

Pioneer Era. Augusta Eastland in "old" by the Pioneers, index of Unpublished Material.

Oregon immigration began in 1830, but the Yakima valley being away from the main thoroughfare, remained a wilderness. White men paddled up its streams now and then but it was still in possession of the Indians long after Dr. Whitman and his wife had paid with their lives for the privilege of being the first missionaries among the Cayuse Indians.

In 1853 the immigrant train led by James Longmire passed through Yakima valley bound for Puget Sound. The same year McClellan was in the valley with his party of engineers making a railroad survey.

Ka-mi-a-kin, the Yakima chief, had gone to Walla Walla in 1847 and asked for a Catholic priest for his tribe. Two fathers were sent the same year to establish a mission on the Nhtanum. These two men were the only white men in the valley for years. They left when the mission was burned by soldiers in 1856.

For a number of years the valley was closed to white settlers. In 1859 after congress ratified the treaty made between Governor Stevens and the Indian tribes of Eastern Washington in 1855 the valley was thrown open and settlement began.

"Squaw Men" came first but not many remained. Very few of the settlers were oxteam pioneers, but were children of those sturdy home seekers who had crossed the plains in the long caravans of the forties and fifties. Always wanting more room to expand, feeling shut-in if they could see the smoke from a neighbor's chimney, many of these Oregon settlers pulled up stakes, loaded the old prairie schooner again and crossed the Columbia in search of new country.

Nearly all of these restless, crowded (copy) settlers were stock men, needing range and the Yakima valley was the ideal location. The description of the Yakima valley by Alexander Ross, the fur trader in 1814 tallies with that of the historian, A. J. Splawn, who marveled at its beauty and potential value to the settler, 50 years

later.

As early as 1859 cattlemen began driving in their cattle by the thousands to these rich pasture lands. Many of these men were connected with later history, but at first made no permanent location. Ben Snipes was among them. There were the Allens, Murphys, William Connell, William Henderson and others.

In 1859 F. Mortimer Thorp moved his family and possessions from Polk county, Oregon, into Klickitat county locating where Oldendale now stands. The town was built on part of his calf pasture.

Historians have written in glowing terms of the rugged pioneer who crossed the plains in 1844. He was a typical frontiersman, fearless, hospitable, restless, free-handed, the genuine type taking possession of the wilderness, making it a dwelling place for generations of the Thorps to come. Five generations of the Thorps have looked upon this valley and been content.

He was prominent in Klickitat affairs, being the first probate judge, but the restless spirit of the true pioneer started him out again and in 1860 he drove a herd of fine Durham cattle over to the Moxee valley. The little log-cabin he built for his herders was the first house to be erected in the valley except those by Catholic fathers and the soldiers.

In February, 1861, the first family of the Yakima valley loaded their household goods on pack horses, then father, mother and nine children set out on horseback following the trail over the Sincos mountains where in places the snow was several feet deep, down the Satus to the Toppenish which they crossed. Over the sage brush plains they followed the trail to the Yakima river, passed through Pah-ho-te-oute (Union Gap) forded the river above the mouth of the Antanum and moved into the little log-cabin built for the two herders.

The stove had been left in the Klickitat, the furniture was crude there was but little room for eleven people, the roof and floor were

of dirt; but there was a mother who met trials and hardships and privation with a smile. Mrs. Thorp was the first white woman to make her home in the Yakima valley. Their nearest neighbors were at least 60 miles away.

A new house was soon constructed, the stove brought in the fall, also some furniture. That year they raised a garden. The Indians gave them little trouble as their first experience with Mr. Thorp taught them to be careful. The misdemeanor was horse-stealing and the punishment was made to fit the crime. A year later he met and vanquished a war party led by Mochalla, after that he was treated by the Indians with wholesome respect.

Charles Splawn helped drive Thorp's cattle to the Noxee; he had come with the Thorps from Oregon and in the fall of 1861 he and the oldest Thorp daughter, Dulcena were married at Fort Simcoe by Father Wilbur, the first marriage in Yakima valley. Their son, born in 1863 was the first white child born in the valley. He died within a year.

