



A Short Biography of

MYRON ROBERT BROWN

By Arthur W. Brown
(Son of Myron & Olive Brown)

MYRON ROBERT BROWN, son of Joseph W. Brown and Ann Chambers was born in Toledo, Ohio, September 5, 1846.

In 1852, when he was six years old, he with his parents and grandfather, James Brown, immigrated to Oregon, traveling for six months behind ox teams, "across the plains." At the end of this grueling trip his father died leaving his mother in a new and undeveloped land with two small children, Myron and his sister Mary. As the children grew up they became highly respected leaders among the young people of the neighborhood.

In 1867 when Myron was 21 he went to the Yakima country and hired out as an assistant to Connell and William Hicinbothem in the cattle business. During the years 1867 and 1868 he lived in a log cabin belonging to William Hicinbothem, situated some ten miles south of Yakima on the east side of the Yakima River. During those two years he kept a daily diary, which is now in the possession of his son, A. W. Brown.

In the spring of 1867 he helped William Hicinbothem drive a herd of beef cattle from the Dalles and Yakima to the Cariboo Mines in British Columbia. They swam the cattle across the Columbia River, went up through Moses Coulee, recrossed the Columbia near the mouth of the Okanagon, went up the Okanogan, down the Thompson River and up the wagon road to the mines.

In the fall of 1867 William drove another herd north while Myron remained in the cabin and hayed and cared for the cattle left behind. Quite frequently he would go to Simcoe for the weekend for a visit with his boyhood friends, Prentice and Martha Mattoon. With them he would attend church services conducted by Father Wilbur of the Methodist Church.

In early pioneer days the Hicinbothems, Browns & Mattoons grew up together around Viola, Oregon near Oregon City. They were very close friends and fellow Methodists. Now that friendship centered in the log cabin by the Yakima River.

In the spring of 1868 Myron made another trip north with William with another herd of beef cattle. August 6, 1868 William married Myron's sister, Mary, and Myron succeeded William as partner of Connell and was in charge of the fall drive of 1868; the last one to the Cariboo Mines. He was late getting started back home, was caught in a heavy snow

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storm, had to abandon his horses and go by water to his old home in Viola, Oregon where his grandfather, James Brown, died November 24, 1868 when his diary ends.

In 1869 and early 1870 he continued in the cattle business in Yakima. February 14, 1870 his mother died in Viola, Oregon. February 23 he married Olive Rowley. They went up to Washington for a short time and then to a farm in Oregon.

He later spent thirty years as a Methodist minister in eastern Washington, including Yakima Indians in 1890, Ellensburg in 1891.

He died at Hoquiam, Washington, November 14, 1920.

DIARY
of
Myron Robert Brown

February 1867
Viola, Oregon

Friday 22

This morning I received the letter long looked for, the one that calls me from home. Mother gave me the picture of herself and my baby brother (Frank Stone, editor of Vancouver paper many years, father of Ed Stone, editor of P.I.) which I shall praise very highly. Snow and rain falls alternately.

Saturday 23

Storm still continues, also my jaw aches. I made a few calls or farewell visits. The time draws nigh for me to go but Oh! t'will be hard saying farewell.

Sunday 24

Tooth ache still rages and the storm continues to come.

Monday 25

Tooth ache and storm.

Tuesday 26

My face is swollen badly and pains dreadfully which keeps me from going away today.

Wednesday 27

Today I suffer intolerable. Snow still continues.

Thursday 28

At last I find relief from my suffering. My face broke last night.

Friday 1 (March)

This is my last day at home. I leave for the Dalles in the morning. The snow is still on the ground.

Saturday 2

This morning I said goodby to the family circle. Oh! How hard to part from friends. I am now alone.

Sunday 3

Oregon City. Heard Brother Driver preach in the morning then took boat for Portland. Visited Brother Stratton in the evening, heard him preach.

Monday 4

Started for the Dalles at five o'clock where I arrived all right in the evening. Am now at Mr. Connells. Wrote a letter home.

Tuesday 5

Three of us went on the mountain to look after the cattle. Found one cow down partly eaten by the wolves. (Mr. Connells home ranch was across the Columbia from the Dalles.)

Wednesday 6

Worked of the farm at plowing and harrowing. The day rather cold.

Thursday 7

Worked again with the team on the ranch. Weather still cold.

