

B.B. BRIGGS: BOOK 1849 Family Information

The writer of the Diary was Benjamin Bennett Briggs, born 2 June 1827 in Bristol, New York. He was the 7th child and 4th son of Thomas Briggs and Abigail Gregg. His brothers who accompanied him were George Gregg Briggs born 31 July 1824, the 6th child and 3rd son and John Briggs born 24 Mar. 1831, the 9th child and 5th son. The three brothers started their trip west from Sharon Center, Medina County, Ohio. The three had birthdays on the trip: John his 18th; Benjamin his 22nd; and George his 25th.

Their Father, Thomas Briggs⁶, (Abiel⁵, Thomas⁴, Amos³, Jonathan², Clement¹) born 27 Jan. 1790 in Berkley, Mass. Married 18 Feb. 1813 Abigail Gregg. He moved to Bristol Center, New York where he built a sturdy home that is still standing. Here their children were born. Since that part of New York State is a fine Fruit growing section, his sons knew a lot about horticulture, which stood them in good stead. He moved to Sharon Center, Ohio in 1835, where he bought a farm which has remained in the family for well over a hundred years. Reference: "Family History of WARD, BRIGGS, AND ALLIED LINES" Compiled by Irene Ward Kennedy, 1962. Thomas Briggs died 2 August 1863 in Santa Paula, California.

From papers of Jefferson Crane; compiled by E. M. Sheridan, Curator of the Pioneer Museum in the courthouse in Ventura, California, where these early records are preserved. (Jefferson Crane's Mother-Louise Briggs Crane was the oldest child of Thomas Briggs)

"In the spring of 1849, George Gregg and his brothers Benjamin, and John with a neighbor, George Case, started for California across the plains with an ox team, from St. Joseph, Missouri. Everything went well until, this side of Salt Lake, Ben Briggs was accidentally shot through the right lung, the ball lodging near the surface of the spine. I mention this incident, as it will be seen later on as determining his future life and success. They remained in that camp about eight weeks before it was possible to go on. Fortunately, there was good feed and water which enabled their teams to recuperate and recover from sore feet so as to endure rapid movement thereafter.

"They came by way of Eastern Oregon and Northern California, entering into the head of the Sacramento Valley in a heavy snowstorm that blocked the pass for the season. They came down the Sacramento to the Yuba River, opposite Marysville, their destination being Sacramento and the mines. At Marysville, they found it necessary to go several miles up the river to ford the stream and having crossed, they found good feed on a fine piece of bottom land of about 200 acres, where they camped for the night. B.B. Briggs had not regained his health following the gunshot wound, and was positive he could not endure the hardships of the mines. He lay awake the whole night, pondering what he should do. During the afternoon he had been over this bottom land, examining its soil, which he believed to be of the very best for gardening. The result of his night of thinking was a decision to engage in gardening, as the people would have to be fed and, as yet, nothing had been done to provide for this great necessity of the people coming into the country.

"In the morning, when everything was ready to move, he made his determination known and asked for a division of stores and an axe, saying he would take up a homestead there and go into gardening. The rest of the company refused to leave him alone, saying they would care for him wherever they went, but he was immovable in his determination.

"They argued until afternoon and then turned out the team, continuing the argument the rest of the day. By morning they concluded it was not such a bad scheme, and let him have his way, after which the party separated, those going to Sacramento selling their outfit to freighters on their arrival there. John Briggs and Case went to the mines. G.G. Briggs stopped at Sacramento for a time to see what could be done there. He finally purchased an open boat that would carry four or five tons and carried freight and passengers on the river. He rigged up a sail for his craft and went as far as San Francisco and Marysville. While at the latter place he visited Benjamin, finally concluding to join him in his gardening work.

"In his trips to Sacramento and San Francisco, he gathered garden and melon seeds. On one occasion at San Francisco, he met a man who had come to California via Cape Horn. At a Chilean port he had purchased a lot of melon seeds and these Mr. Briggs bought from him, paying \$20 per pound. He finally sold his boat and, having accumulated over \$1000, joined his brother. Ben Briggs had constructed a rude wooden plow and had cleared some ground. They got a blacksmith to put on a plowshare, got a yoke of oxen, and with this crude plow broke up about ten acres.

"They planted their garden but, being inexperienced in this new country and climate, met with little success. They finally planted the watermelon seeds and by good fortune hit the proper time; so the result proved highly satisfactory. Many melons were sold at \$5 each. During the season Benjamin contracted ague ("A fever, usually malarial"). This, together with the effect of his wound, left him in such poor health that he thought it best to return to his Ohio home."

Reference: "Family History of WARD, BRIGGS, AND ALLIED LINES" Compiled by Irene Ward Kennedy, 1962.

Continued in above article: George G. Briggs bought 160 acres at Knight's Landing and 160 acres at Oreville and planted these to orchards. His Marysville orchard was a money make for six years. When he first located on this land, the river bed was sixty feet below the orchard. He built a large two-story house on the plains land. Mining operations in the mountains soon began to fill the river bed and raise the river so as to injure the orchard. It was evident it would wholly destroy it in a few years. The two-story house is now covered by mining deposits.

"So he bought 300 acres of the highest bottom land one mile from Marysville. This he planted to orchard and it was in full bearing when it was destroyed in the big floods of 1861-62. Today, this orchard is completely buried under mining deposits.

In 1862, George G. Briggs bought Rancho Santa Paula y Saticoy. In 1863 planted an orchard of 150 acres. In 1866, he purchased 400 acres at Davisville, Yolo County, on which he planted 100 acres in trees, mostly almonds."

BENJAMIN BENNETT BRIGGS returned to Sharon, Medina County, Ohio. He continued his interest in Agriculture as shown by the photocopy of "Important to the Enterprising! B.B. Briggs' Improved Apparatus for Laying Drain Tiles." Patented October 4th 1859, and June 26th 1860."

