

DOCUMENTS

Our First Horticulturist—Brackenridge's Journal of the Willamette Route to California, 1841

(Continued from Vol. XXII., p. 145)

Introductory Note

In the last installment the record abruptly ended with September 16, 1841, and here it is resumed on September 17, with the party working its way through Southern Oregon toward California. The Journal ends with the record of October 2, 1841, followed by the usual notes on plants and fruits.

The editor adds a note giving a careful study of Brackenridge's "Oreogonium." This finishes the record of "Our First Horticulturist" which was begun in the issue for July, 1930, and continued in each subsequent issue.

Willamette Route to California (Continued)

17th. Busy collecting Seeds and plants. Mr. E. and party returned at 8 A.M. and reported that Mr. Gingie²⁸¹ (the officer in charge of Fort) daily expected to be attacked by the Indians and was about to send to Vancouver for assistance. Fort Um[p]qua is situated on the South side of the River of the same name, and about one days march from the coast. small vessels are said to come up the river within 4 miles of the Fort. The party brot. with them a quantity of Melons, Water & Musk, Onions & Potatoes.—Atmosphere today very dense—

18th. Got on the way about 9 A.M. Country at first rather mountaneous in its character, the tops of the ridges *stud[d]ed* with Pine and Spruce trees, flanked beneath with Oaks (2 sp:) Hazel, Ceanothus, Rhamnus, & Arbutus. The flats between the rising ground is rich deep soil with Clumps of Ash and Dogwood, the grass had all been burnt up by a fire which we saw raging ahead of us and were compelled to urge our horses through it. Campd. on Billys River.²⁸² atmosphere so dense that we could not see more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile ahead. (d. 18 miles)

*Plants, Asclepias,*²⁸³ sp: in moist places. Compositae small white fld. Annual.

²⁸¹ *Mr. Gingie.* Mr. Gangriere in the *Narrative*, p. 225. He seemed to be chock full of Indian rumors, and advised that the Emmons party would be attacked and destroyed.

²⁸² *Billys River,* Billy's Creek in the *Narrative*. Billy had been killed here by a grizzly.

²⁸³ *Asclepias,* milkweed.

Epilobium, flos: large purp[l]e, a very handsome annual.

19th. Started a little before 8 A.M. the country swelling gently today into Mts: 6 & 800 feet high covered with Pine and Oak, with solitary large trees of *Arbutus procera*.²⁸⁴ The natives appear to use the bark of this tree for some purpose or another, as the base of the trunks were in general partly striped of it. Saw a number of Deer and Wolves on the flat lands: the soil appeared to be in general poor. At mid-day made the north branch of the Um[p]qua River which I calculate to be about 90 yards wide, water from 18 in. to 2 feet deep with a rough Stony bottom, we anticipated opposition from the Um[p]qua Indians in crossing but none of them shewed their faces till we all got safe over & had encamped.²⁸⁵ when two of them shewed themselves on the opposite bank when we made signs to them to keep aloof.—Weather clear & warm. (distance 10 miles)

Plants: *Ceanothus* sp: flower beautiful Sky blue, a shrub 6 feet high—

A Shrub 15 feet high, related to *Dalabardia*.²⁸⁶ Seeds like *Pelargonium*.²⁸⁷

Oreogonium 2 species on sand flats, both with orange blossoms—

*Laurus*²⁸⁸ *Ptolemii* ?—of Hooker, a very handsome evergreen tree.

*Nicotiana*²⁸⁹ sp: flos: white & tubular—also a small annual new

The banks of the river are steep and thickly lined with *Cornus*, *Dalibardia*?, *Ash*, *Lonicera*, *Alder*, & *Hazel* bushes. We came upon two Indians in the bush mounted with Bows & Arrows, who wished to visit the camp, but as the[y] were forbid approaching that, we made signs to them to return.

20th. We had been compelled the previous evening to tie our horses to stakes, to keep the Indians (who are notorious thieves), from stealing them. Got started at 8 A.M. The Country consisted of low rolling Mts: covered with Pine & Oak trees, with very small patches of good land in the hollows. Met several Indians that appeared friendly & who told us that a party of Indians were collecting

²⁸⁴ *Arbutus procera*, now *A. menziesii*, the madrona.

²⁸⁵ *encampd.* The *Narrative*, p. 229, indicates that the halt was because of the number in the party who were unwell.

