**TRILOGY:** "**Westward Journeys"**

2018: Northwest Journey - Corps of Discovery (1803-1806)

2019: Southwest Journeys - Trail of Tears (1812-1839) & Santa Fe Trail (1821-1880)

2020: Westward Journeys - Oregon, Mormon, & California Trails (1836-1869)

**3rd OF TRILOGY: "WESTWARD JOURNEYS - OREGON, MORMON, & CALIFORNIA TRAILS"**

**SUMMARY**

Week 1 - Before the Trails (1776-1838) -- SBP

Week 2 - The Emigrant Trail: Jumping-off-towns to Fort Bridger -- R3

Week 3 - The Oregon Trail: Fort Bridger to the Oregon Farmlands -- R3

Week 4 - The Mormon Trail: Fort Bridger to the Promised Land -- SBP

Week 5 - The California Trail: Fort Bridger to the Gold Fields -- R3

Week 6 - After the Trails - SBP

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

Week 1 - Before the Trails (1776-1838) **(SANDI)**

*MUSIC: Men of the West, "*Voices from the Oregon Trail" (1:35)

- Introduce trail characters

- Oregon Trail: Narcissa Whitman & Elsa Spalding, Father DeSmet, Ezra Meeker, John Kennedy

- Mormon Trail: Brigham Young, Rebecca Winters, Olive Oatman, Mary Parson Johnson

- California Trail: Jean Batiste Charbonneau, John Sutter, John Marshall, Virginia Reed

- Review American development

- War of Independence - 1776

- Northwest Passage -- L&C expedition - 1803

- American explorers (1803-1830)

- Hudson Bay Company, American Fur Company, Northwest Company

(introduce John McLoughlin)

- 1812: Astor’s sea/land expedition – discovers land route via South Pass

(introduce Robert Stuart discoverer of South Pass)

- 1823-1830: Jedediah Smith explores the American west for Missouri Fur Co

- 1833-1840: Jean Charbonneau works for Rocky Mt Trapping System

- 1842-1845 John Freemont 1st, 2nd, 3rd Expeditions -opening the west to pioneers

- early trading forts :

1811: Fort George (Astoria) - Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Co

1818: Fort Walla Walla

1822: Fort Henry - Missouri Fur Co post; confluence of Yellowstone & Missouri R

1822: Fort Kiowa - American Fur Trading post

1824: Fort Vancouver - HQR of Hudson Bay Columbia Region

1834: Fort Hall - Hudson Bay Co

1834-54: (Old) Fort Boise - Hudson Bay Co; mouth of Boise R. at Snake River

1835: Fort William (Sarpy) - William Sublette; confluence of Laramie River and North Platte River

1842: Fort Bridger at Blacks Fork of Green River

Jim Bridger married to daughter of Shoshone chief Washakie

- Manifest Destiny

Santa Fe Trail (1821-1880

Trail of Tears (1831-1850)

- Opening the West - the trails to Oregon, Utah, and California

[https://www.nps.gov/scbl/planyourvisit/upload/Forts-on-the-Oregon-Trail.pdf](file:///C:\Users\romerrr\Downloads\%09%09https:\www.nps.gov\scbl\planyourvisit\upload\Forts-on-the-Oregon-Trail.pdf)

- 1819: Fort Atkinson - 1st US Army post west of Missouri R; (east of Fort Calhoun, NE

- 1827: Fort Leavenworth

- 1848: Fort Childs (Kearney)

- 1948: Smith's Trading Post (Fort Smith) Peg Leg Smith

- 1849: Fort Laramie (formerly Fort Williams)

- 1850: Fort Drum (Fort Dalles) - start of Columbia River leg at The Dalles; opening of Barlow Road in 1846 gave option to use land route or water route

- 1853: Fort Supply - built by Mormons, in competition w/Bridger

- 1858: Fort Caspar (Mormon Ferry Post)

- 1863: Fort McPherson (Cottonwood)

- 1863: Camp Conner

- 1867: Fort Fetterman

- 1869: Fort Washakie (1869) named for Shoshone chief Washakie for helping emigrants at Green River crossing; Washakie and Sacajawea are buried there

