

Chapter 1 : Bartlesonâ€™s Bidwell Party - Wikipedia

In , the Bartleson-Bidwell Party, led by Captain John Bartleson and John Bidwell, became the first American emigrants to attempt a wagon crossing from Missouri to California Contents 1 The trail to California.

It was almost an interior sea-coast, the barrier between the settled lands, and the un-peopled and tree-less desert beyond, populated by wild Indians. And men in exploring parties, or on trade had ventured out to the ends of the known continentâ€™; and by the winter of there were reports of what had been found. There were, in addition to the men, ten children and five women: They moved slowly for the first few days, having gotten word that another wagon and a small party of men was trying to catch up to them; ten days later, they did so. Among the late-comers was Joseph Chiles, who would eventually cross and recross the California trail many times over the following fifteen years. Reverend Williams had taken it into his head to go forth and minister to the heathen Indians. Arriving at Sapling Grove to find the party already gone, he had ridden alone through the wilderness to join them. Whether this was an act of jaw-dropping naivety, or saintliness is a matter of opinion. Under the stern direction of Fitzpatrick, the party reached Fort Laramie after 42 days of hard travel. The party traveled in a mixture of conveyances and teams: The Jesuits in four mule-drawn carts and a single small wagon, then eight emigrant wagons drawn by horse and mule teams, then a half-dozen drawn by ox teams. The cracking pace set by the mule carts meant many exhausting hours in harness for the slower oxen, which a single day of rest at Ft. Laramie did nothing to make up for. And supplies were already running short. They hunted for buffalo along the valley of the Sweetwater, and met up with a party of 60 trappers on the Green River, who told them flat-out that it was impossible to take wagons over the mountains and desert and mountains again to California. At that point, a small group of seven men packed it in and headed back to Missouri, and all but thirty-one men and Mrs. Nancy Kelsey decided to carry on with the trail towards Ft. Their further adventures are well-documented, as there were four diarists among them. A fair proportion of them became successful and pillars of their respective communities in later life, although one of them, Talbot Greene, later turned out to be an embezzler escaping the authorities. He was pleasant, well-liked and trusted by the others, serving as their doctor, and carried with him to California a very large chunk of lead. No one could fathom why he needed quite so much of this commodity, but even then, it was considered bad form in the West to pry too much into personal affairs. They were all young, most under the age of thirty. None of them had been into the trans-Mississippi west until this journey, although one of them was a relative by marriage to the Sublette fur-trading family. The Kelsey brothers, Andrew and Benjamin, were rough Kentucky backwoodsmen. Two of them had been schoolteachers, but all had grown up on farms, were accustomed to firearms and hunting â€™ and hard work, of which the unknown trail would offer plenty. The diarists themselves narrated a zesty and optimistic tale of their adventures, taking some of the edge off of the desperation that must have been felt as they blundered farther and farther into the trackless wilderness. They had seen a map which showed two rivers flowing west from this lake, but it seemed that was a mere fantasy on the part of the map-maker. After a week or so of this, they camped north of the Lake and sent two men to Fort Hall seeking additional supplies and guidance. In both they were disappointed; there were no supplies to be spared from the fort stores, and there was no guide to be hired. The only advice they could get from Fort Hall was not to go too far north, into a bandlands of steep canyons, or too far south into the sandy desert. But away to the west there was a river flowing towards the south-west. On such sketchy advice, they continued westwards; a dry stretch around the north of the lake, until despairing, they turned north and camped at the foot of a mountain range. There was grass and water there, as they would come to know if they had not worked that out already. They traded gunpowder and bullets for some berries from friendly Indians camped nearby. They did not return for some days, during which the party abandoned one wagon and moved gradually westward. They were probably following the tracks left by the two scouts, who did not return until eleven days were passed and they had been despaired of. They all headed southwards across the desert, southwards again after camping at a place called Rabbit Creek. By mischance, they had missed the headwaters of a creek that emptied into the river they were searching for, and in another couple of days, the team animals began to fail.