²⁸⁶ *Dalabardia*, properly *Dalibarda*. It is allied to *Rubus*, of which we have many species. What this particular shrub was I am not sure.

²⁸⁷ *Pelargonium*, a geranium.

²⁸⁸ *Laurus*. Since neither of the two species of *Laurus* is native to the Northwest, the plant here is probably *Umbellularia californica*, California laurel.

²⁸⁹ *Nicotiana*. *Nicotiana*, tobacco. Four varieties are known in the West.

on the Um[p]qua Mts. to attack Michells party,²⁹⁰ which the[y] expected along from the Columbia soon, in the afternoon crossed the South branch of the Um[p]qua River, which is much smaller than the north one, being about 40 yards broad: the party encamped on its banks at 4 P.M.—day very hot with bright sunshine—(distance 20 Miles)

Plants: *Madia* sp: (1) leaves linear. flos: yellow, plant 2 ft.

Lupinus sp: (1) flos: yellow, solitary on plains.

Monarda sp: Same as seen at Fort Okanagan.

Compositae flos: white, seen at the Willamette.

Vitis,²⁹¹ A kind of Fox Grape, fruit edible, in considerable abundance here.

Fraxinus,²⁹² sp: leaves wooly,

the *Laurus* was found here in large masses.

21st. Started at ½ past 8 A.M. had to ford the Um[p]qua three times during the day, saw several Indians who avoided us, the country much the same as yesterday, our course a little more east of South than usual. Campd. on a small stream at the base of the Um[p]qua Mts: (distance 10 Miles)

Plants: *Prenanthes*,²⁹³ flos: yellow 4.—*Epipactus* sp: moist places.

Escholzia Californica san[d]y plains.

Acer sp: like *A. Macrophylla*,²⁹⁴ a large tree.

*Azalea*²⁹⁵ sp: fol: glutinosa, 10 feet: Mts.

Compositae sp: 4 flos: yellow sand banks.

22nd. Began to ascend the Mountains at 8 A.M. which at first was gradual and easy the path being narrow through masses of brush and loose rocks, so that we had to follow each other, forming a line at least one mile in length. we descended occasionally nearly as much as what we had risen, till we came to a steep bank at least 1000 feet high, in rising which several of our pack horses tumbled backwards, on gaining the summit we kept along the ridge for a short way and descended rapidly into a valley where we found some water, soon after this came to the highest and most difficult pass of all, which took us at least three hours to accomplish, the woods lately been on fire and before we got over wer[e] as black and as unc[h]ristian like as so many Negroes from the coast of Africa. At

290 *Michells party*. Michel La Framboise was one of the Astorians who remained. He was H.B.Co. leader of a party of 60 trappers coming along some week or two behind the Emmons party. Three months earlier he had guided Wilkes about the Willamette valley.

291 *Vitis californica*, wild grape.

292 *Fraxinus oregana*, Oregon ash.

293 *Prenanthes*, a composite; probably the yellow aster; possibly the rattlesnake root.

294 *A. Macrophylla*, large leaved maple. Should be written *A. macrophyllum*.

295 *Azalea*, probably *Rhododendron occidentalis*, the large azalea.

5 P.M. arrived at small prairie where we campd. (distance today 15 miles, but 50 on the plains would be shorter) height of highest ridge 2500 feet above plains. Rock a kind of Talco-Slate. The whole range is densely wooded with the following trees & Shrubs.

*Pinus Lambertiana*²⁹⁶—120 feet in height,

Pinus sp: an *P. ponderosa*²⁹⁷

Quercus 2 sp: large trees—

*Andromeda*²⁹⁴ sp: same found at Nesqually.

Arbutus sp: frt. red, fol: glaucous, a bush 6 to 8 feet high.

A Shrub like *Beurhamia*, 20 feet high.

Gaultheria Shallon

Prunus sp:

Cornus Nuttalliana.

Mahonia sp: perhaps new.

Yews. Dogwoods. Hazel. *Spiraea* & *Castanea* formed the vegetation.

