

**PIONEERING THE WEST, 1846 TO 1878 MAJOR
HOWARD EGAN'S DIARY, ALSO THRILLING
EXPERIENCES OF PRE-FRONTIER LIFE AMONG
INDIANS, THEIR TRAITS, CIVIL AND SAVAGE,
AND PART OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY, INTER-
RELATED TO HIS FATHER'S**

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Pioneering the West, 1846 to 1878 Major Howard Egan's Diary, Also Thrilling Experiences of Pre-Frontier Life Among Indians, Their Traits, Civil and Savage, and Part of Autobiography, Inter-Related to His Father's by Howard Egan & Howard R. Egan & Wm. M. Egan

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HOWARD EGAN & HOWARD R. EGAN & WM. M. EGAN

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Thrilling Experiences of Pre-
Frontier Life Among Indians;
Their Traits, Civil and Savage,
and Part of Autobiography,
Inter-Related to His Father's,
BY HOWARD R. EGAN

Edited, Compiled, and Connected
In Nearly Chronological Order
BY . . . Wm. M. EGAN

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DEDICATED TO
THE EGAN FAMILY
Their Friends
and All Interested in the Work
of the
Pioneers of the West

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Major Howard Egan, Author of the Diaries of Pioneering the West, Trail Blazer of the Overland Route, Pony Express and Overland Mail Agent. Captain of 50s with Mormon Exodus, Special Messenger for Mormon Battalion 1846, Capt. 8th Tan of the Original 144 Pioneers, made three trips to Salt Lake from the States, and innumerable trips to California on three or more routes.

"Preface



PIONEER MONUMENT
Cor. Main and South Temple Sts.

THERE is always a degree of interest in the pioneering of any locality in which one lives; and as time goes on, more importance and interest is attached to it.

When a great intermountain commonwealth grows up and develops in a few short years, the memory of those hardy pioneers, who were the first to make possible such progress, are looked upon with greater interest as the years go by and the records of all who took an important part are sought after.

It was well known by all who were in any way acquainted with Major Egan that his life work, if written, would make a remarkably interesting book provided the information could be obtained. Neither himself or family were of a literary turn of mind, and hence much that would be of great interest was never committed to paper. During his life time no thought was ever given to anything of a literary nature.

The family all knew that Father (as Mother and all the family called him) had a private desk packed full of papers, but that any of them had any thing of value more than private correspondence none of the family knew. Even at the time of his death (1878) no attempt was made to examine his papers and see if there was anything worthy of preservation until Mother died (1905) which took place some twenty seven years after. At the time of her death this writer was on a mission to the Eastern States and was unable to return until after the funeral and the old home had been ramracked ready to be pulled down when he returned.

Howard E. Egan, the principal writer of the latter part of the book looked over Father's desk and took home with him what he judged might be interesting to read over when he got home. The rest were scattered over the floor and later the house was pulled down. In looking over the papers Howard got interested and having plenty of time on his hands, not being able to walk or work much, and he read and re-wrote Father's entire Diary of the Pioneer trip nearly as we have put it in type, also some other trips that were in diary form. This was necessary on account of the difficulty of reading the fine writing, which is shown in fac-simile exact size on page 110.

The interest in the matter began to grow and correspondence with this writer met with sufficient encouragement and help so the manuscript was typewritten ready for the press. Later some incidents that Howard was so familiar with were written and his family was desirous of having them preserved and they were also typewritten. The work having been done by this writer as also the compiling and editing for the press.

The value of this book lies in its strict adherence to truth, and fidelity to fact. First of all it is the story of eye-witnesses and it often touches the story and romance of the mountains. One of its missions will be to preserve the real spirit of Pioneering the Great West, and the

commencement of the first enterprises, which were only the forerunner of greater things. Many of the events portrayed in this volume are as fascinating as any in all history. The events had their dangers and sometimes ended in tragedy.

Our desire is to awaken an interest with old-timers, and those who have descended from Pioneer stock, as well as all those, who are in any way concerned in the early development of this western and inter-mountain country, to show the hardships, difficulties and the toll that it took to open up the way, and the resolution, determination and untiring efforts put forth by those "Pilgrim Fathers" that were driven from their homes by mobs and forced to hunt a new home for themselves and those who followed after.

