

APPENDIX A

Text of Field Book

The following transcribed text of the Field Book for the Sibley Survey was provided by the late Harry Myers.

Comments and changes by the Authors are shown in brackets in italics.

A Map
of the Road Surveyed and marked out
From the Western frontier of Missouri near
Fort Osage, to San Fernando, in the
Valley of Taos, near Santa Feé, in New Mex.
by order of the Government of the United States
in the years 1825, 1826, and 1827.

with accurate and minute notes and
Directions, for the use of Travellers.

[The above should be the title page, arranged however with more method]

[1]

[CROSSED OUT]

A

Portable Map

of the

Road to Santa Fe,

With Notes and Directions

For the use of Travellers

[3]

The following pages contain a map of the road, as surveyed and marked out from the frontier of Missouri to Taos, the first settlement in the direction to Santa Fé, under the directions of Benjamin H. Reeves, George C. Sibley, and Thomas Mather, Commissioners appointed by the President of the United States for that purpose. It is thought a map of the road in this form, with the brief remarks and directions, would be useful to such as may travel it. -- It is deemed unnecessary to annex a complete copy of the courses and distances, because, as far as the high grass of the prairies extends, and it extends almost within sight of the Arkansas River, the Road is so plain that there is no difficulty and mounds are erected at short intervals as far as to the "Diamond of the plain." When on the Arkansas River, *that* will be the guide near 200 miles, and on leaving the river the directions cannot be mistaken which lead across the plains to the Semarone Creek, which will conduct about 80 miles further to where mountain after mountain stands conspicuous to beckon the traveller on from one to another until they be past, and he find himself in a valley, on a small creek which will lead him to Taos. In explanation of the map it will be remarked that the southern part is uppermost, and the successive pages on which it is drawn will show in connection a complete map of the whole road from Fort Osage to Taos, on a scale of four miles to an inch. For ready reference [5]

small lines are drawn upon it to the cardinal points at every mile and stronger lines at five miles. The progressive marginal numbers from the bottom to the top of the map, show the southing and those from left to right show the westing from the commencement. In the first of the double columns of miles and chains on the right hand pages, the larger and progressive numbers of miles show the measure of the road from the beginning to the respective station noted against them, and the smaller number in the same column, the distances of the two stations between which they stand. The second double column of miles and chains will show the distances of the respective places from Taos, and the numbers decrease as the first increase, the adjacent numbers of the different columns taken together being always the whole measure of the road. Those who may use a compass on the road will observe that the magnetic variation at Fort Osage is $11\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ E. and it increases very slowly so as to be 12° E. at Taos. The true course will therefore be so many degrees to the left of that shown by the compass in all cases. The chain herein mentioned is four poles or 22 yards 80 chains being a mile. The latitude of Fort Osage or rather of the point of beginning which is $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the old Fort, is $39^{\circ}. 10'. 19''$. as determined by observations with a good sextant, the longitude of the same place as deduced from Mr. Ellicot's meridian of the mouth of the Ohio river is $93^{\circ} 51' 3''$. [6]

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	chains	
		747	73	Beginning.
7	7	740	66	Little Blue Creek, 100 links wide and runs northward. Ford shallow and rocky.
19	18			
26	25	721	48	Big Blue Creek, 100 links wide and runs northward. Ford shallow and gravelly. The camping is here good. Immediately west of this creek bottom, which is narrow, the prairie commences, which extends to the mountains near Santa Fe. (8)
4	58			

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
31	03	716	70	Western Boundary of state of Missouri, crosses it just nine miles south of the mouth of the Kansas river.
8	40			
39	43	708	30	Flat Rock [<i>tributary of Indian Creek, located just northeast of intersection of I-35 and I-435</i>] creek, 30 links wide, runs southward into Big Blue. The ford is good and the camping good for wood, water and grass.
9	27			
48	70	699	03	Caravan [<i>Cedar</i>] creek, 30 links wide, runs northward and is a tributary of Kansas river. At this place, called Caravan Grove, is
13	62			excellent camping ground and plenty of timber for shelter and fuel. (10)