23rd. Mr. Peales²⁹⁹ note book and several other things belonging to him having got lost yesterday, a party went back in search of them, which detained the main party in Camp all day: in the vicinity a good many seeds were collected: of Plants we found a bulb in habit of an *Anthericum*³⁰⁰ which the natives of California made use of in place of Soap. *Lilium* sp: with large Orange flowers. *Pyrola* sp: with glaucous leaves. Also a *Nuttallia* which I thought different from the one on the Willamett. Day warm with sunshine towards evening.

24th. Resumed our journey at 7 o'clock A.M. had in the early part some difficult passes to make with dense thickets of brush wood on all hands. The country was of mountaneous nature, well wooded, with tracts of Prairies between. Observed several Indians lurking behind trees, was ready to pay these rogues in round numbers had the[y] made themselves troublesome, pitched our Tents for the night on Youngs creek.

Plants: *Actea*³⁰¹ sp: on the banks of creeks. *Arbutus* sp: leaves wooly.

25th. Came to what is called Joes River 20 ft wide. At 3 P.M. cross'd Rogue River,³⁰² so named from the Rascally Indians that live on its banks. The country around is hilly with numerous Oaks &

296 *Pinus Lambertiana*, sugar pine.

297 *P. ponderosa*, yellow pine.

298 *Andromeda polifolia*, bog rosemary.

299 Peales. T. R. Peale, naturalist of the *Peacock*.

300 *Anthericum*, a lily known only in the Old World countries.

301 *Actea*, *Actaea*, the baneberry.

302 *Rogues River*, also called *Tootootunas* in *Narrative*, p. 232.

Pinus Lambertiana growing on them. Several of the Cones of this species that we examined, measured $15\frac{3}{4}$ in length by $18\frac{1}{2}$ in circumference,—that is when the scales were reflexed. (distance 14 miles).

Plants. *Pentstemon* sp: leaves lineare. A second sp: on prairies.

*Coronilla*³⁰³ sp: flos: yellow (same at the Spokane.

Eryngium sp: flos: blue.

Oreogonium sp: in dry situations, very neat and dwf:
several small compos:

One of our hunters³⁰⁴ while out towards evening in search of Game, Shot a buck Deer, and as he was cutting it up, a number of Indians from a thicket fired a volley of arrows at him, so that he was compelled to clear out and leave the Deer, after he had killed an Indian with his rifle.

26th. Left our encampment on Rogue River at 8 A.M. its breadth I estimated at 120 yds: 2 feet deep: banks generally low and bushy. The land on both sides for a considerable distance back is poor and sandy rising into hills from 6 to 800 feet high, thinly covered with Pine trees. At 2 P.M. brot. up at what is called Turners³⁰⁵ encampment, being the place where he and his party were defeated by the Indians and compelled to return to the Willamette with the loss of three of their men. In the affray the[y] killed a number of the Indians whose bones we found bleaching in the Sun. (distance 12 Miles)

Plants. *Lupinus* sp: flos: white.

27th. On starting this morning we had the river on the one hand, a range of high rough rocks on the other. Ahead of us on both sides of the river we heard the Indians a shouting to each other, although we could not see them, and this being the place where former parties³⁰⁶ had been attacked, about 15 of the party dismounted, and leaving their horses to come on behind with the packs,—ranged the bush for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mile on both sides of the road for several Miles. The[y] did not find a single Indian in ambush during the whole range, and twas well for them as ther[e] were some deadly Shots among the party who wanted nothing better than to get a sight on one of the rascals. (distance 18 miles).

28th. The hilly or mountaneous character of the country today

303 *Coronilla*. This Old-World shrub is not native to the Northwest. So far as known, only one variety, *C. varia* (axweed, axwort) is found in the United States; its locale is northeastern United States.

304 *hunter*. Inass, the Indian hunter.

305 *Turner*, of the Turner's farm, previously mentioned. For a full account of the fight see *Narrative*, pp. 221 and 233.

306 *former parties*. Michel La Framboise had been attacked here upon two occasions.

was similar to that of yesterday, with perhaps a larger quantity of Oaks, which were of the prickly and plain lobed species. Several of the Gentlemen who had already suffered from the Tertian fever, were again attacked today, but the leader of the party in place of holding on for them, pushed ahead, but five of the party who had a little more sympathy for their fellow beings remained behind to protect the sick individuals from the assaults of the Savages, so that the[y] did not reach the Camp till after dark. (Distance 18 miles).

