

# LEQ: What four nations claimed the Oregon Country?



The British claimed the Oregon Country from Canada. The United States claimed it from the neighboring Louisiana Purchase. The Spanish, and later the Mexicans claimed it from the south, and the Russians claimed it from Alaska. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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**Great Britain, United States, Spain, Russia**



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# The Oregon Country



The Oregon Country bordered the Pacific Ocean, and included territory in the present-day United States and Canada. This image is courtesy of [maps.com](https://maps.com).

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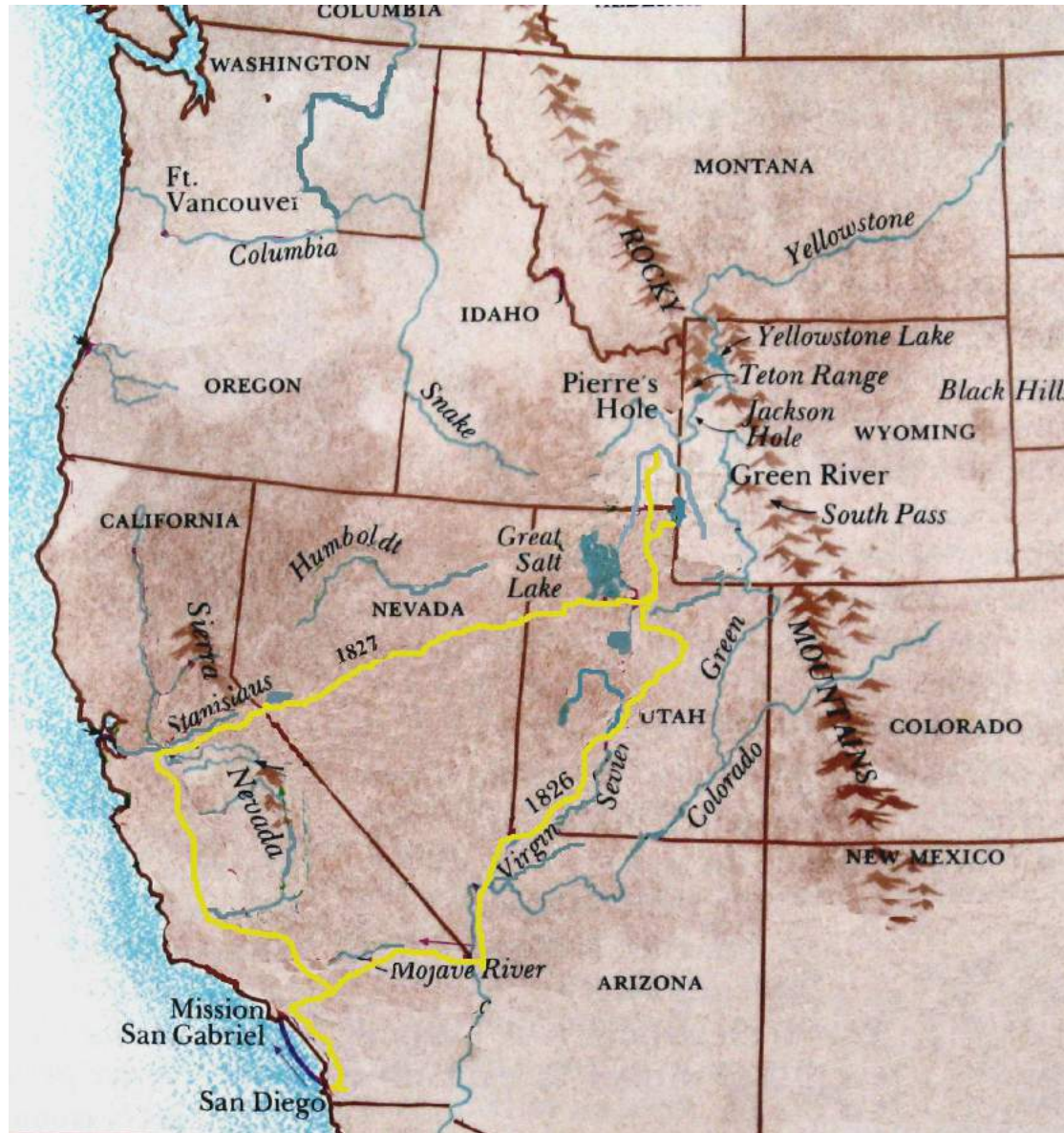
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The Oregon Country included the present-day states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming, Montana, and Canada.



The Rocky Mountains bounded the region on the east, while the Pacific Ocean bordered it to the west. This image is courtesy of thefurtrapper.com.

Within the Oregon Country climates and vegetation varied.



Lands west of the coastal mountains, called the Cascades, enjoyed abundant rainfall and plentiful vegetation. The Cascades prevented clouds from moving to the east side of the mountains, and a dry plateau sprawled eastward towards the Rockies. This image is courtesy of theweatherprediction.com.

For the non-Native Americans who first set foot in the Oregon Country, its wealth lay in fur-bearing animals.



The beaver is a primarily nocturnal, semi-aquatic rodent. Beavers are known for building dams, canals, and lodges (their homes). At one time, it is believed that there were 60 million beavers in North America. As of 1988 there were approximately 9 million. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

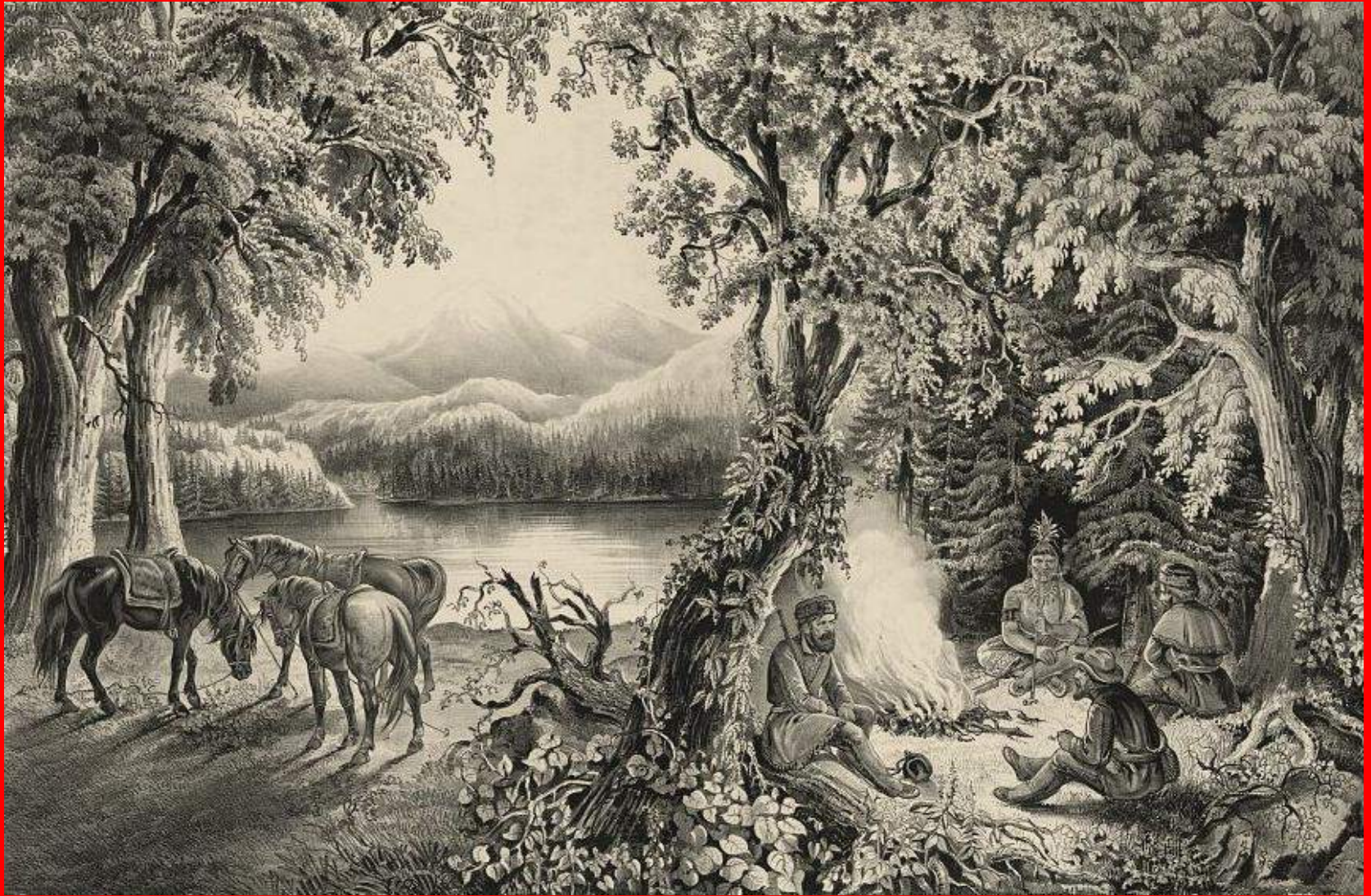


For centuries, fashionable Europeans and North Americans wore hats made of beaver pelts.



To meet the demand, fur trappers exhausted the supply of beaver in one stream after another. By the early 1800s, a few adventurous trappers plunged across the Mississippi River in search of new forests to hunt. This is a beaver fur hat. This image is courtesy of [blogs.redding.com](http://blogs.redding.com).

Trappers often traveled trails created by the Native Americans.



Native American groups that lived in the Oregon Country included the Cayuses, Yakimas, Chinooks, Nez Perce, and Blackfeet. Most had deep ancestral roots in the region, even as Europeans and Americans refused to recognize Native American rights to the land. This image is titled "The Trappers Camp-Fire, A Friendly Visitor." This image was created circa 1866 by F.F. Palmer (1812-1876) for Courier and Ives. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Trappers ignored the Native American claims and labeled the lands a “wilderness” to freely stake their claims.



Before fur trappers began to move onto Native Americans' lands, the Native Americans were the major source of beaver pelts and buffalo hides. In the late 1700s the Plains Indians exchanged beaver pelts and horses for European goods. This image is courtesy of [fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com).

# Four nations— Russia, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States attempted to take control of the Oregon Country.



Of these nations, Great Britain and the United States pursued their claims most actively. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The British based their claims to the Oregon Country on the explorations of Sir Francis Drake and George Vancouver.



Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe from 1577 to 1580. He visited the coast of Oregon in 1579. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

**In 1792 a member of George Vancouver's crew navigated part of what is now known as the Columbia River in Oregon.**



Fort Vancouver, the only permanent British outpost in the Oregon Country, took its name from this expedition. Fort Vancouver, shown here in 1845, is now located in the State of Washington. This image was created by Lieutenant Henry James Warre. This image is courtesy of [library.yale.edu](http://library.yale.edu).

The United States based its claim to the Oregon Country on the voyages of Robert Gray.



In 1792 Robert Gray, a New England sea captain, named the Columbia River after his ship, *Columbia*. This painting was created circa 1793 by crew member George Davidson, who appears to be showing the painting to Captain Gray at Fort Defiance. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

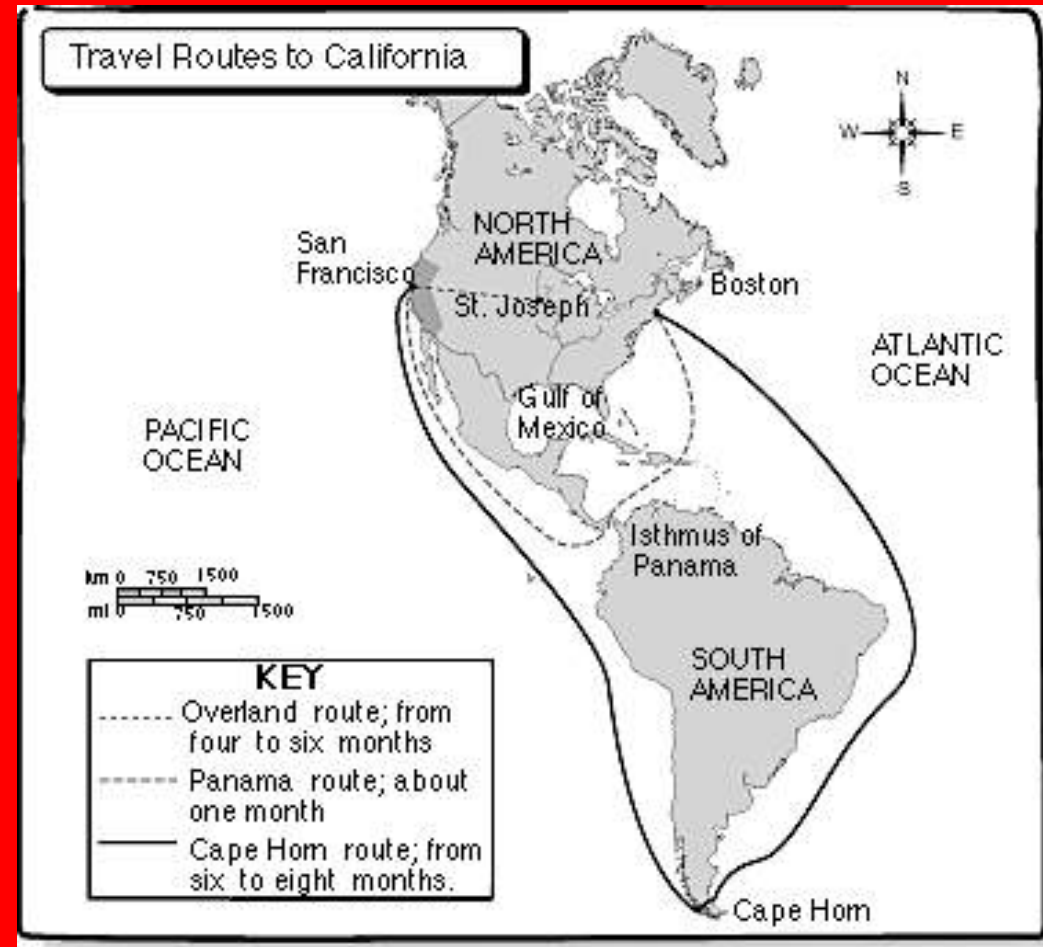
In 1805 the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the mouth of the Columbia River and strengthened the United States' claims to the area.



