. Robert Walker, commander), Lt. John Love and 25 First U. S.

(At Independence, Mo., on September 29, a party just in from Santa Fe reported Pawnee Fork, Walnut, and Coon creeks were "very high" and difficult to cross; and that grass and water, on the Santa Fe trail, were more abundant than "within the recollection of the oldest traders.")


✠ September 17.—"Skimmer of the Plains" Francis X. Aubry (who had left Santa Fe, N. M., alone, the morning of September 12) rode into Independence, Mo., late at night—having traversed the 750-mile stretch of Santa Fe trail in five days and 16 hours (breaking his earlier trip record of eight days and 10 hours—see May 28 entry).

Taking the Bertrand down the Missouri to St. Charles, thence by buggy, he arrived at St. Louis the night of September 22—in a fraction over 10 days from the New Mexican capital.

Of the 23-year-old Aubry's extraordinary (and never-surpassed) Santa Fe trail ride, the Missouri Republican had this to say: "On his way he had to swim every stream, was delayed by the transaction of business at Fort Mann, with his own teams which passed that way, and with the various parties of troops; and beside breaking down six horses and walking 20 miles on foot, he made the trip, traveling time only counted, in about four days and a half! During this time, he slept two and a half hours and ate only six meals. It rained upon him 24 consecutive hours, and nearly 600 miles of the distance was performed in the mud, and yet, what is strange, the rain did not reach Council Grove. . . . We learn from Mr. A. that he made some portion of the trip between Santa Fe and Independence at the rate of 190 miles in 24 hours. He had no one to accompany him."

Ref: New York Weekly Tribune, October 7, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis); The Daily Revell, St. Louis, September 24, 1848; The Pacific Historian, v. 5 (August, 1901), p. 114; Missouri Republican, September 11, 1854 (typed copy of article from, in KHI library); The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., September 29, 1848, published the Independence Expositor's account of Aubry's ride—an account which states Aubry arrived at Independence "on the 15th before daylight." Joseph Tasse's Les Canadiens de l'Ouest (Montreal, 1878), v. 2, p. 180, gives Aubry's birth date as December 4, 1824.

✠ September 21.—Arrivals at Fort Leavenworth this day: Capt. Charles F. Ruff (whose company of U. S. Mounted riflemen—traveling overland—reached the post on the 26th or 27th), and a company (two officers; 50 men) of the Sixth U. S. infantry, aboard the Highland Mary, from Jefferson Barracks, Mo. (For Ruff, see, also, October 15 annals entry.)

September.—Missionaries S. M. Irvin and William Hamilton reported they had printed more than 30,000 pages, during the year, on the “Iowa and Sac Mission” press—the principal work being a “small grammar of the Iowa language.”

Ref: Comm’r of Indian affairs, Report, 1848; KHQ, v. 29, p. 456 (for other information on the press, and on the grammar of 1848).

September 25.—Western Academy—the first high school in “Kansas”—opened at Shawnee Methodist Mission (present Johnson county).

Sup’t Thomas Johnson’s advertisement (of August 17) had announced the plan to open this school “of high order” (for “both males and females”) at “Ft. Leavenworth Indian Manual Training School.” The Rev. Nathan Scarritt, A. M. (27 years of age; recently head of the male department, Howard High School, Fayette, Mo.), hired as principal, served till the summer of 1851.

Writing from “Ind M L School & Western Academy,” on February 11, 1849, Allen T. Ward stated: “Our High School . . . has gone on prosperously, & we have as many students as we can accommodate; this high school . . . is for both white & red. . . .” (For a modest tuition, young people from western Missouri, could [and a number did] take the course of instruction [“all the branches of a complete English education together with the Latin and Greek languages”—as advertised].)


September 28.—A party arriving at Independence, Mo., from Santa Fe, included “Mr. [James H.] Bullard, of Bullard, Russell, & Co.,” and a member of Lt. Col. Alton R. Easton’s battalion.

Lt. John Love, Company B, First U. S. dragoons (and 25 men?), who “passed up to Fort Leavenworth” the same day, perhaps reached the border with the above party.

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, October 10, 1848. For Love’s 1847 Santa Fe trail experiences see KHQ, v. 30, pp. 518, 519, 523-524, 529, 531, 532.

September.—At Shawnee Baptist Mission (present Johnson county), a “neat and commodious” frame church (28 by 40 feet, with a belfry), erected during the summer by the Indians, was dedicated. Missionary Francis Barker reported the building was well constructed, of good materials.


September-October.—Mexican War volunteer troops from Missouri, and Illinois, homeward-bound by way of the Santa Fe trail (down which they had marched in 1846, 1847, or 1848), crossed “Kansas”; began to arrive at the Missouri border (Fort Leaven-
worth for the Illinois men; Independence for the Missourians) about September 18; and continued coming in, at intervals, up through October 6.

**At Fort Leavenworth:**

Between September 20 and October 1 there arrived the "First" regiment, Illinois infantry volunteers—Col. Edward W. B. Newby (and escort of 23? men) on the 20th; Maj. Israel B. Donalson (with the third and last detachment) at the end of the month. Newby had left Santa Fe about August 15. He and his troops traveled the Santa Fe trail without special incident; except that Major Donalson's command was detained at rain-swollen Pawnee Fork, in mid-September.

Via Missouri river steamboats, and between September 22 and October 10, the Illinois veterans reached Alton, Ill., where they were paid and mustered out of service. The *St. Louis Union* of September 25 noted the arrival of Lt. Col. Henderson P. Boyakin, Dr. R. N. Handley (regimental surgeon), Maj. N[ath] Johns[t]on (U. S. paymaster), and his clerk, T. J. Bradley, on the *Plough Boy*; the *St. Louis Reveille* of the 29th reported the arrival of Colonel Newby (and others) on the *Highland Mary*. *The Tamerlane*, Cora, St. Joseph, *Plough Boy* (a second trip), and *Eliza Stewart*, also took aboard Illinois troops at Fort Leavenworth and carried them downriver. (The *Plough Boy*’s military passengers, Companies I and K, reached Alton aboard the *Amelia*, which picked them up after the *Plough Boy* "snagged" and sank above Portland, Mo., on October 6.) Major Donalson (with six officers and 132 men), on the *Eliza Stewart*, reached Alton, Ill., about October 9.

