Historical Marker No. 7
U.S. Mormon Battalion Trail Monument
1½ Miles East of Arizona-New Mexico Border, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

TRAIL SEGMENT
2. Main Command

TRAIL DATE
28 Nov 1846

DEDICATION DATE
1 Nov 1986

GPS COORDINATES
31° 30.629' N
109° 2.258' W
WGS84
Description

Rock masonry columns holding carved wood plaque shaped like map of United States. Note that Hmdb.org website confuses the location of this monument with the Arizona-New Mexico boundary marker 1½ miles to the Southwest. Since this marker was placed in 1986, further research has proven that the Battalion actually passed further south. The actual location of the Battalion on 28 November 1846 was at the mouth of a different canyon just north of Guadalupe Pass, 10.3 miles SSW of here, about 4.6 miles SW of Cloverdale, New Mexico. See the Map N Tour™ website for details.

Driving Directions

Drive about 20 miles northeast on Geronimo Trail from San Bernardo Ranch and San Bernardo National Wildlife Refuge Walking Trail, about 1.5 miles past Arizona-New Mexico boundary to Mile Marker 63 at mountain pass. Geronimo Trail eventually becomes New Mexico Route C002. According to the mileage sign at the site (left), the monument is about 15 miles northwest of Cloverdale, New Mexico, and 40 miles SSW of Animas, New Mexico. Also, please note the Travel Caution sign.
ON NOVEMBER 28, 1846 THE MORMON BATTALION OF THE U.S. ARMY WEST, CROSSED THESE MOUNTAINS NEAR THIS SUMMIT ENROUTE TO CALIFORNIA DURING THE MEXICAN WAR. COL. COOKE HAD DISPATCHED SCOUTS AHEAD TO FIND THE BEST ROUTE. AN INDIAN GUIDE, CHARBONEAU, WHILE SCOUTING AHEAD WAS ATTACKED BY THREE GRIZZLY BEARS. HE KILLED ONE BEAR WHICH PROVIDED MEAT FOR THE TROOPS.

LT. STONEMAN WITH 21 MEN COULD NOT FIND A SUITABLE ROUTE DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. THEY BEGAN CUTTING A ROAD BUT THE TASK WAS TOO LABORIOUS AND THE PROGRESS SLOW. COL. COOKE THEN ORDERED THE WAGONS UNLOADED AND THE SUPPLIES PACKED DOWN ON HORSES AND MULES FOR TRANSPORT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. THE WAGONS WERE LOWERED DOWN THE 40% GRADE BY ROPES. ONE WAGON WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE ROPES BROKE AND THE WAGON CRASHED TO THE CANYON BOTTOM. HENRY BIGLER WROTE, “NO OTHER MAN BUT COOKE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CROSS WAGONS AT SUCH A PLACE. COOKE HAD THE SPIRIT OF A BONAPARTE.”
DEDICATED TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE U.S. MORMON BATTALION

COL. FRED M. REESE - C.&CH. U.S. MORMON BATTALION.
PROJECT SUPERVISORS - MARVIN E. FOLLETT AND
RALPH MANGUM. MASONRY - DENNIS GREGG.
SPONSORS - DOUGLAS BOY SCOUTS.
SCOUT TROOP 414.
LUMBER BY KIABAB LUMBER INC.
DEDICATED
NOV. 1, 1986

[Lower Center Carving:]
[Bust of Mormon]
[Battalion Soldier]

ARTIST - RALPH REESE
SIGN BUILT AND DESIGNED
BY ROBIN BUTTON.
THOMAS L. KANE COMPANY

WAGON BEING LOWERED DOWN
STEEP SLOPE WITH ROPES.

DEDICATED COMPANY
NOV. 1, 1986

LUMBER BY KIABAB LUMBER INC.

by James Nuti, 21 February 2012 – Upper Right

by James Nuti, 21 February 2012 – Upper Left

by James Nuti, 21 February 2012 – Lower Center

by James Nuti, 21 February 2012 – Upper Right
History
This monument was dedicated 1 November 1986, and sponsored by Douglas, Arizona Boy Scout Troop 414. At the time of its dedication, Col Fred M. Reese was a former Battalion Commander of the Mormon Battalion Association (then known as the U.S. Mormon Battalion) residing in Kanab, Utah. He was the original and only three-time Battalion Commander of the modern Mormon Battalion, serving from its founding under direction of his Huntsville, Utah neighbor, President David O. McKay of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the late 1940s until 1954, again from 1961 through 1963, and then again from 1969 through 1977.

Credits
See http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=81689 This page originally submitted on 27 February 2012 by James Nuti of Bisbee, Arizona. • Bill Pfingsten was the editor who published this page.