There were five Splawn brothers, Charles, William, George, Moses and Andrew Jr. Their father was a pioneer of Missouri and he died there in 1845. The five boys and their mother, a brave and enterprising woman of the genuine pioneer type, followed the Oregon trail in 1852, settling in Linn county, Oregon.

The youngest son, Al. J. Or Jack joined his brother, Charles in the Klickitat in 1860 and in 1861 entered the Yakima valley, beginning his career as a cattleman. Through the years that followed he ranged all through the northwest taking in Montana, Idaho, ^K Camiloops, Cariboo and many other places.

His adventures have been preserved in his historic volume, "Ka-mi-a-kin, The Last Hero of the Yakimas." At one time he filed a squatter's right to 160 acres of land but that was no life for the roving cowboy. He sold out in 1872 to John A. Shoudy. The town founded on it by Mr. Shoudy named for his wife, Ellen, so

so Silensburg came into being.

The hard winter of 1861-62 nearly wiped out the cattle industry, but the Thorps fought desperately and saved every horse and lost only seven of their 300 head of cattle. Everyday the men broke the snow crust so the stock could get to the feed.

The first school in the valley was held in 1862 upstairs in the now two-story Thorp log-house. The teacher was Mrs. Albert Haines, who came with her husband and daughter that year to the Moxee. Her daughter and the Thorps were the scholars.

In 1861 Albert Hensen, neighbor of the Thorps in the Klickitat loaded a pack team with a supply of miner's 1800s equipment and driving a few cows set out with his family to trade with the miners in the Wenatchee valley. Finding that the gold seekers had moved on, Hensen turned back, sold out to the Indians and visited his old neighbor, Thorp. In 1864 he came back and settled near Thorp.

In 1863 William Parker and John Allen drove in a large band of cattle and located in Parker bottom. Parker derives its name from this Pioneer.

Gilbert Pell settled near the mouth of the Satus in 1863. The first settler on the Ahtanum, Andrew Gervais, came in 1864, remaining to become a prominent and honored citizen. Another prominent man, Nathan Olney, the second settler in the Ahtanum, arrived with his Indian wife and children the same year. Nathan Olney crossed the plains in 1843.

The oldest house now standing in the valley was built by J.P. Mattoon in 1864. It is a two-story room log structure with dirt roof. The fireplace is of sandstone. The logs of this pioneer cabin are in perfect state, the dirt chunking still in evident. (Copy) Mr. Mattoon's parents, Abel and Sarah Mattoon, moved from New York to Ohio in an early day. John Mattoon was born in Lucas County, Ohio, Dec. 20, 1834 and came with his family across the plains the year of the Whitman massacre.

J.B. Nelson and family came into the valley in 1864, finally locating in the Naches, the first settler there.

In 1865 Augustan Cleman made the first location in the Wenatchee valley, later acquired by David Longmire, whose father led the first wagon train through the valley in 1853. Mr. Cleman brought the first sheep into the valley.

The first store was started by Egbert French and his Indian wife. It was in Parker bottom and is still standing.

The Goodwins came in 1865, leading an emigrant train and unusual sight. These people nearly all settled in the valley. Samuel Chappelle, Tanners, Allens and dozens of others who laid foundations in the valley. Nearly all of them settled along the streams thus affording irrigation for their gardens and small wheat fields.

In 1869 the Barker Brothers established a store at the place which became known as Yakima City. Another store was opened by George Goodwin in 1870. The Schannos took up claims and established another store.

On January 12, 1863 the legislature passed an act creating the county of Ferguson. The officials appointed never qualified. Two years later the act was repealed and Yakima county was created. Still there was no organization, but in 1867 Governor Moore named the officials and insisted that they act.

Irrigation was started, or continued, rather, as Ka-mi-akkin had dug the very first ditch in 1847 to water his garden. The Goodwins raised a small crop of wheat in 1866. Under a cooperative system several men brought water from the Naches. That was the beginning of the Union Canal. In 1870 the Schannos dug a canal 18 miles in length, 8 feet wide and 18 inches deep.

Settlement increased rapidly beginning with 1870; stock raising was the leading industry until the severe winter of 1881-1882 when so many herds perished.

Irrigation was opened opening the way to wealth; the railroad was

getting nearer and nearer. Yakima valley has steadily progressed and is now recognized as one of the most productive regions of the state.

