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Abridged Diary of John S. Newberry
July 13 to September 28 1859

Dr. John S. Newberry apparently made the following condensed record from the expedition diary he kept in the field. The original unabridged version is now lost to history, and only a microfilm copy of his condensed work can be found.

Newberry inadvertently inserted into the abridged diary a number of quotation marks, which indicate that he was quoting himself. He penned much of his diary in telegraphic style and often wrote in incomplete sentences. But he included more elaborately crafted excerpts from his original diary in Macomb’s published report.

The entries from Newberry’s abridged diary, when added to the experiences recorded by Charles H. Dimmock and John N. Macomb, confirm the historical account of the survey. And they add minor details to give us a more complete picture of the expedition. Positions of dates and spacing of entries has been made consistent.

From the National Archives, Washington, D.C.
San Juan Expedition

Notes by J. S. Newberry

Wednesday July 13, 1859
Santa Fé to Nambe 18 miles
Left Santa Fé at 2 p.m. Crossed low hills forming divide between Santa Fé and Tesuque creeks. These hills are composed of gravel and are sparsely covered with stunted Cedar and Piñon, soil sterile, except along the Tesuque and Nambe where a limited area sustains a moderate growth of cottonwood, willows and other plants, when cultivated by irrigation producing fair small crops of Corn and Wheat. Wheat is now in full head about two feet high, all bald. Around the Pueblos are many Apricot trees loaded with fruit which is however small and tasteless. Camp near Poquoque [sic] in a green meadow-like bottom of which however the soil is quite saline. A little rain fell this afternoon [as is] usual at this season.

Thursday 14th Poquoque [sic] to San Juan 12 miles.
Left Camp at 7 o’clock passing over country similar to that of yesterday. A region of which the surface is much broken by hills of soft red sandstone nearly destitute of vegetation and excessively barren; here and there the verdant vallies of the tributaries of the Rio Grande form oases in the desert. Make Camp near the Pueblo of San Juan.

Friday 15th—Camp 2 to 3—10 miles.
Left Camp at 8 a.m. forded the river, ascended and crossed the Chama, camping 5 miles above the Cuchillo. Like the valley of the Rio Grande about San Juan the lower valley of the Chama though narrow is quite productive and with its fields of wheat and corn, its scattered ranches with clumps of Apricot and groves of Cottonwood trees forms a beautiful picture, more beautiful from the contrast it presents to the surrounding sterility. We were today met by Mr. Pfeiffer[,] the Indian agent who resides at Abiquiu[,] who is to accompany us part of the way to the Colorado.

Saturday 16th Camp 3—4 (Abiquiu 12 miles)
We today continued up the valley of the Chama which is here beautiful and productive, though narrow and bordered by hills and mountains which are exceedingly sterile. The alluvial bottom lands are cultivated by irrigation and sustain quite a dense population. Some of the views
presented in our morning ride were more like home scenes than any we had before met with in New Mexico, so much so that they saddened while they charmed us. The houses and hamlets of the Mexican residences are frequently embowered in groves of Apricot trees from which their owners shook down showers of golden fruit, for which however they expected to receive an exhorbitant price.

Mr. Pfeiffer[,] the Indian agent[,] joined us early and escorted us to our camp in the Bosque near the Pueblo of Abiquiu. We afterward visited him at his residence where we found him surrounded by his Indian friends and where we were most hospitably entertained.


**July 17.**

Party remain in Camp. We are joined by Lieut. Cogswell and our escort. Pueblo of Abiquiu. Senor Truxillo. Slaves among the Indians and Mexicans—Price of Eutaw child, a pony, their wildness and ultimate domestication,—beautiful view of the valley from Abiquiu—vivid green of Cottonwood and crops. Visit to the Cobra—Old Copper mines north of Abiquiu—picturesque valley bounded by cliffs of varied and brilliant colors—Old mines worked by the Spaniards on their first entrance into the country—galleries cut in sandstone with great labor and skill. Carefully walled and timbered—Copper not in veins but disseminated through the rock in balls and replacing sticks and trunks of trees—hosts of Bats—Old smelting furnace.