He married Abby Crane about June 1852. Their only daughter, Irene Crane Briggs was born 11 Aug. 1853 in Wadsworth, Ohio.

As shown by the photocopy of a letter written by his wife to her Father, dated Marysville, California, November 24th, 1861, tells of his trip to visit and Benjamin was again looking for property in California. They visited Thomas Briggs in Santa Paula and Benjamin's wife died there 2 Aug. 1863.

Benjamin B. Briggs and daughter returned to Sharon, Ohio. He then, at age 35 went to medical school.

In 1865 he went to Heidelberg, Germany and Paris France to continue his medical studies. He was accompanied by his daughter, Irene Crane Briggs and her cousin, Louise N. Crane, daughter of his oldest sister, Louise Briggs Crane.

On the return of Benjamin Bennett Briggs, he had a medical practice in Crawfordsville, Indiana for about 13 years. His daughter, Irene Crane Briggs, married Samuel Lawrence Ward 11 May 1873. Rev. Samuel Lawrence Ward and wife went to Persia as missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, 1876 - 1897.

Dr. Benjamin Bennett Briggs (age 53) in the early 1880's, after a long practice in Crawfordsville, Indiana, settled in La Crescenta, in the La Canada Valley, California. He devoted himself to horticulture pursuits and established a health resort.

He died 15 February 1893 at the age of 65 years, 8 months, 13 days.

14 May 1986 Information assembled from:

"Family History of Ward, Briggs, and Allied Lines"

compiled by Irene Ward Kennedy 1962. Sister of B.B.Ward, Sr.

By Elizabeth C. Ward, wife of Benjamin Briggs Ward, Jr.

Father: Benjamin Briggs Ward, M.D.

Grandfather: Samuel Lawrence Ward, Rev.

Grandmother and wife of S.L.Ward-Irene Briggs

Irene Briggs's Father Dr. Benjamin B. Briggs,

Great Grandfather of B.B.Ward, Jr.

For: Sally Ward, wife of Dr. Chester L. Ward, M.D.

Son of Benjamin Briggs Ward, Jr.

Places mentioned in the B.B.Briggs: book 1849, can be found on the maps in the book:

"The World Rushed In - The California Gold Rush Experience"

"An Eyewitness account of a Nation Heading West"

Author: J. S. Holliday

A Touchstone Book Published by Simon and Schuster New York 1981

Based on the diary of William Swain

California State University, Chico
Chico, California 95929-0150



Office of the President
(916) 895-5201

August 18, 1986

Sally Ward
75 Lariat Loop
Oroville, CA 95965

Dear Ms. Ward:

On behalf of California State University, Chico and the Meriam Library's Special Collections, I wish to thank you for your 1986 contribution of the following:

Transcript of 1849 diary--Benjamin Briggs and
George Briggs of Marysville, CA

Please be assured that your gift will be put to good use by our students and faculty in the Special Collections of the University library. Gifts such as yours provide the resources needed for quality educational programs. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robin S. Wilson
President

4 February 1986

Dear Uncle Edward;

We hope that you and Monique had a safe and interesting journey. Understand from Betty Ann that it was difficult but everyone is back safe and sound. Also understand that Barbara and Steve had a baby boy. Hope that all is well with them and that the baby is home now.

The enclosed is a transcription of the B.B. Briggs Diary of 1849, that we thought you might enjoy. It was among some photo's and letters in a trunk belonging to Uncle Paul.. Aunt Jeanne gave the trunk to Chet about a year ago. The diary is now kept in our safety deposit box.

I have sent copies to Ben, Annie Irene, Betty Ann and Mary Adele. I had just completed a class in Calif. History at Chico State University. That is what prompted me to get the project completed. My professor was very interested in the diary and requested a copy for the library. They have a very extensive collection of Northern California History. So the library at Chico State University also has a copy.

Chet figured that this has been locked away for at least 50 to 60 years and was not available when the Ward..... book was being compiled. We have made every effort to keep the spelling, wording etc. as it appears in the diary. There was only one word we could not figure out otherwise all comments and words are intact. Hope you find it as interesting as we did. It may mean even more to you in light of your recent experience.

Hope all is well with you. We are doing fine in Butte County.

Sally and Chet

March 19 Monday
Left Sharon bound for
California

March 20 Tuesday
(no entry)

March 21 Wednesday
Arrived at Wellsville
6 O'clock pm

March 24 Saturday
Left Wellsville at 4
O'clock am

March 26 Monday
Arrived at Cincinatti
5 O'clock am. and
left at 4 O'clock pm

March 30 Friday
Arrived in St. Louis
at 1 O'clock pm

March 31 Saturday
Left St Louis 7
O'clock pm

April 1 Sunday
Passed Boonville quite
a pretty town on the
south bank. Passed
Jefferson City a small
and dirty town on the
south bank.

April 2 Monday
Stopped at Brunswic a
hustling town on the
north bank

April 3 Tuesday
Rained all day Passed
Lexington about noon
Run onto a sand bar
about 7 O'clock pm

April 4 Wednesday
Cleared ourselves from
the bar about 4 O'clock

April 5 Tuesday
Left Independence Forte
about 7 O'clock pm
Discharged freight and
passengers at Kansas
Passed Ft. Leavenworth
and Westen

April 6 Friday
One of the boilers gave
out I started accross to
St Joseph on foot
Stayed in Columbus one
night

April 7 Saturday
Arrived in St. Joseph
about 2 O'clock. The boat
arrived about 4 O'clock pm

April 9 Monday
Went out to look at oxen
the boys moved out to camp
Stayed at Mister Houtes
over night