**At Independence, Mo.**

Between September 18(?) and October 7 there arrived the Missouri volunteers—troops of three battalions (Gilpin’s, Easton’s, and the Santa Fe battalion), one regiment (Ralls’ Third Missouri), and some unassigned recruits. Apparently it was well into November before all had been mustered out (by Col. Ethan A. Hitchcock) and paid off (by Maj. Thomas S. Bryant).

First to be mustered out were Griffin’s, Jones’, and Holzscheiter’s companies of “Gilpin’s battalion” from Fort Mann. (The rest of Gilpin’s men were discharged on September 30 and October 2, followed on the 3d by the lieutenant colonel, his “field and staff.”)


Lt. Col. Alton R. Easton “with his entire[?] command [infantry battalion]” arrived on October 3 and camped near town. (Also encamped “in the suburbs” were “Lts. Royall and Allen and their detachments of recruits” who had been to New Mexico and back without having been assigned to companies.) On October 4 Captains Shepard, Barnes, and Cunningham of Easton’s battalion reached town; also Captain McNair of Ralls’ regiment, three lieutenants named Allen (James, Abraham, Charles), and other officers. On October 6 the townspeople witnessed “the return of the brave Missouri boys under Colonel
Ralls [the Third regiment, Missouri Mounted volunteers]; and on the 7th, the Santa Fe battalion, commanded by Maj. [Robert] Walker arrived; but encamped at Wayne City, three miles away, on the Missouri river.

At St. Louis, the Reveille of November 1 noted the arrival (on October 31) of 78 officers and men of the Third (Ralls') regiment, from Wayne City, on the Mary Blane. About 100 Third regiment men were aboard the Alexander Hamilton which reached St. Louis November 7. (Probably these were among the last of the troops to return home.)

Ref: ILLINOIS TROOPS—Saint Louis Daily Union, September 25, 26, 30, October 4, 6, 10, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, September 29, October 10; New York Weekly Tribune, September 30, October 7, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis); 31st Cong., 1st Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 26 (Serial 554), p. 21. Missouri Troops—Saint Louis Daily Union, September 18, 22, 25, October 8, 10, 17, 24, 1848; The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, October 6, 10, 11, 17, November 1, 8, 1848; The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., September 29, 1848; W. E. Connelley's Doniphan's Expedition (1907), pp. 149, 150 (for data on Gilpin's battalion); New York Weekly Tribune, October 7, 1848.

DIED: Maj. William W. Reynolds, of the Third ("Ralls'") regiment, Missouri volunteers, in October (or September?), at Fort Mann, of a fever, while returning home from Santa Fe with his command. He was an Osage county, Mo., resident.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, October 11, 1848 (quoted an Independence, Mo., letter of October 5, which stated Reynolds had been left "quite sick" at Fort Mann (according to just-arrived troops); ibid., November 9, 1848 (quoted the Independence Expositor of October 28th to the effect that this "gallant young officer," a "nephew of the late Gov. [Thomas] Reynolds of Missouri," had died "recently" of fever at Fort Mann; C. R. Barnes' The Commonwealth of Missouri (St. Louis, 1877), p. 263 (says Reynolds died "in October, 1848, at Fort Mann . . . "). See, also, KIQ, v. 30, pp. 521, 528.

October.—At Wea Baptist Mission (present Miami county), according to the American Indian Mission Association's annual report, "a new and commodious school and meeting house" had been erected during the year; the boarding-school session had ended with 32 pupils; and the mission farm (enlarged by 16 acres) had produced a good corn crop.

In November, Sup't T. H. Harvey, St. Louis, wrote: "This little school & mission, I am persuaded, is doing much good."

Ref: AIMA Proceedings, 1848, pp. 20, 21; SIA, St. Louis, "Records," v. 9, typed copy, p. 245. For brief history of Wea mission see KIQ, v. 30, p. 90. The Rev. David Lykins, his wife Abigail (Webster) Lykins, and Sarah Ann Osgood (teacher) were the missionaries in 1848.

October 2.—Kit Carson (at Independence, Mo., on September 29) was reported to be leaving "on Monday" (the 2d) from town of Kansas, Mo., for "the Far West."

By his own (later) statement he reached New Mexico (his destination Taos) in October. Eastbound J. M. White met him at "Whetstone" on October 24. About November 1 he was at Santa Fe.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, October 10, 1848; The Gazette, St. Joseph, Mo., December 1, 1948 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, November 23); New York Weekly Tribune, February 24 and March 3, 1849 (from telegraph news, and Missouri Republican, February 13).
October.—“Mr. Newman” (mail carrier), who probably left the Missouri border early in the month, reached Santa Fe on the 29th. Hugh N. Smith (New Mexico’s district attorney), evidently was in the express party since he, too, was an October 29 arrivee.

(In November—on the 20th—he set out again, eastbound, with a mail for the States, but “was compelled to return, after reaching the Cimarron [Cimarron], on account of the depth of snow, and the coldness of the weather.”)


October.—Items and stories of gold discoveries in California began to appear in western Missouri newspapers.

The Liberty Tribune, October 6, reprinted a New Orleans Picayune story on the arrival of Navy Lt. Edward F. Beale at Mexico City, August 17 (en route from the West Coast to Washington, D. C., with dispatches), bringing news of gold finds in “Upper California.” The same paper, on October 13, carried an account of B. F. Chouteau’s arrival at Santa Fe from California (left July 4), with a report that a man had found two pieces of virgin gold near San Francisco, worth $2,000.

