

Wagons west - the epic story of Americas overland trails

Grove Press - Wagons West: The Epic Story of America's Overland Trails

Description: -



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 Suicide -- Prevention.
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 Mexico -- Foreign relations -- 1970-1988.
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 Water resources development -- United States.
 West (U.S.) -- History -- 1848-1860
 West (U.S.) -- History -- To 1848.
 Pioneers -- West (U.S.) -- History -- 19th century.
 Frontier and pioneer life -- West (U.S.)
 Trails -- West (U.S.) -- History -- 19th century.
 Overland journeys to the Pacific.Wagons west - the epic story of Americas overland trails
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 Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 443-475) and index.
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Wagons West: The Epic Story of America's Overland Trails by Frank McLynn, Paperback

Having scarcely survived the high waters, the originally combined Oregon-bound and California-bound parties decided to go their separate ways at Fort Laramie. There are plenty of familiar characters here, their stories freshly told: the ill-fated Donner Party, the Whitmans on their way to Oregon, mountain man Jim Bridger, the historian Francis Parkman and the Mormons.

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Appreciated the more detailed and accurate description of the role of the American Indians in the westward movement.

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The British had penetrated the Oregon Territory, the Spanish had occupied Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and California, and even the Russians and Chinese had traveled to the Pacific seaboard. O'Sullivan, who wrote in December 1845 that it was the 'manifest destiny' of the United States 'to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us'.

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Silver, woollen goods and blankets went to California, whence the intrepid merchants brought back horses and mules and even luxury items that had arrived in Californian ports from China and New England. Southern Idaho's Snake River plain-featured prominently in the diaries of Oregon Trailers. The understated nature of McLynn's writing almost makes it more appalling.

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