



Lovejoy & Williams, 128 Kearny St., S. F.

Leanna Donner App and John App
Wedding 1852



L.T.O.R

John App, Frank App, Leanna Charity Donner App
& Rebecca App. About 1860 (before John
+ Lucy Eva were born)

JOHN APP DIARY -- 1850

John App traveled to California from Pekin, Illinois in 1850, making the journey with a wagon train as thousands of pioneers did during the days of the gold rush. Through the years his diary has been remarkably preserved and is in the possession of Mrs. Pat (Heiskell) Hillman, Tulare, California, a great-granddaughter of John. John App (1821-1898) was the son of Mathias J. App (1796-1878) who was the son of Matthias App (1761-1828). Born in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania John moved west to Pekin, Illinois with his family in 1833. He arrived in California in the fall of 1850 and married Leanna Donner (of the famed Donner Party and second oldest daughter of George Donner) in 1852 at Sutter's Fort, now Sacramento, California. He and his wife moved to Quartz Mountain, California (near Jamestown, CA) where he homesteaded and discovered a gold-bearing quartz mine on what is known as the Mother-Lode. Called the App mine, it was one of the top gold producers of the southern mines.

The diary measures 10 cm wide, 14.5 cm tall, 8 mm thick and has a tan, leather covering with plain paper pages bound with string. John wrote his diary in pencil although there are some notes made in ink from a time prior to his departure west. It has become fragile with age, but is still very much in readable condition with the leather cover still retaining a soft feel.

The book itself does not appear designed to be a diary as such, but rather a book filled with blank pages for general use. John used it initially as journal to keep track of miscellaneous notes to himself such as to whom he loaned money, and various expenses of his own. The first pages of the book have been fashioned by John (on the right-hand side of each page) into an alphabetically tabbed journal A through Z. The full pages which followed were used to make various notes such as medicinal remedies, expense reports, etc.

It appears as though he had this book with him on the trip west and decided to use it as a daily record of the trip. He started the journal midway through the book where blank pages began, and continued writing to the end of the book skipping over pages where there were already notes. When he reached the end of the book he continued writing on the beginning pages (on the alphabetically tabbed pages) where there was free space. Therefore, his story begins on diary page 64, continues through page 94, continues on page 2, and ends on page 43.

Although only his basic story has been transcribed here, the pages of the book detail other fascinating information such as a list of supplies to be taken west (complete with costs), a population analysis of Pekin, IL for 1849, and a drawing of a man riding a mule. The transcribed text contains an accurate replication of spelling and grammar. Word spacing, punctuation, and small page markings were impossible to accurately reproduce in the transcription. View the copy of the original diary for handwriting and markings. A scanned image of each diary page is available in computerized grayscale TIFF file format image (IBM Compatible). In the transcription references to page numbers in the original diary are shown inside [], and vertical writing in margins are shown inside {}.

He ran out of writing space in this book, consequently the diary ended before John reached California. It is not known if he continued his journal in another book, or if he had nothing else along with him in which to write. Part of the great american gold rush, you will be able to feel his emotion as he travels to "see the elephant" from his old home in Pekin, Illinois to his new home in California.

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Left Pekin March 27/50 at about noon - rather a gloomy time all day Reflecting about matters and things at home, got along pritty well, Stopped below Kingston about 2 miles Looks Like rain very much this Evening

March 28 - we Camped for the first time 1 mile west of Canton, had Ham Bread & water for supper and went Glorious fine for we were most darned Hungry this day we had rather a better time of it than Yesterday {Commenced on a ham 17 lbs-}

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March the 29

Last Knight we slept on the ground was rather an unpleasant Knight Cloudy Threatening rain & cold, this morning, Opened very fine, the sun Rose in its brightest Hugh and not a cloud was to the seen, the birds seemed to rejoice singing and Chirping in Every direction a mor Lovely morning I never beheld, Especially when, we were taking our breakfast on the Trunk of an Old Oak, It would have been amusing to you to have seen

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us taking our grub, It Consisted of Ham, Coffee & Bread a little Better than Last Knight, this Evening we had Ham Eggs Bread & Coffee done up Brown and went very fine, we had a very Fine day and are now camped at Burnedott, Traveled First day Only 10 miles second day 15 miles and To day 20-. Looks a little Like rain

March 30th

waked up this morning very Comfortable, Looked Like rain. Cloudy and gloomy about 9 o'clock it Cleared

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up and sun shone bright as Ever, We Traveled about 35 miles to day, and a fine time we had, Lots of fun, It is amusing to see the natives run to the road to see the Elephant. Old men, women, Girls & Boys, when they see us coming if it is a half mile off across their fields, they shinet to the road helter skelter, little fellows falling down others stumbling over them, Hurra boys the Elephant the Elephant they Cry, this Evening we are camped in Modonaugh County about 5 miles west of Mc Comb

