

## Whitman Timeline

### 1802

Sept. 4: Marcus Whitman is born in a log cabin in Rushville, Now York. Third son of Beza and Alice Whitman.

Beza Whitman (May 13, 1773-April 7, 1810) and Alice Green (1777-1857):

Augustus Whitman - Born 1798

Erastus -1798-1800

Marcus - Sat, Sept. 4, 1802-1847

Samuel 1804-1875

Henry Green - 1806-1854

Alice - 1808-1887

### 1803

Nov. 26: Henry Brown Spalding is born in a log cabin near present village of Wheeler, Steuben County, New York. Died August 3, 1874 at Lapwai. Spalding was the former schoolmate and rejected suitor of Narcissa Prentiss.

### 1805

Stephen and Clarissa Prentiss settle in Prattsburg, Steuben County, New York. Stephen operated a sawmill and flour mill - he was a carpenter and joiner. They were loyal members of the Presbyterian Church.

### 1808

Mar.14: (Monday): Narcissa Prentiss is born at Prattsburg, New York. She is the third child and eldest daughter of Stephen and Clarissa Prentiss. She is born in a frame house, 1.5 stories high, measuring about 22 feet by 32 feet. The Prentiss's had nine children, 4 boys and 5 girls in this house.

July 17: Narcissa Prentiss is baptized by Rev. Solomon Allen. She is the first girl baby to be baptized in Prattsburg.

### 1810

Fall of: Due to the death of Beza Whitman on April 7, 1810, Marcus Whitman, now 8 years old, is sent to live with his father's half brother, Freedom Whitman, at Cummington, Massachusetts. At this time there were five children in the Whitman family.

## **1810-15**

Marcus Whitman gains his early religious training from his uncle (Freedom) and his grandfather (Samuel). Samuel was living with Freedom during the time Marcus was there.  
1814

The Rushville church unites with the Presbytery of Geneva under the "Plan of Union" which had been devised in 1801 by the Congregational Association of Connecticut and the Presbyterian General Assembly. This made it possible for members of both denominations in small communities to work together in one organization. The Rushville Church withdrew from the Presbytery in 1855, again becoming fully Congregational.

## **1815**

Now 13 years old, Marcus Whitman returns home for a visit - he finds his Mother has married Calvin Loomis in 1811. There were three children born to this marriage. Loomis operated the tannery, shoeshop and a tavern.

After his return to Massachusetts, Marcus enrolls in the Preparatory School in Plainfield, conducted by Rev. Moses Hallock (Pastor of the Church in Plainfield). The school acquired the reputation of being the best boy's school in western Massachusetts. Marcus studies Greek, Latin, Mathematics, and English. Rev. Hallock, pastor in Plainfield for 45 years, left a lasting impression on Marcus. While in Plainfield, Marcus lives with Colonel John Packard.

While in Plainfield, Marcus does not join the Congregational Church. This may have been due to conflicting loyalties:

- Congregational influence of Plainfield
- The Baptist convictions of his Uncle Freedom and Grandfather Samuel.

## **1819**

June 6: At Prattsburg, New York, Narcissa Prentiss, at the age of 11 is united with the Church. Rev. James H. Hotchkin was pastor.

## **1820**

After 10 years in Massachusetts, Marcus Whitman returns to Rushville. By this time he has probably completed as much of the schooling as was offered by Rev. Moses Hallock.

He is now ready for college and wanted to study for the Christian Ministry, but he was needed to help work in his stepfather's shoeshop and tannery. He was now 18 years old and could bear an active part in the work.

Whitman's training from the years 8 - 18 consisted of:

- Foster parents (Freedom and Sarah Whitman and Grandfather Samuel).
- Five years under Moses Hallock's leadership and instruction.

### **1823**

Marcus Whitman, now 21 years old and not bound by duty to his parents, begins to ride with Dr. Ira Bryant as his assistant and trainee for about two years.

### **1824**

During Narcissa Prentiss' 16th year she has a very impressive religious experience, as seen in part of her first letter to the American Board:

"I frequently desired to go to the heathen but only half-heartedly and it was not till the first Monday of January 1824 that I felt to consecrate myself without reserve to the Missionary work awaiting the leadings of Providence concerning me."

What this experience was does not seem to be known, but it remained quite clear in her mind, for the letter was written 11 years later, and she clearly remembered the date. Full text of 1835 letter to American Board.

Marcus decides to enter Medicine instead of the Ministry - Why?

- Ministry Required: Full college course
- Three years of Seminary work
- Very expensive
  
- Medicine Required: Good English Education (Here Marcus could qualify)
- Two, 16 week sessions, would give the student his M.D. Degree
- Cost much less

### **1825**

Oct. 3: Whitman enters the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York at Fairfield, Herkimer County, Now York.

## 1826

Jan. 23: Marcus Whitman finishes his first 16-week session of Medical Training. He receives a license to practice. His license allows him to practice medicine in the state of New York - by courtesy such a license was usually good in the United States and Canada.

It was the accepted custom that a medical student could begin to practice after attending only the first 16-week session and this would earn the student his M.D. degree. Those who did not take the second session were allowed to practice under the title of "Doctor".

### *Narcissa Prentiss's Education*

Narcissa attended the public grade school in Prattsburg and in 1827 was a member of the first class of girls admitted into Franklin Academy. After at least one year at Franklin Academy, Narcissa went to Troy, New York, where she enrolled in the Female Seminary conducted by the Mrs. Emma Willard (Mrs. Willard's maiden name was Hart and she was a third cousin of Mrs. Henry Spalding). How long Narcissa was a student here is not known.

Upon completion of her training, she became a school teacher. For a time she taught a kindergarten class in Bath, New York.

Narcissa was enrolled in the Franklin Academy for a term ending April 6, 1828. For the term ending September 28, 1831 the tuition accounts of Franklin Academy show Henry Harmon Spalding and Narcissa Prentiss enrolled. During this time it is possible that Narcissa rejected Henry Spalding's proposal of marriage.

**NOTE:** David Malin was a student of Franklin Academy. In 1837 he married Mary Porter, a close friend of Narcissa. Malin became a pastor of a prominent church in Philadelphia. (In Oregon, Narcissa named a boy who they took in David Malin)

Narcissa's Singing Voice:

Narcissa had a soprano voice and several people have written of her fine singing. In Oregon, the natives traveled many miles to hear her sing. Narcissa wrote in letter 40: "I was not aware that singing was a qualification of so much importance to a missionary."

## 1827

Fall of: Marcus Whitman practices medicine in Sugargrove for a period of two months - he relieves Dr. Pratt, who was in ill health. Following Dr. Pratt's return, Marcus goes to Canada to practice. He remains there for about 2.5 years. (Snyders Mill in Gainsboro, now called St. Anns is about 25 miles west of Niagara Falls.)

## 1830

Jedediah Smith, Jackson, and Sublette take the first wagons to the Rockies and the first wagon on the later famous Oregon Trail.

April 10: Departed St. Louis

July 18: Reached South Pass

Mar. 4: Perrin Beza Whitman is born, son of Samuel and Mary Jenkins Peabody.

Fall of: Marcus gives up his medical profession and begins a course of study preparing for the ministry. He resumes his theological studies under Rev. Joseph Brackett, pastor at Rushville. Due to his health he does not follow this line of study for long.

Nov. 6: Marcus Whitman is reunited with the church of Rushville. No mention has been found of Whitman's dismissal from the Rushville church because those minutes were lost.

## 1831

Oct. 4: Marcus Whitman re-enters medical college at Fairfield for the second 16- week session.

About Oct. 1: Four Indians reach St. Louis to see General William Clark (of the Lewis and Clark Expedition) requesting some kind of big medicine. They were looking for new incantations to use on this earth, not information on a possible world to come. They believed the Bible could give them this power.

They were: (spelling of the Indian names differs in each text consulted)

H'co-a-h'co-a-h'cotes (No-horns-on-his-head)

Hee-oh-'ks-te-kin (The Rabbit Skin Leggings)

Tip-ya-lah-na-jah-nim (Black or Speaking Eagle)

Ka-ou-pen (Man of the Morning or Daylight)

Two were Nez Perce from the Kamiah Community (Black Eagle)

One was Nez Perce from the Salmon River Band

One was half-Nez Perce and half-Flathead (Ka-ou-pen)

What was their fate?

Black Eagle died in St. Louis and was buried October 31, 1831; Ka-ou-pen also died in St. Louis and was buried on November 17, 1831.

No-horns-on-his-head died on the trip home

Rabbit Skin Leggins joined a portion of his tribe in buffalo country, but before reaching home he died in a battle with the Blackfeet Indians near what is now Salmon City, Idaho

Rabbit Skin Leggins and No-horns-on-his-head did not leave St. Louis until March 26, 1832. Where they had been or what they did in the time between their arrival and their departure is not known.

## **1832**

Jan.: Whitman finishes the second 16 week session at Fairfield and receives a M.D. Degree from the University of the State of New York. (Now he could rightfully be called Doctor Whitman).

## **1832-1834**

Marcus Whitman has his residence in Wheeler. He begins a practice which was mainly in the surrounding countryside.