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
62	52	635	21	Hungry [<i>tributary of Captain</i>] creek is small and runs northward. It affords some pretty groves and good land and water. The ford is pretty good.
1	57			
64	29	683	44	Dove [<i>tributary of Captain</i>] creek at the "Four Oaks." This creek is small and runs northward. The water is good, some small groves, and land from Hungry creek to it good.
65	50	682	23	Gooseberry [<i>Captain</i>] creek, 25 links wide, runs northward. This creek affords good water,
1	68			pasture and wood, and the ford is good.
67	38	680	35	Grindstone [<i>Coal</i>] creek, 30 links wide, runs northward. Here are good camping places, water, wood and pasture good, and plenty. This creek affords some excellent timbered land.
2	45			
70	03	677	70	Muddy Branch of Cut Off [<i>East Fork Tauy Creek</i>] crossing, bears south'd.
70	69	677	04	Cut Off [<i>Middle Fork Tauy Creek, also labeled Little Cut Off on the Field Book map</i>] crossing Osage, water, ford good, and water and fuel plenty.
74	32	673	41	Big Cut Off [<i>West Fork Tauy Creek</i>] crossing, 30 links wide, runs south'd. (12)

**From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains**

**From Taos
Miles.Chains**

2	55			It is a pretty creek and affords some pretty groves. At the ford, which is very good, is good camping grounds for water, pasture, shade and fuel.
77	07	670	66	A small branch of Big Cut Off [<i>tributary of West Fork Tauy Creek</i>]; very little timber on it.
9	30			
86	37	661	36	Mule creek [<i>Rock Cr.</i>], small, runs north'd and has no timber near the road. Down the creek at about 1 mile is a little timber, and southward at about 2 or 3 miles distance is some timber on the waters of the Marias de Cygne, which is the principal fork of the Osage river. (14)
11	46			

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
98	03	649	70	Oak [<i>Hundred and Ten Mile</i>] creek, 50 links wide, bears southeast, is a branch of the Marias de Cygne. This creek affords good water, pasture, fuel and camping ground at and near the ford, which is good. Above and below are to be seen
7	52			some considerable groves of timber. The land is very good. In these groves honey is to be found.
105	55	642	18	Bridge [<i>Switzler</i>] creek, 100 links wide, runs southeast. It affords good water, timber and grass. The bed of this creek is muddy and must of necessity be bridged.
2	05			Timber is convenient, and no better crossing is to be found near the road.
107	60	640	13	Muscle [<i>Dragoon</i>] creek, or Marias de Cygne river, is 100 links in places and runs southeast. It is a
2	64			pretty stream, affording fine land, timber and water and excellent camping places. The ford is good.
110	44	637	29	Waggon [<i>Soldier</i>] creek, 50 links, bears southeast into Muscle creek about one-half mile below.
5	63			The crossing on this creek is good camping, for water, wood and grass. (16)

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
116	27	631	46	Murder [<i>Onion</i>] creek, 20 links wide, runs southward. Very little timber; ford and water good.
1	31			
117	58	630	15	Willow [<i>Chicken</i>] creek, 40 links wide, runs south'd.
2	58			
120	36	627	37	Elm creek, 50 links wide, runs southeast. Ford and water good; not much timber.
2	71			
123	27	624	46	Elk [<i>One Hundred Fortytwo Mile</i>] creek, 50 links wide, bears southward; ford and water good. This creek affords some pretty groves and very good land and camping places.
7	10			
130	37	617	36	Hickory [<i>Bluff</i>] creek, 20 links wide, runs southwest. Ford and water good. This creek affords some very pretty hickory groves, some good lands and good camping places.
5	38			
135	75	611	78	Rock creek, a beautiful stream 50 links wide, runs southward. Ford and water good. Here is excellent camping ground. This creek has some fine land and is tolerably well timbered. (18)
4	60			

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
140	55	607	18	Gravel [<i>Big John</i>] creek, 30 links wide, runs southwardly. This is a pretty little stream, affording some excellent land and handsome groves; at 12 1/2 chains N., 20 E., from this ford is a very fine fountain spring and good camping grounds.
1	57			
142	32	605	41	Council Grove, where the commissioners met the Osage chiefs in council on the 10th of August, 1825. This is the largest body of woodland passed through after leaving Big Blue; 'tis here about a quarter of a mile wide; above and below are some groves more extensive. The timber and land are of superior quality and the general face of the country interesting. Springs of excellent water are frequent, and no doubt good water-mill seats may be found on this fork of the Neozho and its numerous small branches that water this beautiful tract of country.
—	19			
142	51	605	22	Council fork of Neozsho, [<i>Neosho River</i>] here 50 links wide and runs boldly southward. Ford good.
10	30			
153	01	594	72	Small [<i>Fourmile</i>] creek, 15 links wide, runs southward; no timber.
5	27			
158	28	589	45	Diamond of the Plains, [<i>Diamond Spring</i>] a remark- (20)

