Clarence King and the 40th Parallel Survey

By James G. Moore, Geologist

Thursday, March 4, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
U.S. Geological Survey
Conference Room A, Bldg 3
Menlo Park, California

Mapping the West

After completing a geology degree at Yale and coming West in a wagon train, Clarence King worked with the California Geological Survey and was in the field party that discovered Mount Whitney.

King led the United States Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel (1867-79), which mapped topography and geology along a 100-mile-wide strip across Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. In 1872, Clarence King became the founding Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Nation's first civilian government science agency.

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