

AUDUBON, JOHN WOODHOUSE
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Born at Henderson, Henderson County, Kentucky, November 30, 1812.

Son of John James Audubon, the artist and naturalist, and Lucy (Bakewell) Audubon.

Married, Maria Bachman at Charlton, _____

on 3rd June 1837 who died in 1840.

(2) Caroline Hall, an English lady, at Brooklyn N.Y.

on October 2 1841.

Nine children, Lucy, Maria R., _____

Went with his parents in 1820 to Louisiana, where they made their home until 1830 when the family moved to New York; went with his father on a bird collecting expedition to Labrador in the summer of 1833; accompanied his parents to Edinburgh, Scotland, 1834, where he studied portrait painting; later he and his brother, Victor, toured Europe as far as Italy; upon their return to America he accompanied his father in 1836 on a trip through Florida and along the Gulf Coast to Texas; settled on an estate near the Hudson River called "Minnie's Land" purchased by his father in 1840; explored Texas in 1845 to find mammals and birds to depict in a new work; spent a year in Europe painting pictures of animals in zoological collections, 1846.

joined John James Audubon in England & returned in 1839 & settled in New York in 1841 & went to live at N. York

Left New York February 8, 1849, to join a company of about 95 men organized to go to the gold fields in California and arrived in New Orleans via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers February 18; from there the party went by boat to the mouth of the Rio Grande

and up that stream to Rio Grande City where they landed March 10; owing to an epidemic of cholera and other misfortunes the number of men was reduced but those who decided to go on asked Audubon to lead them which he did by traveling across Northern Mexico via Monterey, Saltillo, Parral, Tonichi and Ures to Altar in Sonora, arriving there September 9, 1849; left Altar September 10, traveled north through the Papago country and reached the Pima Villages, September 15, the old Chief of which, Cota Azul, had letters from Colonel Philip St. George Cooke and Major Lawrence Pike Graham recommending him as honest, kind and solicitous for the welfare of Americans.

Here an abandoned wagon was purchased for \$25 and the party of 46 men turned westward along the emigrant route which he thus describes in his diary:

"The dust on the road is over the shoe tops and rises in clouds, filling the eyes and almost choking us as we trudge along, sore and jaded - men, horses, mules and cattle. We stop at night, after eight hours travel, having made only 15 or 20 miles; often without food, except by chance, for our animals. Grass is only found in the good bends of the Gila river, which we may strike or may not.

"Our road is garnished almost every league with dead cattle, horses or oxen; and wagons, log chains, and many valuable things are left at almost every camping ground by the travelers. We ourselves have had to do the same to relieve our worn and jaded mules, able now to carry only about a hundred pounds. Our personal effects amount to about one change each, with our ammunition and arms, all else discarded or used up or stolen.

"Sixteen days of travel from the Pima's Village and such travel, as please God, I trust none of us ever see again, brought us to within 3 miles of the mouth of the Gila. The food poor, monotonous and inefficient has been forced down, simply to sustain life. We have lost more mules of course; our wagon delayed us at least 10 miles a day and we left it after using it for 3 days. We went on the 'qui vive' for Indians all the time. With all of this there has been no useless complaining, no murmuring, and with all our privations, greater than I care to numerate, or even think about, we are none of us ill."

Arrived at the Colorado River October 14 which was crossed by the party in two days with the use of two wagon bodies calked and made into scows; at Camp Calhoun, (now Fort Yuma), California, he was invited to take supper with Lieutenant Cave J. Coutts, and met Lieutenant Amiel W. Whipple; left the Colorado River October 17 and crossed the desert to San Diego arriving November 3, 1849; from there he went to northern California and visited the gold fields; sailed from San Francisco in July 1850 and returned to New York via Panama; died at "Minnies' Land", (now Audubon Park) New York City, February 21, 1862, aged 49;

Buried Trinity Church Cemetery 150th St. N.Y. City.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Audubon, J. W. - Audubon's Western Journal, 1849-50, Cleveland, 1906.
31st Congress, 2d Session, Senate Executive Document No. 19.
The New York Daily Tribune, February 24, 1862, p. 3, Col. 5.