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## **Finding aid of the Israel and Titus Hale Diary C058478**

Finding aid prepared by Carolee Gilligan Wheeler

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**Title:** Hale, Israel F. and Titus Diary  
**Identifier/Call Number:** C058478  
**Contributing Institution:** Society of California Pioneers  
**Language of Material:** English  
**Storage Unit:** B001620  
**Storage Unit:** C058478  
**Physical Description:** 1.0 folder(1 diary)  
**Date:** 1849

**Abstract:** Written by Israel Hale, who travelled with his son Titus Hale, this daily diary chronicles the challenges and hardship of an overland journey by wagon train from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento that took from May 5, 1849 to October 15, 1849. The entries don't contain much narrative or stories of the trail but document travel conditions and route, condition of grass, water and wood, and dangers such as Indian raids. The diary contains a roster containing the names and places of origin of the 70 men that came in the 20 wagons that started from St. Joseph (pp 106-108). There is also a handwritten page of recipes for homemade medications. At the back of the diary are two entries, the first a History of the Road by Mormans (?) and the second a History of the Route from Humboldt to California, which detail mileages, routes and turn points.

**creator:** Hale, Israel Foote, b. 1804  
**creator:** Hale, Titus, 1834-1925

**Conditions Governing Access note**

Collection open for research

**Conditions Governing Use note**

There are no restrictions on access

**Preferred Citation note**

Israel F. and Titus Hale Diary. The Society of California Pioneers

**Donor**

Gift of Titus Hale, date of acquisition unknown.

**Biographical/Historical note**

Israel Foote Hale, born in 1804, and his seventeen-year old son, Titus Hale, joined a wagon train bound for California in 1849. Upon arriving in Sacramento five months later, Israel Hale began mining gold, returning to Missouri in 1851 with only \$1500 in gold dust. Titus Hale later returned to California, where he began farming, married, and raised a family. Titus Hale was involved with the construction of the first railway from Santa Cruz to Watsonville and served as President of the Society of California Pioneers for a time.

**Scope and Contents note**

Israel and Titus Hale left St. Joseph, Missouri on May 5, 1849 and arrived in Sacramento on October 15. This diary chronicles the hardships experienced along their overland route—encountering illness, hunger, and thieves—and provides as well a picture of life on a wagon train, with detailed descriptions of forts and scenery. The end of the volume contains a list of the persons in each wagon that comprised the wagon train, and lists several medicinal recipes for cholera, sore throat, ague, and fever. Entries vary in length; some are quite long. The last entry is a brief synopsis of the events that occurred in the last month of the journey; due to illness, Hale ceased making regular diary entries.

The title page was written by Titus Hale and reads "Diary of trip to California in 1849, written by Israel F. Hale. I came with him - Titus Hale"

At the back of the diary are two entries, the first a "History of the Road" by Mormans (?) and the second a "History of the Route from Humboldt to California", which detail mileages, routes and turn points.

**Existence and Location of Originals note**

The Society of California Pioneers, 300 Fourth St, San Francisco, CA

**Existence and Location of Copies note**

Published in: Quarterly of the Society of California Pioneers, Vol. II, No. 2, Published, San Francisco, June 30, 1925

**Related Archival Materials note**

C015388 - Photographic portrait of Titus Hale. C053809 - Autobiographies & Reminiscences, vol. 1 (CD) including Titus Hale C059235 - Autobiography & Reminiscence of Titus Hale, Oakland, 1901 (handwritten)

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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

California--History--1846-1850

Diaries

Overland journeys to the Pacific

Pioneers--California--History--19th century

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