

Passed Midshipmen Eld and Colvocoressis, Messrs. Dana and Brackenridge, Sergeant Stearns, and Henry Waltham, an ordinary seaman, are added to your party.

You will leave your encampment in the Willamette at the earliest possible hour.

Your route from thence will be through the Willamette Valley, south towards California, and if possible west of the Shaste Mountains, thence to strike the waters of the Sacramento, passing over the head waters of various streams that empty into the ocean, viz., the Umpqua, Klamet, and their branches.

Your party is now composed of twenty officers and men: the addition of five or six more good and trusty men, will, I think, be amply sufficient to insure your safety, and enable you to proceed with all despatch: any more than is necessary to insure safety, I view as likely to retard your progress.

After you start, which must not be later than the 5th or 6th, I give you twenty-five days to reach the forks of the Sacramento, where the boats of the Vincennes or squadron will be on the 30th of September.

If you should fall upon the Sacramento, taking a more easterly route, you will, if you find it difficult to proceed with your horses, abandon them, and proceed in canoes down the river.

It is possible you may have to construct them; and rough ones will answer your purpose for navigating the river to its mouth, where you will find the Vincennes at anchor.

In conversation, I have impressed upon you the necessity of not losing time, and bear in mind that in order to gain this desirable end, it will be necessary for you to press your party all you can. The saving of a few horses must not impede your advance, particularly after you have passed the hostile Indians.

I desire that you will endeavour to reach your destination in the time specified, as it may save the party sent to meet you, and the service, much delay.

The route you will probably follow, is that usually taken by the Company's party; but in your advance, when it is safe, it may be desirable for a part to deviate, for the purpose of gaining information.

Although your orders are marked "confidential," you will show them to Passed Midshipmen Eld and Colvocoressis, that they may be aware of the duties to be performed in case of accident to you. And no important hostile step will be taken unless through a council, in which all the gentlemen accompanying you will join; and you will be particularly careful that no act of aggrievance by your party should bring about such an event.