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 IV

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

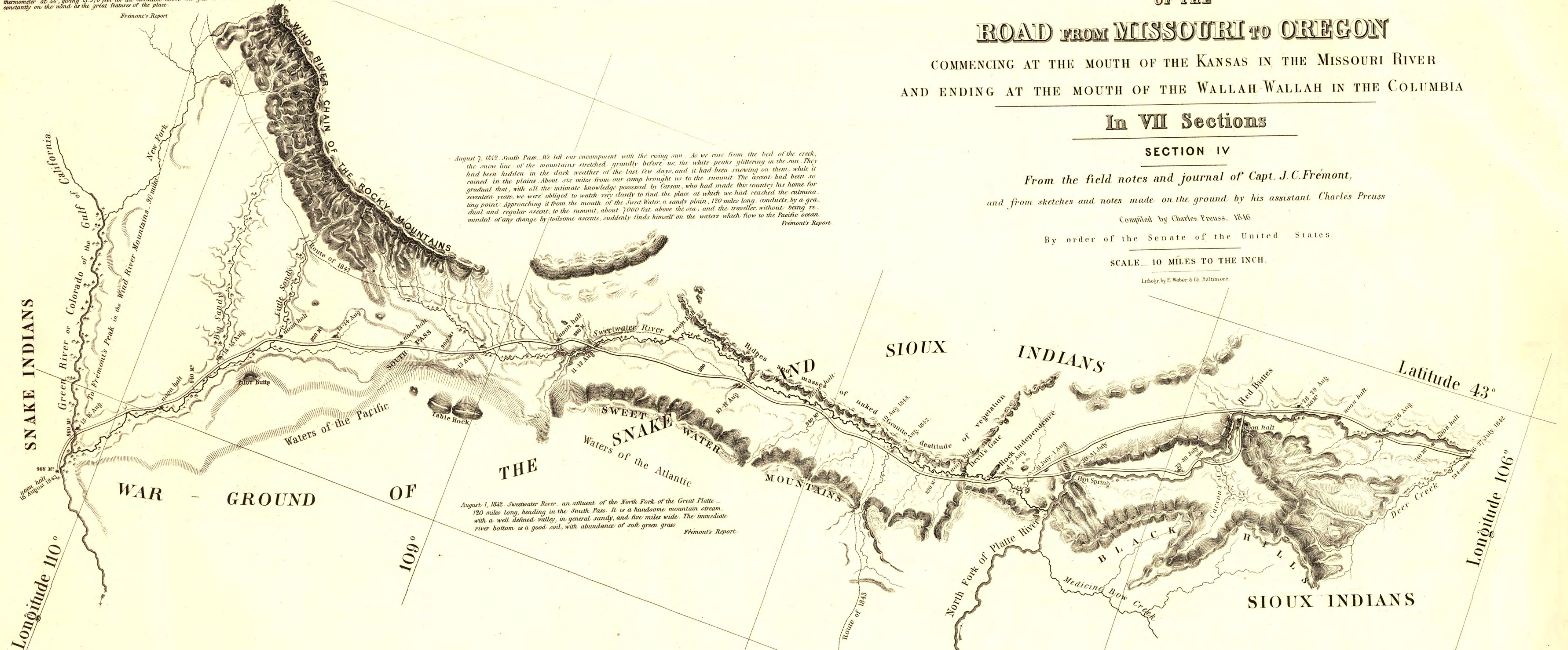
By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE _ 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithogr. by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore.

