

William N. Byers, Handbook to the Gold Fields of Nebraska and Kansas

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

As the title indicated, this booklet was a guide for those want to look for gold in the Cherry Creek area near present Denver, Colorado and in the South Platte area of Nebraska. The author included an account from a miner written in 1858 on the South Platte and provided a detailed listing of the equipment needed and its cost as well as a day by day guide to the route. The booklet contained a great deal of information about and advertisements from Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha City, Nebraska Territory. The author of the handbook felt that the Pike's Peak gold rush was a myth.

Creator: Byers, William N.

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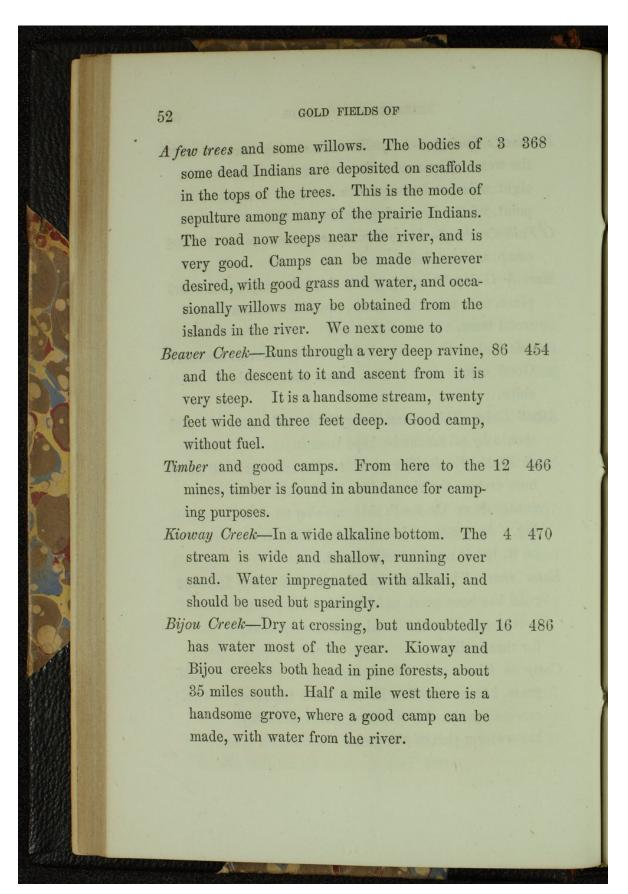
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NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.	51
Fremont's Springs-A small creek coming fr	CO. 100 CO.
the west. The road follows along it seven	0 or
eight miles, and camps can be made at a	anv
point, with water and grass, but no fuel.	
O'Fallon's Bluff—Here is a stage station, go camp, without fuel.	ood 17 302
More & Grimes' trading post, a good campi	ing 1 202
place, with water and grass, and a few cott	ton
wood trees.	
Prairie Lake—One and a half miles from rive	er. 24 327
Good camp, with water, grass and buffe	alo
chips.	gente vitor
Alkali Lake—This water is very bad, and sto	ock 6 333
should by all means be kept from it.	A shedder
South Platte Ford—The road to Fort Laram	nie 16 349
here crosses the river. The road to the min	
continues up the south side, making no cros	SS-
ing. As yet there has been but little trav	rel
on it, but it can be easily found.	Stella Otto
Enter sand—Thus far from Fort Kearney th	
road has been good, passing over firm groun	
—it now enters the sand, and is very heav for three miles.	УУ
Camp on River, and end of sandy road. Goo	1 9 905
grass, but no wood. In this sand the roa	
crosses a wide, flat channel, which probabl	0.000.000.000
has water a part of the year.	y
part or the jour.	

