



Julia's Unequivocal Nevada
Klampout

#43

Fremont's Castle Nevada

clamper year **6017**

Brought to you by

Julia C. Bulette chapter 1864,

E Clampus Vitus

Researched and interpreted by
Jeffrey D. Johnson XNGH, Clamphistorian

Envisioned by
Noble Grand Humbug Jess Davis

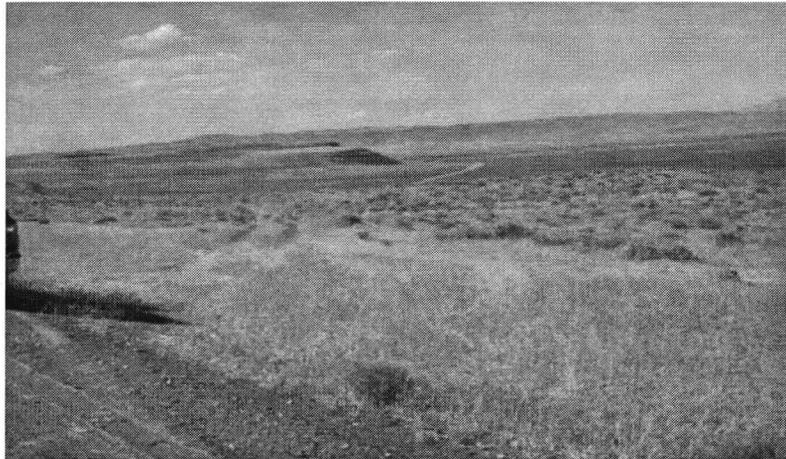
Bonafide by
General Geno Oliver XNGH, and current Proctor

Cover photo
Valley of the Mud Lakes, F. W. Egloffstein

from EXPLORATIONS AND SURVEYS FOR A RAILROAD ROUTE
FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. WAR
DEPARTMENT. REPORT OF EXPLORATIONS FOR A ROUTE FOR
THE PACIFIC RAILROAD, ON THE LINE OF THE FORTY-FIRST
PARALLEL OF NORTH LATITUDE. BY LIEUT. E. G. BECKWITH,
THIRD ARTILLERY. 1854.

Dedicated to
Edward Clapper

2012 c.e.



Nobles Trail east toward Wall Spring.

This year's Junk trek begins where last year's ended, the corner of the Ft Bidwell, Surprise Valley Stage Line and the National Wagon Road at Sheephead station on Smoke Creek. We continue on the National Wagon Road heading East from spring to spring. Each puddle is surrounded by the dead and buried over the years. This territory was a brutal battleground between the Paiute nation, harried emigrants and the never sweating Honey Lake Rangers. Before the Railroad was finished in 1869, this route was the major route west to California and East to Unionville in the Buena Vista Mining District of Humboldt County. Early in the spring of 1865, the Chico and Humboldt Wagon Road Company sent parties East to improve the road from Susanville to Ruby City, Idaho Territory going by way of Shaeffer's, Mud Springs, Smoke Creek, Sheephead Station, Buffalo Spring, Wall Spring, Deep Hole, Granite Creek, Soldier Meadows, Summit Lake, Mint Springs, Gridley Springs, Pueblo, Trout Creek, Willow Creek, White Horse Creek, Crooked River, Castle Creek, Owyhee River, Jordan Creek Valley, and Wagontown to the Owyhee mines at Silver City, Idaho.

From the Reno Evening Gazette, June 23, 1916. Willow Ranch Ft Surprise Valley Stage Line Leave Willow Ranch daily, except Sundays, at 1:30 am arrive Ft 9:00 a m noon Leave Cedarville 1:00 p m arrive Ft Bidwell 3:00 p m Ranch 6:30 Meets N C O R R (behind Louie's Basque Corner) both AUTO CO Carry US Mail and Express

The Fort Bidwell stage also stopped at Sand Pass, Pyramid City, and Jonesville, which lies on the Washoe and Roop County line before arriving at Reno.

On the National Wagon Road

Eight miles North of the Junction is Murphy's Salt Marsh, where Salt was commercially produced for B. F. Murphy's of Reno. Buffalo Meadows is the next station location. It once had a school, post office and two hotels. It was the center of a stock raising district. Wall Springs is the next wet spot in the Smoke Creek Valley. Deep Hole was a station and was also an Army Camp, Arguably it had the best water in the Black Rock.

The Murder of Lucius Arcularius (from Fairfield's History of Lassen County)

During the winter of 1864-65 the Granite Creek station on the emigrant road between Shaffer's and the Humboldt river was owned by Andrew Litch, who afterwards lived many years in Honey Lake Valley, and Lucius Arcularius. The latter, known to both white and red men as "Lucius," was a man who was liked by everybody. The only fault ever found with him was that he was too kind to the Indians. He hired them to work for him and loaned them guns and ammunition with which to hunt rabbits; and Mr. Lomas says, "All this was quite at variance with Honey Lake gospel." Not far from the first of March Arcularius started from the station on horseback and alone to go to Susanville. Lafayette Marks says that two or three days after he started someone going toward the Humboldt stopped at the station and the men he had left there inquired if they had met him on the road. The traveler replied that he had seen nothing of him. Some of them then went to the Smoke Creek station and were told there that he had not passed that place. Lomas says that W. V. Kingsbury, who kept the Smoke Creek station, came to Shaffer's and made inquiries about Arcularius. Harper says that some one went to Susanville and told the story of the missing man and that Joe Hale and Nick Curran, and perhaps others went out to look for him. However this may have been, a party started to follow his tracks after he left Deep Hole springs. They had no trouble in following them to Wall springs, but from there they were hard to trace. Finally, after hunting for several hours, they found his body with two bullet holes in it about three hundred yards from Wall springs. It would seem from appearances that two Indians lay in ambush and shot him. His horse turned sharply to one side and ran about a hundred yards and then he fell off. The Indians stripped him of his clothes and threw him into a bunch of grease brush. They took away everything he had, and as his horse was not found, probably they got that, too. The party went to the Granite Creek station and fixed up a box and came back and buried him.



