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## OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

SKETCHES OF EARLY DAYS.—MEN AND TIMES IN THE FORTIES

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### The Whitman Massacre

The journal of Rev. Elkanah Walker, covering this incident of their mission history, will be of interest. Under date of September 20, 1842, he says: "Just as we were about to sit down to breakfast the long-looked-for express came to hand with some letters for the doctor (Whitman) and from Mr. Green (secretary of the mission board). It was stated in Mr. Green's letter that it was decided that the southern part of this mission was to be given up and all the missionaries called home except the doctor, and he was to be connected with the northern branch. The doctor requested us to come down immediately. Mr. Gray had left to pick out a place for himself and family. We felt that we ought to go and our wives urged us on."

Monday, September 26, was after they reached Whitman's station, and the journal continues thus: "Did nothing of business until evening, when we had rather a hot session, discussing Mr. Gray's case."

Wednesday, Sept. 28. — "Rose this morning with determination to leave, and found Mr. Spalding had the same view, as he felt that nothing could be done. After breakfast the doctor let out what was his plan in view of the existing state of affairs. We persuaded the different members to get together again and talk matters over, and it was then that the question was submitted to us of the doctor's going home. We felt that it was one of too much importance to be decided in a moment, but finally came to the conclusion that if he could put things at that station in such a state that it would be safe we would consent to his going, and with that left them and made a start for home."

A. B. Smith was one of their party in crossing the plains, and he and his wife undertook to start and sustain a mission station at Kamiah. They were not adequate to this important work, as very few are. They became disgusted and left that station in 1840. Whitman and Spalding were only successful by serious means and hard work, as well as by devising methods to interest. They secured a printing press and had published part of the New Testament in the Nez Perce tongue. They both understood it well and by such means had made very successful progress. The Indians appreciated their efforts to learn the language, and to be able to read the word of God in their own language, was an incentive to learn to read. In view of all these circumstances, the determination of the home board to discontinue those missions seemed the greatest of unwisdom. What were the influences that worked them to that conclusion? Here is a question that bears on all Whitman's career and led to that much debated "mid-winter journey." In view of this, I shall give facts as I found them. "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may," must be a rule for all accurate writers of history.

The disturbing elements must be found in connection with three persons who had been more or less connected with these missions. One was Hall, a printer from the Sandwich Islands, who brought the pioneer printing press to Oregon, and remained awhile to instruct others to use it. What his impression might be no one knows, or if he gave voice or utterance to them. Mr. Gray was not satisfied, neither was Mr. A. B. Smith. The cause of trouble lay between those three, and there is little reason to doubt that Mr. Gray was most active in expressing his dissatisfaction. Mrs. Walker and her sons express the kindest regard for Mr. Gray; the writer has only the friendliest feeling towards him, and we sustain very pleasant rela-

tions, but I must give this matter an airing, even though it may be somewhat unpleasant to do so. All happened so long ago that it could be forgotten, only that it bears a close relation to a very interesting fact of our early history and the memory and acts of Walker and Whitman are somewhat involved. I have no intention at this time to discuss in detail what the critics have spent so much time and ink and paper to prove or disprove, but I shall give the facts that came to me by conversing with Mrs. Walker, and that are derived from examination of the papers of the late Mr. Walker, kindly furnished by his family.

Whitman left the mission for his journey East several days before he expected to, and missed carrying with him letters written by his associates, which reached his place after his departure. Among Mr. Walker's papers I found the draft of a letter to the mission board dated January 26, 1843, addressed to Mr. Green, the secretary, from which I quote as follows: "That Mr. Gray had differences with Spalding I do not doubt. He must have been a singular man not to have had, and that is nothing more than the rest of the members have had. There was not a member of the reinforcement that was willing to be associated with him on arriving in the country. I do not know what would have been done if Mr. Spalding had not consented to be associated with him. After A. B. Smith and Gray had professed to be reconciled it was proposed to have him associated a short time with Mr. Smith until some new arrangement could be made. Mr. Smith would not consent on any conditions and urged his past differences with him. If I am not mistaken, these are the two who have said more about the bad conduct of the members of the mission and its discouragements, than any one else, or all the rest put together, and whose communications did more to induce the commissioners to decide to abandon the south branch of the missions. And where are they now? Are they in the field laboring for the prosperity of the missions? Are they not, rather, doing all they can to destroy the mission, both by precept and example? I leave it to the world to judge whose conduct evinces the strongest evidence of a good, devoted missionary, theirs, or those they would run from the field?"

