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Route for the Overland Stage

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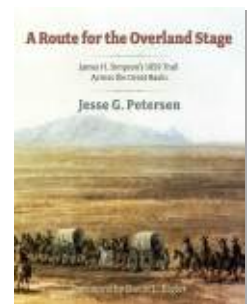
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Notes

CHAPTER ONE

1. James Hervey Simpson, *Report of Explorations across the Great Basin of the Territory of Utah for a Direct Wagon Route from Camp Floyd to Genoa, in Carson Valley, in 1859* (1876; repr. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1983), 24 (hereafter cited as Simpson).
2. Harold Schindler, *Orrin Porter Rockwell: Man of God, Son of Thunder* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1966), 214–17; *Deseret News*, December 12, 1854. The Huntington party followed Captain Beckwith's trail as far as Lassen Meadows on the Humboldt River, then turned southwest to Genoa. Rockwell and Bean went only as far west as Redden Spring, which is found on the western edge of the Great Salt Lake Desert, seven miles north of the town of Callao.
3. Howard R. Egan, *Pioneering the West*, ed. Wm. M. Egan (1917; repr. Salt Lake City: Skelton Publishing, [1990s]), 193–94.
4. Simpson, 75.
5. *Ibid.*, 8.
6. *Ibid.*, 43.
7. Marie Irvine, "Soldier Hollow," *Crossroads Newsletter*, vol. 16, no. 4 (2005), 3. Presentation given to the Crossroads Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association, and published in their newsletter.
8. William Lee, "Journal of William Lee," [1858–1859], 5, 10, Utah State Historical Society. Copy of privately published transcription of a journal written by a member of the Simpson Expedition (hereafter cited as Lee).
9. Simpson, 6c.
10. Joseph Tingley and Kris Ann Pizarro, *Traveling America's Loneliest Road* (Reno: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, 2004), 4.
11. Simpson, 77.
12. *Ibid.*, 74.
13. *Ibid.*, 64.

CHAPTER TWO

1. George W. Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy* (New York: D. Van Nostrand 1868), 1:405–6.
2. Cited by Wilbur Sheridan Warrick, "James Hervey Simpson, military wagon road engineer in the trans-Mississippi West," (master's thesis, University of Chicago, 1949), 5.
3. William H. Goetzmann, *Army Exploration in the American West, 1803–1863* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association 1991), 11–12.
4. James Hervey Simpson, *Report and Map of the Route from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Santa Fe, New Mexico*, 31st Cong., 1st sess., Senate Executive Document 12 (Washington, DC, 1850), 21–22. Cited by William H. Goetzmann, *Exploration and Empire: The Explorer and the Scientist in the Winning of the American West* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1993), 272.
5. James Hervey Simpson, "Appendix A," in *Report of Lieut. Colonel James H. Simpson to Hon. James Harlan, November 23, 1865*, Annual Report of the Department of the Interior (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1865), 27–29. Cited by Warrick, 118–21.
6. Goetzmann, *Exploration and Empire*, 274.
7. Goetzmann, *Army Exploration*, 240–42.
8. 31st Cong., 1st sess., Senate Executive Document 64, (Washington, DC, 1850). Cited by Warrick, 16.
9. James Hervey Simpson, "Coronado's march in search of the Seven Cities of Cobola and discussion of their probable location," in *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1869* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1871), 309–40. Cited by Warrick, 20.
10. Cullum, 405–06. Cited by Warrick, 22.
11. Goetzmann, *Army Exploration*, 351; W. Turrentine Jackson, *Wagon Roads West* (Yale Western Americana Series, no. 9. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1965), 53.
12. Cullum, 405–6. Cited by Warrick, 44.
13. Alexander D. Bache, *Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, 1857*, 35th Cong., 2nd sess., House Executive Document 6, No. 35 (Washington, DC, 1858), 81. Cited by Warrick, 74.
14. Donald R. Moorman and Gene Allred Sessions, *Camp Floyd and the Mormons* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1992), 50.