References:  *MUSIC: Men of the West, "*Voices from the Oregon Trail" (1:35)

Week 2 - The Emigrant (shared) Trail: St Louis to Fort Bridger **(ROCKY)**

*MUSIC: Liza Jane, "*Voices from the Oregon Trail" (4:09)

Voices from the Oregon Trail, Track 2

- What the immigrants are seeking

- Religious opportunities: Missionaries & Mormons (all trails - Whitmans, DeSmet, B. Young)

- Farmland (Oregon, California)

- Gold (California)

- Leaving Civilization: travel across the plains, into the Rockies

- Geology of the shared trail

- Great Plains

- Rivers - Missouri, Platte, South Platte, Green River Crossing

- Rocky Mountains

- Political situation

- states/territories between Independence Mo & Fort Bridger

- native tribes on the plains

- Preparations

- Wagons

- Supplies

- guide books: facts and fallacies

- The route west

- 'Jumping off' places along Missouri River (Independence, St Joseph, Council Bluffs)

- Missouri River to Platt River

- Platt River to Sweetwater River (500 miles)

- Sweetwater River to Continental Divide at South Pass (70 miles)

- South Pass -- geology of gap - width/length/google earth fly thru

- South Pass to Big Sandy River

- Big Sandy to Valley of Green (geology of valleys)

- Valley of Green to Fort Bridger

- Landmarks (geology, significance)

- Court House Rock

- Jail Rock

- Chimney Rock

- Scott's Bluff

- Register Cliff

- Independence Rock

- Hardships on the trail:

- overloaded wagons

- dust, disease

- river crossings

- lack of water

- steep inclines, cold/snow

- Indian encounters

- References: *MUSIC: Oregon Bound, "*Voices from the Oregon Trail" (4:09)

Week 3 - The Oregon Trail: Fort Bridger to Willamette Valley (1836-1869) **(ROCKY)**

*MUSIC: "Oregon Trail"*

Woody Guthrie (2:50) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e17cFEbFVWI)

- Geology of the trail

- Exotic Terrains of the west coast

- Rivers: Snake, Columbia

- Willamette Valley formation - farmland

- Political situation: Oregon

- Treaty of 1818

- 1846 Oregon Treaty

- The route to Oregon

- Trail splits for Oregon, Utah, or California

- South Pass (or Fort Bridger) to Valley of Bear

- Valley of Bear to Snake River

- Snake River to Columbia River

- down Columbia River or over Barlow Pass to Willamette Valley

- Beacon Rock

- Mount Hood

- The Dalles (Cascade Mts)

- Oregon City & Willemette Valley

- Fort Vancouver (John McLoughlin - father of Oregon)

- introduce Phillip/Mary Foster (came by boat, Foster farm)

- Our driving route - compare to trail route

- Landmarks

- Devil's Gate (Massacre Rocks)

- (diversion of Oregon-California trails)

- Split Rock

- Soda Springs

- Register Rock (moved to location by Bonneville flood - 2nd largest in geologic history)

- Thousand Springs

- Traveler Stories

- 1836: Narcissa Whitman/Elsa Spalding with Whitman-Spalding Party, 1st wagons across the trail, 1st white women to cross Rockies -- (seeking missionary opportunity to Indians)

- 1840-1846: Father DeSmet (seeking missionary opportunity to Indians)

- 1852: Ezra Meeker & markers (seeking land (seeking farmland) book: *Ox-Team Days*

- 1862: John Knox Kennedy Wagon Train; (seeking farmland) book: *Train of Innocents*

*MUSIC "Oregon, My Oregon"*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vX0gaJnrSg

Week 4 - The Mormon Trail (1846-1869) - Fort Bridger to the Promised Land **(SANDI)**

*MUSIC: "The Old Pine Tree"* Voices from the Oregon Trail, (1:57)

- Geology of the trail

- Across Iowa (great plains)