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at a good Ol Pennsylvania Farm House, are going to stop till monday morning, This Evening we had Ham, Eggs, Potatoes, Bread, and Coffee- we now have a little stove Just weighs 11½ lb with all the cooking utensils, and it is very Comfortable, in our tent this evening the stove makes it so warm that we have to open the tent and let out the heat, so let it rain or shine and we are at home my hat full of wood will cook our meals vituals, this Evening we have straw to sleep on and now it is bed time Jake let us turn in

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Sunday Evenig March 31 st

this morning we waked up rather Late on account of having to good a bed to sleep on. but as it is the sabbath day, men were not in a hurry, we Cooked our Breakfast and then shaved washed, and cleaned up, all things, to order this day has been rather a dull day, Being Easter, to, Mr Stickels is the mans name that owns the Farm we are stoping on now he very kindly invited, us to his house and take dinner with him, we concluded that it would save our cooking at Home Therefore we thanked him

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very kindly, and accepted the Invitation. Being Easter we had plenty of Eggs and a first rate dinner, after which I sat down at the Reading table and among the Books I found a Singing Book (Carmina Sacra) I inquired if any of them sing, (as I thought it a good way to pass off the day) some of them soon replied they did, a little, soon all hands got to singing, and Just as I had got in my most mellodious strains of music, a little Boy came running into the door, and said that the Hogs were rooting

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at our tent. Jake started first before he reached the Tent the Hogs had Eat all our provisions which was not much, half Loaf of Bread, 1 peck of potatoes and Twelve or Fourteen lbs Ham, so all we had Left was a Prarie Chicken that Jake shot Yesterday, so we did not make much by dining with our good old methodist Friend, next me and my good Old Friend started for methodist meeting of 1 1/4 mile walked, and Heard a Real Old Fashioned sermon and did not see a _____ and then footed it home (I call

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my Tent Home) now the next was our grub again. I called on the Old Man for a few of the substantials, got a Ham & some Bread. this Evening we had Coffee, Bread & our Prarie Chicken stewed, and went fine now ready to go to Bed- Looks very much like rain

April 1st

waked up this morning and found it raining very fast and to my astonishment found not a drop of water in the Tent, we slept as dry as if we had been in the Best House, next I Examined the wagon and found all in perfect order {Bought 14½ lbs Ham}

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But the poor mules had to take it, next we got up a fire in our stove and in a few minutes it was so warm that we had to throw open the door, and let out the heat, we cooked our Breakfast and Eat it with as much comfort as can be Imaginable, nothing to disturb us, only when we went out, we passed off the day in reading writing _____ till noon when it slacked raining then we harnessed our mules pulled up stakes and left, But by the time we got ready to start it began to rain

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again very fast, I then called on the Old major for the first time, (My Old Great Coat I mean when I say major) and mounted Fan (the saddle mule) and away we went singing Old Langsyne, through the rain, rained all after noon but the Old major kept me dry, we camped 5 miles East of Layharp, Travelled only 10 miles. Every thing is comfortable now Jake is parching Coffee and I think the rain is over, taking this day up one side and down on the other, it was rather wooley I think.

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Tuesday April 2d

This morning we found It clear, fed our mules, got our Breakfast Harnessed our mules pulled up stakes, and Left, supposing the rain to over with, we got along fine till about 11 o'clock then it Began to rain again like Fury, I Immediately Called on the old major, (as I had him on the top of the wagon drying out yesterdays rain) got him on my Back, and I on the mule, and away we went, rained all afternoon, But as we set our stakes this morning

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to be in Fort Madison Iowa, this Evening we pushed ahead and stoped for nothing, and are now Camped in the City of Fort Madison. we had not much Trouble in Crossing the Ferry, we come about 25 miles this day, to day was much wors than Yesterday muddyer, and rained Faster, pitched our Tent after dark and as soon as we got our Tent up then we were at home again, all things are done up now, and ready to go to roost, it has Just stoped raining

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wednesday Eveing April 3

waked up this morning and found it Cloudy and Threatning rain, as it did rain pritty much all day, fed our mules got our Breakfast, and then as soon as I got the Tent Clear of the crowd of men and Boys changed my shirt, and concluded to visit doct Rhinehart and Family, I started But Before I got to the House I met a messenger after she saying that Mrs Rhineheart, said that we should come up to their House Immediately, as I was on the road at the time it did not take me long to get there; the first person

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I Saw was Mrs Rhineheart comeing out of the gate to meet me, well Indeed now John, I did not think it was You. I was ushered into the House immediately, Vally was at school, But Immediately sent for. School, work, and every thing Els, was laid to one side, and we must pull up stakes and come to their House right away, no Excuse would answer, and the doctor went with me to the Tent and Helped us to pull up stakes, and move to their House, We soon moved and are now

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in the doctors House, Have spent a very Pleasant day notwithstanding it rained all day, Enjoyed myself very much felt Perfectly at Home had all the attention paid us Imaginable, Ft. Madison is rather a flourishing Place, and when we wer Encamped had a great many visitors, the doct has a very Fine House and Lots, A Beautiful situation, he is not Liveing in his new house as Yet but soon will, he has his lots filled full of all Kind of trees, Roses, Shrubbery &, thinks he never will Leave this

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place, he is doing a very good Business, he has been Called upon, I should Think 20 times since we have been here, and Mrs Rhineheart says that it is always just so, when their is any sickness.

