

SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF
CHURCH HISTORY
CLIFFORD M. DRURY, PH.D

118 BOLINAS AVENUE

28 Nov. 1955

Mr. Click Relander,
Yakima, Wash.

Dear Mr. Relander:

I received your letter of the 26th today. I am not sure just what you want. In the appendix of the Spalding book where I list all of the Spalding letters I located, I also indicated where each letter was. In a few instances, I could not locate the original but then indicated the printed source. Whitman College does contain many of Spalding letters; also the American Board files in Boston; the Oregon Historical Society, etc. It all depends upon which letter you wish to consult. Let me know if I can help in any particular way. I am leaving in two weeks to be gone for several months.

Sincerely yours,

C M Drury.

CLIFFORD M. DRURY
25 VIA HERMOSA, GREENBRAE
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

19 March 1963

Gentlemen:

I enclose my check for \$42.55 for your "Strangers on the Land" and "1855-1955, the Yakimas." If you keep a tribe library, you might be interested in the enclosed announcement of my latest books which contain several references ~~of~~ to the Yakim~~awa~~s.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Drury

[Enclosure. 19 mar 63]

NORTHWEST HISTORICAL SERIES, VI AND VII

FIRST WHITE WOMEN OVER THE ROCKIES

Diaries, Letters, and Biographical Sketches
of the Six Women of the Oregon Mission
who made the Overland Journey
in 1836 and 1838

With Introductions and Editorial Notes by
CLIFFORD MERRILL DRURY

In Two Volumes

In two volumes, large octavo (280; 382 pages) with two maps, sixteen portraits, and twenty-eight other illustrations and facsimiles; including reproductions of two paintings and two portraits by Paul Kane, two portraits by John Mix Stanley, contemporary sketches by Karl Geyer and W. H. Tappan, and other contemporary pictorial material. Bibliography, analytical index, descriptive list of persons and places mentioned in the text, and brief genealogy of the six women. Appropriate editorial introductions to the work and to each of the diaries, as well as editorial comment and annotation throughout.

Handsomely printed in Caledonia type on ivory laid Beckett deckle-edged paper, uncut; bound in gold-stamped blue Holliston cloth, stained top edges. Issued in a limited edition, printed direct from type and type distributed. **The set of two volumes \$21.00 net, postpaid**

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A SKILLFUL MERGING OF THESE DIARIES has produced an extremely important contribution to the history of the Pacific Northwest. The volumes overflow with human interest, with all the appeal of a Robinson Crusoe or a Swiss Family Robinson. Here are the sources from which numberless stories and novels will be written in the future.

Narcissa Whitman: The first full and careful presentation of her written record. It includes her four letters written during preparation for the journey, her diary record of the overland trip in 1836, and the record of her experiences at Wailatpu to the massacre in November 1847. Narcissa is characterized as the vivacious extrovert who thoroughly enjoyed company, and a writer of fascinating letters — though her life in Oregon was an unhappy one. For the first time we have the complete extant overland diary of Narcissa Whitman, given in proper sequence and with the transcriptions made from the original diary as well as variants from the copy which Mrs. Whitman made for her husband's mother.

Eliza Spalding: On Monday morning, February 1, 1836, Eliza bade farewell to her mother, her sisters and brothers. She was never again to see any of them except her youngest brother, Horace, who migrated to Oregon in 1846. On the day she started her journey, Eliza began her diary, evidently written only for herself. She was deeply religious, serious-minded, and completely devoted to her work with the natives. The diary was published by her daughter, in a small edition in 1916.

Mary Walker: Only fragments of this diary have previously been published in obscure periodical form. This is almost all new material and by far the most exciting. It is the only diary to cover the entire Mission period to 1848. Her record is peopled with mountain men, Hudson's Bay employees, United States Naval officers, explorers, scientists, artists, Oregon immigrants, Indian natives, etc. Although small of stature, she was the most dynamic of the group, and crowded into her diary a rich, engaging account of her life, with pungent, spicy notes. Unrivalled is the description of pioneer life in the Spokane country before the coming of white settlers, and with detailed information on the life and work of the entire Mission, particularly the family life of the homes, domestic duties, raising of the children, the quarrels among the missionaries, etc. Generations of students will find this an invaluable source document.

Myra Eells: Since both Myra Eells and Mary Walker kept parallel diaries covering the overland journey in 1838, the two diaries have been skillfully interwoven with chronologically parallel citations. Mrs. Eells was the timid soul, shy and retiring, and of the six women came, perhaps, from a home of greater refinement and culture. Although written for her own family, this diary, along with the letters of traveling experiences, is the best of the journals of the overland trip and adds much about the daily life in the Oregon country. It appears here in the only complete, scholarly presentation, though an abridged and inaccurate printing appeared in 1889.

Sarah Smith: The youngest of the six women to make the overland trip, Mrs. Smith left no known diary. The biographical sketch has been prepared from original source material, with excerpts from her three known letters, which letters appear in Dr. Drury's *Diaries of Spalding and Smith*. Because of delicate health, Mrs. Smith endured much suffering and hardship. She was remembered by the Indians as "the weeping one."

Mary Gray: This diary begins in May of 1840, has never before been published, and was only recently discovered in the hands of a descendant. The story of her unusual marriage and experiences on the trail are recorded in her letters dated in 1838. She had a well-disciplined mind and was a good teacher. Her diary is important for the light it throws on the everyday life of the women, and the details of running a frontier home.

Women's organizations will note with interest an account of the formation of the first women's cultural group west of the Rockies, under the name of "The Columbia Maternal Association."

The author, Dr. Drury, has specialized for more than twenty-seven years in the history of the Pacific Northwest region and its Presbyterian-Congregational Missions to the Indians of Old Oregon. Several of his earlier historical and biographical volumes are long out of print and have become collector's items. He has served as Professor of Church History at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California, since 1938. Here he weaves the romantic, yet documentary, story of how six women, in the fur-trade era of 1836-38, dared to ride horseback on side-saddles, some 1900 miles from the Missouri frontier, over the Plains and the Rockies to Walla Walla in the Columbia River basin. They were the first white women to venture on such an "unheard-of journey," seven years ahead of the first Oregon migration, and traveling with fur men, camping at their rendezvous sites at the Green and Popo Agie Rivers. For the first time we have a serious, detailed study of these women, the result of the author's unusual perseverance in historical research in archives from Honolulu to Boston. Most of the material included in these volumes has never before been published. The women are shown not only in their relationships one to another, but also as individual pioneers, through their own diary entries and letters, 1836 through 1848, describing in typical feminine detail their lives on the frontier. A special feature is the copious and careful footnoting, which spotlights many interesting facts and events of an elusive nature. New light is cast on the relationships of the Protestant and Catholic missionaries of the area; upon the reasons for Dr. Whitman's celebrated ride to the East in 1842; and upon the background of the tragic massacre which brought the mission period to an abrupt end.

NORTHWEST HISTORICAL SERIES, VI AND VII

The Series: This work comprises volumes VI and VII of the Northwest Historical Series, the first covering the Whitman, Spalding, Gray, and Smith diaries; and the second covering the Walker and Eells diaries, the bibliography and index for the set. Details of the contents of earlier volumes of the series will be furnished on request.

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- II. Stuart, Granville. *Forty Years on the Frontier as seen in the journals and reminiscences of a gold miner, trader, merchant, rancher and politician*, edited by Paul C. Phillips. Originally in two volumes; now in a facsimile reprint, bound in one volume.
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[Enclosure. 19 Mar 63]

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