

Trail grave/sunset - Neb slide: reel 509, 9:02:50

Many died along the way.

BUTCHER PHOTO of family by grave
Reel 503, 3:01:27

At the end of the trail, settlers frequently found life to be a harsh and precarious business.

Pioneer faces: Reel 504, 4:22:42 #508, 8:26:25
Reel 502 2:18:09, 2:30:11, 2:21:12, 2:23:20
Reel 507, 7:25:00, Reel 501 1:09:02

A popular saying emerged from the pioneer saga, one that seemed to say it all: "The weak died on the way, and the cowards never left."

Live footage/flowers: #911 11:14:22, 11:16:16
#908 8:01:08

Until 1848, the vast majority of westbound emigrants had been drawn west by the lure of the land—land that was free... land that was supposedly so fertile even fenceposts sprouted roots in it.

Farming shot - Reel 215 15:18:54

Between '44 and '48, some 2,700 settlers crossed the Sierra Nevada into California. Most of them had one thing on their minds: farming.

Miner w/nugget: Reel 102, 2:15:40
Pasadena brochures: Reel 110
10:07:05, 10:15:21, 10:15:31

1848 was the year that gold was discovered in California. Word spread to the eastern states the following year. In 1849, the number of westbound emigrants surged to more than 30,000.