**From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains**

**From Taos
Miles.Chains**

				-ably fine large fountain spring, near which is good camping ground. Otter [<i>Diamond</i>] creek is 3 chains west of this spring, and affords wood for fuel. It is 15 links wide and runs southward.
1				
159	28	588	45	First timbered [<i>Mile-and-a-half</i>] creek, 10 links wide, runs south'd. Some timber, but little water.
1	78			
161	26	586	47	Second timbered [<i>Threemile</i>] creek, like the first.
1	02			
162	28	585	45	Third timbered [<i>Sixmile</i>] creek, like the first.
	72			
163	32	584	53	Fourth timbered [<i>Camp</i>] creek, like the first.
5	12			
168	32	579	41	Cottonwood [<i>Clear</i>] creek, 10 links wide, runs southwest. A very few cottonwood trees are on this creek, and water not very good or
7	74			plenty.
176	26	571	47	Duck [<i>tributary of Mud</i>] creek, [this point is about three miles south of Lost Springs, and a noted stopping place on the Trail], 20 links wide and runs southwest. Plenty of water and pretty good
3	72			grass, but no wood near.
180	18	567	55	High Bank [<i>Mud</i>] creek, [<i>near Tampa, KS</i>] 20 links wide, runs southward. Has no timber, and the banks being high makes it rather bad to cross.
7	—			Plenty of water and tolerable grass. (22)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

187 18

560 55

Cottonwood creek, 50 links wide and in places 100 links; 'tis the last water of the Neozho, which the road crosses. Here is plenty of wood, and water and the grass is tolerable. No other wood will be found on the road after this until at the Little Arkansas, and commonly no water before Indian creek. About ten miles on the road, in the head of a hollow south of the road and near it, water may be had; the hollow bears southward. The road is over high level land and is sufficiently beaten and plain.
(24)

19 63

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
207	01	540	72	Indian [<i>Running Turkey</i>] creek, 10 links wide, runs southwestwardly. Affords food water and grass, but no fuel. From the higher parts of the prairie hereabout the sand hills appear west of Little Arkansas. Sora Kansas creek, 10 links, bears southward. About three miles south of the ford is a grove of timber on this creek, and at the upper timber it may be
7	66			crossed, but generally the crossing south of the road would be bad. At this grove the commissioners met the Kansas chiefs in council on the 16th of August, 1825
214	67	533	06	From the Sora Kansas [<i>Dry Turkey</i>] creek to the ford on the little Arkansas the road bears to the southward of the direct line to avoid (or head) a branch of the Kansas river. It is important that the ford on the Little Arkansas be found, as it is generally impassable on account of high banks and unsound bed. The ford is perhaps half a mile below the mouth of a small creek, which runs into it on the east side. (26)
15	20			

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
230	07	517	66	At the crossing of the Little Arkansas there is wood for fuel and the water and grass are tolerably good. Having crossed the creek,
7	48			travel up a small creek of it, continuing on the south side of it. There is no timber on this creek, which is short. When at the head of it the sand hills will appear a few miles to the left
237	55	510	18	Difficult [<i>Dry</i>] creek, 15 links, runs southward into Cold Water. There is no timber near the road on it, and the bed is rather
2	—			soft and bad to cross.
239	55	508	18	Timbered [<i>Jarvis</i>] creek, 10 links, runs south'd. It should be crossed just at the upper timber.
7	09			Water and grass tolerably good. [<i>Jarvis ck.</i>]
246	64	501	09	Cold Water or Cow creek [<i>Little Cow Creek</i>] is a narrow stream, from 30 to 50 links wide, for the most part miry, banks commonly high. There is tolerable crossing just above the largest body of timber on it, which is very
15	56			conspicuous; on the two branches eastward of the creek is timber. The camping is good on this creek for wood, water, grass and (commonly) buffalo. (28)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

