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 I

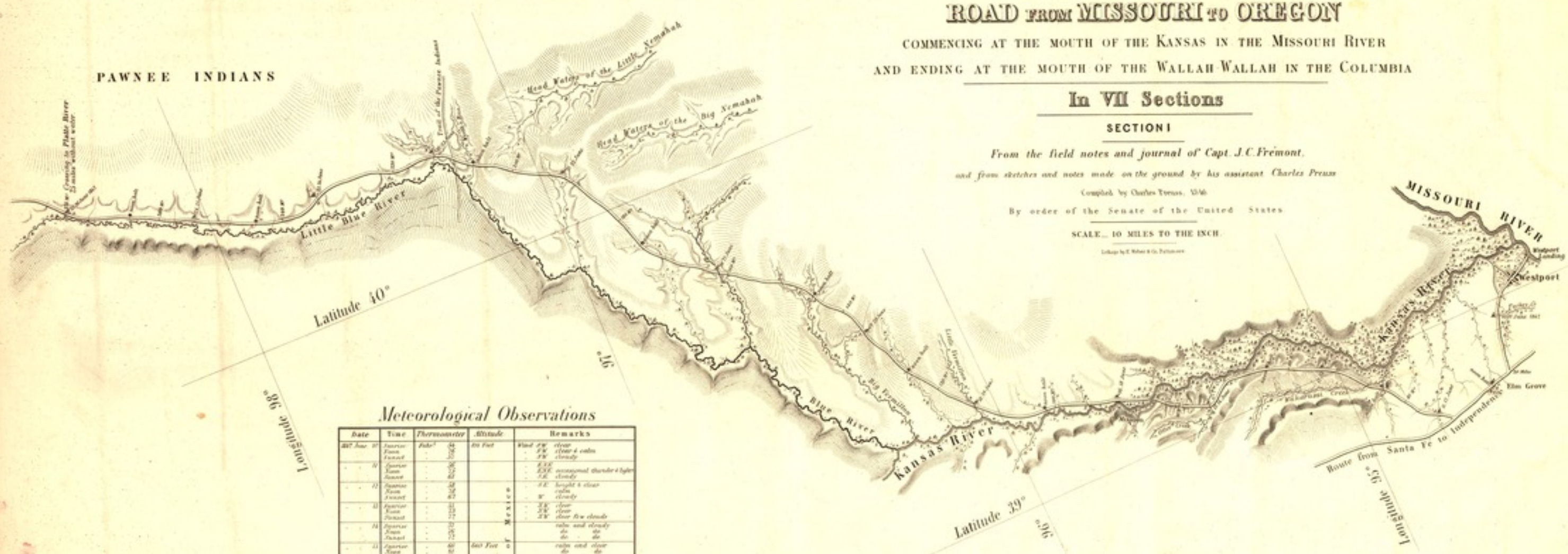
From the field notes and journal of Capt. J. C. Frémont,

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.



Meteorological Observations

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1847 June 10	Sunrise	Fahr. 54	400 Feet	Wind SW clear
	Noon	76		SW clear & calm
	Sunset	57		SW cloudy
11	Sunrise	56		ESE
	Noon	73		ENE occasional thunder & lighter
	Sunset	63		SE cloudy
12	Sunrise	58	Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico	SE bright & clear
	Noon	78		calm
	Sunset	67		W cloudy
13	Sunrise	61		NW clear
	Noon	79		NW clear
	Sunset	77		NW clear few clouds
14	Sunrise	57		calm and cloudy
	Noon	76		do do
	Sunset	72		do do
15	Sunrise	60	1600 Feet	calm and clear
	Noon	81		do do
	Sunset	68		do do
16	Sunrise	60		calm, cloudy
	Noon	83		clear
	Sunset	83		clear
17	Sunrise	73		W clouds and sun
	Noon	84		W clear
	Sunset	64		W cloudy rain
18	Sunrise	56		N cold
	Noon	70		N cold
	Sunset	46		N cold
19	Sunrise	56		light breeze from NW
	Noon	78		perfectly clear
	Sunset	58		perfectly clear
20	Sunrise	61	3000 Feet	light breeze from S
	Noon	76		bright and clear
	Sunset	71		S bright and clear
21	Sunrise	63		strong from W
	Noon	84		do do
	Sunset	58		do do sun bright
22	Sunrise	64		high Wind from E
	Noon	83		bright sun at intervals
	Sunset	68		cloudy
23	Sunrise	62		NW cloudy
	Noon	84		gale from SE
	Sunset	80		ESE fresh cloudy
24	Sunrise	65		strong from SE
	Noon	87		do heavy clouds
	Sunset	82		SE cloudy
25	Sunrise	61	1760 Feet	NE clear
	Noon	89		NE do
	Sunset	73		NE do

