

## CROSSING THE PLAINS IN 1850

(From the diary of the Rev. Thomas W. Hinds)

May 1, 1850, Wednesday.

Left Farmington (Southeastern Iowa), having with me besides my wife and family consisting of three children (Alfred, Amelia and William) four persons, named respectively James Thomas, Alexander Hastings, Caleb Booth and George Gardiner. Crossed the Des Moines River at Farmington after dinner and proceeded about four miles and a half, where we obtained hay for the cattle. Had for the purpose of the trip to California two wagons with eight yoke of oxen and two cows, besides a very fine little mare. Slept in our wagons for the first time, having had our supper by the camp fire.

May 2, 1850, Thursday.

Found that we could sleep as well in a wagon as in our bedstead at home and that we could eat a little better. Passed through Dogtown. At night we had obtained straw for the cattle.

May 3, 1850, Friday.

Took into our wagons ten bushels of corn which I had previously bought. Passed through Springtown. At night Prairie hay for the cattle.

May 4, 1850, Saturday.

Thomas and Hastings went on to obtain a wagon for carrying some corn. In passing through a slough the first wagon stuck fast and all our efforts could not get it out. As a last endeavor we attempted to get it out by boards, but in doing so upset it. Two standards and four or five bows were broken. Booth, having gone on after Thomas and Hastings, George and myself unloaded it and by the time the men returned had the bed once more on wheels. We then reloaded and went through at another place with a double team. Having arrived where we intended to spend the Sabbath, returned an empty wagon and sent two men back for thirteen bushels of corn. The men returned just after dark. Obtained hay and straw for the oxen.

May 5, 1850, Sunday.

Gave our cattle and selves rest. If others travel on Sunday may God enable us always to rest and give the day to Him. We had a religious service. Present: Booth, Gardiner, self and family.

May 7, 1850, Tuesday.

Rained during morning and fearing lest the yokes might make the necks of the oxen sore, did not start until after dinner.

May 8, 1850, Wednesday.

Saw seven who passed us while at dinner. The cattle have now to live on grass only as we have passed nearly all the houses on our route.

May 10, 1850, Friday.

While at dinner there passed us Jack Browning, Harland, Dr. Avery and some others from the neighborhood of Farmington. A dog belonging to Dr. Avery's company frightened the mare which came back along the road. Harland went after it. We waited three hours for him, but not

