



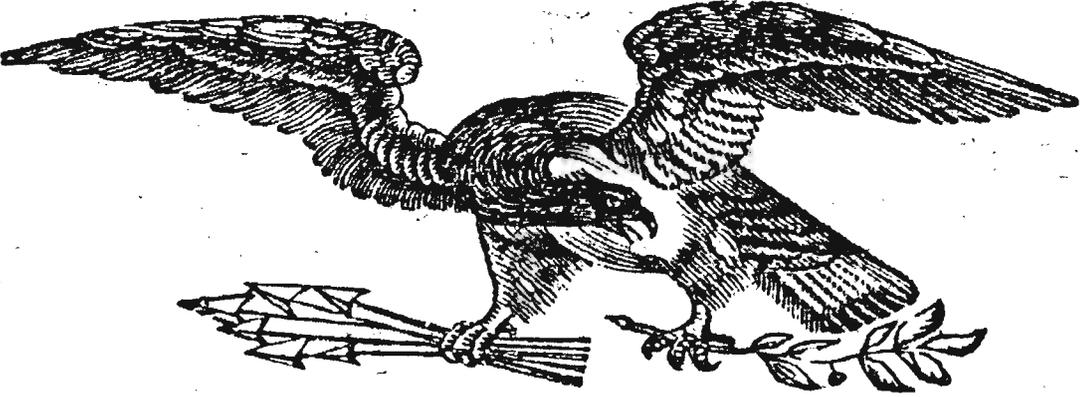
THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Quarterly of the Granville, Ohio, Historical Society

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Spring 2009

Lure of the gold rush



HO BOYS! FOR CALIFORNIA !!

ANY one who is really anxious to join a company to emigrate to California, and has *right good grit*, will please call at the Post Office and make himself known within a few days! Come on ye Granvillians. *Now is the time.*

Granville January 3d, 1849.

A newspaper ad published early in 1849. It may have captured the imaginations of the first gold-seekers from Granville, who traveled overland and by sea to California.

George Hillyer's diary relates hardships of journey by sea

Compiled by
Ann Natalie Hansen
Granville Historical Society

EDITOR'S NOTE: This exciting diary of a Granville man on his journey to California seeking his fortune has been prepared by long time society member and published historian, Ann Natalie Hansen. The Editors are pleased to present this original publication for the reading pleasure of the members of the Granville Historical Society.

When the news of the discovery of gold in California in 1849 reached Granville, a whole new world opened up for the men of the village and the surrounding areas. The next field over the fence always looked greener, and it was this restlessness that had driven them over the Alleghenies from New England to the Ohio wilderness. The eventual prosperity to be gained from tilling the rich soil of Ohio paled beside the lure of quick riches to be found on the far side of the Continent. After all, they had crossed the eastern moun-

tains in wagons, on horseback, and on foot, so they were not daunted by the great expanse of prairie, desert and mountains which must be crossed to reach the Pacific.

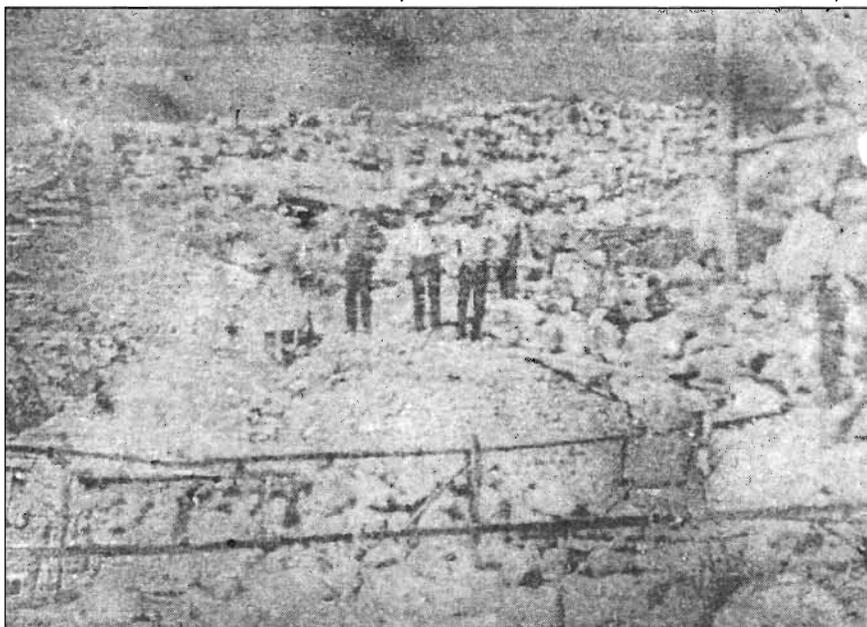
The lure of gold, however, was not the only incentive for setting sights on California. The constant vigilance of the Presbyterian Church over all its members was a thorn on the side of not a few men. For instance, Simon Prouty, a member of the '49ers, was repeatedly in trouble with the church authorities. Men were censured for failing to attend church, for dancing, for card-playing, and for other "sinful" diversions. Another of these was Munson Hillyer who left in 1851.