262 40

485 33

From Cow creek the traveler should be careful not to bear too much to the left or he will get on the sands; he may travel directly west or a little north of west, as he may

choose, to fall on the Arkansas. After crossing Cow creek the beaten road, which hitherto has been plain, will probably be seen no more as a guide. The Arkansas will be the guide for about two hundred miles. In general the traveler should not keep near the river, as 'tis sandy. Near the foot of the hills the ground is firm and the traveling better. Where it is necessary to turn in to the river to camp 'tis commonly best to turn in short or at right angles, and fuel may be picked up almost anywhere, and the grass is

10 01

commonly pretty good. Generally the river is a quarter of a mile broad, and may be crossed on horseback almost anywhere if the banks permit, and they are generally low. The water is pleasant in this part of the river and above. (30)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

272 41

475 32

Walnut creek, from 60 to 100 links wide, runs into the Arkansas at the north bend a little above a handsome grove of timber on the south part of the river, called "Pit Grove." The crossing of the [Walnut] creek is directly between the bends of the [Arkansas] river next below and next above the [Walnut] creek. The ford is good. On this [Walnut] creek is more timber than on any

25 24

from Council Grove, principally low crooked ash and elm. When in season, plenty of plums are to be had here, and the camping is very good for water, fuel and grass. The latitude of this place is 38°. 21'. 10".

The road may continue straight by Rock Point, [Pawnee Rock] as dotted, to the crossing of the creek above it. (32)

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
297	65	450	08	Crooked [<i>Ash</i>] creek, 50 links wide, bears southeast and affords plenty of excellent wood and grass, but the water is not very good. Its bed is shaded with ash and elm. It may be crossed in many places; in the fall it is nearly dry.
4	61			
302	46	445	27	Pawnee creek, 100 links wide, runs nearly east. Ford tolerably good; west bank a little soft. The ford is at the south point of a sort of bluff. The camping is good for grass and water and tolerable for fuel. The creek is shaded with elm and ash. From this point
10	77			some travelers prefer to continue up on the south side of this creek for some distance, then crossing it several times, continue westward, passing [from] the headwaters over to the Arkansas, as being nearer than the river, but the river route is more safe and convenient for man and beast. [<i>Muddy Branch shown on the Sibley map 33 is an un-named tributary of Pawnee Creek</i>]
313	43	434	30	Mouth of Clear [<i>Coon</i>] creek, a small stream to transparent run- (34)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

41 19

-ning water. Its course is from its head,
nearly parallel with the river and near it,
in
what may perhaps be called the river bottom.
On the south side of the river among the
sand hills, which border it opposite the
head of Clear creek, elk are to be found and
a few deer, and, when in season, plums and
grapes. (36)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

354 62

393 11

South Bend of the Arkansas river. Here is the first rock bluff seen on the river. The latitude of this place is 37°. 38'. 52fi. It would be much nearer to cross the river here and ascend Mulberry creek to its source and then go directly to the lower spring; on the Semaron; but on trial of the way travelers have discontinued it as unsafe. It is incommodious of water and timber for fuel, and wants such prominent land marks as will be a sure guide. On this route has been much suffering; in a dry time 'tis dangerous. Some turn off at a place known to the Santa Fe travelers by the name of the "Cashes," near to which is a rocky point of a hill at some distance from the river, composed of cemented pebbles, and therefore called Gravel Rocks [*the Caches*]. At about 3 miles southwest from this rock is a place of crossing for those who travel the lower route, or directly to the aforementioned Semaron Spring, but (38)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

33 22

this (though in a less degree) is subject to the same objections as that directly from the south bend. The road this way is good, and in the spring and early summer, to those who may be acquainted with it or may have a compass to direct them, it is about 30 miles higher than the upper route. The direct course from this point [*crossing southwest of the Caches*] to the spring is S. 71 3/4, W. 71, miles. But the upper route is more safe for herding stock and more commodious to the traveler, as he will always be sure of wood and water on the river and a sure guide, and in general it is easier to kill buffalo for provision.

