

Wagon - Kaw Valley #1151

REID: "In their prospectus they said, 'elliptic spring wagons, covered and fitted up comfortably for carrying six passengers each. Price of passage, including rations, \$200.00. One hundred pounds baggage per man. We expect to make the trip in 55 or 60 days, but we take provisions for 100 days. We have taken much pains to select the kind of mules best adapted for the trip.' So attractive was the scheme that before the end of April 120 tickets were sold, and so were the purchasers, myself among them."

Mules - Kaw V #1151 1:03:22

Reid's Pioneer Line receipt - Reel 506 6:01:41

MAP of Penn? Reel 110, 10:13:41

Bernard Reid had been born in western Pennsylvania in 1823, the son of Irish immigrants. By the age of 23, he'd worked as a surveyor, schoolteacher and newspaper editor. A devout Catholic, he also thought about becoming a priest. In his spare time, he studied law.

Clarion, PA - Reel 501, 1:17:19

Reid photo - 506 6:01:27

None of these vocations satisfied Reid's ambitions. Nor did they cure his wanderlust.

PHOTO: Letitia - Reel 506 6:01:35

Until 1846, one thing had kept Reid from leaving his home town of Clarion, Pennsylvania. Her name was Letitia Farran. She was 19 years old, and she was Reid's sweetheart.