

Isaac Julian Harvey (I.J.) was the first mayor of Salinas. His home, which was built in 1868, is the oldest building in Salinas and has been restored to look like it did in the 1870s. I.J. was an interesting man living in interesting times. His story and the story of hundreds of thousands of Americans is incorporated in this book. His story is typical of the story of the thousands of emigrants who came to the Salinas Valley in search of a better life.

I.J. Harvey was born in Prairie Township, Wayne County, Indiana on December 28, 1816. His parents, along with the rest of the Harvey family, moved there from North Carolina seeking better farmland and religious freedom. Many of the Harveys were Quakers. The Quakers were a very devout people with strict rules of behavior. Their families were large and relatives liked to live near one another. It is estimated that 1200 Quakers (or Friends, as they were commonly called) moved from the South to Indiana between 1809 and 1819. The issue of slavery in the South troubled them greatly. They believed that it was not right for one

person to own another.

Even though they were able to live well in Indiana, part of the family decided to move on to Missouri in 1842. Absalom, I.J.'s father, was given 40 acres of bounty land, which was offered to soldiers who had fought in the War of 1812. I.J. and his family decided to accompany Absalom to Missouri.

I.J.'s vision of a life in business rather than farming started when he was plowing a field. As he followed the mule down row after row in the hot sun, he decided that it would be cheaper and better for him to pay someone else to plow the field and use his head to make his fortune. Like many young men of his time, I.J. was always on the move looking for a better life. In 1850, he decided to go West and try his luck during the gold rush. He decided to take wagons of supplies that the miners might need, as well as cattle. His trip was not a disaster, but he didn't get rich as he had expected. He returned home by sea and repeated the wagon train trip in 1852 with his wife and children. The family lived in several towns in California before settling in Salinas in 1868.

Over the years, I.J. invested in land, mines, mercantile businesses, cows, pigs, boats, roads, canals, insurance businesses, banking and timber. During his lifetime, he served as a justice of the peace, judge, city councilman, and mayor. He was always looking for a new challenge and was never destined to stay in one place.

The following chapters will tell you more about why people traveled west, their adventures and challenges and the historic decisions that made it all possible.

Chapter One- The Road to the West



European explorers came to the Americas for glory, wealth and adventure. Many of the settlers who followed were also looking for adventure. Others came looking for religious freedom and a fresh economic start for their families. From the days of the earliest European explorers of North America, men have wanted to learn more about the West. The “frontier” was always there- just beyond the edge of the wilderness

