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# The Pacific Northwest

A Syllabus

By

Edmund S. Meany

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## I. PERIOD OF DISCOVERY

### 1. Spanish Voyages

- a. Introductory.
  - i. Columbus and Balboa.
  - ii. Magellan's voyage around the globe.
  - iii. Cortez in Mexico.
- b. Cabrillo and Ferrelo.
  - i. First to reach the Northwest, 1543.
- c. Vizcaino, Aquilar, and Flores.
  - i. Reached 45 degrees, north latitude, 1603.
- d. Juan Perez, 1774.
  - i. Gave "San Lorenzo" as first name of Nootka.
  - ii. Indians clamor for iron and copper.
  - iii. Gave "Santa Rosalia" as first name of Mount Olympus.
- e. Heceta and Quadra, 1775.
  - i. First landing north of Point Grenville.
  - ii. Quadra named "Isla de Dolores".
  - iii. Heceta at mouth of Columbia River.
- f. Ignacio Arteaga, 1779.
  - i. Exploration near Mount Saint Elias.

- g. The Nootka Controversy.
  - i. Seizure of British ships by Martinez, 1789.
  - ii. Preparation for war.
  - iii. Treaty signed at Madrid, 28 Oct. 1790
  - iv. Elisa, Fidalgo, and Quimper, 1790.
  - v. Quadra and Vancouver meet at Nootka, 1792.
  - vi. Flags lowered, 1795.

## 2. British Voyages

- a. Francis Drake, 1579.
  - i. Took possession and named "Nova Albion".
  - ii. Knighted on his return.
- b. Thomas Cavendish, 1587.
  - i. Referred to in Juan de Fuca myth.
- c. James Cook, 1778.
  - i. Importance of his third Pacific voyage.
  - ii. Discoveries and explorations on Northwest coast.
  - iii. Beginning of fur trade.
- d. James Hanna, 1785-1786.
  - i. Pioneer fur trader.
- e. John Meares, 1786.
- f. James Strange, 1786.
  - i. Named Queen Charlotte Sound.
- g. Nathaniel Portlock and George Dixon, 1786-1787.
  - i. Elaborate expedition.
  - ii. "King George's Sound".
  - iii. Separate journals published.

- h. Charles William Barkley, 1787.
  - i. Barkley Sound named for him.
  - ii. Observed Straits.
  - iii. Mrs. Barkley first white woman in Northwest.
- i. Duncan and Colnett, 1787-1788.
- j. John Meares and William Douglas, 1788.
  - i. Trick of double colors.
  - ii. Building a schooner.
  - iii. Chinese artisans.
  - iv. "Rediscovered" Strait of Juan de Fuca.
  - v. Named Mount Olympus.
  - vi. Discovered "Shoalwater" or Willapa Bay.
  - vii. Disappointed at mouth of the Columbia River.
- k. Vessels seized by Spaniards, 1789.
  - i. Captains representing Meares.
  - ii. Prisoners and ships released.
  - iii. Meares complained to the British Govt.
  - iv. The Nootka Sound controversy.
- l. George Vancouver, 1792.
  - i. Discovery of Puget Sound.
  - ii. Explorations.
  - iii. Negotiations at Nootka.
  - iv. Publications of his journals.

### 3. Russian and French Voyages

- a. Russia's approach to the Pacific.
  - i. Lure of the ermine and fossil ivory.
  - ii. Pacific reached in 1700.
  - iii. Ambition of Peter the Great.
- b. Bering Strait
  - i. Discovered in 1728.
- c. The Okotsh Sea.
  - i. Discovered in 1739.

- d. Bering's Great Expedition, 1741.
  - i. Vitus Bering.
  - ii. Alerei Chirikof.
  - iii. Vessels separate.
  - iv. Alaska and Mount Saint Elias discovered.
  - v. Death of Bering.
  - vi. Doctor George Wilhelm Steller's discoveries.
  - vii. Bering Island and Bering Sea.
- e. Lieutenant Synd, 1766-1767.
  - i. Exploration of "Fox Islands".
- f. Captains Krenetzen and Levaschef, 1768-1769.
  - i. Methods of fur trade reported.
- g. Count Maurice de Benyowsky, 1771.
  - i. Accidental exploration of Bering Strait.
- h. Master Gerassim Pribilof.
  - i. Discovery of seal rookeries, 1786.
- i. Fur Trade Monopoly.
- j. Alexander Andreievich Baranof.
  - i. Founding of Sitka, 1790.
  - ii. Like a Czar in America for three decades.
- k. French Voyages.
  - i. Francois G. de la Perouse, 1786.
  - ii. Etienne Marchand, 1791.
  - iii. No attempt at occupation.

#### 4. American Voyages.

- a. The Boston Company.
  - i. Purposes of its organization.
  - ii. Captains Kendrick and Gray.
  - iii. Ships Columbia and Lady Washington.
  - iv. The famous medal.
  - v. The captains exchange vessels.
  - vi. Gray's voyage around the globe.

