

Bellringer: D17

What would have motivated you to move across the country in a wagon? What do you think motivated early western settlers?

Next 20 minutes: Take a look at the **Passing Thru Utah** assignment, and choose a **Pioneer Party** to research and create a poster / presentation / pamphlet on. We will continue on this in the coming days of class (rough draft: Due **T1D19**)

Utah Studies

“[The East] is not a place to live in. The rents are high, the food is bad, the dust is disgusting and the morals are deplorable. **Go West, young man, go West** and grow up with the country.”

-Horace Greeley, Editor of the *New York Tribune*

Manifest Destiny!

As people back East heard about the wild and rich West Coast, including the fertile Oregon Country, as well as California, they desired to settle here.

One of the motivations was the idea of “**Manifest Destiny**”, which is summed up nicely by author **John O’Sullivan**:

“It is the manifest destiny of the United States to spread across the [American] continent”. [VID, Con. Then VID](#)

Thus, many people decided they should come West, and not only settle, but “help” the Native Americans see the errors of their ways, and learn to be more like the “better” white folk! The Mountain Men we mentioned before helped them do exactly that, as their guides and with their knowledge of the Indians.

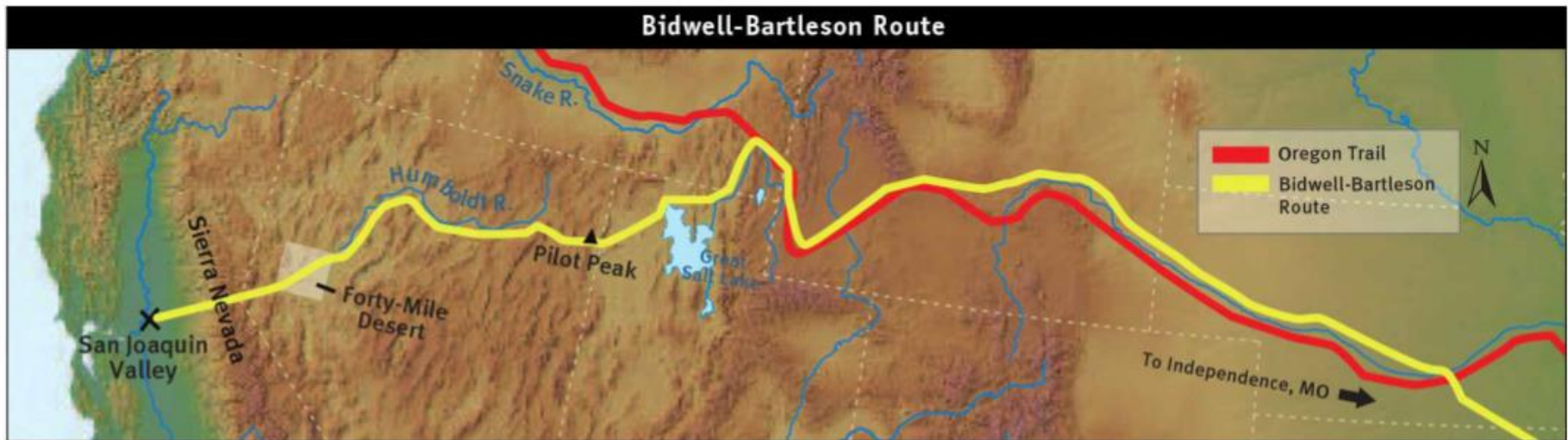
Different Groups, Different Reasons

There were **many different groups** that traveled thru Utah, and continued westward, and each of them had their reasons for doing so. We'll briefly mention some of the more important ones.

In 1841, the **Bidwell-Bartleson Party** left Independence, Missouri, looking to settle in California. Rumors of gold, plentiful land, etc., were factors. They were guided by a mountain man, "**Broken Hand**" Fitzpatrick, all the way to the Salt Lake.

Nancy Kesley, a member of the party, is the first white woman known to have entered Utah. They crossed Northern Utah, and then entered Nevada. They almost didn't make it across the Salt Flats, but they made it to **Pilot Peak**, where they found water and the **Humbolt River**.

After that, they had to cross another 40 miles before reaching the **Sierra Nevada** Mtns. It was October, and snow made it impossible for the wagons to travel. They abandoned the wagons, and were able to hike the rest of the way into California.

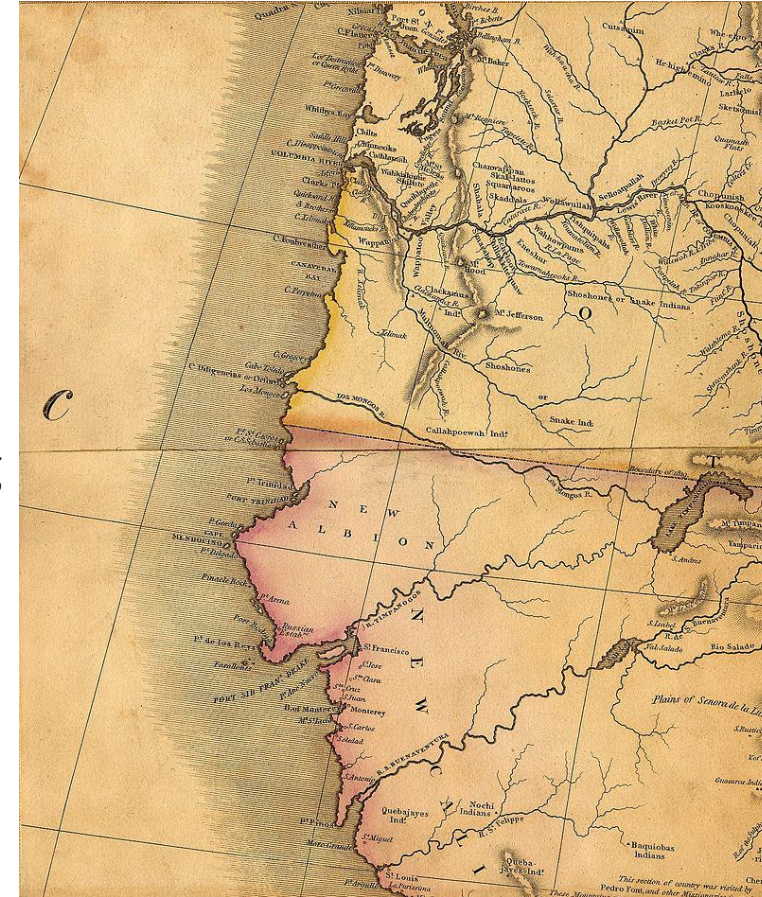


The Buenaventura River

Many of the Spanish explorers that had seen Utah thought that the **Sevier River** and the **Green River** were connected. They thought this make-believe river flowed all the way from the Rockies to California. They called it the “Good Journey River,” aka Buenaventura.

In fact, this river was actually published in many of the maps of the time (though it was pure speculation). As a result, the **Bidwell-Bartleson Party** was actually planning on using said river to build canoes, and just float to California.

Sadly, they were greatly mistaken, since they weren't aware of the Great Basin, which has no outlet to the ocean. Still, the idea persisted until **John C. Fremont, “The Pathfinder”, in 1844**, while exploring the area concluded there was no such river. [VID](#). Gold Rush Video: [VID](#), [1VID](#)



HW Reminder:

Remainder of class:

Complete the **Gold Rush Adventure** game and worksheet!
(should take about 20 minutes)

Begin working on your “**Passing Thru Utah**” Project
(likely will be HW)