

In the period 1820-35, competition for continental dominance was concentrated in the Trans-Mississippi West as a result of fur trading rivalries. William Becknell opened a trail to Santa Fe in 1821 and large numbers of American fur trappers invaded the Southern Rockies. The trappers, who followed Escalante's trail of 1776, marched north from Santa Fe and rediscovered the Great Basin and the Great Salt Lake. They laid out what came to be called The Old Spanish Trail between the New Mexican settlements and California. Two men, Ewing Young and James Ohio Pattie, leading a band of trappers, rediscovered the Grand Canyon. American exploration, trading, and trapping in New Mexico and the far Southwest made this remote region one of the main objectives of the war with Mexico in 1846-1847.

The most important exploring activity in this period, however, took place in the central Rockies and the Great Basin-Snake River country. Here American fur trappers competed with Canadian brigades of the Hudson's Bay Company that were moving down from the Columbia River. The most important of these Canadian brigade leader-explorers was Peter Skene Ogden who discovered the Humboldt River which became the main emigrant trail to California. Ogden also helped to discover Great Salt Lake and was the first man to traverse the Great Basin from north to south. This traverse demonstrated that there was no single river that flowed westward out of Great Salt Lake to the Pacific Ocean.

The results of Ogden's latter expedition were lost, however, and explorers went on searching for the "Rio Buenaventura" for several decades more until the explorations of Capt. John C. Frémont in 1843-1844.

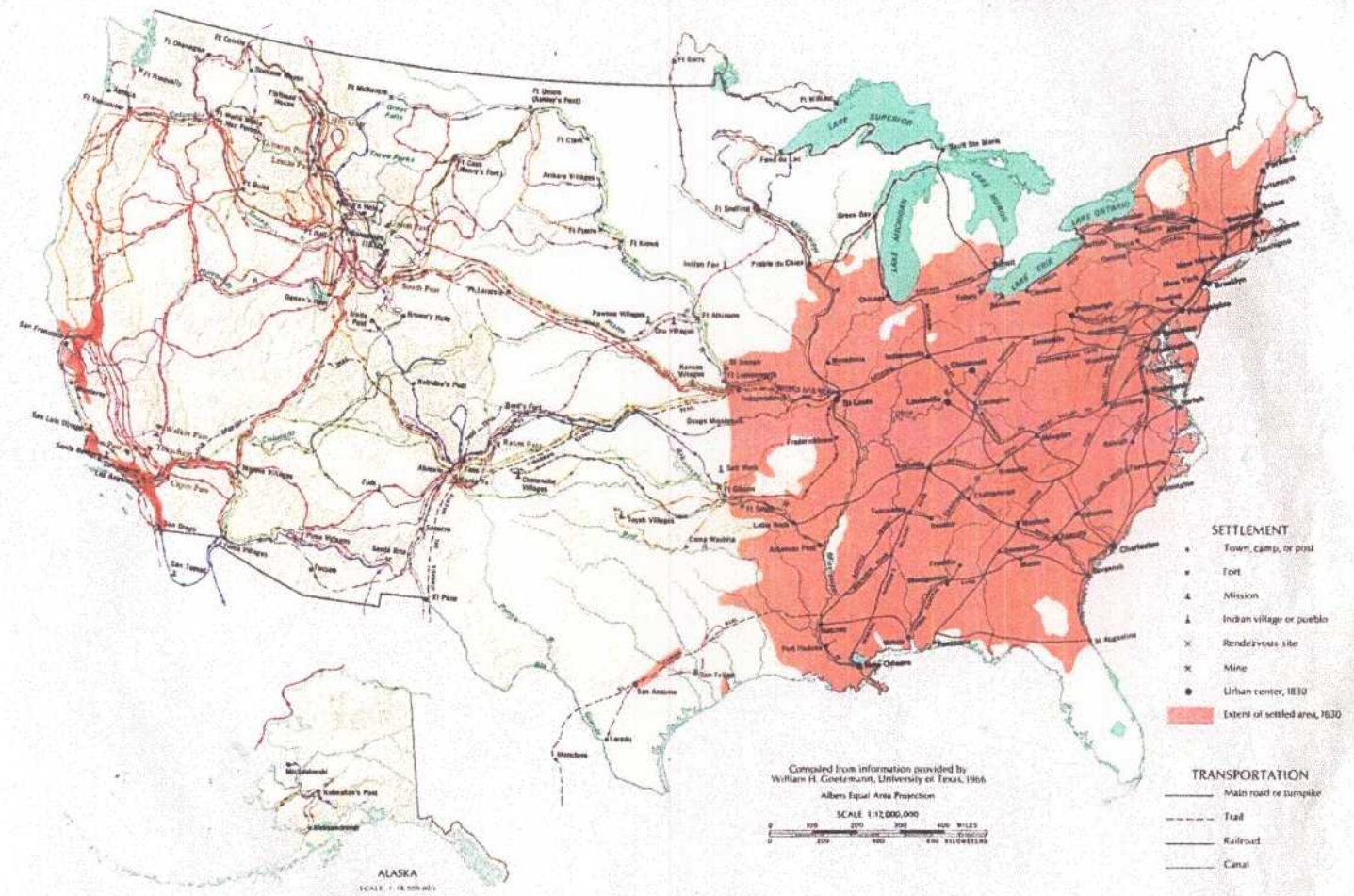
Countering the Canadians were the great American fur trader explorers known as "mountain men." Men like William Ashley, David Jackson, James Bridger, John Weber, William Sublette, James Clyman, Moses Harris, Joseph Walker, Andrew Henry, and "Broken Hand" Fitzpatrick opened up and made known most of the central Rocky Mountains region. The greatest of these "mountain men" explorers was Jedediah Smith, who in 1824, along with Clyman and Fitzpatrick, rediscovered the South Pass through the central Rockies over which thousands of emigrants later passed on their way to Oregon and California. In 1826-27, Smith twice crossed from Great Salt Lake to California via a southwestern route that became part of the Old Spanish Trail. On his return from the first expedition, Smith became the first explorer to cross the Great Basin from west to east. During the course of his travels Smith also went as far north as the Canadian border. He saw most of present-day California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming as well as the Great Basin country. When he died tragically in 1831 he had seen more of the West than any explorer of his time.