- b. Captain Gray's Second Voyage, 1791-1792.
  - i. Sloop built at Clayoquot during winter.
  - ii. Meeting with Vancouver.
  - iii. Discovery of Grays Harbor and Columbia River.
  - iv. Importance of Gray's work to America.
  - v. Experiences of Captain Kendrick.
  - vi. John Boit's Journal.
- c. Joseph Ingraham, 1791-1792.
  - i. In brig "Hope" from Boston.
- d. James McGee, 1792.
  - i. In ship "Margaret" from Boston.
- e. R. D. Coolidge, 1792.
  - i. In ship "Grace" from New York by way of China.
- f. Ship "Boston", 1803.
  - i. Captain John Salter's tragic death.
  - ii. Jewitt and Thompson survive.
  - iii. Escape from Indian slavery.
  - iv. Reason for "Boston-man" in Chinook Jargon.

## II. PERIOD OF EXPLORATION.

### 5. First Across the Continent

- a. The Shining Mountains.
  - i. The Verendyre approach, 1743.
  - ii. Johathan Carver and the name of Oregon.
- b. Alexander Mackenzie
  - i. The Mackenzie River, 1789.
  - ii. Up Peace River toward the Pacific, 1793.
  - iii. Mutiny overcome.
  - iv. Meeting with Indians.
  - v. Portage to the Bella Coola.

- vi. Pacific Coast reached.
- vii. Famous painting on a rock.
- viii. Return journey.

## 6. Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803-1806.

- a. Evolution of the plan.
  - i. Jefferson's letter to George Rogers Clark, 1783.
  - ii. John Ledyard.
  - iii. Michaux and Lewis, 1792.
  - iv. Jefferson's private secretary, 1801.
- b. Organization.
  - i. Jefferson's letter of credit.
  - ii. William Clark chosen one of the leaders
  - iii. Secret message to Congress.
  - iv. Impulse from Louisiana Purchase Treaty, 1803.
- c. Under Way.
  - i. Winter of 1803-1804 on the Mississippi.
  - ii. Second winter at Mandan Indian village.
  - iii. Sacajawea.
  - iv. Meeting Indians in the Rockies.
  - v. The brother of Sacajawea.
- d. Reaching the Pacific.
  - i. Friendly Nez Perces.
  - ii. Canoeing to the Pacific.
  - iii. Winter of 1805-1806 at Fort Clatsop.
  - iv. Return Trip.
- e. Geographical results.
- f. Political and international results.



7. Kelley, Bonneville, Wyeth and Slacum.

a. Hall Jackson Kelley.

- i. Interest in Oregon aroused in 1815.
- ii. Pamphlets and other agitations.
- iii. Trip to Oregon, 1834.
- iv. Map and memoir.
- v. Eccentric but real help.

b. Captain B. L. E. Bonneville.

- i. Letter of instructions, 1831.
- ii. Trapping, hunting and exploring.
- iii. Visit to Fort Walla Walla.
- iv. Difficulty in resuming his army career.
- v. Later in command at Fort Vancouver.
- vi. Recent analysis by I. K. Russell.

c. Nathaniel J. Wyeth.

- i. Inspired by work of Hall J. Kelley.
- ii. The "Natwyethium" invented and discarded.
- iii. Arrived at Fort Vancouver, Oct. 29, 1832.
- iv. John Ball's school, Jan. 1, 1833.
- v. Columbia River Fishing and Trading Co.
- vi. Fort Hall and Fort William, 1834.
- vii. Sold out to the Hudson's Bay Company.
- viii. His letter about wrecked Japanese.
- ix. Prophetic nature of his work.

d. William A. Slacum.

- i. Investigated Hudson's Bay Company's work, 1837.
- ii. Cattle company formed.
- iii. Memoir before Congress.
- iv. Recommended retention of Puget Sound.

8. The United States Exploring Expedition,  
1838-1842.

- a. Commander Charles Wilkes.
  - i. Selected because of his astronomical ability.
- b. Plan suggested by President Andrew Jackson.
  - i. To match work done by French and British
- c. Squadron of American naval vessels.
- d. Supplies forwarded to different ports.
- e. Work in the Southern Pacific.
- f. In Pacific Northwestern waters, 1841.
  - i. Anchored in Port Discovery.
  - ii. Steamer "Beaver" did not respond to call
  - iii. Sailed to Nisqually.
  - iv. Lieutenant Johnson's trip over Cascades.
  - v. Exploring work by officers and crews.
  - vi. Visit by Wilkes to Columbia River.
  - vii. Wreck of the "Peacock".
  - viii. Party sent overland to California.
  - ix. Importance of geographic work.
  - x. Prompt use of information obtained.
  - xi. Whole record never published.

III. PERIOD OF OCCUPATION.

9. Astoria.

- a. First attempt by Winship brothers.
- b. John Jacob Astor.
  - i. Success in fur trade.
  - ii. Sought cooperation with Canadians.
- c. Pacific Fur Company.
  - i. Canadian partners.
  - ii. Voyage and loss of the "Tonquin".
  - iii. Expedition by land.

