



Outpost: John McLoughlin And The Far Northwest

By Dorothy Nafus Morrison

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Dr. John McLoughlin, chief factor at Fort Vancouver (1824-45) and the strongest arm of the Hudson's Bay Company in a colonial Pacific Northwest, was a man easily mythologized yet poorly known. The man now called 'The Father of Oregon' was cast out first by his company and later deserted by the pioneers he had unstintingly aided. Born near Quebec in 1784, John McLoughlin found himself between two worlds throughout his life. After training as a doctor, McLoughlin struck out for the fur country as a company doctor and clerk. He came to the Pacific Northwest in 1824 with his family, where he established the Hudson's Bay Company headquarters at Fort Vancouver. Known for his compassion and blistering temper, he kept peace, made money for the company, and defended British interests in the region. He assisted starving, exhausted Oregon Trail settlers, maintaining relations with them while America and Great Britain decided the prickly question of national boundaries. In 1845, during a year of great personal tragedies, he was maneuvered out of his position by forces within the company. Dorothy Morrison's comprehensive biography takes a fresh view of this complex and passionate man whose personal story illuminates the history of the settlement of the Pacific Northwest. Over 100 illustrations and six maps enhance this epic story.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Dorothy Nafus Morrison is a long-time resident of Oregon. She has published several young adult biographies about historical figures of the Northwest, including one on Dr. John McLoughlin, written in 1979. She has also used a Northwest background for several books of fiction for young readers.

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