

Journey from Massachusetts to Kansas

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

Chestina Bowker Allen traveled to Kansas Territory from Roxbury, Massachusetts, with her husband, Asahel Gilbert Allen, and five children--William, Charles, Henrietta, John, and Abbie. Members of the third company sent by the New England Emigrant Aid Company, the Allens began the journey to Kansas Territory in October, 1854. The journal is a record of their journey to the Kansas Territory, and of their first three years there (1854-1858). Mrs. Allen described their journey west with stops in Kansas City and Lawrence before eventually settling near Rock Creek in Pottawatomie County. She wrote about many of her daily activities, including assisting neighbors when ill, a cholera epidemic in the area in 1855, descriptions of Native Americans she saw, and various rumors and encounters with fellow free state supporters and proslavery groups. She provided a great deal of information about living conditions and the price and availability of various goods. She wrote about her husband and older sons going to various communities to work, and also about people who visited their home and/or who boarded with them. [The document appears to be recopied from an original diary, and includes some penciled-in corrections and a few annotations from a later time.]

Creator: Allen, Chestina Bowker, b. 1808

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Oct. 17, 1854. After dining with Mrs Robert Ames ^{we} left Roxbury in omnibus for Worcester depot Boston, Mass. Cars started at 2½ O'clock, taking us from friends and home. Arrived in Albany, N.Y. at midnight, left the cars and walked to the Hudson river, crossed on a ferry boat, walked to the Delavan Hotel and remained 'til 8 O'clock. ^{At} Mrs Colman from Holliston, ^{of our company} Ms. fell down some steps in going to the Delavan with a child in her arms and bruised her badly. 18th. Took the cars for Buffalo, made slow progress, not having sufficient steam for the heavy load. Mr Lemuel Knapp joined our party at Schenectady with his large family, lost his pocket book, but it was found, but no money in it.

The lightning train just ahead of us run off the track and detained us for hours; arrived in Buffalo at 5 O'clock on the morning of the 19th. Went on board the steamship Mayflower, left this morning for Detroit, Mich. There were many disagreeable passengers, some evidently for the purpose of plunder.

We had a pleasant passage and arrived in Detroit on the morning of the 20th. Breakfasted at a Hotel at 25 cts. each.

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Took the cars at 9 A.M. for Chicago, arrived too late for the night train. After standing awhile at the depot to find what we should do, — the women and children were permitted to return to the cars and remain over night as best they could, a few ungallant, selfish men crowded in, to the inconvenience of the weaker party: the cars stood over water so that should any step off the cars they would take a ~~take~~ bath.

21st. Omnibuses took us to Smith's hotel for breakfast: took another train for Alton, Ill. passed over much prairie, repeatedly run over pigs and once a steer, but without any serious accident arrived in Alton at daylight. 22nd. took a steamboat for St. Louis, a short trip down the Father of Waters brought us to St. Louis, Mo. Dined with Rev. Mrs. Crowel, a Mrs. acquaintance.

23rd. Boarded the Sam Sloan for Kansas City, Mo. After a slow but comfortable passage up the Missouri of five days we made the City and began to see some of the methods of proslavery.

We had made purchases in St. Louis, one thing was 25 lb. of shot, — now it was reported we were not to be allowed to take anything with us as we left the boat and some ^{to be left to be weighed.}

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of the passengers did not take even a hand satchel.

Our family, seven in number, each carried a satchel, bucket or whatever was convenient, I wore a cloak, placed the 25 lb. of shot on ^{my} arm under ^{the} cloak, took a bandbox in ^{my} hand, - some one made as if to take ^{the} box, - in ^{my} best mood I politely told them it contained a ladies bonnet; they acted ashamed and we were no further molested.

After landing our menfolk relieved ^{me} of ^{my} secret bundle and we climbed the hill through the mud to the hotel owned by Sam. Pomroy and managed by Mr. Morgan. Here we were packed for the night, ^{the} room I occupied afforded lodging for twelve. ^{one} feather bed three straw beds and two bedsteads, ^{were} the chief materials we had for furniture, ^{our} fortunate place was the feather bed on the floor; ^{my} husband and two daughters on the same, Wm. and Chas. at the barn and John on the bare floor in the lower room. Here we were charged 75 cts. a day each one.

29th, the Sabbath. We had preaching at the hotel by Rev. Mr. Gilpatrick and Elder Palmer.

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On the 30th. took one room of a log house in the City, began housekeeping; two families named Bisbee of our party occupied the other room. O yes, we had an attic. George Roby, my nephew, made his home with us. The weather was beautiful mild and agreeable. Some of those who came with us and stopped in the City had children sicken and die and Mrs. Hatch Hall, who came with us from Maine died and left a husband and large family of children; she was an excellent woman and ^{her death} ^{was a} terrible loss to her family.

