

Walter Handley diary

Section 3, Pages 61 - 74

A diary kept by Walter Scott Handley (1838-1903) following his discharge from the Union army in Austin, Texas, as he traveled north to Chillicothe, Missouri. In 1867, Handley moved his family to Oswego, Kansas, where he lived for the remainder of his life. The volume in which the diary was kept previously belonged to Handley's father, James, who used it as an account book and tailoring sketch book. For this reason, the orientation of the writing on the pages changes frequently. Included with the diary is a newspaper article from the February 15, 1979 issue of the Oswego Independent-Observer which transcribes Handley's diary entries.

Date: March 07, 1866-April 12, 1866

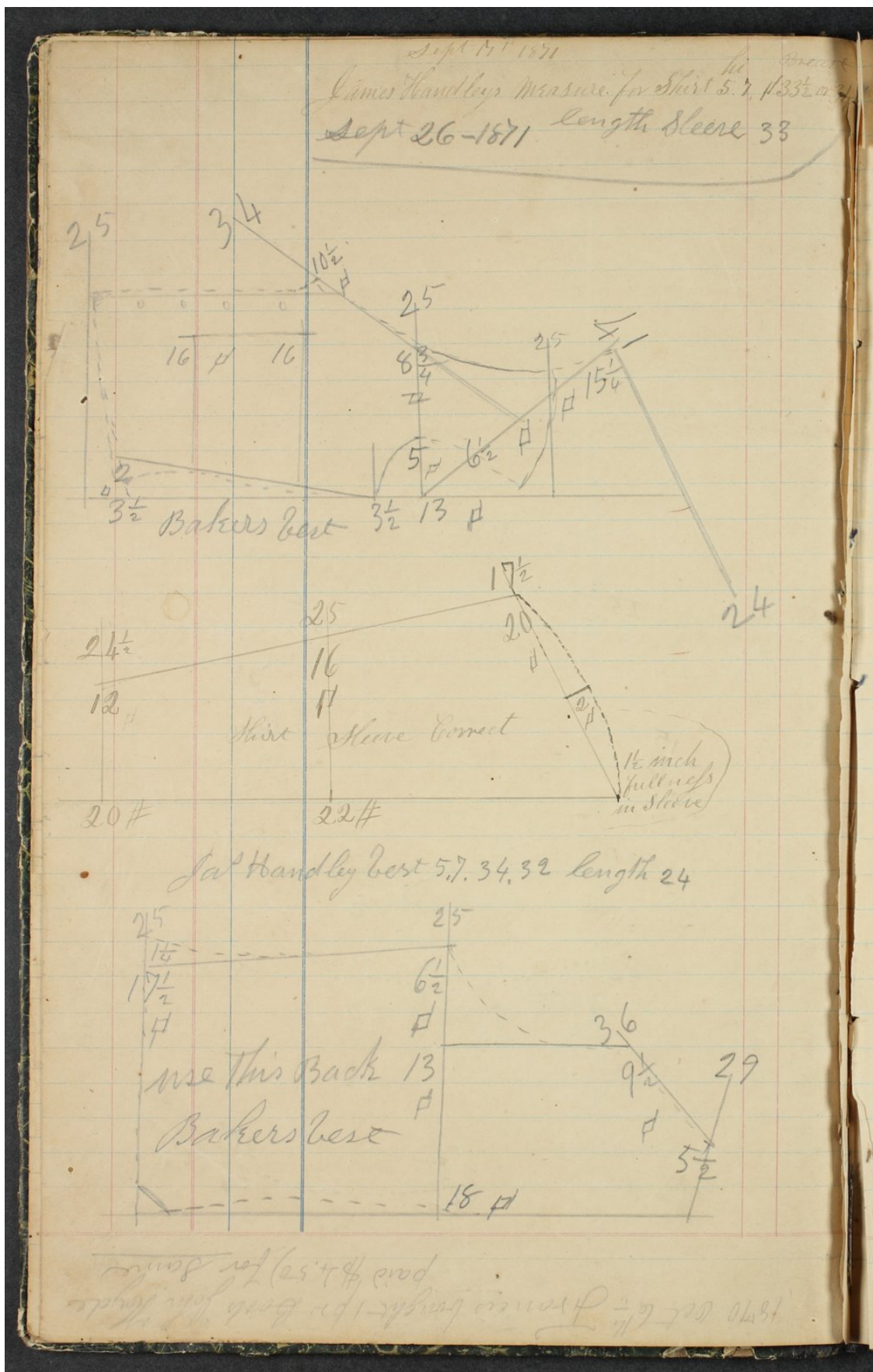
Callnumber: Misc., Handley, Walter

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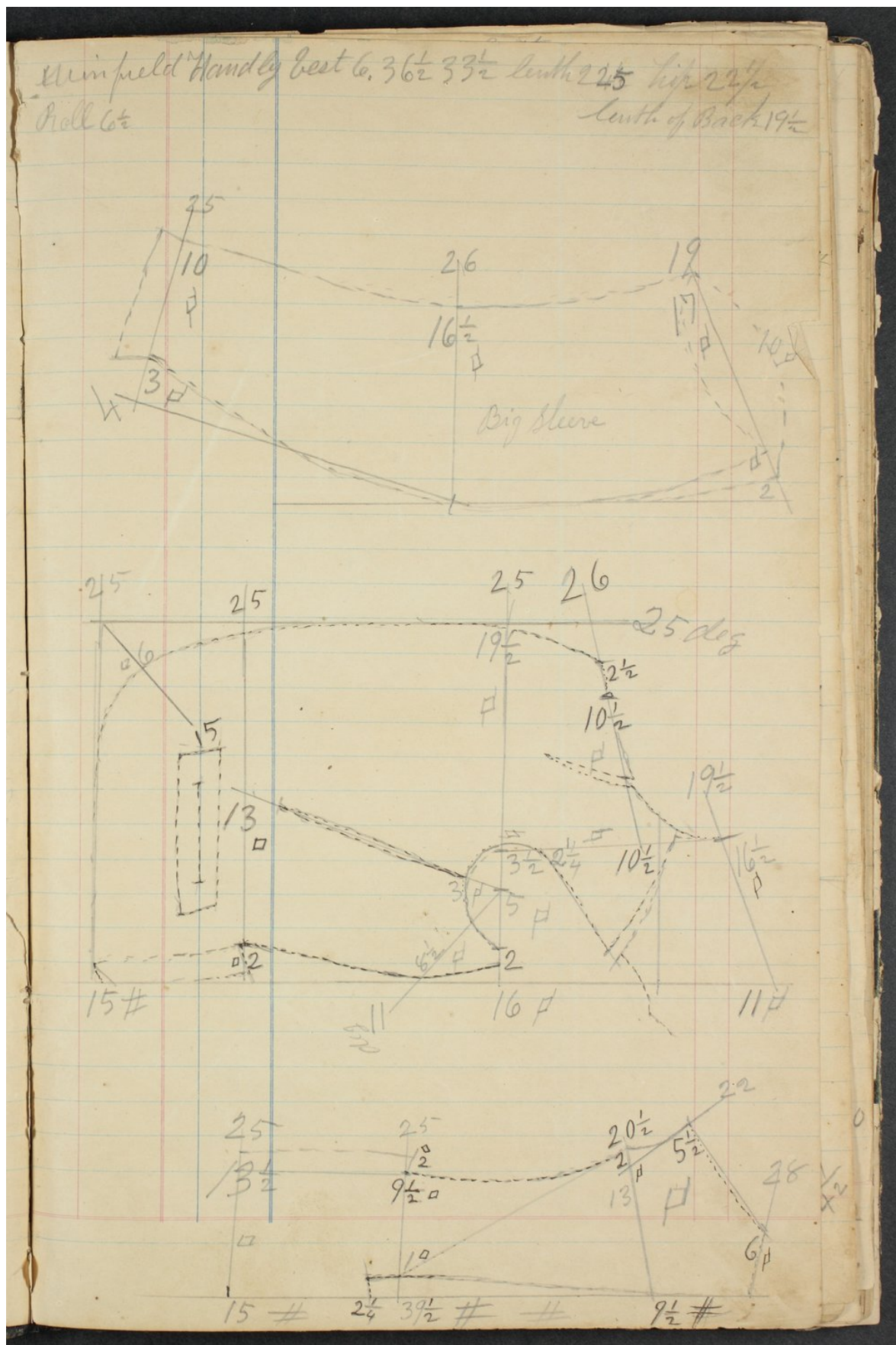
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Walter Handley diary





<p> $\begin{array}{r} 436 \\ 150 \\ \hline 655 \end{array}$ </p>		<p> $\begin{array}{r} 1145 \\ 435 \\ \hline 1580 \end{array}$ </p>	<p> $\begin{array}{r} 115 \\ 6 \\ \hline 121 \end{array}$ </p>	<p> $\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ 6 \\ \hline 31 \end{array}$ </p>