## **1832**

Asiatic Cholera comes to the United States. This was the first time American doctors had ever been confronted with this disease. Their training had not included proper procedures so they learned by trial and error and the newspapers. (The University of Edinburgh made some important discoveries which were published in pamphlet form. The pamphlet reached the United States and was reprinted in many newspapers)

Whitman was probably only called upon to administer in some isolated cases. Wheeler was far enough away from the Erie Canal to lessen the chances of contracting the disease. Marcus was familiar with the disease and the best known methods treatment.

### ***NOTE ON WHITMAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF CHOLERA:***

In 1835, when Whitman and Parker started west with the American Fur Company, the men did not approve of the two missionaries. There were some doubts that the two would ever reach the rendezvous.

On June 10, 1835, cholera appeared in the caravan. Whitman's past experience with the disease helped to stop the spread of the disease. Only three cases were fatal. When the caravan was ready to move on the hostility had vanished.

Dec. 29: Whitman is elected as Trustee to the Wheeler Church (Re-elected in 1833)

Pierre Chrysologue Pambrun becomes Chief Trader at Fort Walla Walla (born 1792 - died 1841). He was chief trader at Fort Walla Walla from 1832 to 1841.

### 1833

Feb. 10: Marcus Whitman transfers from the Rushville Church to the Wheeler Church.

Mar. 1: Christian Advocate and Zion's Herald Article appears about Indian visit to St. Louis.

Oct. 13: Henry Spalding marries Eliza Hart (Aug. 11, 1807 - January 7, 1851).

### 1834

Mar.: Rev. Jason Lee, Rev. Daniel Lee, Philip L. Edwards and Courtney M. Walker respond to call of the Indians. These men join the Wyeth Expedition in 1834, then continue to the Willamette Valley and start a mission.

April 25: Depart Independence

July 30: Depart Fort Hall

Sept.1-4: Lee at Fort Walla Walla

June 1: (Sunday). Marcus Whitman is ordained and elected to the office of elder. He probably serves as Sunday School Superintendent at this time.

June: The Prentiss family moves to Amity (now called Belmont), about 50 miles southwest of Prattsburg. There Narcissa joins the newly organized Presbyterian Church.

June 31: Whitman applies to American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions for appointment as a medical missionary. He is rejected because of ill health.

Autumn: Marcus Whitman meets Samuel Parker, (born April 23, 1779 - died March 21, 1866 - Congregational Pastor) who in 1834 had attempted to go west, but on arriving in St. Louis found he arrived 6 weeks too late to accompany the fur traders caravan west. He then returned east to find more workers and planned to try again in 1835. He spent the fall and winter of 1834-35 holding missionary meetings trying to obtain men and money for his venture west. In the latter part of November, 1834, while visiting Wheeler, Parker met Marcus Whitman. He learned that Whitman had volunteered to go west, but had been rejected due to his health. (By this time Whitman's health had improved) Parker advised Whitman to reapply and promised to write the American Board on his behalf, which he did on December 17 and 25.

Dec.: Narcissa Prentiss must have heard Rev. Samuel Parker's plea for volunteers to go west, for in December of 1833 Parker wrote the American Board asking: "Are females wanted?" Here he mentions Narcissa's interest.

Again on January 1, 1835 Parker writes to the American Board about Narcissa's interest and the interest of a Miss McCoy. Greene's second reply (January 7, 1835) says no word has been received from either of these two women. In both of Greene's reply letters to Parker he was considering the new idea of a single woman being sent into the field as a missionary.

William Sublette and Robert Campbell found a trading post called Fort Williams, later known as Fort Laramie. In 1835 it is sold to James Bridger and Thomas Kirkpatrick, who in turn sell it to the American Fur Company renaming it John. In 1849 the U. S. Government buys the fort and renames it Fort Laramie in honor of Jacques Laramie, French Canadian trapper.

## **1835**

Jan. 7: Whitman is appointed by the American Board as a missionary physician to accompany Mr. Parker on his trip to the Rockies during summer, 1837.

Feb. 22: Whitman becomes engaged to marry Narcissa Prentiss.

Feb. 23: Whitman departs for St. Louis.

Feb. 23: Narcissa writes her letter of application to the American Board.

Summer: With Parker, Whitman crosses the plains under the protection of the caravan of the American Fur Company. They were so impressed by the eagerness for missionary instruction shown by Nez Perce and Flathead Indians encountered beyond the Continental Divide that Whitman returns East for more workers leaving Parker to continue exploration.

### ***PARKER'S TRIP (Notes from, Parker's Exploring Tour)***

March 14: Providence, Buffalo, Erie

March 25: Pittsburg to Cincinnati (28th)

March 30: Passed Louisville

April 1: Passed from the Ohio River to the Mississippi

April 4: Arrived St. Louis (Met Dr. Marcus Whitman who had arrived April 1.)

April 7: Departed St. Louis via Missouri River aboard the steamboat Siam. Took two weeks.

April 21: Liberty - stayed three weeks, waiting for caravan to be ready.

May 15: Started for Council Bluffs (NW course)

May 17: Crossed the East or Little Platte.

May 22: Crossed the Nodaway River.

May 25: Overtook caravan, crossed South Fork of the Neshnahanotana River.

May 26: Crossed main branch of the Neshnahanotana River.

May 28: North branch of the Neshnahanotana River.

May 30: Council Bluffs (Stayed 3 weeks; cholera epidemic).

June 22: Started out again.



June 24: Crossed the Papillon River.

July 15: Arrived at Forks of the Platte, continued up the north bank of the North Platte to Fort Laramie.

July 22: Chimney Rock.

July 23: Scott's Bluff.

July 26: Fort Laramie. Here Parker and Whitman met a delegation of Ogalalla Sioux Indians.

August 1: Departed Fort Laramie. The wagons were left behind and the baggage was transferred to pack animal. Thomas Fitzpatrick took over the command at Fort Laramie, relieving Fontanelle.

August 5: Red Butte, from here passed over to the Sweetwater River.

August 7: Independence Rock.

August 10: Crossed Continental Divide on the trail leading through South Pass.

August 12: Came to Green River Rendezvous. Parker and Whitman split here.

August 13: The day after their arrival at the rendezvous, Whitman removed a three-inch iron arrow point from the back of mountain man, Jim Bridger. It had been embedded three years previous in a battle with some Blackfeet Indians.

August 16: Parker and Whitman met with the principal men of the Flathead and Nez Perce Indians and explained the object of their visit. Both men were deeply stirred by the earnestness and sincerity of the Indians.

August 17: Parker and Whitman met with the Indians again to discuss the idea of Parker's going with them. They promised to assist in packing and caring for Parker's animal. The decision was final. The services of Charles Compo were secured as interpreter and servant for Parker.

August 21: Whitman and Parker parted ways, never to meet again.

August 22: Little Hole.

August 24: Passed spring.

August 25-29: Jackson's Large Hole.

August 29: Pierre's Hole (Captain Bridger departed).

August 30: Volcanic Chasm (100 feet deep).

August 31: On another tributary of the Columbia.

Sept. 1: Crossed Henry's Fork.

Sept. 12: East Branch of the Salmon River.

Sept. 15: Camped near Bonneville's Fort (Abandoned).

Sept. 16: Departed Salmon River

(From the 12th to the 24th crossed over the Mountains.)

Sept. 24: on large branch of the Coos-Coots-Ke River.

Coos-Water

Coots-Little

Ke--The

Sept. 25: Departed branch, took northerly direction and ascended mountains.

Sept. 28: Another branch of the Coos-Coots-Ke-River

Sept. 29: Departed branch of the Coos-Coots-Ke.  
Oct. 1: Arrived Lewis Branch of Columbia River, near confluence of the Coos-Coots-Ke-River.  
Took west-northwest course to Walla Walla.  
Oct. 3: Upper branch of the Walla Walla River.  
Oct. 6: Reached Fort Walla Walla.  
Oct. 8: Canoe trip down Columbia.  
Oct. 12: Celilo Falls, left canoe, used horses around falls to the Dalles.  
Oct. 13: Canoe from the Dalles.  
Oct. 16: Reached Fort Vancouver.

### **1836 (Parker's journey, cont.)**

Apr. 26: Fort Walla Walla.  
May 9 -11: Retraced trip to confluence of Snake or Lewis River.  
May 16: Decided not to go to the rendezvous as planned.  
May 19: Returned to Fort Walla Walla.  
May 24: Started north, up Pavilion River.  
May 26: Arrived Spokane River.  
May 27: Fort (NWCo.) Crossed River (?). Village of Spokeins.  
May 28: Fort Colville  
May 30: Traveled down Columbia River via horse.  
May 31: Crossed Spokane River, entered into Columbia Grand Coulee.  
June 1: Fort Okanogan  
June 2: Traveled down Columbia via boat.  
June 3: Fort Walla Walla.  
June 9: Arrived Fort Vancouver.  
June 18: Departed aboard steamboat "Beaver" from Fort Vancouver to Fort George.  
June 28: Departed for the Sandwich Islands on the boat "Columbia".  
July 14: Arrived Sandwich Islands.  
Dec. 17: Obtained passage on the Phoenix, Allyn, for New London.

### **1837 (Parker's journey, cont.)**

Jan 15: Arrived at Tahiti.  
March 3: Cape Horn.  
April 2: Trinidad.  
April 19: Crossed Equator.  
May 17: Arrived New London.  
May 23: Arrived Ithaca, New York.

Mar. 14, '35-Oct. 16 '35 =217 days.  
Oct. 17, '35-June 17, '36 =245 days.