By 1807 American fur traders had set up scattered trading posts along Lewis and Clark's route. They had to compete with British traders who pushed into Oregon from Canada. This image is titled *Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia*. It was painted by Charles Marion Russell (1864-1926) circa 1905. This image is courtesy of [fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com).



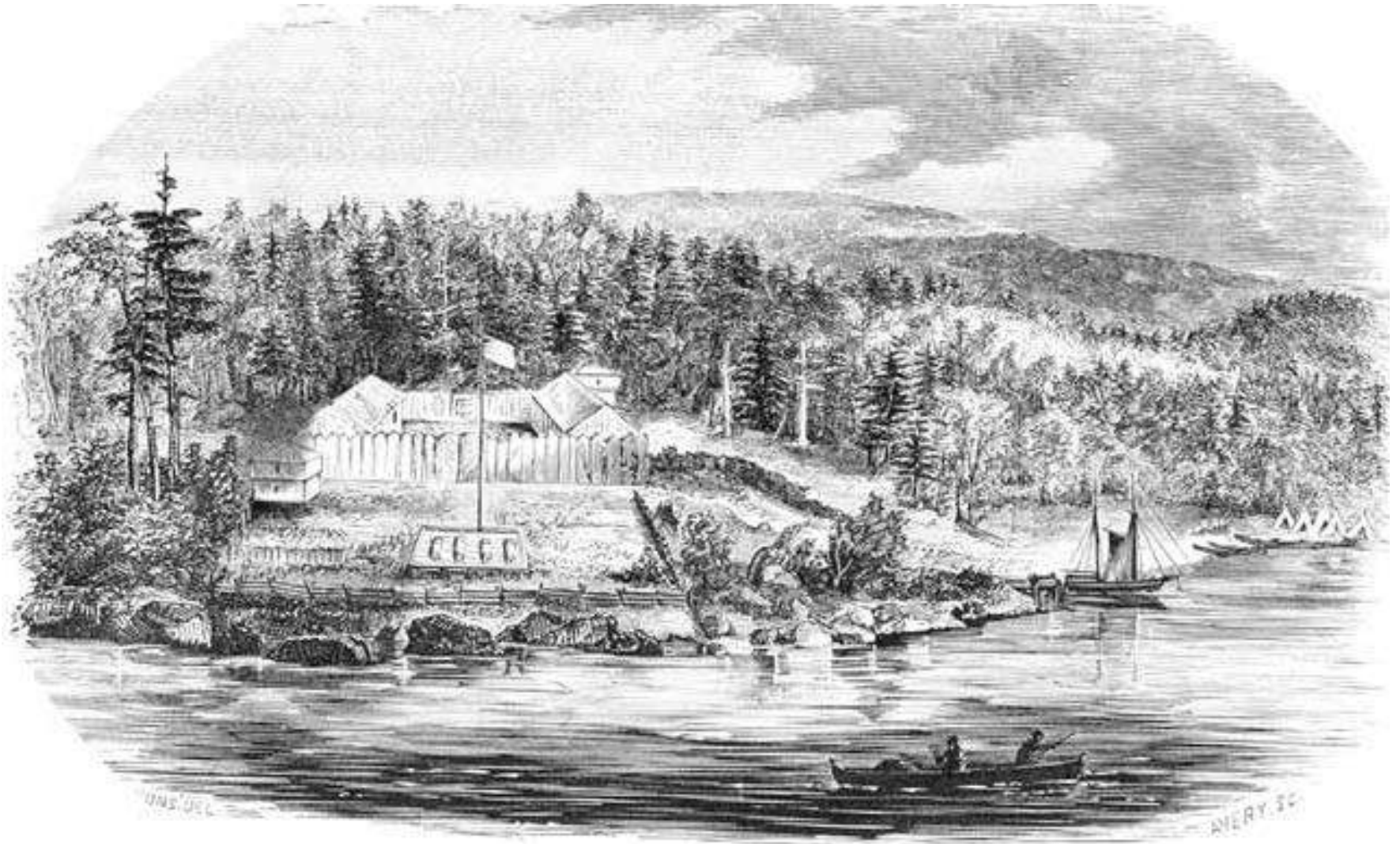
American fur trader John Jacob Astor sent a shipload of supplies and workers around the tip of South America in 1811.



John Jacob Astor (1763-1848) was America's first multi-millionaire. Besides the fur trade, he was a merchant and investor. This image was painted by John Wesley Jarvis (1780-1840) in 1825. This image is courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery and of Wikimedia Commons.

Although this map shows a route from the east coast of the United States to California, it would be very similar to the route that Astor's workers took from the east coast to the Oregon Country. This image is courtesy of [estes-eastes.org](http://estes-eastes.org).

## Astor's workers built a trading post near the mouth of the Columbia River.



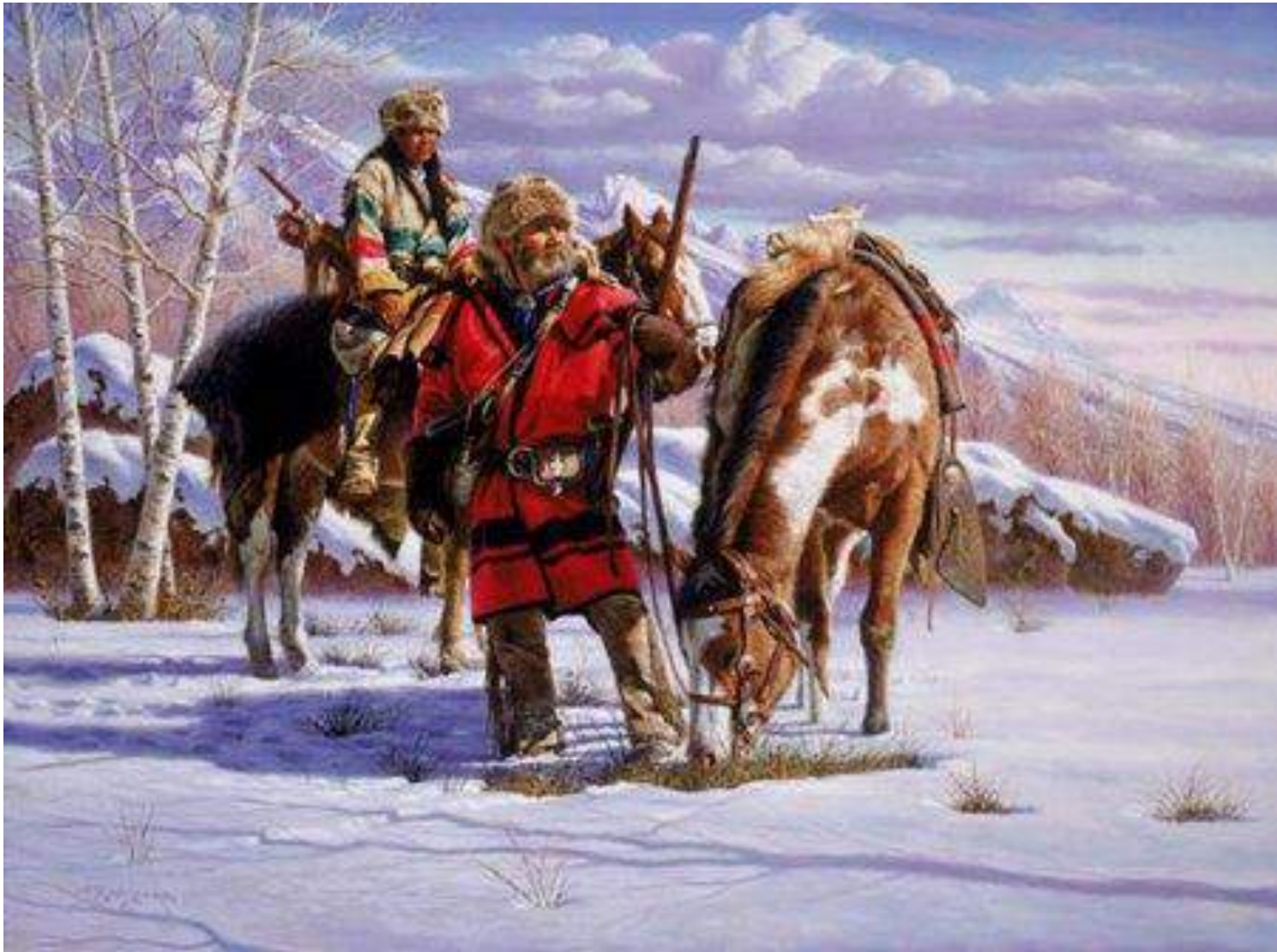
At the mouth of the Columbia River Astor's workers set up Astoria, the first American settlement on the Pacific coast. Although Astoria lasted only two years, it gave Americans another claim to Oregon. The British operated it for the next 33 years. , This image shows Fort Astoria in 1813. This drawing was completed by Gabriel Franchere, for his *Journal of a Voyage on the North West Coast of America During the Years 1810-1814*. It was published in 1854. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1818 Great Britain and the United States agreed to share the Oregon Country for 10 years.



Under the agreement, British and American citizens would enjoy equal rights. With few settlers in the region, Spain and Russia gave up their claims in 1825. Both British and American fur-trading companies rushed to secure their claims to the Oregon Country. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# Fur trading companies advertised for “Enterprising Young Men” to sign up for work.



Hundreds of men from all over the world signed up as camp keepers (those who cooked and guarded the camp), and trappers. From their ranks came an interesting group of explorers known as the mountain men. This image is courtesy of [desktopnexus.com](http://desktopnexus.com).

The mountain man lived a tough, lonely life. Aside from the clothes on his back, he traveled with little more than a “possibles sack.”



This image is titled “Rocky Mountains Trapper.” It was created circa 1839 by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Inside this small leather pouch a mountain man carried many items that he might possibly need—...



This “possibles bag” was made of antelope leather. This bag could also have carried papers when used as a messenger bag. This image is courtesy of etsy.com..

## ... an awl for stitching leather,...



An awl is a simple tool used to punch holes, or to enlarge existing holes in different types of material. The shafts have interchangeable needles in case one wants to use an eye piercing on heavy materials such as leather or canvas. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## ... a mold for making lead musket balls,...



This mold is the type that was used in the 1700s. On the right is a closer view of the mold. The mold is closed when the liquid lead is poured through the hole at the top of the mold. These images are courtesy of [treasurenet.com](http://treasurenet.com).

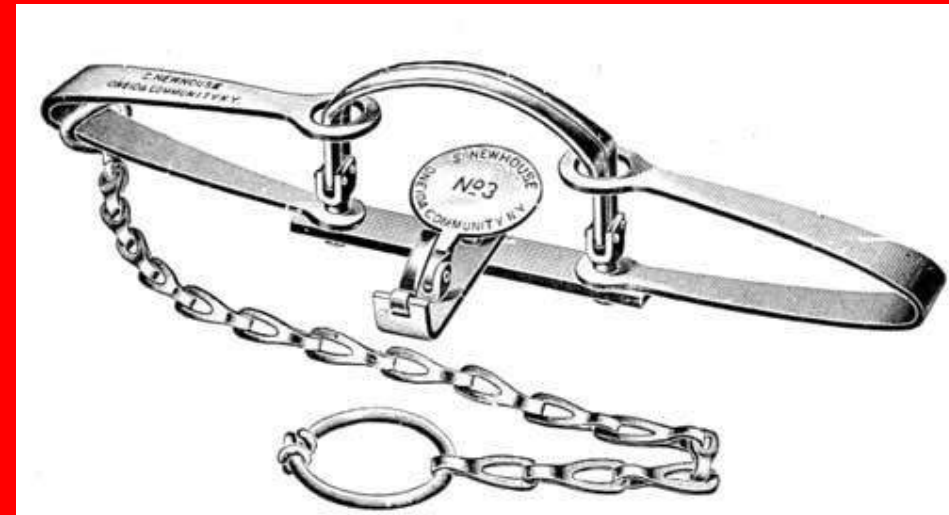
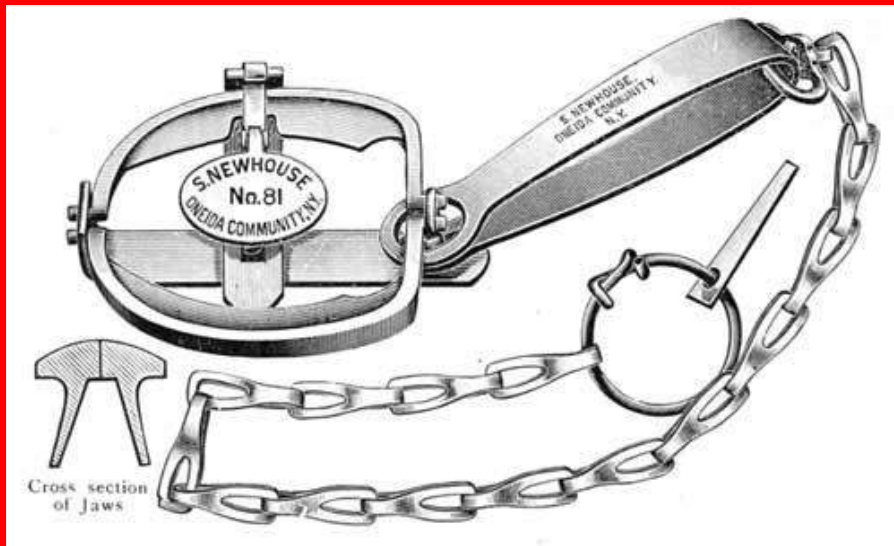


... and a surgeon's lance for digging out bullets.



