

VIRGIL STEGNER DIARY, 1850

Collection #
SC 2626

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Processed By:
Paul Brockman
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 bound volume

COLLECTION DATES: 1850

PROVENANCE: Vivian E. Myers, Fortville, IN, 11 July 1997. Given in memory of Minnie Mendel Manlief.

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: *California Gold Rush Diary of Charles H. Harvey* (F 865, .H 29, 1983); *California Gold Rush Memoirs and Letters, 1850* (SC 2100); *Richard Keen Correspondence* (SC 897); *Marcus Lindsay Talbott Letter* (SC 1956); Daniel R. Leeper, *The Argonauts of 'Forty-Nine: Some Recollections of the Plains and the Digging* (F 865, .L48, 1894).

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1997.0593

NOTES: Volume is very fragile and extreme care must be used in viewing.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

No biographical information was obtainable concerning Virgil Stegner.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The diary contains a detailed description of Stegner's expedition from Rising Sun (Ohio County), Indiana, with a party of fortune seekers to mine gold in California in 1850. The journey includes accounts of transportation by boat from Rising Sun in May, 1850, on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis; from St. Louis by boat on the Missouri River to Leavenworth, Kansas Territory; and from Leavenworth by mule driven wagon over the plains and mountains arriving in area around the mining towns of Placerville and Coloma, California, in August, 1850.

In his diary Stegner relates the difficulties of traveling by wagon train including keeping the mules healthy and nourished, sickness and death from cholera and other diseases, and the difficulty of traveling over prairies, mountains, and deserts. He also tells of the beauty of the land mentioning such rock formations as Castle Rock and Chimney Rock, and recounts hunting buffalo and other wild animals, meeting other travelers from Indiana and surrounding states, trading for supplies with Indians, and everyday life on a wagon train. Stegner goes on to describe his experiences in prospecting and life in mining towns including meeting gamblers, procuring the land and the necessary supplies for mining, and the hard work and frustrations involved in prospecting for gold, September, 1850. Stegner ceased making entries in his diary on September 29, 1850, with no explanation.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Stegner, Virgil

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Stegner, Virgil--Diaries

Overland journeys to the Pacific

Gold mines and mining--California

Miners--California

Travelers--United States--Diaries

END