

Journal of Joseph M. Garrison Indian Agent,
On his trip to Fort Boise, June 29th, 1853

Left my residence in the valley at 6 o'clock
A. M. to proceed on my trip to Fort Boise, by way
of the new road now being opened from the head
of the Valley, and if necessary to proceed on as
far as Fort Hall, in order to hold a talk
with the Indians, that may be found on the way
and in that region of Country, and make them
a few presents in the name of the President of the
United States.

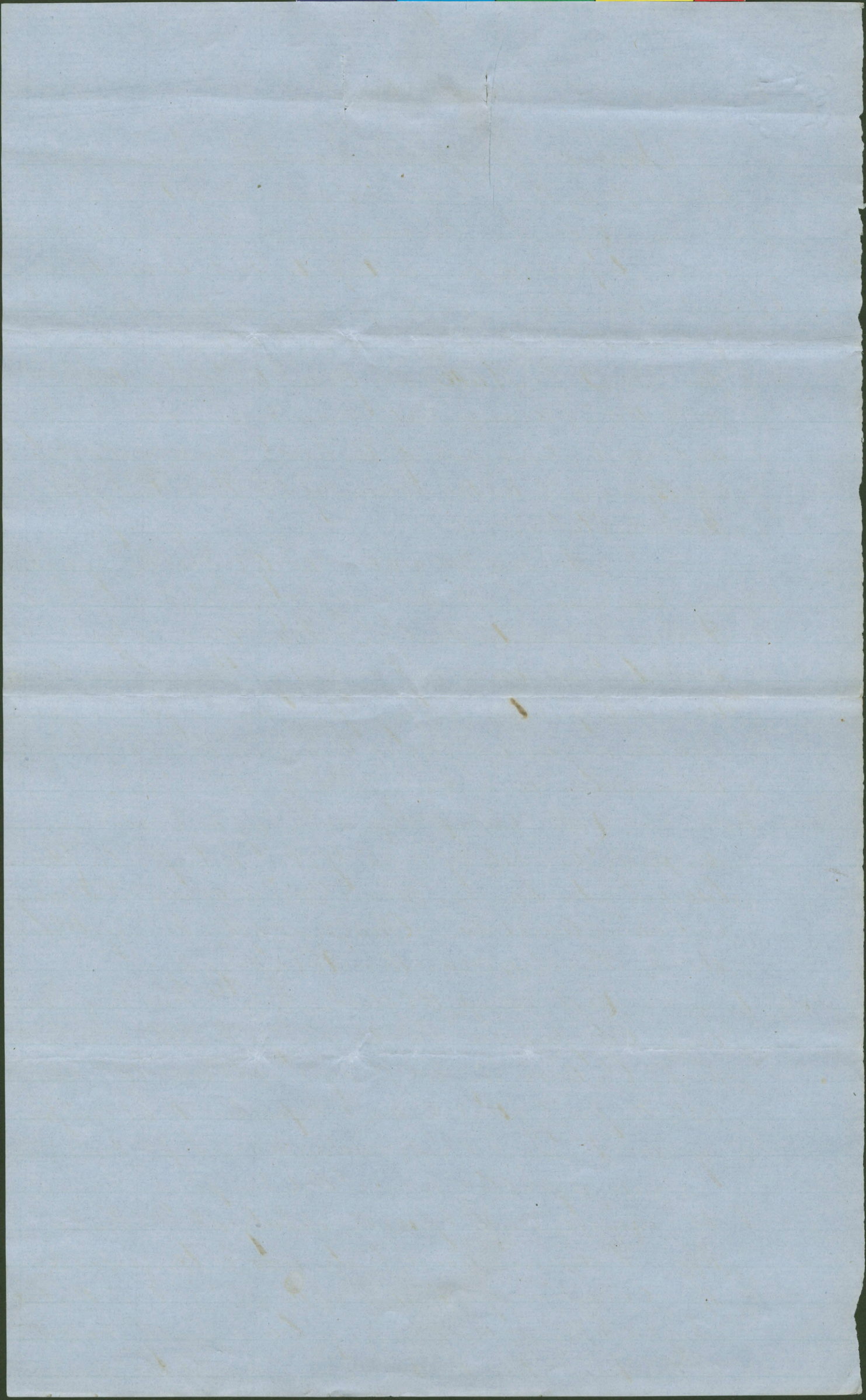
Arrived at Salem at 9 o'clock, - packed
my animals with the goods furnished by Sol
Palmer Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for
distribution, and my outfit for myself two hands
and Interpreter, having five mules packed, pro-
ceeded as far as James Craigie's and eight miles
above Salem and camped for the night.

