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SANTA FE TRAIL.

M. M. MARMADUKE JOURNAL.

Notes by F. A. Sampson.

In the Missouri Historical Review for January, 1910, was printed the journal of Captain Wm. Becknell of a trip from Franklin to Santa Fe made in 1821, by which he became the founder of the Santa Fe trade, and the father of the Santa Fe trail. This journal was copied from the Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser of April 22, 1823. In the present number is given the journal of another expedition from Franklin to Santa Fe, made in 1824, by M. M. Marmaduke, of Saline county, Missouri, and printed in the Missouri Intelligencer of September 2, 1825. Marmaduke was elected Lieut. Governor of Missouri in 1840, with Gov. Reynolds, and upon the death of the latter he became Governor for the balance of the term ending in 1844. The journal is an interesting one, showing the condition of the trail at that early day.

JOURNAL.

“Crossed the Missouri river at Hardiman’s ferry, (1) six miles above Franklin, on Sunday the 16th May, 1824, and encamped two miles from the ferry, in a beautiful prairie. (2)

23d—Encamped in the prairie at Camp General Rendezvous

1. The name Hardeman is correctly given in the “History of Howard and Cooper Counties, 1883,” and in Switzler’s History of Missouri.” At a point five miles above Franklin and just above a point opposite the mouth of the Lamine river was a lovely and famous retreat—“Hardeman’s Garden,” a place similar to that of Shaw’s Garden in St. Louis. John Hardeman, a native of North Carolina, born in 1776, who moved to Missouri in 1817 and two years later to Howard county, where he bought land, and laid out upon it ten acres for a garden, which became famous for its native and tropical flowers and plants, and which in its day was superior to any other west of the Alleghenies. In 1826 the river commenced cutting into and carrying away the garden, and in 1829 its owner, while on his way home from Mexico died of yellow fever in New Orleans. The part of the farm that was not carried away was sold by the family in 1865. Hon. G. O. Hardeman, who was a member of the Missouri legislature, in the 23th General Assembly in 1877, was a son of John Hardeman, and from his son, G. A. Hardeman, of Gray’s Summit, Missouri, the State Historical Society received the manuscript collection of his father and grandfather, including letters of John Hardeman, and also letters of Henry Clay and other prominent persons to him.

It is generally stated that the Santa Fe trail crossed the river at Arrow Rock, and that is doubtless correct. Judge Napton, of Marshall, writes that there is a man now living in that town, 86 years old, who married a Miss McMahan whose mother was a daughter of Sarshall Cooper, who was killed by an Indian in Cooper’s Fort—McMahan and his wife settled on the Cooper county side of the river, above the mouth of the Lamine and opposite the Hardeman Garden and Ferry. Mrs. McMahan told this man about 1858 of the Santa Fe traders crossing the river at this place and coming by their house, and that she and her husband got on their horses and accompanied them to the camp of that night, and remained over night with them. He did not remember the exact date, nor whether it was the Marmaduke or some other party of traders. Judge Napton writes:

“There is no evidence that the crossing at Hardeman’s was used by the Santa Fe traders any other year than 1824. The first band of traders who went out from Franklin in 1821 crossed at Arrow Rock, so says Capt. Becknell, who got up the party and commanded them on the march to Santa Fe. Then in the succeeding years up to 1826 or 28, he crossed there every year, and after that time Becknell took up his residence at Arrow Rock, established a ferry over the Missouri himself, the ferry boat being made of two large keel boats lashed together, with a platform on top, and a railing to keep stock on.

“Capt. Becknell represented Saline county in 1828 and 30—two terms. What became of him is unknown to the history of this section.”

(3) about 3 miles from any settlement, on our way into the wilderness.

24th—Remained at camp making the necessary rules and regulations for the government of the company, and in the evening held an election for three officers, when A. Le-grand was chosen captain, Paul Anderson lieutenant, and — Simpson, ensign. We this evening ascertained the whole strength of our company to be 81 persons and two servants; we also had 2 road waggons, 2 dearborns, 2 carts (4) and one small piece of cannon. The amount of goods taken with us is supposed to be about \$30,000. We have with us about 200 horses and mules.

