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## Introduction

This exhibit contains document facsimiles with an accompanying instructor's manual to encourage the use of primary sources in high school history classes. With the assistance of an advisory committee of teachers, 24 documents were selected from the records of [Oregon's Provisional and Territorial Governments](#).

*Echoes of Oregon* is designed to supplement American history textbooks by exposing students to the raw materials of history with these objectives:

Introduce students to primary historical sources.

Teach students to extract the meaning from a historical document. Thus, gaining a richer, more accurate idea of what it was like in Oregon from 1837 to 1859.

Inspire students to think about the past. Documents in this collection were chosen to show how government touched the lives of citizens.

Make students aware of how the past affects everyone.

It takes effort to picture Oregon as it was 150 years ago. The land was wilderness, slowly being invaded by farms and small settlements. People who came to Oregon created a government from nothing, and the government reflected their experience in more settled parts of the United States. Their government embodied the aspirations and ambitions they held for their new home. When the wagon trains reached western Oregon, the pioneers were completing an arduous physical journey. Oregon rests at the western edge of the continent. The movement of peoples which began centuries earlier in Europe and went on to Massachusetts and Virginia, found one of its culminations in the Willamette Valley. The journey of the human spirit that these documents reveal continues today.



Lewis and Clark on their way to the Pacific Ocean in 1805 (Oregon State Capitol mural).

While settlers were making the long overland trip to Oregon, the United States was subjected to severe stresses. Financial panics and economic depressions swept the land, ruining some and displacing many Americans. The United States fought a war with Mexico and annexed California and the Southwest. Industrialization proceeded rapidly in northern states, while southern states continued to be tied to a single crop economy which in turn was wedded to the institution of slavery. The issue of slavery consumed political and social debate during this period of American history and threatened to rip the union apart. Oregon held the promise of a fresh start, thousands of miles from home, in a land characterized as lush and fertile. Americans responded by dropping their links to settled parts of the country, particularly the Midwest, and moved to the Northwest by the thousands. They brought their attitudes and traditions to the new land, and it is these which are captured in the documents selected for Echoes.

These documents were chosen because they provide a glimpse of how life was lived by those who settled Oregon. The earliest of these records, the Willamette Cattle Company Agreement, shows settlers organizing in an effort to free themselves from the economic domination of the Hudson's Bay Company. The last document, the Divorce Petition, shows how difficult life in Oregon Territory was for a woman and her children if her husband would not contribute to their welfare.

Each document page has a list of terms and questions for discussion. Questions range from highly specific, to encourage students to extract factual information from the documents, to more general and open-ended ones to stimulate thought and discussion. Many of the general questions have no right or wrong answers.

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## Oregon Territorial History

The Pacific Northwest was the focus of a contest between the United States and Great Britain at the end of the 18th century. Exploration by Lewis and Clark (1805-1806) and Britain's David Thompson (1811) publicized the abundance of fur in the area. In 1811, New York financier John Jacob Astor established Fort Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River as the anchor for a chain of Pacific Fur Company trading posts along the river. The War of 1812 caused the British to gain control of the posts as well as Fort Astoria.

Competition for the fur trade continued during the 1820s and 1830s. The British Hudson's Bay Company dominated the region. John McLoughlin, the Company's Chief Factor of the Columbia District, built Fort Vancouver in 1825. From his headquarters at the fort, McLoughlin controlled an area of 670,000 square miles. Simultaneously American interest in Oregon was increasing as the region came to be perceived as a place of cheap, fertile land, an alternative to the rapidly filling lands of the Midwest.



The wagon train migration of 1843 (Oregon State Capitol mural).

Nathaniel Wyeth tried unsuccessfully to found the first American colony on the Columbia in 1832. He tried again in 1834. Two Methodist missionaries, Jason and Daniel Lee, accompanied him. Although Wyeth left Oregon for good in 1836, the Lees remained. McLoughlin persuaded them to establish their

mission on the Willamette River, 10 miles north of what is now Salem. Despite the fact that local Indians were unreceptive to the Lees, the mission prospered and soon produced its own lumber and flour.

During the 1830s, the Lees' mission was a magnet for Americans settling in the Willamette Valley. In 1835, President Andrew Jackson sent William Slacum, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, to report on the situation in Oregon. Slacum arrived in Oregon in 1836. When he discovered the Hudson's Bay Company held a monopoly on cattle in Oregon, he persuaded the American settlers to join together to buy cattle in California and bring them to Oregon. In January 1837 the Willamette Cattle Company was formed for this purpose. Both Jason Lee and John McLoughlin were shareholders. That same year some 600 head of cattle were brought to Oregon. The success of this venture gave American settlers a sense of independence from the Hudson's Bay Company.

Americans continued to move to the Willamette Valley. Together with French-Canadians employed by the Company, there were some 500 whites in the area by 1842. An initial attempt to form a government, caused by the need to probate Ewing Young's estate, failed in 1841. A second attempt succeeded in 1843. Oregonians voted in an open air meeting at Champoege on July 5 to establish Oregon's provisional government. This government was supposed to function until the United States extended its jurisdiction over Oregon. At this time, slavery was prohibited.

Unfortunately, the first government was ineffective and biased in favor of the Methodist mission. Americans arriving as part of the Great Migration in 1843 were especially unhappy with the new government. In 1844, representatives of this new contingent began to form a new government modeled on those in the Midwest. The following year, John McLoughlin, as representative of the Hudson's Bay Company, recognized the provisional government. Successive waves of immigrants arriving into the 1850s shared the same values and gave early Oregon a remarkably homogenous and cohesive population.

An estimated 53,000 settlers came to Oregon between 1840 and 1860. Most made the journey over the 2,000 mile Oregon Trail, which stretched from Independence, Missouri to western Oregon. The trip took 6 to 8 months and many immigrants arrived with their resources exhausted. John McLoughlin supplied food, clothing, temporary shelter and jobs to immigrants at Fort Vancouver, despite Hudson's Bay Company orders to the contrary. McLoughlin was convinced the area south of the Columbia would become American territory. By sending settlers there, he hoped to keep them away from the Company's activities north of the Columbia River. Unfortunately, McLoughlin's authoritarian personality often angered newcomers and caused settlers to resent him.

By 1846, the United States and Great Britain agreed to divide the Pacific Northwest at the 49th parallel—the present border with Canada. Hudson's Bay Company headquarters had moved to Fort Victoria, on Vancouver Island. John McLoughlin resigned his position with the Company and settled in Oregon City. Americans in the Willamette Valley wanted territorial status immediately, yet the debate over slavery in Congress delayed this step.

When white settlers arrived, Indians inhabited all of present-day Oregon. Whites failed to understand Indian culture. They considered the Indians to be nomads drifting purposelessly from place to place. In reality, Indians moved from winter to summer villages and camps to hunt, fish and gather food. In turn, Indians did not understand white customs. As a result, Indian-white relations were marked by frequent skirmishes.

In 1847, Cayuse Indians attacked the Whitman mission at Wailaptu and killed 14 people. The immediate cause of the attack was an epidemic of measles, brought by immigrants, which devastated the Indians. They believed Marcus Whitman introduced the disease to get Indian lands and horses. More fundamentally, the conflict between the two cultures caused great tensions between Indians and whites. To make matters worse, as whites came into Oregon, their demands for land increased. The Whitman Massacre and settlers' demands for protection finally caused Congress to move on the issue of territorial status, and Oregon became a United States territory on Aug. 13, 1848.

In 1850, Congress passed the Donation Land Act, which recognized most land claims filed under the provisional government. Single white males over age 21 could claim 320 acres. If married they could claim an additional 320 acres for their wife. Widows could hold title to land, but single women could not.

Territorial officials began their terms on March 3, 1849, in Oregon City, when Oregon was still predominantly wilderness. Homesteads usually consisted of one room log houses with vegetable gardens and a few acres planted in wheat. With little hard currency available, wheat was the primary medium of exchange. Few roads existed, so water was the quickest way to move crops and supplies. Some settlers laid out townsites from their claims. John McLoughlin was the first to do this when he platted Oregon City in 1842.

Despite the steady flow of immigrants many settlers were genuinely isolated. Only 5 newspapers were published in 1849. Post offices did not appear in most towns until the 1850s, and stage coaches and express companies were just beginning. When gold was discovered in Southern Oregon in the 1850s, the government opened more roads.

During its brief existence, the territorial government was deluged with petitions from citizens asking for laws of everyday life. They wanted divorces, schools, and pensions; prohibition of liquor; care for the insane; college charters and release from militia duty. On Feb. 14, 1859, as the national debate over slavery was drawing to a close, Oregon was admitted to the union as the 33rd state.

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## Chronology of Events 1543-1859

**1543:** Spanish explorers sight the Oregon Coast north of the 42nd parallel near the Rogue River.

**1765:** British Major Robert Rogers uses the name "Ouragon" in a proposal to explore the country west of the Mississippi.

**1778:** British Captain James Cook trades along the Oregon Coast. Publication of his journals about these voyages spurs great interest in future trade.

**1792:** American sea captain Robert Gray and British explorer George Vancouver arrive at the mouth of the Columbia River on separate voyages of discovery. Gray names the river after his ship, "Columbia Rediviva."



Captain Robert Gray at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1792 (Oregon State Capitol mural).

**1793:** Alexander McKenzie leads an expedition over the Canadian Rockies to the Pacific.

**1805:** Sent by President Thomas Jefferson, the Lewis and Clark Expedition reaches the mouth of the Columbia River.

**1811:** British trader and explorer David Thompson completes a survey of the Columbia River. The Pacific Fur Company, founded by American financier John Jacob Astor, establishes a string of trading posts along the lower Columbia.

**1813:** British interests take control of Fort Astoria and rename it Fort George. 1814 Jane Barnes becomes the first woman to land in Oregon.

**1818:** The United States and Great Britain agree on "joint occupancy" for the Oregon Country.

- 1819:** The Adams-Onis Treaty establishes the 42nd parallel as the southern boundary of the Oregon Country.
- 1821:** The Hudson's Bay Company acquires a fur monopoly for all of British North America after merging with the North West Company.
- 1822:** Dr. John Floyd urges Congress to look into settling the "Origion" territory, marking the first American use of the name.
- 1825:** John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the Columbia District for the Hudson's Bay Company, constructs Fort Vancouver on the north bank of the Columbia and uses it as his headquarters.
- 1827:** The United States and Great Britain renew the terms of the 1818 "joint occupancy" agreement for the Oregon Country.
- 1829:** Hall Jackson Kelley organizes the "American Society for Encouraging the Settlement of the Oregon Territory."
- 1830:** Epidemics strike the Oregon Indians, killing thousands along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.
- 1831:** Three Nez Perce and one Flathead Indian travel to St. Louis reportedly seeking knowledge of Christianity.
- 1832:** Nathaniel Wyeth leads an American colonizing expedition overland to the Columbia but the venture fails.
- 1834:** Separate expeditions, led by Wyeth and Kelley, arrive at Fort Vancouver. Methodist missionaries Jason and Daniel Lee accompany Wyeth to Fort Vancouver and establish a mission ten miles north of present day Salem.
- 1836:** Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and other missionaries establish missions among the Indians. Mrs. Whitman and other missionary wives are the first white women to cross the Continental Divide. On orders from President Andrew Jackson, Lieutenant William Slacum arrives to report on conditions in Oregon.
- 1837:** The Willamette Cattle Company is formed marking the first cooperative venture among Oregon settlers.
- 1838:** Jason Lee delivers a petition to Congress asking for legislation securing title to lands that settlers occupy and for the extension of the laws of the United States over the Oregon Country. Fathers Francois Blanchet and Modeste Demers, Catholic missionaries, arrive in Oregon.
- 1840:** Parties of Americans from California and Illinois, and reinforcements to the Methodist mission, arrive in the Willamette Valley.

