

What Lewis and Clark did.



LEWIS & CLARK
CHAMPIONED AMERICAN RIGHTS TO OREGON
IN CONGRESS

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LEADERSHIP AMONG AMERICAN SETTLERS TO RUBEL SOUND

pioneers of the great West. So successful were they in opening the wilderness that the Government afterward sent out other expeditions. But Lewis and Clark's achievement stands unpeered in the annals of the world. The distance that they covered was equal to one-third the circumference of the earth. The wilderness they traversed was two-thirds the width of the American Continent. Only one member of the company lost his life and the causes of his death were not attributed directly to the journey. In spite of suffering and peril, the leaders kept journals unexcelled for fidelity, minuteness, comprehensiveness and accuracy. These journals are a treasury of priceless information for history and science.

Their Single Personality.
No leaders ever developed greater qualities of vigilance, tact and bravery than did Lewis and Clark. Their discipline was perfect, and their men had unbounded confidence in them. They carved a path for notoriety or ostentation. To them duty and heroism was a matter of course. So closely are the characters of these two associated that they have one personality; they worked as one and so will history preserve their memories.

Picture if you can a land whose water courses led no man knew where; whose mountains lifted up their heads to unknown heights; whose wastes had never felt the tread of civilized men; whose present farms and cities were a trackless wilderness except as Indians or wild beasts left passing vestiges; whose plains were free and open and whose forests had not once received the axe's stroke; whose only sounds were gurgling and splashing water, or notes of birds or cries of savages or howls of beasts or breathings of forests—picture if you can all this and you have a faint idea of the "great unknown" between the Mississippi and the Pacific.

Jefferson's Long Desire.
For 20 years Jefferson had desired to send an exploring party to the Northwest coast of America. Not that he expected to establish American claims on the Pacific—the idea came to him a long time after—but he desired to extend the limits of geographical knowledge. By some authorities he is said to have received the first impulse from John Ledyard, an American, who had been with Captain Cook off the Oregon coast in 1779. In December, 1782, we find Jefferson writing to George Rogers Clark:

I had then subscribed a very large sum of money in England for exploring the country from the Mississippi to California. They present me with a letter from Ledyard, I am afraid they have thought of colonizing into here in a feebler way of making the attempt to search that country. But I doubt if we have enough of that kind of spirit to raise the money. How would you like to lead such a party? Though I fear our prospect is not worth asking the question.

George Rogers Clark was an illustrious brother of William Clark. The elder Clark had saved to the United States from England the "Old Northwest." But Jefferson was right. The time was not yet come for realization of his dream.

Ledyard had become aware of the excellent opening on the Pacific for the fur trade. Vainly he endeavored to engage American capital in the business. Then he went to France and met Jefferson, who in 1813, 17 years later, wrote as follows of his luckless endeavors:

While I resided in Paris, John Ledyard, of Connecticut, arrived there, well known in the United States for energy of body and mind. He had accompanied Captain Cook on his voyage to the Pacific Ocean, and distinguished himself on that voyage by his intrepidity. Being of a roaming disposition, he was now pressing for some new enterprises. His immediate object at Paris was to engage a merchant

company in the fur trade of the western coast of America, in which, however, he failed. I then proposed to him to go by land to Kamtschatka, cross in some of the Russian vessels to Nootka Sound, fall down into the latitude of the Missouri and penetrate to and through that to the United States.

He eagerly acted the idea, and only asked to be assured of the permission of the Russian government. Her (the Empress's) permission was obtained, and an assurance of protection while the course of the voyage should be through her territories. His finances not permitting he called on me to advance him the necessary sum to purchase a passport from one of the Ministers; and at 200 miles from Kamtschatka he obliged me to return to my quarters. He was preparing to take the ship to resume his journey, when he was arrested by an officer of the Empress, who by this time had charged his vessel with soldiers to proceed. He was put into a closed carriage and conveyed, day and night without stopping, till he reached Poland, when he was set down and left to himself.

Such was the status of politics when Jefferson was nursing schemes to explore the Pacific. Then came a momentous event—the purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon by the United States. The alarm over the acquisition of the territory by France from Spain now turned to joy.

THE INDIAN'S LAMENT.
Speech of a Nez Perces Brave at St. Louis, 1833.

I came with an eye partly open for my people who sit in darkness. I go back with both eyes closed. How can I go back blind to my blind people? I made my way to you with strong arms through many enemies. I go back with both arms broken and empty. . . . My people sent me to get the white man's Book of Heaven. You took me where you allow your white women to dance as we do not ours, and the Book was not there. You took me to where they worship the Great Spirit with candles, and the Book was not there. You showed me the images of the good spirit and the picture of the good land beyond, but the Book was not among them to tell us the way. I am going back the long and sad trail to my people in the dark land. You make my feet heavy with gifts, yet the Book is not among them. In darkness they will go a long path to other hunting grounds. No white man will go with them, and no white man's Book will make the way plain. I have no more words.

