

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

George Champlin Sibley Journals, Diaries, &
Commonplace Papers

George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers

11-25-1825

Diary No. 4 from October to November, 1825

George Champlin Sibley

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/gcs_journals



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Diary
Oct. 12, 1825 to Nov. 25, 1825.

Wednesday 12th. October, 1825. A fine M^e. Mer: 58 at 7- Wind from South-
Started at 45 M past 8- First Steered S^o. 65 W. out from the Creek
Rising a Ridge at a little distance & continuing over Rather uneven but
hard ground 1 3/4 M (from the Cr) got on a Still higher Ridge & fell into
a Road, then 1 1/2 M further over the Ridge to a P^t. from whence is a tolerable
view of the great Landmarks upon our Route- the Creek forks- one of the
forks Seems to Come from the West, the other from the SouthW- Some Small
Scattering Trees Seen off to the N^o. W- the Landmarks appear thus



N^o. 2 are the Rabbit Ears- N^o. 3 the M^owe Steer to- N^o. 4 the White Top
M^owe Saw 30 Miles back, the ^{show} white has now disappeared however, being
only a Small deposit probably from the late Snow Storm Noticed- We are-
now Steer S^o. 68 W- towards the M^oN^o. 3- and cont^d. upon that course
(varying a little Sometimes to avoid Nobs & Hollows) 7 1/2 Miles, and Struck
a pretty Large Creek, having excellent Water, in Pools, where we halted
for the day, opposite a high Cliff of Rocks at a Small grove of Cotton
Trees- Here we find excellent Grass for the Horses- Distance to day 10 1/2
Miles, which the Waggon did not effect till 4 P. M. the Route was a good
part of it very Hilly and Sandy; and no Water to be found- The day was
pleasant- Killed a fine fat Cow & Saw plenty of Game- Observation of
Aquilae 3 M past 6 Thermometer at 68^o

Altitude 123^o- 38'-00''

Latitude 36^o- 36'- 41''

to get down to this Creek, which We call Turkey Cr) it is Rather bad
traveling for Waggon, as the Ridges are very numerous & abrupt- The
Waggon Road we followed to day for Several Miles, crosses this Cr. Some

distance above- This is a Branch of a larger Cr: a few Miles West - it falls in just below here- the Main one Runs near The Rabbit Bars & is a Branch of the Canadian- The Cr: we left yesterday M^E. is not a Br: of Canadian as I Supposed- I Shall call it Soure Creek [or Lower Creek]

Thursday 13th. October- fine day- We lay by here to day to Rest and Recruit the Horses- The Hunters killed 3 Turkeys this M^E- the first we have Seen Since we left the Waters of Osage River-

There is here & there, Clumps of Trees along this Creek, and all along it Willow thickets

Friday 14- October- fine Morning- Slight frost last Night- The Horses appear to be much Refreshed- a little after Sunrise we Started kept up the Creek ab^t. $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile to a Crossing place, then ascended to a high Ridge by a Sloping plain- distance to the Ridge direct from Camp N^O. 89 W, 1 Mile from this place we again See our Landmarks & again Shape our Course to the N^O. 3 & travel towards its most Northern extremity S^O. 68 W- $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles to another Ridge from Which have a view of the Valley of the Rabbit Bar Creek, and Several other Mounds & high Nobs in a Range between N^O. 3 & 4- one of which Resembling a Sugar Loaf we now Steer to, upon a course of S^O. 75 W: going upon that course $1\frac{1}{2}$ M we came to a Small Creek, having water in Several deep holes among Rocks, & here we Stopped to get Breakfast & let the Horses ^{graze} grass. The way thus far to day, has been pretty good, with the exception of two or three Ridges that we were obliged to cross with the Waggons.-

At 12 Mr. Brown took an observation of the Sun for the Latitude & for the time- Alt: 89^O- ⁴⁶ 46'- 10'' Mer: 72- Latitude- My watch is precisely Right- The Rabbit Bars are A- ab^t. $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles S^O. 32 East from us- they are in Latitude- and are Miles from the point we first Saw them from- After Resting about 4 Hours during which time the Horses fared well, we Set out again- Cont^d. the course 88- S^O.