**1841:** Ewing Young's death and the need to probate his estate prompt some American settlers to attempt to establish a provisional government. Three meetings are held at Champoege but because French Canadians refuse to participate, no government is established.

**1842:** John McLoughlin plats his land claim and names it Oregon City.

**1843:** Settlers meet to deal with the menace of wild animals. The "Wolf Meetings" lead to the drafting of a constitution and formation of Oregon's first government.

**1844:** Acts to prohibit slavery and to exclude blacks and mulattoes from Oregon are passed.

**1845:** The Hudson's Bay Company officially recognizes the provisional government. The executive committee is reorganized and changes are made to allow British participation in the government. 2000 settlers now reside in the Willamette Valley.

**1846:** The United States and Great Britain agree to divide the Oregon country at the 49th parallel. Hudson's Bay Company headquarters move from Fort Vancouver to Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island. John McLoughlin resigns his position as Chief Factor and moves to Oregon City. The Applegate Trail is established off of the Oregon Trail. The "Oregon Spectator" begins publication.

**1847:** The Whitmans and 12 others are killed by the Cayuse Indians at the Wailatpu Mission.

**1848:** The Oregon Country is made a United States territory.

**1849:** The territorial government convenes in Oregon City.

**1850:** More settlers move to Oregon Territory and Indian-white hostilities increase as results of the passage of the "Donation Land Law." Congress provides for the renegotiation of treaties with the Indians of the territory. Gold is discovered in the Rogue River Valley leading to the establishment of cities and towns in Southern Oregon. Five Indians are sentenced to hang for the "Whitman Massacre."

**1853:** Washington Territory is created from land north of the Columbia River. Willamette University is chartered. A treaty is made creating the Oregon Territory's first Indian Reservation at Table Rock.

**1854:** Congress authorizes making treaties, whenever necessary, with the Indians in the Oregon Territory.

**1857:** A convention is held in Salem to write a state constitution. Voters overwhelmingly approve the document that fall.

**1859:** Congress admits Oregon as the 33rd state on February 14.



## Willamette Cattle Company Agreement, 1837

### Transcript of Original Document

Oregon Territory, Wallamette Settlement Articles of Agreement made and entered into this 13th day of January in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Seven

Whereas, we the undersigned settlers upon the Wallamette River, are fully convinced of the Importance and necessity of having neat cattle of our own in order successfully to carry on our farms and gain a comfortable livelehood, and whereas we find it impossible to purchase them here, as all the cattle in the country belong to the Hudsons Bay Company, and they refusing to sell them under any circumstances, and as we believe that the possession of cattle will not only benefit us personally, but will materially benefit the whole settlement, we the undersigned do therefore Agree

1st To avail ourselves of an offer of W Slacum Esq. to take passage in the American Brig Loriot Capt Bancroft, free of charge, to proceed to California to purchase cattle for ourselves and all our neighbors who choose to join us in our Enterprise either by accompanying us themselves or furnishing the means of purchasing cattle in California

2 We agree to furnish funds according to our means making a common stock concern subject to the following conditions. The expenses of all those who go down to California are to be borne by the company calculating the time so employed at the rate of twenty dollars per month provisions likewise to be paid by the company.

3 The wages of the men thus employed to be calculated as so much money, and each one is to be credited accordingly; and each and every memeber of the company shall have his portion of the cattle which may arrive safely at the Wallamette, there to be divided agreeable to the capital and wages employed in the enterprise.

4 All those who go for the purpose aforesaid to California hereby bind themselves to return to the Walamette with the cattle and to use their best endeavors to protect the same

### Background

Early Oregon settlers depended on the Hudson's Bay Company for supplies. This included cattle, which the Company would lease to immigrants but refused to sell. Lieutenant William Slacum, who had been sent by President Jackson to report on conditions in Oregon, noticed this and persuaded settlers and some officers of the Company to send a party to California to buy cattle. The organization they formed to do this was the Willamette Cattle Company. This contract states the terms by which 11 men went to California in 1837 to buy cattle. Despite the participation of some Company employees, this venture was a first step toward economic independence.

## **Words and Terms**

articles of incorporation

common stock

neat cattle

## **For Further Discussion**

Why would these men travel to California to buy cattle?

How are they going to get to California?

What will members of the party receive for their efforts?

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## Oregon Territory, Wallamette Settlement

Articles of Agreement made and entered into  
this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January in the Year of Our Lord One  
Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Seven

Whereas, We the undersigned settle upon the  
Wallamette River, are fully convinced of the Importance  
and Necessity of having <sup>near</sup> Cattle of our own in order ~~to~~  
= fully to carry on our farms and gain a comfortable  
livelihood, and whereas we find it impossible to  
purchase them here, as all the cattle in the Country  
belong to the Hudsons Bay Company, and they refusing  
to sell them under any circumstances, and as we  
believe that the possession of Cattle will not only bene-  
= fit us personally, but will materially benefit the whole  
settlement, We the undersigned do therefore Agree

1<sup>st</sup> To avail ourselves of an offer of Miss Isaac Esq  
to take passage in the American Brig Forest Capt  
Barnett, free of charge, to proceed to California to  
purchase cattle for ourselves and all our Neighbors  
who choose to join us ~~with~~ in our Enterprise either  
by accompanying us themselves or furnishing the  
means of purchasing Cattle in California

2<sup>d</sup> We agree to furnish funds according to our  
Means making a common stock concern subject  
to the following conditions.

The expenses of all those who go down to California  
are to be borne by the Company calculating the time  
so employed at the rate of twenty Dollars per Month;  
provisions likewise to be paid by the Company.

3<sup>d</sup> The wages of the men thus employed to be calculated  
as so much money, and each one is to be credited  
accordingly; and each and every member of the  
Company shall have his portion of the Cattle

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## Account Book, 1840

### Transcript of Original Document

Amt brot Forward 60 14 4 April 3 1 pr Shoes 4th Hyson Tea

12 nds fine Striped Cotton

12 " 9/8 Bleached

1 pr Womans Shoes

6 Tin Milk Tureens

2 Dressing Combs

1 Tin Kettle

1 doz Gilt Coat buttons

6 skeins blk Silk Thread

1/4 Blk

1 plain Blanket

42 lbs Loaf Sugar

2 Quires ruled foolscap psper

8 yds purple merino

1 Cott: Shawl

1 mill Saw 6 ft

6 flat bastd files 14 in

By Etienne Luciens note 21 March '40 for L15. as beaver Price 15 Paid your note 1 April '40 in favor Ed:  
Burroughs for \$5. at beaver price

May 4 pr Henry Wood

1 pr Sfine Cassimere Trousers

6 Scalping Knives

6 Indian Awls

1 Sfine blue Cloth Jacket

10 lb Gunpowder

6 Cakes Windsor Soap

2 Band Silk Hdkfs

Forwarded L 18 2 3 15 " "

### Background

This page from Ewing Young's account at Fort Vancouver, from April and May, 1840, provides a close-up of the kind of goods which were available in Oregon at that date. In addition to such items as scalping knives and gunpowder, Young brought gilt buttons, purple merino cloth, cashmere trousers, and silk handkerchiefs. Note also that payment is expressed in beaver prices.

### Words and Terms

tureens

loaf sugar

quires  
foolscap  
merino  
cashmere  
beaver prices

## **For Further Discussion**

What does this list of goods tell you about the style in which Ewing Young lived?

What do you think it means when the account says 'Paid your note 1 April '40 in favor Ed. Burroughs for \$5 at beaver price.'?

What items would you expect to find on this list that do not appear?

Where do you think the goods on this list were made?

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Am's bro's Forward

			60	14	4	
April 3	1 pair Shoes		"	8	3	
	1 lb Hyson Tea	49	"	15	"	
	12 lb fine stryb's Cotton	2/2	1	6	"	
	12 " 4/8 Bleached "	9	"	9	"	
	1 pair Women's Shoes		"	6	"	
	6 Tin Milk Surreens	2/10	"	17	"	
	2 Dressing Combs	11	"	1	10	
	1 Tin Kettle #1		"	5	9	
	1 " " #3		"	4	3	
	1 " " #6		"	2	6	
	1 doz Gilt Coat Buttons		"	1	9	
	6 Skeins blk silk Thread	1	"	"	6	
	1/4 Blk " #25	2/11	"	"	9	
	1 plain Blanket 3 1/2 yds 3B		"	14	6	
	1/2 lb Leaf Sugar	8	1	8	"	
	2 Quire ruled foolscap paper	19	"	3	6	
	8 yds purple Merino	3/11	1	11	4	
	1 Coat: shawl	59	"	5	9	
	1 Mill Saw 6 ft		1	16	9	
	6 flat bast files 14 in	19	"	10	6	
	By Schmelziers Note 31 March '40 for \$15. at beaver Price					15 " "
	Paid Your Note 1 April '40 in favor Ed. Burroughs for \$5. at beaver price		1	5	"	
May 4	for Henry Wood					
	1 pair fine Cassimere trousers		1	9	3	
	6 Scalping Knives	8	"	4	"	
	6 Indian Awls	dg 6	"	"	3	
	1 fine blue cloth Sacket		1	16	"	
	10 lb Gunpowder	1/3	1	12	6	
	6 cakes Windsor Soap	6	"	3	"	
	2 Band Silk 4 drs	4/6	"	9	"	
	Forwarded	L	78	23	15	" "

## Certificate for Boarding a Lunatic 1845

### Transcript of Original Document

This is to certify that on the 17th day of April- 1845- I offered at public vendue, the Boarding, clothing, and keeping of a Lunatic, named Eli Smith, for the term of one year, to the lowest bidder, who was Andrew Hembrie, at three hundred and sixty five dollars- who thereupon entered into bond and gave security to the people of Oregon in the sum of six hundred dollars to comply with and fulfil the requisitions, which recognizance is now in the hands of the present Justice of the Peace for the County of Clackamas- Wm P Dougherty,

Attest

Fred Priggs

Justice of the Peace

### Background

There were few services for the mentally ill on the frontier. An individual without money or family might be abandoned. The provisional government tried to deal with this problem in 1844 by appropriating \$500 for the care of the insane. Any justice of the peace could conduct a sanity hearing and declare someone a lunatic. An auction would then be held, and the insane person would go to the person making the lowest bid for room, board, and clothing. The bidder had to post a bond to insure that the money he received would be used properly. This certificate shows that Andrew Hembrie, a Yamhill County farmer, was paid one dollar a day to keep Eli Smith for one year.

### Words and Terms

public vendue

boarding

### For Further Discussion

What was being auctioned?

What did Andrew Hembrie agree to provide?

What circumstances would create this type of system for care of the insane?

Oregon City - Aug. 5. 1845.

