



Pioneering the West, 1846-1878

Howard Egan

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This historic volume was published in 1917.

Major Howard Egan's diary; also thrilling experiences of pre-frontier life among Indians, their traits, civil and savage, and part of autobiography, inter-related to his father's.

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Summary from the book's Preface:

It was well known by all who were in any way acquainted with Major Egan that his life work, if written, would make a remarkably interesting book provided the information could be obtained. Neither himself or family were of a literary turn of mind, and hence much that would be of great interest was never committed to paper. During his life time no thought was ever given to anything of a literary nature.

The family all knew that Father (as Mother and all the family called him) had a private desk packed full of papers, but that any of them had any thing of value more than private correspondence none of the family knew. Even at the time of his death (1878) no attempt was made to examine his papers and see if there was anything worthy of preservation until Mother died (1905) which took place some twenty seven years after. At the time of her death this writer was on a mission to the Eastern States and was unable to return until after the funeral and the old home had been ransacked ready to be pulled down when he returned.

Our desire is to awaken an interest with old-timers, and those who have descended from Pioneer stock, as well as all those, who are in any way concerned in the early development of this western and inter-mountain country, to show the hardships, difficulties and the toil that it took to open up the way, and the resolution, determination and untiring efforts put forth by those "Pilgrim Fathers" that were driven from their homes by mobs and forced to hunt a new home for themselves and those who followed after.

The book is not written from a religious nor scientific standpoint; nor is it written in poise of a hero, ostentation or self praise, but is simple in style and diction. No effort, either, has been made to change it from the original writings. Perusal of the

book illustrates how close to the exact fact it adheres, and that no embellishments of story or fiction is introduced, although there is ample opportunity to picture the circumstances in that manner, and still it often runs into startling episodes of the mountains and plains and thrilling experiences which often ended in tragedy.

We now commit to each reader the facts, faith and experiences that attended the trips of the Pioneers; also thrilling experiences of pre-frontier life and stories of the habits, customs and character of Indian life by one who knew their language and was well acquainted with them, and knew how to deal with them. To all it will be a pleasure to know the situations, thoughts and experiences of eye-witnesses and be able to see some things as they were in early days. We are indebted to the Improvement Era for many of the engravings used and we are thankful for the rise of same. We continue to find many things that should have been said in this book but its limits has required us to make all statements as brief as possible consistent with proper explanation in order preserve what has been written by Father and brother Howard R. Egan.

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