Deep Hole Station

All the Live Long Day

Across the Smoke Creek Desert is the mainline of the former Western Pacific Railroad, coming down from Sand Pass, Sano, Reynard, Bronte and Phil where the Smoke Creek fades into the Black Rock Desert at Godey's Gap. Godey's Rock is the Hill here but the author has not been able to prove if this is named for Alex Godey of Fremont fame or a Godey who died in the service of the Nevada Volunteers in 1865.

John C. Fremont discovered Great Boiling Springs in 1844 on his journey from High Rock Canyon to Pyramid Lake. Pogonip, the White death, blanketed the Valley and all was thought lost till a few climbed a nearby hill and could see clear skies and sun above the fog. The steam plume from the spring was first seen from Trego Peak. Fremont fully expected to find the mythological Buenaventura River in this latitude.

The Western Pacific railroad reached the springs in 1909 and called the facility Gerlach. It was the division point between East and West, including seniority rosters. Milepost 0.0 is the center of the Ferry Building in San Francisco, (for the SP too.) and the mainline ended at Roper Yard on the D & R G W RR in Salt Lake City. Gerlach is the half way point, crew change location and had a roundhouse and switching yard being equidistant from Portola, California and Winnemucca, Nevada. As a young brakeman I was asked, "You never been to Gerlach? They've got wimmen behind every tree." Till the seventies a brothel was due east in the brush just across the line in Pershing County.



In the early thirties a Union agreement eliminated Gerlach as an away from home terminal and started runthrough service for crews from Portola yet protected work train service for Winnemucca crews. Before the invention of cable tv there was literally nothing to do but drink. I was once stuck in traffic in Sparks with the fastest car in the world. The first ever supersonic World Land Speed Record of 763.035 mph was set on October 15, 1997, by Andy Green in ThrustSSC, on the Black Rock Desert. The English reporters made Bruno Selmi famous in London but he refused an invitation from the Queen. The Burning Man Festival has ruined this part of the desert for land speed attempts because the playa is no longer perfectly flat.

My favorite memory of Bruno is him running along side my locomotive carrying an armload of crew lunches, cussing me out in Italian while I hang by an arm on the rolling train. Obviously I was innocent of his vitriol because I was not at the controls, our train had to pull the caboose into the clear of the main line.

After a night on the town you needn't show up to work before Bruno's opened in the morning at 7. The Railroad didn't like to pay the section hands overtime. After a day watching other people work on the desert we would head back to town, switch out the train for the next day and head to Bruno's for Gin and Tonics. At 8 pm one of the crew ran, walked or crawled the well worn path to the phone booth on the vard office wall (still in situ)

and called the Dispatcher in Sacramento to give the siding back. Besides Bruno's there was the Miner's Club facing the tracks and Joe's a block back. Joe was Bruno's brother from Tuscany. The Jalisco Club served the biggest burgers I've ever seen.

Empire, the Company town for a gypsum mine across the playa was established in 1923 and connected to the wye at Gerlach Yard by a Railroad. In the eighties The locomotive was manned by an all women crew.

Back to the 19th century we return to the National Wagon Road and arrive at Granite Creek Station, Also known for a time as Camp Mckee. The Soldiers patrolled the Black Rock out of Fort Churchill and camped at various strategic locations between relief. The brass knew the desert could turn some men postal and endeavored to keep idle hands busy. One such confrontation occurred at Deep Hole. Captain Almond B. Wells was a busy little soldier who ordered atrocities at Winnemucca Lake.

The most important objective of the Volunteer Army in Nevada was to prevent Southern Sympathizers from smuggling arms and bullion to finance the Confederate Army. All travelers were required to take an oath of allegiance to the Federal Government or they were incarcerated. This is the order that demanded Martial Law in the Nevada territory:

[ORDER NO. 1.] HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF UTAH, FORT CHURCHILL August 6,
1862.

The undersigned pursuant to orders from department headquarters hereby assumes command of the Military District of Utah, comprising the Territories of Nevada and Utah.

In assuming command of the district I especially enjoin on all disbursing officers the necessity of being particularly attentive, careful and economical in their disbursements of the public funds ; and that they in no instance purchase from persons who have at any time, by word or act, manifested disloyalty to the Federal Government. Being credibly informed that there are in this district persons who, while claiming and receiving protection to life and property, are endeavoring to destroy and defame the principles and institutions of our Government under whose benign influence they have been so long protected; it is therefore most rigidly enjoined upon all commanders of posts, camps and detachments, to cause to be promptly arrested and closely confined until they have taken the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States, all persons who from this date, shall be guilty of uttering sentiments against the Government, and upon the repetition of the offense, to be again arrested and confined until the fact shall be communicated to these headquarters. Traitors shall not utter treasonable sentiments in this district with impunity, but must seek some more congenial soil, or receive the punishment they so richly merit.