The Kelsey brothers abandoned their wagons, packing their remaining supplies onto the backs of their mules and saddle horses, and the party continued with increasing desperation, south and west, and to the north-west again, until it became clear that the wagons were a useless, dragging burden. They made packs for the mules and they tried to make packs for the oxen, who promptly bucked them off again. They supplied themselves by hunting and gradually and one by one, killing their draft oxen. They did not eat well until they reached the lower stretches, the gentle San Joaquin Valley where the men were still well supplied with powder and shot and bagged enough deer for a feast. They arrived at a ranch nearby early in November of 1846. They were the first party of emigrants to arrive overland, although with scarcely more than they wore on their backs, or carried. Among their numbers were included the future first mayor of San Jose, the founder of the city of Stockton, and the founder of Chico, a delegate to the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln, and two or three who were merely quietly prosperous. The very last living member of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party died in at the age of

Chapter 2 : The Bidwell-Bartleson Party: California Emigrant Adventure : the - Google Books

The Bidwell-Bartleson Party. The Bidwell-Bartleson Party was the first group of emigrants to travel overland to California along the route that would eventually become the main California Trail.

Located on the Oregon Trail, Soda Springs has been known since pioneer days for its mineral salt springs, one of which was named Beer Spring. Alexander Reservoir now covers most of these springs. Writing in his journal on 10 August, John Bidwell described the springs: The day was fine and pleasant; a soft and cheerful breeze, and the sky bedimmed by smoke, brought to mind the tranquil season of autumn. A distance of ten miles took us to the Soda Fountain, where we stopped the remainder of the day. This is a noted place in the mountains, and is considered a great curiosity; within the circumference of three or four miles there are included no less than springs, some bursting out on top of the ground, others along the banks of the river, which are very low at this place, and some even in the bottom of the river. The water is strongly impregnated with soda, and wherever it gushes out of the ground a sediment is deposited, of a reddish color, which petrifies and forms around the springs large mounds of porous rock, some of which are no less than fifty feet high. Some of these fountains have become entirely dry, in consequence of the column of water which they contained becoming so high as to create sufficient power by its pressure to force the water to the surface in another place. In several of the springs the water was lukewarm, but none were very cold. The ground was very dry at this time, and made a noise as we passed over it with horses as though it was hollow underneath. Cedar grows here in abundance, and the scenery of the country is romantic. Father De Smet, with two or three flathead Indians, started about dark this evening to go to Fort Hall, which was about fifty miles distant. Travel west on US Optional tour to Oregon Trail State Park. Enter Oregon Trail State Park and note the trail ruts on the right and left of the road. Return to US By this station are two historical signs: Optional tour to the Bear River overlook. Turn left onto the road by the Idaho highway maintenance station. Note the channel depth of the Bear River as it flows west and then south. The Bear River is the largest river located entirely inside the Great Basin, its flow being exceeded only by the Green and Colorado rivers. At intervals along its course, dams impound and divert the waters for industrial and agricultural purposes. He was killed by Indians there the following year. These names refer to the color of the river in its lower reaches. The name Michael Bourdon gave refers to the numerous black, brown, and grizzly bears found in the region at that time. The two companies, after bidding each other a parting farewell, started and were soon out of sight. This road is rough and is not recommended for passenger cars. Travel south on this gravel road 0. Optional tour to Oregon Trail ruts. Turn right onto old US On the left a fence ends. Park and walk past this fence about three hundred feet to view the Oregon Trail ruts in the sagebrush near the railroad fence. This is west of the location where the Bidwell-Bartleson party and the De Smet party separated, the Bidwell-Bartleson party going south and the De Smet party going northwest. John Bidwell described this separation: Hall, which is situated on Lewis River, a branch of the Columbia many, who purposed in setting out, to go immediately through to the California, here, concluded to go into Oregon so that the California company now consisted of only 32 men and one woman and child, there being but one family. The two companies, after bidding each other a parting farewell, started and were soon out of sight, several of our company however went to Ft. Encamped on Bear river, having come about 12 miles. Turn right onto Center Street. Travel west on Center Street. This channel becomes deeper downstream as the Bear River cuts through the end of the volcanic rock and flows into the valley. Optional tour to 11 August campsite. Travel east then south on Ralph Hanson Road, and at 0. Look west to the mountain and its two peaks and you will see where John Bidwell and James John saw snow on 11 August. John Bidwell described the scene: John, went some distance below the camp to fish in the river; fished sometime without success - concluded we could spend the afternoon more agreeably. We concluded to ascend the mountain, where were two spots of snow in full view, in order to enjoy the contrast between a scorching valley and a snowy mountain. Supposed the snow not more than 4 miles distant; set out without our guns knowing they would be a hindrance in ascending the mountain. In the morning, they discovered quantities of shaggy hair. This had been the lair of grizzly bears. They reached the snow that morning, and, after putting

