

# REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

*Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, in California,*

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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1899.

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## ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA.

OFFICE OF ACTING SUPERINTENDENT,  
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS,  
*Camp of U. S. Troops, Weishars Mill, Cal., August 31, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report of duty performed in these parks during the current year.

Pursuant to Special Order, No. 123, Headquarters Department of California, a detachment of Battery D, Third Artillery, was detailed to relieve the detachment of Twenty-fourth Infantry and perform the duty of guarding the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. The detail arrived at Three Rivers, Cal., on June 19, establishing a temporary camp at Red Hill, which it occupied until June 28, when the headquarters were removed to the present site.

Camps of outlying detachments were established as follows: At Hockett Meadows, 1 noncommissioned officer and 4 privates, on June 20; at General Grant National Park, 1 noncommissioned officer and 4 privates, on June 21. A noncommissioned officer was left in charge of the Red Hill camp, which has been maintained through the summer as a base of supplies. During the month of July, subposts were established at Halstead Meadow and at the South Fork entrance to the Sequoia Park.

These detachments have been visited frequently by details from the main camp, and have kept up a daily patrol of both parks. The total distance covered by the patrols and reconnaissances of the detachment between June 20 and August 31, aggregate 12,312 miles.

### THE SEASON OF 1898.

Pursuant to the direction of the Secretary, I would report briefly upon the care of the reservations from the 1st day of July, 1898. On account of the Spanish-American war the regular military patrol of the parks was suspended during the tourist season of the past year. Civilian custodians were duly appointed, but in numbers altogether inadequate to the demands of the situation. A detachment of the First Utah Volunteer Cavalry reported at the park on September 4 and continued in charge until October 6. Their arrival was too long delayed to remedy the evil already done, and nothing like an effective execution of the Department's orders was accomplished. Much of the valued work of preceding superintendents was suffered to decline, and the effects of the wholesale devastation of last year can be plainly traced

to-day. It is estimated that at least 200,000 sheep roamed at will over the national reserve, a destructive fire raged in the Giant Forest, and hunters frequented the parks with impunity. The experience of 1898 must convince the Government that prompt and effective measures must be adopted if trespassers are to be excluded from national parks, and this can best be accomplished by detaching annually a small military force for duty in the reservation.

#### TRESPASSING.

Prior to the detail of the troops in 1899, the intelligent cooperation of the Forest Rangers prevented the entrance of many sheep to the Sequoia Park, and since the arrival of this detachment a band has been constantly held back from the southwestern corner of Sequoia, another band arrested just as it was entering the west side, and two more prevented from crossing the north boundary of Grant Park. A few domestic cows and horses have been ejected, several hunters arrested, and a running guard maintained against two constantly invading herds of stock on the north of Sequoia and south of Grant parks.

#### PARK BOUNDARIES.

Every year since the National Parks were established the boundaries have been a subject of conjecture, and the uncertainty of their location, a discouraging introduction to the Government officers charged with the custody of the reservations. Imaginary lines have been thrown from mountain top to mountain top, and the limits thus marked handed from one superintendent to the next, generally through the medium of the Government guides. Inevitable disputes have arisen between the officers and the stockmen who would take advantage of the park reserve for purposes of grazing, both parties being ignorant of the real lines because of their inability to locate the original monuments. A Government survey is now being directed in both parks. The lines of the General Grant Park are already established, well blazed and marked with suitable monuments at frequent intervals. A metal plate with the letters G.G.N.P. has been securely fastened to such trees as were found directly on the boundary line, and plates with the inscription S.N.P. will similarly mark the Sequoia Park before the season closes.

#### ROADS AND TRAILS.

The Sequoia Park, although 252 square miles in extent, is crossed by but one wagon road—that one of about 11 miles in length, and called the Mineral King road. This road was built on public land some twenty years ago, by the miners of the Mineral King district, to take in machinery and carry out ore. After the mining excitement subsided it was made a toll road by the mining company which built it. Failing to pay expenses it was transferred once or twice, and finally bought by Tulare County for a nominal sum. This so-called county road through a National Park is unsatisfactory, and presents many complications and opportunities for dispute with trespassers and stockmen. The county of Tulare spends but very little for its repair, while the General Government contributes nothing, though both are alike interested in the improvement of this single thoroughfare. The Mineral King road runs along the mountains north of the east fork of the Kaweah River. The roadway is cut in the hillside, and the grade as