June 30.

Left camp this morning at 6 o'clock.
My party consists of myself, our interpreter (James
Craigie) two hands - James Daniel and N. D. Downing
and nine animals. Camped, after having traveled
about 30 miles, near the Kalapoyas.

July 1

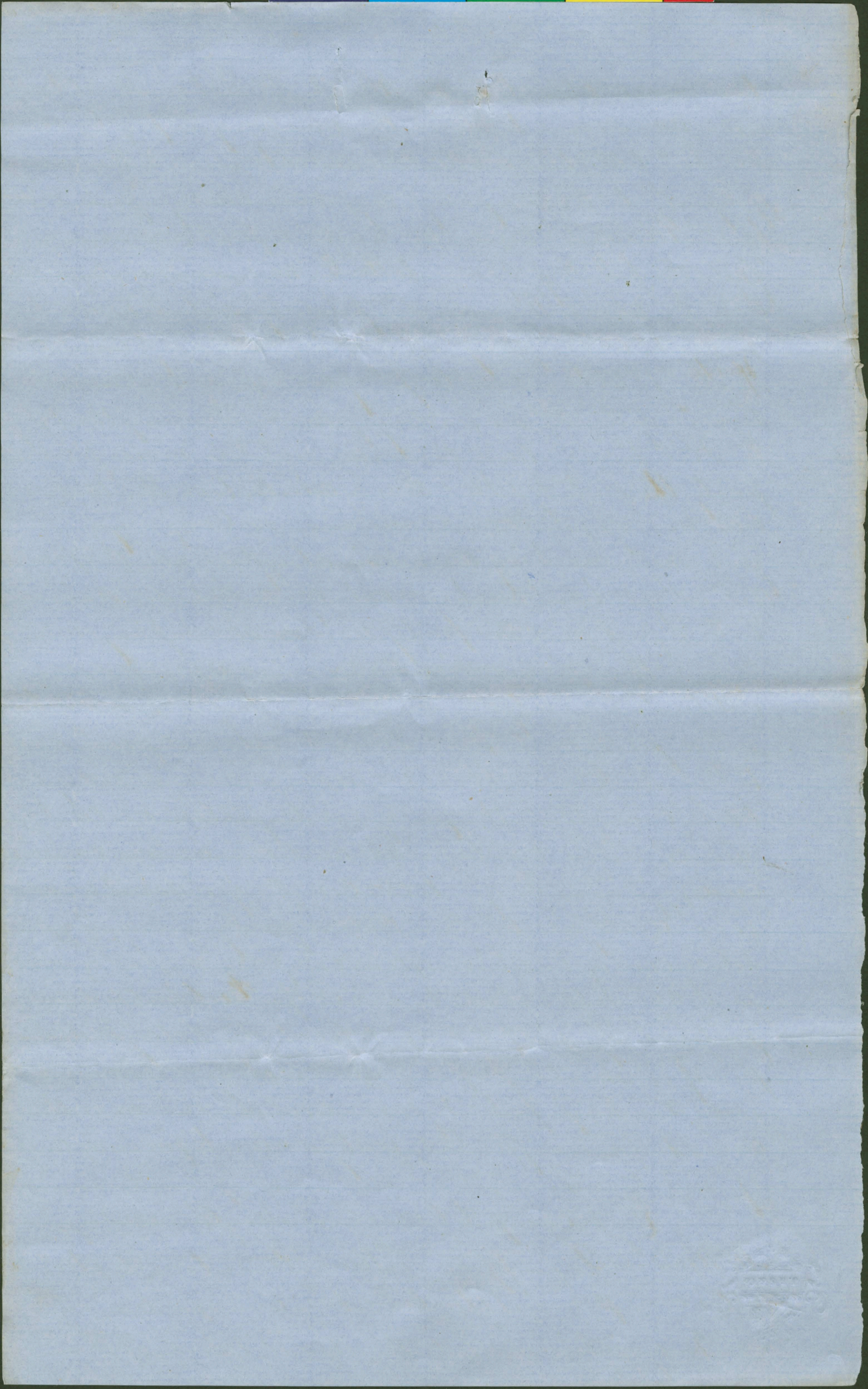
Left camp 6 o'clock A. M. Traveled 30 miles
and camped on Mr. Kinsie's fork of the Willamette
River. On arriving at this point I ascertained
that the party that I had expected to accompa-
ny me to Fort Boise had not as yet been raised.
I saw a public notice that the party would
be raised on the fourth of July at Mr. Peake
where a dinner and bale was to be given on
the occasion of the 4th. I thought it best that I
should attend this meeting. Consequently I remained
at this point till the 5th instant. In the mean