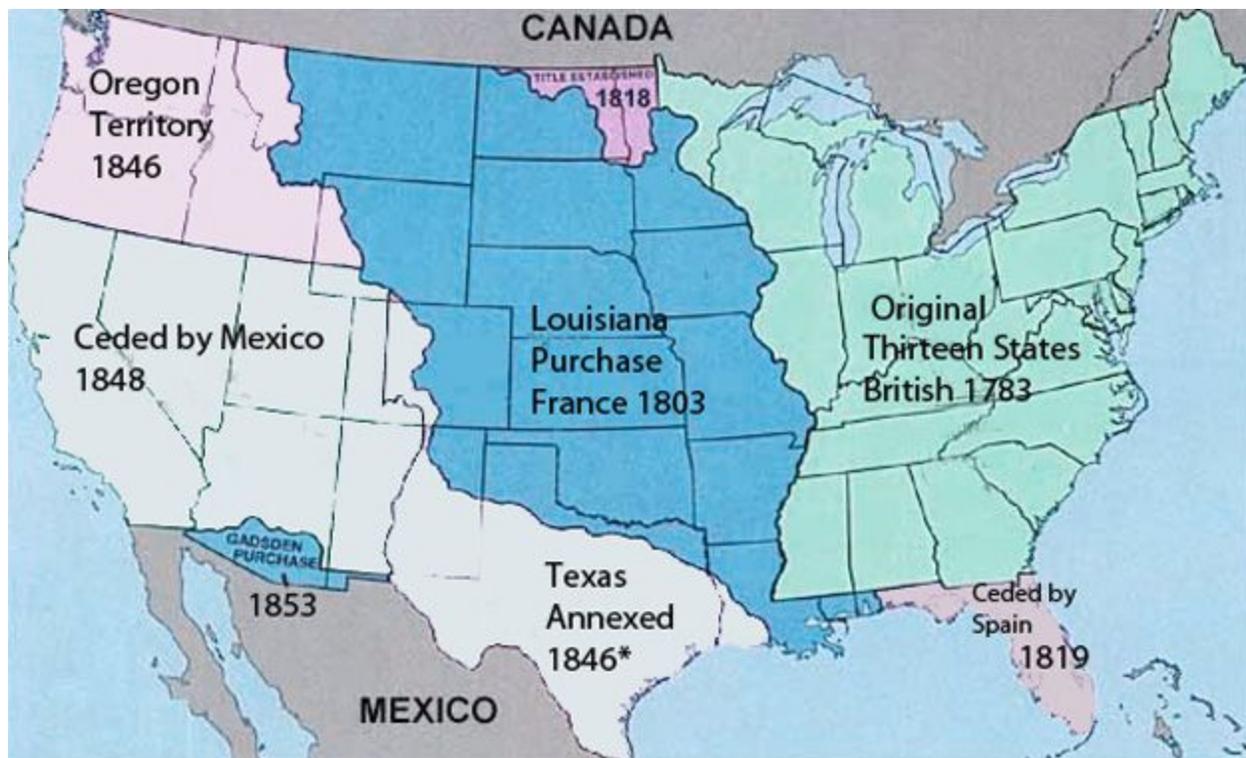
and just beyond civilization. Many thought that there was an easy way to cross North America by river. Called the Northwest Passage, it was seen as an express route from Europe to Asia. These early explorers had no idea how big the continent was or how challenging it would be to explore it. Fur traders were often the first to visit the new lands and their stories soon encouraged others to head west.

The first settlements of Jamestown, Plymouth, and St. Augustine were soon joined by towns up and down the Atlantic coast. It was not long before families began to travel to areas where fewer people lived, looking for more opportunity: land for farming, a place to start a business or just room to spread out. It was a new beginning for indentured servants who had completed their required work time and for freed slaves who dreamed of a place they could call home. (Indentured servants were people who promised to work for seven years in America in payment for their passage to the New World from Europe.) Pioneers pushed their way west onto tribal lands, cut farms out of the forest and developed a strong sense of independence. They overlooked the interests of the indigenous peoples who already populated the continent. Many settlers, especially in the South, increasingly relied on the labor of African slaves.

By the 1760s, the people of the original thirteen colonies began to resent the English government’s policies, especially their lack of representation in the English Parliament and ever increasing taxes. They declared their independence on July 4, 1776 and won two wars with England to make independence a reality (Revolutionary War and War of 1812). After the War of 1812, President Andrew Jackson cleared the remaining indigenous people from the eastern lands, strengthened the concept of political parties and told the nation to look west toward a new future.

One of the main reasons that people started moving west and continued to do so was to make money. Many Americans believed that if they were not succeeding where they were, they could always move west and start over. Abraham Lincoln's family was a good example of this thinking. Although he was Kentucky, Lincoln's family moved to Indiana and then Illinois during his childhood. It was not unusual for families to move further west every decade (ten years), seeking better land and new economic opportunities. I.J.'s great-great grandfather was the first to come to Virginia. Every generation moved further west until I.J. and his family reached the Pacific.

When the United States bought the Louisiana Purchase from France, the country doubled in size. Almost immediately, settlers in the East began to move into the new territories. In 1790, the population of the United States was 3.9 million people and 5% lived west of the Appalachian Mountains. By 1820, the population was 9.6 million people and over 25% lived west of the Appalachians. The opportunity to help settle the new lands was attractive.



Some moved west because of population pressure. The population of the cities in the East was growing quickly and little land was available to new settlers. Others moved so no one could tell them what to do. The fact that there were already Indians and Mexicans living in the land did not deter them. Most white Americans believed that the land was open and available to them.