some in a handkerchief, they hurried down the mountain back to camp where they were chastised by Bartleson and greeted with joy by the rest of the party. Return to Gentile Valley road. At this point, you can see the Oneida Narrows to the south. The Oneida Narrows is where the Bear River cuts through the mountains and where, downstream, a dam has been built to form Oneida Narrows Reservoir. James John described the campsite: We traveled about 15 miles today over hills and mountains and encamped on a small brook about 4 miles from the river. It is constantly boiling and smoking and is strongly impregnated with soda. There is a power substation by this road. Turn right onto Mail Route road and travel 3. Turn left onto this paved road and travel 0. Turn left onto US 91 and travel south a short distance to a creek which crosses under US Road uncommonly broken, did not reach the river; distance about 14 miles. The stream at the fork is Battle Creek. The Bear River Massacre took place in the area from the mouth of the ravine to the north and south to the Bear River. The battle was prompted by harassment of overland travelers, settlers, and miners by the Indians, whose traditional lands were rapidly being preempted by the whites. Approximately Indian men, women, and children were killed, along with fourteen soldiers. Many soldiers were afflicted by the extremely cold weather. There is a monument to this battle on the east side of US 91, just north of the Bear River bridge. Travel down the left-hand fork. Note the deep ravines on the right as you travel the next 4. These ravines caused the emigrants to travel in almost every direction. One mile from the fork the road changes from gravel to pavement. Continue on the pavement 0. Take the left-hand fork, a gravel road, and travel 1. Turn left onto the paved road and travel 1. Turn right onto this road and travel 1. Turn left onto West and travel south 4. Turn right onto South and travel 0. Turn right onto SR 84 and travel 1. Bidwell and John both described the scene. Having come about 15 miles, we encamped on a small stream proceeding out of the mountains at no great distance from us. But we were surprised to see it become perfectly dry in the course of an hour; some of the guard said there was plenty of water in it about midnight. But we were surprised to see it become perfectly dry in the course of an hour, some of the guard said there was plenty of water in it about midnight. Turn left onto SR and travel east 1. As you travel towards the junction, SR bends southward and then eastward. Turn right at the junction and travel south 1. Turn left and travel east 1. Turn right and travel south 1. Turn right onto SR and travel 4. Construction began in on the first storage reservoir in Utah, now called Newton Reservoir, located just north of the town. Unable to see where the Bear River crossed the mountains to the west, the Bidwell-Bartleson party traveled along the north bank of the Bear River until they came to the narrows, and then crossed what is now called Long Divide. Travel through Newton to the junction with SR Turn right onto SR and travel northwest 1. Turn left onto this gravel road, and travel 1. Turn left onto this curving gravel road, and travel west 5. Turn left onto West and travel south 1. Here the river runs through a deep cut in the mountain which is narrow and nearly perpendicular and about feet high. The Union Pacific Railroad cuts through these narrows on the south side of the dam. There is some irrigated land, large areas of dry farms, and grazing land on neighboring hills. He and his men became ill after eating beaver meat.