April 10 Tuesday
Look at cattle returned
to camp at night

April 11 Wednesday
Rained all day

April 12 Thursday
Stayed in Town and looked
at cattle

April 13 Friday
Bought one yoke of oxen
of Allison at \$40.00 went
out in the country and
staid at Willis's overnight

April 14 Saturday
Went to Boyers to look at
cows and staid overnight

April 15 Sunday
Went back to Willis's and
staid overnight

April 16 Monday
Bought three yoke of oxen
of Willis on yoke at \$60.00
the other two at \$45 each
returned to camp

April 17 Tuesday
Lay in camp and fixed
wagon cover

April 18 Wednesday
In camp fixed for packing
things in the wagon

April 19 Thursday
Packed the wagon

April 20 Friday
Lay in camp bought
flour 85¢

April 21 Saturday
Bought flour and packed
our wagon

April 22 Sunday
Went into country Staid with
Willis one night

April 23 Monday
Broke cows and drove
our oxen into camp

April 24 Tuesday
Distance travailed 15 miles
Started from camp for
forte Carny Passed through
Savanah the county seat
of Andrew County
Intervening groves and
prairie

April 25 Wednesday
Passed over nice rolling
prairies with intervening
groves
distance travailed 12

April 26 Thursday
Passed through large prairie
crossed the nodaway river
shot a prairie chicken
distance 9

April 27 Friday
Drove to Jackson's cut
timber for yokes
distance 4

April 28 Saturday
Lay in camp and worked
on the yokes and made bows

April 29 Sunday
(no entry)

April 30 Monday
Finished the yokes

May 1 Tuesday
Bought a cow and some bacon
Started from camp at noon
Encamped at the small Tarko
Distance 8

May 2 Wednesday
Passed the beautiful prairie
stopped at noon at the large
Tarko

distance 12

May 3 Thursday
Passed the rock creek. High
creek in the rain passed
Leinton Achison County
distance 15 mls

May 4 Friday
Crossed Pohna Botno Encamped
on its bank distance 12

May 5 Saturday
Passed through low prairie
doubled teams through the
sloughs Saw four deer
Encamped on the timber 5 miles
from there distance 8

May 6 Sunday
Lay in camp 5 miles from
the ferry. Wrote two letters.

May 7 Monday
Drove to the ferry and waited
for our turn to cross. Went
out to feed the cattle and
shot a turkey
distance 5

May 8 Tuesday
Crossed early in the morning
Travailed 4 miles and Encamped
for the day. A vast rolling
prairie in front and scattering
timber on either side
distance 4

May 9 Wednesday
Left camp late traveled about
10 miles and met George. but
little timber insight but water
plenty
Near Nimehaw in prairie
distance 16

May 10 Thursday
Travailed through the open
prairie Rolling and splended
roads. Stood guard
distance 18

May 11 Friday
Passed Elk Creek Lay by
for the creek to fall
Encamped at Salt creek
distance 18

May 12 Saturday
Crossed Salt creek passed
in sight of a few scattering
trees Encamped at Cotton
grove distance 24

May 13 Sunday
Lay in camp distance out
80 miles

May 14 Monday
The road more rolling
a little timber scattered
along at the left Encamped
2 miles beyond oak grove
on guard distance 22

May 15 Tuesday
Drove 12 miles to the Platt
bottom and 6 miles to the
river a very little timber
on the bank an island
a party of the Pawne came
in camp

May 16 Wednesday
Travailed along the Platt
bottom Sandy road but level
distance 22

May 17 Thursday
Travailed along the Platt
bottom good road but little
sand. Passed through the
Pawnee Village Encamped 2
miles beyond village
distance 20

May 18 Friday
Road more rolling and sandy
narrow bottom a little more
timber along the river
distance 25

May 19 Saturday
Bottom wide part of the way
muddy met a large party of
the Sue Indians in fair site
of the Pawne's met a man
from Salt Lake
distance 22

May 20 Sunday
The road flat and wet
passed the junction of the
Independance and St Joseph
road grass bad saturated
with alkaline substance or
salaratus distance 18

May 21 Monday
Passed fort Charles ten
or more sod buildings also
40 government wagons bound
for fort Hall distance from
ft Carny 25 distance 20

May 22 Tuesday
Good roads the most of the
day but little timber along
the river 2nd watch
dis 18

May 23 Wednesday
Good road and good feed
Encamped about one mile
from the river no wood
dis 18

May 24 Thursday
Good road more broken along
the bluff Commenced raining
about 1 O'clock rained hard
at night cold north wind got
lost dis 25

May 25 Friday
Cold north-east wind road
good dis 20

May 26 Saturday
Road good bluff near and
broken Encamped about
2 O'clock at a very nice
grove on an island
dis 14

May 27 Sunday
Lay by to rest the team
Attended preaching at the
Springfield encampment
dis out 348

May 28 Monday
Bluff not so rugged good
road Encamped off from the
road no wood Come in view

of the south fork
of the Platt
dis 22

May 29 Tuesday
Travailed along the
south bank saw a number
of buffalo two horsemen
and myself persued a herd
and killed one. Returned
to camp late no wood, rain
dis 20

May 30 Wednesday
Cold north west wind and
rain all day Lay in camp
all day Plenty of pepper
grass which the cattle eat
well

May 31 Thursday
Started out from camp late
crossed the south fork of
the Platt ford about 3/4
mile wide Found good feed
and me small brush
dis 8

June 1 Friday
Passed accross the bluff to
the north fork a new rout,
road sandy in places good
feed but no wood - Shot 2
buffalo and 3 antelope left
camp alone in the morning
and were in sight of a 100
wagons at night
dis 18

June 2 Saturday
Passed up the river about
10 miles then struck back
across the bluff into Ash
Hollow where we intersected
the old road, But little feed
plenty of wood and water
dis 20

June 3 Sunday
Buried J.H. Crandell
resident of Illinois road
sandy good feed and water
no timber very warm
dis 12