Thursday Evenig April 4th

waked up this moring found it Cloudy and raining. rained all day pritty much we Expected to start this moring, But their was no getting away until it stoped raining- Therefore we Concluded as we wer doing so well, to stop one more day. this day went off rather Better than Yesterday

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Clarissa favoured us with several good tunes on the piana, she plays very well, is now taking lessons from an Eccellent Teacher, we chatted and talked about Every thing that was going on in Pekin, so that we Killed Time very fast, this Evening I amused the girls and the old Lady By giveing them drawings of our first Encampment and our misfortune the time the Hoggs ran off with our grub & I will also give You a few of them if I have time. good night- -

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Friday Evening Apr 5

waked up rather Late this morig Looked out of the window and found it Cloudy as before, But I was determined to start this day; for I began to think if I did not start soon I would not get to St Joseph this season, saying nothing about California Traveled about 20 miles this day and camped in the Prarie, rain and sunshine all day, It was awful muddy Hub deep at a great many places- the meanest road that I Ever Travelled- If we had our full Load In

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we could not get along But as it is. we get along first rate, I cannot forget Mrs Rhinehart. she seemed to take so much Interest In our welfare, done Every thing to make us Comfortable, In short she was a mother to us, She mad us a present of a Bottle of Horse Raddish ($\frac{1}{2}$ gall), done up fine, she thought we had not Bed Clothes Enough, Therefore gave us a very heavy Comfort, and a good many other little presents, in short could not do enough for us,

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Saturday Evening April 6th

this morning it was Clear the sun shone, and the roads dried up very fast to day, this day was wors than Yesterday. it was mud all the time. and often times draged the axle, mules in mud to their Hocks & Bellys often times, ploughing and wallowing Through the mud, I dont think It can be any wors from this on, we are now In Keosaequa Iowa,

Travelled 25 miles, took supper with one of Jakes old Friends, I Killed 2 P. Chickens this

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day, there is 25 or 30 Teams in this town waitig to cross the river des moin they say that there has about 250 Teams Crossed at this ferry on des moin River. grain and hay is very scarce, Oats 35 c Hay 25 to 50 ct per Hundred, we Have Been very Lucky as Yet always getting what we want at reasonabl Prices, as I told you, when they get a dime out of me, I get value for It certain and shure, take all that I can get Honestly and Keep all that I have got. with all my saving it is very Expensive Traveling

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Saboth Evening April 7th

Last night we slept in the wagon for the first time; Did not sleep so comfortable as in the Tent; Previous to this, Took our grub with Jakes old Friend, Mr Shepherd this morning. then made for the Ferry, Crossed about 10 oclock Traveled about 3/4 mile then stoped and piched our Tent, Fixed our mules, I then put some water on the stove, and Commenced washing, I washed six shirts, 2 pr trawfers, 3 pr socks, 2 Hdkfs, 2 Towels, making 15 pieces and done it first rate, streched our Cards, Hung

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out all our Clothes, and aired Every thing, greased our wagon, and now Every thing is in order to start in the morning, all Clean and nice, I was very Busy this day, in fixing up things, therefore passed off the day very well, thought of Home several times But still not Homesick Yet, We have Been rather Lonesome since we left haveing no Company as yet. We Camped alone Every night since we left Home accept this Evening this Evening we have some company

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Monday Evening April 8th

This morning it was Cloudy, felt very much Like rain, Cleared up, and was fine, Traveled about 20 miles, had Lots of fun and Company all day after we crossed the des moin. the road was Lined with Teams, this is a very Hilly Country, up and down Hill all day, several wagons Broke down to day, they are going in all ways and manners, some taking it a foot others packing, I saw several Teams that had 4 Horses and 5 and 6 men to But one wagon, Yesterday I saw

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a man and his wife and Brother going along with only 2 Horses and an old wagon, from what I have seen already, I think there will be an awfull Time on the plains this season, paid 40 cts per bus for Corn- 25 cts per cwt for Hay this day

Tuesday Eve Apr 9th

This moring it was Cloudy Cleared and was Fine all day till this Evening, then it Clouded up and sprinkled a little, Now Clear again this morning we Changed

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our mules to ther right places, put Liz the Little gray in the Lead for the first time, and in the Course of one Hour she went first rate, this morning we mired for the first time, this is an awful country for mud, Hills, and slews, this Evening we have plenty of Company, Mr Adams & Cla ____ of Tazewell are Camping with us to night,

Wednesday Evening April 10th

this was a very Cold day till noon, then the sun shone and was rather Pleasant

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Last night and night Before it froze very Hard, prospects for grass are rather wooley, and corn is getting Higher they ask 75 cts per Bushel at this place in Iowa. Travelled about 20 miles Yesterday about 20 miles this evening there is about 25 wagons Camping with us- we have Just had our supper, and I Eat so much that I can scarcely write, Jake and myself can drink 1/2 gall Coffee, Eat 1 Loaf Baked Bread, 1/2 doz Eggs, and 2 large slices of Ham at one meal

