

THE TIME 1830–1860

▶ PEOPLE TO KNOW

Father Blanchet
George Washington
Bush
Isabelle Bush
Mother Joseph
Daniel Lee
Jason Lee
John McLoughlin
John Mullan
President James Polk
Sager Children
Father de Smet
Eliza Spalding
Henry Spalding
Isaac Stevens
Elijah White
Marcus Whitman
Narcissa Whitman

▶ PLACES TO LOCATE

Vancouver
Walla Walla
Willamette Valley
Bush Prairie
East Coast
Pacific Ocean
Pacific Coast
Vancouver Island
Puget Sound
San Juan Islands

▶ WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

abolitionist
bounty
compromise
entrepreneur
grade (roads)
immunity
negotiate
ransom
vengeance
veteran



Caught by Snow, a painting by Glen Hopkins, shows the trials of families who left too late in the year and got caught by an early snowstorm.

TIMELINE

1780

1780s–1840s
The fur trade era begins and lasts sixty years.

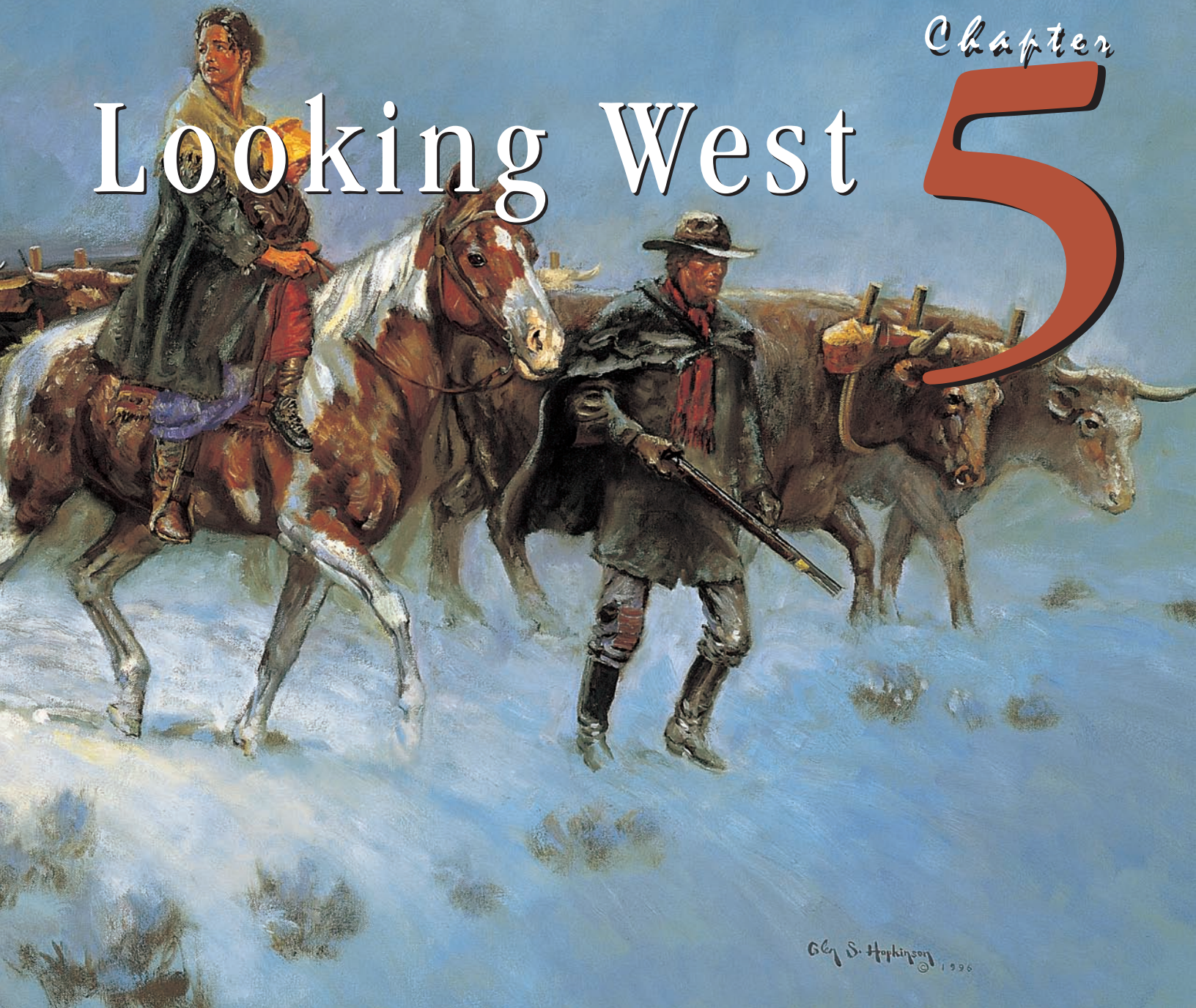
1830

1831 Four Indian men travel to St. Louis and ask Clark to send Christian missionaries to Oregon.

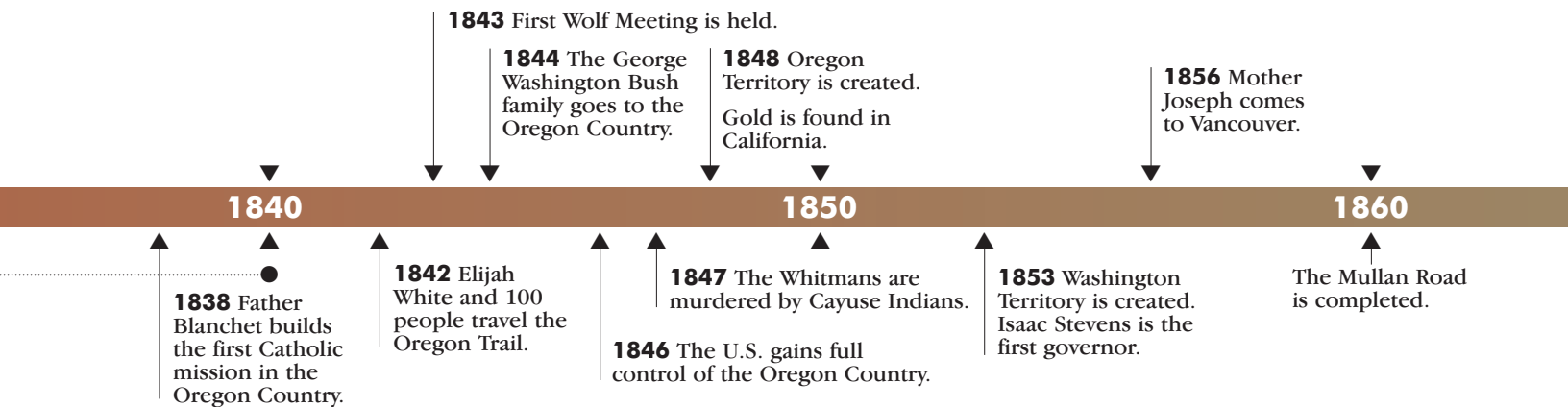
1834 Jason and Daniel Lee start the first mission in the Oregon Country.

1836 Marcus and Narcissa Whitman leave New York State to start a mission in the Oregon Country.

Looking West



Gley S. Hopkinson © 1996



Christian Missionaries

In the early 1800s, people in New England were excited about religion. The church was the center of village life, and crowds of enthusiastic worshippers attended prayer meetings and revivals. Preachers shouted out sermons of heaven and hell, and congregations enthusiastically sang religious songs. Many people, especially women, supported a worldwide missionary effort. Protestant missionaries and teachers were sent to Africa, China, and the American West. Missionaries tried to teach the people how to read the Bible and dress, speak, and live like Christian Americans.

A Request for Christianity