Plants, nothing new to the list—

29th. We were now at the base of the Shaste mountains,³⁰⁷ which are in general considered the boundary line between the Oregon & California Territories, though densely covered with brush wood the ascent was very easy & as we expected every step as we advanced, to have a Skirmish with the Indians, our exertions otherwise passed of[f] easy. One or two of the hired men of our party, who had formed part of another, that was totally routed & beat back at this place, were now anxious to meet their old opponents, but the indians were to[o] wiley to shew themselves against such a strong party. When on the summit we got a sight of a high Snowy mountain³⁰⁸ in form somewhat like Mt. St. Helens, & soon descended into an extensive valley where we encamped on the bank of a small stream³⁰⁹ for the night. The height of the range where we crossed I estimated at 1500 feet. In vegetation it is very poor and the only things new in the plant way was,

Compositaea, fol. lineare silky, flos: yellow, shrub 4 ft.

Cupressus sp: a tree 30 ft supporting a curious parasite: near allied to Viscum.

Baptisia sp: in seed.

Cassia sp: no flos: in seeds.

Oreogonium sp: flos: orange 18 inch high.

No Pinus Lambertiana for the last three days. Soil very poor. (distance 19 miles).

30th. The Physician³¹⁰ having recommended the propriety of the party remaining in Camp all day, in order to recruit the Sick. On which Mr. E. condescended so far as to permit those who were well, to leave the Camp on duty. While I went on an excursion three of the party were s[e]ized with the fever. Thermomiter today stood 90 in the Shade.

³⁰⁷ *Shaste mountains*. In the *Narrative* spoken of as Boundary Mountains, i.e., boundary between Oregon and Mexico (California). Now the Siskiyou Mountains.

³⁰⁹ *stream*. Otter Creek in the *Narrative*, p. 237. The camp was one mile from where it joins the Klamath River.

³¹⁰ *Physician*. Assistant-Surgeon J. S. Whittle.

California—Shaste

Oct. 1st / 41. Mooved from Camp Ground at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 7 A.M. crossed the Chaste³¹¹ 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 whiteish colour and not very delicate to the taste, passed over during the day a gravel[1]y sandy desert which continued 12 Miles, and bounded by conical low hills. Came again on the Shasty³¹² & camped by it. (distance 20 miles)—

Plants. Compositaea, in habit of Ephedra, Salt marsh.

Cruciferaea, flos: in spikes of a cream colour, 15 to 18 inch.

Dalibardia a smaller species than the one on the Um[p]qua River.

Tourn[e]fortia,³¹³ habit of, leaves glutinose.

Rhus³¹⁴ sp: leaves trilobate

Helianthus³¹⁵ flos: yellow.

Scilla looking plant in meadow near river

Lychnus³¹⁶ sp: flos: Lilac fringed.

Weather very warm. No water for 15 Miles. Miserable Country, the Shaste Valley—

2d. The country was a trifle better than yesterday, a deal of crusted salt was found in low places on the prairies, with patches of Spiraea & Dogwood & better supply of grass. For the first time we came upon a large heard of Antelope,³¹⁷ and although we got several shots at them none were killed. Venison we had always in abundance, so that we did not care much for them as the[y] are rather inferior eating to Deer. (distance 18 Miles).

Plants. Oreogonium sp: fol: spatulate. flos pale rose. stem 4 inch, salt marsh.

Parnassia sp: an P. palustris of Europe, stem 6 inches flos: white.—marsh.

Gentiana³¹⁸ sp: annual, flos: pale lilac. fol: glaucus, 8 inches, borders of stream.

311 *Chaste* (Shasty, below). Called Klamet in the *Narrative*, p. 237. Chesta is preferred by some as a better representation of the Indian name than *Shasta*.

312 *Shasty*. The *Narrative* says the southern branch of the Klamath. Since the Shasta is a tributary of the Klamath, Brackenridge's statement, "came again on," is in error.

313 *Tournefortia*. A member of the borage family. The particular flower here is probably *Plagiobothrys shastensis*.

314 *Rhus*, sumach.

315 *Helianthus*. Probably the common sunflower.

316 *Lychnus*. Lychnis, the cockle.

317 *Antelope*. One of the animals had been killed a few days before; *Narrative* says that its meat was considered superior to venison.

318 *Gentiana*. There are numerous gentians here; the descriptions here set down are not sufficient to place these two.

a second sp: was found in marsh but no flowers.