Chapter 3 : Utah History Encyclopedia

Learn about the emigrant party who started it all, the Bidwell-Bartleson party, at the California Trail Interpretive Center. As the first overland party to travel to California, this brave group of westward-bound emigrants blazed a new trail - the California Trail - to make history.

The Oregon Trail Generation A chronology of the Oregon Trail For twenty five years, as many as , people may have pulled up stakes and headed for the farms and gold fields of the West. No accurate records exist of traffic on the great overland trails of that era, and some believe the figure may have been as low as , people. However, estimates have been slowly creeping upwards over the years, and it now seems that something like half a million people headed west from the s through the Civil War. It is generally agreed that Oregon was the destination for about a third of the emigrants, California for another third, and the remainder were bound for Utah, Colorado, and Montana. This was the last of the so-called Great Migrations. It lasted until the coming of the railroads. En route, some of them change their minds and opt for Oregon, instead. Fremont contain useful information; the guidebook of Lansford Hastings contains fatal misinformation. White, Crawford, Lovejoy, Fremont, and Hastings would all later find their ways back to the United States and guide other outbound emigrant parties. One party each leaves Independence, Westport, St. Joseph, and Bellevue near Council Bluffs. Stephen Meek leads a party through the uncharted reaches of central Oregon, gets lost in the high desert, and still beats Barlow to The Dalles. However, is best remembered today as the year of the ill-fated Donner party. The souls on the trails this year include many non-Mormons bound for Oregon and California. Council Bluffs and St. Joseph replace Independence as the leading jumping-off points. The discovery of gold in California draws off more than three-quarters of the male population of Oregon, but most return before the arrival of the 49ers the following year. Overland parties come from as far away as the east coast. Cholera spreads west along the Trail, helped by damp weather. Some 55, emigrants make this the banner year on the trail, but cholera runs rampant, killing thousands. Most emigrants start out for California but news of the Donation Land Act causes many to change their minds mid-route and opt for Oregon, instead. From to , nearly half of those who would claim land in Oregon under the Donation Land Act leave the United States and head west. Half leave from St. Joe and half from Omaha, and half head to California and half to Oregon. Problems arise as an Army command is annihilated near Fort Laramie, precipitating a three-year Indian war. Travel changes with the beginning of freight traffic leaving Leavenworth, Atchison, and Westport. The largest freight company is the firm of Russell, Majors, and Waddell. Heavy freight traffic to the military forts gives an assurance of safety, and 10, head west. Destinations include Colorado, Utah, California and Oregon. Stagecoaches make their first appearance on the Oregon Trail with the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express carrying passengers and mail. Horace Greeley follows his own advice and goes west. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. Pony Express stops dot the Oregon Trail every fifteen miles; every other station is a stage stop. The Pony Express goes bankrupt following the completion of transcontinental telegraph lines. Pony Express owner Ben Holladay extends his stage company to Oregon. The end of the overland trails era began in with the formation of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. However, wagon trains could still be seen on the Oregon Trail through the s. Meeker was an early emigrant who spent his last years touring the country to remind people of the significance of the Oregon Trail before the experiences of his generation vanished from living memory. Even today, he is considered the father of all efforts to mark, preserve, and raise awareness of the Oregon Trail.

Chapter 4 : the bidwell bartleson party - blog.quintoapp.com

The route traveled by the Bidwell-Bartleson party across Utah could have become the California Trail instead of the trail later established through the City of Rocks, Granite Pass, and Goose Creek, north of Wells, Nevada.