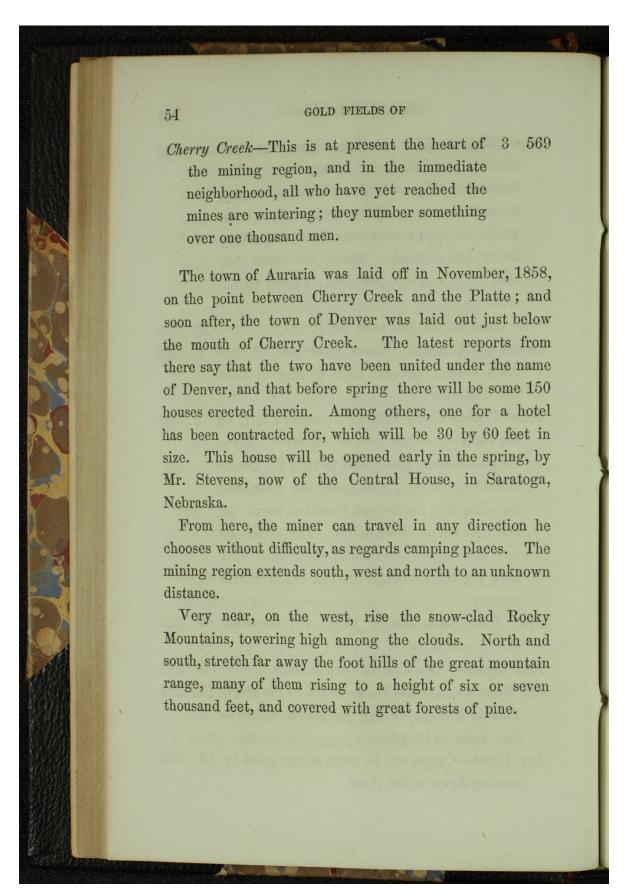




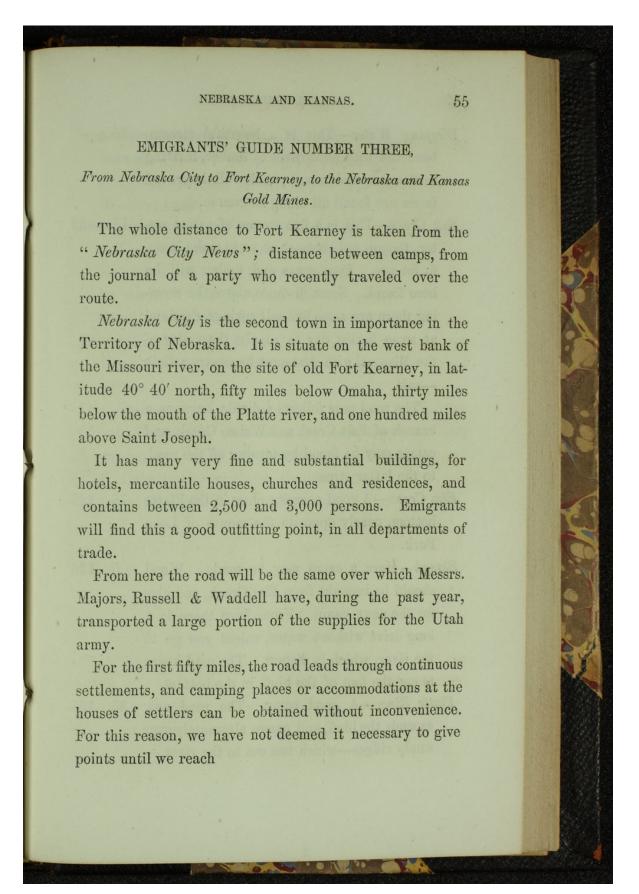


NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.	53	
Sand Ridges—After leaving Bijou, the road 1 climbs a steep bluff, and is then very good to these sand ridges—long sandy points running down to the river, which washes their base, whilst the road climbs over them, and is very heavy and difficult. Teams can make but nine or ten miles per day. Camps on the	6 502	3
river. Over sand ridges, and near the river.	0 500	39
Mouth of Cal 1 D 1	8 520 9 529	
Saint Vrain's Fort—This is a trader's fort, on the right or south bank of the river. Here the gold hunter, who wishes to visit the Cachea-la-Poudre mines, will cross the river, and traveling in a north-west direction, reach the mines in ten or fifteen miles. The mines on this stream are, no doubt, the richest that have yet been worked in the South Platte country.	2 531	
Fort Lancaster—Charley Bent's old fort—deserted, and in ruins.	538	
Fort Lupton—Also deserted and in ruins.	543	N
Jim Sanders' Ranch—On an island in the river. 11 This is a very rich and productive island— four miles in length.	554	
Dry Creek—Camps can be made at any point by 12 turning down to the river.	566	