June 18 '36-May 23 '37 =342 days.  
Total =804 days.

### ***WHITMAN'S RETURN EAST***

August 27: Whitman departed the rendezvous. Whitman found a Nez Perce boy named Tackitonitis, who had some knowledge of the English language, so he obtained permission to take him back East. He renamed the boy Richard. One of the Nez Perce Chiefs brought his son, Ais, and begged Whitman to take him also. He now had two Indian boys returning with him.

Sept. 8: Reached Fort Laramie.

Nov. 4: Whitman was in St. Louis.

Dec. 11: Whitman and the two boys reached Rushville. The boys, through schooling and living with white people, etc. acquired a considerable knowledge of the English language and were useful as interpreters and teachers in 1836. The two boys rendered valuable services to the mission party crossing the plains in 1836 in helping to care for the cattle. However, after their arrival in Oregon, Richard gave Whitman considerable trouble. In a letter dated May 5, 1837 to Greene, Whitman reported that he had been obligated to expel Richard, one of the boys he took East with him in 1835, from his house for bad conduct. John went with the Spaldings. The two boys were able to help some in interpreting, but John died a year or so later and Richard thereafter remained unmentioned in Whitman's letters.

Aug. 7: Spalding sends an application to the American Board. He is accepted and appointed to a station among the Osage Indians.

Dec.: American Board approves women to go West.

Dec. 17: Dr. Whitman learns of willingness of Rev. Henry Spalding and his wife to go West with him.

### **1836**

Feb. 1: (About) Board approves the Spaldings to accompany Dr. Whitman in the Oregon mission.

Feb. 14: Dr. Whitman drives hastily to Prattsburg, New York, to tell Spalding the news. But he was too late, Spalding had just left for his mission in Western Missouri. Undismayed, Whitman gave chase and overtook the Spaldings on the road, reportedly exclaiming, "We want you for Oregon." Henry and Eliza agreed to accept the call to the Columbia. They continued on their journey to wait for Whitman in Cincinnati.

Feb. 18: Marcus Whitman marries Narcissa Prentiss at Angelica, New York, .

Mar. 3: Depart Rushville.

Mar.12: Reach Pittsburgh.

Mar. 15: Depart Pittsburgh on the boat "Siam".

Mar. 17: At Cincinnati, the Whitmans meet the Spaldings.

Mar. 22: Depart Cincinnati on the boat "Junius". They stay one extra day in Chester, Illinois, then secure passage on the "Majestic" to St. Louis.

Mar. 29: United party arrives at St. Louis.

Mar. 31: Depart St. Louis aboard the boat "Chariton" bound for Liberty, Missouri.

April 7: Reach Liberty, Missouri.

April 19: William Gray arrives on the "St.Charles". (Appointed by American Board as a mechanic).

April 25: Reinforced by William H. Gray, who had joined them early in April at Liberty, Missouri, the party begins the overland journey.

April 28: Spalding, Gray, and Whitman start overland with livestock to the Otoe agency.

May 26: Catch up with Fitzpatrick's caravan.

June 6: Pass the forks of the Platte.

June 13: Reach Fort Laramie. Depart June 21. Leave heavy farm wagon there.

July 4: Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spalding become the first white women to cross the Continental Divide of the Rockies, the party having reached the Platte River on May 20, Fort Laramie on June 13, and the Great Divide on July 4.

July 6: Reach the rendezvous, which that year is on the Green River near Daniel, Wyoming.

July 14: Mission party moves to the camp of McLeod and McKay (Hudson's Bay Company men).

July 18: Begin journey to Fort Walla Walla.

July 30: Pass near what is now known as Soda Springs.

Aug. 3: Reach Fort Hall.

Aug. 4: Depart Fort Hall.

Aug. 13: Ford Snake River at Island Ford.

Aug. 19: Arrive at Fort Boise, having reached Fort Hall on Aug. 3 (near the present-day Pocatello, Idaho).

Aug. 22: Depart Fort Boise.

Aug. 26: Party divides. McLeod, Whitman's, and Gray push ahead. Spaldings remain with animals.

Aug 29: Whitmans reach summit of Blue Mountains.

Sept. 1: Whitmans arrive at Fort Walla Walla.

Sept. 3: Spaldings arrive at Fort Walla Walla (of 17 head of cattle, only 8 survive as far as Fort Walla Walla).

Sept. 5: Having spent \$3363.96, the missionary party's balance on hand is \$210.00. Average cost per person from their homes in the East to Fort Walla Walla, was about \$360.00

Sept. 6: Depart Fort Walla Walla for Vancouver via water with Pierre Pambrun.

Sept. 12: The party reaches Fort Vancouver and meet Chief Factor, John McLoughlin (1769-1857). Missionary party buys supplies at Fort Vancouver -- household furniture, books, stationary and other provisions. They spend about \$2560.00. American Board paid out nearly \$6300.00 to establish the Oregon Mission.

Sept. 21: Whitman, Spalding, and Gray leave Fort Vancouver for Fort Walla Walla.

Sept. 29 & Oct. 2: Party reaches Fort Walla Walla.

Oct. 4: Men ready to search for suitable locations. Whitman, Spalding, Gray and Pambrun set out to explore Walla Walla River.

Oct. 5: Whitman selects his spot. Learns that the mission site was on ground claimed by Chief Umtippe, the Mill Creek area was called Pasha by the Indians.

Whitman's reason for choosing Waiilatpu:

- Cayuse tribe lived in area.
- Strategic location of Fort Walla Walla. Columbia River was main artery of travel.

Oct. 6: The group returns to Fort Walla Walla.

Oct. 8: Whitman and Spalding leave Fort Walla Walla to find a location for Spalding. Chief Rotten Belly and 20 or 30 Nez Perce escort them.

Oct. 12: Spalding chooses spot for his mission.

Oct. 14: Spalding and Whitman return to Fort Walla Walla.

Oct. 16: Spalding leaves Fort Walla Walla for Fort Vancouver to get Mrs. Spalding and Mrs. Whitman. Arrived Oct. 18. Meanwhile Whitman and Gray begin constructing house at Waiilatpu.

Nov. 3: Spalding and the women depart Fort Vancouver. While at Fort Vancouver, Mrs. Whitman saved some apple and peach seeds, which she later planted at her new home.

Nov. 13: Arrive Fort Walla Walla.

Nov. 20: Spalding and Gray depart for Lapwai.

Dec. 10: Whitman escorts his wife from Fort Walla Walla to Waiilatpu. Whitmans begin living in rude lean-to house built on the mission site at Waiilatpu selected by the men while the women had remained at Fort Vancouver.

## **1837**

Unusually severe winter. (Dr. Whitman and Spalding dependent on Indians and Hudson's Bay Company to survive until the first harvest.)

Spalding opens Idaho's first school.

Mar. 1: Whitman begins plowing the land for crops. He has very little assistance from the Indians.

Mar. 14: Alice Clarissa Whitman is born. She is the first white girl born to American parents West of the Rockies. She is born on Narcissa Whitman's 29th birthday.

April 5: Gray departs Spokane for the East.

Whitman begins instruction at Mission, mainly religious (average attendance was 25).

Dr. Elijah White arrives In the Willamette Valley.

Summer and Fall:

Dr. Whitman builds first house to take the place of the lean-to.

Aug.: Mrs. Pambrun gives birth to baby girl. She names her Harriet.

Sept. 15: Joseph Beers is born. He is first boy born to American parents west of the Rockies to live to maturity.

Nov. 15: (Monday) Mrs. Spalding gives birth to baby girl - Eliza Spalding. First white girl born west of the Rockies to live to maturity. Whitmans present (first visit to Lapwai).

## **1838**

The three (3) main activities at Waiilatpu during 1838 are:

- Medicine
- Agriculture
- Education

Feb. 27: William Gray (born Champlain, New York - Jan. 2, 1810 - died Klaskani Farm, Clatsop County Oregon - Dec. 8, 1881) marries Mary Augusta Dix (born Fairfax; Herkimer County, New York - Sept. 10, 1810 - died Portland, Oregon - Nov. 14, 1889).

Spring: High water endangers Whitman's first house.

Mar. 5: Elkanah Walker marries Mary Richardson (1811-1897).

Mar. 5: Cushing Eells marries Myra Fairbanks (1805 - 1878).

Mar. 15: Asa Bowen Smith (1809-1886) marries Sarah Gilbert White (1813-1855).

Whitmans and other workers start construction of new T-shaped house.

Sheep arrive from the Hawaiian Islands.

Rev. Jason Lee (who had reached, Fort Walla Walla April 13) returns to the East to persuade the Methodist Mission Society to send 50 additional persons. "Great Reinforcement" is sent on the

Lausanna (32 adults, 18 children). They arrive Fort Vancouver on June 1, 1840. Lee was impressed with farming activities of the Indians at Waiilatpu.

From Lee's glowing recount of the Methodist Missionary activity, Spalding wrote for 220 additional Presbyterian/Congregational workers. (Whitman signed letter) Also, Whitman requested:

- Several tons of iron and steel.
- 2000 gun flints.
- 50 gross Indian awls.
- 100 dozen scalping knives.
- 2 best cook stoves.
- Six box stoves.
- Mill machinery.
- Crockery.
- Books -- 1 Webster's octavo Dictionary; 1 dozen Watts Hymns; 2 dozen Village Hymns; 2 dozen Parlays Geography.