They began their journey in Missouri in the company of several Jesuit priests and a group of emigrants bound for Oregon. Near Fort Hall the two parties separated, with the Jesuits, the Oregon-bound emigrants, and Fitzpatrick continuing on to Oregon and the Bidwell-Bartleson Party striking out on their own. They had no maps or guides and were following only vague directions about steering west to California. Of the thirty-four emigrants the only woman was Nancy Kelsey. She traveled with her husband and their infant daughter. Green, James P. Springer, and Charles M. As they crossed the Humboldt Sink in eastern Nevada, bickering among the members divided the group, but they united again to face the hardships of the Sierra Nevada. Following Indian trails and picking up advice wherever they could from Native Americans, the emigrants traced the Walker River as far as they could and then turned westward into the mountains. With little food they struggled for two weeks, following canyons, crossing snow bound passes, and worrying that they might never reach California. Finally they found the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus River and followed it to the edge of the canyon which today is the site of Donnell Reservoir. Unable to find a way down into the canyon and across to the south side of the river, the emigrants were forced to continue along the more rugged north side. Their route kept them high above the river. Eventually they found a way down into the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River canyon and south across another fork of the river. When the emigrants finally reached the plains of the San Joaquin Valley, they were relieved to find abundant game to hunt along the rivers. After a short rest they pushed on to the John Marsh ranch at the base of Mount Diablo. Following their arrival in California, Bidwell went to work for John Sutter at his fort in Sacramento. With the onset of the Gold Rush he moved north to Chico where he established himself as one of the leaders of the state. He served as brigadier general in the state militia, a state senator, and a U. S. Representative. He ran for the office of California governor and for the president of the United States, but was unsuccessful in those bids. Josiah Belden became the mayor of San Jose. Chiles returned east and became a well known guide, leading numerous parties west across the plains. Weber founded the city of Stockton. Find complete information about camping, lodging, historic sites, and recreation at [Sonora Pass Vacations](#).

Chapter 5 : Bidwell/Bartleson Trail - Small Brook Historical Marker

The Bidwell-Bartleson party traveled down the west bank of the Malad River, through today's Riverside, Garland, and Tremonton. Continue south on SR 13 through Garland and Tremonton to BEAR RIVER CITY (miles), and the junction with North.

The efforts of three parties had established a passable wagon road over the two main obstacles: The result was a journey of 2, miles in a single summer and fall, by oxen or horse or mules at 15 miles a day, which meant a voyage of about five months. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. December Learn how and when to remove this template message In May , the party assembled at Sapling Grove, near Westport, Missouri , with twenty-one-year-old John Bidwell a member of the party. A man named Bartleson was also in this party; he would eventually take a route into California which diverged from the group Bidwell traveled within the final stages of the journey. Numbering more than sixty, the group decided to travel together to California. Due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, they would travel along the north side of the Great Salt Lake and then cross the desert. One man Reuben Cole Shaw crossed that region would say "Humboldt is not good for man nor beast Using their pack animals they crossed to what is now Lovelock, Nevada. Crossing the Forty Mile Desert on the east side of the Sierras, they turned south until they reached what is now called the Walker River. They followed the river westward and then ascended the Sierra Nevada Mountains, somewhat along the same trail which had been taken by Jedediah Smith in Along the trail they had to kill many of their animals to make food for themselves. All of the party survived the journey, but it was a severe trial. Arriving in California, their first stop was at the ranch owned by John Marsh. Included in this party, traveling with Bartleson, was Josiah Belden , later to be the first mayor of San Jose, California. The trip[edit] At Sheep Rock, in present-day Caribou County, Idaho , about half of the original party changed their plans and decided to take the easier road into Oregon. Crossing the desert west of the lake, they were forced to abandon their wagons. Crossing the desert to the south, they reached the Walker River , which they ascended over the Sierra Nevadas in the same region crossed by Jedediah Smith in

Chapter 6 : Bidwell-Bartleson Party Trail - Historical Background

I have long been intrigued by the Bidwell-Bartleson Party, having first been exposed to them in a book about Westward Migration. Having travelled across Northern Nevada many times, I couldn't help but wonder how the B&B Party ever made it, given that they chose to go around the South end of the Ruby Mountains, among other difficult routes.