In 1831, three Nez Perce and a Flathead Indian went to St. Louis to visit William Clark, who, along with Lewis, had visited them during the famous exploration trip. The Indian men asked Clark to send someone to teach the Christian religion to their people. They thought Christianity would help them understand the white people's ways and their powerful God. A religious newspaper printed the story.

Methodist Missionaries

Jason Lee and his nephew Daniel Lee, both Methodist ministers from the East, were the first to answer the request of the Nez Perce. Instead of staying with the Nez Perce, however, they stopped at Fort Vancouver, where John McLoughlin advised them to settle in the Willamette Valley. The Lees converted few Indians. The Indian people there did not take to the white people's religion or lifestyle, and their children did not like the strict rules of the mission school.

Jason Lee returned to the states and brought fifty more settlers to Oregon. They opened new missions and started settlements. Lee was active in setting a new government for the settlements, and he educated the children in his mission schools. Accused of neglecting his commitment to

the Indians, Lee was later recalled by the mission board and his mission was closed.

Catholic Missionaries

Some members of the Hudson's Bay Company were Catholic and wanted priests. Father Francis Blanchet answered the call. He spent most of his time with the French Canadian Catholics and not with Indians. Later, a Jesuit priest, Peter John de Smet, and other priests came and worked with the Coeur d'Alenes and Flatheads. Many of the Coeur d'Alenes were baptized Christians, mixing in their own religious customs with that of their new religion.

Presbyterian Missionaries

Narcissa Prentiss was a kindergarten teacher in rural New York State who dreamed of being a Presbyterian missionary. A minister put her in touch with Marcus Whitman, a young doctor who was planning a mission in the West. Only married people were sent to missions, so the two agreed to marry. They set out to build a mission in the Rocky Mountains. They were joined by Reverend Henry Spalding and his wife Eliza, who were also on their way to an Indian mission.