The St. Joseph Gazette, about October 20(?), reprinted a “gold” article from the New York Sun; and on October 27, quoted the Washington Union in stating: “An immense bed of gold, 100 miles in extent, has been discovered in California. . . .”

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., October 6, 13, 1848; The History of Buchanan County, Missouri (St. Joseph, 1881), p. 201; St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, October 27, November 24, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, September 30, 1848 (has Washington Union story, September 19, 1848, re Beale’s reaching Mexico City on August 17 and arriving at Washington, D. C., on September 16). B. F. Chouteau’s government mail contract, March 5, 1848 (Santa Fe to California, and back) is listed in 31st Cong., 1st Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 26 (Serial 554), p. 12.

October 8.—At Fort Leavenworth, Capt. L. C. Easton, AQM, arranged for the Sacramento (William Atkinson, master) to transport two companies of First U. S. infantry (one from the fort, the other from “Kanzas”—Kansas City, Mo.) to Jefferson Barracks, Mo.


October 8.—Heading for Santa Fe with a large stock of merchandise—his third trip of the year to New Mexico—Francis X. Aubry set out from Independence, Mo., this day.

He was at Cow creek (present Rice county) on October 21 (and got word there, of an Apache attack [near Las Vegas, N. M.] on October 13, in which the raiders had run off 240 government animals, and some of Aubry’s mules; also killed stockherder Williams). Eastbound J. M. White, about October 27 met “F. X. Aubry and [ex] Captain [William Z.] Angney . . . at the Lower Cimarron Springs going on well.” (Aubry was hastening on, in advance of his wagons, to Santa Fe, to obtain forage and extra animals. When he set out, from Santa Fe, in December, with 15 men, to meet his train, he
got as far as the “Red” river vicinity, then was forced to turn back when seven men deserted. Aubry’s goods eventually reached Santa Fe, but he lost around 150 miles altogether—some by severe weather, the rest stolen by Indians.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., November 24, 1848; New York Weekly Tribune, October 28, December 2, 1848; April 14, 1849 (all from St. Louis newspapers); The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, October 17, 1848; St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, December 1, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, November 23). Summarizing Aubry’s Santa Fe trail activities in 1848: he arrived at Independence (from Santa Fe) on January 5; left Independence (with wagons) in mid-March; returned to Independence (after fast ride) May 28; left Independence (with wagons) late June or early July; returned to Independence (after swiftest ride) September 17; left Independence (with wagons) October 8.

The Daily Reveille of August 8, 1848, reported “Capt. Anguey of Cole County” had just arrived in St. Louis from Santa Fe.

October.—Spruce M. Baird (appointed in May, by Texas governor George T. Wood, as judge of newly created Santa Fe county—an area east of the Rio Grande, now in New Mexico, to which Texas laid claim) crossed “Kansas” this month, arriving at Santa Fe on November 10. His mission was to establish Texan jurisdiction over the county.


October 10-17.—A “Great Council” of Indian tribes residing in “Kansas” was held near Fort Leavenworth, on the Delawares’ reserve. Present were representatives of immigrant nations long linked in confederacy—the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawnees, Potawatomies, Ottawa, Chippewas, Miamis, Weas, and Peorias; also the Sacs & Foxes (who left in the midst of proceedings, following a speech reciting incidents in their ancient war with the Wyandots), the Kickapoos, and the Kansa. (Not present, and probably not invited: the Osages).

Wyandot delegates, arriving the evening of the 10th, found the “Delawares, Shawnees, Miamis, Peoris, Kanzas, Sacs and Foxes already on the ground, and the Kanzas camp in a bustle, making preparations for a grand dance.” Sub-agent Richard Hewitt (a visitor in midweek) was impressed by the panorama—the “grandeur of Indian costume . . . the social and friendly feeling exhibited amongst the people there congregated, the enjoyment of the dance, and the great numbers engaged in them, contrasted with the sober and staid countenances of the older chiefs, the harmless countenance and the musical voice of the females present. . . .”
The journal of this Indian congress (which met daily from the 11th through the 17th) later was lost. But it is recorded that "all the former arrangements of the league were solemnly renewed"; that the Kickapoos and Kansa joined (by invitation) and "agreed to incur the responsibilities and abide by the regulations and joint acts of the league." (The renewal of "former arrangements" confirmed the position of the Wyandots as "keepers of the Council-fire of the Northwestern Confederacy."

Ref: W. E. Connolly, *The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory* . . . pp. 4, 62, 63, 265, 266; Comm'r of Indian affairs, Report for 1948 (Richard Hewitt's report, therein); *KIC*, v. 6, pp. 104; Andrew, *op. cit.*, p. 146 (Bishop Andrew, on October 18, a few miles below Fort Leavenworth, "met a party of Indians, mostly Kickapoos, returning from a council, composed of leading men from a number of surrounding tribes, who had met in the Delaware nation, for the purpose of consulting upon the best measures for promoting peace and good neighborhood among themselves."

€ October.—Cerin St. Vrain (with a train of wagons?), accompanied by Thomas Fitzpatrick, traveled the Santa Fe trail, westbound, across "Kansas" this month. On November 1, at the Arkansas Crossing, eastbound trader J. M. White met St. Vrain and the Indian agent.

Fitzpatrick, a few days later, stopped at the Big Timbers to council with "about 600 lodges of . . . Apaches, Cunanches, Kiowas and Arapahoes." Fremont's party, reaching that area about November 11(?), found Fitzpatrick "holding a talk with . . . [the Indians] making a feast, and giving small presents." Fremont further says: "We were three or four days among them.—The number of their lodges would indicate about 6,000." (See, also, October 20 entry.)

Ref: St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, December 1, 1848 (from *Missouri Republican* of November 23), for J. M. White; Comm'r of Indian affairs, Report, 1848 [Fitzpatrick's October 6, 1848, report therein says: "I will leave here (St. Louis) in two days for Bent's Fort, on the Arkansas river . . ."]; Blanche C. Grant's *When Old Trails Were New* (New York, 1934), pp. 123, 127; *New York Weekly Tribune*, March 10, 1849 (for Fremont's November 17, 1848, letter).