The first party to leave from Granville set out to take the overland route. The other choice was to travel south in order to cross the Isthmus of Panama to board a ship for California. Much is known about this first contingent which set out on April 3, 1849 for

Zanesville, there to take a steamer to Independence, Missouri, where their provisions had been gathered by Horace Hillyer, their advance agent, assisted by Christopher Stark of Alexandria. These supplies would sustain them on the journey by wagon-train across the Plains. One of the group, John H. Roberts, kept a diary which gives a vivid account of their trials and tribulations. A second company went in March of 1850, choosing the Isthmus of Panama. Ashley Bancroft, joining his son Hubert Howe in California, was a member of this group, but it seems that no details of this adventure exist.

This brings us to the third group seeking the riches of Sacramento in 1852. Horace Hillyer's brother, George Shaler Hillyer, appears to have been the organizer, or at least the leader of this group. Fortunately, he kept a journal written in pencil on colored paper in a pocket-size notebook. It gives no details of the trip from Granville to New York where they expected to board a ship soon after their arrival there for the passage to Panama and hence across the Isthmus. This did not happen.

The twelve adventurers arrived in New York at 10 p.m., April 5, 1852, expecting to sail on the 10th aboard the Northern Light, only to discover that instead they would have to remain in New York until May 5. The prospect of spending a month in "this noisy city," as Hillyer put it, presented problems for them. The result was that they split up. Two of the men, William Lower and Jo Linn, went over to New Jersey to visit friends. Hillyer's brothers, Virgil and



Part of Horace Hillyer's group of '49ers at their camp near Sacramento. This image has been enhanced from a nearly faded tintype in the Granville Historical Society archives.

Lewis, were living in New York so he took board and lodging with the latter until the 13th when he and Henry Graves traveled to Kinderhook. Until May 1 they visited all the relatives of Hillyer's wife, Frances Ring Hillyer, including her father, who were scattered about this region of the Hudson Valley.

In Kinderhook George and Abram Ring, his brother-in-law, called on ex-President Martin Van Buren at his home, staying with him about fifteen minutes. They "found him to be very sociable and polite." Hillyer and Graves ended their visits on April 30, took "the cars to Albany and then the overnight boat for New York." The fare was fifty cents plus another fifty cents for a berth. After a few more days seeing the sights in New York they, at last, boarded the steamer on Wednesday, May 5.

Excerpts from the Diary of George Hillyer

The steamer was very much crowded and some berths were claimed by 3 or 4 persons. All of our Boys except Truman and myself had difficulty more or less about their berths. Oh, what a crowd. We had corn been, fresh port, butter, coffee, sugar and a plenty of sea bread for supper-and all very good order. I enjoyed my supper very much. I took my berth about 8 o'clock. But four are sick — Stewart is the only one of our number.

Thursday, May 6

A good many passengers are sea sick. Stewart is very sick. The rest of our Boys keep their food — yet. Curtice

[Curtis] brought out his fiddle, had a nice dance about 11 a.m. There are a good many fiddlers on board. I ate no supper tonight. [For the next two days Hillyer was too sick to write].

