

## Introduction

From the U.S. Government: due to the shortage of wagons and over-population in the east coast you will be forced to ride with the Hankins family to Oregon. Let me remind you, if you comply there is a benefit, you will pay no tax for the time being. There are six people in the Hankins family. John, Mary and their four children (Jim, Anne, Michael, and John J.R.) will be accompanying you. Michael is eleven, Anne is twelve, John J.R. is six, and Jim is eight. Beware of some of the dangers on the trail like bad water, rattlesnakes, hailstorms, and some Indian tribes can be dangerous. Every day you will hear from each member of the Hankins family's journal. Throughout the journey you will find out the e-mail address for each character.

Imagine that you are a Native American, peacefully dancing in your tribal spot. Your bow and arrows are in your tent, and there is no threat visible. All of a sudden, a clanging noise is heard, and a Conestoga wagon rumbles past. Would you not be kind of annoyed?

"Kind of" annoyed was an understatement on the trails to Oregon. The natives attacked the wagons because they were on their land. Several deaths occurred this way, and injuries also occurred. Now before you condemn Natives forever, not all of them were bloodthirsty slaughters and wanton killers. Many of them were friends who helped the pioneers get through the trail and to Oregon, their destination.