Father Wilbur assisted in establishing the first Sunday school in the valley in 1869. It was in the home of William Dland, a Methodist and his wife, Sarah. The little log-cabin has long since been torn down but the influence of that little school on the Antanum can scarcely be estimated.

In 1870 Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Tanner and their daughter, Alice, came from Forest Grove, Oregon, to the Antanum. The Tanners had crossed the plains in the forties. Alice brought with her a melodeon which was the first in the valley. The children of the Sunday school which met in the Tanner home were delighted with it. This melodeon is still in the possession of descendants of the Tanner family.

In 1873 the Antanum Congregational church grew out of this little Sunday school. A school house was built and both church and Sunday school met there. In 1884 the Antanum church was built. Woodcock academy was founded through the influence of this church.

The Congregational church of Union Gap grew into the First Congregational church of Yakima as it was started in 1879 and moved in 1885.

In November 1875 Sisters of Providence opened a school at Yakima City. Sister Dlandina of the Angels was appointed superior and Sisters Dorothea and Mary Melanie were her companions. They came from Vancouver via Portland to The Dalles. They ferried over to Grand Dalles, taking the stage to Goldendale. At Centerville, ten miles from Goldendale, they stopped at the home of John Kenny, a religious man who had fitted up one room in his house as a chapel where the clergy held mass and the sacrament was administered.

Mr. Kenny insisted that he bring the three sisters to their destination. The conveyance was a heavy wagon, drawn by four horses and it took four days to make the trip.

During the first year of their school, none pupils were enrolled. (Copy) From this first school St Joseph's academy had grown to its

present size.

The first county superintendent of schools, George W. Parrish, made the following entry in his record book: "I was appointed school superintendent by the county commissioners the first Monday in February, 1868. I had not predecessor, consequently no records nor precedent in the county by which to act."

The annual report of the superintendent of 1868 was as follows: The county was divided into six districts, five of which have organized and reported, the number of scholars is 116. School funds in the treasury are \$477.86. There are no school houses or libraries but it is hoped there will be."

The first flag in the valley was used in a Fourth of July celebration in 1872. It was made of silk ribbons and had 38 states. The ribbon was furnished by George Goodwin, pioneer merchant who had a general store in Yakima City. He was the son of Dr. Goodwin, the very first doctor to settle in the Yakima valley. Mrs. Ruth Lewis made the flag.

A notable gathering took place June 30, 1918 at the farm of Wallace Wiley near Ampico. The place is known as Kam-ia-kin's gardens and thousands of people, whites and Indians, gathered to honor the chief whose early agricultural enterprise brought the first irrigation ditch into the valley.

With imposing ceremonies an iron post was driven to commemorate this ditch. Addresses were made by Gen. Hazard Stevens, Prof. E.S. Meany of the state university and a number of local residents, among them Wallace Wiley.

The old Catholic mission on the Antsnum ranks first in historical associations in the valley. The little adobe hut first erected there was the abode of the first white men to establish residence in the valley. No tract remains of that humble shrine, where religious instruction was first given the savages. The church erected later by

Jesuits marks the spot of the first mission.

In the shade of locust and black willow, stands the little log cabin where the three priests lived. The church is a few feet farther on. It was built of huge pine logs, excellently preserved. The pulpit the choir loft, reached by a ladder, offer mute evidence of the zealous untiring efforts of those early-day missionaries.

Through their old garden, past the buildings, can be seen their ditch. It is said that they started the apple industry in the Yakima valley. Some of the trees are standing not far from the church.

Along the highway in front of the mission, a granite monument was erected as a memorial.

St Josop 's Mission. Founded Oct. 1847.

By Oblate fathers Richard, ^{??}hirouse, Pandosy and Blanchett.

Burned 1855. Re.built by Fr. SST. Onge 1867.

Memorial by Yakima Pioneer association, July 1, 1923.

Two Varieties of Cherries are Named.

From Told By the Pioneers, index, unpublished material.

Before crossing the plains with his family in 1852 a man named Seth Lowellyn filled one of his wagons with dirt and planted scions from various fruit trees and shrubs.

Arriving in the Willamette valley he bought a house and farm at Milwaukie and started a nursery. He employed Chinese labor and one of his workmen was very dark-skinned. Like many of his race this Chinaman was a born horticulturist and his success with trees was very marked. A "sick" tree was always turned over to Ping, as he was called.

