

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282049730>

Camp Lewis: Established in Montana Territory: The Carroll Trail, Montana

Technical Report · June 2015

CITATIONS

0

READS

31

1 author:



[Steve F. Russell](#)

Iowa State University

116 PUBLICATIONS **187** CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

All content following this page was uploaded by [Steve F. Russell](#) on 23 September 2015.

The user has requested enhancement of the downloaded file.

Journal of Capt. Constant Williams, Carroll Trail to Camp Lewis 1874

Camp Lewis: Established in Montana Territory *(The Carroll Trail, Montana)*

**Letters and Journal of the 1874 Trip
from Fort Shaw to Camp Lewis
by
Captain Constant Williams
and
Company F of the 7th U.S. Infantry**

In April and May of 1874, Captain Constant Williams (commanding) and members of Company F of the 7th U.S. Infantry, traveled from Fort Shaw, via Helena, to establish a military post named Camp Lewis along the Carroll Trail. This military post was established for the protection of travelers of the Carroll Trail from Carroll Landing, on the Missouri River to Helena.

Acting-Assistant Surgeon C. H. Hart, who, in his monthly report from Camp Lewis, Montana Territory, for July, 1875, notes the deaths, on July 7, of 3 privates of the Seventh Infantry, from shot-wounds from hostile Indians.

Message from the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress at the commencement of the Second Session of the Forty-Fourth Congress with the Reports of the Heads of Department and selections from accompanying documents. Papers accompanying the Division of Surgical Records. Edited by Ben: Perley Poore, clerk of printing records. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1876.

**Edited and Produced
by
Steve F. Russell
Historic Trails Research
Ames, Iowa**

2015

Headquarters Camp Lewis, M.T.
October 17, 1874

Adjutant General
U.S. Army
Washington, D.C.

General,

I have the honor to submit the following report in
accordance with Paragraph 716, Revised Army Regulations.

Camp Lewis established as a summer camp in obedience to Special Orders No. 73, dated Headquarters, Fort Shaw, M. T., April 7, 1874, was occupied by Company F, 7th Infantry, May 10, 1874.

It is situated on the Big Spring Fork of the Judith River, about 15 miles above the junction of the Big Spring and South Fork, and 2 ½ miles above the crossing of the road from Helena to Carroll, M.T. It is 116 miles westward from Camp Baker, 73 ½ miles southwest from Carroll, 90 miles southeast from Fort Benton, and 125 miles east from Fort Shaw. During the past summer and up to date the mail has been delivered by private messengers in the employ of merchants of Helena. This messenger procures the mail at Camp Baker, the nearest post office on the road.

Pine wood is procured in abundance on the foot hills of the Snowy, Judith, and Moccasin Mountains, but has to be hauled from three to five miles. There are a few scattering Cottonwood trees along the stream above the camp. The grazing is excellent in every direction for miles, and a sufficient quality of good hay for the public animals was easily obtained in a short time. The bottom of the stream is generally quite narrow, but for a distance of about seven miles in the vicinity of the camp it widens considerable being from one quarter to three quarters of a mile wide. The soil is very rich and deep in the bottom and easily cultivated. During the past season the following articles matured in a small garden planted by me, viz: peas, beans, radish, lettuce, parsley, and onions – Nothing else was planted. The soil on the bench-lands is also rich, and can be cultivated profitably if a little labor is expended in making irrigating ditches.

The buffalo, elk, white tailed deer, black tailed deer, antelope, mountain sheep, mallard, teal and other ducks, prairie chickens, mountain grouse and other game animals and birds abound. The streams in the vicinity afford fine trout fishing.

I am very respectfully
Your obedient servant
/Signed/ Constant Williams
Captain of Infantry -Comdg.

JOURNAL

of the march of

Company F 7th U.S. Infantry

commanded by

Captain Constant Williams, 7th Infy,

from Fort Shaw, M.T., to Camp Lewis, M.T.

pursuant to

S.O. No. 73 dated Hd Qrs. Fort Shaw, April 7th 1874

April and May, 1874.

