# TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

OF THE

# ROAD FROM MISSOURI TO OREGON

COMMENCING AT THE MOUTH OF THE KANSAS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER

AND ENDING AT THE MOUTH OF THE WALLAH-WALLAH IN THE COLUMBIA

## In VII Sections

### SECTION II

*From the field notes and journal of Capt. J. C. Frémont,*

*and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss*

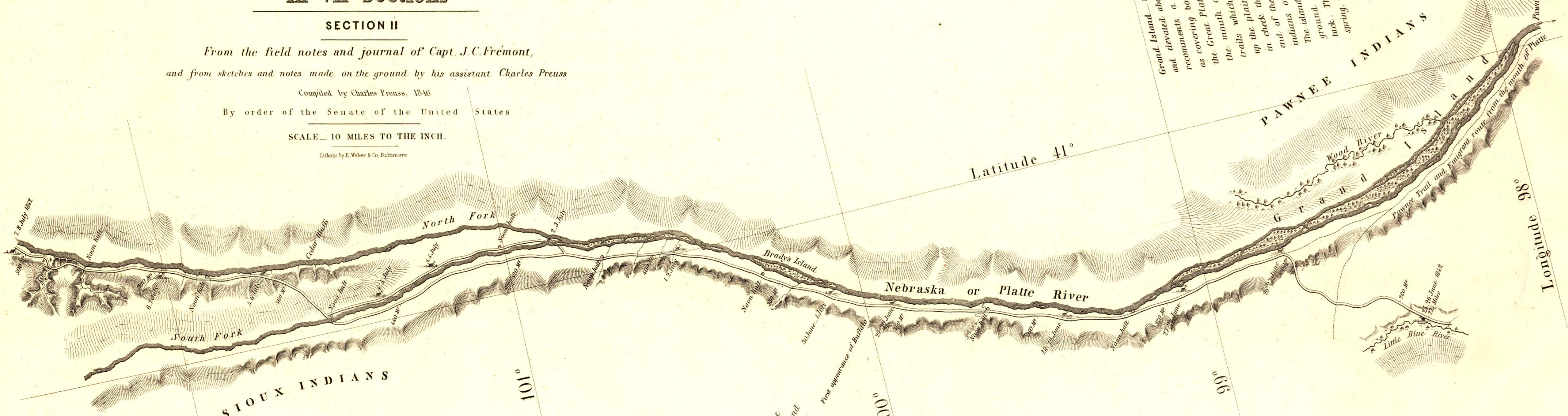
Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE — 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithogr. by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore

*Grand Island — fifty two miles long — fertile and well wooded and elevated above the highest floods. Captain Fremont recommends a military post near the head of this island, as covering both emigrant roads, the one from the mouth of the Great Platte and the more usually travelled one from the mouth of the Kansas, and as commanding the Pawnee trails which lead to the Kansas and Arkansas and also up the plains towards Fort Laramie, and also as holding in check the villages which begin twenty miles below the end of the island. These Pawnees are the most troublesome indians on the route, and need the presence of a garrison. The island would supply the troops with wood and good ground for cultivation, protected by the river from sudden attack. The width of the river is near a mile, deep in the spring, fordable in the summer, and quite shallow in the fall.*




*June 30th First view of buffalo. — The air was keen the next morning at sunrise, the thermometer standing at 44° and it was sufficiently cold to make overcoats very comfortable. A few miles brought us into the midst of the buffalo, swarming in immense numbers over the plains, where they had left scarcely a blade of grass standing. Mr. Preuss, who was sketching at a little distance in the rear, had at first noted them as large groves of timber. In the sight of such a mass of life, the traveller feels a strange emotion of grandeur. We had heard from a distance a dull and confused murmuring, and when we came in view of their dark masses, there was not one among us who did not feel his heart beat quicker. It was the early part of the day, when the herds are feeding, and every where they where in motion. Here and there a huge old bull was rolling in the grass, and clouds of dust rose in the air from various parts of the bands, each the scene of some obstinate fight. Indians and buffalo make the poetry and life of the prairie, and our camp was full of their exhilaration.*

*Frémont's Report.*

**REMARKS**

1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.
2. Game — Antelope and Buffalo, the latter in inumerable bands.
3. Timber is extremely scarce, except on the islands. Some driftwood and buffalo excrement makes the fuel, as that of the camels does in the deserts of Arabia.
4. Good guard ought to be kept. Pawnees, if they do not kill, will at least take what they can from the travellers by force if they are strong enough, and by stealth if too weak to act openly.
5. With this section the prairie ends, and the barren sage (artemisia) country begins.

### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

| Date | Time | Thermometer | Altitude (Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1842. June 26 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 64°<br>67°<br>69° | 1760 Feet | Wind N. sun and clouds<br>squalls of rain<br>clear and calm |
| " 27 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 63°<br>80°<br>71° | 2000 " | Wind S. cloudy<br>calm and cloudy<br>" E. cloudy, lightning |
| " 28 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 65°<br>79°<br>79° | | Wind N. clear<br>calm, clear, cloudy in the horizon<br>calm and clear |
| " 29 | sun<br>noon<br>sunset | 67°<br>80°<br>74° | | calm and clear<br>Wind E. sun, blue sky<br>wind increasing |
| " 30 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 67°<br>79°<br>52° | | Gale from N.W.<br>strong wind from N.W. clear<br>cloudy |
| July 1 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 44°<br>68°<br>60° | | calm and clear<br>calm and clear<br>light wind from N. foggy |
| " 2 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 58°<br>77°<br>63° | 2700 . | foggy, calm<br>Wind N.W. sun, smoky<br>" N. dirty horizon |
| " 3 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 51°<br>79°<br>64° | | Wind W. clear<br>" S. smoky<br>" S.W. foggy |
| " 4 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 53°<br>76°<br>69° | | Wind S.W. foggy<br>" N. smoky, sky covered<br>" N. smoky |
| " 5 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 52°<br>68°<br>66° | | Wind E. has been raining<br>" S.E. clear<br>" S.E. clear |
| " 6 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 55°<br>89°<br>81° | | High wind from S. clear<br>high wind from S. clear<br>Gale from W. cloudy |
| " 7 | sunrise<br>noon<br>sunset | 69°<br>95°<br>82° | 3350 Feet | calm and clear<br>calm and clear<br>Wind S.E. clear and clouds |

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