

# The California Trail

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

GREENE MOUNTAIN



Two emigrant routes to California converge here in the southern Albion Mountains, one through Emigrant Canyon three miles south of here, and the main trail before you to the west, roughly parallel to the current road that enters City of Rocks. Between 1843 and 1882 over 240,000 emigrants traveled through City of Rocks on their way to California, most of them arriving here in late July and August. Journal entries and memoirs establish that City of Rocks was a favorite location for emigrants due to its stunning landscape, good water, and grass for livestock.

*“Early start down the valley southward.... Saw numerous trains moving westward on a trail away to the south of us. It must be the road from Mormon City. It enters a gap in the mountains [Emigrant Canyon] south of the one our trail enters.”*

--Bernard J. Reid, Aug. 11th 1849

*“...leave encampment at last crossing of raft river and turn left through a large valley find small branch this leads me into a romantic place caled City of rocks—the Mountains tower with sharp peaks, mostly of a sugar loaf shape—six miles from this point I find the junction of the salt lake road.”*

-- Jay Green diary, June 25, 1852

*“And again to wander up and down along the paths which nature has formed in some places leaving walls on either side some 300 feet high, almost perpendicular, causes man to gaze with astonishment, and wonder, at natures doings.”*

--Leander Vaness Loomis, 1850