This is to certify, that on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1845 - I offered at public vendue, the Boarding, clothing, and keeping of a Lunatic, named Eli Smith, for the term of one year, to the lowest bidder, who was Andrew Hembrie, at three hundred and sixty five dollars - who thereupon entered into bond and gave security to the people of Oregon in the sum of six hundred dollars to comply with and fulfil the requisitions, which recognizance is now in the hands of the present Justice of Peace for the County of Clackamas -

Attest -

Fred. Prigg

Justice of the Peace

Wm. P. Dougherty



## Sandwich Islander Tax Bill 1845

### Transcript of Original Document

An Act concerning the introduction of Sandwich Islanders or natives from any of the adjoining islands

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the house of Representatives of Oregon Territory as follow- That all persons who shall hereafter introduce into Oregon Territory any Sandwich Islanders or natives from any of the neighboring Islands for a term of Service shall pay a tax of five dollars for each person so introduced

Sec 2 Each and every person in this Territory shall pay a tax of three dollar per annum for each and every Sandwich Islander or any native from a neighbouring Island that they keep in their service for a term of years

Sec 3 The revenue arising from said tax shall be assessed and collected as other Taxes are assessed and collected, and paid into the Territorial Treasury the same time the other Territorial Revenue is paid in. This Act to take effect and be in force from and after ist passage

### Background

Sandwich Islanders, now known as Hawaiians, came to Oregon as seamen. Many remained in Oregon to work under contract as laborers, servants and craftsmen. Sandwich Islanders helped build the missions of Jason Lee and Marcus Whitman. Some Sandwich Islanders remained in Oregon and became gold miners during the 1850s. This bill dates from a time when the Hudson's Bay Company was importing Sandwich Islanders. It is an attempt to raise revenue by taxing employers of these Islanders, and it reflects the notion that they will not become permanent residents of Oregon.

### Words and Terms

Sandwich Islanders  
per annum

### For Further Discussion

Why would the legislature tax Sandwich Islanders working in Oregon?

What does this document tell you about the attitude of white Oregonians toward Sandwich Islanders?

Do you think the territorial government would have received much money from this tax?

An Act concerning the introduction of <sup>Natives</sup> ~~Indians~~ Sandwich Islanders or, from any of the adjoining Islands

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the house of Representatives of Oregon Territory as follows - That all persons who shall hereafter introduce into Oregon Territory any <sup>Natives</sup> ~~Indians~~ Sandwich Islander or, from any of the neighbouring Islands for a term of service shall pay a tax of five dollars for each person so introduced

Sec 2 Each and every person in this Territory shall pay a tax of three dollars per annum for each and every Sandwich Islander or any <sup>Native</sup> ~~person~~ ~~Islander~~ from a neighbouring Island that they keep in their service for a term of <sup>years</sup>

Sec 3 The revenue arising from said tax shall be assessed and collected as other taxes are assessed and collected, and paid into the Territorial Treasury the same time the other Territorial Revenue is paid in.

This Act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage

## Shark Broadside 1846

### Transcript of Original Document

\$30 Reward

The following named men have deserted during the past week from the U.S, schooner Shark, viz: John Tice, aged about 25, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, dark hair and eyes, pretends to be a blacksmith, but is a bungler at that or any other business he undertakes. Alexander Stevens, aged 22 or thereabouts, 5 feet 10 inches high, of sallow complexion, light eyes and dry colored sandy hair, a simple smile generally on his face. John P. Inglehart, about 26 or 28 years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, roundly built, with black hair inclining to curl, erect in his carriage, and writes a good hand. George Rathbun, about 6 feet 1 or 2 inches high, of light curly hair; complexion and eyes also light; slight stoop in the shoulders; a good expression of countenance, and about 30 or 32 years of age. John Whitesell, 36 or 38 years old, spare figure, 5 feet 11 inches high; a serious worn expression of face, and by trade a carpenter. Andrew Tilton, about 5 feet 9 inches high, slight figure, 25 or 26 years old, hair light brown; this chap carried off with him a small sum of money, and a few dozen pieces of clothing belonging to the officers. A REWARD of 30 dollars will be given for the apprehension and delivery on board the Shark of either of the above described men, and all reasonable expenses paid. They have all voluntarily and unsolicited pledged themselves to the U. States' service, and the good citizens of Oregon, it is hoped, will aid in bringing them back to fulfil their contract.

U.S. Schooner Shark,  
Columbia River, August 11, 1846.

### Background

The promise of free land and high wages caused many sailors to desert their ships in Oregon ports. In 1844 and again in 1857, Oregon passed laws which made it a crime to help deserting seamen. Despite this, few were returned to their ships. In 1846, the Shark, a ship of the U.S. Navy, lost ten men when it was docked in Fort Vancouver. A reward was offered, but only two men were turned in. This document describes six of the deserters.

### For Further Discussion

Would you recognize the deserters from these descriptions?

Which of these men would be most likely to succeed in Oregon?

Why would someone desert their ship in 1846 Oregon?

# \$30 Reward.

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The following named men have deserted during the past week from the U. S. schooner Shark, viz: *John Tice*, aged about 25, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, dark hair and eyes, pretends to be a blacksmith, but is a bungler at that or any other business he undertakes. *Alexander Stevens*, aged 22 or thereabouts, 5 feet 10 inches high, of sallow complexion, light eyes and dry colored sandy hair, a simple smile generally on his face. *John P. Iglehart*, about 26 or 28 years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, roundly built, with black hair inclining to curl, erect in his carriage, and writes a good hand. *George Rathbun*, about 6 feet 1 or 2 inches high, of light curly hair; complexion and eyes also light; slight stoop in the shoulders; a good expression of countenance, and about 30 or 32 years of age. *John Whitesell*, 36 or 38 years old, spare figure, 5 feet 11 inches high; a serious, worn expression of face, and by trade a carpenter. *Andrew Tilton*, about 5 feet 9 inches high, slight figure, 25 or 26 years old, hair light brown; this chap carried off with him a small sum of money, and a few dozen pieces of clothing belonging to the officers. A REWARD of 30 dollars will be given for the apprehension and delivery on board the Shark of either of the above described men, and all reasonable expenses paid. They have all voluntarily and unsolicited pledged themselves to the U. States' service, and the good citizens of Oregon, it is hoped, will aid in bringing them back to fulfil their contract.

*U. S. Schooner Shark,*

Columbia River, August 11, 1846.

## Declaration of Intention 1849

### Transcript of Original Document

United States of America}

Territory of Oregon } SS

Clackamas County }

Be it remembered that on this 21st day of April in the year of 1849 personally appeared before me, Isaac W Gilbert Clerk of the County Court of Champeog County Andrew LaChapell the undersigned and made oath that he was born in Lower Canada in the province of Great Britian in the year of 1801 that he emigrated from said Kingdom of Great Britian to the United States of America in the year of 1817 and to Oregon the same year in which said Territory the said Chapell has continued to reside ever since that he has become much acquainted with the laws and institutions of the United States Therefore I Andrew LaChapell do hereby make known my intentions of becoming a citizen of the United States and taking the oath of naturalization I do solemnly swear that I absolve all allegiance to all foreign princes kings potentates particularly to Queen Victoria Queen of Great Britian and Ireland and that I will support the constitution of the United States and the act to establish a Territorial Government in Oregon so help me God.

his

Andrew X LaChapell

mark

### Background

When Oregon became a United States territory in 1849, residents could not hold dual citizenship. Hudson's Bay Company employees who had settled in Oregon needed to become U.S. citizens so that their land holdings would be officially recognized. Many immediately filed Declarations of Intention to become citizens. This Declaration of Intention shows that Andrew LaChapell was born in Canada in 1801 and came to Oregon in 1817, when he was sixteen years old. To become a citizen, LaChapell renounces his allegiance to Queen Victoria. Note also that LaChapell signed the Declaration with his mark, evidence that he could not read or write.

### Words and Terms

oath

naturalization

potentates

### For Further Discussion

What does this document tell you about Andrew LaChapell?

What does a Declaration of Intention do?

What could Andrew LaChapell expect in return for this Declaration?

---

United States of America  
Territory of Oregon } 53  
Clatsop County } 3

Be it remembered that on this 21<sup>st</sup>  
day of April in the year of 1849 personally appear  
ed before me Isaac W. Gilbert Clerk of the County  
Court of Clatsop County Andrew La  
Chapelle the undersigned and made oath that he was  
born in Lower Canada in the Province  
of Great Britain

in the year of 1801 that he emigra-  
ted from said Kingdom of Great Britain  
to the United States of America in the year of 1817  
and to Oregon the same year

in which said Territory the said Chapelle has  
continued to reside ever since that he has become  
well acquainted with the laws and institutions of the  
United States. Therefore Andrew La Chapelle do  
hereby make known my intentions of becoming a  
citizen of the United States and taking the oath  
of naturalization I do solemnly swear that I absolve  
all allegiance to all foreign Princes Kings Potentates  
particularly to Queen Victoria Queen of Great Britain  
and Ireland and that I will support the constitu-  
tion of the United States and the act to establish a  
territorial Government in Oregon so help me God  
Andrew La Chapelle  
mark

## Animal Bounty Bill 1849

### Transcript of Original Document

A Bill

To be entitled an act to provide for the destruction of certain wild animals therein mentioned

Sec. 1 Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon; that there shall be paid out of the county treasury of the proper county on the order of the county commissioners to any person who shall at any regular or special session of the county court of any county in this territory, present to said court, the scalp of any panther, tiger, cougar, lynx, wild-cat, large-wolf or prairie wolf and declare under oath, that the animal from which the said scalp was taken was killed in the said county; when the same is presented, the following premiums shall be awarded viz; for each panther, the sum of three dollars; for each tiger, the sum of three dollars; for each cougar, the sum of three dollars; for each lynx, the sum of three dollars; for each wild-cat, the sum of one dollar; for each large-wolf, the sum of three dollars; and for each prairie-wolf, the sum of one dollar and fifty cents.

Sect 2. This act to be in force and take effect from and after its passage. Passed Sept. 10th, 1849 William Porter, Clerk H. R.

### Background

Wild animals were seen as a constant threat to settlers and their livestock in Oregon. Wolves, bears, wildcats, and even wild cattle and hogs could cause alarm. This bill establishes a system of bounties, by which hunters can be paid by the county in return for presenting evidence of killing a predator. It lists panthers, tigers, cougars, lynxes, wild-cats, large-wolves, and prairie wolves and establishes a premium for the scalp of each. The bill did not pass.

### For Further Discussion

What is the object of this proposed legislation?

What do you think the results would be if the bill passed?

What are the attitudes of the authors of the bill to predators? Are attitudes the same today?

---



## A Bill

to be entitled an act to provide for the destruction of certain wild animals therein mentioned

Sec 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon; that there shall be paid out of the county treasury of the proper county on the order of the county commissioners to any person who shall at any regular or special session of the county court of any county in this territory, present to said court, the scalp of any panther, tiger, cougar, lynx, wild-cat, large-wolf or prairie wolf and declare under oath, that the animal from which the said scalp was taken, was killed in the said county; when the same is presented, the following premiums shall be awarded: For each panther, the sum of three dollars; for each tiger, the sum of three dollars; for each cougar, the sum of three dollars; for each lynx, the sum of three dollars; for each wild-cat, the sum of one dollar; for each large-wolf, the sum of three dollars; and for each prairie-wolf, the sum of one dollar and fifty cents

Sec 2. This act to be in force and take effect from and after its passage.  
 Passed Sept. 10th. 1849. William Foster, Clerk. H. B.