Bartonia³¹⁹ sp: flos: orange (.) local on prairies

Cleome³²⁰ sp: flos: yellow. (.) very handsome.

Lupinus sp: flos: blue, stemless.

three or four different Compositae & a Campanula.

also a sp: of Pinus like Pinus Sylvestris.

Had visit of Shaste Indians at Camp, who conducted themselves with great propriety. The[y] sold us fish, Bows & Arrows, for Knives buttons, &c. These bows are made of Yew tree, their arrows of Tassel wood which the[y] barb with volcanic glass. their Quivers are either of Seal skin, or wild Cat. These weapons are well made and the[y] 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—

Fruits³²¹ Indigenous to the Oregon Territory That Are Eaten by the Natives

Gaultheria Shallon, abundant in woods near the coast.

Vaccinium two or three species of which are eatable.

Raspberrys, 4 or 5 sorts, some of which are common all over

Currants black and Yellow of excellent flavor.

Service berrys, several kinds, in the upper part of the Oregon of fine flavor.

Mahonia Repens & fascicularis. Barberrys, the fruit of which is acid and pleasant.

Hazel Nuts, 2 sorts, on banks of streams.

Crab apple, frt: small but good for preserves.

Arbutus oralis & Tomentosa. Um[p]qua River.

Acorns, abundant on the Willamette and Um[p]qua.

Rubus, blackberry, not very plentiful.

Cornus sanguinea, berrys eaten by the Indians.

Sambucus, (E[lder]) very abundant.

Pinus Lambertiana, Um[p]qua Mountains.

Crataegus³²² several species producing fine fruit.

319 *Bartonia*. *B. laevicaulis*, a stick-leaf, is now *Montzelia laevicaulis*.

320 *Cleome*, probably *C. lutea*, stinking mustard.

321 *Fruits*. This list of edible fruits, seeds, and roots is inserted by Brackenridge immediately following the Inland Expedition; but as it lists a large number of these that were not found until later, I have transferred it to the end of the Oregon exploration.

322 *Crataegus*, the hawthorn.

Vites volpina, Fox Grape, plentiful towards Um[p]qua River & Rogue Country.

Cranberrys, about Chenook Bay.

Balsamina,³²³ or Oregon Sun flower, which the Indians eat in a dry state.

Oenothera³²⁴ several species, seeds of which are eaten.

Lathyrus marytima,³²⁵ Sea coast.

Castanea, sp: Um[p]qua Mountains.

Roots of Indigenous Plants Eaten by the Oregon Indians

Balsamina sp: the roots of which have a good deal the taste of Liquorice. The Indians also use it in sweetening their Cammas roots.

Tipha³²⁶ angustifolia, the blanched or lower part of the Stem is pulled up and eaten by the Chekelles Indians, where it is abundant.

Quammassia esculenta, (Cammass) which grows wild on all the moist prairie lands, and dug up by the Indians and Stored away and used much in the same way as Europeans would Potatoes.

Umbelliferous plants, the roots of about four of this tribe is Eaten. The tubers when well dried in the Sun, are bruized or pounded into a sort of Meal, which the[y] bake into Cakes. One of these kinds of roots the Snake Indians call Cowass. The Nesqually indians also eat the green stems of a Heracleum³²⁷ & two species of Seseli,³²⁸ observing first to strip the epidermis clean off before chewing it.

323 *Balsamina*. This, with the first entry under *Roots*, seems to indicate *Balsamorhiza*, balsam root.

324 *Oenothera* are numerous members of the Onagraceae (Evening primrose) family. The seeds are nut-like.

325 *Lathyrus marytima* (maritimus), beach pea.

326 *Tipha*, *Typha angustifolia*, the only genus of the cat-tail family.

327 *Heracleum lamatum*, cow parsnip.

328 *Seseli*, a genus of the *Apiaceae* or *Umbellaceae* (carrot family). Brackenridge most likely means what is now known as *Washingtonia* (sweet cicely), of which we have seven species.

