

The Discovery of the Oregon Trail, Robert Stuart's Narratives of his
Overland Trip Eastward from Astoria 1812-13, Ed. Philip Barlow Rollin
(N.Y., 1935)

pr FOREWORD: discovery of the road to Oregon L&C lacked the directness which prospective commerce needed. . . Hunt's course in 1810-12 was unprofitably devious and prohibitive holograph at YUBL "Journal of a voyage across The Continent of North America" carried him from Astoria to Green River, KY. The revised mss. styled by Irving "travelling memorandum of Mr. Stuart" These rpo productions outranked only by the chronicles of L & C, and to be as fully fraught with historical worth as is the French redactions of Wilson Price Hunt's day-by-day account

As the T.M. were extensively tapped and freely paraphrased by Irving for inclusion in his ASTORIA the narratives provide supplement and mild correction to various Irving statements. . . At last we know the entire route of The Returning ~~Asst~~ Astorians. Re the westward trip enshrined by Irving in the literature, are no longer homeless. . . And we now sense, with fair certitude, the path of Miller, Robinson, Hoback, and Reznor ~~as~~ followed during the period of vagrancy which ended with their rescue by Stuart and his people

We are told the limits of the bison range in Stuart's day. . . important information as to the distribution of sundry tribes, and we are relieved of puzzling misnomers.

Stuart first used the westernmost fragment of the trace common to L&C and to Hunt; then to a westerly section of the independent trail of Hunt, then a thirto unknown area; then a second bit of Hunt's path and thereafter, veering southward of Hunt's path, plunged across an uncharted wilderness, into the South Pass and through the Sweetwater country of present-day Wyoming, arriving thus on the fur traders' then incipient highway of the Platte River//. . . they had found a continuous lane which, as later shorn of a few aberrances and consecrated by the trudging feet of countless pioneers, became known as the Oregon Trail.

MISSOURI GAZETTE, May 15: by info recd from these g-men, it appears that a journey across the continent of NA might be performed with a waggon, there being no obstruction in the whole route that any person would dare to call a mountain in addition to its being much the most direct and short one to go from this place to the mouth of the Columbia River. . .

touted in newspapers in the East. . . left this journal with President Madison (but regained it later, circumstances not known)

7 years later travel-mate Ramsay Crooks and T Russell Farnham supplied data to Senators Benton and ~~Floyd~~ Rep Floyd from Va. Floyd's report, 1821

in 1821 Nouvelles Annales w Hunts diary and Stuarts TM For more than 2 decades Stuart's path had no generally accepted title Oregon-California Trail was a zone several miles wide short cuts and detours some convergencies, like railroad cuts, . . . re-creating stations FLBHB etc. Stuart ~~had~~ had no baggage; . . . followed Indian trails. . . all in all, except for Stuart's loop from the mouth of Thomas Fork to Pacific @ Creek, and minor diffs, his general route and that of the OT were practically identical

Stuart's right to honorable recognition lies, not so much in finding SP, the SW, the Red Buttes and Upper P as in his weaving the first three of them and the I trails etc.

VIII ON FOOT FROM SWEETWATER RIVER TO SITE OF FIRST AND SECOND WINTER
QUARTERS

(according to map, to ns of SWR, then to ss UPPER PLATTE to
Douglas, then to ns NP

Devils Gate - Upper Canyon of NP Red Buttes Erect first WQ
Indian guests - Abandon camp = trudge eastward into Nebraska - return to
Wyoming near site of Torrington, erect second WQ

OCT 29 river through a passage (IG) k B camp (below IR)

OCT 30 finding that the river ran to the south we crossed it
(that is, crossed to ns of SW have to leave our horse Platte Cano
(now under Pathfinder Dam) , ~~river below crosses below ss Platte (not recognized~~

OCT 31 at length reached the river bk below the Precipices (about
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile e of Pathfinder Dam)

