



ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
STATUE OF  
**Marcus Whitman**

*PRESENTED BY*  
*THE STATE OF WASHINGTON*

★

PROCEEDINGS IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE  
ROTUNDA, UNITED STATES CAPITOL

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STATE MEMORIALS—STATUE OF  
DR. MARCUS WHITMAN

AN ACT relating to state memorials, providing for the erection of a statue of Dr. Marcus Whitman in Statuary Hall at the national capitol.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. Dr. Marcus Whitman is designated as a deceased resident of national renown worthy of having a statue of himself erected in the Hall of Fame, also known as Statuary Hall, in the old hall of the House of Representatives at the national capitol to commemorate his fame and historic services as a great Washingtonian and a great American.

SEC. 2. The Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State, and the chairman of the Washington State Development Committee of the Washington State Business and Professional Women's Clubs are appointed as a Committee to procure or provide such a statue of Dr. Marcus Whitman and have the same erected in said Hall of Fame.

SEC. 3. The Committee created by this act is hereby authorized to accept donations or gifts from groups, associations or individuals to carry out the provisions of this act.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1949.

Passed the House March 10, 1949.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1949.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
NO. 64

SUBMITTED BY MR. HOLMES

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That the Washington State Whitman Statute Committee is hereby authorized to place temporarily in the rotunda of the Capitol a statue of the late Doctor Marcus Whitman; and to hold ceremonies in the rotunda on May 22, 1953; and the Architect of the Capitol is hereby authorized to make necessary arrangements therefor; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the statue shall be permanently located in Statuary Hall.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
NO. 57

SUBMITTED BY MR. MAGNUSON

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That there be printed with illustrations and bound, in such style as may be directed by the Joint Committee on Printing, the proceedings in Congress at the unveiling in the rotunda, together with such other matter as the joint committee may deem pertinent thereto, upon the occasion of the acceptance of the statue of Marcus Whitman, presented by the State of Washington, five thousand copies; of which two thousand copies shall be for the use of the Senate, and for the use and distribution by the Senators from Washington; and the remaining three thousand copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives, and for the use of and the distribution by the Representatives in Congress from the State of Washington.

Sec. 2. The Joint Committee on Printing is hereby authorized to have the copy prepared for the Public Printer, who shall provide suitable illustrations to be bound with these proceedings.

## Biography

### AN INTRODUCTION

The 1949 session of the Washington State Legislature by almost unanimous votes in both the Senate and House passed a bill designating Dr. Marcus Whitman as the first official representative of the state in Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C., as the result of a program initiated by the Washington State Business and Professional Women's clubs.

Each state is entitled to two statues in the "Hall of Fame," the choice to be made by the respective state legislatures from among the citizens who have made great contributions to the progress and development of their particular state.

The legislation carried no appropriation, but provided for the appointment of a commission to select a sculptor, approve a statue and design (there are no pictures of Dr. Whitman), and raise the necessary funds (\$30,000).

Governor Arthur B. Langlie named a twelve-person statewide committee and this group, after considering proposals from ten different sculptors selected the statue design offered by Dr. Avarad Fairbanks, dean of the College of Fine Arts, University of Utah.

People familiar with "The Whitman Story" have widely endorsed Dr. Fairbanks' interpretation

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of the man who did so much to assure the growth and development of the Pacific Northwest as a vital part of the United States. In the picture of the statue, it will be noted that Dr. Whitman carries in his right hand a Bible, which was his inspiration, while in his left hand are plans and the saddlebags which were an important part of his equipment, for he truly was "a doctor on horseback."

The first objective of the Foundation is to better acquaint people of the State of Washington and the Pacific Northwest with "The Whitman Story," and to secure thirty thousand dollars in popular subscriptions for the statue. Unveiling of the statue is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 29, 1951.

Other objectives of the Foundation are to provide a duplicate of the statue for location on the mission site and to provide other assistance in developing the Whitman National Monument, one of the Pacific Northwest's great historic shrines.

The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation with Governor Langlie as the Honorary Chairman. Members of the Foundation board are: chairman, Mrs. Goldie Rehberg, Walla Walla, representing the Business and Professional Women of the state; vice chairmen, Chapin Foster, of Tacoma, director of the Washington State Historical Society, and Ashley Holden, of Spokane, columnist for the Spokesman-Review; treasurer, Clinton S. Harley, Seattle businessman and former state senator; secretary Alfred McVay, Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, manager and member of the Washington State Advertising Commission; Mrs. Ida Bur-

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ford, of Olympia, state librarian; State Senator Henry Copeland, of Walla Walla; Dr. Willard F. Goff, Seattle doctor and historian; E. V. Kuykendall, of Pomeroy, retired superior court judge; Dr. C. C. Maxey, of Walla Walla, president of Whitman College; Cameron Sherwood, Walla Walla attorney and Whitman College alumnus; and Herbert G. West, of Walla Walla, president of the Whitman Centennial Corporation.

