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book, *El Gringo*, of being a guest of Mr. Magoffin at Magoffinsville, which he names as the site of Fort Bliss and places it directly opposite the Mexican town of El Paso. He says he found Mr. Magoffin living quite in nabob style in a large Spanish-built house that reminded him somewhat of an old mansion of the feudal ages.

During the war between the states, Colonel Magoffin, as he was then called, furnished supplies to the Confederates at Fort Bliss, and subsequently died at San Antonio, Texas, September 28, 1868. His sons, Joseph and Samuel, served in the Confederate Army, the latter giving his life to that cause. Joseph survived and returned to El Paso.

Samuel Magoffin, spoken of in the journal as "Don Manuel," and often more tenderly as "*mi alma*," received most of his education from private tutors. Being a child of a frontier state, he had only such facilities as were afforded to men who cultivated their fields with a loaded rifle slung over their shoulders, always in danger of attack from a savage foe. From such environment sprang men with iron in their blood, and courage that knew no such thing as fear. Samuel, in 1830, joined his brother James in the overland trade to Mexico, when merchandise was conveyed over the Santa Fé Trail in ox teams, and either specie or the products of that land, including furs, jacks, mules, etc., were brought back to the States. This trade was of great importance and filled with hazard; chivalry and romance in the natures of those who participated were very necessary qualities. The volume of business in that trade in 1846 amounted to nearly one million

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dollars. The canvas-covered wagons of these merchant trains, glistening like banks of snow in the distance, and winding their tortuous way over the undulating surface of the prairies, were often the object of attack by Indian tribes and Mexican robbers. Few trips were made without a tragedy to some member of the expedition.

Samuel continued in this business until the expedition mentioned in the journal, which terminated the partnership enterprise. In the latter part of 1847 he returned to Kentucky, where he purchased a large estate near Lexington. In the spring of 1852 he moved his family to St. Louis County, Missouri, where he built a fine home at Barrett's Station, not far from the present town of Kirkwood. Here he engaged in cultivating the land and dealing generally in real estate. Active business was not necessary then, because of his ample property, and he passed his declining years in the quiet life of a country gentleman. He died at his home April 23, 1888.

Susan Shelby Magoffin was born July 30, 1827, at "Arcadia," as her father's place was called. It was located about six miles south of Danville, Kentucky, and adjoined "Traveler's Rest," the home of her grandfather, Governor Isaac Shelby. She was educated by private tutors at her home, and was married to Samuel Magoffin, November 25, 1845, at the place of her birth. One of her sisters, Anna N., also married a Magoffin. Her husband was Beriah, afterwards governor of Kentucky, and brother of Samuel and James.

Samuel took his bride to Philadelphia and New York for their honeymoon, spending the winter in the

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East. In the spring they turned westward to Independence, Missouri, where they awaited the goods which he had purchased in the East for the expedition to Santa Fé. With her honeymoon she began the first part of her journal, dividing her story into two parts; the first having to do with her experiences in the East, and the second part covering the expedition from Independence, and ending in Mexico, which is here published. The journal of the western trip is complete, excepting a few pages near the end, which have been lost.

A gentlewoman, such as the writer of this journal, wife of a wealthy man, might well be expected to shrink from such a journey. In considering her attitude in that respect, one may well pause to reflect upon the character of the people of that day. She was the daughter of Isaac Shelby and Marie Boswell Warren (daughter of Captain John Warren and Judith Swan Boswell) of Danville, Kentucky; and the granddaughter of Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky. Her grandmother, Susannah Hart Shelby, was the daughter of the noted pioneer and soldier, Colonel Nathaniel Hart. It was said that this lady "raised the flax which she wove and spun into her wedding gown, with an art so clever that she could draw the widths through her wedding ring." Governor Shelby was a soldier in the Colonial army, the Revolutionary War, and also in the War of 1812, being an officer in each. He was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, December 11, 1750.