The Whitmans and Spaldings traveled to the Oregon Country with a party of fur traders. Eliza and Narcissa rode horseback on sidesaddles most of the way because the small wagon Eliza's parents had given her could not make it up the rugged trails. Eliza and Narcissa were the first white women to travel across the entire continent.

The Whitmans and Spaldings finally arrived at Fort Vancouver, where Dr. McLoughlin sold them supplies and advised them about locating a mission. During the long trip, which had taken 207 days, the Whitmans and Spaldings had a hard time getting along with each other. As a result, they decided to build two missions. The Spaldings went to live with the Nez Perce Indians along the Clearwater River. The Whitmans built a mission among the Cayuse Indians on the Walla Walla River.

“We have plenty of dry buffalo meat which we purchased from the Indians and dry it for meat. I can scarcely eat it, it appears so filthy, but it will keep us alive and we ought to be thankful for it. . . .”

— Narcissa Whitman

More Missionaries

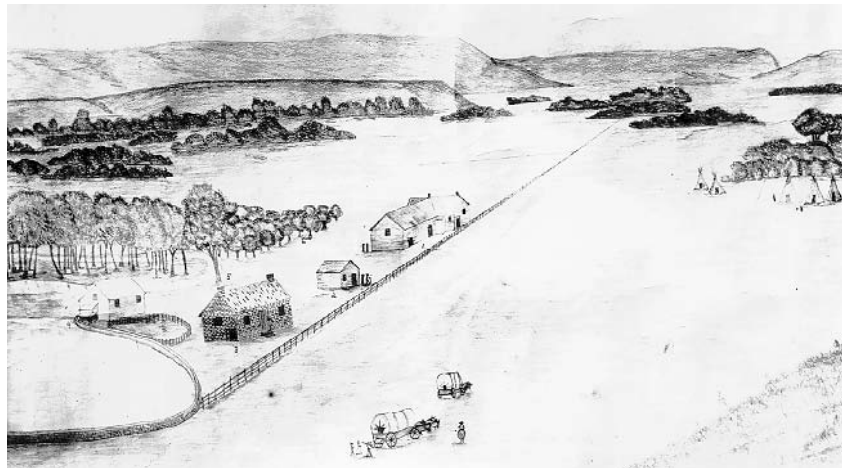
Two years later, Congregationalist missionary couples joined the Whitmans and Spaldings. Mary and Elkanah Walker, along with Myra and Cushing Eells, built a mission among the Spokane Indians near present-day Spokane.

Missionaries built log houses and schoolrooms and taught the American Indian men and women how to raise animals, grow and harvest crops, grind wheat to make flour, and weave wool into cloth. Missionaries translated the Bible into the Indian languages so they could teach the Indians to read.

The missionaries wrote many letters to their friends and families in far-off New England. It took two years for a letter to receive a reply because everything had to be sent by ship around the tip of South America. The letters were published in newspapers back east and read aloud in church meetings.

Missionary Children

Several children were born at the missions—the first white Americans to be born in the region. The children learned how to read and write from their parents. There were few supplies. Mary Walker once drew on a bird's egg to show the children where the earth's continents and oceans were.



The Whitman Mission along the Walla Walla River was built to bring Christianity to the native Indian people. Called the Waiilatpu Mission, it also served as a rest stop for pioneers. This drawing was made in 1847.

Sometimes tragedy struck the children. The Whitman's only child, two-year-old Alice, drowned in the river near their home. The Whitmans eventually adopted sixteen more children.



Narcissa Prentiss Whitman

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think people should share their religious beliefs with others? Do you think people should try to change the lifestyle of other people? Why or why not?



Marcus Whitman



Both Catholics and Protestants opened missions in the Oregon Country.

Disease and Death

Something terrible and unexpected happened to the Indian men, women, and especially children when explorers, missionaries, and pioneer settlers arrived. Indians had no **immunity** to European diseases. Ship's crews brought smallpox, measles, cholera, influenza (flu), and malaria. Entire villages along the coast were wiped away by sickness.

In 1847 nearly 5,000 American pioneers passed

Whitman College and Whitman County are named after the Whitmans.

through the Whitman's mission. The last wagon train of the season brought many sick travelers infected with measles. The Walker children got sick, and at the Whitman mission there were both children and adults in sickbeds. Several people died from the infection.

At the same time, there was a measles epidemic among Coastal Indians. The Cayuse Indians near the Whitman mission had no immunity to the disease. When they came down with measles, over half the tribe died. It was horrible and frightening for everyone. Dr. Whitman with his simple medicines could do nothing to save the people he had tried so hard to help. Some Cayuse, in fact, accused Dr. Whitman of starting the disease and trying to kill the Indians. They thought that since he was a

doctor, or a shaman, he had special powers over disease.

