

## Mr. Aitken

*Washington State History*

- Who were the first non-Indians to settle in the Pacific Northwest?
- Why did they come here?
- How did they get along with Indian tribes that were already here?

## Maritime Fur Trade



Nootka Sound  
1788

## Maritime Fur Trade

- Maritime Trade = trade by ship.
- Ships began to trade with Indians along the Pacific NW coast in the late 1700s.
- Sold furs to China and Europe for huge profits.
- Mostly traded for Sea Otter pelts.

## War of 1812

- A short war between the U.S. and England.
- Treaty of 1818:
  - Settled border disputes *east* of the Rocky Mountains
  - Created "Oregon Country," which was jointly occupied by England and the U.S.



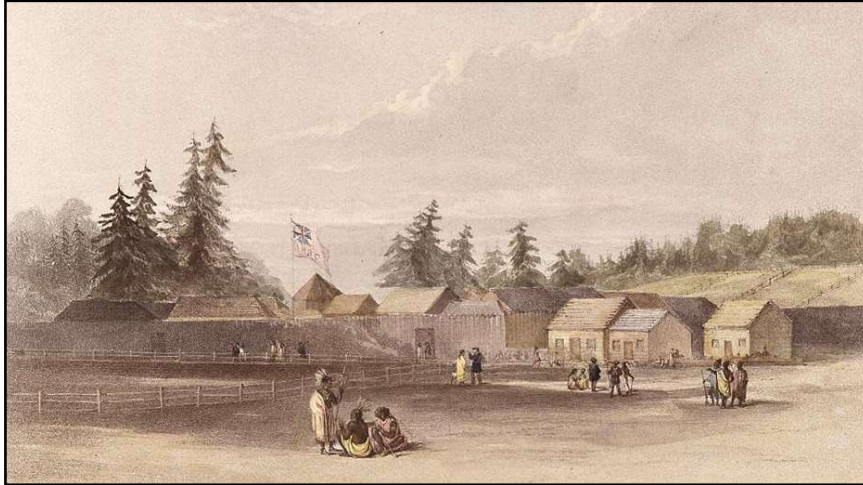
## Fort Astoria

- First U.S. settlement in the PNW, 1811.
- Fur trading post in same area as Ft. Clatsop, near the mouth of the Columbia River.
- Briefly held by the British during the War of 1812.
- Traded for pelts with local Indian tribes.

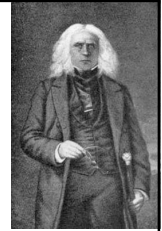


## Fort Vancouver

- Ft. Vancouver was built in 1824 by the Hudson's Bay Company.
- Built on the north side of the Columbia River, in present-day Vancouver, WA, across the river from Portland, OR.



## John McLaughlin



- French Canadian.
- Ran Fort Vancouver from 1824-1846.
- Later moved to Oregon City and became a U.S. citizen.
- Often called the "Father of Oregon."

## U.S. & England

- *Pacific Fur Company*, owned by John Jacob Astor (hence, Astoria): the largest U.S. trading company.
- The *Hudson's Bay Company* was the largest British trading company.

## Trading Companies

- These trading companies mostly traded with Indians for pelts.
- Rarely hunted animals themselves.
- Sea otter and beaver were the most profitable pelts.

## Mountain Men

- Some American mountain men did their own fur trapping.
- They lived a meager existence, moved around constantly, rarely living in any place for long.
- Often married Indian women.
- Explored and created maps, later used on the Oregon Trail.



## Annual Rendezvous

- 1825-1840.
- Trappers collected their furs and met for a huge annual gathering, called a *Rendezvous*.
- Traded furs for money and supplies.
- Festive atmosphere.
- Included Indians, wives, children.



### **Relations With Indians**

- Generally very little conflict.
- Mutually beneficial. Both traders and Indians considered it a profitable arrangement.
- Not many non-Indians. Probably less than 500 before the 1840s.

### **Relations With Indians**

- Took relatively little native land.
- Forts built with permission. Mountain men lived in tents, teepees, and small temporary cabins.
- Other than trading forts, no permanent settlements, towns, or colonies were started.

### **End of the Fur Trade Era**

- By 1840, fashions had changed, demand for pelts fell, and furs traded for less money.
- Beaver and otter had been hunted almost to extinction.

### **End of the Fur Trade Era**

- Between 1818 and 1840, England and the U.S. renewed the 1818 treaty several times, leaving the joint occupation of Oregon Country unchanged.