## Resolution to Expel Catholic Missionaries 1849

### Transcript of Original Document

Resolved That the Council concurring herein that there be appointed a committee of three from each house to enquire into the expediency of memorializing Congress to move all Friars monks Catholic priest in the capacity of Missionaries now residing among the Indians and all other Missiona-ries now residing among Indians in this Territory East of the Cascade Mountains

(?) Hill Sept 20-

### Background

Roman Catholic missionaries were more successful with Indians in Oregon than Protestant missionaries were. Some Americans suspected that priests were trying to incite the Indians to attack them. The Whitman massacre in 1847 increased this suspicion of Catholic missionaries. This resolution expresses the dislike of Catholics--priests, friars, and monks--which was prevalent.

### Words and Terms

friars

monks

### For Further Discussion

What does the Council want to happen?

Why would Oregonians view Catholic missionaries to the Indians as a problem?

What nationality would Catholic missionaries in Oregon likely be?

---



2685

Resolved

That the Council concerning  
herein that there be appointed a committee  
of three from each house to enquire  
into the expediency of Memorializing  
Congress to move all Friars, monks  
Catholic priests in the capacity of  
Missionaries now residing among  
the Indians and all other Missiona-  
ries now residing among Indians  
in this Territory East of the Cascade  
Mountains

11th April 1820

## Description of Land Claim 1849

### Transcript of Original Document

Description of a claim by David E Pease Nov 22nd 1849 lying on Lewis and Clark river about six miles from the mouth commencing at the northwest corner on a large spruce tree three feet or more through there is another tree close to the spruce with the name of David E Pease cut in the bark and the above date all in eligable letters the line running from the above spruce tree east 1 mile then south 1 mile then west 1 mile to the bank of the river following all of the meanderings of the same to the place of starting the above described claim is the first one below the one on which Harrell and Judson are now building a sawmill on the east side of the river.

The above is Recorded on page 31 of  
Record Book A Clatsop County Record Office  
18th Nov 1850 (?) Mc Ewen  
Recorder

### Background

The flood of settlers into Oregon during the 1840s made it necessary to file land claims so that newcomers would not claim land already settled. This claim by David Pease was filed in 1849. His land is demarcated by the Lewis and Clark River and by a large spruce tree. Pease's claim is one mile on a side.

### For Further Discussion

How did David Pease describe the boundaries of his land claim?

Approximately how much land did David Pease claim?

How do you think David Pease used the land he claimed?

---

Description of a claim made by David E Pease  
Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1849 lying on Lewis and Clark river  
about six miles from the mouth commencing  
at the north west corner on a large spruce tree  
three feet or more through there is another tree  
close to the spruce with the name of David E Pease  
cut in the bark and the above date all in eligible  
letters the line running from the above spruce tree  
east 1 mile then south 1 mile then west 1 mile  
to the bank of the river then down the bank of the  
river following all of the meanderings of the same to  
the place of starting the above described claim is the  
first one below the one on which Harrell and  
Tudson are now building a sawmill on the east  
side of the river.

the above is Recorded on page 31 of  
Record Book A. Clatsop County Record Office  
18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1850 J. S. W. Lewis  
Recorder

## Defendants Request, Whitman Massacre Trial 1851

### Transcript of Original Document

The United States }

vs }

Telokite et al }

Telokite one of the defendants makes oath that a certain Indian named Quishem now in the Cayuse country he thinks will be a material witness for the defendants in this case. That the materiality of said witness was not known in time to have him in attendance at this term of the court. He expects & believes that said witness will prove that the late Dr Whitman administered medi-cines to may of the Cayuse Indians and that afterwards a large number of them died, including amongst them the wives and children of some of these defendants. He expects further to prove by said witness that a certain Joseph Lewis, who resided at Wailatpu informed these defendants a few days before the 29 November 1847 that the Cayuse Indians were dying in consequence of poison being administered to them by the late Marcus Whitman and he had heard Dr. Whitman say that he would kill off all of the Cayuse Indians by the coming of the ensuing spring-that he would then have their horses and lands. Witness will also prove it is the law of the Cayuse Indians to kill bad medicine men.

### Background

The Wailatpu mission, run by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and established in 1836, became a way station for immigrants and local Indians came to resent this. One wagon train brought an epidemic of measles and hundreds of Indians died. On Nov. 29, 1847, Cayuse Indians attacked the mission and killed 14 whites, including the Whitmans. Surviving women and children were taken captive. Hostilities ended when five Indians surrendered in 1850. This document shows that the defendants believed the Whitmans poisoned the Indians so they could take their lands and horses. The Cayuse retribution for bad medicine was to kill the medicine man. The five defendants were convicted and hanged in 1851.

### Words and Terms

material witness

### For Further Discussion

How do you think the legal status of Indians in Oregon Territory may have affected the outcome of the trial?

What was the defendant's reason for killing Marcus Whitman?

Do you think the defendants would have been treated differently in today's courts? Would the outcome of the trial have been different?



The Mitew Stau

vs

Telokite et al

Telokite one of the defendants makes oath that a certain Indian named Quishem now in the Cayuse Country, he thinks will be a material witness for the defendants in this case. That the materiality of said witness was not known in time to have him in attendance at this term of the Court. He expects & believes that said witness will prove that the late Dr Whitman administered medicines to many of the Cayuse Indians and that afterwards a large number of them died, including amongst them the wives and children of some of these defendants. He expects further to prove by said witness that a certain Joseph Lewis, who resided at Waiilatpu ~~was~~ informed these defendants a few days before the 29 November 1847 that the Cayuse Indians were dying in consequence of poison being administered to them by the late Marcus Whitman and he had heard Dr Whitman say that he would kill off all of the Cayuse Indians by the coming of the ensuing Spring - that he would

They have their horses and loads  
Witness will also prove that it is the  
Law of the Cayuse Indians to Kill  
Bad Medicine Men.



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## Willamette University Trustees' Report 1853

### Transcript of Original Document

To the Hon. the Secretary of the Territory of Oregon

In accordance with the requirements of the Act of the Legislative Assembly incorporating the Trustees of the Wallamette University, a report of the Oregon Institute (its preparatory department, and the only one yet organized) is herewith presented

The studies pursued are: Reading, Writing, Geogra-phy, (with map drawing, Orthagraphy, Punctuation, Arithmetic (mental and written), History, Grammar Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Astronomy, Logic, Rhetoric, Botany, Moral Science, Algebra (Davies Elementary, + Davies' Bourdon) Geometry (Elementary and Davies' Legendre) Trigonom-etry, Surveying, Drawing, needlework, Music (vocal + Instrumental), Latin, and Elocution.

The members of the School, both male and female are required to furnish a composition or declamation weekly: the advanced students being required to read their own compositions in presence of the other members of the school, and the Teachers, in connection with other Rhetorical Exercises.

### Background

In 1853, Willamette University was chartered by the territorial legislature. This report to the legislature summarizes the programs of the Oregon Institute, which was Willamette University's preparatory department (and the only part organized when this report was made). The curriculum shows a heavy emphasis on traditional subjects, such as would be found in any eastern preparatory school. Students were required to prepare a weekly composition or declamation.

### Words and Terms

preparatory department

orthography

natural philosophy

rhetoric

moral science

elocution

declamation

### For Further Discussion

What subjects listed in this report are no longer taught in a high school?

What occupations would this type of education prepare you for?

What does this document tell you about the way people defined an education in the mid-nineteenth century?

To the Hon. the Secretary of the Territory of Oregon

In accordance with the requirements of the Act of the Legislative Assembly incorporating the Trustees of the Willamette University, a report of the Oregon Institute (its preparatory department, and the only one yet organized) is herewith presented

The number of pupils has been as follows:

in the Winter Term of 1852-3	66.
Spring " " 1853.	89.
Summer " " "	61
Fall " " "	73
Aggregate	<u>289</u>

The number which have entered the Institution this present Term is — 86 —

The studies pursued are: Reading, Writing, Geography (with map-drawing, Orthography, Punctuation, Arithmetic (mental and written), History, Grammar, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Astronomy, Logic, Rhetoric, Botany, Moral Science, Algebra (Davies Elementary, & Davies' Bourdon) Geometry (Elementary and, Davies' Legendre) Trigonometry, Surveying, Drawing, needlework,

Music (vocal & Instrumental), Latin, and Elocution.

The members of the School, both male and female are required to furnish a composition or declamation weekly; the advanced students being required to read their own compositions in presence of the other members of the school, and the Teachers, in connection with other rhetorical exercises.

The Board of Teachers has consisted of

Rev. Francis S. Hoyt, A.M. Principal

Mrs. E. F. Thurston Preceptress

Mr. H. N. George Assistant Teacher

Miss Mary Leslie Primary Department

Mr. J. G. Willson Teacher of vocal music

Mr. Frank W. Burnum " " Instrumental "

David Leslie } pres.

Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1853.

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## An Act to Prevent Sabbath Breaking 1854

### Transcript of Original Document

An Act to Prevent Sabbath Breaking, 1854

Sec 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Oregon- That no person shall keep open his or her store, shop, Grocery, Ball=alley, Billiard Saloon, Tipling house, or any place of Gaming or amusement, or do any secular business, other than works of necessity and mercy, on the first day of the week commonly called the Lords day or sunday, provided however; that this act shall not be so construed as to have effect when the cir=cumstances of the case render it necessary that the above provision be not observed.

Sec. 2. Any person offending against the provisions of this act, shall upon conviction before any jus=tice of the Peace of the proper county, be fined in any sum not exceeding ten dollars, and such fine when collected shall be paid into the county Treasury for the common school fund.

Sec. 3. this Act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed the Council January 12th 1854

Passed the House of Representatives January 13th 1854,

ZC bishop

Speaker of the House of Rep's

R. Wilcox

President of Council

### Background

This act prohibits doing business on Sunday, the traditional day of rest in much of the United States. The act focuses on two types of activity. The first type consists of amusement or entertainment, which would occur in ball-alleys, billiard saloons, tipling houses, and gaming places. The second type of activity is broader and includes stores, shops, groceries or any secular businesses. Simultaneously, however, the law turns around and exempts situations where circumstances make it necessary to do business on Sunday. Jewish merchants, who observed the Sabbath on Saturday, were particularly opposed to this law.

### Words and Terms

Sabbath

Ball-alley

billiard saloon

tipling house

gaming

### For Further Discussion

What kinds of activity were forbidden on Sunday?

Why would the legislature forbid these activities?

can you think of any types of business that cannot be done on a Sunday today?

Do you think this law could cause hardship for anyone?

---

Act to prevent Sabbath breaking.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon. That no person shall keep open his or her store, Shop, Grocery, Ball-alley, Billiard Saloon, Drinking house, or any place of Gaming or Amusement, or do any secular business, other than works of necessity and mercy, on the first day of the week commonly called the Lords day or Sunday, provided however; that this Act shall not be so construed as to have effect when the circumstances of the case render it necessary that the above provision be not observed.

Sec. 2. Any person offending against the provisions of this Act, shall upon conviction before any Justice of the Peace of the proper County, be fined in any sum not exceeding ten dollars, and such fine when collected shall be paid into the County Treasury for the common school fund.

Sec. 3. This Act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed the Council January 12th 1854

Passed the House of Representatives January 13th 1854,

J. C. Bishop  
Speaker of the House of Rep's

R. Wilcox  
President of Council

## Petition to Allow Thomas Family to Stay in Oregon 1854

### Transcript of Original Document

To the Honorable Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon: The undersigned citizens of the Territory of Oregon, do most respectfully pray for the passage of an Act of the proper character by your Honorable bodies to exempt Morris Thomas a free man of color, and all and singular the members of his family, from the operation of the Act of the Legislative Assembly passed September 26th, 1849, and Entitled "an Act to prevent Negros and Mullattos from coming to or residing in Oregon."