The angry Cayuse attacked the Americans, killing Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and eleven others. They took forty-seven women and children hostage. After bargaining with the Hudson's Bay Company officials, the angry Indian men **ransomed** the prisoners for blankets, shirts, tobacco, and muskets.

The Whitman Massacre caused American settlers in Oregon to clamor for **vengeance** and protection. Five hundred volunteers assembled a militia. The first war between Indians and whites erupted across the region. The Cayuse War lasted for two years, until the Cayuse people turned over five men involved in the killings. The men were tried and hanged.

Seven Alone

Eight Sager children were orphaned when their parents died while traveling west on the Oregon Trail. One was only an infant. Another child was on crutches, having broken her leg when she was run over by a wagon.

Members of the wagon train cared for the children for the rest of the journey. Like most other pioneers, the group stayed for a while at the Whitman mission. The Whitmans, whose own daughter had drowned, adopted all of the children.

The Sagers later experienced the tragic murder of the Whitmans. Two of the Sager boys were killed during the assault. Years later, the Sager girls wrote about their experiences in their new land. A movie called *Seven Alone* was made about them.

This homemade doll once belonged to one of the Sager girls while they lived with the Whitmans. It is on display in the museum at the Whitman Mission National Historic Site at Walla Walla.



Mother Joseph

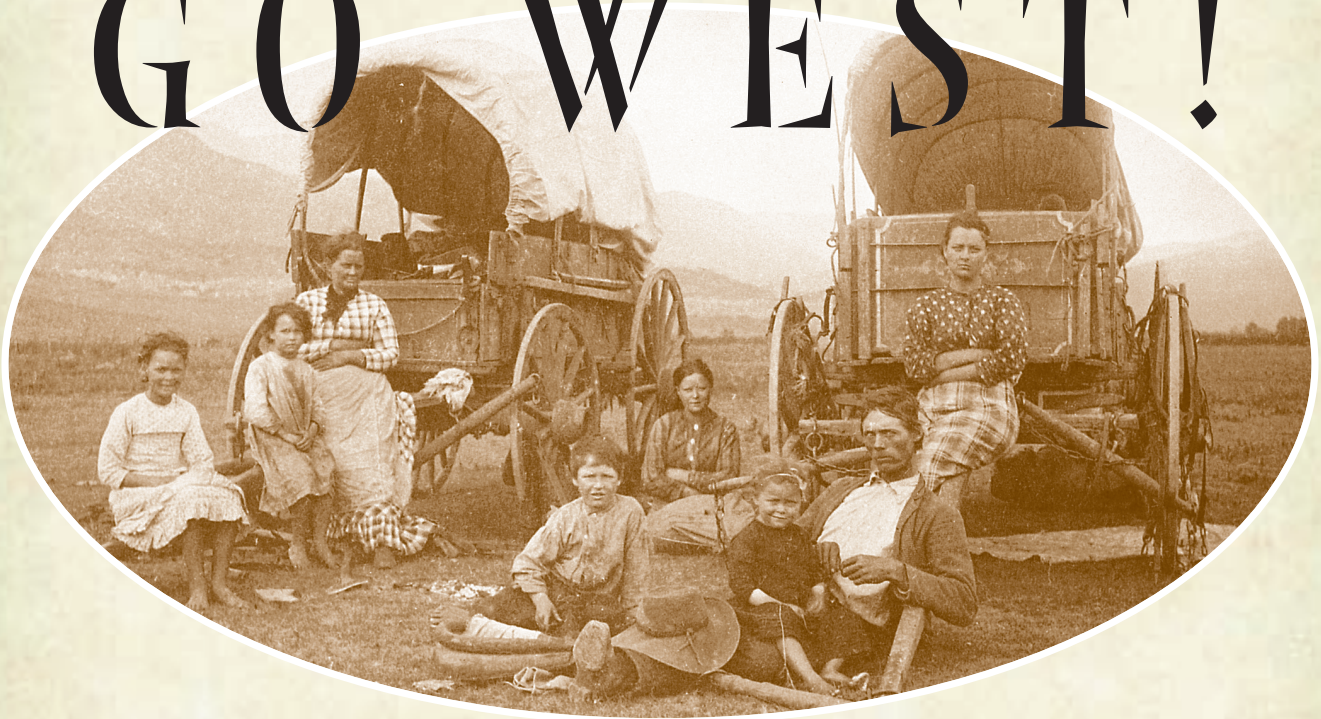
Esther Pariseau, a young Catholic girl, joined a convent, was sent to Vancouver. During her forty-six years in the Northwest, she was known as Mother Joseph. She built hospitals, Indian schools, academies, and orphanages. She did men's work—unusual in those days—drawing plans, checking construction, laying bricks, and carving beautiful woodwork.

Mother Joseph raised money for her projects by traveling around the country on horseback with other nuns. In towns and mining camps, the woman in the black robe asked for donations to her causes.

