

DOWNLOAD PDF BRONCO CHARLIE AND THE PONY EXPRESS (ON MY OWN HISTORY)

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But Charlie was always itching for new challenges, and when a Pony Express horse shows up riderless, Charlie gets his big chance. The next station is fifty miles away, and Charlie will have to ride through rocky mountains in the blinding rain to safely deliver the mail.

There was a weight limit for Pony Express riders. Rather than burly cowboys, most of the riders were small, wiry men who weighed between and pounds—roughly the same size as a modern horseracing jockey. Riders were required to take a loyalty oath. Mail was carried in a specially designed saddlebag. Mochilla saddled used by Pony Express riders. At each relief station, riders would simply grab the mochilla off one mount and then throw it over the next, allowing them to switch horses in the span of just two minutes. Ordinary people almost never used the Pony Express. A note sent via the Pony Express. Instead, the service was mainly used to deliver newspaper reports, government dispatches and business documents, most of which were printed on tissue-thin paper to keep costs and weight down. One rider completed a mile run in less than two days. Map of the route followed by the Pony Express. Upon arriving at Buckland, however, he found that his relief rider was petrified of the Paiute Indians, who had been attacking stations along the route. Their outposts were usually crude, dirt floor hovels equipped with little more than sleeping quarters and corrals for the horses. Many were located in remote sections of the frontier, making them extremely vulnerable to ambush. Accounts differ, but Indians reportedly attacked or burned several relay stations during the Pyramid Lake War in the summer of , killing as many as 16 stock hands. By contrast, only a handful of riders—six, according to the National Park Service —died in the line of duty during the entire history of the Pony Express. He even alleged that he once rode a record miles in a single run. The transcontinental telegraph dealt the Pony Express its deathblow. The company had spent its brief history bridging the gap between the Eastern and Western telegraph lines, but it was finally rendered obsolete on October 24, , when Western Union completed the transcontinental telegraph line at Salt Lake City. The Pony Express ceased service just two days later. Despite operating for only 19 months, its riders had successfully delivered some 35, pieces of mail and traveled more than half a million miles across the American frontier. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

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Chapter 2 : - Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express (On My Own History) by Marlene Targ Brill

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Over the next several years, especially in , , people would come to California seeking their fortune panning for gold or supplying certain means to miners. California enters the union as a free non-slavery state. California became the 31st state. Pressure mounts from citizens, businesses, and miners alike for its elected U. Government to the western territories from Leavenworth, Kansas. Benjamin Ficklin, an employee for the firm, travels with California senior Senator William Gwin while heading east. Ficklin suggests the use of fast horses, riders and relay stations to deliver mail in less time to California. Gwin proposes a bill to congress for the government to provide the mail service. But, the bill never gets out of committee. Alexander Majors joins the firm as a partner. The firm is renamed Russell, Majors and Waddell. The firm would soon monopolize western freighting and start a mail-passenger service to both Colorado and Utah by stagecoach. The Mormon War in would almost bankrupt the firm due to losses from stolen or destroyed equipment and supplies. Gold is discovered at Pikes Peak. Russell starts up a stagecoach passenger service to Denver. But, the service is too costly for most people heading to the the Rockies in search of gold. The service becomes a failure. While in Washington D. Wanting a mail contract from the government, Russell embraces the idea and convinces his partners to go along with the venture. On March 2nd, St. Joseph, Missouri was chosen as the eastern terminus while everyone already knew Sacramento would be the western terminus. Joseph was the perfect choice since it was connected to the east by railroads and the telegraph. Benjamin Ficklin was hired as superintendent of the route. Ficklin set up the route into five divisions and hired superintendents to run each division. Stationkeepers, stocktenders and riders were hired along the route. Over horses are purchased and relay stations are built and staffed miles apart. At relay stations, riders would change horses. Home stations were miles apart where riders would change and rest. In March it had been announced the rider would leave St. Joseph and Sacramento on April 3rd and deliver the mail in a record ten days. The first rider was to leave St. However, the mail had been slowed up in Chicago for transfer to Hannibal, Missouri. A train was stripped down with no passenger cars at Hannibal. Once the mail arrived there, the train rolled across the state at a record speed to St. It finally arrived around 7: The mail was placed into the specially made mochilla saddle and at 7: Cheering crowds waived at Fry as he made his way through streets of St. Once at the river, Fry boarded a ferry which took him and his horse Sylph across the river to Kansas where he rode at breakneck speeds for 90 miles before another rider took over. In Sacramento, at noon, the first rider, Harry Roff, took off with the eastbound mail. Johnny Fry April 14, Riders arrived in both St. Joseph and Sacramento with the mail. Proving the mail could be delivered in ten days. Throngs of people turned out in both cities. The mail arrived in St. From this point, the riders would continue up river to San Francisco by ferry making the latter city the end of the route. A rider leaving San Francisco to head east was killed. The horse fell upon the rider badly crushing him. He died a short time later. While Russell, Majors and Waddell were enjoying their successful enterprise, an incident at Williams Station in Nevada would occur to disrupt the mail service. A Paiute Indian was brutalized and the incident ended with four white men dead at the hands of the Paiutes that same day. The incident sparked the Pyramid Lake War and the ensuing hostilities would put major delays on mail delivery. Indians attacked Pony Express stations throughout May and most of June because they were easy targets. The military was brought in to escort riders for a time. The route from Diamond Springs station and Carson Valley were shut down for a time because of hostilities. Many employees at the stations lost their lives due to attacks. This was a dangerous ride for Haslam. The Paiutes were attacking stations along his route. This is the only time a rider ever refused to run his route. Feeling duty bound, Haslam ran the extra route. Richardson was branded a coward. Pony Bob Haslam June 16, Congress authorizes a bill instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to subsidize the building of a transcontinental telegraph line connecting the west