**July 18**

Remain in Camp. Purchase sheep. Experiment in subsistence of party.

**July 19**

Left Camp at 7 a.m. to visit Abiquiu Peak[,] the train moving up the Chama to Arroyo Seco—by a very rough ascent climbed the mesa of which the altitude is full a thousand feet above the Chama. This mesa is floored with trap and is connected with that of which the broken edge forms Abiquiu cliff—surface of this mesa which we crossed is covered with groves of Piñon separated by perhaps equal areas of prairie[,] the latter covered with grama grass now short and dry. Los Canones—Ancient ruined pueblo on detached mesa in forks of the valley—houses all built of dressed stone—about a dozen estuffas excavated in the solid rock—Los Canones the frontier Mexican town—depredations of the Indians—passed the night with Ponocino—his family—Mexican Cookery. Corn stalk[,] molasses & etc.
July 20.
Ascended Abiquiu Peak—its height about 9000 feet—its summit composed of trap rock forming a cuchillo—Summit covered with Pinon, its slopes with yellow pine and spruce—View from the summit—passed the night at Arroyo Seco.

July 21
Arroyo Seco to Nutria 28 miles.—the party having preceded us—Left camp at 4 O’clock A.M. passing up the Arroyo Seco 12 miles following a trail much obstructed by thickets oak to the Ojo del Navajo. Origin of the name—thence crossed the mesa to the Cebolla and thence on to the Nutria. Mesa generally rather barren, with much “sage brush” and here and there clumps of Pinon. Valley of the Nutria fertile but narrow. good grass and many flowers.

July 22—
Nutria to Vada del Chama—[blank] miles—Crossing low barren, sage covered hills came on to the Chama flowing through a very beautiful though narrow fertile, wooded valley. The hills on either side are high & broken, their summits covered with forests of yellow Pine. The bottom-lands are all susceptible of cultivation. The stream rapid & clear, about 30 yards across 2 to 4 feet deep, abounding in fish.

July 23. (Camp 8)
Remain in Camp waiting the return of men sent back to Ojo del Navajo in search of lost mule. Rain as usual—Write letters and send them back by a Mexican who followed us thus far hoping to obtain employment.

July 24 (Sunday)
Detained in Camp by incessant rain. Dr. Newberry left Early in the morning with Neponocino and Temuche to visit the Tierra Maria at the Brazos (forks) of the (del) Chama, [represented?] to be a delightful spot where the branches of the Chama issuing from the mountains meet to form that stream. The Mexicans formerly had a settlement there, now abandoned on account of the depredations of the Indians. The streams which combine to form the Chama are supplied by the drainage of the of the [sic] southern and western slopes of the mountains bordering the upper Rio Grande in the west, and the western declivities of the Sierra del Navajo.—Clear, bright, trout stream.

July 25. Vada del Chama to Laguna de los Cavallos—C. 8—9. 9 miles—Today left the Chama passing over a rolling, and in places a somewhat broken surface—in our ascent to the Laguna de los Cavallos on the summit
of the divide between the waters of the Rio Grande & Colorado—The trail leads up a sort of valley or natural pass bordered on Either side by high and broken hills & mesas, the foot-hills of the Navajo and San Juan Mts. Most of this region is covered with open forests of large & handsome trees of yellow pine with glades on which grew bunch grass or sage. The streams are bordered with thickets of willow alder &c. with groves or continuous belts of the narrow leaved Cottonwood. Signs of deer, antelope, bear, & beaver are abundant, but at this season the larger game has for the most part sought the higher mountain vallies.

The Laguna is a small lake [set in?] occupying part of a basin on the hills, on the summit of the divide. Its shores are for the most part lined with rushes, marshy and difficult of access. —

It is said to have received its name from the drowning of some traders’ horses which were swamped in its marshy margins in an effort to cross it. Rain. Lightening strikes near Camp—Views from Cliffs over looking the Laguna.

Height of divide 7600 ft

(about).