There is a statue of Mother Joseph in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.



GO WEST!



After the explorers, traders, trappers, and missionaries came to the Pacific Northwest, pioneer families in wagon trains rode or walked to the rich new land. The first pioneers settled near Fort Vancouver or Oregon City, but later groups spread out over the fertile land.

Traveling across the flat plains was relatively easy. The main problems were crossing the wide rivers and dealing with the weather on the six-month journey. It was often hot and dusty or wet and muddy.

Crossing the high Rocky Mountains was difficult, however. Weary families who did not make it through before the snows fell had to wait until spring. Finding passage through steep mountain ranges was not easy. A government

explorer found South Pass in Wyoming in 1832, and two men made it through the Blue Mountains of Oregon in 1840. This opened up the way for more pioneers to follow.

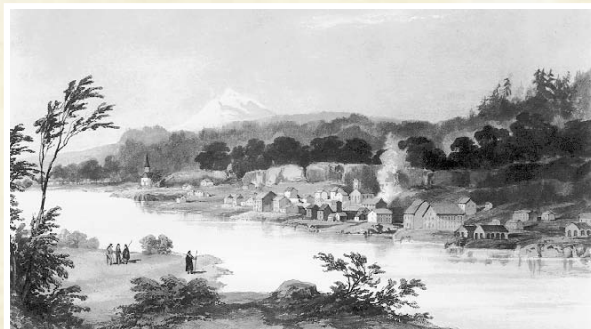
Elijah White, a former missionary to Oregon, brought a group of 100 settlers from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon's Willamette Valley in 1842. Their route became known as the Oregon Trail. For the next thirty-five

years, the trail was used by over 300,000 men, women, and children.

Reasons for Going West

Why did people go west?

- There was a chance to see new country and to be part of an adventure.
- Good farmland was available for a low cost. In the eastern states, land was crowded, and the overworked soil had lost its fertility.
 - Merchants, doctors, and lawyers came to start businesses.
 - Many people wanted to escape the problems of slavery, including disagreements between slaveholders and **abolitionists**.
 - People wanted to live in a mild, healthful climate.



Most of the earliest pioneers settled near Fort Vancouver or in Oregon City. This is Oregon City in 1846.

THE OREGON TRAIL



Follow the trail from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon. What rivers did the trail follow? What kinds of land did people travel over? What landmarks did they see along the way? At what forts did they stop to rest and get supplies?

Lucia Loraine Williams wrote in her 1851 diary:

Some . . . were going for wealth and honors. Others, who had suffered from ill health for years, and to whom life had become a burden, expected to regain health . . . For some, life was too prosy and tame in their old environments. They wanted more action, more diversity, more thrilling experiences with man and beast.

Many young people went west because their families did. Sixteen-year-old Eugenia Zieber learned that she would be going on the Oregon Trail when she was a student at a seminary for young ladies in Pennsylvania. A letter came from her father just two days before Christmas, telling her about the plan. He wanted to move the family to a healthier climate.



LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

How would a trip to a new place change a person's life? What changes would a person have to make to move to a place that was wild and unsettled?

Getting Ready

Despite rumors of Indian attacks and other hardships on such a long trip, hundreds of settlers took the gamble. A family needed a strong wagon and a team of either four oxen or six mules. People had to prepare enough food for the trip and some to live on once they reached the new land. Families who planned to farm (and most planned to do that) also had to take tools and seed.

During the winter before the trip, families spent the evenings drying apples and grapes, making jerky, baking crackers, and sewing cloth sacks and quilts. Even the wagon cover, made of canvas, had to be stitched by hand. Flour, sugar, tea, salt, and other items were packed in cloth sacks or barrels.

People purchased almanacs or guidebooks and took them along on the trail for

guidance. Some books were reliable, while others were written by authors who had never left New York City. After making the trip westward, travelers joked that they had tossed their guidebooks away when the going got rough and the book proved to be useless.

Overland Travel

Traveling by wagon was both difficult and exciting. Many people took diaries with them and wrote about what they saw and experienced. Later, diaries were copied and sent back to relatives, encouraging others to make the trip.

Most people came as family units. Some traveled with neighbors with whom they would settle when they reached the Oregon Country. Other wagon groups were made up of people who belonged to the same church.

People traveled west in groups for several reasons. One was the safety of traveling with others. Bandits, who were sometimes dressed as Indians, robbed wagon trains. Another reason was for help with emergencies. When animals sickened and died, when wagon axles or wheels broke, or when someone got sick, there were other people to rely on.

Pioneers had to wait for spring and the grass to grow up before making the journey. With oxen and horses to pull their wagons, they needed to be sure there would be grass along the way. The first weeks of travel were usually pleasant. The spring weather was mild and there were grassy plains and wild flowers along the way. Rain and mud were sometimes a problem, however.