Nov. 4th. Mr. Allen, Wm. and Charles start in company with many others for Lawrence, K. T. to meet the Committee who had been chosen and gone out to decide on a location.

They arrived in Lawrence next day, the com. reported that Rock Creek was thought to be the desirable place.

Next day Mr. Allen and Chas. start to go and build a hut. Wm. who was ill returned to take the family along.

10th. Had a severe rain accompanied with heavy thunder and lightning. It was very dark, Mr. Bisby and Wm. were near home when Mr. B. fell into a ravine and hurt him considerably, they were within sound of the house and



as I chance to open the door heard them; a light was
apparent. Then turn to order a man of your place.

18th. A cold snow, snow, storm, house quite open.

This night our emigrants, who were in pursuit of a city
yet to be, camped on the ground near of the house
but apparently chosen; they suffered in the morning, snow,
hunger and cold. Mr. Knapp one of the men had been to
the blue pine and wished Ark. to go with him there, they with
the rest; they considered the land near the mouth of the river
too far from and they wanted some farms; found the way
poor and timber desired on the wild cat creek, there they
cut the land and began to build together just to winter in.

Mr. Knapp sick and near by. Ark. concluded he
had better build on land by himself so left that located
and built a paper by house and wrote for his family to come.

Many of our party arrived and here an Indian told the
men going up the Kansas to Rock creek in a flat boat
for \$100 per hundred and was to go with them and, on to
the goods. 18th. Start off southward with 2000 apples
and the men school children go with him on the flat boat.

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15th. A party comprising ^{five} several families started in ^{two} three wagons. in one Mr Bisbee wife and 4 children, Mr Ryan, wife, mother and three children, Ours was a hired team driven by a Missourian, two miserable looking mules took us along better than I expected for I was much discouraged with the prospect of accomplishing our journey. Our load consisted of ^{the} Tabor, wife and one child, Cary, wife and three children also myself and three Chis.

Each family had a trunk to sit on, Cary tried to get ours because it was low and our schooner cover was anything but high. We arrived at the Quaker Mission that night, nine miles from the City of Kan. Paid \$1.50 for our entertainment. The house seemed to be full of travellers & boarders besides quite a school of Indian boys and girls. They were kind and accommodating to us and seemed to have the Christian spirit. 17th. While journeying to day ^{we} met perhaps fifty Kaw Indians. They were the most savage men & women I ever saw; begged of us but got little. Mr Bisbee and Cary had stopped at a bakery and were out of sight. The Indians surrounded Cary and frightened him by their savage gestures, got his wallet

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and took three half dollars all he had, as Bisbee came up he gave them ten cts. they began to follow him, he shook a stick at them and the Cowards retreated. Poor Gary was woefully scared. We continued to meet squads of them for some time, men loaded their guns, but our driver expressed much bravado. This night we camped out the near an Indian hut in the Shawnee land; slept in the wagon.

18th. Arrived in Lawrence about 2 P.M. Wind blew hard and cold, one of the mules was sick, - our driver backed out and left us in Lawrence. We took up our lodge in the meeting house which was made of poles slanting from the ground to the ridgepole, covered with straw and turf, windows in the end - (guess the door was to.) floor of straw hay on the ground on which many slept.

19th. There was Divine worship to day. Three Ministers were present; the pulpit was made of trunks set one upon another with a buffalo skin laid over them. Rev. Burge of the Christian denomination preached in the evening an excellent discourse. This night Mr Geo. Tilton came in, he had a wagon and two horses going back to Rock Creek

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Mr Tilton is from Maine, came out with us but I had not made his acquaintance, but he knew that he had been to carry the homesick ones towards home with his newly purchased team; he readily agreed to take us along with him to my husband.

20th. Expected to start but Mr Tilton did not get ready. 21st. Mr T. went down the river several miles to see if he could discover the flat-boat and crew, we started about noon, staid this night at Mr Harpers, a log house without a floor or window. The family had moved in this day, were very kind. 22nd. at night at the Baptist Mission, met Elder Gilpatric whose acquaintance I first made in St. Louis, he introduced me to Mrs Sanders, the Lady Superintendent, who invited me to tarry over night.

Was treated with much Christian Friendship, had a pleasant interview; slept on a good feather bed and beadstead for the first time since our auction in Roxbury, where all my beds were sold at less than half price by the express advice of Mr Caswell, a gold bowed spectacled man appointed to give advice to Kansas Immigrants, said prairie hay was good enough.