now established is wretched. In many places the road is dangerous, and serious accidents are an annual occurrence. Furthermore, there is no ground level enough for a camp along its whole length in the park unless the title to certain tracts of patented land be extinguished. With this private land reclaimed by the Government, the only heavy transportation would be the Government freight for the troops, although this year there has been considerable heavy teaming from Atwell's sawmill and the adjoining shingle mill, both occupying deeded land within the park limits. Judging from its present neglect, it is probable that the road will be practically impassable for loaded wagons before this season closes.

Previous reports have referred to the Old Colony Mill road, but neglect and want of use for the past nine years have rendered this road impassable to wagons, and unless someone is interested in its repair very shortly this important thoroughfare will return to its primitive condition of a steep mountain side thickly covered with brush. This road was built by the Kaweah Colony, a cooperative association of lumbermen designed to cut the redwood timber of the Giant Forest and mine the marble along the Marble Fork River. The Colony road starts at an elevation of 1,500 feet and runs on a perfectly even grade to 6,300 feet. According to the books of the Kaweah Colony its construction required an outlay of \$65,000, and it is the only permanent improvement left by the association, the title to their land having been taken up by the Government just as they were maturing plans for cutting the Giant Forest. This road was constructed to within 2 miles of the redwoods, though a 9-mile trail is now the only thoroughfare open to the tourist from the end of the Colony Mill road grade. Wagons can not approach nearer than 20 miles from the forest.

Resort must be had to the mountain trail for all travel through the Sequoia Park. Of these trails there are many, some made by hunters, some by cattle men, and others by the troops in attempting to eject these trespassers. All are poorly marked, and many were obliterated by the invading sheep last season. No attempt was made to follow anything like an even grade in their construction, and their condition is not inviting to the average tourist. The work of improving these trails, inaugurated by the troops stationed here, has been renewed this year so far as our reduced numbers would permit. Considerable improvement has been made on the Wilhelm Cut-Off trail and a good temporary bridge thrown across the East Fork, thus lessening the distance from the main camp to Hockett Meadows by 3 miles and avoiding some very poor trail as well. The work of blazing, trimming out the trails, and posting direction boards has been continued, but a single detachment of 25 men is too fully occupied by its patrol duties to permit anything like a systematic improvement of trails, if indeed this work were not beyond the scope of duties prescribed for the park guard.

#### GAME AND FISH.

It is extremely doubtful if the game within the Sequoia Park is as abundant as in years past. Hunting and trapping were altogether too common last season, and the herds of sheep are believed to have trampled out many nests of the game birds. The opportunity is still open, however, to make amidst the groves of sequoias a magnificent game preserve. Some of the rare game animals have recently become extinct. The elk and mountain sheep have all been killed off, and the more common game will be preserved with difficulty unless energetic steps are

taken at once. Deer are still common but decreasing. Bears are still plenty, and three varieties are found—black, brown, and cinnamon. Fresh bear signs are of very frequent occurrence on the Mineral King road, and even close to the limits of camp. Mountain and valley quail are abundant, but the grouse are disappearing rapidly. Mountain lions, panthers, coyotes, and several varieties of the fox, with some other wild animals, are frequently found.

Fishing, in general, is very good, but the possibilities along this line have only been half developed or even explored. The first stocking of fish was in 1879 at Mineral King. Since then the North, South, East, Middle, and Marble forks of the Kaweah have had planted about 400,000 fry by the Visalia Sportsman's Club, drawing their supply from the State hatchery. Immediately east of the Park, Cliff Canyon, Monarch, and Eagle lakes have been stocked by interested individuals. Three hundred miles of streams tributary to the Kern are barren of trout, while 200 lakes in the watersheds of the Kings, Kern, and Kaweah rivers are ready and waiting to become most beautiful fishing resorts. The lakes and streams of the Sierras are most favorable for fish culture, and if a systematic stocking should be attempted the region would become famous with the fisherman and the tourist. The Kern and Kings rivers are already well known for their rainbow and New Hampshire brook trout, fish that are game, too, while the Golden Trout Creek, near Mount Whitney, is the only known habitat of these most beautiful golden trout. From the experience of local sportsmen it seems most practicable to plant the adult fish, but the transportation of fully grown fish is difficult and no time has been available for that purpose this year.

