

Early Home and Farm-Westward Expansion-Pre Civil War

Culture in 1800's

Land Grabs- With the new laws in place about the purchase of land in new territories being acquired by the United States, such as the Land Ordinance Act of 1785 and the Land Act of 1804, there was a push for pioneers and settlers to head west.

Wagon Trains- Wagon travel was one of the most widely used forms of transport for those that were beginning to move west. This form of travel often occurred in larger groups of wagons traveling the same trail.

Railroad- The construction of railroads and the advancement of these industrialized systems, facilitated the moving westward of pioneers and settlers.

Cotton Gin- This machine, invented by Eli Whitney, caused the industrialization of the cotton industry.

Pony Express- Initial communication system set up to connect the American front

Telegraph- Replacement for communication on the pony express. Widely opened up the western territories to settlement and connected the territories back to the Eastern United States.

Major Events:

The Wilderness Road

- In 1775, the frontiersman Daniel Boone blazed a trail through the Cumberland Gap—a notch in the Appalachian Mountains located near the intersection of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee.
- This trail served as the pathway to the western United States for some 300,000 settlers over the next 35 years. It also led to the State of Kentucky being formed.

State of Franklin Established- 1784.

- The State of Franklin was an unrecognized territory located in what is today Eastern Tennessee, United States.
- It was created in 1784 from part of the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains that had been offered by North Carolina as a cession to Congress to help pay off debts related to the American War for Independence.
- Franklin was never admitted into the union. The state existed for only about four and a half years, after which North Carolina re-assumed full control of the area. The original name proposed had been “Frankland,” but the counties changed it to Franklin in an attempt to get Benjamin Franklin on their side.

The Land Ordinance of 1785

- adopted by the United States Congress of the Confederation on May 20, 1785. It set up a standardized system whereby settlers could purchase title to farmland in the west.
- The earlier Ordinance of 1784 was a resolution written by Thomas Jefferson calling for Congress to take action in dividing land in the newly settled western frontier.. The land west of the Appalachian Mountains, north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River was to be divided into ten separate states.

Southeast Territory

- The Territory South of the River Ohio, more commonly known as the Southwest Territory, was an organized territory of the United States that existed from May 26, 1790, until June 1, 1796, when it was admitted to the United States as the State of Tennessee.
- The Southwest Territory was created by the Southwest Ordinance from lands of the Washington District that had been ceded to the U.S. federal government by North Carolina.
- The territory's lone governor was William Blount.

Tennessee's Statehood- 1796

- In an effort to encourage settlers to move west into the new territory, in 1787 the mother state of North Carolina ordered a road to be cut to take settlers into the Cumberland Settlements—from the south end of Clinch Mountain (in East Tennessee) to French Lick (Nashville). The Trace was called the "North Carolina Road" or "Avery's Trace", and sometimes "The Wilderness Road" (although it should not be confused with Daniel Boone's "Wilderness Road" through the Cumberland Gap).
- The fertility of the Tennessee River valley and its ability to produce crops created an interest for pioneers who were interested in moving west. Tennessee was admitted to the Union on June 1, 1796 as the 16th state.

Louisiana Purchase- May 2nd 1803.

- The United States agreed to pay France \$15 million for the Louisiana Territory, which extends west from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and comprises about 830,000 sq mi. As a result, the U.S. nearly doubles in size.
- Lewis and Clark set out from St. Louis, Mo., on an expedition to explore the West and find a route to the Pacific Ocean on May 15th 1804. The team was aided by Sacagawea and other natives, and went on to reach the Pacific coast on November 15th 1805.
- Merchants, traders and trappers were also among the first people to forge a path across the Continental Divide.

The Land Act of 1804

- U.S. legislation that refined provisions for the purchase of U.S. public land north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi river. At the time, the region was divided into the Indiana Territory and the State of Ohio. The goal of the change was to make migration to the western United States more attractive.