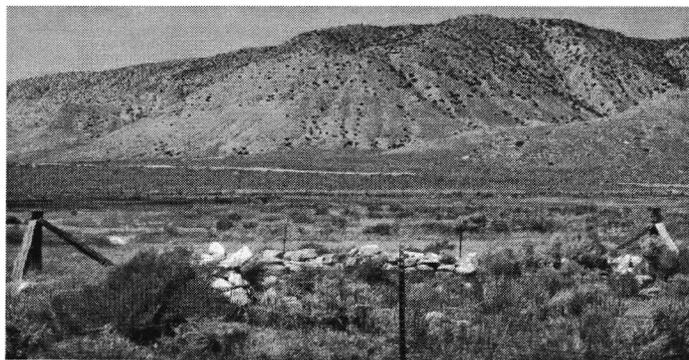
By order of P. EDWARD CONNOR, Colonel Third Infantry C. V. Com. District of Utah. JAMES
W. STILLMAN, A. A. A. General.

The Butchery at Granite Creek Station

Soon after the middle of March, Litch left the station in charge of A. J. Curry, Cyrus Creele, and Al. Simmons. A week or ten days after he was gone an Indian who used to come there quite often came into the house and said in a tantalizing sort of way, "Where Lucius? Where he gone? When he come back?" A fellow called "Puck" Waldron, who happened to be there, grabbed up a gun, and putting it into the Indian's face, told him to look into it. He then pulled the trigger and killed the Indian dead. Probably there was another Indian or two outside who saw them take the body out and bury it, and these must have gone away after more Indians and come back as soon as they could. The following from "The Humboldt Register" (Published at Unionville, Nevada) of April 15, 1865, tells the sequel.

"On the 7th, a small party, composed of W. R. Usber, Fox of Jesse, M. S. Bonnifield, Col. L. A. Buckner, and John Woodward left Unionville for a reconnaissance of a portion of the Honey Lake road. They overtook and joined another party, thirteen men from settlements along the river, out on the same mission. On the ninth the party reached Granite Creek station, eighty-five miles from here, owned by Andrew Litch and Lucius Arcularius. Arcularius had been killed by the Indians at Wall spring a month ago, and Litch was here for authority to act as administrator. The house, furnished with five guns and a good supply of ammunition, was left in charge of A. J. Curry, Cyrus Creele, and Al. Simmons. On the first of April a large column of smoke was seen rising from the vicinity, and the supposition is the station was that day attacked by the Indians. The walls of the house occupied by the men were built from thick pieces of sod. They had made ten loopholes for their rifles on the side attacked. The attack was made from a stone corral about thirty paces off, in front of the house. (To the east and lower than the house.) The whole front of the corral is bespattered with lead of the bullets fired from the house. By appearances the fight is supposed to have lasted about half a day. Curry was killed by a shot through a loophole — a body in the house having been recognized by persons acquainted with him. The legs from below the knees were missing.

"The Indians must have exhausted their ammunition, for they fired long missiles before leaving, made from the screw ends of wagon bolts, cut about an inch long and partially smoothed. Two of these were found — one in a bellows near the house, and the other planted two inches deep in wood. Near the lodging place of the latter was a blood stain, and it is supposed the missile had killed a dog belonging on the place — a savage animal, intolerant of Indians. His skin was tanned, but left on the ground.



Cranite Creek Station

"The Indians gained possession of a storehouse adjoining the dwelling by tearing out a wall. (The station house was on a little flat above the desert and faced toward the east. It was built of sod and had a shake roof. Ten or twelve feet back, or west, of it was a stone building, perhaps ten feet long and six feet wide, which was used for a storeroom. The Indians dug through the back wall of this building.) This enabled them to reach and fire the roof (of the larger building), and then it is supposed that Creele and Simmons resorted to flight, taking that desperate chance in preference to burning. (They took their guns, but didn't carry them very far.) Creele struck out across the flat towards Hot Springs. The flat is all alkali, very wet, and the tracks are left plain. Three Indians, two on horseback and one on a mule, pursued him and captured him; brought him back to the house, and all the conditions attest that he was burned to death. A portion of the skull, a jaw-bone, and some small pieces of bone were found; the other portions of the body having been reduced to ashes. At the point where the arms would be, were large rocks piled up, everything indicated that he had been thus weighted down; and then a large pile of sawed lumber was built up over this — stubs of the sawed lumber near these marks were found — and the poor fellow thus burned up.

"Simmons took the road to Deep Hole station. He ran about thirty or forty rods, and there the mark of a pool of blood denotes that he fared not quite so badly — having been shot down. The body was dragged off a short distance and much mutilated. The remains of all the men, such as were found, were buried by this party on the 9th"

In the foregoing narrative the explanations made in the parentheses were given by Lafayette Marks who says that he was at the scene of the massacre not long after it took place, and whose account of it agrees closely with the above. He says the men at the station seem to have expected trouble and prepared for it. They had plenty of arms, ammunition and provisions, and had a barrel full of water in the house. The marks of bullets on the corral, which he and Charles Lawson think was about sixty yards away, showed that they wasted their ammunition and that the most of it was gone when the end came. Marks and others think the siege must have lasted two or three days. Alvaro Evans says that when the Indians got into the storeroom they picked up an old mattress that was lying outside, set fire to it, and put it against the roof of the house.

The "Register" continues: "The party then went to Deep Hole station to see how its occupants had fared. This place was occupied by three brothers named Partridge and a Chinaman. (If there were three men by the name of Partridge there, two of them may have been brothers.) They were entirely ignorant of the fate of the Granite Creek station, though only ten miles off; and had not apprehended danger. They had seen the smoke on the 1st, but thought it nothing serious.

