

**REPORTS OF EXPLORATIONS FOR  
A ROUTE THE PACIFIC RAILROAD,  
ON THE LINE OF THE FORTY-FIRST  
PARALLEL OF NORTH LATITUDE**

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Reports of Explorations for a Route the Pacific Railroad, on the Line of the Forty-First Parallel of North Latitude by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**REPORTS OF EXPLORATIONS FOR  
A ROUTE THE PACIFIC RAILROAD,  
ON THE LINE OF THE FORTY-FIRST  
PARALLEL OF NORTH LATITUDE**



EXPLORATIONS AND SURVEYS FOR A RAILROAD ROUTE FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN,  
WAR DEPARTMENT.

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REPORT  
OF  
EXPLORATIONS FOR A ROUTE FOR THE PACIFIC RAILROAD,  
ON THE LINE OF THE  
FORTY-FIRST PARALLEL OF NORTH LATITUDE.

BY  
LIEUT. F. G. BECKWITH,

THIRD ARTILLERY.

1854.

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## INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 30, 1854.*

SIR: The very limited time left for the preparation of the accompanying report, after completing, on the last of November, that of Captain Gunnison's explorations of last year, has only permitted me to complete it in the most hasty manner.

The outline-map which accompanies it was also made in the greatest haste, but it is believed will be sufficient for the immediate wants of the government. The more finished maps are in course of preparation, and will be transmitted to the department as soon as they can be completed. A geological report of the country explored by Captain Gunnison and myself is nearly complete, and, with the reports upon the plants and specimens of natural history collected during the trip, will be submitted as early as practicable, the drawings for their illustration not yet being complete.

My assistants in the explorations embraced in the accompanying report were Mr. Sheppard Homans, astronomer, by whom the observations and computations for latitude were made, our defective instruments not admitting of observations for longitude; Dr. James Schiel, geologist, who is still engaged upon his report; Mr. F. W. Egloffstein, topographer, to whom I am indebted for superior topographical sketches and the preparation of the accompanying outline map, and who is still engaged in making the elaborate maps of the survey; and Mr. J. A. Snyder, to whom the collection of botanical specimens was intrusted, but who was also constantly employed in making meteorological observations, and who has been employed, since my return, as an assistant in making computations of barometric observations under Mr. Lorin Blodget, by whom they were discussed, and whose notes accompany the tables. For the energy, ability, and cordial co-operation of each of these gentlemen, and of Brevet Captain R. M. Morris and Lieutenant L. S. Baker, of the regiment of Mounted Riflemen, in charge of the escort from that regiment, in the execution of the duties of the exploration, I desire to express my obligations and esteem.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

E. G. BECKWITH,

*1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery.*

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,  
*Secretary of War.*

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