Whitman had regrets later and blamed Spalding for these requests.

March: Methodist Mission society starts Mission at the Dalles. "Great Reinforcement" permits the establishment of this mission.

July 11: First mail from the Whitman's relations arrives.

Aug. 4: (Tuesday) Spalding begins a series of religious meetings which climaxes Saturday, August 18. The meetings consist of the organization of the Church of Oregon - first Presbyterian and first Protestant church west of the Rockies. The first members are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maki, Rev. (Pastor) and Mrs. Spalding, Dr. (Ruling Elder) and Mrs. Whitman, and Charles Campo.

Aug. 21: William Gray arrives back at Waiilatpu. Other members of the missionary reinforcement all arrive by Aug. 29. Group consists of 4 newly married couples.

The missionary reinforcement group's trip west was very difficult due to Gray's domineering personality. No member of the party would consent to live with him. Also, Greene was displeased with Gray's trip to the East. An unmarried 23 year old, Cornelius Rodgers (1815-1843), joined party at Cincinnati. Elkanah Walker and Cushing Eells settled at Tshimakian, near Spokane, A. B. Smith and C. Rodgers stayed with Whitman, Grays went with Spalding.



Sept. 3: Mrs. Whitman, Mrs. Spalding, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Eells, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Walker organize the Columbia Maternal Association. It is the first woman's club to be organized in the Pacific Northwest.

Sept. 10: Walker and Eells depart to find a mission site. They locate a site on the trail from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Colville-called Tshimakain - "place of springs."

The gardens at both Lapwai and Waiilatpu are producing in abundance. Whitman harvests: 300 bushels corn, 75 bushels wheat, 1000 bushels potatoes, and vegetable products.

Nov. 15: Spaldings have a baby girl.

Dec. 7: (Friday) Mrs. Walker gives birth to a baby boy named Cyrus Hamlin. He is the second boy born to white American parents west of the Rockies to live to maturity. He was born at Waiilatpu and died at Albany, Oregon May 5, 1921.

Severe winter. Differences erupt at Waiilatpu due in part to very crowded conditions. Four families are living there during the winter of 1838-39 - Walkers, Eells, Whitmans, and Smiths.

## **1839**

Feb. 11: Smiths and Walkers leave for Lapwai.

Feb. 22-26: Annual Meeting

Decisions

- Decided Smith would take over Waiilatpu
- Decided Whitman would move to Tucannon or Palouse Rivers. Spalding thought Whitman should be more centrally located.
- Decided the printing press would be located at Lapwai.

Mar.: Smith moves to Kamiah.

Mar.: First grist mill built.

Mar. 2: Gray's have son at Lapwai named John Henry Dix.

Mar. 5: Walkers and son (Cyrus) and Eells depart Waiilatpu for new station.

April: Whitman decides to remain at Waiilatpu.

April 29: Mr. and Mrs. E.O. Hall arrive at Walla Walla (bring printing press and equipment from Sandwich Islands).

May 10: Whitman writes Greene requesting grain and seeds of the locust, chestnut and walnut trees.

May 13: The Spalding party and the printing press reach Lapwai. It remained there until 1846 when it was taken to The Dalles. The first printing done in the Oregon Country was booklets of Indian language. Mr. Hall was the printer.

June 23: The Whitmans' only child, Alice Clarissa, drowns. She was 2 years, 3 months, 9 days old. Alice had taken two cups and gone to the river to get water. Mungo went out to look for the child and saw cups in the water. The Whitmans and a number of Indians began searching for the child. An old Indian entered the river and rode down the current, finding Alice's body being held under water by some tree roots. She was buried in the Plain, a little to the north of the Mission house.

June 26: Funeral services are held for Alice Clarissa Whitman.

Sept. 2-5: Annual meeting (Walker and Eells absent).

Decisions:

- Whitman to remain at Waiilatpu.
- Gray given permission to explore for site of mission. Gray located a suitable site and was preparing to move. Spalding told him that he did not get permission to establish a mission. Gray departed, hoping to find employment with the Hudson's Bay Company. He had no luck. In Dec. he returned to Lapwai, remaining through the winter of 1839-40.

Sept. 10: Asa Munger was hired to help build new house. With the Mungers came Rev. and Mrs. J.S. Griffin. Spalding hired Griffin for the winter of 1839-40. In the spring of '40 Rev. Griffin tried to establish a mission at Fort Boise but was unsuccessful. They moved to the Willamette Valley.

Sept. 23: Farnham Party (Peoria party) arrives at Waiilatpu.

Nov. 24: Spalding's have son named Henry Hart.

Nov. 26: Henry Spalding's thirty-sixth birthday.

Fall: Gray almost demands a mission site of his own, his demands are refused by the others. American Board now has four (4) stations -- Waiilatpu, Lapwai, Tshimakain, and Kamiah.

**1840**

Winter: The Whitmans are pleased with the attitude of the Indians. Gray is living with Spalding at Lapwai, there is much discord between the two.

Feb. 6: First of a series of letters is sent to the American Board about Spalding (sent by Smith, Gray, Rodgers, Hall, and Whitman) over a period of time.

Discord revolves around:

- Spalding is the center of the turbulent eddy that includes personal jealousies, suspicions, and fears.
- There is old antagonism between Henry Spalding and Narcissa.
- Spalding is blamed for wanting Whitman in a more central location.
- Some of the members of 1838 reinforcement are hypersensitive.
- No one wants to live with Gray because of his overbearing attitude.
- Smith, afflicted by ill health, is grouchy.
- Rodgers found it easy to criticize.
- All but Walkers and Eells want separate stations.
- Smith refuses to live with Whitman.
- Spalding is against Smith moving to Kamiah.
- Gray and Spalding are together during winter of 1839-'40.
- Whitman shifts all the blame to Spalding for the extravagant demands made upon the Board which were inspired by the visit of Jason Lee.

Letters written against Spalding:

Smith -----4 letters

Gray -----2 letters

Rodgers and Hall -1 each

Whitman -----3 (?)

These letters encouraged Greene to take action before the Prudential Committee of the American Board.

Greene's response was:

- Spalding should be dismissed.
- Gray and Smith were advised to return to the states.
- Whitman and Rodgers should move to Tshimakain to live with Walker and Eells.
- Both Lapwai and Waiilatpu would be closed.

May 24: Mrs. Walker gives birth to a daughter, Abigail Boutevell at Tshimakain Mission.

June: Whitmans move into their new house (Mission House).

June 1: "Great Reinforcement" for the Methodists arrives at Fort Vancouver.

July 4-10: Annual mission meeting.

- Smith writes a letter to Greene about extreme discord and conveys serious charges.
- Gray's case comes up for discussion again. Permission is given to Gray to establish mission at mouth of Yakima River (called Shinnap).
- The missionaries discuss their personal differences. After talks, better feelings exist between Whitman and Spalding.

June 25: Mrs. Munger gives birth to a daughter at Waiilatpu.

Gray moves to Waiilatpu

Early Sept.: Newell (1807-1869) brings wagons to Waiilatpu. These are the first wagons brought west of Fort Boise and across Blue Mountains to Columbia River.

In 1840 a party of independent missionaries started for Oregon. They left their two wagons at Fort Hall and continued the journey on horseback. The wagons became the property of a mountain man, Dr. Robert Newell, who accepted them in payment for services rendered to the party as guide. The third wagon had been abandoned at Fort Hall by Joel P. Walker, who with his wife and five children constituted the first emigrant family bound for Oregon. This wagon passed into the possession of Caleb Wilkins. Newell sold one of his wagons to Ermatinger, who was then in charge of Fort Hall, and Ermatinger employed William Craig, another mountain man, to be the driver for that wagon. These men, realizing that their trapping days in the mountains were over, resolved to go to the Willamette. Newell induced Joe Meek to join the party. Meek's wife had deserted him leaving him with a daughter of two or three years old. The party left Fort Hall on August 5 and reached Waiilatpu the first part of September.

Early Sept: Joe Meek, a mountain man travelling with Newell's Party, leaves his daughter with the Whitmans (Helen Mar Meek).

## **1841**

Construction of the gristmill is completed. It could grind about 1.5 bushels of wheat per hour.

Winter: Whitmans take ill. Grays and independent missionaries carry on the work. Whitman perhaps over-exerted himself working on the millrace.

Spring: Asahel Munger has become hopelessly insane.

Robert Newell returns to Fort Walla Walla for wagons he left in 1840. He takes the wagons down the Columbia to the Willamette Valley.

Second grist mill is built. It is an improvement over the first but still grinds 1.5 bushels per hour. The second mill came in on the Lausanne, which arrived at Vancouver June 1, 1840. It was in operation by March, 1841.

Spring: Indians show great interest in agriculture.

April 19: Smiths depart Kamiah heading for the Hawaiian / Sandwich Islands. They arrive in Hawaii on January 25, 1842.

May 15: Pierre Chrepologue Pambrun dies after being thrown by a horse. Archibald McKinlay takes Pambrun's place as Chief Factor at Fort Walla Walla.

May: Cornelius Rodgers leaves Lapwai and the missionary field. He goes to Vancouver.

June 9-14: Annual meeting at Waiilatpu.

- Spalding learns about letters against him.
- Gray's request for a mission is denied.
- Spalding and Whitman again have trouble (old tensions).