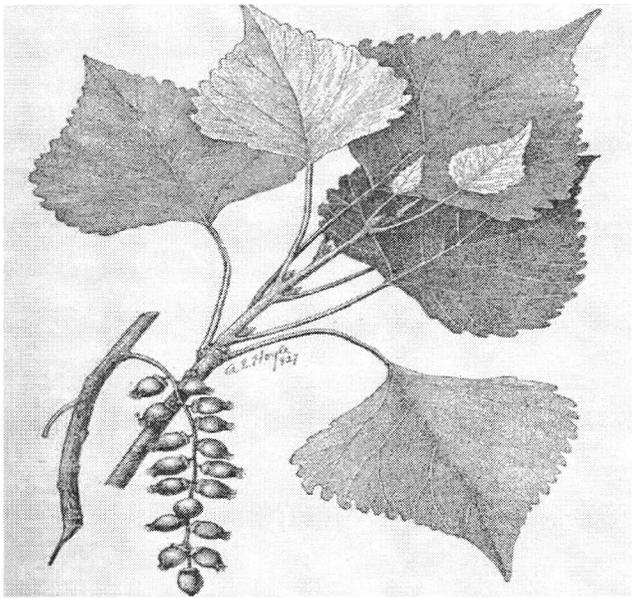
"The party from here spent a day — the tenth inst. — helping the Partridge Boys to cache goods they could not bring away, and on the eleventh started with them, bringing their live stock for this side of the county. At Granite Creek they stopped and made further observations. The place with all its property, had been worth not less than \$400. (Probably \$4000 was meant.) All was burned. A large wagon was destroyed, the spokes being sawed out of the wheels. A large lot of good lumber was piled up on the haystacks and fired. The stove was broken up, and the bottoms of the pots broken in. Nothing escaped but a keg of syrup which had been overlooked. A reaper, haypress, and other tools were demolished.

"Everything showed that the boys had made a gallant and protracted fight. They would have held the house, it is believed, if it had not been fired. Curry's body having been recognized, and the skeleton of Simmons being easily recognized by peculiarly marked teeth, the ashes, the piled rocks, the stubs of the burned

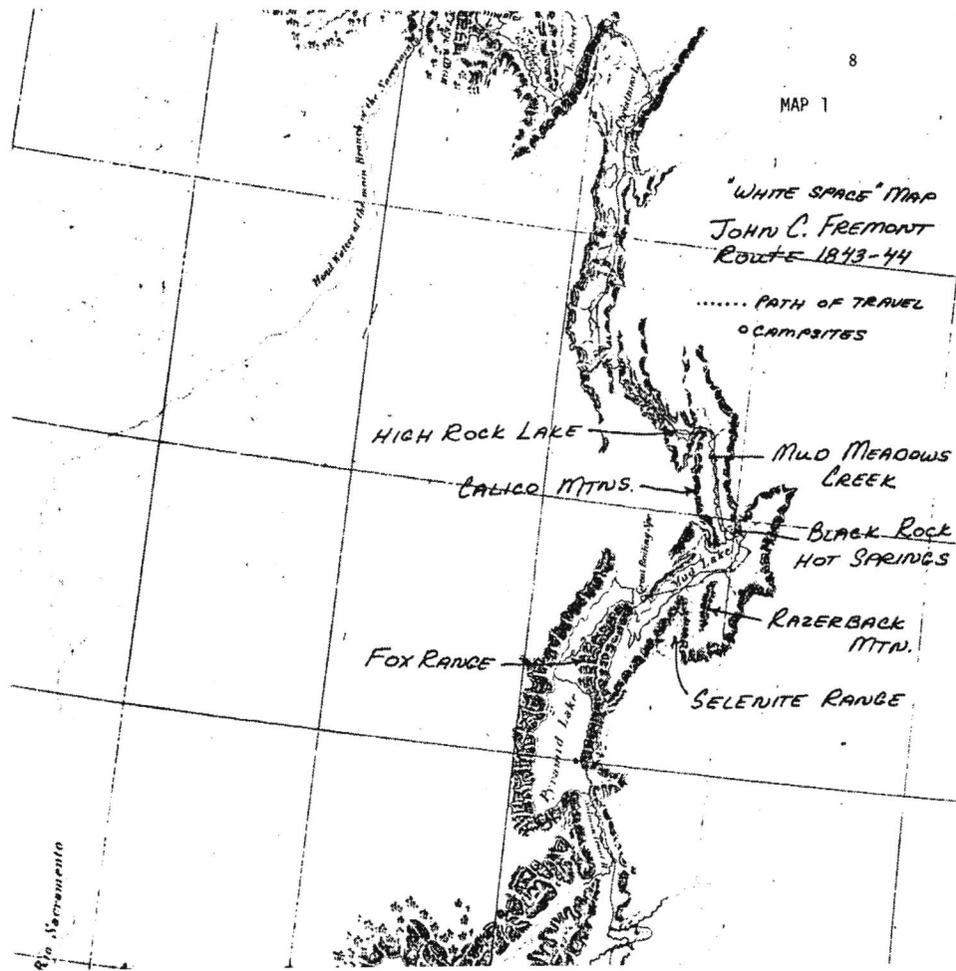
lumber denoted that it had been Creele's fate to breathe his last in flames and smoke. Charles Kyle and family with their stock, and all other settlers thereabouts left their homes and came this way.

"There is a sorrow ripening for the redskins, and as it is known that all tribes furnish fiends for these marauding parties, conviction is gaining ground that it is not good for the country to encourage the breeding of Indians. Men who have lost friends by the hands of these miscreants promise an early and a fearful vengeance."