Friday 8

Made stone fence on the hill. Went over the river in the boat. Quite cool.

Saturday 9

Left for camplife about noon. When we arrived made arrangements for the night. It is my first night in camp. It is not home.

Sunday 10

This is the first Sunday I ever spent without the means of grace. I miss the meetings very much. God grant that it may not last long. We have done nothing today but write.

Monday 11

I am all alone with the dog at camp and lonesome enough with the prospect of say so all night. I sent a letter to mother today.

Tuesday 12

Stayed alone last night for the first time in my life. Have been alone all day and very lonesome. William has not come. (William Hicenbotham who bought out Mr. Moore who built the cabin.)

Wednesday 13

I am still alone. This is a hard life to lead alone in camp with nothing to do. I sometimes wish I was at home but cannot be for a long time.

Thursday 14

Was not alone last night. We got up the in the morning and caught one. I hunted cattle part of the day. Received two letters from home. Last night all well.

Friday 15

Spent another night and day alone. I hope it may soon end. It is a dull life to lead for one use to company and the enjoyments of life. Still cold and freezing.

Saturday 16

In the Dalles. Spent the day hunting cattle. Came in the Dalles in the evening. It is two weeks since I left home. The time has passed of quicker than expected.

Sunday 17

Went to church in the Dalles and united by letter after dinner. Came to camp again. How good it seems to go to meeting again.

Monday 18

Hunted cattle. Had a view of Klickitat valley from the mountain. Sent a letter to mother yesterday.

Tuesday 19

Collected a drove of 50 head and branded them, then brought them to camp.

Wednesday 20

Snow three inches deep. Very pleased getting breakfast. Hunted horses.

Thursday 21

Snow partly gone. Very cold. Hunted stock all day. Received a letter from home. All well. I fear mother is worrying for me too much.

Friday 22

Spent the day separating cattle. The day rather cold.

Saturday 23

Put in a hard day's ride separating cattle on the Maxwell bottom. Another hand Mr. Evens came to camp tonight.

Sunday 24

Spent the day in camp, mostly. Wrote a letter to mother.

Monday 25

Three weeks ago today I came to Mr. Connells. I sent a letter home today. I am alone with the camp but William will soon be back.

Tuesday 26

Branded cattle all day. Very tired with sore hands. Received a letter from home.

Wednesday 27

Branded and fene cattle in the morning and gathered up in the afternoon.

Thursday 28

Gathered up cattle all the forenoon then separated and tried to drive the hill but failed Very tired.

Friday 29

Gathered up the cattle again and started them. Drove to the Maxwell bottom. Sent a letter home.

Sunday 30

Gathered up the cattle and counted them. Remained in camp all day.

Sunday 31

Still in camp. The fourth Sunday from home.

Monday 1 (April)

Started on the road for caribou early in the morning. Traveled about ten miles. Wrote a letter home. Received one also.

Tuesday 2

Traveled about eleven miles. Nothing interesting except some Indians bones and skulls.

Wednesday 3

Had some trouble gathering the cattle. Traveled about 12 miles.

Thursday 4

Nothing of interest. The country is very rough. Run about five miles after cattle.

Friday 5

Traveled over some level country. Camped on Birch Creek. Weather quite warm.

Saturday 6

Got off the trail and only traveled about five miles.

Sunday 7

Drove all day. It is the first day I ever worked except for charity. Oh! how I should like to go to meeting.

Monday 8

Made a very long drive. Camped on Yachama (Yakima).

Tuesday 9

Spent the day crossing the river. Only got a part of the cattle over. Fell into the river off of the bank. Had a narrow escape.

Wednesday 10

Still crossing the river. Having a deal of trouble.

Thursday 11

Hunted cattle all day. Went back (can't make it out)

Friday 12

Drove all day. Weather very warm.

Saturday 13

Traveled a short distance and camped at Wm. house, weather very warm.

Sunday 14

Hunted cattle nearly all day. Sent a letter home. I hope I shall not have to work every Sunday.

Monday 15

Started from Yachama (Yakima) this morning. Counted the cattle and found some missing. Went back to hunt. Did not get in until 12 o'clock.

Tuesday 16

Wednesday 17

Arrived on the Columbia.

Thursday 18

Swam the river with the cattle.