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23rd. Soon after crossing starting came to the great crossing of the Kansas river, in fording ^{of Judge} broke the cross bar of the wagon ^{from} - were just now in company ^{who were going to a political meeting} Flenakin or some other name and his party of four; two of them took a boat and rowed to us in the midst of the river and brought us safely ashore; the Judge tho' quite corpulent - gallantly assisted us up and down the banks between the river and the road. I promised to reward him with my vote. Met a man ^{Mr Rosa} who gave me a letter from my husband informing me he had located on Wildcat Cr. 23 mi. above Rock Cr. passed the Catholic Mission toward night, the wind blew fiercely, as we approached the Vermillion it became very dark, the fire was raging in the timber and grass near us. We descended the steep bank of the creek and rode through the water, then we all got out and walked up the other bank. Henrietta declared her eyes were full of dust and smoke and she could not see. Mr J. walked at the horse's head it was so dark. Arrived at Mr Wilson's Rock Cr. late at night, camped on the floor, a cold uncomfortable night. 24th. Started late, called on Mr and Mrs. Weeks of our party; arrived at Edg Dye's on the Blue before ^{dark} night, but staid over night.

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25th. Left this hospitable dwelling where all travellers find a good home arrived on the Wildcat and learning that had not got his house ready but was ~~two~~ miles beyond, off the road, Paid Mr. Tilton ten dol. boarded at Mr Eubanks until Dec. 6. As we were preparing to leave to go to our own house, Mr Knapp's family arrived, he had no kind of shelter for them so they occupied part of our one room, I had our small tent moved into one corner for a bath room. House not all chinked, no door, no window, no floor, some of our bed clothes were left at Mr Eubanks ^{and} some with Wm. on the flatboat. Mr Knapp had wife and seven children and little bedding, their baggage had not all come, we lost one trunk. Mr H. had a stove ours was on the way. Cold and windy, we slept. Mr A. and Chas. applied themselves to keeping out the wind and on the 9th. hung the door, having ^{Mr A.} worked himself about sick and had a catarrh, coming on the inside of right hand. 11th Mr H. went to Mr Dyer's to have his very bad hand opened and to find Wm. 13th Met Wm. just below the Catholic Mission; had left the goods at Lawrence. The boat could get no further, it was 16 days getting there. The Indian engaged to take them to Rock ~~to~~ in 8 days from Kansas City.

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18th. Wm. and Chas. went to Mr Eubanks to a raising and on the 21st to Esq Dyvis to another raising and returned on 22nd with Mr Tilton.

I was out of provision bought a turkey of a squaw for twenty five cents and borrowed flour ^{ord.} two miles off. 23. Mr T. left but Messrs. Eubanks and Ary dine with us at their own request. 24th. Mr Allen left for Rock Co. to pay Mr Morse who had lent Wm. ten dol. to pay freight.

25th. Mr Knapp's family move to Pawnee joining Fort Riley, to live in a tent. 26th. A happy day because we are alone once more.

27th. Henrietta and I take a trip on the highest bluff handy, gather flower seeds. ^{Messrs.} Mr Brayton and Wilbur arrive with our delayed goods.

Pay \$30 for freight for goods from Lawrence.

Jan. 1st. 1855. Was determined to write to Eastern friends, but was growing quite sick; a large boil on my neck, was very sick all the week. 7th. Dr Whitcomb came from Esq Dyvis ten miles and opened it, ^{the boil.}

Called it a Carbuncle. Charged \$3. The Dr. came out to Kan. in our party so did Messrs. Brayton, Wilbur and Tilton.

Without a team we all felt too far off. Mr Ary, seeing we had two looking glasses wanted to borrow one to shave by. Told him he ^{could} come here and shave. He was one neeces neighbor, professed to be a bachelor from Ken.

* Got some of his board by counting Sally's. Heard he had a wife & three children in Ken.

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10th. Mr Allen went to Juniata, Esq. Dyers place of residence, concluded to accept of a City lot under the auspices of the Esq. who possessed about everything in that region, and takes up a claim on the Blue near the Government bridge. 26th. Mr A. and Chas. went to Fort Riley more than 12 m. west of us, for provisions. 27th. It stormed, snow and wind; they almost perish with fatigue and cold on their way home.

Feb. 1st. They went to Esq D's. to board and work at building house on the lot. (It is well to observe there was no government survey done in this part of the Ter. and nobody knew how the lines would run.)

5th. Moved from Wildcat with Esq D's ox team driven by Enoch D. and went into John Dyer's house next claim to the City lots. Mr D. and family were away. 13th. J. D. returned and we moved to a tiny house near the Esq's. 18th. Mrs Durkin, J. Dyer's wife's mother died at J. D's. quite suddenly, I am called to assist and go. 19th. Mart. and I attend the funeral. Rev Wood officiates at the grave, singing by Esq. Dyer; there are 25 persons present.

