

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

TWIN SPRINGS (HUDSPETH'S CUTOFF)

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A major emigrant landmark, Twin Springs came as a desert oasis reached after well over twenty miles of travel between water sources. That distance represented a great deal more than a standard day's trip. Ox teams provided reliable, but very slow, transportation. Emigrants could walk faster than their wagons could go. (Horses could move a lot faster than oxen, but they could not keep on pulling wagons day after day without taking too many days off to rest.) So a trip to reach Twin Springs required an overnight drive or a dry camp. Oxen were not like camels, so that trail segment presented a serious problem, with Twin Springs providing exceptionally important relief. A good example of undisturbed trail ruts there adds to modern interest in this significant California Trail site.

(This information has not been edited.)

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