**July 26 Laguna d. l. Cavalllos to the Rio Navajo— (16 Miles)**

Left Camp Early. Meet traders. Stamped[e] of Mexican sheep herders. -

From the Laguna, [over route] [north?] the trail we were following led us through a picturesque & fertile country though too much broken to be pleasantly cultivated. As our approach nears the mountains, whose bases we are skirting the surface becomes more varied, the vegetation fresher & more luxuriant, the forests more continuous and the trees of larger size. It would be difficult to find anywhere more splendid timber than that through which we were passing during most of our march of today. The forest is [composed] almost exclusively of yellow pine with little or no undergrowth, and trees of 4[,] 5 & 6 feet in diameter, straight & smooth-trunked, were constantly in sight. Our Camp is situated near the entrance of a splendid magnificent wooded gorge through which the Rio del Navajo flows in its exit from the mountains. Rio del Navajo size, length,— its bottom-lands.

**July 27.—Rio Navajo to Rito Blanco (14 miles)**

Country more broken & wooded. Gooseberries. Service berries. Spruces.—Indians. -

**July 27. (Contd.) —**

“The Rio Navajo is a rapid stream now 30—40 feet wide 2—3 feet deep—now swollen by rains—which issues from a magnificent wooded gorge just above our camp, and joins the San Juan a few miles below. It here runs
through a most picturesque country of which the surface is beautifully varied—the hills often rising to the height of 1000 feet above the valleys[,] covered with fine timber (Pinus Ponderosa & Abies Douglasii) or their slopes with scrub oak—while the vallies are clothed with a dense coating of grass. Large surfaces where the soil is drier are covered with bunch grass—(Festuca scabrella) or “Grama” (Bouteloua Polystachya), the most nutritious of all the grasses of New Mexico.—Here and there are sage plains of limited extent—The bottom lands are occupied by thickets of Cottonwood, willow, [thorns] honeysuckle (Lonicera involucrata) alder &c.
The soil is usually good, and covered with a continuous sheet of vigorous & vivid green vegetation.—The climate is now wet—with daily rain—but probably long droughts are not uncommon, and the winters severe—a good country for stock—not for grain.”

(Copy of my note the introduction to my geological notes of July 27. Dr. N.) Size & character of Rito Blanco.

**JULY 28 RITO BLANCO TO PAGOSA (8 MILES)**
Over broken wooded country to the San Juan[,] here where it issues from the mountains—in the rainy season fordable with difficulty.
Beautiful valley surrounded by wooded hills and mountains, surface grassy & dotted with flowers, the winding river bordered by Cottonwoods and willows—the Pagosa—40 by 50 foot basin. Water containing sulphur & [gasses]—temperature 140˚ around the margin—Color deep blue—pleasant & healthful to drink.
San Juan forded with difficulty. Soldier narrowly Escaped drowning—Crossing of the sheep.

**JULY 29. PAGOSA TO NUTRITA FRANCES**
Remain in Camp to take observations.

**JULY 30. PAGOSA TO NUTRITA FRANCES (12 M.)**
Country same as yesterday—Visit of camp of Sobutah. Indians collecting & drying service berries—They come to camp. Distribution of presents—arrow shooting for [coat?].—Squaws dressing & painting skins.

**JULY 31. NUTRITA FRANCES TO RIO PARADA (12 M.)**
Country like that of yesterday, deluge of rain. Piedra Parada—Profusion of service berries—Ford of Piedra. Encamp in rain—Rain Every day or night since leaving Santa Fé.

**AUGUST 1st**
Remain in camp to dry clothes—Rio Parada as large as San Juan. Very rapid—Abundance of rattlesnakes—Visit of Indians of Delgaritos band.—Delgarito himself.—Rain again—Get observation—Lat. 37° 13’ 47”—
Aug. 2. Rio Piedra to Rio de los Pinos 17 miles
Visit Delgaritos Camp. Cross high and steep divide between the Piedra and Pinos, trail steep and difficult leading through dense thickets of Oak and Wild Cherry. Country west of the divide more bordering the Pinos and Animas more open and level covered with Sagebrushes and Clumps of Pinon. The Pinos a bold clear stream as large as the San Juan at the Pagosa. Visit of Cabazon and his band to our camp, distribution of presents.

