



Hailyn Cheney

Seven Hills Elementary School

Mrs. Moron's 5th grade classroom

Hailyn wrote a historical fiction diary about traveling to the Gold Rush back in 1849. 5th grade is learning about the Gold Rush DBQ and “we reviewed documents A, B, and C. We also did some self-meditation to get into character. We put those together and made a document about a fake persona,” stated Hailyn. When writing in this genre, she had to take all the information she learned and make it seem possible, including places, dates, and information about the people of that time. “I had to think about what consequences would happen because it was rough getting there. I had to think about how my persona would be taken and also add in realistic details. I knew that the only way to talk to your family back then was through letters, so the note made it realistic.”

Getting There

Written by: Hailyn Cheney

April 19, 1849

It has been about 2 weeks since I set off on trail. O' my dear Abigail and my darling little Anne May, how much I miss 'em. We have been going nonstop and I am afraid I have motion sickness. I been sick like a dog but I have to stay strong for my gals.

May 5, 1849

I can't believe that I have been on trail for a month. Poor o' Jonothan Campbell I fear I have been slowing us down. It usually takes 22-25 miles a day until we stop to eat and rest, but with me being sick, we have only gone 10 miles today.

August 9, 1849

I got a note from wife today. Today is our anniversary.

Dear Charles,

I dearly miss you. My sweet loving husband oh how I love you like the bumble bee loves honey. You have missed so much, little Annie said her first word today, "Dada" O' she misses you so much!

Love you,

Abigail

I missed them so dearly that I asked my company how long until we could get to a fort (so I could get motion sickness medicine). They told me that it would be 6 days west till Fort Laramie arrived. I almost yelled out with tears for my sweet Abigail but I have to stay focused.

August 12, 1849

I wrote back to my sweet Abigail and tough little Annie May. We have finally just got out of Chimney Rock and I saw some graves. They all are dated times within this year. I started to feel worried and I went to talk with Jonothan while he was cooking buffalo. He told me that we won't drink water till Fort Laramie 'cause of Cholera. So we need to stack up on food and buffalo chips.

August 14, 1849

We have just arrived at Fort Laramie and we were warned by James Heren that there is a mountain range up west and we need to be careful. Jonothan bought some new knapsacks, blankets, and some cradles for us at Fort Laramie.

September 21, 1849

We have left the Oregon Trail and are now on the California Trail. I am a little confused with directions but blessed lord for Jonothan. He knew where he was going! I can't wait to strike it rich!

