Chapter 9

Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860

This section pertains to the Wilkes Expedition of 1838-42, the Frémont Expeditions of 1843-44 and 1845-46, and the Pacific Railroad Surveys of the 1850s. The Wilkes Expedition of 1838-1842, officially known as the United States Exploring Expedition, sailed around the world. At the Columbia River in 1841 commander Charles Wilkes ordered lieutenant George Foster Emmons to lead an overland expedition from Fort Vancouver southward to California. Though frequently written of in historical annals as the 1841 "Wilkes overland expedition," it should be kept in mind that Wilkes himself was not a member of the overland party. In this bibliography the name "Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition" has been adopted as a name for the overland expedition. At least six of the men on this 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition kept detailed day-to-day journals. These six journals still exist. Taken together, the journals have recorded in exceptional detail impressions and scientific observations of Mt. Shasta as it was in 1841.

It is noteworthy that this Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition may have been responsible for the transposition of the name "Mt. Shasty" from its prior use as a name for present Mt. McLoughlin to its present use as a name for today's Mt. Shasta. Also important historically is that the Indian vocabulary collected by the expedition at the base of Mt. Shasta in 1841 became the type vocabulary for all of philologist Horatio Hale's geographically extensive southern Oregon "Shastean" language family (see Hale Philology 1848 in Section 14. The Name 'Shasta'). This vocabulary led to the name Shasta later being applied to all tribes speaking this language, although name "Shastean" might have originally been more appropriate for Indian languages in the Rogue and Umpqua areas of southern Oregon, had the overland expedition collected a vocabulary there. Beyond its importance in establishing names, however, the 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition was important in being the first group of American scientists and artists to visit Mt. Shasta. The four-year Wilkes Expedition itself was comprised of 600 sailors in several ships, who escorted nine hand-picked civilian scientists and artists around the world. The Smithsonian Institution was founded upon the scientific collections from those nine gentlemen. Five of those nine were on the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition to Mt. Shasta in 1841.

In 1843-44 and again in 1845-46 John Charles Frémont led expeditions into the Mt. Shasta region. His published narratives about these expeditions were best sellers in their time, and Mt. Shasta is mentioned on occasion. Frémont's topographer, Charles Preuss, kept notebooks in 1843-44, which have not been published in full, but which show present Mt. McLoughlin named as "Sasty," and present Mt. Shasta named as "Pit." In 1848 a map published by Frémont and Preuss reversed these names (using the variant spellings "Tsashtl" and "Pitt"), following the new convention as established by the maps resulting from the Wilkes Expedition. Note that the maps of Wilkes in 1844 and Frémont in 1848 both retained the name 'Shaste' for the Rogue River.

The publications resulting from the Pacific Railroad Surveys of the 1850s have been called America's "first environmental impact statements." These volumes, 12 in all, often illustrated with color lithographs and detailed illustrations of the botany, geology, and anthropology of the routes, and which cost the government more than the surveys themselves, set a publishing standard unmatched by later government publications. Two of the Railroad Surveys passed near Mt. Shasta, and the artwork and descriptions of the Shasta region as found in the published reports are a major contribution to the legacy of Mt. Shasta arts and sciences.

The [MS number] indicates the Mount Shasta Special Collection accession numbers used by the College of the Siskiyous Library.
The 1855 Williamson Survey investigated the practicality of a north-south railroad route through the mountains of northern California and southern Oregon. Beginning at Fort Reading east of present-day Redding, California, the group journeyed northeast through Fall River and the region east of Mount Shasta. At Lost River, near the California–Oregon border the party split in two, both groups from then on periodically rejoining. Both groups continued on a northward track east of the Oregon Cascades until the Columbia River. On the southward return trip the party surveyed the route west of the Oregon Cascades and came over the Siskiyou mountains as far south as Yreka, Calif. It appears that the party never explored the southern part of the Shasta Valley, having turned southwest to Scott Valley and continuing on to Shasta City near Redding.

Abbot's report consists in the main of day by day journal notes. On occasion quotes are taken from Williamson's field notes. Both Abbot and Williamson write about the Indians and settlers encountered along the way. Contains a four page index (pp. 131-134).

Abbot's report contains original color lithographs and black and white engravings by expedition artist John Young. One lithograph, entitled "Shasta Butte and Shasta Valley from a Point near Camp 79A" (facing p.110) has been reproduced in many later books about Mt. Shasta. Contains twelve other full-page color lithographs of Cascade peaks, including "Lassen's Butte," and "Mt. Pitt."


Note that this book also contains field notes (Part I, pp. 127-129) from Lieut. Williamson's earlier 1851 exploration of a trail from Yreka to Fort Reading via Sheep Rock and Fall River (see Williamson "Report of Lieut. R.S. Williamson of a trip in 1851" In: Reports of Explorations and Surveys ... Vol. 6. 1857).

The best summary of the split group Williamson routes is to be found in Volume 11 of the PRR (see Warren "Memoir to Accompany the Map of the Territory of the United States..., 1859." The 1861 map of northern California accompanying Vol. 11 details the 1855 routes with a track line. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS5].

plates of fossils. There is also a report on the meteorological observations along the entire route. Not included in this report are the three engravings by Baron von Egloffstein which show Mount Shasta: these three plates, delayed in production, were later included in Volume XI of the Survey Reports. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS15].


Brackenridge's Sept. 29th, 1841 entry states that "We are now at the base of the Shaste mountains, which are in general considered the boundary line between Oregon & California Territories, though densely covered with brush wood the ascent was very easy & we expected every step as we advanced, to have a Skirmish with the Indians, our exertions otherwise passed off easy....When on the summit we got a sight of a high Snowy mountain in form somewhat like Mt. St. Helens, & soon descended into an extensive valley where we encamped on the bank of a small stream for the night" (p. 64). Note that Brackenridge is here equating the "Shaste Mountains" with the present Siskiyou, whereas other members of the Wilkes-Emmons group called the Siskiyou the "Boundary Range" (see Dana Geology 1849). Note that examples of the naming problem begin on Sept. 25, when Brackenridge used the name Rogue River for present-day Rogue River, but Emmon's journal calls the Rogue River "the Shaste" (see Emmons manuscript journal 1841, and Wilkes' Letter of Sept. 1, 1841). Thus begins the confusion over the location of the Shastas: the Shaste River, The Shaste Mountains, and the Shaste Peak, a confusion which ultimately ended in the name of "Mt. Shasty" being taken from its old location as the name for what is now Mt. McLoughlin (see Mitchell map 1846). That there were different possible concepts of the "Shaste Mountains" is crucial to understanding why the group may have misnamed "Pit Mountain," i.e., the present Mt. Shasta, as "Mt. Shaste" (see Emmons 1841). Brackenridge possibly dissented in calling present Mt. Shasta 'Mt Shaste,' for he calls it on Oct. 10 'the Bute or snowy Mountain'--names also used by later emigrants--and indicates his displeasure in the route taken. He writes: "...the route which we took was to the west of the Bute or snowy Mountain, but it is my belief that had we kept to the eastward of it our route would have been shorter and easier.'

Brackenridge's accounts of the Mt. Shasta region country are very interesting. He says, for example, on Oct. 1st, that: "Moved from Camp Ground at 1/4 past 7 A.M. crossed the Chaste River soon after, breadth 80 yards: 18 in to 2 feet deep: bounded by low bushy banks. This river abounds in a species of Salmon of a whitish colour and not very delicate to the taste, passed over during the day a gravely sandy desert which continued 12 Miles, and bounded by conical low hills. Came again on the Shasty & camped by it. (distance 20 miles)...Weather very warm. No water for 15 Miles. Miserable Country, the Shaste Valley." (p. 65). And on Oct. 2nd he says: "Had visit of Shaste Indians at Camp, who conducted themselves with great propriety. They sold us fish, Bows and Arrows, for Knives buttons, &c. These bows are made of Yew tree, their arrows of Tassle wood which they barb with volcanic glass, their Quivers are either of Seal skin, or wild Cat. These weapons are well made and they use them with great dexterity, particularly in shooting fish, and for my own part I would as soon at one hundred yards distance, have a musket discharged at me as an arrow from one of these Indian Bows." (p. 66).

William Dunlop Brackenridge was the Scottish horticulturalist who discovered what he and others considered the most significant plant discovery of the entire world 1841-1860. United States Exploring Expedition. The plant was the insectivorous California Pitcher plant, Darlingtonia Californica, discovered at the base of Castle Crags. Brackenridge's journal consists in the main of plant observations. On Oct. 2nd, for example, there is are two annotated lists entitled "Fruits Indigenous to the Oregon Territory That are Eaten by the Natives" and "Roots of Indigenous Plants Eaten by the Oregon Indians" (pp. 66-67). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS880].

[MS1146]. Colvocoresses, George Musalas 1816-1872. Four Years in a Government Exploring Expedition: to the Island of MadeiraNCape Verde IslandsNBrazilNCoast of PatagoniaNChiliNPeruNPaumato GroupNSociety IslandsNNavigator GroupNAustraliaNantarctic ContinentNNew ZealandNFriendly IslandsNFejee GroupNSandwich IslandsNNorthwest Coast of AmericaNOregonNCaliforniaNEast IndiesNST. Helena, etc., etc. New York: Cornish, Lambort and Co., Publishers, 1852. In One Volume By Lieut. Geo. M. Colvocoresses, U. S. Navy, An Officer of the Expedition. Author traveled with the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition of 1841. Book includes a chapter entitled "Chapter XXI: From Vancouver to San Francisco" (pp. 273-308) The entire book was popular in its time, and went through five editions. Based on a rewriting of the author's own original diary of the 1838-1842 Wilkes Expedition which sailed around the world. The author throws some light on the 1838-1842 Wilkes Expedition's journal-keeping requirement, a requirement which, incidentally, has enabled future generations to read six different detailed first-person diary accounts of the Mt. Shasta region as it was in 1841 (see also the published and unpublished
Wilkes-Emmons Expedition journals of Dana, Eld, Emmons, Peale, and Brackenridge). Colvocoresses clarifies some of the process involved in keeping the journals current: "...compiled from a Journal, or a Diary, which the author kept in obedience to a 'General Order' from the Navy Department, and that the journal in question was frequently submitted to Commander-in-Chief of the Expedition for his inspection and perusal" (from the author's preface).

Colvocoresses describes his entire journey from Fort Vancouver to San Francisco. He gives considerable attention to the Indians met along the route immediately before and after the Siskiyou Mountains, called by the author the "boundary range." He says: "On the 29th, we crossed the boundary range which separates Oregon from Upper California. The greatest elevation of the range was found to be 2,000 feet. The ascent was steep and tedious, and every moment we expected to be attacked by hostile Indians. The hunter named Tibbats, was one of a large party which was nearly destroyed by the savages three years before....fresh tracks were observable in every direction, and large trees felled across the path to prevent the party from advancing. On arriving at the summit of the range, we obtained a view which more than repaid us for our trouble. The Shaste Mountains with their snowy peaks were to be seen some fifty miles to the southward, swelling and soaring to the skies..." (p. 292). Note that Colvocoresses uses the name "Shaste Mountains" to mean not only Mount Shasta, but the surrounding mountains as well. Later, he discusses the "Shaste Range" as leading down to the Sacramento Valley: "...being a succession of a range of high hills, separated from each other by narrow valleys, traversed by streams that are fed by the melting snows which cover the tops of the highest peaks" (p. 294).