time I went to the glorious 4th at Mt Peako. The celebration of the day seemed to absorb the attention of the people, so that but little time or attention could be given to the raising of a party to accompany me, with all my efforts aided by Mr Alexander and Mr Leady with others proved a failure, but they seemed to think, and so some agreed that in about three days a party of sixteen would be ready to accompany me. I was then informed that R. M. Walker was acting as one of the Commissioners of the Road leading from the Head of the Valley to Fort Boise, and that Mr Walker would pilot a party through to Fort Boise, and that he Mr Walker was now up in the mountains in company with five men, marking the remainder of the road that had not as yet been marked out, and that Mr Walker with a portion of this party would accompany me.

I then gave notice that I would proceed on until I should fall in with Mr Walker, and if he would pilot me to Fort Boise, we would proceed on to the Des Chutes when we would remain a day or two in order that the party contemplated would be raised, might overtake us and then we would proceed; I now came to the conclusion that it was very doubtful whether that a party of even six persons could be raised to accompany me, but however as I am instructed to notice the Des Chutes country particularly, with a view to locate the Valley Indians there if it should be thought advisable. I have therefore thought it best to proceed on and endeavor this, and should a sufficient party arrive to proceed and if not to return.

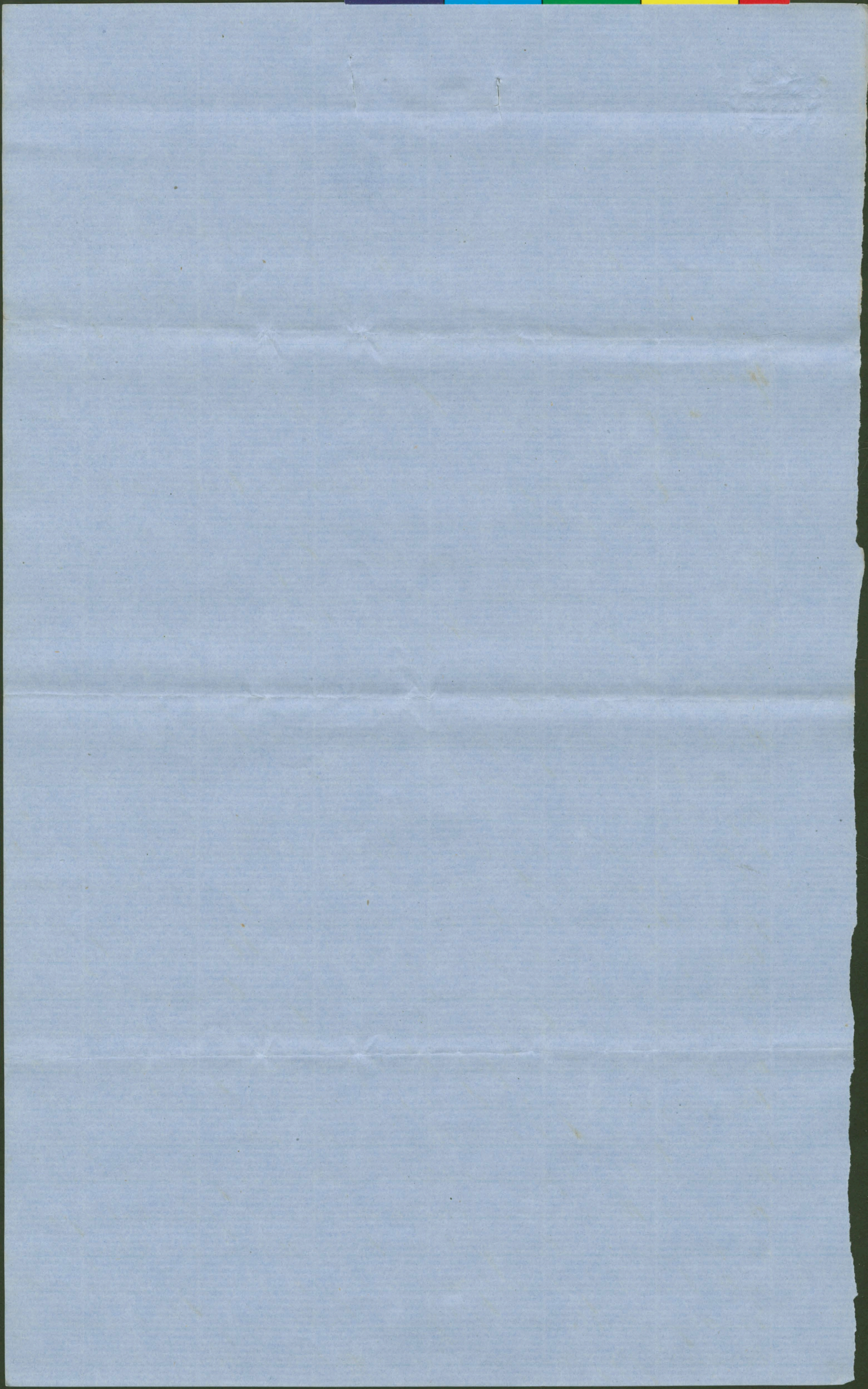
July 3^d Left camp 6 o'clock A.M. Crossed McKenzie's Fork of the Willamette - traveled ten miles over prairie & timber. Then we came to a small creek which runs into the Middle Fork of the



