

*Repurpose*

# GRAND CANYON EXPLORER

## The Powell Expedition



The Powell Expedition began its momentous journey in Green River City in Wyoming on May 24, 1869. Assembled there were the crew, the boats and all of the supplies necessary for a three month trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers and through the then unknown depths of the Grand Canyon.

Powell had four boats specially built for the trip in Chicago and had them transported to Green River by way of the Union Pacific Railroad. Three of the boats were constructed of oak, "stanch and firm" as Powell would say. They were constructed such that each had three separate compartments, with the fore and aft compartments being sealed so as to make them watertight. These compartments would be used to stow all of the equipment and provisions needed for the journey and would also provide additional buoyancy in rough water. The middle compartment would be used by the crew. The fourth boat, which would actually be the lead boat commanded by Powell himself, was made of pine and specially designed to be light and fast. It was also composed of three separate compartments, for gear crew.

The equipment that was brought along on the trip consisted of ammunition and traps, tools for repairing the boats, and a number of scientific instruments such as sextants, chronometers, barometers, thermometers and compasses. All of the food and most of the equipment was divided equally among the three oak boats so that in the event a boat was lost, no singular item would be gone with it. The lead boat, which would be used for advance exploration, did not contain any of the food.

The following table lists the boats and their occupants:

Boat	Crew	Comments
"Emma Dean"	John Wesley Powell	Expedition leader, had become Major during Civil War, lost right arm in Battle of Shilo
	J. C. Sumner	Soldier during Civil War, hunter, traveller of Mississippi Valley and Rocky Mountains
	William H. Dunn	Hunter/trapper from Colorado
"Kitty Clyde's"	W. H. Powell	Captain in army during Civil War