Sunday, May 9

We are now off East Cuba. Stewart, Burnett and J. Linn are very sick yet, but the balance of our Company are much better this morning. All the women and children — for there are a good many — are awful sick and what makes it worse of us all, we were confined to our berths on account of the weather. Curt, George Gregory and I got Stewart up on deck just after sundown as the rains had subsided by this time. The winds blew warm and fewer which seemed to revive him. He stayed on deck two hours or more when he was taken to his berth. All of us sleep on deck except Jo, Curt and Stewart, and for my part I shant be caught in my stinking berth again on the whole voyage unless it should storm and drive me in. Stewart was able to eat a dish of beans. I went to the cook and got him his beans and brought them up on deck so that he might have all the comfort of purer air to eat his dinner. This is the first mouthful of victuals that he has eaten since he came on board. This day does seem like Sunday more than I expected. All seemed to realize that it was the Sabbath.

Monday, May 10

The day has been hot and sultry — thermom[eter] stood above 90 all day. Past the island of Santo Domingo. We had beans for dinner today and also a little cheese. I think if our living in California will be any worse than what we have on this boat it will be hard enough. Expect to get to San Juan [del Norte] Thursday.

Friday, May 14

[Nothing of interest transpired on Wednesday or Thursday]. Came in sight of San Juan del Norte at 9 o'clock and anchored safe in the harbor about 11 o'clock. We got on shore about 3 o'clock p.m. by having our passage for which we paid 25 cts. each. The ship was anchored about one mile from this place (Gray Town). We all put up at the Leagh [?] Hotel and pay \$1.00 per day for board and lodging. About 40 of the passengers stop[ped] at this hotel. This house is made of rough boards and 36 by 24, one and half stories high. Each boarder is furnished with cots to sleep on, no bedding of any kind.

Saturday, May 15

This morning I took a walk with some of the Boys about the village. It was quite pleasant. The buildings are about one half made of wood put up in a very rough manner and such. The other half are made of palm and cane. There is not one light of glass in the whole town. After breakfast I and Truman, the two Gregorys, Curt and H. Graves went up the river a little ways and took a good bath after which we all washed our dirty clothes. While we were washing 3 of the

native women came where we were with a bundle of clothes each to wash. They stripped themselves of their clothing and tied a handkerchief about their hips and another on the neck which hung down over their breast. They sat down at the water's edge and then went to work washing. Some of the natives or in fact all wear a skirt and a simple cape with short sleeves. Their skirts are trimmed with tinselled flounces. The men vary in dress. Some have none at all.

Tuesday, May 18

It is much cheaper to live here than any where else. I find that the natives have no particular occupation and live chiefly on oranges, bananas, plantain, monkey stew, fish and other wild game. The land is not cultivated, not as much as a garden spot. Their bread stuff comes from the states.

Wednesday, May 19

I and the rest of our Boys bought our provisions to go up the river and expect to start in the morning. Truman and Graves brought our things and will keep together crossing. We have got 4 lbs. cracker of corn break, 6 boxes sardines, 1 bottle pickles, 1 bottle mol[lasses]. We shall probably be all to 5 days crossing.

Thursday, May 20

We left Gray Town this morning all in good health and spirits. We had 23 passengers in our row boat manned by 6 natives, 5 to row and 1 to navigate or steer the boat. We had showers all day — got as wet as rats. We managed by wrapping our provisions with our blankets to keep them dry. Night came on us 11 miles up. We are now on a sand bar where we expect to stay all night. Any quantity of mosquitoes to torment us all night.

Friday, May 21

This morning we started as soon as it was light and came up about 2 miles and laid to a sand bar and took our refreshment — and stop[ped] about one hour and then came up where we now are — and arrived about noon, found about 200 men who had arrived the day before. They had built up some 30 little huts of cane stocks and crossed them with cane leaves which afford them shelter from the sun and rain. After we had eaten our dinner our company went to work and built us up a large shanty. We shall have to rest here tonight.

Saturday, May 22

We all started as soon as light this morning in a small boat to meet the steamer. After we had rowed about 1 1/2 miles we met the steamer which took [us] on board. We were detained about three hours while they were repairing the wheel. We made up about 26 miles when the boat anchored for the night. The channel of the river is so crooked that they can't navigate it in the night time. We had a great time getting our places to sleep. I have got my blankets placed

but expect to [be] crowded if not laid on before morning. There are several ladies on board. The[y] have a very hard time. No place for them to sleep but on deck amongst the baggage.

Sunday, May 23

We got started this morning about 7 o'clock and arrived at Machuca about noon and here we are now and can't get away till morning.