14. Letter from Simpson to Col. John J. Abert, cited in *Report of the Chief Topographical Engineer, Nov. 11, 1858*, 35th Cong., 2nd sess., House Executive Documents (Washington, DC, 1858). Cited by Warrick, 74.
15. Lee, 20; Warrick, 75.
16. James H. Simpson, *Report and Map of Wagon Road Routes in Utah Territory*, 35th Cong., 2nd sess., Senate Executive Document 40 (Washington, DC, 1858–1859), 14–23 (hereafter cited as Simpson, *1858 Report*).
17. Simpson, *1858 Report*, 27.
18. Lee, 33.
19. *Deseret News*, August 17, 1859.
20. Simpson, 67.
21. *Ibid.*, 43.
22. Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Utah 1540–1886* (1889; repr. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1982), 468. Goetzmann, *Army Exploration*, 285.
23. Norman E. Wright, “Odometers: Distance measurement on Western emigrant trails,” *Overland Journal* 13, no. 3 (1995), 21. According to Dennis and Shirley Orr Andrus, the owners of Orr’s Ranch in Skull Valley, the Gunnison odometer was found by Harrison Severe and Mathew Orr, who were among the first settlers in Skull Valley. It was passed on to Mathew Orr’s son Daniel, then to Shirley and her sister Geraldine Orr Wright. It was kept at the ranch until about 1997, when the Orr sisters donated it to the museum at Brigham Young University.
24. Simpson, 45.
25. *Ibid.*, 59–60.
26. *Ibid.*, 56.
27. *Ibid.*, 9.
28. Moorman and Sessions, following 176.
29. Simpson, 44.
30. *Ibid.*, 44–45.
31. *Ibid.*, 45. Simpson frequently referred to George Chorpenning’s company as the “California Mail Company.”
32. John M. Townley, “Stalking Horse for the Pony Express: The Chorpenning Mail Contracts between California and Utah, 1851–1860,” *Arizona and the West* 24 (Autumn 1982), 244–45; Leroy Reuben Hafen, *The Overland Mail, 1849–1869* (1926; repr. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004), 112.
33. Simpson, *1858 Report*, 35.
3. Simpson, 46.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*, 47.
6. Lee, 33.
7. Simpson, 47.
8. Simpson, *1858 Report*, 30.
9. Sir Richard Francis Burton, *The City of the Saints; Among the Mormons and across the Rocky Mountains to California*, (1861; repr. Santa Barbara, CA: Narrative Press, 2003), 333.
10. Simpson, 49.
11. Simpson, *1858 Report*, 31.
12. *Ibid.*, 32.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Acts, Resolutions and Memorials Passed at the Several Annual Sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah*, (Great Salt Lake City: H. McEwan, 1866), 188–89. Cited by James Vaun Barber, “The history of highways in Utah from 1847 to 1869,” (master’s thesis, University of Utah, 1949), 39; also cited by John M. Townley, *The Overland Stage* (Reno: Great Basin Studies Center, 1994), 225.
15. Simpson, 50.
16. *Ibid.*
17. Horace Greeley, *An Overland Journey from New York to San Francisco in the Summer of 1859* (1860; repr. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999), 203.
18. Burton, 337.
19. Simpson, 50.
20. Lee, 34.
21. *Ibid.*
22. Simpson, 50.
23. Gael S. Hoag, *Salt Lake City to Ely, Nevada*, (road guide compiled and distributed in early 1913 under the auspices of the American Automobile Association), copy in the author’s possession.
24. Simpson, 51.
25. *Ibid.*
26. *Ibid.*
27. David M. Jabusch and Susan Jabusch, *Pathway to Glory; The Pony Express and Stage Stations in Utah* (Salt Lake City: Treasure Press, 1994), 8, 63; and John M. Townley, *The Pony Express Guidebook: Across Nevada* (Reno: Great Basin Studies Center, 1984), 11. The exact date of the change in the route remains elusive, but it was accomplished prior to November 16, 1859; see note 2 above.
28. Simpson, 51.
29. *Ibid.*

CHAPTER THREE

1. Simpson, 46.
2. *Deseret News*, November 16, 1859. An article

30. Lee, 34.
31. Simpson, 68.
32. Ibid., 72.
33. Ibid., 75.
34. Ibid., 67.
35. Ibid., 57.
36. Ibid., 51.
37. Ibid., 52.
38. Ibid.
39. Greeley, 265.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. Simpson, 55.
2. Lee, 35.
3. Simpson, 55.
4. Ibid., 56.
5. Ibid., 57.
6. Schindler, 317.
7. Simpson, 57.
8. Ibid., 59.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., 61.
11. Ibid.
12. Burton, 345.
13. Simpson, 62.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid., 63.
17. Ibid.
18. Greeley, 268.
19. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 45.
20. Simpson, 64.
21. Ibid., 64–65.
22. Victor O. Goodwin, “*The Humboldt—Nevada’s desert river and thoroughfare of the American West*”, (paper, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nevada—Humboldt River Basin survey, 1966), 4–5.
23. Ibid., 4.
24. Simpson, 65.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Lee, 36.
28. Simpson, 67.
29. Lee, 37.
30. Simpson, 68–69.
31. Townley, *Overland Stage*, 244.
32. Lee, 37.
33. Simpson, 71.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Burton, 356.
37. Simpson, 73.

