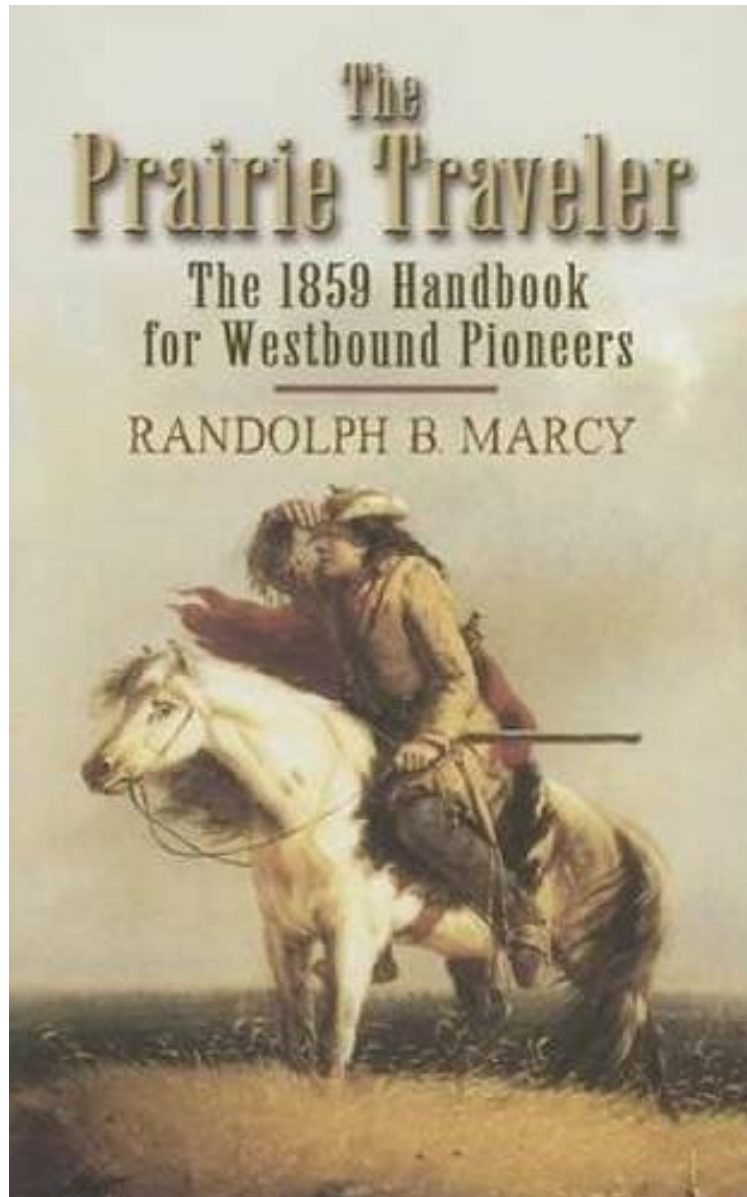


[Download pdf] The Prairie Traveler: The 1859 Handbook for Westbound Pioneers (Dover Value Editions)

The Prairie Traveler: The 1859 Handbook for Westbound Pioneers (Dover Value Editions)

Randolph B. Marcy

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#239957 in Books Randolph B Marcy 2006-08-31 2006-08-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x .51 x 5.24l, .51 #File Name: 048645150X256 pages The Prairie Traveler The 1859 Handbook for Westbound Pioneers | File size: 78.Mb

Randolph B. Marcy : The Prairie Traveler: The 1859 Handbook for Westbound Pioneers (Dover Value Editions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prairie Traveler: The 1859 Handbook for Westbound Pioneers (Dover Value Editions):

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating glimpse into the past
By Captain Zones
I'm not a history buff, particularly. I came across this book while I was on vacation this year. After leaving Yellowstone National Park, we stopped by the monument at Little Big Horn. I saw this book at the gift shop there and didn't buy it, then naturally had non-buyer's remorse immediately afterward :) So I got it on .This is a copy of an actual handbook that people traveling across the US in wagon trains in the 1800s carried. It's got advice about what trails to take and why. And the why was actually surprisingly interesting. Some regions were grasslands and might seem appealing, but the grasses there weren't very nutritious for the horses, so you wanted to take this other route, because it was populated further along, and you could buy grains. And other questions like, "What happens if my wagon gets a flat?" That's a bigger scare than you'd think, until you really think about it. They're not easy to come by in the middle of nowhere, so there's a lot of very interesting advice to do about troubleshooting your wheels--how to watch for early problems, which temporary fixes to apply for which bad signs, and what you might regret about a given choice later. I don't know why I found that so interesting, but I did.I think one of the coolest parts of the book had to do with medicine. What to do if you're injured or you get sick or if you get bitten by a rattlesnake. That's worth the price of admission right there. Fascinating what these people did (or had to do). Almost all of it is horrifying and wrongheaded to a modern doctor. But a few of the things, I'm going to have to ponder why they thought they saw the results they thought they got. Rattlesnake bites: many of the remedies included drinking strong alcohol. They stressed that just a little bit doesn't work. You have to get wasted, and they thought that for some reason the presence of venom made it so you had to drink a lot more to get the same effect (though it's true that when people are in great pain, mildly sedating medicines don't sedate as much... that's just common sense).There weren't enough car chases, naturally. And the space aliens thing, that just seemed tacked-on :) but for anyone curious about what those people had to face, this is very interesting reading.(Full disclosure: I hereby admit to having skipped around. I didn't read the whole thing. Sorry. *sighs*)(And for the humor impaired: if you buy this book because you thought I was being serious about the aliens, I'm gonna laugh at you when you come back and complain to me... and so will the other millions upon millions of people who come here, read my review, and buy this book on my own say-so)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By T. Clutter
A great read! Full of insight into what it was like on the plains during the pioneer period.... 1840-1890.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Prairie Traveler; The 1859 Handbook for Westbound Pioneers by Marcy
By Frannie
Not that I was preparing to load my wagon and join the wagon trains going West or anything, but I found this a valuable book that was prepared by Marcy for those who were about to partake this journey. The description of the items and how much needed proved to be a valuable guidebook for the pioneers and their success in crossing unfamiliar territories. As they searched for the "better life" the West offered, they found themselves in non-ending trains of covered wagons..some with good guides, some with bad ones. At least before they loaded the family they had a familiar voice of what to take and what to be prepared for on the harsh country side.

Along with a good rifle and a sturdy horse, this guide was an essential companion for any westward-bound pioneer of the nineteenth century. Its author, Captain Randolph B. Marcy of the U.S. Army, spent most of his military career in the West. At the invitation of the War Department, he shared the benefits of his frontier experience in this remarkable book.To today's reader, Marcy's manual offers a fascinating view of the rigors and hazards of crossing the country. In 1859, it provided life-or-death advice on everything from finding water and building a fire to avoiding quicksand and treating snakebites. Marcy promised to assist his reader in escaping unforeseen disasters and maintaining relative comfort during the journey, adding that the intrepid pilgrim "will feel himself a master spirit in the wilderness he traverses, and not the victim of every new combination of circumstances which nature affords or fate allots, as if to try his skill and prowess."Marcy's counsel encompasses choosing the best routes to California, wagon maintenance and the selection and care of horses, food supplies, first aid procedures, and fording rivers. He also conveys information "concerning the habits of Indians," including Native American tracking and hunting techniques, smoke signals and sign language, and battle tactics. Twenty-one original illustrations complement the informative and entertaining text.