The said Morris Thomas now is and for several years past has been, a resident in the city of Portland in the Territory of Oregon. He is an industrious, peacable, well disposed mulatto man, and we do verily believe the passage of the Act prayed for will be of no detriment to the welfare of the Territory or the interests of any citizen (?) and as in duty bounden we will ever pray &C (128 signatures)

### Background

American immigrants brought anti-black attitudes with them. These immigrants, mostly from the midwest, disliked both slaves and free blacks. The territorial legislature passed a law which prohibited free blacks from staying in Oregon. This petition requested the legislature to pass an act exempting Morris Thomas and his family, free blacks, from the provisions of the earlier law. Thomas, who lived in Portland, is described as a model citizen. The legislature discovered that the law excluding blacks had accidentally been repealed. Efforts to resurrect it failed.

### Words and Terms

mulatto  
detriment

### For Further Discussion

What are the petitioners asking the legislature to do?

What does this document tell you about the attitudes of the petitioners toward free blacks?

What reasons do the petitioners give for allowing Morris Thomas and his family to stay in Oregon?

---

## Bill,

For the relief of Morris Thomas,  
 a free man of color of the City of Portland,  
 Washington County Oregon Territory.

Sec 1

Be it enacted by the Legislative  
 Assembly of the Territory of Oregon,  
 That Morris Thomas a free man  
 of color and all and singular the  
 members of his family, be exempted  
 from the operation of the act of the  
 Legislative Assembly, passed Sept-  
 -ember 26<sup>th</sup> 1842, and entitled an act  
 to prevent Negroes and Mullattas from  
 coming to or residing in Oregon Territory.

Sec 2

This act to take effect from  
 and after its passage



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## Prohibition Petition 1854

### Transcript of Original Document

The Ladies Petition to the Oregon Legislature To the Hon, the Legislature of Oregon Territory now in session.

Your petitioners, Ladies of Oregon Territory, in view of the existing evil of Intemperance in our rising Colony, respectfully pray your Hon body to throw your aegis of protection over our country, our homes and our firesides. We pray that you Legisla-tive councils may aid us in freeing ourselves from the blighting demoralizing influence of intoxication liquors; in pre-serving our moral natures uncorrupted by its poison; in restoring our fallen brethren to their original dignity, and freedom from its thralling power; in the homes of Sisters, who are more than widows, and children more than orphans made so by the "monster rum"; in shielding our husbands, our brothers, and our sons from the shafts aimed at their lives and their fortunes by the venders of spirituous liquors; and in making our beautiful country a country that knoweth not the "worm of the still". In aid of this, we respectfully pray your Hon body, so to amend the Organic Law of this Territory as to prohibit the introduction, manufacture, and sale of all kinds of in-toxicating liquors, to be read at the polls at the next June Election, that the same may be adopted or rejected at the next Legislature.

And your petitioners would also further pray your Hon body to make the necessary provisions whereby the vote of the people, on such amendments, may be expressed, and ascertained, at the next June Election by affirmative and negative votes.

And as in duty bound your  
Petitioners will ever pray &c  
(74 signatures)

### Background

Consumption of alcohol has long been a cause of conflict in the United States. Agitation for prohibition was especially strong in the mid-19th century. Liquor was blamed for a host of social evils. Oregon Territory did not prohibit the manufacture, sale or consumption of alcohol. To change this, a Territorial Temperance Society was established in 1852, and the Portland Temperance League was founded in 1854. The women who signed this petition list the dangers of intoxicating liquors, citing their profoundly disruptive effects on the family. This petition sounds several themes, ranging from the damaging effects of alcohol on the wives and children of drinkers to the corrupting influence of strong drink on the men who consume it.

### Words and Terms

intemperance  
aegis  
blighting  
thralling

worm of the still  
monster rum

## **For Further Discussion**

What do the petitioners want from the legislature?

How much influence do you think these women would have had on the legislature?

Can you think of any similar issues that exist today?

---

The Ladies Petition to the Oregon Legislature  
 To the Hon, the Legislature of Oregon Territory  
 now in session.

Your Petitioners, Ladies of Oregon Territory, in view of the existing evil of Intemperance in our rising colony, respectfully pray your Hon body to throw your arms of protection over our country, our homes and our firesides. We pray that your Legislative Councils may aid us in freeing ourselves from the blighting demoralizing influence of intoxicating liquors; in preserving our moral natures uncorrupted by its poison; in restoring our fallen brethren to their original dignity, and freedom from its thralling power; in gladdening the hearts, and brightening the homes of Sisters, who are more than widows, and children more than orphans made so by the "monster rum"; in shielding our husbands, our brothers, and our sons from the shafts aimed at their lives, and their fortunes by the vendors of spirituous liquors; and in making our beautiful country a country that knoweth not the "worm of the still".

In aid of this, we respectfully pray your Hon body, so to amend the Organic Laws of this Territory as to prohibit the introduction, manufacture, and sale of all kinds of intoxicating liquors, to be read at the polls at the next June Election, that the same may be adopted or rejected at the next Legislature.

And your petitioners would also further pray your Hon body to make



the necessary provisions, whereby the vote of the people, on such amendments, may be expressed, and ascertained, at the next June Election by affirmative and negative votes.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray &c.

Harriet Coffin

Mrs. C. E. Sanborn } Committee.

Mary C. Leslie.

Mary Coffin

Susan Coffin

Ruth Hester.

Enriquez Hester.

Susan Randall

Elizabeth Trant

R. Trant

Sarah Jeffery

Viola Berry

Miss Sumner

Mrs Jane Fairfield

Mary M. Sowers

Elizabeth H. Hinckley

Elizabeth J. Keage

Margaret J. Price

Elizabeth C. Robb

Lucy C. Scholl

Sarah Scholl

Fidelis Magnolia

Rebecca H. Larkins

Salome R. Larkins

Susan Parlin

Mary Evans

E. J. Hanan

Mrs Sarah J. Horgan

Olive Loney

Jane "Water Berry

Sarah J. McKinlay

Jane Whitcomb

Mary Jane Whitcomb

Melissa Meake

Margaret Wise

Frederick Under

Mrs Howland

Hannah Roberts.

Rebecca E. Hood

Mrs A. Hood

Mary E. Johnson

M. A. L. C. Holmes

Frances, T. "Hollings

Adelia J. Leslie

Mrs. M. Thornton

Concord, "Hollings

Mrs. Vickers

Elizabeth Markham

Eliza H. Comfort

Caroline J. Bell

Anne Abernethy

Eliza Johnson

Esther B. Johnson

Concord, "Hollings

Pasalina Sanford

Sanctus Sanford

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## Committee on Education Report, ca. 1854

### Transcript of Original Document

The Committee on Education respectfully submit the following report upon the general subject.

Your committee, deeply impressed with the importance of a more widely diffused knowledge of literature and the sciences, would express their regret at the too languishing condition of our Common Schools. Many obstacles lie in the way of speedy progress in this department; and it is to be feared that some of these will be hard to remove. The sparseness of the population in the more early settled rural districts, where the "claims" are nearly all held by Sections, renders it difficult to collect together a sufficient number of children for a school, unless it be in the vicinity of towns. In the more newly settled portions of the Territory, many of the neighborhoods are remote from each other, and the want of suitable buildings, and conveniences for the accommodation of schools, prevents their establishment in many cases.

But your committee are of the opinion that these impediments will soon be measurably removed by the rapid progress of settlement by natural increase, and annual accessions by emigration. There is evidently a laudable desire on the part of parents and guardians generally, to establish and sustain schools where it is practicable and it is to be hoped that in the revision of our Territorial Code, the laws relating to Education, may be reduced to a practical system, the benefits of which, shall flow out to elevate and bless the rising and future generations of our beloved Oregon.

Respectfully submitted  
Lucius W. Phelps, Chairman

### Background

When Congress created Oregon Territory in 1849, it gave two sections from each township to the territory to use for public education. In 1850, the territorial legislature established a system of free public schools. An educated population was thought to be essential for the practice of self-government. This committee report details the problems involved in establishing public schools. Chief among them are the sparse population, the distances involved, and the lack of adequate school buildings. The report claims that parents favor establishment of schools and it concludes that the situation will soon improve.

### Words and Terms

diffused  
languishing  
common schools  
impediments

### For Further Discussion

What difficulties faced establishment of public education in Oregon?

What does the Committee on Education think is the value of public education?

Do any of the problems mentioned by the Committee exist today?

Why is the Committee on Education optimistic about the future?

---

The Committee on Education  
respectfully submit the following report  
upon the general subject.

Your committee, deeply impressed with the importance of a more widely diffused knowledge of literature and the sciences, would express their regret at the too languishing condition of our Common Schools. Many obstacles lie in the way of speedy progress in this department, and it is to be feared that some of these will be hard to remove. The sparseness of the population in the more early settled rural districts, where the "Claims" are nearly all held by Sections, renders it difficult to collect together a sufficient number of children for a school, unless it be in the vicinity of towns. In the more newly settled portions of the Territory, many of the neighborhoods are remote from each other, and the want of suitable buildings, and conveniences for the accommodation of schools, prevents their establishment in many cases.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lucius W. Phelps  
Chairman

## Indian Agent Regulations 1855

### Transcript of Original Document

#### Background

Indian Superintendent Joel Palmer negotiated treaties with Oregon Indians which placed them on reservations. The U.S. Senate delayed ratification of the treaties, however, and Indian-white tensions increased. On Oct. 8, 1855, a band of white volunteers surrounded a camp of reservation Indians and killed 23 men, women, and children. These men then scalped their victims and returned to Jacksonville. Indians began to attack whites the next day. At the same time, Superintendent Palmer finished these instructions to his agents. The instructions treat male Indians on reservations who are over age 12 as prisoners, while Indians off the reservation were to be treated as outlaws. Palmer was willing to permit Indians to work for white settlers if the whites would guarantee good conduct. These instructions show how whites regarded all Indians as potentially hostile.

#### For Further Discussion

How do these regulations restrict Indian freedom of movement?

Why do you think Indian females were excluded from this enrollment?

How would you feel if you were required to live by similar rules? if you were required to enforce these rules?

Can you think of situations similar to the system of temporary reservations Superintendent Palmer is establishing?

---



# REGULATIONS

FOR THE GUIDANCE OF AGENTS IN THE OREGON INDIAN SUPERINTENDENCY PENDING  
EXISTING HOSTILITIES.

OFFICE SUPT. IND. AFFAIRS,  
DAYTON, O. T., Oct. 13th, 1855.

## It is hereby ordered that

the Indians in the Willamette valley, parties to the treaty of the 10th January, 1855, shall be forthwith collected on the temporary reservations heretofore or now to be assigned them, to remain under the direction of such persons as may be appointed to act for the time being as their local Agents.

The names of all adult males, and boys over 12 years of age shall be enrolled, and the roll called daily.

When any one shall be absent at roll-call, the fact shall be noted, and unless a satisfactory reason be rendered, the absentee shall be regarded as a person dangerous to the peace of the country, and dealt with accordingly.