27th. Mrs. Esq. Dyer and I go to Mr Eubanks on horseback, Mrs E. confined with a daughter the day before. 28th. A fine day and pleasant ride home. Mrs Eubanks is the strongest proslaveryite I have met with.

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March 1st. Mr. A. raised his log house of two rooms; Mr. Bragton is here sick.
4th. Rev. Blood preached at the Exp. Subject, Sympathy, good discourse.
7 and 8th. Sew on Miss Lydia Dyer's dress and receive a letter from J. Stone of Boston, by the hand of S. Pomroy. I showed Mr. P. the first butter I had made in Kan. having been without all winter.

12th. Wm. went to Mr. Hall's for flour and sugar, gets them, both articles are very scarce. 14th. Cold and snow. callers. 15th. Mr. Bragton called.

The snow falls upon my book while I write by the stove.

16th. Storms. 17th. Snow fell three in deep, is quite cold.

18th. Cold and clear, no melting, more boils on my neck.

Electioneering takes precedence of preaching, a caucus meeting is to be held at Mr. Childs to nominate one Counsellor and two Representatives for the Territory, to be elected by this district. The family are all conversed around the stove. We are baking boiled corn and pork to take the place usually assigned to pork and beans; there is quite a difference in the relish. 19th. piercing cold through the day and very uncomfortable.

Booth Fox with his slave woman passed by to day. The poor creature had no covering for her head but picked up a cast off cap while in the neighborhood and went off running after her master and his ox team.

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20th. Dr. Whitehorn was called and lanced my much afflicted neck. think his lance was not very sharp. 21st. Wash a little feel weak & spiritless. 22nd. a little more washing; at night Mr. Morgan and son from Brooks, Mo. desired supper, lodging and breakfast; and two more to cook their own food and lodge in our little hut, to which I assented, Morgan wished to sell a bag of flour, as the scarcity of timber and the expense of moving conspired to make him conclude that he had better return to Maine and be content with his already good home. ~~By~~ us this flour is considered a God send for we were out and could buy none in ^{name given to this locality} Jannatta. We lacked a dollar to make enough to pay for a bag of flour and the price of their entertainment just made it.

Let me never forget to trust and serve my Heavenly Father.

23rd. Accomplished the washing to day. Morgan and Son returned from Fort Riley and stopped with us over night. Gave us seed corn and apple seeds, sold socks for their supplies, which seemed to be the very things we needed. I love to think of and trust in our over-ruuling Providence. 24th. Health improved, - husband has our house so near fixed we are to move Monday.

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25th. Rev. G. Lovejoy preached to us to day. His text was "Lovest thou me?" a truly good discourse. May it prove seed sown in good soil.

Mr L. is a Methodist from N.H. arrived yesterday, is stopping with Mr Blood who was also present. Mr Hilton spent the day with us.

It rains this evening. Dr. Whitcomb made us a pleasant call.

26th. It was a cold blustering day, but we moved into our new house, it consists of two rooms on the lower floor and the attic, we nailed up quilts to make it more comfortable, it has a puncheon floor and the roof is called extra good for this place.

30th. The much talked of Election came off to day. I have not heard of any bloodshed though it was somewhat announced to be.

Mr. Conway, Councilman and J. I. Huston, Representatives both Free State men, ^{were elected} I think they did not have material for the second Rep. Further I do not know. If the women had been there I might have known.

Mr Park's City site at the mouth of the Blue has been taken possession of, by Mr. A. Martin by breaking into the house thereon. Congress had refused to grant any City Charters, by some this was not considered lawful.

Immigrants from Mass. pitched their tents and thought they had possession, but to day a party of Missourians went there armed, the Mo's. shot a

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ball into the tent nearly hitting a yankee, and he said the yankees agreed to decamp tomorrow.

Apr. ^{first} 18th. The yankees did leave and took up their residence nearer the Blue at a site called Banton; expecting Esq Parks up from Parkville Mo. to decide the matter.

The weather is warm and dry, the season very backward, so that cattle suffer for the want of grass.

4th. Sent many letters to friends in Mass. by Mr Luke Lincoln.

5th. Wm. and Ghes. went to work for Mr Green digging wells at two dol. a day each and Mr G. came to our house to board.

14th. Parks city site is settled for. Mr Martin gives up his right for \$150. 21st. Messrs Glenn and Wykoff came to board.

Mr Green finished the well and paid each boy \$10 wages.

