



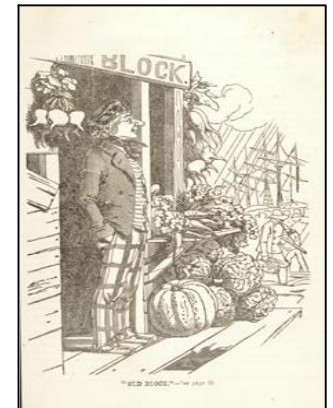
BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



- **Profile: Alonzo Delano**

- He was born in 1809 in New York and moved with his family to the Midwest: Illinois
- In 1848, being ill, Delano went to the doctor, and his prescription was for him to travel to California on an ox-driven wagon.
- With the medical order in hand, he set out for California in the spring of 1849 from his home in Ottawa, Illinois.
- He was one of the earliest emigrants to use the Fandango Pass route to the gold mines in 1849.
- After he had prospected in the mines for a bit, he moved to Grass Valley, California where he permanently settled and began a distinguished career as a journalist.
- He became one of the leading lights of early West Coast literature.
- In 1854, he published *Life on the Plains and Among the Diggings*, which was regarded as one of the best and most literate journals concerning the overland journey to California during the Gold Rush.
- His observations of life along the California Trail were said to be extraordinarily perceptive, and his account of following Lassen's trail through the Fandango Pass and into California is particularly interesting.



Cartoon depiction of Alonzo, aka "Old Block." (1)



A wagon train headed west. (2)

- Delano also owned a store while in Mud Hill, Stringtown, Gold Lake, and Grass Valley; he turned out to be not so good of a business man.
- Surprisingly, Delano's health improved while he was on his trip to California. He had some rough days which required him to travel in the wagon, but overall, his health improved.
- He died in 1874 in California.

Information obtained from:

1. [www.dsloan.com/Auctions/A12DelanoOldBlock.jpg](http://www.dsloan.com/Auctions/A12DelanoOldBlock.jpg),
2. [historyforkids.utah.gov/](http://historyforkids.utah.gov/)



Alonzo Delano