

EXCERPTS from the DIARY of EMELINE HOLDEN RICHMOND
written enroute from New Ark (Newark) New Jersey, to Tockshish
Chickasaw Indian Mission, near Pontotoc, Mississippi by covered-wagon
from August 14, 1826 to October 10, 1826.

August 14--(New Ark, N.J.) This is a memorable day indeed, one that will be cherished long by many, a day which in company with dear Brother and Sister Holmes, I have been privileged to set my face to the Western Wilderness...We set out for Brunswick about 2 A.M. but was overtaken by a most severe shower, insomuch we were obliged to stop...for the night.

August 15, Tuesday (Brunswick, N.J.) A pleasant day. We set out at 8 this morning and reached Brunswick between 11 and 12 o'clock...We dined with Mrs. Huntingdon and dear Missionary from Philadelphia and wife, and after praying with us and commending us to God we started for Princeton, N.J.... We rode pleasantly, distributing tracts along to road to many who received them smiling, ...

August 16, Wednesday (Princeton & Trenton N.J.) Arose quite early....Crossed the most delightful bridge at Trenton I ever saw....We have now bid adieu to our native state and are traveling in Pennsylvania....Fifteen miles this side of Philadelphia I never saw a more delightful road or more pleasant prospects....We talk often of the sweet home and friends we have left, but if we are truly Christians we shall soon meet where parting is no more....We have travelled this day 39 miles. Feel quite fatigued. Have stopped at a little place called Holmesburg for the night. Just begin to feel that we are travellers.

August 17, Thursday, (Philadelphia, Pa.) Arose quite early, rode to Philadelphia to breakfast with Mrs. Patterson....In the afternoon visited West's painting. It is well worth visiting. From thence to the new prison they are building, a most awful place. We then visited the waterworks. I never saw anything to equal it.

August 18, Friday (Enroute) Saw the most delightful scenery I have ever seen....Rode quite late in the evening....We spent pleasant moments talking and thinking of home but feel that if we could we would not retrace one step. Found it unpleasant on account of the dust. It is worse than New Ark, if possible.

August 19, Saturday, (Strawburg, Pa.) Still unpleasant on account of the dust, but we did not expect to find everything pleasant. I trust we feel willing to bear all patiently. Arrived at Strawburg.

August 21, Monday (Lancaster, Elizabethtown & Middletown Pa.) Set out for Lancaster at 10 o'clock. Were prevented by rain from setting out earlier. Have had a very rough road. Dined at Elizabethtown and then rode to Middletown. Very fatigued. Just begin to feel as Uncle said, very lame but do not mind it very much....The most grand sight I ever recollect to have witnessed was the sun setting behind the mountains. Never saw a mountain before. We saw the sun sink slowly and leave for a time its golden streaks behind. We have seen hills so high that we called mountains, but Brother Holmes says they are nothing to compare to what we will soon see if spared to travel, for if the Lord has work for us to do, he will spare our lives and health. If not, he will take us to dwell with him forever, I trust.

August 24, Thursday, (Harrisburg, Pa.) A number of ladies in company with us visited the capitol, a beautiful building. 120 steps lead to the top of it, quite a tedious journey. Returned and dined with Miss Wyeth, a lovely girl. The people are remarkably kind. Have shown us a great deal of attention. We feel very much attached to them.....

August 28, Monday, (Harrisburg, Pa.) Spent this week until Thursday in Harrisburg at Dr. Agnew's.The noon I left an old gentlemen, Mr. Armstrong, called and presented me with a great deal of letter paper, a box of wafers and a bunch of quills, a very acceptable present. His daughters made me a number of pretty presents.

September 1, Friday, (Carlisle, Pa.) This day were my feelings called in exercise by parting with one whom I tenderly love, our dear Pastor. He breakfasted with us, made with us one of the best prayers I ever heard and then bid us an affectionate farewell. It was a trying hour, I felt then the need of grace to support me in the hour of separation.....