<p>Tuesday July 26th 1870 to Thrashing by box & Kinney</p>				
<p>Amount of Oats 145¹/₂ bushels</p>		4	36	
<p>do Wheat 25 do</p>		1	50	
<p>do Rye 11¹/₂</p>			69	
<p>Decr 27th Cash paid in full</p>		\$ 6	55	6 55
<p>Oct 6th butchered a Hog for early meat</p>				
<p>1870 To Coffee Francis paid for at Woodgate</p>				50
<p>Aug 20 To do change borrowed off him</p>				paid 10
<p>23 John Carter put 1 pair Shoes on Nel</p>				75
<p>paid By Winfield Handley</p>				
<p>Sept 23 To Coffee of G. Woodgate</p>			50	
<p>24 To do do 1 lb Soda of J. W. Patterson</p>			10	
<p>Oct 14 To do plug Tobacco</p>			10	
<p>19 To do 1 lb Cannon 40 top gall oil 25</p>			45	
<p>To do Camp Wick</p>			05	
<p>Got 1/2 Gallon Oil Nov 7th 1870</p>		\$ 1	40	
<p>paid 25 Cts By Winfield</p>				
<p>Bought for Mary 1 pair Shoes Nov 7th \$2.25 paid</p>				
<p>By Winfield at Hydes</p>				
<p>April 28-1871 Samuel & Joshua Breedlove went to Trenton to the mill. Got 16 lbs Bacon</p>				100
				per pound
<p>1870 1/2</p>				
<p>Oct 15 Bought 1 Sack flour 49 lbs paid</p>		1	75	