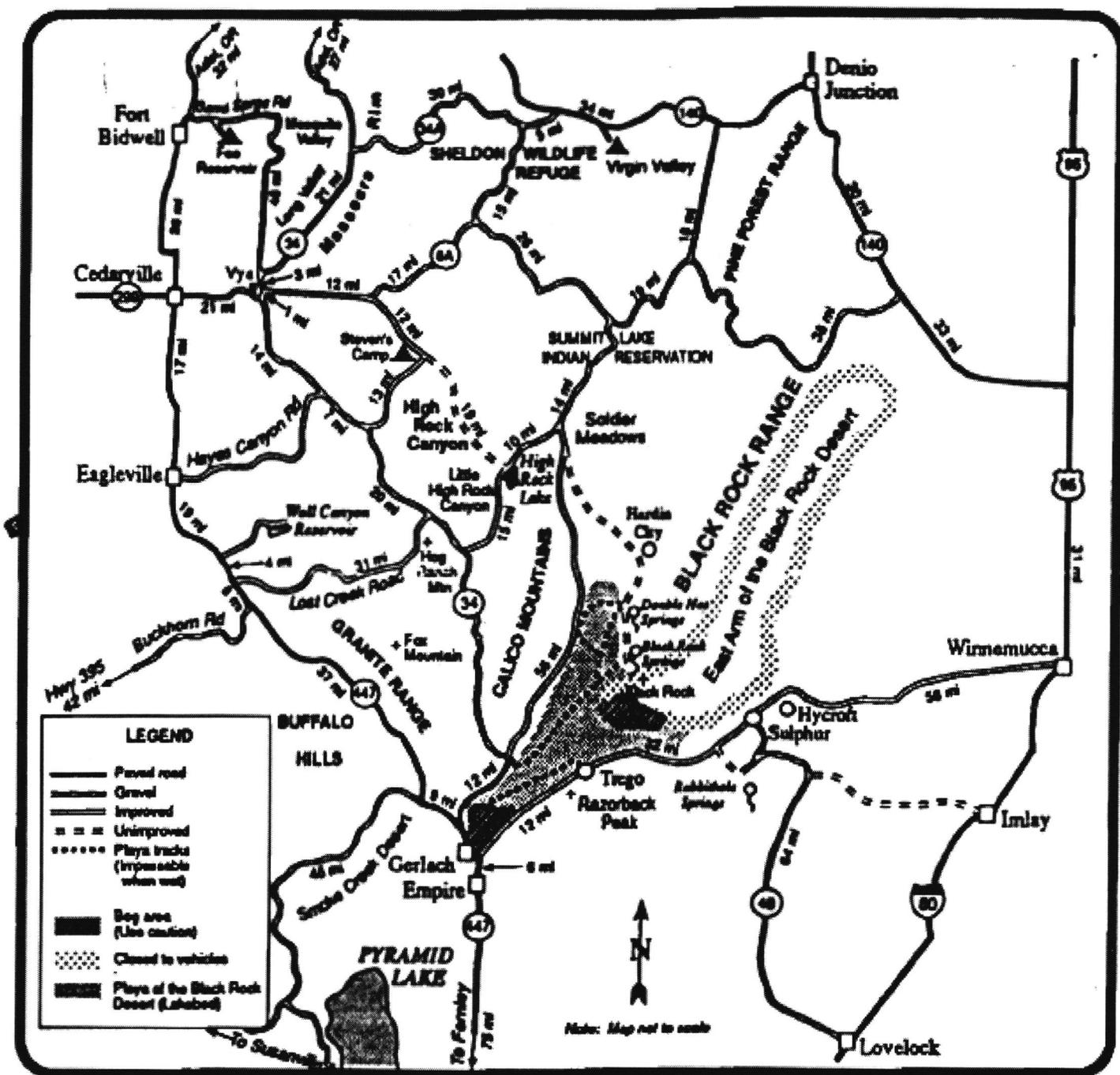


Populus Fremontii is a large tree found in riparian habitats in desert regions of the American Southwest. It is a member of the Salicaceae family. John C. Fremont first described the tree in January of 1844. During his expedition across the Black Rock desert his party was relieved to see a grove indicating sufficient water supply on his path South from Great Boiling Springs, (Gerlach) to Pyramid Lake



Fremont, Preuss map of route through the Black Rock Desert

ENJOYING THE EMIGRANT TRAIL COUNTRY---SAFELY



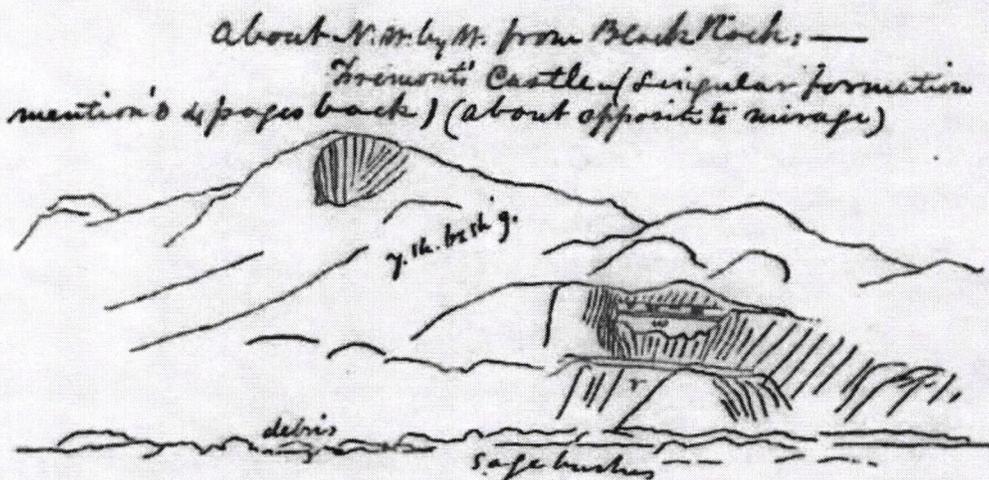
Plaque Text

Applegate Trail to Mud Meadow

"This whole section has the appearance of a great mud plain. Dried down and covered with sand which has drifted into ridges...10 to 20 feet high"

