

Tamar Stone

"This is the end of a long and tedious journey." (Oregon Trail/Frontier doll bed) © 2010

Spec/Text Sheet

Hand and machine stitched bed coverings. Machine embroidered text.

Antique collapsible wood doll bed with slatted wood mattress support: 21" (L) x 12" (W) x 14" (H)

Pillow Case (*vintage fringed linen napkin with covered wagon family laser transferred image*):
5" (L) x 7" (W)

Pillow (*vintage blue stripped cotton ticking, hand stuffed with vintage feathers*): 4 1/2" (L) x 6 1/2" (W)

Blanket 1 rolled up on end of bed (*vintage rose and beige plaid wool/cotton blanket*):
24 3/4" (L) x 25 1/2" (W)

Blanket 2 on bed (*vintage rose and beige plaid wool/cotton blanket with flower pattern*):
21 1/2" (L) x 17 3/4" (W)

Top Sheet (*vintage white cotton bed sheet with sewn folded edge*): 25" (L) x 19" (W)

Bottom sheet (*vintage white cotton bed sheet*): 26" (L) x 19" (W)

Mattress 1 Gold Metal Flour sack (*vintage Gold Metal Flour sack and pink floral pillow case ticking, stuffed with vintage feathers*): 20" (L) x 12" (W) x 1" (H)

Mattress 2 stripped ticking (*hand tied vintage blue stripped cotton mattress ticking, stuffed with vintage feathers*): 19" (L) x 10 1/2" (W) x 1 1/2" (H)

Tamar Stone

"This is the end of a long and tedious journey." (Oregon Trail/Frontier doll bed) © 2010

Bibliography

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writer's Project, 1936-40 [website]

- **Ellen (Mrs. John) Bolter**, b. 1834 in New York, 1856 moved to Dakota County with parents. Interviewed October 1938.

Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the western trains, 1840-1890, Vols. 1 – 10, edited by Kenneth L. Holmes, 1983-1993

- **Lucy J. Allen**, turned 37 while on trip from Minnesota to Montana, 1881. Started Mon, Aug 1, 1881, ended Nov 7, 1881.
- **Mary Louisa Black**, b. 1835 "Seven months on the Oregon Trail, 1864" from Audrain County, Missouri to Oregon.
- **Harriet Talcott Buckingham**, b. March 21, 1832, Norwalk, Ohio. *Diary* May 1851.
- **Margaret A. Frink**, b. April 25, 1818. *Journal* 1850, traveled from Indiana to Sacramento, CA in search of gold with husband Ledyard from March 30, 1850 – September 7, 1850.
- **Amelia Hadley**, b. September 21, 1825, *Journal* title "Journal of Travails to Oregon", 1850's. Traveled with husband Samuel and his younger brother. Samuel and Amelia married on April 10, 1851 and four days later left by wagon train to Oregon, a honeymoon trip that lasted 130 days. Her last entry was written in Oregon City on August 23rd, "This is the end of a long and tedious journey."
- **Hiram and Mary Smith** (Aunt/Uncle of Harriet Talcott Buckingham) from Missouri. Hiram was one of the first American settlers in the Pacific Northwest and was one of the main promoters of overland travel to Oregon.
- **Francis Sawyer**, 1852 (21 years of age), *diary*.
- **Harriet Louise (Hetty) Scott**, *memoirs*. Age 11 at time of Oregon trip. Notes about her mother's burial on the Oregon Trail, July 1852.
- **Abigail Jane Scott**, American suffragist, b.1834. *Letter to grandfather* (James Scott), July 18, 1852, on death of her mother on Oregon Trail. Written from Bear River Vale. Ten Miles (East) of Soda Springs.
- **Ruth Shackelford**, age 30 time of trip. California Trail, by Mormon trail (Missouri to San Bernardino) 1865. 1868 Ruth returned from CA to Texas to visit family and eventually settled in Missouri.

First white women over the Rockies: diaries, letters and biographical sketches of the six women of the Oregon Mission who made the overland journey in 1836 and 1838.

- **Myra Eells**. *Letter to sister*, 27 years old at time of 6 month trip to Oregon to set up Missionary. In 1838, 2 newlywed couples – **Myra Eells** and her husband and **Mary Walker** and her husband rode on horseback from Missouri to Oregon where they spent the winter at the Whitman mission in Washington, and then went north to do missionary work among the Indians.