Those interested in aiding the project may send subscriptions made payable to the MARCUS WHITMAN FOUNDATION, P. O. Box 357, Walla Walla. Additional information regarding the Whitmans and the work of the Foundation may be secured at the same address.

#### MARCUS WHITMAN—THE PIONEER

During the span of Marcus Whitman's life (1802-1847) the American people displayed a tremendous vigor. They converted great areas from wilderness into farms, constructed miles of turnpikes, canals, and railroads, sent their ships to all the ports of the world, and extended their territorial limits from the Mississippi River westward to the Pacific Ocean. This was magnificent achievement which required self-confidence, determination, idealism, and a high degree of physical and moral courage. Marcus Whitman deserves to be remembered because he possessed these qualities to an unusual degree and because he assisted in the settlement and acquisition of the Oregon territory.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

Marcus Whitman was born September 4, 1802, in Rushville, New York. His father died when he was seven years old, and he was brought up by his uncle and grandfather. The Whitman family, like most of their neighbors, were an industrious and devout folk. From these people Whitman learned as a boy and never forgot as a man that work for a good cause was required by God. By the time he was twenty-three years old he had held such jobs as working in a sawmill, or a shoeshop, or a tannery; and perhaps he had taught school for a time. All this helped Whitman acquire habits of industry, and taught him many skills, and although he could not have known this at the time, gave him training and experience for his later task of operating a mission and farm.

On the death of his father, Marcus went to live with his uncle in Massachusetts. His uncle and grandfather were both pious men and gave him constant religious instruction and care. In his seventeenth year he came under the influence of an evangelistic minister and during a revival meeting was converted to a personal faith in Christ. As he later put it, "I was awakened to a sense of my sin and danger and brought by Divine grace to rely on the Lord Jesus for pardon and salvation." He did not at this time join the church, but did so shortly after his return to Rushville, New York, where he entered actively into religious work.

The young Whitman dreamed of becoming a minister but was unable to do so because it would have required a long and expensive period of training. He decided, instead, to study medicine. As

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was customary in his day, he "rode out" with an experienced doctor, observing and studying for two years under his supervision. A sixteen-week period of training at Fairfield Medical College in upper New York qualified him to practice. After a few years he took another sixteen-week course at Fairfield and received his degree. With this training and the experience of eight years of successful practice in Canada and upper New York State, Whitman was a well-trained doctor according to the standards of the day. During the time he was practising Whitman remained active in church work, and finally attempted to put his ability more directly to the service of Christ.

Like many other devout Christians, Whitman felt a strong duty to bring religion to the heathen, and perhaps impelled also by a sense of adventure he applied to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1834 for duty as a missionary. Ultimately his request was granted and in 1835 he set out with the Reverend Samuel Parker to determine if missionary work was feasible among the Indians west of the Rocky mountains.

The two men made their way as far west as Wyoming with fur traders and then Whitman returned East and reported to the Board that a mission among the Indians of the upper Columbia river valley was practicable. A larger party was now formed. H. H. Spalding and his wife were selected as fellow missionaries. In addition, W. H. Gray was chosen to aid in the establishment of the future mission site. Most important of all to Marcus was

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Narcissa Prentiss, who became his bride in February 1836 and who, like himself, had dedicated her life to missionary work.

The missionaries joined a caravan of fur traders some distance west of the present city of Omaha and thereafter, except for certain stages, traveled westward with one group of traders or another.

The Oregon territory, a wilderness separated from the settlements of the United States by almost 2,000 miles of prairie, desert, and mountains, included the area now found in the province of British Columbia, the States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho as well as parts of Montana and Wyoming. This region was claimed by both the United States and Great Britain, but was virtually uninhabited by white men except for a few roving American fur traders and a handful of British subjects at Fort Vancouver, Fort Walla Walla, Fort Boise, and other posts of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The route which the missionaries followed to this distant region was later to become the Oregon Trail over which thousands of settlers were to pour with their families, goods, and livestock until much of the Oregon territory was transformed to a settled and prosperous part of the United States. As yet, however, it was known only to a few fur traders and adventurers. The Whitman Party, which included the first white women to make the overland crossing, helped define this continental trail.

They went along the Platte river westward to the Rocky mountains and worked northward to a fur-trading post, Fort Hall, near the present city of

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Pocatello, Idaho. From there they followed the Snake river across desolate southern Idaho and finally moved northward over the Blue Mountains to the valley of the Columbia River.

Fortitude and endurance were required of all who would move over this rough trail under the hot sun. There was little danger from Indians in 1836 but dirt, sweat, aching fatigue, and monotonous meals provided a grueling test of character. Every day, however, the party plodded doggedly ahead, borne up by a sense of duty and mission as their home, church, and loved ones slipped farther and farther from view.