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Thursday Eve Apr 11-

This day we had Plenty of Company Roads pritty good, no Hay, for our mules this Evening, Corn 75 cts per bush- froze Hard Last night-

Friday Eveing Apr 12

this was a very Cold and windy day, Travelled about 25 miles Yesterday, this day about 30 miles nothing of Importance only I saw several going Back to their Homes

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Saturday Evening Apr 13

this morning it was very Cold and windy, froze very Hard Last night, This day we were alone all day, This Evening we had lots of fun 18 or 20 Teams in Camp among the Boys there was a Claronette and fiddle, we had good music, danced, waltzed, and raised, old times in the Camp- a little warmer this Evening- the grass is very slow comeing-

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Saboth Evening Apr 14th

This moring when I woke I found it snowing, snowed till noon, then the sun shone very Bright all afternoon the snow was about 3 inch deep But now nearly all gone this was a rather Lonesom day, this Evening we spent in singing Spiritual Songs- there is two old deacons in the camp

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Monday Evening Apr 15th

this morning the sun shone very Bright, and had a very Pleasant day, there is about 20 wagons in camp this night, we had Lots of fun this Evening, singing songs, and dancing on the Old shin Break style, under the trees, Saturday we Traveled about 20 miles, this day about 25 miles the roads were rather sloppy to day, I think the winter is now Broke It is quite Pleasant this Evening-

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Tuesday Evening April 16th

waked up this morning and found it Cloudy, Cooked our grub, Hooked up our mules and started, went about 2 miles and then Commenced raining, rained all day and very Cold, this is the most disagreeable day we have had since we left Home, Travelled about 10 miles to day

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and stoped a meeting House with stabling Enough for all our mules & Horses, about 30 Head or more, we were very Lucky in getting to so good a stopping place as this, Corn is selling at one dollar per Bushel to some of the Boys, some of our Boys went 3 miles and paid one dollar per Bushel for Corn and 50 cts per bag for oats in the sheaf, this has Been a lively day since we got in the Church 4 stoves a going and

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Choping the old Benches into fire wood for the stove, The stables are Better than the House- this Evening we Had a regular shin Brake in the old Church- danced Cotillions, waltzed, and raised old Ned, we have a Jolly Crowd. All strangers to me But first rate fellows,

Wednesday Evening Apr 17th

waked up this moring and had the Headache very Bad, it Lasted till this Evening, It was Cloudy and Cold all day

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we Traveled about 0 miles this day, we paid one dollar for 1 Bushel of Corn the most that we have paid previous to this was 50 cts per Bushel, I am stoping this Evening with a farmer, as I was unwell I thought I would recruit But I mised the mark all we had for supper was side meat fried, a real old Fashioned dodger and some Coffee, without sugar or milk, a hard

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Old place, the Old man is now stirng the Chunks while I am writing, little does he Know what I am writing now or perhaps he would put water on It, Jake is Camped about a 1/4 of a mile from this place, with the rest of the Boys are helping him so that we have Friend where Ever we go,

Thursday Eveg Apr 18th

waked up this moring Sound and Clear had a good Bed and felt fine, paid my Bill which was Only 12½ cts and Left for the

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Camp ground, the Boys were all very glad to see me Come, this day was Cloudy and is now Threating rain. Jake Hurt his leg to day, By Letting the wagon wheel run over it But nothing very serious he is a little Lame this Evening Travelled about 20 miles and are now about ___ miles from St Joseph, there is about 40 wagons

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in Camp this Evening Paid 50 cts per Bus for 4 Bush Corn this day I Expect that will do us with what oats we have at St Joseph if it has arrived

Friday Evening April 19

waked up this moring Found it Cloudy and Thundering I expect we would have a great storm But soon cleared up, I shaved, shirted, pulled

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stakes and left for St Joseph, we are now Camped about one mile above Town at a very good place I saw more Teams and Tents this day than I Ever saw Before at one time, Every place is crowded, our provisions and grain has not Yet arrived, and am afraid It will detain us, next Thursday

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I Expect to start for the mountains if our grain Comes ___ there is a great rush in St Joseph at this time, gambling of all kinds and Every thing that You Can Imagine, Old Jshabony and his tribe of Indians passed our camp this Evening and are camped about one mile from here, about 60 of them, the only Indians that I have saw on the rout all pritty drunk- I shall Close this letter now and

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Before I leave I shall send You one more, I have not received the scratch of a pen as Yet, the first thing I done was to go to the post office, to see if there was any letters But none-
Left St Joseph April 24 Crossed the River and left, on the 25th in the moring at 8 oclock Travelled about 20 miles

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we had the first stampede April 27 in the Evening when we were putting out the guard ther was a tremedous snorting and fuss among the mules and ____ all at once they Broke (they were staked out) pulling up their stakes snorted and a general rush for the wagons, a regular stampede, the fright was Caused by a wolf I suppose as ther was tracks of that Kind seen next moring, it Caused great alarm