Country open, comparatively smooth, higher portions dry with Pinon and Sage, lower and more level surfaces with good soil and a vigorous growth of grasses and annual plants among which the wild Sunflower is conspicuous. The Florido receives its name from the profusion of flowers which deck the pretty meadows lining its banks. The stream is about half the size of the Pinos[,] clear and cold containing an abundance of trout.

Aug. 4th. Remain in Camp
Several members of the party, Dr. Newberry[,] Fisher[,] Dorsey[,] Pfeiffer and the Indians make a trip of 35 to 40 Miles down the Animas to examine extensive ruins said to exist there. The excursion was a severe but interesting one, the ruins being extensive and in a good state of preservation. Similar in character to those subsequently found scattered in such numbers over the country bordering the San Juan. The geographical result of the excursion was the determination of the fact that the Florido is a branch of the Animas and does not flow directly into the San Juan as was before supposed. Below the junction of the two rivers the Animas passes through a formidable Canon, the sides of which form cliffs in some places 1500 ft. in height. Below the Canon the valley of the river is comparatively broad and fertile to the San Juan; there are evidences that this was once the home of a large population.

Aug. 5. Remain in Camp
In the morning exploring party returned from the lower Animas having been in the Saddle the greater part of the preceding day and night. They visited the Camp of Kiatano from whom in obedience to their ruling passion some of our Utes stole several horses with which they escaped to their own country and we saw no more of them. When this fact became known, Tumeche was dispatched with presents to remove any suspicion of a want of good faith on our part which might have been excited in the mind of Kiatano; on his return, Tumeche falls in with four lost Mexicans.—His extortion in taking their money and clothing for a small supply of food.
**Aug 6. Rio Florido to Rio las Animas 7 ½ miles.**

This morning Pfeiffer and his Indians left us to return to Abiquiu. Cross the mesa between the Florido and Animas striking the latter just where it issues from the hills. On the route we came again on the Old Spanish trail—Animas a clear cold rapid stream abounding in trout fully twice as large as any of those previously met with and at this time forded with some difficulty; it is fed by the drainage of the eastern slope of the Sierra de la Plata, the western of the Sierra de los Pinos and all the southern declivities of the mountain masses of which the northern drainage falls into the Uncompagre—fine trout caught in the Animas—Arrival of the lost Mexicans who had been sent for in Camp.—emotion of our packers at their reception—their history—sending back of men with donkeys to the Mexican settlements—fertile and habitable country bordering the Animas.

**Aug. 7. Rio las Animas to Rio de la Plata. 12 miles**

Route today through high broken country with picturesque wooded hills and fertile grassy valleys—divide between the two streams high[,] covered with Pine forest or thickets of Oak and service berry.—View from the divide back to the Sierras San Juan[,] Los Pinos[,] &c. and forward over the mesa country bordering the San Juan[,] the Sierra [Carriso], [Le Late], &c.—beautiful Camp in the valley of the La Plata—fine gramma grass—magnificent trees of Yellow Pine—the La Plata a small but clear sparkling mountain stream draining the southern extremity of the Sierras de la Plata. This Sierra erroneously represented on all maps—its being a massive mountain chain having nearly a north and south trend—this the prevalent trend of all the mountain ranges of this region.

**Aug 8. La Plata to Mancos.**

To day cross the divide between the La Plata and Mancos a pass between the Mesa Verde and the foot of the southern slope of the Sierra la Plata—Mesa Verde a high table land extending from the Sierra la Plata to the San Juan—the slopes of its sides covered with green grass has suggested its name—Rio de los Mancos—Clear trout stream similar to those before passed formed by two branches nearly equal size which unite just below the crossing of the Spanish trail—about twice as large—fine trout caught.