Friday 19

Got everything over the river. Camped in the rocks. Bot (bought) of me a revolver, canteens and overcoat for \$30.00.

Saturday 20

Drove about six miles. Camped on the river. Sent a letter home by Mr. T.

Sunday 21

Spent the day herding. No religious services. How strange it seems to be without the means of grace.

Monday 22

Still traveling on the river. The weather is quite pleasant. I found some round.....

Tuesday 23

Left the river. Made a long drive. Camped on Badger Mountain. (The hillcrest of Badger Mt.)

Wednesday 24

Traveled about 15 miles. Camped in the Grand Cooley(Coulee). Three of us drove the whole band most of the way. Weather warm. (This very evidently was Moses Coulee)

Thursday 25

Travelled all day in the Cooley. Went duck shooting in the evening.

Friday 26

Traveled about 20 miles. Camped on Willow creek.

Saturday 27

Came to the Columbia, prepared to cross the river.

Sunday 28

Crossed the river. Camped on ockonging (Okanogan?) Sent a letter home by a pacher.

Monday 29

Traveled about 15 miles over the mountain. Camped again on the O river.

Tuesday 30

Traveled all day on level road. Made about 15 miles. The country is beautiful for scenery. I like it well.

Wednesday 1 (May)

Saw some Blue Jays this morning and some Fir trees. Scenery beautiful and varied. Passed through McLawthing Canion. Made a very long drive.

Thursday 2

Made a short drive up the river over very nice country.

Friday 3

Crossed the river. Camped near the small lake Goeyer

Saturday 4

Passed the custom house, I am now on Brittish (British) soil. The first I ever trod.

Sunday 5

Drove all day. At night a large fat steer laid down and died. How much longer must I work on Sunday.

Monday 6

Drove over some very rough road. Shot a grouse camped on the Ockenoging lake.

Tuesday 7

A fine view of the lake all day. Drove about 10 miles. So far I like the trip first rate. Went back after a cow.

Wednesday 8

Traveled over the roughest road I ever saw. Very tired a foot-sore.

Thursday 9

In the morning went back after a cow. Shot a pheasant. Traveled about 10 miles through timber and brush web-foot fashion.

Friday 10

Did not travel far. Some rain in the morning. Timber country.

Saturday 11

Come about five miles over rock and mountains. Wm. was thrown from his horse and hurt badly.

Sunday 12

Again we are on the road on this holy day. Oh! how I should like to be at Cleer Creek to meeting today. I want to hear from home so bad.

Monday 13

Very tired. Traveled over very bad road. Got to camp at dark.

Tuesday 14

Roads still bad. Weather very warm. Not very well.

Wednesday 15

Traveled over beautiful country. Reached the head of the lake. Of all of home scene I love this the best. Tis the land of my choice. Oh, here let me rest.

Thursday 16

Traveling through timber again. Crossed Salmon creek. Stayed back with an old give out cow. Did not get her through. Got to camp at dark.

Friday 17

Went back early in the morning after the cow. Could not bring her. Crossed the prairie (prairie) Camped on duck lake.

Saturday 18

Again I stayed back with a poor cow. Passed Duck place. Camped on the Thompson.

Sunday 19

Received two letters from home. Welcome guests. All well. Traveled a short distance down the Thompson. Very nice country. Still we drive on the Sabbath. I hope this may be the last. A pleasant ride of 20 miles in the evening.

Monday 20

Traveled a short distance. I went to Camloops in the evening. Its a very bad place.

Tuesday 21

Left Camloops and camped on the lake. Water very bad. Nothing interesting except mosquitoes.

Wednesday 22

Traveled through some brush and over hills. Passed McCleaners ranch. Camped on a small creek.

Thursday 23

Crossed the Thompson. Mailed a letter home. Had a hard day's ride. Rode a horse down, saw the first white woman from the Dalles. Heavy shower.

Friday 24

Struck the wagon road. Went back after cattle. Hard rain in the evening camped a rock point.

Saturday 25

Drove about two miles. Camped on Battle Creek. Mended my boots.

Sunday 26

Traveled 19 miles. H is still after us. Crossed the Bonepart into the Yale road. Still we travel on Sunday. No meeting no society.

Monday 27

Traveled 13 miles. Camped on the lake. Went back after cattle. A heavy shower in the evening.