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in the Camp and I about think ther was 2 guns Loaded at the time But since, Every gun is Loaded and in order, so that we were Learned a good lesson and put on our guard, there is only 19 of us in Company-
Passed Ft Kerney monday on the 6th of May in good Health sent one letter to Father

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roads and weather Fine, the grass very short, a heavy frost last night,
7th of Mar a very heavy frost passed 50 teams this moring 9th May
Rained last night for the first time, May 10 we passed 25 Teams- very Pleasant this day,
May 11 Frost last night, the fist Buffalo I saw, Passed 11 Teams had 2 buffalo chases only 2 rains since we left St Joseph

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this afternoon the boys were out Hunting Buffaloe- shot at Several, did not Kill any, shot 1 antelope, and the meat is good very much like venison
Saboth, May the 12th.
this day I saw about 40 soux Indians in one Tribe and about 150 in the other the only Indians I saw since we left ther mission 30 miles this side of St Joseph- the darndest Beggars I Ever saw our mules were

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very much Frightened when we got in their town Turned short about and made for the brush as if the old scratch was after them, did not Break anything, I sold ½ gall of Brandy, for 1 good Buffaloe Robe and one dollar in Cash, so I made the Robe Clear. we made the Indians Presants of something to, Eat, Clothing for are use of the grass and meat as they Claim all, I had the H _____ the Great the Indian Chief of the Souxs they number ninety Thousand

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in the Hole Tribe, they are scattered all along the road- But Friendly, we have some fun

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with them sometimes, Yet ther is some of them that will steal, and if they catch 2 or 3 from the road they will scalp them, for their, Guns & Horses, I have only heard of 2 that were run about 6 mile in camp, the 2 men were out Hunting and Killed a Buffaloe, the Indians came across them and Chased them from their meat and drove them in camp, they dont like to have their Game

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killed off, we are now about 65 miles from Ft Larama, and about one Thousand miles from Home, we left Ft Kerny on the 6th May about noon and on Saturday about non we will be in Ft Larama, the reason why I am now writing is, we Expect the Express along today or Tomorrow

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Left Ft Larama May 19 in the afternoon went ___ miles and camped, I saw snow when I was at the Fort on the Larama peak a distance of 45 miles, Ft Larama is a rather pritty Place, situated on the Banks of Larama River a nice Level valey with a Chain of Bluffs on Both sides, their is only 3 Companies of soldirs here now, their is one Store, and the way they sell goods is a Caution I stoped in and Bought a fish line, such as costs about 4 cts, paid 30 for it, a Tooth Brush that cost about 6 c

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the price was 50 c and no Jewing, it is a one priced store, a Tin Bucket that Cost 45 or 50 ct two and a half dollars, Every thing Els in proportion, what uncle Sam has to sell is very Reasonable, Flour 11½ cts per lb Crackers 14 ct ___, Buffaloe meat Fresh 6 cts per lb, Baked Bread Fresh 11½ cts per lb the Freight from the River is 9 cts p lb to this place so they dont make much they aim to sell at Cost, so the Commissary told me we got some Fresh Buffalo

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meat and Fresh Bread then. we had fine liveing for a few days, Game has been very scarce so far, Liquor Beats ale for Prices, one of the Peoria Boys sold 1 gall of Brandy pritty well watered for 12 dollars whiskey is selling by the small at 1 dollar pr pint, Brandy at 2 dollars pr pint, If I had to make this trip over again I would Know what to bring and How to fix, Yet we are as well fixed or rather Better than any on the road, If I had one Bbl of Brandy I Could

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make 500 dollars out of it Easy, Last Friday we passed the St Louis, Pasenger Train they sold 2 of their spring Carriages at the Fort for 20 dollars, their Horses & mules are

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very Poor, and some of the Passengers wish they had died Before they started, they left the Missourie River Before we did, they will have as hard or rather harder time than last season, Because their is no Chance for Recruiting, the Grass is so short, and the Emigration so great that nearly Every space is swept Clean, and the last will have to take it, we have grain Enough to take us over the Mountains I think the grass is getting much Better

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Thursday May 23rd

The weather is fine nights Cool and in the middle of the day Just about warm Enough to make a person sleepy and Lazy, if the weather and roads continue as they are now we will have a pleasant Trip of It, so far it has been very nice indeed, sometimes for a day or two the water would be scarce and we would have to drink mud or go without, But that

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is nothing, to what they had Last season Cold plenty of mud, and sickness it is very Healthy this season, or at Least I have heard of But one death, a Boy died with the measels, we are about one month ahead of Last seasons Travail, I saw a Board Yesterday with a mans name on it dated the 4th of July 1849, no wonder they had a warm time of It, I have an Idea that we will have a Cool time of it the trip through, I can see snow now

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May the 26th 1850

we were at the Rock Independence resting are mules as it was the saboth day, The Rock Independence is a very Larg Rock with, perhaps 5 Thousand or more names on it. I took a Cold Chisel & Hatchet then Engraved my name on the south side, as it is such a noted Place for names to stand For Ever