June 4 Monday
Road sandy the earth
strangly saturated with
alkali in places no timber
along the river Buried
C. Tindell resident of
Mishigan
dis 18

June 5 Tuesday
Met 2 men from Salt Lake
who had been robbed by the
Crow Indians Passed a
beautiful grove to the left
road sandy no timber along
the river a severe storm in
the morning
dis 20

June 6 Wednesday
Passed event house rock
George overtook us road
tolerable good some alkali
in the wet parts no timber
along the river Encamped
near Chimney about 250 feet
high
dis 20

June 7 Thursday
Bluff broken and present the
appearance of ruined cities
Encamped near Scotts Bluff
road good plenty of feed but
no water
dis 22

June 8 Friday
Beautiful and romantic scenery
The bluff covered with pine
and cedar road good leading
through the bluff
dis 21

June 9 Saturday
Passed Skotch Bluff Passed
a black smiths shop
dis 22

June 10 Sunday
Lay in camp by a clear creek
good feed dis out 571 mls

June 11 Monday
Passed up river about 10 mls
and passed the Larime fork.
Passed fort Larime crossed
over the bluff & camped on
the Platt
dis 13

June 12 Tuesday
Road rough and sandy
in places struck out
from the Platt into the
Black Hills Pine timber
scattered over the hills
Encamped near Cold Spring
& Bitter creek

dis 25

June 13 Wednesday
Rolling barron and
gravely soil steep hills
Passed Horse creek and Habers
Springs Passed Larime Peak

dis 22

June 14 Thursday
Road very uneven and wind-
ing Crossed the Lamont
river no grass Encamped
on branch of Lamont

dis 17

June 15 Friday
Road hard and gravely very
hilly Passed Grasshopper
creek Encamped 4 mls from
the Platt

dis 22

June 16 Saturday
Crossed over the bluff to
the Platt Crossed Deer
Creek & Encamped 3 mls up it

dis 8

June 17 Sunday
Lay by until 4 O'clock
started across the bluff
broke an axeltree & Encamped
by the Platt dis out 681

dis 3

June 18 Monday
Travailed up the river
bottom road good feed scarce
Passed several ferrys

dis 23

June 19 Tuesday
Passed up the river about 5
mls & undertook to cross in
the wagon bed

June 20 Wednesday
Went 8 mls below to the
morman ferry & lay by
waiting our turn to cross

June 21 Thursday
Waited for the government
train to cross

June 22 Friday
Crossed the Platt in the
morning about 8 mls bad
road

dis 17

June 23 Saturday
Passed rock avenue willow
spring road hilly but hard
and gravely Abundance of
sage but little grass
Crossed prospect hill

dis 22

June 24 Sunday
Sandy barron & bad road
Alkili springs & lake
Crossed the Sweet water
passed Independance rock
& Devils gate

dis 28

June 25 Monday
Road sandy road leaves the
river alkili lake sage creek
grass scarce

dis 18

June 26 Tuesday
Road sandy & very heavy
mountains on both sides
no timber along the river

dis 17

June 27 Wednesday
Road gravely & good Passed
Iced spring no wood crossed
the river twice

dis 20

June 28 Thursday
Crossed the river passed over
rough rocky ridges Strawberry
creek & Popler creek. En-
camped on branch of Sweet-
water Snow 10 feet deep

dis 20

June 29 Friday
Crossed Willow creek &
Sweetwater Crossed
the dividing ridge or
south pass Road good
Barron country Encamped
by the Pacific spring
dis out 868 alt 7052
dis 21

June 30 Saturday
Passed the Snow capped
mountains. Crossed dry
sandy water bad but little
grass Passed the junction
of Oregon & Salt Lake road
Encamped on the little sandy
dis 24

July 1 Sunday
Sandy & barron but little
grass Dis out ~~899~~ 901
dis 9

July 2 Monday
Road descending & gravelly
some scattering grass among
the sage Encamped along the
high sandy dis 17

July 3 Tuesday
Travailed about 8 mls to green
river ferry wide stream &
rapid current Crossed the
river
dis 8

July 4 Wednesday
Road uneven & sandy in
places Plenty of grass
Encamped on hams fork
dis 23

July 5 Thursday
Road good feed tolerable
plenty I had a severe
headache Encamped on a
small muddy creek
dis 20

July 6 Friday
Road tolerable good no
water for 15 mls Encamped
near fort Bridges a small
enclosure with 2 or more
buildings
dis 17

July 7 Saturday
Plenty of feed water &
timber Descended a very
rocky steep hill
Passed soda spring
Crossed high dividing ridge
long gradual ascent rather
steep ascent but good road
dis 25

July 8 Sunday
Road winds between high
cliffs Passed sulphur
spring & small creek Bad
hill to ascend Encamped
on Bear river
dis 6

July 9 Monday
Crossed bare river very
rapid current & hard to ford
Passed hatchet rock echo
cove & creek Passed through
long deep ravine good road
& abundant feed Encamped
on echo creek
dis 20

July 10 Tuesday
Road crooked & numerous
bad places to cross very
high bluffs on both sides
Come to the Weber river
4 miles farther crossed
the current rapid & deep
dis 20

July 11 Wednesday
Long hill to ascend road
crooked & bad bearing
nearly south I was taken
with a violent headache
mountain fever
Encamped on Kanyon creek
dis 17

July 12 Thursday
Lay in camp a beautiful
clear stream near by &
surrounded by very high
hills feed good