July 27: Eells have baby boy named Edwin.

August or Sept.: Mary Ann Bridger, daughter of mountain man Jim Bridger, arrives at Waiilatpu. She is six years old and is the second child accepted by the Whitmans.

Sept. and Oct.: Whitmans have trouble with the Indians.

- Some Indians become insolent to Whitman when he seeks to remove their horses from his corn.
- Gray has trouble with Indians - he forcibly ejects an Indian from the kitchen; he also catches an Indian trying to steal a horse.
- Indians force their way into the mission house and threaten Whitman's life with a gun.

Fall: First party of emigrants (24) bound for the Willamette pass through Waiilatpu.

Dec.: Asahel Munger commits suicide in Salem. He had secured a job with the Methodist Mission in Salem.

## 1842

Winter: First house is dismantled and the bricks are reused in the Blacksmith shop. No further troubles with the Indians.

Feb. 25: American Board sends order to close Waiilatpu, recalling Spalding, Gray and Smith, and moving Whitman to Tshimakain. This order resulted from the letters sent to the board regarding extreme discord between missionaries. Full text of letter.

March 2: Two Indian women bring a boy not much older than 2 to the Whitmans. Mrs. Whitman names him David Malin after her friend in New York. The little boy had a Spanish father and native mother, he is the third child accepted by Whitmans.

March 12: Mrs. W.H. Gray gives birth to a baby girl, named Carolin.

March 17: Mrs. Walker has a baby boy-Marcus Whitman Walker.

May 16-June 7: Annual meeting at Waiilatpu.

- Spalding and Whitman settle differences, atmosphere among missionaries is much better.
- Gray makes a motion that the Spaldings and Whitmans change stations- it is passed. Resolve: "That in view of the state of this mission, especially the station at Lapwai, we deem it advisable that Rev. H. H. Spalding remove to Waiilatpu to take charge of the natives at this place for the present, and that Dr. Whitman remove to Lapwai to take charge of that station till circumstance shall warrant a return." Later all but Gray thought this exchange of stations should not be made. Gray, who was ready to leave the mission, grasped this as an occasion to resign. All members rejected the idea, except Gray.

Aug. 9: Webster-Ashburton Treaty. Does not include provisions for the Britain-U.S. boundary dispute in Oregon.

McLaughlin founds Oregon City.

Summer: Asa Lawrence Lovejoy (1808-1882) comes west with company of emigrants.

Fort Bridger is built by Jim Bridger.

Emigrants drain the supplies and use assistance at Waiilatpu.

Emigrant train arrives (114 people). Dr. Elijah White is with them. He has become Indian agent for the U.S. Government for Oregon Country. He is the first person of official capacity in Pacific Northwest for the U.S. Government. The train started with 19 wagons, all are left at Fort Hall.

Sept. 10: Dr. Elijah White arrives at Waiilatpu from the East. He carries the American Board's closure letter dated Feb. 25, 1842. The letter ordered the abandonment of Waiilatpu and Lapwai and asked for the return of the Spaldings, preferably overland.

Situation had changed between the time the orders were written in Boston and the time they arrived in the Oregon Country:

- Tshimakain was the poorest mission of them all -- Agricultural conditions were most unfavorable; The Indians were unresponsive.
- Emigrants were beginning to come and Waiilatpu was a strategic stopping point.
- Smith and Rodgers were gone.
- Gray was planning to depart.
- A reconciliation had been made with Spalding
- It was impossible for Spalding to return overland - there were no longer any caravans going east.

Sept. 26-28: The missionaries hold a special meeting to determine what to do. They decide Whitman would return East to save the mission. On the morning of the 28th, Whitman proposes going to Boston, Gray is released from the mission.

Oct. 3: Whitman, Lovejoy, and a dog named Trapper depart for the East early Monday morning.

Oct. 4: Mr. and Mrs. Gray leave Waiilatpu. After their departure Mrs. Whitman is the only white woman at the Mission.

Oct. 11: Mr. McKinlay drives a wagon from Fort Walla Walla to get Mrs. Whitman and bring her to Fort Walla Walla. Gray, now in the Willamette Valley, finally hires William Geiger to stay at the Whitman Station.

Oct. 18-20: At Fort Hall, Richard Grant advises Dr. Whitman and Asa Lovejoy against use of South Pass due to problems with the Indians. They cross the Green River near the mouth of Black's Fork, following the southern bank for a time. To avoid hills, they cross to north shore, and then re-cross to south shore. They enter the mountains, going southwest to where Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado meet. Coming to either Red Creek or Ewing Creek, they follow the trail southward down into a valley, located on the north and east banks of Green River-Brown's Hole. They cross mountains and endure severe weather including deep snow. From Brown's Hole they go up either Sears Creek or Kettle Creek to the top of Diamond Mountain

which was 20 miles across, then drop into Uintah Basin and follow Ashley Creek. Around the mouth of Dry Fork they went southwest to Fort Uintah which they reach about November 1.

They take on a new guide at Uintah. The trail leads down the Uintah River to the Green River, then up White River and to the crest of Book Cliffs to the headwaters of Bitter Creek. The trail then leads southward, they follow the Grand River (Colorado River) upstream to the junction of the Gunnison (Grand Junction, Colorado), then follow the Gunnison to the mouth or the Uncompahgre. (Fort Uncompahgre was located on this river.) They follow the route of the Uncompahgre to Montrose, then go up a branch to where Ouray, Colorado is now. They then go on the west side of the Anahuac Range, La Plata and southward around the southern end of the Rio Grande and then to Taos and Santa Fe. They arrive in Taos about the middle of December.

There were many hazards between Fort Uintah and Taos:

- At Grand Junction, the Colorado River is frozen on either side about 1/3 of the way across.
- The Spanish guide from Fort Uintah becomes confused by the deep snow in the high mountains. Whitman returns to Fort Uintah for new guide. Lovejoy remains with the packhorses and dog seven days awaiting Whitman's return. Whitman returns and they continue on. When provisions become exhausted, they begin to eat pack mules and dog. A party of hunters from Taos saves the lives of the Whitman party.
- Fifteen days out, they meet George Bent who informs them that a party of mountain men are nearly ready to leave the fort for St. Louis, but Whitman decides to push ahead alone.

Oct. 27: Mrs. Whitman leaves Fort Walla Walla via Hudson's Bay express boat and arrives at Wascopum Mission on the 29th, (Dalles Station). She is received there by Rev. and Mrs. H.K.W. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lee, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Brewer.

Shortly after Mrs. Whitman's departure, the gristmill, mill bolt, and threshing mill are burned. Upon hearing of the burning of the mill, Dr. Elijah White proceeds to Waiilatpu to counsel with the Indians, arriving in December. He is unsuccessful in doing any good, so he returns down the Columbia. He finds out that the Cayuse Indians believe that Whitman's trip was to secure American troops.

1842-1843: Mrs. Whitman remains at Wascopum during the winter.

## **1843**

Jan. 3: Lovejoy, the guide, and the pack animals arrive at Bent's Fort. Whitman is not there - Lovejoy finds Whitman on January 6, 1843. Lovejoy and Whitman part company at Bent's Fort. Lovejoy remains there until spring when he joins the 1843 emigration and meets Whitman near Fort Laramie in July.



Feb. 1: Cornelius Rodgers drowns when his boat was swept over the Willamette Falls.

Feb. 15: Whitman arrives in Westport, Missouri. There is no information on Whitman from Bent's Fort to Westport, Missouri.

March 9: St. Louis, Whitman learns that the Linn Bill had not been passed.  
The Linn Bill would have:

- Erected a line of forts from the western frontier to the mouth of the Columbia for the purpose of the emigrants.
- Granted 640 acres of the land to every white male over eighteen years of age.
- Extended the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the courts of the Territory of Iowa over the citizens of Oregon.

March 23: (About) Whitman is in Washington D.C.

March 25: Whitman is in New York

March 29: Whitman arrives in Boston where he remains about 10 days. From March 30 to April 4 the American Board meets and considers Whitman's requests. They rule in his favor.

April: Whitman briefly visits his and Narcissa's relatives in New York.

April 3: Mrs. Whitman leaves the Dalles for Fort Walla Walla. She remains at the fort until the 24th when she leaves for Waiilatpu.

April 20: Dr. Whitman sets out on the return journey from Rushville accompanied by a young nephew, Perrin Whitman, the eldest son of Samuel Whitman.

May 9: Mrs. Whitman again departs Waiilatpu for Fort Vancouver. Dr. White, a physician, advises her to go to Fort Vancouver and place herself under the care of Dr. Barclay. Reaching the fort on June 4, she remains there until around mid-July when she leaves to visit some of the Methodist missionaries in the Willamette Valley.

May: Dr. White has a 6 day council with the Cayuse and Walla Walla Indians where they agree to accept the eleven laws that the Nez Perce had accepted in December 1842. Spalding prints these laws using the Lapwai printing press. This is the first law book to be printed in Old Oregon.

May 31: Dr. Whitman leaves Westport, Missouri. He reaches the Oregon Country with the first great emigration to Oregon that includes 1000 people. It is the first emigrant party successful in taking wagons across southern Idaho and over the Blue Mountains. This first wagon train was

already organized prior to Whitman joining them, but Whitman may have inspired some people to go.