War of 1812

- U.S. declares war on Britain over British interference with American maritime shipping and westward expansion.

The Adams–Onís Treaty of 1819,

- known as the Transcontinental Treaty, the Florida Purchase Treaty, or the Florida Treaty. A treaty between the United States and Spain in 1819 that ceded Florida to the U.S. and defined the boundary between the U.S. and New Spain.

The Missouri Compromise -1820

- This was legislation that provided the admission of Maine to the United States as a free state along with Missouri as a slave state, thus maintaining the balance of power between North and South in the United States Senate.

Mexican Independence-1821

- When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, Mexican Texas was part of the new nation. To encourage settlement, Mexican authorities allowed organized immigration from the United States, and by 1834, over 30,000 Anglos lived in Texas, compared to 7,800 Mexicans.

The Santa Fe Trail- 1821

- America's first commercial highway. 900 miles connected the far western territories of the United States with the eastern states. This trail served as a super highway to the western frontier.

Monroe Doctrine- December 2nd 1823.

- In an address, President Monroe declared that the American continents were off limits for further colonization.

Erie Canal- 1825.

- A canal that would connect the Hudson River to Lake Erie. This canal became increasingly important for the expansion westward and shipment of products.

Indian Removal Act- May 28th 1830.

- President Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act,
- Triggers the forced removal of Native Americans living in the eastern part of the country to lands west of the Mississippi River.
- This mass relocation became known as the Trail of Tears

The Battle of the Alamo (February 23 – March 6, 1836)

- Following a 13-day battle, Mexican troops reclaimed the Alamo Mission.
- Following this, the Texans defeated the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto, on April 21, 1836..

Railroad Expansion

- From the mid-1830s-1850 the railroad systems east of the Missouri River were growing rapidly.
- In 1862, **the Pacific Railroad Act** chartered the *Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroad Companies*, tasking them with building a transcontinental railroad that would link the United States from east to west.
- Over the next seven years, the two companies would race toward each other from Sacramento, California on the one side to Omaha, Nebraska on the other, struggling against great risks before they met at Promontory, Utah, on May 10, 1869.

The Oregon Trail: 1834-1888

Missionaries heading west

- Merchant Nathan Wyeth led the first missionary group west in 1834 where they built an outpost in present-day Idaho.
- Doctor and Protestant missionary Marcus Whitman left on horseback from the Northeast in 1835 to prove that the westward trail to Oregon could be traversed safely and further than ever before.
- On the first attempt the journey took him as far as the Green River Rendezvous.
- The next journey made it to the Green River Rendezvous, where they were challenged with trails in the rockies. They eventually made it to Fort Vancouver, Washington, and built missionary posts nearby.
- This journey proved both men and women could travel west.

Great Emigration of 1843

- Heading west once again, Whitman met up with a wagon train set for Oregon. The group included 120 wagons, over 1,000 people. The journey began on May 22 and lasted five months.

The Donner Party

- In the spring of 1846, a group of about 100 left Missouri set for California. Jacob and George Donner led the group as they attempted to take a new, shorter route to California. The group became trapped by heavy snowfall high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. These people, being trapped for months, were reported to have practiced cannibalism to make it through the harsh winter. Only half of the group made it to California the next spring. Their story quickly spread, and they have become famously referred to as, the Donner Party.

Cayuse War

- As more settlers arrived, the Cayuse became resentful and hostile.
- After a measles epidemic broke out in 1847, the Cayuse population was decimated.
- The outbreak caused a seven-year war between the Cayuse and the government.

Independence Rock

- The halfway point on the Trail. Arriving at Independence Rock by July 4th was the marker for being on track to make it to Oregon before the winter months.

Decline of Use

- With the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in Utah in 1869, westward wagon trains decreased significantly as settlers chose the faster and more reliable mode of transportation.
- Still, as towns were established along the Oregon Trail, the route continued to serve thousands of emigrants with "gold fever" on their way to California. It was also a main thoroughfare for massive cattle drives between 1866 and 1888.