Up at 4 O’clock—Mercury 37°—leave Camp at 6. Route today led over a rolling country mostly covered with Pinon and Cedar with patches of Yellow Pine—with open spaces covered with wax berry or sage—Soil generally good but as we leave the mountains becoming drier the forest giving place to plains covered with sage—general
topographical features of the region—the numerous rocky Mountain ranges giving out southward being succeeded by the interval of the table lands through which the San Juan flows—great plain country west of the mountains broken only by the canon vallies of the stream.—Sierra [Le Late] which we pass near—View Sierra Abajo and La Sal—detached mountain groups on the plain—Camp 20 on Nutrita, a small tributary of the Dolores running in a narrow valley bounded by Sandstone Cliffs—with but little arable bottom land.—Water good[,] grass moderate. -

**Aug. 10. Nutrita to Dolores Camp 20–21. 5 miles**
Up and breakfasted at daylight crossing over rolling rather barren surface to Dolores,—a fine clear stream about as large as the San Juan at the Pagosa running in a narrow valley bounded by rocky cliffs—bottom land fertile with good grass.—Timber, Cottonwood, Willows and Yellow Pine.—Our Camp a noted stopping place on the Spanish trail, the last for an abundant supply of grass and water is obtainable with certainty going from the mountains to Grand river—extensive ruins of Stone structures on the hills overlooking Camp; (the same mentioned by Padre Escalante in 1774 [*sic*].)

**Aug. 11. Remain in Camp to take observations.**

**Aug. 12. Remain in Camp.**

**Aug. 13. Dolores to Sarouaro 10 miles**
Up at 3 a.m. by mistake of sentinel—Mercury 37. Route to day led over rolling surface—Sage plain with hills covered with Pinon and Cedar—Country generally dry and barren but strewn with fragments of broken pottery.—Our Camp on the site of ruined town.—Present supply of water and grass very meagre—these ruins very ancient.—Could such a population be now sustained here—has the climate changed[?]?

A clear very hot day—country exceedingly monotonous—Surface nearly level—Vegetation Sage, with patches of Pinon and Cedar—Our Camp is at a spring in a ravine excavated in the sandstone floor of the Sage Plain—Water good in quality sufficient but not abundant in quantity—wood and grass rather scarce—White saline eflorescence [*sic*] on the cliffs—ruins near Camp—pottery strewed about as usual-

**Aug. 15. Tierra Blaca [*sic*] to Guajolotes 18 miles**
Left Camp at 7 a.m. passing over the most monotonous country possible—great Sage Plain with rare clumps of Cedar and Piñon.—very dry and sterile. The “Guajolotes” water holes or cisterns in the rock taking their name from the water-lizards which abound in there. Wood[,] water[,] and grass rather scarce and poor. Shower of rain at Evening.
Today travelled over country precisely like that of yesterday.—Sage Plain with clumps of pinon and cedar and a few scattered trees of yellow pine. Camp beside a ravine like that at Tierra Blanca in which is a small spring of sulphurous water. Sobutah returns at evening with letters. Wood[,] water[,] & grass scarce.

Route today led across sage plain till 11 o.c. then descend into deep valley with rocky sides of red & yellow sandstone—1000 ft. deep—follow this down 3 ? miles. encamp at pools of surface water. Picturesque cañon. fine grass—Dr. N. finds bones in cliff.
In today’s march descend from great Sage plain into second step of table lands.—

Aug 18. Cañon Pintado to Tenejal. C. 26—27. (7 miles)
Descend Canon Pintado to its mouth, where we reach the Edge of sage plain.—On the south this plain stretches [round?] to the base of Sierra Abajo. on the north to Sierra la Sal.—Views of these mountains—their character.—Picturesque buttes of sandstone left by Erosion.—Tenejal pool of surface water—many such in vicinity only & somewhat uncertain source of supply of water in dry seasons—Curious & important provision of nature—Casa Colorado sandstone Butte near Camp. (See view.) Wood plenty. Water do. at this time—grass do.—

Aug 19 Remain in Camp.
Sent Indian[,] Campeau & Armijo to Explore route to junction of Grand & Green rivers, and to San Juan.—

Scouts report good Camp 10 miles west. Cross dry barren country to Ojo Verde, a beautiful green bottomed cañon with steep rocky banks—fine spring—good grass.—Encamp in heavy rain.

