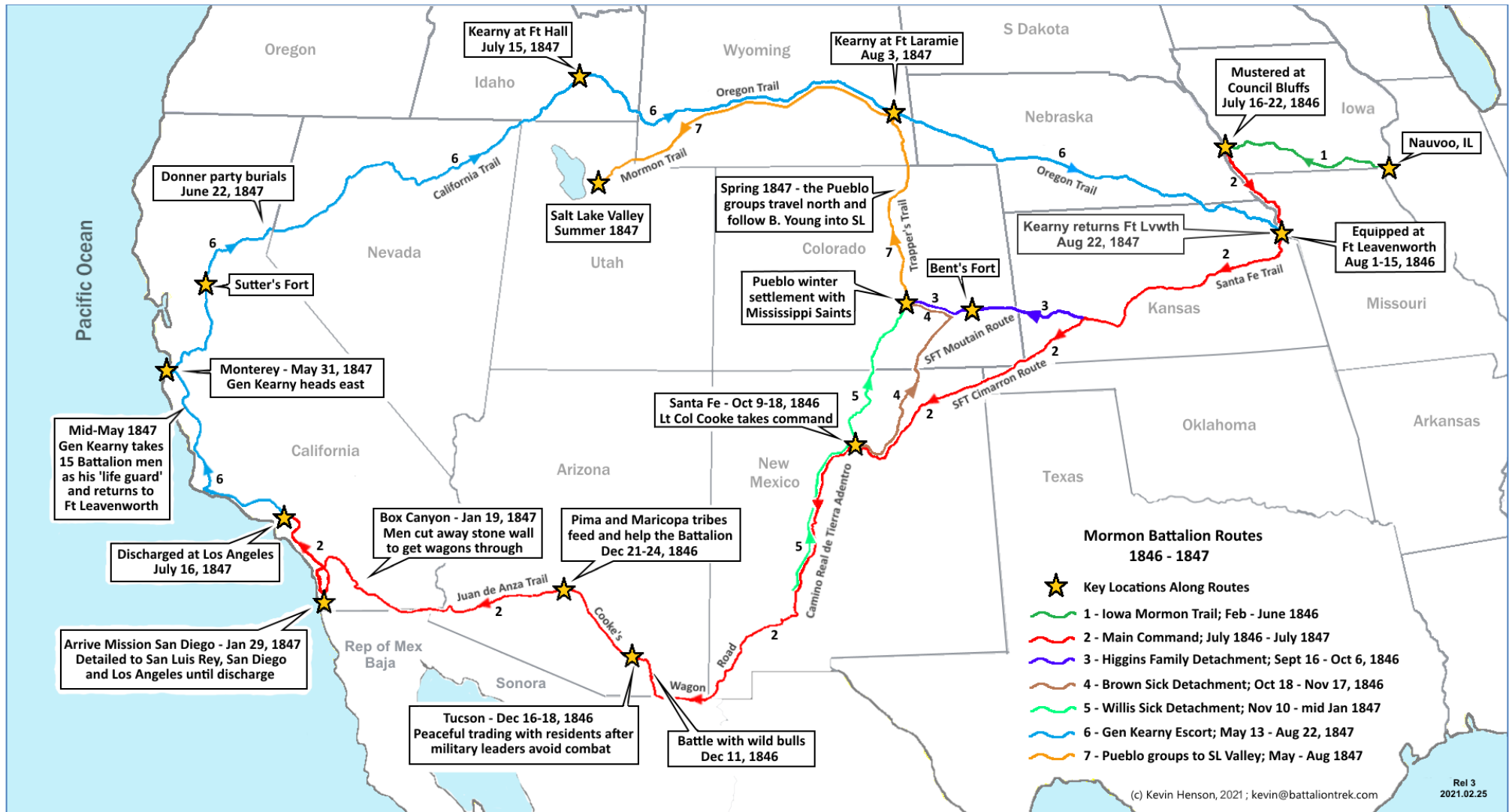


# Mormon Battalion Routes 1846-1847



The Mormon Battalion was recruited along the western third of the Iowa Mormon Trail between June 27 and July 22, 1846. Under Capt James Allen, Jr., they mustered into the U. S. Army at Council Bluffs on July 16, 1846 to serve for one year. The command was led to Fort Leavenworth, there spending two weeks preparing to march for Santa Fe. At the Arkansas River crossing (west of Ingalls, Kansas), most of the families that had been travelling with the Battalion were sent to a trapping settlement at what became Pueblo Colorado. They wintered there with a group of Mississippi Mormon families already settled there temporarily. The main group continued to Santa Fe where US Army dragoon Captain Philip St George Cooke took command and began the march to San Diego. Two groups of sick men were directed to Pueblo; Capt Brown's group was the largest and followed the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. A month later, Lt Willis's sick group retraced their route up the Rio Grande to Santa Fe, then followed the Trappers Trail over the Sangre de Cristo Pass and into Pueblo. The Main Command (reduced to about 340 men and just 5 women) continued westward, creating Cooke's Wagon Road. The Battalion arrived in San Diego on January 29, 1847. They were mustered out of service on July 16, 1847 at Los Angeles.

In the spring of 1847, most of the Pueblo group travelled north to Fort Laramie, turned west and followed close behind Brigham Young's Pioneer company into the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Also in the spring of 1847, General Kearny completed his work in California and had 15 Battalion men detailed to escort him and his party back to Fort Leavenworth. They used pack mules and traveled quickly, following the California Trail. They met some of the Mormon emigrant ship *Brooklyn* company, buried part of the Donner party, narrowly missed meeting Brigham Young, then encountered the "Big Company" of Mormon emigrants just east of Fort Laramie. The Kearny escort arrived at Fort Leavenworth on August 22, 1847. These were the last men mustered out of the army and officially ended the Mormon Battalion's service. About 80 men re-enlisted and were named 'Capt Davis's Company A of Mormon Volunteers', serving at San Diego. Rel 3 - 20210224