

PHOTO: INDEPENDENCE.

NARRATOR: The "Pioneer Line" hitched up in Independence, Missouri and set out on the Santa Fe Trail for 45 miles before turning onto the Oregon Trail and heading Northwest, crossing the Kansas River.

PHOTO: TRAILSIDE GRAVES.

REID: "Friday, June 1st. Cloudy. Two new cases of cholera in our camp; passed a grave with a cross, and grave of H.L. Dunlap, of Indianapolis. At encampment grave of J. Landon, of Oxford, Ohio. After dinner passed grave of John Eathy. Distance 16 miles. Mules so hard worked they gave out some this afternoon.

PHOTO: PIONEERS WALKING.

"Monday, June 18. Rations served at noon. No ham. Half the dry bread mouldy. Walked some in the afternoon. Feet very sore."

PHOTO: FT. LARAMIE.\ROUGH TERRAIN.

NARRATOR: The trail takes the "Pioneer Train" west beyond Fort Laramie in present-day Wyoming, and into the roughest terrain and most arid and desolate country yet encountered:

PHOTO: DRY PLAINS.

REID: "Saturday, July 7th. Places that had been shallow lakes or ponds were now covered with some salt or alkali substance, white as snow and half an inch thick. No water or food all day. Great thirst. Found only beds of dry sand. It was midnight when I led the poor pony to the water's edge and into the river. He swallowed the grateful draught with great avidity, and stooping down I followed his example."