€ October 15.—Capt. Charles F. Ruff, with Companies C and I, U. S. Mounted riflemen, left Fort Leavenworth for "Fort Childs" (new Fort Kearny—see June annals entry, p. 162). His command (127 men) reached the head of Grand Island in just 12 days; and there relieved the small "Oregon battalion" detachment (18 or 20 men) left in charge.


€ October 17.—At Fort Leavenworth, Francis C. Hughes signed a contract (Capt. Langdon C. Easton, AQM, negotiator) to "take charge of and winter" 3,862 oxen, 2,062 mules, and 195 horses, for the rate of 86½ cents each per month. Sureties for his $100,000 bond
were George B. Sanderson, Benjamin Holladay, J. F. Warner, and David Hughes.


October 18-23.—Bishop James O. Andrew, M. E. Church, South, spent upwards of five days in "Kansas," after attending a conference at Weston, Mo., in mid-October.

On the 18th (in a carriage, with "Brother [B. H.] Russel," and a driver) the bishop crossed the Missouri below Weston; rode some three miles to (and on past) Fort Leavenworth (where there were "hundreds of wagons" and a large number of the "poorest" mules he had ever seen); late in the day arrived at the Delaware Methodist Mission (the Rev. Nathan T. Shaler, in charge); preached (with James Ketchum as interpreter) at the Delawares' church (half a mile distant) that night. On the 19th Bishop Andrew continued his tour—riding four miles to the Kansas river ferry ("jointly owned" by the Delawares and Shawnees). South of the river, en route to Shawnee Mission, he passed the "Quaker establishment" with its "very neat and prosperous looking farm"; also the "church and camp ground" of the Shawnees. At the "Manual Labor School" (reached around noon) he was greeted by the Rev. Thomas Johnson (who had returned as superintendent in the fall of 1847).

Bishop Andrew spent two days at Shawnee Mission—an institution so diverse in its operations as to give "the air of a clever, thriving village"; and its over-500-acre farm "one of the most extensive, and well-managed" the bishop had ever seen. On the evening of the 21st Andrew journeyed some eight miles to the Wyandot Mission—going by way of Westport, and Kansas, Mo., then by the Wyandots' Kansas river ferry, to reach his destination. On the 22d (Sunday) he preached at the Indians' church; afterwards returned to Shawnee; and departed "Kansas" on October 23.


October 20.—From "Boone Creek" camp (about three miles from Westport, Mo.), John C. Fremont (now a civilian) and the men of his fourth West-exploring expedition (privately financed) traveled some five miles to "Mission Creek." On the 21st his mounted party (with pack mules) moved westward 14 miles to "Mill Creek." (It was this day that Bishop James O. Andrew—inspecting Shawnee Methodist Mission—saw "a company of men [Fremont's] singularly equipped, passing just below the mill.") On October 22, after a 22-mile march, camp was made "near the Wakerloos [Wakarusa]." Here, Jim Secundi (Secondine) and several other Delawares (as guides out to the Smoky Hill) joined the party.

Fremont was now bound for the Pacific by a path (across the mountains) south of all his former routes—in search of a way practicable for a railroad; and he planned to "seek a (believed) pass between 37 and 38 [degrees] in the Sierra Nevada"—Fremont's statement. The explorer and "35 young and
athletic men," had arrived at Kansas, Mo., on October 8—after setting out from St. Louis on the 3d aboard the Martha. (Jessie Benton Fremont, and an infant son who died on the way upriver, were also on the steamboat. Mrs. Fremont was a guest at R. W. Cummins' Fort Leavenworth Agency house when her husband set out for the West.) The expedition members included Alexis Godey, Edward M. Kern (artist), Charles Preuss (topographer), Charles Taplin, Henry King, Raphael Prone, Henry J. (or Marion) Wise, Thomas E. Breckenridge, and several more who had served with Fremont before. Two other Kern brothers—Richard H. (artist) and Dr. Benjamin J. (physician), were in the party; also Frederick Creutzfeldt (botanist), and Capt. Andrew Catheart (adventurer; formerly of the British army).

On October 23 Fremont and his men passed "a small trading town of the Pottawatomie nation, built in a small hallow"; and during the 25-mile day's journey traveled with prairie fires "blazing in all directions" around them. After a march of some 25 miles on the 24th they "camped at the old Pota [i.e., Kansa] Mission composed of 3 or four log houses now occupied by a Mr. [Isaac] Monday, blacksmith to the [Pottawatomie] nation about 1½ [i.e., 4½] miles from here is their [Union Town] trading post."—Edward M. Kern's diary.

On the 28th Richard H. Kern (in his diary) noted "one of the Smoky Hills . . . looming-up blue and far off [to the right]; and he sketched "Buttes [off to the left] in the direction of Council Grove." The company crossed the Smoky Hill (near present Salina) on October 29; saw buffalo for the first time; traversed an immense, level, grass-covered plain (with "Smoky Hill Buttes . . . far off and solitary"), then came to a "more hilly and rugged" country. (On the 30th Richard Kern recorded descriptions of rock masses "singular in shape.")