25th—Travelled 10 miles to Blue Springs, and passed over a prairie country uneven and rolling, but of fine rich soil. We this day travelled the Missionary road. (5)

2. The camp was probably in the immediate neighborhood of the Dr. Sappington settlement; Sappington settled there in 1819, and it can readily be conjectured that Marmaduke then first met the Miss Sappington who afterwards became his wife.

3. This camp where the expedition was assembled and organized was near the present east lines of Jackson county, and as the journal says ten miles east of Blue Springs. It is said that the next settlement to Fort Osage, a military post, in the limits of Jackson county, was at Blue Springs. A few years later, 1830, Independence became the place of rendezvous or organization of the Santa Fe expeditions.

4. A late article on the Santa Fe trail says that Captain Bonneville organized an expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1832, and that he was the first trader to employ wagons for transportation of goods, and that Sibley, or Fort Osage as it was originally called had the distinction of being the first point on the Missouri river to employ a wagon train.

In the Review of January, 1910, was given the journal of Capt. Wm. Becknell, of a journey from Franklin to Santa Fe, as printed in the Missouri Intelligencer of April 22, 1823, which journey was made in 1821, by which expedition Chittenden in "The American Trade of the Far West" says Becknell became the founder of the Santa Fe trade and the father of the Santa Fe trail. This was the first successful trading expedition to Santa Fe, and with him he took the first wagon that ever went over the trail. During the same year the Intelligencer says that Mr. Floyd in a speech in the U. S. House of Representatives stated that on the return of that expedition it had a wagon, but that this was a mistake as Becknell sold the wagon at Santa Fe. At that time Capt. Becknell stated that in his next trip in the fall of 1823, he would take three wagons, and Judge Napton in his History of Saline County says that he did so. Gov. McNair in his message of Nov. 4, 1822, to the Second General Assembly of Mis-

26th—Travelled about 22 miles. Saw several elk running across the prairie, and our hunters brought into camp several deer.

27th—Crossed several branches of the Big Blue, and in one instance had to dig the banks and let the waggons and dearborns down by ropes. The prairie remarkable rich, and the whole face of it covered with most beautiful flowers.

28th—Encamped on a branch of Kansas river

29th—Encamped on one branch of the Marias de Seine. (6)

June 3d—Travelled over a very rolling, hilly prairie, the grass short, and in many places covered with small pieces of rock, stone and limestone. Our hunters killed two antelopes and one elk.

4th—Travelled 14 miles, over a bad road of creeks and hills, and encamped on the Verdigrise river.

6th—Travelled over a road exceedingly bad and mountainous. Saw a great many prairie dogs, and shot at one. Heretofore with considerable difficulty we have been able to procure wood for cooking purposes; this evening we have been obliged to use buffalo dung.

souri, in mention of the Santa Fe trail said "caravans of horses and mules loaded with merchandise have passed from Missouri to Santa Fe, and it is a fact to the belief of which no credit would have been given until it was performed, that waggons have this summer made the same journey." Marmaduke had in all 25 wheeled conveyances.

5. The "Missionary road" must have referred to a road from Lexington to Harmony Mission, but it was not a road that was used with that as an objective point long enough for it to now be definitely traced. After a delegation of Osage Indians in Washington expressed a desire in 1820 to have missionaries sent to them, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions formed a party with a missionary, physician, workmen and their families, which left Pittsburg in the spring of 1821, going by the Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri and Osage rivers, and after six months travel reached an Indian village where Papinsville now is, and the mission was located a mile from it. The first cabins were put up by Col. Henry Renick, who lived in Lafayette county, and was perhaps the first one to blaze a road from the Missouri to The Mission, and later the supplies taken by boats to Lexington or to Independence were wagoned to the Missouri.

The History of Cass and Bates Counties, 1883, gives the history of the Mission, and suggestions as to the road have been made by Prof. G. C. Broadhead and Judge W. B. Napton to the editor.

6. This was the Marias des Cygnes.

7th—Travelled 14 miles over a very hilly and broken road. This night had a tremendous gust of wind and rain, and the horses broke by the guard in defiance of every exertion to stop them.