Note also that earlier the author mentioned the "Shaste Mountains" when describing [John] Turner, an American trapper: "He has been to California several times, and in 1834 he formed one of a party of sixteen settlers, who set out to go there to purchase cattle, but they were attacked by the Indians during the night, near the base of the Shaste Mountains, and ten of the companions were massacred" (p. 276). Turner's place of attack was in the Rogue River Area, giving a different geographical context for the "base of the Shaste Mountains."

Contains a good deal of historical detail of the land and its inhabitants. The Big Horn Sheep of the Mt. Shasta region, for example, are described: "Oct. 2nd, 9 A. M. we bade adieu to Klame River. Large herds of antelopes and mountain-sheep were seen; the latter are of a grayish color, have long spreading horns, and are larger than the ordinary sheep" (p. 293). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS1146].

[MS959]. Dana, James Dwight 1813-1895. [manuscript notebook, 1841, kept while serving as geologist on U. S. Exploring Expedition overland from Oregon to California] . 1841. Unpublished manuscript notebook. Available on microfilm from the main Yale University Library, Dept. of Manuscripts and Archives, under microfilm title HM 160. One of the major documents recording the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition of 1841. Portions of the document were rewritten and simplified for publication in 1849 (see Dana "Notes ..." 1849). This important journal apparently has never been fully transcribed.

Dana was one of the great geologists of the 19th century, and his observations are accordingly professional. Note that photocopies from the microfilm of the manuscript are very difficult to read, the difficulty being mostly due to Dana's compressed handwriting.

Of Mt. Shasta, Dana writes: "Wednesday Sept 29-off up Rogue Mt. by 5h45....View of Shasty Mt. from Summit of Mt. Rogue a lofty snowy peak rising far above the low mountain ridges around it- Summit appears to be a narrow ridge.- a shallow basin w. side of Summit - a second conical peak rises from part of this basin- The latter may have been the last cone, within the more ancient one, like Vesuvius within Mt. Somma. Snow in uninterrupted sheets. Black rocks exposed over large portions of the peak--The snowy peak continues in sight most of the way after descending Rogue Mt."

Dana includes a mention of the Tibbetts's party being attacked at a site on the south side of the present-day Siskiyou pass several years earlier (see also Eld 1841).

Dana was the first person to geologically describe the Shasta Valley hills, hills which have fascinated geologists for over 150 years. Dana writes what perhaps presages the 1980s discoveries of modern geologists (see Crandell et al 1984): "Sat. Oct 1..... The volcanic hills, stretch over the prairie towards the Shasty peak, and are probably connected in origin with the former eruptions of this extinct volcano-none of the hills had the form of craters, tho' this may have been the case with some- The sand around those we passed was generally of sandstone, in no instance did the basaltic soil extend 100 feet from the hill usually the sandstone soil rather encroached on the hills - proof that the country around has been levelled (plains formed) by floods (or when under the sea) spreading the detritis of the xxxxx sandstone hills" (see also Dana "Notes ..."1849).

Contains Dana's original drawings of present-day Pilot Rock (on "Rogue Mt"), Mt. Shasta (the "Shasty Peak" drawing, facing entry for Oct. 3, and not any of the redrawings found later in the journal, such as microfilm HM 160 007 0793. Also, do not confuse Dana's "Shasty Peak" with A. T. Agate's "Shasty Peak," also drawn in 1841 ), Castle Crags ("the Needles"), and Sutter Buttes ("the Prairie Bute" microfilm HM 160 007 0811). Note that Dana's original sketch of Mt. Shasta is more three dimensional than would be suspected from the 1849 published engraving (see Dana "The Shasty Peak" in Dana "Notes..."1849). The original sketch also contains annotations of snow fields and rock types.
The overland exploring expedition had been requested by philologist Horatio Hale (see Hale 1846) to use a standardized vocabulary list of about 100 English words and inquire for Indian language equivalents. Dana interviewed a group of Indians at the base of Mt. Shasta and collected the vocabulary from them. This vocabulary includes words like "itswat" for heart, and "harahara" for hawk (microfilm HM 160 006 586). Note that this list of "Shasty" Indian words is undoubtedly the first such written compilation of Shasta words; note also that this vocabulary became the basis of Hale's "Shastean" family of languages, though the vocabulary was perhaps not accurately representative of all the languages of Hale's "Shaste Country" of southern Oregon. Hale was the first person to describe the Shasta language family; had Dana taken down a vocabulary in the "Shaste Country" of the Rogue River as described in some of the Wilkes-Emmons overland journals, the name Shasta might be today applied to a different tribe (see Powell "Indian Linguistic Families of America North of Mexico" in Holder 1971). It may well be that the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition is responsible for not only mis-naming present Mt. Shasta, but as well for indirectly mis-naming the tribe now called the "Shasta."

Dana's manuscript notebook is remarkable in being an eyewitness account by the first professional geologist ever to see present-day Mt. Shasta. It is even more remarkable that the geologist in question, James Dwight Dana, was, as Smithsonian Institution historians have called him: "...the singlemost influential American geologist of the nineteenth century and [he] remains a towering figure in the history of geology" (see Viola and Margolis 1985, p. 89). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS959].

Dana, James Dwight 1813-1895. Notes on Upper California: From Observations Made During the Cruise of the United States Exploring Expedition, Under Capt. Charles Wilkes, U.S.N. In: American Journal of Science and Arts. 1849. 2nd series, Vol. 7. pp. 247-264. This article was published shortly after beginning of the gold rush to California. Dana, the pre-eminent American geologist of the 19th century, was deluged with requests for information about northern California gold mainly because Dana had already been to California as a member of the Oregon-California 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition. The article is mostly a rewrite of Dana's 1841 overland manuscript notebook entries. These observations of Mount Shasta were the first ever by a professional geologist. Dana estimates the height of the mountain quite reasonably: he says "...the Shasty Peak, a volcanic cone, twelve to fourteen thousand feet high, which had been in view from the mountains just north of the Clammat" (p. 247).

Of the general appearance of Mount Shasta he accurately describes that: "Each summit had probably been a separate place of ejection; the smaller appeared as if it might bear the same relation to the larger, as Vesuvius to Somma. The sides were covered with loose fragments, without vegetation where in sight, and had the ashy color of the trachytic rocks passed on our route. The snow was in the banks or patches about the more sheltered parts of the top, and not in an unbroken coat, as about St. Helens. The declivities were in general but little broken; but the southwestern face, from the summit down three or four thousand feet, was intersected by projecting ridges of rock that stood out in points and walls and cast long shadows over the slopes; these shadows indicating a height of at least some hundreds of feet. They were evidently walls or dikes of volcanic rock filling former fissures in the crater, and now projecting owing to the removal of the rock material that enclosed them" (p. 250). This article is highly recommended reading for anyone interested in the history of scientific exploration of Mount Shasta. Dana's manuscript journal (see Dana Manuscript Journal... 1841) contains a wealth of additional material beyond what is printed in this article.

Note that in this article Dana mentions having talked with Hudson's Bay trapper Thomas McKay before the overland trip southward began. McKay told Dana that there were hot springs east of "Mount Shasty" : "...he [McKay] had boiled eggs in its waters" (p. 250). McKay's description as related by Dana more befits present-day Mount McLoughlin which was the original "Mount Shasty" for Peter Skene Ogden and the Hudson's Bay Company. Several comments in the journals of other Wilkes-Emmons overland explorers also lead one to the interpretation that in 1841 Dana and the rest of the official exploring group were misled by accompanying American civilians to name the wrong mountain as "Mount Shasty" (see Emmons Manuscript Journal 1841).


Dana, James Dwight 1813-1895. United States Exploring Expedition. During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842. Vol. 10: Geology. Philadelphia, Pa.: C. Sherman, 1849. Contains one of the earliest and yet timeless statements about Mt. Shasta. The eminent 19th century geologist James Dwight Dana's impression of Mt. Shasta: "Mount Shasty is another of these hoary summits. A heavy mist covered the region as we approached it. Gazing up intently for the peak, visible in the earlier part of the day, we barely discovered some lights and shades far above us, which produced, through the indefiniteness of view, a vision of immensity such as pertains to the vast universe rather than to our
Contains probably the very first detailed description of Black Butte: "In one view, from the West, the steep and even slopes of a black 'sugar loaf' rose from a deep valley below us; it was one object in the distant prospect from the prairie, the day before. The top of this volcanic cone was a little broken, and probably contained a crater, though none could be seen from the direction observed. We estimated the height at three thousand feet above its base, or four thousand feet five hundred feet above the sea. The sides were enveloped in pines or cedars, except about the summit, where only a few stunted trees made out to grow.'

Contains a clear statement that Dana, at least in 1849 but not necessarily in his original 1841 notebook, considered the Shast River to be far separated from the Shast Mountains. Here Dana means, as did Wilkes in the Wilkes Narratives, that the Shast River was one and the same as the present Rogue River, and that the Shast Mountains were one and the same as the present upper Sacramento River Canyon mountains. Dana states "...we crossed the Shast River, and continued through an unproductive country to a range of hills about fifteen hundred feet in height. Crossing this ridge, (named by us the Boundary Range, as it was near latitude 42¡,) we entered upon an undulating region abounding in gravel and little else and thence passed to the plains of the Clammat. The Clammat is a fine river...leaving the Clammat region just south of 42¡, we entered the Shast Mountains, and were nearly a week ascending and descending steep and sharp ridges, from a few hundred to two thousand feet high: we at last opened on the plaine of the Sacramento, two hundred and fifty miles above its mouth" (pp. 622-623). Note that Mount Shast was already mentioned (p. 615); thus Dana has used the terms Shast River [=Rogue River], Mount Shast [=Mount Shasta], and Shast Mountains [=Sacramento River Canyon mountains] in a north to south description. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS667].


Dana states that "The Umpqua mountains, nearly at the same distance inland, were 2,000 to 2,500 feet in height- a steep and rugged collection of ridges. The Shast mountains west of the Shast Peak, were from 2,000 to 6,000 feet high and covered the country for a breadth of forty miles in latitude, forming thus a wide barrier between the Shast and Sacramento regions. There is another smaller ridge between the Clammat and Shast rivers, east of the junction of these streams, and situated near the parallel of 42¡; as it lay along the southern boundary of Oregon, we called it the Boundary Range. It was about 1,200 feet high at our pass. and some of its peaks rose to 1,500 feet" (pp. 383-384).

Dana's definitions of the various applications of the term "Shast" correspond to the various uses of the term in the Eld manuscript maps (see Eld 1841) and to the Wilkes Narratives (see Wilkes 1844). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS810].


De Mofras writes in his 1844 book: "Ce lac [Lac MasquŽ], comme l’indique son nom, est cachŽ au milieu de terrains bas et couverts de jone Žpais; il est formŽ par les eaux provenant des Monts SastŽs, cha’non occidental de la Sierra Nevada, qui court vers la mer, entre les 41¡ et 42¡ degrŽs de latitude, et semble former la division naturelle entre la California et le pays arrosŽ par les affluents du Rio Colomba et du Ouallamet" (Vol. 1, p. 454).

"La riviere des Indiens Klamaks ...qui prend sa source dans le lac Klamak, au pied des Monts SastŽs, non loin de l’origine du Rio del Sacramento" (Vol. 2, p. 38).

"A cette derniŽre cha’n appartiennent le Mont Saint flias, la plus haute montagne jusqu’a prŽsent mesureŽ dans L’AmŽrique septentrionale, et dont la hauteur dŽpassa cinq mille quatre mŽ tres, la montagne du Beau Temps, les mons Baker, Olympe, Rainier, Saint HŽlŽne, Hood, Van Couver, Umpqua, Mac Loughlin, SastŽ et Klamak. La Sierra Nevada de la Californie forme la continuation de cette cha’n, qui, aprŽs s‘estre rŽunie aux Monts Californiens, vers l’embouchure du Rio Colorado, vient se terminer au cap San Lucas, ‘l’extrŽmitŽ sud de la presqu’‘ile de la Vielle Californie' (Vol.2, p. 98).

