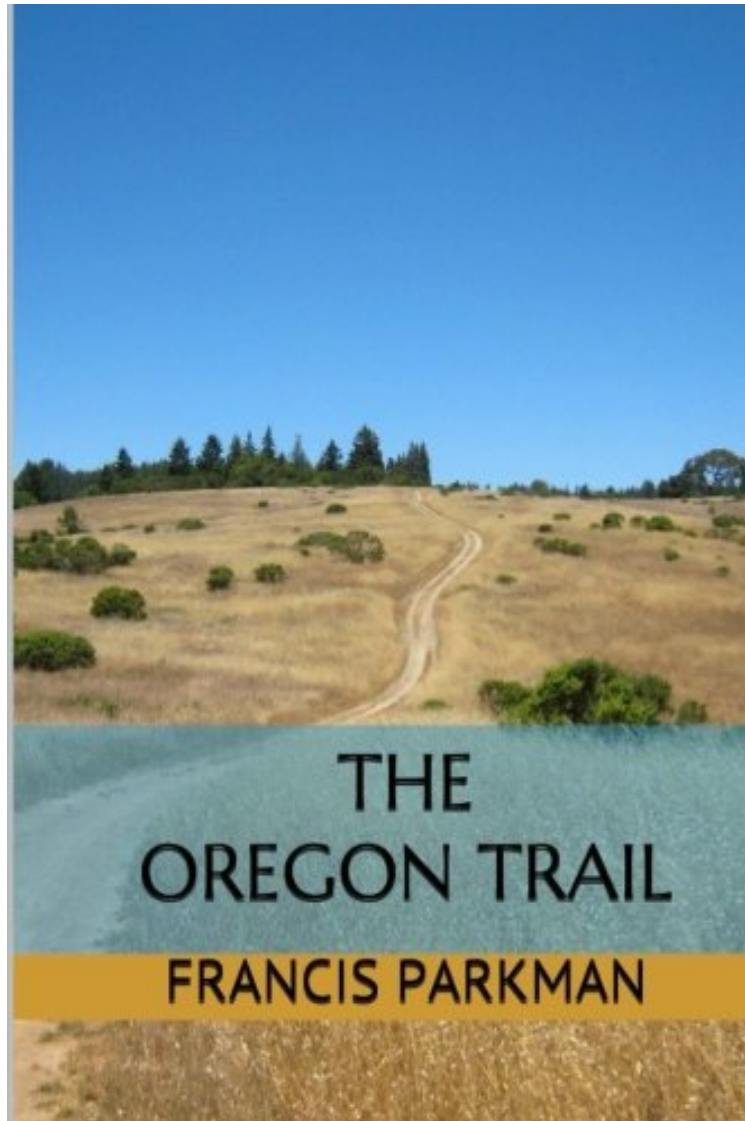


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The Oregon Trail

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Francis Parkman : The Oregon Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oregon Trail:

The Oregon Trail (First published 1849) By Francis Parkman Jr. This is a fascinating and dramatic story of a vanishing frontier and the personal account of writer Francis Parkman who spent a summer travelling on the Northern Plains, living with a tribe of Oglala Sioux and hunting buffalo. The book is written at a turning point in American history

during the war with Mexico. Soldiers and volunteer militia riding south while Dakota tribes followed the Buffalo herds. Wagon trains were rumbling across the plains, some to Oregon, others to the Great Salt Lake. (The 2,000-mile (3,200 km) Oregon Trail is a historic east-west route where large wheeled wagons and emigrants connected the Missouri River to valleys in Oregon.) Parkman vividly describes his encounters in the American West. His depiction of native Americans and their culture provides a fascinating insight into the period before the California Gold Rush and before the Indian Wars. Parkman tells his story with a great deal of detail about their lives, their meals, the way they lived, loved and slept in tents. He rides alongside them hunting Buffalo. The book has contributed to an understanding of the Oglala Sioux and the plains, and it is a historically significant work. The work has its limitations, however. It is told through the eyes of a man with a privileged background and Harvard education, and it is told with those prejudices and beliefs that accompanied the era. Parkman's book also contains a good deal of humor, describing a return trip in which he takes along an oafish soldier. Parkman's work is a classic of frontier American literature. TITLE: The Oregon Trail AUTHOR: Francis Parkman Jr. GENRE: American, America, History, Books, Western, Frontier, Wild West PUBLISHER: American Cowboy Books

About the Author About The Author Francis Parkman, Jr. (1823 1893) was an American historian and author of The Oregon Trail: Sketches of Prairie and Rocky-Mountain Life and the seven-volume France and England in North America. He was also briefly a Professor of Horticulture at Harvard University and wrote books on the topic.