REMARKS.

1. The cyphers on the route indicate the distance in miles from **Westport Landing**
2. This section abounds with grass, water and fuel, so that emigrants may encamp almost anywhere.
3. Elk and Deer, the only game, are very scarce.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

OF THE

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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

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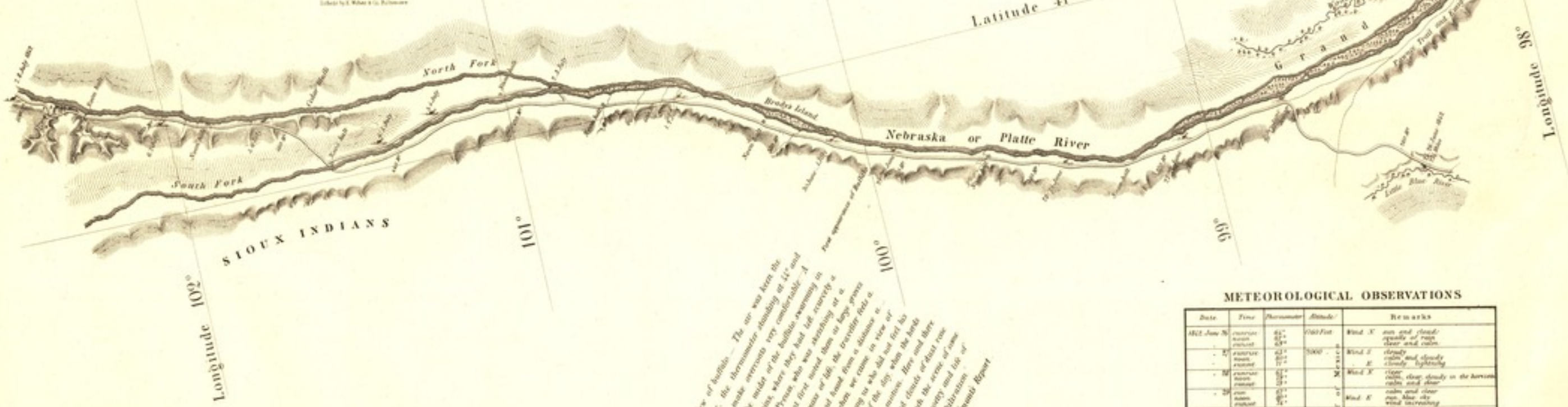
and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE — 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithog. by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore



Grand Island — fifty two miles long, fertile and well wooded and elevated above a military peak near the head of this island. Captain Frémont recommends a military road, the one from the mouth of the Platte as covering both entrances and as commanding and holding the mouth of the Kansas, and also as the most practicable route to the Kansas and Arkansas and also as the most trodden trails which lead towards Fort Laramie, miles below the mouth of the Platte, which begin are the most troublesome trails which towards Fort Laramie, miles below the mouth of the Platte, which begin are the most troublesome up the plains villages which Pawnees are present and good on check island. These and near the wood and sudden of end of the route, and the troops with the river from the indians on the supply pretend by a mile, deep in the full. The island for cultivation, pretend by a mile, shallow in the ground. The width of the river is near and quite shallow in the back. The width on the channel and quite fordable in spring.