NOV 1 crossed to ~~right bank~~ ss NP to a considerable mountain
(Red Buttes, ~~named by~~ so called as early as 1834 - camped one m below
present day Poison Spider Creek + (Red Creek of Stansbury) - Stuart
wonders if NP is the Cheyenne or Rapid Water River - universal voice that
we must undoubtedly winter somewhere on this side of the Missouri (acct
dangers of Is and winter) - I deemed it ~~prudent to go~~ highly imprudent
to go any lower here wood, water etc. - will leave it on the opening of
navigation in Buffalo hide canoes

NOV 4 kill 12 B deep freeze, river now a bridge

NOV 8 more B cmnced building a hut

10 8 by 18 fire in middle in I fashion covered w B skins
now have a tol shelter, and 18 black cattle Black Cattle s

NOV 12 weather mild, break up the river (Casper) mts to se
Ibex and bt t deer

DEC 10 astonished and cfounded ~~hearing~~ hearing the savage
yelp 23 Araps fr war party against the Absarokas Qhad heard our hunters
indicate they are on a large stream which joins this one (SP)

fearing Bsarokas and Arapahoes we determined to abandon our Chateau of
Indolence as soon as we can finish dressing s fuficiency of leather for
Mogasins intend to extricate ourss out of the paws of our rascally neighbors
and go csid distance further down /Rapid River Rapid Water River

DEC 12 the Is were kind enough to lv us our faithfull Quadruped

DEC 13 (camped on rt bank of NP at ~~approx 5 m e of Casper~~
approx 5 m e of Casper

DEC 14 22 miles east for r hrs ctwd brk and willow tops snow
crust not hard enough to bear us , painful, rather than die on march,
fall valiantly on the field of Mars

DEC 15 24 miles, crossing Deer Creek note trees for canoes

DEC 16 17 m east, crossing the Box-elder (Boisse of Santusbry, the
Fourche Boise of Delano etc. also La Prele first glimpse of Laramie Peak
(another of much greater magnitude)

DEC 17 cross to ns NP, site of Douglas, to avoid Black Hills
by Lower Canyon of the Platte or The Dalles/ according to Palmer

DEC 18 B less numerous

DEC 19 follow meanders 19 miles, partly on Ice - Wendover

DEC 20 20 miles north of present Guernsey

DEC 21 23 miles short distance above Laramie River

DEC 22 well wooded stream app of csid magnitude came in from the
South West, but whether it is the Arapohays river we cannot tell (IR/SP

IX ON FOOT FROM SECND WINTER QUB QUARTERS TO SITE OF PRESENT EDHOLM, NEBR.
 Abortive attempt to Canoe - resume tv on foot - follow left bank of NP
 and later of P - cross to Plattes right bank - find deserted squaws Is

January 1, 1913 eat and smoke to commemorate New Year

JAN 9 our hut though incomplet we entered on the evening of 2nd on the
 6th we fnshed our spacious dwelling and kd 7 B; this day felled our Canoe Trees

~~Jan 7 xxxxxxxxxx for xxx~~

MARCH 7 rv vg bn open for sev days and weather promisg a ctinua oth
 thaw we dragged our Canoes to the bank

MARCH 8 decending a few hundred yards found water so low that McC and I
 wnet by land, hping Canadian db able to proceed (cp 4 miles above HC)

MARCH 15 sent back to our Hut for the Horse and this mg the rv vg risen
 4 inches again embarked a small part of r bg and 4 of us in the Canoes, while
 the residue was cd by our Quadruped not bad to Horse creek (not named) but
 became much wider and so shallow pretty much tired of this new mode of inland
 navigation (camp south of Morrill, Nebr)

MARCH 20 snow doubtful we can proceed by water back on foot to our
 enc of 12/27

MARCH @L 21 to near our camp of 12/26

MARCH 22 camp 23 miles lower than we v yet been on the river (7 miles
 se of present Northport) nothing but a boundless prairie plentifully stocked
 with animals - rv ctinues shallow; glad we abandoned