#### FOREST FIRES.

It has been reported that fires in the sequoia forests are the result generally of carelessness, sometimes of intent or accident. Sheep herders, in years past, have been known to deliberately start fires from pure malice.

From observation this season the camper is generally very careful about banking his fires and considerate in his use of wood, while the sheep herder is no longer a frequenter of the parks. Lightning is the main cause of fires in the Sierras. On July 24, four fires, at intervals of several miles, were started by lightning. Squads were immediately dispatched to the burning timber, and, with the aid of a heavy rain, succeeded in controlling every fire, while all four were completely extinguished in less than a week. The danger of a terrible and destructive fire in the Giant Forest is becoming more imminent every year, owing to the dry débris which covers the floor of the forest to a depth of several feet.

#### PATENTED LANDS.

The titles of lands in the two parks, generally taken from the State as "swamp land," should be extinguished. There are sixteen different owners, but their combined tracts, by the county records of March 1, 1899, only aggregate 5,440 acres, and there is but little value attached to the land since the country surrounding the meadows is strictly guarded by the Government, thus making the tracts of private land too small for profitable grazing, and of no great value for the cutting of timber. The Atwell sawmill has again started, and is fast denuding that vicinity of a most beautiful grove of sequoias. The property is

leased for three years yet, and the rent is a certain percentage on the lumber actually cut, really setting a premium on the death of the big trees; and for what purpose? Only to make shingles, posts, and flume boards! This estate should be acquired by the Government at once, and thus save this most beautiful sequoia grove. There are seven groves in all within the park boundaries, but this is the only one to which a title was ever completely proved.

#### MINERAL DEPOSITS AND SPRINGS.

The mineral deposits of the parks are varied but not rich. The Marble Fork took its name from the mines of white marble along its course, and some attempts were once made to explore several of the caves in the mountains supposed to promise black marble, but with indifferent success. There are several lead veins, and the Mineral King district was worked for gold and iron. There is some revival of interests in copper prospecting this summer, and several claims are staked not far from the park lines, but in general the ores seem to be too poor in quality to warrant the heavy costs of transportation. There is a wealth of beautiful springs within the parks, many of them supposed to possess medicinal properties of value. Iron, soda, sulphur, and salt springs prevail.

#### A PARK CUSTODIAN.

The moral effect of the presence of United States troops prevents much trespassing during the summer months, but at present it is inexpedient to station troops here in winter, and thus for six months of every year the park is at the mercy of hunter, trapper, and woodman. I would recommend the appointment of two guardians of the parks, whose duties, during the absence of the troops, should be to inspect all portions of both parks thoroughly and often and carry out the immediate orders of the Secretary of the Interior and enforce the existing park regulations to the letter, they having power and authority to make arrests and prosecute all trespassers. In the summer months they should be placed under the orders of the acting superintendent and would be available as guides. A good salary should accompany this appointment, as it would be necessary for the guards to employ two horses each and at least one pack animal, if a thorough patrol be maintained. The guardian should be a man of force and energy, as well as ingenuity and ability in mountain travel. A slight beginning in this direction has been made this season by attaching to the command a duly commissioned representative of the California State fish and game commission.

#### A PERMANENT CAMP.

A permanent camping site is still badly needed. Without doubt a better trail should be constructed to Hockett Meadows, where an excellent drill ground and target range are available; but this camp would not be suitable for occupancy before June 15 nor after October 1. The Atwell estate, if acquired by the Government, would furnish the best place, and is more centrally located than the present site. There is still uncertainty about the title to this property at Weishar's Mill and good reason to believe that it is part of the public domain, though not of the National Park. This question has been avoided too long, and the final survey should be directed.