Oct. 7: Mrs. Whitman reaches Wascopum mission where she expects to meet her husband, but he has not yet arrived.

Oct. 7: Mrs. Eells gives birth to baby boy named Myron.

Oct. 25: John C. Fremont and his men arrive at Waiilatpu. He leaves some cannonballs and a mule, the Whitmans later name him Uncle Sam. Dr. Whitman was not present during this visit.

Oct. 26: Dr. Whitman finally reaches the Dalles and reunites with his wife.

Fall: Emigrants drain Whitman of all supplies except potatoes.

Nov. 1: The Whitmans are at Fort Walla Walla on their way back to Waiilatpu. Upon their return they find very crowded conditions. Their family now consists of Mary Ann Bridger, Helen Mar Meek, David Malin and Perrin Whitman. Mrs. Whitman's health is very poor.

Note: William Geiger (1816-1901). A New York native, Geiger was contacted by Gray to help at the Whitman Station. All arrangements were made in the Willamette Valley. The Whitmans found Geiger's work at the mission to be satisfactory. In May 1843, Spalding and Geiger sent a pack train of flour (1000 pounds) to the expected emigrants at Fort Hall or Fort Boise. In late summer 1843 Geiger was summoned to Lapwai due to Spalding being ill. He arrived September 14, leaving Indians to look after Waiilatpu. During his absence, someone broke into one of the buildings. On Whitman's arrival to Lapwai, Geiger returned to Waiilatpu to supply the emigrants. His services were terminated in October 1843. He was paid \$30.00 per month. In 1844, he was again hired to serve the mission as a schoolmaster. He taught about 20 children during the winter of 1846-1847. After departing Waiilatpu, he settled in the Willamette Valley, and after the Killings he and his wife took in Matilda Sager, who remained in their home until she was married.

Nov.: Rev. Lee, of the Methodist Wascopum mission, learns of his removal by the Methodist Mission Society. Whitman brings him the news from the East. He returns to Stanstead, Canada and dies March 12, 1845.

Upon his return from the East, Whitman's interest changes from the Indians to the emigrants.

## **1844**

Whitman writes to the American Board that about 50 Indians were farming near the mission (1/4 to 4 acres).

Feb. 10: Mrs. Walker has a baby boy -- Joseph Elkanah.

April 8: Letter commenting on Tom Hill, a Delaware Indian who was a bitter critic of the Euro-Americans. He told the Indians that the white man was going to take their land. Full text of letter.

April: Mr. and Mrs. Sager depart Missouri with their six children.

Late May: Mrs. Sager gives birth to 7th child, naming her Rosanna. She was later renamed Henrietta.

Sept.: Mrs. Sager dies near Twin Falls, Idaho. Her last request is that the children be taken to the Whitman Mission. The children's father had also died along the Oregon Trail.

Oct. 17: The orphaned Sager children arrive at Waiilatpu.

Ages of the Sager children at the time of their arrival at Waiilatpu:

John -----14 (killed during Whitman Killings)

Frank (Francisco)12 (killed during Whitman Killings)

Catherine -----10

Elizabeth -----8

Matilda Jane-----6

Louise -----3 (Died of measles Dec. 5, 1847)

Henrietta-----5 months

Late Fall: Emigrant wagon train arrives late and is caught by snow in the Blue Mountains, this affects about 1500 people.

Winter: Sawmill is constructed - Whitman hires some of the men who have wintered over to build the mill.

Whitman reports that only a few Cayuse are without a cattle herd.

Oregon Trail moves closer to present-day Pendleton, Oregon. Most of the emigrants miss Waiilatpu this year.

## **1845**

May 9-14: Annual mission meeting:

- Harmony prevails.
- Missionaries feel increasing danger from the Indians.

June 3: The Whitman's are appointed the legal guardians of the Sager children.

Fall: Cayuse and Walla Walla have intentions of attacking wagon train (this is one of the first indications of the growing hostility of the Indians towards the emigrants.) The fact that Dr. Whitman has taken the side of the pioneers undermines the Indians' faith in the missionary.

Main body of emigrant wagon train now uses route closer to Pendleton. The 1845 wagon train has about 4000 people.

Osborn family arrives with emigrant train and stays at Waiilatpu.

Winter: Sawmill becomes operational.

## **1846**

United States becomes involved in a war with Mexico.

March 7: Walkers have their fifth child --Jeremiah.

April: Whitman writes letter to Greene about difficulties with Catholics.

June 19: U.S. Senate confirms a treaty with Great Britain that fixes the Oregon boundary at the 49th Parallel.

Printing press moves from Lapwai to the Dalles.

Emigrant wagon train brings about 2500 people. Very few people go to Whitman Mission and there is hardly any call for supplies. Whitman had been hoping to become self-supporting through his provision sales to the emigrants.

Spalding's inventory of Waiilatpu:

- 30 acres of farm land under cultivation and irrigation.
- Sawmill
- 40,000 feet of lumber (cut and stacked for use). One-third had been transported to Waiilatpu. (Another figure is 20,000 feet of lumber.)
- Log cabin at sawmill.
- Flour mill and granary.
- Fully equipped Blacksmith Shop.
- Two houses.

- Several barns and sheds for livestock.
- Threshing machine and corn shelter. (Oct. 25, 1844 letter to Greene on requested these articles; they arrived in the summer of 1847.)
- 25 plows - 2 large prairie plows and 23 cast plows.
- 1 harrow, 1 wagon, and 12 ox yokes.
- 290 head of cattle.
- 46 head of horses.
- 92 head of sheep.
- Orchard of 75 trees
- Inventory included large quantities of wearing apparel, medicines, surgical instruments, books, and school supplies, furniture and produce.

The American Board reported the value of Waiilatpu at \$21,583.26.

Fall: All is well at Waiilatpu.

1846-47 Winter: William Geiger is hired to teach school. About 20 Euro-American children are at Waiilatpu.

1846-47 Winter: Very severe winter leads to heavy loss of cattle and horses.

## **1847**

Methodists offer to sell the Dalles Mission to the American Board.

Spring: Whitman makes a trip to the Willamette Valley for supplies. He discusses transfer of the Dalles property with Reverend George Gray.

June: Annual meeting is held at Tshimakain.

- Discuss Greene's suggestion of the closure of the Tshimakain Mission (letter dated Feb. 25, 1846).
- Discuss the purchase of the Dalles Mission.
- Decide Walker's would move to the Dalles and Eells to Waiilatpu.

June: (After annual meeting) Whitman and Walker visit the Dalles station. Whitman informs Methodists that the American Board (Presbyterian/Congregational) would take over the Dalles mission in September.

July 18: Paul Kane, Canadian artist, visits Waiilatpu. He paints pictures of Cayuse Indians, Tiloukaikt and Tomahas. Visits for four days and warns Whitman about the Indian hostilities.

Aug. 3: Whitman writes letter to Greene informing him of the decision to allow Mr. Hinman to take the mission press to the Willamette. He also tells of James Douglas succeeding John McLoughlin as Chief Factor at Fort Vancouver.

Sept.: Dr. Whitman and John Sager take two wagons to the Dalles to bring back supplies that have been shipped to him. On the return trip they find a better inland wagon route to the Dalles.

Early August: Between 4000 and 5000 emigrants begin to arrive from the Oregon Trail.

Sept. 7: American Board buys the Dalles Mission for \$721.13. Property is turned over to the American Board. The Hinmans and Perrin Whitman move to the Wascopum mission site.

Sept.: A number of Catholic missionaries arrive in the area.

Oct. 16: Whitman writes a six page memorandum:

- U.S. Government needs to establish a line of posts along the Oregon Trail for protection, food, and supplies for the emigrants.
- Have fresh horses at each post to speed up mail delivery

(On the same day John McLoughlin wrote to the Secretary of War from Oregon City and gave similar recommendations.)

Oct. 26: Father Brouillet meets with Tiloukaikt, Tamsucky and others at Fort Walla Walla. Tiloukaikt says he would not object to the establishment of a Catholic Church near Waiilatpu. Brouillet visits the proposed site on Nov. 5th and learns that Tiloukaikt had changed his mind. The Catholics then accept Young Chief's offer to live in a house on the Umatilla River.

Nov. 22: Eliza Spalding is brought to Waiilatpu to be placed in the school.

Fall: Waiilatpu has two half Indian-half white men - Joe Lewis and Nicholas Finley. They are troublemakers for Dr. Whitman.

Fall: Waiilatpu is crowded after the large wagon train introduced the measles and dysentery to the Indians (the measles epidemic could also have partly come from California). The Cayuse become seriously infected, increasing hostility and suspicion. The Indians try the traditional cure of taking a sweat bath then immediately jumping into the river to cure the new disease; approximately half of the tribe dies of measles. Being a te-wat (medicine man), the Cayuse believe Dr. Whitman's medicines should cure them. Among the Cayuse, an ineffective medicine man could be killed by the people of the tribe.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 8: Whitman Killings:

Please see Account of the Whitman Killings for a detailed account of the events of November and December, 1847.

<i>Person Killed</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Dr. Whitman	11/29/47	Kitchen
Mrs. Whitman	11/29/47	outside Mission House
Mr. Hoffman	11/29/47	outside Mission House
Mr. Gilliland	11/29/47	Mansion/Emigrant House
Mr. Saunders	11/29/47	near rail fence
Mr. Marsh	11/29/47	Grist Mill
Mr. Rodgers	11/29/47	in front of kitchen door
Mr. Kimball	11/30/47	Mission grounds
James Young	11/30/47	between sawmill and Whitman Mission
Crockett Bewley	12/08/47	Mission House (?)
Amos Sales	12/08/47	Mission House (?)