EDITOR'S NOTE ON BRACKENRIDGE'S "OREOGONIUM"

My only note on Brackenridge's use of "Oreogonium" as the name of a genus was at its first appearance, under date of May 30; the number of the note is 94. It reads as follows: "*Cypripedium*, lady's slipper. The *Narrative* couples Oreogonium with *Cypripedium*, thus, *Cypripedium oreogonium*. This is probably correct, as no genus Oreogonium is known." Wilkes, author of the *Narrative*, evidently doubted his own solution, for he did not use it in subsequent cases. Further examination of the Brackenridge journal shows that Wilkes was wrong, for Brackenridge in six places used the word *Oreogonium* not as a name for a species, but with the clear indication that a genus was intended.

When Professor Rigg examined the copy of the manuscript, he noted, first in regard to the Washington entries and later for the Oregon entries, that no genus *Oreogonium* was known to him. All botanists that I could manage to consult sustained Professor Rigg's statement; also other botanists who were consulted. Then I proceeded to work along two lines—possible identification through the Greek meaning of the word, and the possibility that Brackenridge was in error, writing (in six separate instances) *Oreogonium* when he meant (possibly) *Eriogonum*.

Oreogonium is made up of two Greek combining words, *oreo*, meaning *mountain*, and *gonia*, meaning *angle* or possibly *joint*. This meaning did not clearly identify the word with any known genus of plants. Pursuing the search further, I asked help from the United States Department of Agriculture, first from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, later from the Bureau of Plant Industry. Mr. William A. Taylor, chief of the latter bureau, wrote me April 8 as follows:

"Our specialists advise that 'Oreogonium' is a name which appears never to have been published, and without more information than is given in Brackenridge's notes we are unable to make any definite suggestion. It is possible that the word *Eriogonum* was intended, but it is unsafe to assume so."

I was loth to make this "unsafe" assumption, for in *Oreogonium* and *Eriogonum*, notwithstanding obvious resemblances, there are three differing syllables, implying a quantum of error such as Brackenridge does not elsewhere fall into. But I find that Professor Piper, in his *Flora of the State of Washington*, arrived at the same conclusion many years ago without having to make the as-

sumption; because he had never seen Brackenridge's journal with the puzzling word, but he had had the rare privilege of working over the Wilkes Expedition specimens preserved in Washington, D.C. Since he knew the flora of Washington State so well and had examined even more of the preserved specimens than Brackenridge mentions in his journal now published, Professor Piper's word should be conclusive. I note the following from his *Flora of the State of Washington*:

p. 234, under *Eriogonum proliferum*, item "Specimens Examined": "Between Spipen River and North Fork of Columbia, *Wilkes Expedition*"; item "Type Locality": "Idaho Mountains to N. Fork of the Columbia, *Wilkes Expedition*, Weenas Valley and Walla Walla, *Lyall*." As the Spipen River is now known as the Naches, this specimen of *Eriogonum* preserved in Washington, D.C. is almost certainly the "Oreogonium" mentioned in Brackenridge May 30 when he was descending the Naches.

p. 236, under *Eriogonum sphaerocephalum*, item "Specimens Examined": "Yakima River, *Wilkes Expedition*." This specimen of *Eriogonum* preserved in Washington, D.C. is almost certainly one of the "two Oreogoniums" mentioned by Brackenridge July 7, for he was then at the "junction of the Spipe river with the Eya-kema."

p. 237, under *Eriogonum heracleoides*, item "Specimens Examined": "2 days before Fort Okanogan, *Wilkes Expedition*." Brackenridge entered no botanical notes under date of June 6 (June 8 the party reached Fort Okanogan), but we know that he collected many more specimens than are mentioned in his journal.

As Piper was reporting on *Flora of the State of Washington* for the Smithsonian Institute, he did not mention the specimens recorded by Brackenridge for Southern Oregon and Northern California under dates of September 19, 25, 29, and October 2. Since there are more than one species of the colors orange and pale rose, I can not positively identify the five species of "Oreogonium" (*Eriogonum*) which Brackenridge mentions for these four dates. Examination of the preserved specimens in Washington, D.C. would be necessary.

I am not aware of any common names for the various *Eriogonums* (*woolly joints* the word means). They belong to the Buckwheat family, and are practically all (about 25 species) found only in the region between the Mississippi and the Pacific. One can therefore only wish that Brackenridge's "Oreogonium" were the correct name, and that it connected with what was earlier thought to

be the derivation of the word *Oregon* (mountain joy or wild marjoram) ; for such a conception is fancy, and is not supported by science. "Oreogonium" is *Eriogonum*, with the accent on the *og*!

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