Willamette from the East. Here is the point where it is said the Emigrant Road commences. Traveled four miles through timber - five prairie road - pretty good. Camped at Butte Disappointment, which is a high hill situated on the East bank of the Middle Fork of the Willamette. This stream here is about one hundred yards wide and a very bold rapid stream. The mountain here approaches near the margin of the stream,

July 6. Left Camp - 6 o'clock A.M. Traveled 12 miles through heavy timber, occasionally crossing the spurs of the Mountains, and then along the narrow bottoms of the stream alternately crossing portions of the stream. Came to the first crossing of the Middle Fork of the Willamette, here is a small prairie good bunch grass.

Here we are detained in hunting a point to cross the stream at. The point designated for the emigrant road to cross the stream, is too deep and flows too rapidly to be crossed with any degree of safety. Found a ford a short distance above. Crossed in safety over to the West side of the stream - our way then over rocks and through the timber, occasionally crossing portions of the stream some of which are swimming six miles came to the second crossing. Crossed to the East side, this crossing is deep and dangerous. However we crossed in safety except getting ourselves & baggage very wet. We crossed the stream about one half mile below the road. When a high spur of the mountain approaches to the margin of the stream on the East three miles over a moderately level way, brought us to Lemigot's Tower, where we camped after traveling twenty one miles, grass very scarce at this encampment. Here we found a lodge of Molala Indians consisting of four men one squaw and three children



We were told by these Indians that there were about twenty Siolala and Ktamaths, who had united and married and are in this vicinity. They say they live in the valley in the winter, but in the summer stay in the mountains. These Indians stated that the Cayuse Indians were on this side of the summit hunting elk.

They seemed to be in awe of the Cayuse Indians.

