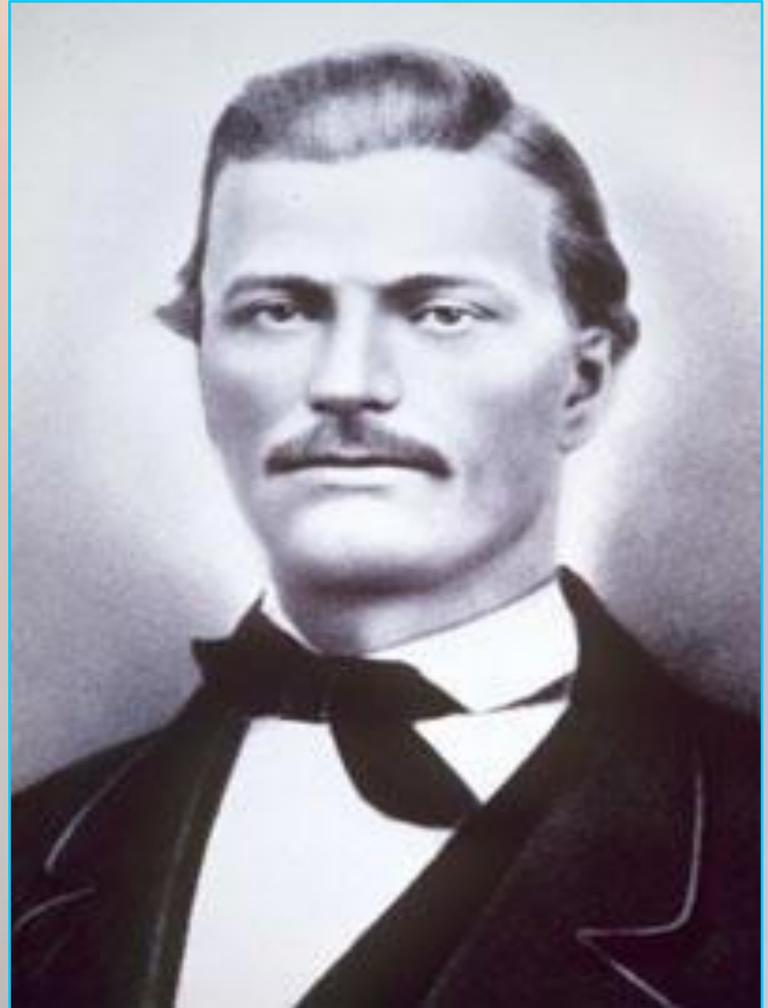
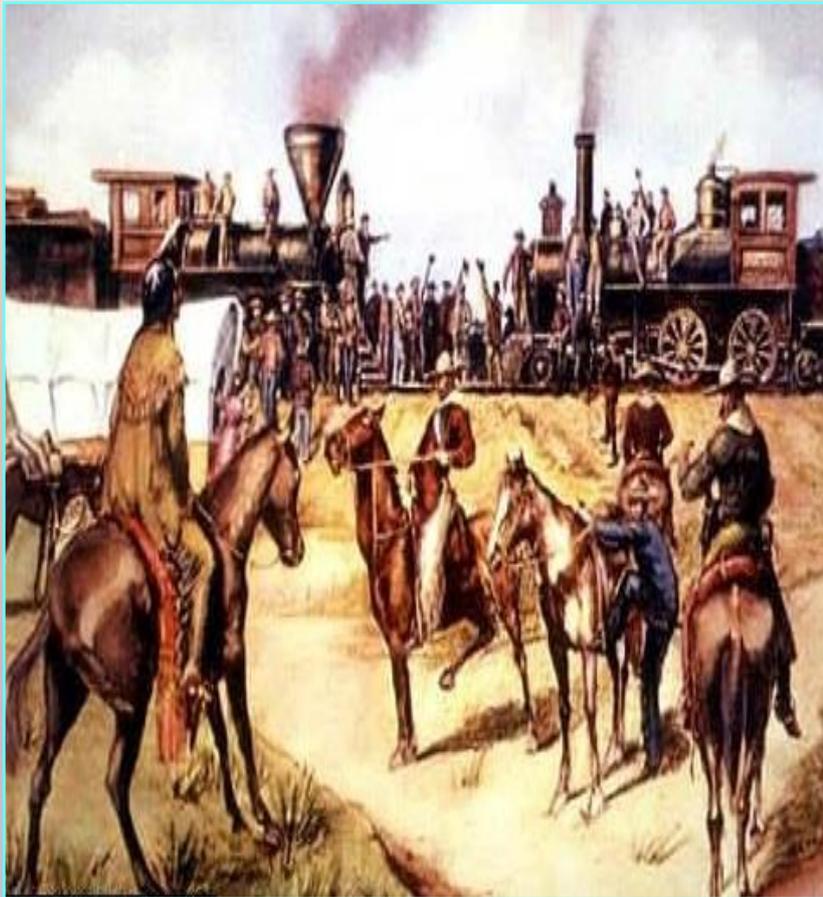


Story of John Bozeman

- John Bozeman was an early American pioneer who greatly affected the history of the Montana Territory.
- This is my meager attempt to illustrate how.