A cherry tree which he "doctored," soon showed marvelous improvement. It blossomed and bore dark meaty fruit, very pleasing to the owner. "Let us call it Ping," said Mr. Lowellyn noting its dark skin; and Ping it remains to this day.

Another cherry tree stood a hundred feet east of the house and bore fruit of a rich mahogany color the same year Mr. Lowellyn turned his house over for the meetings of the Republican abolitionists. Because of his interest in this party and his sympathy for its principles, he called his new cherry "Black Republican." Augusta Eastland, field worker, Yakima.

Wapato. From "Old by the Pioneers. Index, unpublished material.

First of all I should like each of my readers to look at a map of Washington state. On this map, locate the Yakima valley. Just south and east of the City of Yakima you will find the town of Wapato located in a flat expanse of territory, once sagebrush, now irrigated.

Twenty miles to the south rise the barren Satus hills, six miles to the north are the Ahtanum hills, to the east lie the Rattlesnake hills and to the west are the pine clad Cascade Mountains.

In this valley, thirty-six years ago, an Indian Trading post was established by Mr. Alex McCredy, who was appointed by Mr. John Hitchcock, secretary of the interior, under the McKinley administration, as Indian post trader. By the terms of the Indian treaty, no white man was allowed on the reservation without a permit from the secretary of the interior.

At this time there was only the railroad which was constructed in the year 1885; a switch and a section house, which at that time was called Simcoe. The Trading Post building had to be constructed on the railroad right of way since no land could be acquired from the reservation.

After the building of the Trading Post they petitioned for a post-office. Due to the similarity between the name Simcoe and Fort Simcoe, a historical point on the reservation, the government refused to allow a post office under this name. Several names were then submitted but Wapato, meaning potato, the crop that was most common on the reservation at that time, was accepted by the railroad company. This name was suggested by Mrs. Alex McCredy. On December 6, 1902, the present post office was opened with Mrs. Alex McCredy the first postmaster.

Sage brush land was not being cleared and cultivated under lease by B. F. Barge, the first president of the Ellensburg Normal school, now the Central Washington College of Education. The only irrigation

system was the Irwin Canal. The canal only covered a small acreage and since farming land was expanding and more people moving in, the idea was conceived for the present irrigation system. In the year 1905 an appropriation and authority for building, on a small scale, the system, which has since been built into the one of the largest projects in the county, was granted. All work was done by Indian labor, horses and slip scrapers. The pay roll ran about \$16,000 a month.

In 1902 a one room school house was erected. One teacher and 15 students made up the school.

Travel was very difficult at this period because of the inadequate roads. No roads were leading into the railroad or the trading post. To reach your destination you had to ride across fields, open gates and cross ditches. Mr. McCredy for this reason originated the idea of marking off the sections and having a sixty foot road around each of them. He then sent a map with the sections marked off, to John Hitchcock, secretary of the interior. Mr. Hitchcock, within a reasonable period of time, allocated thirty feet of land from each section which gave a sixty foot road around every section.

We largely owe our system of roads on the Reservation to this proclamation since the county did not have to buy right of ways but merely had to improve the roads that were ~~also~~ already provided. Had it been necessary for the county to purchase right of ways for these roads, with so much of the land undeeded, it would have been almost impossible and the condition of the roads would have been deplorable. Possibly the settlement and improvement of the country would have been slowed down, but instead, we have on the Reservation one of the best systems of roads in the state.

With the building of the canal the influx of people showed a definite need for a townsite. Up to this time Indians had not been given permission to sell their property to the white men. By the special

act of congress in 1905 , permission was granted to buy land for a townsite from the Indian owners. The lots were then laid out, sidewalks marked, streets graded and everything was in readiness for the sale.

In this same session of congress, permission was given to white men as a whole to transact business with Indians, formerly a privilege granted only to the Indian Post Trader who was licensed and heavily bonded. As a result of this act given by Congress, the post trader's stock was bought by the Hub-Mercantile and all post traders were eliminated in the year, 1906.

