

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, in the spring of 1843, nearly 1,000 people left from Fitzhugh's Mills, Missouri, bound for Oregon; and

Whereas, this led to the first significant start of a western migration that would involve approximately 500,000 pioneers; and

Whereas, other trading posts and towns emerged as jumping off sites for those headed west, including Independence, Missouri, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Council Bluffs, Iowa; and

Whereas, St. Joseph emerged as the major starting point for these pioneers and wagon trains. The town's early success as a trading post led to it becoming a center of commerce, communication, and trade, along with a booming population. St. Joseph had a well established ferry and steamboat operation for crossing the Missouri River with wagons and livestock, as well as the most established center of commerce west of St. Louis at that time, complete with general stores and mercantiles from which emigrants could obtain equipment and supplies for the five month journey west; and

Whereas, the banks of the Missouri River and the surrounding community of St. Joseph became the gathering point for family and friends to form their trains, hire or appoint a trail boss, and work out final logistics before crossing the Missouri River into the vastness of the open plains and prairies; and

Whereas, it has been estimated that over 200,000 pioneers launched from St. Joseph; and

Whereas, in 1853, St. Joseph became the western terminus for the telegraph; and

Whereas, in 1859, St. Joseph became the western terminus for the railroad with the arrival of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. Additionally, in 1860, St. Joseph was the eastern terminus for transcontinental communication with the start of the Pony Express:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize St. Joseph, Missouri, as the beginning of the Oregon Trail.