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Copy of notes made in a diary by H. D. Mead during a trip made from Chadron, Nebraska, to the Yellowstone Mountains and Lake during the months of June, July, August and September, 1893.

A party of young men students from Princeton University and a Professor Hatcher to be outfitted for a trip to the Yellowstone country overland. James C. Dahlgren and H. P. Simons were engaged to furnish saddle horses, bed and grub wagon and a guide for the party. I was engaged as a guide and to take care of the horses for the party. Fourteen head of horses were taken.

- June 26: We left Chadron going north to the Big Bad Lands about 60 miles north of Chadron and 50 miles east of Hermosa, So. Dakota, where the party looked for and dug up petrified remains of prehistoric animals. They boxed them and shipped about 4,000 pounds from Hermosa to the University.
- July 1 : Drove 22 miles to Corral Draw and camped for the night. Good spring water in center of Bad Lands, poor grass.
- July 2 : Drove 12 miles to the mouth of Battle Creek on the Cheyenne River. Alkali water, poor country. Saw 4,000 head of Texas long horn cattle being trailed north to winter range.
- July 3 : Drove up creek 25 miles to Hermosa, very nice country, but no grass nor good water.
- July 4 : Stayed in Hermosa all day. The boys went to Hot Springs. Very tame Fourth. A few firecrackers and some lemonade, One horse race, and one man drunk.
- July 5 : Drove 17 miles north towards Rapid City, camped on small stream for lunch, bad water and no grass for the horses. Then drove to Piedmont, 21 miles, for the night. Good water and grass. Only four men in camp, the rest are not back from Hot Springs yet.
- July 6 : Drove 24 miles to Whitewood, came through fine country, water plentiful and good grass, saw fine oat fields and lots of potatoes. Stayed in Whitewood all day to rest up the horses.
- July 7 : Stayed in Whitewood all day.
- July 8 : Drove 18 miles to Spearfish through very fine country, good crops of all kinds, everything fenced on both sides of the road, good water but no grass. Boys came back from Deadwood tonight. Horses all look well.

- July 9 : Drove 35 miles to Sundance, Wyoming, camped two miles from town. Plenty of good water, grass and wood. Poor country, no rain, crops very poor.
- July 10: Drove 14 miles to the Bear Lodge Mountains for noon, pulled up two bad hills, good water and grass, fine scenery. Drove 18 miles to Pine Creek for the night, saw oil well being drilled. First one I ever saw.
- July 11: Drove over to and up the Bellefourche River 16 miles for dinner, then up the river 17 miles for the night. All sage brush, no grass, bad country and bad roads.
- July 12: Drove 27 miles to close to the head of the river, camped in a nice place, fine grass and water, no wood. Saw hundreds of antelope, killed one fine buck. Hatcher killed two fawns.
- July 13: Drove 34 miles to Powder River divide. Fine country with plenty of water and grass. Saw a lot of antelope. Wounded a large buck and had to chase him a mile. Horse fell with me, had a bad fall, but caught the antelope.
- July 14: Drove down south fork of Powder River 18 miles for noon. No water here, had to dig hole in the river bed for water to cook with. No grass, saw one big black tail deer. Drove twelve miles to Powder River and up river five miles for camp for night. Bad country, no grass. Horses very tired.
- July 15: Drove up the river to the north branch then up same to the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, 33 miles for the day. Grey horse played out four miles from camp, three hours getting to camp, no grass, horses living on water and oats, all horses getting thin and weak.
- July 16: Went up Powder River nine miles to a ranch, steep hills, no grass, grey horse about done. Have a notion to quit and let the outfit go to the devil. Hatcher is trying to make 35 miles a day; noon now and only nine miles. After noon went up the mountain four miles in seven hours, very steep hills and rock. Saw seven antelope and many buffalo heads with hides on, had been killed for the meat.
- July 17: Drove eight miles to Cabin Creek, camped for noon. Saw 38 antelope, drove eight miles to a small creek, rained all afternoon, grass fine. We are up in the mountains 8,000 feet above sea level, fine scenery, heavy timber.

- July 18: Drove 22 miles to Ten Sleep Creek, camped at a lake. Horse flies and mosquitoes by the million, good grass and water, rained all da, horses all tired, quite cold, only 500 feet up to snow line. Worst roads in the U. S. Don't expect to get out. Heard of the Waller party on same creek lower down. We are almost out of grup, am going to kill a deer in the morning.
- July 19: Went hunting and saw deer and elk tracks, but no game. Lost horses and found them two miles from camp.
- July 20: Hunted until noon, no game, but most and largest mosquitoes I ever saw. Caught a lot of trout for supper.
- July 21: Fished until noon, caught plenty to eat. Horses about crazy from flies and buffalo gnats.
- July 22: Drove 24 miles to Ten Sleep postoffice. We all wrote letters home, horses rested up, good grass. Afternoon drove two miles to camp.
- July 23: Drove 18 miles to Hyatsville, afternoon drove ten miles to Bonanza, good water and grass. Crossed Ho Wood River and camped, very poor country.
- July 24: Drove 12 miles to the Big Horn River, crossed on a ferry, cost \$7.00. Have only 70 lbs. of oats left, none around here. Afternoon went 17 miles to Grey Bull River, no grass, gray horse played out. Rained hard, came to a ranch, fed work team hay, 75¢ for two horses. Bought 230 lbs. of oats for \$5.70. Hell of a country.
- July 25: Drove 17 miles up river for noon, gray horse played out, bay horse pulled wagon four miles to camp. Am about ready to scrap Professor Hatcher about trying to make long drives in this rough country with no roads. In fact, I am damned mad.
- July 26: Drove 31 miles to Stinking Water River. No grass nor wood. Hauled water to cook with, none for horses.
- July 27: Drove 15 miles to Cottonwood Creek, bad road, plenty of grass and water, horses filled up first time in four days. Afternoon drove 14 miles up in mountains to Chapman Creek. Good grass and water, plenty of wood.