Business was growing, buildings were being erected and the need for a bank was felt; consequently the Wapato State Bank was organized and established. The bank opened for business in April, 1906. The bank was converted into the First National Bank in April, 1907. On September 6, 1936, the First National Bank became a branch of the First National Bank of Commerce of Seattle.

One more room was added to the present one room school house which served the needs of the community until the year 1910 when the present grade school was built. The growth of the community was so rapid during the next year years that it was necessary to build a high school in 1914. Wapato continued expanding to such an extent that in 1927 the junior high school was erected. The need of another building is now being felt and to take care of the children every bit of space has been utilized. The enrollment has increased from fifteen students to the present enrollment of seventeen hundred.

You, no doubt, noticed when you referred to the map of Yakima valley, the central location of Wapato. This fact proved to be a great asset to the development of this town. Wapato was, and still is, the premier shipping point in the Yakima county for agricultural products. Today it is the center of the northwest cantaloupe and melon district and one of the largest shippers of tomatoes.

We have three hundred fifty square miles under cultivation in potatoes, sugar beets, cantaloupes, melons, tomatoes, alfalfa and orchards.

Among the industries of Wapato are warehouses valued at \$750,000 giving almost five hundred people steady employment the year around.

This makes Wapato one of the busiest, if not the busiest town for its size in the state of Washington. It too of course, anticipates further growth as the Indian Service increases the amount of land under irrigation.

Material for the early history of Wapato furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Alex McCredy.

No. 2. The Iliad of the West Begins. From Told by the Pioneers, index, unpublished material.

In 1783, Thomas Jefferson, then a student at Annapolis, wrote to George Rogers Clark, asking him to lead an exploring party to the Pacific Ocean, providing money could be raised. Before plans could be carried out, Washington sent Jefferson to France.

There he renewed acquaintance with John Ledyard, a Connecticut Yankee who had sailed with Captain Cook on his voyage to the Pacific Ocean. Ledyard and other sailors had procured some skins of the sea otter and disposed of them very profitably in Canton, so he was anxious for further enterprise.

Mr. Jefferson obtained a permit from Empress Catherine for Ledyard to cross Russian possessions and go in a Russian vessel to Nootka Sound, then drop down to the latitude of the Missouri River and penetrate the land until the headquarters of the Missouri were reached.

Before Ledyard had traveled as far as Kamchatka, the Empress changed her mind, had him overtaken and carried in a closed carriage to Poland. So the first attempt to explore the west failed.

In 1792 Captain Robert Gray discovered the great river of the west and named it Columbia in honor of his gallant ship.

Ignorant of this discovery, Jefferson planned another expedition. The American Philosophical Society raised five thousand dollars to send Andrew Michaux, a French botanist to explore. But the French minister sent Michaux on political business elsewhere. Still undaunted Thomas Jefferson cherished his dream of western explorations. Jefferson was a man of great vision. He was a diplomat and statesman, the most scholarly man of his time, with perhaps one exception. More than any other man connected with public affairs, he realized the value of the Louisiana territory to the struggling republic beset on every hand by encroaching nations beyond the Atlantic.

After his inauguration and the appointment of Meriwether Lewis, a man of great culture and education, as his private secretary, the two held long discussions. Lewis had hoped to go with Michaux, so his interest was second to that of his chief. These discussions resulted in a determination to apply to Congress for the money to send an expedition led by Meriwether Lewis. "Make an estimate," said Jefferson, "of equipment and necessary money."

Soon the estimate was laid before the president. It called for mathematical instruments, camp equipage, medicine, arms and accoutrements, means for transportation, provisions, gifts for Indians, pay for guides, hunters, interpreters and contingencies. "We will need," said Meriwether Lewis, "\$2,500."

On January 18, 1803, Jefferson sent a secret message to Congress requesting an appropriation of "\$2,500," for the purpose of extending the external commerce of the United States." He then sent Lewis to Philadelphia to study natural science and make astronomical observations for the geography of his route.

In three months Lewis was back in Washington. His letters of passport were ready, allowing him to pass through territory of the British, Spanish and French. Lewis hastened to pack his instruments and assembled his men. Captain William Clark who had served as an engineer under Mad Anthony Wayne, had been chosen to share his command.