Mr Tilton brought us two Brants and next day, he and Sam Allen dined with us. Heard Rev Lovejoy preach at Esq Dyer's. The value and preciousness of the ~~same~~ word of God was strongly enforced.

Had the pleasure of paying Mr Tilton the last \$10 for a cow we had bought of him. the first animal we had in Kan. except a worthless dog.

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27th. Was sent for to go to Mr Powers at old Kaw town about four m. from here; so husband got borrowed a pony and a little before sunset I started when about half way the sunset; - I urged pony on until I was obliged to turn off the road into a not much used path for one mile and quarter, this I was obliged to travel by moonlight; I never had been there and was uncertain whether I was in the right direction as I could not ^{distinguish} discern the house from a tree, but the light from the window cheered it was not a steady light and I was not certain but it was a fire bug yet pony seemed to understand it and brought me safe to the lone house; to my joy Mrs. Powers had a daughter one hour old, dressed by the kind hands of Mrs. DeBotts. I returned next day.

The Mis. through excitement on Free Soilism took Esq Parks' printing press at Packville, Mo. and threw it into the river and threatened the life of Parks. He immediately went home and left for the east.

May 17th. Mr Brayton who had spent sometime with us left for his home in Fall river, ^{Map}. We much regretted to part with so kind a friend. Mr Allen sold his improvements on the Wild cat to Mr Harris for \$40. 20th. Rev Lovejoy visited us and staid over night, Mr H. Hall in a drunk came and staid to, greatly disturbing our rest and insulting us, particularly Mr Lovejoy. Fleit and Tilton were here also.

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25th. A tremendous rain, with thunder and lightning it struck a tree near here. Our rains are most invariably accompanied with the latter.

27th. Our family attend meeting at Esq Dyer's. Preaching by Rev. Chas. Blood. A Sab. School was organised.

Six classes, three male and three female ^{teachers}. Rev. Lovejoy, Mr. Neely and Mr. Allen. Mrs. Lovejoy, Mrs. Child and Mrs. Allen: Librarian, Dr. Whitehorn. The scholars were Lydia, Martha, Sarah and Mary Dyer; Wm. Chas. Jno. Henrietta and Abbie Allen; Harriet and Mary Lyman. Mary and Eudora Merriis, Juliet Lovejoy, John Duncan, Abraham, Enoch and James Dyer, John Dyer, Hays, Smith, Blood, Browning, Whitehorn, Wells, Perry, Weldon, Mrs. J. Dyer. Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Trafton and Mrs. Denison.

28th. Henrietta's birth day is celebrated by the arrival of the first ^{Financier No. 26.} steam boat of the year up the Kansas as far as Bluemont, a City laid out at the mouth of the Blue. It can go no further until the river rises. Called in the P.M. at Mrs. J. Dyer's.

June 3rd. This pleasant Sabbath the northern Methodist held their first gr. ly meeting at the new log house of Esq Dyer. Ministers present: Presiding Elder Good, El. Lovejoy who is to

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to have charge of the circuit ^{including} embracing this place; also Trافتon Denison, Griffin and Blood. A full house, increasing S. P. and good preaching were characteristic of the day. 18 individuals dined at our house on baked beans, plum pudding, bread & butter.

Most of the people were entertained at the Esq's.

The City of many names last called Blumont is now permanently named Manhattan. My husband went to M. and asked to be permitted a share in the lots. Mr Thurston, who had management of the business refused him and Mr A. is too modest and sensitive to press his claim. 5th. Went to Mr Powers, Mrs. P. is very badly poisoned with ivy that grew near the house, poisoned mostly in her face.

10th My class in S. P. consists of 5 young ladies. — A soldier of the U. S. Army while traveling to Fort Riley died near here of Cholera. he was from Vt.

July 4th. Independence day passed away quietly. A picnic at Manhattan and a dinner at Mrs. Iyer's, to which we were all invited.

Three more soldiers died in this vicinity of Cholera; one of our settlers, Mr Frasier died of the same while travelling, at Grapshopper Falls and left a wife and children. Mr A. had 10 acres of corn in and fenced. The Esq's cattle tore down and leaped over until they destroyed the whole of it. This seems hard for Mr A. has done his best.

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July 24th. Mr. Alden, Wm. and Chas. have gone to Fort Riley to work for U.S. Mr. Tilton is here sick of Typhoid fever, is quite low. 28 Rec'd a letter from husband saying, he and the boys were at work at the sawmill for \$1.25 per day and rations.

30th Dr Jacobs called to see Tilton this morn and called him better. Four travelers staid over night.