Monday, May 24

A great rush to get off this morning. Our boys all got their baggage all on the small boat. The second trip up in the morning we took it on foot — up the shore about two miles. Wm. Lowe, Curtis and I stopped about half way to a shanty and got a plate of rice and coffee. We jogged along till we came to the place where our baggage is to be put on shore. Here we had to wait until the boat came down from Castilla Rapids. As the boat could not take all of us there was a great strife to see which should go on the first trip. Such arrangements as are made here to get the passengers from the Atlantic to the Pacific are enough to make a preacher swear. I arrived here at Castilla Rapids about 3 p.m. Here we had to walk again about 30 rods to get above the rapids. No accommodation whatever. Truman, Curt, Wm. Lowe, Jo Linn, H. Gregory and myself went to a hotel and bought each [a] ticket for supper with a privilege of sleeping on the bare floor for one dollar. I have just learned that we have got to stay here 3 days at least and that the S.S. Lewis is not at San Juan del Sur. Tru[man] and I have provisions enough to last about 3 days more and then 1.00 per meal. We will soon reach the bottom of [our] purses at this rate. This transit company are perfect cut throats. I hope this will be [the] last time they will [have] the privilege to pick my pockets. God grant that they may not have the change to swindle another set of passengers as they have us from beginning to end. Amen.

Tuesday, May 25

This morning I together with three other of our Boys clim[bed] a very steep hill to view an old ancient fort or castle. The hill on which this castle is built is artificial as is supposed about 150 feet above the river. The cost of this fortification must have been immense. Some of the apartments remain comparatively perfect. We can get no trace of its history, but is supposed to have been built by Cortez in 1520, when Mexico was conquered and taken by the Spanish. I cut my name in full on the right wall of the main passage to the top of the castle.

Wednesday, May 26

We left Castilla Rapids this morning and were landed about 9 miles above in the woods. From here we all had to

walk about 2 miles to take another steamer to go over the lake to Virgin Bay. Our baggage was taken up this 2 miles in small row boats. The ladies came with the baggage. We got on board the steam[er] Central American about o'clock. Alfred Hoyt is captain of this steamer. He is brother to Alfred (R)ing's father-in-law. I formed [an] acquaintance with him. I judge that he likes liquor.

Thursday, May 27

We arrived here at Virgin Bay about sunrise this morning. H. Gregory and I went around amongst the shanties to get a place to stay all night. We had to give \$1.00 for our supper to get a chance to sleep on their table. We had chicken for supper the first time we have had [it] since we left the States.

Friday, May 28

We all ate our own bread and dinner this morning and made ready for crossing the land route to the Pacific. We went to the office and I found that we could get \$3.00 each to get ourselves across or furnished a mule. So all took the 3.00 for our transit tickets except G. Gregory who was quite unwell and he took a mule. Hatfield and Burnett took their baggage on their shoulders. The rest of us hired two mules to pack ours. By paying \$3.50 each for the mules and a native to take care of them on the way, we saved about 2.25 apiece. No S.S. Lewis here and no prospect of her being here for a number of days. We have taken board and lodgin[ing] at \$10.00. Our lodging is a place on the floor to spread our blankets. I have got so that I can rest very well on a plank.

Monday, May 31

[On Saturday and Sunday the group spent the time exploring the region and walking on the beach.] Walked the beach today considerable in hopes to see the steamer coming for us, but no such luck. While sitting on a rock on the seacoast there was no one near. I thought of my dear wife and 4 lovely children. Nothing but the roaring sea in its madness dashing on the rocks to divert attention. I could not stand this but a short time. I returned to the house and spent the rest of the time with the Boys.

Tuesday, June 1

It is now 12 days since we land[ed] at Gray Town on the other side of the Isthmus. To all human appearances we may stay here 12 days yet and still be looking for a chance to get away from this unhealthy place. We have a plenty to eat and a good dry chamber floor to sleep on, but still 4 or 5 of our boarders are sick. H. Gregory had a chill today.

Wednesday, June 2

One of the passengers died last night and another this afternoon. Death has finally commenced its ravage amongst us. H. Gregory is not as well today. Truman is



Panning for gold in California. (Identities of these men are unknown.)

—Photo from Granville Historical Society Archives

quite unwell. The steamer Pacific is expected in every hour. Sickness is increasing. I was told that M. C. Hillyer had returned home and that Horace had gone to California. I hope this report of them is not correct.

