

more mules: KAW VALLEY #1151 1:04:30

wagon/driver seat 502 2:13:00

Group photo - #503, 3:22:51 C/U?

MAP

Wagon crossing river - Reel 116, 16:17:49

Kaw Valley #1151: Wagons

Kaw Valley #1151: Clouds 1:07:07

Brazos WR wooden crosses: #111, 11:23:50

Brazos: Tired mules?

To save money, the wagon train's promoters bought young, inexperienced mules to pull the wagons. And in hopes of increasing their profit margin, they overloaded the wagons with freight.

As passengers on a commercial wagon train, Reid and his fellow travelers owned only their baggage. They had no say in any critical decisions. It was a situation they would come to regret in the days ahead.

The Pioneer Line eventually lurched out of Independence and set out on the Santa Fe Trail. Forty-five miles from Independence, the wagons turned onto the Oregon Trail—the route taken by the overwhelming majority of overland travelers.

From here, the trail headed northwest. After crossing the Kansas River, graves became a familiar landmark.

**REID:** "Friday, June 1. 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."