September 5, Tues. (Shippensburg, Chambersburg, Green Castle, Pa.) Mr. and Mrs. Boden accompanied us 18 miles to Shippensburg where we spent the night. Attended monthly concert....Travelled this day about 20 miles. Passed a delightful village called Chambersburg. Traveled over to Green Castle....Stayed at the Revd. Mr. Buchanan, a very pleasant family.....

September 6, Wednesday (Hancock, Maryland.) Traveled this day 33 miles. Crossed one mountain. Were very much fatigued, more so than since I left home. The scenery on the mountain is most sublime. We came to Hancock where we stayed for the night at a public house kept by Mrs. Sterry.....

September 7, Thursday, (Enroute). Arose and traveled 8 miles for breakfast over a mountain 5 miles in length. After breakfast crossed 4 mountains more. A very fatiguing days journey, 23 miles. Stopped on the mountains for the night. I can never tell the delightful scenery I have witnessed. I think it requires more than the pen of man. I never should have known if I had not passed over them.

September 8, Friday, (Enroute). Still on the mountains. We have just been informed they are 50 miles longer which will take us 2 days more. We have now walked the Alleghany Mountains a little. It is hard traveling but we are very well and feel able and willing to bear fatigue when we think of the prospect before us. Traveled 33 miles. Stayed on the mountain at a Mr. Sides.

September 9, Saturday, (Enroute) Rode 8 miles for breakfast. Met a number of travelers there after breakfast. Traveled over rough road 29 miles and put up for the night and the Sabbath.

September 10, Sabbath, (Enroute) Spent the day in the mountains 12 miles from any church. Oh how unlike our former Sabbaths. We could hardly realize it was a day of sacred rest only that we stopped traveling. Spent the day reading my Bible, Hymn Book and Henry Martin's precious books.

September 11, Monday, (Munroe, Uniontown, Brownsville, Pa.) Rode 10 miles to breakfast at Munroe. A delightful breakfast, about 2 miles further passed through a pleasant town called Union Town. Stopped at a town called Brownsville to feed. Met Missionary friend. We then crossed the Monongahela River. Rode 30 miles. Were much fatigued. Stopped at a town called Bellvill for the night....

September 13, Wednesday (Washington, Pa.) Spent this morning with Mrs. Hoge. After dinner returned to Mrs. Morris where we stayed until Thursday morning. I did not enjoy the visit as I could wish, not feeling well.

September 14, Thursday, (Wheeling, West Va.) I feel better. We set out again on our journey. Rode 31 miles.....Came to Wheeling where we spent the night with Mrs. Evans. Met some travelers who were going some hundred miles the same way with us. We travelled in company with them. Mr. and Mr. Smith, very pleasant company. Rode some distance on a bank beside a precipice 300 feet high.

September 15, Friday (Ohio River, St. Clairsville, Morristown, Fairview O.) We had a very fair specimen of western traveling. Dreadful roads. Breakfasted at St.

Clairsville, dined at Morris town, and lodged at Fairview at Mr. Bradshaw. Met a great deal of company.

September 16, Saturday, (Enroute) Left Fairview early. Our company has increased to 4 wagons.....Rode up hills almost perpendicular. Were obliged every little while to make use of the lock chain. We rode 34 miles and put up at one Mr. Whitaker.

September 17, Sabbath, (Enroute) Raining very hard. Oh, how good to the weary, worn out traveller, is the Sabbath day of rest, and oh, how precious to know his God is everywhere present and although we are deprived of the means of grace outwardly, still we can hold sweet communion with God.....Became acquainted with Mr. Pierson who is coming to New Ark. Says he will call and see Mother.....

September 18, Monday, (Zanesville, Mushingon River, Ohio).....Rode 18 miles to a beautiful town called Zanesville. We stopped at one Mr. Hughes, a most elegant building. Stayed one hour. Then crossed the Mushingun River. Travelled 27 miles this day. Put up at Mr. Porter. A very unpleasant day to travel. The mud is very deep, 2 days of pretty steady rain.