Let them speak for themselves – women in the American West 1849-1900, Christiane Fischer 1977

- **Abby Mansur**, *Letter to her sister*, May 28, 1853 from the Horse Shoe Bar, Miners, Ravine, CA.

Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey, collected by Lillian Schlissel, 1992

- **Nancy Hunt** *diary*, c 1986-67.
- **Caroline Richardson** *diary*, c 1852 from Illinois to California.
- **Jane Gould Tortillot** *diary*, 1862, Overland Crossing.

Pillow Image from the National Archives Website:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/american-west/#scramble>

Item 134. "The Covered Wagon of the Great Western Migration." 1886 in Loup Valley, Nebr." A family poses with the wagon in which they live and travel daily during their pursuit of a homestead. 69-N-13606C

Tamar Stone

"This is the end of a long and tedious journey." (Oregon Trail/Frontier doll bed) © 2010

Pillowcase front

[embroidered text over image of frontier family on linen napkin]

On June 16 men digging a grave for a young girl.

Pillowcase back

[embroidered text over image of frontier family on linen napkin]

It is common to see beds and clothing discarded by the road not to be used again. It indicates a death.

Caroline, R., 1852

Caroline Richardson, diary, c 1852

Feather Pillow front *[blue striped cotton ticking]*

Journal of Travails to...

Feather Pillow back

This is the end of a long and tedious journey.

E.A.H 1851, Oregon

E.A. Hadley, diary, 1851, Oregon

Blanket 1 - rolled on end of bed

[Tan plaid blanket]

May 4, 1851

Crossed the Missouri at Council Bluffs, where we had been a couple of weeks making the final preparations on this outskirts of civilization.

We number seven wagons, one carriage, a large band of oxen & cow, horses & mules – the latter are for the carriage, oxen for the wagons.

Mr. & Mrs. Smith* have had the carriage so arranged that a bed can be made of the seats, & when the curtains are all buttoned down, there is a comfortable sleeping apartment. The little girl & I sleep in one of the big covered ox wagons which is a nice bed – really makes a cosy little roffed room, it has a double cover – Mr. Smith has a coop fastened on behind the carriage which contains some fine white chickens – three hens and a rooster. We let them out every time we camp, and already they seem to know when preparations are made for moving & will fly up to their place in the coop.

Harriet B.

Harriet Talcott Buckingham

Diary, b. March 21, 1832, Norwalk, Ohio.

* Hiram and Mary Smith (Aunt/Uncle of Harriet) were from Missouri. He was one of the main promoters of overland travel to Oregon.

Blanket 1 rolled on end of bed - back side

...it is a first rate place for a man to come if he has a wife with him and calculates to spend his days here he can live a great deal easier and better but what is that he has enough to annoy him to make it up you cannot take any comfort for the flease if you sit down to rest or got to bed there is no comfort for you the flease are biting or the bedbugs or both and you might Just as well be in hell i never swore so much in my life i always swore bad enough but if I should die now god only knows that would become of me I cannot describe it as bad as it is there is hardly a night I go to bed but what i think of you how nice you can got to bed and sleep and here I am sometimes I have to get up a half dozen times in the night to hunt flease and besides bear the punishment they inflict on me i am sore the whole time from the effects of there bites i tell you here are not many that would bare it as I do...

Abby M. 1853, CA

Abby Mansur

May 28, 1853 from the Horse Shoe Bar, Miners, Ravine, CA

Tamar Stone

"This is the end of a long and tedious journey." (Oregon Trail/Frontier doll bed) © 2010

Blanket 2 top side

[tan plaid/with flower section blanket]

The wagon was designed expressly for the trip, it being built light, with everything planned for convenience. It was so arranged that when closed up, it could be used as our bedroom. The bottom was divided off into little compartments or cupboards. After putting in our provisions, and other baggage, a floor was constructed over all, on which our mattress was laid. We had an Indian rubber mattress that could be filled with either air or water, making it a very comfortable bed. During the day we could empty the air out, so that it took up but very little room. We also had a feather bed and feather pillows. However, until we crossed the Missouri River, we stopped at hotels and farmhouses every night, and did not use our own bedding. After that, there being no more hotels or houses, we used it continually all the way to California.

The wagon was lined with green cloth, to make it pleasant and soft for the eye, with three or four large pockets on each side, to hold many little conveniences – looking-glasses, combs, brushes, and so on.