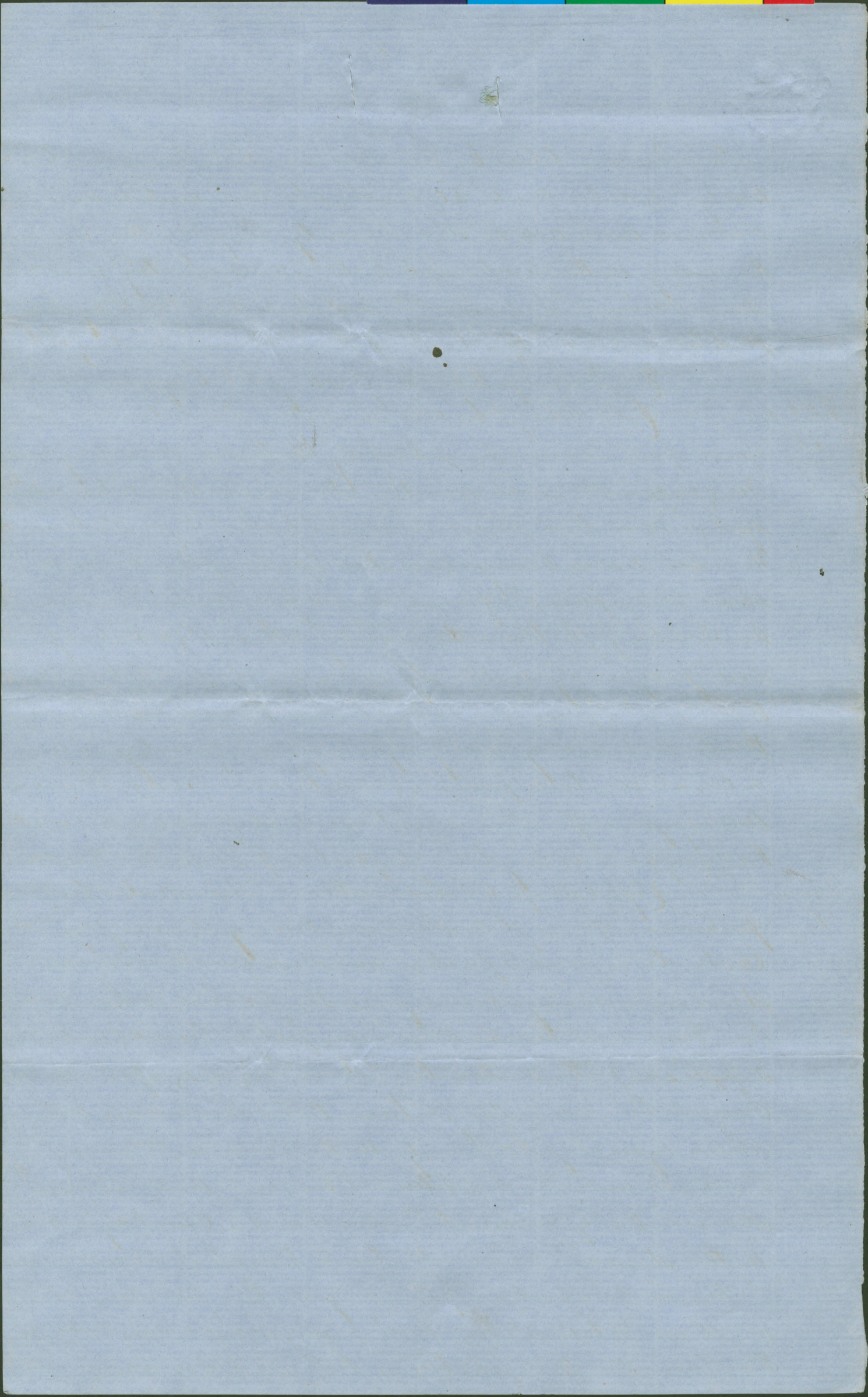
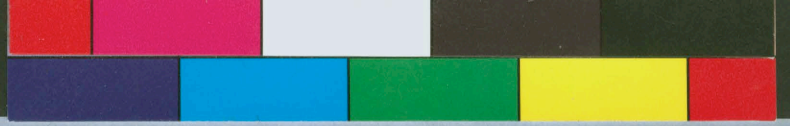
July 7th.

