

Hannah Canning's Diary

Following is a day by day account written by Hannah Canning of their journey across the Ocean to New York City and then on to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Saturday, May 25, 1878: We are on board the Steamship Nevada, and expect to start about 3:00pm. We are at anchor about seven miles from shore. We are now on the way, sailing along by Wales, can see their rocky mountains. Getting dark now.

Sunday, May 28, 1878: Going by the Irish coast now, sitting on top deck. Arrived at Queenstown. Posted a letter home.

Monday, May 27: Sea sick

Tuesday, May 28: Up on top deck. Our ship is 336 long, and her name is 'NEVADA'. It is a fine ship. We have no sails up today for the sea is too rough so we are going by steam as it is a steamer. The waves look very nice up her. We are as high up from the water as the top of our house. All day up on deck as it is better to get the breeze than to sit down below.

Wednesday, May 29: Wet and very rough, all day

Thursday, May 30: Accident to engine about 2:00 O'clock this morning

Friday, May 31: Nothing to see by water

Saturday, June 1: Rough again this morning, better this afternoon. Passed a sailing vessel

Sunday, June 2: 1878. A lovely morning, services on board the ship this afternoon

Monday, June 3: Very calm, sea as smooth as glass, we are gliding along nicely. Today we are both up on deck.

Tuesday, June 4: Foggy, going to the concert tonight in the cabin saloon.

Wednesday, June 5: Warm this morning, all up on top deck looking for land; Just in sight of land, not seen for nine days. This is the sight as the sun shines bright and warm as we sail into the New York Harbor. Ships on all sides and all sizes. We shall be here three hours before we land so we have plenty of time to look about as we sail steadily along the ships. We have now landed in New York. We stopped there only one day. We had just time enough to look around and then to travel down the Hudson river to Castle Gardens, about three or four miles. And then land on the other side, then we got into cars, but you must understand our ship did not take us across the river, but our ship went into a place where they would load her up, to go back. We went in a steam boat to Castle Gardens, and then we went again in one across the river to the cars.

Thursday, June 6: We are just starting. it is about 7:00 O'clock. We are going along by Lake Erie, Oh it is a splended sight, there is water a mile across it and mountains covered with trees on the other side. This is where we go around what they call the horse shoe bend, and we have to cross the lake. We have three engines and thirteen cars of people traveling through valleys and forests. Children running around without shoes and stockings, they wont wear them here. Arrived at a town called Pittsburg at 12:0'clock in a husle, changed here for Chicago

Saturday, June 8: Traveling as fast as we can to get there tonight. Going through Ohio, Mo. more cultivated land here. Yesterday it was very rough all mountains and going through tunnels and low valleys. Arrived in Chicago about 10 0' clock at night, Changed for Omaha, two in the party left behind.

Sunday, June 9: Rainy today, a very level country, This is very watery and marshy. Arrived at Omaha, safe. We are going to cross the plains now, That is a thousand miles.

Monday, June 10: Crossing the plains, it is a pleasant sight to see droves of cows and wild horses and a lot of other things. About 835 miles to Ogden.

Tuesday, June 11: Warm this morning, but raining, not going very fast today as we have in the last day or two. Going along the Rocky Mountains and in the distance we can see snowey mountains. They are from 16,000 to 26,000 feet high. We see the tops of these as the sun shines on them. They are what they call "ROCKY MOUNTAINS", There are right along the city and south of it for miles. It is thundering and has rained a little.

Wednesday, June 12: A hot day, passed a little village where the Indians made a raid on it. They tomahawked two or three women, and a lot or cattle. U.S. Soldiers are now here to keep guard. They also stopped a train and robbed it.

Thursday, June 13: Hot going along between two ranges of mountains, they seem ready to fall on us. You first wind around one and then another and under the snow sheds for ever so long. They are to keep the snow off the track when it drifts down the mountains. They are built over the line with timbers so as to look like a tunnel. Just passed the 1,000 mile tree, that is a tree that stands beside the line with a board on it that says, 1,000 miles from Omaha.

Thursday, June 13: Shall soon be in Ogden now, seen the first Indians, came close to them at Echo, they are funny men. Just arrived in Ogden, changed for Salt Lake City, Going; along now to Salt Lake City, that is 40 miles. Just passing the lake where you can get one bucket of salt out of three buckets of water. That is the place to bath, the salt is so thick that it wont let your feet touch the bottom.

Thursday, June 13, 1878: Arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah and where greeted by relatives and friends who had preceded them to the Valley. From the station they were taken to what was then called "THE HILL" where Hannah's aunt lived. It was just north of the now State Capital building.