Israel Lord, Sep 18, 184

Marker A-15B



Fremont's Castle, drawn by J. Goldsborough Bruff



Fremont's Castle taken in 2005

"Monday started at 4 A.M. bearing from Black Rock, N.W. by N. Sunrise clear, mod. N. 58°. This point is opp: "Fremont's Castle," & nearer the S.W. side of the valley. Black heavy vol. rocks scatter'd about plain, in lumps of 40 to 150 lbs. wght. in sizes from a cocoa-nut to a Bushel measure: surrounded by fragments of their own, & debris, of dark brown color. This snuff cold debris, from size of coarse gravel down to minute grains, covers the knolls & elevations of plains, and occasionally a fine powder of dk. br. ashes, is seen, where the rains, or floods from melted snows have not washed it away. At this camp, the stones & fragments are quite Scarce: other stones, of common coarse quartz, &c. — black, from heat, are found also, as if projected from a crater, where'er it was."

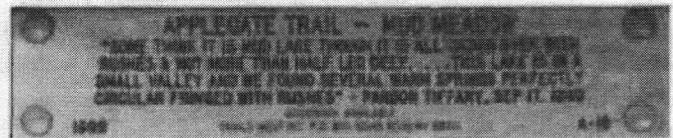
J. Goldsborough Bruff, September 24, 1849

Plaque Text

Applegate Trail—Mud Meadow

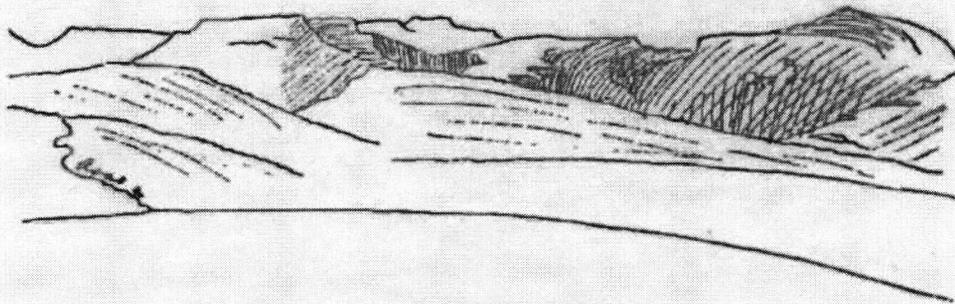
"Some think it is Mud Lake though it is all grown over with rushes and not more than half leg deep... This lake is in a small valley and we found several warm springs perfectly circular fringed with rushes"

Pardon Tiffany, Sep 17, 1849



Marker A-16

singular volcanic formation, 25th. right of road rising hills, towards Mudlake bottom.

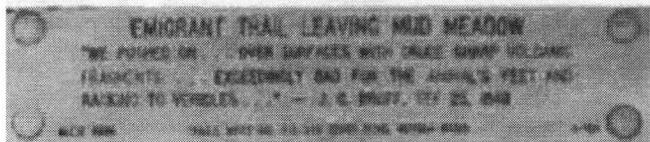


Bruff's illustration of Mud Meadow

Diary account: Aug. 19. "Nearly all the trains which had preceded us were encamped on the beautiful oasis [of Mud Meadow], recruiting their worn-out animals, and cursing the hour in which they were tempted to leave the old trail. The first agreeable news we heard on getting in, was, that the Indians were very bold and troublesome, having succeeded the night before in killing a horse and mule in the camp, and driving off several head of cattle."

Aug. 20. "We kept a strict guard during the night, and all the companies were on the alert; yet, notwithstanding all our caution, the Indians came down from the hills and drove off one cow and horse, and badly wounded two more horses"

Alonzo Delano, 1849



Marker A16-A

Plaque Text

Emigrant Trail Leaving Mud Meadow

"We pushed on... over surfaces with crude sharp volcanic fragments ... exceedingly bad for the animal's feet and racking to the vehicles..."

J. Goldsborough Bruff, Sep 25, 1849

Diary account: Oct. 1. "After leaving our camp, the road winds through the valley from the north towards the west and we soon cross two running Brooks near each other, The last of which is a fine pure vigorous stream; they both cross the road in a S.E. direction we then begin to ascend an inclined plain which heads in a S.W. direction to a gorge or ravine between two low hills which I think is 4 miles from our morning's camp. The road is all dusty, and up the whole of the inclined plain it is rough and stony: although all the large stones have been cast off the road by those who have gone before; some of it is rather steep and altogether it is a hard road on poor worn out cattle."

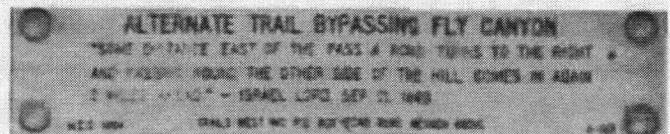
Joseph Middleton, 1849

Plaque Text

Applegate Trail Bypassing Fly Canyon

"Some distance east of the pass a road turns to the right and passing round the other side of the hill. Come in again 2 miles ahead."