The Diary, in the First Part, is corroborative of other writers, but it also contains many things not mentioned by any one and not likely to be given any where else. All the writing in Diary form was taken from Major Howard Egan's old Diaries just as he penned them as near as practical, preserving the diction intact. The writing of the compiler and editor are preceded by a star*. All the rest of the writing except as credit is given not in diary form and not starred were written by H. E. Egan, whose brief preface is as follows:

"Some of my children and brothers have expressed the wish that I write some of my earliest recollections and on up to date. Well, I am now over seventy-five years old and have a good memory. It would take a long time to tell all I can remember, and, if printed would make a good many volumes. So I will necessarily have to be brief on many events as I come to them. I shall not pretend to give these few sketches of Pioneer life in routine or give dates as in when they happened as I am not writing from any memorandum but just as I remember them."—H. E. Egan.

At first it was intended to print only Father's Diaries, about 200 pages of about 250 words in larger type, but when Howard E. got his writings together it was decided to select smaller type. Then we wanted the engravings to come in the proper places so a smooth thin paper was selected. In discussing about this Howard E. wrote as follows:

"The trend of modern times is to utilize and conserve space, which becomes more valuable as time passes. This is the case in all kinds of human endeavor, whether in agriculture or in the mechanical arts, efficiency, durability, space and cost are all considered.

But in "cheap John" affairs the first two don't count and only the last is reckoned with. As in books, to use very thick paper, very large type and leave great marginal space at each side of pages, besides having the subjects, put in a great number of paragraphs, any thing to eat up space and spread a little over enough thick paper to make the desired thickness, and the number of pages. Then sometimes, to make amends put on a cover that is quite attractive and frequently costing more than the rest of the book—unwise and expensive.

"*Malum in Parvo*" saith the intelligent person best, and this is what we cater to. A book of 200 pages of 250 words each, and another of 500 words each is worth one-half more, if the contents are only of the same value. But this again has a great deal to do with the price.

We are offering a book that is not built to catch the eye, but is

presentable and durable. We are offering a book that contains valuable information not printed in any other book or form. We are offering a book that contains no fiction, but is the actual experiences and personal views of the writers. We are offering a book that we think should be very interesting to those seeking Pioneer History. We are offering a book that will become more valuable as time passes, for a reminder of frontier life. We are offering a book that takes less space than most books on the market, yet with good readable type. We are offering a book at a lower price, considering the contents, than the price of the same sized book."

These were the last words of the publisher, H. R. Egan, written just before his death, which occurred in March 1916, but were not found until after the funeral. These words stand for the truth and the book itself supports the statements.

The book is not written from a religious nor scientific standpoint; nor is it written in praise of a hero, ostentation or self praise, but is simple in style and diction. No effort, either, has been made to change it from the original writings. Perusal of the book illustrates how close to the exact fact it adheres, and that no embellishments of story or fiction is introduced, although there is ample opportunity to picture the circumstances in that manner, and still it often runs into startling episodes of the mountains and plains and thrilling experiences which often ended in tragedy. The book is divided into four parts.

The stereotyped form of chapters is avoided, the four parts above referred to being each divided into sections as the classifications could be made and yet preserve their natural and chronological order. Other divisions are made in all about seventy-five articles or headings numbered consecutively, with some few sub-headings.

The conclusion brings the closing incidents down to a recent date and finishes in brief the biography of Major Howard Egan and his son, Howard R. Egan, as well as a brief account of his other sons, his progenitors and the family tree of his descendants.

The statement in the conclusion that four of Mother's children were alive was true when that was written, but was overlooked in the proof although it was stated in a previous paragraph when Howard R. died.

The Appendix deals with genealogy and makes a connecting link, by the aid of an old Irish Chart, from Adam to the stem of the Egan Family.

We now commit to each reader the facts, faith, and experiences that attended the trips of the Pioneers; also thrilling experiences of pre-frontier life and stories of the habits, customs and character of Indian life by one who knew their language and was well acquainted with them, and knew how to deal with them. To all it will be a pleasure to know the situations, thoughts and experiences of eye-witnesses and be able to see some things as they were in early days. We are indebted to the Improvement Era for many of the engraving used and we are thankful for the use of same. We continue to find many things that should have been said in this book but its limits has required us to make all statements as brief as possible consistent with proper explanation in order to preserve what has been written by Father and brother Howard R. Egan.