US Acquires Oregon Territory- June 15th 1846.

- Oregon Treaty fixes U.S.-Canadian border at 49th parallel; U.S. acquired Oregon territory.

Oregon Donation Land Act in 1850,

- encouraged settlement in the Oregon Territory

Mexican American War-May 13th 1846- February 2nd 1848.

- In 1845, Texas joined the United States, becoming the 28th state.
- The U.S. declared war on Mexico in an effort to gain California and other territory in the Southwest.
- War concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- Mexico recognizes Rio Grande as a new boundary with Texas and, for \$15 million, agreed to cede most of the southwest.

Pony Express

- The Pony Express was a delivery system that stretched across the western frontier from Missouri to California. The goal was speedy delivery by horseback. The system eventually was replaced by the new telegraph system of communication

California Gold Rush

- Gold Rush Begins- January 24th 1848. Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill in California. The gold rush reaches its height the following year.

Key People

Daniel Boone-was an American pioneer, explorer, woodsman, and frontiersman. One of the first folk heroes of the United States. Boone is most famous for his exploration and settlement of what is now Kentucky. Boone is also known for the Wilderness Road he formed from North Carolina and Tennessee through Cumberland Gap in the Cumberland Mountains into Kentucky.

William Bean- pioneer and Commissioner of North Carolina's Washington District. He was the first permanent white settler in Tennessee.

Meriwether Lewis- was an American explorer, soldier, politician, and public administrator, known for his role as the leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

William Clark-was an American explorer, famous for his westward expedition with Meriwether Lewis.

Davy Crockett- Pioneer and frontiersman, who settled in northwest Tennessee. Participated in numerous fights against the Native populations.

Joseph Smith- Founder of the Mormon church

Sacagawea- Native American woman who assisted Lewis and Clark in their expedition to the Pacific coast.

Thomas Jefferson- an American politician, lawyer, architect, and Founding Father who served as the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809.

Nathan Wyeth- led the first missionary group west in 1834 where they built an outpost in present-day Idaho.

John Louis O'Sullivan- was an American columnist and editor who used the term "manifest destiny" in 1845 to promote the annexation of Texas and the Oregon Country to the United States

Key Terms

Cowboys- herded and rounded up livestock that were transported by rail around the country for sale. Used to distinguish what cattle belonged to which ranch, cowboys would brand the animals by burning a special mark into their hides. It took between eight and 12 cowboys to move 3,000 head of cattle along cattle drives.

Longhunter- was an 18th-century explorer and hunter who made expeditions into the American frontier wilderness for as much as six months at a time.

Manifest Destiny- the 19th-century doctrine or belief that the expansion of the US throughout the American continents was both justified and inevitable.

The Oregon Trail- is a 2,170-mile (3,490 km) historic East–West, large-wheeled wagon route and emigrant trail in the United States that connected Missouri with the Oregon Territory.

Pioneer- those who were going to settle any territory which had previously not been settled or developed by European, African or American society, although the territory was inhabited by or utilized by Native Americans.

Gold Rush- was a gold rush that began on January 24, 1848, when gold was found by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California. The news of gold brought approximately 300,000 people to California from the rest of the United States and abroad

Mormonism- the religious tradition of the Latter Day Saint movement of Restorationist Christianity started by Joseph Smith in Western New York in the 1820s and 30s.

Pony Express- mail service delivering messages, newspapers, and mail using relays of horse-mounted riders

The Wilderness Road- was one of two principal routes used by colonial and early national era settlers to reach Kentucky from the East.

Santa Fe Trail- was a 19th-century transportation route through central North America that connected Franklin, Missouri with Santa Fe, New Mexico. Pioneered in 1821 by William Becknell.

49ers- Men and women who moved west during the California Gold rush

Transcontinental Railroad- A railroad built across the entire US territory as a way of encouraging travel westward.