This letter seems to explain the obstruction that caused the board's action in resolving to discontinue the southern missions, though it does not explain why these two ex-members of the mission were desirous of having the mission work curtailed and the two most active and successful, as well as important, stations discontinued. To follow out the conclusions natural to our subject we deduce the action of the board from the cause stated by Mr. Walker. To counteract this resolution and save the missions, Dr. Whitman determined to go east, and did make the famous mid-winter journey. Leave the matter to rest there and it possesses mere secondary importance and does not solve the motives claimed by Whitman's friends and associates, that he had a secular motive that seemed to him of greater importance than to correct the false views that the mission board had entertained and acted upon.

It has been proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Whitman had become greatly interested in preserving Oregon as American soil a portion of the United States. I cannot and need not recite all the facts that bear upon this point. I prefer to introduce something new, or at least with a fresh look.

Mrs. Walker tells me it was understood among the missionaries that Dr. Whitman went east to bring out an immigration to occupy Oregon on the part of the United States, as well as to prevent the breaking up of the missions. The doctor always urged that he could bring wagons through; he was continually arguing that question. That was

what Mr. Walker meant by his prayer for Whitman all the time of his absence for Mrs. Walker says that her husband during all that time introduced into family prayer a petition bearing on Dr. Whitman and used the following expression: That if he was not doing what was right and best, "may his way be hedged up; but if he is in the path of duty, may he be preserved and prospered."

At the council of missionaries, held in September, Whitman explained his views to his associates, and they knew how interested he was, in the political future of Oregon. He made an excuse to go east to explain the value of the southern missions, but his great incentive was to reach the states in time to work for an emigration the following year, in which he succeeded.

A joint, or united appeal by Whitman, Spalding, Walker and Eells and others would have satisfied the home board of missions as to the value of the stations on the south. Even if they deemed it expedient to send on a member of the mission, it would have answered all needs had he gone in February or March, or even later in the spring of '43 but Whitman had this secular matter at heart, and his associates, as honorable men as live, write to say so now, more than forty years after. Mrs. Walker says for herself: "It was well understood that Mr. Whitman went East to bring out an immigration, etc.," as I quote awhile back. That an immigration would have come that spring is beyond a doubt, but he must have greatly added to its dimensions by his personal appeals.

The dissensions, or at least differences, existing among the later arrivals of the missionaries, including Mr. Gray, while they caused the board of missions to misapprehend facts and to take wrong action, causing the troubles we have recited, resulted in great good from the success of Whitman's memorable journey in informing the government at Washington of the value of our country to the Union and by his success in swelling the tide of emigration towards the Columbia river. "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good." While we note the difference of the members of the missions and show their results, we do not know the motives that actuated them or the light in which matters then appeared to them.

Whitman left without waiting for the arrival of letters his associates had written to the home board. Had it been his chief motive to correct the wrong information given to the board he would have certainly fortified himself with all the evidence at command, and the protests and assurances of his associates would have been invaluable. There is no reason to doubt that he hurried to Washington, first taking steps to spread correct information of Oregon along the frontier. That he remained some time at Washington before going to visit the Mission board is probably true, and also true that his superiors found fault with his course in meddling with political questions at their expense. It is claiming enough for Whitman to show how interested he was in having Oregon part of the Union, and that he acted in the most practical way to secure that result.

The station at Spokane was near the famous Spokane house, so prominent in the early days of the fur companies. Mrs. Walker says the officers of the Hudson's Bay company were very kind to them, took the mission people into their houses and to their homes; they sent their children to school; the wives of the employes came to them to learn to cook. She says: "We went with the whole family to visit them and they made us welcome. When they returned our visits they came with tents, servants and abundant supplies and fed us, instead of our feeding them. We tried hard to keep even. We wrote back and forth continually and maintained the

most friendly personal relations. When the massacre of the Whitman family occurred we were very apprehensive of danger. They took us to Fort Colville and kept us there until the war was over, when volunteers came and brought us down to Oregon City. McDonald (Archie) and Lewis were both Protestants. They often denounced Catholicism as being as bloody now as it ever was."

Mrs. Walker gives several instances of the danger the missionaries incurred by being among the Indians. She tells of a time when the Cayuses had been on the war path to California, making a successful raid and capturing a number of scalps. They came home in a savage state of mind, like wild animals that have tasted blood. Dr. Whitman often felt that he was in the midst of great danger. He submitted to Walker and Eells that he had best resign; that was when we were all attending yearly meetings and the Indians were very sure. Whitman feared they might murder him any moment. He tried to talk with them and they were rude and savage. Afterwards they became peaceful.

Afterwards one of their chiefs died very happily in his Christian faith, and the Indians were much impressed by the circumstances of his death. This kept them civil for awhile, but such influences wore off and they would relapse into savagery again of the worst sort. It is certain that Whitman was surrounded by a bad lot of evil minded Cayuses who at times recognized how much he did for them, and at other times lapsed into dangerous and treacherous ways.

