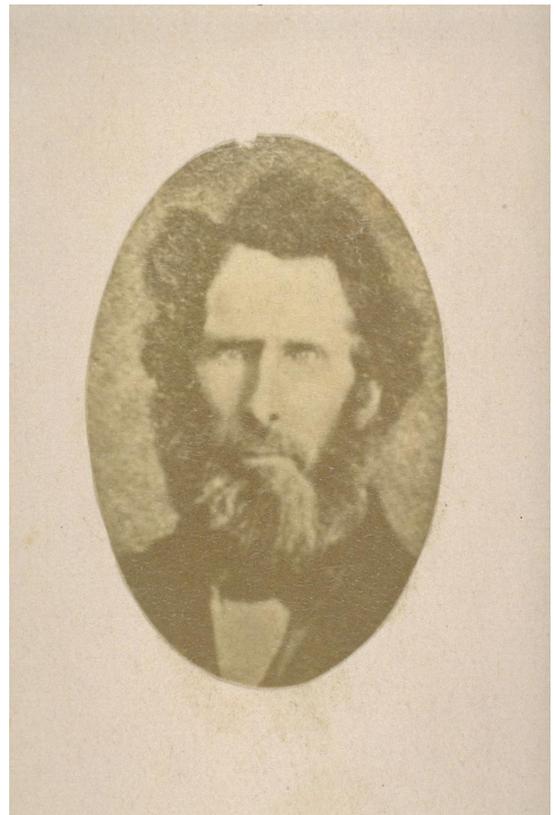


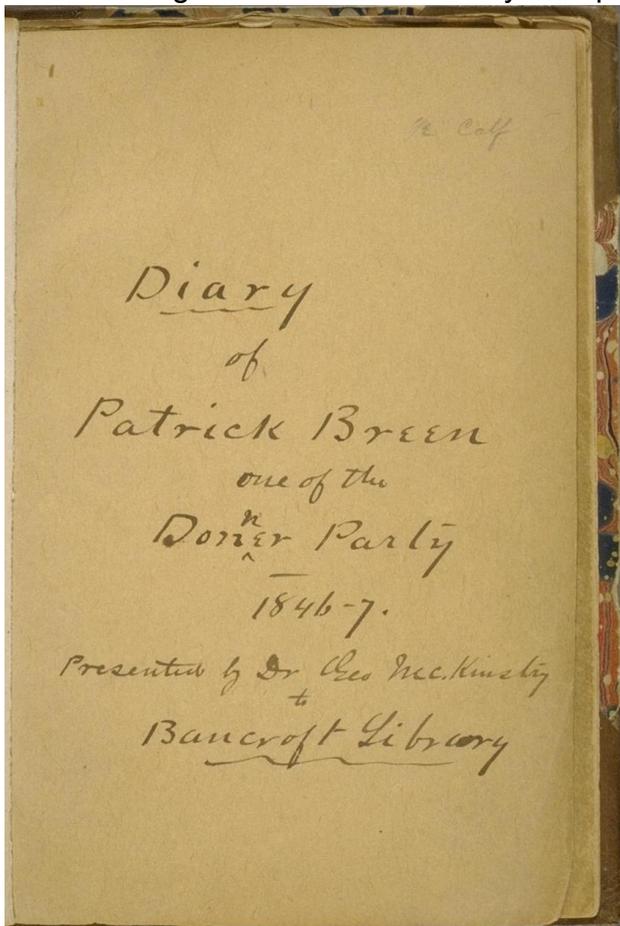
PATRICK BREEN'S DONNER PARTY DIARY

By PATRICK BREEN
Winter 1846-47

"Fri^d. 5th snow^d. hard all untill 12 O'clock at night, wind still continues to blow hard from the S.W. to day pretty clear a few clouds only Peggy very uneasy for fear we shall all perish with hunger we have but a little meat left & only part of 3 hides has to support M^{rs}. Reid, she has nothing left but one hide & it is on Graves shanty Mil^t. is livig there & likely will Keep that hide Eddys child died last night-" [Margaret Eddy was 5 years old.]



Sun^d. 7th Cease^d. to snow last after one of the most Severe Storms we Experienced this winter the snow fell about 4 feet deep I had to shovel the snow off our shanty this morning it thaw so fast & thaw^d. during the whole storm to day it is quite pleasant wind S.W. Milt here today says M^{rs} Reid has to get ahide from M.^{rs} Murphy & McCutchins child died 2nd of this Month" [Harriet McCutchen was 1 year old.]



Wedn^d. 10th beautiful morning Wind W. froze hard last night, to day thawing in the Sun Milt Elliot died las night at Murphys Shanty about 9 Oclock P.M. M^{rs} Reid went there this morning to see after his effects, J Denton trying to borrow meat for Graves had none to give they have nothing but hides all are entirely out of meat but a little we have our hides are nearly all eat up but with Gods help spring will smile upon us"

"Frid 26th froze hard last night to day clear & warm Wind S:E. blowing briskly Marthas jaw swelled with the tooth ache; hungry times in camp, plenty hides but the folks will not eat them we eat them with a tolerable good appetite, Thanks be to Almighty God, Amen M^{rs} Murphy said here yesterday that thought she would Commence on Mil^t. & eat him, I dont that she has done so yet, it is distressing The Donnors told the California folks that they Commence to eat the dead people 4 days agoe, if they did not succeed that day or next in finding their cattle then under ten or twelve feet of snow & did not know the spot or near it I suppose They have done so ere this time"