Israel Lord, Sep 21, 1849



Marker A16-B

Hardin City, Glory Hole or Hoax? by Peter Van Alstyne, XNGH-P

While traveling on the Applegate Trail bound for Oregon, James Hardin camped at Double Hot Springs. After making the tedious and exhausting journey through the Black Rock, Hardin and John Lambert set off on a hunting expedition to replenish food supplies. Keeping the wagon train in their view, the two set off. When they came to a dry sandy wash Hardin noticed something that was bright and shiny that caught his eye. Knowing they were short on bullets, Hardin collected several of these rocks thinking it was lead. That night he borrowed an oven and melted down some of the rocks and cast them into bullets.

Hardin eventually settled in Petaluma, California working as a carpenter. One day a friend of his happened to see one of the rocks that he had found in Black Rock. His friend who was an assayer asked if he could evaluate the rock. Much to Hardin's surprise the results came back showing the sample had high levels of silver in it.

The gold bug (in this case the silver bug) hit Hardin. On July 9, 1858 he and a party of men set out for the Black Rock in search of the area he found the ore samples in. With the passing of nine years since Hardin had found the samples he may have forgotten where he actually found the samples, or run offs in the wash may have changed the appearance. He and his party looked for the entire summer with no results. When cold weather set in the party abandoned their search. The following year they once again returned and continued their search to no avail.

In 1860, when the Paiute War broke out all mining pretty well ceased in the area.

Early in 1866, a prospector from the Honey Lake region discovered a ledge which was believed to be Hardin's lost lode. Word of the discovery got out and a rush was on to the area. A small camp sprang up and was named Hardin City in honor of James Hardin.

With all the excitement given to the new rush two new mining camps were established, one at Double Hot Springs which was called Spring City, and the other four miles northeast at a spring was named Hardin City. With the rapid growth in both camps, post offices were formed, but only short lived.

Later in 1866 ore was shipped from Hardin City to Dail's Mill in Washoe Valley to be processed. Glowing reports came back as to the quality of the ore. Meanwhile ore shipped to other mills came back with a contradictory report. Instead of being rich in silver and gold, the ore was completely worthless.

The investors evidently wanted to believe the positive reports from Dail's Mill and proceeded to have one large and two small stamp mills hauled into Hardin City. Tests from their mill proved the ore was indeed worthless. An expert assayer was brought in and he recommended a different reduction process be done with modifications made at the mills. Once again the ore proved to be worthless.

Later on word leaked out that the mill pans at Dail's Mill had not been thoroughly cleaned out which gave false values as to the ores quality. All the values that were collected came from ores from the Comstock Lode.

In October 1866, the city's name was changed to Harveyville after Judge Harvey one of the principal investors from Susanville.

Another one of the conflicting theories of the ores value came from Charles Isenbeck, who was employed by Judge Harvey. Isenbeck kept giving positive reports of the ores value. The Humboldt Register, in Unionville, Nevada wrote the following about Isenbeck: "he had a past record of swindling and was known as a confidence man in the mining camps and towns in Nevada and northern California." It seems Isenbeck's scheme was centered on a secret process he called the "Freiburg Process". He was to use a silver compound in the testing of the ore, which always led his results in showing high levels of silver.

By the beginning of 1868, ore processed through the mills at Hardin City still showed no signs of silver. "The owner announced that the silver rush was a "monster humbug"

With the mistakes on assays from Dail's Mill and from Isenbeck's swindling, Hardin City has gone down as one of the big mistakes in mining in Nevada. Today the only visible remains of the city are two crumbling foundations left over from the stamp mills. The questions naturally arise, has anyone really found James Hardin's silver or does it still remain hidden through the ages?

Clapper Creek.

General Geno Oliver

In April of 1859 Peter Lassen and Ed Clapper were mysteriously murdered near the old trail. Americus Wyatt escaped. Pete was buried in Susanville and Clapper buried where he lay. Just a few years ago, a rockhound discovered some human bones which had eroded out of an intermittent stream bed at the mouth of a canyon in the Black Rock Range. After first treating it as a possible contemporary homicide, Nevada authorities determined that the bones were too old for that eventuality, and the puzzle deepened. However, with the assistance of OCTA, the FBI, and the Smithsonian Institution, it was determined by the BLM that the bones beyond all reasonable doubt had to be those of Edward Clapper. Clapper's descendants were located, and they gave permission for the bones to be returned to Honey Lake and reburied next to Peter Lassen. The CA/NV Chapter financed and participated in the marking of the murder site (for years the place of the murder had been attributed to the wrong canyon with that canyon being indicated on the maps as "Clapper Canyon"). The CA/NV Chapter also aided in funding a new interpretive kiosk at the Honey Lake burial site and participated in its dedication.



Applegate-Lassen Trail

In 1846 Jesse and Lindsay Applegate set out with a party of 13 men from La Creole, Oregon, intent on opening a southern route into the Willamette Valley. The primary purpose of this route was to provide an avenue of escape for American colonists and a route by which troops and supplies could be safely transported into the Oregon Territory should the ongoing disagreement over possession of the colony result in war with Great Britain. Secondly, it was hoped that the route would provide an alternative course for westward migrating pioneers who previously had been restricted to the frequently treacherous Oregon Trail.

Guided by Fremont's excellent maps and reports, a map by Peter Skene Ogden, and information obtained from Hudson's Bay Company, the Applegate party opened a trail which left the California Trail at the "Great Bend" of the Humboldt River (near present-day Imlay, Nevada) and headed northwest through the Black Rock Desert into Oregon (Helfrich 1971:2). Though the trail was never used for military purposes, the question of possession of the Oregon Territory having been settled peacefully, it did serve as the main alternate route to the Oregon Trail for Oregon-bound emigrants from 1846 through the 1850s with 1849 being the year of its greatest usage.