## THE GENERAL GRANT PARK.

The General Grant National Park contains but 4 square miles. However, the proximity of lumber camps, the comparative ease of access to visitors and the cattle industry which surrounds it, together with the fact that the 40,000 acres adjoining the park on the north and owned by the Sanger Lumber Company is now leased to sheepmen make its proper patrol more difficult than would appear. This park was established solely to preserve a grove of exceedingly large Sequoias, many of which are of historic interest. The tree "General Grant" was named in honor of the General while he was still in command of the armies in 1867. The stump and log of the immense tree exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial are well-preserved objects of interest. Another log has been so burned that a cavalryman can ride through its whole length 125 feet. The stump of the World's Fair tree is to be found north of the Grant Park. This was not so large as many in the National parks, but was less difficult to cut and transport. The trees of the Giant Forest are better preserved than those of Grant Park. The "General Grant" itself has been badly burned and scarred. For a hundred feet up the trunk, can be seen sticks and arrows shot into the bark years ago and bearing the names of enthusiastic admirers who visited the region before the present rules were enforced. The largest tree in the Giant Forest is the "General Sherman," 34½ feet in diameter at its base. This is conceded to be the largest and finest tree in the world, rivaling the Eucalypti of Australia in height and far surpassing everything else in bulk. Another clean and healthy Sequoia, which has stood sentinel over the Sierras and the Pacific for more than a thousand years is called the "Admiral Dewey." Several of the more prominent trees have been given names of meaning to Americans and are always referred to as if objects of intelligence. Visitors are generally content to stand uncovered and almost mute from respect to these dignified monarchs of our forests. Few attempt to molest the big trees.

## THE SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

Before making any recommendations regarding the future of the national reserve, I would respectfully invite attention to a few facts relative to the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks and to the forest reservation in their immediate vicinity. These parks are of such recent creation, so difficult of access for visitors, and, consequently, little advertised, that they are slightly known to the people and not at all appreciated by the tourist.

The Sequoia Park is situated in the eastern part of Tulare County, and occupies seven townships, or 252 square miles in area. From 6 to 12 miles east of the park is the main divide of the Sierras, running north and south. The top of this range is steep, bare, and rugged rock, broken and irregular, and passable in but few places. The high wall, averaging about 14,000 feet, completely separates the country on one side from that on the other.

The Sequoia Park is traversed by the four main branches of the Kaweah River, viz: the Marble, Middle, East, and South forks, all having their origin in this main divide of the Sierras and entering the park on the east side at an elevation averaging 6,000 feet, and falling in their short course across the reserve about 4,000 feet. Between these streams are ridges or spurs from the main divide of the Sierra Nevadas. These spurs run in a general east and west direction, and are not quite

so high as the parent ridge. As a rule they enter the park at an elevation of very near 13,000 feet, and in some instances much over that. At the western line these ridges often have an altitude of 10,000 feet. The park is thus crossed and recrossed by these several ridges, distant from each other about 3 to 5 miles, and separated only by the deepest of gorges, and each particular ridge with its own system of spurs perpendicular to the east and west ridges. To travel in the park—or the tourist to see the big trees and other points, well worth the traveler's time and exertions, it is necessary to cross these ridges and these gorges. Two general ways are open. One to follow the course of the stream down one canyon to its juncture with the next. This has been followed in several cases, but with no resulting ease of travel, as the fact that one of these streams drops 4,000 feet in a distance of only 2 miles on the map, would prove. Then, too, a little thought or a glance at a map will show what a considerable time and unexpectedly great distance this plan of travel will involve. As the ridges are altogether too rough and rocky, too jagged and sharp to permit any attempt at following their backbones, the only other path to pursue is to find a pass across the mountains. This has been done in every case, and in a few instances two passes are known. These passes are almost invariably just to the east of the park line and in the dip or natural saddle of each respective ridge. The lowest of these saddles is 10,000 feet high, and this shows that there is no easy way to see the Sierras, while it is right to add, no easy way of carrying out the strict letter of the regulations for the troops detailed here. These natural obstacles make wide detours necessary and rapidity of movement impossible.

