

John D. Lee-- FRONTIERSMAN

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF A FRONTIERSMAN?

Dr. Gregory' visit and his definition:

- 1- He knows where he is--that is, he KNOWS direction.
 - 2- He knows time
 - 3- He knows distances & how to measure them
 - 4- He is equal to an emergency...Like a good scout² prepared
He can get his sustenance from the land around him.
- ✓JOHN D. LEE TOWERS ABOVE HIS FELLOWS AS THE PINE VALLEY
MOUNTAIN DOES OVER THE RED BLUFFS BENEATH IT.

Born in Kaskaskia, on the southern-most tip of Illinois
Sept. 12, 1912 *Mother md, Overland & children-*

Refresh ourselves in history of this Colonial Fort
Kaskaskia & its importance.

His mother died in 1815, when he was just past 4 yrs. His sister Elizabeth was eleven years old when her mother died. Lived in the home of Grandfather Doyle; after his death was taken into his Aunt Charlotte's home, but in his 16 yrst left the Connor Home---

He had some good trainigff there--animals, building carts, tending crops

William Morrison, his Godfather
Robert Morrison, hired him to ride a mail route which he held 2 years

Came back to the farm & ran it while his Uncle was in the mines.. His first Love, Emily Conner, also an orphan, & Uncle Jim's neice.....

Next works as a clerk at the Galena lead mines... Came home, but gambled his money away , he went to Vandalia where he met the Woolsey family; met the Mormon Elders & became converted.

With Levi Stewart he came to Far West; took up land and started a farm some distance from the city. The Haun's Mill massacre; the organization Of the first Danite band, the open war drove them all back to Nauvoo. He settled there & went out on missions for the Church...While he was out in the spring of 1844, Joseph Smith was killed. B.Y. had taken over a week before he arrived

BRIGHAM AT ONCE TAKES HIM OVER: HIS SECRETARY Skim over activities in Nauvoo, except Temple. When they are driven out, he crosses the Mississ, with two of his young wives--John Laou's acct.

He was early initiated into the order of Plural marriage. When he left Nauvoo he had married 6. Before they reached Utah he had lost some of these & married one or two others--Emmeline Woolsey & Nancy Ann Vance--

1846--- Ce nsus of the camp nevers gives the no. of women

Aug 12-- 325 men & boys over 10 years of age

359 wagons

146 horses

1264 oxen

848 cows

49 mules

416 sheep BUT NO WOMEN AND CHILDREN!

Aug 28 called to follow the Mormon Bat. to Santa Fe
left on Aug. 20.

Howard Egan and James Pace--messenger from the Legion--
an adopted son

Pace on horseback, Dr. Richard's little dog Trip to
stand guard at night

Lee describes the country : hundreds of prairie dog
holes in ~~xx~~ one of which he found a ~~xxxxxxx~~ rattle-
snake and an owl keeping the dog company....

A trantula --resemble our black spiders thought
much larger--some of them as large as a tea saucer, a
white spot on the forehead and on the back legs

His great temptation to shoot a buffalo...but he desisted
could not stop to take of it; could not use enough of the
meat to pay.

6-

The Mormon Battalion & his relationship to it would occupy a full evening. He did arrive; he was sad to see some of the boys drinking & dancing with Mexican girls; He did collect over \$1200. to take back to the saints at Winter Quarters-- Council Bluffs.

It is on his return journey that we see his resourcefulness. 1st NO animals were available in Santa Fe. He starts back with his one large mule & a jaded little mare that can hardly travel. Gen'l sold him One Returning with him are his adopted son Samuel Gulley Howard Egan-- "Lifted" or "CONSECRATED" it for the Church a day early and took it out some eight miles, where he secreted it in a clump of willows off the road. making forced drives until they had to leave worn out animals "for the use of cousin Lemuel" as he put it. (Roswell Stevens) had TWO mules. Dr. Death trunk broken into & 2 gold watches stolen Found a large fat mule that belonged to the Gov't & Sam'l Galluy gave a receipt for it, as he was on govt business.

"We were, in a sense, in Govt employ. We were carrying mail. This was a fine large gentle mule. He named her Friendship.

Come upon army camp---carying a full load of pitch pine to start fires. The boys went to the camp for the evening while Lee remained to write up his report for Brigham Young. The Captn came to him, brought a drink of fine brandy & they soon became friends..Ate supper & breakfast with him, & was loaded with a large cheese, some butter crackers, some sardines...Gave his name & address & \$5. in gold shook hands and said."Remember me in coming days."

C₂me upon the place where Capt. Mann had had a fight with the Indians, & the smell of blood made the mules nervous. He was prompted to leave t he road and follow the countour around this place on the river bed. The found good grass, and an Indian camp where all the braves were out on a humt.

At one time their team simply could not go on. They could hardly walk. They had passed an army camp where the Indians had stampeded their cattle and they were forced to stop & send out men to find them. Lee had a dream that he interpreted would mean that they would find mules, so they started slowly with their worn out ones.