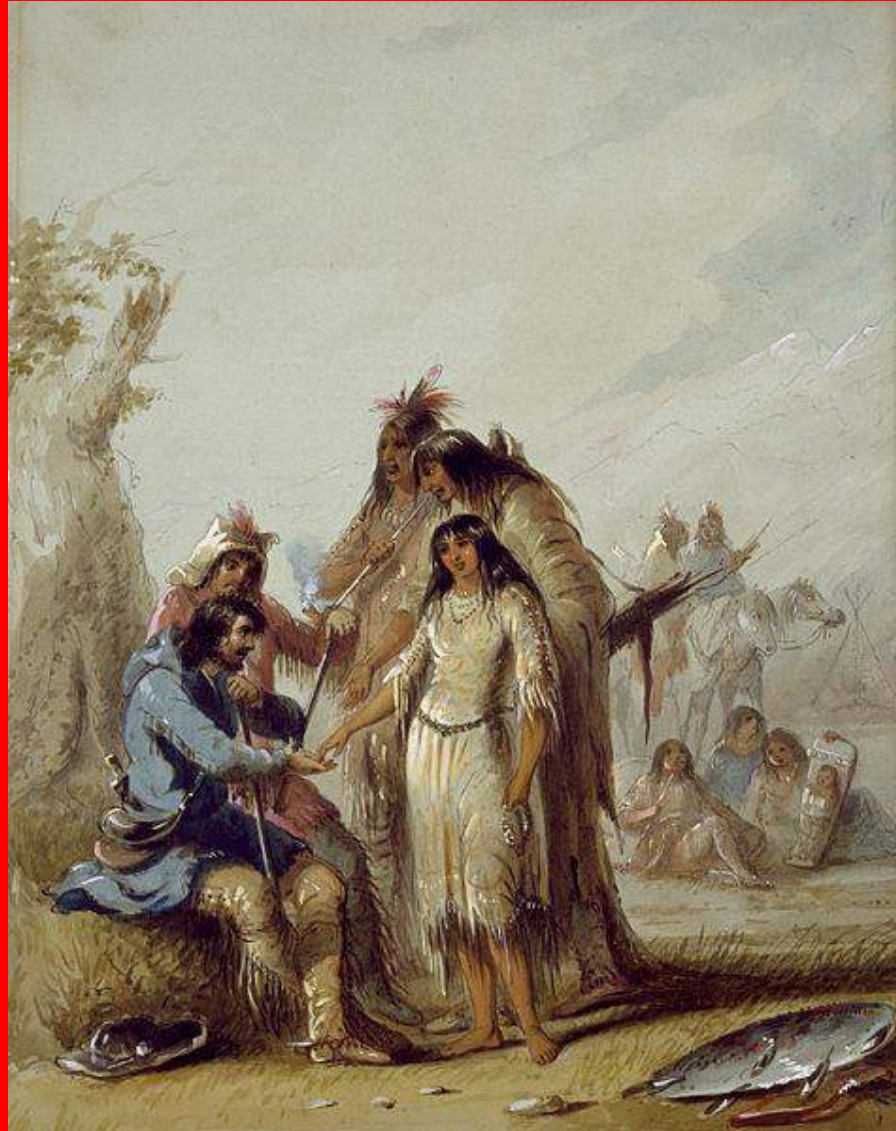
These objects are part of a Traveling surgeon's kit. A Mountain Man would have carried probably not more than one of these items. This image is courtesy of [thegriffincollection.com](http://thegriffincollection.com).

During the spring trapping season, a mountain man might haul 6 to 8 heavy iron traps on his back.



To set the traps, he waded into what were frequently very cold streams. When game was in short supply, he went to bed hungry. One band of trappers ate nothing but roots for 10 days. On the left is a trap with its jaws open. On the right is a trap with its jaws closed. These appear to be traps made of steel, not of iron. These images are courtesy of [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org).

Mountain Men learned many of their trapping skills and survival methods from Native Americans, especially from the Native American women they married.



This painting is titled "The Trapper's Bride." This painting was created by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874) circa 1858-1859. This image hangs in the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In the summer, trappers' spirits soared as they headed to a meeting place called the rendezvous.



The mountain men met traders from Missouri who bought their furs and charged high sums of money for supplies. This image is titled "The Rendezvous Near Green River-Oregon. General View of the Indian Camp." This painting was created by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874) in 1837. This image is courtesy of [fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com).

**Most trappers didn't care about the high prices for supplies.**



The trappers just wanted to have a good time. “These men are chock full of brag and fight,” wrote mountain man [Joe Meek](#). This image is titled “The Summer Rendezvous.” This image was created by [William Henry Ashley](#) (1778-1838). This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Because mountain streams froze between October and March, trappers gathered in winter camps of up to 60 men.



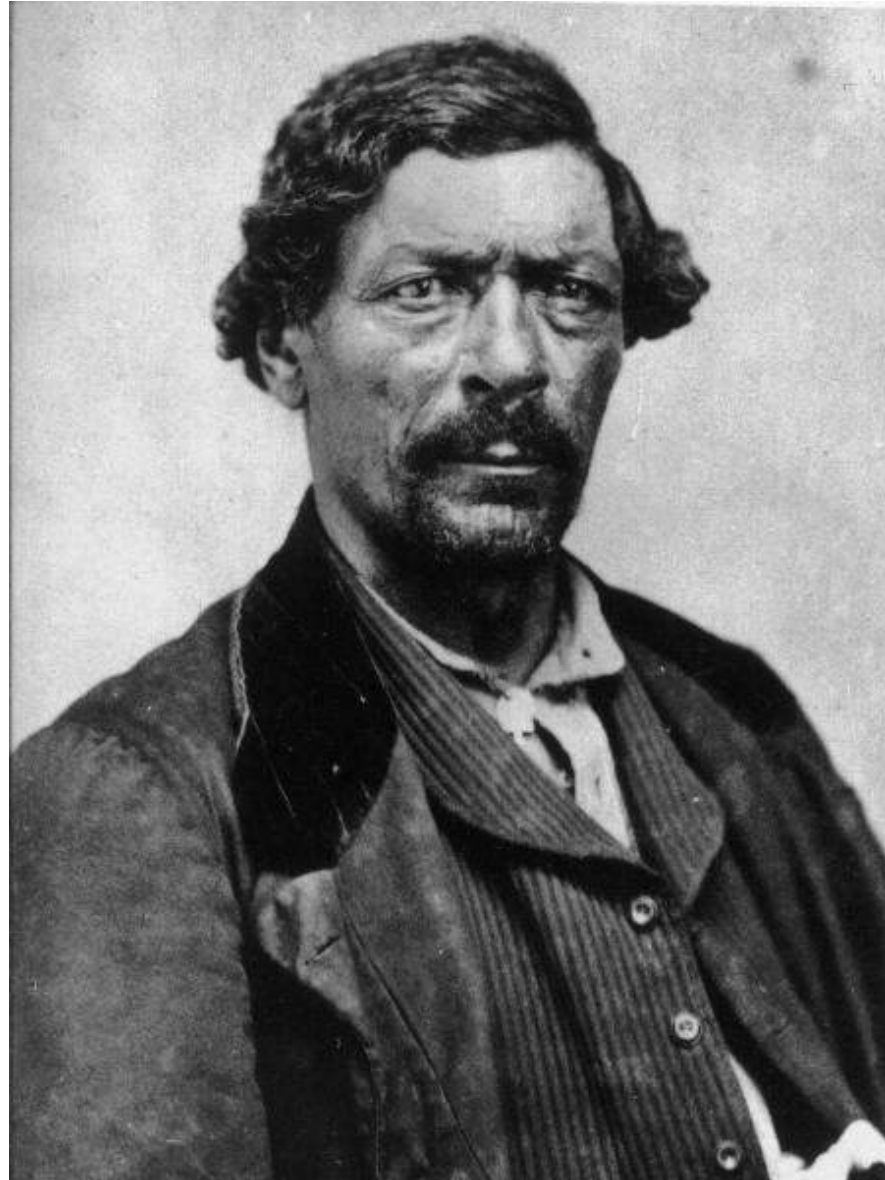
During the day they hunted. In the evening, they huddled around fires in buffalo-hide lodges “spinning long yarns [tales] until midnight...” This image is titled “(Kit) Carson and the Trappers in camp. It was created for Lynch Augustus Mason’s *The Romance and Tragedy of Pioneer Life*. Cincinnati, OH: Jones Brothers and Company, 1884. This image is courtesy of [ushistoryimages.com](http://ushistoryimages.com).

The journeys of the mountain men opened the door for settlement of the West.



Alanson Jedediah Smith (1799-1831), left, explored the Rocky Mountains. This image is courtesy of pennlive.com.

**An African American mountain man, James Beckwourth, discovered a pass, or opening, through the Sierra Nevada mountains into California.**



James Beckwourth (1798-1866) was born into slavery in Virginia. His father was also his master. This image was taken circa 1860 in Denver, Colorado. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



Mountain Man Jim Bridger first strode across the Great Divide,  
the name given to the Rocky Mountains.



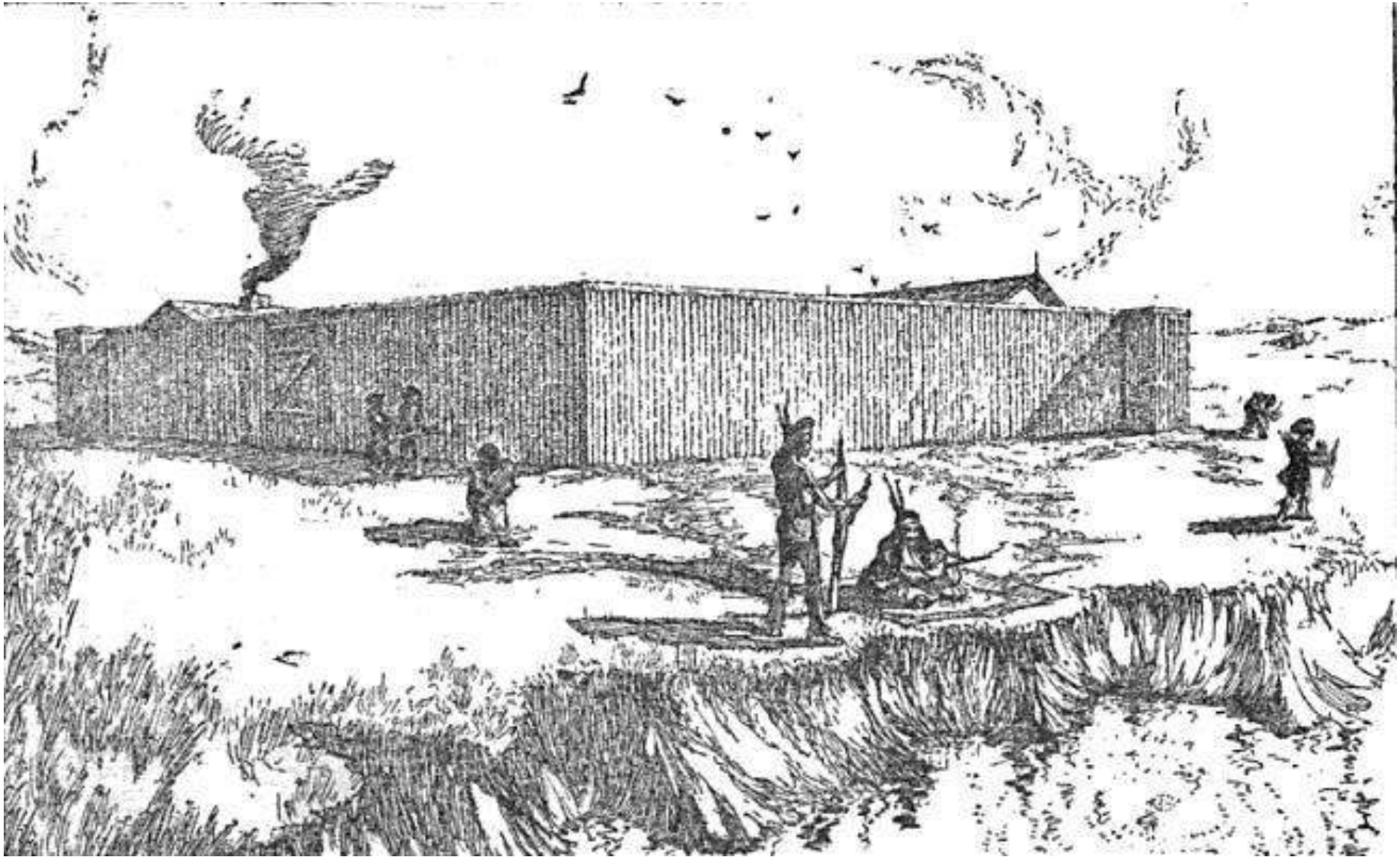
This image shows the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, near Denver, Colorado. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Jedediah Smith brought back colorful accounts of the geysers and boiling springs of what is now Yellowstone National Park.



This photograph shows Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone National Park which erupts approximately every 91 minutes. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Manuel Lisa, a Spanish-American trapper, led a trip up the Missouri River in 1807.



Manuel Lisa founded Fort Manuel, the first outpost on the upper Missouri River in North Dakota. This image was created for the *Journal of a Fur-Trading Expedition on the Upper Missouri: 1812-1813* by John Luttig. The sketch was made by W.O. Bassford. The book was published in 1920. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

“To explore unknown regions was... [their] chief delight,”  
wrote a clerk in one fur-trading company.



Of course many of the “unknown regions” were known by Native Americans. By exploring “unknown regions,” the mountain men surveyed paths for the pioneers who would soon follow. This image is titled “Jedediah Smith’s Party Crossing the Burning Mojave Desert During the 1826 trek to California.” This image was created by Frederic Remington (1861-1909) for *Collier’s* magazine in 1906. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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The mountain men recognized changes were coming when covered wagons bringing settlers began showing up in their camps.



This image is titled "Crossing the Mississippi on the Ice." It was created by C.C.A. Christensen (1831-1912). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

**In 1836 two missionary couples– Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and Henry and Eliza Spalding arrived at the annual rendezvous.**



**Narcissa and Eliza became the first non-Native American women to cross the Rocky Mountains.** This image is courtesy of [meetingonthegreen.com](http://meetingonthegreen.com).



As settlers arrived, a change in fashion ended a way of life for the mountain men.



