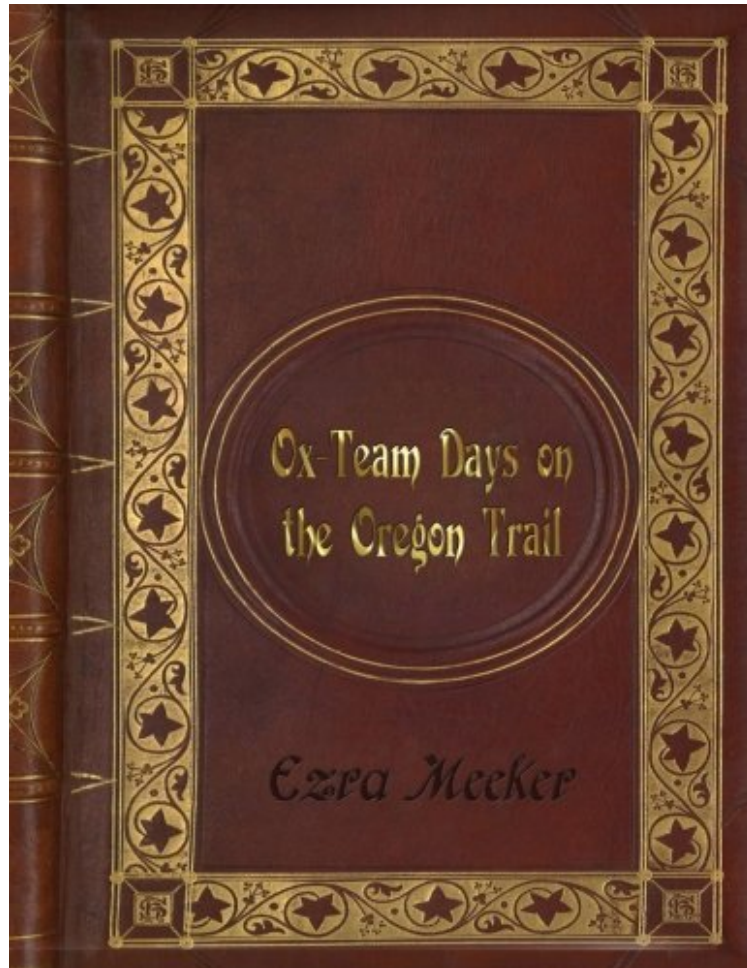


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Ezra Meeker

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Ezra Meeker : Ezra Meeker - Ox-Team Days on the Oregon Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ezra Meeker - Ox-Team Days on the Oregon Trail:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. I loved this bookBy D. D. LeDuIf you have even the slightest interest in pioneer days, this is a "must read" book. I have lived and worked as a surveyor in many of the places he describes. With my memories as a background, this book took me back 150 years.The author describes, matter-of-factly, his experiences on the great journey to the Oregon territory. He not only crossed the continent with a wife and baby, but pioneered homes in Oregon and Puget Sound. These were tough people, who asked no quarter from nature and prevailed.I am interested, particularly, in the use of oxen on the trail. Unfortunately, oxen were common tools for the author. As a result, he felt there was nothing special about them that would cause him to give the details of training and driving oxen. This was a minor, personal disappointment and in no way detracted from an interesting and enjoyable book.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Traveling on the Trail AgainBy sozoMr. Meeker

writes a detailed story of the pioneers who risked so much and left their world behind to begin again in an unknown land. He clarifies much of the myths concerning the Oregon Trail and shows the pain and hardship. Many did not make it due to illness, native Indians and weather. As he reaches his goal to homestead in the Northwest, he succeeds and fails in various ventures and eventually becomes wealthy due to his hops business. As he grows older, he realizes the value of marking the trail to honor those pioneers and to document the hardships and victories along the way. His endeavor to mark the trail is rewarded as he travels the route meeting famous people and left a legacy along the way for all of us to enjoy. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Ox Team Days on the Oregon Trail By Bob Conrad This book deals with a time in the history of our country that was only dull words when I was in school. The author has made the trip across the country come alive. He describes the incredible army of humans going west "In the year that we crossed (1852),..... this army made an unbroken column fully five hundred miles long." The vivid pictures that are painted of this almost forgotten time have motivated me to seek out other writing about this period. Bob Conrad

The Oregon Trail--what suggestion the name carries of the heroic toil of pioneers! Yet a few years' ago the route of the trail was only vaguely known. Then public interest was awakened by the report that one of the very men who had made the trip to Oregon in the old days was traversing the trail once more, moving with ox team and covered wagon from his home in the state of Washington, and marking the old route as he went. The man with the ox team was Ezra Meeker. He went on to the capital, where Mr. Roosevelt, then President, met him with joy. Then he traversed the long trail once more with team and wagon--back to that Northwest which he had so long made his home. This book gives Mr. Meeker's story of his experiences on the Oregon Trail when it was new, and again when, advanced in years, he retraced the journey of his youth that Americans might ever know where led the footsteps of the pioneers. The publication of this book in its Pioneer Life Series carries forward one of the cherished purposes of World Book Company--to supply as a background to the study of American history interesting and authentic narratives based on the personal experiences of brave men and women who helped to push the frontier of our country across the continent.

About the Author Ezra Meeker (December 29, 1830 December 3, 1928) Professor Howard Driggs writes about Ezra Meeker, 1907: "Out in the state of Washington recently, a veteran of more than ninety years stepped into an airplane with the mail pilot and flew from Seattle to Victoria in British Columbia, and back again. The aged pioneer took the trip with all the zest of youth and returned enthusiastic over the adventure. This youthful veteran was Ezra Meeker, of Oregon Trail fame, who throughout his long, courageous, useful life has ever kept in the vanguard of progress. Seventy years ago he became one of the trail-blazers of the Farther West. In 1852, with his young wife and child, he made the hazardous journey over plains and mountains all the way from Iowa to Oregon by ox team. Then, after fifty-four years of struggle in helping to develop the country beyond the Cascades, this undaunted pioneer decided to reblaze the almost lost Oregon Trail. An old "prairie schooner" was rebuilt, and a yoke of sturdy oxen was trained to make the trip. With one companion and a faithful dog, the veteran started out. It took nearly two years, but the ox-team journey from Washington, the state, to Washington, our national capital, was finally accomplished. The chief purpose of Mr. Meeker in this enterprise was to induce people to mark the famous old highway. To him it represented a great battle ground in our nation's struggle to win and hold the West. The story of the Oregon Trail, he rightly felt, is an American epic which must be preserved. Through his energy and inspiration and the help of thousands of loyal men and women, school boys and school girls, substantial monuments have now been placed along the greater part of the old pioneer way. The book makes the story of the Oregon Trail live again. This famous old way to the West was traced in the beginning by wild animals the bear, the elk, the buffalo, the soft-footed wolf, and the coyote. Trailing after these animals in quest of food and skins, came the Indians. Then followed the fur-trading mountaineers, the home-seeking pioneers, the gold seekers, the soldiers, and the cowboys. Ezra Meeker has done a signal service for our country in reblazing the Oregon Trail. He has accomplished an even greater work in helping to humanize our history and vitalize the geography of our land, by giving to us, through this little volume, a vivid picture of the heroic pioneering of the Farther West."