As the trip went on, the trail dried to dust. The thousands of oxen and mules kicked up so much dust that it was nearly impossible to breathe if your wagon was in the rear of the train. Other times, the rain made the road so muddy the animals couldn't pull the wagons through it. The people got wet and cold. It was hard to prepare and cook food.



Children were expected to gather buffalo chips, care for younger children, and not get lost. *Painting by Glen Hopkinson*

Roles of Men and Women

Men did the heaviest work and probably had the most fun. They hunted, bartered with Indians, drove wagons, and herded cattle. They also raced around on horseback, fired guns, and went swimming.

Women also worked hard driving wagons, setting up camp, cooking over a fire, tending the sick, and caring for bored, tired, and hungry children.

“Sometimes the dust is so great that the drivers cannot see their teams at all though the sun is shining brightly.”

— Elizabeth Wood, 1851

Animals of Choice

Oxen were the best choice for pulling wagons. They ate prairie grass, could pull heavy loads, and were not as likely to be stolen by Indians as horses were. Those who could afford it took an extra team in case anything happened to the animals on the trip.

Cows were taken along to provide milk. One traveler wrote: “The milk can stood nearby and always yielded up its lump of butter at night, churned by the movement of the wagon from the surplus morning’s milk.”

Families took horses for riding and exploring and to have in the new home. Chickens, goats, and dogs also walked the thousands of miles to Oregon.

“The trip went quickly from awe to boredom. If we were only in Willamette Valley, for I am so tired of this.”

— Elizabeth Wood

The wagon roads were so heavily traveled that they looked like highways. Father de Smet, a Catholic missionary, wrote that the trail was “as smooth as a barn floor swept by the winds, and not a blade of grass can shoot up on it on account of the continual passing.”



Effect on the Land and Native People

Thousands of oxen, mules, and horses grazed their way west. They often spread out for a mile or more beside the wagons. So many animals passed through each summer that watering holes were drained by heavy use. Natural grasslands were depleted, so wild animals had trouble finding food.

Always looking for fresh meat, the travelers hunted along the way. This meant that the supply of deer, elk, and buffalo that Indians relied on for food dwindled.

Pioneers observed Indians and wrote about them in diaries. One woman observed:

Indians ketch crickets and dry them, pound to powder, mix with berries, and bake it for bread.

— Catherine Washburn, 1853

At first the Indians had been friendly and helpful to the travelers, but after a while they grew angry. Sometimes Indians tried to get the pioneers to leave the area by burning the prairie grass. When this happened, the pioneers' animals had nothing to eat.

The Indians had set all on fire except here and there a spot. The blackness of prairie under our circumstances presented a dismal sight. We found the grass mostly burned ahead. . . . we had to stop because of the fire and smoke.

— Levi Jackman

LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

- **Why were the American Indians angry at the pioneers for killing buffalo?**
- **How are wild animals protected today? Why?**

Bartering

In the Oregon Country, trading between Indians and pioneers was common. Indian men offered large pieces of dried salmon in



exchange for needles, thread, tools, shirts, and socks. Blankets were also in high demand. Indians also made moccasins for trade. “Swap, swap” was a common term.

End of the Trail

As settlers arrived in the Oregon Country, Hudson's Bay Company officials directed them to settle south of the Columbia River. The British company wanted to keep Americans out of the area north of the river, hoping that the region would one day be under British rule.

Americans thought differently. They wanted the excellent harbors of Puget Sound for American ships. Some people settled around Puget Sound and in the Cowlitz River Valley. Places such as Tumwater, Tacoma, Olympia, Centralia, Alki Point (Seattle), and Port Townsend were founded. At first, however, most people settled south of the Columbia River in Oregon.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BUSH was a war *veteran* and successful cattleman in Missouri. Then Missouri passed a law making it illegal for free Negroes to live there. Afraid his property would be taken because he was black, Bush sold his home and business and outfitted six large wagons full of supplies.

George, his wife Isabelle (a white woman who had been a nurse), and their sons left for the Oregon Country. One of the Bush children later remembered his father hiding \$2,000 in silver underneath the floorboards of a wagon. The money made the trip safely.

A few other families joined the Bush family, and the group joined a wagon train. When the Bushes arrived in the Willamette Valley, they discovered they could not stay. A law had been passed that said no Negroes could live in Oregon.

So the Bush party headed north of the Columbia River. They figured there would be few Americans there to challenge them. They were right. Bush and about thirty others spent another month walking beside their wagons to their new home.

The little group built log homes, plowed the ground, and farmed. Nisqually Indians taught the new settlers to gather oysters, dig clams, and fish for trout and salmon. The farms prospered, but within a few years the Bush family once again faced the loss of their land.