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the Rock is about 6 Hundred Yards Long, 120 Yards wide, about 150 Feet High- Composed of Hard Granite with a very pritty stream of rock this day I passed of In making dried apple Pies, Cooking Rice Baking Bread etc, we had a Big diner on that day, ___ Fried Ham, Rice, warm Bread, Pies, Coffee, Pickels, dried venison A very fine Fruit Cake, (that Jakes mother Baked Before we left) topped off with some pickled Onions, The greatest diner we had since we are on the road

May the 27th that night it snowed, and snowe all moring till 10 Oclock- so Cold that I wore my

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over Coat all day, passed the, devils Salt, a Larg mountain that Sweet water River runs Through, the avenue or Chanel is Beautifull the Rocks are is supposd 400 feet, Perpendicular on Each side of the Chanel, their is a great many Curiositys on this Road

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Every day something new, the trip so far has paid first rate, and if it Continues this way Through, It will be a pleashure trip to me Instead of a toilsome and suffering time, the greatest Bulliphant I saw since I left Pekin, was _____ Pekin to St Joseph, awful mean Roads, mud, Rain, Hills, and sloughs all the way But since that time we have had a good time of it, plenty to Eat and drink- some times it was a little dusty and generally, Pritty Cold at nights, we have

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Plenty of Bed Clothes and a good tent therefore, we did not mind that, It is amusing to see the Boys go, some are a foot, some Pack, sometimes Men and 1 Horse, their is 2 men Packing with a Hand Cart, working their way through in that style, one Fellow Before us, with a wheelbarrow going it like Jehugh, these men that walk are Furnished at the Forts. so it goes, some of the Emigr to, that start late will suffer very mush, or the account of Provisions they most of men started

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with short allowances Expecting to be furnished at salt lake but as I have understood it is very scarce at that place Flour costs 20 cts per lb Every thing in proportion, May the 30 th we Passed the summit or dividing Ridge of the Rocky Mountains had a very heavy frost that night.

Crossed Sublets Cut off June 1st It was Cloudy and Cold, distance 48 miles (measured the same day) without water, it is called the great desert, I dont Call it a desert, Because there is plenty of grass and

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a hard road all the way. Stopped at green River Saboth day June 2d Saw a few Indians made a Boat of a wagon Box and Ferried Hams River on the 4th of June

Left Ft Hall Road and took Hudspeths Cut off the 8th of June 1850, fine weather. camped Saboth June 9 20 miles on Cut off

Left Hudspeths Cut off June 13th, Rained, snowed, and Hailed on the 15, Between Roft Road marys river, very disagreeable- considerable of the Bulliphant in that place

Saboth June 16th Traveled Camped in the Evening about

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45 miles from marys R very fine day, Traveled that week 175

17th snowed and very Cold

In the morning of the 18th of June it was so Cold that it froze Ice an inch thick in the water Buckets, Levi was taken sick June 19th Lay Sick 3 days on Humbolt or marys Rivers,

June 23d the Saboth we Traveled Because we had been detained in Crossing the headwaters of marys R, the first Introduction we had to the Elephant was on Roft R, to see men

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hauling and draging their wagons and mules through the swamps and sloughs about ½ mile going it with a long Rope in their shirt tails, I'm about down getting Cold, and nothing to Eat since morning, we Camped and in the moring looked around and found a good place to cross the head without any trouble, so it goes. Men make them selves sometimes trouble when their is no use in it, rush ahead without looking where they go until they get in so

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deep that they cannot back out, and sometimes lose a day

JOHN APP DIARY -- 1870

According to a page in his diary of 1870, John App (1821-1898) writes that the App Mine was located by John App, R.A. Jones, H. Roberts, H. _ Wright, B.W. Wilder, and J.D. Brown on August 13, 1856 and his interest was sold on April 1st, 1869 for the sum of forty thousand dollars. The App was a gold-bearing quartz mine located at Quartz Mountain, California (near Jamestown, California).

In the spring of 1870 John and his son, John Quincy App (1864-1957) went further south in California near a town called Ivenpah (south of Death Valley near the Nevada Border) to prospect for silver. Although at least three claims were staked (the Gray Eagle, the Toulumne, and the Lucy Eva) they did not offer any substantial return. Discouraged, John and his son returned home.

The text of the diary begins somewhere south of Jamestown, possibly in Mariposa county. It is preceeded by a list of supplies to take along on the journey. Their transportation was a horse for each of them and one pack horse. The route south went along the western edge of Death Valley following water holes or springs. Their path did not seem to follow what are now modern roads, but seemed to go cross country... at times in nearly a straight line.

The diary measures 9.25 cm wide, 16 cm tall, 2 cm thick and has a black, fabric/paper covering with plain paper pages bound with string. John wrote his diary in pencil although there are some notes made in ink. It has become fragile with age, but is still very much in readable condition.

Although only his basic story has been transcribed here, the pages of the book detail other fascinating information such as a formula for steel welding flux, a cure for cancer, directions and measurements for the trip south, and details of some of the mines.