Still others moved to the West for religious reasons. The Quakers left the South because they opposed slavery. Missionaries moved west to spread the Gospel and found they liked living in the newly settled areas of Oregon, Washington and California. . The Mormons moved to escape religious persecution and to establish a safe haven for themselves and their families in Utah, which was then part of Mexico.

A few entrepreneurs saw the opportunity of trade across the Pacific as shipping technology improved. San Francisco was becoming a major shipping port and newcomers wanted to be part of the excitement.

African American slaves traveled west to gain freedom. Runaway slaves were given freedom if they made it to the new western territories. There they could start a new life as farmers or loggers. After the emancipation of the slaves in 1863, the numbers grew as former slaves looked for new opportunities outside of the South. There were several men who were all or part African American who helped I.J. and who are mentioned in the family writings about life in the Gold Country.

Young men, in particular, found the promise of adventure too good to pass up! They saw the West as a promise of unlimited possibilities and a chance to live an independent life, far from the crowded cities and factories of the East.

When gold was found in California in 1848, thousands of gold seekers flooded the state. Boom towns grew up quickly. By the end of the gold rush, more than 250,000 people had migrated to California. Not everyone was looking for gold. Some came to start businesses selling clothing and equipment or providing food and lodging. . The gold rush lasted just four years, but by 1852, \$80 million in gold had been mined.

For most people, the move was a combination of factors.

In 1845, a New York newspaper editor named John O'Sullivan gave the spirit of expansion a name, **Manifest Destiny**. He said," Our manifest destiny is to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions."



- Some of the ideas included in Manifest Destiny were
- The United States and its values were destined to spread across the continent.
 - The government should assure this destiny, even if it meant war.
 - God and the rest of the Country were on the side of the pioneers.

- For most Americans, the areas of focus were the Northwest and Southwest. (The Plains already belonged to the United States.)

The rapid population growth caused conflict. Native Americans resisted American settlement and fought renewed wars in the early 19th century. The expansion of plantation slavery beyond the coastal Southeast meant that huge numbers of slaves were moved to new territories. Nevertheless, most white Americans saw western expansion as a major opportunity. Politicians believed that the wealth of the country depended on providing affordable land to ordinary white Americans.

For many European immigrants, the right to participate in the electoral process was a new privilege. Only white male landowners could vote, but as the West began to be settled, politics became an important part of American life.

Here are some events that helped make the westward movement successful.

Cumberland Gap. 1767. Daniel Boone developed a trail through the Appalachian Mountains from Virginia into Kentucky and Tennessee to the Ohio River, opening up that area to development. The trail was soon renamed the Wilderness Road.

The Louisiana Purchase, 1803. Thomas Jefferson completed the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States from New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico, northward through the plains into what is today Canada and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. Jefferson had originally sent envoys to Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in Paris with the plan of purchasing New Orleans, in order to control the Mississippi River Valley, for up to \$10 million dollars. Napoleon offered them the entire territory (828,000,000 square miles) for \$15 million!



The Corps of Discovery (Lewis and Clark) Expedition, 1804. President Jefferson asked his military advisor, Meriweather Lewis, to plan an expedition to survey the most direct and practical water route across the continent and to explore the Pacific Northwest and claim it before other Europeans could. The team was also to establish friendly, diplomatic contact with as many of the Native American tribes

as possible. They reached the Pacific Ocean in 1805 and returned to Washington, D.C. a year later.

The National Road, 1811 In 1806 Thomas Jefferson signed legislation for the construction of a road from Cumberland, Maryland to Wheeling, Virginia which was on the Ohio River. This was the country's first national public works project. Work began in 1811 and followed the old buffalo and Indian trails through the Allegheny Mountains. Today most of the old road has been improved as U.S. Route 40. The National Road was important because it opened up the northern and eastern states to the Ohio River Valley and, ultimately, the Mississippi River.