On October 31 they arrived, again, at the Smoky Hill (presumably in present Russell county); proceeded up the right bank on November 1; crossed, on the 2d (in Ellis county?) "near a very bald high & perpendicular bluff" (and near what had been the Pawnees' summer camp while buffalo hunting); headed (southwesterly?) toward the Arkansas; on the 7th reached it (having endured some wintry weather in the intervening days). Richard Kern wrote on November 8: "Our object today was to reach Choteaux Island supposed to be about 25 miles off." But they traveled 52 miles before camping (and crossed the icy Arkansas to the shelter of some cottonwoods). About November 12 the exploring party arrived (and remained three? days) at the Big Timbers, where Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick was holding councils with some 6,000 Indians (Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas, and Arapahoes—according to Fremont).
After reaching Bent’s Fort, November 16, Fremont wrote (on the 17th) of his route across “Kansas”:

“[I followed the line of the southern Kanzas, (the true Kanzas River) [i.e., the Smoky Hill]. . . . We find that the valley of the Kanzas affords by far the most eligible approach to the mountains. The whole valley soil is of a very superior quality, and the route very direct, (between thirty-eight and thirty-nine degrees). This line would afford continuous and good settlements certainly for four hundred miles, and is therefore worthy of consideration in any plan of approach [for a railroad] to the mountains.”

From Bent’s Fort Fremont and his party (33 men; about 100 horses and mules) continued upriver to Pueblo (where “Old Bill” Williams was hired as guide); and then on to the uppermost settlement—Pueblo SanCarlos, where final preparations were made. Lancaster P. Lupton (writing from Pueblo on November 28) stated: “On the 26th Col. Fremont commenced the ascent of the Snowy Mountains.”

The fourth expedition came to disaster before reaching the continental divide. (That story is not related here.) Ten of Fremont’s men died, during January, 1849, in the mountains, from starvation or freezing. Fremont lost his entire outfit; but rerecruited his expedition in New Mexico; and continued on to California by already established routes.

Ref: New York Weekly Tribune, October 21, 1848, March 8, 10, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 1849 (for a multitude of information—news reports, letters, etc.); L. R. and Ann W. Hafen, Fremont’s Fourth Expedition . . . (Glendale, Calif., 1960) for the documentary material (diaries of the three Kern brothers; narratives, etc.; Blanche C. Grant, When Old Trails Were New . . . , pp. 119-127 (has Richard H. Kern’s diary, also); Andrew, op. cit., pp. 154, 155; Allan Nevins’ Frémont, Pathmaker of the West (New York, 1939), especially pp. 348, 349, and 627-629 (for Edward M. Kern’s February 11, 1849, letter to Antoine Robidoux—reprinted from the St. Joseph [Mo.] Gazette of April 13, 1849); Charles Preuss, Exploring With Frémont . . . (Norman, Okla., cl958), pp. xii, 143; Alpheus H. Favre’s Old Bill Williams . . . , reprinted ed. (Norman, Okla., cl962), pp. 173-204. For Fremont’s earlier expeditions, see indexes to KHQ, v. 29 and v. 50, and see map facing p. 445 in v. 29 for the routes of 1842, and 1845-1844.

October 22.—David Waldo, trader, arrived at Independence, Mo., “in about 11 days” from Santa Fe.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., November 10, 1848 (which also stated that Doctor Waldo had “left Col. Washington’s command about a day’s march from Santa Fe.” W. A. Kelcher in his Turnoval in New Mexico . . . , pp. 36, 37, notes that Bvt. Lt. Col. John M. Washington (newly appointed military commander and provisional governor for New Mexico) had left Monterey, Mexico, July 28 and [by way of Chihuahua? where Waldo joined him?] arrived at Santa Fe on October 10, 1848.

October 22.—The ferry boat at Rialto, Mo. (a mile below Weston, and not far above Fort Leavenworth—see map in KHQ, v. 29, facing p. 160), in crossing the Missouri with nine men and six horses, struck a snag in midstream, and sank. All aboard were saved. The passengers included Lt. Col. Ludwell E. Powell, Capt. Andrew W. Sublette, and two lieutenants of the “Oregon” battalion, also Francis C. Hughes.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, November 4, 1848.
Died: Gen. Stephen Watts Kearny, on October 31, at the residence of M. Lewis Clark, in St. Louis.

Ref: The Daily Reveille, St. Louis, November 1, 1848; Dwight L. Clarke’s Stephen Watts Kearny (Norman, Okla., c1901) pp. 387, 388. For a portrait of Kearny, see KHQ, v. 29, facing p. 49; and see indexes of v. 29 and 30 for his connections with “Kansas” history.

November 3.—The St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette noted that “Mr. [Miles] Goodyear [see KHQ, v. 30, pp. 237, 543], with a party of 10 persons [one of them his brother Andrew], recently [had] arrived in . . . town from California and the Rocky Mountains via South Pass, bringing with them 120 horses, and several packs of peltries.”

Goodyear had left California (where he purchased the animals driven East) in April. (Earlier, he had sold his post “Fort Buenaventura”—where Ogden, Utah, is now.) Finding no market for his horses at Fort Leavenworth, or at St. Joseph, Miles Goodyear (and Andrew) spent the winter of 1848-1849 in the States; and in 1849 took his band of horses (and some mules) back West—to Salt Lake City, and on to California, where there were willing buyers among the gold seekers.

Ref: St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, November 3, 1848, February 16, April 13 (ad.), 27, 1849; Charles Kelly and M. L. Howe’s Miles Goodyear . . . . (Salt Lake City, 1937), pp. 101-109.

November 16.—Lt. Antoine Lefèvre (Lefaire?), and a small “Oregon battalion” detachment (18 to 20 men?), arrived at Fort Leavenworth, from “Fort Childs” (new Fort Kearny) on the Platte. They were mustered out and paid—the last of Lt. Col. Ludwell E. Powell’s Missouri volunteers battalion to be discharged. (The rest of the troops had been released the preceding week.)

See, also, June annals entry on founding of new Fort Kearny, and the October 15 entry.

Ref: Nebraska State Historical Society Publications, v. 20, pp. 185, 189. In W. H. Roberts’ Mexican War Veterans . . . . (1887), p. 63, the lieutenant’s name is spelled “Antoine Lefèvre.” A newspaper account gave his name as “Ant. Lefaire.”