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 graves of timber. In the right of such a mass of life, the traveller feels a strange emotion of grandeur. We had bound from a distance as dull and confused murmuring and when we came in view of there dark masses there was not one coming to 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 resting in the grass and clouds of dust rose in the air from various parts of the herds, with the pawing and tilt of obstinate light Indians and buffalo made the plenty and tile of the prairie and our camp was full of their exhibitation.

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 innumerable 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 station the prairie ends, and the barren 'sage (artemisia) country begins.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1842 June 26	sunrise	44°	1360 Feet	Wind N sun and clouds
	noon	65°		squally of rain
	evening	58°		clear and calm
" 27	sunrise	42°	5000	Wind S cloudy
	noon	62°		calm and cloudy
	evening	60°		" E cloudy lightening
" 28	sunrise	52°		Wind N clear
	noon	64°		calm, clear; cloudy in the horizon
	evening	64°		calm and clear
" 29	sun	48°		calm and clear
	noon	66°		Wind E sun, blue sky
	evening	64°		wind increasing
" 30	sunrise	44°		hale from S W
	noon	64°		strong wind from S W clear
	evening	64°		cloudy
July 1	sunrise	44°		calm and clear
	noon	64°		calm and clear
	evening	64°		light wind from E foggy
" 2	sunrise	46°	2500	foggy, calm
	noon	64°		wind, cloudy
	evening	64°		darkly horizon
" 3	sunrise	44°		clear
	noon	64°		cloudy
	evening	64°		" N foggy
" 4	sunrise	44°		foggy
	noon	64°		Wind S W clear
	evening	64°		" S W cloudy, sky covered
" 5	sunrise	44°		" S cloudy
	noon	64°		Wind E hail has raining
	evening	64°		" S E clear
" 6	sunrise	44°		" S E clear
	noon	64°		high wind from S clear
	evening	64°		high wind from S clear
" 7	sunrise	44°		Calm from W cloudy
	noon	64°		calm and clear
	evening	64°		calm and clear
			3350 Feet	Wind S E clear and clouds

Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

OF THE

ROAD FROM MISSOURI TO OREGON

COMMENCING AT THE MOUTH OF THE KANSAS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER

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In VII Sections

SECTION III

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SCALE — 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithographed by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore

It is in contemplation to keep open the communications with Oregon Territory, a show of military force in this country is absolutely necessary, and a combination of circumstances renders the establishment of a military post at or in the vicinity of the Chimney Rock, on the South Fork of the Platte, or at the junction of the Laramie River with the North Fork of the Platte, and the establishment of Fort Laramie the most suitable place on the line of the Platte River with the range of the buffalo, which are to be expected with the mountains on and beyond the South Fork, and the Sioux, Chayennes and other Indians and vagabonds, are such as would keep the Oregon road through the valley of the Sweet Water and the South Pass of the mountains completely open. A fortress at the junction which accompanies this report will show that it lies at the end of a broken and mountainous country, which would be very difficult to traverse, and would be very easily kept open by a small force. It would operate effectually to prevent any such outrages as are now daily heard among the Gros Ventres, Sioux and other Indians, which are to be expected with the wandering bands now and would be to every way the most economical and efficient means of keeping the road open. A fortress in the valley of the Sweet Water would be exposed to every kind of annoyance, and would be very difficult to be secured by great wagon roads, with our soldiers military posts, which would entirely cut off the communication of the mountain bands with our frontiers, although the Sioux, Chayennes and other Indians would be obliged to go through the country which remains in their possession, and which they would be enabled to harass and annoy the emigrants, which would be a very serious matter. The utility of the proposed posts would be considerably increased by the public or at least from the Spanish country, which already supplies a portion of their provisions to the Fremont's Report

REMARKS.