-- West $3\frac{1}{2}$ Miles and Struck the Rabbit Ear Creek just below a Bluff Rocky point- & then meandered the Cr: upw^d. for the distance direct, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles & halted on the Right Side, ascending at a Rich grassy bottom opposite which is a very high & Steep Rocky Bluff- Here we find excellent Water, Wood & Grass; and very beautiful ground-

Our journey to day has been over good firm ground & altho' a little hilly in Some places, the Waggon^s got along with ease, they were obliged however to deviate considerably & frequently from the general course, in order to escape Several deep Ravines, & Some abrupt Nobs & Hills- but the general Course we traveled to day are as follows- N^o. 89 W- 1 Mile- S^o. 68 W- $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles- S^o. 75 W- $1\frac{1}{2}$ Miles to Bkft: & took Latitude- S^o. 75 W $3\frac{1}{2}$ M: to Cr: S^o. 75- $2\frac{1}{2}$ to Camp

It is proper to Remark that altho' the above are the courses which would have led us direct to our Landmark, which we are steering to, yet from the broken nature of the Country we could not possibly avoid frequently deviating from those courses- Our Camp to night is probably a little North of the true course, Say 15 degrees, or from the Bkft: Cr: due West instead of S^o. 75 W-

The Rabbit Ear Cr: is larger even here, than any that we have Seen West of Arkansas- It is Still however but a Small Cr: where I first Struck it, the bed was deep & Rocky & perfectly dry, here & there I found water holes as I ascended & Sometimes found it Running over the Rocks- Its Water Seems to be Subject to lose itself like that of the Semerone, but with this difference among Rocks instead of Sands-

The Water is very good- On its banks are here & there a few Cotton Trees, Some Willow thickets, Grape Vines- Dwarf Roses, & various kinds of Grapes-- Grasses- On the Rocky Cliffs are Some Scattering Ceders- 11 Miles to day- day Rather too Warm but Still pleasant-

Saturday 15 Octo: M^g. fair cool & Windy- Wind from North- Started after an early Breakfast- Traveled up the Creek upon a course generally

West, 4 Miles, and halted to graze- The Creek Still of the Same Character as yesterday, Water in Pools, and generally good grass- Plenty of good Grapes- At this place we leave the Creek, which bears more Southward, our course is Still towards the Sugar Loaf Mound- We Started again at a little after 12/Left the Cr: & Steered West 1 M- to the top of a Hill, having a deep hollow on the S^o. Side, which runs into the Cr: Valley, a little below M^d. N^o. 3- which is on the left Side of the Cr: from the Hill, have a view of the White M^e- the one we steer to and 2 other^[one] irregular one to the left of it and 3 others to the Right- ab^t. one mile farther, crossing a Valley, & ascended a Rocky Hill upon a beautiful level Plain upon which we travel with great ease- from the Cr: to this Plain is 2 Miles, then it is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles to Mound N^o. 5- Big Mountain (N^o. 4) bears N^o. 50 W from N^o. 5- We then went 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ M farther to a Spring & camped after Night, having made 16 Miles to day

Sunday 16th. October- Started Early & went 1 Mile to a Small Creek where we found muddy Water in holes & halted to let the Horses graze (having little or nothing last Night) and to cook Breakfast- grass good- Severe frost last Night, Ice on the Pond- this is the first Ice we have Seen, & the first Severe frost- the air very Sharp this M^e.- Weather very fine- It is to be noted, that after leaving the R. Bar Creek, just above a Mule pen, there is Water in 5 Miles- & again off to the Right, - 2 Miles farther- there it is 5 Miles to the Spring we camped at last Night and 1 Mile farther to this Creek at the first Water grass is good & at the 2^d. pretty good also- at the Spring it is very bad- at this Cr: very good- the Road is good all the whole distance, & is very distinctly marked from the Rocky Hill, where we entered the level plain-

The Horses having well filled themselves, we Set out again at 15 Min. past 11- Our Route for the first 4 Miles was rather circuitous- 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ M. from the Cr: passed a Pond of Water on our left- 3 Miles farther came to a Small Creek- having plenty of pretty good Water & plenty-

pretty good Grass- The Route So far is over good ground, but is a good deal hilly, there are Several Ridges to pass over, tho' none of them are very Steep or difficult - Some part of the distance, Say half is nearly level- The Mountain Scenery around us to day is extremely Romantic and beautiful- Just before Reaching the last named Creek, had a view of a part of the great Range of Mexican Mount^s. at an immense distance-