- Rocky Mt east of Salt Lake City

- Salt Lake Desert west of SLC

- The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints

- origins – Joseph Smith

- teachings – Book of Mormon

- beginnings – attracting converts

- persecution & relocations – Navoo, Illinois

- the Promised Land

- Political situation: Utah

- Treaty of 1818

- The route to Utah

- New York

- Nauvoo (Illinois)

- Richard's Point

- Garden Grove

- Mt Pisgah

- Council Bluffs

- Emigrant Trail to Fort Bridger

- The Needles

- Echo Canyon

- Immigration Canyon

- Golden Pass Rd

- our driving route (compare to trail route map)

- Traveler Stories

- 1846: Brigham Young

w/Chief Washakie (Shoshone)

- 1847: Platte River (Mormon) Ferry

- 1851: Olive Ann Oatman capture; book: *The Blue Tattoo*

- 1852: Rebecca Winters death on trail

- 1856: Handcart disaster – Mary Johnson Parsons

*MUSIC: 'The Land at Eden's Gate'* Voices from the Oregon Trail, (4:24)

Week 5 - The California Trail (1843-1869) - Fort Bridger to the Gold Fields **(ROCKY)**

*MUSIC: "Down the California Trail"*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJOxz2z5MDo (3:00)

or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cz7Dvjfrh8I (2:35)

- Geology of the trail

- Great Basin

- Great Salt Lake Desert (Utah)

- Sierra Nevada Mountains (California)

- Central Valley (California)

- gold fields (California: where, why)

- Political situation: California

- 1821-1848: Mexico

- 1846-1848: Mexican-American War

- 1848: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- Overview of main route

- Sheep Rock (Idaho) - 1st split from Oregon Trail - Bidwell-Bartleson Party and the Hudspeth Cutoff diverge here

- south along the Bear River

- west along the north shore of the Great Salt Lake

- cross Great Salt Lake desert west of the lake (Bidwell party abandons wagons)

- follow Mary's River (now Humboldt R) to sink (Lovelock, Nevada)

- cross desert to the south, reach the Walker River

- ascend Sierra Nevada Mts

- west to Sutter's Fort

- our driving route (compare to trail route map)

- Traveler Stories

- 1827: Jedadiah Smith crosses Sierra Nevadas

- 1939: John Sutter - arrives on California west coast (Mexican territory), builds Fort Sutter

- 1841: Bartleson-Bidwell Party - 1st Americans to attempt crossing Missouri-California

- 1845: John Marshall - Oregon Trail, then south to Sutters Fort; gold discovery

- 1846: Virginia Reed - 13 yr old daughter of James Reed on Donner-Reed Party migration

- 1846-47: Charbonneau guides Mormon Battalion building trail from Santa Fe to Los Angeles

during Mexican American War (used by settlers, miners, stagecoaches to CA)

1847 - becomes mayor of San Luis Rey, Ca

- 1850: Henry Comstock, Comstock Silver & Gold Lode, & Virginia City

*MUSIC: "I Love You California"*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0rRkLdYbYg

Week 6 - After the Trails **(SANDI)**

- statistics: how many: total, survived, destinations, etc

- fate of featured people

- Jedediah Smith

- John McLoughlin

- Whitmans/Spaldings

- Robert Stuart

- Father DeSmet

- Jean Batiste Charbonneau (Pomp)

- Rebecca Winters

- Ezra Meeker

- tattoo girl?

- amputated leg Mormon girl??

- political development of Oregon, Utah, California

- today: economy, populations, etc

*MUSIC: America the Beautiful*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0bs9ZvM8gQ

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CHARACTERS FEATURED IN OUR PRESENTATIONS

**BEFORE THE TRAILS**

Jim Bridger (1804-1881) - traveled w/Freemont, built Fort Bridger

Chief Washakie (1810?-1900) - friend of Bridger & Brigham Young

John McLoughlin (1784-1857) - chief factor at Hudson Bay Co's Fort Vancouver

Robert Stuart (1785-1848) - first Euro-American to cross South Pass overland

Jedediah Smith - (1799-1831) - western explorer who publicized South Pass across Rockies

John Fremont (1813-1890) - western explorer who led five explorations through American west

