

JOURNEY OF THE RIPLEY FAMILY 1889

1889 Rushville, Nebraska

Our journey to Oregon started on Tuesday, June 3rd, in the afternoon. We arrived at Joe Henderson's. It commenced raining. Laid over till Friday morning, 6th. The rain held up, and we started for Hay Springs. We got within four miles of Hay Springs and camped for the night.

- 7th Saturday we got within 5 miles of Chadron, we are now camped for dinner on Chadron Creek. We laid over on Sunday, 8th, then got to Whitney on the 9th and camped for the night.
- 10th All well and started on the road West and camped for dinner at White River. We passed through Crawford, Nebraska and Fort Robinson and camped on Soldiers Creek.
- 11th All well and right side up with care. Went on up Soldiers Creek and camped.
- 12th All well, traveled to Harrison. Took Dinner, and then went on and camped near the railroad.
- 13th Stopped for dinner near the Niobrara River, Wyoming. The children enjoyed the trip first rate especially Blanche (Ripley-Balmer). We camped on the road between Harrison, Nebraska and Lusk, Wyoming.
- 14th All well, and hearty and appear to enjoy the trip first rate, took dinner at Lusk, Wy. Camped at Manville, Wy. on Sunday morning.
- 15th All well, and started on our journey. Passed Keeline, Wy. And camped on Wolf Creek.
- 16th All well, breakfast over traveled on and camped at Douglas, Wy.
- 17th All well and started on and 8 miles camped near Fort Petterman, Wy. to let team rest.
- 18th Passed Glenrock, Wy. and camped on the Platte.
- 19th Passed Casper, Wy. and camped on the prairie.
- 20th All well and on the road for Oregon and passed Bessemer, Wy. and camped on the prairie.
- 21st All well and breakfast over and about to start on the road. Concluded to lay over for the women to bake and wash.
- 22nd All well, breakfast over. Started on the road, traveled 8 miles to water and laid over for Sunday and camped on Fish Creek and Mr. Auston killed an antelope.
- 23rd All well, all able for breakfast. Traveled on and camped at Independence Rock on the Sweetwater.
- 24th Traveled up Sweetwater through the mountains and camped on the bank of Sweetwater.
- 25th About to start for South Pass. We seen nothing that looked like a farm in Wyoming. Traveled on and camped at Ranch #71.
- 26th Laid over for the women to bake and wash.
- 27th All well and able for breakfast and about to start on the road and took dinner at Rogers. Traveled, camped on Sweetwater River.
- 28th All well and breakfast over and started on our journey Westward. Took dinner on Sweetwater and camped for night.
- 29th All well and breakfast over and traveled on. Stopped for dinner in mountains. Laid over in afternoon to let horses fill on grass.

- 30th Breakfast over and preparing to start on our journey and passed Lewiston, a minors town in the mountains, went on and camped for the night on the Sweetwater.
- July 1, 1889
All well breakfast over and started on and camped for dinner. The snow capped mountains in full view. Camped for the night.
- 2nd All well and about to start on the road for the pass and took dinner on Sandy. Traveled on, camped for night on the little Sandy.
- 3rd All well, breakfast over and about to start on our journey. Traveled to Big Sandy and took dinner and traveled about 20 miles and struck Big Sandy again and camped for the night.
- 4th All well and in camp on the Green River for dinner. Laid over in the afternoon on account that we could not cross till morning.
- 5th All well and breakfast over and about to cross Green River. A river about as big as the Iowa River at Wapella. Traveled on and camped on the prairie for the night.
- 6th All well, breakfast over and started on our journey. Took dinner on the Green River and then went on and camped for the night at Big Springs.
- 7th All well but Mart and Mina (Ermina Ripley-McFee). Mart is quite unwell and Nina too. Breakfast over and preparing to start on. Went on to Mans (Hams) Fork and camped for the night.
- 8th Mart is better and Mina well and all the rest are well. Laid over for the team to rest and give the women a chance to bake and wash.
- 9th Breakfast over and started on the road over the Rockies. Found the worst hills we have yet found. One hill two miles up and 1 mile down at a grade of about 45 degrees and camped on the top of the mountain for the night.
- 10th All well, breakfast over and started down the mountain and traveled on to Cokeville, Wyoming and went up the river (Salt River) six miles and went into camp to wait for Mr. Auston. Staid there and went into camp for the night.
- 11th All well, but Mart. He is quite unwell today. Camped for dinner at a cheese factory and went to Mont Pelier, Idaho and camped for the night.
- 12th Mart better and staid in Mont Pelier to get the horses shoes reset, then on passed Georgetown and camped near Soda Springs, Idaho.
- 13th Tom Ellis sick with Mountain Fever.
14th No better.
15th Still no better.
16th Some better.
17th About to start on our journey in the mountain.
18th Blank
19th Blank
20th At the American Falls on the Snake River.
21st On Snake River.
22nd About to start for our long journey.