The transcribed text contains an accurate replication of spelling and grammar. Word spacing, punctuation, and small page markings were impossible to accurately reproduce in the transcription. View the copy of the original diary for handwriting and markings. A scanned image of each diary page is available in computerized grayscale TIFF file format image (IBM Compatible). In the transcription references to page numbers in the original diary are shown inside [], and vertical writing in margins are shown inside {}.

Larry App Bristol, Indiana June 1995

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1870

Saturday Apr 2

left Bridger's House Traveled about 25 miles Camped at Elpaso Springs Barrel on the right Side of the road and nearly at the top of the Canion.

Sunday Ap 3

left El Paso 7½ O'clock traveled 22 miles to Black Water Holes Missed the Panamint Holes. Black Water Holes on the left side near the road.

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1870

Monday Apr 4

Left Black Water 7 o'clock. reached Surveyors Wells at 11 a.m. Wells at the foot of Pilot Bute ½ mile up the Gulch on the right side of road. Went nearly to the head of Burnt rock Canion. traveled about 18 miles this day. Dry camp.

Tuesday Apr 5

left Dry Camp about 6 a.m. arrived at Burnt Rock Springs 8½ a.m. Good water on the right side of the road on the road.

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Tuesday Apr 5

left Burnt Rock Spring 9½ a.m. Arrived at Leaches Springs at 5 p.m. Traveled 22 miles this day.

Wednesday

April 6th 1870

Left Leaches Springs 6½ a.m. no wind last night good water and a pleasant night arrived at Oul Springs at 11 a.m. Traveled 11 miles. left oul Springs at 12 n. arrived at Saratoga Springs 5 p.m. Traveled this day 24 miles.

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1870

Thursday April 7

Left Saratoga Springs at 8 a.m. had a very pleasant night no wind plenty Grass at the springs. no grass between Leaches Springs and Saratoga Springs. Saratoga Springs on the left Hand Side and close to the road. the lower Lake is poison water. arrived at Salt Spings 20 minutes past 12 n. found water very Salty below the old mill water best ½ mile above the mill in the Gulch near the mine.

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Thursday

Camping place plenty Salt grass and a few willows first wood we Saw since we left Bridgers near Walkers pass. The ruins of an old Stamp Quartz mine is here. Steam Power.

Friday Ap 8

Left Salt Springs at 5 a.m. arrived at Kiota Holes 2½ p.m. Saw the first Indians. Traveled 20 miles.

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Saturday Ap 9

left Kota Holes at 5½ a.m. arrived at Clarks Valley 4½ p.m. Traveled about 24 miles this day. all up Hill.

Sunday April 10

Reached Ivenpah City at 12 n. the City is at this time Composed of one Canvas House. a very fine Spring at this place and the water first rate no wood. a poor place for a town not very many Indians here. one white man

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Killed about 25 miles from this place by the Indians. the Chief gave him up and he was Executed last Friday at Yellow Pine. the chances are that there will be trouble here this Summer.

Monday Ap 11

at Camp doing nothing. My feet so Sore that I Can scarcely move. as usual windy.

Tuesday Ap 12

Terrible windy this day John is out Prospecting. wrote one letter to my wife and one to McLea__.

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Wednesday Ap 13

John found nothing yesterday. last night was a terrible Cold windy and rainy night. this morning it Froze and Snowed I have Just been taking Hamburg Tea I have been Sick for 4 days with a very bad Cold.

Thursday Ap 14

It was very Cold last but Clear and not much wind. this day I went a prospecting. put up one mound. John was not well. we have very bad colds

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and cannot do much at present Baked Bread for the first time since we left Home.

Friday Ap 15

weather very fine Located the Silver Sides this day. John not well.

Saturday Apr 16

I was unwell this day took pills. Done nothing.

Sunday Ap 17/70

John went out a prospecting found nothing. An Indian brought a Specimen to me. a very fine day.

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Monday Ap 18th

This day I went with an Indian to prospect his Ledge did not find one but found an other one Located It and Called it the Lucy Eva.

Tuesday Ap 19

John and myself went to open and work on the Silver Sides prospects not very flattering. left Silver Sides in disgust. fixed my Shirt and put a pocket into It.

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Wednesday April 20th

This day we worked on the Lucy Eva. Prospects very fair. nothing of Importance built a small Smelting Furnace at Ivanpah Springs.

Thursday Apr 21st

washed and mended my clothes. John half Soled his Boots. done nothing more this day.

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Friday Ap 22d

visited the Umbasett mine. vein about 5 ft 6 in wide. very rich in Galena. Mr Marsh come in the Camp with two Mohave Squaws he is keeping the trading post.

1870

Saturday April 23

John went out prospecting this morning Located one Claim. I am unwell again took Pills to day. Cooked Beans. Terrible Excitement among the Indians three mountain Sheep pass through the Camp maller killed one about 350 yds at the third Shot. high living in Ivenpah City. first fresh meet I saw since

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Saturday

we left Visalia.