July 13 Friday
Lay in camp

July 14 Saturday
Lay in camp

July 15 Sunday

Lay in camp about 2 O'clock
Crossed high ridge very
steep & bad to descend
Encamped 12 miles from the
city good feed

dis 12

high hills covered with
grass
good feed little rain
Encamped without water &
wood

course west 26 mls

July 16 Monday

High ridge to cross road
very bad Encamped 2 mls
north of the city near
the warm spring good
feed small shower of
rain Morman city out
1112 mls

dis 16

July 22 Sunday

Travailed 5 mls to water
brackish & warm 5
A spring of good water 13
Road rocky in places
good feed

c-e west-nort-west 18

July 17 Tuesday

Hot spring & lake 3 mls
Plenty grass & water
Numerous settlers all
along good feed Encamped
on small creek 13 mls

course north dis 16

July 23 Monday

Small creek a few rods
north of the road 5 mls 5
farther the creek sinks 7
rather barron soil covered
with wild sage.
c-e W.S.W. 18

July 18 Wednesday

Cottonwood creek 18
no water for 12 mls
Weber river and 12
Encamped 1 ml beyond 1
good feed

course north 23

July 24 Tuesday

Crossed a very level
barron plane to a spring
at the foot of the mountains*
I got accidentally wounded
*cedar mountain dis 18

July 19 Thursday

Large creek 1
small creek 4
Hot spring & lake 6
Cotton wood creek 5
small creek good feed &
water 2
course north 18

July 25 Wednesday

Lay in camp
distance from Morman City
151 mls
Distance from frontier 1253 mls

July 20 Friday

Bon ilder creek 7
small creek 4
Hot salt spring & cool 5
fresh bare river Encamped 10
by its side good feed
course north 26

July 26 Thursday

Lay in camp
I was bled.

July 27 Friday

Lay in camp

July 28 Saturday

Lay in camp
The other three wagons &
men left us.

July 29 Sunday thru August 3 Friday

Lay in camp

July 21 Saturday

Ferryed accross bare river
Brackish creek bad
no water for 23
road good passing through

August 4 Saturday

I was put into a carriage
& rode 10 mls & camped
on a small stream

August 5 Sunday
Travailed to Cassins creek
dis 12

August 6 Monday
Travailed 10 mls &
camped on Cashins
creek 8 mls from the
fort Hall road I was
not well

August 7 Tuesday
Not able to ride
Mr Sellie left with
his carriage

August 8 Wednesday
Thru

August 14 Tuesday
Lay in camp

August 15 Wednesday
Lay in camp
inflammation set in

August 16 Thursday
Thru

August 20 Monday
Lay in camp

August 21 Tuesday
Lay in camp
I was put into a wagon

August 22 Wednesday
Travailed 2 miles
dis 2

August 23 Thursday
Travailed 4 miles to
the mouth of a kanyon
dis 4

August 24 Friday
Travailed 8 mls to a
spring in the valley
dis 8

August 25 Sunday
Drove 18 mls & camped
on good creek
dis 18

August 27 Monday
Drove 20 miles
dis 20

August 28 Tuesday
Drove 18 mls but
little water
dis 18

August 29 Wednesday
Drove 19 mls Encamped
near a boiling spring
dis 18

August 30 Thursday
Drove 19 mls & camped
in a small valley
dis 19

August 31 Friday
Drove 15 miles
dis 15

September 1 Saturday
Drove 25 mls to the
Humbolt river
dis 25

September 2 Sunday
Lay in camp

September 3 Monday
Drove 20 mls
Encamped on Humbolt

September 4 Tuesday
Drove 19 mls
dis 19

September 5 Wednesday
Drove 17 mls
Met some mormans

September 6 Thursday
Drove 23 mls over
mountains Encamped on
Humbolt
dis 23

September 7 Friday
Drove 15 mls
dis 15

September 8 Saturday
Drove 19 mls
dis 19

September 9 Sunday
Drove 12 mls
dis 12

September 10 Monday
Drove 22 mls
course N.W. dis 22

September 11 Tuesday
Drove 23 mls Hilly road
course N.W. dis 23

September 12 Wednesday
Drove 18 mls
dis 18

September 13 Thursday
Drove 20 mls & crossed
the river
dis 20

September 14 Friday
Drove 9 mls & crossed
the river
dis 9

September 15 Saturday
Drove 18 mls rough road
dis 18

September 16 Sunday
Drove 4 mls Encamped at
the fork of the road
dis 4

September 17 Monday
Left --irys river
Spring one mile to the
left 14
Spring at the right $\frac{1}{2}$ m 23
Black rock spring 1
Travailed in the night
No feed or wood
road good
course W.N.W. dis 38

September 18 Tuesday
Warm spring 25
road good no feed
travailed in the night
course W.N.W. dis 25

September 19 Wednesday
Black rock wells a
little feed 4
To good grass & water 12
road good
dis 16

September 20 Thursday
Lay in camp
I had my side lanced

September 21 Friday
Travailed 4 mls warm
springs good feed 4

September 22 Saturday
Warm cool springs
some feed 4
Mud lake road sandy 18
C-e W.N.W. 22

September 23 Sunday
Travailed 12 mls to
the top of a hill 12
no water
C-e dis 12

September 24 Monday
Travailed along a deep
Kanyon high rocks on
the sides
Good feed & water
C-e W. dis 15

September 25 Tuesday
Travailed along the
Kanyon plenty of feed
& water
C-e W.N.W. dis 9

September 26 Wednesday
Four miles through
the Kanyon very rough 8
road to a spring & feed 32
C-e W. dis

September 27 Thursday
Crossed a high ridge
Put in an esceltree
C-e W. dis 26

September 28 Friday
Travailed 14 mls to a
spring little grass 14
road rough
To the foot of the
mountains good feed
and water 18
Travailed in the night
C-e W.N.W. dis 32

September 29 Saturday
Travailed along the

side of the mountains
 Encamped on the side
 of the Siera Nevada
 Good feed all along
 C-e W. dis 12

September 30 Sunday
 Crossed the mountain
 Encamped two miles down
 on the West side
 Mountains steep & hard to
 climb
 C-e W. dis 4