Any Indian found outside of his designated temporary reservation, without being able to satisfactorily account therefor, shall be arrested and retained in custody so long as shall be deemed necessary; or should he be a stranger not belonging to any of the bands of this valley, he shall be placed for safe keeping in the county jail, or taken to Fort Vancouver.

But should he prove a spy from the enemy, he will be immediately turned over to the military authorities.

Any Indian who has joined or may hereafter join the hostile bands, give them information, or in any way aid or assist them in making war against the whites, shall be regarded as having thereby forfeited all rights under the treaty, and excluded from any benefits to be derived therefrom. He will, moreover, be regarded as an enemy; and it will be the duty of all friendly Indians, to deliver such up to the Agents or civil officers, and in no case to afford them encouragement or protection.

The persons designated to act as local Agents will use a sound discretion in regard to the number of firearms the Indians may be permitted to retain at their encampments.

No Indian will be permitted to leave his assigned encampment unless by written permit from the local or special Agent.

The local Agents will each be furnished with proper supplies of Flour and Beef, and will issue rations to the Indians when necessary, of one pound of each per day to each adult, and less in proportion to children, as they may judge them to require.

Should any member of these bands desire to reside with and labor for the settlers he may be permitted to do so, the agent obtaining a guarantee from the person for whom the labor is to be performed, in each case, for the fidelity and good conduct of the Indian.

Every effort will be made by the local Agents to ascertain whether any Indians of the valley have left the settlements with hostile intentions; and the names of such, together with the proofs, will be reported to this office.

E. R. Geary will superintend the arrangement of encampments, and designate persons to act as local Agents for the respective bands.

Berryman Jennings is appointed special Sub Indian Agent for the Willamette valley, and as such, will cooperate with Mr. Geary in carrying into effect the foregoing regulations.

The encampments assigned the several bands and the name of the local Agent for each, will be

reported to this office, and published in the papers of this valley, for the benefit of all concerned.

The same precautions will be observed in regard to the tribes and bands within this superintendency embraced in the treaties lately negotiated east of the Cascade mountains; and Agent R. R. Thompson will assign the temporary encampments to the several bands, and designate proper persons to act as local Agents, call the rolls, and distribute the necessary rations.

Agent Ambrose will make similar arrangements in regard to the Indians in the Rogue river District, embraced in the treaties of the 10th September, 1853, and 18th November, 1854.

The various rolls will be kept with accuracy and care and forwarded to the Superintendent's office, at Dayton; it being determined to make these rolls the criterion in the payment of annuities, and no Indian whose name is not enrolled, and who cannot give a satisfactory reason for the omission, or who shall refuse to comply with the foregoing regulations, shall be embraced in said payment.

This order, though it may be regarded as arbitrary, and unwarranted in the ordinary state of affairs, is, in view of existing hostilities, deemed necessary, as it is extremely difficult to distinguish among our Indian population, the well disposed and friendly, from the vicious and hostile; and from the fact that representations have been made warranting the belief that members of one or more bands, have already left this valley, and joined the hostile tribes north of the Columbia river.

The measure is deemed no less a security to the white settlements than to the friendly bands of Indians; nor is it designed to abridge in the least the rights secured by the treaties, to the Indians; but if possible to avert hostilities with these bands.

Citizens generally are requested to give this order a proper interpretation, and to exercise a due degree of forbearance in their dealings with the Indians; but at the same time to keep a vigilant watch over them, and report to the acting Agents the presence of strange Indians among us, and render such aid in their apprehension, as may tend to protect our persons and property, and secure peace.

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

## Since preparing the fore-

going regulations, information has been received at this office that a portion of the Indians in Southern Oregon and Northern California, have exhibited hostile demonstrations endangering the peace of the settlements in Umpqua valley: it is therefore ordered that the Indians embraced in the treaties of 19th September, 1853, being the Cow Creek band of Umpquas and those of the Umpqua and Calapooia tribes, treated with on the 29th November, 1854, be assembled on the reservation designated by that treaty.

William J. Martin is appointed special Sub Ind. Agent for the bands embraced in these two treaties, and as such, will cooperate with Agent Geo. H. Ambrose in carrying out the foregoing regulations.

Sub Indian Agent E. P. Drew and special Sub Indian Agent Benjamin Wright, will, if they believe the peace of the settlement requires it, adopt the same precautions with the tribes and bands within their districts.

JOEL PALMER,

*Supt. Ind. Affairs, O. T.*



# Indian Agent Regulations, 1855

Transcription of 1855 Document

## REGULATIONS

For The Guidance of Agents in the Oregon Indian Superintendency Pending Existing Hostilities

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Dayton, O.T., Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1855.

It is hereby ordered that the treaty of the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1855, shall be forthwith collected on the temporary reservations heretofore or now to be assigned them, to remain under the direction of such persons as may be appointed to act for the time being as their local Agents.

The names of all adult males, and boys over 12 years of age shall be enrolled, and the roll called daily.

When any one shall be absent at roll-call, the fact shall be noted, and unless a satisfactory reason be rendered, the absentee shall be regarded as a person dangerous to the peace of the country, and dealt with accordingly.

Any Indian found outside of his designated temporary reservation, without being able to satisfactorily account therefor, shall be arrested and retained in custody so long as shall be deemed necessary; or should he be a stranger not belonging to any of the bands of this valley, he shall be placed for safe keeping in the county jail, or taken to Fort Vancouver.

But should he prove a spy from the enemy, he will be immediately turned over to the military authorities.

Any Indian who has joined or may hereafter join the hostile bands, give them information, or in any way aid or assist them in making war against the whites, shall be regarded as having thereby forfeited all rights under the treaty, and excluded from any benefits to be derived therefrom. He will, moreover, be regarded as an enemy; and it will be the duty of all friendly Indians, to deliver such up to the Agents or civil officers, and in no case to afford them encouragement or protection.

The persons designated to act as local Agents will use a sound discretion in regard to the number of firearms the Indians may be permitted to retain at their encampments.

---

No Indian will be permitted to leave his assigned encampment unless by written permit from the local or special Agent.

The local Agents will each be furnished with proper supplies of Flour and Beef, and will issue rations to the Indians when necessary, of one pound of each per day to each adult, and less in proportion to children, as they may judge them to require.

Should any member of these bands desire to reside with and labor for the settlers he may be permitted to do so, the agent obtaining a guarantee from the person for whom the labor is to be performed, in each case, for the fidelity and good conduct of the Indian.

Every effort will be made by the local Agents to ascertain whether any Indians of the valley have left the settlements with hostile intentions; and the names of such, together with the proofs, will be reported to this office.

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The various rolls will be kept with accuracy and care and forwarded to the Superintendent's office, at Dayton; it being determined to make these rolls the criterion in the payment of annuities, and no Indian whose name is not enrolled, and who cannot give satisfactory reason for the omission, or who shall refuse to comply with the foregoing regulations, shall be embraced in said payment.

This order, though it may be regarded as arbitrary, and unwarranted in the ordinary state of affairs, is, in view of existing hostilities, deemed necessary, as it is extremely difficult to distinguish among our Indian population, the well disposed and friendly, from the vicious and hostile; and from the fact that representations have been made warranting the belief that members of one or more bands, have already left this valley, and joined the hostile tribes north of the Columbia river.

---

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The measure is deemed no less a security to the white settlements than to the friendly bands of Indians; nor is it designed to abridge in the least the rights secured by the treaties, to the Indians; but if possible to avert hostilities with these bands.

Citizens generally are requested to give this order a proper interpretation, and to exercise a due degree of forbearance in their dealings with the Indians; but at the same time to keep a vigilant watch over them, and report to the acting Agents the presence of strange Indians among us, and render such aid in their apprehension, as may tend to protect our persons and property, and secure peace.

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

---

Since preparing the foregoing regulations, information has been received at this office that a portion of the Indians in Southern Oregon and Northern California, have exhibited hostile demonstrations endangering the peace of the settlements in Umpqua valley; it is therefore ordered that the Indians embraced in the treaties of 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1853, being the Cow Creek band of Umpquas and those of the Umpqua and Calapooia tribes, treated with on the 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1854, be assembled on the reservation designated by that treaty.

William J. Martin is appointed special Sub Ind. Agent for the bands embraced in these two treaties, and as such, will cooperated with Agent Geo. H. Ambrose in carrying out the foregoing regulations.

Sub Indian Agent E.P. Drew and special Sub Indian Agent Benjamin Wright, will, if they believe the peace of the settlement requires it, adopt the same precautions with the tribes and bands within their districts.

JOEL PALMER,  
*Supt. Ind. Affairs, O. T.*

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# Oregon Secretary of State

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## Arms Inventory 1855

### Transcript of Original Document

Money value of issues of Arms, &c to the Territory of Oregon, on account of its quota due from the General Government.-

226 Muskets complete, Percussion, @\$13.00 2,938.00  
150 Rifles, Percussion, @\$13.25 1,987.50  
3 Pistols, Colt's Repeating, @\$24.00 72.00  
2 Swords, N.C. Officer's, @\$5.50 11.00  
236 Inf. Cartridge Boxes, @\$1.10 259.60  
160 " Cartridge-box Plates, @10c 16.00  
236 " Cartridge-box Belts, @69c 162.84  
236 " Cartridge-box belt Plates, @10c 23.60  
236 " Waist-Belts, @25c 59.00  
236 " Waist-belt Plates, @10c 23.60  
236 Bayonet Scabbards with frogs, @56c 132.16  
386 Cap Pouches & Picks, @40c 154.40  
386 Gun slings, @16c 61.76 383 Wipers, @20c 76.60 386 Screw-drivers, @46c 177.56  
37 Ball Screws, @12c 4.44  
37 Spring vices, @35c 12.95  
150 Rifle Cartridge Boxes, @95c 142.50  
150 " Cartridge-box Plates @10c 15.00  
150 " Waist Belts, @37c 55.50  
150 " Waist-belt Plates, @10c 15.00  
15 " Bullet Moulds, @50c 7.50  
3 Powder Flasks for Colts' Pistols, @\$1.25 3.75  
2. N.C. Officers' Sword Belts, @62c 1.24 2 " " "  
Sword-belt Plates, @10c .20  
17,000 Musket-Buck & Ball Cartridges, @1c 170.00  
30,000 Rifle Ball Cartridges, @1c 300.00  
20,000 Percussion Caps for Small Arms, @\$1.20 24.00  
3 lbs Bullets for Colts' Pistols, @8c .24  
150 Extra cones, @9c 13.50  
12 Arm Chests, @\$2.00 24.00  
42 Ammunition Packing Boxes @75c 31.50  
Total value \$6,976.94  
Equal to 537 Muskets and appendages, @\$13.00

### Background

Before Oregon became a territory in 1849, volunteers and merchants furnished the money and supplies for war with the Indians. After 1849, the federal government issued arms and equipment to Oregon. This list of weapons provides a detailed view of mid-nineteenth century weaponry. Firearms listed were fired by means of percussion caps; Colt's repeating pistols were a relatively new invention; officers carried swords; and muskets were still in use.

## **For Further Discussion**

Why would the U.S. government ship the supplies on this list to Oregon?

How large a group of soldiers could be outfitted from the supplies on this list? What would each man receive?

What types of aid does the federal government send to states today?

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Money value of issues of Arms, &c. to the Territory of Oregon, on account of its quota due from the General Government.

