

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

For members of the Donner Party, ages are given as of May, 1846, when the Donners and Reeds left Independence. Ages in the text may vary slightly, as they reflect the age at the appropriate moment of the story.

MEMBERS OF THE DONNER PARTY

GEORGE DONNER FAMILY

GEORGE DONNER, *husband*, 60-62
 TAMZENE DONNER, *wife*, 44
 ELITHA DONNER, *George's daughter from prior marriage*, 13
 LEANNA DONNER, *George's daughter from prior marriage*, 11
 FRANCES DONNER, *daughter*, 5
 GEORGIA DONNER, *daughter*, 4
 ELIZA DONNER, *daughter*, 3

JACOB DONNER FAMILY

JACOB DONNER, *husband*, about 56
 BETSY DONNER, *wife*, about 38
 SOLOMON HOOK, *Betsy's son from prior marriage*, 14
 WILLIAM HOOK, *Betsy's son from prior marriage*, about 12
 GEORGE DONNER, *son*, 9
 MARY DONNER, *daughter*, 7
 ISAAC DONNER, *son*, about 5
 SAMUEL DONNER, *son*, about 4
 LEWIS DONNER, *son*, about 3

REED FAMILY

JAMES REED, *husband*, 45
 [returned as a rescuer after reaching safety]
 MARGRET REED, *wife*, 32
 VIRGINIA REED, *Margret's daughter from prior marriage*, 12
 PATTY REED, *daughter*, 8
 JAMES REED JR., *son*, 5
 THOMAS REED, *son*, 3
 SARAH KEYES, *mother of Margret Reed*, about 70

BREEN FAMILY

PATRICK BREEN, *husband*, about 51
 PEGGY BREEN, *wife*, about 40
 JOHN BREEN, *son*, 14
 EDWARD BREEN, *son*, 12
 PATRICK BREEN JR., *son*, 9
 SIMON BREEN, *son*, about 8
 JAMES BREEN, *son*, 5
 PETER BREEN, *son*, 2
 ISABELLA BREEN, *daughter*, about 1

THE MURPHY FAMILY

LEVINAH MURPHY, *widow*, 36
 LANDRUM MURPHY, *son*, 16
 MARY MURPHY, *daughter*, 14
 LEMUEL MURPHY, *son*, 12
 WILLIAM MURPHY, *son*, 10
 SIMON MURPHY, *son*, 8

FOSTERS

WILLIAM FOSTER, *Levinah's son-in-law*, 30 [returned as a rescuer after reaching safety]
 SARAH FOSTER, *Levinah's daughter*, 19
 GEORGE FOSTER, *son*, 1

PIKES

WILLIAM PIKE, *Levinah's son-in-law*, about 32
 HARRIET PIKE, *Levinah's daughter*, 18
 NAOMI PIKE, *daughter*, 2
 CATHERINE PIKE, *daughter*, about 1

THE GRAVES FAMILY

FRANKLIN GRAVES, *husband*, about 57
 ELIZABETH GRAVES, *wife*, 45
 MARY GRAVES, *daughter*, 19
 WILLIAM GRAVES, *son*, 17
 ELEANOR GRAVES, *daughter*, 13
 LOVINA GRAVES, *daughter*, 11
 NANCY GRAVES, *daughter*, 8
 JONATHAN GRAVES, *son*, about 7
 FRANKLIN GRAVES JR., *son*, about 5
 ELIZABETH GRAVES, *son*, about 1

FOSDICKS

JAY FOSDICK, *Franklin's son-in-law*, about 23
 SARAH FOSDICK, *Franklin's daughter*, 21

THE EDDY FAMILY

WILLIAM EDDY, *husband*, about 28
 [returned as a rescuer after reaching safety]
 ELEANOR EDDY, *wife*, about 25
 JAMES EDDY, *son*, about 3
 MARGARET EDDY, *daughter*, about 1

THE KESEBERG FAMILY

LEWIS KESEBERG, *husband*, 32
 PHILIPPINE KESEBERG, *wife*, 23
 ADA KESEBERG, *daughter*, 3
 LEWIS KESEBERG JR., *son*, less than 1

MEMBERS OF THE DONNER PARTY, *Continued*

THE McCUTCHAN FAMILY

WILLIAM McCUTCHAN, *husband*, about 30 [returned as a rescuer after reaching safety]
 AMANDA McCUTCHAN, *wife*, about 23
 HARRIET McCUTCHAN, *daughter*, about 1

THE WOLFINGER FAMILY

— WOLFINGER [first name unknown], *husband*, age unknown
 DORIS WOLFINGER, *wife*, about 20

