

On the 20th we remained in Camp to allow men and horses to rest on account of the fatigue of yesterday. About noon being desirous of ascertaining if water could be found at a clump of trees, seen previous day some eight or ten miles above the creek accompanied by Dr. LaGarde and the Guide I visited the place but found it quite dry. Mr. McGinty the Guide however informed me that water could be found at a point some miles higher up the creek, but that by going there the distance to the cimmaron, (the first known water) would be greatly increased.

The idea of proceeding further to the S.W. was abandoned and Oct 21st after an early start we struck across the plain towards the cimmaron the direction was a little east of south the weather dark and cloudy but the sun coming up soon dispelled the gloom which aided the Guide in taking the proper direction. The march was continued without intermission till 3 oclock P.M. When we crossed the old road from Independence Mo. to Santa Fe N.M. and decending about three miles to the Cimmaron found some water, slightly blackish a short distance below the salt spring, and abundance of grass coarse quality where we encamped.

Oct 22nd to 24th marched down the Cimarron where water was found at intervals but not running. The wagons generally kept on the road as the surface of the valley is too uneven for wheels and vehicles to travel over. After marching a few miles on the 23rd we passed two springs of good water on left of road. On 24th saw a camp recently occupied by a party of hunters, here were a large number of Buffalo hides spread out to dry, and a quantity of Camp equppage. A notice left here informed that the party had gone to the north Fork of the Cimarron (Sand Creek) where grass and Buffalo were plenty. The new camp was ten miles distant due north from this point.

On arriving at Sand Creek in the afternoon of the 24th Our route changed to N.N.W. up Sand Creek a few miles, where we encamped near a spring at which a party of hunters were also encamped. Thinking they were the party who had left the paper behind, I enquired but found they were not the same. On questioning these men relative to Indians being in that country they informed me that they had been in that section most of the Summer on Crooked Creek, Salt Creek,