The basic significance of exploration in the fur trade era was

that it drove an American "wedge" into the West, between the upper Missouri-Columbia River country and the Southwest, and it pointed the way to central migration routes from the United States settlements west through the central Rockies and across the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific Ocean.

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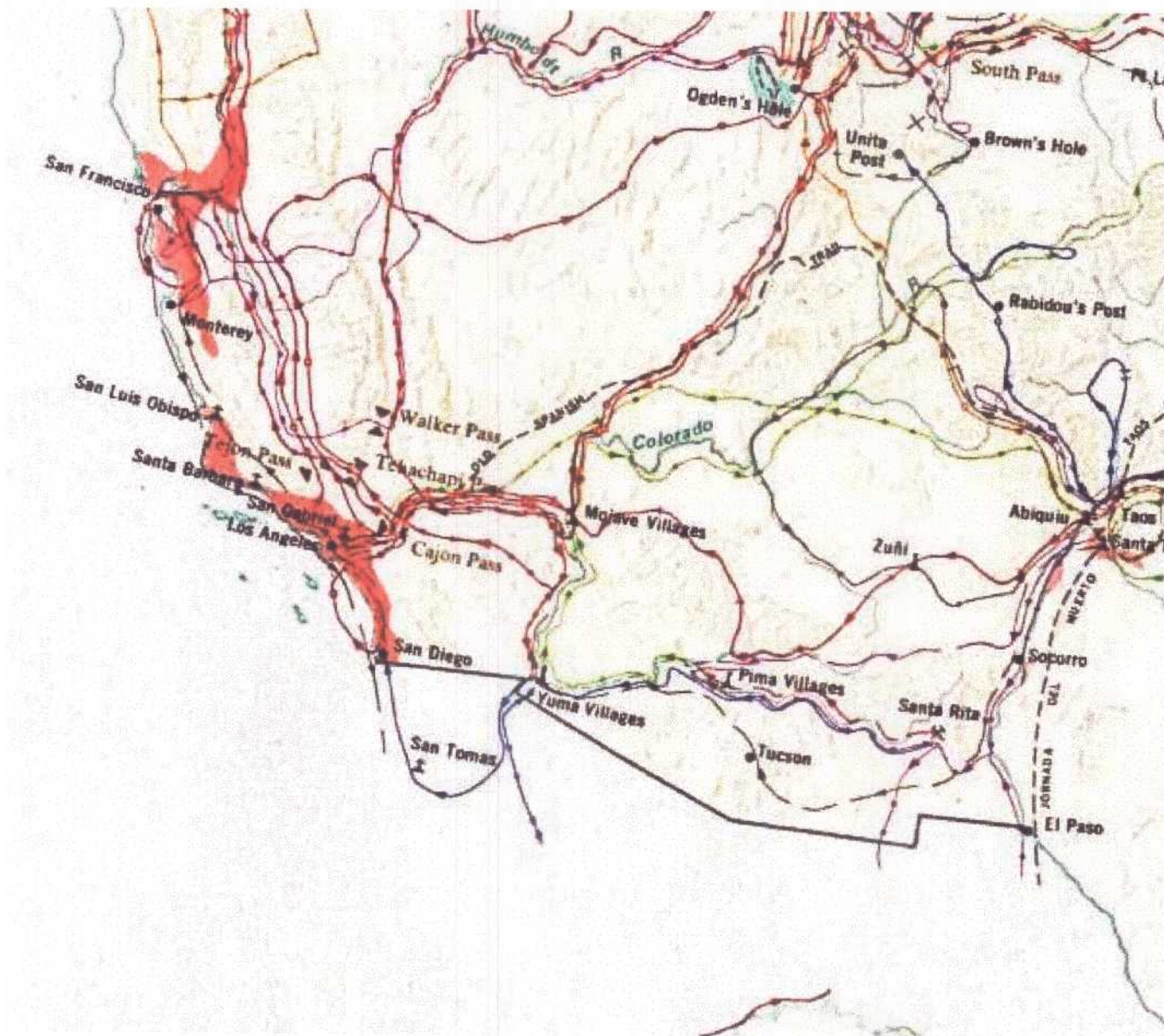


EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT: 1820-1835

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ALASKA

- Beechey, F., 1825 (northwest coast)
- Franklin, J., 1826 (Mackenzie R.—Beechey Pt.)
- Glazanov, A. & S. Lukem, 1834 (Michailovskoi—Kolmakov's Post)
- Kolmakov, A., 1832-1839 (Nushagak R.—Truktona R.—Kuskokwim R.)
- Vassier, I. & S. Lukem, 1829 (Nushagak R.—Hollita R.—Kuskokwim R.)



1820

EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT: 1820-1835

Aimijo, M., 1829 (Santa Fe—Los Angeles)

Ashley, W., 1824-1825 (S. Platte R.—Green R.—Yellowstone R.)

Becknell, W., 1821-1822 (St. Louis—upper Ark. R.—Santa Fe; return via Cimarron Cut-off)

Berlandier, I., 1828 (Laredo—Trinity R.)

Bonneville, B., 1832-1835 (Independence—Ft. Bonneville—Ft. Walla Walla—Ft. Bonneville)

Bourdon, M., 1822 (Flathead House—Bear L.)