The above quotations contain three references, two to the name ‘SastŽs' and one to ‘SastŽ', which indicate that De
Mofras is referring to the Siskiyou mountains in the plural, and in the singular to perhaps present-day Mt. McLoughlin. The name mont 'Klamak' may have meant present-day Mt. Shasta (for an English translation see de Mofras. "Duflot de Mofras Travels on the Pacific Coast" Marguerite Eyer Wilbur translator and editor, 1937).

Note, however, that the 1844 map published by de Mofras is one of the first two maps (the other is Wilkes 1844 map) to put the name of 'SastŽ' on present-day Mt. Shasta. Why the de Mofras map differs from the de Mofras text, as far as naming present-day Mount Shasta, is understandable if the text was committed to type before the engraving of the map, which could have been changed at the last minute as the new Wilkes maps became available in 1844. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS387].

Duflot de Mofras, Eugene 1810-1884. Duflot de Mofras' Travels on the Pacific Coast. Santa Ana, Calif.: The Fine Arts Press, 1937. Two Volumes. First French edition published in 1844. In 1841 the Frenchman Eugene Duflot de Mofras traveled widely in California and Oregon. He became good friends with John Sutter at New Helvetia (now Sacramento), though he does not appear to have traveled inland farther north than Sutter's Fort. He went by sea to the Columbia River, where he met two important visitors to Fort Vancouver, namely U. S. Exploring Expedition leader Charles Wilkes, and the Hudson's Bay Company's Governor George Simpson. He also met Hudson's Bay Company's resident chief factor John McLoughlin. Note that the majority of Hudson's Bay trappers in the Oregon Territory were French-speaking French-Canadians giving Duflot de Mofras perhaps more access to information from the trappers themselves than would be possible for an English-speaking person.

In his book Duflot de Mofras mentions the name Šhasta [SastŽ, in the French version]. The first time he puts it in the plural, referring probably to present-day Siskiyou Mountains: "Lake MasquŽ....The lake is formed by the waters descending from the Shasta Mountains [Monts SastŽs, in the original French], the western chain of the Sierra Nevada, which extend toward the sea between the forty-first and forty-second parallels, and appear to form the natural boundary between California and Willamette rivers" (Vol. 1, p. 242).

The second entry of the name Šhasta [SastŽ] refers to a snow-capped peak, probably present-day Mt. McLoughlin: "...also the peaks Fairweather [la montagne du Beau Temps, in the original French], Baker, Olympus [Olympe], Rainier, St. HŽL• ne, Hood, Vancouver, Umpqua [Umqua], McLoughlin [Mac Loughlin], Shasta [SastŽ], and Klammath [Klamak]" (Vol. 2, p. 47). Note that the original French version read Umqua, and then Mac Loughlin, as given here; Wilbur's translation incorrectly placed McLoughlin north of Umpqua; de Mofras in all probability was equating "McLoughlin" with present-day Mt. Thielsen or another peak, "Shasta" [SastŽ] with Mt. McLoughlin, and "Klamath" with Mt. Shasta. De Mofras had been to Sutter's Fort and could have looked north to Mount Shasta, and knew the Klamath river was just beyond. The name Klammath [Klamak] would have been a logical name for present-day Mt. Shasta, although it is possible that" Klamak" was his name for present Mt. Lassen.

An historical problem exists in explaining why the de Mofras map, which accompanied the French edition of the book, is one of the first two maps to ever show present-day Mount Shasta with a Shasta sounding name [SastŽ]; this contradicts the place-name usage in his text (see De Mofras "General Map of the Pacific Coast" in Wilbur 1937).

Incidentally De Mofras' map may have been the first map ever to use the name "Siskiyou" in print. De Mofras named on his map present-day Mt. McLoughlin as "Mont Siscayou." 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS384].

Duflot de Mofras, Eugene 1810-1884. General Map of the Pacific Coast [map]. In: Wilbur, Marguerite Eyer. Duflot de Mofras' Travels on the Pacific Coast. Santa Ana, Calif.: The Fine Arts Press, 1937. Map first published in 1844. Original title of the map was Carte de la C™te de l'AmŽrique sur L'ocŽan Pacifique Septentrional comprenant le Territoire de l'OrŽgon, les Californies, la Mer Vermeille, Partie des Territoires de la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson, et de l'AmŽrique Russe. This 1844 French map was one of the first two maps, the other being Charles Wilkes' 1844 "Oregon Territory" map, to ever show present-day Mount Shasta named "Shasta" in any of the various "Shasta" spellings. De Mofras spelled Mt. Shasta as "Mont SastŽ" on his map, and Wilkes spelled it "Mount Shaste."

Historically, it appears that the members of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition of 1841 named the wrong mountain as 'Shasty' (see Eld "journal" 1841;" and Emmons "journal" 1841) and should have placed the name of 'Shasty' on present-day Mt. McLoughlin, as was done on several maps prior to and even after 1841 by other authorities. Wilkes adopted the names of his own explorers, and shifted the name 'Shaste' down to its present location, though leaving the name of 'Shaste River" for the Rogue River.

Note that Duflot de Mofras probably followed the lead of Wilkes in naming present Mt. Shasta as Monte SastŽ. Without going into detail, Duflot de Mofras met Wilkes in 1841 at Fort Vancouver and traveled with Wilkes's philologist Horatio Hale to both Monterey and Mexico later in 1841. Thus a connection between the Wilkes Expedition and Duflot de Mofras is established.

More importantly, almost all of the published accounts of the Wilkes Expedition, even the interim reports from 1839
to 1841, had been sent from Washington, D.C. to the Royal Geographic Society in Paris by French contacts working in the U.S. In the Bulletin of the Société Géographique Française in 1843, for example, there is a forty page extract in translation of a speech Wilkes gave on his return from the four-year voyage (see Société Géographique Française 1843). Not only was de Mofras' 1844 book and map published by the Society, but also by 1846 de Mofras had become the secretary of the Society; thus it is certain that de Mofras had access to the maps and writings of Wilkes.

Because the Duflot de Mofras 1844 map names seem to contradict the place-names in his 1844 text, it may be that the map was printed sometime after the accompanying book had already been typeset. Perhaps shortly after the Wilkes' maps were published de Mofras obtained them and incorporated the name "Mount Shaste" following Wilkes's new convention.

But Duflot de Mofras also used the name of "Rio Siscayou" for a part of the upper Rogue River and the name "Mont Siscayou" for present Mt. McLoughlin. The names "Río Siscayou" and 'Mont Siscayou' may have come from Hudson's Bay Company officers. Duflot de Mofras credits the officers at Fort Vancouver with giving him many "notions intéressants" about the Oregon Territory (see De Mofras 1844, p. 483). Of course, this raises the possibility that the name 'Mont SastŽ' for present Mt. Shasta was given by the Hudson's Bay Company officers as well, though Duflot de Mofras's text names do not match his map names.


Edward Eberstadt and Sons. Catalogue No. 119: The Northwest Coast: Personal Narratives of Discovery, Conquest and Exploration. New York: Edward Eberstadt and Sons, 1941. pp. 88-115. The rare book firm of Edward Eberstadt and Sons came into possession of the 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition journals of both George Foster Emmons and Henry Eld. Portions of both journals are printed in this catalogue, including drawings by Eld. These excerpts have never been printed anywhere else, and Eberstadt and Sons Catalogue No. 119 is an acknowledged classic as a work of history. From Eberstadt the journals went to William R. Coe, who then donated them to the Beinecke Library at Yale University. The journals have never been fully transcribed or published, though they hold many clues to the naming of Mt. Shasta in 1841. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS811].


Eld, Henry 1814-1850. [manuscript journal, Sept. 6 to Oct. 29, 1841, kept on the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition from Oregon to California]. 1841. Microfilm available from the Beinecke Library. Original manuscript housed at the Beinecke Library, Yale University. Portions have been printed in Eberstadt, Edward and Sons. Catalogue No. 119: The Northwest Coast, Personal Narratives of Discovery, Conquest and Exploration 1941 This journal by Henry Eld, cartographer of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition of 1841, contains text as well as 43 full-page manuscript maps each covering a portion of the route between Fort Vancouver and San Francisco. Several of the maps, those dated from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5, name "Sasty Country" [from the present town of Edgewood south], "Sasty River" [present Shasta River], "Sasty Peak" [Mount Shasta], and "Sasty Mountains" [mountains south of Mount Shasta as far as present-day Redding]. The extensive textual portion of Eld's journal have never been published.

Note that these maps are probably the first manuscript or published maps which name present-day Mount Shasta as something other than "Mt. Simpson," "Pit Mountain," or "Mount Jackson." Prior to these Eld 1841 maps all other known maps relevant to the question use the name "Mt. Shasty" for present-day Mt. McLoughlin.

The Eld maps are perhaps the most important maps of Mt. Shasta ever drawn, for they begin the chain of events which led to the establishment of a new Mt. Shasta. Wilkes used these maps to make the first published maps with the new name (see Wilkes "map of Oregon territory" 1844 in Wheat 1958) and Wilkes states that he showed the results of these maps to J. C. FrŽmont, who also adopted the new location for the name (see Wilkes "letter to Gales and Seton, June 12, 1848" and Preuss "map..." 1848).

The voluminous text accompanying the maps contains details of the Mt. Shasta region. There are three volumes of original drawings including Eld's drawings of the Umpqua River and the Sacramento Valley. (see Haskell 1968, #429, p. 131 for a complete description of the Eld journals.) 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS673].

Emmons, George Foster 1811-1884. [manuscript journal, 1841, kept while on Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition from Oregon to California]. 1841. Microfilm available from the Beinecke Library. Original manuscript housed at the Beinecke Library, Yale University. Contains George Foster Emmons's important statement on Sept. 29, 1841 that: "2 miles farther arrived at 42¡ on the edge of this barrier which separates the Rogue from the Klamet..."
tribe of Indians. From this position I obtained the first view of the Shasty or Pitt Mountain, bearing pr comp S.E. Dist. about 45 miles. The top rugged & covered with snow. small vapor clouds were forming under its lee. rising until they reached the easterly current of wind that swept over its summit when gradually disappeared to the west."

Note that by mentioning "Shasty or Pitt" Emmons has indicated his uncertainty as to the name of this mountain. This uncertainty unfortunately was concomitant with the subsequent mis-naming of what should have been "Pitt" as Mt. Shasty. The Wilkes-Emmons misnaming has stuck through time, and all but erased the knowledge that at one time Mt. Shasty was the Hudson's Bay Company's proper name for present Mt. McLoughlin. It is not clear whether Emmons thought that Mt. "Shasty" and Mt. "Pitt" were one and the same mountain, or whether he thought that they were two different mountains.

Note that: 1) a U.S. Gov. 1838 map, known to be in the possession of George Wilkes, who sent Emmons to lead the overland expedition, depicted present-day Mt. McLoughlin as "Mt. Shasty," and depicted present-day Mt. Shasta as "Pit Mountain" (see Hood "map..." 1838); 2) that Emmons's journal earlier indicated poor visibility at the top of the Umpqua mountains and Emmons did not see the proper Mt. "Shasty" (present Mt. McLoughlin); and 3) that Emmons and group had confused the definition of the plural name "Shasty Mountains" of Wilkes letter of route instructions dated Sept. 1, 1841 (see Wilkes letter Sept. 1; and George Simpson "letter to John McLoughlin Esq., Mar. 1, 1842," both mentioning the 'Shasty Mountains').

