

1. "We drove a covered wagon and a team of oxen called 'Bootlegs' and 'Tom.' ...At one time it got so monotonous that little Allard teased his father to 'drive where there was not so much grass and more sandhill cranes.' At one of our camping places our oxen ate up our box of dried herrings during the night."  
*Abbie Mott Benedict, 1869, Clay County, IA*

Hitch up your **OXEN**. It's a good thing you brought them. Even though John thinks that oxen are slow and stupid they are very dependable and strong and will be able to handle this long trip. One point for **OXEN**.

2. Saturday, May 17, "Awoke this morning, found it is raining hard as it could pour down. The men went out of the wagon, made some coffee and warmed some beans and brought the breakfast to the wagon, which we all crowded into. Used a trunk for a table and made out a very comfortable meal. After eating they put the dishes under the wagon where they remained till four o'clock, when the rain ceased and I left the shelter of the wagon for the first time today. It had grown very cold through the day, most of the men were wet through". *Jane Gould Tourtellott, 1862*

With the rain and the cold weather, you really appreciate the **COFFEE & BLANKETS** you bought. You are glad you brought the **MATCHES**, otherwise there would be no friendly fire for warmth and cooking. For ourselves we really needed blankets because most of the time we slept either out under the stars and underneath the wagon. One point each for each **BLANKETS, COFFEE, MATCHES**.

3. "We camped out every night, took our flour and meat with us and were at home. Every night cooked our suppers and slept in our wagon. We had a dutch oven and skillet, teakettle and coffee pot, and when I made bread I made 'salt rising.'" *Kitturah Penton Belknap, 1839, Ohio to Iowa*

Funny name salt rising.... There ain't no salt in it. Mostly just water, flour and corn meal. It's a good thing you brought **FLOUR and CORN MEAL** to make bread. And who remembered to buy a **SKILLET**? One point for each **FLOUR, CORN MEAL and SKILLET**.

4. "Father loved to hunt...and at that time there was plenty of wild game such as deer, wild turkeys, prairie chickens, quails & rabbits & and in summer squirrels & Buffalos was plenty but he never killed one he always used a rifle in hunting...."

*Margaret Archer Murray, 1846, near Anamosa, IA*

By the time we traveled to Iowa, the buffalo had all been hunted, but there were still a mess of turkeys, deer, and rabbits. One point for each **RIFLE, EXTRA LEAD and POWDER**

This morning Pa went out early and shot a deer. Ma cooked a mess of deer and cured the rest of it with **SALT**, Pa went back out to hunt some more. There was a single gunshot and a scream of pain. Pa had a hunting accident. Oh! We were terrified. He had shot off the tip of his pinky. Better give him some **WHISKEY** to deaden the pain and to clean out the wound. One point each for each **SALT and WHISKEY**

5. "June 12...Passed five graves this morning and a camp where one of their men was dying. The sickness is quite mortal..."

June 14... Passed two graves today death caused from the cholera....

June 15...Traveled about three miles today and encamped on the account of our sick ones. Henry is not any better and there are three more of our train that are sick. We find plenty of wood with our camping ground..." *Lydia Allen Rudd, 1852*

"Tuesday, June 3...In the afternoon we passed a lonely nameless grave on the prairie. It had a headboard. It called up a sad train of thoughts, to my mind, it seems so sad to think of being buried and left alone in so wild a country with no one to plant a flower or shed a tear o'er one's grave..." *Jane Gould Tortillott, 1862*

The youngest in your family group came down with cholera. You gave that youngin' **CHOLERA MEDICINE** and the child dies. It's a waste of your money, you shouldn't have taken it. So subtract one point if you bought **CHOLERA MEDICINE**. For myself I am ever so thankful that none of us got sick. Many others were not so lucky. However, if you did lose someone, hopefully you bought a shovel so you could bury them. One point for **SHOVEL**

6. "Monday, May 16th...Evening - We have had all kinds of weather today. This morning was dry, dusty and sandy. This afternoon it rained, hailed, and the wind was very high. Have been traveling all the afternoon in mud and water up to our hubs. Broke chains and stuck in the mud several times. The men and boys are all wet and muddy. Hard times but they say misery loves company. We are not alone on these bare plains, it is covered with cattle and wagons..." *Amelia Stewart Knight, 1853*

Your wagon wheels begin to sink into wet sand during a river crossing. You get stuck. The only saving grace is that you brought along a **ROPE**. Quick tie the rope to your wagon and tie it to a tree or another wagon so your wagon doesn't slide downstream. If you broke chains that means your harness might be done for. Hope you purchased an extra one. One point each for **ROPE and EXTRA HARNESS**.

7. "Saturday, June 28...Did not travel today.... Albert set the tire of his wagon wheels and set some shoes on the horses, which made a pretty hard days work for him. He also shortened the reach for his wagon. The smith here only charges ten dollars for shoeing a yoke of oxen. I did a large washing and Lucy did a large quantity of cooking. Made herself nearly sick working so hard. Gus and I took my clothes to the river to rinse them. Was a little island covered with wild bushes nearby. Gus tried to wade over to it - to hang the clothes but it was too deep so we were obliged to hang them on some low bushes close to the river." *Jane Gould Tortillott, 1862*

Chores were still a big part of traveling. Cooking, dishes, and cleaning were done routinely. Hope you didn't waste your money on new clothes. We just take to washing the ones we have. No point in ruining nice new things. I won't take a point away if you did buy new clothes but let it be a lesson in wastefulness.

The hills and ruts are hard on the wagon and it begins to creak. To keep the wagon wheels turning, fix it with the **AXEL GREASE**. Oh no! The wheel broke so you had better pull out the **DRAW KNIFE** to fix it. It will help you make a new spoke in no time. One point each for **AXEL GREASE** and **DRAW KNIFE** (two points possible).

Not only did John bring these things but he also brought an extra Axle, wagon tongue, wheel, and oxen yoke.

8. "This is our fifth week. Is early yet so Charles and me walk down to the river to fish. Uncle Chet showed up as he said, 'to help carry the load of fish we were going to hook.'" Big joke. Anyway we fooled him and ourselves because we caught some real nice ones. The drawback is to clean the messy things. Back to camp and fish for supper." *Mary Alice Shutes, 1862 Carroll County, IA*

Fish was a wonderful way to get meat out on the trail. Hopefully you purchased fish hooks and a skinning knife to clean them from the General Store. One point for each **FISH HOOKS** and **SKINNING KNIFE**.

9. "...we will have to camp tonight as we have been doing..." We have a nice campfire going to keep wild animals away - mostly the small kind. They won't come very close to the fire. Nearest neighbor is nearly half a mile away. Anyway we have a lot of weary miles behind us. Glad to have done it but would not care to do it over again or very soon anyway." *Mary Alice Shutes, 1862 Carroll County, IA*

Yes the journey is taking its toll and is taking longer than expected. But by now we have finally reached the border of Iowa. But we were stopped in our tracks before we could lay a foot on Iowa soil. What did we run into? Mississippi River. The only way to safely cross was to take a ferry. The ferry at Dubuque costed **\$1.80**. If you held back enough money give yourself another point.

You have finally arrived in Iowa. Soon you will need your **AX** if you build your home and farm. It has been a long trip with many hardships past and many more to come. One point for **AX**.

#### POINT TOTALS:

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| 13 +      | Made it in a generally good time and with little hardship  |
| 13-10     | Made it but suffered hardships, perhaps lost a member of your family group   |
| 9 or less | Stopped along the way. You did not make it to Iowa this year. And you did not turn around for there was nothing to go back to. Save up and try again next year. You will be wiser and better prepared for the journey. |