Left camp 6 o'clock A.M. Six miles over the spurs of the Mountains heavily timbered and very rocky. No grass - crossed over the stream the third time to the West side - two miles crossed back the fourth time to the East side, thence over the spurs of the mountains almost impassable for our mules five miles - crossed the river the fifth time over to the West side, a mile up and frequently in the stream, crossed the 6th time to the East side, then we got our baggage wet again, thence over a very rocky spur of the mountains five miles, - came to a prairie, good bunch grass. Here we encamped for the night and dried our selves & baggage - having traveled about 20 miles this day.

July 8.

Left camp 6 o'clock A.M. Three miles level prairie - crossed a stream coming down from the East - two miles farther, crossed another small stream coming down from the East - seven miles has been over level and very fertile land, well supplied with water timber and grass, four miles crossed the river the 7th time to the West side, two miles apart of the way in the stream, crossed to the East side the eighth time. One mile in the stream, crossed the 9th time to the West side. One half a mile in the stream, crossed the tenth time to the East side.

Two miles apart of the way in the stream, crossed the eleventh time to the West side, six miles, crossed the river the twelfth time to the East side.

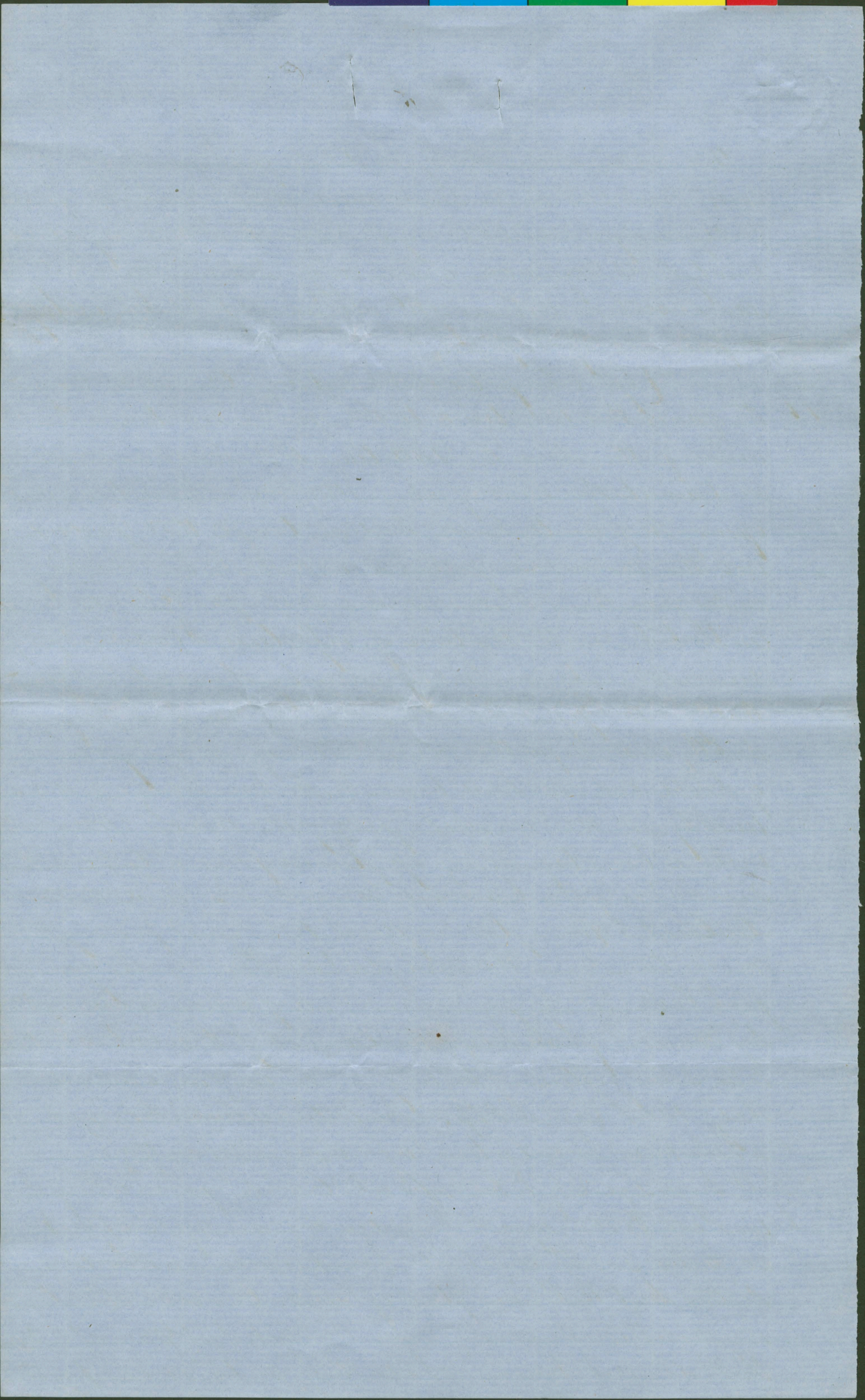