With this understanding of the difficulties of travel in the park, I would suggest a few of the objects and sights which interest the visitor. The main points of entrance are the Mineral King road, the Old Colony Mill road, and the South Fork trail, all leading across the western boundary of the park. Over these paths is considerable travel each year by people of the San Joaquin Valley, driven from their homes by the oppressive heat to seek comfort and health in the invigorating atmosphere of the higher altitudes. Providing these people with roads across the reserve to their camping places would be one of the advantages, but perhaps not the purpose of the park's development. But the Sequoia Park itself is not wanting in objects of interest or in scenes of grandeur. Below 5,000 feet there is very little timber, the slopes and foothills being covered with a stiff and thick and almost impenetrable growth of manzanita brush from 4 to 12 feet high. Once across this belt the mountains, except where precipitous, are plentifully supplied with a growth of timber, including yellow pine, sugar pine, fir, spruce, and cedar. Above 8,000 feet are tamarack and a peculiar stunted pine called "*Pinus Contartus*." The groves of the *Sequoia gigantea* are between 5,000 and 7,500 feet altitude. This rapid change in the vegetation is common to all the trails having an easterly course into the park and is interesting to camper and tourist alike.

Beginning with the South Fork trail, this is destined, if once improved, to be a popularly traveled route. For a time it leads the tourist through a sweltering heat, with but few of the bubbling springs or little green meadows which so refresh the tired and parched traveler. However, the pinnacle of the most prominent peak once reached, the veil is lifted from one of the grandest panoramas of the Sierra Nevadas. From "Homer's Nose," almost perpendicularly beneath it and 7,000 feet below, one may see the South Fork through its tortuous windings on the way through the canyon to join its sisters, the East and North forks of the

Kaweah. The labyrinth of mountains in this vicinity, narrowed in on all sides by a maze of abrupt and grim walls, with canyons and gorges of great depth and ruggedness, attended on every hand by forests in their primeval condition, presents a scene at once awful and sublime. From Homer's Nose can be seen the whole country east as far as Farewell Gap and Saw Tooth, west as far as the eye can reach, north the Mineral King road can be traced in its whole length, while Moro Rock and the mountains in the vicinity of Giant Forest are plainly visible, permitting the easy location of Big Baldy and Mt. Silliman, the corner monuments of the Sequoia Park.

As to the Mineral King road, it will be used considerably each season by the troops on duty in the park. From 100 to 400 residents of the valley will cross it in reaching their camping place in the Mineral King district, and all tourists will employ it in approaching the fishing grounds, or hot springs of the Kern River canyon, or in their pilgrimage to Mount Whitney. The Colony Mill road is at present almost impassable, and unused except by an occasional pack train; but if properly developed, this old road is destined to become a much traveled and most important thoroughfare. This is the principal road, and, in fact, the only practicable route, to that part of the Sequoia Park north of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River, and which is by far the most interesting, picturesque, and best preserved portion of the reserve. The big trees there are larger, more numerous, and more nearly free from disfigurement, both by fire and by tourists, than in other portions of the Sequoia Park, and far better preserved than those of General Grant Park. At the present time three trails lead into the Giant Forest, which lies between the Middle and Marble forks—one from the Colony road, one from the head waters of the North Fork, also connecting with the Seven-Mile Hill trail to Mineral King, and one by way of the Middle Fork, Hospital Rock, and Moro Rock. The latter is shortest and leads directly from Red Hill and the regular road, but this trail is rough and precipitous and leaves the Colony road the most available. This forest of redwoods is the objective point of most tourists. By the map it is 9 miles from the headquarters camp, and to reach it one has the choice of three routes. Two of these trails are so rough and steep, so exhausting to saddle horses, and so dangerous for pack animals that they have largely fallen into disuse. The third route follows a fork of the Kaweah down one canyon and up another. It covers a distance of 54 miles and requires, even for light-loaded animals, all of forty-eight hours to reach this place, only 9 miles from the main camp. I speak of this not to emphasize the difficulties experienced by troops on this detail, but to show the urgent need of the best roads and trails possible for the convenience of all who may visit the national parks.

It is to be presumed that the Sequoia and General Grant parks were established for two purposes: First, to preserve the redwood trees, and, second, to protect the watershed of the rivers which drain this region of the Sierras. The mere detailing of troops, which will faithfully execute their military orders, is sufficient to accomplish both these ends. But what is a park—a national park? Is it a playground for the people, a resort for the tourist, a mecca for travelers, a summer house where the inhabitants of crowded cities can repair and fill their lungs with the pure air of mountain and forest—where poet, artist, clerk, and artisan, without discrimination, can stand on lofty peak and breathe the inspiration of scenes of grandeur? If this makes a park, then the Sequoia National Park is a failure—a failure not because it wants in snow-clad peak, in noble game, in frightful precipice, deep gorge, or

ragged canyon, but because the people find its beauties and its wonders inaccessible.