Mid-November.—Passengers boarding the Highland Mary at Fort Leavenworth included Father Pierre-Jean De Smet, Jesuit missionary, Col. Ethan A. Hitchcock, U. S. A., and (Lt. Col.) Ludwell E. Powell (also some officers and men of his mustered-out-of-service “Oregon battalion”). The steamboat reached St. Louis prior to November 18.

Father De Smet had gone up the Missouri in August—by steamboat to the Council Bluffs; thence overland to Fort Pierre. His tour of Indian tribes (particularly the Sioux) had ended in October. Coming downriver be traveled part way by skiff, then by horse and wagon to St. Joseph, Mo. The Highland Mary had left there prior to his arrival, but De Smet (on horseback?) overtook her at the fort.

**November.**—James M. White (who had left Santa Fe on October 18), reached the Missouri border in mid-November, and St. Louis on the 23d. He brought to the States $58,000 in gold and silver coins and bullion.

His party (size not indicated) had experienced some severe storms en route, and cold weather most of the way.

Ref: *The Gazette*, St. Joseph, Mo., December 1, 1848 (from Missouri Republican, St. Louis, November 23).

**November.**—Bvt. Maj. Philip R. Thompson and his company of First U. S. dragoons (61 men), on November 6, began a march across Missouri, from St. Louis (or Jefferson Barracks?), to Fort Scott where they would form part (about half?) the garrison. See, also, December 2 annals entry.

Ref: *The Daily Reveille*, St. Louis, Mo., November 7, 1848.

**November.**—Lt. Edward F. Beale, U. S. N. (courier, overland, from Washington, D. C., to military officials in New Mexico and California), departed Fort Leavenworth for Santa Fe with (as later described) “seventeen mounted men, all raw recruits and a few adventurers.” One of the “adventurers” was Andrew W. Sublette—recently a captain in the “Oregon battalion.”

(For Beale’s summer journey from the West Coast to Washington, D. C., see October annals entry, p. 156. He started the above trip, from Washington, in mid-October; reached Fort Leavenworth, from St. Louis, aboard the *Cora.* )

Beale and his escort were at Council Grove on November 19. (One letter from that trading post, dated the 19th, stated that Beale and Sublette intended to investigate a reported murder on reaching the vicinity of Cottonwood Fork—45 miles west.) By December 3 the party had reached the Big Timbers. Here Beale wrote a letter in which he remarked: “I have had a most unpleasant journey so far, and the men I have with me are so utterly worthless that I anticipate many difficulties. . . . I have had two [potentially serious] affairs with the Indians. . . . The weather here is most cruelly, bitterly cold, it is snowing and freezing. . . .” He also related: “I find here three Americans trading with the Indians. They have built a couple of miserable huts, but appear . . . to be making a very excellent business. There are thousands of Indians here but most of them friendly tribes. . . .”

Continuing up the Arkansas to Bent’s Fort, Beale and party arrived 16 days after Fremont [*i.e.*, about December 2] with some men severely frostbitten, and
animals in poor condition. Subsequently, Beale and his men reached Santa Fe on December 25, after encountering “all the severities of Winter” in the Raton mountains.

At Santa Fe seven of the party dropped out (one of them was Sublette); but Beale recruited replacements and left for California in the fore part of January (Fremont says January 9); eventually (after enduring bitter winter weather; and later, intense heat in the desert) reached San Francisco about April 10, 1849.


November.—The St. Joseph Gazette (of Friday, the 24th) reported the arrival “on Wednesday last” of a small party, overland, from California “bringing with them large quantities of the Feather river gold dust, a portion of which was assayed by a chemist of our town, and pronounced pure gold.”

Apparently this was the party of (or including) Jacob Wittmer, dispatched by John Augustus Sutter to escort—in 1849—members of his family (arriving from Switzerland) overland to California. Artist Rudolph F. Kurz (residing at St. Joseph, Mo., in 1848 and 1849) later wrote that he “and many other people as well,” had regarded “this much-discussed discovery of gold” as a “make-believe” on the part of the U. S. government to get newly acquired California “quickly populated.” “However, when a certain Widmer [Wittmer] arrived here in the autumn [of 1848] having been sent on by Solothurn von Sutter in California to conduct his wife and daughter over the prairie, no one could longer doubt the truth of the reports.”

Ref: St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette, Friday, November 24, 1848; Kurz, op. cit., p. 46, E. G. Gudde’s Sutter’s Own Story (New York, 1956), pp. 197, 220, 224 (on p. 224, Sutter, in March, 1849, refers to the anticipated arrival of some of his family from Switzerland); T. J. Schoonover’s The Life and Times of Gen. John A. Sutter, rev. and enl. ed. (Sacramento, 1907), p. 254, states that “General Sutter paid a man ten dollars a day and expenses to go to Switzerland[?] and bring his family to California.” H. H. Bancroft’s California Pioneer Register . . . reprinted (Baltimore, 1864), p. 357, lists Jacob Wittmer—a Swiss in Sutter’s employ. Kurz, noted, in 1849, “Widmer’s” return to St. Joseph, “he was now conducting a large company of gold seekers” (“as Sutter’s family had taken the route through Panama”).

November 22.—At Fort Leavenworth, T. M. Ewing signed a contract (Capt. Langdon C. Easton, AQM, negotiator) to “take charge
of and winter” 700 mules for the sum of 74½ cents each per month. Sureties for his $20,000 bond were W. P. Ewing and E[benezer] W. Pomeroy.


November 30.—At Independence, Mo., a correspondent wrote: “Some few traders and teamsters are arriving occasionally from the Plains. . . . The weather is said to be very severe, beyond Council Grove. Winter set in on the Plains nearly two months ago. . . .”

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, December 9, 1848.

November-December.—Among the Wyandots, church difficulties (the Methodist Episcopal Church vs. the Methodist Episcopal Church, South—or, the abolitionists vs. the proslaveryites) headed towards a crisis with (1) the arrival of the Rev. John Thompson Peery (missionary appointee of the Church, South) who moved into the Wyandots’ parsonage on November 28; (2) the arrival of the Rev. James Gurley (appointed missionary by Bishop Morris of the Northern church) on December 1.