Apparently Emmons could not have seen present-day Mt. McLoughlin (which at that time was still named Mt. Shasty). For the entry of Sept. 22, 1841, on the summit of the Umpqua mountains, he wrote: "I had hoped that the atmosphere would have been clear so as to have allowed a view of the surrounding country upon crossing these mountains -- but I was disappointed and as long as it contains in its present state I feel that I am groping my way along half blind folded."

The confusion of the two mountain names is possibly explained by noting that non-navy American settlers traveling along with Emmons thought that present-day Mt. Shasta was "Mt. Shasty," and that these settlers convinced Emmons and the rest of the overland expedition to adopt the name of "Mt. Shasty" (see Edwards. "Diary of a Cattle Drive..." In Watson 1932). A comparison of the personnel shows that the Americans Tibbetts and Wood were on both the 1837 Edwards' cattle drive and on the 1841 Wilkes-Emmons Overland expedition.

Note that Emmons's journal has never been transcribed; it contains much important historical material which could lead to a better understanding of the naming of Mt. Shasta. He mentions the importance of Thomas McKay to the mapping of the region: "And from all I can learn [McKay] has furnished the principal if not all the data from which the H. B. Co. have constructed their charts of the country laying between the Columbia River, Rocky Mountains, and the Sacramento."

The Emmons journal contains a wealth of purely descriptive material. He mentions "Mt. Shaste" on Oct. 3, 1841. He says: "Encamped early on the headwaters of destruction river, which takes its rise in the Shaste mountain and at this place is only a rivulet. The water being principally the melted snows from the mountain are here very clear and cool. Got a good view and sketch of the peak which logs from us NE B N fr camp (16¡ var 6¡) and dist between 7 and 8 miles. From a detached base I made its alt above my position-- 10,000 feet. From this view it assumes a ragged appearance. Is partially covered by snow and evidently of basaltic rock."

Note that the above extracts were taken from the original journal at the Beinecke Library. A microfilm edition is available from that institution. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS672].
and this unattended with rain, thunder, or lightening; it happened in the month of October, while we were encamped near the ShastŽ mountains, and prostrated some giant trees" (p. 205).

This storm damage may be the reason why the 1841 Eld manuscript maps of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition (see Eld 1841) and the 1844 Wilkes map of Upper California (see Wilkes Map of Upper California 1844) both name the upper Sacramento River canyon as the "Destruction River." Note however that an Oakland tribune article states that the "Destruction River" was an early Hudson Bay Company name for the McCloud River where A. R. McLeod lost 300 horses in 1830 (see Jones, David Rhys., in "The Knave" column in the Oakland Tribune March 5, 1944).

The second Shasta-related answer by Emmons is about Indians. He says: "The introduction of the small-pox they attribute to the Hudson Bay Companies: the disease was very fatal to them in the year 1839. The ague and fever, which also proves fatal to many every year, they say was never known among them until the year 1830, when an American captain, by the name of Dominis, arrived at Astoria, in a vessel, from the Sandwich islands; for these, and sundry other bodily complaints of modern date that they are subject to, they attribute altogether to the whites, whom, they appear to believe, have the power of withholding or communicating these diseases to them. Hence one cause of their avowed hostility to the whites, and particularly to my party's passing through their country; to prevent which I received warnings by runners from the ShastŽ nation, long before I reached the Umpqua river, with threats of annihilation if I attempted it" (p. 202). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS334].

Fremont, John Charles 1813-1890. Memoirs of My Life by John Charles Fremont: Including in the Narrative of Five Journeys of Western Exploration, During the Years 1842, 1843-4, 1845-6, 1848-9, 1853-4. Together with a Sketch of the Life of Senator Benton, in Connection with Western Expansion by Jessie Benton Fremont. A Retrospect of Fifty Years Covering the Most Eventful Periods of Modern American History. Superbly Illustrated by Original Portraits, Descriptive Plates, and, from the Mississippi River to the Pacific, by a Series of Sketches and Daguerreotypes Made During the Journeys. Chicago, Ill.: 1887. Only Vol. 1 was ever published. The original book contained several maps which have not been seen for review. Fremont states that on April 6, 1846, "The snowy peak of Shastl bore directly north, showing out high above the other mountains. Temperature at sunset 57¡; with a west wind and sky partly clouded" (p. 474). This spelling of "Shastl" is the same spelling that he used in his Geographical Memoir of 1848. The name "Shastl" appears several other places in this section of the memoirs. Because this book was written in 1887 its names may not necessarily reflect 1846 usage. But most likely the names as given are those he used in 1846.

On April 7 Fremont says "We travelled toward the Shastl peak, the mountain ranges on both sides of the valleys being high and rugged, and snow covered. Some remarkable peaks in the Sierra, to the eastward are called the Sisters, and, nearly opposite, the Coast Range shows a prominent peak, to which in remembrance of my friend Senator Linn, I gave the name MOUNT LINN.....These giant monuments, rising above the country and seen from afar, keep alive and present with the memory of patriotic men and so continue their good services after death. Mount Linn and Mount Shastl keep open to the passing glance each an interesting page of the country's history - the one recording a successful struggle for the ocean boundary which it overlooks, the other the story of a strange people passed away. And so, too, these natural towers call attention from the detail of daily occupation to the larger duties which should influence the lives of men" (p. 475).

Note that these "Sisters" as mentioned eastward of the valley, above may be Mt. Lassen, and may offer a clue to the meaning of the "Twins" of the 1821 Arguello expedition (see ArgÝello 1992).

One of the illustrations in this book is of Mt. Shasta, shown improbably square on top. Most likely it is a view from the east looking west. Titled "Forest Camp Shastl Peak" (p. 377) it is unattributed but upon detailed comparison it is unmistakably the work of Edward Kern, the artist who was with Fremont in 1845-1846. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS328].

Fremont, John Charles 1813-1890. A Report of the Exploring Expedition to Oregon and Northern California in the Years 1843-'44. In: Jackson, Donald and Spence, Mary Lee. The Expeditions of John Charles FrŽmont: Volume 1, Travels from 1838 to 1844. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1970. pp. 426-806. First published in 1845 in FrŽmont's Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1843, and to Oregon and Northern California in the Years 1843-'44. Washington, D.C.: 1845. Reprint of the complete text, plus appendices, of the 1845 original, with annotations by the editors. Mount Shasta is not referred to either by name or description. The FrŽmont map issued with the report of 1845 showed no mountain where Mount Shasta is today.

This report of the 1843-44 expedition, originally issued in book form bound along with the report of the Rocky Mountain expedition of 1842, became one of the all-time best sellers of exploration books. By the end of 1845 the book had been reprinted a dozen times and had made FrŽmont a national hero. The account was of the journey from the Columbia River south to Nevada and into California. It was in the middle of winter and the story of the crossing of Sierras
through 8 foot high snow drifts made for exciting and shocking reading. They ate their horses on occasion to keep from starving and finally were reduced to killing their pet dog "Tlamath" for food. It was a sad and miserable journey for the group.

The name of 'Tlamath' is significant. FrŽmont explains that in November of 1843: "The camp was now occupied in making the necessary preparations for our homeward journey, which, though homeward, contemplated a new route, and a great circuit to the south and southeast, and the exploration of the Great Basin between the Rocky mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Three principle objects [Klamath Lake, Mary's Lake, and Buenaventura River] were indicated, by report or by maps, as being on this route; the character or existence of which I wished to ascertain, and which I assumed as landmarks, or leading points, on the projected line of return. The first of these points was the 'Tlamath' lake, on the table land between the head of Fall river, which comes to the Columbia, and the Sacramento, which goes to the Bay of San Francisco; and from which lake a river of the same name makes its way westwardly direct to the ocean. This lake and river are often called Klamet, but I have chosen to write its name according to the Indian pronunciation" (pp. 573-574).

An 1848 FrŽmont map uses the spelling of 'Tsashtl' for Mount Shasta, perhaps adding the initial 't' for the same reason of pronunciation, but the spelling of "Tsashtl" is anomalous because FrŽmont exclusively used the name "Shastl" in his texts (see Fremont Geographical Memoir... 1848, and FrŽmont Memoirs ... 1887). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS327].

Fremont, John Charles 1813-1890. Geographical Memoir upon Upper California, in Illustration of his Map of Oregon and California. Senate Misc. Doc. 148, 30th Cong., 1st Session, Washington, D.C., 1848, Serial 511. In: Spence, Mary Lee. The Expeditions of John Charles Fremont. Volume 3: Travels from 1848 to 1854. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1984. pp. 495-570. First published in 1848. Complete reprint of the 1848 Geographical Memoir, not to be confused with FrŽmont's 1887 Memoirs of My Life... The Geographical Memoir... is concerned entirely with FrŽmont's 1845-46 second expedition to California and Oregon. His expedition passed east of Mt. Shasta on a northward trek to the Klamath Lake region. Mt. Shasta is mentioned several times as "Mt. Shastl." The accompanying map to the report, a map by Charles Preuss, names Mt. Shasta as "Mt. Tsashtl" (see Preuss map...1848). Note that the spelling of "Tsashtl" is quite different from "Shastl."

Note that this 1848 Geographical Memoir does not concern itself with FrŽmont's 1843-1844 first expedition to Oregon and northern California; an 1845 report of that first expedition does not mention Mt. Shasta, nor does its accompanying map depict Mt. Shasta (see Fremont Report...1843-44, In: Jackson and Spence 1970).

In 1887 FrŽmont published his Memoirs of My Life... in which he also discusses his 1846 trip past "Mt. Shastl" (see Fremont 1887). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS324].

Fremont, John Charles 1813-1890. [letter to John Torrey, Sept. 3, 1848]. In : Spence, Mary Lee. The Expeditions of John Charles Fremont. Volume 3: Travels from 1848 to 1854. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1984. p. 48. Letter is dated Washington, Sept. 3, 1848. Contains a mention of "Mt. Shastl," thus again showing that in all of his known writings FrŽmont used the name of "Shastl," and not "Tsashtl." "Tsashtl" was first used on the Preuss-FrŽmont map of 1848 but was not necessarily FrŽmont's choice of names.

FrŽmont says to Torrey: "I hope to reach California early in December. I shall send you plants such as the season shall afford by the first or second steamer (February or March) and you may rely on my exploring the country about Mt Shastl (Shastl) early in the next spring" (p. 48).

FrŽmont probably wrote the two spellings of Mt. Shastl and the parenthetical "(Shastl)" to clarify that both he and Torrey were referring to the same mountain.

Note that the date is September 1848 and that FrŽmont intended to visit Mt. Shasta the next spring. As far as is known an 1849 visit by FrŽmont to Mt. Shasta is not recorded in the literature. It is possible he attempted to climb the mountain at that time (see "Story of FrŽmont's Ascent of Shasta..." In Mount Shasta Herald., Apr. 18, 1929. A copy of this article has not been located for review). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS326].