Occured now another startling event which even Jefferson the greatest of seers, had failed to anticipate. This was the purchase of the Louisiana territory from France. Napoleon, a greater soldier than business man, relinquished 1,020,571 square miles of land for \$15,000,000 which is around 2 1-2 cents an acre. Napoleon lived to regret this real estate transaction, his main reason at the time being his grudge against England.

Two days after the transfer, Meriwether Lewis left Washington. Nearly four years were to elapse before his triumphant return.

In the colorful pageant depicting the growth and development of our United States Lewis and Clark hold the foreground. They carried the message of President Jefferson over prairie and plain, 4,000 miles, by canoe, on foot and horseback. They penetrated dense forests, followed unknown rivers, pressed forward among tribes of Indians never heard of before.

It was October 16, 1805, when they reached the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. In their journals of that date they mentioned the Yakima Indians under the name "Cutsaihrin," (Possibly the name of a chief) and estimated as 1,200 in number. These Indians had never seen a white man. When one of the men shot a wild crane the Indians were terrified.

It was a chief of the Yakimas who drew an excellent map of the Yakima valley for the explorers. It was drawn on white elkskin with a coal. The records say, "Every trail was marked by moccasin tracks, every village by a cluster of tipis." Clark considered this map of great value and transferred it to paper. Later Jefferson gave it a prominent place on the wall of his library at Monticello.

Salmon were running in the Columbia and the tribes were gathered for the fishing; the camp presented a holiday aspect; Indians danced, gambled and raced their horses. The journal reads, "Ke-hai, Ke-hai," the Indians called to the white men. This was the signal for friendship. A few Indians ran away when they saw the white men. Several hundred of them advanced, dancing and beating drums.

"Salmon could be seen twenty feet below the surface of the water. Hundreds of Indians were splitting and hanging them on scaffolds to dry."

The same scene is still enacted each year in October when the salmon —

The writer has seen them often at White Bluffs when wandering tribes gather there for their annual fish-drying. Tradition has it that these Indians are a remnant of the Palouse and others who refused to join the confederation of tribes sent to the Yakima reservation in 1855.

The little Indian boy, Ka-mi-a-kin, was with his parents among the Nez Perces on the Snake River when Lewis and Clark came down that river. It is possible that he saw these white men and remembered them.

No. 5 "Westward the Course of Empire. Augusta Eastland. From
Told by the Pioneers. Index. Unpublished material.

The first step in the building of the West as we see it today was taken by their heroic and persevering men and women, who, severing all ties, turned their eyes to far western horizons and never looked back.

We reap where they sowed. We ride luxuriously over the old wagon trails, our eyes beholding the waving grain, the fruitful trees, the cattle on a thousand hills. Linking ocean with ocean, they pushed the boundaries of civilization ever westward.

Traders and trappers, missionaries, soldiers, miners, all came, tarried awhile, then, their mission accomplished, departed for new fields of adventure, service or wealth, each according to his desire. Only a handful remained to take root. The true settler came with his wife and children, his household goods, his rifle and his plow.

Many of these first immigrants left a country where vacant land surrounded them, where corn and other grains grew in abundance. One of the women wrote in her diary. "The western part of Iowa territory contained no white inhabitants. Dotted over the prairies we saw only the wigwams of the Indians. There was an abundance of wild fowl."

They turned their backs on comfort and plenty. They exchanged the known for the unknown, civilization for the wilderness. Why?

Have you ever saw under the spell of a traveler returned from lands afar; listened enthralled to his tales of adventure, his glowing descriptions?

Let us turn back the pages of history one hundred years. The outposts of civilization had reached the lands on the western shores of the Mississippi river. The Missouri was being navigated far into the wilds.

Down its muddy current swept fur-laden argosies, bearing the wealth

of forest and stream.

Just as Homer held his listeners spellbound with tales of life beyond the borders of their narrow confines above the Aegean Sea, so those returning voyageurs thrilled the frontier dwellers of a century ago.

Beside their glowing fires during long winter evenings, busy with interminable tasks so symbolic of frontier life, these sturdy sons and daughters of other pioneers discussed the marvelous tales which reached them from Oregon. Neighbor conferred with neighbor, interest and enthusiasm grew until they reached the highest pitch.