Mrs. Samuel Magoffin gave birth to a son at Matamoros while she was suffering from yellow fever, and

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the child died soon after birth. At Lexington, Kentucky, she gave birth to another son, who was called James, and who died in childhood. In 1851, a daughter, Jane (quite generally known as Janie), was born. She married George Taylor of Ohio. Mrs. Taylor was but four years old when her mother died, and has preserved this journal as a fond remembrance. Another daughter, Susan, now Mrs. André Jalicon, of Genoa, Italy, was born in St. Louis County, in the year 1855.

Mrs. Magoffin died October 26, 1855, at the family residence at Barrett's Station, Missouri. Her funeral took place in St. Louis at the Pine Street Presbyterian Church, to which denomination the Magoffins belonged. She was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis.

It is an interesting fact that the adventure of Susan Shelby Magoffin has attracted the attention of writers who never saw her journal. One of them says: "Mr. Magoffin bore with him a young, rich and lovely bride, of the noblest blood of Kentucky, to this mart of his commerce. She had it not in her nature to know fear. Through all the alarms of the camp, toils of the march, and the privations of the army, this lady was found cheerful. She was the charm of the social circle of the encampment in hours of ease, and in times of danger, brave as the bravest. Nor was her courage untried, for it happened that the carriage, getting off the line of march of the army, with only a small escort which had lagged behind, was suddenly ridden up to by a squad of guerrillas. Their further proceedings were instantly and timely stopped by the sight of a pair

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of pistols presented at them by a lovely woman. Such was the intrepidity of a lady in the Chihuahua column of the 'Army of the West.'" (Cutts, *Conquest of California and New Mexico*, p. 86.)

Wislizenus, in his *Tour of Northern Mexico* (p. 70), mentions an incident which occurred at another time when there was a gap in the journal, May 11, 1847: "While encamped at San Lorenzo, a rumor reached us that the Mexicans at San Sebastian had cut off the American traders in the rear of the army. A party at once started back; the more willingly as an interesting and respectable lady, sharing all the hardships and dangers of such an expedition with her husband, was concerned in it."

Mrs. Magoffin kept her journal in a book eight and a half inches wide, ten inches long, and one and a half inches thick. The pages are lined and the binding is three-quarters calf. The first forty-nine pages, numbered consecutively, were devoted to poetry, mostly of love. Some were copied by her from well-known authors, whose names are given in each case. Some are marked "original," and one is inscribed: "April 7, 1839. To Anna, by Beriah Magoffin." On page 10, a subject head reads, "A delineation of a lady's heart by a Gentleman." Under this is a sketch of a heart divided by cross lines into little compartments greatly varying in size, labeled "frivolity, affection, scandal, jealousy," etc. Below this is a subject head reading, "A Reply to the above by a Lady." Then follows the reply in verse.

The numbering of the pages starts anew with the beginning of the diary, being marked from 1 to 206.