1870					
July 25	Bought on time at Jno. Haydes				
	Coffee & Sugar	\$1.	40		
	2 lb dried apples		25		
	2 Oz Allspice		10		
29	To 1 box Wakefield's plaster		25		
Aug 1	To 2 Bars Lead		15		
	To tobacco for self		10		
6	To 13 Hoop water buckets		35		
15	To Tobacco		10		
24	To 1 pair Suspenders for self		40		
31	To 1 lb white Sugar		20		
Sept 6	To 10 lb Salt at 24		25		
Sept 15	paid Hyde	\$3.	15	3	15
July 29	Bought of Woodgate				
	Starch & tobacco		15		
Aug 1	To 1 Box gun Caps		10		
	To 3 Stamps & 1 Envelope		10		
6	To 2 1/2 Stamp		2		
	To Essence peppermint		5		
	paid in full		42		
1870					
Aug 25	To pocket Knife		70		
	To 4 1/2 plug tobacco		10		
Sept 13	Cr By Cash paid in full		80		



Tuesday July 26th 1870 to Shepshing by box & Kinney
 1870

Amount of Oats	145 ¹ / ₂ bushels	\$	4	36
do wheat	.25 do		1	50
do Rye	11 ¹ / ₂			69
Beer 27 th cash paid in full		\$	6	55
			6	85

1871 Oct 6th butchered a Hog for early meat

1870 Oct 8th To putting 1 pair new shoes on
 By John Goares paid \$ 1 25

1871 Oct 8 Heiffer took the Bull

1871 young Heiffer 2 year old had heifer calf =
 = in Sept 7th 1871

1870 Dec 14th Lot 1 Hog of J. Fernald at 6 Cts 192th \$11 55
 paid

1871 April 13th planted potatoes sign in the fences
 merces covered by Samuel deep in the ground

my mare Nell had a Horse Colt 15th April 1871 (height of Colt
 went 11 months and 3 days) by the Eccles horse 3rd Feb 4 weeks
 he altered my 2 year horse at the same time
 paid \$1.00

1871 April 21st Friday morning W. S. Handley's mare
 had a fine horse Colt by Eccles horse

1871 March 4th Little Red Cow had Heiffer Calf +
 May 1st flower had white Bull Calf +
 = flower +

1871 May 3rd Samuel Handley started to Colorado with Ketchum



Shirt of Linen, Cut the back and front by

In putting in the Sleeves Set a small gusset under the Arm,

Cut the back & front by fig 9 & 11, Lay the stuff in, Alternate large & small plaits for the Bosom Set the Bosom in the front according to the numbers in the pattern, Sew up the sides of the body from 25 to about 9 inches from the bottom, Set a little gusset in the end of the seam & hem the flaps & bottom, Gather the upper part of the back from the middle to * on both sides & sew on the yoke making the figures correspond, put the binding on the neck and sew on the Buttons to fasten on the Collar, which is also sewed on a binding furnished with button-holes

Gather the top of the Sleeves

fig 9 7 1/2 front
10 1/2 Bosom
fig 11 1/2 Back
12 1/2 Yoke
13 1/2 Binding of neck
14 " Button Lappet
15 " Sleeve
16 " Cuff
17 1/2 Collar binding
18 1/2 Collar

Shirt for A Boy 8 to 10 years old

Cut the Shoulder Gussets Wristbands & Collar Double stitch the Shoulder Gusset on the Shoulder piece along the dotted line, and turn it over and hem it down on the wrong side. Gather the neck from the Shoulder piece and put on the binding to correspond with the figures, having first sewed on the Collar.

Gather the top of Sleeve from 15 to * on both sides, and the bottom from 14 to *; wristbands Cut double, lengthwise of the stuff. Cord the Arm-holes, Sew in the Sleeves and finish with buttons and button-holes. Sew front and back together on the sides from 1 to a quarter of a yard from the bottom & set a small Gusset in the end of the Seam,



John Leekins Arised at my House on the 17 day of sept 1869			
1871	Planted my cane May 6 th	20 Rows	
1870	April 26 th	planted my potatoes the Mercers	
1870	April 30 th	^{paid for all} Bought at Chillicothe	
	1 Corn planter of Duns	July \$ 3	00
	1 pair shoes for Mary	2	25
	1 Bottle pain Killer		50
	1 Broan	"	40
	1 plug Tobacco		10
1870	April 29 th	Bot Corn of Elmore	
	8 and 1/3 bushels at 65	5	40
	^{paid Cash for same.}		
1870	April 23 rd	5 hundred the Hay of Jay	60
	^{paid in Cash}		
1870	May 7 th	^{sacks} Bot Coffee Hyde 50 ^{paid}	
	9 th	Bot Coffee pot Rote 45 ^{paid}	
1870	May 12 th	My White Cow had a white calf	
	13 th	Bot 4 hundred pounds hay & Eccles	
		^{paid Cash} at 30 per hund -	1 20
1870	White 12 th	Seed Corn 1/2 Bushel of Stonaker	" 20
		^{paid Cash}	
1870	May 20 th	Scotts Mare put by the Insurance at	7 00
1870	May 12 th	put my Mare Nell by Insurance	7 00
	Both to John Eccles Horse		
1870	June 7 th	Winfield & Virginia went to Chillicothe got 2 half Sacks flour & 1/2 bus Corn meal	
1870	June 25 th	one of my Chester sons took the Ketcham Poland boar	
1870	Oct 15 th	The Sow had 9 pigs of Ketcham Boar	
1871	Jan 16 th	put Sow to Ketcham Boar	paid \$ 1.00
1871	Feb 4 th	Sows was there again	