Indian returned last night. Campeau & guide this morning.—their report.

Aug. 22. Ojo Verde to Labyrinth Cañon.
Leave main body of Command in Camp. Start with Lt. Cogswell, Dr. N., Mr. Dimmock, Campeau & 3 servants to visit junction of Grand & Green rivers. Strike s.w. six miles constantly ascending—Perilous descent into cañon—follow it down to its mouth.—Emerge on third plateau.—Wonderful cliffs & buttes of sandstone -enter Labyrinth Canon—its character, thickets,
stream bed quicksands, rocks—horrible time generally.—Canon formerly inhabited. [ruined?] stone houses in Cliffs. Camp 29 in Canon.

**Aug. 23. C. 29 to River & return**—Leave servants in Camp. follow down canon to Grand river & impassable falls—ascend cliff. Remarkable character of Country. Grand river its cañon—Dr. N., Lt. C., & Dimmock ascend pinnacle overhanging river.—hot & laboring climb, fine view, intersection of cañons short distance below supposed junction of two rivers.—Is said by Indians—junction inaccessible from our position—so with Grand river.—suffering of Lieut. C. & Dr. N. from heat & over exertion—return to C. 29.—

**Aug. 24. C. 29 to 28.—**

Heavy rain during night. flooding of Cañon obtain shelter & refuge under cliffs.—Sergeant’s mule runs off.—Difficulties of return.—interesting geological facts & fossils obtained by Dr. N.

**Aug. 25. Remain in C. 28.**

Recur visit from Savariches? Utes encamped near Sierra la Sal.—Their insolence & importunity dissatisfaction with the presents given them.—The heaps of tobacco given them by other Americans. Party sent [toward?] San Juan report practicable route.

**Aug. 26. Kept in Camp by heavy rains.**

**Aug. 27. Return to C. 27. La Tenajales.—**

**Aug. 28. Tenejal to Cold Spring. C. 27—30**

Strike southward toward San Juan passing on East side of Sierra Abajo.—follow up an open grassy Cañada—which rapidly rises, the trail becoming broken rocky & difficult.—Camp 30—at fine clear cold spring near the surface of the great plateau of the sage plain.—Timber plenty. Pinon, Cedar, & yellow pine. Dr. N. & party with train? visited again today C. 26, and excavated more of the saurian bones, discovered there Aug. 17th.—They arrived in Camp 11 p.m., bringing bones of the extremities of large size and in good preservation.—Splendid aurora tonight.—

**Aug. 29th. Cold Spring to Cherry Creek C. 30–31. (8 ½ m.)**

Route to day skirting East base of Sierra Abajo on this sage plain. View of Sierra la Plata—& San Miguel—La Sal—Le Late—Carisso [sic] &c. isolated character of Abajo, La Sal, La Late.—

**Aug. 30. Cherry Creek to Mormon Spring C. 31–32 (8 m.)**

Today’s march similar to that of yesterday—over sage plain, crossing many deep & troublesome canons [washed?] in it by drainage from Sierra Abajo.—
Encamp in rain at small spring. Evidently often serving as a camping place.—Dr. N. finds American silver coin.—Ruins in cliff over spring[,] broken pottery scattered over the country.—

**Aug 31. Mormon Spring to Ojo del Alamo C. 32–33**

Today our route led across country similar to that of yesterday & day before.—sage plain with patches of pinon & cedar. [extremely?] narrow & deep ravines. Ruins seen in several localities—extensive ones near Camp. all very old—Pottery every where—Water & grass scarce in ordinary times, now abundant from recent copious rains—has rained 26 days since leaving Abiquiu July 19.—

Get first view of Valley of San Juan & its peculiar scenery—mesas, buttes, pinnacles, &c. &c.

**Thursday, Sept 1st. Ojo del Alamo to Rito del Abajo (15 M.) C. 33–34.**

Country same as yesterday. Near present camp descended one step from sage plain mesa and are encamped in bottom of ravine [traversed?] by small intermittent stream flowing from Sierra Abajo.—Water milky and bad.—Grass good now [naturally?]—Rito lined with belt of Cottonwoods. Heavy showers—Magnificent aurora during night.