MARCH 23 cold wind 23 miles same course (2 m w boundary Morrill *Gard no

MARCH @ 24 23 m (Oshkosh) notes Rush Creek from south

MARCH 25 in camp all day Milkers feet blistered piercg wind k 3 Bulls

MARCH 26 24 miles (c 3 m w Belmar, Keith Ct) crdross Blue Water Creek
 The Black River of Long, Bradford, Schmolder, Sumner, and Ensign Castle River
 Ash Hollow opp, thickly wooded 60 wild horses

MARCH @ 27 opp Cedar Point 3 m west Keystone empty canoe

MARCH 28 23 rv from 3/4 to a mile wide to shallow to float even an/

MARCH 29 by present Birdwood Creek, the Plover of Sage, the North Bluff
 creek of Horn, Linforth and Clayton (7 m nw North Platte) - on other side
 app of a ve large stream vg broken through the hills B w/o number

MARCH 30 I enc of csid magnitude then 2 others. . app occupied last
 fall, evidence of hunting camp, Indian Corn in afternoon large Island (Brady)
 thinks its Grand Island, and they are near the Loup one mile above the Island th
 lg stream from the s joined the main River go 20 m (Maxwell) 28 miles
 Rich land producing straw 6 feet hi (4 m above Pawnee Creek) still B

APRIL 1 kd B, rested yesterday 19 m Island abounds in timber, but
 not a single tree decoarates the main shore put up our little tent, shower

APRIL 2 passed the end of the Island timber on ~~saisxxxxxxx~~ south
 shore, but our side deficient (s of present Willow Island, Nebr)

APRIL 3 25 m along I path (Lexington, Nebr) Spring C and B C

AAPRIL 4 8 m and crossed the (PR) where it was divided into 10 channels
 w a bed of such quicsand thatit was diffie for our Horse to get over - on
 ss find I path - pass Plum Creek (20 yards wide) straw hut in an old I enc
 w 3 squaws trrified, Panees, inferred white people in ct at no gr distance (Elmc

APRIL 5 25 m E along I trace

APRIL 6 26 m e 5 m e ct lines of Buffalo and Hall

~~xxxxxxx~~ wood on Elm Island; grass totally consumed by fire now ^{???} Big Island

APRIL 7 16 miles Pony weak and jaded (s Alda, Hall ct)

YU notes

- YU 50 - J. L. Johnson - data for Withington
- ✓ - Gouldy add to biblio
- ✓ - Loren Hastings - data for Withington [TOPA]
- YU 67 - May L. Rockwell Powers
- YU 93 - re Yale Catalogue
Omitted Barnard ?
- YU 113 - Alexander Graham
- YU 124 - Shuland / Basil G. Parker met - biblio
- YU 125 - A1 Davis [combine with TOPA]
- X - reconcile R37 + R72
- YU 126 - re tapest
- YU 133 - Ask Hanna about Recollections of GF (Ed Hall or Bald?)
- YU 137 - A Strange Story
- YU 147 - 1st part of Richardson
- ~~YU 148~~ re D. Jagger
- YU 148-151
- YU 157 - Suterlin + Sunde
- YU 161 - Vincent ?
- YU 166 - Sarah Byler-Smithe [see thru Flint]
- ✓ - Vandy 1852 p. Nixton
- YU 167 - dope on J. G. Bruhl
- ~~YU 167~~ ~~data from Matthews?~~
- YU 190 - Baul or Bae ?
2, What happed to Burch ?

- > D. G. Shaw, Eldorado (LA 1900) to FL p. 35
 p. 36 - ?
 > Frank C. Young (Diary, 1905) ~~from~~ attention to Lillian Sp...
[DPL] p. 42-157
 > 1-4-... : 188 + / mark ?

> H. H. Geer, 50 yrs - Oregon 132-149

see Ely D. Smith Geer (?) TOPA 1917 153-89

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