Minnie Wenton

Minnie Wenton in the Shadow I have waited here ^{alone}
On the Battle's gory Meadow where the Scythe of Death ^{has been}
I have waited for your coming 'til the Drearly Dawn of Day
But I only heard the drumming as the Army Marched away
Chorus

Oh Minnie Dear Minnie I have heard the angels calling
I have seen the golden Shore I'll meet you in the morning
Where the Shadows come no more Never More Never More

Minnie Wenton I am wounded & I know ^{that} I must Die
By a Strange host surrounded & my loved ones ^{knelling nigh}
I have listened for your coming in the twilight cold and gray
But I only heard the tramping as the Army Marched away
Chorus

Minnie Wenton I am weary & I long to reach my goal
But the Billows of old Erie blue upon my memory roll
And I pause to hear you singing by the boaters of the bay
But I only heard the Music as the Army Marched away
Chorus

Minnie Wenton We been Dreaming of the days now gone before
Here I see the Sabres gleaming o'er that field of Death & gore
And we think I see you bending o'er the turf where on I lay
But I awake to see the Banner as the Army Marched away
Chorus

Minnie Wenton I am Dying as the world recedes from view
I have seen the old flag flying o'er that Rebel Rag of Blue
I have seen our heroes' Scimitars who have fallen in the fray
And the Bugles warble faintly as the Army Marched away