*I think compass
direction is denoted
by small arrow along
the route*

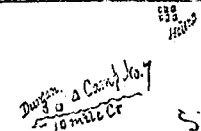
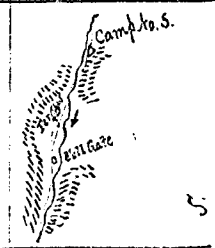
*creek flow also is
indicated with an arrow*

*Steve F. Russek
Aug 1988*

Journal of the march of Company
 Captain Constant Williams' Infantry
 from ranch to Spring Creek No. 13 dated

3rd 1st Reg. Infantry. Commanded by
 James H. Hays. 1st Lieut. Hays
 2nd Lieut. Hays. 3rd Lieut. Hays. 4th Lieut. Hays.
 5th Lieut. Hays. 6th Lieut. Hays. 7th Lieut. Hays. 8th Lieut. Hays.
 9th Lieut. Hays. 10th Lieut. Hays. 11th Lieut. Hays. 12th Lieut. Hays.
 13th Lieut. Hays. 14th Lieut. Hays. 15th Lieut. Hays. 16th Lieut. Hays.
 17th Lieut. Hays. 18th Lieut. Hays. 19th Lieut. Hays. 20th Lieut. Hays.
 21st Lieut. Hays. 22nd Lieut. Hays. 23rd Lieut. Hays. 24th Lieut. Hays.
 25th Lieut. Hays. 26th Lieut. Hays. 27th Lieut. Hays. 28th Lieut. Hays.
 29th Lieut. Hays. 30th Lieut. Hays. 31st Lieut. Hays. 32nd Lieut. Hays.
 33rd Lieut. Hays. 34th Lieut. Hays. 35th Lieut. Hays. 36th Lieut. Hays.
 37th Lieut. Hays. 38th Lieut. Hays. 39th Lieut. Hays. 40th Lieut. Hays.
 41st Lieut. Hays. 42nd Lieut. Hays. 43rd Lieut. Hays. 44th Lieut. Hays.
 45th Lieut. Hays. 46th Lieut. Hays. 47th Lieut. Hays. 48th Lieut. Hays.
 49th Lieut. Hays. 50th Lieut. Hays. 51st Lieut. Hays. 52nd Lieut. Hays.
 53rd Lieut. Hays. 54th Lieut. Hays. 55th Lieut. Hays. 56th Lieut. Hays.
 57th Lieut. Hays. 58th Lieut. Hays. 59th Lieut. Hays. 60th Lieut. Hays.
 61st Lieut. Hays. 62nd Lieut. Hays. 63rd Lieut. Hays. 64th Lieut. Hays.
 65th Lieut. Hays. 66th Lieut. Hays. 67th Lieut. Hays. 68th Lieut. Hays.
 69th Lieut. Hays. 70th Lieut. Hays. 71st Lieut. Hays. 72nd Lieut. Hays.
 73rd Lieut. Hays. 74th Lieut. Hays. 75th Lieut. Hays. 76th Lieut. Hays.
 77th Lieut. Hays. 78th Lieut. Hays. 79th Lieut. Hays. 80th Lieut. Hays.
 81st Lieut. Hays. 82nd Lieut. Hays. 83rd Lieut. Hays. 84th Lieut. Hays.
 85th Lieut. Hays. 86th Lieut. Hays. 87th Lieut. Hays. 88th Lieut. Hays.
 89th Lieut. Hays. 90th Lieut. Hays. 91st Lieut. Hays. 92nd Lieut. Hays.
 93rd Lieut. Hays. 94th Lieut. Hays. 95th Lieut. Hays. 96th Lieut. Hays.
 97th Lieut. Hays. 98th Lieut. Hays. 99th Lieut. Hays. 100th Lieut. Hays.