Tuesday 28

Camped at the Junction. W. and I hunted all day for an animal but did not find it. We have a gay time with the muse (music) Quite a warm day. No rain.

Wednesday 29

Received a letter from home. They are all well. I am so glad to hear from them again. Made a drive of 23 miles. Camped in the Green timber. We herd the cattle tonight.

Thursday 30

Traveled 30 miles through the timber and mud. Camped at the 100 mile post. Open country again. Mosquitoes very bad.

Friday 31

Did not start till noon. Drove three miles and camped on a lake. A little rain in the evening. Mr. Bates came to camp this evening in a buggy.

Saturday 1 (June)

Mr. Bates bought the cattle. We traveled eight miles and camped on La Hache creek in the evening. Washed some clothes and wrote a letter home.

Sunday 2

Traveled 10 miles. Camped on the lake. Would not have traveled but our cattle got mixed. We will soon be done.

Monday 3

Traveled 15 miles. Camped on La Hache creek. Caught some fish, in the evening, mosquitoes very bad.

Tuesday 4

Traveled 14 miles which brought us to our destination. We delivered the cattle and are camped on a small creek emptying into Williams lake. Our driving is done for a time and I am glad, still I like to drive. Raining hard.

Wednesday 5

Started on our return trip and traveled 15 miles. It is raining web foot fashion horse I hate web foot rain.

Thursday 6

Traveled 36 miles through the rain and mud. Bless me aint it pleasant riding through the rain.

Friday 7

Traveled 37 miles, camped in the green timber at the 70. Plenty of mosquitoes. Passed a team stuck in the mud.

Saturday 8

23 miles brings us to the Junction where I got another square meal again. Had the horses shod and came on four miles and camped.

Sunday 9

Again I am compelled to travel on Sunday. The boys will not lay by. This morning we left Wm. and Mr. Connell. We traveled 30 miles, camped on Battle Creek. (Wm.H. and Mr. Connell returned by boat.)

Monday 10

Traveled about 33 miles. Crossed the Thompson at the ferry. I bought \$11.50 worth of bacon and payed \$3.00 for ferryage. A heavy gale of wind and rain.

Tuesday 11

Came four miles and then layed over the rest of the day. I bought me some mosquito bar which makes a great difference with those pests. We are camped 1 mile below Camloops.

Wednesday 12

Traveled about 35 miles which brought us beyond all civilization. We are again in the wilderness. Camped on the Grand Prairy. A heavy rain in the evening.

Thursday 13

Traveled 30 miles. Camped on Hat Creek 12 miles down the lake. Traded horses for Mr. Connell his horse being sick. We crossed Salmon creek today. It is very high.

Friday 14

Traveled about 36 miles. Camped opposite the mission. Got some milk off the Indians.

Saturday 15

Passed a drove of cattle. Shod a horse in the morning. Started at 11 o'clock. 25 miles. Camped at the Junction of two trails and a small creek.

Sunday 16

At length we rest on God's day. I have persuaded the boys to lay by. Oh! how I should like to be at home today and go to meeting with those loved ones at home.

Monday 17

Traveled about 45 miles, passed the custom house and camped just across the line. The mosquitoes are bad. Had a free fight in camp this morning between Cratie and Sharp.

Tuesday 18

Crossed the Ockonging river this morn. Drowned one horse on the river and got everything wet. Traveled about 14 miles.

Wednesday 19

Traveled about 40 miles and camped near the mouth of the river O. Mosquitoes plenty. We passed through the McLauthlen canyon.

Thursday 20

Came to the Columbia and crossed. Very high, no accident. Traveled about 30 miles. Camped in the Grand Colley. (Moses C.)

Friday 21

Passed through the Grand Cooley. Traveled about 25 miles. Camped at the Quakinas springs on account of water.

Saturday 22

Sent a letter home by Ed. 15 miles, brought us to the C. river where we tried to swim but got only half the horses over. Three of the boys went with them and I with an Indian go below. Traveled 15 miles farther making thirty total.

Sunday 23

Traveled 15 miles over stone.....and sand hills without water. Crossed the below Preasts (Priest's) rapids with a canoe, paddled myself for the first time no grub and we must travel.

Monday 24

Left Columbia and arrived at Yackama, distance 40 miles. Find everything all right but no tools to make hay. (He is back at Wm's house.)