October 1 Monday
 Descended down the
 mountain road crooked
 and rocky leading through
 pine groves
 Encamped near salaratus
 lake
 C-e S.W. dis 13

October 2 Tuesday
 Travailed down the valley
 good feed and water
 C-e S. dis 10

October 3 Wednesday
 Lay in camp
 George was taken sick

October 4,5,6,
 Lay in camp

October 7 Sunday
 Travailed about 6 mls
 Encamped on a small creed
 C-e S. dis 6

October 8 Monday
 To Pits river 5
 Down the river 3
 C-e S. dis 8

October 9 Tuesday
 Down the river
 good feed, water rather
 stagnant I left Dr.
 Wilder with a wounded
 man
 C-e S. dis 22

October 10 Wednesday
 Travailed down the river
 good feed
 Hills on either covered
 with pine
 Road crossing the river

four times
 C-e S.W. dis 22

October 11 Thursday
 Down the river 17
 Road rather rough
 crossing the river
 several times
 C-e S.W. dis 17

October 12 Friday
 Down the river valley
 plenty of feed
 C-e S.W. dis 20

October 13 Saturday
 To the leveling of the
 river 4
 Crossed over high hills
 to a swift running
 creek
 road rocky & very rough 16
 C-e S. dis 20

October 14 Sunday
 Travailed about 7 mls
 over very rough road
 C-e S.W. dis 7

October 15 Monday
 Travailed through pine
 forest Encamped without
 water
 C-e S. dis 20

October 16 Tuesday
 To a spring at the
 left of the road 7
 Encamped 3 miles beyond 3
 C-e S. dis 10

October 17 Wednesday
 To a spring the right
 of the road 8
 To a small lake 6
 Encamped at a small
 meadow
 C-e S. dis 19

October 18 Thursday
 To feed & water at the
 right of the road 8
 To a small lake no feed 11
 C-e S.S.E. dis 19

October 19 Friday
 To east branch of
 fether river 7
 To fether river
 river valley 8
 C-e S. 15

October 20 Saturday
 Along the valley
 C-e S. dis 9

October 21 Sunday
 Lay in camp

October 22 Monday
 To the leaving of
 Fether river 6
 C-e S. dis 6

October 23 Tuesday
 To Butte river 10
 up the river 5
 C-e S.S.E. 15

October 24 Wednesday
 To deer creek the
 last feed 8
 C-e S.S.W. 8

October 25 Thursday
 Started on the desert
 To a spring 18
 plenty of water
 between Road rough
 & crooked
 C-e S. dis 18

October 26 Friday
 To the next water
 at the right of the
 road 12
 To a bad hill 6
 C-e S. dis 18

October 27 Saturday
 To the top of a hill
 water 1 ml at the left 6
 Drove off from the road
 to feed
 road rough
 C-e S. dis 6

October 28 Sunday
 To a watering place at
 the right of the road 11
 To Antelope creek 5
 to deer creek 6

Road very rough
 C-e S.S.W. dis 22

October 29 Monday
 To Lawsons Ranch 4

October 30 Tuesday
 Went down the sacramento
 8 or 10 miles to recruit
 our cattle

October 31 Wednesday
 Lay in camp on the bank
 of the sacramento

November 1 Thursday
 Lay in camp

November 2 Friday
 Left camp for fether
 river Commenced raining
 in the fornoon and the
 storm was very severe
 during the night
 C-e S.E. dis 15

November 3 Saturday
 Drove to Potter ranch
 John killed two antelope
 Cloudy but no rain
 C-e S.S.E. dis 6

November 4 Sunday
 Drove to Dutch Charleys
 ranch Commenced raining
 in the evening
 Encamped on Butte river
 C-e S. dis 9

November 5 Monday
 Rained all day & we lay
 in camp

November 6 Tuesday
 Rained all day lay in camp

November 7 Wednesday
 Cloudy & a little rain
 lay by on account of
 high water

November 8 Thursday
 Left camp in the morning
 streams were high and
 road very muddy
 C-e S.S.E. dis 10

November 9 Friday
Drove to feather river
ford water was too high
to cross Commenced
raining in the night
C-e S. dis 14

November 10 Saturday
Lay in camp
rained all day

November 11 Sunday
Lay in camp

November 12 Monday
Crossed feather river
rained in the night
dis 6

November 13 Tuesday
Crossed Yubah river
Encamped by a large oak
Commenced raining in the
evening continues most of
the night
dis 18

November 14 Wednesday
Come to a deep slough &
could not cross
dis 10

November 15 Thursday
Swam our cattle & rafted
our wagon across. Then
traveled to Bear river
dis 5

November 16 Friday
Built a bridge & crossed
Bear river
Commenced raining in the
morning & continued until
evening

November 17 Saturday
To Vernon 15 miles
dis 16

November 18 Sunday
Traveled 14 miles
dis 14

November 19 Monday
To Sacramento City 12
Rained in the morning &
again at night
Road very bad
dis 12

November 20 Tuesday
Ferryed the team across
the American fork
Commenced raining in the
evening

November 21 Wednesday
Rained the most of the day
Sold the team

November 22 Thursday
Warm & pleasant

November 23 Friday
Warm & pleasant

November 24, 25 no entry

November 26 Monday
Rained during the night

November 27 Tuesday no entry

November 28 Wednesday
George started for San
Francisco

November 29 Thursday no entry

November 30 Friday
John left for feather river

December 1, 2 no entry

December 3 Monday
Rained the most of the
day & first part of the
night

December 4 Tuesday
Clear but cool & windy

December 5 Wednesday
Cold N.W. wind
Geo. Case left for the mines

December 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 no entry

December 11 Tuesday
Wind blew from the S.E.
very hard destroying
several frames Rained
during the night