In 1847 the measles was among the at Spokane, but fortunately none died who followed the instructions and took the medicine prescribed by the missionaries. Had any died the lives of the missionaries might have been the sacrifice. This was true though the disease raged the same as at Whitman's.

Mrs. Spalding told her how one time, when her oldest child was a babe, the Indians got into a difficulty with Mr. Spalding. She sat in her room, the child in her lap, when a chief and others excitedly came into her room. She thought they meant murder, and very likely they went in to begin a massacre, but the chief caught sight of the sleeping babe on its mother's lap. This caught his attention, and in an instant all the ferocious band was looking, spell-bound, at the innocent child. Madness disappeared from every face, and after looking to their satisfaction they quietly withdrew. Mr. Spalding thought there was a providence in this simple sight that saved all their lives.

Mr. Spalding himself was impatient and head strong and in continual difficulties with the natives, and it was thought that the wife's influence on the Nez Perces saved his life at various times. In time they learned to appreciate and understand him and became greatly attached to him.

On their way to Oregon they met with a prominent gentleman who surprised them with his speculations for a Pacific railroad. She quotes from his journal thus: "At Westport the governor of Missouri called to see us. His name is Boggs. He is said to be a benevolent, public spirited man, and thinks we will have a railroad over the mountains one of these days." He said they would live to see it, and some of them have seen it and tried it.

In the spring of 1848 they removed from Spokane to Oregon City, and in 1849 they settled permanently in Washington county, adjoining Forrest Grove.

On our 8th page to-day will be found a striking and instructive illustration of the comparative worth of the various kinds of baking powders now in the market.

The snow is rapidly going off in Montana before the blessed chinook.

### Gluten in Wheat.

During the last two years the laboratory of the United States department of agriculture has undertaken analyses of a great number of American wheats from all parts of the country, and grown under various conditions of climate, soil and culture. These analyses show that American wheat contains less albumen than foreign, about the same per cent of ash, more oil and less vegetable fibre. The smaller water contents are doubtless due to the drier climate. Though the average of ash in the American wheats varied but little from that in foreign, many sorts grown on new and rich soil contained a large per cent of this element. The American products were richer in oil, though this fact might have been owing to a more complete method of extraction. Of cellulose, owing to the warmer and shorter summer, they held less. Albumen was in smaller amount than in most foreign wheats, and in no single case was there as much as is found in Russian varieties. A Dakota spring wheat showed the highest per cent, 18.03, while Russian wheat has shown a maximum of 24.56 and averages 19.48. The wheat of the eastern states is very small and poor in ash and albumen. From east to west there is a gradual and regular improvement. Still on the Pacific coast, and in Oregon particularly, while the berries are nearly the largest grown in the country, the albumen contents are the lowest.

The question now comes how much is due to the climate, how much to the soil and how much to the variety. It should be said here that spring wheat holds much more albumen than winter. It is richer in nitrogen, because it has a shorter season of growth and does not store so much starch as the winter grain. This is well instanced by two varieties of Dakota wheat. One, a winter wheat, weighed 3,513 grains per 100 berries and contained 10.68 per cent albumen, while the other, a spring variety, weighed 2,755 grains and held 14.53 per cent albumen. The experiments showed that owing to the warm summer and rapid growth, American wheats, as a whole must be richer in albumen than those grown in the cooler continental climates. It may be said that the warm, short season diminishes the size of the berry and its cellulose contents, but does not have the same relative effect on the albumen. In many parts of the country it is found that a wet and cold climate increases the starch formation considerably, the weight of the berry being greater, but with relative diminution of the albumen. In other regions where the climate and other conditions result in a large berry, the soil and water supply nitrogenous elements so that the grain contains over the average amount of albumen. As a whole, however, the per cent of this element increases from east to west as does also the size of the berry, showing that the condition of the soil is more potent than the climate.

It is very desirable that analyses of this sort should be made in our country. In this matter the interests of millers and farmers go hand in hand, for the latter class would prefer to raise a glutinous wheat and receive a good price for it if they knew the conditions needful for bringing about such a result.—Ex.

The Washington Farmer, at Yakima, says that not even Michigan the great peach country can show such thrifty trees as grow in Yakima county. The alkali keeps away the yellows and there is neither disease or insects. Over in Wenatche valley most luscious peaches grow as well as fine sweet potatoes, grapes and watermelons. Fruit growing in the country east of the Cascades will no doubt become an important industry.

Southern fruit growers pronounce the lemon as more difficult to cultivate and more expensive to handle than the orange crop; as lemons to be perfect should be picked quite green and placed in a curing house to ripen. They are, however, often brought into hot markets when still green, with thick tough skin and very little juice. The judicious housekeeper will buy them in this state and lay them away, when the skins will become thin almost as paper and the fruit full of juice.