Top sheet top side [vintage white cotton sheet]

At night we placed our weapons of defense by the sides of our beds in our tents. I claimed the ax for mine, and always saw that it was close to me, but I never had an occasion to use it on an Indian.

Nancy H., 1866-67

Nancy Hunt

Diary, c. 1866-67

Friday, August 15.

We were aroused this morning at one o'clock by the firing of guns and yelling of Indians, answered by our men. It did not take as long to dress, for once. I hurried for the children and had them dress and get into our wagon put up a mattress and some beds and quilts on the exposed side of the wagon to protect us. The firing was from the willows and from the mouth of the corral. There were two wagons of all and two hundred or more men.

The firing did not continue long nor do any harm.

Jane T., 1862

Jane Gould Tortillot

Diary, 1862, Overland Crossing

Blanket 2 back side

I believe we were all ready to start on the morning of the 24th of March. On the evening before, the whole family including my mother, were gathered together in the parlor, looking as if we were going to our graves the next morning, instead of starting on a trip of pleasure, as we had drawn the picture in our imagination. There we sat in such gloom that I could not endure it any longer, and I arose and announced that we would retire for the night, and that we would not start to-morrow morning, nor until everybody could feel more cheerful. I could not bear to start with so many gloomy faces to think of. So we all retired, but I think no one slept very much that night.

Margaret F., 1850

Margaret A. Frink,

*Journal, March 1850, travels from Indiana to Sacramento, CA
March 30, 1850 – September 7, 1850.*

b. April 25, 1818

Top sheet back side

The 1st day of June, 1856, two men named Coleman and Riley from Rochester, NY, store keepers, came west with the next colony; they met Mr. Adam Benners...The Benners were Germans, and couldn't talk English. Mrs. Benners was expecting to be confined and had engaged a French woman at Sioux City to stay with her, and Mr. Benners had gone to Sioux City for this French woman. A lot of young Indians (I believe the Sioux), scouting around, came while Mr. Benners was gone. Mrs. Benners was sick when the Indians got there; they emptied the feathers from the feather tick, on to the floor and threw her out of bed; they took the tick and what was in the house and left. When Mr. Benners and the French woman came they found Mrs. Benners and the baby dead, from exposure, and the little girl, who was only two year old, had crawled out to the door and was dead; the tears were frozen on her face. Mr. Benners stayed for a while but finally left.

Ellen, B.

Mrs. John Boler (Ellen),

*Interviewed October 1938, born 1834 in New York,
1856 moved to Dakota County with parents*

Bottom sheet top side [vintage white cotton sheet]

May 13. – We have had several showers of rain this afternoon, but I keep dry and comfortable. I sleep in my carriage every night on a feather bed, and am not exposed in any way in bad weather. ...
Distance traveled, twenty miles.

May 16. – Sabbath day. I have been in bed in my carriage all day, for it is very disagreeable out. The wind commenced blowing at a high rate last night and it has continued to blow a perfect gale ever since. Mr. Sawyer got up in the night and pulled the carriage, with me in it, into the prairie, for fear that timber would fall on us.

May 23 – Sabbath. We camped this afternoon at 3 o'clock to rest the remainder of the day. We have been traveling, for several days, in company with an old gentleman, and his family. ...
The daughter is dressed in a bloomer costume – pants, short skirt and red top boots. I think it is a very appropriate dress for a trip like this. So many ladies wear it, that I almost wish that I was so attired myself. The old lady wears a short skirt and pantletts, she is fifty years old. ...
Distance traveled, sixteen miles.

Francis S., 1852

Francis Sawyer

1852 (21 years of age)

Bottom sheet back side

August 3.

During the night there came up a thunderstorm and such raining I never saw before. The wagon covers were new and therefore not properly stretched on the frames did not shed the rain very well. it was not long before we were wet through, bedding and all.

it was of course impossible to sleep, and I could hear above the thunder and the torrent of rain on the cover, the voices of the girls singing to the tops of their voices, and they kept it up, they and the rain until morning. ...

When the sun came up it stopped raining and of course we hung out our bedding and dried it so we start in the afternoon. here we began to meet grasshoppers, by the clouds full.

we have traveled on and soon reached a place called wheatland.

traveled 15 miles further and camped. the country is very beautiful around here. slightly rolling prairie.

Lucy A., 1881

Lucy J. Allen

Turned 37 while on trip Minnesota to Montana, 1881.