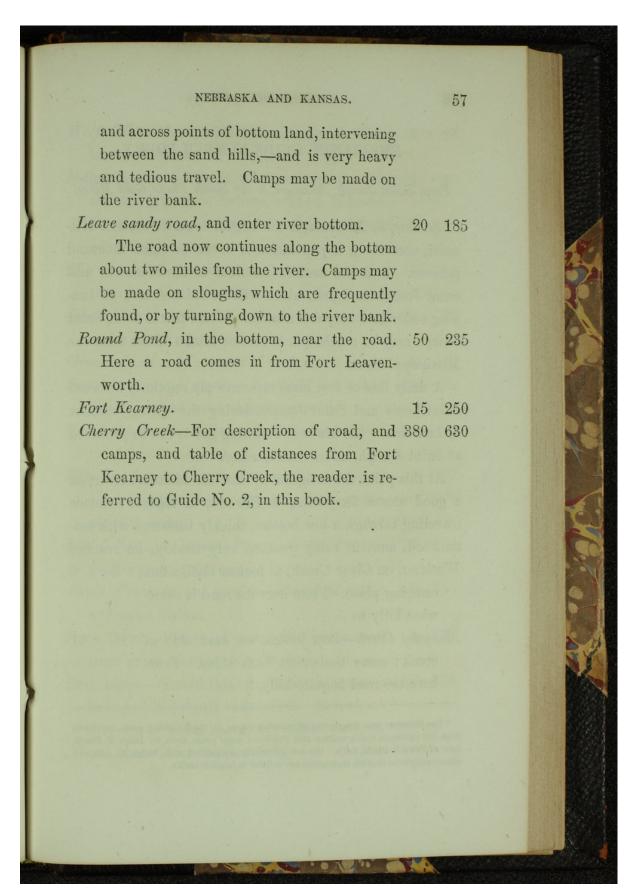




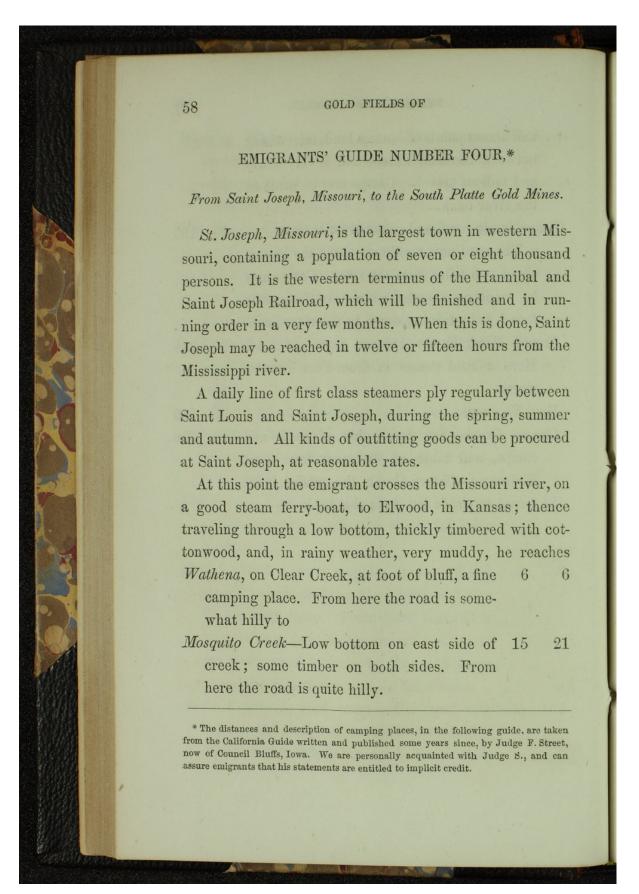


56	GOLD FIELDS OF		
bordere settleme	Water—This is a beautiful streed with fine groves of timber, thrivents and towns; and well improve found all along its course.	ving	
ter, tho fit for u here for ing ther at some	E—This is a fine stream of saline bugh not so much so as to make it use. Fine grass and timber will und. Some distance above the creare some fine salt springs, desting future day to supply the valle souri with that most necessary art	un- be coss- ned y of	50
—salt. The restriction of the left of the	road now follows a divide between of Salt Creek and Wahoo Creek, may be found by turning off the roatter stream.	en a and oad,	
	—A good camping place in the Plant, nearly opposite the mouth of L		125
should for the long dr the rive	Here a camp may be made. We be brought from Elm Creek, and a next camp. From here there is rive without water, unless you go er, which is distant. The road ket the foot of the bluff, in the bottom	also is a to eeps	130
Platte Rive	er—A good camp. The road of the bluff, and passes alternately or ridges—which run out to the river	now 35 over	165











NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.		59	
Wolf River—Low, wide bottom on east side;	5	26	
banks of stream very steep and miry.	0	20	2
Indian Agency—This is the agency of the Mi-	4	30	
ami and Kickapoo Indians. There is a mis-			
sionary station, and a good school for their			37
education.			7.96
Mill Creek—A prairie stream, with a few elm	5	35	52
trees just above the road.			
	22	57	
on its banks; good camp.	0	00	R
Grove—Half a mile north of road; good camp. Small Creek and grove — North of the road;	6	63 73	
nice place and good camping ground.	10	10	
Small Creek—One mile north of the road; plen-	12	85.	3
ty of wood and water.			1
Nemaha River—This is a beautiful stream of	7	92	
clear water; plenty of timber, and a fine			
place to camp.			le le
Little Nemaha River—Plenty of timber and	12	104	
good water; good camp.			
Small Creek in the prairie—Plenty of water	12	116	9
and some timber.		100	. 1
Rock Creek—Plenty of water and grass, and	4	120	
some green elm trees on the bank.	10	138	N
Ditto Ittoor Should bill bill bill	18	190	
have to build a raft to cross on. It is about			
fifty yards wide, has a very rapid current, and abounds in excellent fish.			
and abounds in exociton, non-			
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	K	A contract of	

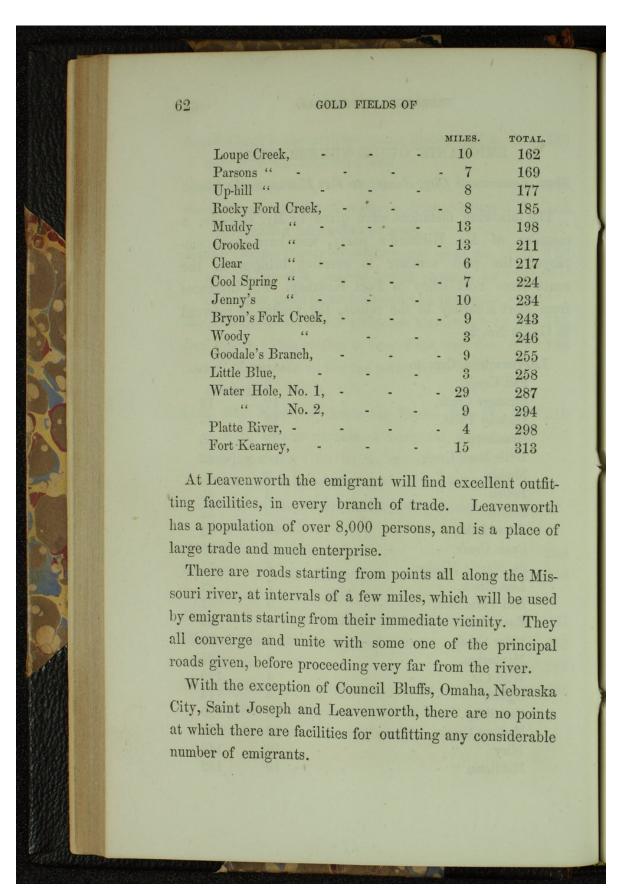


	60 GOLD FIELDS OF		
	Small Creek in the prairie—Some timber half a mile from the road each way.	10	148
	Small Creek—Plenty of standing water.	10	158
	Small Creek—Plenty of water, and some green timber half a mile north of road.	7	165
	Wythe Creek—Plenty of timber and good water. After this, several small streams to cross, and steep hills to ascend and descend.	7	172
	Big Sandy—Good water and some timber.	13	185
No.	Dry Sandy—This stream is very wide, and the		
	bed of sand, in which the water sinks in dry weather.		
	Little Blue River, or American Fork—This is a deep, narrow stream of beautiful, clear,	12	210
	running water. Its banks are skirted with		
	a thin growth of cottonwood. Road follows the river forty-four miles, with camping		
	places all along.		22.
	Road leaves river—	44	254
	Small Creek in the prairie—Some timber; but the water is not good.	4	258
	Small Creek—Good water and some timber.	3	261
	Platte River—Good camp on bank of river.	17	278
All	Fort Kearney—	10	288
	Cherry Creek-For distances, camps and de-	380	668
WW	scription of road, see "Guide No. 2," from		
	Fort Kearney to Cherry Creek, in this book.		