### *Escaped*

- Joseph Osborn
- Mrs. Osborn
- Nancy A. Osborn
- John L. Osborn
- Alexander Osborn
- Peter Hall
- W.D. Canfield

### *Died of Measles*

- Louise Sager
- Helen Mar Meek
- Rapolean Hays

## **1848**

Jan. 1: Spalding's reach Fort Walla Walla. They are escorted there by the Nez Perce Indians.

Jan. 2: Peter Skene Ogden of the Hudson's Bay Company, his assistant, and the captives depart Fort Walla Walla for the Willamette Valley.

Jan. 10: Ogden delivers the released captives to Governor Abernathy at Oregon City.

- Matilda Sager- lived with Spaldings.
- Catherine & Henrietta Sager - lived Rev. W. Roberts - superintendent of the Methodist Mission on the coast.
- Mary Ann Bridger-died March 1848 from complications of measles.

End of January: Gilliam and his company are at the Dalles. He has 130 men to begin with, but by February 15, the company had grown to 537 men.

Jan. 24: Gilliam and Company depart the Dalles.

Jan. 28: Company reaches Walla Walla River.

Jan. 29: Company reaches Waiilatpu. After their arrival they rebury the victims of Killings as they found the grave had been disturbed and the bones scattered. A wagon box is used to cover the grave. They convert the mission into a fort, naming it Fort Waters, and repair one or more of the adobe buildings. They also operate the gristmill, the only structure spared by the Indians.

March 4: Joseph Meek departs Oregon for the United States carrying the news of the Killings and to appeal for help.

March 17: Meek reaches St. Louis and continues on to Washington D. C. where he meets with President Polk. The President immediately sends a message to Congress to organize a territorial Government.

Spring: Walker's and the Eells' go to the Willamette Valley. Spokane Indians protect them until they depart their mission.

Aug.2: The House of Representatives approves the Bill to create the Oregon Territory.

Aug. 13: Senate passes the Oregon Territory bill.

Aug. 13: President Polk signs the Bill and created the Oregon Territory. Joseph Lane is appointed the first Governor of the Oregon Territory.

Aug. 14: By act of Congress the title of land not to exceed 640 acres then occupied as missionary stations among the Indian tribes of Washington Territory, together with



improvements, is confirmed and established in the several religious societies to which the said missionary station belonged.

In other words - mission lands of 640 acres or less occupied by missionaries as of August 14, 1848 now belonged to the sponsoring mission group (including but not limited to the Methodist Mission Society and the Catholic Church).

Summer: A guard of 50 men remains at Waiilatpu while the remainder returns to the Willamette Valley.

Sept.: Fort Waters is abandoned.

## **1850**

After two years of wandering in the Blue Mountains, the Cayuse Tribe give up five of their men to be tried for the crime of killing the Whitmans:

- Tiloukaikt
- Tomahas
- Klokamas
- Isaiachalkis
- Kimasumpkin

May 22: The trial against the five Cayuse begins at Oregon City.

June 3: (Monday) Joseph Meek, the United States Marshall serving as executioner, hangs the Cayuse Indians.

Congress passes the Donation Land Claim law allowing 320 acres of land to homesteaders.

## **1852**

From 1848 to 1852 the previous mission site seems to have been inhabited only by the Indians. In 1852, stockmen - Brooks, Bumford, and Noble, use the site as their base of operation. They leave in 1855, shortly before the Second Cayuse War begins.

## **1853**

March 2: President Fillmore signs the bill creating Washington Territory. Isaac I. Stevens is appointed Territorial Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

## **1855**

Fall: The stockmen, Brooks, Bumford, and Noble, depart.

During the Second Cayuse War, the reconstructed buildings are returned.

## 1859

The American Board makes claim under the 1848 Act of Congress for the land of the Whitman Mission. The land in question had not been occupied as a missionary station since 1847 - due to this fact the title is not issued.

It was considered by the Department of the Interior that further action by Congress was necessary before a patent could be issued.

Summer: Cushing Eells visits the Walla Walla Valley. After careful consideration he is determined to establish an institution of learning on the site of Whitman Mission. On his return trip to Forest Grove he:

Attends the meeting of the Oregon Congregational Association where he asks their endorsement to an application to the Home Missionary Society in Boston, Massachusetts for a commission to preach in the Walla Walla Valley. (His intentions were to establish a Christian School) The Association endorses his application and sends it on to Boston.

Writes the American Board making them an offer of \$1000.00 for the Whitman Mission Claim. He states that he intends to give one half of it to found a school.

Applies to the Legislature of the Territory of Washington for a charter for Whitman Seminary.

Results:

- The Home Missionary Society of Boston refuses his application. He cannot get any church sponsorship.
- In December 1859 the Territorial Legislature at Olympia grants a charter to "An Institution of Learning in Walla Walla County to be known as Whitman Seminary." This was the first charter granted to an educational institution in Washington Territory. On December 20, 1859 the Governor signed the Charter. A Board of Trustees was selected:

- Rev. Cushing Eells - Walla Walla
- James Craigie - Walla Walla
- J. C. Smith - Walla Walla
- Rev. W. A. Tenney - The Dallas
- Deacon E. S. Joslyn - White Salmon
- Rev. George H. Atkinson D.D. - Portland
- Rev. Elkanah Walker - Forest Grove

- Deacon E. S. Tanner - Forest Grove
- Rev. H. H. Spalding - Hillsboro

The American Board accepts Eells offer. Eells is now on his own, he has the land but no church support.

### **1860**

March: Rev. Cushing Eells and his eldest son, Edwin, depart for the Walla Walla Valley. They spend the summer raising corn and Cushing Eells preaches on Sundays throughout the Walla Walla Valley. In the fall they sell their corn crop to the military post, receiving \$1000.00 - he sends half of this to the American Board. He spends the winter at Forest Grove, while Edwin is left in charge at the mission site. The log cabin at the mission site is 14 feet square.

Dec. 17: The Board of Trustees of the Whitman Seminary meets for the first time.

Unfortunately, transactions of this meeting were lost when Cushing Eells home burned in 1872.

### **1861**

Summer: Cushing Eells returns to the mission site and raises wheat - he acquires about the same amount of money as for the 1860 crop. This allows him to complete his payment to the American Board.

### **1862**

June: Cushing Eells arrives at the mission site with his family. At this time he builds a larger cabin.

### **1863**

Fall: Cushing Eells and his family build a sixteen foot square rough board room on the cabin at the Mission Station. This addition is to be used as a schoolroom.

Dec. 3: Edwin Eells (eldest son of Cushing Eells) commences teaching. Thirteen scholars are enrolled on the first day. Teaching lasts only three months because the distance between Walla Walla and the Seminary is too great. This was the first attempt to organize the Whitman Seminary.

### **1864**

Nov.: The original plan of operating the Seminary at the Whitman Station changes. It is deemed necessary to locate the seminary closer to Walla Walla. The selection of a new site becomes a perplexing struggle.

## **1865**

Jan.: The first congregational church in Washington Territory is organized. Rev. Cushing Eells helps Rev. P.B. Chamberlain organize this church.

## **1866**

May 8: The Trustees of the Seminary formally accept Dr. D.S. Baker's offer of a four-acre site. Later the gift is increased to six acres.

Mid-June: \$1200.00 has been secured for the Seminary in addition to the fulfillment of Eells' promise to give the school one-half the appraised value of the mission claim. Eells gives the Seminary half of the Whitman mission claim which was put up for sale at \$2,000.00. This money was to clear the debt of the Seminary. There are no purchasers and Rev. Eells, who had signed the notes, now faces the financial ruin of the seminary, goes to work to earn enough money to pay off the notes. Along with teaching and being superintendent of schools, he farms, raises stock, sells cord wood, peddles chickens, eggs, etc. Mrs. Eells makes butter to sell. All income is used to pay off the debt of the Seminary. Upon completion of payment of the notes the cost came to \$2,900.00 with interest. Eells surrenders the notes willingly to the Board of Trustees for the land.

Summer: A two story, 26 by 46 foot wooden building is erected for the cost of \$4842.42. The builders are Messers. Dexter, and Leidy.

Oct. 13: (Saturday) Dedication of the Whitman Seminary.

Oct. 15: (Monday) Whitman Seminary opens - the names of 36 scholars are placed on the rolls. The Rev. P.B. Chamberlain is the first principal; he resigns after six months.

Nov. 6: Notwithstanding the decision of 1859, the American Board for Foreign Missions gives Cushing Eells a warranty deed for the Waiilatpu property.

## **1867**

April 1: Rev. C. Eells succeeds the Rev. P. D. Chamberlain as principal of the Seminary. Eells continues to be principal until June 1869.

## **1869**

1869-70: Seminary is closed.

## **1870**

Autumn: The Seminary Board of Trustees employs W.W. Freeman as principal. He continues to be in charge about 7/8 of the academic year.

## **1871**

Fall: Rev. P.B. Chamberlain is again employed as principal and he keeps the school in operation for nearly two years.

