

# The Landrum Wayside

A timeline of events directly concerning the Oregon-California boundary at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parallel.

Spain, Portugal, Great Britain, Russia, and New Spain (Mexico) all claimed lands that are now part of the United States of America.

The Landrum Wayside sits on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parallel, the California-Oregon border, which once divided Mexico from the Oregon Territory. The Wayside was dedicated on July 4, 1996, and flies the flags of these nations to honor the history of our region.

- 1492 Columbus lands in the New World, claims it for Spain and inaugurates a European rivalry for territory.
- 1493 Pope Alexander VI's Papal Bull of May 4, 1493, grants Spain the right to colonize the western coast of America. It granted to the Catholic Monarchs and the heirs of the Crown of Castile exclusively all lands to the "west and south" of a pole-to-pole line 100 leagues west and south of any islands of the Azores or Cape Verde Islands.
- 1494 June 7<sup>th</sup> Treaty of Tordesillas establishes a meridian; Spain get what's west of the meridian and Portugal get what's east.
- 1513 Vasco Nunex de Balboa claims the "South Sea" (Pacific Ocean) and the adjoining land for the Spanish Crown.
- 1519 Hernando Cortez takes 11 ships with 600 men to Mexico with guns, armor and horses and conquers Montezuma II, Aztec Emperor, the capital city of Tenochitlan and all of Mexico.
- 1521 New Spain is established following the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire.
- 1542 Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo, a Portuguese sailing for the Spanish Crown, is the first European to explore the west coast of North America.
- 1543 Spanish explorer Bartolome Ferralo travels along the Washington and Oregon coastlines.
- 1578/79 British mariner, Sir Frances Drake, claims New Albion (somewhere on the Pacific coastline) for Great Britain.
- 1592 Juan de Fuca, sailing for the Spanish Crown, claims to have discovered the Strait of Anian.

- 1707 The Spanish galleon San Francisco Xavier, sailing from Manila to Acapulco, is shipwrecked on the Oregon coast near Nehalem Beach.
- 1728 Danish explorer Vitus Bering, sent by Imperial Russia, discovers the Bering Straits.
- 1741 Bering and Aleksei Chirikov sight positions of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.
- 1750-1867 Russian fur traders establish posts along the coast of Alaska as far south as Fort Russ, California.
- 1784 The first Russian Settlement is established in Three Saints Bay, on Kodiak Island, by Grigory Shelikov.
- 1774 New Spain sends Juan Jose Perez Hernandez of the frigate Santiago to the Pacific Northwest with orders to make clear Spanish claims for the entire northwestern Pacific Coast.
- 1775 New Spain sends Bruno de Haceta and Juan Francisco de la Bodegay Quadra to the Pacific Northwest. Bodegay Quadra reaches 58 degrees latitude and names Bucareli Bay on the west side of Prince Wales Island. He performs many "acts of sovereignty."
- 1778 On his Third Expedition, Captain James Cook, English mariner, visits Nootka Sound, acquires sea otter pelts, and sails as far north as Prince William Sound establishing a territorial claim for Great Britain.
- 1779 Arteago and Bodegoy Quadra are sent by New Spain to the Pacific Northwest with orders to: 1. Evaluate the Russian penetration of Alaska, 2. Search for the Northwest Passage and 3. Capture James Cook. They did not find the Russians. They did not find the Northwest Passage. And they did not capture James Cook because he was killed in Hawaii in February.
- 1785 James Hanna's voyage marks the return of the British to open the Northwest coastal fur trade.
- 1786-1794 Thirty-nine British ships and fifteen American ships sail to the Northwest Coast to trade furs.
- 1788 Estaban Jose Martinez and Gonzalo Lopez de Haro are sent to the Pacific Northwest by New Spain to investigate Russian activity. On June 30, 1788, Jose Maria Narvaez goes in a longboat to locate the Russian post at Three Saints Bay and finds them. He takes the Russian commander, Evstrat Delarov, to meet Haro on the San Carlos. Delarov gives Narvaez a Russian map of the Alaskan coast and indicates the locations of seven Russian post containing nearly 500 men. He also tells Narvaez that the Russians intend to occupy Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
- 1788 Americans Robert Gray and John Kendrick arrive on the Northwest coast to trade furs.