1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from **Westport Landing**
2. Game — East and West of this section more or less buffalo and antelopes, but 50 miles from Fort Laramie each way no game is to be found.
3. Grass — is scanty and only occures on the banks of the rivers and creeks
4. Fuel — also scanty. Driftwood, sage bushes, bois de vache and some cotton wood.
5. Indians — Good guards ought to be kept all the way. Sioux Indians are not to be trusted.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1847 July 2	sunrise	Fahr. 72°	3580 Feet	Wind S.E. sun and clouds
	noon	84		calm and clear
	sunset	80		do do
3	sunrise	72		calm and clear
	noon	84		do do
	sunset	76		do do
10	sunrise	74		calm and clear
	noon	76		calm, sun and clouds
	sunset	82		do do
11	sunrise	70		calm, sun and clouds
	noon	76		do do
	sunset	80		Moderate S.E. sun and clouds
12	sunrise	70		Wind S.E. sun and clouds
	noon	86		do do do
	sunset	84		Light wind from N. clear
13	sunrise	62		Wind W. clear
	noon	86		W. sun and clouds
	sunset	76		W. do do
14	sunrise	60	4470 Feet	Wind W. few clouds
	noon	80		Moderate from W. sun and clouds
	sunset	80		do C.K. light clouds & sun
15	sunrise	70		Fresh wind S.E. sun and clouds
	noon	86		do do
	sunset	82		calm and clear
16	sunrise	70		Strong wind from W. cloudy
	noon	84		do do
	sunset	82		Moderate from S. do
17	sunrise	70		Wind S.W. cloudy
	noon	86		do do
	sunset	80		Wind S.E. rain, thunder and lightning
18	sunrise	72		calm cloudy
	noon	72		Wind from S. cloudy
	sunset	74		do S. do
19	sunrise	68		calm and clear
	noon	70		Wind S. sun and clouds
	sunset	72		do S.E. cloudy
20	sunrise	60		Wind S. cloudy
	noon	80		do S. rain
	sunset	80		calm and cloudy
21			5640 Feet	

Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

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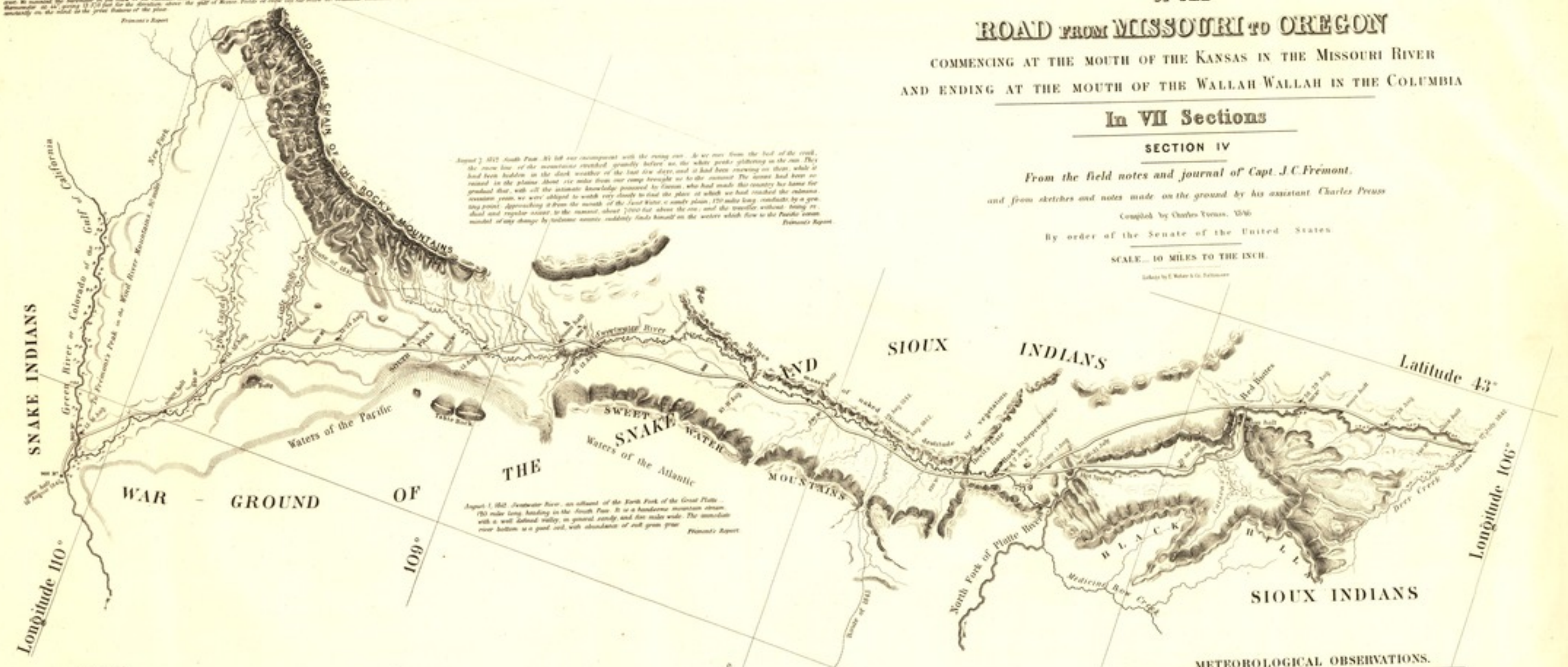