CHAPTER FIVE

1. Simpson, 73.
2. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 44–45.
3. Simpson, 73.
4. Ibid., 74.
5. Ibid., 111.
6. Ibid., 75.
7. Ibid., 111.
8. Ibid., 75.
9. Burton, 357–58.
10. Ibid., 358.
11. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 11, 39.
12. Robert D. Harter, ed., *Wagon Tracks; George Harter’s 1864 Journey to California* (New York: Patrice Press, 2003), 67.
13. Simpson, 76.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Lee, 38.
17. Simpson, 77.
18. Ibid., 78.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid., 79.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid., 80, 81.
25. Ibid., 81.
26. Ibid., 82.
27. Lee, 39.
28. Simpson, 82.
29. Ibid., 106.

CHAPTER SIX

1. Simpson, 83.
2. Ibid., 83–84.
3. Ibid., 84.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid. This event is made stranger still by the fact that Reese had probably been in this area previously. He had been a member of the 1854 exploring party sent by Col. Steptoe and led by O. B. Huntington.
6. Ibid., 105.
7. Burton, 362–65.
8. Lee, 39.
9. Simpson, 85.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid., 105.
12. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 28.
13. Simpson, 85.
14. Lee, 40.
15. Simpson, 86.

16. Ibid., 105.
17. Lee, 40.
18. Simpson, 86.
19. Burton, 363.
20. Simpson, 86.
21. Ibid., 86–87.
22. Ibid., 87.
23. Lee, 41.
24. Simpson, 87.
25. Ibid., 88.
26. Doyce B. Nunis, *The Bidwell-Bartleson Party: 1841 California Emigrant Adventure*, ed. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. (Santa Cruz, CA: Western Tanager Press, 1991), 48, 174.
27. Simpson, 88.
28. Ibid., 104.
29. Ibid., 88.
30. Ibid., 89.
31. David L. Bigler, ed., *The Gold Discovery Journal of Azariah Smith* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990), 136; Will Bagley, *A Road from El Dorado; The 1848 Trail Journal of Ephriam Green* (Salt Lake City: Prairie Dog Press, 1991), 27. Bigler notes: “Smith’s entries, including distances covered each day, indicate the company traveled by the route now known as the Fort Churchill Road, which generally follows the Carson River between today’s Dayton, Nev., and Fort Churchill.”
32. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 24.
33. Simpson, 89.
34. Lee, 41.
35. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 23.
36. Burton, 366.
37. Simpson, 91.
38. Ibid.
39. Ibid.
40. Ibid., 92, 93.
41. Ibid., 93.
42. Ibid., 96–97.
43. Lee, 42.
44. Simpson, 103.
10. Lee, 43.
11. Simpson, 104–5.
12. Ibid., 104.
13. Ibid., 105.
14. Ibid.
15. Edward James Mathews, “Crossing the Plains: Adventures of Edward James Mathews in ‘59”, n.d., 87, Nevada Historical Society, Reno (copy of privately printed work).
16. Simpson, 105.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid., 106.
21. Ibid., 106–7.
22. Ibid., 107.
23. Ibid., 108.
24. Ibid., 107.
25. Ibid., 108. Here Simpson uses the term “North Carson Lake” in referring to what is now known as Carson Sink.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid., 109.
28. Joe Bensen, *The Traveler’s Guide to the Pony Express Trail* (Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1995), 114.
29. Lee, 44.
30. Simpson, 109.

CHAPTER EIGHT

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. Simpson, 103.
2. Ibid., 148.
3. Ibid., 103.
4. Ibid., 104.
5. Ibid.
6. Burton, 364. Burton used the term “cattle” to describe all livestock, including horses and mules.
7. Lee, 43.
8. Simpson, 104.
9. Ibid.
1. Simpson, 109.
2. Ibid., 110.
3. Lee, 45.
4. Townley, *Overland Stage*, 250.
5. Simpson, 111.
6. Ibid., 76.
7. Lee, 45.
8. Simpson, 111.
9. Lincoln Highway Association, *The Complete Official Road Guide of the Lincoln Highway*, 5th ed. (1924; repr. Tucson, AZ: Patrice Press, 1993), 473.
10. Photograph, Special Collections, Hatcher Library, University of Michigan, filing code Nev. 217. The caption with the photo reads “New route avoiding ‘Ford’s Defeat’; about 25 miles east of Austin, Nevada.”
11. Simpson, 111.
12. Ibid., 111–12.
13. Ibid., 112.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid., 113.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid., 114.

20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid., 115.
23. Charles M. Tuttle, "The emigrant diary of Charles M. Tuttle," *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, 15 (1931), 233.
24. Mathews, 81.
25. Simpson, 115.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid., 116.
28. Ibid., 117.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid., 118.
31. Ibid., 118–19.

