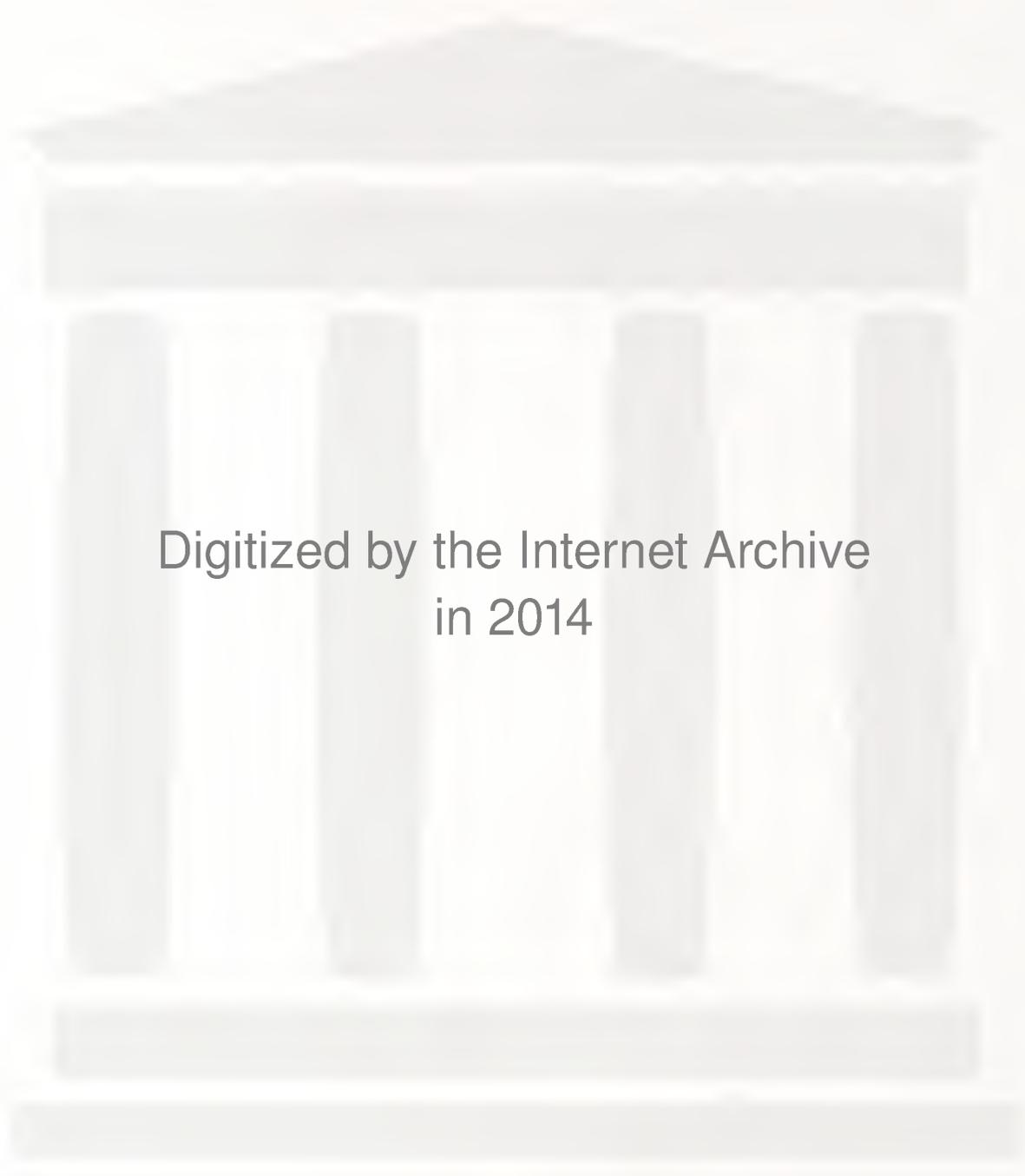


The Folsom-Cook-Peterson Expedition of 1869

This journey by three men ("two yankee quakers and a dane") is considered by many to have been the first attempt at organized exploration of the area that is now Yellowstone Park. Accepted into the "Washburn Expedition of 1869", Charles Cook, David Folsom, and William Peterson set out on their own when that expedition fizzled. From Diamond City, Montana the three rode south on three horses (and packing two more) with supplies for six weeks.

