

# Coast and Geodetic Survey Heliotrope Pedestal Remnants

Mt Lola is the highest mountain peak at  
9,143 feet

North of Highway 80 in the Sierra Nevada

# Foundation of Heliotrope Pedestal

- **Prof. George Davi**
- Head Surveyor 1878
- Led Team on Three Peaks
- Mount Lola, Mount Shasta  
Saint Helena
- In 1879 to Round Top Peak



# Mt Shasta Flashes Mt Lola

- Surveyor Colonna using **Heliotrope** successfully flashes Mt Lola
- George Davidson receives and measures distance Aug 1, 1878
- 169 Miles from establishing mapping of



ablish

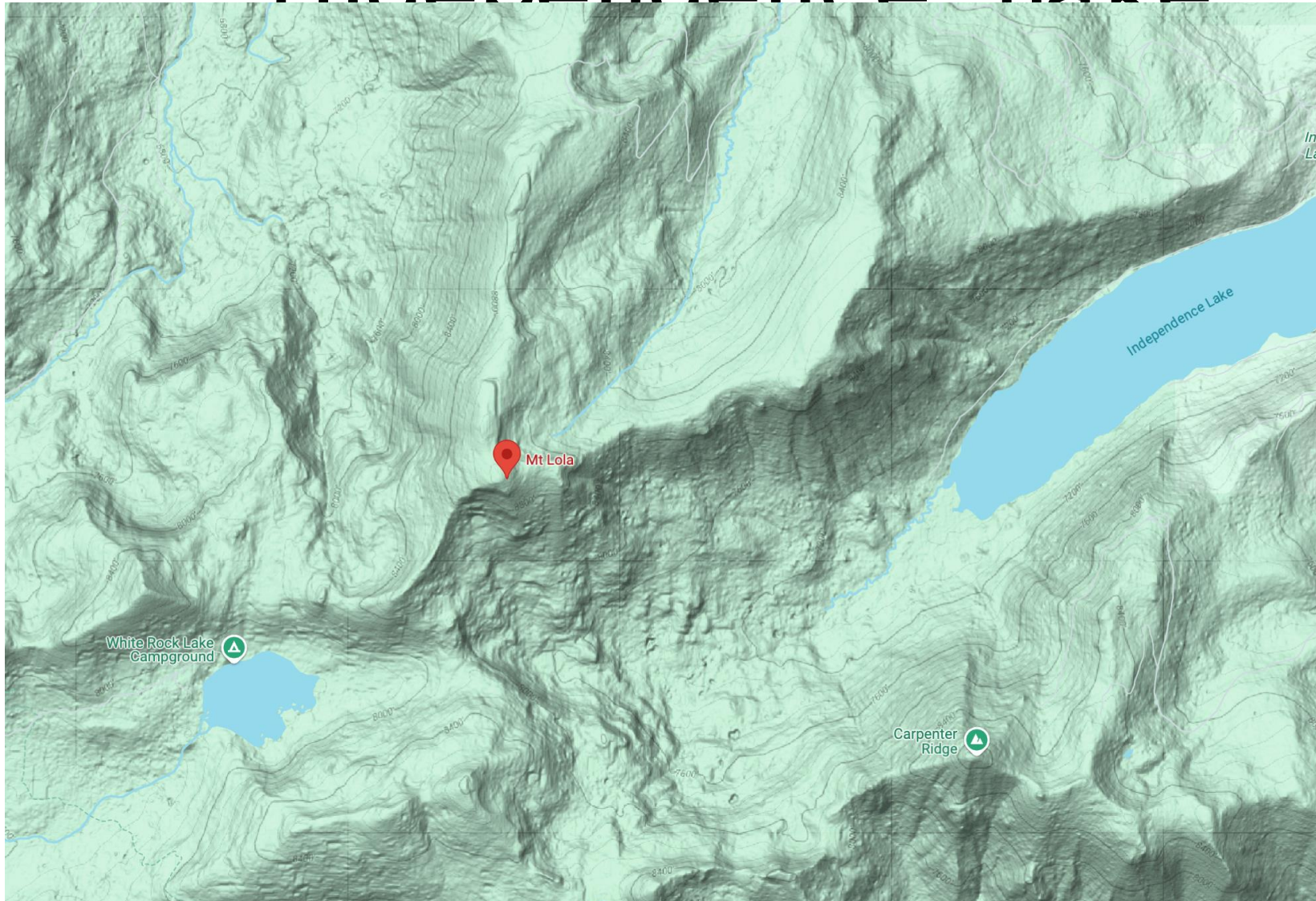
# Independence Lake Base Camp

- Davidson and Team Prepare to Climb Mt Lola, pack train, men, mules & equipment, circa June 1878