It was not so much expansion of territory which they craved. Rather they sought new experiences and greater opportunities in a land where climate, scenery and productive ease lured them on. The opening of a new empire made its profound and everlasting appeal. The green hills of Oregon beckoned. Small wonder that the West was conquered when the vanguard of its civilization was composed of such zealous, courageous determined men and women, the ox-team pioneers.

The idea of colonizing Oregon originated in 1815 with Hall J. Kelley, a Harvard graduate. His idea was more Utopian than practical. He tried to enlist Congress in his plans; failing in this he organized a company and in 1828 was ready to blaze a trail to settlement in Oregon.

Fearing an end to the prosperous fur industry, the traders vigorously opposed the plan. Kelley, like Christopher Columbus, disappointed yet determined to succeed, abandoned his first plan, changing his route from the trails across the plains to more roundabout way.

In 1832 a small party in command of Kelley set out through Mexico and California with Oregon as their destination. They met Ewing Young, a more practical man than Kelley. He decided to throw in his lot with those adventurous spirits so the dreamer and the shrewd

toward the great river of the

Northwest.

Many disasters overtook them; their ranks were reduced, but eleven men arrived in the Columbia valley. His health affected by all these hardships, Kelley was unable to participate in the success which crowned their efforts. He went to Ft Vancouver where he was kindly treated by Dr. McLoughlin.

Seeing the wonderful possibilities the country offered to the stockman, young established himself in the Chehalis valley. He led a party to California in 1837, returning with 700 cattle. Other members of the party settled in Oregon but Kelley returned to New England, taking another roundabout route by way of the Sandwich Islands. His tales of the country west of the Rocky mountains fired the ambitious home seeker. Kelley's name belongs with those of the great leaders; his untiring zeal opened the way for the great westward movement which was to begin a few years later.

"Two-stepping, single-footing, hard-boiled and easy shooting,
Out come they came from Liberty, out across the plains, whips
cracking, oaths snapping....

"Hear these banjos wail.....

Emigrating westward on the Oregon trail."

Different enterprises were on foot during the next few years, each one contributing in a small measure to Oregon settlement. The Hudson's Bay Fur Company made it difficult for American settlers to secure a foothold. No less determined than their forebearers who raised the stars and stripes over all the land east of the Mississippi, from New Orleans to the Great Lakes, this handful of bold determined red-blooded home seekers defied the British lion.

At Ft. Vancouver, Dr. McLoughlin, though refusing their requests, was forced to admire their independence. Asking two of them one day for their passports, he was hardly prepared for the answer which was given

with hands on their rifles, "These are our passports."

Dr. McLoughlin was an American at heart, even then; later he became a true American,

In 1843 the Provisional Government was instituted, but the covered wagons were already entering Oregon territory to:

"Free land in Oregon

Though the prairie gale,

"migrating westward on the

Free land trail."

The first emigrant train to pass through Yakima country was bound for Puget Sound in 1853. One of the leaders was James Longmire, whose son, David, then a boy of 9(?) later settled in the Wenas valley. Much valuable information was imparted to ~~Dodd~~ earlier historians by Mr. Longmire concerning that historic immigration.

Mention is also made in Ezra Meeker's "Pioneer Reminiscences" which contains a letter written by George H. Himes, a member of the party who was ten years old at the time of the immigration. Every word of this letter which was written 52 years later, should be read in order to fully appreciate the spirit of western immigration, an epoch of American history never to be repeated, never equalled in heroism and self-sacrifice.

In the Washington Historical Quarterly of January 1917, there is an account of this immigration including the names of the members of the party. There were two sections of the train, one of 146 persons with 36 wagons, the other 39 persons.

In the Grande Ronde valley of Eastern Oregon, they had met Nelson Sargent who had journeyed from Puget Sound to meet his father. He spoke in such glowing terms of that marvelous country that nearly all of the party decided to follow him across the Cascades through the Yakima valley. He had heard that a wagon road had been constructed through the Naches pass so as to induce settlers to come that way.

They were to find that the report had no foundation, that the road had to be constructed foot by foot. They were to find the last lap of their journey more perilous and heart-breaking than any part of the long trail. But they met this stupendous difficulty with the same iron determination which had characterized every step of the way.