REMARKS

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
1847 July 26	sunset	Fahr.	4630 Feet	calm
1848 Aug. 10	sunrise	41°		calm, clear, some clouds
	noon	38°		clear, squalls from all points
	sunset	32°		moderate breeze from W. clear
11	sunrise	36°		fresh breeze from W. clear
	noon	71°	6906 Feet	Do. Do. hazy
	sunset	45°		moderate from N.W. clear and clouds
12	sunrise	32°		calm clear white frost
	noon	60°		Wind N.W. clear
	sunset	33°		calm and clear
13	sunrise	38°		Do. Do. white frost
	noon	47°	7489 Feet	moderate breeze from N.W. clear
	sunset	67°	(South Pass)	calm and clear
14	sunrise	32°		Ice from N.W. clear
	noon	86°		Breeze from W. clear
	sunset	76°		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

Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

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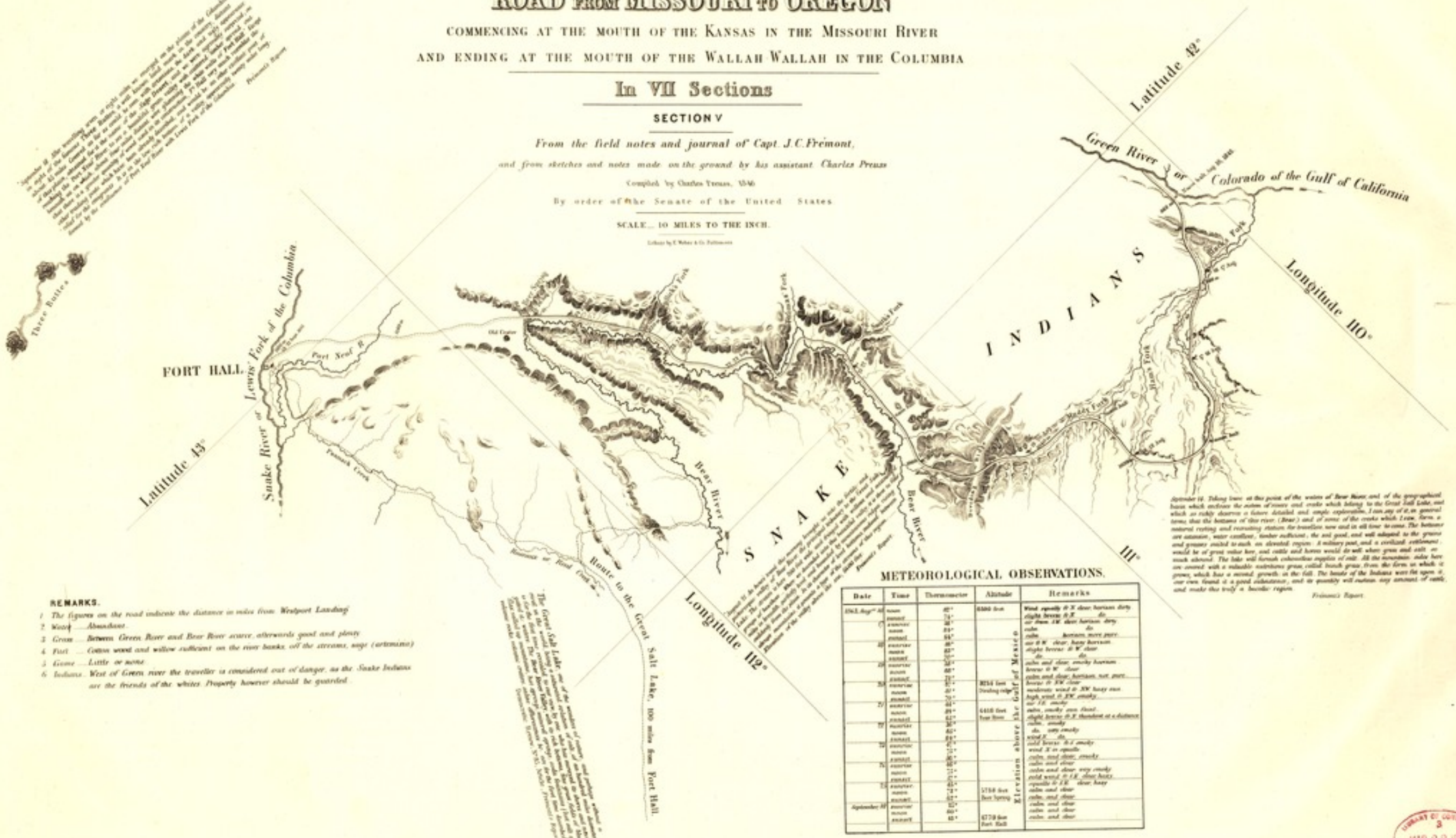