Jean Batiste "Pomp" Charbonneau (1805-1866) - blazed Mormon Battalion Trail -Santa Fe to California, early gold miner

**OREGON TRAIL**

Eliza Spalding (1807-1851) - first group to cross Oregon Trail w/wagon, one of two first white women across Rockies

Father De Smet (1801-1873) - Catholic missionary to Native Americans in American northwest

Ezra Meeker (1830-1928) - Oregon pioneer who memorailized trail with Meeker monuments

Narcissa Whitman (1808-1847)- first Am group to cross Oregon Trail w/wagon; 1 of 2 first white women across Rockies

John Kennedy (??) - leader of Kennedy Wagon Train to Oregon

**MORMON TRAIL**

Brigham Young ( 1801-1877)- religous leader who led Mormons from Illinois to Utah

Rebecca Winters (1799-1852) - Mormon pioneer who dies of cholera on the trail; grave site is still visible

Olive Oatman (1838-1903) - kidnapped Mormon girl on pioneer trail to California

Mary Parson Johnson (1849-1910) - Danish Mormon child pioneer whose legs were amputated due to frostbite on the trail

**CALIFORNIA TRAIL**

Virginia Reed (1833-1921) - Daughter of Reeds on Donner Party wagon trail

John Sutter (1803-1880) - Swiss born pioneer developed Sutter's Fort and Sutter's Mill

John Marshall (1810-1885) - American carpenter credited with first gold discovery in California at Sutter's Mill

OTHER: Refugees from Redding fires -- Lisa (forced evacuation) and Jack and girlfriend - photos 7-29-18

Lisa lives on Panorama Drive

PERSONAL CONTACTS

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Loren Pospisil, Tourism Facilities Operator, Chimney Rock National Historic Site, 308-586-2581 [loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov](mailto:loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov)

Patti Payne, LDS (Mormon) Volunteer, Martin’s Cove at Devil’s Gate Historic Site, [vbgrandma@gmail.com](mailto:vbgrandma@gmail.com)

MUSEUMS

Missouri History Museum, Forest Park, St. Louis, MO

National Frontier Trails Center, 318 West Pacific, Independence, MO

Frontier Army Museum, Metropolitan Ave @ 4th St, Fort Leavenworth KS

Pony Express Museum, 914 Penn Street, St. Joseph, MO

Western Historic Trails Center, 3434 Richard Downing Ave, Council Bluffs, IA

Lewis &Clark Nat'l Historic Trail Headquarters, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE

Fort Atkinson State Historic Park, 201 S 7th St, Fort Calhoun, NE

Akta Lakota Museum, 1301 N Main St, Chamberlain, SD

Fort Abe Lincoln (US Govt) State Park & On-A-Slant Indian Village, 480 Fort Lincoln Rd, Mandan, ND

Fort Buford (US Govt) State Historic Site, 15349 39th NW, Williston, ND

Fort Union Trading Post (Hudson’s Bay Co) Nat’l Historic Site, 15550 Hwy. 1804, Williston, ND

Whitman Mission Nat’l Historic Site, 328 Whitman Mission Rd, Walla Walla, WA

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 5000 Discovery Dr, The Dalles, OR

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, 990 SW Rock Creek Dr, Stevenson, WA

BOOKS

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Barlow Toll Road 1846-1919, E.L. Meyers, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1991

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The Heart of Everything That Is, Dob Drury & Tom Clavin, Simon & Schuster, 2013

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Jededian Smith – No Ordinary Mountain Man, Barton Barbour, University of Oklahoma Press, 2009

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Thomas “Peg Leg” Smith, J Patrick Wilde, Bear Lake County Historian, Bear Lake Historical Society, 1992

Washakie – Chief of the Shoshones, Grace Hebard, University of Nebraska Press, 1995

Westward Woman-My 2000 Mile Treck Along Donner Trail, Barbara Maat, Little Nest Press, 1979

DVDS

*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, HBO Films Production (132 minutes)

*Fort Bridger State Historic Site*, Click Point Ranch Productions, 2009 (30 minutes)

*Fort Kearny State Historic Park,* ??