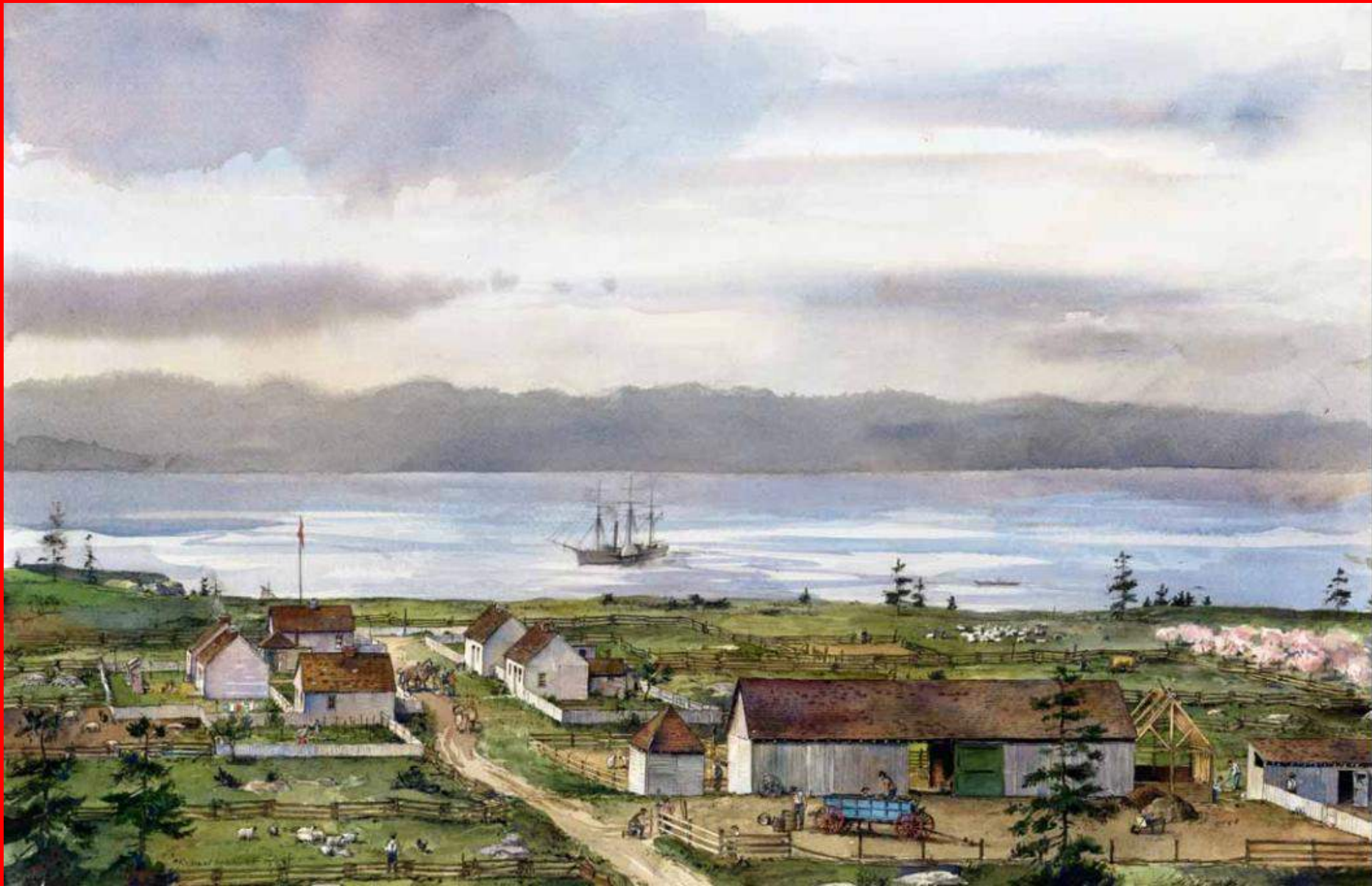
**Silk top hats replaced beaver hats in popularity.** The image on the left depicts Isambard Kingdom Brunel preparing the launch of the ship, the *Great Eastern*. The photograph was taken by Robert Howlett in 1858. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. The image on right is a silk top hat. This image is courtesy of blacktieguide.com.

In the late 1830s and 1840s, people stopped wearing beaver hats.



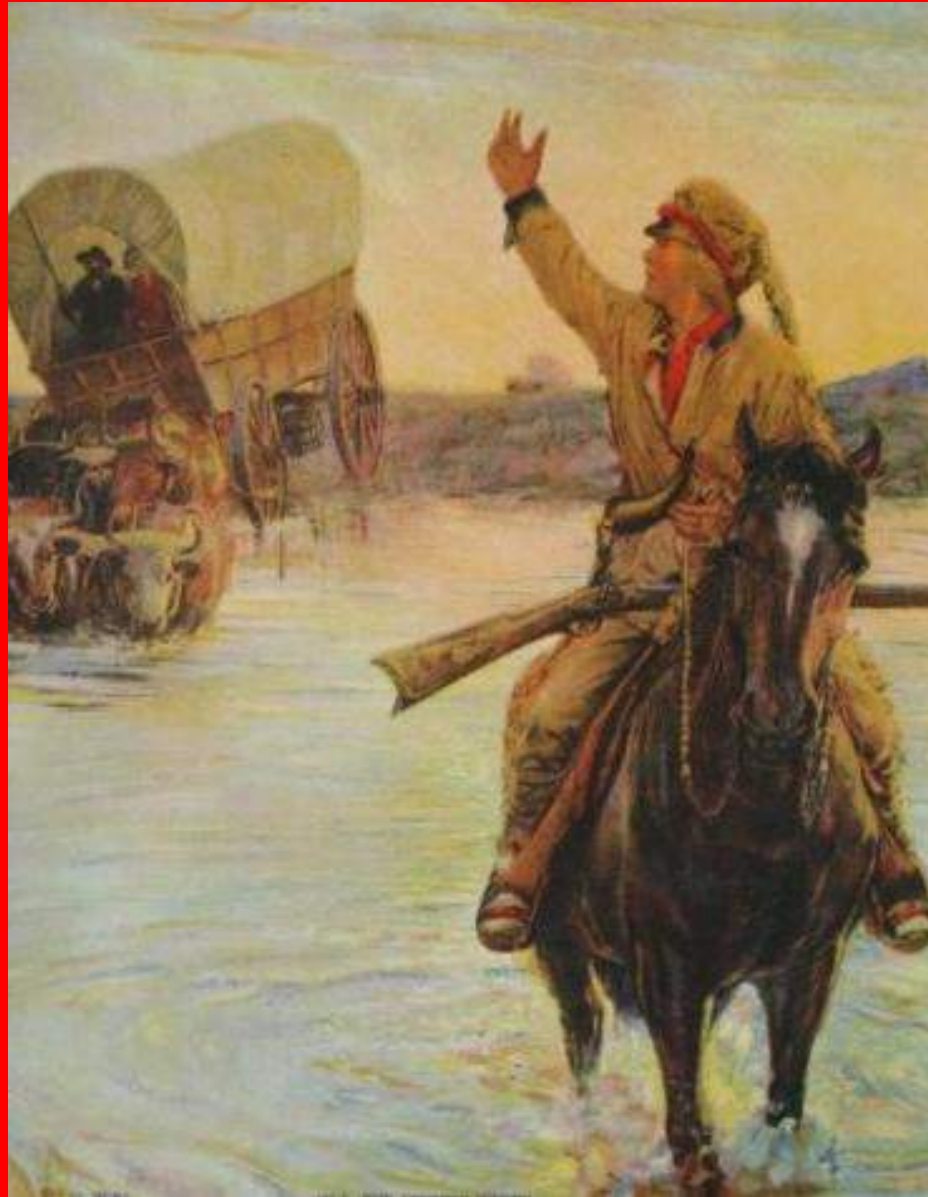
Within a few years the mountain men found themselves out of work. This image is courtesy [blogs.redding.com](https://blogs.redding.com).

Some Mountain Men turned to farming in the rich valleys of the Pacific Northwest.



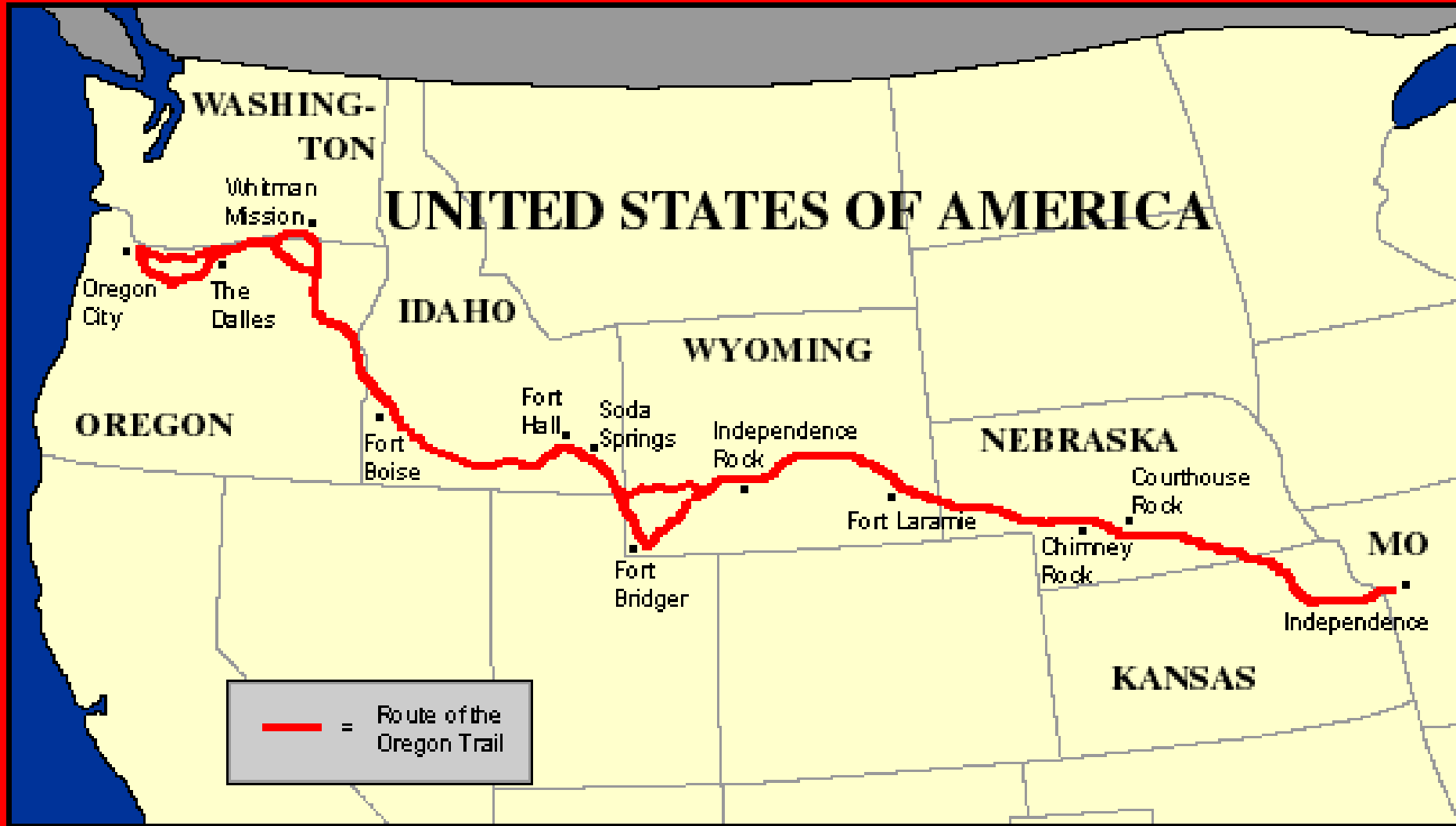
The Belle Vue Sheep Farm's location known as "Home Prairie" was situated on San Juan Island in what is now Washington State. This area was a gathering place for both British and American citizens in the 1850s. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Other Mountain Men became guides for wagon trains.



The route they knew best– the Oregon Trail– soon became a major highway across the continent. This image is titled “Indian Scout Jim Bridger Leads Wagon Train Across River.” This image is courtesy of ebay.com.

The Oregon Trail extended from Independence, Missouri, to the Columbia River in Oregon.



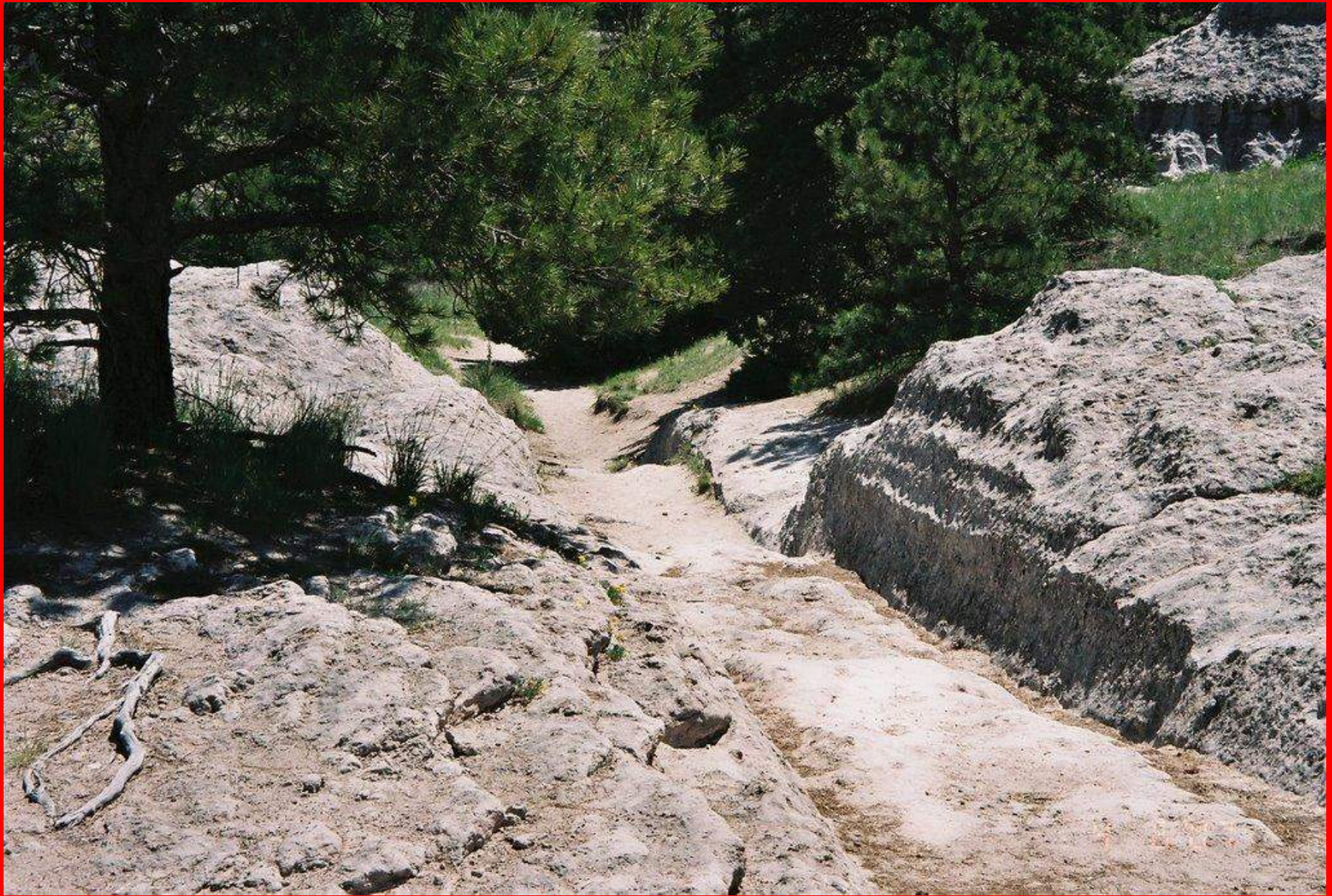
The Oregon Trail was a 2000 mile large wheeled wagon route that connected the Missouri River to the Columbia River. This image is courtesy of historyglobe.com.