War of 1812, 1812-1815. The British and a confederation of Native American tribes fought the United States. Although both armies invaded each other, at the end of the war, no land changed hands. One of the battles was the Battle of New Orleans which made Andrew Jackson famous. The British retreated into Canada, breaking their promise to help the tribes defend their lands against U.S. settlement. Before the war, many settlers along the Ohio River were threatened by Indian raids. After the war, the tribes were either restricted to tribal lands or pushed even further westward, opening new lands for westward expansion.

Missouri Compromise, 1821 and Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1857 Missouri applied to be a state. The people who wanted to expand slavery and those who opposed the expansion of slavery argued for two years until the passage of the Missouri Compromise, which allowed for new states to be added in pairs- one slave and one free. (A *compromise* is reached when two sides want something different and each gives up some of what they want to get the most important part.) In 1857, the Dred Scott case was brought before the United States Supreme Court. The Court ruled that Congress had no right to prohibit slavery. It was up to each territory to decide. As a result, settlers on both sides of the issue poured into the Kansas and Nebraska territories; each trying to "stake a claim". The population of those two states grew much faster than would have happened otherwise.

Monroe Doctrine, 1823. The United States adopted the Monroe Doctrine, which said that America would view any colonization in the Western Hemisphere by any European country as an act of aggression. Although the United States did not have an army or navy to enforce the Doctrine, its claim that the U.S. would have access to all the remaining uncolonized areas in the west let Europe know the intentions of the new nation.

First Railroad service, 1824. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began with service from Baltimore to New York, Washington DC, and as far West as the Ohio River. It made movement of people and supplies much less expensive and more efficient.

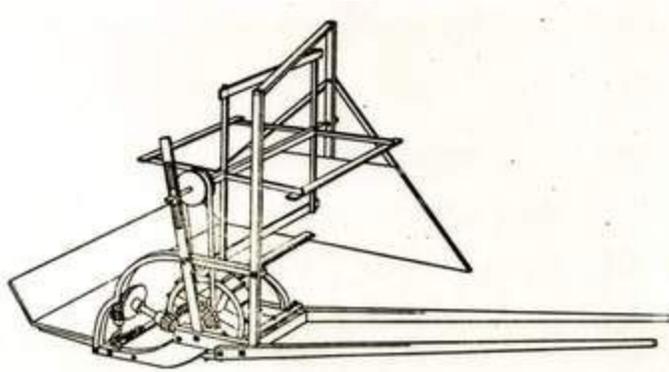
Indian Removal Act, 1830. This act forcibly moved almost all native Americans from the Southeast to the present states of Arkansas and Oklahoma, in a journey sometimes called the “trail of tears”. Of the approximately 16,000 Cherokee who started the journey, more than 4000 died as a result of conditions in the forts or along the trail.

Important Inventions for the pioneers, 1833-34

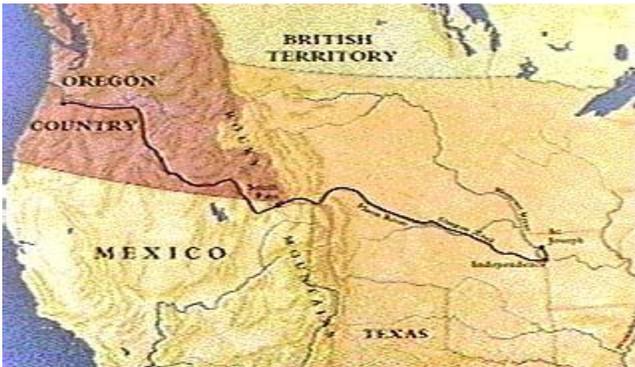
John Deere: Steel plow to cut through heavy sod

Cyrus McCormick: Reaper to mechanize the harvesting of wheat and corn

Samuel Colt: Colt 45 “six shooter” revolver



The Great Migration, 1843. The first caravan to take settlers across the entire 2000 miles of the Oregon Trail completed its journey in the fall of 1843. Thousands more were to follow the trail to Oregon, California and Utah. It is estimated that more than 300,000 pioneers would follow the trails during the 25 years from 1843 to 1868. Once the railroad was completed, few settlers used the trails to go west.