8th—Travelled 14 miles, and encamped on one of the branches of the Little Arkansas; killed 3 buffaloe and 1 antelope. An alarm was this evening given by our hunters that several hundred Indians were approaching; a party went out to reconnoitre, and found them to be buffaloe.

9th—Encamped on the Little Arkansas river, near the sand hills; killed 9 buffaloes. Saw this day at least five thousand buffaloe, chiefly bulls.

10th—Passed the Sand Hills—saw this day at least ten thousand buffaloe, the prairies were literally covered with them for many miles. Killed 9 buffaloe today—we this evening arrived at the G. Arkansas river, and encamped on it; this river is at this place about 200 yards wide, but quite shallow, as our hunters forded it, and killed several buffaloe on the south side. At this place there is not the smallest appearance of any kind of tree or shrubbery of any kind; the whole country being entirely prairie. From Franklin, Missouri, to this place, I make the distance 355 miles, and the course generally about W. S. W.

11th—Travelled about 8 miles on the Arkansas, and encamped on the bank at noon, at which time a great number of buffaloe came running by the camp, and frightened the horses so that many of them broke off from the encampment at full speed, and joined in with the buffaloe in the race, and with great difficulty were checked. I believe I must have seen this day at least **ten or fifteen thousand** buffaloe.

12th—In consequence of the horses which ran off yesterday, we remained at the same encampment, and unfortunately for many of us, at 1 o'clock in the morning a number of buffalo crossed the river at the encampment and passed through it, which frightened off about two-thirds of the

horses of the party, many of which, however, were found in the course of the day and brought in.

16th—Encamped on the Arkansas river, and find ourselves pretty nearly on foot, in consequence of the loss of our horses, and the estimated distance to St. Miguel, the first Spanish settlement, about 500 miles—a walk not altogether agreeable.

17th—Saw a considerable number of buffaloe; saw and pursued an Indian, but did not overtake him.

21st—Passed Louse Island; saw several wild horses.

22d—Travelled about 10 miles and stopped on the Arkansas river for the purpose of jerking buffalo meat. Killed 12 or 15 buffaloes and 2 wild horses.

28th—We this day crossed the Arkansas river and entered the N. Mexican Province. Encamped on the Sand Hills, without wood or water for man or beast.

29th—Travelled 30 miles; left our encampment at 4 o'clock, a. m., and travelled without making any halt until about 4 o'clock, p. m., without a drop of water for our horses or mules, by which time many of them were nearly exhausted, as well as a number of the men; a dog which had travelled with us during our journey, this day fell down and expired, such was the extreme heat and suffering. Fortunately for us all at about 4 o'clock a small ravine was discovered and pursued for a few miles, and after digging in the sand at the bottom of it, water was procured in sufficient quantity to satisfy both man and horse, but not till after five or six wells were sunk; and such was the extreme suffering of the animals that it was with the utmost difficulty could be kept out of the holes until buckets could be filled for them. I never in my life experienced a time when such general alarm and consternation pervaded every person on account of the want of water.

30th—We this day remained stationary for the purpose of recruiting our horses; several persons were sent out in search of water, who returned in the evening after having succeeded. Our horses appeared to be

astonishingly refreshed this morning. Our hunters killed several buffaloe and one wild horse.

July 3—Travelled along up the Semerone creek; water remarkably bad and scarce, having to dig for it at every place we stopped. One of our hunters wounded a wild horse, and brought him into camp; it is believed he can be recovered and made serviceable.

5th—Encamped on the same creek, where were three lodges of Indians. This day two of the dearborns gave way; one of them had a wheel entirely fitted out with new spokes in a very short time, and the other quickly repaired.

8th—Travelled about 23 miles over a very sandy barren prairie, without water. Saw many green grapes, wild currants, etc.

12th—Travelled over an uneven and mountainous country, we begin now to approach the Rocky Mountains and find the country uneven, with high projecting knobs of mountains and rocks. Encamped on a stream that empties into the Canadian fork of the Arkansas. Saw a great number of grasshoppers.

17th—Crossed Red river, the water of which is of a very deep red color, resembling thin, weak blood.