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile from this Cr: over two very high Ridges, & came upon a high level Plain- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile over this Plain, and came to a Creek in a deep Valley, & halted at Sun Set- Whole distance traveled to day 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles observation of Fomalhaut at 24 M. Past 9- Alt: 46^op 5'-10'' Mer: 36 Latitude 36-27-20-

Monday 17th. October- Observation of Procyon at 2 Min after 6- Mer. 50 Altitude 118^o-27'-20'' Latitude- 36^o- 26'-49''- this being a good place & the Horses needing Rest, lay by this day- the last observation was a very good one, and the Result of it, 36^o- 26'-49'', is relied on in preference to the other-

From the Hill just west of our Camp, the Scenery is pretty nearly thus- facing the West-



* Camp.- N^o. 1 is the point we are now Steering to, it bears S^o. 76 W- We have in fact Steered to this mound from the N^o. 5 passed on the 15th.-

Tuesday 18th. October- a delightful frosty Morning- Started after Bkft: directed our course to M^d. N^o. 1: to its Southern extremity- S^o. 76 W- passing over 3 Ridges & thro' a Valley or two, arrived at the distance of

2½ Miles upon a High Ridge from whence the view is something like this



N^o. 1 is the p^t. we Steer to- N^o. 2 is a Blue M^t. partly hid by N^o. 1 and is probably 15 Miles off- N^o. 3- is a Range of lofty Snow Cov^d. Mountains at a great distance- the Nobs to the Right of N^o. 1 - & N^o. 1 ^{Level} are only 4 or 5 Miles off- See N^{os}. 2-3 & 4 other Side- We passed two Small ^{dry} branches of the Creek we left- 3 Miles further to a Creek & halted to Graze- 1½ M to the P^t. of N^o. 1- Went upon it & Saw the whole Range of Shining M^{ts}. in front of us- this Nob is 500 feet above the level Plain- From the P^t. of M^d. N^o. 1, pursuing a plain Trace, Rode 4½ Miles over good ground thro' a kind of Valley, to the head of a deep, narrow valley or Hollow, then 1 ¾ Mile down that Hollow to an open level Plain- then 2½ Miles over that Plain to a Creek, in the bed of which found a Hole of Water- The Grass only indifferent- 15 Miles to day Observation of the Sun to day at the Point of M^d. N^o. 1- fixes the Latitude at 36°- 25'-35' after passing P^t. N^o. 1 - we have a Range of Bluff Rocky Ridges on the Right for 6 or 8 Miles-

Wednesday 19th. October- Very fine Morning- Slight frost- After Bkft: We Started again at 30 past 8. S^o. W- ¾ Mile to a kind of Pass or Gap between Ridges on the Right & along M^{ts} on the left; Then S^o. 75 W on the Trace down a Valley to a Creek with Water & Grass ¾ Mile- then S^o. 75 W- up the Slope of the Valley (passing another Small dry Creek, to the top of a high Ridge 1½ ^¼ Mile- From this Ridge, the view of the Mountains is a Sublime, many of the highest Peaks are of a brilliant Snowy White, there is some Reason however, to doubt whether or not this White Shining appearance is produced by Snow- the course

from P^t. N^o. 1 - ~~tho~~ this Ridge in the Road, is S^o. 85 W- but to get here the Route is Somewhat circuitous, following Vallies & avoiding Nobs &c.- there is a very plain Trace all the way, & the ground hard & good tho' a little hilly

From the tip of the Ridge, to the Taus Gap the Course is Ab^t. S^o. 82 W- We cont^d. on the Trace over the Ridge & down a gentle Slope 1 3/4 M- to a Small Creek with water & good grass- then 1 Mile Up a gentle Slope to top of a Ridge, then 3 4/4 M. down a very gentle Slope to the Creek called Rio Colorado; It is a brisk, clear Stream about as large as the Little Blue, & is probably the main head Branch of the Canadian Fork of the Arkansas We halted on it for the day and found good Grass & very good Water but very little wood for fuel
Distance to day 9 1/2 Miles