INDIVIDUALS

ANTONIO ———, *role unknown*, about 23

CHARLES BURGER, *teamster for the Donners*, about 30

JOHN DENTON, *teamster for the Donners*, about 28

PATRICK DOLAN, *individual emigrant and friend of the Breens*, about 35

MILT ELLIOTT, *teamster for the Reeds*, about 28

LUKE HALLORAN, *taken in by the Donners*, about 25

— HARDCOOP [first name unknown], *individual emigrant*, about 60

WALTER HERRON, *teamster for the Reeds*, about 27

NOAH JAMES, *teamster for the Donners*, about 16

HIRAM MILLER, *teamster for the Donners*, about 29 [returned as a rescuer after reaching safety]

JOSEPH REINHARDT, *individual emigrant*, about 30

SAMUEL SHOEMAKER, *teamster for the Donners*, about 25

JAMES SMITH, *teamster for the Reeds*, about 25

JOHN SNYDER, *teamster for the Graves*, about 25

AUGUSTUS SPITZER, *role unknown*, about 30

CHARLES STANTON, *individual emigrant*, 35 [returned as a rescuer after reaching safety]

JEAN BAPTISTE TRUDEAU, *employee of the Donners*, about 16

BATLIS WILLIAMS, *employee of the Reeds*, about 25

ELIZA WILLIAMS, *employee of the Reeds*, about 31

OTHERS*

EDWIN BRYANT, *a newspaperman who initially traveled with the Donners and Reeds, but later went ahead as part of a mule train*

CHARLES CADY, *rescuer, member of the second relief party, which was led by James Reed*

NICHOLAS CLARK, *rescuer, member of the second relief party, which was led by James Reed*

JAMES CLYMAN, *mountain man, skeptic about "Hastings' Cut-Off"*

WILLIAM FALLON, *rescuer*

JOHN C. FREMONT, *U.S. Army western explorer*

AQUILLA GLOVER, *rescuer, co-captain of the first relief party*

LANSFORD HASTINGS, *promoter of "shortcut" taken by the Donner Party*

HEINRICH LIENHARD, *emigrant traveling ahead of the Donner Party*

LUIS ———, *Indian sent from Fort Sutter, age unknown*

WILLIAM RUSSELL, *captain of the party with which the Donners and Reeds initially traveled*

SALVADOR ———, *Indian sent from Fort Sutter, age unknown*

JOHN SINCLAIR, *Sacramento alcalde, or top local official*

JOHN STARK, *rescuer*

CHARLES STONE, *rescuer, member of the second relief party, which was led by James Reed*

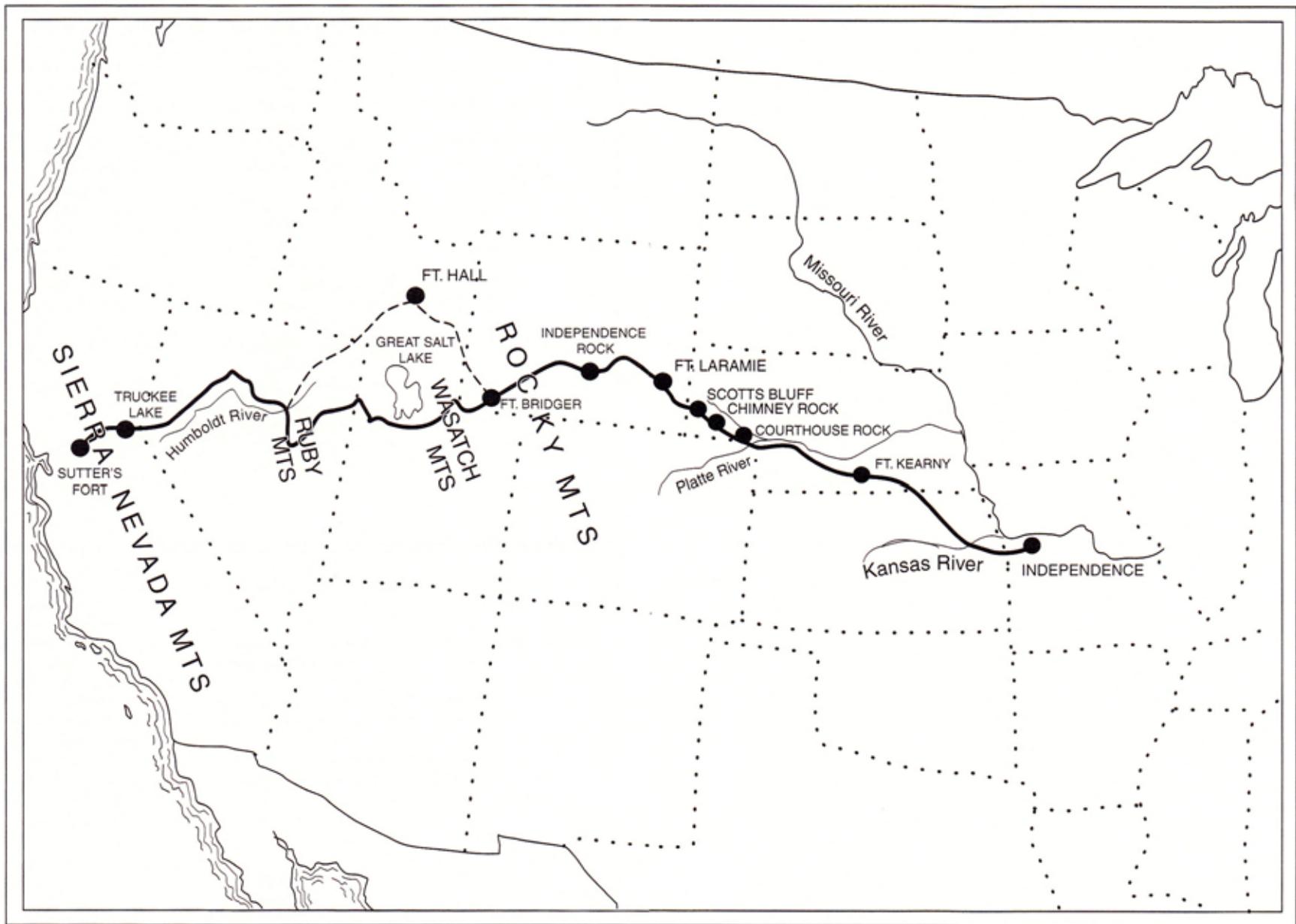
JOHN SUTTER, *owner of Sutter's Fort, at site of modern Sacramento*