There are forests of redwood all along the Pacific coast; groves of sequoias dot the Sierra range for 200 miles; but there is only one great forest in California, and only one in all the world, and that is in the Sequoia Park. Scientists tell us that the redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, is native only to the Coast Range, while the *Sequoia gigantea* of the Sierra slopes, though bearing a close affinity, is in reality a distinct genus and not a true redwood. Be that as it may, to the world at large these are the "big trees" of California, and no botanist who stands in the shade of their imposing trunks can question the appropriateness of their Anglo-Saxon name.

The sequoia as a species is hardy and needs but the checking of destroying agencies to perpetuate its kind and accomplish the much-talked-of forest restoration. Appeals and protests come from every corner deploring and denouncing the devastation of California. The needs of commerce must be recognized, and some of these trees are worth nearly \$1,000 to the lumberman; but the safeguarding of California's crowning beauty also has its place. An intelligent and effective administration of the forest reservations will protect the watersheds and assist in retaining a steady water supply till late in the season. But is this the end of the *Sequoia gigantea*? Here are the pyramids of America, the mammoths of the whole vegetable kingdom, and the descendants, the scientist tells us, of still mightier giants. It is well if their towering tops pierce the very clouds and the shade of their noble trunks save the Sierra snows from April till June; but is this their greatest good? Should not these monsters of the mountains be known and seen and felt by an admiring people? It is time that a systematic development of the Sequoia National Park be inaugurated. Money has been spent generously on Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Chickamauga, but not a dollar on the Sequoia or General Grant Park. I would, therefore, earnestly recommend that reasonable appropriation be made at once. Ten thousand dollars should be devoted to the development of the Mineral King road within the park limits; \$25,000 should be appropriated for the repair of the Colony Mill road and its extension to the Giant Forest, \$5,000 for the immediate development of the present trails, and \$2,000 annually for the use of the superintendent in clearing the trails and roads of the debris of each winter's storms. Between June 20, and August 31, permits have been granted for 298 persons, excluding the regular campers at Mineral King, to cross the Sequoia Park. It is estimated that 1,000 people have visited the General Grant Park in the same time. Most of these parties were on the way to the grand scenery of the Kings River canyon or to the splendid fishing in the Big Kern, or else attempting the tedious trip to Mount Whitney, and there feast the eye upon the magnificent, unimpeded stretch of 150 miles of view across the San Joaquin, and there glance down the canyon 11,000 feet to Lone Pine, and boast that they were on the very top of the United States. The fact that Sequoia Park was but the means of reaching these resorts of more absorbing interest is sufficient to suggest the repetition of previous recommendations that the national part limits be extended. The Mount Whitney Military Reservation is exactly 18 miles east of the Sequoia Park; the King's River canyon is 9 miles north. With these objects of surpassing interest included within the confines of the national domain, with a good system of roads perfected, coupled with the patriotic desire of Americans to stand upon their highest mountain and see the world's largest trees, Sequoia Park