The brig Rosatland which is lying at this port has advertised for 120 passengers for San Francisco at \$15.00 and S.S. Lewis tickets.

Thursday, June 3

The steamer Pacific arrived this morning [but the captain refused to take any passengers who had tickets for the Northern Light].

Friday, June 4

Another passenger died last night; 8 persons are not quite sick here at this house. Gregory and Truman are no better. I do not feel first rate myself but still am able to wait on Gregory and Tru[man]. This is a pleasure to me. It is more like a hospital here than anything else.

Saturday, June 5

The brig took her passengers today. A number [of the sick] had to be carried on board. Before noon one died on board and was sent ashore. I think a number now will die before they get to San Francisco. Silas Burnett has left us and shipped on board the brig.

Tuesday, June 8

[Hillyer spent Sunday and Monday nursing the sick.]

One more of our passengers died this morning. His funeral expenses were \$32.00. The coffin cost \$30.00. Such a one would cost about 2.50 in the States. Gregory and Truman are getting along first rate. Curt and I are going to a dance tonight. Curt gives the music and I a looker-on.

Wednesday, June 9

Three more of the passengers died last night and this morning. One of them was a boarder at this hotel which [is] called Lovela Hotel. It was without a name when we first

came here. Situated in the southern part of the village near the Transit Office.

I assisted 2 young friends in laying out the corpse. Oh, what a lonesome task this was for I thought of a thousand things in a few moments. About 2 o'clock I laid myself down on my blankets but could not sleep much. I have not been well all day, but still I felt as though I must assist what I could to bury this young man, and I am fearful that I have done too much as I am burning with fever.

Thursday, June 10

I laid still all day pretty much and took medicine to break my chills and fever. Two more died last night and one today.

Friday, June 11

This is my Birthday — 32 years. Our week's board ended today noon. Curt and Henry Graves being the only able bodied men amongst us fixed a tent for a portion of us to board ourselves the balance of the time that we may have to stay. Our tent is made of old sail. We get the use of it without pay. I see no reason why we shant enjoy ourselves first rate for it is in a cool dry place. We borrowed a kettle to make a little tea for supper and [it] went fine.

Saturday, June 12

I am told that two or three more died last night. We all slept first rate last night. We bought us a stew pan and gave 2.10 that would hold about 6 qts. We used this for our tea kettle and for other purposes. The Boys bought some plantain and boiled them so we had tea, plantain, dried beef and bread for breakfast. We have some dried beef and cheese left of the stores which we bought at Gray Town which mixes in now first rate. No news for the S.S. Lewis.

Sunday, June 13

Another passenger died today. Great excitement in town. The S.S. Lewis hove in sight about 10 o'clock p.m. Language cannot express the joy that was manifested on her arrival in port. The weak are strengthened and sick are revived by this event. It is now certain that we shall sail in a day or two for San Francisco.

Monday, June 14

We sail tomorrow. I am told that 22 of our passengers have died. Nearly all are from New England states. Jo Linn is complaining considerable. W. Lowe is getting much better.

Tuesday, June 15

We shipped on board the S.S. Lewis. We found her a large filthy ship but we felt as though we could stand most anything so that we can get away from this sickly place that we have been in for some 16 days. About 5 o'clock she fired her guns and weighed anchor. Her engine made 2 or 3 revolutions and broke down and remained stationary when I went to sleep.

Wednesday, June 16

I awoke this morning and found that we had left port and were out about 50 miles. I could not help but rejoice that we were where I once more could breathe good air. Stewart is seasick. We buried two of the passengers at sea today. The Services were quite solemn. A chapter was read from the Bible and a prayer made. The bell tolled a few times and then both bodies were launched at once into the sea.

Thursday, June 17

Another man was launched into the briny deep this morning. There are a good many sick. H. Gregory had a chill. Jo Linn is no better — complains of his lungs. H. Graves ate too much dinner which gave the belly ache. He is not dangerous. The rest of us Granville Boys are well.

Friday, June 18

Another passenger died last night and was buried at 12 in the night. No women have died yet but quite a number are sick. Linn and H. Gregory are some better. The rest of our Boys are all well.

Sunday, June 20

[Saturday was an uneventful day of sailing with some showers and wind.]