After Night, I wrote to Mr. Baillio of St. Fernandez desiring him to Send me over 10 Packing Mules, Saddles &c. & a Sufficient number of Packers And a Person to Pilot the Waggon^s over the Mountain &c. and directed Jn^o. Walker & S. Vaughn to Set out early tomorrow with the Letter, to assist in procuring the Mules & Pilot & conduct them over to our Camp by Sunday if Possible-

Thursday 20th. October- Very fine pleasant Morning- Walker & Vaughn Started at day light-

After Breakfast, we moved onward,- having dug out a Road in the Creek Bank, got over without difficulty, the bottom is gravel, going is very good, the West bank Steep but easily cut down- This is by far the largest Creek we have passed Since we left the Pawnee Fork of Arkansas- 4 3/4 Miles on the Same Course we traveled Yesterday, S^o. 82 W. Came to the Rio Pawnee on which there is Some Scattering Willows & Balm Trees & plenty of Drift wood then traveled up the Creek 3 1/4 M to the ford at 6 Balm Trees, & halted for the day- 8 Miles to day-

Friday October 21^t. - M^g. cool & ^{a little} cloudy - Heavy clouds hanging over the Mountain - Started after Breakfast at 30 M past 8 - Crossed the creek at a very good gravelly ford, proceeded up the Creek, on the Trace, Same course as yesterday 5 Miles, & Crossed a Creek, then continued 6 Miles further & halted on the Creek at some Balm Trees, the first wood we came to, nearly up to the foot of the Mountain, in a Hollow the Route very good all the way - A little Showery & the wind cool - cloudy -- Clouds constantly hanging over the Mountain - Observation of Fornalhaut at 3 Min past 9 P. M. - Mer. 42^o. Altitude 46^o-14'-50'' Latitude - 36^o- 17'- 51''

Saturday October 22^d. - It Rained & Stormed a little last night, & early this M^g. - The Mountains which are ab^t. 5 M off are white with Snow -

It cleared off ab^t. 12- and contin^d. fair & pleasant all the day after - We lay by all day - The Hunters brought in a very fine fat Buck, & Shot 2 others -

Sunday 23^d. October - Very fine pleasant Morning - After Breakfast, moved our Camp 2 Miles nearer the Mountain for the Sake of better grass -

I Rode up the gap, following the Trace, which is about 2½ Miles - Mr. Brown ascended to the top of the first Ridge, & Reports that the Waggon may be got up there with Some Labour -

On my Return, I gathered Some Mountain Cherries to preserve for Seed - The Hunters Supply us with plenty of Venison

Monday 24th. October - Rainy Morning - quite Warm - cleared off at noon - at 3 P. M. the 2 Men Returned from Taus, bringing the Mules, Pilot & Packers &c. Mr. Baillio came over ~~th~~ with them - The Pilot Says he can conduct the Waggon safely over the Mountain thro' a pass South of this place - Arranged Some of the Stores to day for Packing and issued Some

Clothing to the Men-

Tuesday 25th. October- Very heavy Black Clouds in the Mountain, with every appearance of a Snow Storm there, Wind from the N^o. West & getting quite cool- Set the Men early to work preparing to pass the mountains- At 9 it cleared off, & tho' cool proved a fine day- At 12 having packed the Mules, Started them off in charge of Vaughn & Davis, by the nearest Route to San Fernando & we immediately Set off with the Waggons, nearly empty, to find the pass farther South- We went ab^t. 8 Miles down South, passing over one high Rocky, Ridge & camped on a pond of very bad Water, it is So Strongly impregnated with Salts, that it cannot be used at all- & we Sh^d. have had to do without Water, if Some had not been brought from nearly a Mile off-

Wednesday 26th October- Severe frost last night- Cloudy cold Morning- Started at 9- Contin^d. our journey Southward ab^t. 4 Miles farther, & then turned ab^t. West into a handsome valley, thro' which Runs a bold Creek, which we crossed and ~~then~~ then soon fell into an old Trace leading up into the mountains This Trace we pursued, passing over one Steep Rocky P^t. which got easily over, & at an hour by Sun halted on ^{the} a Creek- having traveled not less then 12 Miles to day- We are now at what may be called the entrance of the gap- So far it is quite good & very easy traveling- Left 3 Horses to day on the Creek- 1 Sick- 1 tired out & one lame- all unable to go any farther