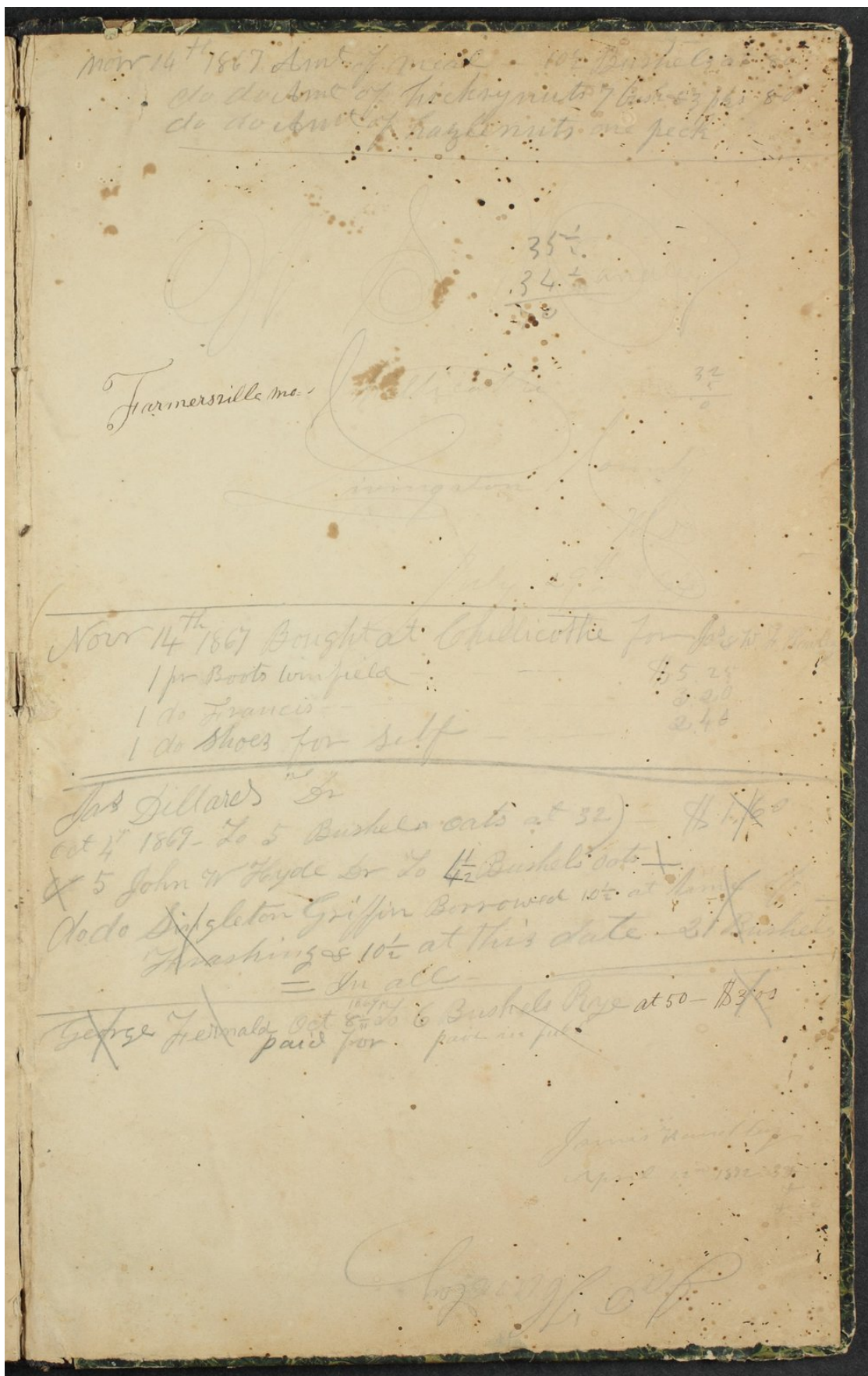


Scale mark 20.10 is 5 inches long

Full Circumference of Breast	Height of Chest in Inches	Height by Feet & Inches	Small Size Full Circum
20 1/2 - 10 1/4	5 1/8	3 - 4	
21 - 10 1/2	5 1/4	3 - 5	
21 1/2 - 10 3/4	5 3/8	3 - 6	
22 - 11	5 1/2	3 - 7	
22 1/2 - 11 1/4	5 5/8	3 - 8	
23 - 11 1/2	5 3/4	3 - 9	
23 1/2 - 11 3/4	5 7/8	3 - 10	
24 - 12	6	3 - 11	
24 1/2 - 12 1/4	6 1/8	4 - 1	
25 - 12 1/2	6 1/4	4 - 2	
25 1/2 - 12 3/4	6 3/8	4 - 3	
26 - 13	6 1/2	4 - 4	
26 1/2 - 13 1/4	6 5/8	4 - 5	
27 - 13 1/2	6 3/4	4 - 6	
27 1/2 - 13 3/4	6 7/8	4 - 7	
28 - 14	7	4 - 8	
28 1/2 - 14 1/4	7 1/8	4 - 9	
29 - 14 1/2	7 1/4	4 - 10	
29 1/2 - 14 3/4	7 3/8	4 - 11	
30 - 15	7 1/2	5 - 1	
30 1/2 - 15 1/4	7 5/8	5 - 2	
31 - 15 1/2	7 3/4	5 - 3	
31 1/2 - 15 3/4	7 7/8	5 - 4	
32 - 16	8	5 - 5	
32 1/2 - 16 1/4	8 1/8	5 - 6	
33 - 16 1/2	8 1/4	5 - 7	
33 1/2 - 16 3/4	8 3/8	5 - 8	
34 - 17	8 1/2	5 - 9	
34 1/2 - 17 1/4	8 5/8	5 - 10	
35 - 17 1/2	8 3/4	5 - 11	
35 1/2 - 17 3/4	8 7/8	6 - 1	
36 - 18	9	6 - 2	
36 1/2 - 18 1/4	9 1/8	6 - 3	
37 - 18 1/2	9 1/4	6 - 4	
37 1/2 - 18 3/4	9 3/8	6 - 5	
38 - 19	9 1/2		
38 1/2 - 19 1/4	9 5/8		
39 - 19 1/2	9 3/4		

Scale + inches Height by 20 inches





A Soldier's Diary

Walter Scott Handley was discharged from service in the Union army in February 1866 at Austin, Texas, and journeyed across north Texas, the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), western Arkansas and Missouri to his home at Chillicothe, northern Missouri. During that trip of thirty-one days and almost one thousand miles he kept a daily record of the events. In 1973, his son Harold Handley gave the original diary to the Owego Historical Museum and here is the substance of that diary record.

W. F. Handley located at Owego in 1867, married Elizabeth Mark, daughter of Rev. John Mark, which the couple spent the remainder of their lives here. Rev. John Mark was the leader and prime force in establishing the Methodist Church. Mr. Handley followed the building trade until 1891, when the family started the Handley Green House on Ohio Street, and continued to operate it until 1965 when Harold sold it to Dick Weston. Diary copied by Elizabeth Schmidt Turner and edited by Wayne O'Connell.

DIARY OF WALTER SCOTT HANDLEY

March 7, to April 12, 1866

Of every day occurrences worthy of note concerning Walter S. Handley, David H. Finner, Benjamin A. Kale, and Henry Wood. We start an outfit of two fine bay horses, one fine iron gray horse, and a good span of mules, and a Germanwien P.A. carriage, with view of traveling north. Handley going to Chillicothe, Mo., Kale going to Genoa, Mo., Finner going to St. Joseph, Mo., and Wood going in west of Ft. Scott, Mo. On the 7th of March 1866 we take leave of our friends in Austin, Travis County, Texas and make our start about 8:00 a.m. commenced raining, we traveled about two miles and made a trade. Trading our span of mules for two fine bay horses, which we soon harnessed up and got started, it now being 11:00, it ceased raining by this time. Here we take on some baggage for a Mr. Stidham and son who lives at Sherman, Grayson, Texas, who was going to accompany us that far. The mules are very heavy the mud sticking to the wheels, very much, which makes slow traveling. The country we travel is mostly prairie and some very beautiful farms. Camped in one mile of Georgetown, Tex. Just at dark having traveled 25 miles, Georgetown is a small place with very muddy streets.

Thursday, March 8, 1866
The first thing worthy of note is concerning our nights rest as it is our first night from Austin. After we ate supper made down our beds and got to sleep it commenced sprinkling and we did not get up as there was no house near where we could shelter but finally it rained so hard we got up and crowded the carriage for 2 or 3 hours when it ceased raining then some sit around the fire and others tried to sleep in the carriage. Our friend, Mr. Stidham went to sleep in a chair and fell over backwards, causing considerable amusement at the time. Noise enough to wake those who were trying to sleep and most assuredly we all passed a most unpleasant night. We make an early start, came to Georgetown, purchased some few articles got a horse and traveled on till 4:00 in the evening and camped at a small place by the name of Salado having passed over a fine prairie country. Salado is situated on a beautiful stream, here I see one of the largest springs I ever saw, the water boiling up with great force and strong enough to turn a mill. The day has been pleasant and roads very good. Traveled a distance of 25 miles and have had a fine night's rest.

