



THE DONNER TRAIL, as it became known after the disaster of the Donner party in reaching California, was actually the so-called **HASTING'S CUTOFF**. Delays encountered in using the route, which was impractical for wagons, led to further difficulties and tragedy near the lake and summit which now bears the party's name.

JEDEDIAH STRONG SMITH, the first American to enter Nevada, was known to have crossed the southern tip of Nevada in 1826 on his way to California. The remarkable trapper-explorer returned east the following year by an incredibly difficult journey across central Nevada.