## **1872**

May 28: Rev. Eells' home catches fire about 3:00 p.m. The fire destroys almost everything they have, including the records of the Trustees of the Whitman Seminary. Discouraged by his apparent lack of success in establishing an institution, which should have been self-maintaining, Eells leaves the Walla Walla Valley.

June 20: Cushing Eells conveys the farm on the former mission land to Charles Moore and his wife, Julia, by quiet claim deed.

The Baker railroad from the Columbia River to Walla Walla is completed.

## **1876**

Sept.: Professor L. K. Grim becomes principal of the Seminary (through 1878).

## **1878**

Feb. 6: Charles and Julia Moore deed their land to Montraville Fisk.

Sept.: The Rev. Horace Lyman, principal, reopens the Whitman Seminary. Within six weeks he is taken ill with typhoid fever. His son, W.D. Lyman, becomes acting principal through the winter. Professor Grim was summoned to help, and he completes the year's work. After that, the Seminary is closed due to the lack of proper leadership.

## **1880**

April 10: Montraville Fisk and his wife, Josephine, convey the farm on the previous mission land to Charles Swegle.

## **1881**

Rev. and Mrs. E. R. Beach are employed to operate the Seminary. Rev. Beach carries the entire responsibilities of the school for a year, but due to ill health the school is forced to close. Upon hearing of the condition of the Seminary, Dr. George H. Atkinson comes to Walla Walla. He

feels its only chance of survival is to transform it into a college of the American type. Rev. Cushing Eells, still president of the Board of Trustees, is against this bold action.

The Chronology of the Whitman Seminary:

1859 -- December 20: Chartered  
1863-1864: Opened  
1864-1866: Closed  
1866: Open  
1869-1870: Closed  
1871: Open  
1873-1874: Closed  
1874: Open  
1876: Closed  
1876: Open  
1879-1881: Closed  
1881: Open  
1882: Closed forever as a Seminary

Reasons for closure:

- Lack of money.
- Lack of teachers - most teachers were drifters wanting to teach only a term or two while scouting the country for better opportunities.
- Lack of enrollment.

Nov. 7: Charles and Lucinda Swegle give a warranty deed of approximately 7 acres to the Oregon Pioneer Historical Society of Portland. The land includes the grave and the hill. In part the deed states, "in consideration of the erection on the grounds hereinafter described of a suitable monument to the memory of the late Dr. Marcus Whitman within the period of five years from the date by the Oregon Pioneer Historical Society... the said monument to be in accordance with certain designs now in the hands of the Said Society..." (Walla Walla County, Volume X of Deeds, page 92). This monument was never erected.

### **1883**

Nov. 28: The territorial legislature issues a new charter, changing Whitman Seminary into a four-year, degree-granting college - Whitman College.

## **1888**

May 7: Charles Swegle dies, leaving no will. His property goes through probate and is distributed among the various heirs - they, by warranty deeds at various dates, convey their interests to Marion Willard Swegle, who becomes the sole owner.

## **1896**

Whitman-Eells Memorial Church is built on former mission property through land donated by Marion Swegle. It is there until approximately 1923.

## **1897**

Oct. 14: Marion Willard Swegle and his wife deed the tract of land for \$1000.00 including the grave and monument hill (about eight acres) to the Trustees of the Walla Walla Trust Foundation - W. S. Holt, Levi Ankeny, and Allen Reynolds.

Oct. 22: The bodies of the victims of the Whitman Killings are disinterred in preparation to be buried in a more fitting tomb.

Nov. 29-30: Fiftieth anniversary observances of the Whitman Killings are held by the citizens of Walla Walla.

November 29: Monday evening: Ceremonies are held in the opera House.

November 30: Tuesday: Two special trains take people to the mission grounds for dedication ceremonies of the monument. The monument does not arrive. Brief ceremonies are again held in the Opera House.

W.H. Gray spent the last years of his life collecting funds for a monument to the Whitmans. At the time of his death in 1881, about \$800.00 had been collected. It was turned over to the Trustees for the Walla Walla Trust Foundation (W. H. Holt, Allen H. Reynolds, John D. Ankeny). The Trustees contracted Niles Unson Company, of Walla Walla for a granite monument and a marble slab for the grave. The cost for a granite monument and a marble slab for the grave was approximately \$2,500.00. The difference between the amount collected by Gray and the purchase price was contributed by Walla Walla citizens.

## **1898**

Jan. 29: A burial service is conducted by Rev. E.L. Smith and Rev. E.N. Condit, pastors of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches of Walla Walla; the metallic coffin (presented by Mrs. Picard of Walla Walla) is placed in the vault and a two-ton slab of marble is lowered in place and sealed.

## **1907**

March 8: M.W. Swegle conveys one acre (more or less) to the Whitman-Eells Memorial Church.

## **1916**

Fall: The bodies of William H. Gray and his wife are moved from their burial site at Astoria, Oregon to Waiilatpu.

## **1923**

Dec. 26: W.S. Holt, Ankeny, and Allen H. Reynolds convey the 8 acres of land where the grave and memorial are located to the Union Trust Company of Walla Walla as Trustees for the Walla Walla Trust Foundation. The Whitman-Eells Memorial Church board also conveys their one acre in the same way. This places the entire nine acres in the Walla Walla Trust Foundation as a perpetual trust to the public.

The Walla Walla Kiwanis Club is interested in the site and begins working to clear the confusing land title.

## **1926**

June 21: Upon application of the Kiwanis Club of Walla Walla, Congress, by action taken on June 21, 1926 confirms the title of the Mission Farm (Donation Claim No. 37 - Township 6, North of Range 35, East of the Willamette Meridian and Claim No. 38 of Township 7, N.R. 35, E.W.M. -- (646.89 acres) to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. This patent of the land is signed October 7, 1926 by President Calvin Coolidge.

This action clears the title to all parts of the original mission and the numerous transfers following that of the board to the Rev. Cushing Eells.

## **1928**

The Oregon Trail Association pledges itself to restore the Whitman Mission.

## **1930**

Sept.: Marion Willard Swegle conveys the 37.5 acres on which the Whitman Mission building had stood to J.C. Fentress and wife by warranty deed .

## **1931**

The Walla Walla Branch of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Walla Walla Kiwanis Club work together to carry out landscaping and other improvements to the Great Grave area.



## 1935

The Whitman Centennial Incorporated is organized under and pursuant to Section 3863 of Remington's Revised Statutes of Washington, as a charitable and benevolent corporation.

Purposes:

- To assist in perpetuating the memories of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman.
- To assist Whitman College.
- To assist in the care of the Whitman Monument.
- To acquire, maintain and operate a part of Waiilatpu.
- To publicize the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Waiilatpu Mission and the coming of the first white women.
- To hold pageants and celebrations to help accomplish above purposes.

## 1936

June 29: Whitman National Monument is created by special Act of Congress, and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This bill states that the land for the national monument was to be acquired by gift - (see 1958) -Public Bill No. 840-74th Congress.

Aug. 13 – 16: Centennial Celebration:

Thursday, Aug. 13: Doctor's Day - Program sponsored by the American Medical Association.

Friday, Aug. 14: Mother's Day - Day honoring Mrs. Whitman, program sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Association of University Women.

Saturday, Aug. 15: Historian's Day - Program directed by the Oregon Trail Memorial Association.

Sunday, Aug. 16: Religious Day - Program sponsored by the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches.

From this celebration the Whitman Centennial Incorporated now had sufficient funds to purchase the 37.5 acres owned by J. C. Fentress.

Sept. 29: J. C. and Della Fentress deed their 37.5 acres to The Whitman Centennial Incorporated for \$10,000.00.

Nov. 27: The Whitman Centennial, Incorporated notifies the Dept. of the Interior it is ready to convey to the United States Government the property to compose the Whitman National Monument. Shortly afterwards, the Centennial Corporation is advised that the property held in trust by the Walla Walla Foundation Trust would need to be incorporated with the building sites before work for a National Monument could be undertaken.

A suit of law is instituted by the Whitman Centennial, Inc. to quiet the title to this parcel of land - eventually the decree is entered and the title conveyed by the trustees to the United States Department of the Interior.

The period of time from September 1936 to July 1939 is taken to clear up the titles to the various parcels and in placing the title in such condition as to warrant the issuance of a policy of title insurance (required by the Government on all lands conveyed to it). The work of clearing the title to these tracts required that several suits had to be entered, one of which was with the Oregon Pioneer Historical Society.

## **1940**

Jan. 20: Whitman National Monument is formally established with a total of 45.84 acres.

## **1958**

May 1: Due to the restriction set forth in the Act of June 29, 1936, further legislation is needed. Public Law 85-388 authorizes the addition of "not to exceed 50 acres of land adjacent to the existing Monument and a right-of-way thereto from U.S. Highway 410." (Now Highway 12)

Under the act 46.71 acres adjacent to the existing monument lands are added by condemnation and purchase.

## **1962**

May 31: President John F. Kennedy approves Public Law 87-471 (enacted by the 87th Congress), which states "That effective January 1, 1963, the Whitman National Monument, established pursuant to the Act of June 29, 1936, shall be known as the Whitman Mission National Historic Site."

## **1964**

Whitman Mission Visitor Center is built as part of Mission 66 Program of the National Park Service

## **2000**

Whitman Mission completes a General Management Plan to assist with park planning in the early 21st century.