September 19, Tuesday, (Somerset, Rushville, New Lancaster, Ohio)Went out again in the rain. Our wagon is very comfortable. We do not suffer at all on account of unpleasant weather. About 12 o'clock it cleared off beautifully.....The roads are bad indeed.....Sister and myself walked down a very bad hill. We think we shall not very soon have a desire to cross these hills again.....Travelled 27 miles today. Arrived at New Lancaster. Stayed with the Revd. Mr. Wright. Were agreeably entertained.

September 20, Wednesday, (Tarlton, Ohio) Spent the morning with Mr. Wright.....A young lady called on me, a Miss Keeler, from New York. This afternoon rode 15 miles to Tarlton. Put up at Mr. Lybrand, an excellent tavern. Our appetites are excellent. The rough roads agree with us all. We often think of our dear New Ark friends when we ride along feasting upon peaches. I never saw so many before. Almost in all the places that we stop the first thing we see on entering the house is a fine basket of peaches. We stop and pick them on the road and so passes our time. When we can sing a song of praise to him who has brought us this far safely on our journey.....It is growing late and we expect to rise early to travel and I feel it to be my duty to retire.

September 21, Thursday, (Kingston Chillicothe, Sciota River, Ohio). Rode for breakfast 8 1/2 miles..... We passed through Kingston and Chillicothe and crossed the Sciota River. We spent an hour there feeding. Dined in our wagons on crackers and cheese. Our ride this day has been pleasant, except a little corduroy road once in a while. They are logs laid in the road, very hard traveling over them. Very common in the Western country. Oh, how much need there is for Missionaries here. We pass many a solitary little log house and see them filled with grown persons and children. All have within them an immortal soul and to all appearance hardly know it. This day Brother Holmes stopped at one to get water for his horses. He went to see the family, the father and mother had been sick a great while with the chill and fever and two children now sick and two or three more almost destitute of clothing....We can and must pray for them.Have ridden 30 miles today.We are at the house of Mr. Porter, a tavern keeper. Have been privileged to have family worship together. We are some times deprived of the pleasure owing to the confusion of a tavern but here it is very much retired. Oh, I have this day felt a desire to live nearer to God, more dead to the world. Sung two or three favorite hymns today. The "Hiding Place" was one.

September 22, Friday, (Bainbridge, Ringot (?), Ohio)Stopped for the night with Mr. Early, were quite interested in hearing his account of the Indians,.....

September 24, Sabbath, (Maysville, Kentucky)Sabbath School here has been

instituted for coloured. About 60 attended. A great many more are anxious to attend but there are but 3 or 4 persons to teach them. This day 50 assembled and but one teacher. This is distressing. I could not help wishing some of our young men were here to assist. A Mr. Alexander was the one who was there. Appears to feel very much and well he may. Pray for them, they need our earnest and fervent prayers--a slave state.

September 25, Monday, (Blue Lick Spring, Kentucky) Pursued our journey from Maysville about 8 o'clock. Have dreadful roads. To look at them they appear as if a carriage could not pass at all. Rode this day 24 miles--a good days journey over such roads....I need some pain constantly to make me realize my dependence on God. Oh, how prone I am to forget that kind parent unless I am afflicted.....We are staying tonight at Blue Lick Spring, very much celebrated on account of the water which is said to have been beneficial to many persons who have visited it.....

September 27, Wednesday, (Lexington, Kentucky)Rode 10 miles. Stopped to feed the horses, met with two gentlemen who had met with a serious accident 12 days before. Had their right legs broken,Rode 10 miles more and came to Lexington to Revd. Dr. Blyeth, a lovely family, stayed with them this night.....

September 29, Friday, (Shaker Town, Kentucky) The weather is very cold. We need our winter clothing. Left Lexington at 11 o'clock and had a very pleasant ride. The roads in the forepart of the day very good. Walked over the worst hill I ever saw. Crossed the Kentucky River and rode to Shaker Town, a distance of 20 miles. We were not able to attend their evening worship but we could hear, and were very much shocked to see them dance and sing. Oh, what deluded mortals, I must exclaim.