In 1848 Peter Lassen opened a cutoff from the Applegate Trail which extended south from Goose Lake in northeast California through his trading post (near present-day Chico) and onto the California goldfields. Realizing the potential profit his trading post stood to make, Lassen somewhat inaccurately advertised the cutoff as a shortcut to the goldfields. Following his advice, nearly half of the 1849 gold seekers (15,000 to 20,000 people) traveled the Applegate-Lassen Trail to California (Hunt 1975:2).

Jesse Applegate had not anticipated that his cutoff would ever receive such heavy use and the trail was not really designed to handle such a volume of traffic as Peter Lassen and the gold rush caused it to receive. Applegate had allowed for at least one watering spot a day and his "Waybill from Fort Hall to the Willamette Valley" (Table 2) gave specific instructions as to their proper usage. He suggested that an advance party precede the train and excavate wells in the spring areas so that there would be adequate water for men, teams, and cattle upon their arrival. The emigrants, however, paid this advice no heed and as a consequence, the long awaited watering holes frequently were mere muddy quagmires littered with the bodies of dead and dying animals. This scarcity of water transformed the passage over the trail into a nightmarish journey and its hardships were broadcast widely. As a consequence, the trail received little use by California-bound emigrants after 1849, though Oregon-bound settlers used it well into the 1850s.



Paleobotanical Flora and Fauna, (Humbug)

Chief Engineer William Wagner of the Lander survey and construction team confirmed reports that indeed there was a petrified forest northwest of the Black Rock in 1860, but small in comparison to the breeds grown in Kentucky.

From the University of California Museum of Paleontology news letter, 8/2002:

In the mid 1950s, Nell Murbarger set about to find a very large fossilized redwood stump, which she had seen pictured in a paleobotany pamphlet. Nell and her traveling companion Dora not only found this tree, but many others, which she wrote about in her Natural History Magazine article • gOur Largest Petrified Tree. • h The identification of these trees remained unresolved, some considering them to be Redwoods (Sequoia), while others thought the trees produced the fossil leaf species, Metasequoia langsdorfii, and therefore were Dawn Redwoods. Until now, no scientific study of the forest had ever been done. Diane Erwin and Howard Schorn spent time this summer with Constance Millar, Robert Westfall, and John King (USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station) investigating these trees of the George W. Lund Petrified Forest. Mapping revealed over 250 stumps buried in place by volcanic ash fifteen million years ago. The wood and large size of some stumps suggest Big Trees (Sequoiadendron) did grow in this ancient forest, their fossilized remains a sobering reminder of the profound impact climate change has on the success and distribution of organisms through time.



Leadville
Rod Stock, XSNGH

Located on east flank of Fox Mtn. in the Granite Range, one mile west of the Gerlach-Vya Road, 37 miles north of Gerlach and the W.P./U.P.R.R. The Leadville mining district adjoined the Donnelly District and the latter, a small silver-gold producer from 1910-1919, was considered part of greater Leadville on the north.

Leadville was developed in 1909 and ore bodies contained lead and silver in values with gold and zinc also present in smaller quantities. Niter (Nitrates) was also present in ore bodies to the west of the main development. The Tohoqua Mine produced \$205,000 from 1910-1920 when it was taken over by Leadville Mines Company. Peak production was 1924-25 and mining continued as late as 1941, with estimated gross production in excess of one million dollars. The Donnelly Mine produced about \$100,000 in gold bullion using a 5 stamp mill and the Reeder Mine, using a crude arrastra, also produced some bullion.

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Blasts in the Past

- 1980 GENO OLIVER, Proctor STAR CITY-UNIONVILLE
1981 SKIP PENNINGTON* MANHATTEN
1982 BILL KENNEDY KENNEDY
1983 JIM CRONN* PINEGROVE
1984 GEORGE COURSON LEADVILLE
1985 DOUG WALLING BERLIN
1986 DAVID WOOD ROCHESTER
1987 JOE LEPORI AURORA
1988 BILL SAWYER* SULPHUR
1989 MIKE MILLER MILLER'S STATION
1990 RED BEACH" SHAMROCK
1991 BOB RODGERS COMO
1992 RON WALSH SEVEN TROUGHS
1993 DANNY COSTELLO THE REAL NATIONAL
1994 JIM GROWS DESERT WELLS
1995 DANIEL BOWERS HIGH ROCK CANYON
1996 PETER VAN ALSTYNE+ FAIRVIEW
1997 EDDY GONZALES, GRANTSVILLE
1998 JOHN DORNSTAUDER, HUMBOLDT CITY
1999 KEN MOSER, BELMONT
2000 VAL COLLIER, PEPPER SPRINGS
2001 CHUCK MURRAY, NIGHTENGALE
2002 MARC BEBOUT, NEW PASS MINE
2003 AL NICHOLSON, IONE
2004 RON THORNTON, FLETCHER STATION
2005 J D PATERSON, APPLGATE-LASSEN TRAIL
2006 WALT SIMMEROOTH, NEVADA CENTRAL R. W.
- 2007 JEFF JOHNSON, ADELAIDE
2008 OWEN RICHIE, TYBO
2009 KARL SMALL, DUN GLEN
2010 DAN WESTON, KINGSTON
2011 RUSS BREAM, SMOKE CREEK
2012 JESS DAVIS

"Gone to Silver Hills +"