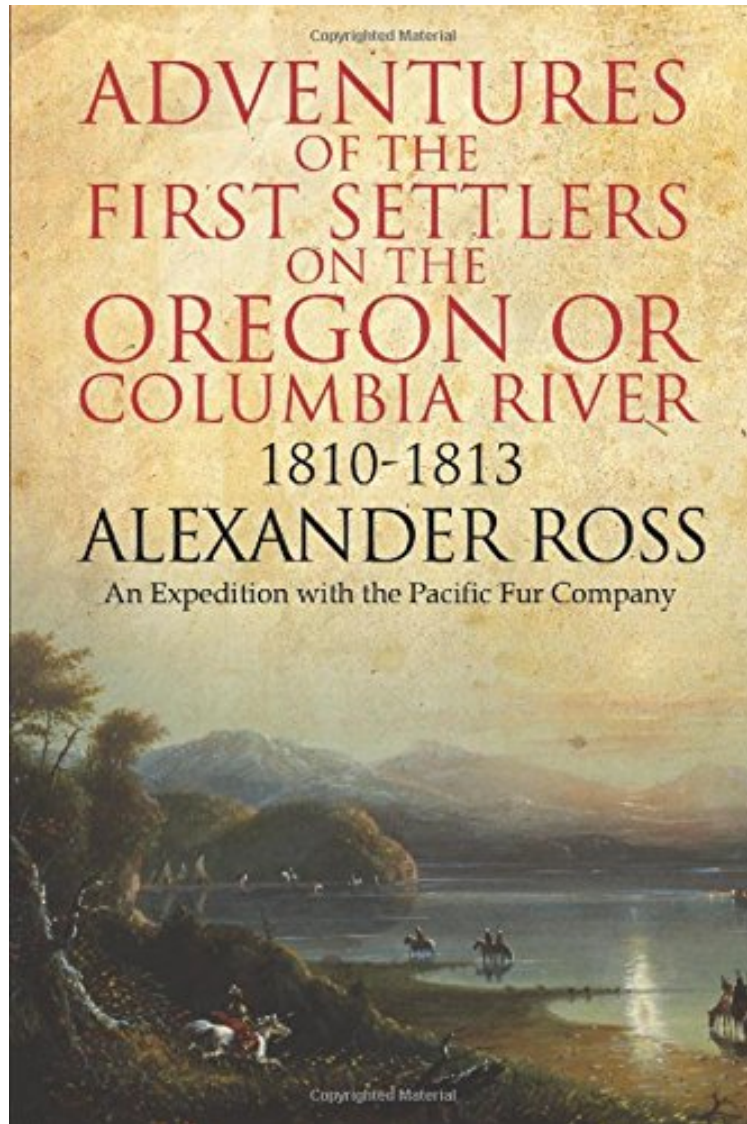


(Get free) Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River, 1810-1813

Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River, 1810-1813

Alexander Ross

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Alexander Ross : Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River, 1810-1813 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River, 1810-1813:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This first-hand account is fascinatingBy FitzwomanThis is a fascinating narrative of early American exploration to the mouth of the Columbia River in what is now Oregon. John

Jacob Astor sent a group of men to this part of the new United States in 1810 to start a fur-trading enterprise. The author, Alexander Ross, was part of the crew who braved the elements and the Native Americans to extend Astors business empire. I recently read Peter Starks book *Astoria: Astor and Jeffersons Lost Pacific Empire: A Tale of Ambition and Survival on the Early American Frontier*. It was an excellent account of the trips and the outcome, but Ross's *Adventures* is a first-hand account of these actions. I was delighted that it was so easy to read, even after 167 years. He describes the landscapes, the tribes, the good and bad choices that were made by the leaders, and even injects some humor into the story. One consideration that I especially enjoyed was the interaction between the explorers and the natives of disparate tribes along the Columbia. Some were welcoming and helpful and some were not. The hardships these men had to endure were horrifying, which gives the reader some idea of what people did to carry out manifest destiny. This is in no way an homage to Astor, either, as Ross wrote about the poor judgement and lack of empathy of the New York merchant while planning the venture and especially while choosing his leaders. Highly recommended, especially as an adjunct to the Stark book, for those interested in western exploration and early America. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. If you liked Lewis Clark, you'll love this! By J. Link
Excellent book! Note to reader, it's as written in the mid-19th century, though I suspect there's been some editorial embellishments since then. Wonderful first person accounting of the settlement of Astoria, Oregon and establishing trade centers in the Pacific Northwest, the first formal expedition there after Lewis Clark. This book will be most meaningful if you have read "Astoria" by Peter Stark and visited the region, but even if not, it's still a fact-based account of the challenges and successes, as well as an in-depth description of early 1800s Native American life. Very objectively recounted. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A short history of Astor's Astoria By James C. Casterline
This is a first person report on Astor's attempt to set up a trading post to get a piece of the Pacific Rim trading action. It is written by a managing partner. It is interesting, particularly as to personalities and relationships with native Americans. It is also self serving or at least has a different perspective than other histories written close to that time. It is interesting, not too long, and ends shortly after the British took possession of the property.

In 1810, Alexander Ross joined John Jacob Astors Pacific Fur Company to explore the northwest region of America and gain control of the fur trade. For the next three years the Company and its men would face extreme hardships in the quest to create a monopoly in this potentially lucrative enterprise. Ross provides fascinating details on the Native American tribes of the Columbia River in the early nineteenth century. He was in frequent contact with the Chinooks, but also came across Clatsops, Cathlamux, Waclicums, Wacalamus, Cattleputles, Clatscanias, Killimux, Moltnumas and Chickelis. Throughout the book Ross provides a day by day account of what the Company did, where they explored, who they traded and fought with, even to smaller details of how they hunted and what they ate. Life was extremely difficult for the adventurers. At points conflicts broke out with Native Americans, the deadliest of which was when the Captain Thorn of the ship *Tonquin* insulted a Native American causing the Natives to kill all those on board and destroy the ship. This action left the Companys outpost without seaborne transport for the next year. The conflicts with Native Americans, brutal forces of weather and geography, along with the tough competition from the more experienced rivals such as the North West Company, meant that the Pacific Fur Company did not survive past 1813, and during its three-year existence sixty one people lost their lives. *Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River* is a brilliant first-person account of the trials and tribulations that early nineteenth century explorers met when attempting to delve deeper into the uncharted areas of America. After 1813, Ross joined the North West Company until it was merged with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821. Eventually he settled in Red River Colony, present-day Manitoba, where he served as Sheriff, Post master, and a member of the council. He published this book in 1849 and died in 1856.