Sunday April 24

John started out after more Sheep but got none. nothing new or Interesting this day. Mountain mutton Soop this Evening.

Monday Apr 25

I went out prospecting. as usual nothing near Umbasett.

Tuesday April 26

John and myself went out to work on the Lucy Eva worked until noon. nothing Flattering.

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Wednesday Ap 27

went out again to work on the Lucy Eva. prospects no better found a new Claim. Called It the Tuolumne prospects not very flattering.

Thursday Ap 28,

John went to the Pechocka Springs to day I am fixing up pack Saddles etc this day I baked the first loaf of Bread John Saw the Copper World. nothing new. no discoveries this day. Started Umbasett left out to the for a Galena mine.

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Friday April 29

waked up this morning with the diareah. looks very much like rain. no rain nothing done this day.

Saturday Ap 30

This morning I Started for the Pechocka Springs John went out a prospecting. I saw the Great Copper World returned home to camp walked about 22 miles over a very rough Country.

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May 1st 1870

waked up this morning with the Head ache Had our regular Flap Jacks & Ham. would give all my old clothes to be at Home this day. washed a towel mended my socks & am now ready for another tramp. nothing doing but repairing old Boots etc no arrivals from the Settlements. things dont look very flattering.

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May 2d 1870

John Started out this morning after the Horses. did not find them. we sent an Indian out to find them. he found them in less than an hour. this day spent in fixing up our packing trappings nothing Els done.

May 3d 1870

nothing doing. only 8 men in Camp last night. Potosi I understand has only 6 white men in camp. making preparations

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to leave for Home.

May 4th 1870

nothing doing last night only 7 men in Camp read to leave tomorrow

May 5th 1870

left Ivanpah this morning at 6 a.m. arrived at Kiota Holes at 4 p.m. Traveled about 26 miles. Weather very fine no wind or rain. very Sore riding. 10 or 12 Indians at Kiota Holes.

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May 6th 1870

Left Kiota Holes at 5½ a.m. arrived at Salt Springs at 12 n. left Salt Springs 12½ p.m. arrived at Saratoga Springs at 3½ p.m. traveled about 30 miles this day very warm roast Eggs in the sand any where. lots of mosquitoes & large Horse Flies gnats etc

May 7th 1870

left Saratoga at 4 20 a.m. arrivd at Oul Springs 9½ a.m. left Oul Holes

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at 10 a.m. arrivd at Leaches Springs at 3 p.m. very warm. arrived at Burnt Rock Springs at 12 midnight.

Sunday May 8th 1870

Left Burnt Rock Springs at 6 40 a.m. arrived at Surveyors Wells at 11 a.m. left Surveyors Wells at 12 n. arrived at Black Water Holes at 2 p.m. went about 5 miles on made a dry Camp Traveled about 25 miles. this day we met 12 or 14 men going to the Oven mines. received the first letter from Home this day.

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Monday May 9/70

Left dry Camp at 4 15 a.m. arrived at Panamint Holes at 7 a.m. left Panamint Holes at 7½ a.m. arrived at Elpaso Tunnel at 11½ a.m. weather very warm. left Elpaso at 3¼ p.m. arrived at Kiota Holes at Cradlebows at 11 p.m. met Moss-Ingersol & Co

May 10th 1870

Left Kiota Holes at 7 a.m. arrived at Ovens's about 12 n. Went to Weldons Ranch. Traveled

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this day about 23 miles. we met Lee & the Butternut Boys at Ovenses. also met Mr Clark and others on their way to Yellow Pine. passed 4000 Head of Cattle on their way to Humboldt.

Wednesday May 11/70

Left Weldons at 5½ a.m. arrived at Kernville at 1 p.m. Traveled about 25 miles. Pony fell down with me and come very near breaking my leg. Killed one Kiota and wounded one more.

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Thursday May 12/70

Left Kernville at 5 45 a.m. arrived at Glennsville at 2 p.m. Killed a young Grizly near the Summit. 27 miles this day

Friday May 13/70

Had Grizzly meat for breakfast this morning. left Camp Stevesons at 6½ a.m. arrived at Deer Creek at 6 p.m. Taveled about 25 miles this day. passed McFarlans going to Yellow Pine.

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Saturday May 14/70

Left Deer Creek at 5 a.m. arrived at Farmersville at 1 p.m. left Farmersville at 3 p.m. arrived at Visalia at 5 p.m. saw John Forney at a Restaurant.

Sunday May 15/70
nothing new.

Monday May 16/70
Left Visalia at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m. for Home Traveled 25 miles to Smithe Ferry rained nearly all day. very cold

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Tuesday May 17/70

Left Smith Ferry 6 40 a.m. I was very Sick last night. arrived at J. Jones House at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.m. Traveled 35 miles

Wednesday May 18th

Left J. Jones Ferry at 6 a.m. arrived at Bennetts on Maryposy Creek at 6 p.m. Traveled 35 miles this day.

Tuesday May 19th 70

Left Bennetts at 6 a.m. arrived at Lagrange at 5 15 p.m. traveled 34 miles. rained this afternoon.