

Westport Landing

we've arrived at last!
I'll soon leave this steamboat's deck
of stench and danger

by grace we've survived
may I never sail again
this blasted river!

days more by wagon
'til we start building our new
prairie home of sod

I shall not return
my kin stayed home, hereafter
known but by letter

seizing this moment
what will my grandchildren know
of my great journey?



Gazing downstream at Westport Landing, Kansas City, August 10, 2022, the site where my teenage grandfather Alfred Luther Dana arrived ~ 1843 with his family from Marietta, Ohio, completing a months-long journey. Another week by wagon lay before them to their new homestead near Humboldt, Kansas, not yet a state. My father was born there December 14, 1874.

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