Westward Expansion



- Thomas Jefferson orchestrated the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 – this began a phase in early American history called, “Westward Expansion”.
- During these early years, frontiersmen, trappers and self-reliant explorers began to map the mysterious west.
- Men found a land of riches and promise; fur, land, and almost limitless potential.

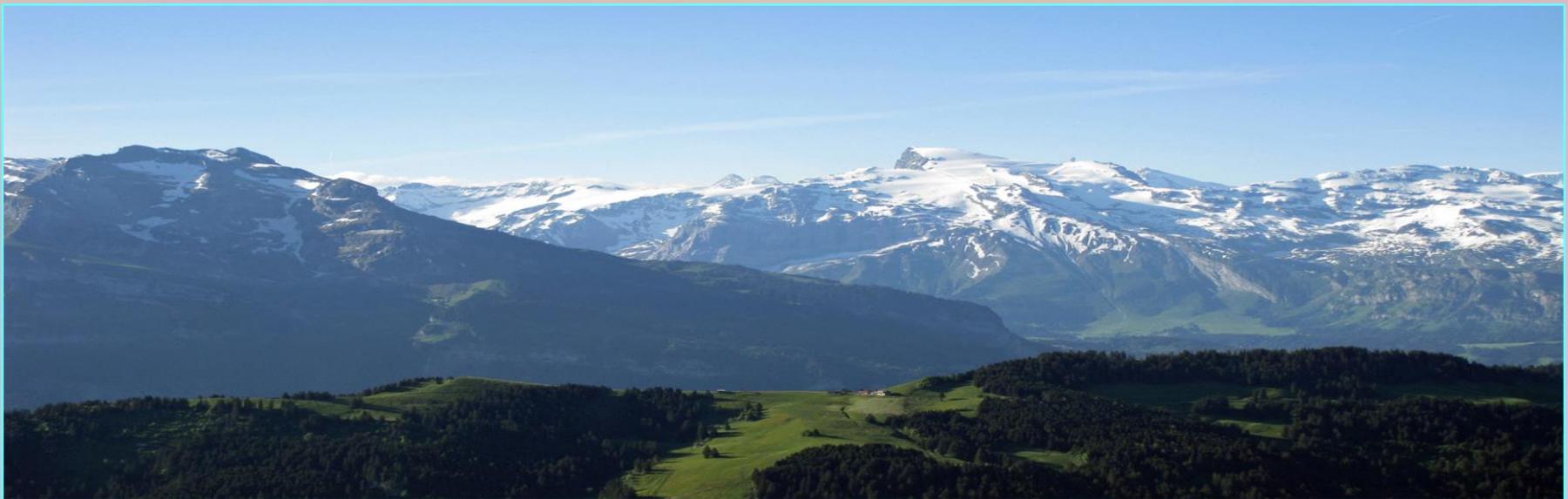
Oregon Trail

- The Oregon Trail was the way westward for many Americans in the 1830's-1840's. It's earliest stages were made by the traders and trappers from 1811 onward.
- It began in Independence, Missouri, followed the Platte River westward, traveled through southern Wyoming eventually crossed the Rocky Mountains, and ended in the Willamette Valley in Oregon.



Early Montana

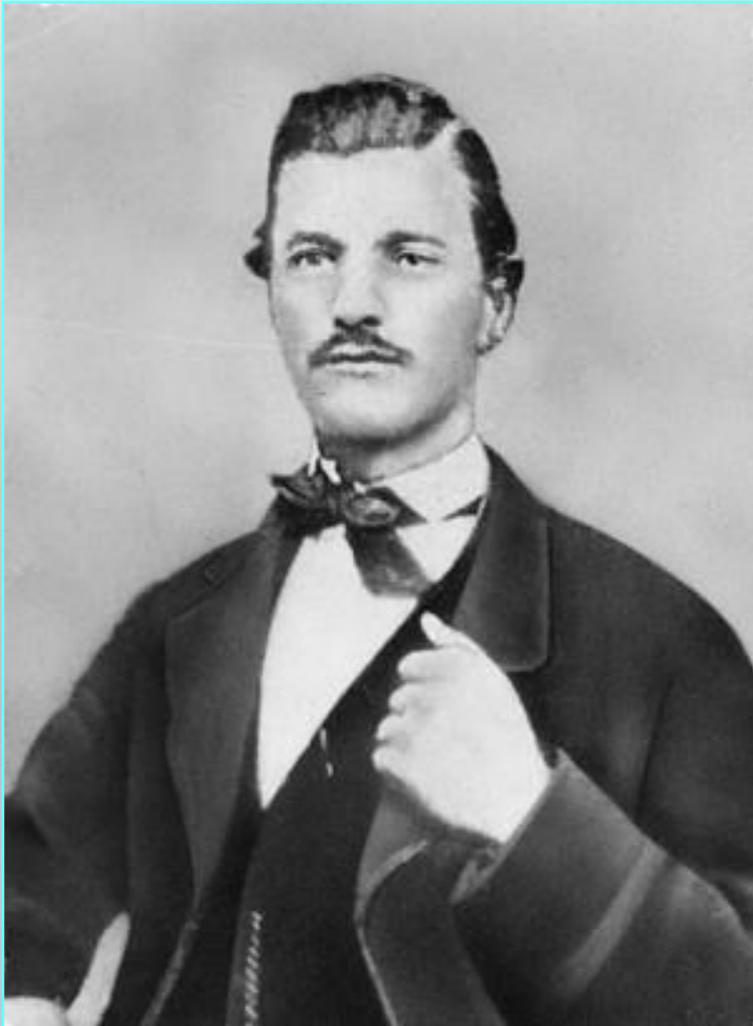
- As the picture illustrates, it was extremely difficult to travel north of the Oregon Trail in order to reach the Montana Territory. The Montana Territory would become known as a place of precious metals and minerals. All you could expect to find of the nature of humans in that place would be some very rough characters. A certain someone, though, unintentionally, would make a way to reach Montana, opening the way for more mainstream settlers.