December 12 Wednesday
Wind blew very hard
Commenced raining in the
evening

George arrived in
the night from Frisco
with a boat

December 13 Thursday
Rained all day

December 14 Friday
Rained all day

December 15 Saturday
Loaded our boat and
sailed up the river about
15 miles Commenced blow-
ing very hard in the night

December 16 Sunday
Very windy & cold
all day Lay by

December 17 Monday
Warm and pleasant
Encamped at Vernon
Lay by

December 18 Tuesday
Good wind the first
part of the day
Blew very hard in the
evening & all night &
some rain Stopped on
account of the wind
Encamped at Vernon

December 19 Wednesday
Good wind sailed up the
river about 10 miles we
were obliged to stop the
wind blew so hard
rained during the night &
wind blew very hard

December 20 Thursday
Lay by on account of rain

December 21 Friday
Started out in the evening
& rowed to Nicholsses ranch

December 22 Saturday
Lay by at Nicholsses

December 23 Sunday
Rowed up the river about
8 miles

December 24 Monday
Rowed about 10 miles

December 25 Tuesday
Rowed up to Yuba city &
from thence up the Yuba
river about 2 miles

December 26 Wednesday
Rowed up the Yuba river
about 3 miles & were
obliged to stop the
current being so strong

December 27 Thursday
Selected a situation for
a ranch
Rained part of the day

December 28 Friday
Rowed down to Yuba city
George started for the
city

December 29 Saturday
Walked up to Charlys ranch

December 30 Sunday
Put our things on board
of a boat and encamped
about six miles down the
river

December 31 Monday
Arrived at the Yuba
pitched my tent there and
----- (words erased)

Diary ends

The Irish Lament

I am sitting on the stile Mary
where we sat side by side
One bright may morning
When first you was my bride

The corn was springing fresh
and green
The lark song loud
and high
The red was on thy lip
Mary
And the love light in thine
eyes

The place is little changed
Mary
The day is bright as then
The larks loud song is in my
ear
And the corn is green again

But I miss that soft clasp of
your hand
And your breath warm on my
cheek
And I still keep listening for
those words
You never more will speak

The pleasant home of ours Mary
And the spring time of our life
I looked upon thy smiling
face
And proudly called thee wife

I was pleasant when our
children played
Before our cottage door
But the children sleep with
thee Mary
And I near shall see
them more

Yours was the brave good
heart Mary
That still kept beating on
When my trust in God
had left my soul
And my arms and strength was gone

There was ever comfort in thy
life
And lovelight on your face
And bless you for that same
Mary
Though you can't hear me now

Tis but a step down younder
lane
The little church stands
there
The place where we were
Wed Mary
I see the spire from here

But the graveyard lies
between Mary
And a step might break your
rest
For I have laid you down
to sleep
With your babes upon your
breast

I am very lonely now Mary
For the poor have but few
friends
But they love them better
for
The few their father sends

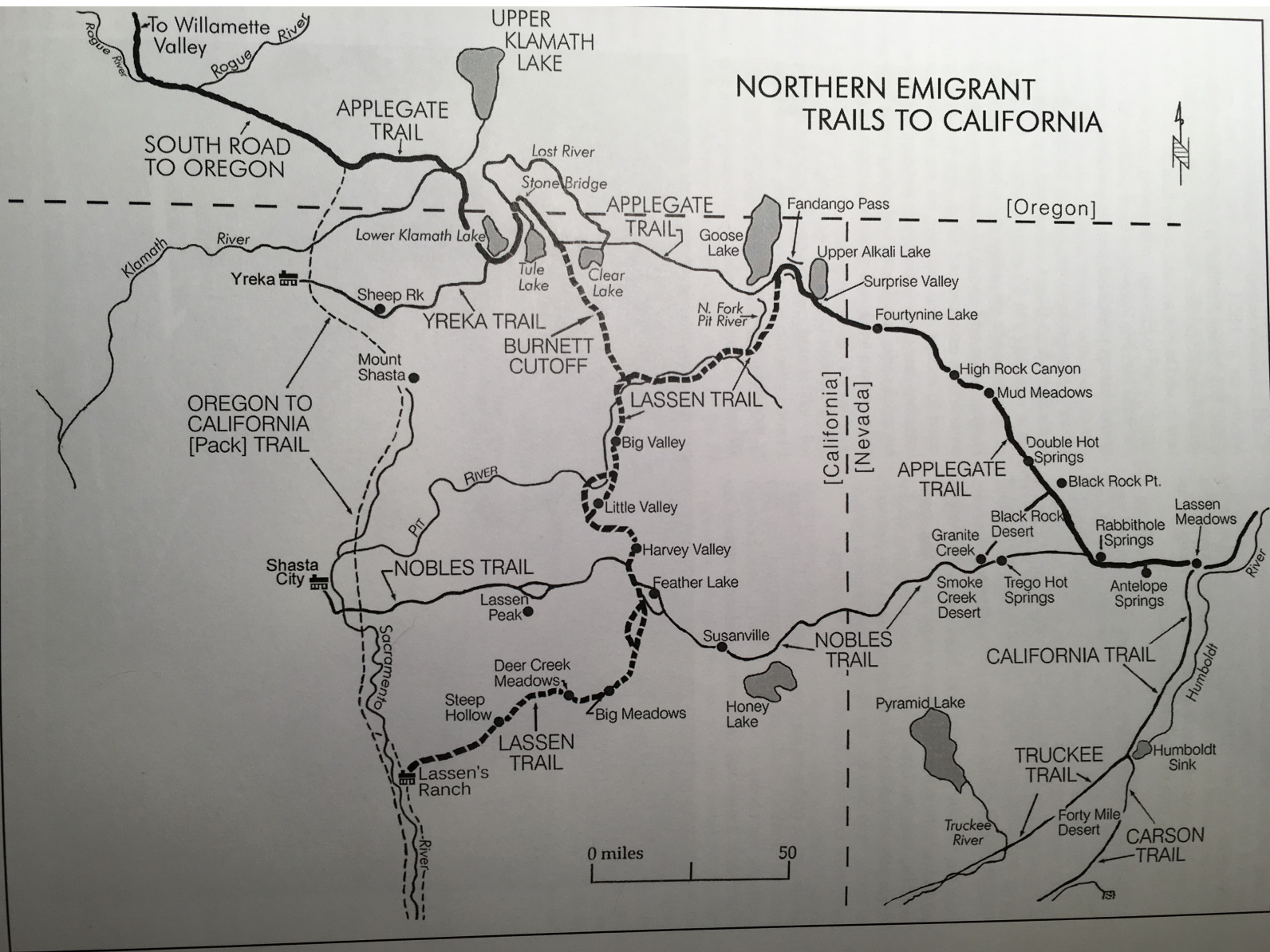
You was all I had Mary
My blessing and my pride
But theres nothing left
to care for now
Since my poor Mary died