They saw fresh ~~taxk~~ tracks of shod animals. Buffalo feeding on the plain. They stopped. With his spy glass he could see mules feeding among the buffalo on the plain. He turned their own animals loose & he took the oil-cloth, put some grain on it, & called the feed call. The mules came running & they caught all five of them, which gave them a change all around. (5 ears of corn, red & white, & 1 Black one)

Lost Little Trip--the dog. lured away and killed by wolves.

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LEE DID NOT COME ACROSS THE PLAINS IN THE 1st Company
When he did come in 1848 he had seven wagons all
loaded to capacity.---even some hives of bees on the
back of the last one....

His Diary gives the daily trip across the plains,
with every entry labeled CAMP OF ISRAEL
ZERA PULSIPHER leading & BY next. Lee also here

Babies born; people buried; "J. D. Lee repaired
one of his wagon wheels, put in 2 fellers & set the
tire..." July 13....

Number of horses bitten by snakes "mix the Spirits
of turpentine with tobacco, wash the wound, pray for
the animal and go on" Camped in a rattlesnake den
where several horses were bitten, so hitched up &
drove on....

July 29 Lee took Byron Pace with him; followed the buffalo 4 ms. & killed it beside a first-rate spring. Went back & got his teams up & cared for the meat. ...about dark shot another large B.Bull which came near running him through. The bull chased him so close that he struck him on the nose with the musel of his gun. The blow caused the gun to fall & the Bull trotted over & stood over the gun & Capt Lee went home unarmed. July 30-- went & dound the buf. dead, the gun also by him. DREW him to camp & the Cos commenced drying the meat...."The Pres. & his Lady got out of their carriage & came ti the table where JDL was Barbakuing his meat & eat some of the ribs that was roasting, then took about 40 lbs stake with him--caried & put into his carriage by the hand of Capt. J.D. Lee. July 31 shot an antelope, fat & fine Aug 1- a large Grizley bear-feet 7 inches wide- but too poor , not fit to eat. Aug 2- Killed a fine buffalo; took hams & tallow a load for the horses, left the rest for the wolves. People flock to see the "Bear'd Paw & hear the hunters

p 11-

Aug 5. The hunter brought in a Mountain sheep

Aug 8 JDL Shot an antelope & a buffalo; John Wakeley & Perkins shot 2 buffalo

Aug 10- Lee shot 3 sage hens

Aug 11- Shot 3 buffalo, one of which fell within 20ft of his camp, on a brook near the mountain--fat & good.

Aug 11- They are now in the neighborhood of Ind. Rock

Aug 12- shot a large, fat antelope

Aug 14 " another " " "

Aug 15 Busy repairing wagon wheels 2 tires set & 3 new spokes put in

Aug 18--HE COMES DOWN WITH MOUNTAIN FEVER

but is somewhat recovered in time to bury his wives mother, Abigail Woolsey. Made a coffin; engraved a stone with her name & dates upon it. Sick only 3 days

Dr. Gregory would agree that Lee was a good frontiersman.

12-

In SLC Lee moved down into the cottonwood area and set up his farm, & started building homes. Had also a house & lot in town. He arrived in 1848--fall.

Space in the record.

Sat. May 19 he had 30 acres under cultivation
June 2 he cricket invaders came, but gulls came in sufficient numbers to repulse the destroyers."

. 17 July 1859

J. D. Lee with 5 yoke of oxen and 2 horses & a waggon started back to the Sweetwater on a "Picking-up Expedition." Geo. Pitkin started, but met friends & returned.

Destruction of property along the road: provisions tools of every description stoves, cooking vessels, powder, lead, waggons, harness, apples & peaches dried, tea, coffee, sugar, flour bacon, rice,

Lee left one outfit with Charles Stevens, while he went on in search of stoves. Found an excellent Prem. stove No 3. worth \$50. in the valley. At a cold spring he reserected a deposit of medicines ' other things about 500 lbs weight, which was mostly safe,

*Reached
home
Aug 17.*

One yoke of fat cattle would change for 2 to 4 yoke of emigrant cattle, horses rate about the same; fruit & veg. also.

Here Lee quotes Heber C. Kimball's prophecy--which I have searched for in vain....

Just beginning to prosper when he is called south to Parowan what seems to me to be the most "Idiotic" call I ever heard They leave Dec .10 and don't arrive until Jan 19th and drag along that old cannon. Travel in snow all the way--no roads to speak of 1850-1851

Lee took two of his wives Lavina and Polly Young, both pregnant. He had a stove in his wagon, & they entertained themselves reading aloud a novel.... Settled the girls comfortably in Parowan and moved on to the head of ash creek where he set up another establishment--later on to the town of Haromny. Here he really prospered, until by 1857 he was well set up. The massacre-- he did not leave at all. Haight who managed affairs on the ground Higbee who spoke the orders to fire, Klingonsmoth, who was

with the Indians, all left the area at once. Haight never ddi return; Higbee only after Lee's Execution; Klingensmith never. But Lee carried on as usual, going in to SLC for the Legislature, visiting the settlements around, improving his farms & orchards and cattle herds. A fine home in Washington; another in Harmony, one in Kanarraville, and one out in Panguitch. Holdings at Skutumpah for cattle.