- 23rd All well and breakfast over and preparing to start on.
- 24th Traveled about 30 miles. Tom is better.
- 25th Most all well, Tom is still better.
- 26th All about to move on, got to the Falls of Snake River.
- 27th Camped on the prairie.
- 28th All well, but Tom and he feels better. The mountain air is very light. We will start for the great Falls of the Snake River.
- 29th Breakfast over and a greasing the wagons for a start for the ferry across the Snake River, 4 miles from camp. Tom is better this morning. Mart and Mina caught a mess of fish last night.
- 30th All tolerable well this morning, clear and nice. Had all the fish that we could eat and fish left for breakfast. Went and struck the Shortline and camped 100 miles East of Boise City at Bliss, Idaho.
- 31st Breakfast over and the boys gone for their horses. Traveled on to the Twin Springs in a deep canon for dinner then went on to a small creek and camped for the night. We had the greatest sand blizzard I ever was in.
- August 1, 1889
Breakfast over and getting ready to start on. We have a 3 mile hill to climb on the start. Went 10 miles for dinner over a very stong road, went on and camped on the prairie.
- 2nd All well and breakfast over and the girls a washing the dishes, a nice orchard and plenty of fruit, apples and peaches. Apple's 3 cents a pound. Went on camped in 2 ½ miles of Boise City.
- 4th All well and camped in the city to let the horses rest.
- 5th All well, still in Boise City. Mart is helping a man thresh his grain. The children are enjoying themselves on eating apples.
- 6th All well, dinner over and about to roll on. Camped for the night at an old farmers on the Boise River.
- 7th All well, breakfast over and getting ready to start. Traveled down the Boise River and camped for the night.
- 8th All well, breakfast over and a going to start for Baker City, Oregon. I give Joe Bucklin 6¢ for the fish bait he gave me that I caught the fish with.
- 9th All well and about to start on, very dry and dusty roads. Crossed Snake River center of which is the Oregon Line and camped for night.
- 10th All well, breakfast over and about to move on. Traveled 16 miles and took dinner at a town called Vale, Oregon. Went on and camped for the night on a dry run.
- 11th All well, breakfast over and about to start on. Took dinner at a farm house in a canon and camped in the same canon for the night.
- 12th All well, breakfast over and about to start on to a spring in a gulch and camp for the night.
- 13th All well, breakfast over and about to start. Roads good for the last week. Camped for the night in a nice Pine grove on a spring branch.
- 14th All able for our grub. Breakfast over and Lucy (Watson-Simmons, Bay City) washing the dishes. We have to climb a hill about 4 miles long on the start. Went on 18 miles and camped at Baker City.

- 15th Blank
- 16th Breakfast over and about to start on for the Blue Mt. which is close by. Dinner over and preparing to start on. Went on and camped at North Powder, Oregon.
- 17th All well and about to start. Took dinner on Ladds Hill and camped for the night in a gulch.
- 18th All well and about to start. Went and took dinner at LaGrande, Oregon at the foot of the Blue mts., went on and camped for the night in a gulch in the mountains.
- 19th All well and the girls a getting breakfast. Traveled some 10 or 12 miles and laid over for the women to do some baking at an old stage station. There we camped for the night.
- 20th All well and about to start on. Went and camped in hills for night.
- 21st Breakfast over and on our way, camped for dinner. Dinner over and pushing on through the Blue Mts. The Burr came off one of the axle spindles and Mart is off a huntin it. Lucy found the Burr about 2 miles back. Al right again. Camped on the Umatilla River.
- 22nd All well and about to start on our journey. Went on and camped for dinner at Pendleton. Mart got a letter from Jake (Jacob Ripley). We laid over at Pendleton in the afternoon to let the horses rest.
- 23rd All well and a fixing to move on our next town is Echo. It is 229 miles from here to Portland. Changed our minds and laid over on the 23rd, to let the horses rest.
- 24th All well and hearty. Laid over till noon then went 9 miles out to hunt work. We could not find any and camped for the night.
- 25th All well and about to start. Went on and camped for the night in the foothills of the Cascades.
- 26th All well and about to start on our journey. Traveled 14 miles through a gulch and went on and camped for the night on the prairie. We passed Whitney at noon.
- 27th All well and about to start, went on and camped for the night on a creek in a gulch near Heppner, Oregon.
- 28th All well, breakfast over and about to start. Traveled 18 miles and camped for the night.
- 29th All well but Blanch (Balmer) and she is not very well. Traveled on passed Ione, and went down a gulch. Drove 15 miles and camped for the night.
- 30th Breakfast over and about to start for the John Day 12 miles away, on our road down the gulch and camped for the night.
- 31st All well and traveled some 20 miles and laid over to let the horses rest. Mart got a job of work for a few days.
- September 1, 1889 Still laid over.
- 2nd All well but Lizzie and still laid over. Mart is still helping thresh.
- 3rd Still laid over.
- 7th Sunday still in camp.
- 12th Friday still in camp.
- 13th Saturday started on for Mt. Hood.
- 14th About to eat. Breakfast over and started for the border, crossed the Deschute and went on 2 miles and camped for the night.