

Reconsideration of the Truckee Trail Route:

Hoke Valley to the Donner Creek Crossing

Appendix: 3

Appendix 3. Diary entries showing that there was excellent grass at the crossing of the Little Truckee River.

Edwin Bryant, August 24, 1846. *The trail here [Dog Valley] turns to the left again, taking a nearly south course, over a rolling country, heavily timbered with pines, firs, and cedars, with occasional grassy openings. At three o'clock, P. M., we struck a small stream [Little Truckee], flowing in a southeast course, a tributary of Truckee river. We encamped in a small fertile bottom on this stream.*

Henry Smith Turner, June 23, 1847. *...Cross Greenwood's Creek [Prosser Creek] & Wind river [Little Truckee River], the bottom of both boggy and difficult to get over.*

Turner was traveling east with Kearney and Fremont just a few months after the final rescue of Donner Party members. The winter had been very wet. Boggy conditions imply mud and mud implies bottomland.

F. W. Brooks, August 6, 1849. *Course over hill & dale[.] roads rough rocky. Heavy pine timber. Camped on small stream trib of Salmon Trout [Little Truckee River] nice valley of grass & white frost to night*

Joseph Buffum. August 8, 1849. *... 6 miles brought us to a branch where we camped on good grass.*

James Abell, August 30, 1849. *We followed the valley up (South) through a pine forest between two and three miles and after ascending and descending several hills we came to another nice valley through which runs grass creek [Little Truckee], finding plenty grass and having traveled about twelve miles this morning we stopped to feed and dinner*

Abell actually names the Little Truckee River "grass creek," a strong indication that the river passed through excellent grasslands.

David Carnes, August 30, 1849. *5 miles [from Hoke Valley] to creek [Little Truckee River] & good grass up creek one mile.*

M Violette, August 31, 1849 *... crossed through a... mountain gap [Second Summit] some 8 or 10 miles came [to] a beautiful Mountain stream [Little Truckee River] and good grass for our Horses and Nooned.*

James Tate, September 7, 1849. *Turned to the left through a timbered Valley in 6 miles we found 2 small Valleys of grass and water[.] 4 miles further a fine creek [Little Truckee River] and grass[.]*

The two small valleys of grass and water would be Hoke Valley and Davies Creek.

Augustus Burbank, September 9, 1849. *After passing through the forest Some 7 miles, we descended to a valley & tributary of the S. Trout river. Here we nooned. This is a beautiful Stream 15 feet wide rocky bottom with Clear Cool water. Grass had been good, but it is grazed down...*

Cyrus Loveland, September 11, 1850. *Five miles more [from Second Summit] to a beautiful little bottom through which ran a cold mountain stream [Little Truckee River], grass good.*

Zimri Garwood, September 15, 1849. *In the evening we came into open pine woods, come to a small stream [Little Truckee River] and camped, which we considered to be a branch of Truckee's River which before it passed through the mountain. .. Good grass.*

Child Guide 1850. *...Mountain road twelve miles, to a TRIBUTARY of TRUCKIE RIVER [Little Truckee River], which is a fine stream, with grass and timber on its banks.*

William Baker, August 22, 1852. *Traveled 10 miles over a very good road today; camped at 1 o'clock on a branch of the Truckee River. Grass good and plenty and plenty of wood.*