Immigrants only trickled into Oregon until reports made their way back east and stories grew into tall tales.



One rumor claimed that pigs “roamed about pre-cooked...[for] anyone who might be hungry.” Other rumors described turnips 5 feet in diameter and wheat 6 feet tall. Stories like these sparked an outbreak of “Oregon fever.” This image titled “Oregon Trail” was created by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902) in 1863. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Between 1840 and 1860, more than 60,000 people traveled the Oregon Trail.



Even today, the ruts carved by the wheels of the wagons on the Oregon Trail scar parts of the Great Plains. This image is courtesy of panoramio.com.

# The journey for those traveling west on the Oregon Trail began at places like Independence, Missouri.



This painting shows Westport Landing near Independence, Missouri. Pioneers took steamboats from St. Louis to this location where they would offload their wagons. This image was painted by William Henry Jackson (1843-1942) in 1937. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

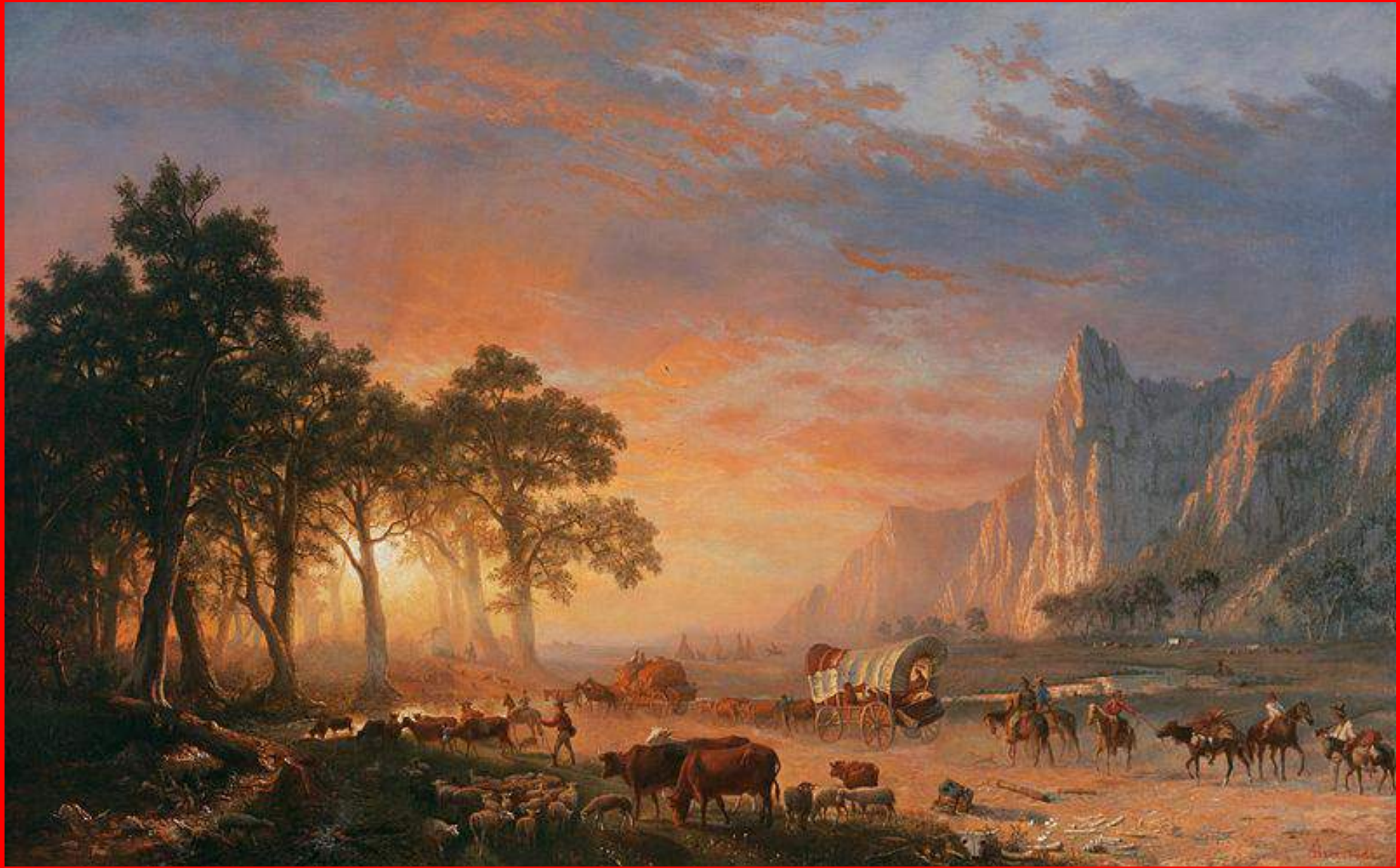


At Independence, Missouri, families stocked their lightweight covered wagons, known as prairie schooners, and hitched them to teams of oxen.



Several families then formed a wagon train. Each wagon train elected a leader to make decisions on the trail. This image was painted by William Henry Jackson (1843-1942) circa 1936. This image is courtesy of [legendsofamerica.com](http://legendsofamerica.com).

Most wagon trains left Independence in the month of May.



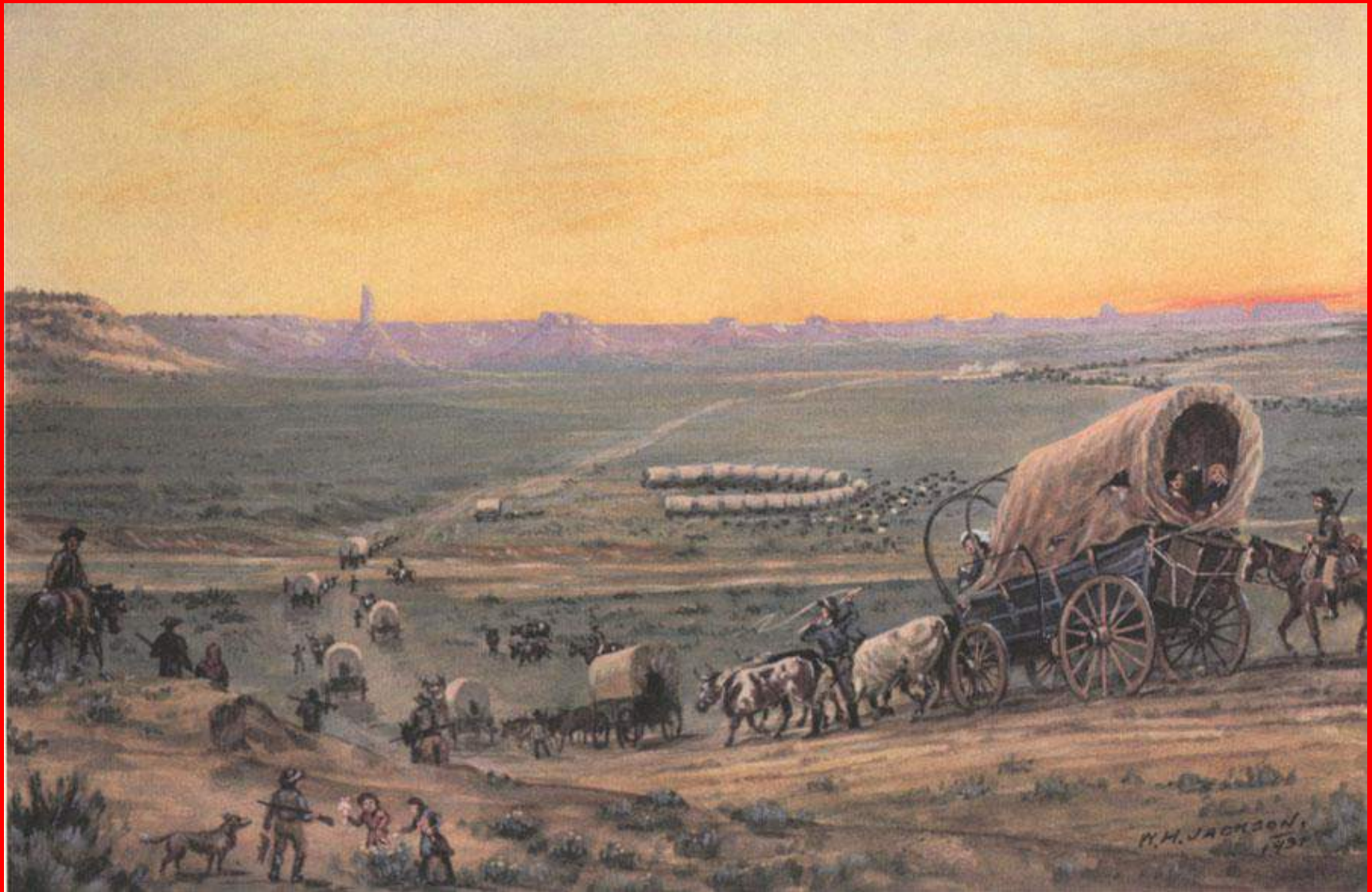
By then, enough spring grass covered the plains to feed the oxen. The emigrants had five months to cross the Rockies. If they arrived later, they might freeze to death in blinding blizzards. This image titled "Emigrants Crossing the Plains" was created by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902) in 1863. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Once on the trail, the wagons started each day at dawn.



As the oxen crawled along at 2 miles an hour, the leader cried out, "Catch up! Catch up!" This image is titled "Breaking Up Camp at Sunrise." This painting was created by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874) circa 1859. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Near dusk the men began scouting for water and grass.



When they found water and grass, they drew the wagons into a circle. While the livestock grazed and the men stood guard, the women fried bacon and baked biscuits over fires fueled with buffalo chips (dried manure). This image is titled "Approaching Chimney Rock." This image was painted by William Henry Jackson (1843-1942). This image is courtesy kevinboos.com.

When the wagons hit deep rivers or steep mountains, families had to lighten their loads.



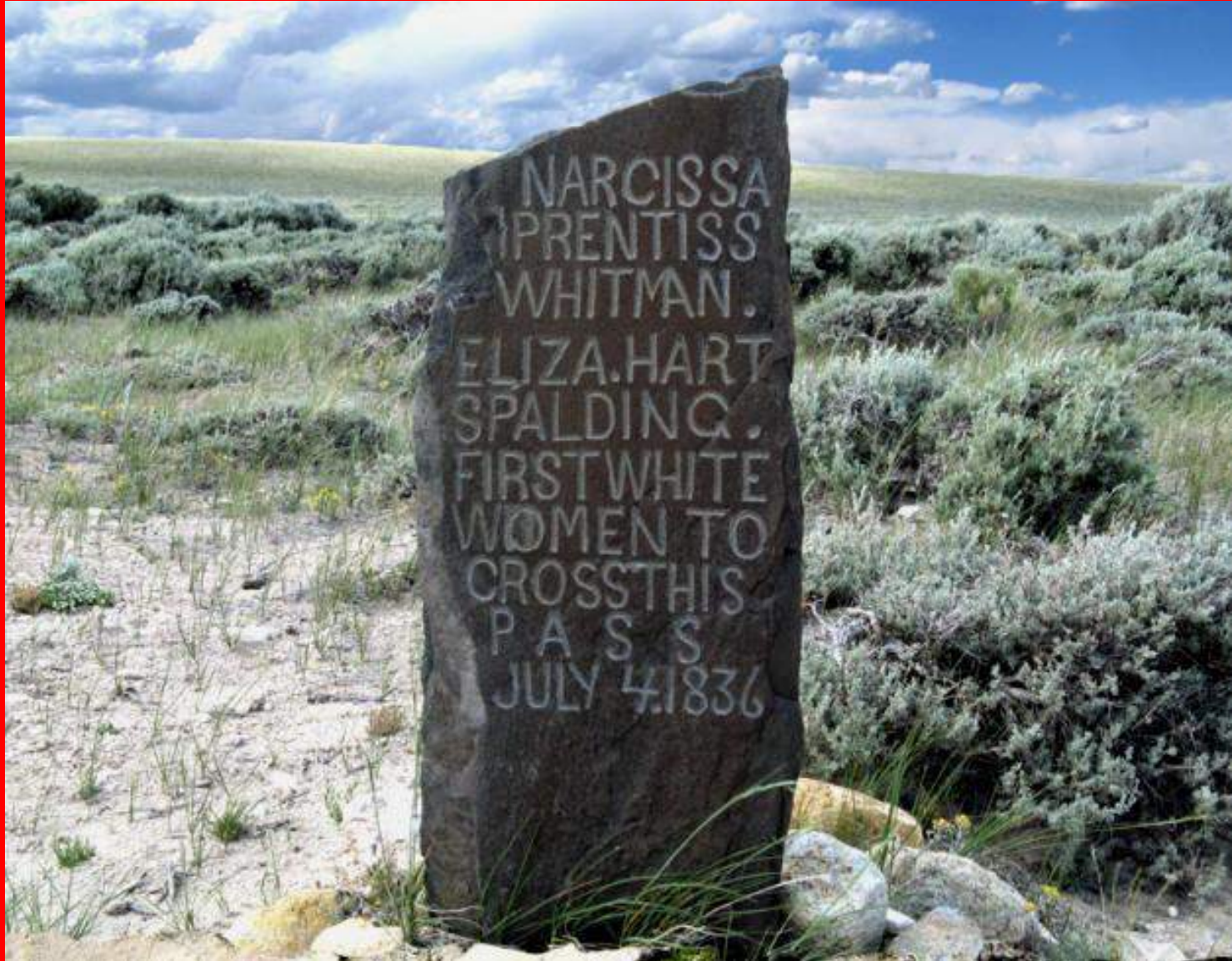
They dumped barrels, ploughs, clothing, trunks, spades, and anything else that slowed them down. This image is courtesy of [parablesblog.blogspot.com](http://parablesblog.blogspot.com).