Friday, March 9, 1866
Arose early, start at 7:00, travel over a fine prairie for nine miles and we came to a town called Belton, Tex. which is the county site of Williamson county. It is a small place and a little business done. Purchased some few articles and pursued our journey. Crossed a beautiful stream near the town, traveled on over a beautiful prairie country 8 miles. Here we stop and feed our horses at noon. About 1:00 we start traveling over a prairie country, pass through a small village not worthy of note hardly. There being indications of rain we travel to Cow Bayou within 16 miles of Waco, and stopped with a Mr. Tom Lot, and partook of his hospitality which was very good to a tired and hungry man as we never eat our dinner today and were very hungry. It has been cloudy all day, we travel 34 miles. Road good.

Saturday, March 10, 1866
Arose early, foggy and indication of rain, arrive at Waco, county site of McLennan county, about 10:30 p.m. having traveled to a beautiful village situated on the right bank of the Brazos River with a beautiful country surrounding it.

My horse somewhat lame today. Make purchase of some liniment. We also purchased bread and onions. After crossing the river we travel 5 1/2 miles through timber and mud and camp about 4:00 p.m. at a pond of water fenced in, which was very inferior. Travel today on about 22 miles. Have no rain. Sun set clear. Horses fare well.

Sunday, March 11, 1866
Arose early, got started about 7:00 had a heavy shower which did not last long. Our road has been over prairie country and very good.
We arrive at White rock where we intend to camp, drove one mile off the road to Mr. Ferguson's. Purchased corn and blades and then drove down the creek some half mile away and camped. Here I see good water and plenty of it. After supper there being strong indications of rain we harnessed up our horses and drove back to Mr. Ferguson's. Slept in his stables and stood our horses under his sheds. I did not sleep very well on account of mice running over me. We traveled today about 33 miles.

Tuesday, March 13, 1866
Arose late, it commenced raining about

WALTER SCOTT HANDLEY
1838-1903

12:00 p.m. and our horses stood in a muddy lot all night and fared bad. It being so raining and cold we did not start until 10:00. We travel on a road to the left of the main road over a prairie for a distance of 8 miles and stopped with a Mr. Nance, got lodging and stabling for our horses and plenty of oats and corn. Mr. Nance treated us well and is a fine man. The day being so bad we only traveled a distance of about 8 miles.

Wednesday, March 14, 1866
Arose early, fed our horses and carried them. Got our breakfast and concluded to remain today as our horses needed rest. Mr. Finner traded his bay horse for a gold watch and Mr. Wood purchased a fine bay horse at \$140, cleaned our pistols nothing else occurred during the day.

Thursday, March 15, 1866
Arose late. We make a start for Dallas, a distance of about 12 or 15 miles. Travel to a bottom and find a bayonet that will swim our horses, here we make a halt and send out two men on horseback to see if we can find any way to cross. While they were gone we met with a team loaded with goods and followed it and reached the ferry over one of the main tributaries of Trinity River. Made purchase of some sugar and matches, traveled on through timber for 3 miles, crossed a 9 mile prairie and camped with a Mr. Scott and slept in the barn, have oats and corn for our horses, traveled today 25 miles.

Friday, March 16, 1866
Arose early, I cooked breakfast. Allocated to start at 8:00. Purchased a ham at \$12.00 and some dried beef, traveled over prairie country, terrible level roads and not very good it has been clear all day and cold, wind blowing from the north. I wrapped myself in a blanket and tried to make myself comfortable but could not, and I got out of the carriage and ran while which warmed me. This was practiced by all. Pass a store make a purchase of groceries for \$15. Camp for the night off the road a mile on the Wilson creek, a clear beautiful stream. About 3:00 got corn and oats for our horses. Traveled today about 30 miles. Have had roads. Have some biscuits baked for breakfast which are not very good.

Saturday, March 17, 1866
Arose early, I prepared breakfast and we make an early start for Sherman where we arrive at about 2:00 having traveled over prairie country nearly all the way. Our friend Kale had a shake of the Ague about 12. Find Sherman to be a central point in Texas but not much business, plenty of overbearing men, drinking and making considerable amount of noise. Put up our horses at Wilson's Hotel, kept by a Mr. Christian. Fare not very good, traveled today a distance of about 30 miles. Roads not good.

Sunday, March 18, 1866
Arose early, changed clothes got ready for breakfast, just in time. About 10:00 Mr. Finner and I go to church. I suppose to see some of the fair sex but did not see many beautiful ones. After church, went back to hotel, ate dinner. We make arrangements to board with a Mr. F. W. Summers at a private house and pleasant

day. I go to church in the evening.

Monday, March 19, 1866
Arose early and went to Mr. Summers for breakfast. Have introductions to his wife, who I find to be a fine woman. Nothing of interest transpired today.

Tuesday, March 20, 1866
Arose early, Mr. Finner traded the carriage for a gray horse. Purchased saddles and bridles with view to traveling through the Indian Nation. We gave all our cooking utensils and such things we could not carry to Mr. Summers. Just after dinner we start. Mr. Finner purchased some tobacco to sell through the Indian Nation. We traveled over a bad road to Red River a distance of 13 miles. Very little prairie cross Red River at Calbert's crossing. Did have some trouble getting across as the river was so low we could not ford it on account of quicksand. Travel over a beautiful road all prairie to Carriage Point, where we stop for the night. No feed for the horses, supper consisting of cornbread and ham and coffee. Slept on the floor, did not rest well, traveled today 26 miles.