There's Gold in those Hills

- Pike's Peak Gold Rush
- Ran from 1859-1861
- Over 100,000 prospectors sought their fortunes in the mountains of Colorado
- Prospectors provided the first major settlements of Europeans in the West.

John Bozeman. Again.



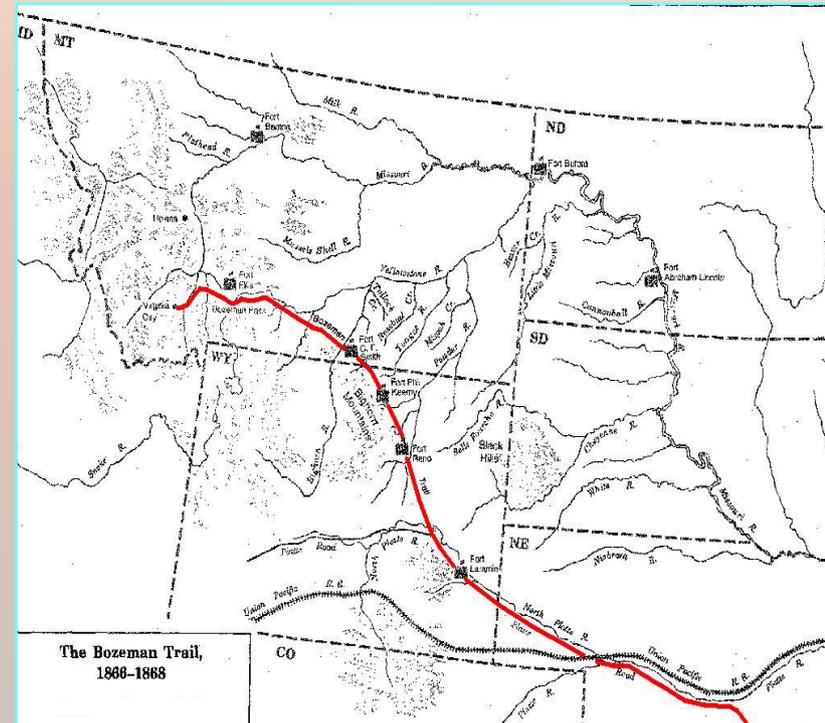
- John Bozeman was to be the man to make the distance one had to travel to the Montana Territory drastically less.
- This was not his intention, though, to be sure. He had left his wife and children in hopes of securing his family a small fortune.

Traveled West

- In 1860, Bozeman decided to head west so that he could join the Pikes Peak Gold Rush in Colorado.
- His mining claims failed. Trying his luck again, he traveled to Deer Lodge in western Montana territory in the year 1862 to work the gold fields discovered by Gransville and James Stuart.
- Bozeman joined the January 1863 rush to newly discovered gold in Bannack, Montana but his claims there proved unsuccessful.
- Overall, everything was a failure and his luck was rotten. Failing thrice over, sheesh.

Idea for new trail

- Despite all his failures, he came up with what he thought was a good solution.
- His intent was to create a trail that connected from the Montana Territory, the Oregon trail.
- With all his failures, he thought it would be better to “mine the miners.”



Indian Wars

- There was only one problem, though.
- The land that part of the trail went through was Indian territory. While John Bozeman was trying to complete the trail, it would lead to a scuffle with the Indians.
- The flow of pioneers and settlers through territory of American Indians provoked their resentment and caused attacks.
- The U.S. Army undertook several military campaigns against the Indians to try to control the trail.



The Bozeman Trail



- After the resistance of the Indians was quelled, more and more people started to use the new trail.
- The Bozeman trail was significant in that it allowed the common people to finally live there instead of only rough characters.

Bozeman Dies.

- Bozeman was murdered while traveling along the Yellowstone River in April 1867.
- His partner, Tom Cover, said that they had been attacked by Indians.
- There were, however, inconsistencies in his story that have led historians to suspect that Bozeman was killed, not by Black Feet Indians, but by Cover himself.



- Today Bozeman, Montana is a vibrant city and was recently voted one of America's most livable cities.
- It was because of the Bozeman Trail that Montana could be inhabited by the more common folk. It opened up the door to trade South West Montana.