Other travelers helped themselves to the items that were thrown away.



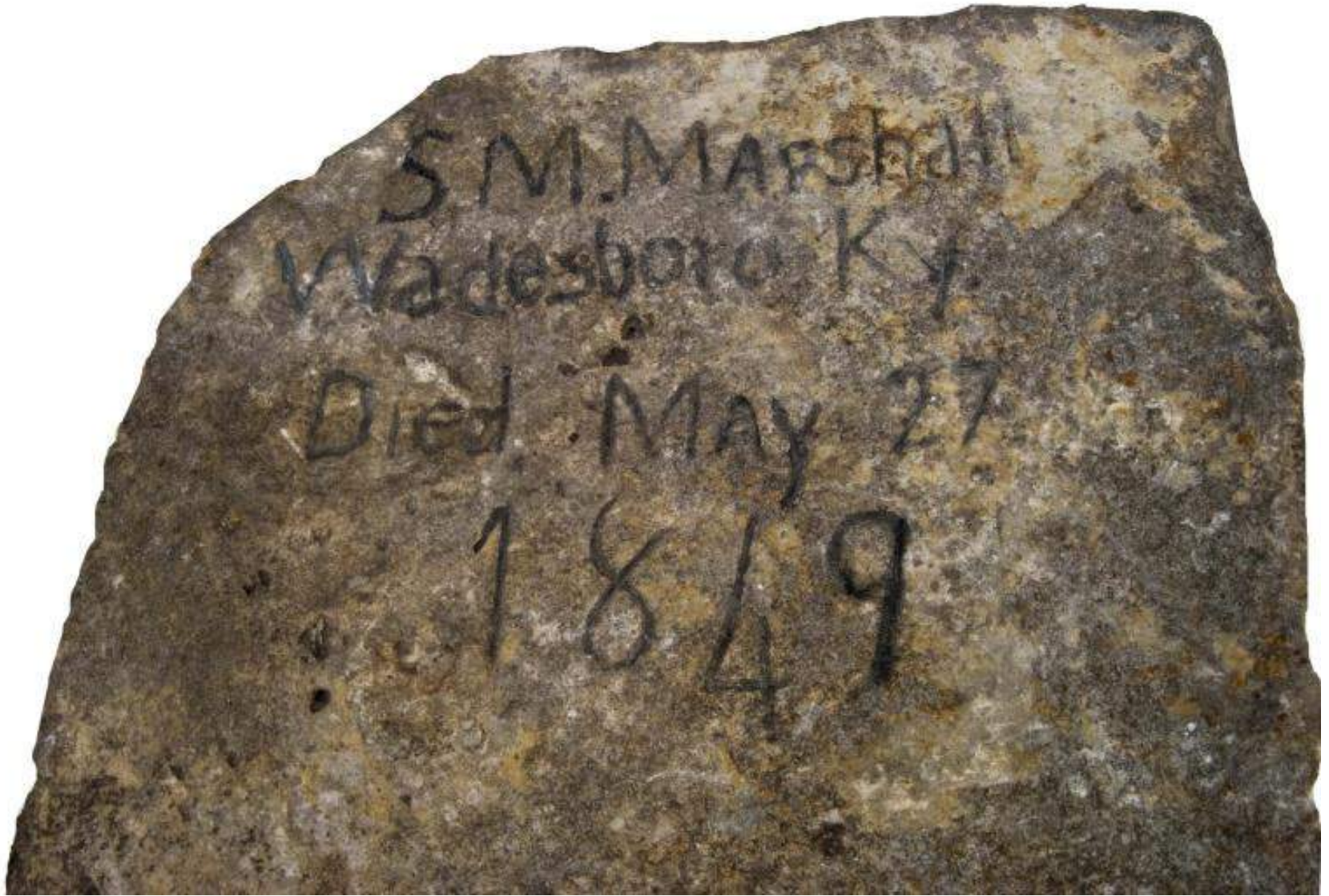
One man “camped beside an old stove and baked some bread.” Others picked up books, read them, and tossed them back on the ground, into the “prairie library.” This image is courtesy of the True West Archives.

The travelers helped one another by leaving messages, which was called using the “roadside telegraph.”



The roadside telegraph was messages left on boards, rocks, tree trunks, and even animal skulls beside the trail. Many travelers owed their lives to these warnings about dead-end shortcuts or poisonous water holes. This image is courtesy of [thefurtrapper.com](http://thefurtrapper.com).

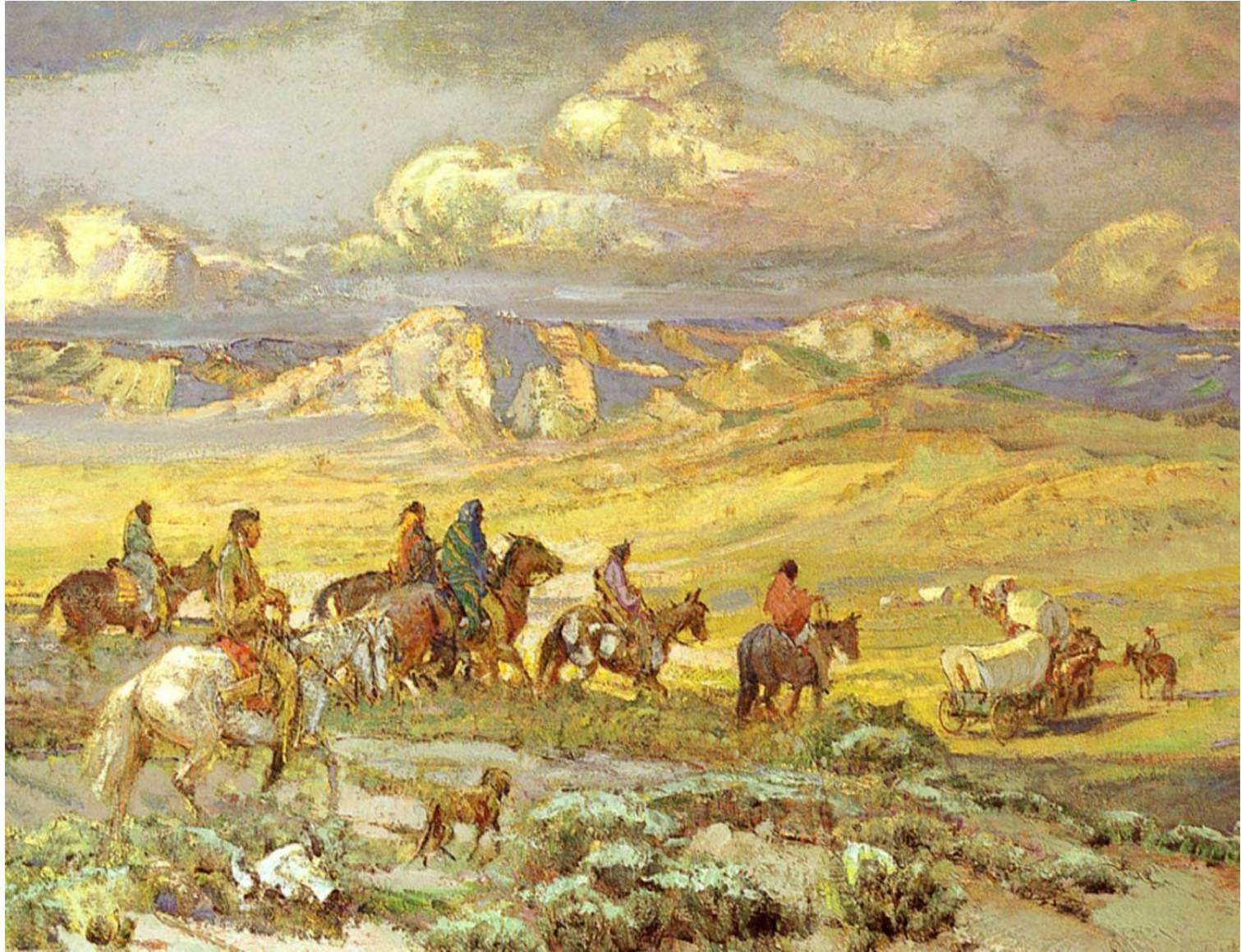
# Hundreds of travelers never reached Oregon.



Some turned back or settled on the plains. Many died of diseases such as smallpox. Still others drowned in swollen rivers or died in accidents. Graves and the carcasses of dead animals lined the trail. This image is courtesy of [ganderson.wordpress.com](http://ganderson.wordpress.com).



For the most part, Native Americans traded with the travelers and tried to lessen their misery.



Native Americans provided travelers with horses, clothing, and fresh food. This image is courtesy of [oregontrailcenter.org](http://oregontrailcenter.org).

Some Native Americans fed hungry wagon trains or guided them over difficult stretches along the trail.



Settlers had been led to believe that Native American groups posed a threat to those crossing the plains. This image is titled "Mirage." This painting was created by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874) circa 1859. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

During this time, there were few incidents of violence between wagon trains and Native Americans.



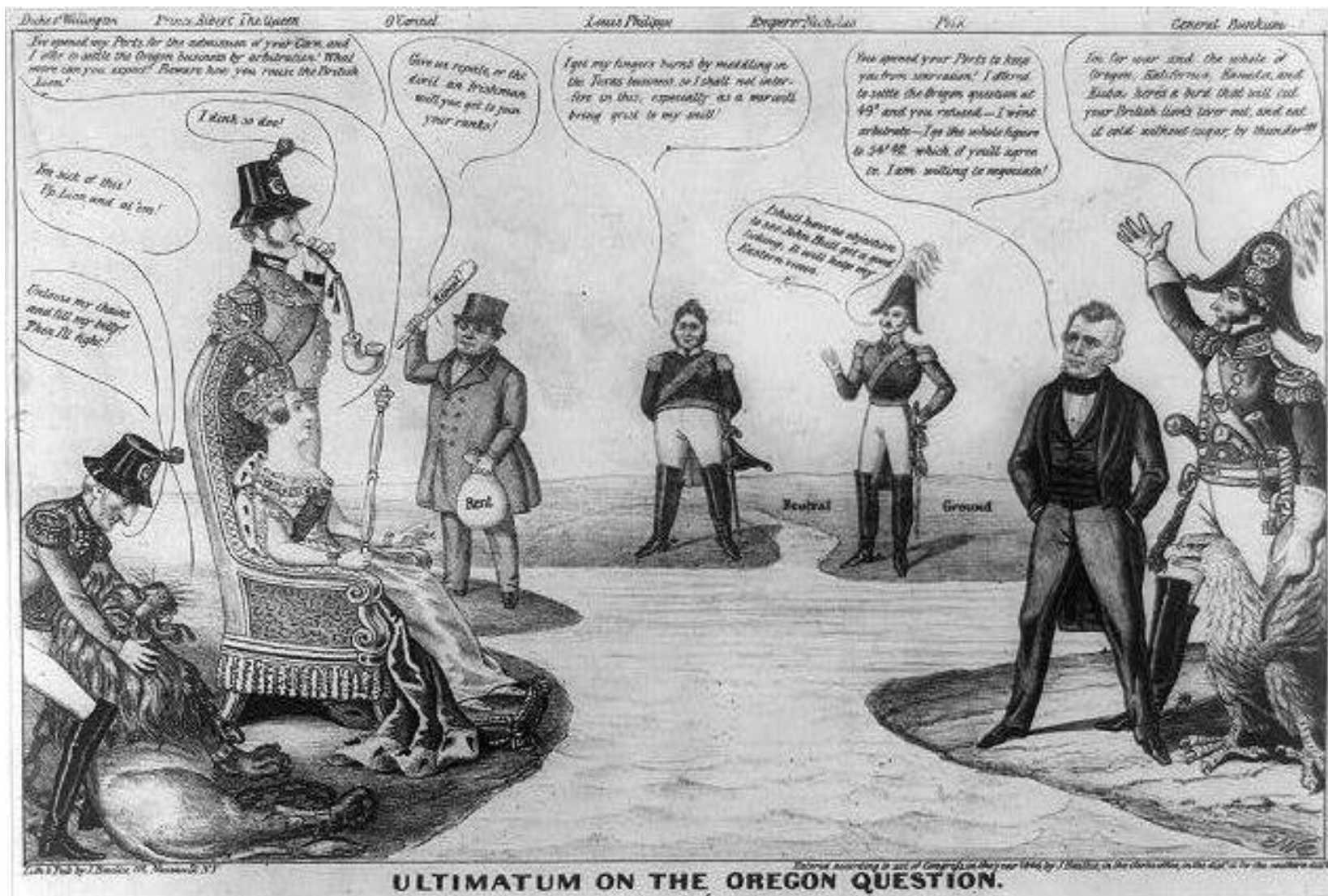
Eventually relations soured between settlers and Native Americans. Conflicts developed in the 1850s. Until then diseases such as cholera proved far more dangerous to settlers. This image is titled "Indians Attacking a Pioneer Wagon Train. This image was created by Frederic Remington (1861-1909). This image is courtesy of [fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com).

