

*Santa Fe Trails
1849 Diaries*

SATURDAY MORNING VISITOR

WARSAW, MISSOURI, Saturday Morning, February 3, 1849

Samuel Ralston, Samuel D. Lucas, Smallwood Noland requests Col. William Gilpin to supply information concerning the best route from Missouri to Oregon and California and the facilities in Independence for furnishing outfits to persons going to either place.

Independence, Mo., January 8th, 1849

(Excerpts)

" Independence now, for twenty years, the emporium of the commerce of the Prairie, possesses indisputable and peculiar advantages over all other places, as the point of rendezvous and final embarkation for emigrants and travellers going to the Pacific. It is upon the bank of the Missouri river, but beyond that river - just where the Indian line divides the populous and timbered country from the expansive, open prairies that extend to the Rocky Mountains - the great river deflecting to the North, makes it the extreme available landing for steamers towards the west, and (hence) depart the great land routes....

Apart from the decided excellence of Independence as a geographical point, it recommends itself from the unlimited abundance of supplies to be had at all times; their excellence quality and adaptation to the journey of the Plains and the mountains. The habitual annual departure and arrival of emigrants, has created a body of skillful mechanics, and all kinds of complete manufacturing establishments in every department of the trades, combined with stores, filled with supplies for all wants and tastes. Here are manufactured (of all sizes) the peculiar wagons, strongly ironed - adapted to resist the dry climate of the high altitudes; harness, saddles, and pack-saddles, for mountain use, tin ware, riveted, to resist fire and accidents in short, flour mills, rope mills, wagon manufactories, tanners, leather manufactories, saddle and harness makers, hatters, farsiers, clothing establishments, assorted goods for the Indian trade (such as vermilion, red cloth, Mackinaw blankets,) gunsmiths are all here established on a permanent and ample scale, and furnish articles of a substantial and durable character to carry the traveller safely beyond the wilderness without the necessity of repair or renewal. We may be had the small tough horses and mules, bro't from California, Mexico, and the Indian tribes of the mountains and prairies, as well as the horses, cattle and mules, of larger size and good blood - raised upon the prairie grass of the settlements..."

*Santa Fe Trails
1849 Diaries*