Aug 5th. Before daylight - Mr A. Wm and Ch. arrived home from the Fort. The Cholera was raging there alarmingly. They walked ^{were} and very much tired out. Wm. was sick when he started and was nearly exhausted. I gave him medicine and all retired, was sick through the day, better at night. 6th. Dr Jacob came, ^{called it -} a dangerous case of Cholera. He was very sick through the day. About 4 P.M. Charles got Pain Killer at Dr. Huntin's and Wm. began to be better to our great joy and relief. To make W. think he was better, let him go with a party and gather wild grapes. 8th. Tilton leaves for a buffalo hunt. 9th. I watched with Mrs Wilson of Fort R. now at Esq Dyers.

12th. Watch with the Suttles wife again. Much thunder and lightning with copious showers is our daily lot. Mr Weeks died at the Fort today. There has lately been near 40 deaths by Cholera there.

15th. Washed. Called to see Mrs. Wilson. Tilton returned. John sick.

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16th. Rains. Mr Allen's birth day. Bought Mr Heits cow and calf for \$28.

It pays his board. 23rd. Most of the family go to the Esps to a dinner party, an infair or wedding feast of William Dye and Miss Jane Hanna.

27th. Am busy making a coat, elderberry wine and preserving plums.

Sept. 9th. Helped eat a watermelon we raised weighed 25 lbs very good.

Three old boarders are back T. H. and A. The people at Pawnee have had orders from U.S. to vacate the place, it is included in the Reserve which is 9 m. square. Oct. Our family are invited and go to the wedding of Miss Lydia Dye and Mr Jamieson, Rev Wisner officiates, a supper, an agreeable time.

Oct. 9th Mrs. J. D. Houston and children dine with us. 17th Mr L. Lincoln comes to board, has a large boil on his neck, poultice it.

24th. Chas. is home from the fort having jammed his finger at work.

25th. Mr J. J. Long comes to see Mr Lincoln and stays over night: he is afflicted, had his house burned on Rock br., been distressingly sick, his wife left him, suspects ^{she} ~~has~~ poisoned him, Dr Adams of St George cares for him and he gets well. Mr Lincoln left his shot gun to pay board and goes to Map. Mrs. Trafton spent the day with us.

12 to 14th Rev Wisner worked for us building chimney, paid him \$5.

17th. Wm. and Charles send their Father \$175. of their fort money.

May God bless the boys and keep them from all harm.

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Mr Allen signed a protest against the Wyandotts taking our claim. They are trying to hold it as part of a float.

22nd. Called to the death bed of Elmira, wife of J. Igo. a rather sudden death. Prepared her remains for the grave, watched through the night, all others retired. 25th. Attended the funeral. 27th. Sent for to visit Mr J. Stewarts child; walked a mile and nursed it through the day, it got better walked home. 29th. I walked three miles to visit Mrs Wisner, spent the day and walk back. Mr Allen bought a pair of oxen of Mr Adkins of McIntire Co. for eighty five dollars in gold. * Dec. 2nd. Before sunrise was called to go $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to Mr Main's. About noon Mrs M. was mother of a still born child, deformed, its hands where its elbows should have been, minus a thumb, hands ill formed and small. Rode there horseback, but walked back overtook Mr H. Martin with an ox team, heard him say "go along d- n you", did not think he was talking to me for he had not seen me, so I asked for a ride, rode $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. called at Mr Stewarts, and walked home. Mr M. brought Abbie a cat. A collision between the Northern & Southern Methodist. The Northites requested permission to preach at our house. Mr Allen gave them leave.

* Mr Adkins after several years wrote a bit of history for the Nationalist of Manhattan, in which it was stated that Mr Allen paid him ^(two hundred) \$200 in gold.

for the oxen.

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formerly of our party

Heard that Mr Colman, of Lawrence shot and killed a man who was driving him from a claim he had jumped. The proslavery party got him, but the free soilers got him away, Slife appears to be safe.

8th. a circular was received from Lawrence asking aid from our Free soilers to protect them in their rights as citizens of K.T. signed by Dr. Roberson and others. Mr Parks has returned to Parkville, Mo. by request of the good Citizens thereof. A Collision is expected at Lawrence.

Mr Choudet, a Frenchman and mountaineer is an occasional boarder. Archie Tafely is another. The cold weather increases.

Jan. 1st. 1856. The birth of another year, how momentous to us as it unfolds its events. Thermometer some of the time 20° below zero.

Have had a house full of travellers so cold they had to stop two nights and four more regular boarders. 6th Rev. Blood preached, during service Willie returned from the Fort on a visit. He has earned an hundred dollars in forty five days. 10th. A Co. of 12 men have bought an Indian float and are making an effort to lay it on the ^{South side} other side of the bridge here and take our claim away, they have surveyed it. Wrote to Hon. A.H. Reeder at the general land Office to intercede for us. 24th. A snow storm. 25th storm increased 26 Storm worse, three boarders return to spend the Sabbath.

