Walt Whitman's Western Jaunt

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The five travelers departed on 10 September 1879. Although his traveling companions returned to the East earlier, Whitman was not back in Camden until 5 January 1880. See the route of their travels on map 1 (page 16).

**Wednesday, 10 September 1879.** Whitman departs 431 Stevens Street, Camden, New Jersey. Takes ferry to Market Street, Philadelphia. Departs (with Forney, Martin, and Reitzel) from West Philadelphia Station, 9:10 P.M., Pennsylvania Railroad. Geist boards the train at Lancaster.

**Thursday, 11 September.** Breakfast at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The party changes to the Pan Handle Railroad. Delayed by train accident at Urbana, Ohio.

**Friday, 12 September.** Party arrives at St. Louis early in the morning. Breakfast at the Planters’ Hotel. Tours the city. That night Whitman stays at brother’s house, 2316 Pine Street. The others stay at the Planters’ Hotel.

**Saturday, 13 September.** Party departs St. Louis 9:00 A.M. via the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railway. Arrives late that night at Kansas City, Missouri. Met by Old Settlers’ committee and escorted via Kansas Pacific Railway to Lawrence, Kansas.

**Sunday, 14 September.** Whitman a guest (with Forney) in home of John P. Usher, mayor of Lawrence. Tours Lawrence and the University of Kansas campus.

**Monday, 15 September.** Attends Old Settlers’ meeting at Bismarck Grove, outside Lawrence. Hears Forney and Edward Everett Hale, guest speakers.

**Tuesday, 16 September.** Whitman fails to attend the Old Settlers’ second
session. Visits with Usher’s sons. Group departs in the evening via Kansas Pacific for Topeka, Kansas. Arrives there around 8:30 p.m., and is escorted to the Tefft House.

*Wednesday, 17 September.* Party visits the state capitol. Tours Topeka.

*Thursday, 18 September.* Meets a group of Indians. Farewell banquet at the Palace Hotel. The travelers (without Forney) depart around 3 p.m. westward via the Kansas Pacific. Supper at Abilene, Kansas.

*Friday, 19 September.* Breakfast at Wallace, Kansas. Dinner at Hugo, Colorado. The group arrives in Denver at 4:30 p.m. Stays at the American House.

*Saturday, 20 September.* Geist and Martin go to Leadville, Colorado. Reitzel and Whitman visit Denver.

*Sunday, 21 September.* In Denver.

*Monday, 22 September.* Reitzel and Whitman take early morning train of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad. Travel via Platte Canyon and Kenosha Pass to meet Geist and Martin at Red Hill in South Park. The four go to the end of the track at Garos. Arrive back in Denver around 10:00 p.m.

*Tuesday, 23 September.* The travelers depart Denver at 8:00 a.m. via the Denver and Rio Grande Railway. At Pueblo they transfer to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

*Wednesday, 24 September.* They arrive in Sterling, Kansas. Whitman visits Civil War friend, Ed Lindsey. Geist and Martin attend a Republican meeting.

*Thursday, 25 September.* They depart Sterling on 4:50 a.m. train. Arrive in Kansas City around 6:00 p.m. Stay at the Coates House.

*Friday, 26 September.* Group visits Kansas City, including the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. Departs Kansas City in the evening.

*Saturday, 27 September.* The party arrives in St. Louis in the morning. Whitman goes to his brother’s house. The others continue eastward, and arrive home in Pennsylvania the evening of the twenty-eighth. Whitman stays in St. Louis until the new year. Between spells of illness he visits the city and the area. Works at his book business.

*Sunday, 4 January 1880.* Whitman departs St. Louis 8:00 a.m.

*Monday, 5 January.* Arrives West Philadelphia 7:20 p.m. Home in Camden shortly thereafter.