Thursday 27th. October- Morning fair and cold- Mercury 25 at daylight- this is the very first winter Morning we have felt, & is only So from our being in the mountain

At 9 the wind abated, and the Sun Shone out clearly & it been very pleasant, & we Started- traveled up the Valley N^o. W. 6 Miles & ascended a high Hill with Some difficulty & loss of time, to the t^hp

of this Hill, it is probably $1\frac{1}{2}$ Mile from the foot, by the winding way we were obliged to pursue, & altho' our poor ^{jaded} Horses were a long time dragging the Waggon up it; I have no doubt that it can be made passable for loaded Waggon at Small expence- The M^{d} . N° . 1- bears from this mountain S° . 78 E or about that- having got fairly on the mountain we pursued our way nearly Westward over pretty good open ground 3 Miles & camped on a little Rise- The Horses very much tired to day-

Mr. Brown took an observation this M^{e} . of Procyon Mercury 22° - 24°

Alt:

Lat: of the entrance of this pass-

The elevation of this M^{w} above the level plain is probably 1000 feet- The day was quite mild & pleas^t. but at Sun Set it turned cool- the Mer: Stood at 16° . at 9 P. M: this is the effect of Mountain air-

Friday 28th. October- The day fair & cold- Mer: 14° . at day light. Mr. Baillie-- B: took an observation of Procyon Altitude - Latitude- It moderated soon^w after 9 & became pleasant- We proceeded ab^t. 2 Miles to the descent of the Mountain which found ^{not} ~~not~~ easier than the ascent, that is less steep & not so long, it is however $1\frac{1}{2}$ Mile from the top to the very bottom- had some little clearing out of Trees ^{&c.} to do- having got down, proceeded ab^t. 5 Miles thro' a Valley, then 2 Miles to the foot of another M^{n} . & camped- fine day-

Saturday 29th. October- fair cool M^{e} . Mer: 16 at day light Latitude — Started early, & immediately commenced the ascent of a Mountain- here a good deal of Cutting was necessary, & we were obliged to put 6 Horses to a Waggon & take them up one at a time- In this way we effected the ascent with less difficulty than we did the one day before yesterday- It is ab^t. a Mile to the top of the M^{n} ., over which a very good way may

be had with but little expence the descent was easy & Soon effected- & then we fell into a large Valley which led us into the Mule Trace from Taus to the Gap we first Struck- It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles over this Mⁿ. & ab^t. 3 Miles to the Trace- We now turn our course more Westward, pursuing the Trace down a deep Valley thro' which Runs a beautiful Creek- We traveled down the Trace 5 Miles & halted for the Night- We found Some very ugly places, but managed to get along them pretty well, with very little Labour-

The Mⁿ. we crossed to day is a Spur of the great dividing Range that Separates the waters of the Missⁱ. from those of Rio del Norte &c.- very fine day- Another Horse lost last Night, carelessness of one of the hands

Monday 30th. October- Another very fine M^E. Mer: 17 at day light
Latitude here -

Started at 9- kept down the Valley & Creek ab^t. 8 Miles and arr^d. at 12 at the Village of San Fernando, having-- have had very little difficulty- We have thus completed our long Journey within the time expected & with as little loss & difficulty as any one could have anticipated- I found on arrival, a Letter from my colleagues, enclosing copy of one from the War Dep^t.- this L^r. came by a party that arr^d. yesterday & which left Missouri on the day of ~~Sept: 28~~ .
Sept: they met ^{our} a party at Walnut Creek on the day of Sept: going on well-

In the evening I walked out ab^t. a Mile from the Village to look at Some Houses to Rent- On my Return found the Principal Alcalde & his Son the Curate, waiting for me- they had waited on me officially to enquire my business &c. which I very briefly explained to him & informed him that I intended Soon to inform the Governor that I had arr^d. & the object of my visit & they then departed-

Tomorrow, I intend to move out into the Houses I examined, lay

in a Stock of Flour &c. & live in our own way, for I am Sure I cannot easily Reconcile myself to the living of the poor inhabitants here

Monday October 31st.- After late Bkft: Moved out to the Houses Rented they are Situated very pleasantly on a beautiful Stream, & are compared with the Houses of the Country, tolerably comfortable- The two are ab^t. 300 yds apart one has 3 Rooms, & a Kitchen the other 2 & a kitchen the first the Men will occupy, & Mr. B & I the other-

