

(By G.S.D. herself, Oct. 1915)

When the Revolutionary war cloud had over  
the heads of our fore-fathers and foremothers of  
Colonial days, the mighty land "where rolls the Oregon"  
was practically, so far as the Colonies were  
concerned, an undiscovered country. Oregon,  
therefore, has no history which belongs primarily  
to the Revolutionary war. But she has a most im-  
portant secondary history of which it is proper  
to make special mention on this historic day.  
France, in the year <sup>1803</sup> ~~1783~~, sold to the United States  
all of her possessions in America, which England  
had previously, in the year 1763, transferred to France,  
including whatever she claimed "West of the Mississippi  
River". But England, having awakened to the im-  
portance of these American purchases, still  
urged a claim to the country, and the treaty of Ghent,  
in 1814 invoked peace, but ~~did not settle~~ the  
final boundaries between the two countries  
until the treaty of 1846, when the latitude of ~~the~~  
54°40' was made the basis of territorial division,  
thus settling a dispute between the United States  
and the Mother Country that had been ~~intermittent~~  
threatening the peace and prosperity of the people  
ever since the Florida Treaty of Feb 22, 1819,  
when Oregon became a component part of the Nation's  
area she embraced within her boundaries  
Washington, Idaho and part of Montana  
and Wyoming. It will thus be seen that the  
Territory of Oregon covered a vast area which  
which up to the time of the Florida treaty  
was a vast, almost unknown wilderness.  
But the spirit of the Mothers of the Revolution

had, as early as the year 1835, found lodgment  
 in the wilds of Oregon in the ~~face~~ person of  
 Narcissa Prentiss of the State of New York, a  
 woman of rare accomplishments, a strikingly  
~~sculptured~~ blonde, with form well developed  
 and full, a voice of ~~winning~~ <sup>winning</sup> sweetness  
 and an enthusiasm in religion. Of the <sup>tragic</sup>  
~~story~~ <sup>of this heroic</sup> ~~wife~~ <sup>woman</sup> ~~and mother~~  
<sup>history</sup> is so full that <sup>related</sup> particulars need  
 not be given here. But mention must be  
 made of Rev. H. H. Spalding's devoted <sup>wife</sup> ~~and~~  
~~who~~ <sup>who</sup> excelled in all the <sup>practical</sup> ~~useful~~ ~~branches~~  
 of domestic life; who was an adept ~~at~~ with  
 the needle; ~~and~~ could spin, weave and  
 sew; was excessively religious, but was  
 always cheerful with the Indian women  
 and commanded their unbounded confidence  
 and respect. Mrs. W. H. Gray, the beautiful  
 womanly and accomplished wife of  
 the historian Gray who crossed the almost  
 untraveled Plains on horseback with  
 her husband was the third woman of  
 the advance guard who turned her face  
 to the setting sun when Oregon was  
 young. This <sup>slightly</sup> ~~slightly~~ ~~party~~ ~~took~~ ~~with~~  
~~them~~ across the Plains and Mountains with  
 three wagons, eight mules, twelve horses  
 and sixteen cows. In the wagons were  
 farming utensils, tools, seeds, clothing and  
 other ~~articles~~. On arriving at Fort Laramie  
 the wagons were all abandoned ~~except~~  
~~one~~. The party arrived at Fort

Walla Walla on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1836,  
after a long siege of such experience  
as can hardly be conceived by those who  
cross the continent now, in a few days,  
in a Pullman car. Their misfortunes  
and their heroic wives reached the  
Willamette Valley <sup>by sea</sup> in 1838, among them  
~~being three heroic women, wives of~~ <sup>showing</sup> the Reverends E. Walker,  
Cushing Eels and A. Smith. The wives  
of Reverends Waller, Leslie and Lee ~~afterwards~~  
should also be mentioned here, but the  
data is not at hand to for further par-  
ticulars ~~at this time~~ on this occasion.

Thenceforward for many  
years, <sup>the</sup> history of silent the Northwest Territory  
is silent on the "Woman Question" save when  
~~an~~ an accident or a massacre reveals  
a heroic incident in the lives of <sup>the</sup> constantly  
increasing numbers ~~of~~ of wives and  
mothers who crossed the continent with  
husbands and sons on foot, in ox wagons  
or on horseback, often holding wild beasts  
or wilder savages at bay in their tough cabin  
homes, or <sup>tilling</sup> digging with their own hands the  
alluvial soil ~~for~~ which readily yielded  
~~to~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~power~~ of their hidden substance to ~~provide~~  
~~the~~ ~~such~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~potatoes~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~day~~,  
supply the bravely labors of the pioneer. There  
were no women historians in those  
days and woman remained for decades  
the great forgotten equation in the  
sum of men's achievements. But, about

the year 1870 a woman historian arose upon  
 the scene and the name of Frances Fuller  
 Victor <sup>the first</sup> author of "The River of the West" and  
 "All Over Oregon and Washington" became a  
 household word. Also ~~about~~ in 1871  
~~there came~~ <sup>came</sup> ~~moving to the front~~ <sup>of the Oregon era,</sup>  
~~the first~~ <sup>the first</sup> ~~woman~~ <sup>woman</sup> a pioneer who  
 had spent 20 previous years as wife and  
 mother on an Oregon <sup>farm</sup> and had reared  
 a large family of <sup>most</sup> ~~beautiful~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~lovely~~ <sup>lovely</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>lovely</sup>  
 beautiful daughters <sup>of the border</sup> startled every body  
 by moving from the country to Portland and  
 launching upon the sea of journalism  
 a weekly newspaper, The Sun Northwest  
 which at once commanded the attention  
 of the public and <sup>finally</sup> ~~proprietor~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~editor~~ <sup>editor</sup>  
 and proprietor <sup>and</sup> ~~editor~~ <sup>editor</sup> ~~together~~ <sup>together</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup>  
 which she is now ~~living~~ <sup>living</sup> in comparative  
 retirement.

<sup>the following</sup>  
 A specimen of Mrs. Drimay's oratory,  
 which is always ~~uttered~~ <sup>uttered</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~temporaries~~ <sup>temporaries</sup>,  
 is found in that unique production of the Columbian  
 Exposition of 1893 "The World's Progress of Women, In a  
 'tribute' to the Pioneers" she said: "The swaying  
 pines of the lands they loved are left to us as an  
~~eternal~~ <sup>eternal</sup> heritage. O should their eternal requies,  
 the mighty mountains wear white crowns of  
 everlasting snow in their bosom, and the broad  
 prairie adorn their lofty graves with regularly <sup>shining</sup>  
 flowers as the seasons come and go. The iron  
 horse makes shilled <sup>shilled</sup> ~~shilled~~ <sup>shilled</sup> ~~shilled~~ <sup>shilled</sup> ~~shilled~~ <sup>shilled</sup> ~~shilled~~ <sup>shilled</sup>  
 of the blabored of war heard. Steam and lightning  
 have out distance a time and conquest of  
 in the years that have flown since they fell  
 back to new conditions

and the sons and daughters of the pioneers are  
confronted by new problems of which their  
parents scarcely dreamed. x x x The  
air of Oregon is as pure as ether and the  
scenery as grand as Heaven.