388 04

359 69

The Mexican boundary of 100th degree of longitude west from Greenwich is where a few cottonwood trees stand on the north side of the river, about 1 1/2 miles above a timbered bottom on the same side. At this timbered bottom is very good camping for grass and fuel. [*Sibley's location of the 100th Meridian is approximately 100°17'37' West longitude on Google Earth. This point is 16.1 miles west of the 100th Meridian*]
(40)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

39 35

(42)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

427 39

320 34

Crossing of the Arkansas, just below the bend of the river at the lower end of a small island, with a few trees. At this place there are no banks on either side to hinder waggons. The crossing is very oblique, landing on the south side a quarter of a mile above the entrance on this side. The river is here very shallow, not more than knee deep in a low stage of the water. The bed of the river is altogether sand, and it is unsafe to stand long on one place with a waggon, or it may sink into the sand. After passing a few wet places just beyond the river, the road is again very good up to Chouteau's Island. Keep out from the river or there will be sand to pass. (44)

20 _

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

447 39

300 34

At Chouteau's Island the road leaves the river altogether. Many things unite to mark this place so strongly that the traveler will not mistake it. It is the largest island of timber on the river, and on the south side of the river at the lower end of the island is a thicket of willows with some cottonwood trees. On the north side of the river the hills approach tolerably high and on [one] of them is a sort of mound, conspicuous at some miles distance, and a little eastward of it in a bottom is some timber, perhaps a quarter of a mile from the river. The course of the river likewise being more south identify the place.

32 50

On the river, through all the space traveled, there is great similarity of features; the hills are commonly very low and the ascent almost everywhere so gentle that waggons may go up them. They are covered with very short grass, and the prickly pear abounds. The soil on the hills is not very good. The bottoms on the river are sometimes good, but frequently not so. They are sometimes a mile or more in width, frequently rising so gently it would be diffic- (46)

-cult to designate the foot of the hill. It is generally sandy near the river, and the grass coarse and high, consequently the traveling is bad near the river, but a little of it is almost everywhere good. On Cow creek or Cold Water short grass commences, and the short grass bounds the burnings of the prairie. This creek is almost a nigh home as buffalo are found, and from this creek they may be had at almost any place until within sight of the mountains near Santa Fe.

Before leaving the river, where fuel is plenty, the traveller will do well to prepare food for the next hundred miles, as no timber on the road in that distance, except at one place, which will not in distance except at one place, which will not probably be one of his stages; at least he should prepare bread,. In dry weather buffalo dung will make tolerable fuel to boil a kettle, but it is not good for bread baking and that is the only fuel he will have.

After leaving the river the road leads southward, leaving the two cottonwood trees on the right, which stand perhaps a mile from the river. From the brow of the hill, which is low, and is the border of the sand hills, the road leads a little east of south to a place which sometimes [is] a very large pond, and continues along the western margin, and after passing some trees standing at the south end, reaches a very slight valley, through which in wet weather flows a small [*Bear*] creek, coming from the plains beyond the sand hills. From this place the Traveler (47)

will see some trees in a southwest direction, which he will leave on his right, and will continue along the valley in the bed of the creek (which he can hardly recognize as such) very nearly due south for about four miles to the southern edge of the sand hills, where generally he will find a large pond of water in the bed of the small creek, which is now more apparent . But this pond is sometimes dry; due south from it for about two miles distant are several ponds of standing water, where the grass is fine and abundant. The distance through the sand hills here is about five miles, and the road not bad. These hills are from thirty to fifty feet high and generally covered with grass and herbage. From this place [*Bear Creek Pass*] a due south course will strike the lower spring on the Semaron creek, and as that creek then is the guide for about eighty miles, and waggons can in one day drive across the level, firm plain from the ponds to the spring, the road was so laid out. There is another advantage, namely, the certainty of traveling due south and north from the pass of the sand hills to the spring, and vice versa, is much greater than if the course were oblique to the cardinal points, and at any rate there is but little loss of distance, for the creek bears so much from the southward that the diagonal or long side is almost equal to the two shorter sides of the very obtuse angle that would be made by striking the creek higher up. The road crosses Half Way creek [*North Fork Cimarron River at Ulysses, KS*] at somewhat more than (48)

From Ft. Osage
Miles .Chains

From Taos
Miles .Chains

ten miles north of the spring, at which place are water and grass. The creek is about 50 links wide and bears southeast, and may be easily crossed.

480 09

267 64

Lower Semaron [*Wagon Bed*] Spring is at the west edge of a marsh green with bullrushes. The marsh is north of the creek and near it. The spring is constant, but the creek is sometimes dry until you ascend it ten or twelve miles, where it will be found running. The stream

38 63

is bolder and the water better as one travels up it. It is the guide to the traveler until the reaches the upper spring near eighty miles. There miles above the lower spring is some timber, from which place the road is on the hill north of the creek for twelve or fifteen miles. One may then either continue on the hills north of the creek or travel in the bottom but the hills are the best for ten or fifteen miles further, as the valley of the creek is sandy in many places. One must necessarily camp on the creek to have water, (50)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

but the water is very bad until one travels a great way up it, as it is impregnated [with] saline matter, which, like fine powder, makes white a great part of the valley. The grass in this valley is not so good as that on the Arkansas, the land not being so good either in the valley or on the hills.