A law said that only white Americans and mixed-blood Indians could own land. New settlers wanted the Bush farm because it was so valuable. Fifty-three neighbors signed a petition asking that Bush be allowed to keep his 640 acres of



GEORGE WASHINGTON BUSH



George Washington Bush brought his family and neighbors to settle in the West. *Painting by Leandro Della Piana.*

land. Congress responded, giving Bush legal right to his original homestead.

A few years later, the Bush farm was

one of the most productive in the area. George Washington Bush was always interested in improving his farm and spent his last years studying new techniques. Bush's son was elected to the legislature in 1889.



The town of Bush Prairie is named after George Washington Bush.

He provided the settlers with food for their first winter and with seed for the first sowing. If they had no money, he still supplied them with what they needed.

— Bush's neighbor

Slavery, or Not?

The people who moved to the Pacific Northwest brought one big problem with them—what to do about slavery. To keep the question of slavery from creating problems, Oregon residents passed laws to keep all blacks—free or slave—out of the territory.

The First Local Government

The first rules were made by the British Hudson's Bay Company. As the number of people grew, and the people spread out away from Fort Vancouver, the settlers wanted an American government, with a sheriff and courts.

Wolf Meetings

"Wolf Meetings" were the earliest forms of local government in the region. Settlers held meetings to decide how to handle the many wolves that were killing cattle and sheep. Panthers, bears, and bobcats were also a problem. Settlers agreed to pay a tax that would be used to pay hunters **bounties** for dead wolves. The meetings led to the first real government in the Oregon Country.



in 1843 and asked the U.S. Congress for the creation of the Oregon Territory. But the area was still claimed by both Britain and the United States. Both countries wanted the rich farmland in a mild climate and the natural harbors of Puget Sound.

In the East, James Polk used as his presidential campaign slogan the phrase "Fifty-four Forty or Fight." This meant that the U.S. wanted land north of today's present boundary, all the way to the 54th latitude line, the southern border of Alaska. Polk won the election and became president.

Britain and the United States **negotiated a compromise**. They agreed that Britain would give up its claims to the land below the 49th parallel—the area that forms the border between the United States and Canada today. Finally, the land belonged to the United States.

In Washington, D.C., there was a lot of discussion about the Oregon Territory. Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois had already proposed that Oregon be admitted as a free territory—free of slavery. Southern senators opposed this because it would upset the even balance of free and slave states and territories. The arguments went on and on.

Finally, on the last day that Congress was in session, President Polk created the Oregon Territory. It was August 1848. Salem, Oregon, became the capital. A young man from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln, was offered the job as governor of the territory, but he turned down the job.

What Is a Territory?

Territories were different than states. The people in a territory could vote for leaders to send to Washington, D.C., but the representatives could not vote there. They could only try to persuade Congress to make laws that were favorable to the people in their territory. Back home, most officials and judges were appointed by Washington instead of being voted in by the local people.

As [there] is no laws in this country we do the best we can.

— Early trapper

BOUNTIES

A bounty was a fee paid for killing an animal:

\$5.00 panther
\$3.00 large wolf
\$2.00 bear

After the Wolf Meetings, about a hundred Americans and French Canadians gathered in the Willamette Valley store to start a local government. There was much discussion about whether or not the group should make laws at all. A popular story says that Joe Meek, a fur trapper, finally suggested that the noisy group go outside. He directed the men in favor of government to stand in one place and those against to stand in another place. The vote was close, but several officials were elected and laws were written. The first laws banned alcoholic drinks.

The Oregon Territory

Thousands of American settlers had located in the Willamette Valley. They organized a temporary government

THE OREGON TERRITORY



The new territory included both present-day Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming. Two of its borders were the Pacific Ocean and the Continental Divide. Slavery was not allowed in the territory.

Dividing up the Land

Because so many Americans wanted to come to Oregon, Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. It was a homestead law that allowed each white male citizen over eighteen years of age to claim 320 acres of land for free. If he had a wife, they could claim another 320 acres. All they had to do was live on the land and grow crops for four years. Because the law gave land only to white people, few minorities came to the region.

Washington Becomes a Territory

Soon, settlers living north of the Columbia River wanted to separate from the Oregon Territory and form their own government. They thought the government leaders in Oregon were too far away and that the territory was too big. After several requests, Washington Territory was created in 1853.

The people wanted the territory to be named Columbia, but Congress changed the name so there would be no confusion with the District of Columbia. It was a huge piece of country but had only 4,000 American residents and 17,000 American Indians.

Pig War

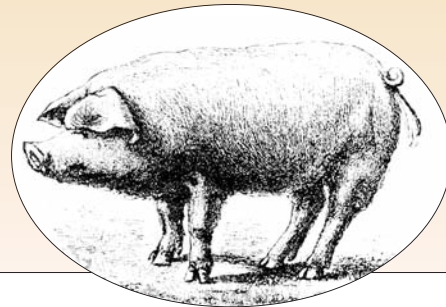
The agreement between Britain and the United States left one thing unclear: who owned the San Juan Islands? Citizens from both countries had settled there and each thought the other was trespassing.

