

**THE STORY OF THE PONY  
EXPRESS: AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
MOST REMARKABLE MAIL  
SERVICE EVER IN EXISTENCE,  
AND ITS PLACE IN HISTORY**

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The story of the pony express: an account of the most remarkable mail service ever in existence, and its place in history by Glenn D. Bradley

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**GLENN D. BRADLEY**

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**THE STORY OF THE PONY  
EXPRESS**



TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE PLAINS  
THE TELEGRAPH, THE OVERLAND STAGE, THE EMIGRANT TRAIN, AND THE PONY  
EXPRESS RIDER

THE STORY OF  
THE PONY EXPRESS

An account of the most remarkable mail service  
ever in existence, and its place  
in history

BY  
GLENN D. BRADLEY  
Author of *Winning the Southwest*

*ILLUSTRATED*



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U. C.  
ACADEMY OF  
PACIFIC COAST  
HISTORY

**TO MY PARENTS**

## PREFACE

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This little volume has but one purpose — to give an authentic, useful, and readable account of the Pony Express. This wonderful enterprise played an important part in history, and demonstrated what American spirit can accomplish. It showed that the “heroes of sixty-one” were not all south of Mason and Dixon’s line fighting each other. And, strange to say, little of a formal nature has been written concerning it.

I have sought to bring to light and make accessible to all readers the more important facts of the Pony Express — its inception, organization and development, its importance to history, its historical back-

## PREFACE

ground, and some of the anecdotes incidental to its operation.

The subject leads one into a wide range of fascinating material, all interesting though much of it is irrelevant. In itself this material is fragmentary and incoherent. It would be quite easy to fill many pages with western adventure having no special bearing upon the central topic. While I have diverged occasionally from the thread of the narrative, my purpose has been merely to give where possible more background to the story, that the account as a whole might be more understandable in its relation to the general facts of history.

Special acknowledgment is due Frank A. Root of Topeka, Kansas, joint author with William E. Connelley of *The Overland Stage To California*, an excellent compendium of data on many phases of