Oregon Treaty, 1846. The U.S. claim to the Oregon Territory was based on a visit to the area in 1792 by Captain Robert Gray, who sailed up the Columbia River for ten miles. By international law, his journey gave the United States a claim to all the area drained by the river. The British also claimed the land and ongoing discussions about an appropriate dividing line went on for many years. They finally agreed that the 49th Parallel would be the border between the United States and Canada.

Mexican American War, 1848. Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836, although Mexico refused to recognize the Republic of Texas or its borders. John Slidell was

sent to Mexico City with the goal of purchasing Alta California and Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico (present day California, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.) When the Mexican government found out that he was there to take away more land ,rather than to pay them for Texas, they refused to receive him. Slidell wrote to President Polk, “We can never get along well with them until we have given them a good drubbing.” (Drubbing means beating in battle.) After three years of fighting, Mexico renounced all rights to Texas and ceded the rest of the disputed land to the United States for \$15 million. In 1853, the Gadsden Purchase completed the land acquisition in the continental United States.

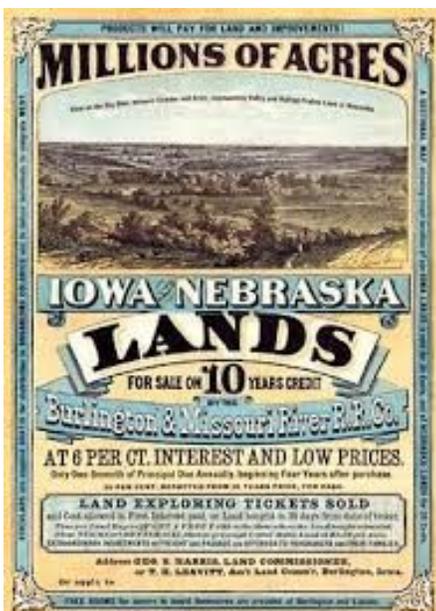
The discovery of gold in California, 1848. This single event ensured that the rush to the West would grow, as thousands went to the mines to search for gold or to provide services to the miners. During the seven year period from 1849-1856, 90,000 people moved in to California. They came from the eastern United States by wagon train or ship, and from China to work in the mines and on the railroads.

Oregon Donation Land Act, 1850. This bill was passed to assist Irish immigration after the Potato Famine in Ireland. It encouraged immigrants to go to the West rather than staying in the Eastern cities, and allowed a family to claim up to 640 acres of land.



The Pony Express, 1860. The Pony Express delivered letters from St. Louis to Sacramento in ten days. Each rider rode 30 to 50 miles on three different horses with a two minute break between rides. Most riders were thin, young men looking for adventure. The Pony Express only operated for 18 months.

Completion of Telegraph Service, 1861. The completion of telegraph lines between San Francisco to St Louis marked the end of the Pony Express. Messages could be sent in minutes rather than days.



The Homestead Act, 1862. This act offered free ownership of 160 acres to settlers who would lived on the land for five years. Before that time, the Great Plains were mostly ignored by people headed to the west coast. After the Civil War, interest in the Great Plains grew because new steel plows and water pumping windmills had made it easier to succeed as a farmer. By the end of the 1800s, more than 80 million acres had been granted to more than 480,000 successful homesteaders. Ten percent of the United States was settled because of the Homestead Act.

American Civil War, 1861-1865 This major conflict was between the southern and northern states. The South wanted to leave the United States. They argued that each state had the

right to make most decisions for itself, including whether or not to allow slavery. Northern states wanted to preserve the Union and were opposed to slavery and wanted to end it.

Emancipation of Slavery, 1863. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in this famous Proclamation. Freed slaves looking for a better life soon joined the westward movement.

Transcontinental Railroad, 1869. The Transcontinental Railroad was considered the greatest engineering project up to that time in history. It made travel across the country much quicker and easier for people and products. After the completion of the railroad, people could go across the country in days rather than months.