- 1789 Martinez and Haro are ordered to take possession of Nootka Sound before the Russians or the British do. Martinez has orders to prevent ships from any nation from trading in Nootka Sound. British and American ships are seized by the Spanish. A permanent settlement is built at Fort Miguel.
- 1790-1794 Spain and Britain sign the Nootka Sound Conventions which open trade to both and denies either the right to establish a permanent settlement. Bodegáy Quadra and George Vancouver come to Nootka Sound to implement the Convention. Both captains explore the coastline.
- 1792 In April 1792, George Vancouver encountered American Captain Robert Gray off the coast of Oregon just prior to Gray sailing up the Columbia River. Vancouver continued north to explore Puget Sound. Robert Gray discovers the Columbia River and names the river after his ship, Columbia Rediviva.
- 1793 On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1793, Sir Alexander MacKenzie, a Scottish explorer, completes the first transcontinental crossing of North America, north of Mexico, over a decade before Lewis and Clark. He unknowingly misses meeting George Vancouver at Bella Coola by 48 days.
- 1788-1794 Fifteen American vessels arrive on the Pacific coast to trade furs.
- 1795-1804 Fifty American vessels arrive on the Pacific coast to trade furs as compared to nine British ships.
- 1804-1806 The Lewis and Clark Expedition, also known as the Corps of Discovery Expedition, was the first transcontinental expedition to the Pacific coast undertaken by the United States.
- 1805-1814 Forty American ships arrive on the Pacific coast to trade furs as compared to three British ships.
- 1810 The Mexican War of Independence from Spain/New Spain begins September 16, 1810.
- 1811 John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Trade Company establishes Fort Astoria, the first permanent American settlement in Oregon Country.
- 1812 The Russian-American Company builds Fort Ross in Northern California.
- 1818 On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1818, the signing of the Anglo-American Convention of 1818 resolved the standing boundary issues between Britain and the United States and allowed for joint occupation and settlement of the Oregon Country. Article III provided for joint control of land in the Oregon Country for 10 years. Both could claim land, and both were guaranteed free navigation throughout. 1827 saw a 2<sup>nd</sup> co-occupancy treaty. This co-occupancy ended with the Oregon Treaty of 1846.

- 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty, also known as the Transcontinental Treaty or the Purchase of Florida, cedes Florida to the United States and sets out a boundary between the United States and New Spain. As a result of the Adams-Onís Treaty, the United States acquires claims of Spain to the Oregon Country north of the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel. John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State under President James Monroe, and the Spanish foreign minister, Luis de Onís, set the northern boundary of New Spain which is the first known statement of the southern boundary of the Oregon Territory, the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel.
- 1821 A Russian ukase issued in 1821 attempts to limit travel by foreign ships within 100 miles of Russian ports. It asserts Russian rights in the Pacific Northwest and forbids non-Russian ships from approaching the coast. President James Monroe counters by enunciating the Monroe Doctrine on December 2, 1823, stating the Western Hemisphere is no longer open for colonization, and the United States will regard any interference in the Western Hemisphere's affairs as a threat to its security.
- 1821 The Declaration of Independence of the Mexican Empire marked the success of the Mexican Revolution, and by 1823 the Republic of Mexico was confirmed. Mexico assumed the territorial claims of New Spain.
- 1824 The Russian-American Accord of 1824 gives Russian claims on the Pacific Northwest coast of North America south of parallel 54°40'N, known as the Oregon Country, to the United States.
- 1824 John McLoughlin, Hudson's Bay Company, is appointed Superintendent of the Columbia District (known as the Oregon Country to the United States) which is jointly occupied by the British and the United States.
- 1825 Fort Vancouver, on the north side of the Columbia River and across from the mouth of the Willamette River, opens for business on March 19, 1825, under the supervision of John McLoughlin.
- 1825 The Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain fixes the southernmost boundary of Russian Alaska at the line of 54°40'N—the present southern tip of the Alaska Panhandle—but Russian rights to trade in the area south of that line remained.
- 1844 James K. Polk included in his platform during his campaign for President of the United States, a plan to annex Texas and all of the Oregon Country. Later supporters coined the phrase "54.40 or fight." The specter of war led to the Oregon Treaty of 1846.
- 1846 The Oregon Treaty of 1846 permanently establishing the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel as the boundary between the United States and British North America to the Pacific Ocean except for Vancouver Island.

- 1848 On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1848, in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico ceded over 500,000 square miles to the United States at the end of the Mexican-American War, establishing the southern border between the United States and Mexico. The Gadsden Purchase of 1853 settled that boundary at the 32<sup>nd</sup> parallel and the Rio Grande River.
- 1848 August 14, 1848, the Oregon Territory was formed south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel out of the United States portion of what the U.S. called the Oregon Country and Britain called the Columbia District.
- 1850 California became the 31<sup>st</sup> state of the United States on September 9, 1850, barely two years after becoming part of the United States and without ever being a territory. Since the southern boundary of the Oregon Territory was established by the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parallel now became the boundary between the Oregon Territory and the State of California.
- 1859 February 14, 1859, Oregon becomes a state.
- 1867 Russian America, Alaska, is sold to the United States for \$7.2 million.