Tuesday 25

It seems strange not to be traveling. I washed some clothes and went down to Mr. Parkers. Found plenty of wild currants and mosquitoes.

Wednesday 26

Slept very late. Run around among the neighbors. Found the four cows all right. Sent a letter home and one to Wm. Weather very warm.

Thursday 27

Hunted nearly all day for horse. Got very tired. Spent the rest of the day with some neighbor boys. This is a very lazy way to pass time.

Friday 28

Went down the river about three miles and got an Indian to bring us a grind stone, then played as usual.

Saturday 29

Fixed some fence and then went and raked hay for a neighbor with a horse rake. Johnson (post rider) came tonight.

Sunday 30

I am very glad that I do not have to do any more on the Sabath. I would like to go to meeting. I wrote a very long letter to Mary.

Monday 1 (July)

Today I am installed as cook which I am not very proud of. I done various small jobs pertaining to household affairs.

Tuesday 2

Put up hay in the forenoon. In the afternoon worked in the house. Weather warm.

Wednesday 3

Traveled about 20 miles hunting horses. Suffered very much for water. Came home very tired.

Thursday 4

This is the glorious old 4th of July and I can not celebrate it. I am in a rebel settlement. Oh how I should like to be at home today. Raked hay all day.

Friday 5

Mowed in the forenoon and put up hay in the afternoon. It is again cool and cloudy and the mosquitoes are as bad as ever.

Saturday 6

Hunted up the cattle and shut up three cows and milked them. Washed a shirt and done my cooking.

Sunday 7

Oh! how I should like to be in a good love feast this morning and hear the experience of God's children. Wrote five letters and sent them off.

Monday 8

Got up a lot of wood in the forenoon in the afternoon. Worked at the hay. Very warm.

Tuesday 9

Worked at the hay A.M. and P.M. Hunted a horse. We have no meat and it is rather poor grub.

Wednesday 10

Raked hay all day with the horse. The horse is very lazy and I am very hot and tired.

Thursday 11

Raked hay $\frac{1}{2}$ the day and then went down to Parkers and got our grub. Very hot.

Friday 12

Some rain. Put up hay in the forenoon and then cut up some meat and salted it. Wm. came out today. Received two letters from home.

Saturday 13

Put up hay all day and in the evening located my claim on the Yakima. I rolled up the foundation of a house. Farewell to web foot.

Sunday 14

How pleasant it is to spend the day in company with one who loves the Lord and respects his day. God grant that I may ever love Him.

Monday 15

Put up hay in the forenoon. In the afternoon the wind raised and we quit and made a rack.

Tuesday 16

Put up hay all day. A little rain.

Wednesday 17

Put up hay in the forenoon and mowed in the afternoon. Very warm.

Thursday 18

Hauled hay all day in a go cart with a yoke of oxen. Great fun aboard ship.

Friday 19

Hauled hay again. Bless me aint it pleasant riding in a stage. The weather is quite cold.

Saturday 20

Hauled in the forenoon. Rained quite hard. Cut pole for a fence in the afternoon. Wrote a letter to mother.

Sunday 21

Sent the letter home. I went to Mr. Fosters where I took dinner after the old....I should like to be rock Creek today at camp meeting.

Monday 22

Worked hard all day at hauling hay. Very warm. Wm. returned for the Post about noon.

Tuesday 23

Still very warm and still at the same work. I am reducing in flesh all the time though quite well.

Wednesday 24

On account of rain through the night we did not begin work till afternoon. It is quite old fashion to have rain.

Thursday 25

The rain has put a stop to the hay business till it dries. Hauled poles for in the afternoon.

Friday 26

Bright and pleasant again. Worked hard all day at hauling hay. Wished soon be done and I shall be on horse back again.

Saturday 27

Quite cool, pleasant, very favorable for our work at the hay. Mosquitoes are again bad.

Sunday 28

How sweet is the Sabbath
The day which Jesus hath blessed.
Its a foretaste of heaven
And an emblem of rest.

Wrote two letters home.

Monday 29

Worked a short time at the hay and then went to cutting house logs on my ranch. Very warm.

Tuesday 30

Cut a few fence poles and hauled hay the rest of the day. Tremendous hot.

