

Ash Hollow



A few miles after pioneers crossed the Platte River along the trail was Ash Hollow. Here was fresh, clean spring water--a luxury the emigrants had not tasted for weeks. But getting to Ash Hollow was tricky. The pioneers had to

negotiate a very steep hill called Windlass Hill.

Sometimes they would let the wagons down with ropes--or get a dozen men to hold on as "human brakes." Occasionally, the brakemen would lose control of a wagon and a severe crash would result. Once they reached the bottom, Ash Hollow on the North Platte River was a welcome site.

In her journal entry for June 5, 1852, Esther Belle Hanna described the great profusion of wild roses in full bloom to be found there. The trees were the first the pioneers had seen for 100 miles. Most of the wagon trains would rest at Ash Hollow for a day or two. At the bottom was Ash Hollow.

Emigrant E. B. Farnham: "This is the best looking place we have seen for some time. It is a cool shady looking place fragrant with different kinds of flowers of which rose and jasmine are the principle. Grape vines and currant bushes are plenteous."

Captain Howard Stansbury: "Several springs of delightfully cold and refreshing water were found, altogether the best that has been met with since leaving Missouri."