Haskell, Daniel Carl 1883. The United States Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842 and Its Publications, 1844-1874. New York: Greenwood Press, Publishers, 1968. Reprint of the 1942 second edition. First published in 1940 by the New York Public Library. This comprehensive annotated bibliography contains entries for over 500 books, manuscripts, and articles by and about the United States Exploring Expedition led by Charles Wilkes. The most detailed entries are those for the official reports which were issued by the government. Many of these reports contain information gathered in Oregon and California. The titles of the reports give an excellent overview of the aims and accomplishments of the 'U.S. Ex. Ex.' Of the following authors, James Dwight Dana, Titian Ramsay Peale, and William Dunlop Brackenridge visited Mt. Shasta as part of the 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition. The official reports took decades of work to complete.
McCloud) River. If the Wilkes’s instructions in particular suggest that the Wilkes journals of Dana and Brackenridge, and in the route instructions by Wilkes to the 1830 Destruction River of McLeod, and in the light of certain remarks made in the Wilkes Narratives. Nowhere, as far as is known, does the Destruction River appear as a name for the present McCloud River. The author thinks the McLeod, later named the McCloud, river was first named the Destruction River by the Hudson’s Bay Company because it was the river on which Alexander Roderick McLeod lost 300 horses and 2400 furs in the winter of 1829.

Although Jones erroneously states that the Wilkes-Emmons expedition went down the McCloud river. Note that the intriguing possibility is brought to mind that perhaps the 1841 Wilkes-Emmons expedition thought that it was going down the 1830 Destruction River of McLeod, and in the light of certain remarks made in the Wilkes-Emmons expedition journals of Dana and Brackenridge, and in the route instructions by Wilkes to Emmons, this is a distinct possibility. Wilkes's instructions in particular suggest that the Wilkes-Emmons expedition was to pass south and west of Mt. McLoughlin (then named Mt. Shasty) which would have put the group on the trail leading to the Destruction (present McCloud) River. If the Wilkes-Emmons Expedition was mistaken as to the identity of present Mt. Shasta, thinking it to be
present Mt. McLoughlin, then they could have mis-named the upper Sacramento as the "Destruction River.

Of course, all of this theory may be moot if indeed the Destruction River of the 1841 Eld map was named for some other reason, say, perhaps, the great wind storm in the river canyon near Castle Crags mentioned in the 1841 Brackenridge journal.


Maloney's introduction verifies one of the legends encountered in the lore of the Mt. Shasta region. The story is simply that the discovery of the California Pitcher plant, Darlingtonia Californica, took place during an Indian attack. Maloney writes: 'A story of Brackenridge's narrow escape from Indians was related verbally for at least two generations before it saw print. The tale is linked with one of his botanical discoveries, a plant hitherto unknown. '...while Brackenridge,' so the story goes, 'was on his way to San Francisco an alarm from Indians caused the explorers to run. Brackenridge saw a strange looking plant, grabbed a clump and carried it to camp. This was the Darlingtonia California." Miss Eastwood had heard this tradition and challenged the writer to find its source. In pursuit of sidelights on the overland expedition, the above version turned up unexpectedly in the Life of James Dwight Dana, by Daniel Coit Gilman, one time president of the University of California. Dana was a member of the party and undoubtedly he told the story to his biographer, as it has the sound of an eyewitness account" (p. 323).

Brackenridge's entry for Oct. 3rd contains a reference to Oct. 10, thus indicating that the journal was probably in part written retroactively for the entry dates. Brackenridge's account is full of spelling errors. He writes: "Oct. 3rd We had now to ascend and cross the California range of Mountains which according to our guides opinion was to take us at least seven days, but as neither our horses & many of the party being in the best condition we did not reach the head of the valley of the Sacramento till the afternoon of the 10th, the route which we took was to the west of the Bute or snowy Mountain, but its my belief that had we kept to the eastward of it our route would have been shorter and easier. The general tendency of the range is north and South, but the whole is one continued series of valleys -- hills & ridges standing in all positions towards each other, these ridges are in general clothed with vegetation, for the exception of a number of rugged precipitous bluffs -- near to the it's soil is found in abundance on them all. Pines & Oaks are the principal timber trees of these mountains. On the afternoon of the first day upon them to the west of the Bute we came upon the headwaters of the Sacramento -- a small stream about three yards broad, we were told by our guide that this was the principal branch & off and on we kept to this river till we reached the valley on the opposite side. of fine flowers and shrubs in the proper season there must be a great abundance & had we still I think the good luck to find some plants that have not yet been known to Botanists, and in the following list these will be found" (p. 327). A list follows, each plant described by some identifying characteristics. On Oct. 11th Brackenridge wrote: "Our route over these mountains was too late in the season to have an opportunity of seeing much of the annual vegetation, but if we are to judge of the dried fragments of such as we observed, that this set of plants must be beautiful and varied.

"On these mountains we passed an extensive Soda spring the effervescence of whoos [sic] waters were as agreeable as any manufactured in our large cities -- and to be in possession of such a fountain in the U. States would be the having of a fortune" (p. 329).

Most of the journal concerns the Sacramento Valley proper. Plants are noted for each date, and a wealth of detail about the people and conditions of the Spanish and other peoples encounter along the way. Includes many details about Captain Sutter's Nova Helvetia.


[Mount Shasta Herald]. Story of Fremont's Ascent of Shasta To Be Published Soon. In: Mount Shasta Herald. Mt. Shasta, Calif.: April 18, 1929. Article begins: "Charles Stewart of San Francisco, who with Edward Stuhl is now working on a complete work of Mt. Shasta, in which they will deal with Shasta's formation, plant and animal life, is now writing a special story on 'Fremont's Ascent of Mt. Shasta.' The names of H. B. Ream and R. E. Cavanaugh are mentioned as sources of early day information about Mt. Shasta history. The later article on FrŽmont's ascent has not been located. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS598].

carried them through a district of lakes and streams, the drainage of the great Sierra Range, dominated by Mount Shasta, which rose to their right" (Vol. I, p. 166). The book as a whole contains relatively little material relevant to Fremont's two explorations which passed close to the Shasta Region. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS70].

[MS136]. Peale, Titian Ramsay 1799-1885. **Diary of Titian Ramsay Peale.** Los Angeles, Calif.: Glen Dawson, 1957. Only 300 copies of this book were printed. Introduction and bibliography by Carl S. Dentzel. This is Titian Ramsay Peale's own diary of participation as an artist-naturalist with the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition of 1841. The group was the first scientific party to visit Mount Shasta. Contains only a portion of Titian Ramsay Peale's overland journal: from September 22, 1841, Umpqua Mountains to Nov. 1, 1841, San Francisco. Peale calls Mount Shasta "Mount Chasty (Tchasty?)" (p. 48). He also calls the mountains between Mount Shasta and Redding the "Tchasty Mts" (p. 48). The journals of other members of the expedition, specifically those of James Dwight Dana, George Foster Emmons, and Henry Eld, also call the mountains along the upper Sacramento river the "Sasty" or "Tchasty" mountains, as well as calling the main mountain "Sasty."

Note that Peale's use of both a singular and a plural application of the term "Tchasty" helps confirm the point that at various times in the early exploration of the region the general name "Shasta," in many differing spellings, has been applied to four different objects, namely present-day Mt. McLoughlin, present-day Mt. Shasta, present-day Siskiyou mountains, and present-day upper Sacramento River Canyon mountains. Knowing that four different uses of the name exist can help clarify the reading of these early documents.

The book also includes a letter, dated Oct. 30th, 1841, written by Peale to his brother, and describing Peale's adventures through the California- Oregon border region.


[MS84]. Peale, Titian Ramsay 1799-1885. **Titian Ramsay Peale 1799-1885 And His Journals of the Wilkes Expedition.** Philadelphia, Pa.: The American Philosophical Society, 1961. pp. 190-198. This book contains the complete 1841 journal entries for the Mt. Shasta region by artist-naturalist Titian Ramsay Peale. Peale was a member of the Oregon to California overland party which in turn was a part of the four year around the world Wilkes U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842. Peale's account of the Mount Shasta region begins with the statement "Passed the dreaded 'Bloody pass' [Siskiyou summit] without difficulty and without seeing an Indian, only a few of their tracks, and after surmounting a high mountain ridge, a view of Singular grandeur was spread before us. On the right the mnts were burning, and sent up immense masses of smoke. On our left was the snowy summits of Mount Chasty (Tchasty?)-extensive plains were in front of us" (p. 192).

The spellings of "Chasty" and "Tchasty?" are significantly similar to Ogden's 1827 tribal name of 'Sastise or (Castise)" (LaLande 1987, p.60) and "Chasta" (see Edwards, P. L. "Diary of an 1837 Cattle Drive...." in Watson 1932).

Peale's account joins the similar journal accounts of fellow 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland explorers to form an unusually multifaceted record of Mount Shasta as it was in 1841. Journals were kept by Brackenridge, Colvocoressess, Dana, Emmons, Eld, and Peale, plus maps by Eld, and drawings by Agate. Peale's journal is supplemented by his accounts of the Shasta region which can be found in his suppressed (but now reprinted) Volume VIII, Mammalogy and Ornithology, of the U.S. Exploring Expedition Reports.

Contains a bibliography (pp. 204-207). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS84].

[MS970]. Peale, Titian Ramsay 1799-1885. **Mammalia and Ornithology.** New York: Arno Press, 1978. Reprint. First published in 1848 by C. Sherman in Philadelphia, Penn. Vol. 8 in the original series of reports resulting from the Wilkes Expedition. Contains many references to the animals and the conditions along the California-Oregon trail during September and October of 1841. For example, of the 'Grisly' Bear, Peale writes: "It is curious that this animal should not be found on the Columbia River, near its mouth. In our journey south through Oregon, the first were seen on the Umpqua River; from whence, as we continued on, they seemed to increase in numbers, until we arrived in California; six were killed in one day by our hunters as we descended the Sacramento River, although the meat was not wanted. This destruction arose from a dislike to the animal..." (p. 29).

For the porcupine, Peale writes: "The quills of this species of porcupine were obtained from some Indians whom we met while crossing the Shasty Mountains, lying between Oregon and California. There can be little doubt of the animal's inhabiting that part of this continent near the Pacific Ocean, about the forty-second degree of latitude, although unknown to be there by the traders and trappers of fur bearing animals, who occasionally cross that tract of country in search of
beavers in Upper California. The Indians from whom we obtained the quills, are generally hostile to white people, and all the surrounding tribes of their own colour; and we believe could not have obtained the Porcupine quills in trade, because they are not used by the Indians in the south of Oregon for embroidery, as they are to the north” (pp. 46-47).

Although this book was suppressed by Charles Wilkes from distribution on the grounds that it was scientifically inadequate, a few copies of the original are nonetheless available in research libraries, including the California State Library. A different Vol. 8, Mammalia and Ornithology, was written by John Cassin, and issued in 1858, along with an atlas of bird and mammal artwork plates, of which at least some of the plates are Peale’s (see Haskell pp. 54-63 for a full description of the publishing dispute and mutual dislike between Peale and Wilkes). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS970].

[MS999]. Preuss, Carl 1803-1854. Diary of Carl Preuss, May 30, 1843 to July 15, 1844, No. 2. In: Preuss, Carl 1803-1854. Diaries, 1842-49. 1843. Microfilm edition, Library of Congress Manuscript Department. Catalog entry reads 'Diaries, 1842-49. 7 items. Includes transcripts (typewritten). Surveyor, cartographer, and explorer. Diaries (1842 June-Oct.; 1843 May-1844 July; 1844 Dec.-1849 Feb.) relating to Preuss' service with John C. FrŽmont's first, second, and fourth expeditions to the West. The diaries, which are in German, include marginalia by Preuss' wife, Gertrude. Figures mentioned prominently include Kit Carson and William Shereley ('old Bill) Williams. Contains unpublished maps drawn by Preuss from the Klamath Marsh region. Several of these maps serve to underscore that, for FrŽmont and Preuss, "Sasty" was in Oregon and "Pit" was in California. Only later, in 1848, following Wilkes's new naming standard, were the names reversed. In particular, the microfilm frame 115, drawn while Preuss was at the camp of Dec. 2-3, 1843, contains an inset, later crossed out but only lightly so, showing a southern divide with 'Sasty' to the north and 'Pit' to the south (Preuss uses both 'Pit' and 'Pitt,' plus 'Sasty' and 'Shasty,' in his notebook maps). Exact compass angles of measurement are given. Microfilm frame 114 is a smaller scale map for which frame 115 is a detail. Frame 114 contains the following annotation which must be interpreted using Preuss's measurements to determine which mountain he was measuring as "S 59 W;" Preuss writes: "Mt. Shasty. Pitt. i.e. what we took for Mt. Pitt before. it belongs as well as what we called Mt. Shasty to the branch turning off East in which the three snow peaks are." The "three snow peaks" are small mountains forming the southern divide and each was measured and drawn by Preuss. The Preuss annotation and notebook maps clearly show that Preuss, sometime after the expedition, felt his 1843 'Pitt' in California and 'Sasty' in Oregon, were not right.

