

INTRO: At about fourteen years of age, Lewis H. Garrard, read John C. Fremont's *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains*, an account published in U.S. newspapers in 1843. Fremont's descriptive account enticed Lewis to venture West by himself only three years later. Garrard wrote his own book of experiences lasting from 1846-1847 titled *Wah-to-yah and the Taos Trail*. "Wah-to-yah" is a Comanche word meaning "double peaks," which described the mountainous Spanish Peaks found in southeastern Huerfano County, Colorado. As Lewis set off, Ceran St. Vrain, the founding partner of the Bent, St. Vrain, & Company, guided his wagon from Independence, Missouri to the trading operation along the Arkansas River, known as Bent's Fort, in September of 1846.

LESSON 2: MATERIALS, FASHION, AND CULTURE ALONG THE SANTA FE TRAIL: (teacher copy – not redacted)

Lewis Garrard was one of a very few non-natives welcome to participate with the Cheyenne in a celebration dance. He estimates about two hundred girls were in attendance and gave readers a detailed description of their appearance. He states, "The faces of many girls were brilliant with vermilion; others were blacked, their robes, leggins, and skin-dresses glittering with beads and porcupine quillwork. Rings and bracelets of shining brass encircled their tapering arms and fingers, and shells dangled from their ears." (85).

Lewis also describes the two hundred fifty young men at the dance who took "dollars and silver coin of less denomination – coin as currency is not known among them – which they flatten thick and fasten to a braid of buffalo hair attached to the crownlock, and which, hanging behind, outside the robe, adds much to the handsome appearance of the wearer"(85).

Camped for the evening along the trail, Garrard sat captivated by one of the Mexicans in their company, likely a man who herded livestock. He notes, "Sitting by the dim blaze of our campfire, enveloped in the sarape, and uttering the strange words, his costume and complexion, together with our situation in the wild mountain, impressed me with a vagrant fancy that he was a Spanish exile, bewailing the decay of his country's glory and his own bereavement of friends and home" (85).

Notes: *Vermillion* is a red mineral used in paint. A *sarape* is a man's shawl.

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