



# Seven Months to Oregon: 1853

Harold J. Peters

443 pp., 51 illustrations (maps, photos, charts), Foreword by Mark O. Hatfield, Bibliography, Index

A remarkable new book of diary and reminiscent accounts of several missionary families who traveled from Upstate New York to Oregon. Gustavus Hines, two of his brothers, their families, and trail companions wrote extensively of the trip. They traveled by horseback, overland stage, and train to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, steamboats to Westport, and by covered wagons on the well-beaten Oregon Trail.

Remarkably literate journalists, they

wrote almost nightly, and although they traveled together their accounts are surprisingly diverse. The oldest brother drowned while fording the Snake River west of Fort Boise. A fourth brother applied for missionary service too late to accompany the overlanders and traveled to the Willamette Valley by sea, crossing to the Pacific Ocean over the Isthmus of Panama.

John Mack Faragher, author of *Women and Men on the Overland Trails*, wrote this about the new book: "Bringing together several firsthand accounts of a family's overland migration in 1853, Peters vividly recaptures the excitement, the drudgery, the hope, and the heartbreak of ordinary people in extraordinary times."

This book is a must for those who love the history of the Oregon Trail.

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