Cass, L. & H. Schoolcraft, 1820 (L. Superior—upper Miss. R.—Green Bay)

Clyman, J., H. Fraeb, M. Harris & L. Vasquez, 1826 (circumnavigation of Great Salt L.)

Douglas, D., 1825-1827 (Grays Harbor—Columbia R.—Palouse R.—Ft. Nez Perce)

Fowler, J. & H. Glenn, 1821 (Ft. Smith—Ark. R.—Taos)

Glenn, H., 1822 (upper Rio Grande)

Hardy, R., 1826 (mouth of Colo. R.)

Henry, A. & J. Weber, 1823-1824 (Ft. Kiowa—Henry's Fort; A. Henry remains)

Hudson's Bay Co. Brigade, 1826—(Ft. Vancouver—Sacramento)

Jackson, D., 1826 (Great Salt L.—Sun Valley)

Jackson, D., 1832 (Santa Fe—Los Angeles)

James, T. & R. McKnight, 1821 (St. Louis—Ark. Post—Santa Fe)

James, T., 1821 (Taos—Osage Mission—St. Louis)

James, T., 1822-1823 (St. Louis—Ark. R.—Comanche villages and return)

Long, S. & W. Keating, 1823 (Prairie du Chien—Red R.—Ft. William)

Maximilian, Prince of Wied, 1833 (St. Louis—Mo. R.—Ft. McKenzie)

McDonald, F., 1823 (Flathead House—Pierre's Hole—Green R.—Great Falls)

Morgan, W. & T. Talbot, 1820 (Ft. Atkinson—Ft. Snelling)

Ogden, P., 1824-1825 (Ft. Nez Perce—Flathead House—Pierre's Hole—Great Salt L.)

Ogden, P., 1826-1827 (Ft. Vancouver—southern Oregon—Malheur L.)

Ogden, P., 1828-1829 (Malheur L.—Great Salt L.—Ft. Nez Perce—Malheur L.)

Ogden, P., 1829-1830 (Ft. Vancouver—Walker L.—Colo. R.—Calif. Central Valley—Ft. Vancouver)

Pattie, S. & J., 1824-1825 (Ft. Atkinson—Santa Fe—Chihuahua—Gila R.)

Pattie, J., 1826 (Santa Rita mines—Salt R.; joins E. Young)

Pattie, S. & J., 1828 (Santa Rita mines—Baja Calif.—San Diego)

Pattie, J., 1828-1830 (San Diego—San Francisco—Mexico)

Provost, E., 1824 (Taos—Great Salt L.)

Robidou, A., 1824 (Taos—Uinta Post)

Ross, A., 1824 (Flathead House—Sun Valley)

Schoolcraft, H., 1831-1832 (L. Superior—Ft. Snelling—L. Superior)

Smith, J., 1822 (Ashley's Post—Arikara villages)

Smith, J., 1823-1824 (Ft. Kiowa—South Pass—Flathead House)

Smith, J., 1826-1827 (Independence—Great Salt L.—San Diego—San Joaquin Valley—Bear L.)

Smith, J., 1827-1830 (Bear L.—Mojave villages—San Francisco—Ft. Vancouver—Pierre's Hole—Mo. R.—Independence)

Smith, T., 1824 (Taos—Colo. R., return via Zuñi)

Sublette, W., 1826 (Cache Valley—Yellowstone L.)

U.S. Commissioners, 1825-1827 (survey of Santa Fe Trail)

U.S. Dragoons, 1834 (Independence—Camp Washita—Troyah villages and return)

Walker, J., 1833 (Ft. Bonneville—Calif. Central Valley—Bear L.)

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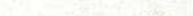









Franklin, J., 1826 (Mackenzie R.—Beechey Pt.)

Glazanov, A. & S. Lukeen, 1834 (Michaelovskii-Kolmakov's Post)
















Kolmakov, A., 1832-1839 (Nushagak R.—Tokotna R.—Kuskokwim R.)

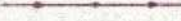







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