I am bidding you a long
farewell
My Mary kind and true
I shall not forget thee
there
In the land I am going to

They say there is work and
bread for all
The sun shines always there
But I'd never forget old
Ireland
Were it fifty times as far

But often in those giant
old woods
I'll sit and shut my eyes
And my mind will wonder
back again
To the place where Mary lies

I think I see the little stile
Where we sat side by side
The springing corn and the
bright may morn
When first you was my bride



<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/gnl/argoland.htm>

San Francisco Genealogy

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Following is a list of a portion of those Pioneers who crossed the continent for California in 1849.

Following are the names of the members of the various companies starting from St. Jo, April 14th:

From Ohio:

A. V. Kinneav, F. Eaholtz, H. Jordon, Z. Downer, A. McIllan, A. J. Hagan, S. M. Holland, J. S. Smith, E. O. F. Hastings, J. W. Evans, J. Lindsay, S. Schindler, N. B. Wean, A. Anderson, Hugh Lee, Geo Grice, Dan Willard, Geo Case, J. Sawyer, D. Fullman, **J. G. Briggs, B. B. Briggs**, K. H. and P. Chandler, E. W. Brooks, A. Forbes, S. I. Burrill, J. W. Hall, H. Garfield, P. Garwick, S. Bethel, J. A. and J. B. Hoover, M. Mahan, J. A. Armstrong, W. H. C. Mitchell, Stvn Clingaman, J. W. Wilson, W. P. Harrington, H. J. Richards, W. C. Conway, Saml Ayres, Wm. Huntington, E. Burr, W. Endicott, P. Chambers, T. Morrow, J. Leach, Jas. Foulds, J. B. Louck, Mr. Frisbee, Chs. Robinson, D. S. Ross, Dr. J. F. Ankeny, Dr. J. F. Robinson, H. Winslow, Sml. Wright, M. Williams, Silas Smith, Wm. Poor, G. K. Fitzgerald, A. P. Rarison, Peter Myers, G. J. Chapman, F. Hooper, A. Curfes, A. Allardt, H. Fahrup, Geo and Isaac Parry.

From: Trudy Lindaman tllindaman@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Briggs-FAG
Date: October 3, 2021 at 7:17 PM
To: Jo Anne jsadler818@earthlink.net

TL

If I were guessing, I would guess that brother George, who apparently was fabulously wealthy, provided something of a nest egg for Benjamin. I would guess that he felt very guilty about the gun accident that almost killed Benjamin. What do you think? Crazy theory?

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 3, 2021, at 7:04 PM, Jo Anne <jsadler818@earthlink.net> wrote:

Hello Trudy:

I will look everything over in the next couple of days but I think I may be able to add something. I think the unknown burials were burials on the ranches. Not many cemeteries in those days, mostly Catholic.

In some the the memorials you have taken over shows a picture of Thomas Gregg's wife. You had pointed out that she died in 1837 and no photography until 1839 so that was probably a picture of his second wife.

I am working on the articles for the newsletter, trying to 'flesh' things out, add something new, picture of ships, local places all of the appropriate time. AND make sure they are copyright free.

I have found more passenger list info, I believe Benjamin left CA the first time arriving at the Port of NY on December 29, 1850, B.B. Briggs, 26, carpenter.

He definitely came back east arriving at the Port of NY on February 11, 1865 aboard the Golden Rule, B. Briggs, 37, Clerk, from Greytown, Nicaragua, no departure date. This was an alternative, shorter route run by the Central America Transit Line. More details in my article.

He had to have made a ton of money in the mines & Marysville to be able to fund his medical studies in Europe, put Irene in private boarding schools for two years, come back to the U.S. and continue his studies for a year in Ann Arbor & other medical studies in PA & NY.

Jo Anne

-----Original Message-----

From: Trudy <tllindaman@gmail.com>

Sent: Oct 3, 2021 5:35 PM

To: Jo Anne <jsadler818@earthlink.net>

MEDINA CALIFORNIANS.

Mr. Geo. Briggs, of Sharon, Medina Co., recently returned from California with \$17,000 in cash, which he loaned in Medina County, and prepared to return to the land of gold where he has a farm and tavern stand for which he was offered \$15,000. Last night Mr. Briggs and nine other citizens of Sharon left this city on the Alabama enroute for California. The party go out as farmers and will surely make their industry a source of wealth to themselves. The company are composed of George Briggs, Benjamin Briggs, Geo. Brown, John Brown, Mr. Crane, Samuel Crane, and wife, Charles Curtis, George Case and Lafayette Waffle.—*Cleveland Herald.*

George Briggs returns from California with
\$17,000

Clipped By:
tlindaman
Oct 25, 2021