September 30, Saturday (Harrodsburg, Kentucky) Rode 8 miles for breakfast to Harrodsburg, a Mrs. Davis and son called to see us. Our ride this day very rough. Fed this day at Perryville and rejoiced to hear what the Lord is doing for many parts of Kentucky. There is a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Danville, a great number have come out as is hoped decidedly on the Lord's side. Oh, how good it is to hear of a revival in these Western states. Stopped for the night at Mr. Cunningham, an excellent, pious, old gentleman.....

October 3, Tuesday, (Enroute) In the morning the ride was very rough. In the afternoon we entered the barriers of Kentucky which is a delightful road for about 100 miles. There is some thing very peculiar in this country....It is noted for sink holes....There is something peculiarly pleasant in our ride about sunset when we have nothing to do but admire the works of God, but oh, how much more delightful it will be if we are permitted to tread the courts of heaven where we shall part no more and where no pain will be felt by us more....Stopped at one Mr. Ferguson at Bearwallow. It derives its name from being once famed for bears.

October 4, Wednesday, (Bearwallow, & Ferguson, Kentucky) Breakfast at Ferguson, rode 16 miles and dined at Mr. Middleton. A lovely road. I could not help thinking much of home. Oh, could I sit one hour beside my dear Mother. I thought it would be such a comfort, but I knew I could not, and then I was happy. We met this day 10 Cherokee Indians. They could not speak Chickasaw language at all.

October 5, Thursday, (Bowling Green, Big Barren River, Kentucky) Crossed the Big Barren River. We saw quite a curiosity; some men were at work under the road which we were travelling over about 60 feet to build a mill....Oh how many different situations we have been placed in since we left home; sometimes very comfortable and then quite the reverse. It is generally the case that they are very filthy. I never saw so much dirt in houses as I have since I left home.....The general character of the people is very kind and pleasant.

October 6, Friday, (Tyre Springs, Tennessee) Crossed this day the Tennessee line and have travelled 22 miles in Tennessee, a pretty rough commencement (?) We have stopped at a delightful place tonight, Tyre Springs. Rode 33 miles. I feel quite fatigued but everything is so comfortable and clean. I think I shall be quite rested in the morning. I have thought and talked of my dear Mother and brothers today. Oh, how pleasant it would be to see them all, but if I have bid farewell to meet no more in this world, I hope it will be our happy lot to meet and spend a long Eternity together in singing praises to him who has bought and redeemed us with his precious blood.....

October 7, Saturday, (Cumberland River, Nashville, Tenn.).... Rode 22 miles and crossed the Cumberland River. Upon the bank stands a beautiful town, Nashville.....Rode to Revd. Mr. Campbell, where we shall spend the Sabbath.....

October 8, Sunday, (Nashville, Tenn.) Awoke this morning, found it perfectly clear, a delightful morning. I trust I could feel thankful and rejoice that it was the Sabbath. Heard the sound of church bells which we have not heard for 600 miles. We attended church, heard the Revd. Mr. Campbell.....Thought of my dear children in Sabbath School. Hope they will not forget their unworthy teacher.....

October 9, 1826, Monday (Franklin, Tennessee) Spent the morning in Nashville. Received call from some friends. Were delighted with them. In the afternoon we took our leave and rode 23 miles...passed a very pleasant town, Franklin. Stayed at Mr. Trotter.

October 10, 1826, Tuesday, (Enroute) Rode 9 miles for breakfast and after waiting 2 hours were called to our meal, Set down and made breakfast with one fried chicken, cold corn cakes, biscuit without butter; the poorest meal we have ever eaten, but far better than I deserve. Oh, for a thankful heart. We are not 2 days ride from our Nation and it rejoices us to think of it.

(This is the last of the diary of Emeline Holden Richmond)