Riding up the Yellowstone River, they entered what is now Yellowstone Park by crossing over Mount Everts and Blacktail Deer Plateau. The men forded the river at Tower Fall, advanced up the Lamar Valley, turned south up Flint Creek to cross the difficult Mirror Plateau, and struck the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone at Point Sublime (q.v.). Continuing up the river, the men saw Mud Volcano then Yellowstone lake where they left a carved rock in the mortise of a tree (never so far found). Trekking westward to West Thumb and up a hill (see Lake View) toward Shoshone Lake, the Folsom party dropped down White Creek (probably marvelling that the stream was hot) to Great Fountain Geyser which they saw erupting at least eighty feet high. After taking off their hats and yelling "with all our might," the men travelled down the Fire-hole and Madison Rivers and arrived home at Diamond City after a 36-day trip.

David Folsom's account of the trip was published in the July, 1870 issue of Western Monthly magazine. That rather



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

1113

<http://archive.org/details/folsomcookpeters162slsn>

obscure magazine article, an improved map, the germs of the idea of somehow preserving the new area, and direct encouragement of the members of the Washburn party (which followed them in 1870) were the contributions of the Folsom party. The definitive account of their trip is Aubrey Haines (ed.), Valley of the Upper Yellowstone (1965).

Although the party gave no place names to the Park, their verbal and written accounts greatly influenced subsequent name-givers like the Washburn and Hayden parties, and two place names (Point Sublime and Buffalo Pool) may have come directly from their narrative of the trip.

The Hague Surveys

While the Folsom, Washburn, and Hayden parties are well known in Yellowstone's history, the Hague surveys (1883-1902) are not, but in terms of the time they lasted and the information they generated they were equally important. USGS geologist Arnold Hague (see Hague Mountain) first visited Yellowstone in 1883, beginning studies that were to absorb him for thirty-four years. About the surveys, F.V. Hayden wrote to Hague at their inception: "we performed what we could, but you will make the work thorough."

Hague's influence on place names, maps, studies, and even the politics of Yellowstone became all pervasive. He was especially interested in the Park thermal features, but he maintained a general oversight of all the geological investigations in the area for many years. His giant treatise Geology of the Yellowstone National Park was published in 1899, and his 1904 Hague Atlas of colored maps is still a mainstay of Yellowstone literature.

Many of Yellowstone's place names came from Hague or his assistants: geologists Walter Weed, Joseph Iddings, T.A. Jaggar, George Wright, and Louis Pirsson, along with physicist William Hallock and geographer Henry Gannett. At least eighty-five other people (including packers and cooks) are known to have assisted the survey at various times. A relatively complete list of these men appears in the unabridged (microform) edition of this book.

The Hague surveys worked in Yellowstone Park (producing maps, photos, geologic studies and thousands of pages of unpublished notes and correspondence) for twenty straight years. Hague himself missed visiting the Park some years, but his assistants always filled in, often serving as hosts to important Park visitors. Their published works numbered more than a hundred, but for all this, the bulk of Hague's work was never published.

Hague's work in Yellowstone was a labor of love, and he continued on it for fourteen years after the end of his survey, even visiting the Park in his golden years (1911 and 1915) and making extensive notes. To the end, he loved showing people Yellowstone and talking and writing about the Park. Thus with P.W. Norris, Frank and Jack Haynes, and G.I. Henderson, Arnold Hague must be remembered as one of the most eloquent of Yellowstone tour guides. And the influence of his surveys, although unheralded and unsung, has been without peer in Yellowstone.

The Haynes Guides and Other Yellowstone Guidebooks

The first two guidebooks to Yellowstone National Park were published in 1873, just one year after the place became a park. They were James Richardson's Wonders of the Yellowstone Region and Harry Norton's Wonderland Illustrated; Or, Horseback Pides Through the Yellowstone National Park. The former was largely a reprinting of the reports of the Washburn and Hayden parties; thus the Norton book may be considered the first real Park guidebook (because it contained original information).