518 72

229 01

Middle Spring, near half a mile from the creek, on the north of it, near a mile below a sort of rock bluff at the point of a hill. *[Sibley shows the Middle Spring approximately 2 miles southwest of the location shown on the NPS Base Map.]* (52)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

31 —

Above this middle spring the road is in the creek bottom, which in places is very sandy. One must pick the firmest ground, and for this purpose must cross the creek occasionally, which may be done almost anywhere, as the banks are commonly low and the bed sandy. (54)

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
549	72	198	01	Timber on the Semaron at this place, which is the first timber on the creek above the few trees near the lower spring. The road leaves the creek and continues in a southwestwardly direction to a patch of timber, which
6	54			may be seen from the hill (near this timber) on the south of the creek. At the patch of timber is a spring, called the upper Semaron Spring, and around it are some mounds of craggy rock several hundred feet high.
556	46	191	27	Upper Spring. At this place is wood and water, but not much grass for stock. In season there are plenty of grapes. From this point the road passes by a spur of a hill southwest about a mile from the spring. From this hill well be seen two small mountains very near together, called "Rabbit's Ears," bearing about 60 degrees west of south. These points guide the traveler but he will at first bear (56)
11	08			

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

a little to the right of the direct course that he may avoid some points of hills, and will fall on a small creek, and will find it best to cross it and continue up it on the west side a mile or two and then recross it, keeping pretty well the general direction.

567 54

180 19

Mire Spring [*on Cold Springs Creek*] at this place is no distinct spring, but a miry place where water can be had, but no wood; grass is only tolerable. From this place, after continuing in the

18 56

general direction to the Rabbit's Ears some five or six miles, "Pilot Mountain" [*Round Mound*] will appear a little more to the west. The road leads by the foot of it, keeping pretty well the general direction to it.

586 30

161 43

Louse [*Corrumpa*] creek, say 30 links wide, and bears southeast. The best camping ground is at a pond of water in the bed of this creek, which

19 07

does not generally run, about a half a mile below one or two trees standing on the creek. Commonly a little fuel of drift-~~McNees~~ [*Sibley crossed Corrumpa Creek 3.6 miles southeast of McNee's Crossing, just inside the eastern boundary of present New Mexico*] (58)

[drawing of hills on map]

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

wood may be picked up, as there is some timber up the creek, though none about the camping ground. The water and grass are good.

From this to Turkey [*Alamos*] creek and thence to the Rabbit's Ears [*Seneca*] creek the routes are various, agreeably to the traveler's notions. There is some sand (I may say sand hills) to pass from this to Turkey creek. The road as here laid down continues up a small fork of Louse [*Corrumpa*] creek, on the south side of it, which runs into the creek a mile or more perhaps above the camp and from the head of this fork passes over

[drawing of hills on map]

to Turkey [*Alamos*] creek, which is near. Perhaps a better way would be to turn up a valley nearly south, which will be seen after leaving the camp a mile or two, continue in the valley a mile or more, perhaps, until the general direction to Pilot Mountain may be resumed. The sand will then be on the right hand. The road is tolerably good.

605 37

142 36

Turkey [*Alamos*] creek. [*approx. at Turkey Creek Camp*] On this creek (60)

From Ft. Osage From Taos
Miles.Chains Miles.Chains

the camping is good for wood, water and grass. The creek is 30 links and bears S.E.

15 — Rabbit's Ears [*Seneca*] creek, 50 links wide, runs from this place, where the traveler leaves it, nearly east. On the south of it everywhere is, at a little distance from the stream, a rocky hill several hundred feet high, from the top of which is level land to the southward. On this creek camping is good for water, wood and grass. Here also are some deer, the first seen after passing the south bend of the Arkansas.

