PETER SKENE OGDEN led a Hudson's Bay trapping expedition along what is now known as the Humboldt River before Fremont gave it its present name. Some scholars believe Ogden entered Nevada in the Elko County area as early as 1826. This would have made him the first white man to enter Northern Nevada.

JOHN C. FRÉMONT, perhaps the best known of Nevada's trail makers, came down from Oregon in 1843 into what is now northern Washoe County. He discovered and named Pyramid Lake, crossed the Sierra south of Carson Pass and en route sighted Lake Tahoe, which he named Lake Bonpland. His return from California brought him across the southern end of Nevada in 1844 along the Old Spanish Trail. In 1845, while exploring eastern Nevada, Frémont split his party. JOSEPH WALKER, a veteran of several previous trips through Nevada, guided his half of the group through Secret Pass in the Ruby Mountains, then westerly along the Humboldt River. Frémont, with the remainder of the party, crossed the Ruby Mountains via Harrison Pass and continued southwesterly to Walker Lake for an eventual meeting with Walker's division.