At the present site of Pendleton, Oregon, the party turned north. They reached old Fort "alla "alla now Wallula, on the Columbia. Not finding a boat, they made one by whipsawing driftwood and ferried their wagons across, hiring Indians to swing their stock. They were then entirely off the beaten trail and gravely conscious of the fact.

They reached the mouth of the Yakima where the old chief, Peo-peo-mox-mox killed a fat beef for them. Peo-peo-mox-mox was the same Indian who fifty years before had helped Ka-mi-a-kin and his mother when they fled from the Nez Perce back to the land of her people.

The chief's brother was hired for guide and the long train rolled up the east bank of the Yakima, followed by hundreds of Indians. Never before had they seen a wagon. Wa-tum-nah had prophesized "that white men will come with canoes on wheels drawn by buffaloes."

By the time they had traveled ten miles they had crossed the river eight times. At the second crossing they buried one of the party, a man named McCullough who left his widow and two children, the youngest having been born on the trail. His was the only death along the whole route.

At the Horn, a place where the Yakima river makes a sharp bend at the point of a mountain they turned north and camped at a place later known as the E.P. Benson ranch, just below the Rattlesnake spring, later to become the scene of the horrible tragedy of 1878. It was a desolate region. It is today. There are miles and miles of sage brush inhabited only by coyotes and rattlesnakes.

Eagles sail far up in the blue just as on the day when Ki-ki-yah rode the sorrel horse in the race and crossed the Columbia to escape his pursuers.

The Indian guide, seeing their bewilderment in this strange land, marked two trails on paper. One led north, the other west. He dotted the end of each trail for soldiers and made dots along the way for camps. There were fewer camps along the northern trail so they traveled north until they came to the long line of white bluffs where the town of White Bluffs now stands. They decided against the perpendicular heights and returned to their camp at Rattlesnake Spring. There they turned west to the present Cold Creek, now the alfalfa district and dotted with artesian wells. They crossed over to Selah through sagebrush often high as the covered wagons. At times they had to cut their way through. At Selah they crossed the river. There they saw the first white man, a Catholic priest. They followed Wenas creek for awhile, crossed the Naches river and on up the valley, crossing the river 68 times.

At the summit they rested before performing the feat which two weeks before arrival of this brave and hardy band, Lieut. George B. McClellan a West Point man and an engineer, had declared impossible. With money and men at his command he took not one step in behalf of these homeseekers, weary and worn after many months of hardship along the trail.

But they were equal to it, even killing oxen to get hides to make ropes to lower the wagons down the perpendicular mountain sides. They made log bridges, forded rivers, crossed foot-hills, trudged on through mud, cold and hungry, ready to drop from weariness.

The incident of that perilous descent here related in full is taken from Ezra Meeker's "Pioneer Reminiscences." (Excerpt covers page and one-half.)

This immigration of 1853 which is one of the outstanding events in the history of the Yakima valley is commemorated by a granite monument erected by the Yakima Pioneer association. It commands a view of the beautiful Wenatchee valley and is inscribed as follows:

Chief Owl's Gardens. First Emigrant Train, Sept. 20, 1853.

McClellan's headquarters. Yakima Pioneer Association. Sept. 20, 1917.

Sharing honors in this inscription is the important survey which was being made under command of George B. McClellan, afterwards commander in chief of the army of the Potomac.

In 1853 Isaac Stevens was appointed governor for Washington Territory. Being politically ambitious, a man of ability and power, he at once made plans for settlement of the vast territory. "Two things are necessary," he declared. "We must build a railroad and make treaties with the Indians."

Demonstrating his usual energy without waiting until he had looked over the field a little, he started westward with his party of engineers, exploring the route from the Mississippi and making treaties along the way.

He sent Lieut. McClellan by way of Panama to begin exploration from the coast. In later years the whole course then outlined became the Northern Pacific route.

Associated with the year 1853 is the remarkable trip on horseback made by Theodore Winthrop, an officer in the U.S. army, later losing his life in the Civil War.....

Six years had passed since the Whitman massacre. A crisis was fast approaching and the Yakima valley was destined to become the scene of many tragedies. The prophecy of Wa-tum-enah was about to be fulfilled, when the son of Ki-Ki-yah and Ka-e-mox-ninth would lead the Yakimas in their last stand against the whites.