226	Muskets complete, Percussion, @ \$13.00.	2,938	00
150	Rifles, Percussion, @ \$13.25.	1,987	50
3	Pistols, Colt's Repeating, @ \$24.00.	72	00
2	Swords, N.C. Officers', @ \$5.50.	11	00
236	Inf. Cartridge Boxes, @ \$1.10.	259	60
160	" Cartridge-box Plates, @ 10¢.	16	00
236	" Cartridge-box Belts, @ 69¢.	162	84
236	" Cartridge-box-belt Plates, @ 10¢.	23	60
236	" Waist Belts, @ 25¢.	59	00
236	" Waist-belt Plates, @ 10¢.	23	60
236	Bayonet Scabbards with frogs, @ 56¢.	132	16
386	Cap Pouches & Ticks, @ 40¢.	154	40
386	Gun Slings, @ 16¢.	61	76
383	Wipers, @ 20¢.	76	60
386	Screw-drivers, @ 46¢.	177	56
37	Ball Screws, @ 12¢.	4	44
37	Spring Keys, @ 35¢.	12	95
150	Rifle Cartridge Boxes, @ 95¢.	142	50
150	" Cartridge-box Plates, @ 10¢.	15	00
150	" Waist Belts, @ 37¢.	55	50
150	" Waist-belt Plates, @ 10¢.	15	00
15	" Bullet Moulds, @ 50¢.	7	50
3	Powder Flasks for Colt's Pistols, @ \$1.25.	3	75
2	N.C. Officers' Sword Belts, @ 62¢.	1	24
2	" " " Sword-belt Plates, @ 10¢.	"	20
17,000	Musket Buck & Ball Cartridges, @ 1¢.	170	00
30,000	Rifle Ball Cartridges, @ 1¢.	300	00
20,000	Percussion Caps for Small Arms, @ \$1.20.	24	00
3	the Bullets for Colt's Pistols, @ 8¢.	"	24
150	Extra Cones, @ 9¢.	13	50
12	Arm Chests, @ \$2.00.	24	00
42	Ammunition Packing Boxes, @ 75¢.	31	50
	Total value.	\$ 6,976	94.

Equal to

537 Muskets & Appendages, @ \$13.00.

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## Letter About Oregon Mounted Volunteers 1856

### Transcript of Original Document

HeadQuarters Northern District.  
Department of the Pacific.  
Camp at Fort Dalles O. T. Ap1 27, 1856.

Governor,

I have the honor to inclose herewith, a copy of a communication this day received from Mr R. R. Thompson, Indian Agent at this place.

As I march into the Yakima country to-morrow morning, with all my disposable force, I am much embarrassed by these wanton attacks of the Oregon Volunteers, on the friendly Indians. Were I to accede to the request of the Agent, to furnish a force to protect these Indians, during the fishing season, it would diminish my force, to such an extent, as to render nugatory my campaign in the Yakima country. Under these circumstances, and presuming that you still retain authority over the Oregon Territorial jurisdiction, I have to request that they may be withdrawn from the country on the north side of the Columbia river.

Very Respectfully  
I have the honor to be,  
Your most Obt Servt,  
G. Wright  
Col. 9 Inft  
Comndg'  
Governor Curry  
Salem  
O. T.

### Background

Peaceful Indians were often attacked by settlers and the militia during Oregon's Indian wars. This was true during the Yakima War, which was fought in the newly created Washington Territory. Troops from the U.S. Army had to protect both settlers and friendly Indians. This letter, from the colonel commanding the Northern District of the Department of the Pacific to Governor Curry of Oregon Territory, complains about the attacks made by the Oregon Volunteers on friendly Indians. The agent in charge of the friendly Indians has requested troops to protect the Indians from the Oregon Volunteers. The Colonel points out that he cannot both fight the Yakimas and protect friendly Indians, and he requests that the Oregon Volunteers be withdrawn from Washington.

### For Further Discussion

Why does Colonel Wright want the Oregon Volunteers to be withdrawn from Washington Territory?



Why would Oregon Volunteers attack friendly Indians?

How do you think Colonel Wright's request would be viewed by Governor Curry? by the Oregon Volunteers? by the friendly Indians?

---

Head Quarters Northern District,  
Department of the Pacific.  
Camp at Fort Dalles O. T., April 27<sup>th</sup> 1856.

Governor,

I have the honor to inclose herewith, a copy of a communication, this day received from Mr R. R. Thompson, Indian Agent at this place.

As I march into the Calkina country to-morrow morning, with all my disposable force, I am much embarrassed by these wanton attacks of the Oregon Volunteers, on the friendly Indians. Were I to accede to the request of the Agent, to furnish a force to protect these Indians, during the fishing season, it would diminish my force, to such an extent, as to render ~~inoperative~~ my campaign in the Calkina Country.

Under these circumstances, and presuming that you still retain authority over the Oregon Volunteers, although at present beyond your Territorial jurisdiction, I have to request that they may be withdrawn from the country on the north side of the Columbia river.

Very Respectfully,

I have the honor to be,

Your Most Obedt Servt,

G. Wright

Col<sup>l</sup> of Inf

Command<sup>g</sup>

Governor Curry  
Salem

O. T.

## Church of the Brethren Petition 1856

### Transcript of Original Document

To the Honorable The Legislative Assembly of the Teritory of Oregon We the undersigned Respectfully represent to your Honorable Body that at a Church Meeting of the Church of Brethren (commonly called German Baptists or Tunkards) held on the first nunday of September 1856 at the Hamilton Creek School house in Lyn County that the undersigned (members and brethren of the Church aforesaid) were chosen a committe and instructed to present to your Honorable Body the following petition

Aaron Hardman  
Wm B Carly

We your petitioners Respectfully request of youre Honorable Body that where as by the presant Military Law we are compelled to do violence to our consience by bearing Arms to be trained in the art of killing our fellow men or pay an exhorbitant fine and where as we are taught in the gospel to be obedient to the Laws their remains no alternative but to submit and pay the fine- therefore our request is that you shold take our case in to faivorable concideration and so amend the aforesaid Military Law as to permit us to Laibor on the highway that portion of time that we are by the presant Law commanded to bear arms and we you petitioners as in duty bound do pray &c

Signed each and every member of the Church aforesaid  
Passed by a unanimous vote

### Background

Members of the Church of the Brethren came to Oregon from settlements in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Their practices included simple dress, refusal to swear oaths, and pacifism. These beliefs often caused suspicion and hostility among outsiders. This petition requests the territorial legislature to exempt members of the Church from the provisions of the militia law. The petitioners offer to work on roads in lieu of militia service. The following year the legislature decided to allow religious exemptions from the militia act.

### Words and Terms

Dunkards  
brethren  
exorbitant

### For Further Discussion

What do the members of the Church of the Brethren want from the legislature?

How do you think their neighbors would have reacted to their attitude?

What reasons do the members of the Church of the Brethren give for making this request? Do similar beliefs exist today?

---

To the Honorable The Legislative  
 Assembly of the Territory of Oregon  
 We the undersigned Respectfully Represent to your  
 Honorable Body that at a Church Meeting of the  
 Church of Brethren (commonly called German  
 Baptists or Funkhards) held on the first Sunday of  
 September 1856 at the Hamilton Creek School  
 house in Lyn County, that the undersigned  
 (members and brethren of the Church aforesaid)  
 were chosen a committee and instructed to  
 present to your Honorable Body the following  
 petition

Aaron Hardman  
 Wm B Carey

We your petitioners Respectfully Request of your  
 Honorable Body that where as by the present Milit  
 ary Law we are compelled to do violence to  
 our conscience by bearing arms to be trained  
 in the art of killing our fellow men or pay  
 an exorbitant fine and where as we are  
 taught in the Gospel to be Obedient to the  
 Law, there remains no alternative but to  
 submit and pay the fine - therefore our  
 request is that you should <sup>take</sup> our case in to  
 favorable consideration and so amend the  
 aforesaid Military Law as to permit us  
 to Labor on the highway that portion of  
 time that we are by the present Law  
 commanded to bear arms

and we your petitioners as in duty  
 bound do pray 86

Signed each and every  
 member of the Church aforesaid  
 Passed by a unanimous vote

Official web site of  
**Oregon Secretary of State**

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## Abstract of Votes 1857

### Transcript of Original Document

Abstract of votes polled at the special Election

November 9th, 1857, In Polk county O. T.

Whole number of votes cast 726-

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[\*Transcriber's note: see table below]

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Territory of Oregon  
County of Polk SS

I Luclen Heath Auditor within and for said County, do hereby certify the above is a true copy of the abstract of the votes polled at said Election in said county as remains on file in my office.  
Given my hand and official seal at Dallas O. T. this 19th day of November 1857.

Luclen Heath, Auditor

Name of Precinct	Const. Yes	Const. No	Slavery Yes	Slavery No	Free Negroes Yes	Free Negroes No
<b>Dallas</b>	139	51	73	119	14	153
<b>Bridgeport</b>	28	7	14	20	3	22
<b>Luckimut</b>	56	12	38	29	2	57
<b>Lane</b>	26	8	7	27	2	30
<b>Monmouth</b>	84	12	25	70	7	79
<b>Eola</b>	52	7	7	52	3	51
<b>Bethel</b>	50	31	27	53	7	67
<b>Salt Lake</b>	19	3	8	13	0	20
<b>Jackson</b>	38	20	7	53	13	42
<b>Douglas</b>	34	37	25	48	2	63
	528	188	231	484	53	584

## Background

On Nov. 9, 1857, Oregonians voted on a draft constitution. The related issues of slavery and the presence of free blacks were especially difficult for members of the constitutional convention to resolve.

Consequently, both issues were referred directly to the voters. The results of the ballot were to be incorporated into the constitution. This abstract of votes from Polk County shows that the provision to exclude free blacks passed by a greater margin than either the draft constitution or the provision to ban slavery. These Polk County totals are typical of Oregon Territory. Most Oregonians equated the presence of blacks with the institution of slavery, and wanted no part of either.

## **For Further Discussion**

Which issue on the ballot passed by the greatest margin?

What do these election results tell you about the attitudes of Polk County voters?

Why would the citizens of Polk County vote against slavery but also vote to keep free blacks out of Oregon?

---

Abstract of votes polled at the special election  
November 9<sup>th</sup> 1857, in Polk County O.S.

Whole number of votes cast 726

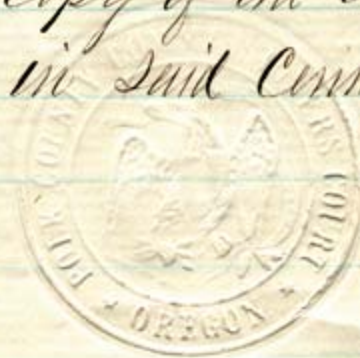
Name of Precincts	Constitution		Slavery		Free	
	Yes	No	yes	No	Yes	No
Dallas	139	51	73	119	14	153
Bridgeport	28	7	14	20	3	22
Suckimute	56	12	38	29	2	57
Sane	26	8	7	27	2	30
Monmouth	84	12	25	70	7	79
Eola	52	7	7	52	3	51
Bethel	50	31	27	53	7	67
Salt Lake	19	3	8	13	—	20
Jackson	38	20	7	53	13	42
Douglas	36	37	25	48	2	63
	528	188	231	484	53	584

Territory of Oregon  
County of Polk

I Succien Heath Auditor within and  
for said County, do hereby certify the above is a true  
copy of the abstract of the votes polled at said election  
in said County as remains on file in my office.