**Sept. 2d. Rito del Sierra Abajo to San Juan C. 34–35 (10 M.)**

Follow down Rito to San Juan.—Size & character of San Juan.—Strange Country bordering the lower river.—Country of mesas, buttes—rocks sterile & desolate. Valley of San Juan Eroded in plateau region.—narrow belt of fertility with fresh vivid green vegetation. Grass, flowers, Cottonwoods, bounded by abrupt[,] often perpendicular[,] cliffs of red sandstone.—

**Sept. 3d. Remain in Camp.**

Dr. N. & Fisher Climb Cliffs.—Views of lower San Juan: probable [position?] of junction of.

**Sept. 3d. Remain in Camp to recuperate.**


**Sept. 4th. On San Juan C. 35–36**

“Left camp at 7 a.m. passing along up bottomlands of river about 5 miles to mouth of Gothick Creek? Then [rise?] [over?] gravel hills to cut off a bend—thence [into?] the bottom lands again passing along base of
northern cliffs, sometimes ascending their sides—making our way with
great difficulty—finally encamping in bottoms 13 miles from C. 35.—
The bottoms are here \( \frac{1}{2} \) to 2 miles broad, nearly level [const?] with
clumps of “salt bush” & coarse grass; the river bordered with thickets of
willow & pretty groves of Cottonwood; the soil somewhat alkaline but as
good as that of the valley of the Rio Grande.—The river 100 to 300 yds.
wide[,] rapid[,] deep & impassable.—
Broken pottery scattered Everywhere, and many ruined houses under or
upon the Cliffs.”-

Sept. 5\textsuperscript{th} C. 36–37 (On San Juan)
Country same as yesterday, passed numerous ruins.

Sept. 6. C. 37–38 (On San Juan)
Camp 38, just below mouth of the Mancos.—Days march very similar to
that of yesterday. Difficult pass near Camp 38.—Ruin on opposite side
of river.

Sept. 7. C. 38–39 (On San Juan)
This morning left the river, ascended Cliffs of yellow sandstone which
border the valley.—Cross the Mancos just above its mouth.—Ruins on
Mancos.—Fine view of the Needles.—Ruins near Camp 39. [Double?]
[semi?] circular wall on point of cliff.
Evidently for defence—a citadel for the inhabitants of the numerous
dwellings on the bottom lands.—[Hue] south of Le Late, Carisso \[sic\] &
Tuneca Mts., south side of San Juan.

Sept. 8. C. 39–40 (On San Juan)
Today a monotonous march.—valley of river open.—Cross gravel hills.
Numerous [ravines?] Striking views of the Needles on opposite side of
river. Still finer view from Camp.—

Sept. 9\textsuperscript{th}. 40–41. (On San Juan)
Monotonous march for 10 miles.—Then pass the “Creston”—Cliff of
sandstones & Limestones the substrata of this region broken from their
[connections and set] on Edge.—Pass difficult and [troublesome?] un-
navigable.—Ruins near Camp.—

Sept. 10. C. 41–42 (On San Juan)
In its general aspect the valley of the San Juan similar to what it is 50 miles
below. More open than where one enters it, but timber less abundant.
Rain has been more abundant here and the grass in the valley and on the
hills better.—Crossing of the La Plata.—Mouth of the Animas.—Open
arable valley of latter stream. Extensive ruins near Camp. Traces of an
acaquia \[sic\]—Once a large population living here.
Sep. 11. Remain in Camp.
Rained nearly all day—Mexicans find cornfield of Indians.—


Sep. 13. Camp 42–43 (On San Juan)
March without incident.—Country without change. Just below Camp very extensive ruins apparently more modern than those below.—Arroyo on south side of river at one time supposed to be mountain of charcoal.—Buffalo berries.—

Sep. 14. C. 43–44. (On San Juan)
To day reached mouth of Canon Largo and the crossing of the San Juan.—Valley of the San Juan here much what it is below—a narrow belt, moderately fertile bounded by high abrupt or rounded hills, the edges of the table land from which it is excavated.—Soil at the ford alkaline but sustaining a dense growth of trees and shrubs.