Nov^r. 8th. Wrote to Gov^r. Narbona See copy on file-

Sat: & Sun: 12th & 13th. Nov. Busy writing Letters &c. to Send in to Missouri by a party about to Start tomorrow Wrote to Col Benton, Col. Reeves, Col. Mather, Mr. Gamble, Gen^l. Clark, & a Long L^r. to Mrs. Sibley to whom Sent a Bundle of Seeds Enclosed- Map to Col: Benton & one to Col^s R & Mather- I also wrote to Mr. Poinsett U. S. Minister at Mexico, to enquire what the Mexican Gov^t. means to do in Relation to the Road; this L^r. was dated the 12th. & is enclosed to Gov^r. Narbona at Ste. Fee with the Request to forw^d. it by the Mail which is to leave Ste. Fee for Mexico on the 18th. or 20th.

Monday 14th. Nov^r. Mr. Smith & his party Started this Morning for Missouri- He took my Basket of Letters & promises to deliver it Safely to the Post Master at F. O. or if he Sh^d. not go that way, he is to put in into the hands of the Officer commanding Ft. Gibson, & Request him to forw^d. it to Ft. Osage via Union & Harmony Missouri I dispatched Capt. Brannin to Ste. Fee to day, to engage & prepare a House for the accommodation of Mr. Brown & myself & to him & bring up Mules to pack our Baggage &c. down- I have determined to take up my Quarters at Ste. Fee, & to leave the Men here with the Horses-

W^m. S. Williams having a desire to go Trapping, I consented

to his doing So- His Wages is to cease from the 6th. Ins^t. 'till he joins again, which he Supposes will not be till in June He Started to day down the Rio del Norte

Friday 25th. Nov^r.-

Capt. Brannin Ret^d. from St^e. fee last Night- He brought 7 Mules & a Packer, & has engaged a House Wood &c.- I Rec^d. a L^r. from Gov^r. Narbona, in which he Says he has not yet Rec^d. any instructions or official information from his Gov^t. in Relation to the Road-

Sat: 26th.

Started the Mules with my Baggage & Stores &c-- Sent Barbee & Pyles along to Assist &c.

The Weather has been uniformly fine Since the day I arrived at San fernando Latitude of San Fernando 36^o- 24' Longitude 105^o- 31' I have made an arrangement with Mr. P. Baillio to whom I Sold Goods to the Am^t. of \$666.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ to purchase from 4 to 500 Bus^{ls}. of Corn & Wheat for the Horses, at the prices those Articles are now Selling at here (\$1 a Bag) and I have agreed to pay the Men \$5 each p Month in lieu of Subsistence from the 1^t. of Decem^r.

Gave Capt: Brannin written Instructions for the government of himself & the Men, in Relation to the Horses &c.- Davis is to Work at his Trade Steadily, & acc^t. for what work he does to me in the Spring, when a fair & just Settlement will be made with him-

Sunday 27th. Nov^r.

Ben: Robinson Starts this Morning on a Trapping expedition- His wages ceases of course 'till he joins again which he expects to do, Some time in Feb^y.- I Slept last Night at San fernando- left there early this ME- Mr. Baillio Sick- At 11, Mr. Brown & I left the Men's Quarters, & proceeded on the Journey to Santa fee the Weather getting bad- We traveled down the Valley about 3 Miles to a Small Village where we found

Mr. Anderson from whom got Some directions.

We then Rode 12 Miles further down the Valley on good Road then ab^t. 4 Miles over broken Hilly country to the foot of a Mountain- We ascended this Mⁿ. ab^t. 2½ Miles, & found it Steep & high- then we Rode ab^t. 2 Miles on good level ground, then Night caught us & we had to descend ab^t. 2 Miles in the dark, to the foot of the Mⁿ. Having got fairly over & into a sort of narrow Valley, we found a Habitation with Some difficulty at which we Staid all Night- A Storm overtook us before we found this House, & the darkness was So great that we were for an Hour or more completely bewildered-

Monday 28th. Nov^r.