Given under my hand and official seal at  
Dallas O.S., this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 1857,

Succien Heath, Auditor





Official web site of

# Oregon Secretary of State

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## Request to Open Indian Lands 1857

### Transcript of Original Document

To the Commissioner of the General Land Office

Your memorialists the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon most respectfully represent: That by the treaty of the tenth of September 1853, made with the Rogue River tribe of Indians in southern Ore-gon, a Reservation was established on the North side of Upper Rogue River in said Territory, known and designated on the maps of the United States as the "Table Rock Reserve"; That said Reserve embraces about three town-ships of the best arable land in Oregon; That under late instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Indians located on said Table rock Reserve have been transferred to, and located on the "Grand Ronde Reserve in Northern Oregon, whereby said first mentioned reservation has become uninhabited by Indians-

Therefore your memorialists respectfully urge your Department to direct the completion of the survey of said Reserve; and that the efforts and influence of the same be used to have said reservation vacated and opened for preemption and purchase.

And as in duty bound will ever pray,

Adopted December 18 1857

L. F. Grover

Speaker of the House of Representatives

James K. Kelly

President of the Council

### Background

In 1853, the Table Rock Reservation was established by treaty with the Rogue River Indians. After the Rogue River War ended in 1856, the Indians were moved to the Grand Ronde Reservation in the northern part of Oregon. In this document, the territorial legislature petitions the U.S. General Land Office to survey the Table Rock lands and open them for purchase. This pressure to settle lands occupied by Indians was a constant source of tension in Indian-white relations.

### Words and Terms

arable

preemption

General Land Office

### For Further Discussion

What does the document say happened to the Indians who were on the Table Rock Reservation?

What does this memorial ask the General Land Office to do?

If you were an Indian from the Table Rock area, how would you react to this memorial? What could you do about it?

---

To the Commissioner of the General Land  
Office.

Your memorialists the Legislative  
Assembly of the Territory of Oregon most  
respectfully represent; That by the Treaty of  
the tenth of September 1853, made with the  
Rogue River Tribe of Indians in Southern Ore-  
gon, a Reservation was established on the  
North side of Upper Rogue River in said  
Territory, known and designated on the maps  
of the United States as the "Table Rock Reserve".  
That said Reserve embraces about three town-  
ships of the best arable land in Oregon.  
That under late instructions from the Com-  
missioner of Indian Affairs, the Indians  
located on said Table Rock Reserve have  
been transferred, and located on the "Grand  
Ponds Reserve in Northern Oregon, whereby  
said first mentioned reservation has become  
uninhabited by Indians.

Therefore your memorialists respectfully urge  
your Department to direct the completion of  
the survey of said Reserve; and that the efforts  
and influence of the same be used to have  
said reservation vacated and opened for pre-  
emption and purchase.

And as in duty bound will ever pray.

Adopted December 18 1857

L. S. Hoov  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives  
James K. Kelley  
President of the Council

## Half-Breed Citizenship Bill 1857

### Transcript of Original Document

#### A Bill

To enable certain Half Breeds to acquire the rights of citizenship within this Territory. Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon. That any person, being the child of a white father and an Indian mother, and therefore disfranchised by existing laws, may be admitted to the privileges of citizenship, by the District Court, upon satisfactory proof that he is a permanent resident and land owner of the county or district, and can speak read and write the English language, and has in all respects the educational habits and associations of a white person, and would, if he were a white person, be a citizen of the United States or entitled to admission as such, and is a person of good moral character and in all respects worthy to enjoy the said privileges. The District Court shall make a record of such admission and grant to the applicant a certificate thereof which shall entitle him to enjoy, during the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly, all the rights privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States within this Territory as fully as it is competent for the Territory to grant the same.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from the time of its passage.

#### Background

American immigrants in Oregon Territory disliked people of mixed Indian-white parentage. In 1855, the territorial government passed a law which prevented mixed race men from becoming citizens. This bill is an attempt to gain these rights for the children of white fathers and Indian mothers, subject to the satisfaction of certain requirements. Many white citizens would have been unable to satisfy these requirements, which included proof of literacy and good moral character. This bill did not pass.

#### Words and Terms

disfranchised

#### For Further Discussion

What is this bill trying to accomplish?

Why does the bill specify the child of an Indian mother and a white father, but not the child of an Indian father and a white mother?

When this bill says 'any person,' what does it mean?

Do you think the requirements for these children to become citizens are reasonable? Why?

What are the privileges of citizenship referred to in this bill?

---

## A Bill

To enable certain Half Breeds to acquire the rights of citizenship within this Territory.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon, That any person, being the child of a white father and an Indian mother, and therefore disfranchised by existing laws, may be admitted to the privileges of citizenship, by the District Court, upon satisfactory proof that he is a permanent resident and land owner of the county or district, and can speak read and write the English language, and has in all respects the education habits and associations of a white person, and would, if he were a white person, be a citizen of the United States or entitled to admission as such, and is a person of good moral character and in all respects worthy to enjoy the said privileges. The District Court shall make a record of such admission and grant to the applicant a certificate thereof which shall entitle him to enjoy, during the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly, all the rights privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States within this Territory as fully as it is competent for the Territory to grant the same.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from the time of its passage.

## Memorial to Congress 1858

### Transcript of Original Document

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress Assembled:

Your Memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon, would respectfully solicit your Honorable Body to grant to Mrs. Mary A. Harris, a resident of Jackson County in this Territory a pension adequate to the support of herself and her disabled child for the following reasons:

On the ninth day of October, 1855 at the outbreak of the Indian hostilities in Rogue River valley, the family of a settler by the name of Harris were attacked in their house by a numerous band of Indians, and, without any provocation on their part, the father was shot and mortally wounded while in the act of giving the Indians food. At the same time an only son was killed a short distance from the house, and an only daughter was shot through the arm from which she has never fully recovered, and is at present partially disabled from the effects of the wound.

The conduct of the wife and mother during these occurrences has seldom been e-qualified in admirable firmness and self-devo-tion. Grasping a rifle, she discharged it at her savage assailants and succeeded in closing the entrance to the house from whence she kept up a rapid fire on the Indians, forcing them, temporarily, to retire. She then turned her at-tention to the wounded sufferers, and after minis-tering to their wants, resumed her endeavors for for their safety, frequently exposing herself to the fire of the Indians.

Unconscious of danger, her exertions were continued for nearly twenty-four hours, and all the fears of the woman were merged in the devotion of the wife and mother. Alone, through the long and weary night, She stood the defender of her dying husband and her wounded child; she received the last parting words of her companion in life, and only in the final hour of rescue, came back to her heart the full tide sorrow at her bereavement.

No power can compensate her for the loss of her son and husband - no wealth may make amends for this absence, but the government that owed her protection may and should provide with a liberal hand for this noble woman and her disabled child.

Your memorialists would earnestly represent that the sympathies of the entire people of this Territory are enlisted in his behalf, and a liberal provision by your Honorable Body will be acknowledged with gratitude by your memorialists and this constituency who will ever pray [?]

Adopted in the House Representatives Jan. 21, 1858  
Chas.B. Hand, CC, HR

### Background

On Oct. 8, 1855, a troop of California and Oregon volunteers raided an Indian village on Butte Creek and killed twenty-three men, women, and children. In retaliation, the Indians attacked settlers in the Rogue River valley. This document summarizes an event from the first part of the war, when a band of Indians attacked the Harris family. Mary Harris defended her wounded daughter and dying husband for nearly twenty-four hours against the attackers. In 1858, the territorial legislature requested Congress to reward Mrs. Harris's courage with a pension.

## **Words and Terms**

provocation

mortally wounded

bereavement

## **For Further Discussion**

What did the Indians do to the Harris family?

Why do you think the Harris family was attacked?

What did Mrs. Harris do when her family was attacked?

What does this document tell you about life in frontier Oregon?

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At the same time an only son was killed a short distance from the house, and an only daughter was shot through the arm from which she has never fully recovered, and is at present partially disabled from the effects of the wound.

The conduct of the wife and mother during these occurrences has seldom been equalled in admirable firmness and self-devotion. Grasping a rifle, she discharged it at her savage assailants and succeeded in closing the entrance to the house from whence she kept up a rapid fire on the Indians, forcing



them, temporarily, to retire. She then turned her attention to the wounded sufferers, and after ministering to their wants, resumed her endeavors for their safety, frequently exposing herself to the fire of the Indians.

Unconscious of danger, her exertions were continued for nearly twenty-four hours, and all the fears of the woman were merged in the devotion of the wife and the mother. Alone, through the long and weary night, she stood the defender of her dying husband and her wounded child; she received the last parting words of her companion in life, and only in the final hour of rescue, came back to her heart the full tide of sorrow at her bereavement.

No power can compensate her for the loss of her son and husband - no wealth may make amends for their absence, but, the Government that owed her protection may and <sup>we trust, will</sup> should, provide with a liberal hand for this noble woman and her disabled child.

Your Memorialists would earnestly represent <sup>that</sup> the sympathies of the entire people of this Territory are enlisted in her behalf, and a liberal provision by your Honorable Body will be acknowledged with gratitude by your Memorialists and their Constituency who will ever pray &c.

Adopted in the House Representatives Jan 24. 1838

Chas. B. Hand. C. C. H. R.

## Divorce Petition 1858

### Transcript of Original Document

Polk County O.T. Nov 15 Ad 1858

I humbly Beg of the Legislator of oregon to grant me a bill of divorcement for I cannot live with Mr Judson he misuses me in everry shape he is capable of doing he has knocked me down and scolded me and beemeaned me in everry shape and lyed on me as bad as any one could lly on another and does not Provide for me Nor the family as he aught to do But has squandered all that father has givin mee and has squandered every thing wee have in the world and has mortgaged my land and his and it is all gone and he is not able to support me nor the Children neither is he capable of takin care of us the children are ragged and go not fit to bee seen and have to depend on the Neighbors for their bread and do not get mutch of that I have not lived with Mr Judson since the first of last December Ad 1857 from that time to this I have had to support my self as best I could and the children has been Poorly taken care of for they have had to take care of them selves in a maner that is too of them for I have one of them with me sending him to scool the yongest a little boy the other too is down at Clatsap where he keeps them have stalved and half naked My Children has never bee to school of any consiquenc and he never will sene them I have three children one little girl 10 years olde the 10 day of next december one boy 12 years olde 22 of February next the yongest is a little boy 7 years olde the 26 day of may next and he knows more than all the rest for I have been sendding him to school ever since wee parted Now if it will please your honerble boddy to give me a bill and give me the Children I will ever Pray ec

I ever remain your humble friend

Mrs Nancy Judson

### Background

Getting a divorce required an act of the legislature in Oregon Territory. Women found it difficult to get a divorce as long as they were economically dependent on their husbands. This petition to the legislature recounts the poor treatment that Nancy Judson received from her husband. Mr. Judson has lost the land that his wife brought to their marriage, he has abused her and their children, and he has abandoned her. Mrs. Judson points out that the two children in her husband's custody are kept half-starved and half-naked, and have not been sent to school. These circumstances caused the legislature to grant her the divorce.

### Words and Terms

squandered

### For Further Discussion

What does Nancy Judson want the Oregon legislature to do?

What reasons does Mrs. Judson give for requesting a divorce?

How could Mrs. Judson support herself and her children without a husband?

From the information in this document, what were the realities of family life in frontier Oregon?

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I ever remain your humble friend

Mrs Nancy Judson