[view of hills on map]

620 37 127 36 Pilot Mountain, on the left hand. From about this place will be seen many small mountains on the right at ten or fifteen miles distance, extending to the southwest; 7 — the extremity of which is called the Point of rocks, to which the road leads, at first bearing more southward to avoid sand. [Round Mound]

627 37 120 36 A creek [*Gallegos*], ten links, bears south'd. On (62)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

14	27			this creek a scattering bush or two appears, but no timber; water and grass are tolerable. On the west edge of a broad and sometimes dry pond covered with grass and weeds, and where are some rocks above the ground, at one mile eastward of this creek, is a good spring; no drain from it except for a few feet. [Rock creek] [<i>Gallegos Creek</i>]
[view of hills on map]				
641	64	106	09	Don Carolus [<i>Palo Blanco</i>] creek, 50 links wide, bears southwest. Here is plenty of wood, water and grass, and the crossing of the creek is tolerably good
7	19			
649	03	98	70	Nooning branch. Here is generally water and grass and fuel. [Holkea <i>Holkeo</i> creek] [<i>The Sibley map labels this as Mooring Place</i>]
1	40			
650	43	97	30	Point of Rocks. At this place is a very constant and good spring. The mountains are in full view, and as no beaten road will be discovered until more traveled, the traveler will be guided by the strong features of the country, which with care on his part will conduct him safely on his journey. (64)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

13	78			From the Point of Rocks the traveler will proceed a little south of west, as indicated by the map, leaving a higher swell of the plain or a little hill a fourth or half a mile to his left, and will proceed until at the brow of the high tableland on which he will find himself to be. Looking across the valley before him, through which a small creek flows to southwest [Chico creek], he will see the southern point of similar highland to that on which he is, a little beyond which point is the Canadian river. The road passes as near the point on the south of it as is convenient, and continues forward to the Canadian.
664	41	83	32	On the creek in the valley short of the Canadian is water and grass plenty, but no timber. There are a few willow bushes.
6	31			
670	72	77	01	Canadian river, a bold running stream from 50 to 80 links wide, bears southeast. The ford is rocky and shallow and is easy to find. If missed the traveler would not be able to cross below the fork in many miles. Camping is good for water and grass, and fuel may be had but it is here scarce. On the west bank of this stream (66)

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

8	52			the road to Santa Fe by the way of St. Miguel turns off to the left, on which see the remarks at the end of this work. From the crossing of the Canadian the road continues a little west of south [<i>south of west?</i>] just by and on the south side of a hill with small bushy pines.
679	44	68	29	A pond of water in the valley near to the pine [Pinon] hills [<i>immediately west of I-25</i>], where fuel may be had and water and plenty of grass for stock. From the pine hill the road bears a little more south, and will in 5 or 6 miles pass some very elevated tableland or a low, flat-top mountain [Gonzolitas <i>Gonzalitos</i> and <i>Rayado Mesas</i>]. Leaving it on the right, will cross the bed of a small [<i>Sweetwater</i>] creek (frequently dry), bearing S.E. and will cross the valley obliquely to the elevated tableland which bounds the southern side of the valley, and will continue to the southwest quarter of the valley (which is several miles broad and projects with several prongs westward) to where the tableland on the south of the road [<i>Charette Mesa</i>] joins a spur of what may be deemed a low mountain, [<i>Apache Mesa</i>] projecting to the south'd (68)
14	28			

From Ft. Osage
Miles.Chains

From Taos
Miles.Chains

693	72	54	01	two or three miles. At the junction the road turning more to the left up a narrow valley [<i>where the western point of Charette Mesa meets Apache Mesa</i>], ascends to the top of the tableland [Apache Hill]. From this place, where there are a few small, bushy trees, fuel may be taken to a pond of water about half a mile eastward, where there is plenty of fine grass.
19	17			The road continues around the spur of the mountain [Apache Mesa] and turns westward up a small creek [Ocaté creek] with rocky cliffs which will be immediately on the left, and will cross it immediately at the upper end of the cliffs, and will continue up it, passing a gap [<i>just below the town of Ocate, NM</i>] of an arm of the mountain [<i>Gallinas Mesa</i>], and just a high cliff or point [<i>Ocate Peak</i>] on the left, will cross a small fork of the creek and will continue up the north fork of it [Manuelito <i>Manueles</i> creek], which is the most considerable, to the foot of the mountain
713	09	34	64	[Ocaté Mesa]; on the south of the small creek, which runs boldly, the road ascends the mountain, winding to the southwest to advantage, until the brow is gained at the edge of a prairie.
15	07			This part of the road up the mountain is stony and timber of pine and dwarf oak. (70)