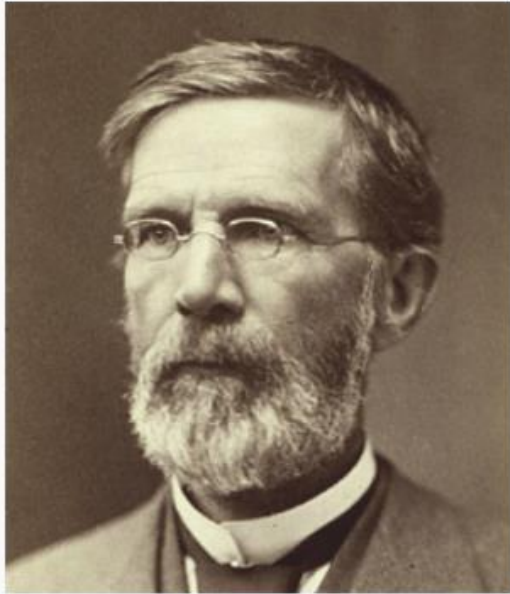


# Mt Lola 6 Miles from Independence Lake



# George Davidson and Benjamin Colonna

**George Davidson**



*Benjamin Colonna*



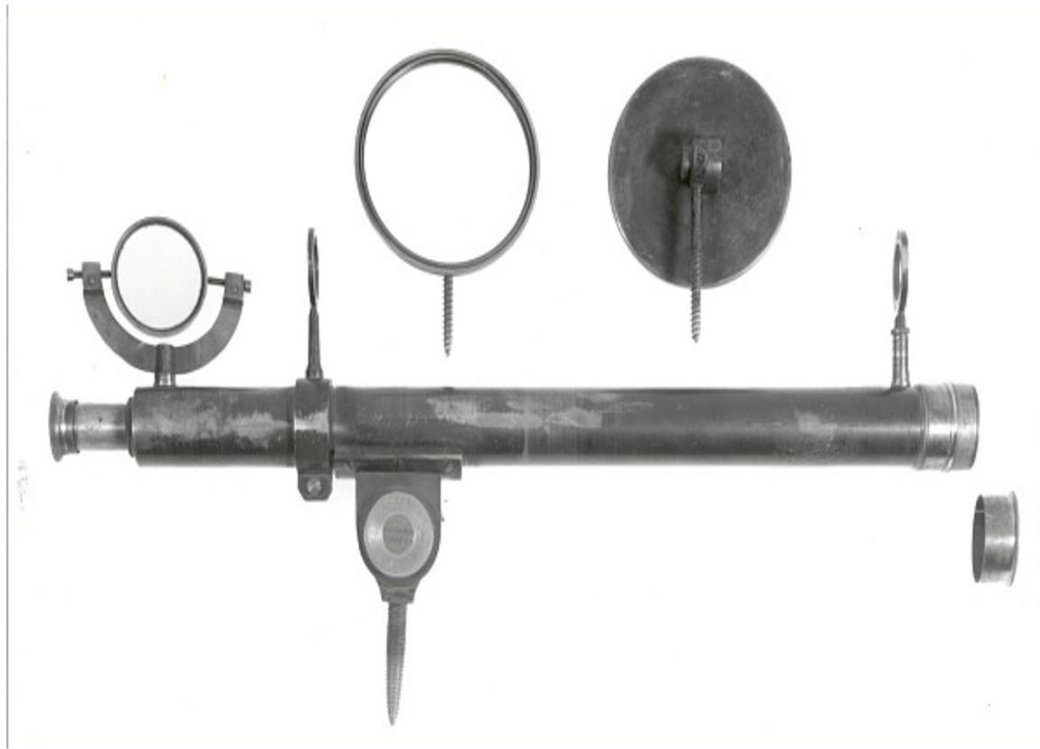
Round Top,  
circa 1879  
George Davidson and  
Survey Team

Elevation 10,381 feet



ROUND TOP.

# Telescope and Heliotrope Used on Mt Lola By Surveyors



circa 1878



Mirrors of the  
Heliotrope



# Heliotrope Support Pedestal Today

- Structure exists after more than 140 Years



# Dry Stack Rock Shelter Surrounding Surveyors & Equipment



# Looking Northwest toward Mt Saint Helena & Mt Shasta





# Not an Easy Hike

- 6-mile-long trail (one way) ascends Cold Stream Creek, a tributary of the Little Truckee River.
- From the eastside Mount Lola is a 2,500-foot climb, and worth it
- View looking down from the trail to Independence Lake far below



# Mount Lola in Winter



# Lola Montez 1858

- Earliest documented reference to the name of Mount Lola is attributed to George Davidson's Survey Team in 1878



Lola Montez 1858  
National Portrait Gallery – Smithsonian Institution  
Photo by Henry Meade