Another passenger died last night and was buried this morning at sea with the usual sermoning. This makes 5 that have died at sea since we left San Juan del Sur. We had services on board today. The preacher is Dutch Reform. We arrived at Acapulco this evening about 7 o'clock. I shall go on shore tomorrow to see this ancient Spanish town. We probably shall be here 3 or 4 days cooling and cleaning the boilers and ship.

Monday, June 21

I did not go ashore today. I stayed and took care of the sick. Another passenger died this afternoon and was taken ashore to be buried.

Tuesday, June 22

I went ashore today. Bought a dish of rice for dinner. This City (Acapulco) is to all appearances going to waste. It numbers about 6,000 inhabitants. I visited the fortifications which our troops took during the late Mexican War. The city is kept very clean and [I] should take it to be a healthy place for this country. It got 20 cts. To go ashore and back to the ship — 10 cts. each way.

Wednesday, June 23

Another passenger died today. I went ashore again. We could not get any luxury that I dare eat. Pineapple is the most delicious fruit that this country affords. I bought a dish of beef and soup and a cup of rice; paid a dime each. Curt, Wm. Lowe came ashore with J. Linn to have him take a bath. They got a native woman to wash him all over. I think that the exercise was too much for him as he is not as well tonight.

I washed myself and a shirt which made me feel first rate.

Thursday, June 24

This is a great day with the natives-called St. John's Day. I went ashore again today. The most exciting thing I saw was the cock fighting. This seems to be a great piece of sport amongst the Spanish.

Friday, June 25

Another passenger died this morning making 3 that we left in Acapulco. We sailed about 8 o'clock a.m. We have no conveniences [on this crowded ship] to take care of the sick. Many who have been sick and died lay wallowed in their own filth. No one to take care of them. Several of the women and children are now sick but none dangerous. They stood the hardships and fatigues of the journey much better than the men. None of them were sick when we left San Juan [del Norte]. It had been a very tedious trip for Mr. Jannulus [captain of the ship?] So far we have to stop every day to fix something about the machinery.

Saturday, June 26

The weather is fine and the sea smoother. The sick are about the same. Our Boys are better except Gregory. We have made 200 miles up to 12 miles today from Acapulco. The only trouble I have is that [my] appetite is too good. I have to guard against eating too much.

Monday, June 28

[On Sunday there was preaching in the forenoon and afternoon.]

Another passenger was launched into the briny deep. The sea has been pretty rough today and I feel some seasick. Everything passed off quietly. I and the Boys talked some about the luxuries of home this evening. I gave the steward a regular blowing up this forenoon for not accommodating the sick with such nourishing food as they may want. I succeeded in getting something for our Boys. They are improving steadily.

Tuesday, June 29

We are off Cape Lucas this morning. The sea is heavy today and the wind thus cool. Quite a number are sick. I feel a little that myself. We had 1,000 miles to make today noon at 12.

Saturday, July 3

[The previous two days Hillyer comments about the high winds and heavy sea, and the fact that he saw some whales. He doesn't get any better from the sea sickness.]

Another passenger died last night. The sea is very rough with continual high winds. I am sick and tired of the sea and this dirty ship. We are now off San Diego.

Sunday, July 4

We have had a rough time today. The ladies are all sea-

'...a thousand inconveniences.'

A letter of Granville native Willard Warner to his Newark Family from his California Gold Rush Escapade:

We had a long, tedious, tiresome passage from Panama of ninety days. You cannot conceive the intolerable tediousness of being three months on board of a vessel with 130 souls, with scarcely room to turn round, with bad provisions, badly cooked, eating like hogs, washing our own dishes in salt water, without soap under a tropical sun, and short of water and a thousand other inconveniences.

—From an article on Willard Warner in the Fall 1992 issue of *The Historical Times*

sick and so be I. Another passenger was launched into the sea early this morning. I am so sick of this outlandish dirty ship. We have had to live like a parcel of hogs so far and no prospects of improvement.

Monday, July 5

We have had another very rough day. This is the 4th day that we [have had] strong head winds all the time, consequently we make but slow progress. We buried another passenger this afternoon. We shall have two or three more probably to bury before we get through. Sea sick yet and have a good mind to be home sick.

Tuesday, July 6

Another passenger was buried today, making 13 since we left San Juan [del Norte] and 35 since we left the Northern Light. We expect to land tomorrow morning.