Started Mon, Aug 1, 1881, ended Nov 7, 1881

Tamar Stone

"This is the end of a long and tedious journey." (Oregon Trail/Frontier doll bed) © 2010

Mattress 1 (feather bed) top side
[gold metal flour]

June 21, 1852

We had to journey on and leave her, in a lovely grave – a feather bed as a coffin and the grave protected from the wolves by stones heaped upon it. The rolling hills were ablaze with beautiful wild roses – it was the 20th of June, and we heaped and covered mother's grave with the lovely roses, so the cruel stones were hid from view. Her grave is lost. No one will ever be able to find it again.

Harriet S.

Harriet Louise (Hetty) Scott

Age 11 at time of trip,

On her mother's burial on the Oregon Trail

Oregon Territory July 18, 1852.

My Dear Grandfather:

Since we last addressed you the mysterious, relentless hand of Death has visted, us and we are now mourning the decease of our beloved Mother! On the morning of the twentieth of June she (*was*) taken with a violent dieriehea which was soon followed by crampings, and in the afternoon of the same day (being Sabbath) her immortal spirit took its flight, as we have every reason to believe to fairer worlds on high; She had never been in good health since leaving home... and indeed had most of the time remained in the wagon.

Mattress 1 (feather bed) back side
[pink floral pillow case/ticking]

However the day before her death she appeared much better, and walked several miles, getting much overheated...she walked because the roads were rough.

On, Sabbath morning, (I slept that night with her) she arose early, before I was awake, and remarked to father that she was sick, ... she began to sink and every effort to arouse her was vain; She remarked that her destiny was fixed...when father tried to get her to talk, she said she had a great deal to say "but" said she "I shall die with weakness". These were her last words; and dear Grandfather we now feel that we are bereft indeed! She had long felt willing to go at any time, and had felt for two months that she would not get through to Oregon. But we must not repine at the ways of providence and though this trial is hard to bear yet we have the consolation (*that*) our loss is her eternal gain.

There are (*so*) many exciting scenes and themes to attract our attention that we do not now feel her loss as we would at home. She rest in peace thirty miles this side of fort Laramie...

Abigail S.

Abigail Jane Scott

Letter to Grandfather – James Scott

From Bear River Vale. Ten Miles (East) of Soda Springs

Mattress 2 (feather bed) top side

[blue stripped ticking]

June 28. The bugle blows for the cattle and we start. Of all the windy evenings I ever saw this is the worst. The girls had to sit still. The men seemed to be enjoy it fine, to see the ladies' dresses blow.

Aug. 3 Clear and cold, with ice on the water. My fever is rising. I am lying in bed writing.

Aug. 5 They are waiting for the sick to get better. Nothing of importance happened. I have been very sick all day.

Aug. 12 I feel better though very weak. Frank lifted me out on the wagon and put me on a bed in the shade. The mountains look worse than ever.

Sunday, Aug. 13 I have no fever, though I am very weak. About 12 o'clock today Nellie Kerford died.

Aug. 15 Mary Gatewood is sick.

Aug. 16 I am very weak. Mary is no better. We came over rough roads...

Sunday, Aug. 20 A beautiful day. Mary is no better. She talks out of her head all the time.

Aug. 21 They drove in the cattle to start but when they got them all up Mary was dying. She died about 12 o'clock...Frank made her a right nice coffin...the top was covered; couldn't get anything to cover the sides... They said she looked very natural.

Ruth S., 1865

Ruth Shackelford

*Age 30 time of trip 1865
California Trail, by Mormon Trail,
Missouri to San Bernardino*

Mattress 2 (feather bed) back side

July 30

We are geared up ready to start, but have had a detainment on account of the cattle having strayed up the branch. we are encamped on a grassy place and plenty of water. Sold our feather bed for a sack of flower Nooned near a spring plenty of grass. Sila's babe is sick & I have all the cooking to do & glad that I am able to cook too...

Mary B., 1864

Mary Louisa Black, 1864

*b. 1835 "Seven months on the Oregon Trail, 1864"
from Audrain Country, Missouri to Oregon.*

October 4, 1838

We arrived here on the 29th of August almost six months after we left home. We had a long hard horseback journey, but suppose we are the better qualified to live in this country, as there is no other mode of conveyance here. ...

For the horseback journey...They should have a small dark bedquilt, a pr. of sheets, 4 prs of pillow cases and two pillows. Calico cases are best for the journey.

Mrya E.

Myra Eells

Letter to sister, Age 27 time of 6-month trip to Oregon to set up missionary.