Aug. 10. (Western base of the Rocky Mountains, north of the South Pass and near Fremont's Peak.) The air at sunrise, is clear and pure, and the morning extremely cold, but beautiful. A lofty snow peak of the mountain is glittering in the first rays of the sun, which have not yet reached us. The long mountain wall to the east, rising two thousand feet abruptly from the plain, behind which we see the peaks, is still dark, and cuts clear against the glowing sky. a fog just risen from the river, lies along the base of the mountain. _ (after sunrise) The sun has just shot above the wall, and all the mountain peaks are gleaming like silver. The scenery becomes hourly more interesting and grand, and the view here is truly magnificent. _ (approach to Frémont's Peak.) We were now approaching the loftiest part of the Wind River Chain; winding our way up along a ravine we came unexpectedly in view of a most beautiful lake, set like a gem in the mountains. The sheet of water lay transversely across the direction we had been pursuing; and, descending the steep, rocky ridge, where it was necessary to lead our horses, we followed its banks to the southern extremity. Here a view of the utmost grandeur burst upon our eyes. With nothing between us and their base to lessen the effect of the whole height, a grand bed of snow-capped mountains rose before us, pile upon pile, glowing in the bright light of an August day. Immediately below them lay the lake between two ridges each covered with dark pines, which swept down from the main chain to the spot where we stood. Here, where the lake glittered in the open sunlight, its shores of yellow sand and the light foliage of aspen groves contrasted well with the gloomy pines. Never before, said Mr. Preuss, in this country, or in Europe, have I seen such magnificent, grand rocks. _ Aug. 14. (Ascent to Frémont's Peak.) Two of the men, Clément Lambert and Des Couteaux, had been taken ill, and laid down on the rocks a short distance below; and at this point I was attacked with headache and giddiness, accompanied by vomiting, as on the day before. Finding myself unable to proceed, I sent the barometer over to Mr. Preuss, who was in a gap two or three hundred yards distant, desiring him to reach the peak if possible, and take an observation there. He found himself unable to proceed further in that direction, and took an observation where the barometer stood at 19.401 _ attached thermometer 50°, in the gap. _ Aug. 15. (Reached the peak after five days exertion.) At break of day, we set out, having secured strength for the day by a hearty breakfast. We soon had the satisfaction to find ourselves riding along the huge wall which forms the central summits of the chain. There at last it rose by our sides, a nearly perpendicular wall of granite, terminating 2 or 3000 feet above our heads in a serrated line of broken, jagged cones. Here were three small lakes of a green color, each of perhaps a thousand yards in diameter, and apparently very deep. Having divested ourselves of all unnecessary clothing, and put the mules on a bench, about a hundred feet above the lakes, where there was a patch of good grass, we commenced the ascent of the wall, to reach its highest peak, sitting down when we found the breath beginning to fail. At intervals springs rushed from the rocks; and at 1800 feet above the lakes, we came to the snow line. From this point our progress was uninterrupted climbing. Reached the summit, a narrow crest. We mounted the barometer in the snow of the summit, and fixing a ramrod in a crevice, unfurled the national flag to wave in the breeze where never flag waved before. The barometer stood at 18.293 _ the attached thermometer at 44°, giving 13.570 feet for the elevation above the gulf of Mexico. Fields of snow lay far below us; boundless mountains stretched before us. A stillness the most profound, and a terrible solitude, forced themselves constantly on the mind as the great features of the place.

Frémont's Report



August 7, 1842. South Pass. _ We left our encampment with the rising sun. As we rose from the bed of the creek, the snow line of the mountains stretched grandly before us, the white peaks glittering in the sun. They had been hidden in the dark weather of the last few days, and it had been snowing on them, while it rained in the plains. About six miles from our camp brought us to the summit. The ascent had been so gradual that, with all the intimate knowledge possessed by Carson, who had made this country his home for seventeen years, we were obliged to watch very closely to find the place at which we had reached the culminating point. Approaching it from the mouth of the Sweet Water, a sandy plain, 120 miles long, conducts, by a gradual and regular ascent, to the summit, about 7000 feet above the sea; and the traveller, without being reminded of any change by toilsome ascents, suddenly finds himself on the waters which flow to the Pacific ocean.

Frémont's Report

August 1, 1842. Sweetwater River _ an affluent of the North Fork of the Great Platte _ 120 miles long, heading in the South Pass. It is a handsome mountain stream, with a well defined valley, in general sandy, and five miles wide. The immediate river bottom is a good soil, with abundance of soft green grass.

Frémont's Report

REMARKS

1. *The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.*
2. *Water. Abundant.*
3. *Grass is only to be found on the river banks, and there sometimes very scarce.*
4. *Fuel. Cotton wood and willow sufficient near the water courses, and sage (artemisia) all over the country _ often as high as the head _ sometimes eight feet high, and several inches diameter in the stalk. Makes a quick fire.*
5. *Game. At Sweetwater River buffalo appear for the last time, and emigrants should provide themselves well with dryed meat. West of that region nothing but a few deer and antelope, very wild, are to be met with.*
6. *Indians. Between the Red Buttes and Green River, the war ground of the Indians, particular attention should be paid as to guards and watches.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude		Remarks
1842 July 26	sunset	Fahr.	4640 Feet	Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico	calm
1843 Aug. 10	sunrise	41°			calm, clear, some clouds
	noon	78°			clear, squalls from all points
	sunset	72°			moderate breeze from W. clear
. . 11	sunrise	56°			fresh breeze from W. clear
	noon	71°	6926 Feet		Do. Do. haxy
	sunset	61°			moderate from N.W. clear and clouds
. . 12	sunrise	32°			calm clear, white frost
	noon	60°			Wind N.W. clear
	sunset	53°			calm and clear
. . 13	sunrise	28°			Do. Do. white frost
	noon	67°	7489 Feet		moderate breeze from N.W. clear
	sunset	67°	(South Pass)		calm and clear
. . 14	sunrise	32°			Air from N.W. clear
	noon	86°			Breeze from W. clear
	sunset	75°			Do. N.W. Do.
. . 15	sunrise	34°	6667 Feet		Wind N. clear
	noon	85°			calm and clear dirty horizon
	sunset	65°			Do. Do. Do.
. . 16	sunrise	37°			calm and clear
	noon	82°	6399 Feet		Wind squally from N. clear

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