Sep. 15. C. 44–45 (Canon Largo)
This morning crossed the San Juan with considerable difficulty with the loss of several packs.—Crossing of sheep and goats—ford at the mouth of Canon Largo. this is a broad Canon one to three miles wide, cut out of the tablelands bounded by cliffs several hundred feet in height, traversed by a broad[,] sandy arroyo[,] flooded by rains but generally dry.—bottom nearly level and smooth with tolerably fertile soil sustaining pretty good grass and some timber along the arroyo.—Camp at mouth of a tributary canon coming in from the Southwest.—(Canon Blanco) followed up the canon all day, the bottom gradually rising—character remaining the same. Camp 46 the canon is nearly a mile in width—cliffs over 600 feet in height. Horses stolen from the Mexicans by Indians.—

Sep 17. Camp 46–47.
Still following up Canon Largo which becomes more open.—Cliffs lower by the raising of the bottom—ruined houses noticed on the cliff about mid day.—Wood and water scarce—grass good.—

Sep. 18 C. 47–48
Last night first frost—morning cold and disagreeable.—today leave Canon Largo—come out on plateau—it here has a rolling surface with some sage[,] clumps of Pinon and Cedar.—grass good—wood plenty—water scarce and poor.

Sep 19. C. 48–49
Country very monotonous[,] gradually rising toward the Nascimiento
[sic] Mountain—the higher portions better timbered and further west—Soil more fertile[,] grass better.—

SEP. 20. C. 49–50 CAÑADA DE LOS ALAMOS TO OJO SAN JOSE
To day cross the divide between the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific, encamp at a fine spring near the base of the mountain.—Country passed over similar to that of yesterday, but set with buttes of soft red and white rock[,] apparently washed away from the surface of the plateau further west.—Simple character—topographical relations of the Nascimiento [sic] Mountain.

SEP. 21. C. 50–51
To day followed south along the western base of the mountain—Surface varied with hills of moderate elevation—covered with heavy yellow pine timber with many meadow-like vallies having an excellent soil[,] bearing a strong growth of annual plants.—The Sandstone composing the hills contains immense numbers of petrified trees of which fragments strew the surface in every direction.

SEP. 22. REMAIN IN CAMP.
Small party ascend the mountain to find a pass [leading] directly to Santa Fé.—return toward evening unsuccessful—heavy rain—country about us very beautiful and fertile[,] probably cold in winter—has once been inhabited by the Pueblo indians as proved by the ruins near camp.

To day moving south through a country similar to that of yesterday.—Pass abandoned Mexican settlement from which the inhabitants were driven by the depredations of the Navajos.

SEP. 24. C. 52–53
Still moving southward along base of mountain gradually descending—country becoming drier—timber less abundant—consisting of Pinon & Cedar with Cottonwood along the streams—gramma grass abundant and fine.

SEPT. 25. C. 53–54 CHACOLI¹ TO JEMEZ
To day crossed by a steep and difficult pass the Nascimiento [sic] Mountain to the Pueblo of Jemez.—in our approach to the mountain, crossed a series of rocky hills composed of the strata underlying the country bordering the San Juan, among these, red sandstones, and white gypsum

Splendidly arrayed in Navajo attire, Dosha Dee Dee Bradley poses for her senior picture near the base of Ship Rock in northern New Mexico. It’s ironic, given the large Navajo population centered near the monument today, that Macomb’s explorers did not see any of the tribe. Passing within sight of the landmark in 1859, diarist Charles H. Dimmock wrote: “Report of Navajoes in the vicinity, not believed.”

conspicuous—the same rocks reappear on the east side of the Crest—Pueblo of Jemez—grizzly bears—Francisco Horta.—

Sep. 26. C. 54–55 Jemez to Santo Domingo

Sep. 27. C. 55–56 Santo Domingo to—

Sep. 28. C. 56–57 — to Arroyo hondo.