It was not until 1844 that the Wilkes published maps appeared in print showing the new Mt. Shasta in California, though an unpublished letter from Wilkes states that a manuscript map of the entire Sacramento river was shown to Fremont shortly after Fremont's expedition (see Wilkes Letter to Gales and Seton). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS999].


FrŽmont's topographer, Charles Preuss, had been on FrŽmont's first California expedition in 1843-1844, but the 1845 map resulting from that expedition did not name Mt. Shasta. Preuss was not on the second FrŽmont California expedition, and used many sources in compiling the 1848 map.

Note that the FrŽmont-Preuss 1848 map is the first map to use the name of "Mt. Pitt" for present-day Mt. McLoughlin. Note that had Preuss gone by his notebook field maps of 1843, he would have named present Mt. McLoughlin as "Sasty," and named present Mt. Shasta as "Pitt" (see Preuss diary...(manuscript) 1843).

Charles Preuss drew a notebook map with compass readings from the expedition camp of December 3, 1843 to Mount "Sasty." This particular notebook map, unfortunately never published nor mentioned (not mentioned, for example, in Gudde and Gudde Charles Preuss: Exploring with FrŽmont 1958), and another map in the notebook (published in Wheat Mapping the Transmississippi West, Vol. 2, p. 196) indicate that his Mount "Sasty" was present-day Mount McLoughlin. His notebook's Mount "Pitt" was present-day Mount Shasta. These assignments of Sasty and Pit were the proper names according to available maps, including the U.S. Army map by created in 1838 by Washington Hood (see LaLande 1987, pp. 124-128).

Preuss himself later wrote a note on one of his notebook manuscript maps to the effect that the names "Pit" and "Sasty" should be switched. Why exactly did Preuss and FrŽmont in 1848 reverse these historically correct names? The
probable answer is that they did the reversal in order to be in accord with the incorrect maps of Wilkes (see Wilkes 1844) and Mitchell (see Mitchell 1846) which by 1846 had become established as the standard maps of the West.

Another question arises as to why the extra "t" was added to "Pit" to make Mount "Pitt"? Preuss was already in 1843 using both names in his notebook maps. But note that the both names of "Pit" and "Pitt" were already used in a transcription of the 1827-1827 Peter Skene Ogden journal as a river name.

It is on the FrŽmont-Preuss map of 1848 that the name "Tsashtl" first appeared in print. This spelling probably stems from Fremont's stated insistence to add a "t" to the spelling of some place names (see Fremont Report...1843-44, 1845). Note that one cannot assume that "Tsashtl" was a name entirely coined by FrŽmont because some of the geographical information on his 1848 map was added from other sources. In fact all mentions of Mt. Shasta in FrŽmont's published writings use the spelling of "Shastl"; thus "S-h-a-s-t-l" is FrŽmont's own preferred spelling over "T-s-a-s-h-t-l."

Note that the name "Tsashtl" was later adapted by other map-makers and writers. At some point the theory developed that this word "Tsashtl," or also "Shastl," spelled by Harry Wells in 1881 as 'Tshastal,' is quite similar to a Russian word meaning "white" (see Wells 1881) though there is no indication that FrŽmont or Preuss knowingly adopted a Russian word. The historian Betty Hall has stated that the name "Shasta" came from the Russian word "Tsisti" meaning white (see Lloyd 1988), and A. F. Eichorn also has presented evidence of a Russian origin to "Shasta" (see Eichorn 1957). There may never be a complete resolution to the Russian origin, short of discovering original documents from Russian settlers or explorers stating that they named the mountain sometime before Ogden in 1827.  

Preuss, Carl 1803-1854. Charles Preuss: Exploring with Fremont, The Private Diaries of Charles Preuss, Cartographer for John C. Fremont on His First, Second, and Fourth Expeditions to the Far West. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958. The Charles Preuss diaries contain entries for the December 1843 to January 1844 time period when the FrŽmont expedition was in the region of Klamath Lake. The editors unfortunately have not included in this book the diaries' very important small manuscript maps of the region which show Mount "Sasty" at about 43¡ latitude and Mount "Pit" at about 41 and 1/2¿ latitude (see Preuss "Untitled map showing...Clammut River." In Wheat. Vol. 2, 1958. Map 499). In 1848 Preuss and FrŽmont published a large map of the Oregon Territory on which these names were reversed. The diaries published by Guinne and Guinne nonetheless have geographical references which help interpret the maps. Note that other unpublished manuscript maps in the Preuss diaries have later annotations, probably by Preuss himself, which indicate that he thought that the reversal of mountain names would be necessary (see Preuss "Diary May 30, 1843 to July 15, 1844, No. 2" microfilm, frame 115, Library of Congress, Manuscript Dept.). Preuss was correct in 1843-1844, by earlier Hudson's Bay standards, of naming present-day Mt. McLoughlin as "Mount Sasty." (see LaLande 1987). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS819].


Rolle, Andrew. John Charles Fremont: Character as Destiny. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. Contains a chapter, "Battling Captain Wilkes" (pp. 108-110), concerning the controversy between John Charles FrŽmont and Charles Wilkes over whose cartography of the West was more accurate. This brief chapter does not give many details about this argument over coastal geography between the two great explorers, other than the fact that FrŽmont states that "The truth is that Capt. Wilkes led me into error" (p. 109).

Note that in Yale University's Beinecke Library there is an unpublished letter from Wilkes to his publisher, Gales and Seton, stating that FrŽmont took information from Wilkes, and that Wilkes had shown FrŽmont a manuscript 27 foot long map of the Sacramento River. This connection may explain why FrŽmont adopted the apparently mistaken placement of the name for Mount Shasta which first shows up on Wilkes's maps (1844) and then on FrŽmont's map (1848) of the Oregon Territory. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS80].

Scanlon, Hugh F. Through the Sacramento River Canyon in 1841. In: The Siskiyou Pioneer in Folklore, Fact and Fiction and Yearbook. Siskiyou County Historical Society. 1968. Vol. 4. No. 1. An account of the United States Exploring Expedition's 1841 overland route through the Sacramento Canyon. Contains a full-page reproduction of the important Oct. 4, 1841 "Enter Sasty or Cascade Mountains" map by Henry Eld, one of the maps drawn daily by Eld in his capacity as the official map maker of the journey. This map shows Mt. Shasta as "Sasty Peak" at the top, and Castle Crags as "3 Granite Peaks we called the Needles" at the bottom. The article is illustrated with pictures of Titian Ramsay Peale, James Dwight Dana, and Henry Eld. Contains a selected bibliography.

The author mentions that his search for information about the old Hudson's Bay Company trail led him to the Eld
maps and journals in the Coe collection at Yale University's Beinecke Library. There is no mention made of either the Emmons journals also in the Beinecke or the Dana journal in the main Yale library. These other journals give more insights into the 1841 expedition. The Dana journal, for example, makes the above mentioned Eld map more comprehensible by clearly defining the "Sasty Mountains" as the mountains between "Sasty Peak" and the Sacramento Valley. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS863].


Shiveley's letter begins: "Before I left Washington I think you requested of me to learn what facts I could as to the source and confluence of Rogue's River which is not laid down on your map. Rogue River must be the same that you lay down as Shaste river-- What I know about it--you may learn from this fact..." (p.1 of manuscript). Shiveley goes on to describe a shipwreck at the mouth of the Rogue River which forced him to ascend the river, and he includes a small map as part of the third page of the letter (see Viola and Margolis 1985, p. 182).

Wilkes's maps of 1844 (though dated 1841) named the present-day Rogue River as the "Shaste River."

Many other maps before Wilkes's 1844 map had shown "Shaste" and "Shasty" as the name for the present-day Rogue River, and this was perhaps the correct name for that river as originally intended by the Hudson's Bay Company. But, unlike earlier maps, Wilkes's 1844 maps no longer used the name of "Mt. Shasty" for present-day Mt. McLoughlin, which dominates the Rogue river valley. The Shaste river naturally was associated with the original Shasty mountain. But Wilkes had in 1844 moved the name of "Mt. Shasty" down to the next southerly mountain, leaving the old Shaste River without a headwater mountain of the same name. Wilkes published a revised map in 1858 (though it was still dated as 1841 with no indication of revision) in which the "Shaste" River was renamed the "Rogue." 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS1001].

[MS386]. Societe Geographique Francaise. [report, by Charles Wilkes, 1842, of a recent speech delivered by Charles Wilkes in Philadelphia (French translation)]. In: Bulletin de la SocietŽ Geographique Francaise. 1843. pp. 37-79. This report helps explain how Duflot de Mofras (see Duflot de Mofras 1844) and his map of 1844 could have contained the same error of Wilkes's 1844 maps; both maps qualify as the first published maps to transfer the name of Mt. Shasty from present-day Mt. McLoughlin down to present-day Mt. Shasta. The French Royal Society of Geography was keenly interested in the Wilkes Expedition primarily because of the race between the Frenchman Dumont D'Urville and the American Wilkes. D'Urville was only a few days late in discovering that the Antarctic was a continent, Wilkes having been there first. The 1843 publication of the Wilkes speech was one of many Wilkes-related reports published in French translation, and DuFlot DeMofras, whose book and map were published by the Society, certainly had access to Wilkes's material. DuFlot DeMofras, it should be noted, met Wilkes in the Pacific Northwest in 1841.

The article contains nearly forty pages of translation of a speech by Wilkes, including the statement, apparently from Wilkes: "Un nombreux dŽtachement fut expŽditi du fort Vancouver vers la Californie, en passant par la VallŽ de Willamette, le pays d'Umqua et de Shasty, et en suivant le Sacramento depuis sa partie supŽrieure jusqu'au port San Francisco, oŽ le dŽtachement rejoignit l'expŽdition " la fin d'octobre" (p. 52). The 1842 speech by Wilkes was a report given in Philadelphia on the findings of the entire United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842. The 'Shasty' refers either to the Rogue River region and the Siskiyou mountains or to the Sacramento River Canyon mountains, because Wilkes himself, in his 1844 "Narratives," inconsistently used the term "Shaste mountains" for both regions, reserving the singular form of Shasty Peak for present-day Mount Shasta. In any event, the French publication of Wilkes's speech indirectly and only in a general way indicates how Duflot de Mofras in France could have received Wilkes's reports and maps. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS386].

[MS330]. Spence, Mary Lee and Jackson, Donald. The Expeditions of John Charles FrŽmont: Volumes 1, 2, 3, and Map Portfolio. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1970-1984. Volume 3 was edited by Spence only. A supplement to Volume 2 on the 'Court Martial Proceedings' was also published. Each of the three volumes contains letters and other documents relating to FrŽmont, many of them published for the first time. This is an essential set of books for those who wish to do research about FrŽmont. All of the material is expertly footnoted by the editors, and each volume has its own bibliography. Volume 1 is subtitled 'Travels from 1838 to 1844.' Mount Shasta related material includes a complete reprint of Fremont's 'A Report of the Exploring Expedition to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843-44.'

