



Augusta's Journal: A Biography

By Ralph E. Crump

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In 1857 Augusta, indeed the originator of this book through her three bound journals, which I inherited, met Sara Robinson, the plucky abolitionist wife of the first elected Governor of Kansas Territory. She had written a book, while in a P.O.W. camp with her husband. It so impressed Augusta that after Eldorado was founded and she settled down there, she began planning a book about their pre Civil War adventures traveling to the Kansas Territory. Arriving there in the summer of 1856 at the height of the abolitionist immigration, they met General Jim Lane, and John Brown, who gave each girl a Bowie knife, helped organize and defend these early abolitionists' settlements. Shortly after arriving her father joined Jim Lane's militia and fought several battles against proslavery companies. His company was captured by the U.S. Army and put into a P.O.W. camp for several months. In the spring of '57 Sam Stewart, Augusta's father, organized a small group of abolitionists to go west into the territory to form some new settlements and a new voting district. By June they had founded Eldorado and planted the first crops. The girls joined him that fall. That winter Augusta and her sister Adda were entertaining some friends in Eldorado in their tent. Among the guests from Lawrence was Captain Joe Cracklin, who had named the town and was a cofounder, asked Augusta what she intended to do with all of her notes and journal entries. She said she intended to follow Sara Robinson's example and write her own book on these early years of the Kansas Territory. However the business of running a household, which often included board and room for prospective settlers, building a saw mill and a sorghum mill, the distractions caused by her father's murder, her husband's death, her move to the Gold Fields of Kansas and finally settling down with her new husband (a co owner of a gold mine in Colorado Territory) in another new territory, Montana

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Marjorie and Ralph are both U.C.L.A. graduates. In 1962 they started a medical device company that grew to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Following the example of their first investor, they funded several other start-ups and served on their "high tech" boards. Seven of them have gone public, six were purchased by bigger companies and continue to operate. They have served as trustees of the U.C.L.A. Alumni Association. Ralph serves on the Thayer School of Engineering Board of Overseers at Dartmouth College. They endowed the Crump Institute of Molecular Imaging at U.C.L.A and three professorships, including one at Dartmouth. They have three children, all involved in manufacturing. Marjorie currently serves on the Kansas State Historical Society's board. She was past regent of her DAR chapter and served as Connecticut State Councilor of DAR for three years. Ralph is a veteran of all three theaters of World War II combat. While a cadet, he was promoted to Third Engineer on one of the famous Liberty ships and was honorably discharged as Lt. Jg., U.S.N.R.

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