Despite peaceful relations with the British, American settlers wanted to annex, or add, the Oregon Country to the United States.



This image is a mural in the Oregon State Capitol. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# James K. Polk agreed with Americans who wanted to annex Oregon.



As a presidential candidate in 1844, Polk declared that all of Oregon should belong to the United States. This was dramatized by the campaign slogan "Fifty-four forty or fight!" In this image by Edward Williams Clay (1799-1857), titled "Ultimatum on the Oregon Question," James K. Polk faces off against Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Great Britain. Looking on in the background are Louis Philippe of France and Czar Nicholas I of Russia. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

This meant Polk demanded that the United States expand its territory to the parallel 54°40', the southern boundary of Alaska.



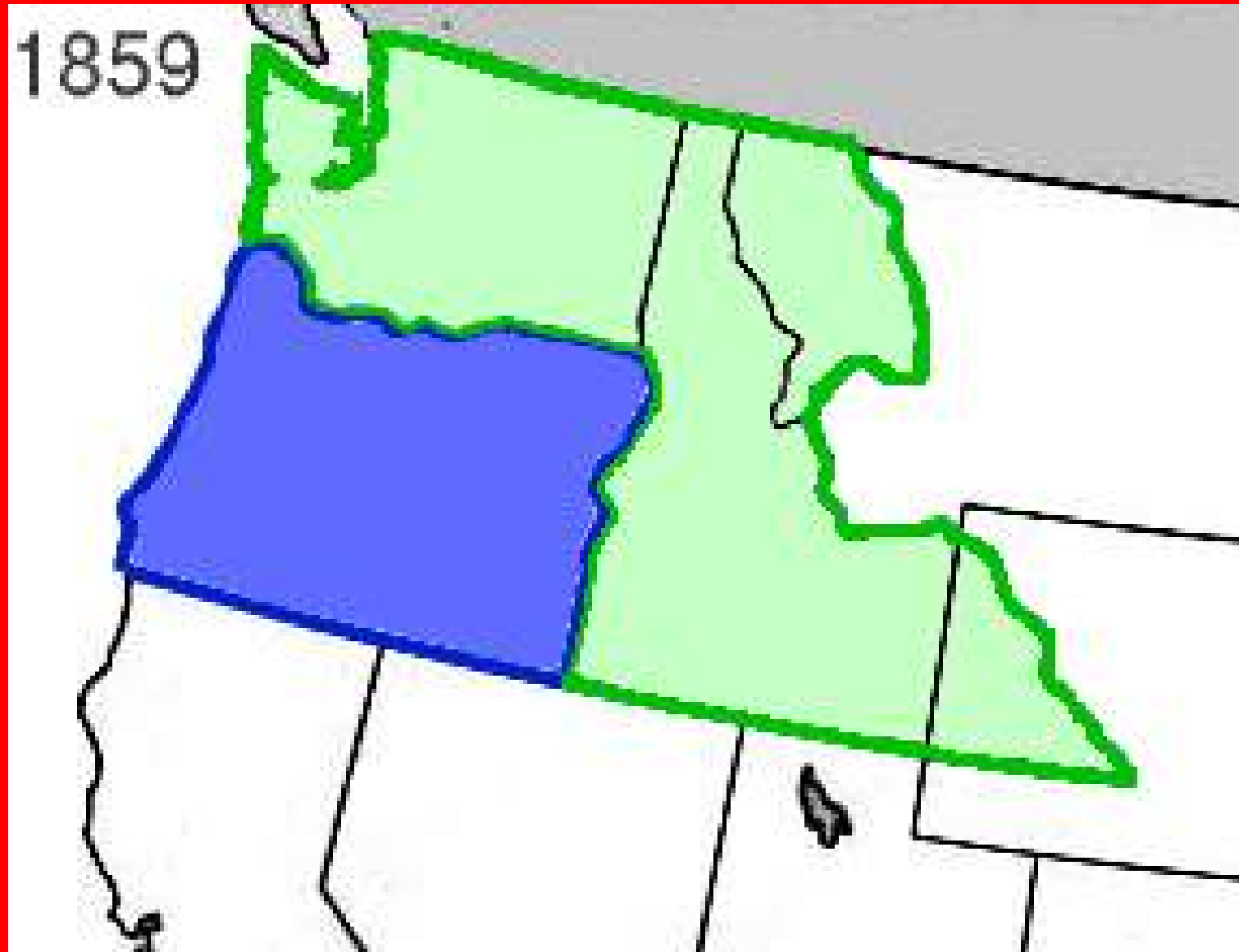
Polk won the 1844 election by a slim margin and began negotiations with Great Britain. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1848 the two nations decided to extend the boundary between Canada and the United States to the forty-ninth parallel.



This line already formed much of the United States-Canadian border. This image is courtesy of [markosun.wordpress.com](http://markosun.wordpress.com).

Oregon became a territory in 1848 and a state in 1859.



The transfer of territory occurred without bloodshed. When we acquired Texas, however, it would not be a peaceful acquisition. The state of Oregon is in blue. In green is the Oregon Territory, later known as the Washington Territory. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



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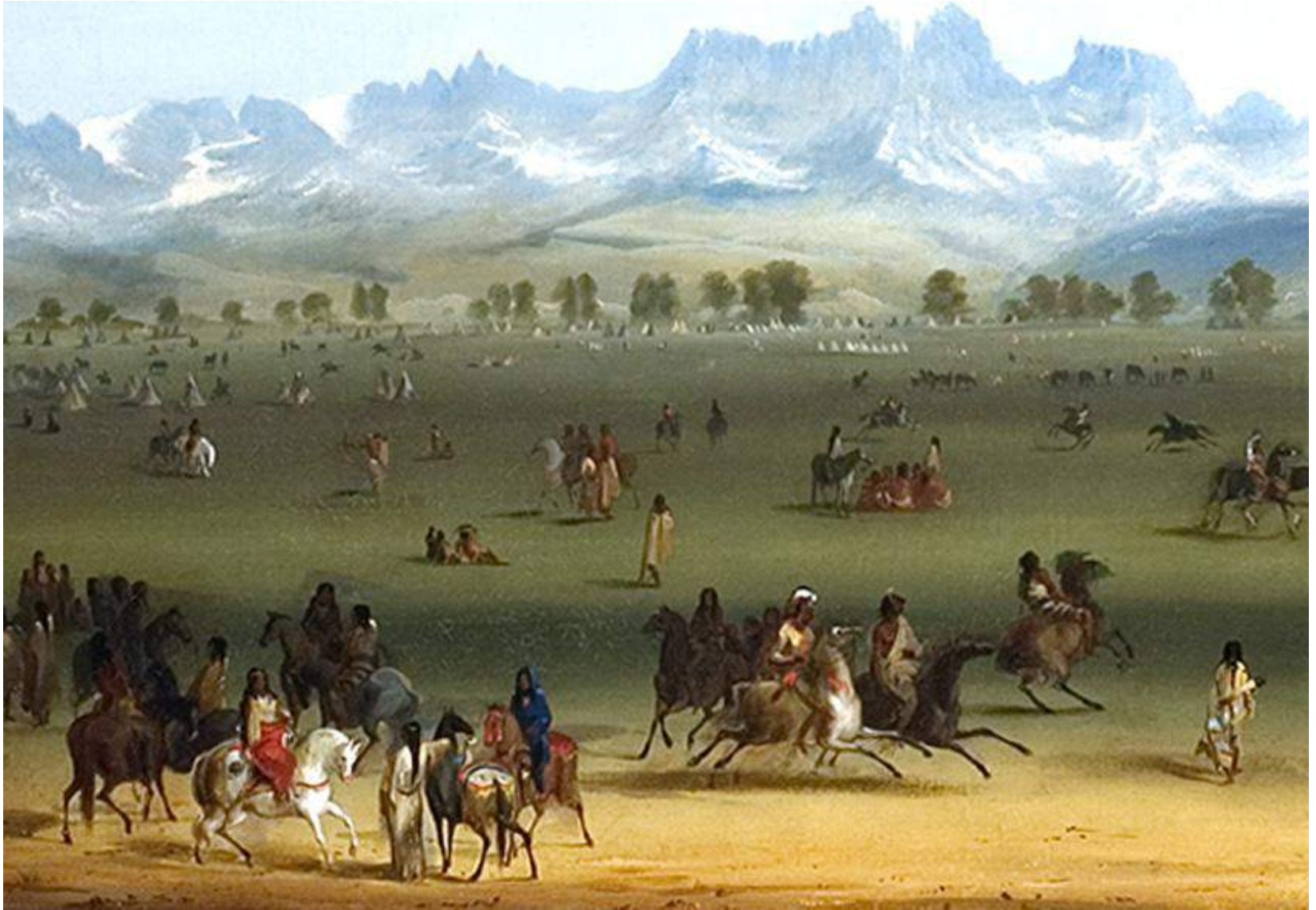
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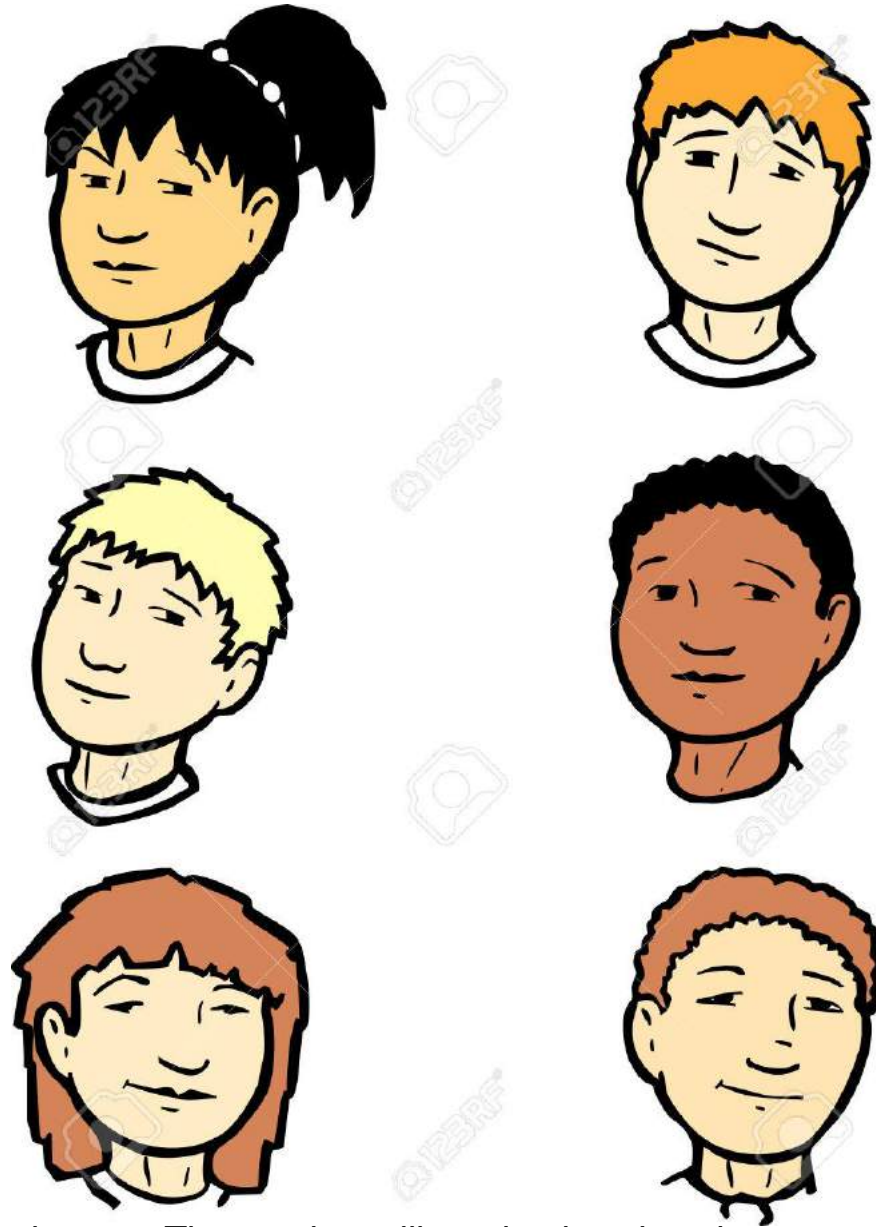
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# Mountain Man *Rendezvous* Activity