The next true Yellowstone guidebook* appeared in 1881. Robert Strahorn's beautiful little book was called The Enchanted Land or An October Ramble Among the Geysers, Hot Springs, Lakes, Falls and Cañons of Yellowstone National Park. Because Strahorn published the book himself, it was not well circulated and so today is a rarity.

More widely circulated, and no doubt with larger print runs, were the William Wylie (see Wylie Hill) book The Yellowstone National Park, or the Great American Wonderland (1882) and Henry Winsor's The Yellowstone National Park A Manual For Tourists (1883). The latter was extremely popular during the 1880s and was republished several times (with new material added and titled changed) in editions by John Hyde and W.C. Riley. A rarer but more detailed guidebook was Herman Haupt's The Yellowstone National Park (1883); it was cleverly published in a foldaround binding that protected it for the traveller from inclement weather. And superintendent P.W. Norris published his book of poetry in 1883 which

also contained a park guidebook. Titled Calumet of the Coteau, its hardback status made it higher priced and so not as well circulated as other Yellowstone guides.

The Northern Pacific Railroad had the advantage for its guidebooks of having photographer Frank Haynes in the Park. Beginning in 1884 with The Wonderland of the World, the NPPR published guidebooks that became known as the Wonderland series. The books were highly colored and contained Haynes photos which made them beautiful souvenirs of a Yellowstone trip. Additionally they carried information about not only Yellowstone, but all of the places the visitor could see along the railroad's northwestern route. These paperbound books had varying titles except that the editions 1896-1906 were titled simply Wonderland... with the year included in the title.

In 1890, Frank Haynes finally entered the Yellowstone guidebook market. Because he lived in the Park (mostly permanently) and was a photographer, he was the most logical of potential guidebook writers. His books became the most famous of park guidebooks and later were the official park guides. Their titles varied, from Practical Guide to Yellowstone National Park (1890) to All About Yellowstone Park (1892) to Haynes Guide Handbook of Yellowstone Park. They were published nearly annually from 1890 to 1966, with material changed in each edition. The text was written by Albert Guphill 1890-1909, by Frank Haynes 1910-1915,

and by Frank's son Jack 1916-1962. After Jack's death in 1962, two more editions were published, and then the Haynes photo shops were sold to the Hamilton company.

Haynes Guide was published annually except that there were no editions in 1891, 1893, 1895, 1901, 1911, 1917-18, 1925, 1931-33, 1937-38, 1941, 1944-45, 1950, 1960, 1963, and 1965.

A few other sets of Yellowstone guidebooks merit mention. Reau Campbell's guidebooks appeared in 1909, 1913, 1914, and 1923 (Campbell's New Revised Complete Guide...), and W.F. Hatfield's guidebooks appeared in 1899, 1901, and 1902 under three different titles. And two very nice one-shot guidebooks were published in 1910. They were A.M. Cleland's Through Wonderland and Edward Colborn's Where Gush the Geysers.

* . There were many early trip accounts published as books, as well as numerous early books of park photos and woodcuts. But neither of these types of books qualifies as guidebooks per se.

The Washburn Expedition of 1870

In 1870, having heard rumors for years from prospectors about strange wonders at the head of the Yellowstone River, a party known as the Washburn expedition set out to see for themselves. This party was to receive credit for discovering the area as now known as Yellowstone Park. The party, from Helena, Montana, was composed of nineteen men, forty horses, and a dog. It included some of Montana Territory's brightest stars, among them the state surveyor general, the assessor and collector of internal revenue, a bank president, a lawyer, and a dashing career Army officer.

The party spent more than forty days travelling to and through Yellowstone and giving names to more than twenty park features. They named Tower Fall and climbed and named Mount Washburn for their leader. They viewed the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone with both of its waterfalls, and named two other waterfalls in that area. Travelling past the Crater Hills and Mud Volcano areas, the party proceeded east around Yellowstone Lake to the Heart Lake area where party member Truman Everts was accidentally separated from the expedition (he was to be found thirty-seven days later after a harrowing ordeal). Advancing west past West Thumb Geyser Basin, these adventurers-with-a-sense-of-destiny crossed the difficult timbered terrain between West Thumb and Old Faithful, and saw Old Faithful Geyser erupting

just as they broke out of the trees on September 18, 1870. They stayed several days in the Old Faithful area, viewing and naming many of the major geysers, and then proceeded down the Firehole and Madison Rivers toward home.