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coast to the Missouri River. With Indian hostilities lessening, mail was delivered to California from St. But throughout July, the military continued escorting riders in the Nevada-Utah deserts. A rider is killed while trying to cross the Platte River in Nebraska. The mail was never recovered. A rider is presumed dead when only his horse arrived at the Carson City station. Cavalry was nearby and was able to ward off the attacks before anyone was killed. This was considered one of the most significant accomplishments by the Pony Express. President Abraham Lincoln December An inexperienced rider of German ancestry freezes to death after losing his way near Fort Kearney, Nebraska. South Carolina secedes from the Union. Marshall in New York City. Russell was transported to Washington D. Not able to pay bail, Russell is remanded to jail. January 11, 18, and 23, Russell voluntarily appeared before a select congressional committee investigating the case. He submitted a written statement that discussed the reasons why he used the bonds to secure acceptances against them. Russell is indicted by a grand jury for the District of Columbia for cheat, defraud and impoverishing the United States. Floyd was indicted because his signature was on the bonds. Russell is saved from prosecution because the approaching Civil War interfered with the case. During January, one state after another voted to secede from the Union. That made the country focus on these events as opposed to the bond scandal. Eventually the indictment was quashed. Kansas becomes the 34th slave-free State of the Union. However, the government ordered the firm to hand over the western half of the route to the Overland Mail Company who operated the Butterfield Line in the south. The Union would not pay any company on a mail contract that would take the route through a state that has seceded. In this case, specifically Arkansas and Texas. The government still had 2 years left on O. Wounded, Haslam completed the mile run in a record 8 hours and 20 minutes. None of the bonds were recovered. South Carolina troops fire on Fort Sumter. In California and along the route not yet connected by telegraph, westerners eagerly await news from the Pony Express on the Civil War in the east. Russell orders the San Francisco and Sacramento offices of the C. Wells Fargo becomes the temporary agent for the western route until the Overland Mail Company takes over in July. Under pressure, Russell resigns as president of the C. Fry would later be killed in a shootout with Missouri raiders near Baxter Springs, Kansas. Due to growing problems with north and south sentiments in St.

Chapter 3 : Bronco Charlie And The Pony Express - Booksources

Bronco Charlie longs for a life of adventure. By the time he turned eleven, he'd been a sailor, a cowboy, and could tame wild bucking broncos. But Charlie was always itching for new challenges, and when a Pony Express horse shows up riderless, Charlie gets his big chance.

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Relates how, in a boy named Charlie Miller became the youngest rider for the Pony Express, a mail service that linked the east and west coasts of the United States.

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Chapter 6 : Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express (eBook,) [calendrierdelascience.com]

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One man named "Bronco" Charlie Miller claimed he was only 11 years old when he first joined the Pony Express. 4. Riders were required to take a loyalty oath.