Tempers were short when a British neighbor's pig got into an American farmer's garden and ruined the potato patch. The farmer shot the pig. This set off a fight between the Americans and British on the island. Sixty-six American soldiers took a position near the wharf.

The British were furious and sent three British warships to remove the men without firing on them. They refused to budge. Eventually five British warships and over 2,000 soldiers came. Americans, with 155 men stationed behind earthen walls, waited it out.

When news reached Washington, D.C., President James Buchanan sent a commander of the army to solve the situation. The British retreated to one end of the island and the Americans to the other. It stayed that way for twelve years, until a German leader was asked to study the situation. He declared that the islands belonged to the United States.

The "Pig War" was settled. The only casualty? One pig.



Who Owns Oregon?

- **Convention of 1818**—Great Britain and the United States agree to joint occupation of the Oregon Country.
- **Adams-Onís Treaty, 1819**—Spain gives its claims to the Oregon Country to the United States.
- **Oregon Treaty, 1846**—Great Britain retreats northward. International boundary is drawn at the 49th parallel. The Oregon Country is finally owned by the United States.



The new territory, created in 1853, included parts of present-day Idaho and Montana. Six years later, Oregon became a state.

“Below us, in a deep mud, were a few low wooden houses at the head of Puget Sound. My heart sank. . . .”

— Mrs. Stevens, after arriving by ship

The First Governor

The first governor of Washington Territory was Isaac Stevens. He was also appointed as Secretary of Indian Affairs. Stevens had been born and raised in Massachusetts. He was smart, with lots of energy and ambition. He dreamed that a railroad would cross the continent, bringing people to Washington Territory.

Stevens traveled west with a group of men who helped survey the route. In Olympia, the territorial capital, he worked to organize the first legislature and create laws and schools.



Isaac Stevens was appointed the first governor of Washington Territory.

The Mullan Road

Lt. John Mullan was given the job of building a road between Fort Walla Walla and Fort Benton, Montana. The road was needed to move supplies and men between the two distant forts.

Mullan hired ninety men to do the work. They took fifty pack mules, a herd of cattle for fresh meat, and teamsters to drive forty-five freight wagons. A hundred soldiers went along to protect workers from Indian attacks.

The work was hard. The men had to chop down huge trees. Then they cleared the brush and **graded** the roads, using mules to drag logs over the ground.

Workers had accidents with axes and falling trees. One hunter was lost for days. His legs had to be amputated because of frostbite. Finally the workers made it to Fort Benton.

Settlers, traders, and gold seekers used the road more than the soldiers did. One **entrepreneur** used a pack train of seven camels loaded with merchandise. The odd-looking camels frightened horses and caused them to run off.

Indians and Settlers

When sea traders and fur trappers first came to the Pacific Northwest, Indians were willing to trade with them and most got along well. Indians worked for the fur companies and helped missionaries build homes and churches.

As thousands of settlers came west on the Oregon Trail, relations between Indians and whites changed. After 1848, so many gold seekers used the trail that wild game could hardly be found. Disease wiped out whole Indian villages. An era of warfare lasted thirty years.

You will read more about the conflict between settlers and Native Americans in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 5 REVIEW

1. Why did Christian missionaries come to the Oregon Country?
2. Who were some of the early missionaries to Oregon Country?
3. How did disease affect Native Americans? Why did the Cayuse murder the Whitmans?
4. Why did the Hudson's Bay Company want Americans to settle south of the Columbia River?
5. What were the main reasons people wanted to move to the West?
6. What preparations did people make before heading west on the Oregon Trail?
7. What laws did the early Oregon settlers make to handle the problem of slavery?
8. Why did George Washington Bush settle north of the Columbia River?
9. What were some of George Washington Bush's admirable personality traits?
10. Why did Britain and the United States both want the Pacific Northwest?
11. How was the question of ownership of the Oregon Country and its boundary an example of negotiation and compromise?
12. After the Pig War, which country finally got ownership of the San Juan Islands?
13. What year was the Washington Territory separated from the Oregon Territory? What was the capital city of Washington Territory?
14. Who was the first governor of the Washington Territory? What was his other title?
15. What road was built to connect army forts in Washington and Montana? Who used the road?

GEOGRAPHY TIE-IN

1. What landforms along the coast were important to both the British and the Americans? Why is shipping important to the economy of a place?
2. People choose natural landforms such as rivers, oceans, and mountain ranges as boundaries. What natural features formed boundaries of the Oregon Country? Of Washington Territory?
3. Today, the largest population of Washington lives near water. Why is living near water important to people? How do people who don't live near water get the water they need?