The Oregon Trail, Oregon-California Trail Assoc. (120 minutes)

*Pathways of Pioneers – Idaho’s Oregon Trail Legacy*, Idaho Public Television, 2009

West, Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum, 1990 (18 minutes)

WEBSITES

<http://www.nps.gov/oreg/planyourvisit/brochures.htm>

<https://roadtrippers.com/trips/2477097/itinerary?lat=40.80972&lng=-96.67528&z=5>

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**BACKGROUND MATERIAL**

**CHRONOLOGY**

1680 – Pueblo Indian ‘Great Horse Dispersal’ of Apache horses

1812 – Robert Stuart (Astor return trip from Astoria) discovers South Pass Route

1824 – Jebediah Smith rediscovers South Pass Route

1841 – Bidwell/Bartelson trail blazers

1830 – Fur traders first wagon across the Rockies (Smith/Jackson/Sublette??)

1832 – first wagons over South Pass

1836 – Whitman/Spalding emigration – first women across trail

1840 – Last (& 16th) Fur Rendezvous of Mountain Men

1841 – Bidwell-Bartelson wagon train to California (w/Father DeSmet)

1842 – Fremont first western explorations

1845 – annexation of Texas into USA

1846 – 49th parallel becomes USA/Canadian border

1848 – first large (1000 person) migration

1847 – Brigham Young (LDS) first Mormon trip to Utah

1850 - Utah becomes territory, Fort Bridger in territory

1851 - Brigham Young appointed 1st governor Utah Territory

1851 - Mormons build Fort Supply

1852 – Ezra Meeker emigrates to Washington

1854 – Custard? Massacre by Sioux

1855 - Hudson Bay forts Boise and Hall shut

1855 - Mormons purchase Fort Bridger

1856 – Mormon handcart disaster

1857 – Mormon War (Utah War) w/ Fort Bridger & Russell/Major/Waddell freight Co??

1857 - B. Young replaced as governor Utah Territory

1857 - Mormons burn Forts Bridger and Supply

1860 – Pony Express created by Russell, Major & Waddell

1861 - Indian Wars?? (Lakota Sioux)

1862? – transcontinental telegraph

1862? – Pony express ends

1867 – transcontinental railroad

**PEOPLE/PLACES/EVENTS**

Trading Companies

Hudson’s Bay Trading – British/Canadian

Northwest Trading – American??

Pacific Fur Company - American - Joseph Astor

Pioneers

John McLoughlin – British/Canadian, factor at Fort Vancouver, founder of Oregon City

Phillip & Mary Foster - Foster Farm, Barlow Cutoff

Ezra Meeker – took trail 3 times Meeker Markers –

Emigrant Springs SP, OR (9/1)

Baker City, OR (9/2)

Parma, ID – Old Fort Boise (9/3)

capitol grounds Boise, ID (9/4)

Mormon woman lost both legs in Handcart disaster (see Martin’s Cove photos)

Rebecca Winters – Mormon, died 8/15/1852 of cholera on trail east of Scott’s Bluff,

Jane Gould – diarist (see book)

David McCandles – killed by Bill Hickok at Rock Creek Station (9/20/15) – descendant is astronaut

50 years old (see brochure 9/16/15)

John Kennedy Train -

Native Americans

Lakota Sioux: Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Indian agent – McLaughlin??

Massacre near Devil's Gate (1862) - 10 emigrants killed by Shoshone

Bear River Massacre (1863) 400 Shoshone killed by US Military

Clark Massacre near Devil's Gate (1851) Shoshone attack on emigrant party

Utter Disaster near Castle Butte (1860) 42 days of raids/massacres -- 20 killed

Sand Creek Massacre (1864) 70-300 Cheyenne & Arapayaho (2/3 women & children) killed by Colorado Vol Calvary

Other Americans

Udder?? Family and train – disaster/starvation (9/3 visit to Starvation Camp placard)

Ward Family - massacre, Boise ID area (9/3 visit) – 20 people in train, 18 killed

?? McKenzie, ?? Price Hunt – 1811 trappers/??? (see 9/4 - Boise ID – Oregon Trail Interpretive Trail