REMARKS.

1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing
2. Water ... Abundant.
3. Grass ... Between Green River and Bear River scarce, afterwards good and plenty
4. Fuel ... Cotton wood and willow sufficient on the river banks, off the streams, sage (artemisia)
5. Game ... Little or none
6. Indians ... West of Green river the traveller is considered out of danger, as the Snake Indians are the friends of the whites. Property however should be guarded.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1842 Aug. 16	noon	82°	6500 feet	Wind equally & N clear, horizon dirty
	sunset	74°		slight breeze & N do
17	sunrise	38°		air from SW clear horizon dirty
	noon	84°		calm do
	sunset	64°		calm horizon more pure
18	sunrise	48°		air & W clear, hazy horizon
	noon	82°		slight breeze & W clear
	sunset	70°		do do
19	sunrise	38°		calm and clear, smoky horizon
	noon	88°		breeze & W clear
	sunset	70°		calm and clear, horizon not pure
20	sunrise	37°	8254 feet Dividing ridge	breeze & NW clear
	noon	80°		moderate wind & NW hazy sun
	sunset	70°		high wind & NW smoky
21	sunrise	44°	6410 feet Bear River	air 1 E smoky
	noon	89°		calm, smoky sun fixed
	sunset	64°		slight breeze & N thunderst at a distance
22	sunrise	36°		calm, smoky
	noon	85°		do very smoky
	sunset	64°		wind N do
23	sunrise	42°		cold breeze & S smoky
	noon	75°		wind N in squalls
	sunset	56°		calm and clear, smoky
24	sunrise	46°		calm and clear
	noon	75°		calm and clear very smoky
	sunset	57°		cold wind & 1 E clear hazy
25	sunrise	45°		squalls & 1 E clear, hazy
	noon	73°	5750 feet Bear Spring	calm and clear
	sunset	62°		calm and clear
September 30	sunrise	35°		calm and clear
	noon	60°		calm and clear
	sunset	48°	6770 feet Fort Hall	calm and clear

Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

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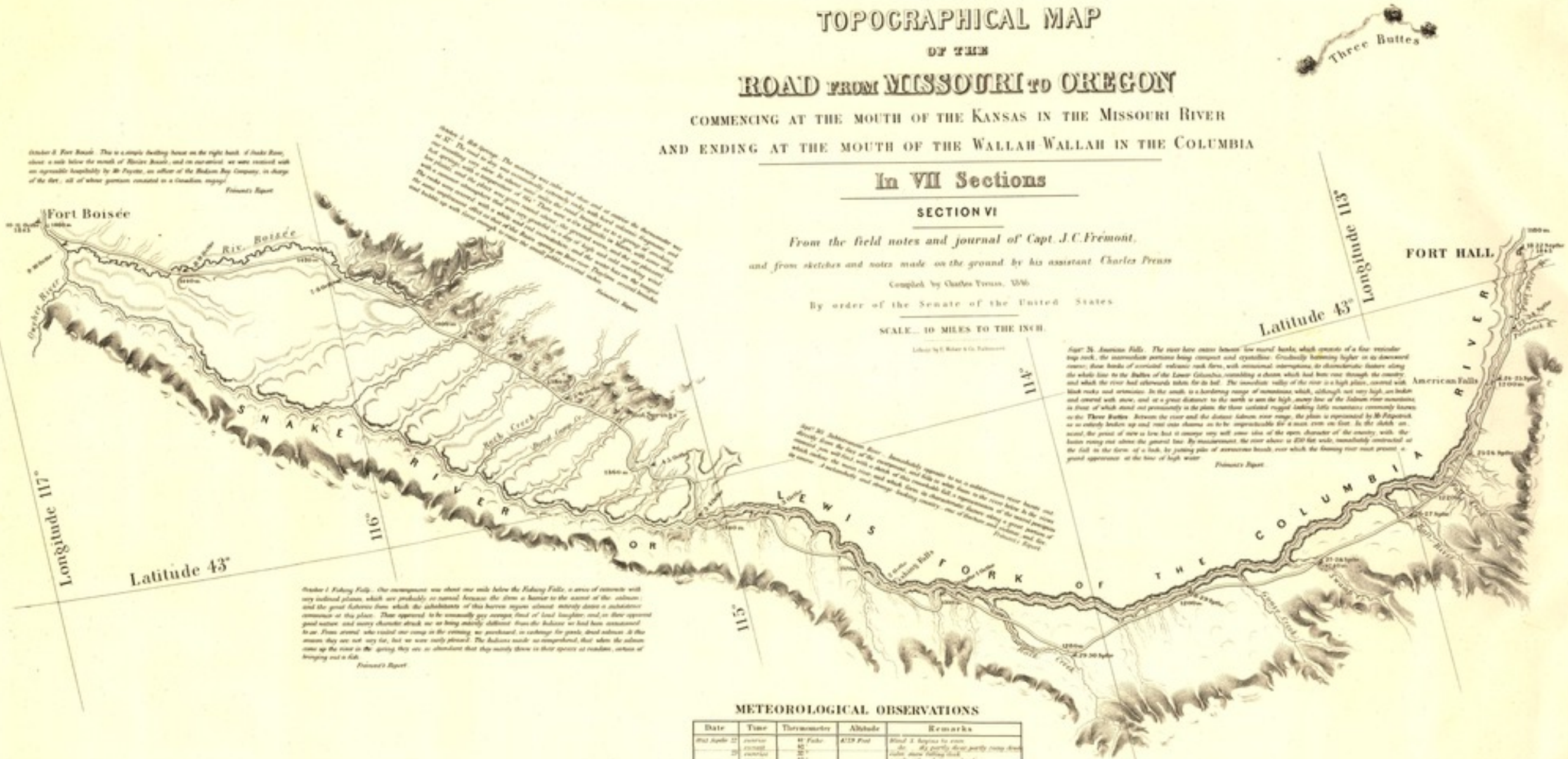
SCALE... 10 MILES TO THE INCH.



