Across The Plains In The Donner Party

C. F. McGlashan

Across the Plains in the Donner Party Virginia Reed Murphy, 1996 Diary entries, letters, and a newspaper memoir tell the tragic true story of a wagon train trapped in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Across the Plains in the Donner Party (1846) Virginia Reed Murphy, 1953

Across the Plains in the Donner Party Virginia Reed Murphy, 2011-10-01

Across the Plains in the Donner Party Virginia Reed Murphy, Frederic Remington, 2010

Across the Plains in the Donner Party Virginia Reed Murphy, 2016-10-16 Virginia Elizabeth Backenstoe was born June 28, 1833 in Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, the daughter of Lloyd Backenstoe and Margaret Keyes. She was the sister of Martha J. (Reed) Lewis, James F. Reed Jr, Thomas K. Reed, Charles C. Reed and Willianoski Y. Reed. Virgina's family was part of the ill-fated Donner Party which was trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains during a snow storm in 1846 while emigrating to California. They suffered extreme hardship. The survivors resorted to consuming human flesh to stay alive. Virginia's father was banished from the wagon train after killing a teamster in the Wattach Mountains during a dispute. Virginia wrote an extensive account of the trip which was published in Century Magazine. Virginia died February 14, 1921 in Los Angeles County, California. She is buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California, USA The Donner Party (sometimes called the Donner-Reed Party) was a group of American pioneers led by George Donner and James F. Reed who set out for California in a wagon train in May 1846. They were delayed by a series of mishaps and mistakes, and spent the winter of 1846-47 snowbound in the Sierra Nevada. Some of the pioneers resorted to cannibalism to survive. The journey west usually took between four and six months, but the Donner Party was slowed by following a new route called Hastings Cutoff, which crossed Utah's Wasatch Mountains and Great Salt Lake Desert. The rugged terrain and difficulties encountered while traveling along the Humboldt River in present-day Nevada resulted in the loss of many cattle and wagons and splits within the group. By the beginning of November 1846, the settlers had reached the Sierra Nevada where they became trapped by an early, heavy snowfall near Truckee (now Donner) Lake, high in the mountains. Their food supplies ran extremely low and, in mid-December, some of the group set out on foot to obtain help. Rescuers from California attempted to reach the settlers, but the first relief party did not arrive until the middle of February 1847, almost four months after the wagon train became trapped. Of the 87 members of the party, 48 survived to reach California, many of them having eaten the dead for survival. Historians have described the episode as one of the most bizarre and spectacular tragedies in Californian history and western-US migration.

Across the Plains in the Donner Party Virginia Reed Murphy, 1980 Previously published: Golden, CO by Outbooks 1980.

Across the Plains in the Donner Party (1846-47) Virginia Reed Murphy, 1977

Across the Plains in the Donner Party Eighteen Forty-Six-Forty-Seven Virginia R. Murphy, 1977

Across the Plains in the Donner Party: a Personal Narrative of the Overland Trip to California Virginia Murphy, 2017-11-21 The only narrative published by a survivor of the ill fated party. - Southwestern Journal of Education An important contribution to Western history. - University of Chicago School Review Well written, and pleasant reading. - The Literary World Across the Plains in the Donner Party is the story of the famous Donner Expedition across the plains to California in 1846 by the daughter of George Donner, captain of the party, and herself a member of it. In this narrative first published in 1891, Virginia Reed Murphy (1833 - 1921) depicts the ill-fated expedition as well as her life after reaching the settlements, the period covered being from 1846 to 1861. THE story of the Donner Lake party is well known. The chief facts are that in 1846, while California was still a foreign country - being then a province of Mexico - a party of home-seekers left Springfield, Illinois. The chief organizer of the expedition was James T. Reed, and two families of the name of Donner were among the first to join him. Owing to circumstances that afterwards occurred, the party became known by their name instead of by Reed's. When they reached Independence, Missouri, many others joined them, and a large band of men, women and children finally left that then frontier town with their faces earnestly set towards the Sea of the Setting Sun. When they reached Fort Bridger they were urged to take a cut-off, which, it was, said, would save them three hundred miles. A large majority decided to go by the old road, which they did, and ultimately reached California with comparative ease and safety. Eighty-four persons, led by the Reed and Donner families, took the cut-off and thereby entangled themselves in great difficulties, and occupied so much of their time that they were eventually caught in the snow on the eastern slope of the Sierras. But before they reached this point, several disasters of great moment occurred. Mr. Reed suffered a great loss in that, when crazed for want of water in crossing the Salt Lake Desert, his oxen rushed off beyond control, and were never seen again; and, a couple of weeks later, while at the sink of the Humbolt, more head of oxen were stolen from the party by the Indians. When finally caught in the snow, over forty of the party perished, and such were the dire straits to which the survivors were reduced for food. What now follows is the story of Mrs. Virginia Reed Murphy, Mr. Reed's daughter, who was then a child of twelve years of age.