Two miles, crossed a small stream, coming down from the East. Three miles crossed another small stream and camped for the night. But little grass. Traveled this day about twenty eight miles over a very difficult way and very dangerous in crossing the streams which are usually deep and very rapid.

July 9

Left Camp Co'clock, etc. One mile, crossed the river the 13th time to the west side; two miles crossed the river the 14th time to the East side. Here we came to the end of where the road had been cut open. Here we took an Indian trail that leads up over the mountain parallel with the river. Eight miles from here I ascended a high peak of the Mountain, when with the aid of my glass, I could get a view of the country many miles by observation, I found that for the first 25 miles our course had been south east, and the remainder of our way, our general course had been south. Here I could distinctly see the middle fork of the Willamette which we had been traveling up flowed from a lake on the summit of the Cascade mountains and that the Clatsop River flowed down to the east side of the mountain from the same lake. I could see fewer or five lakes on the summit, all of which is connected by narrow channels. The largest of these lakes looked to be some fifteen or twenty miles long and about half that in width. The entire summit except when there were lakes, was covered with snow.

I judge it to be about 60 miles from where I was at to the snow. I judge we are now about 60 miles south of what are known as the three sisters, but there are five of them. Our way still leading south. Saw no game as yet, but saw elk signs but do not know what they subsist on for the