Wednesday, March 21, 1866
Arose at 4:00 a.m., saddled at a good speed for 6 miles, stop at Mr. Lazen, feed our horses, corn and oats and got breakfast which consisted of biscuits, bacon and saffrais tea. Here we travel over a sandy country to Boggy Depot where we halt for a few minutes. Mr. Finner disposes of his tobacco at a big profit, purchased a dozen apples for one dollar. Pass a mill on a stream called Blue. Here I see a tree affected by Albert Pike during the war. We stop at 4:00 with a Mr. Davis on the Boggy Rivers. The day has been beautiful but windy. Traveled about 30 miles.



A heavy line inked in over a current road map shows the course of the journey of the W. F. Handley party from Austin, Texas to Chillicothe, Missouri during March and April, 1866.

Thursday, March 22, 1866
Arose early, Mr. Finner and myself traveled in the barn but to see that the horses were not stolen.

We were all in company with four men from Fort Smith who travel with us. We get an early start this morning. Cross the Boggy River at Mr. Davis' and cross another Boggy River. Travel 6 miles farther and come to the forks in the road, one leading to Fort Gibson and the other leading to Fort Smith and travel up a ravine. Plenty of water and timber prairie on the left covered with a red rock. Soil is very poor. After we reach the distance of 15 miles we stop with a Mr. Frank Wills, feed our horses and get dinner, we start again at 1:00 travel up a valley soil better. This valley is 3 or 4 miles wide. At about 5:00 p.m. at Blackhawk Station Corn is very scarce. Travel today a distance of about 40 miles. Very fine indications of rain in the evening.

Friday, March 23, 1866
Arose very early. Last evening we visited by a small hurricane which destroyed some timber. Had a sn shower during the night. We had no rain for our horses last night. We got 5 ear corn each for our horses this morning which we paid 20c an ear or the rate

\$24.00 a bushel. Our route today has been over a very rocky prairie, 13 miles farther brought us to where we secured feed and fed our horses and purchased feed enough for tonight, paid 5c an ear. We secured our need of corn on a lead horse and turned him loose as usual and he ran away and lost all the corn. Just then a soldier came up who had two teams coming behind and he gave us some oats which was very acceptable on this occasion as we were traveling through a country very desolate of feed for horses of man. We ascended a mountain pass which is very rocky. Pass mountain station where the overland main (Butterfield) used to stop.

We traveled over a broken country then traveled 9 miles farther and stopped for the night at Riddle Station and the girls got a very good supper. Traveled today 30 miles, beautiful day and warm.

Saturday, March 24, 1866
Arose early and had a poor breakfast, traveled up a valley of timber, north and easterly direction with the Cavanaugh Mountains on our left, roads muddy. Pass through what is called the narrows, a gap in the mountains. See some deer after traveling a distance of 20 miles. Stop for dinner and Professor Edwards once breakfast which consisted of biscuits, bacon and saffrais tea. Here we travel over a sandy country to Boggy Depot where we halt for a few minutes. Mr. Finner disposes of his tobacco at a big profit, purchased a dozen apples for one dollar. Pass a mill on a stream called Blue. Here I see a tree affected by Albert Pike during the war. We stop at 4:00 with a Mr. Davis on the Boggy Rivers. The day has been beautiful but windy. Traveled about 30 miles.

We purchased corn off a wagoner that was very cheap, about 20c a bushel, and gave him two bushels for one. We allowed it at an enormous rate. Traveled today 35 miles and camped.

Sunday, March 25, 1866
Arose this morning at 1:00. Slept last night under a tree in the barn lot. We start at 3:00 this morning and traveled over timber and rocky road for about 10 miles. Then travel over prairie a few miles and reach Skullyville at 7:00, a distance of 5 miles, here we have breakfast and feed our horses a few ears of corn and travel on through the timber country. Here we reach the Arkansas River bottoms. Plenty of corn growing here, 13 miles farther brought us to the Poto River, a very deep but narrow stream which we ferry and then we are in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where we arrive at 12:00, put our horses in the Livestock stable, had them fed and got our dinner. Mr. Kale and I take leave of our friends Wood and Finner and we start down the right bank of the Arkansas River, traveled 4 miles which brought us to Van Buren where we cross the river and put up at Rhodus Hotel. We meet our friends T. A. Watson and others that are traveling north with a wagon and some horses and some mules. The day has been cloudy and cold. Traveled today 35 miles.

Monday, March 26, 1866
Arose late, cloudy and cold. After breakfast I walk out about one mile and make arrangements to travel with our friends and we camp with them. I went back to town in the evening. Stayed all night have a fine time at supper and firm many acquaintances.

Tuesday, March 27, 1866
Arose to Fort Smith about 6:00. Have an introduction to some Van Buren ladies, have a fine time at a wine party. Have a shower in the evening. The day has been cloudy and cold.

Wednesday, March 28, 1866
Arose early and we make a start for the north. Travel through timber country. Very broken. Plenty of timber and water, corn scarce. About \$2.50 per bushel. Camp in the evening about 3:00, 30 miles and bed.

from Van Buren. Roads have been rocky

Thursday, March 29, 1866
Arose very early, get early start, travel over a very broken and rocky country for 7 miles. Here we ascend the Boston mountains and travel up Loose Creek crossing it very often. Very few inhabitants in this vicinity. Corn scarce. After traveling 22 miles. Stop and take dinner about 12:00. Way on up we start and travel 1 1/2 miles. Camp on White River about 3:00. The day has been cold but clear traveled a distance of 25 miles.