William Walker (Wyandot) whose sympathies lay with “the Church, South,” wrote, on December 1: “So I suppose we are to have religious dissensions in full fruition.” On February 6, 1849, Subagent Richard Hewitt reported that since Mr. Gurley’s arrival “our church windows are all broken, fights and riots have been frequent at almost every religious meeting”; and stated that he had requested Gurley to leave. (The Wyandots’ subagent, soon after, was removed as a result of the action taken.)

Ref: OIA, Letters Received from Wyandot Subagency (National Archives Microcopy 254, Roll 950), letters of November 10, 1848, and February 6, 1849 (by Dr. M. Simpson and Richard Hewitt); SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, pp. 259, 274, 275, 287; William Walker’s diary (loc. cit.), p. 271, also pp. 260 and 267 (for W. E. Connelley’s comments); KHC, v. 9, pp. 216, 217; A. T. Andreas and W. G. Cutler’s History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, 1883), p. 1225; KHQ, v. 30, pp. 557, 558 (for annals item on the Wyandots’ new brick church of 1847-1848). Note that it was Edward T. Peery—not John Thompson Peery—who was missionary when the brick church was built.

Late in the year—November, or December—at new Miami Catholic Mission (present Miami county—see February entry, p. 143), a boys’ school was opened. Father Charles Truyens, S. J. (superior), assisted by Father Henry Van Mierlo, and two lay brothers, ran this short-lived institution. Located on an “elevated piece of table-land,” the mission had two main buildings (of hewed logs) each two stories high 51½’ x 11’ (divided into four rooms, about 20’ square); and a 40-acre field (fenced and broken).

The mission school had been authorized by the Miamis in March, 1847; and in November, 1847, the Jesuits had signed a contract to open a manual
labor school. Some $3,500 were available ($1,500 from the Miamis' annuities; $2,063, from other Indian department funds). Among the itemized disbursements for "Miami Manual Labor School" (as made by the Rev. J. Van de Velde, S. J.) were these: J. Robideau, building $30; C. Truyens, carpenter $255; M. Giraud, two horses $70; George Miles, wagon $70; James Allen, wagon $50; Anson Eccleson, breaking and fencing school farm $250—all under date of September 30, 1848; and under date of December 31, 1848, were these: Thomas Morgan, erecting two buildings for manual labor school $600; George Miles, shingles $63; Anson "Enliston" [Eccleson?], digging well $70, transportation of plank $18, building stable $35; Charles Truyens, services as superintendant of school $74; A. Tolle, carpenter $71.75.

Miami Catholic Mission did not prosper. Part of the blame attached to the Indians who were leaderless and dissipated. The most pupils at one time in the school were eight; in July, 1849, only one child was attending. Whereas a majority of the Miami children were girls, the school was for boys only; and it was not a manual labor school, as intended.

In May, 1849, the Jesuits asked to be released from their contract; after investigating, Sup't D. D. Mitchell, St. Louis, wrote to Washington, August 1, recommending "a change of Teachers & that the contract with the Catholics be annulled." Before the end of 1849 the institution closed.


December 2.—The adjutant general's office reported there were at Fort Leavenworth (on the Missouri) 3 companies, Sixth U. S. infantry; and 1 company, First U. S. dragoons; with Capt. William S. Ketchum (Sixth infantry) commanding.

Fort Scott (on the Maraton) 1 company, Sixth U. S. infantry; and 1 company, First U. S. dragoons; with Bvt. Maj. Albemarle Cady (Sixth infantry) commanding.

Grand Island (Fort Kearny—on the Platte) 2 companies, U. S. Mounted riflemen; with Capt. Charles F. Ruff commanding.

Ref. 30th Cong., 2d Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 1 (Serial 537), p. 162 and between pp. 184, 185 (or, p. 184 d.), Albert C. Brackett's History of the United States Cavalry . . . (New York, 1885), p. 124, notes that the rest of the First dragoons were located as follows: one company at Fort Washita ('southern "Oklahoma"'), three companies in New Mexico, three in California, and one on the Mississippi, above Fort Snelling.

December 2.—George Douglass signed a contract (with Bvt. Capt. Alexander Morrow, AQM) to deliver 100 tons of well-cured prairie hay at Fort Scott by January 31, 1849. His bond signers were Edward L. Chouteau and Abraham Redfield.


December 5.—President Polk's message to congress contained this reference to the California gold discoveries:
"The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character, as would scarcely command belief, were they not corroborated [sic!] by the authentic reports of officers in the public service, who have visited the mineral district and derived the facts which they detail, from personal observations."


December 11.—"Smith, Brown & Co., who undertook a large Government contract for freight to Santa Fe last Summer [see May 17 annals entry], are losing great numbers of cattle, by the severe weather on the Plains, and no doubt many of their hands are suffering severely, for they are not near all in," wrote an Independence, Mo., correspondent.

The same writer noted that the Missouri was frozen over at Independence, and the weather "very severe—6 below zero." At Wyandotte (present Kansas City, Kan.) on December 11, William Walker recorded in his journal: "At daylight thermometer 18 below zero." (On the 4th he had written of a great snow and sleet storm; on the 5th "sleet, sleet ... ."; on the 6th "cold, cloudy ... sleet all day; on the 7th "at daylight, snow, sleet and rain! When is this horrible tempest to come to an end. ... . In the evening the weather cleared up ... . the moon shone with unusual brilliancy.""

Walker reported it was 10 degrees below zero on December 12. (See, also, December 21 entry.)

A traveler westbound on the Santa Fe trail in May, 1849, in the area between 110-mile creek and Bridge (Switzer's) creek, "passed immense numbers of Skeletons of Dead Oxen government having about one thousand Froze to death here last winter Some places thirty would lye in one pile."