Wednesday, July 7

We arrived at San Francisco this morning at 7 o'clock. Our boys were all able to pick up their feet and march. I feel much better to get my feet on land once more. We shall go up to Marysville this afternoon. I don't know but I shall kill myself eating.

[Thus ends the journal.]

Members of the Group:

• George Shaler Hillyer, son of Justin and Adah Munson Hillyer of the original Granville Company, was born in Granville, Ohio June 11, 1820, and was baptized in the Granville Congregational/Presbyterian Church April 5, 1835. On November 9, 1841, he married Frances K. Ring in a double wedding with her cousin, Mary Lansing. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Henry Carr, minister of the Granville Baptist Church.

Those who set out with Hillyer seeking gold in California

included several members of his family as well as several others from Granville and St. Albans, making twelve men in all.

- Curtis Justin Hillyer, nephew of George, and son of Justin Hillyer, Jr. and Bathsheba Howe, had graduated from Yale in 1850 and was studying law in Cincinnati. He went on the trip to recover his health!

- William Lowe, brother-in-law of Munson Curtis Hillyer, who in 1850 was an 18-year-old clerk in the store of 24-year-old Munson, another of George's nephews. He stayed in the West and died in a fire in the 1860s.

- Truman Newell Fassett, born in 1807, was a brother-in-law of George Hillyer, husband of his sister, Lydia. He eventually sent for his wife and four children who arrived in California in 1855.

- Henry Cooley Graves was a brother of Sylvester Bela Graves who married Mary Lansing. They were grandsons of Josiah and Hannah Cooley Graves, sister of Hosea Cooley. Sylvester and Henry Graves were nephews of Hannah Corintha Graves, who married Horace Hillyer. She was a daughter of Josiah and Hannah Cooley Graves. In 1850 Henry was age twenty-four with a 23-year-old wife, Dianah, and a two-year-old son, Oriel M. They eventually settled in Oregon.

- Joe Linn, in 1850 was a seventeen-year-old farmer in Granville Township. Born in New Jersey, he was the son of Andrew Linn who died that year. In 1854 his mother Luella, according to church records, returned to Newton, New Jersey.

- Henry Hatfield of St. Albans was, in 1850, a 39-year-old farmer born in Pennsylvania. His wife Louis, was forty, and they had seven children ranging in age from two months to thirteen years.

- Silas Burnett of Alexandria was a 37-year-old carpenter in 1850, born in Pennsylvania. His wife was born in New York and they had two children, ages eight and four. They were members of the Alexandria Baptist Church.

- E.R. Stewart was probably Richard

Stewart of St. Albans, a 39-year-old carpenter born in Virginia. His wife, Philena, was twenty-eight and born in Ohio. Their two children were ages ten and five in 1850.

- George Gregory and Henry Gregory, brothers of St. Albans, had been members of the "Gold Seekers" group which had gone overland to California from Granville in 1849.

- H.N. Thomas was probably Henry Thomas of St. Albans, who in 1850 was a 36-year-old stonemason, born in Wales as was his wife and first two children. Unlike the others in the company, he is mentioned only twice.

THOSE VISITED IN NEW YORK

- Elias Fassett, son of General Elias Fassett, came to Granville from Vermont a penniless young man in 1817, and soon made a small fortune by trading and manufacturing. In 1846 he left for New York City where for the next ten years he was the proprietor of a mercantile firm. Then he switched to banking and railroad brokerage. In 1856 he returned to Granville and was elected president of the Central Ohio Railroad. He built Bryn Mawr which was dubbed Fassett's Folly. He was a second cousin of George Hillyer.

- Virgil and Lewis Hillyer, brothers of George Hillyer, were living in New York in 1852. Horace Hillyer, another brother whose wife was Hannah Corintha Graves, had gone to California with the "Gold Seekers" in 1849 and was living in Marysville, California about forty miles north of Sacramento. This was George Hillyer's destination.

- The Ring, Kingman, Miller, and Canfield families were all relatives of George Hillyer's wife, Frances Ring, granddaughter of William Canfield. She was born in Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, New York.

- John Reynolds, nephew of William Canfield, who with his wife, children, and mother had lived on Loudon Street circa 1845 to 1851 before returning to Niverville, Town of Kinderhook, New York.

THE HISTORICAL TIMES

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