Date	Hour	Weather	Distance	Remarks
1874.			Total, 45	
April 21	6.50 A.M.	Clear in A.M. Snow in P.M.	16	Good wood, water and grass.
April 20	7. - P.M.	Cloudy with snow. Snow after clear in evening.	9	Good water and grass.
April 19	7.40 A.M.	12.45 P.M. 10.30 A.M.	9	Good water at spring, also pass. Wood in plenty on hillside.
	5		6	No wood here: prairie good: a clear running stream of water, but hard to cross with loaded wagons.
April 18	1 P.M.	Clear.	5	Good water at Brown's ranch: also pass, but no wood.

Journ. no.				C. J. Townsend	
Date	Hour	Weather	Miles	Route	Remarks
			Total, 98		
April 25	2 P.M. 6.30 A.M.	Clear and pleasant.	18		Wood, water and grass. Route takes Boyeman Road about 3 miles from Helena.
April 24	9.05 5.45 P.M.		8		Good water and grass, but no wood. Helena distant three miles.
April 23	10.50 6.55 P.M.		12		The water in Silver Creek too muddy to use, caused by running above, but there is good, clear water in Three-mile Creek. Good grazing. Wood obtained from ravines in hill north of camp.
April 22	1.45 P.M. 7.10 A.M.		15		Wood, water and grass. Road runs through the two cañons of the Little Prickly Pine Creek. An excellent road with bridges wherever necessary. bridges
			45	is this ROAD?	

Is this
the last road?

Journals		Notes	
Date	Time	Notes	Remarks
		<u>Total, 120</u>	
April 29	10	5	
	7:15 A.M.		
	3:45 P.M.	5	
April 28	6:40 A.M.	4	
	2:40 P.M.	8	
April 27	10	0	
April 26	—	0	
		98	

Clement



Clement

Cement

The road runs up Confederate Gulch to Cement Gulch (on the left) which betters it follows to its head and then over divide into Butte Gulch. Halted at divide 2½ hours.

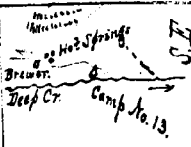
The road through Confederate Gulch is very difficult, especially for horse wagons. Encamped one mile above Diamond City; wood and water, but grazing poor.

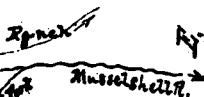
The camp is just at the mouth of Confederate Gulch. Wood, water and grass.

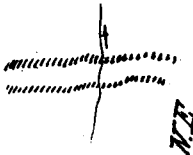
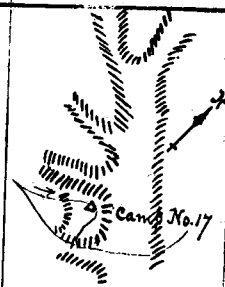
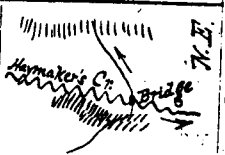
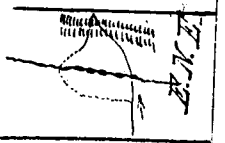
A good ferry crosses the river at this place: the last now used carries one wagon, but a new one, almost finished, will carry two.

Diamond Ferry

Laid in camp this day.

Journal.					Continued.
Date	Wind	Weather	Mileage	Route	Remarks.
May 3	1 P.M.	Pleasant.	Total, 161		
	7.15 A.M.		12		The road keeps on S. of Deep Creek, crossing Willow Creek and 4-mile Creek (both running into Deep Creek from S.), the latter being a bad bottom on N. side after rain. Water and grass at camp. Wood in mountains $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. of camp.
May 2	1.45 P.M.	Windy.	17		Cross the North Fork of Deep Creek at this place. A good camp on South side. Wood, water and grass.
May 1	—	Windy	0		Said in camp this day.
April 30	11	Night shows in W. M.: after wind, pleasant.	6		Encamped just beyond Camp Baker. Water and grass. Wood from the Park.
	3.50 P.M.		6		The road follows Benton Gulch down for 6 miles and then leaves it. I camped at leaving. Wood, water and grass.
April 29. Cont'd.			120		