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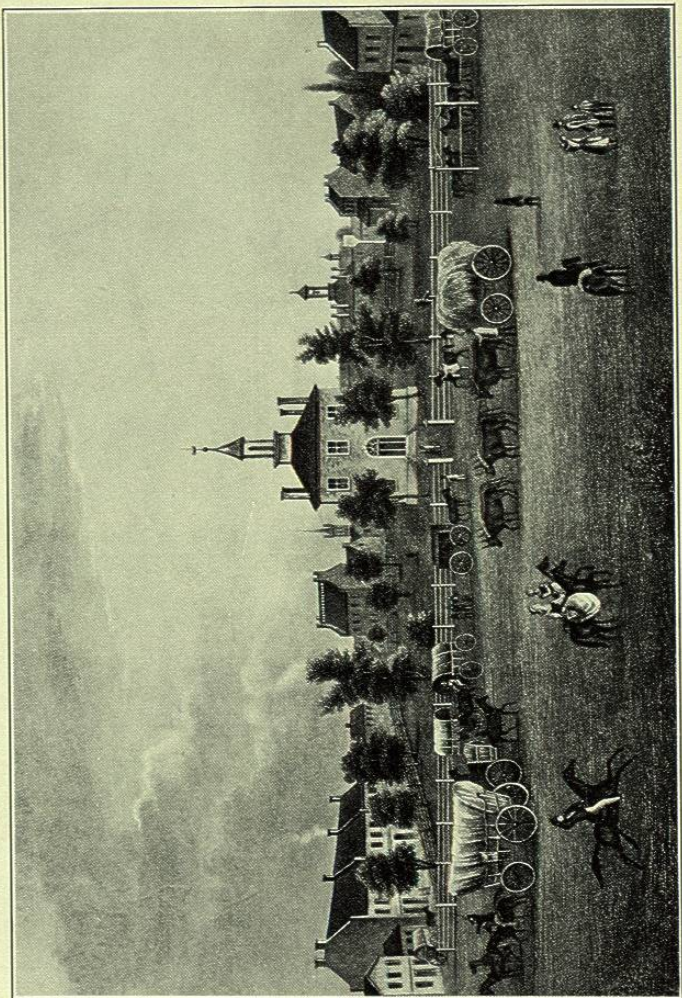
The handwriting is round, well formed, and legible, written in ink, with scarcely a blot in the whole volume. The pages are likewise clean, bright, and free from stain.

As the adventure of Columbus upon the uncharted seas gave to the world a new continent, so the expeditions into the pathless and unknown West were the forerunners of the conquest of a vast domain, and the spread of peace and plenty. Who can estimate the amount of wealth added to the resources of the United States by the acquisition of the state of Texas, and the territory acquired as a result of the Mexican War? The riches there found surpassed the imagination of the wildest dreamer. Let one follow the caravans and reflect upon the type of men who conducted the trade along the Santa Fé Trail and into Mexico, and he will readily understand the rapidity with which the American frontier was carried to the Pacific Ocean.

Grateful acknowledgment is here made to Hon. Samuel M. Wilson of Lexington, Kentucky, for information regarding the Shelby family, and also to the El Paso Public Library and Hon. Benjamin F. Read of Santa Fé, New Mexico, for information used in several of the notes. To Mr. Chilton Atkinson of St. Louis I am especially indebted in very many respects for his kind assistance.

STELLA M. DRUMM.

St. Louis, Missouri.



INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. COURTHOUSE SQUARE
Courtesy Missouri Historical Society.

TRAVELS IN MEXICO

COMMENCING JUNE, 1846.

EL DIARIO DE DONA SUSANITA MAGOFFIN.

MY journal tells a story tonight different from what it has ever done before.

The curtain raises now with a new scene. This book of travels is *Act 2nd*, literally and truly. From the city of New York to the Plains of Mexico, is a stride that I myself can scarcely realize. But now for a bit of my wonderful travels so far.

This is the third day since we left Brother James's [James Wiley Magoffin]. Tuesday evening we went into Independence;¹ there we stayed one night only at Mr. Noland's Hotel.² On Wednesday morning I did considerable business; some shopping—little articles I had thought of only within a few days. I called to see Mrs. Owens,³ and on my return from there re-

¹ Independence, the seat of Jackson County, Missouri, five miles east of Kansas City, was laid out in 1827, and by 1831 had become the western rendezvous for both Santa Fé and Oregon traffic. During the season of departure of the trains it was a place of much bustle and activity.

² Smallwood Noland, familiarly called "Uncle Wood." His hotel was the largest and most commodious in Missouri, excepting those in St. Louis; it having accommodations for as many as four hundred guests. Mr. Noland was known from the Atlantic to the Pacific, having been a hotel keeper at this place for many years.

³ Wife of Samuel C. Owens, the trader. She was Fanny Young, a sister of Eliza Ann, wife of Governor Thomas Reynolds of Missouri. After the death of her husband in the battle of Sacra-