Volume 2 is subtitled 'The Bear Flag Revolt and the Court Martial.' Mount Shasta related material includes excerpts
from the Fremont 'Memoirs' of 1887 which recount the California expedition of 1845-6.

Volume 3 is subtitled 'Travels from 1848 to 1854.' Mount Shasta related material includes a complete reprint of Fremont's 1848 'Geographical Memoir upon Upper California, in Illustration of his Map of Oregon and California.'

Mount Shasta related material includes accounts of the California expedition of 1845-6.

Each of the three volumes contains letters and other documents relating to Fremont, many of them published here for the first time. This is an essential set of books for those who wish to do research on Fremont. All of the material is expertly footnoted by the editors, and each volume has its own bibliography.

The map portfolio contains the following maps: The map portfolio contains an introductory pamphlet by Donald Jackson.

The maps in the portfolio are:

- Map 1: 'Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River... by J. N. Niccollet...'
- Map 2 is 'Map to Illustrate an Exploration of the Country between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains...'
- Map 3 is the 'Map of an Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the year 1842 and to Oregon & Northern California in the Years 1843-44...'
- Map 4 is (in seven sections) the 'Topographical Map of the Road from Missouri to Oregon...'
- Map 5 is the 'Map of Oregon and Upper California From the Surveys of John Charles FrŽmont and other Authorities drawn by Charles Preuss Under the Order of the Senate of the United States Washington City 1848.' Note that Map 5 from 1848 shows Mount Shasta as Mount "Tsashtl". 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS330].


[MS75]. Viola, Herman J. and Margolis, Carolyn. Magnificent Voyagers: The U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842. Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1985. A large team of Smithsonian scholars describes in words and pictures the circumstances and background of the United States Exploring Expedition lead by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes. The around-the-world sailing expedition marked the United States' entry into the ranks of international science in part by their discovery that the Antarctic was a continent. The need to house the expedition's massive scientific specimen
collections from the four year trip led to the formation of the Smithsonian Institution.

In September and October of 1841 a group of the expedition's civilian scientists and artists along with a naval escort led by Lieutenants George Emmons and Henry Eld, traveled overland from Oregon to California. They passed over the western base of Mount Shasta on their way. They were the first scientists and artists ever to see Mt. Shasta, and their findings, along with the hand-drawn maps by Eld, lead expedition leader Charles Wilkes to publish in 1844 the first published maps ever to place the name "Mt. Shasty" on the mountain now called Mt. Shasta. Up until 1844 the name "Mt. Shasty" was a name reserved for present-day Mt. McLoughlin.

Although little detail about the Oregon to California overland expedition is given in this book, there is nonetheless considerable biographical material on each of the scientists and artists who came to Mount Shasta in 1841: James Dwight Dana, geologist; Titian Ramsay Peale, artist-naturalist; William Brackenridge, botanist; William Rich, botanist; Alfred Agate, artist; as well as biographies of Lieutenants Emmons and Eld. Material directly relevant to far northern California can be found on pp. 142-143, 163, 182-185, and 220-224. Contains a valuable bibliography on pp. 271-285. Magnificent Voyagers was published to coincide with an exhibition of the same name organized by the Smithsonian Institution in 1985. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS75].

[MS681]. Walker, Joel P. 1797-1879. A Pioneer of Pioneers: Narrative of Adventures Thro' Alabama, Florida, New Mexico, Oregon, California, etc. Los Angeles, Calif.: Glen Dawson, 1953. Original manuscript was titled: 'Joel P. Walker. A Soldier under Jackson in the Florida war, a pioneer to Oregon, a pioneer to California, a member of the Constitutional Convention to California in 1849, and the first Assessor of Napa County. Now, March 28th 1878, Resident of Sonoma County, aged 81. This narrative was dictated by Mr. Walker to R.A. Thompson of Santa Rosa.' According to the title page: 'The original manuscript was placed in the Bancroft Library in 1878 and is here transcribed, without editing, and printed with the permission of the Director of the Bancroft Library, George Hammond, 1953.' Joel Walker was the older brother of the noted trapper and explorer Joseph Reddeford Walker. Joel Walker and his family traveled with the 1841 Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition from Oregon to California. Only a few short paragraphs relate to the Wilkes-Emmons party and it is evident from the text that this was Walker's first trip over the California-Oregon trail.

Notice Walker's phonetic spellings of expedition personnel Peale, Dana, and Emmons: "In July or August 1841 the Peacock, one of Wilkes's squadron, was lost at the mouth of the Columbia River, while in charge of Capt. Hudson. The men were all saved and came up to Fort Vancouver. On the 20th day of September 1841 Robert Peel and twenty five men, left the Willamette Valley to go by land and I joined them with my family. We arrived at Sutter's on the 22d of October 1841. My family consisted of my wife and five children. My wife was the first white woman in Sacramento. My daughter Louisa was born in Oregon January 14th 1841, the first white child born in Oregon of American parents. At Sutter's I met Commodore Wilkes, and with him a mineralogist named Denny who told me as we came down the Sacramento river, 'this is golden Country.' He said he saw every indication of gold but showed me none. This is all I ever heard about gold at Sutter's fort, previous to its discovery there. In the part from Oregon was the present Admiral Semmes, then a midshipman. He was a splendid fellow. Peel was also at the fort. I was engaged by Sutter at a salary of Five Hundred Dollars a year as superintendent of his farm' (pp. 13-14). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS681].

[MS352]. [biographical information about Joel P. Walker]. In: Palmer, Joel 1810-1881. Journal of Travels over the Rocky Mountains. Fairfield, Wash.: Ye Galleon Press, 1983. p. 176. This is a biographical footnote about Joel Walker, first published in Vol. XXX of Thwaites, Ruben Gold Early Western Travels, Cleveland: Arthur Clark Co., 1906. Joel Walker was an American civilian settler in the Oregon Territory who attached himself and his family to the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition of 1841. All the American civilian members of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition are of interest to the history of the naming of Mt. Shasta. It cannot be ruled out that it was the accompanying American civilians, Tibbetts and Wood, having previously been on the same route with Young and Edwards in 1837, who influenced Emmons et al in 1841 to name the wrong mountain as Mt. Shasta (see Edwards 1932).

Information about Joel Walker is scarce. The footnote biographical comment by Thwaites tells us that Walker was the brother of famous Sierra Nevada explorer Joseph R. Walker, and was one of the first non-missionary independent settlers in the Oregon Territory. Thwaites explains that Joel Walker worked for Sutter in 1841, went back to Oregon, and in 1848 returned to California where he died sometime after 1878. In later life Walker wrote a memoir entitled A Pioneer of Pioneers (see Walker 1953). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS352].

[MS14]. Warren, K. Memoir to Accompany the Map of the Territory of the United States from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, Giving a Brief Account of Each of the Exploring Expeditions since A.D. 1800, with a Detailed Description of the Method Adopted in Compiling the General Map. In: Reports of Explorations and
Surveys to Ascertain the Most Practicable and Economical Route for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Made under the Direction of the Secretary of War, in 1854-55, According to Acts of Congress of March 3, 1853, May 31, 1854, and August 5, 1854. Volume XI. 36th Congress. Washington, D. C.: George W. Bowman, Printer, 1861. 115 pp, plus approximately 25 large folding maps and 15 steel engravings. Contains an important large folding map (originally meant to accompany Volume VI: Abbot-Williamson Report) of northern California; this map shows more details of the Mount Shasta region than any previous published map. On pp. 77-78 of the numbered pages can be found an excellent review of the route taken by the 1854 Abbot-Williamson Survey in northern California and southern Oregon.

As a whole, Volume XI of the Railroad Reports contains the maps for all previous Volumes of the Reports. The scholarly introduction by Warren is actually a comprehensive review of the history of exploration and map-making of the western United States. This volume also contains three steel engravings by Baron von Egloffstein each showing Mount Shasta in the distance. The engravings were originally meant to accompany Volume II: Beckwith Report but were delayed in production.


[MS663]. Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. [letter of route instructions, June 15, 1841, to Lieut. Emmons concerning Mt. Shasta, manuscript], bound in with: Emmons, George Foster 1811-1884. [manuscript journal, 1841, containing his daily record of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition from Oregon to California]. 1841. This manuscript Wilkes letter is in the collection of Yale University's Beinecke Library, physically 'bound-in' with G. F. Emmons journal at the June 15, 1841 entry. The letter was published, in part, in the early editions of Wilkes' Narratives (see for example: Wilkes Narratives... Philadelphia, Penn.: Lea and Blanchard, 1845, Vol. 5. p. 517), but the manuscript letter contains a significant unpublished 'crossed-out' section of route instructions. A letter of overland route instructions sent by Wilkes to Emmons relevant to the location of Mt. Shasta. The letter, in its published version, contains the statement: "The route to be pursued by the part, is up the Willamette Valley in a southerly direction, crossing the Umpqua River and mountains, thence south and west of the Shaste Mountains to latitude 42 N." (p. 517).

The Wilkes manuscript letter of June 15, 1841 instructions, bound in Emmons journal, in the collection of Yale University's Beinecke Library, has crossed out instructions. When Emmons received the new itinerary in the form of the Wilkes letter dated Sept. 1, 1841 (see Wilkes letter Sept 1, 1841), he then then crossed out the original instructions which called for a northerly return route. Wilkes originally, in the June 15, 1841 letter, wrote: "Thence East to Clamet Lake and as far as the head of Pitt River, thence North to 45\textdegree Lat and ___ by the foot of Mt. Hood into the Willamette settlement...."

If one combines the deleted portion with the undeleted, one is given the true June 15, 1841 Wilkes to Emmons instructions: "south and west of the Shaste Mountains to latitude 42 N. Thence East to Clamet Lake and as far as the head of Pitt River, thence North to 45\textdegree Lat..."

Note that the above June 15, 1841 route instruction offers a clue to the why members of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition were the very first explorers to move the name of Mt. Shast from its 1830s usage as a name for present Mt. McLoughlin to its present use as a name for what we call Mt. Shasta. For one thing, to go south and west of present Mt. Shasta, and then east to Klamath Lake on makes sense if the Shasty Mountains are the present Siskiyou Mountains, including present Mt. McLoughlin.

The key is knowing what is meant by the "Shasty Mountains." To the British Hudson's Bay Company, the "Shaste Mountains" were the present Siskiyou Mountains. Wilkes's instructions also indicate that the Shaste Mountains are to be found north of the 42\textdegree parallel. But to the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition members, as evidenced in their journals, the "Shaste Mountains" were the present upper Sacramento River Canyon mountains. This was a serious discrepancy for the future name of "Pit Mountain."

A prominent Cascade peak is found northwest of each range, that is, present Mt. McLoughlin northwest of the Siskiyou, and present Mt. Shasta northwest of the upper Sacramento River Canyon mountains. When the Wilkes-Emmons expedition members were on the summit of the present Siskiyou looking at Mt. Shasta for the first time, they did not know that they were on the summit of the "Shaste Mountains" as defined by the British. They thought that they were on the "Rogue Mts.," "the Boundary range," etc. They 'mistakenly' named the peak they saw as Mt. Shasta because they assumed the mountains still to the south were the "Shaste Mountains."