1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from **Westport Landing**

2. This is the most trying section for the traveller on the whole route. **Water** *though good and plenty, is difficult to reach, as the river is hemmed in by high and vertical rocks and many of the lyc streams are without water in the dry season.* **Grass** *is only to be found at the marked camping places, and barely sufficient to keep strong animals from starvation.* **Game** *there is none. The road is very rough by volcanic rocks, detrimental to wagons and carts. In sage bushes consists the only* **Fuel** *Lucky that by all these hardships the traveller is not harassed by the Indians, who are peaceable & harmless.*

3. West of the Fishing Falls salmon, fresh and dried, can be obtained from the Indians.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1842 August 22	sunrise	41° Fahr.	4729 Feet	Wind S. begins to rain
	noon	45°		do. sky partly clear partly rainy clouds
	sunset	30°		calm, skies falling clear
23	noon	45°		nearly calm, clear even head
	sunset	25°		calm, overcast
24	sunset	35°		breeze from S. clear
25	sunset	46°		gale from S. clear
	noon	51°		almost overcast
26	sunset	40°		Wind SW. rain last night
	noon	44°	4712 Feet	sharp wind SW. clouds and clear
27	sunset	40°		slight breeze S. E. rainy clouds
	noon	51°		gale S. SW. thunder in N. clear and clouds
28	sunset	40°		slight breeze S. E. rainy clouds
	noon	45°		mild wind S. SE.
29	sunset	36°		wind SW.
	noon	50°		do.
30	sunset	38°		air S. S. E. light clouds
	noon	53°		wind equally S. W. clear
Octo. 1	sunset	55°	3455 Feet	wind W. clear
	noon	74°		calm and clear
2	sunset	44°		calm and clear
	noon	50°		do. do.
3	sunset	41°		air from S. E. clear and light clouds
	noon	60°		do. do. do.
4	sunset	41°		calm and clear
	noon	57°		gale S. S. W. cloudy
5	sunset	37°		calm and clear
	noon	41°		wind S. W. overcast
6	sunset	36°		do. do. do. valley appearance
	noon	54°	3336 Feet	do. do. clear
7	sunset	45°		do. do. do.
	noon	57°		do. do. do.
8	sunset	38°		calm and clear
	noon	62°		do. cloudy horizon
9	sunset	36°		calm and clear
	noon	63°		do. scattered clouds
10	sunset	45°		calm and clear
	noon	63°	1866 Feet	do. do.

Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico

October 6. Change in the face of the country. The morning were the thermometer 18° at sunrise, the sky entirely clouded. After travelling about three miles over an extremely rocky road, the volcanic fragments began to disappear, and, entering among the hills of the point of the mountains, we found ourselves suddenly in a grassy country. Here the character of the vegetation was very much changed, the artemisia disappeared almost entirely, showing only at intervals towards the close of the day, and was replaced by Purshia tridentata with flowering shrubs and small fields of diatoma dioecious, which gave bloom and gaiety to the hills. These were entry where covered with a fresh small green, short grass, like that of the early spring. This is the fall or second growth, the dried grass having been burnt off by the the Indians, and wherever the fire has passed, the bright green color is uniformed. The soil covering the hills is altogether different from that of the river plain, being in many places black, so often sandy and generally but of a firm and good character appearing to result from the decomposition of the granite rocks, which is proceeding rapidly.

Frémont's Report.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

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SCALE — 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithographed by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude		Remarks
1843 October 8	morning	32° Fahr.	1300 feet	Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico	wet from N. clear
	noon	44°			clear and calm
	evening	32°			do. do.
	sunset	42°			do. do.
10	morning	28°			wet from N. clear
	noon	38°			calm clear and hoar clouds
	evening	38°			clear and calm
11	morning	28°			do. do.
	noon	42°			do. do.
	evening	42°			fine light clouds do.
14	morning	25°			do. do.
	noon	42°	2000 feet		calm and clear
	evening	40°			Wind E. clear and cloudy
	sunset	42°			calm do. do.
17	morning	22°			Wind S.E. cloudy
	noon	42°			morning calm calm
18	evening	42°			wet from S. cloudy
	sunset	42°			cloudy calm
19	morning	32°			do. do.
	noon	46°			do. do.
20	evening	36°			clear and calm cloud to S.E.
	sunset	36°			clear and calm
21	morning	30°	1000 feet		do. do.
	noon	38°	Blue River?		do. do.

REMARKS.

1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing
2. Water — Abundant
3. Grass — Scarce in the bottoms (Grand Rond excepted); but fine bunch grass on the hill sides
4. Fuel — Sufficient in the eastern part, abundant in the west.
5. Game — None
6. Indians — Hostiles

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