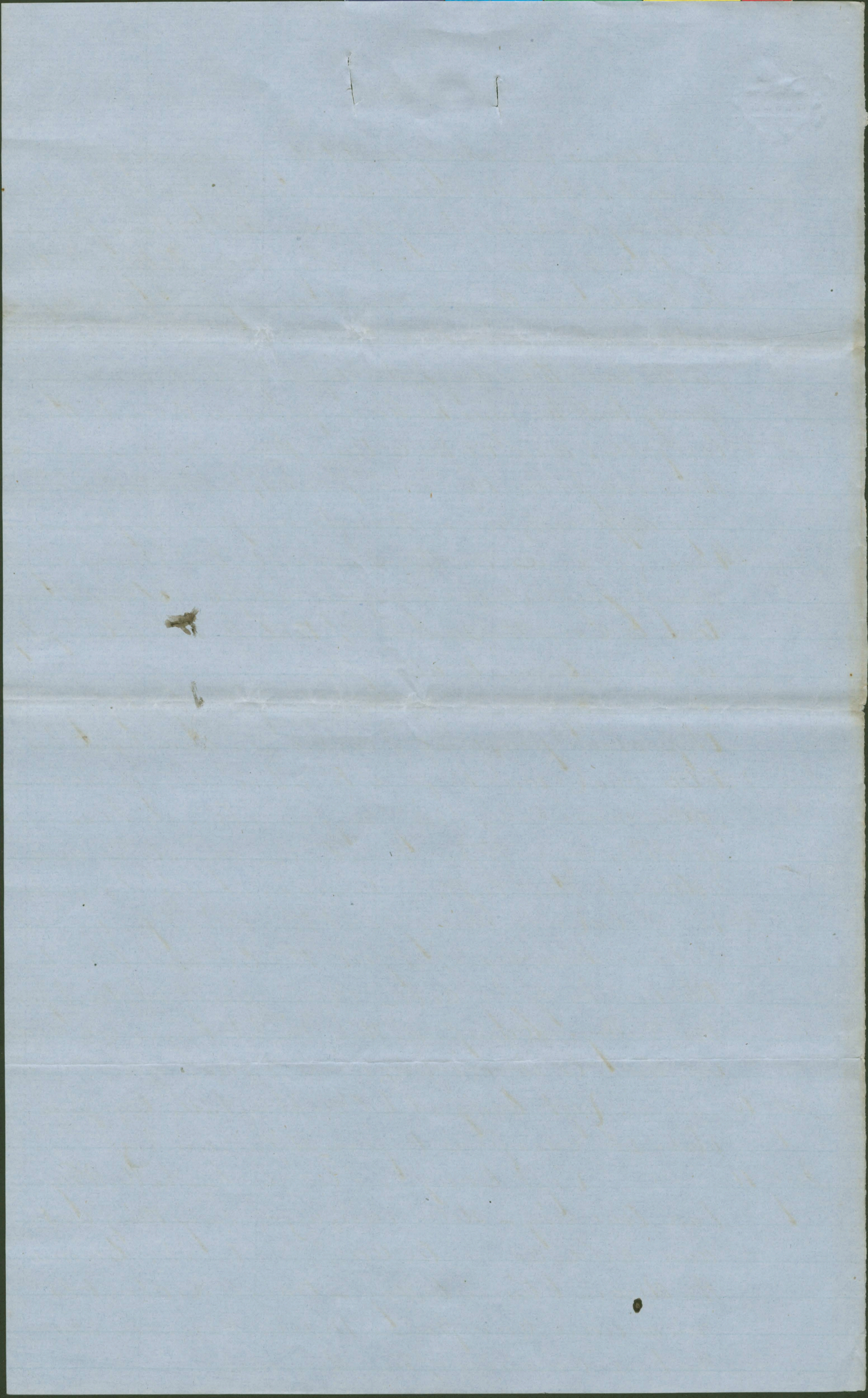


mountains are wholly destitute of grass. Near here we met with R M Walker and his party who had been exploring and marking the way. Mr Walker informed me that they were on their way to the Valley - that he had been on the summit and found it impassable for the snow, that he had been on the snow for the last three days, the depth of which was very great, but he says he had passed through there last fall, and at that time there was no snow there except on the high peaks, but that it was very different now, though in spots he found bare ground on the summit, but it was very miry, that it was wholly impossible at this time to cross the summit, that he thought it folly in the extreme to attempt it.

I informed Mr Walker of the object of my trip which from what I could see and what he told me I was bound to abandon, on account of the mountains being impassable. So I can see no other way than to retrace my steps and return to the valley, however much I regret it. I cannot carry out the object for which I have been sent, I feel that I have been to the length of my cable consequently I start for the valley. Camped this night when we did on the last night, with rain.

July 10 Left Camp at 6 o'clock A.M. Camped when we camped before still raining

July 11 Left Camp at 6 o'clock A.M. Very bad traveling - still raining - every thing wet and cold as water can make it. Crossed the stream Otumio today - travelled about 25 miles and camped. We are now over all the bad crossings of the stream.



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Mr William Hito in crossing the stream came very near losing his life and that of his horse. The stream we here crossed was rapid and deep - a pack horse was carried down the stream about a quarter of a mile and drifted up on a small shallow bar in the stream. Mr Hito swam in to him and disengaged his pack which the current swept away but he saved the horse.

July 12 Left Camp at 7 o'clock A.M. Crossed McKensie's Fork of the Willamette Camped at near Putman's.

July 14 Left Camp at 6 o'clock A.M. I have been trying to sell my flour which is all wet, ever since I came to the settlements, this morning I sold to A. Kew three hundred pounds flour at \$10.00 per cent. Camped between Kalapooya and Santiam

July 15 Left Camp 5 o'clock A.M. Crossed eight miles above Salem at James Craigie's (my interpreter) then I leave him and dispense with his further services.

" 16 Left Camp 5 o'clock A.M. Came to my residence, returned the animals that I had hired to the owners, and dispensed with the services of the two hands that I had hired. I am now at home after an absence of twenty one days and traveling about four hundred miles much fatigued.

Joseph W. Garrison
Indian Agt.

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Copy of

Agat Garrison's

Journal

This is the Garrison's
handwriting. See
bundle marked

"Agat Garrison's papers"