Jefferson's Prophecy.
Extract From a Letter Written by Thomas Jefferson to John Jacob Astor in 1813.

I learn that great pleasure the progress you have made toward an establishment on the Columbia River. I view it as the germ of a free and independent empire on that side of our continent, and that liberty and self-government spreading from that, as well as this side, will insure their complete establishment over the whole. It must be still more gratifying to yourself to foresee that your name will be handed down with that of Columbus and Raleigh as the father of the establishment and founder of such an empire.

Religious as they were moral. They did not harmonize with missionaries, yet the moral tone of the community admittedly was improved by these zealous people. Industries and institutions were rooted in a wholesome element, the character of the pioneers. These men brought to Oregon the safeguards of the communities

and France was a striking example of the warped governmental policies of those two countries. The expanding English colonies collided with the French in the Valley of the Ohio. War resulted in which the French were expelled from the continent. Later the United States came into existence and succeeded to English rights east of the Mississippi. Then in 1803 France acquired Louisiana west of that river.

Purchase of Louisiana.
Such was the status of politics when Jefferson was nursing schemes to explore the Pacific. Then came a momentous event—the purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon by the United States. The alarm over the acquisition of the territory by France from Spain now turned to joy.

Preparations for the expedition were under way even before this. In January, 1800, three months before the purchase of Louisiana, Jefferson had recommended in a confidential message to Congress:

And their part of the expedition. One was the sighting of the Rocky Mountains May 26, 1805, "the object of all our hopes and the reward of all our ambition"; another was the discovery of the first waters of the Pacific, August 12, 1805, and the third was the first view of the Pacific Ocean which we have seen so long anxious to see. Oh the joy!

The route was up the Missouri and Jefferson Rivers to their source, where one of the party thanked God he had lived to bestride the Missouri. Thence to Lemhi River, a tributary of Salmon River, which flows into the Snake; down the Lemhi and northward to Bitter Root River; down this stream to Lo Lo Fork; through La Lo Pass westward to the Clearwater and down the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia Rivers to the ocean. The return followed closely the same route back to the Bitter Root River, where the party divided. Clark pursued that stream to its source and thence to the three forks of the Missouri. The Gallatin River he proceeded to the Yellowstone, and then to the Snake River, where he rejoined Lewis. The other party had followed Bitter Root River northward to Hellgate River, and thence eastward to the Great Falls of the Missouri, by Big Blackfoot River, and Lewis and Clark Pass.

This latter geographical feat of the explorers was probably the greatest ever achieved. It proceeded from the mind of Captain Clark. These streams had never been explored. No man knew the direction of their waters. But the instinct of Lewis and Clark led them where knowledge could not, and led them right. This achievement stands as the transcendent triumph of the geographical genius of American pioneers.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS (1805-1905) IN THE MOMENTOUS HISTORY OF OREGON

road to the California line. Citizens of the Willamette Valley responded gladly to his plans. The Legislature of 1827 offered a subsidy of \$50,000 to the company that would build the first 100 miles of road. The Oregon Central Railroad Company organized. A dispute arose over the policy of construction, the company divided into two rival factions, each claiming the name "Oregon Central," and each determined to win the \$250,000 subsidy and the voted land grants. Construction was begun in 1828 by one faction on the east side of the Willamette, and by the other on the west side. Bitter animosity raged between the two until Ben Holladay bought up both roads and harmonized them. In 1822 the east side road reached Eugene. But financial difficulties developed in 1878, after the road had got to Roseburg, and Henry Villard assumed management.

In motion hitherto latent forces, many activities followed railroads. Watercourses opened and these achievements in their turn set up industrial vibrations.

Since industry received impetus early

Samuel R. Thurston, Dem.....1849-51	Joseph Lane, Dem.....1851-59
La Fayette Grover, Dem.....1859	Lanning Stout, Dem.....1859-61
George K. Hale, Dem.....1861-63	John R. McFalls, Rep.....1863-65
J. H. D. Henderson, Rep.....1865-67	Rufus Mallory, Rep.....1867-69
Joseph S. Smith, Dem.....1869-71	James H. Slater, Dem.....1871-73
James W. Nesmith, Dem.....1873-75	Thomas H. Troup, Rep.....1875-77
Lafayette Lass, Dem.....1877-79	Richard Williams, Rep.....1879-81
John Whiteaker, Dem.....1881-83	M. C. George, Rep.....1883-85
Binger Hermann, Rep.....1885-87	W. R. Ellis, Rep.....1889-91
Thomas H. Troup, Rep.....1891	Malcolm A. Moody, Rep.....1891-93
J. N. Williamson, Rep.....1903	

In the '70s it has been moving forward fast. In 1884 it suffered a temporary setback from Indian wars, and again in 1884 it languished from depressing influences that hung over the United States.