There are clues in the early fur trade literature that the Oregon territory civilian American trappers and explorers traveling with the Wilkes-Emmons expedition, Tibbetts and Wood in particular, had a different conception of the "Shaste Mountains" and even of Mt. Shasty, and were the deciding factor in convincing Emmons to call the mountain Shaste (see Edwards 'Diary of a Cattledrive...1837' in Watson 1932; and Spaulding 1843). Note that Emmons expressed some doubt about what to call the mountain. Upon seeing the mountain for the first time on Sept. 29, 1841 he called it "Shasty or Pitt."

Although Emmons, upon seeing Mt. Shasta for the first time called it "Mt. Shasty or Pitt," from Sept. 29, 1841 on, Emmons and his expedition members called it "Sasty," "Tchasty," and "Shaste," and never again "Pit" or "Pitt."
One incidental curiosity about the crossed-out portion of the June 15th Wilkes letter is that it indicates that the Emmons journal in the possession of the Beinecke library is probably a copy of the original journal entries. The original June 15th letter with crossed-out portion is bound-in neatly opposite the Emmons journal entry of June 15th. But the June 15th entry in the Emmons journal consists of the letter of instructions rewritten on the journal page but omitting entirely the crossed-out portion obvious on Wilkes' accompanying bound-in letter. The crossing-out would not have taken place until Sept. 1, when Emmons received the instructions to change the itinerary. Thus Emmons did not copy the June 15 entry in the extant journal until after Sept. 1st. Emmons probably copied his field notes into the large bound book at some time after completing the overland expedition. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS663].

[MS665]. Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. [letter of route instructions, Aug. 7, 1841, to Lieut. Ringgold concerning Mt. Shasta]. In: Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842. Philadelphia, Pa.: Lea and Blanchard, 1845. pp. 518-521. This letter was sent to Lieut. Ringgold, who was sent by ship south to San Francisco Bay and then to: "examine the Sacramento and its branches. This you will do by running to its head waters, or as far as it is practicable to pursue the river with a boat, and then bring the survey down from the extreme point arrived at, where your latitude and longitude must be carefully determined. This is believed will be on the head waters, called on the map 'Pitt River.' From this position and others you will get a view of the different mountains, particularly the Shaste Peak, the most southern one in the Territory of Oregon" (pp. 520-521).

In this letter Wilkes states that the "Shaste Peak" was in Oregon. Note that on Oct. 31st, 1841, shortly before leaving San Francisco Bay, Wilkes sent to the Secretary of the Navy an annotated copy of the Washington Hood 1838 map. The Hood map showed "Mt. Shasty" as the name of present Mt. McLoughlin. Therefore, since it is known that Wilkes had in his possession the Washington Hood map of 1838, it seems likely that Wilkes in 1841 thought the Shaste Peak was one and the same as present-day Mt. McLoughlin, as shown on the Hood map. It was later, following the journals and maps of Eld, Emmons, and the other members of the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition that Wilkes named a different mountain as "Shasty Peak." 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS665].

[MS664]. Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. [letter of route instructions, Sept. 1, 1841, to Lieut. Emmons concerning Mt. Shasta]. In: Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842. Philadelphia, Pa.: Lea and Blanchard, 1845. pp. 518. This letter to Emmons, dated Sept. 1, 1841, instructs Emmons to change the itinerary, and instead of returning northward, to go "south towards California, and if possible west of the Shaste Mountains, thence to strike the waters of the Sacramento, passing over the head waters of various streams that empty into the ocean, viz., the Umpqua, Klamet, and their branches...If you should fall upon the Sacramento, taking a more easterly route, you will, if you find it difficult to proceed with your horses, abandon them, and proceed in canoes down the river (p. 518).

The above reference to the Umpqua, Klamet, and their branches is explained by looking at the Washington Hood map of 1838 (see Hood "Map" 1838 In Wheat 1958), a map which Wilkes had in his possession. That map shows a headwaters branch of the Umpqua River extending south and west of Mt. Shasty, and branches of the Klamath on the same map nearly encircle Mt. Shasty. Keep in mind that Wilkes was probably using the Hood map as his major guide, for he sent an
annotated copy of the Hood map from San Francisco to Washington on Oct. 31, 1841. "Mt. Shasty" on that map was another name for present-day Mt. McLoughlin. The "west of the "Shaste Mountains" mentioned in the Sept. 1, 1841 instructions might have meant the mountains which were part of the curved range of which Mt. Shasty was the main peak. Thus the instructions could have meant to pass west of the Shaste Mountains, but still pass east of present Mt. Shasta.

The reference to a more easterly route, if the group fell in upon the "Sacramento," is clarified by the letter Wilkes sent to Ringgold (see Wilkes "letter.. Aug. 7, 1841"), wherein Wilkes explains that the upper Sacramento is called "Pitt River."

Thus one could interpret the actual route which the Wilkes-Emmons overland expedition took to be different than the route ordered by Wilkes in this Sept. 1, 1841 letter, and it may well be that even the overland expedition members were not aware of the discrepancy. Statements in the journals of Dana and Brackenridge corroborate this interpretation. The group probably should have been passing east of present Mt. Shasta, not west of it, as they did. 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS664].

[MS821]. Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. [letter, from Charles Wilkes, to Gales and Seton, June 12, 1848, concerning the fact that J. C. Fremont was shown circa 1844 a manuscript 27-foot-long map of the entire Sacramento River]. June 12, 1848. Unpublished letter in the collection of the Beinecke Library at Yale University; cataloged as WA MSS S732 and W652. Letter can account for FrŽmont adopting the 1844 Wilkes location for "Mt. Shaste." This is an unpublished letter Wilkes sent to his publishers, in which he states that he showed to FrŽmont a twenty-seventy foot long map of the Sacramento River. The long map was undoubtedly constructed from the manuscript maps of Henry Eld and from the survey work of Ringgold (see Eld 1841).

Wilkes's letter reads in part: "The original chart of the River [Sacramento] was plotted during the progress of the Survey, on a large scale, and is 27 feet in length, this I had the pleasure of showing to Col. Benton, Capt. FrŽmont (just after his return from his second trip) and two or three other gentlemen who called at my house to see it: this chart has been reduced and is now engraved on a sufficiently large scale to show all the windings of the River. In Feby 1845 Capt. Fremont wrote me a letter requesting I would give him the positions I had assigned Fort Vancouver and Capt Sutter's fort, this letter forwarded to me at Philadelphia, where I was thus engaged reading the proofs of my Narratives" (p. 3).

This letter is important because it underscores the importance of the Eld manuscript maps in influencing both Wilkes and FrŽmont in taking the name of "Mt. Shasty" from its place as the name of today's Mt. McLoughlin and transferring the name to present-day Mount Shasta. Wilkes's published maps of 1844, the FrŽmont-Preuss map of 1848, and the Mitchell map of 1846, were the three most influential maps of the time, and they helped establish the new location for the name "Shasty." Wilkes's map spelled the name as "Shaste," Mitchell's map spelled the name as "Shaste," and Fremont-Preuss' map spelled the name as "Tshasl." All three maps retained some variant of the "Shaste" name for the Rogue River in Oregon, a geographical incongruity that was rectified by later geographers.

This letter was part of the ongoing public argument between FrŽmont and Wilkes, each defending his own geographical mapping abilities. In the present letter Wilkes adds: "An inference may be drawn from a part of the remarks of Col. FrŽmont that the Exploring Expedition had depended for its results upon others, I have to inform him, as well as others (to make use of a common expression) the Expedition, wherever it did go, went on its own hook" (p. 4). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860. [MS821].

[MS669]. Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. Western America Including California and Oregon. Philadelphia, Pa.: Lea and Blanchard, 1849. Mentions the "Shaste Mountains," as a general term meaning the mountains between present Ashland, Oregon, and Redding, Calif, encompassing both the Siskiyous mountains and the present unnamed mountains between Mt. Shasta and Redding.

This is a guide book to the West, written in response to demand for information about the gold rush. The southern Oregon and northern California portions of this book are mostly a repetition of remarks taken from Wilkes's earlier 1844 Narratives. Wilkes says: "The Klamet Valley is far inferior to any portion of the country north of it, and in comparison may be deemed barren, it is twenty miles in width, gradually rising towards the mountains. The Shaste Mountains, which separate the valley from California, have already been described in speaking of that country" (p. 57). 09. Early Exploration: American Government Expeditions, 1841-1860/40. Find List. [MS669].

[MS809]. Wilkes, Charles 1798-1877. Report on the Territory of Oregon. In: Oregon Historical Society Quarterly. 1911. Vol. 12. pp. 269-299. 'The text of the document was taken from the Congressional Record of July 15, 1911' (p. 268). The report was sent by Wilkes to the Navy in June, 1842, shortly after his return to this country. According to Haskell the report was first printed in the Congressional Record, Vol. 47, part 3, pp. 2977-2983 (see Haskell 1968). Charles Wilkes mentions the name "Shasty" only once. He says: "The only Indians of the country south of 49° who are disposed to make war upon the whites are the Klames, residing on the southern borders of the territory along Rogue and Klamet Rivers and in the passes of the Shast Mountains. The show of a small force would, I am sure, have a
good tendency in preventing their depredations on the whites who pass through the country, their hostility to whom, in a great measure, is to be ascribed to the conduct of the whites themselves, who leave no opportunity unimproved of molesting them. Cases have frequently occurred of white men shooting a poor, defenseless Indian without any provocation whatever. A friendly disposition, with sufficient force to prevent any attack, could not fail to bring about the desired disposition on their parts" (pp. 296-297).

At the very beginning of this 1842 report Wilkes states that the southern boundary of the Oregon Territory was the "Klamet Range running on the parallel of 42\degree and dividing it from upper California" (p. 271). Thus the "Shasty mountains" as the term is used here probably were not the present-day Siskiyou mountains or "Klamet Range." The "Shasty Mountains" probably refers to the mountains between Mt. Shasta and Redding (see Dana "Notes ..." 1849 for a concise explanation of the difference between the "Shasty Peak" and the "Shasty Mountains").

Note that the annotated map discussed above helps establish that Wilkes had a copy of this map in his possession. It allows one to interpret the Wilkes route instruction letter of June 15, 1841, which states in so many words that "Mt. Shasty" was north of the 42\degree parallel. That Wilkes was under the assumption in 1841 that "Mt. Shasty" was in Oregon is confirmed in the wording of Wilkes' route instructions to Emmons and to Ringold (see Wilkes "letter...June 1st, 1841"; "letter...Aug. 7th 1841"; and "letter...Sept. 1, 1841").

If Wilkes had this map, which depicts "Mt. Shasty" in Oregon and "Pit Mountain" in California, then why did his men, i.e., Eld, Emmons, Dana, etc., name "Pit Mountain" as "Shasty Peak?" The journals of Dana, Emmons and Brackenridge all contain clues that Emmons and his group were mistaken in naming Pit Mountain as Mt. Shasty; for example, on seeing Mt. Shasta for the first time Emmons wrote "Shasty or Pitt" (see Emmons 1841).

Note that there is also an unpublished Wilkes's letter, not found in the Spence book, to Gales and Seton, in the collection of Yale University's Beinecke Library, in which Wilkes states that he did show to FrŽmont a twenty-seven foot long map of the Sacramento River. This long map undoubtedly was constructed from the manuscript maps of Henry Eld (see Wilkes letter to Gales and Seton June 12, 1848). Eld's maps depicted "Sasty Peak" at the headwaters of the present Sacramento. All of these published and unpublished letters are important in following the course of the new name for California's present Mt. Shasta, a name which up to the 1841 was never "Mt. Shasta" in any spelling whatsoever, but which was variously "Pit mountain" or "Mt. Jackson" or "Mt. Simpson." FrŽmont in all likelihood adopted Wilkes's 'mistake.'