Ref: Saint Louis Daily Union, December 19, 1848; William Walker's "Journals" (loc. cit.), p. 272; John R. Forysth's "Journal" (microfilmed of typed copy in KHi). Lt. E. F. Beale, westbound to Santa Fe, via Bent's Fort, wrote from Big Timbers on December 3, 1848, "a trader who passed some sixty miles to the southward of me lost in one snowstorm ninety mules frozen to death in a single night. I counted in one day myself, seventy-two animals dead and dying, belonging to a large company returning to the United States."—Bonsal, op. cit., pp. 49, 50.

December.—"St. Joseph [Mo.] has 1542 inhabitants, and 373 votes," reported the Liberty (Mo.) Tribune, in midmonth.

Ref: The Weekly Tribune, Liberty, Mo., December 15, 1848. See, also, February, 1849, annals entry.

December 21.—At Wyandotte (now Kansas City, Kan.) "Horrible! Sleet and snow in all its fury 2 below," wrote William Walker.

On the 22d: "At daylight 20 below zero"; on the 23d: "29 below zero!"; on the 24th: "Cold and freezing weather"; and on the 25th: "A merry Christmas!"

December 27.—A Fort Leavenworth correspondent reported the arrival of “a Santa Fe party with the oxen for the government contractors—they lost one man who perished in the snow; and 1,600 oxen died on the way.” (See December 11 entry.)


December 27.—Robert Wilson signed a contract (Capt. Langdon C. Easton, AQM, negotiator) to furnish and deliver at Fort Leavenworth 30,000 bushels of corn, and 5,000 bushels of oats for 34½ cents per bushel, each. His $10,000 bond was signed by Hiram Rich (post sutler) and Charles A. Perry.


At Osage Mission (present St. Paul), during the year 1848, there was erected a 30' by 30' log structure—the first Catholic church in what is now southern Kansas. The month of its completion apparently is not on record.

(In 1858 an addition, also of logs, enlarged the church to 60 by 33 feet; and in 1861 there was an addition of frame. In 1882 “an imposing stone structure begun ten years before was dedicated. . . . ”)


Employed in “Kansas” by the Indian Department during all, or part of the year 1848 were the following persons:

Fort Leavenworth Agency [Kickapoos, Delawares, Shawnees, Pottawatomies, Stockbriges, and Munsees]—Agent Richard W. Cummings; Interpreters Henry Tihlow, and Joseph Laframboise (appointed June 19; for the Pottawatomies); Blacksmiths William Donalson and Calvin Perkins for Shawnees, James B. Franklin for Delawares, Isaac B. Munday, Michael P. Newman (appointed June 19), and Robert Simermell for Pottawatomies; Assistant blacksmiths Lindsey T. Cook (appointed February 3), Thomas A. Cook (appointed March 31; died during 1848), and Pwohatan Phifer (part time) for Shawnees, Cornelius Yager for Delawares, Henry Scroggs, John Laframboise (suspended September 12), and John L. Oggee (all appointed June 19) for Pottawatomies; Physician Johnston Lykins for Pottawatomies.

Osage River Agency [Sacs & Foxes of the Mississippi, Kansa, Ottawas, Chippewas, Weas, Piankashaws, Peorias & Kaskaskias, Miamiis, and New York Indians west of the Mississippi]—Agent Solomon P. Sublette (resigned), James S. Rains (appointed May 11; arrived June 29); Interpreters Baptiste Peoria, Josiah Smart (resigned), Thomas J. Connelly, Clement Lessert, and John Bouice; Blacksmiths Charles H. Withington and Arthur I. Baker for Pottawatomies, Robert Wilson, for Miamiis, William H. Mitchell for Kansa; Assistant blacksmiths Jonathan Parsons, James Corlack, Morris Baker (from April 1) and Emanuel Mosier for Sacs & Foxes, James Wilson for Miamiis; Gunsmiths Harvey Sturdevant (died September 25) and Newman York for Sacs & Foxes; Physician S. G. Harlan for Sacs & Foxes.
GREAT NEMAH SUBAGENCY [Iowas, and Sacs & Foxes of the Missouri]—
Subagent William E. Rucker (resigned), Alfred J. Vaughan (appointed March 1); Interpreters John B. Rubite and Francis Bricknolle; Farmers F. Lyda, John W. Forman (resigned), Findley C. McCreary, and James F. Forman; Blacksmiths William T. Harris and George Tinker; Millers John W. Forman (resigned) and James F. Forman.

OSAGE SUBAGENCY [Osages]—Subagent John M. Richardson; Interpreter Charles Mongrain; Blacksmiths Akin Brunt and John McKinney; Assistant blacksmiths Joseph Captain and Francis Mitchell; Millers George T. Arthur and Fenwick Fisher; Assistant millers Augustus Captain and Dodridge Barnabe.

WYANDOT SUBAGENCY [Wyandots]—Subagent Richard Hewitt; Blacksmith Charles Graham; Assistant blacksmith Ira Hunter.

Ref: 30th Cong., 2d Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 7 (Serial 529), pp. 2-8; 31st Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 11 (Serial 572), pp. 3-5, 107, 109-111, 117, 118, 170, 175, 176, 179, 203, 206, 272; 31st Cong., 1st Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 61 (Serial 577), pp. 36, 39, 58, 68; OIA, Letters Received from Osage River Subagency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 643); SIA, St. Louis, “Records,” v. 9, typed copy, pp. 106, 111, 119, 120, 130-132, 209, 234, 249; OIA, Letters Received from Osage Subagency (National Archives Microcopy 234, Roll 633); Jotham Meeker’s “Journal” (in KHi ms. division), September 25, 1848, entry, for Harvey Sturdevant’s death. Alfred J. Vaughan, appointed March 1 to the Great Nemaha Subagency, had been head of the discontinued Osage River Subagency (See KHQ, v. 50, p. 553).

(Part Eighteen Will Appear in the Autumn or Winter, 1965, Issue.)