

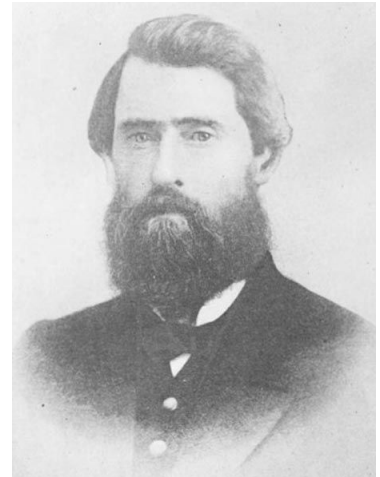
Jason Lee

Jason Lee, and his nephew, Daniel Lee, were Methodist missionaries. They were the first missionaries to travel to Oregon Country in 1834. They were sent to minister to the Nez Perce (eastern WA, OR, and Idaho), but instead settled south of present-day Portland.

They converted very few Indians. Lee noted that many Indians were dying of diseases, and saw that as an opportunity for whites to settle unoccupied land. He traveled back east, and later returned to Oregon Country in 1840 with 50 more settlers.

They opened new missions and started new settlements. Lee helped to create a new government for western settlements, and built strict mission schools for Indian children.

In 1843, he was dismissed from the mission for neglecting Indians and mismanagement of mission money. The missions were eventually closed. He died in 1845. He was praised for recruiting white settlers and helping form a government, but his missionary work was largely unsuccessful.



Francis Blanchet

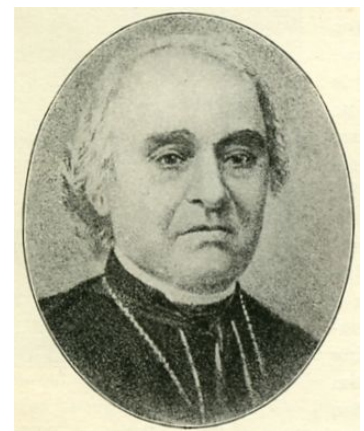
Francis Blanchet was a Roman Catholic priest. He was originally requested by John McLaughlin at Fort Vancouver. Many of the French fur trappers were Catholic. He arrived in 1838, and spent most of his time preaching to French Canadian fur traders.

Blanchet also ministered to Indians, and learned to preach to them using the Chinook Jargon. He spent more than a year with Indians on Whidbey Island.

Other Catholic priests joined Blanchet. The Catholics did not try to change Indian culture, and had some success converting Indians. Some Indians blended some Christian ideas with their own religious beliefs.

There were disagreements and competition between missionaries. Presbyterian missionaries accused Catholics of turning Indians against them, and spreading rumors that Presbyterians were poisoning them. There is no evidence to support those accusations.

Blanchet later became Archbishop of Oregon in 1850.



The Whitmans

Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife Narcissa were Presbyterian missionaries. They traveled with another missionary family to Oregon Country in 1836. The wives were the first white women to cross the Rocky Mountains. They started the Whitman Mission near present-day Walla Walla, WA.

Their interactions with Indians were filled with misunderstandings and disagreement. The Cayuse understood that they were supposed to be paid for the land that the mission was built on; the Whitmans thought they were being blackmailed and refused to pay. The Whitmans felt the Cayuse would have better lives if they settled in one place and learned to farm; the Cayuse resisted changing their traditional nomadic ways. The Whitmans encouraged more white settlers to move to Oregon Country; the Cayuse resented more whites taking their land and bringing diseases.

Different missionaries competed for recruits, and Presbyterians were particularly resentful of Catholics. Missionaries often didn't get along with one another. The Whitmans translated the bible into Indian languages, but failed to convert any Indians to their religion.