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27th. Storm abates. From 12 to 15 in. of snow has fallen.

28th Sent a remonstrance to the General Land Office against the Wyandotte float being laid on our Claim. Put my last week's washing out to dry. Feb 9th. Wm. ^{and others} came from the Fort to work on the bridge to prevent it from going off when the ice breaks up, there is an unusual quantity of ice this winter. In piloting the men from the Fort he strained his eyes with the dazzling snow, they were terribly inflamed a few days.

26th. The bridge was destroyed by the ice to day; a great inconvenience to us as our Claim is on the other side of the river from our house.

Spent a day with Mrs Whiteside, - the birth of her first son. A second Mr was called. March 7th. Wm. is 21 to day, his friends spend the jubelant eve with us. Elderberry wine, candy and nuts constitute refreshments.

14th. Rode to see Mrs Powers on a three yr. old Indian pony, pony saw a log, jumped one side and threw me off. Had a good visit. Staid over night in the morning wished to come home, pony would not go. Borrowed Mr Clinton's pony to take me home. The little boy who took the animal there, ^{while in} ~~was~~ walk beside it on our return. He asked me, how I came to fall off? I replied, I lost my balance. "Did you find it again?" I replied yes, when I got on.

Journey from Massachusetts to Kansas

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March 17th. Mr A. and Chas. commenced to dig a cellar on his claim.

Mr Tilton came to stop awhile having cut his ankle chopping.

A warning to Sabbath breakers and to all careless persons.

18th. Mr A. and Chas. went to Hackberry grove to make rails.

I am severely lame, suppose it is the effect of falling from a wild pony.

The new ferry boat was launched and commenced service.

20th. Mr Hulse and Wm. went over to Flitt's claim, they saw hundreds of ducks in the sloughs close by them, but the guns were at home.

March 5th. Two travelers stay over night and bought Elderberg wine.

7th. Mr A. desirous of peace and a good neighborhood found a claim for sale joining Friend Powers. 10 or more acres broken and a poor fence, bargained for it for \$50. Apr 13th. The ground is putting on its beautiful attire of green.

15th. Mr Shannon came to visit and we do visit the neighbors. On the 19th. returned home. Wm. decided to take a claim next the one just bought. 21st. Myron Black and Frank Weston arrived from Roxbury, Mass. The first old acquaintance we had seen since our residence in the Ter. Rested footsore. Went to Fort Riley to see Wm. and Chas. and get work. We engaged Tilton to move his house logs to his new claim on the 21st, but Tilton did not get ready until the 23rd. and when they got there. Mr. A. who was with T. was informed that Tom Huey who had just arrived in the Ter. wanted the claim and if he put the logs on it Huey

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would be apt to jump the one he had bought. So the logs were left on the bought claim. Mr. Fluey did not take the claim. "A Spirit in the wood pile." Esq. Dye employed Esq. Thurston to survey his claim and lay out lots. Esq. T. has been surveying on the other side the river for a town in lots.

In surveying it was found an east and west line run between of sections run between our house and the Esq. The two houses stand perhaps 40 rods apart and the line half way between. The conclusion all around is if Government survey agrees with this survey we can hold a claim where our house stands, with wood and timber on the river, a spring just back of the house. It will also include about a hundred acres on the other side of the river with every house there on. Mr. Alonzo Gorrett's store and Mr. Comstock's. It also covers part of Mr. Allen's breaking where he had commenced a claim. Decided to stay here awhile longer and have Charles take a claim including the rest of the claim breaking, and cellar began.

May 1st. A. Safely called and settled for board and staid over night also three others a Mr. Hill of Mo. and two Mr. Fliginbothams, slept on floor beds ate bread and milk for in tin dishes for breakfast so as to get started early.* Wm. left the Fort to work on his claim. Mr. A. breaks up a garden patch near the house, W. and I clear up the yard. 4th. Preaching as usual, by Rev. Denison to day, quite a large audience though an unpleasant day.

* I have since then felt motherly toward Messrs. Fliginbothams.

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Wm. bot. a pair of young oxen for which he paid \$70.

1th. I have been sick to day. At eve, a gent^l to appearance, weary & dusty. Came in and took a seat. He rolled his large and beautiful eyes heavenward, they probably rested on the children's bed in the open attic, he asked leave to stay over night, - he was from Indiana, had thoughts of the ministry, was not decided, talked of blooded stock. &c.

I vacated my bed and he slept with M.A. who said he was the most uneasy man to sleep with he ever had in bed with him.