Date	Hours	Weather	Miles	Route	Remarks
May 5	3.50	Pleasant	Total 190	5 	After leaving the ranch the road begins to cross foot-hills and the country presents an arid appearance. There is no wood on Daisy Deer Creek, but the water and grass are both good. A good bridge crosses the stream.
	1.30		1		The ranch is the last house to be found on the road until Davis Trading Post is reached.
	1 P.M.		8		Crossing of the North Fork of Muscelshell: it is about one mile above the mouth of the S. Fork (or Father's Creek). Fort Morris is one mile from the lower end of the cañon. Water & grass after leaving cañon, but not much wood. The road leaves the Muscelshell bottom here and leads to the left.
	2 P.M.		15		The road enters the cañon of the North Fork of the Muscelshell two miles beyond Copperopolis Creek. Copperopolis, Cheek's and Thompson creeks are all bridged. Good water and grass all through the cañon.
May 4	7 A.M.		161		

Journal					On Ground	Remarks.
Date	Time	Weather	Distance	Route		
May 7	8.15	Warm	Total, 208.			
	6.55 A.M.		4			Elk Creek (so-called) is a dry water course. No wood.
	2.30 P.M.		10			This large ravine is called Hopple's (or Hoppy's) Hole. There is no running water in it, unless it may be higher up toward the mountains than where the road crosses. Water was obtained by digging springs in a side cañine next the camp. Grass good and wood plentiful on the East side of the ravine. The East side is precipitous and the road difficult.
May 6	9.00	Pleasant.	2.			The road goes down a very steep hill to Haymakers' Creek. The stream is bridged. Water & grass are good, but there is no wood. bridged
	8.00		2			At this point the road crosses a water-course which is very oily, but a good crossing can be found above, as indicated by the dotted line.

Date	Time	Season	Miles	Route	Comments
	4.30 P.M.	Warm.	Total, 222 9		Ross' Fork is a clear running stream and the grass in its bottom is excellent. There is no wood, however. The banks are low and the road is good.
	12. M.		1		The road passes around the East end of the Little Belt Mountains into the Judith Gap (which lies between the mountains named and the Snowy Mountains) and thence into the Judith Basin.
	11.45		4		Red Spring Creek has water in holes, in some places good, but in others alkaline. Water can also be obtained by digging in the bed of the stream. Grass, but no wood. This creek is also called Meadow Branch.
May 7, cont'd			208		Stevens Creek.

General		Particulars	
Date	Time	Miles	Remarks
May 9	—	Total, 239	
	—	0	
	4.10 P.M.	10	
	12. M.	3½	
May 8	8.10	3½	
	6.55 A.M.	222	

Bill and Tom.

Pleasant until evening. Rain in evening and night.



Said in camp this day in consequence of stormy weather.

The road goes over a rolling country and finally into the deep valley of Beaver Creek, which flows N.W. Good water and grass at crossing but wood is about 2 miles up the stream in mountains.

After leaving Buffalo Creek the road passes over many hills and becomes more difficult.

Front Creek is a small stream, with good grass in bottom, but no wood: it empties into Ross' Fork.

A small stream running into Ross' Fork. No w. l., but water & grass. Easy grades on road up.

Date	Hour	Journals	Miles	Remarks	Concluded Reserve 48.
May 10		Cool & clear.			
	1.00 P.M.		Total 248		After leaving Cottonwood Creek the road forks: take the right hand road for Camp Lewis after passing which it rejoins the main road in valley of Big Spring Fork of the Judith Mts. Big Spring Fork is a fine stream of water running through a fertile valley. Wood in abundance & suitable camp.
	9.30		3		Cottonwood Creek has a wide deep valley. Plenty of wood water and grass.