In the past decade, the Oregon country achieved more in manufacturing than in all the years before that time.

The economic history of Oregon is one of harmony between the factors of progress. Capital and labor have worked together in peace. Between the two exists perhaps more good will than anywhere in the United States. Many of the possessors of capital began poor. No such gap exists as in old communities of the East, between great wealth and severe poverty. There are no extremely wealthy men in Oregon, neither are there any pinched with penury. The products of the land are well distributed.

The First Newspaper.
Evidence enough that the pioneers had brought their democratic habits to Oregon was the publication of the Spectator, the first newspaper on the Pacific Coast. The newspaper is inseparably linked with American life as is the school or church. The first printing press had come to Oregon in 1810 and had been set up at Lapwai, where it was used in mission work. The Western Star at Millwaukie and the Oregonian at Portland followed in 1850. Several months later the Oregon Statesman appeared at Oregon City.

rigious as they were moral. They did not harmonize with missionaries, yet the moral tone of the community admittedly was improved by these zealous people. Industries and institutions were rooted in a wholesome element, the character of the pioneers. These men brought to Oregon the safeguards of the communities

they had left. And if statistics of today show growing criminality, the blight is not within the core of Oregon life.

American Protestant missionaries in 1834 found good conduct a ruling motive under British regime. Immorality was punished in whites and savages. Indians were not debauched until Americans came. Catholic missionaries in the service of the British followed after the American. Uneasily competition arose between the two classes of workers, which weakened the influence of the Protestant missionaries over the Indians and precipitated the Whitman massacre and other tragedies. However, the object of each sect was the moral betterment of the country. As they could not elevate the Indian they soon turned their energies to the improvement of the white population.

The first public religious services held in Oregon were at St. Paul in 1838. A Catholic church had been erected there in 1836. A similar church was built at Champeau in 1838. Methodists built a church at Oregon City in 1842 and Congregationalists in 1844. Conflicts arose between various sects of the population. But these were but manifestations of social activity. As communities grew, in interest of increased and centrifetal forces strengthened.

Early conditions produced customs.

Old Oregon is Passing.
Early conditions produced customs.

Delson Smith, Dem.....1859	Joseph Lane, Dem.....1859-61
Edward D. Baker, Rep.....1861	Benjamin Stark, Dem.....1861-62
Benjamin F. Harding, Dem.....1862-65	James W. Nesmith, Dem.....1861-67
George H. Williams, Rep.....1867-71	Henry W. Corbitt, Rep.....1867-71
James K. Kelly, Dem.....1871-73	John H. Mitchell, Rep.....1873-77
La Fayette Grover, Dem.....1879-83	James H. Slater, Dem.....1879-83
Joseph N. Dolph, Dem.....1893-95	George W. McBride, Rep.....1903-05
Joseph Simon, Rep.....1903	John H. Mitchell, Rep.....1901

guided industries, of a character that was unique. Oregon therefore had an individuality all its own. Circumstances of settlement and isolation interacted to increase the contrast. This peculiarity had good and bad effects. Strong traits of character grew, but so, too, did provincialism. Citizenship was of a high degree of rectitude, yet pioneers gener-

ally were not plastic to the outside forces of opinion and action.

Oregon now has commerce with the world, of commodities and ideas. Its progress hence is rapid. From intercourse at home, life expands to intercourse abroad. The staid action and reaction are producing new activities and evolving character changes. Cumulative forces are engendered which lift to moral elevation and stimulate the growth of intellect. Social agitation is the life of a community, for motion is liberty itself, and industry and science.

The century begun has opened Oregon wide unto the world. New particles are gathering round the core of pioneer life. The heart is almost hidden now, but it is there, and so it will remain yet growing smaller in the ratio of the mass. Old Oregon and new is bound unto the future and must follow in the lead of time. Its aspect will transform again and yet again and many times to front the hour. Life will change its phases from the days that are unto the days that come, just as it has from the days that were. Oregon and the world have merged their currents and together flow to common destiny. The West no longer is the West nor East the East, but both are one. Our land has come to be no broader than a flash of time. Its faces look upon two oceans and their outward glances meet.

According to the returns of the assessors, the value of all the property in Oregon has increased \$ per cent in the last 12 months.