

TRAVELING EXHIBITS: The Bozeman Diaries of Robert Dunlap Clarke

The Bozeman Trail, sometimes called “The Bloody Bozeman,” came into being in 1863 as a shortcut to Montana’s goldfields. The Bozeman route was considerably shorter than the route along the Oregon Trail to Idaho and then north to Montana.

Major Robert Dunlap Clarke, a paymaster in the U.S. Army, twice traveled along the Bozeman Trail--once in 1867 and again in 1868--in order to pay troops stationed at Forts Fetterman, Reno, Phil Kearny, and C. F. Smith. He recorded the events of his journeys in two diaries, both held by the AHC, which are the basis for this exhibit.

Size: 18 framed items (1 crate).

Map of the Bozeman Trail. American Heritage Center Collections.



The American Heritage Center (AHC) is the University of Wyoming's repository of manuscripts collections, rare books, and the university archives. Many universities have primary source repositories. Few have repositories as extensive and significant as the AHC. More importantly, few universities have such repositories as welcoming and accessible to undergraduate and graduate students. Internationally known for its historical collections the AHC first and foremost serves the students and citizens of Wyoming. The AHC sponsors a wide range of scholarly and popular programs including lectures, symposia, and exhibits. Not a dusty attic or an exclusive sanctuary, the AHC is a welcoming, lively, place where both experts and novices engage with the original sources of history. Access is free and open to all.

American Heritage Center

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Business Hours

M-F: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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