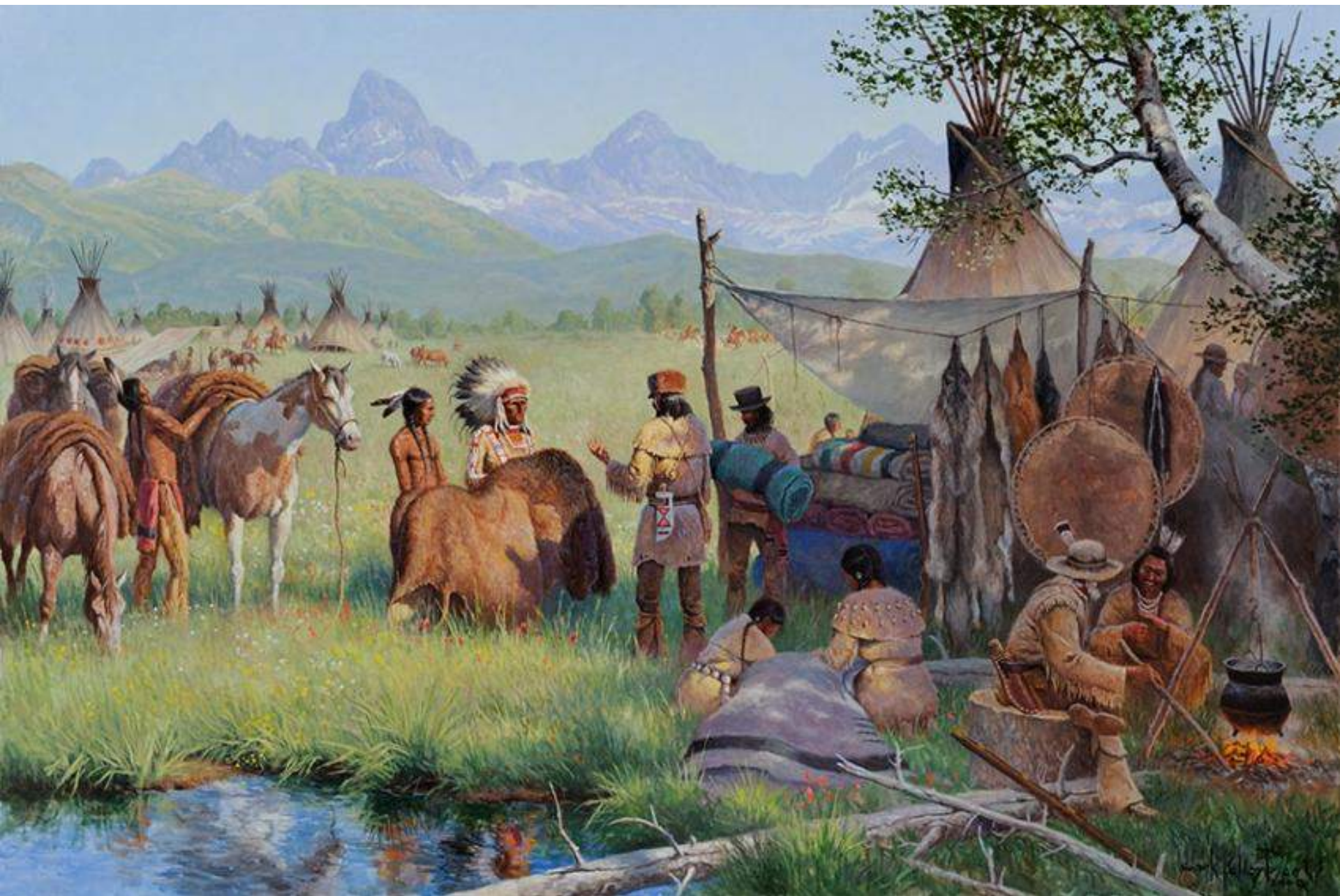
This image titled *Green River Rendezvous* is by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874). This image is courtesy of [thefurtrapper.com](http://thefurtrapper.com).

Students are divided into 6 different teams.



There will be 4-5 people on each team. The teacher will randomly select the groups. This image is courtesy of 123rf.com.

Each student has to do at least one event for their team.



No student does more than 3 events for their team. This image is courtesy of [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).

The teams will fill out a sheet listing the events, and who on their team is doing each event.

---

Rendezvous Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Everyone must do at least one event for their team, nobody does more than three events for their team.

1. Arm Strength \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

2. Target Shooting \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

3. Eating Hardtack \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

4. Leg Strength \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

5. Drinking Buffalo Blood \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

6. Speed \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

7. Smarts \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

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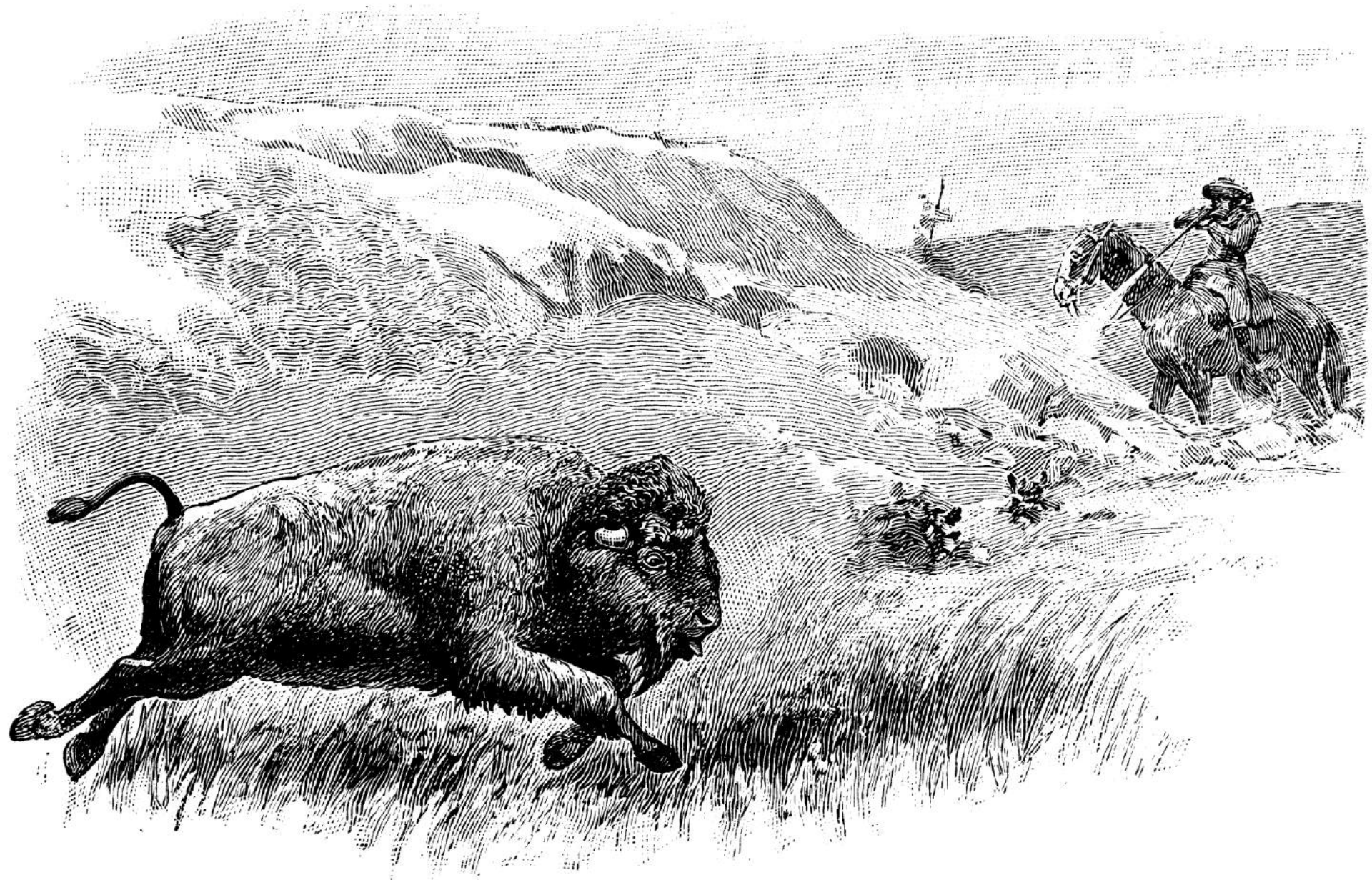
Every student has to do at least one event for their team. No student does more than 3 events for their team. This image is courtesy of pinterest.com.

# Event #1 Arm Strength



Must hold out two textbooks straight out away from your body for a minimum of 2 minutes (or the longest person to hold out the textbooks). This image is courtesy of [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).

## Event #2 Target Shooting



Must throw a ball made up of paper and masking tape at the heart of a buffalo. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



## Event #3 Eating Hardtack



4 crackers in a stack will be eaten at the same time. The person to eat the crackers and to be able to whistle is the winner. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## Event #4 Leg Strength



Participants put their backs against the wall in a sitting position for three minutes. If each representative does it for three minutes, then every group/team gets a "1." This image is courtesy of capitaljournal.com.

## Event #5 Drinking Buffalo Blood



Participants drink cups filled with tomato juice. The first one to finish completely wins. This image is courtesy of [buckskinning.org](http://buckskinning.org).

# Event #6 Speed



If weather is good, students run up hill outside of school (Rocky Mountains) and touch the telephone pole, then run to the gas meter and touch it, and then run back to the starting line. This image is courtesy of bryggiart.com.

## Event #6 Smarts



If weather is not good, the teacher will ask the students a series of questions about the lesson. The most answers gets the most points for their team. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Lowest Overall Score Wins

1- 1<sup>st</sup> Place

2- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

3- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

4- 4<sup>th</sup> Place

5- 5<sup>th</sup> Place

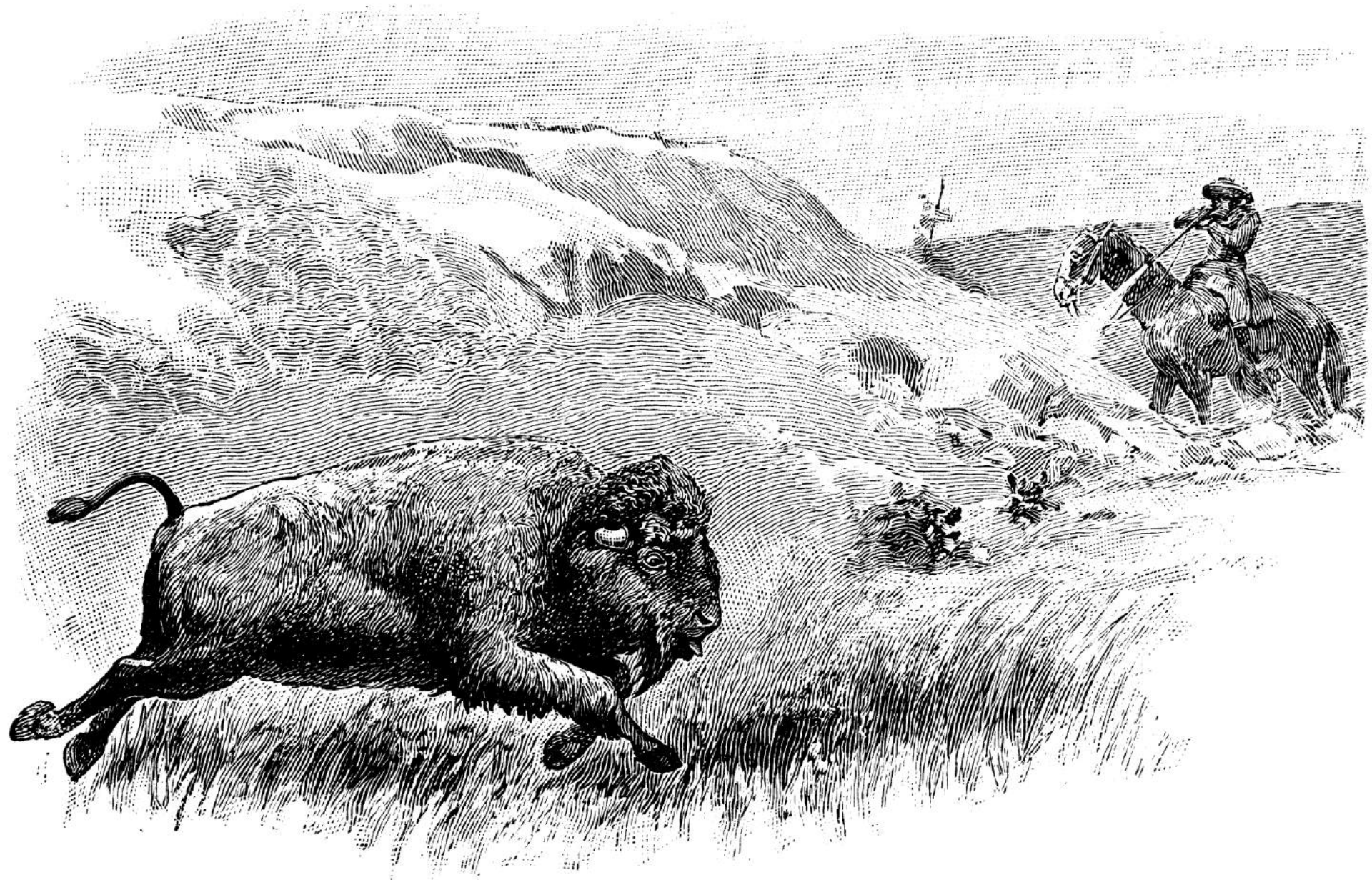
6- 6<sup>th</sup> Place

# Event #1 Arm Strength



Must hold out two textbooks straight out away from your body for a minimum of 2 minutes (or the longest person to hold out the textbooks). This image is courtesy of [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).

## Event #2 Target Shooting



Must throw a ball made up of paper and masking tape at the heart of a buffalo. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



## Event #3 Eating Hardtack



4 crackers in a stack will be eaten at the same time. The person to eat the crackers and to be able to whistle is the winner. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## Event #4 Leg Strength



Participants put their backs against the wall in a sitting position for three minutes. If each representative does it for three minutes, then every group/team gets a "1." This image is courtesy of capitaljournal.com.

## Event #5 Drinking Buffalo Blood



Participants drink cups filled with tomato juice. The first one to finish completely wins. This image is courtesy of [buckskinning.org](http://buckskinning.org).

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## Event #6 Smarts



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# *American Progress* by John Gass



# *Pick up Previewing Sheet 15*



Look for **Objects (including animals), People, and Actions** in this painting, and **write them in the appropriate column** on your Previewing sheet.





The painting is titled *American Progress*. What message is the artist attempting to send through the images in this painting, and how it relates to Manifest Destiny? Pick out some details from the painting to show the class.



# Manifest Destiny



The belief that the United States was destined, even divinely ordained, to expand across the North American continent, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This image is courtesy of nationalatlas.gov.

In what ways was Manifest Destiny a **Positive Idea**,  
and in what ways was it a **Negative Idea**?



The painting is titled *American Progress*. What message is the artist attempting to send through the images in this painting, and how it relates to Manifest Destiny? Pick out some details from the painting to show the class.



The artist, John Gast, portrays America or Columbia as a woman floating above the North American continent.



She wears the **Star of Empire** attached to her forehead. An empire is a group of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress, or other powerful type of government.



In her arms she holds a **schoolbook**, a symbol of America's intellectual progress.



She also holds **telegraph wires** (the first internet) representing the progress in communication that will help tie the nation together.





On the far right are the **cities of the east**. Notice how the east is shown in lighter colors. Progress is bringing “the light” from east to darkness of the west.



Symbols of progress moving from east to west include: trains, a stagecoach, pioneers, farmers, and miners.



Fleeing the symbols of progress are Native Americans, wild buffalo, a bear, and a deer.

