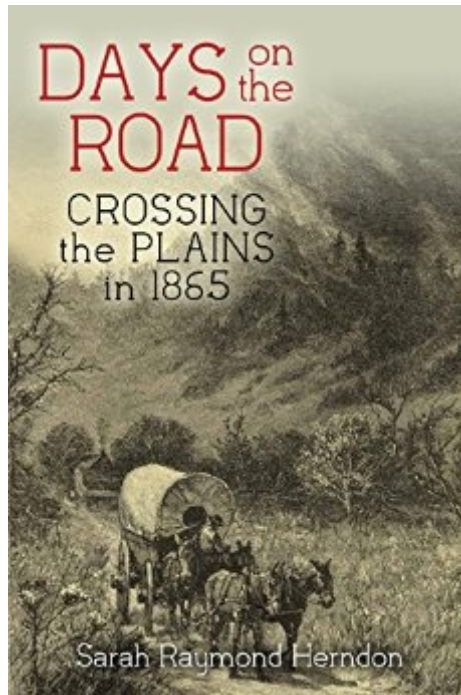


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# Days On The Road: Crossing The Plains In 1865



## Synopsis

• Why are we here? Why have we left home, friends, relatives, associates, and loved ones, who have made so large a part of our lives and added so much to our happiness? • On May 1, 1865, Sarah Raymond mounted her beloved pony and, riding alongside the wagon carrying her mother and two younger brothers, left war-torn Missouri and headed west. With the sole motive of bettering themselves, the Raymonds began their journey undecided as to whether California or Oregon would be their ultimate destination. By the middle of June, however, they had been persuaded that Montana was in fact the place to make for and the train altered path accordingly. As they passed through Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming towards the Rocky Mountains, they faced all manner of perils in experiencing the harsh reality of life on the Great Plains. After four months and four days, the wagon train finally arrived in Virginia City, Montana in early September, and they set about beginning their new lives. Unvarnished and evocative, *Days on the Road* is an extraordinary journal of what it was really like on the trail for the many who emigrated west in a bid to start over. Sarah Raymond Herndon (1840-1914) arrived in Montana at the height of the Gold Rush in 1865. After teaching there for one school year, she married James M. Herndon in 1867. In addition to *Days on the Road* she also kept a diary of her experiences in Virginia City. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoy reading personal accounts of history much more than I do the second hand reports of historians or the embellished tales of fiction writers so this is my type of book. The author did have a very cheerful attitude and seemed to make the trip west much more enjoyable than it may have been in reality but it was her personal take on it and we shouldn't second guess or be critical of that. She was there and it is her account and we have to accept it as that. One note however. There is a introduction written to the book that is quite long and about 1/3 of the way through it I realized it was more of a summary than an intro. It would have been better placed at the back of the book. I stopped reading it because I didn't want to be told what the book was about before I read it. I suggest others do likewise. They should have included a spoiler alert. After I finished the book I returned to the introduction and enjoyed the recap. The book does leave you wanting to know a bit more about the rest of the authors life but I guess that what we have imaginations for.

I found this diary charming and informative. Having always had a fascination with the time period and wagon trains, I couldn't put this book down. By the end of the book, I was saddened by the fact that Sarah didn't continue recording her life in Montana. I felt as if I had known her personally and was touched by the whole accounting of her travels.

I have been reading several primary and secondary sources about women who traveled the Overland Trail to either Oregon, California, Santa Fe, or Montana. Usually, these women were uprooted from established homes. They traveled with children and were often pregnant or gave birth while on the trail. This seemed to intensify the hardships. Sarah Herndon was not married, and though she traveled with her widowed mother and a couple of brothers, they began their journey with a much different attitude. They were glad to leave their current situation to start a new life, and by their journey's end, were as healthy or healthier than when they left. Sarah also rode her horse most of the way so she was not battered and bruised from being slung around on a wagon, nor

footsore from walking much of the way. She made friends and became a great help to her other traveling companions. Though I don't read these types of books for enjoyment, but for research, I found the information to be helpful.

Enhanced with a Foreword by Mary Barmeyer O'Brien, *Days On The Road: Crossing The Plains In 1865* is the personal diary of Sarah Raymond Herndon, a young pioneer woman who, as the dust from the Civil War settled, left the battle-scarred state of Missouri with her family and traveled overland to the Rocky Mountains in search of a new place to live and a new life to build. Sarah's daily insights, her depictions of life on the trail, her descriptions of the hardships, the triumphs, and the evocations of her memories, combine to form a vivid and accurate image of pioneer life through the words of a pioneer who headed west to escape the ravages of the American Civil War to start her life anew. *Days On The Road* is a welcome and strongly recommended addition to 19th Century American Studies reading lists and history collections.

The author crossed the country on foot and on horseback with a wagon to retreat in for sleeping; this was only 150 years ago. Her account is detailed and intelligent. I am impressed with how capable and strong our ancestors were compared to us.

EXCELLENT! Educated woman with wisdom as well. Well written. Wish she'd shared more, but what she did share is well worth the reading. First person, original writings.

I liked this book. Nice descriptions. Interesting how she viewed her travels throughout the west. You could really imagine the places. I like the map. I was able to refer to it as she traversed the Midwest on her journey.

This diary is well written and thoughtful. The detail is really vivid.

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