Evenings at Clear Creek Gold Rush

The burned many of our effects in the Cabin, brought up our Virginia smoke from the Creek & left it on the bank & at 3 o'clock started with our three mules in company with Cleve Hall's party, for the Big City, where we often met difficulties in picking up of Packs. We arrived at 10 o'clock P.M. 4 Miles.

Took bedding, provisions, two small Rochers, etc., Night cold with lead post. Slept in a vacated Cabin.

Friday Feb 2nd, Washington's birth day.

The took our effects across the Creek in a canoe, packed our Mules, one of which 1/2, started at 3 o'clock 15 minutes in 9 with 16 mules & 26 men for Cottonwood. Ott Smith took off before reaching the top of the first hill, delayed for an hour to get all right, traveled through a very picturesque country, over Mountain & Dale to the West, or west north west, all the time at the foot or near the Snow Mountains & Dale. At noon we had a hail storm.

Past several Indian Ranches in flames, set by the preceding parties, whose Mules had been stolen & who had pursued & killed two Indians, relation one Mule. About another part of which the Indians had made into Soup. We found two branches of the Cotton Wood. West deep led over Mules, Water from Snow Mountains very cold, encamped at night in a Valley 20 miles from Clear Creek built fires, picketed our Animals & set a guard for the night. Travelled eluding the day 6 hours.

Friday Feb 22nd. Washington's Birthday we took our effects across the creek in a canoe. Packed our mules, one of which I led & started at 8 o'clock & 15 minutes in Co with 16 mules & 26 men for Cottonwood. Mr. Smith's pack came off before reaching the top of the first hill. Delayed for an hour to get all right. Travelled through a very picturesque country, over mountain & dale, to the west or west, or west north west, all the time at the foot or near the snow mountains of Trinity. About noon we had a hard storm. Passed several Indian Ranches in flames, set by the preceding parties whose mules had 'been stolen and who had pursued the killed Indians, retaken one mule & burnt another apart of 1 of which the Indians had made into soup. We forded two branches of the Cottonwood, waist deep, led our mules. Water from Snow mountains very cold. Encamped at night in a valley 20 miles from Clear Creek, built fires, pocketed our animals & set a guard for the night. Travelled during the day 6 hours.

Saturday Feb. 23rd 1850

Started at 8 1/4 A.M. clear day & quite warm. Crossed several small streams & forded the middle fork of Cottonwood. Water very cold. Had a hard day's travel. Passed several Indian Ranches on fire & arrived at our destination at 4 p.m. Found two parties about two hours in advance of us. Pitched our tents & pocketed our Animals all well. Tired out without. 22 miles travel. The Indians had wounded an ox of the advanced party with an arrow, 50 lbs of the beef of which we bought at 25 cents.

Sunday Feb 24th

This being my cooking day, I made two pies for dinner. Baked short cake. Cleared snow. Many out prospecting & made preparations for washing, racing off ravines & c. c. Very little to remind one of Sunday.

Monday Feb 25th