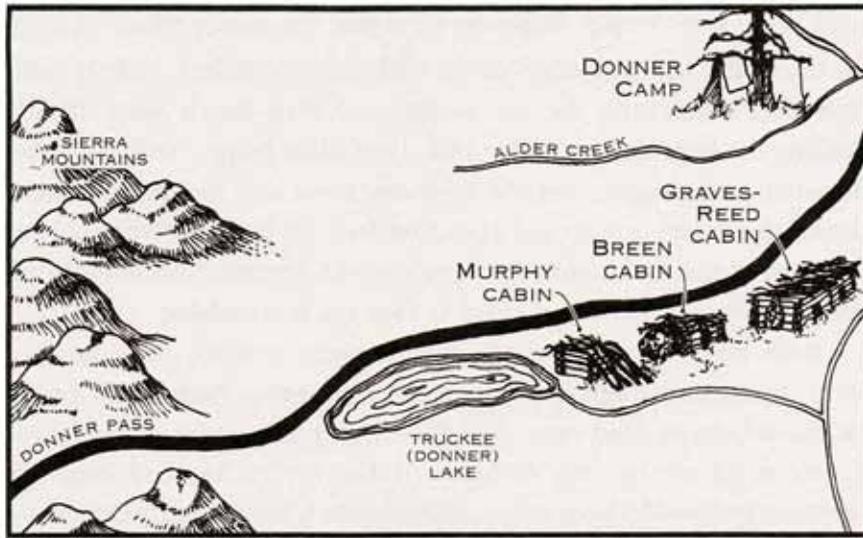
REASON TUCKER, *rescuer, co-captain of the first relief party*

LOUIS VASQUEZ, *co-proprietor, with Jim Bridger, of Bridger's Fort*

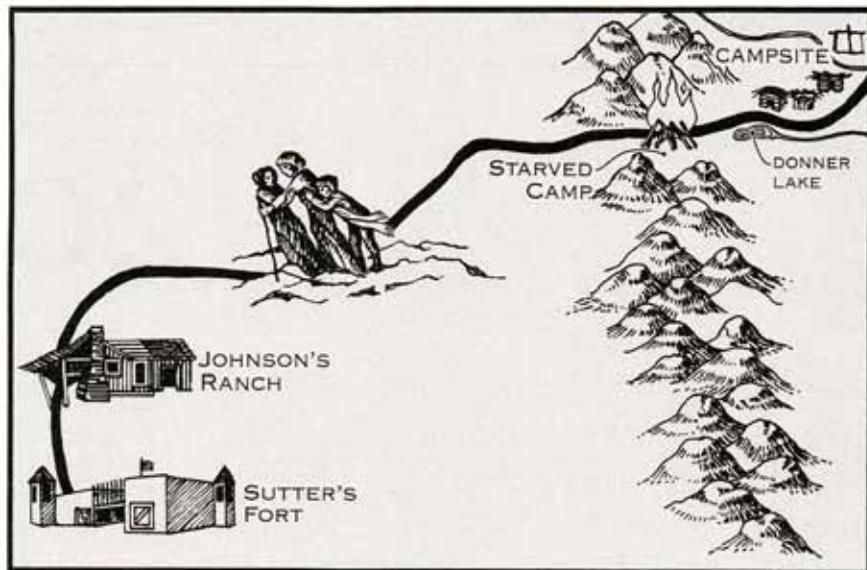
SELIM WOODWORTH, *Naval officer and rescuer*

*This is not an exhaustive list of every rescuer or person connected to the story. These are figures mentioned prominently in the text.





The families trapped in the mountains did not know it, but their last slim chance of immediate help had vanished. They were on their own.



same reasons they cannot reach you—then how the hell do you save their lives?