Friday, March 30, 1866
Stood guard last night until 12:00. Arose this morning at 4:00. Wind blowing very hard. Arrive at Fayetteville, Ark. about 10:00 roads bad. Stop there about one hour. Arrive at Mud town about 3:00. This place was burned during the Civil War but there is one house erected after the war. Here we travel on a road leading to the left of the main road. Traveled over a good road to Black Bluff where we camp for the night. Plenty of water. Indications of rain. Travel today a distance of 30 miles.

Saturday, March 31, 1866
Arose very early, we leave our friends this morning as we do not travel fast. Go to Ft. Caville, here we purchase a few articles. Stop about 1:00 for about an hour. Travel on about 11 miles. Stop only a few minutes. Mr. Finner informed that robbers had attacked the house a few nights previous. Stop in the evening about 4:00 with Mr. White on the lead water of Spring River. Have a good night's rest. Travel about 30 miles. Indications of rain in the evening.

Sunday, April 2, 1866
Arose very early. Got my horse shod, start at 9:00, travel over a broken country, at 11:00, buy a few articles and start out on the Greenfield road. Mount Vernon is a small place and hardly worthy of note and situated in a very poor country. Travel through 9 miles of prairie. Some good farms feed plenty. Stop 3 miles north of town, get dinner and feed horses. In the evening have indications of rain. Travel over a poor country for 4 miles, before we come to a house here we halt until rain is over then we travel on to within 4 miles of Greenfield, Mo. Here we stop for the night. See plenty of deer and turkey. Travel today a distance of 30 miles.

Tuesday, April 3, 1866
Arose late, travel to Greenfield. Find it to be a small place. Travel 5 miles north of town and it commenced raining and we stopped with Mrs. Nap. It rained all day and continued to do so all day. Turned cold in the evening, sleeted and snowed. The first snow I've seen for some time.

Wednesday, April 4, 1866
Arose late do not travel as it is raining and continued to do so all day. Turned cold in the evening, sleeted and snowed. The first snow I've seen for some time.

Thursday, April 5, 1866
Arose early. We start this morning, travel about 6 miles stop and warmed at a small place. Travel 9 miles over poor country. Went hunting, did not kill anything. A beautiful day.

Friday, April 6, 1866
Arose early. Could not cross the creek. A beautiful day.

Saturday, April 7, 1866
Arose early. Start this morning and ford the creek which is deep, but did not get wet. Travel 15 miles over a broken country where we find the Osage River

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and cross on Huffman's ferry, 8 miles above Owego. Travel over a prairie 20 miles. Stop for the night on Marshall's creek with a Mr. Dunning. It has been a fine day travel a distance of 35 miles.

Monday, April 9, 1866
Arose early and traveled 4 miles come to Grand River and ford it. Travel 4 miles further here we find Clinton, the county seat of Henry County Missouri and much improve after the rain. Meet some friends. Stop for an hour. Travel on through a small place called Cornelia or Shanga. Stop for the night within 3 miles of Warrensburg, Mo. It has been a fine day. Traveled 40 miles today.

Tuesday, April 10, 1866
The first thing worthy of note is concerning my nights rest. I was told that horses had been stolen at the house next to us, distance of 1/2 mile, only a few nights ago and that men were stopped frequently for their money. Just at 9:00 I was going to lay down. All had gone to bed but myself. I heard the fire of pistols near the house and soon another shot and I went out to see if I could see anything. I could not. I lay down with my clothes on and was up several times during the night.

We started early to go to Warrensburg. Stop only a few minutes. This place is situated on the Red River, and has improved very rapidly. Travel on toward Lexington over broken country, mostly timber. arrive at Lexington and cross the Missouri river at sunset. Travel out 5 miles and stop for the night. Man shot 1/2 hour before we crossed in the bottoms did not hear the particulars. Traveled today 48 miles. A fine day.

Wednesday, April 11, 1866
Arose early, start travel 4 miles reached Richmond, stop 1/2 hour. Travel 1 more mile north, here the roads fork, go going to Kingston and the other to Millville. I part with my traveling companion, Mr. Kale. Travel over poor country to Millville distant from Richmond, travel on taking some apples, raisins and smoking tobacco. Travel on taking my direction and traveling through Timmey's Point find a store and a blacksmith. Stop then make some inquiries there including roads.

Travel on over prairie country across muddy creek, cross Shoul Creek. Stop at the prairie at Mr. Dimery for the night. Wind blew hard from the south. Travel distance of 40 miles.

Thursday, April 12, 1866
Arose early, start late, travel to Uica, a distance of 9 miles. Cross Grand River above the R.R. bridge on the ferry. Arrive at Chillicothe about 10:00. Meet some acquaintances, stay and take dinner with my friends. Mr. Dilly and family purchased a few articles and traveled 13 miles north and reached home. This ends my journey from Austin, the capital of Texas.

NOTE: By contrast, it took W. S. Handley 31 days to make the trip that would take 2 days driving by car or 2 1/2 hours by air in 1979. — W. A. O'Connell

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Monday 9-5 Thursday 9-4
Tuesday 9-5 Friday 9-4