THE COMPILER AND EDITOR.

Contents.

PART I.

PIONEERING: NAUVOO TO SALT LAKE.

	Page		Page
Introduction	9	8. Platt River Crossings.....	62
Sec. I. Nauvoo to Winter Quarters.....	10	9. Rocky Mountains.....	81
2. Mormon Exodus.....	13	Sec. III. What was Done.....	103
3. Trip to Santa Fe.....	15	10. Work at Salt Lake.....	114
4. The Pioneers, A Poem.....	17	11. Meeting the Trains.....	134
5. Original Band of 144.....	18	Sec. IV. Second Trip.....	138
6. Howard Egan's Diary.....	21	12. Winter Quarters.....	138
Sec. II. Details of Trip.....	21	13. On to Salt Lake.....	140
7. Laramie Plains.....	32	14. Scenes By The Way.....	141

PART II.

SALT LAKE: INCIDENTS OF EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Sec. I. Our Home Life.....	147	21. The Indian Portrait.....	155
15. The Old Fort.....	147	Deep Snow-Freezing.....	155
16. Our New Home.....	148	Sec. III. Stories of Salt Lake.....	160
17. Grasshoppers and Crickets.....	150	22. The Cold Swim.....	160
18. Another Home.....	151	23. Setting Gun for Bear.....	161
19. Burning of the Barn.....	152	24. The Hornets.....	163
Sec. II. Beliefs.....	155	25. The Stampede is Stopped.....	164
20. Indian Mounds.....	155	26. Toby We-Pup.....	166

PART III.

PIONEERING: SALT LAKE TO CALIFORNIA.

Sec. I. Route South, and North.....	169	Sec. III. Central Route.....	202
27. A Diary, 1849 to 1850.....	188	36. Getting Irid of an Indian.....	202
28. Tecumseh.....	182	37. A Run For Life.....	208
29. Indian Snake Biting.....	187	38. Tracking Saddle Mules.....	205
30. The Sleeping Mule.....	188	39. Changing Camp After Dark.....	207
31. A Fearful Fall.....	190	40. My Three Day's Fast.....	208
Sec. II. The Central Route.....	193	41. Mail Carrier.....	211
32. A Two Day's Trip.....	193	42. Father's Indian Doctor.....	216
33. Finding the Egan Trail.....	194	43. A Trip to Ruby Valley.....	217
34. Pony Express—Stations.....	198	44. Short Line Cut Off.....	220
35. Deep Creek.....	201	45. Irrigation.....	222

PART IV.

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF PRE-FRONTIER LIFE.

Sec. I. Indian Practice.....	226	Sec. IV. Indian Ordeals.....	251
46. A Little Surprise.....	226	60. Old Indian Left to Die.....	251
47. Lasso Practice.....	227	61. How Bull Got His Wife.....	252
48. Eating Ants.....	228	62. The Cross Indian.....	254
49. Indian Cricket Drive.....	230	63. The Indian Outbreak.....	254
50. Trapping A Coyote.....	233	64. Burning of Canyon Station.....	263
Sec. II. Hunting, Harvesting.....	235	65. Jessie Earl's Death.....	264
51. A Rabbit Drive.....	235	66. The Indian, No Legs.....	265
52. Mountain Rat Food.....	237	67. Playful Guests.....	267
53. The Antelope Drive.....	238	68. Wagon Going No Team.....	268
54. Pine-Nut Harvest.....	241	69. The Dog Pump.....	269
55. Hunting for Water.....	242	70. Wild Pets.....	272
56. Squaws Catching Males.....	243	71. The Sand Hill Cranes.....	274
Sec. III. Hard Experiences.....	248	72. Indian Story of Great Cave.....	278
57. Saved by a Rabbit.....	248	73. Express Rider's Experience.....	280
58. Around a Bush all Night.....	249	74. Unpleasant Experiences.....	280
59. Lost and Found.....	249	75. Conclusion.....	282

APPENDIX.

Genealogy.....	285	Howard Egan's Travel in 1849.....	298
Pedigree of Howard Egan.....	289	The Egan Family Organization.....	300
Irish Hints.....	297	Articles of Agreement.....	301