And so I think his name will stand in history as a benevolent master builder of the Washington of California. His father also had seven children from an earlier marriage. John did not make contact with any of these half-siblings until after the Gold Rush. Abram scrapped out a living as a farmer and kept his family moving on the frontier of American westward expansion. By 1841, the family resided in Greenville in far western Ohio. In that year John travelled hundreds of miles on his own in order to attend school, where he trained to become a teacher. By he desired to see the great prairies of the Midwest and set off again. He eventually settled, began farming, and continued to teach school in newly established Platte County, Missouri. His life was turned upside-down, however, when, while away from home, his property was claim jumped. With no support from his neighbors and being too young for recourse under the law, John began looking for a new home. First Overland Group to California Fortunately for John, by information was just beginning to trickle into Missouri about the distant and isolated Mexican province of California. The glowing reports of the region generated great interest among the Americans. John and several hundred people pledged to set out for California in the next spring. However, when spring arrived, enthusiasm for the trip had been dampened and the final party only consisted of around sixty-nine members. John was elected secretary of the group and would become a de facto leader for the group that would become known as the Bidwell-Bartleson Party. At Soda Springs the group split. Half the party chose to follow the more established trail to Oregon, while John and thirty-one others chose to continue to California. With no guide and only vague directions they set off into the uncharted Great Basin region of modern day Utah and Nevada. They abandoned their wagons shortly after passing the Great Salt Lake, but still managed to find their way to the Humboldt River and eventually to the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They managed to make their way over the mountains, crossing near Sonora Pass. Finally, on November 4, 1842, after nearly six months of traveling, the expedition reached the ranch of John Marsh located near the base of Mount Diablo. The party had become the first organized group of American immigrant to cross overland into California. Their success and the reports they sent back east inspired other groups to follow. John and many of his companions would go on to play pivotal roles in the events taking place over the next sixty years, and the Bidwell-Bartleson Party proved to be a spark which helped initiate the overwhelming American presence in California. The Dynamic Final Years of Mexican Rule After arriving in Mexican California, John Bidwell soon established himself among the important figures in the region and became intimately involved in the events unfolding during this dynamic period. He would remain in employ of Sutter on-and-off, in various capacities until the Gold Rush in 1849. John also travelled extensively throughout the Sacramento Valley region. This experience led to John making several important maps of the region and aiding immigrants in locating and securing land grants from the Mexican government. Especially due to his association with Sutter, he also became involved in the various political turmoil that plagued the province at that time. John and most of the other Bear Flaggers joined with the American forces in the region, in what became known as the California Battalion. Commissioned as a second lieutenant, John marched into Southern California where he was placed in charge of Mission San Luis Rey, attained the rank of Major, served as quartermaster, took part in the retaking of Los Angeles, and fought in the battles of San Gabriel and the Mesa. By February 1843, the fighting had evaporated and John returned to the Sacramento Valley to pursue a future as a rancher. During his first six years in the region, John established himself among the influential figures who were making and shaping the new California. He had become an important witness and participant to the important events setting the stage for a new era. Most importantly, none of his other contemporaries in pre-statehood California would go on to have as long and deep an influence in the development of the state over the next sixty years. The ensuing Gold Rush would launch California to international prominence and accelerated its development. John played an important role in this process and