M^s. cold and clear- Started at Sun Rise- Rode 1 Mile & passed a Village with a church in it- then we Rode over Some pretty Rough places for about 5 Miles among Hills & Nobs- & entered a Most beautiful Valley thro' which runs the Rio del Norte

Traveled up this Valley passing Several Villages- 9 Miles and arr^d. at a Juan Andre's where we Stopped 2 Hours to Bkft &c.

After which, we contin^d. down the Valley 10 Miles to the Village of Santa Cruz, where Mr. Anderson directed us to Stay all Night. But as it was early we thought it best to get on farther, & not Stop in the Village

The beautiful Valley here terminates Southward it is ab^t. 20 Miles from where we entered it to Santa Cruz- thickly Settled, well watered & pretty good Soil- We Rode 6 Miles farther over a broken country & got to a Small mean Village after dark, & put up at a very poor House for the Night-

Tuesday 29th. Nov^r.

Snowing when we Started- the Road covered with Snow & otherwise pretty Rough- overtook the Mules & Packers after we had traveled ab^t. 3 Miles, & kept with them till we arr^d. at Ste. fee- the Road pretty Rough & hilly all the way (ab^t. 15 Miles from where I Slept to Ste. fee, where

we arrived all Safe at 12- the Snow ceased & the weather moderated-

Sent the Baggage &c. to my House which I took possession of,
tho' not yet properly Repaired- dined with Mr. Stern- Engaged board-
ing at Juan Bacas-

The Gov^r. called after dark to offer his assistance "c.

Nov^r. 30th. Wednesday

Called on the Gov^r. and Sat with him half an hour in his office.

Tuesday 6th. Dec^r.

Dined with a Select party in celebration of the approaching wedding of
two young People which is to take place this evening after candlelight
at which I am invited to be present-

Wednesday 7th.

I was at the Wedding & Ball last Night till after 12

Sunday 18th. Dec^r.

Dined to day with Gov^r. Narbona- fine day

Monday 19th.

Kept a Religious and Political festival- the People all very merry and
Noisy- Bonfires &c. &c.

Wednesday 21st.

The Priest gave a Fandango, to which I went & Staid till 12-

Satur^d-

Fandango all night- the People danced and Prayed all night

Sun: 25.

The day kept by the People pretty much as with us fine day-

Monday 26 Dec^r.

Kept Same as ~~yesterday~~-- yesterday

Tuesday 27th

The Mail arrived to day & brought the news of the fall of the Fortress
of S Juan d Ulluc the last hold of the Royalists- A Salute was fired,
, just before Sun Set- & Bonfires lighted throughout the City- and a
Fandango given all in honor of the event

Wednesday 28-

Fandango at M. Sena's

Thursday 29-

Fandango at Gov^r. Narbona fine day- The Measles getting common here

Friday 30 Dec^r.

Fine day nothing occurred worth notice-

Sat- 31- Dec^r.

Another Fandango at Gov^r. Narbona's- there is to be another Tomorrow Night, & another on Monday Night- All these Balls are intended to do honour to the event mentioned on Tuesday- Besides these, there seems to be something like Rejoicing every day, & at Night fall Bonfires are lighted up around the Public Square-

The Weather has been Remarkably mild and pleasant throughout this Month- There is a little Snow on the Mountains, but very little- In the Valley none-

Material on fly-leaves.

Ft. Osage----- 39-10-19
 C. Grove----- 38-59-28
 Walnut Cr: -----38-21-10
 South Bend-----37-38-52
 U. S. Line----- 57-4⁷-37
 Chouteau's Island--- 37-53-18
 Lower Semaron Sp.----~~36-51-40~~ 37-24-0
 Upper Semaron Sp.----36-51-40
 Rabbit Bars-----36-33-0
 M^o. N^o. 1----- 36-25-42
 Tous Gap----- 38-18-0
 S^o. Gap----- 36-10-20
 St. Fernando-----36-24-0
 Stey fee----- 35-41-0

Journey to Santa fe

Saturday 26th. Nov^r. Having packed up all the baggage &c. & put it on the Mules; the party started at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11- consisting of a Spanish Soldier- Barbee & Pyles with 5 Mules Packed & 2 Mules & a Horse to Ride- the will go but a few Miles to day----- Pd. Baillio \$25 Davis \$5: Men for Subsistance 50 Slept at St. Fernando at Luna's-

List of parcels also, what went to Sante Fe, what remained with the men at Taus, what was marked for return to the States.