19th—Travelled in the midst of the cliffs and knobs of the Rocky Mountains; the mountains at this place are not exceedingly high, but appear to have been torn asunder by some uncommon convulsion of nature, and to rise in stupendous knobs and points; but little timber to be seen in any direction; saw a number of wild and uncommon plants and weeds, some of which were extremely odoriferous and fragrant; also a considerable number of birds of various kinds.

22nd — Arrived at the ranche or temporary residence of a Mr. Juan Peno, which is the first civilized habitation we have seen since we left the U. S. This was to us a pleasing prospect, as we were politely received. This man is wealthy, having 160,000 head of sheep, and many cattle, horses and mules. We encamped near his house, where we had fine spring water.

23d—Travelled over a very hilly broken country; encamped in the mountain without water; saw a number of herds of sheep and cattle. The sheep and cattle seem to be smaller than those of the U. S.

25th—Arrived and encamped in the rear of St. Miguel. Considerable rejoicing appeared among the natives on our arrival, and they welcomed us with the best music the place afforded. A description of this place can best be given by comparing it to a large brickyard, where there are a number of kilns put up and not burnt; as all the houses are made of bricks dried in the sun, and none of them burnt; all the roofs are entirely flat; the inhabitants appear to me to be a miserably poor people, but perfectly happy and contented, and appeared very desirous to make our situation as agreeable as possible.

27th—Left camp and travelled 3 miles on our way to Santa Fe, and encamped near a little village called St. James, where many of the inhabitants visited us. These people appear to be fond of the Americans, and wish to cultivate a good understanding with them.

28th—Arrived at Santa Fe about dusk. This is quite a populous place, but is built entirely of mud houses; some parts of the city are tolerably regularly built, others very irregularly. The inhabitants appear to be friendly, and some of them are very wealthy; but by far the greater part are the most miserable, wretched, poor creatures that I have ever seen; yet they appear to be quite happy and contented in their miserable priest-ridden situation.

This city is well supplied with good water; provisions very scarce; a great many beggars to be seen walking the streets.

31st—The distance from Franklin to this place is estimated at 931 miles. Entered our goods and arranged the taxes with the collector who appears to be an astonishingly obliging man as a public officer.

August 1st—Remained in town and endeavoring to sell goods, which we find difficult to do to advantage owing to the scarcity of money and the quality of the goods.

May 31st, 1825—This day I left Santa Fe for the United States, having remained in this country about 10 months, during which time the following is the result of my observations, etc., on the subject of the manners, customs, etc., of the country and people.

On my arrival in New Mexico, I was astonished at the blind zeal and enthusiasm of the people, all professing the Catholic religion, which I found to be the only religion tolerated in the country, and which I do verily believe is the best that could possibly be established among them, as they appear to live more happy under their religious yoke than any other profession I have ever known, and I believe die as happily as any people in the world. The homage and adoration which they pay to their priests, far surpass that of any other religious sect to their God and is much greater than they themselves pay to their God, as all their worship to Him consists of the most unmeaning ceremony.

As relates to their manners, customs, etc., I am reluctantly constrained to say, that I do not believe there is a people on the globe so entirely destitute of correct moral principles as the inhabitants of New Mexico, I scarcely know a single vice that it not indulged in by them to the very great excess, excepting that of intoxication, and the absence of this is owing to the scarcity of ardent spirits. In fact every vice reigns among this people to the greatest extent that their poor, miserable situation will admit. In justice, however, I can not forbear to remark, that there does exist among them one solitary virtue, and that is hospitality to strangers; for when I consider the scarcity there of human diet, I believe no people would more willingly divide their morsel with the stranger than they, and that too without any demand or expectation of compensation; but if you offer to return them the value, or ten times as much, it will at all times be received.

As relates to their ideas of decency or modesty, they appear to have the most imperfect notion, as the men and women will indiscriminately and freely converse together on the most

indecent, gross and vulgar subjects that can possibly be conceived, without the least embarrassment or confusion.

As regards the face of the country, it is in general remarkably poor and sterile, as not any kind of grain or vegetable can at any season of the year be raised without being watered by water from canals taken from springs or the rivers which run through the country.

There are among these people but very few men of information, and I believe no women at all of education. Their priests, perhaps, are the best informed men among them, and I sincerely believe nine-tenths of them to be the most abandoned scoundrels that disgrace human nature.''