would become one of the lucky beneficiaries whom the Gold Rush provided the opportunity for greatness. In , while still assisting as clerk for his mentor John Sutter, Bidwell prepared the contract between Sutter and James Marshall for the construction of a saw mill on the South Fork of the American River at a site known as Coloma. Marshall and Sutter tried to keep news of the discovery a secret, but soon word was beginning to trickle throughout the region. He left several days later and later claimed to have been the first person to bring authentic news of the gold discovery to San Francisco. Soon after this gold fever would set in throughout California. By the end of the year news had reached the eastern states, and would bring the first great wave of the Gold Rush. While returning to his ranch in April, John paused the night on the Feather River. Thinking about the similarities between the Feather and American Rivers, he took his tin cup and washed some of the sand. This discovery was the first major find outside of the American River claims and helped spread the Gold Rush throughout the Mother Lode region. John Bidwell profited immensely from the Gold Rush, and used this to launch his later agricultural success. His gold mining operation proved extremely rich. He mined two seasons on the Feather River. John did mining himself, but he also employed Indians who he would pay for the gold they could find. While others around him impressed Indians into mining and worked them like slaves, John found many Indians willing to work voluntarily in exchange for good treatment and goods like such as textiles and sugar. John also partnered with his friend George McKinstry and opened a successful trading post, which supplied miners, at a healthy profit, with food, mining equipment, liquor, and comfort goods. John did not romanticize gold mining, and just as the Gold Rush was gaining full speed he took his gold profits and shifted his focus towards agriculture. He spent the remainder of the Gold Rush making a fortune selling food to the mines and establishing his ranch as one of the greatest in California. His purchase of Rancho del Arroyo Chico provided him over 20, acres of rich, productive soil in the heart of the Sacramento Valley. Over the next sixty years he developed a diverse array of agricultural operations that served as an example for farms across the state. These included extensive wheat fields, a famous flour mill, and thousands of fruit trees. He pioneered a number of crops that have since become important California staples such as raisins, almonds, and walnuts, as well as experimenting with more exotic foods such as Egyptian Corn and Cassava Melons. At one time he could claim to be growing over different varieties of crops on Rancho Chico. His operations made a great deal of money, and their renown lured visitors from all over the world to Chico. While his ranch inspired the development farms throughout the state, John served in important roles in agricultural societies and political lobbying. After nearly sixty years of actively leading the industry and of Rancho Chico serving as an example for others to emulate, John could reflect on the amazing growth of California agriculture from limited cattle ranching of the Mexican period to the expansive, technologically modern, and highly profitable world leader it had become by his death in .

Annie Bidwell Annie came from a very different background than her husband, but served as the key inspiration and partner for the rest of his life, as well as becoming an important historical figure in her own right. The second of four children, she came from a close-knit family with deep roots in the young United States. Her father rose to prominence as a statistician and took charge of the United States Census in and , turning the department into the modern statistical entity it is today. Annie grew up in Washington D. As a teenager she converted to Presbyterianism, she embraced temperance and championed for prohibition, and she volunteered as a nurse when the Civil War broke out. That changed in when John Bidwell arrived in Washington D. John eventually visited the rest of the family at dinner and soon became a frequent guest in the Kennedy home. She encouraged him in becoming a Christian and giving up alcohol. They returned to Chico and began a new life together in California. Annie easily immersed herself in the important social circles of her new home. These included friendships with such figures as John Muir and Susan B. Her most enduring passion was for the welfare of the local Mechoopda Indians that lived on Rancho Chico. Upon her arrival in , she could look out her back door and find the entire Mechoopda village laid out before her. She began by teaching tribal members reading, writing, and sewing. Soon she forged close personal bonds with members, leading religious services, funding further educational opportunities, and advocating for Indian rights. Upon her death, Annie left land and money in trust for the continued care of the tribe. The Mechoopda Tribe continues to exist in Chico, a living legacy of their ancestors and the vision of Annie Bidwell.

Chapter 7 : John Bidwell - OCTA

The party then headed northwest, intersecting its own trail, to skirt the north end of the Great Salt Lake, find the Mary's River (now the Humboldt), which, it was then believed, flowed from the lake to the Sacramento River, and follow it to California.

Chapter 8 : Bidwell Trail: The Bidwell-Bartleson Party

The Bidwell-Bartleson party: California emigrant adventure: the documents and memoirs of the Overland pioneers. [Doyce B Nunis;] -- A determined party of men and women, including a Methodist minister and a group of Jesuit missionaries and their mountaineer guide, set out for the West Coast in

Chapter 9 : Bidwell-Bartleson Party | goldfields

Route of the Bidwell-Bartleson Party. After turning south from the Humboldt Sink, the Bidwell-Bartleson Party followed the West Walker River to Antelope Valley.