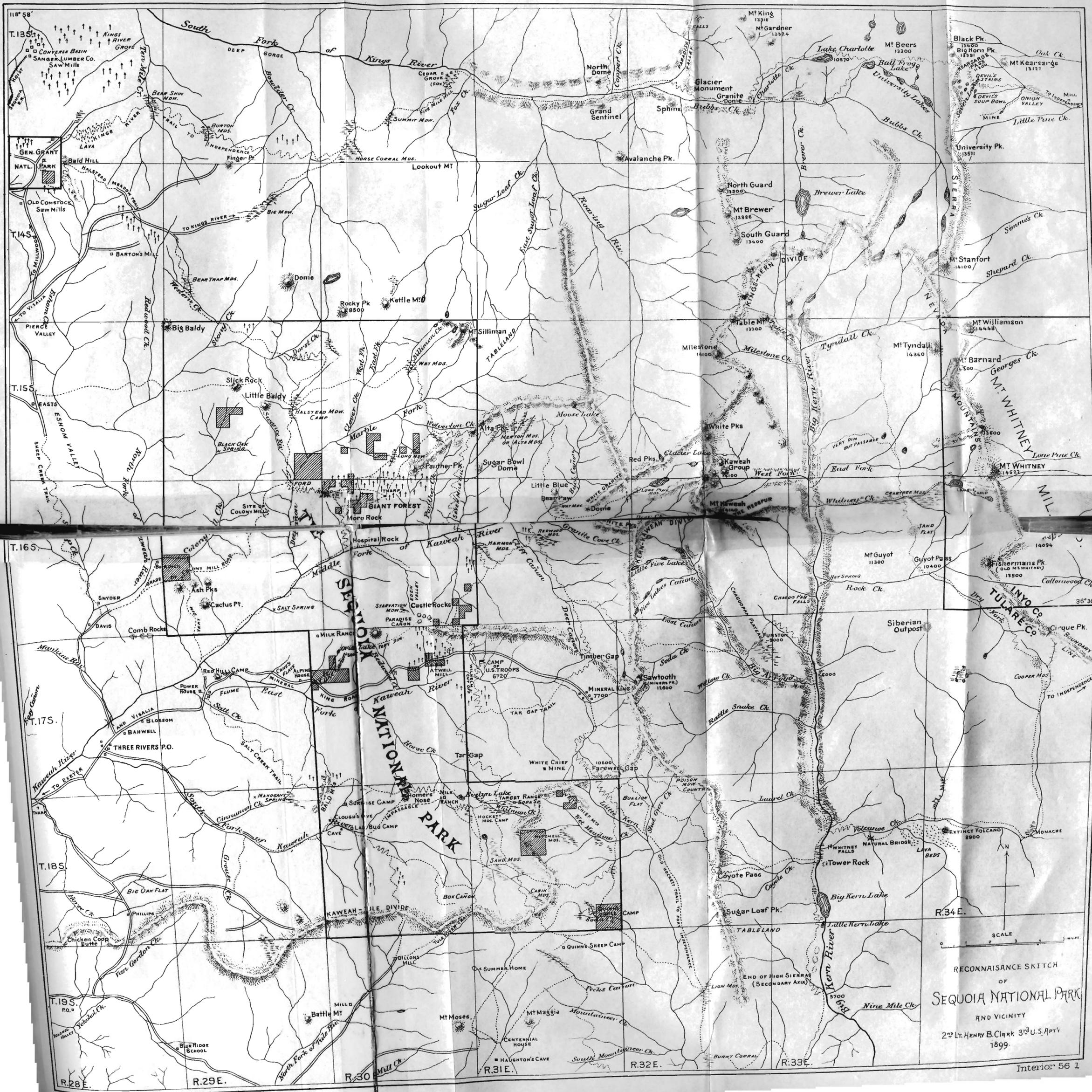
would at last be visited by the numbers of tourists which its natural beauties fully warrant. A further extension to include one-half of townships 17 and 18 south, range 29 east, would include the foothills most frequented by deer in the winter and make of the park an ideal game preserve. Increasing the park thus would inclose it by a natural barrier on the east and lighten the labor of guarding the park on that side. It would peremptorily stop the travel through the park of all cattlemen going to their lands over Timber or Farewell Gap, and thence to the east side, and so avoid many occasions for dispute. It would also lessen the danger of the destruction of the big trees by fires.

I am well aware that in recommending these appropriations and extensions I introduce a subject of which little or nothing is known by the public, although here are two of the five national parks maintained by the United States. The nearest railroad is 60 miles away. There are no guidebooks or hotels to advertise the highest and roughest mountains in our country, and consequently those travelers who are content to stumble over the discarded baskets of the last camping party, missing these suggestions of summer pleasures, find the fatigue of mountain travel too great and turn back in disgust, generally, before they have really touched the Sierra trail. If one is to know the real beauties of the Sierra country, he must penetrate many places which are most difficult of access, must reach the summits of the highest mountains and explore the gorges of the deepest canyons. Rough and broken, steep and high as the Sierras are, they can still be traveled, and will be by enthusiasts, too, if the Government will take the initiative and introduce them to its people.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY B. CLARK,  
*Second Lieutenant, Third Artillery,  
Acting Superintendent.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.



RECONNAISSANCE SKETCH  
 OF  
**SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK**  
 AND VICINITY  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. HENRY B. CHARK 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. ARTY  
 1899.