- d. Astoria established.
  - i. Trade begun.
  - ii. British rivals.
  - iii. Interior posts begun.
- e. War of 1812.
  - i. Arrival of H.M.S. "Raccoon".
  - ii. Astoria sold by Canadian partners.
  - iii. Name changed to "Fort George".

#### 10. Early British Fur Traders.

- a. North-West Company of Montreal.
  - i. Work of David Thompson, geographer.
  - ii. Rivals of Astorians.
  - iii. Interior posts established.
  - iv. Purchase of Astoria.
- b. Treaty of Ghent, 24 Dec. 1814.
  - i. Importance of Article I.
  - ii. American negotiators.
- c. Treaty of Joint Occupancy.
  - i. Article III of Treaty of 20 Oct. 1818.
  - ii. For period of ten years.
- d. Brief change of flags.
  - i. American rights recognized.
  - ii. British possession resumed.
- e. Merger with Hudson's Bay Company.
  - i. Relative influence of leaders.

#### 11. Hudson's Bay Company.

- a. Organization and development.
  - i. Many rivals.
  - ii. Relative supremacy attained.

- b. Doctor John McLoughlin.
  - i. Prior to coming to Oregon in 1825.
  - ii. Establishment of Fort Vancouver.
  - iii. Expansion of the Company's work.
  - iv. Cooperation with Douglas the botanist
  - v. Assistance to John Ball's school.
  - vi. Kindness to missionaries and settlers.
  - vii. "Uncrowned King of the Columbia".
- c. Probable influence of the Monroe Doctrine.
- d. Ultimatum by Henry Clay.
- e. Renewal of the Joint Occupancy Treaty.
  - i. Term made indefinite.
- f. Importance of Fort Nisqually.
  - i. First settlement of white men on Puget Sound.
  - ii. Puget Sound Agricultural Company.

#### IV. INDIANS.

##### 12. Arts and Legends.

- a. Different races and tribes.
- b. Rates of progress shown by arts, implements, etc.
  - i. Basketry.
  - ii. Bows, arrows, and stone implements.
  - iii. Canoes and houses.
  - iv. Totem poles.
  - v. Pictographs.
- c. Legends.
  - i. "Origin of Fire".
  - ii. "Explanation of Mound Prairie".
  - iii. "Misp of the Queets".
  - iv. "Origin of the Constellations".

### 13. Wars and Treaties

- a. Ten treaties by Governor Stevens.
  - i. Method of negotiation.
  - ii. Substance of the documents.
  - iii. Delay in ratification.
- b. Wars followed the treaties.
  - i. Unfair to blame the treaties.
  - ii. Resistance to encroachment natural.
- c. The war near Yakima.
- d. The war around Puget Sound.
  - i. In the White River Valley.
  - ii. The Battle of Seattle.
- e. The war near Spokane.
- f. Block-house forts.
- g. End of the wars.
- h. Ratification of the treaties.

## V. PIONEER DEVELOPMENTS

### 14. Missionaries.

- a. Indian request for religious teachers.
- b. Response by the Methodists.
  - i. Jason Lee and his associates: 1834.
  - ii. Location in Willamette Valley.
- c. The Whitman Mission, 1836.
  - i. Sent by the A.B.C.F.M.
  - ii. Location in Walla Walla Valley.
  - iii. Spalding goes to Lapwai.
- d. The Catholic missionaries, 1838.
  - i. Fathers Blanchet and Demers.
  - ii. Location north of the Columbia River.

- e. Reinforcements.
- f. The Whitman massacre.

## 15. Early Settlements.

- a. Fur trading posts.
- b. Settlers south and north of the Columbia.
- c. Settlers on shores of Puget Sound.
  - i. Simmons party at Tumwater, 1846.
  - ii. Fort Steilacoom, 1849.
  - iii. Van Asselt party, 1851.
  - iv. Denny party at Alki, 1851.
  - v. Port Townsend, Dungeness and Whidby Island.
  - vi. McCarver at Tacoma, 1868.
- d. Settlers in Southwestern Washington.
- e. Settlers East of the Cascades.
- f. Economic influences.
  - i. The gold rush to California.
  - ii. Demand for timber.
  - iii. Need of cattle.
- g. Development.

## 16. Provisional Government.

- a. Death of Ewing Young, 1841.
  - i. Need to probate his estate.
- b. Settled by a temporary government.
- c. "Wolf Meetings" of 1843.
  - i. A government emerged.
  - ii. Influence of the 1843 immigration.
  - iii. Committee changed to Legislature, 1845.

- d. George Abernathy chosen governor.
- e. The oath of office.
  - i. Effort to respect joint occupancy.
- f. Experience with a mint and postoffice.
  - i. Beaver money coined.
  - ii. Postal rates changed.
- g. Attitude of the Hudson's Bay Company
  - i. Doctor McLoughlin seeks American citizenship.
- h. Case of the "Peacock's" long boat.
- i. The great year of 1846.
  - i. Treaty with Great Britain.
  - ii. War begun with Mexico.
  - iii. Oregon Act by Congress.
- j. Geographical changes.
- k. Political adjustments.
- l. Economic progress.

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are given as helpful suggestions  
and not as inclusive bibliographies.

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