NEBRASKA AND KAN	Java	61	
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EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUI	MBER FIVE,		
From Leavenworth City, Kansas, to For	rt Kearney on ti	he Platte.	
The following distances were give	en by Mr. Ga	arside, a	
nember of Mr. Hibbard's party,			5
loyed the past summer in erec			7.5
oute from Fort Riley to Fort Ke			5
rom Fort Kearney to the mines, t	the reader is	reierred	No.
o Guide No. 2.			8
LEAVENWORTH CITY to	MILES.	TOTAL.	4
Salt Creek,	- 3		
Stranger Creek,	- 10	13	
Hickory Point,	- 12	25	
Grasshopper,	- 10	35	×
Little Rock Creek, -	- 9	42	
Muddy "	- 3	45	
Indian "	- 4	49	
Soldier "	- 3	52	THE T
Silver Lake,	- 10	62	
Cross Creek,	- 7	69	
St. Mary's Mission,	- 6	75	
Lost Creek,		82	1
Red Vermillion,	. 5	87	
Rock Creek,	- 3	90	
Elder Creek,	- 1	97 105	2
Manhatton,	- 8	109	The N
Wild Cat,	- 4	114	
Ogden,	- 6	120	
Fort Riley, Madison Creek,	- 12	132	8
Miry "	- 10	142	BINE S
Middleton "	- 10	152	HERE &
Litteroom			The state of







NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.	63		
EMIGRANTS' GUIDE NUMBER SIX,			
From Fremont's Springs to Fort Laramie.			饠
The following distances and description of camps	are		
taken from Franklin Street's California Guide.	uro		33
From Fort Kearney to Fremont's Springs, is 96 m	niles.		
For description of road and camps, see Guide No. 2.			
Fremont's Springs, from Fort Kearney, 96 miles.			
From Omaha via Fort Kearney,	285		
Crossing of South Platte—This is the old cross- 7	292		8
ing. The river is near a mile wide, but is			14
not bad to cross. From here, the best way			
is to go round the point of the bluffs that lie			
in the fork of the river, and take up the val-			1/4
ley of the North Platte. Since the summer			
of 1857, the road usually traveled continues			
up the south side, and crosses the South Fork			
57 miles above this ford, and again intersects			6
the old road about Ash Hollow.	316		F
Cedar Bluffs—Here the road leaves the river, 24 and ascends a long hill, after which it is good.	010	-	
Long hill to descend.			
Platte River—The road now follows the river 12	328		
to Ash Hollow.			SY
Cedar Grove—This is a beautiful little grove on 24	352		16
the bank of the river. After traveling about			
two miles from here, you ascend a long hill, in			
some places very steep, from the top of which			
you will descend to			



Ash Hollow—You reach the creek about a mile 3 355 from the river. It is a very small stream, with some springs along its banks, and walled in by very high, rocky bluffs. From here you keep near the bluff, and can get water for camping by digging two or three feet. Lawrence Creek—A broad, shallow stream. 38 393 Chimney Rock—From here there are two roads. 18 411 The one on the right keeps near the river, and you can get water until within fifteen miles of Scott's Bluffs. The other one keeps near the bluff, and in dry weather you will find no water until you get near the bluffs. Scott's Bluffs, or Capitol Hills. Here will be 30 441 found some most delightful and romantic scenery. Small Stream—Some water, but no wood. 3 444 Small Creek—Water not good; banks very steep. 10 454 Horse Creek—About 100 feet wide, but very 1 455 shallow. No fuel here. The road from here to the river somewhat hilly and sandy. Platte River—The road now keeps near the 13 468 river for twenty-two miles. Laramie River— 27 495 Fort Laramie— 27 495 Fort Laramie— 28 496		64 GOLD FIELDS OF		
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