The massacre must be a subject all by itself.

Lee remained for 13 years--moved down onto the Colorado in 1870, and was in exile until his capture.

Lee & ESP--- they prayed over their cattle; they treated snake bites with turpentine & tobacco & prayer. His family believed him: he promised Emma twin girls; he told them the little boy was safe;

THE MIRACULOUS FLOUR

Sund. morning June 30, 1872

I started back to the Ranch with Rachel & Ralph & thought of sending the team in to the settlements for bread... While on the way to the ranch the Spirit said, Return to the Dell and put in all the corn you can, and you shall have bread before you can send to the settlements for it. I told my wife Rachel A. my presentiments and she concurred. I accordingly obeyed.....

July 6 1872

When our last flour was baking Rachel said where we would get any more she did not know. Little Frank said The Lord will provide more by the time we eat this. His mother said that he would have to do it soon, for they were then eating the last. The conversation had scarcely ended when the Barking of dogs announced the near approach of some person, when joyfully to their surprise my son Willard & daughters Nancy & Helen with some 400 lbs of flour was driving up to our humble shanty.....

PICTURES INCLUDE IN THIS PACK

- 1- Photograph of John D. Lee as a younger man (date not found)
(I will send an enlargement of this for frontispiece.)
- 2- The Monument at Mountain Meadows
- 3- Close-up of plaque on the monument.
- 4- John D. Lee's home at Nauvoo
- 5- John D. Lee at the age of 45, just after the massacre
- 6- Excerpts from Lee Diary showing his reaction to his excommunication from the Church. (negatives included)
- 7- Lonely Dell today, showing two oldest buildings, the one at the left dating from Lee's time there.
- 8- Stone House at Lonely Dell, like the one he built for Emma. Notice that there is little or no mortar used in the walls.
- 9- Remains of rock fort at Lonely Dell
- 10- Crossing of the Colorado at lower Ferry site. Note road up the opposite bank, and sharp hair-pin curve which takes it back around many miles of the slope to get out of the canyon.
- 11- Continuation of picture of road as it follows the hard stratum of rock ~~around~~ around the mountain. Much of it was walled by hand.
- 12- John D. Lee's grave in the Panguitch cemetery
- 13- Pages from the Diary of Amos Milton Musser, telling of the receipt of \$4000. gold coin.

Small colored prints. These are not intended for use, but to give an idea of the coloring of the area. I have a 5 x 7 color transparency of an air view of Lonely Dell, and many 3 x 4 color scenes of this wild, little-known area, but decided to hold them until I learn whether or not you will want to handle this material and whether or not you will use any color if you do.

Colored prints include:

- A- Lonely Dell with one old cabin
- B- Door of Lee's underground cellar at Skutumpah, where he kept milk and butter cool and salted down his load of fish. The interior is about 10 by 12 stoutly braced through the center with heavy timbers.
- C- A general view of the Jacob's Pools valley where Rachel lived. Piles of rocks still indicate location of pig pens and corrals, rock fence is clearly outlined.
- D- House said to have been built by Lee, at the Pools, but moved up out of the valley onto open slope.
- E- Vermilion cliffs as seen from the road, (US 89) The seams marked by the fault are the source of small seeps of water.
- F- Skutumpah Valley looking north toward the pink cliffs at the base of which the saw mill was located. Notice general vegetation and remains of shed and fences built by Lee.

G. The Covington Home in Washington, Utah, an exact duplicate of the Lee "Mansion", except that the latter had a porch with a double deck along the front, an upper center door leading out to it, and a stone fence in front.

Janita Brooks

Not by way of criticism, but to confirm the fact that crickets and gulls arrived together in the Salt Lake area, in the spring of 1849 a second miracle happened. John D. Lee, recording the minutes of the Council of Fifty indicated that the problem was up for discussion early in their meetings. This portion of the diary begins on Sat., 9th Dec. 1848, when "The council of Y T F I F again met at the House of H. C. Kimballs,"... and continues through to ~~xxx~~ April 7, when there is a torn and broken leaf, upon which is recorded a discussion of the first signs of crickets:

.../in/vading our crops....Sects or Races were cut in the earth...the water around the grain which served as aer against the crickets. Some fields were entirely surr...by running water. In Such cases but little damage...done by these destructive insects but where water could /not/be got to guard against them, the crops were eat down...people in the 2 South wards (The country was divi/d/ed in....ards) turned out in mass ith light Mauls or ...ettes /mattets?/& Killed a great No.of them. J. D. Lee engaged in Plowing & planting.

/ A MORMON CHRONICLE: THE DIARIES OF JOHN D. LEE, ED. 106¹
He continued writing on May the 1st, with another torn area on May 3 which also referred to the digging of sects for water to protect the crops, but most of his writing was concerned with other public matters. Then on Saturday, the 2nd day of June he noted

...Crickets by Millions Marched into J. D. Lee's farm, but luckily the gulls in numbers sufficient visited the fields & repulsed the Destroyers.

/ ibid. p. 110/