- July 28: Went four miles up Deadman Hill, very steep and rocky all the way up, saddle horses of the boys had to help pull up with ropes all the way, then down hill three miles, awful steep, had to chain big logs behind wagon as drags to hold wagon from running over horses, team played out, had to pull wagon with saddle horses to camp on small creek, good water but no grass. Went to bat with Hatcher, will travel as I please now.
- July 29: Drove eleven miles to south branch of Clarks Fork River for noon camp, pulled wagon most of the way with the saddle horses, good grass and water. Afternoon drove twelve miles on a pack trail to make four miles. Finest scenery I ever saw.
- July 30: Made 15 miles through the mountains on a pack trail, tall, thick timber. The boys had to tie ropes to wagon on the uphill side and snub them around trees to keep wagon from turning over. We did this for about three miles.
- July 31: Drove twenty miles over the worst road in the U. S. Fresh team met us about 3 o'clock, through heavy timber most of the way, flies and all kinds of bugs make horses crazy.
- Aug. 1: Drove nine miles to Cooke City. Afternoon drove six miles into Yellowstone Park. Camped on Soda Butte Creek, fine grass and water. High mountains all around, one close to 12,500 feet above sea level, can see snow high up on some.
- Aug. 2: Drove 24 miles down creek to the Yellowstone River. Fine scenery, lots of elk, deer and buffalo. Wonderful scenery.
- Aug. 3: Drove 24 miles to Mammoth Hot Springs, met Hank Simmons and family going back home. Very bad road.
- Aug. 4: Laid over all day, had horses shod and wagon repaired.
- Aug. 5: Drove 20 miles to Norris Basin, saw two geisers in operation.
- Aug. 6: Drove 21 miles to Lower Geiser Basin, saw Old Faithful geiser in full blast, a great sight.
- Aug. 7: Drove 20 miles to Upper Geiser Basin, saw the largest geiser in the Park. Good grass and water.

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- Aug. 8: Drove 18 miles to Yellowstone Lake, a wonderful place, fine view of the lake and of the mountains all around it, some of them snow-capped up in the clouds. The lake is full of large lake trout. Caught so many had to throw some back in the lake. One place has a boiling hot spring coming out of the ground only 20 feet from an ice cold spring.
- Aug. 9: Drove 19 miles to the Lake Hotel and camped close to the Yellowstone Falls.
- Aug. 10: We all went to see the falls, the greatest sight anybody ever saw. The water drops over 200 feet into the canyon, making a terrible roar and great clouds of mist.
- Aug. 11: Started for home, drove to Norris Basin.
- Aug. 12: Drove 25 miles to Gardner on the main road north out of the park, following the river valley.
- Aug. 13: Drove 24 miles, camped on mountain, water but no grass.
- Aug. 14: Drove 22 miles, camped two miles below small town, no grass.
- Aug. 15: Drove 25 miles to Livingston.
- Aug. 16: Drove 26 miles below Livingston, good grass, good road.
- Aug. 17: Drove 25 miles down Yellowstone River, camped five miles below Big Timber.
- Aug. 18: Drove 27 miles.
- Aug. 19: Drove down river 24 miles.
- Aug. 20: Drove 30 miles to Billings, camped close to town. The boys bought \$800.00 worth of mounted heads and furs, four buffalo robes. Horses are doing fine.
- Aug. 21: Drove 26 miles towards Fort Custer, camped on small creek.
- Aug. 22: Drove 27 miles to Fort Custer, awful hot and dusty. This is the end of the rails of the Burlington Railroad. There was a private car there to meet the boys, a colored cook to feed them and a man to wait on them. The boys were all sons of wealthy people back East. We helped them load their baggage and then bid them goodbye. One of them gave me a \$40.00 saddle and a 45-60 Marlin rifle, a nice blanket and slicker.

- Aug. 23: Drove 22 miles to the Crow Indian Agency, camped close to some Indian houses and teepees. I had one horse tender footed and traded him for an Indian pony, which I rode most of the way home.
- Aug. 24: Drove 24 miles up the Little Big Horn River, last camp on the reservation, plenty of grass and good water.
- Aug. 25: Drove on up river, nice weather.
- Aug. 26: This is my birthday, 25 years old.
- Aug. 27, 28 and 29: Arrived at Buffalo.
- Aug. 30: Drove 30 miles to Powder River, we are now on the road ~~that we came over from the Black Hills.~~
- Aug. 31: Drove 15 miles to Pumpkin Buttes, camped all night, good water and grass.
- Sept. 1: Drove 14 miles to a large freshwater lake.
- Sept. 2, 3 and 4: Laid over and hunted antelope. Killed four the first day and three the next day, sun dried the meat and sacked it to take home for the winter.
- Sept. 5 and 6: Only made six miles. Rained hard and had to camp. Killed two big buck antelopes, too wet to dry meat.
- Sept. 7: Laid over and dried meat, and on the 8th we beat it for Chadron by way of Sundance, Newcastle around the south side of the Black Hills, arriving home Sept. 14th.