As a result of the Washburn party's explorations and the subsequent magazine and newspaper reports and speeches by party members, the U.S. government saw fit to send the first of three Hayden surveys to Yellowstone the following summer. The movement to establish Yellowstone as the world's first national park had begun.

The Hayden Surveys of 1871, 1872, and 1878

Thanks to the magazine and newspaper articles written by members of the Washburn expedition and to the many lectures given on the east coast by party member N.I. Langford, interest in the Yellowstone area in late 1870 began to run high. One of the persons in attendance at Langford's lectures was geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden (see Hayden Valley), who was to become a prime mover in the drive to establish Yellowstone as the world's first national park. He had been studying the geology of the American West for over fifteen years.

Hayden convinced Congress to allot \$40,000 for his U.S. Geological and Geographical Survey to explore the Yellowstone area. Hayden's organization had already added significant geological information and many maps to the nation's knowledge of its western frontier, and now it was to establish a basis of facts that would be of critical importance in the founding of Yellowstone.

On June 1, 1871, a team of twenty-one men and seven wagons left Ogden, Utah for Yellowstone. The group was managed by Hayden's brilliant assistant James Stevenson (see Mount Stevenson) and it included minerologist A.C. Peale (see Peale Island), artists Henry Elliot and Thomas Moran (see Moran Point), photographer William H. Jackson (see Mount Jackson), zoologist Campbell Carrington (see Carrington Island) and thirteen other men. They were ^{to be} accompanied by Captain John W. Barlow (see Barlow Peak) and his party of military explorer-engineers, and about twenty packers, cooks, hunters, and guides.

The expedition spent thirty-eight days travelling through the Yellowstone region. They confirmed the discoveries of the Washburn party and made many of their own. They climbed Mount Washburn, gave at least sixty place names to the map, and drew several new maps. They marveled at the beauty of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, took temperatures of hot springs, felt earthquake shocks at Yellowstone Lake, and launched the first known boat on the lake. They produced hundreds of photos, sketches, and paintings of the Yellowstone Wonderland, which would ultimately be used to help convince Congress to establish Yellowstone National Park.

After the trip, Hayden proceeded to use all of his considerable influence in establishing the new Park. While waiting for his photos to be reproduced and his report (Preliminary...Fifth Annual Report..., 1871) printed, he wrote articles on the Yellowstone area for Scribner's Magazine and American Journal of Science and Arts. And he lobbied powerful members of Congress on the new Park idea. Historian William Goetzmann has written that "clearly the passage of the park bill owed as much to Hayden's influence and efforts as it did to any other single cause."

Hayden's expedition also resulted in a \$75,000 Congressional appropriation for continued survey work the following year. On the heels of the creation of Yellowstone Park, a vastly-larger Hayden survey composed of over sixty

men set out for the new Park in 1872. It was to become arguably the best known of the great surveys of the American West, with the most money and the best scientists and consistently keeping itself in the public eye through Jackson's photos. Henry Gannett, William H. Holmes (see Mount Holmes), Gustavus Bechler (see Bechler River), John Merle Coulter (see Coulter Creek), Rudolph Hering (see Hering Lake), and other prominent men of the day were added to the survey. The party was divided into two divisions, one of which explored the Grand Tetons, and it produced the Sixth Annual Report of the U.S. Geological Survey... 1872, as well as many more place names, maps, photos, and sketches.

Hayden was to return one final time to Yellowstone, in 1878. That year he made his usual exhaustive studies of area geological and natural history, bringing along Jackson with camera and the usual entourage of eminent scientists. The results of this survey were huge annual reports (Hayden's Twelfth Annual Report...for the Year 1878 was two volumes, each four inches thick with color plates), maps, bulletins, and tremendous monographs too numerous to mention.

In Yellowstone, the Hayden surveys left their mark in the form of hundreds of place names. And the surveys left their imprint on the history of the American West in voluminous literature, greatly expanded knowledge,

a new national park, and a consciousness in the American people that the West was a garden rather than a desert. The Hague surveys would follow.