CHAPTER NINE

1. Simpson, 118.
2. Ibid., 62.
3. Clifford L. Stott, *Search for Sanctuary: Brigham Young and the White Mountain Expedition* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1984), 131–36.
4. Ibid., 131–32.
5. Ibid., 217.
6. Simpson, 119.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., 120.
11. Tuttle, 232.
12. Simpson, 120.
13. Lee, 46.
14. Simpson, 120–21.
15. Ibid., 121.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid., 122.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Lee, 47.
25. Simpson, 122–23.
26. Ibid., 123.
27. John W. Van Cott, *Utah Place Names* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990), 112.
28. Simpson, 124.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid., 125.
31. Ibid.
32. Owen C. Bennion, "Good Indian Spring," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 52, no. 3 (1984), 257.

33. Simpson, 125.
34. Lee, 47.

CHAPTER TEN

1. Simpson, 126.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Bennion, 257.
5. Simpson, 126.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., 127.
10. Ibid., 142.
11. Tuttle, 231.
12. The Joy mining camp was established by Henry B. Joy in the 1880s. The mines operated for only a few years before being abandoned. Joy purchased and became the president of the Packard Motor Car Company in 1903, and became the first president of the Lincoln Highway Association in 1913. The original route of the Lincoln Highway passed only 23 miles to the northwest of Joy's mining camp.
13. Simpson, 126.
14. Ibid., 127.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

1. Simpson, 128.
2. Ibid., 129.
3. Ibid., 128.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Lee, 48.
7. Bennion, 256.
8. Bennion, 263.
9. Mathews, 75.
10. *Deseret News*, September 14, 1859. It is unclear whether Roberts was instructed to do so, or was simply attempting to satisfy his own curiosity, but he made a trip that followed the expedition's return route from Camp Floyd to Knoll Springs in Snake Valley. He also observed emigrants camped at what Simpson called Tyler's Spring, today's Mud Spring, at the northeast base of Swasey Mountain.
11. Simpson, 130.
12. Ibid.
13. Lee, 48; Simpson, 130, 142.
14. Simpson, 131.

15. Ibid.
16. Schindler, 337. According to Schindler, Rockwell filed on a section of property that was located on Government Creek near the Tooele-Juab county line. He obtained a patent on the property in 1874.
17. Simpson, 131.
18. Lee, 49.
19. Simpson, 142.
20. Harter, 58; George Edwin Bushnell, "A trip across the Plains in 1864" (unpublished emigrant journal), August 6, 1864.
21. Tuttle, 230.
22. Simpson, 131-32.
23. Simpson, 132.
24. "Map of central and western Utah," in *Explorations & Surveys West of the One-Hundredth Meridian: Compiled under the Direction of Brig. Gen. A. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1875), atlas sheet number 50; copy in the author's possession.
25. Simpson, 46.
26. Simpson, *1858 Report*, 26.
27. Ibid., 25.
28. Ibid., 35.
29. Simpson, 132.
30. Lee, 49.
9. Mathews, 75-89.
10. *Deseret News*, August 17, 1859; *Valley Tan*, August 17, 1859.
11. *Deseret News*, August 27, 1859.
12. Goodwin, 5.
13. John D. Unruh, Jr., *The Plains Across* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1979), 175.
14. Simpson, 139.
15. Jackson, 194.
16. Ibid., 213.
17. Ibid., 214.
18. Maj. Fitz John Porter to Simpson, 16 November 1859. Part 2, Old Military Records, Department of Utah Letter Book, vol. 2, 393. National Archives.
19. *Washington Constitution*, February 8, 1860.
20. Lander to Simpson, quoted in "Maps and Reports of the Fort Kearney, South Pass, and Honey Lake Wagon Road," 36th Cong., 2nd sess., House Executive Document 64 (Washington, DC, 1861), 12.
21. Simpson to Lander, "Maps and Reports of the Fort Kearney, South Pass, and Honey Lake Wagon Road," 36th Cong., 2nd sess., House Executive Document 64 (Washington, DC, 1861), 13.
22. *Washington Constitution*, February 8, 1860.
23. Warrick, 117, citing Edward D. Neill, "James Hervey Simpson," *Northwest Review* (April 1883), 77-78.
24. Warrick, 116.
25. Ibid., 131-32.
26. James Hervey Simpson, *The Shortest Route to California* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1869), 32.
27. Bruce Catton, *Terrible Swift Sword*, vol. 2, *The Centennial History of the Civil War* (New York: Doubleday, 1963), 223.

CHAPTER TWELVE

1. Simpson, 132.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., 133.
4. Ibid., 142.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., 133-34.
8. Tuttle, 230.