Across the Plains Sandy Asher, 1997

Desperate Passage Ethan Rarick,2008-02-04 In late October 1846, the last wagon train of that year's westward migration stopped overnight before resuming its arduous climb over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, unaware that a fearsome storm was gathering force. After months of grueling travel, the 81 men, women and children would be trapped for a brutal winter with little food and only primitive shelter. The conclusion is known: by spring of the next year, the Donner Party was synonymous with the most harrowing extremes of human survival. But until now, the full story of what happened, what it tells us about human nature and about America's westward expansion, remained shrouded in myth. Drawing on fresh archaeological evidence, recent research on topics ranging from survival rates to snowfall totals, and heartbreaking letters and diaries made public by descendants a century-and-a-half after the tragedy, Ethan Rarick offers an intimate portrait of the Donner party and their unimaginable ordeal: a mother who must divide her family, a little girl who shines with courage, a devoted wife who refuses to abandon her husband, a man who risks his life merely to keep his word. But Rarick resists both the gruesomely sensationalist accounts of the Donner party as well as later attempts to turn the survivors into archetypal pioneer heroes. The Donner Party, Rarick writes, is a story of hard decisions that were neither heroic nor villainous. Often, the emigrants displayed a more realistic and typically human mixture of generosity and selfishness, an alloy born of necessity. A fast-paced, heart-wrenching, clear-eyed narrative history, A Desperate Hope casts new light on one of America's most horrific encounters between the dream of a better life and the harsh realities such dreams so often must confront.

History of the Donner Party C. F. McGlashan, 2008-06 Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are

now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

History of the Donner Party Charles Fayette McGlashan, 1881

History of the Donner Party C. F. McGlashan,2022-05-28 History of the Donner Party is a book by C.F. McGlashan. The Donner Party was a group of American pioneers who migrated to California in a wagon train from the Midwest, some members having to resort to cannibalism while snowbound in the Sierra Nevada mountain range for an extended time.

History of the Donner Party Charles Fayette McGlashan, 1880 After a journey across the plains, about forty members of the Donner emigrant party died from starvation near Donner Lake in Nevada County, California, in the winter of 1846-1847.

History of the Donner Party Charles Fayette McGlashan, 1879 After a journey across the plains, about forty members of the Donner emigrant party died from starvation near Donner Lake in Nevada County, California, in the winter of 1846-1847.

History of the Donner Party Charles F. McGlashan, 2013-10-10 This gripping account of the doomed expedition combines survivor interviews with diary entries to reveal not only a stark tale of desperation but also many inspiring acts of heroism.

The Emigrant's Guide to Oregon and California Lansford Warren Hastings, 1994 Published in 1845, this guidebook for pioneers is a reproduction of one of the most collectible books about California and the Western movement. It was the guidebook used by the Donner Party on their fateful journey. In addition, because Hastings' shortcut route through the Rockies produced such tragedy, the War Department commissioned The Prairie Traveler.

Ordeal by Hunger George R. Stewart, 2013-09-30 "Compulsive reading—a wonderful account, both scholarly and gripping, of a horrifying episode in

the history of the west." —Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. The tragedy of the Donner party constitutes one of the most amazing stories of the American West. In 1846 eighty-seven people—men, women, and children—set out for California, persuaded to attempt a new overland route. After struggling across the desert, losing many oxen, and nearly dying of thirst, they reached the very summit of the Sierras, only to be trapped by blinding snow and bitter storms. Many perished; some survived by resorting to cannibalism; all were subjected to unbearable suffering. Incorporating the diaries of the survivors and other contemporary documents, George Stewart wrote the definitive history of that ill-fated band of pioneers; an astonishing account of what human beings may endure and achieve in the final press of circumstance.

History of the Donner Party Charles Fayette McGlashan, 1879 After a journey across the plains, about forty members of the Donner emigrant party died from starvation near Donner Lake in Nevada County, California, in the winter of 1846-1847.

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