

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 VI

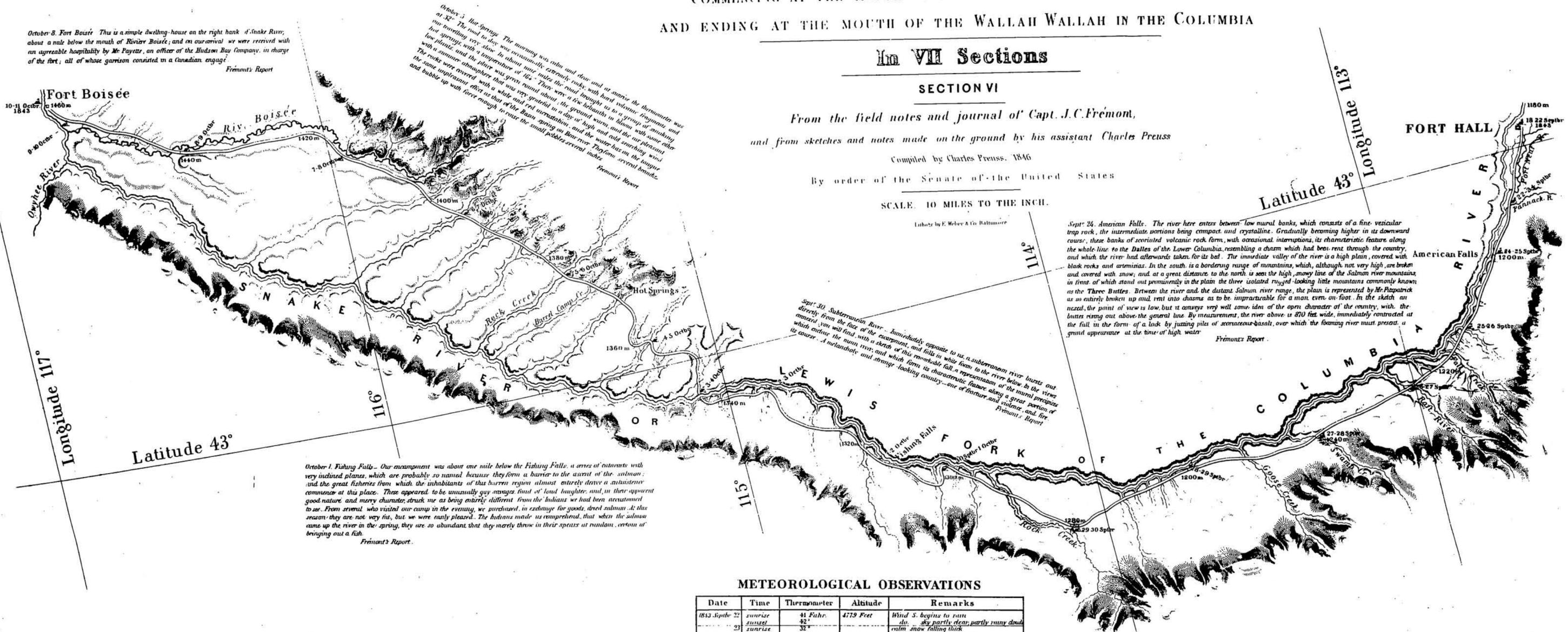
From the field notes and journal of Capt. J.C. Frémont,
and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE, 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

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October 8. Fort Boisee. This is a simple dwelling-house on the right bank of Snake River, about a mile below the mouth of Riviere Boisee, and on our arrival we were received with an agreeable hospitality by Mr. Payeur, an officer of the Hudson Bay Company, in charge of the fort; all of whose garrison consisted in a Canadian engage.

Frémont's Report

October 5. Hot Springs. The morning was rain and clear and at sunrise the thermometer was at 32°. The road in this was occasionally extremely rocky with hard volcanic fragments and our travelling very slow. In about noon made the road through us to a group of smoking hot springs, with a temperature of 165°. There were a few lichens in bloom with some other low plants, and the water was given out about the ground warm, and the air pleasant with a summer atmosphere that was very grateful in a day of high and cold storming wind. The rocks were covered with a white and red stratum, and the water has in the tongue the same unpleasant effect as that of the basin spring on Bear river. They form several basins, and bubble up with force enough to raise the small pebbles several inches.