This hill is the worst part of the road. As it is, waggons can carry up light loads, but with labor ... it might (and no great difficulty) be made tolerably good. This is the first hill of difficulty ... from the commencement. It is about a mile and a half from the foot to the summit, and when at the summit a prairie, which, like a fillet borders the brow of this spur of the mountains, will conduct the traveler in a western direction to its descent. [Ocaté Mesa just described] The soil of the prairie is dark and rich and the grass luxuriant and fine. It abounds with springs of the finest water. All the way on this mountain there is much more elevated land on the right of the road, which is thickly timbered for the most part. Several species of pine, the aspen, some cedar and dwarf oak are the timbers of the mountains. Here also are found several sorts of game— bear , elk, deer and turkey. Having descended the western side of the mountain, which is tolerably thickly timbered, at the foot of it the road enters a prairie, where there is a small beaten path leading in a western direction, as the road goes, continuing up a branch on the north side of it [Coyote creek], crossing almost at right angles, one fork [Little Coyote Creek] of it about 10 links wide running very boldly south about two miles from the foot of the mountain. (71)

At about three miles further are three fine springs in the valley [Black Lake area], where is plenty but grass only tolerable— nothing comparable anywhere in the valley to what it is on the mountain. The road continues westward along the small path, bearing a little more from the branch and falling on it again near the foot of a mountain, which is the dividing ridge, and which is about two miles from the valley springs. (72)

From Ft. Osage		From Taos		
Miles	Chains	Miles	Chains	
728	16	19	57	Foot of the dividing ridge. This mountain, especially on the east side is more timbered than the other, but not so bad to cross [Osha Pass]. It also has prairie on the top like unto the other, through which the road passed to the western brow. Through the timbered parts of the mountain, the road is open.
4	01			
732	17	15	56	Western foot of the dividing ridge. Here is a small stream [<i>Tienditas Creek</i>], which flows with increased size into the valley [<i>Rio San Fernando de Taos</i>] of Taos [<i>at Valle Escondido</i>]. Just by the village of San Fernando the road continues
15	56			down it to the best advantage, crossing it frequently. This valley is extremely scarce of grass and the road not good, though with little labor it might be excellent.
747	73			San Fernando, the principal village in Taos. This being the nearest of the Mexican settlements, the most northern and the most abundant in provisions for man (74)

and beast, determined the survey of the road hither, although the way to Santa Fe by St. Miguel is said to be somewhat better and equally high. From Taos, which is in latitude $36^{\circ} 41' 15''$ [*the Square is at approx. $36^{\circ}24'26''$ North latitude on Google Earth*]. The distance as traveled is about 70 miles, and with a little labor a good waggon road may be had. The course is about south-southwest. The rio Del Norte, 7 or 8 miles west of Taos and about twice that distance west of Santa Fe, is about three chains wide and has many ripples and places to hinder navigation. The road leading from one place to the other falls on the river and continues along it a few miles. Between these two places are some half dozen villages or more, the chief of which is Santa Cruz, about 22 miles above Santa Fe and in sight of the river.

In conclusion a few remarks will be made on the road by San Miguel, not from observation, but from information. Immediately after crossing the Canadian the traveler will turn nearly south, and after going a few miles, will reach a bold running stream [*Ocate Creek*], the same which the road to Taos continues up. He will cross it at a fall or rapid, as below he can not for its rocky cliffs, and above he can not on account of mud and quicksand. After crossing this creek, he will continue forward in the same direction, and, where convenient, will ascend the high tableland which extends all along on the right, and will proceed forward just by the east end of a small mountain shaped like a shoe, with the toe to the west thus ... [*Wagon Mound*] It is (75)

very plain to sight from the elevated lands before crossing the Canadian, and when first seen, bears 25° west. It may be a days travel or more from the crossing of the Canadian. After passing it, a longer mountain will be passed, leaving it on the left. This too is in sight as soon as the other, which is called the Pilot. After passing the long mountain on the left, the directions are general. The mountain will be a guide on the right; some small, isolated ones will be on the left. The road is level and generally good. Several creeks will be crossed and the road, bearing a little west of south, will lead to St. Miguel, which is about forty five miles southeast from Santa Fe, from which the road is plain.

October 27, 1827

The survey is designated on the foregoing map by a black line between two red ones. [76]