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1950

## Jedediah Smith and His Travels in Utah

Joel E. Ricks

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### Recommended Citation

Ricks, Joel E., "Jedediah Smith and His Travels in Utah" (1950). *Joel Ricks Collection*. Paper 6.  
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Jedediah Smith and his travels in Utah.

In the summer of 1826 Ashley sold the Rocky Mountain Company to Smith, Jackson and William Sublette. Smith was assigned the task of exploring the country southwest to the Pacific. They met ~~and~~ the Indians near what Lake which the fur men referred to as the Lake of the Utahs. Here ~~he~~ Smith made a treaty with the Indians and then traveled through the rolling hills west of the Utah Lake to the ~~St~~ Sevier River which Smith named the Ashley River. On the Sevier near its San Pete Fork Smith again encountered Indians called Sanpels - They were friendly. They turned westward from the Sevier River through Clear Creek Canyon reaching the Beaver River which he called Lost River. Then the party went southward to the Virgin when he encountered the Paiutes. He named the Santa Clara Corn Creek since he found Indian corn growing there. Then he came to the muddy and crossed to the Virgin as he left the confines of present Utah. After a difficult journey Smith's party reached the mission of San Gabriel in California. Though Smith's party was treated kindly by the missionaries ~~father~~ the governor of California was suspicious of Smith and his mission. The Smith party left for northern California. Smith determined to leave California for the rendezvous to be held in the summer of 1827 on the Little [Bear] Lake [Beav]. He left California with two companions and had a terrible journey almost due east to the Great Salt Lake, floundering through the snows of the Sierra Nevada and

suffering terrible thirst in crossing the great "Salt Desert". They were saved by finding a spring at the foot of the Stansbury mountains, next from the top of a ridge the party saw a joyful sight - the Great Salt Lake. Smith ~~was~~ swam across the Jordan River pulling his two companions who were on a raft. July 3 the party reached the rendezvous on Bear Lake

After the ~~rendezvous~~ rendezvous was over Smith again set out for California following the Bear, then ~~southeast to the broken Weber and Provo Rivers southwest to Utah Lake~~ <sup>southeast to</sup> ~~southwest to the Weber and up the~~ Weber beyond the present site of Coalville then southwest to the Provo River which he followed to "Utah Lake". Then the party traveled southwest to the Sevier River then to the Santa Clara and on to California after a terrible fight with the Mojaves. Thus Jedediah Smith traveled over large portions of Utah. He was one of the greatest of the <sup>American</sup> fur traders.

References on the Fur Trade.

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- Chittenden H. M. The American Fur Trade.
- Dale, H. The Ashley Smith Explorations and the Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific
- Sullivan, M. S. The Travels of Jedediah Smith
- Sullivan M. S. Jedediah Smith,
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This outline is to be used if possible in the March

6  
meetings of the various chapters of the Sons of  
the Utah Pioneers. If this cannot be done then  
it may be given in the April or May meetings.