Frémont's Report

Sept. 24. American Falls. The river here enters between low mural banks, which consists of a fine vesicular trap rock, the intermediate portions being compact and crystalline. Gradually becoming higher in its downward course, these banks of scoriated volcanic rock form, with occasional interruptions, its characteristic feature along the whole line to the Dalles of the Lower Columbia, resembling a dam which had been rent through the country, and which the river had afterwards taken for its bed. The immediate valley of the river is a high plain, covered with black rocks and artemisias. In the south is a bordering range of mountains, which, although not very high, are broken and covered with snow; and at a great distance to the north is seen the high, snowy line of the Salmon river mountains in front of which stand out prominently in the plain the three isolated rugged-looking hills commonly known as the Three Buttes. Between the river and the distant Salmon river range, the plain is represented by Mr. Fitzpatrick as an entirely broken up and rent into chasms as to be impracticable for a man even on foot. In the sketch annexed, the point of view is low, but it conveys very well some idea of the open character of the country, with the buttes rising out above the general line. By measurements, the river above is 870 feet wide, immediately contracted at the fall in the form of a lock by jutting piles of scoriaceous basalt, over which the foaming river must present a grand appearance at the time of high water.

Frémont's Report

Sept. 30. Subterranean River. Immediately opposite to us, a subterranean river bursts out directly from the face of the escarpment, and falls in white foam to the river below. In the view annexed, you will find, with a sketch of this remarkable fall, a representation of the mural precipice which enclose the main river, and which form its characteristic feature along a great portion of its course. A melancholy and strange-looking country—one of fracture, and violence, and fire.

Frémont's Report

October 1. Fishing Falls. Our encampment was about one mile below the Fishing Falls, a series of cascades with very inclined planes, which are probably so named because they form a barrier to the ascent of the salmon, and the great fisheries from which the inhabitants of this barren region almost entirely derive a subsistence commence at this place. These appeared to be unusually gay sways, fond of loud laughter, and in their apparent good nature, and merry character, struck me as being entirely different from the Indians we had been accustomed to see. From several who visited our camp in the evening, we purchased, in exchange for goods, dried salmon. At this season they are not very fat, but we were easily pleased. The Indians made us comprehend, that when the salmon came up the river in the spring, they are so abundant that they merely throw in their spears at random, certain of bringing out a fish.

Frémont's Report

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1843. Sept. 22	sunrise	41 Fahr.	4779 Feet	Wind S. begins to rain
	sunset	42°		do. sky partly clear, partly rainy clouds
23	sunrise	32°		calm snow falling thick
	sunset	45°		nearly calm, clear over head
24	sunrise	35°		rain, overcast
	sunset	55°		breeze from S. clear
25	sunrise	46°		gale from S. clear
	sunset	55°		almost overcast
26	sunrise	40°		Wind SW rain last night
	sunset	44°	4252 Feet	sharp wind SW clouds and clear
27	sunrise	40°		light breeze N. E. rainy clouds
	sunset	45°		gale N. SW thunder in E. clear and clouds
28	sunrise	40°		light breeze N. S. rainy clouds
	sunset	45°		wild wind N. S. E.
29	sunrise	36°		wind N. W.
	sunset	50°		do.
30	sunrise	28°		air N. S. E. light clouds
	sunset	65°		wind equally N. W. clear
Oct. 1	sunrise	55°	3773 Feet	calm and clear
	sunset	74°		do.
2	sunrise	48°		calm and clear
	sunset	70°		do.
3	sunrise	42°		air from S. E. clear and light clouds
	sunset	60°		do.
4	sunrise	47°		calm and clear
	sunset	57°		gale N. W. cloudy
5	sunrise	32°		calm and clear
	sunset	47°		wind N. W. overcast
6	sunrise	46°		do. do. do. rainy appearance
	sunset	51°	3276 Feet	do. do. do.
7	sunrise	45°		do. do. do.
	sunset	57°		do. do. do.
8	sunrise	38°		calm and clear
	sunset	62°		do. cloudy horizon
9	sunrise	36°		calm and clear
	sunset	68°		do. do. scattered clouds
10	sunrise	43°		calm and clear
	sunset	62°	1334 Feet	do.

- The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.
- 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 by-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.
- West of the Fishing Falls, salmon, fresh and dried, can be obtained from the Indians.

October 6. Change in the face of the country. The morning warm, the thermometer 46° 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 at the point of the mountain, we found ourselves suddenly in a granite 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 Parnassia tridentata, with flowering shrubs, and small fields of Aster divaricatus, which gave bloom and gaiety to the hills. These were every where covered with a fresh and 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 Indians, and wherever the fire has passed, the bright green color is universal. The soil among the hills is altogether different from that of the river plain, being in many places black, in others sandy and gravelly, but of a firm and good character, appearing to result from the decomposition of the granite rocks, which is proceeding rapidly.

Frémont's Report