After breakfast his bill was fifty cents. As we were in the habit of doing our own praying we did not ask him to pay it out as did the good lady at the Catholic Mission; we just now needed material support.

He did take out his money and pay. This gentleman Rev. Mr Washington Marshall called and staid another night and met with the same treatment.* He talked of claims, - I told him of Mr Wilson's for sale and I think he afterwards bought the same.

* He found Meth. bc. in Manhattan and came ^{but once} ~~no~~ more, but when giving a history of his experience in Kansas held up Mr A. and I in derision by false statements and published the same in Manhattan Nationalist. I thought it must be through his great love of money. May his soul get through it.

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10th. A rattlesnake jumped at the oven while plowing and Wm. killed it, it had five rattles. 11th. Rev. Blood preached, twenty present.

Mr. Tilton paid me five dol. to day for boarding and nursing him in sickness last summer. 13th. Just at bed time French go and four other travelers came, called for supper, lodging and breakfast, so I dropped and got them supper.

Roasted coffee for breakfast, retired. 14th. At eve as Abbie was going after the cows that were in sight, she stepped on a snake, it bit her leg and run off. we were much frightened as we did not know what kind it was. I sucked the bites it had bit twice, washed it in saleratus, put on sweet oil and gave her whiskey. No signs of poison appeared. 16th. It is reported that a lot of Missourians and Georgians have besieged Lawrence with intent to destroy the place. That Gen. Pomroy started for Osawatomie and it is not known what has become of him.

That Gov. Roberson had been arrested while traveling. 18th. Preaching by Rev. Trafton. Heard the President had ordered the U.S. Cavalry from Fort to Lawrence to fire on the first one that commences hostilities. Wm. has gone to McParris as her husband and three nephews have gone to the rescue to Lawrence. We have paid four dol. per bu. for potatoes to plant. No collision at Lawrence, folks came home. 31st. Heard the hotel at Lawrence had been blown up by the proslaveryites, the printing presses were destroyed, the inhabitants made to leave the place, money and goods stolen, that a man who was moving into the Ter. was robbed of \$400. and his provision taken.

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Oh! President Pierce of Granite State Wo! Wo!! Wo!!! be unto thee.

This ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~propagated~~ in consequence of an unknown person shooting Jones who had been acting Sheriff of L. and had made himself obnoxious by violating the ballot box, threatening to slaughter the Free State men, &c.

June 18th. A U.S. Surveyor has surveyed the so called Indian float and thereby taken away most of our claim. We cannot think of going to law about it while there is so much good land not taken.

27th. Went with Mr. A. to Manhattan in ox team to mill to see the country, came home over Manhattan ferry and called to see Mrs Powers who is still sick of chills and fever; also passed through a claim we had in view. July 4th. A picnic at Manhattan. 5th Rev. Denison preached & dined ^{with us}.

7th. Mrs Tilton and son Arthur arrive here from Me. and remain 'til the 12th. then go to housekeeping up the Blue. 13th. Rev Blood preached.

15th. Met and Chap pitched on the new claim one and a half miles from the mouth of the Blue, commenced a cellar and laid poles around it. I spent an anxious day lest John whom we expected home early would be overtaken by the Georgians a large party passed up by our house to camp and hunt the Free States men, was thrown into consternation having lost my wallet, but Henrietta found it safe where I put it, made a sage cheese and took tea with Mrs Wilhite.

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20th. Hear that Col. Lane had come into the Ter. with some say 500 and some say 2200 men, that he has destroyed the town of Franklin and gone to Leccorpton; it seems a mighty strife for freedom has commenced.

22nd. Our folks went plummung up Cedar Cr. got perhaps two bushels.

23rd. Heard of the death of Mrs. Janet of Wild Cat, the only woman who visited me in my lone two months residence and ^{here} sickness. This dear woman walked three miles to comfort in my affliction. A Mormon by profession and fared hard. Mr. Green was killed in a well by a stone falling on him.

A man in Leavenworth asked another where he was from? he replied Lawrence the former shot the latter dead. They proved to be both proslaveryites.

John cut his foot with an ax. Abbie fell down the ladder.

31st. Heard of the death of my cousin Mrs. Jesse Stone of Topeka. Mrs. W. Dyce has just been presented with a fine daughter this week. The wolves are becoming troublesome, they bite calves so that they die, we have lost one, wild animals catch the poultry. Mrs. Arnold, who lives ^{near} at the mouth of the Blue, has been bitten by a Copperhead snake, it was under her pillow and as she put up her hand it bit, it was exceeding painful, but she recovered.

Hear that Lane with 2000 men is opposing the Missourians who are coming into the Ter. in great numbers and it is more than the Militia can do to keep them from fighting.