Wednesday 31

Hauled hay in the forenoon and in the afternoon. Hauled poles for the fence.

Thursday 1 (August)

Hauled poles and built fence around the stack.

Friday 2

Finished the fence and came out to the Topnish (Toppenish) on our way to the Dalles.

Saturday 3

Traveled all day up the Sattas (Satus) went over the summit and camped on a small creek in the woods.

Sunday 4

Arrived in Cllicitat (Klickitat) after a short ride. I am so sorry that we had to ride on Sabbath.

Monday 5

Laid in camp all day by a stinking pond of water with the wind blowing a perfect gale.

Tuesday 6

Moved to Mr. Parrots where we will remain for some time. Sent a letter home, Received five from home.

Wednesday 7

Worked in the harvest field in exchange with Mr. Parrots.

Thursday 8

Worked a short time then helped on a corral. The wind blows quite hard.

Friday 9

Worked all day on the fence.

Saturday 10

Finished the fence and came into the Dalles. My horse got away and I had to walk 15 miles to the Dalles. Wind blows hard. Received a letter from mother.

Sunday 11

Sent a letter home. Spent very Geo. Hic. Heard two sermons. Oh! how pleasant to be in the house of God. I hope I shall ever have a desire to attend the means of grace.

Monday 12

Spent the day gathering up cattle and got my spikeing horse tame. Weather very warm. (Spikeing is the old word for "bucking".)

Tuesday 13

Drove the cattle over to Clickatat, three animals got foundered. Very hot in the forenoon. A little rain P.M.

Wednesday 14

Gathered up cattle all day. I went up to the 4 springs with seven Indians. A very respectable crowd we.

Thursday 15

Drove the cattle two miles to water and then branded the rest of the day. Very dusty in the corral.

Friday 16

Hunted and branded cattle as usual.

Saturday 17

Gathered some more cattle and branded and then went over to the Clickitat creek.

Sunday 18

Watched the cattle $\frac{1}{2}$ day. I should like to have heard the bishop preach who is in the Dalles.

Monday 19

Hunted cattle all day. Got no grub till after dark.

Tuesday 20

Still continued to hunt cattle and brand and then drove over to the creek again and shod a horse.

Wednesday 21

Started to Yakama with 800 head of cattle. Drove till after dark and then Wm. and I went to bed without supper. Received a letter from home.

Thursday 22

Traveled a short distance and camped on the Satas. Very warm. Shod two horses in the afternoon.

Friday 23

Came to the Topnish. Saw a number of rattlesnake. The dust is very bad.

Saturday 24

Drove to Yakima and crossed the river with all the cattle without difficulty. Found everything all right at home. (Back to the cabin.)

Sunday 25

Spent the day as best I could with no meeting to attend. How I should like to attend the meetings of grace.

Monday 26

Separated cattle all day preparatory to Wm. departure. Weather is very warm.

Tuesday 27

This morning Wm. starts for B. C. with another band of cattle. I stay on Yakima alone and herd the rest of the cattle. Sent a letter home. Had a hard run in the evening by forgetting letters.

Wednesday 28

My horse got away and I did not get him again till nearly noon. I then went around all the cattle. Came home late and got my supper.

Thursday 29

Got an early start and saw all the cattle ^uSlonteer(?) brought me some green corn which goes well. Bought me a hat of French, done some washing. (Frenche's corner in town of Yakima, Union Gap now.)

Friday 30

Spent the day looking for the cattle. Very warm.

Saturday 31

Looked after the cattle in the morning and then started for Simcoe. Came near getting drowned in the river, lost my dog, mired my horse, got through without further accident.

Sunday 1 (September)

Went to meeting at Simcoe at 11 o'clock. Heard Mr. Wilber preach. Spent the rest of the day very pleasantly with Printis and Martha (Mattoon).

Monday 2

Received a letter from home. Came home again, got my dinner and went out to look at the cattle. Found everything all right. Lost my pocket knife.

Tuesday 3

Crossed the river to see if any cattle had gone over, then packed a load of oats home and began a whip in the evening.

Wednesday 4

Wrote two letters, one home and sent them away. Braided on my whip most of the day.

Thursday 5

This is my 21st birthday. How time flies. Yesterday as it were I was but a boy. Went up to Mr. Thorps after cattle and the crossed the river again. I should like to be home tonight.