On this trip, Whitman displayed the character, skill, and rugged determination which always distinguished him. He had a shrewd eye for getting things done, and the party that set out in 1836 took along some cattle to supply food on the way and to furnish the beginnings of a herd in the Northwest. At that time it was generally believed that the route west of Wyoming could be traveled only by horse or pack train but Whitman kept one of the two wagons with which the party started and stubbornly struggled westward with it. An axletree broke, but he converted the wagon to a cart and brought it as far west as Fort Boise. By his perseverance Whitman helped push through a wagon trail to the west—a necessary prelude to the great Oregon migrations of later years.

The rough trappers with whom the missionaries traveled were a wild lot who were accustomed to danger and violence and who might have made inexperienced easterners miserable. To this party,



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however, they were unusually courteous and considerate. Whitman's training as a doctor helped to win their gratitude and respect. On his first trip to the West, Whitman had helped to nurse a group of men who had fallen ill with the dreadful disease, cholera, and on the same trip had removed an arrowhead from the shoulder of Jim Bridger, the famous mountaineer. As a result Whitman was accepted as a useful and respected member of the caravan. Narcissa and Mrs. Spalding, too, excited the interest of the Indians and trappers, and Narcissa especially charmed many of her traveling companions. Years later when the Whitmans had established a home in the West, two of these men, Jim Bridger and Joe Meek, brought their children to her to be raised and educated.

On the afternoon of August 29, 1836, Whitman stood on the crest of the Blue Mountains and looked down into the valley of the Columbia River; three days later the party entered Fort Walla Walla and could eat fresh vegetables, sleep in a bed again, and enjoy the comforts of home. Their journey was completed. It was decided that the Spaldings should establish a mission among the Nez Perce Indians at Lapwai on the Clearwater River near the present location of Lewiston, Idaho. The Whitmans and Gray settled among a little band of proud and warlike people, the Cayuse, at Waiilatpu about five miles from the present city of Walla Walla. Two years later additional missionaries arrived and a new mission station was established at Tshimakain, northwest of the present city of Spokane.

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The missionaries had come to minister to the souls of the Indians, but it was first necessary to provide buildings and a farm around which religious activities could be centered.

Like so many other Americans of the pioneering decades who helped advance the fringe of settlement across the continent, Whitman now began to build a farm and home where before there had been only wilderness. For this task, hard work, common sense, and skill were essential. These qualities Whitman possessed in abundance as the steady development of the mission farm testified.

A lean-to was built, immediately, in which the Whitmans lived the first winter and, on March 14, 1837, their daughter, Allice Clarissa, was born, the first white American girl to be born west of the Rockies. A larger home was finally completed, made from hand-sawed lumber and bricks of straw and mud.

Food had to be produced and by the end of the first year about forty acres were in crop. A carefully guarded herd of cattle and a flock of sheep gradually increased. A crude flour mill was completed in the winter of 1840-41 and five years later a sawmill which had been constructed in the Blue Mountains went into operation. Little by little the frontier farm and mission were developed until it provided food for the missionaries and a small surplus as well. All this was sure evidence of the perseverance and industry of Marcus Whitman.

While his farm and mission were still building Whitman began to practice medicine. True to his profession, this pioneer doctor traveled, when re-

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quired, to Lapwai to help the Spaldings and to Tshimakain to help the Eells and the Walkers. In the later years of his mission he assisted the members of the wagon trains who called for help. Most of his patients, however, were Indians who knew little or nothing of the nature of disease and exposed themselves unnecessarily to wet and cold. Treatment of the Indians was further complicated by the fact that when the patient of an Indian medicine man, or "te-wat," died, the Indians felt it was right to kill the "te-wat." Since, to many Indians, Whitman was also a "te-wat" there was a danger that should one of his patients die, he also would be killed.

Whitman believed that the welfare of the Indians would be improved and the task of converting them to Christianity simplified if they would give up their nomadic life and live near the mission station. In order to do this, however, the Indians had to be taught to farm. A number of Indians brought small plots of land under cultivation, but it was difficult to persuade all the natives to become farmers because the Cayuse did not lightly abandon the ways of their fathers.

The task of bringing Christianity to the Indians was even more difficult. By the fall of 1837 the Whitmans knew enough of the Indian language to set up a school and give religious instruction. Whitman reported in 1838 that they were having two Sunday services for the Indians in addition to an evening Sabbath school for the young. He was convinced that the Indians paid "good and solemn" attention to the services and that they carried on

worship in their lodges both morning and night, but the task of making Christianity simple and pictorial enough for the primitive Indian mind was difficult. Whitman never flinched from his duty and continued to labor for the souls of the people to whom he had dedicated his life. But it was clear that as the years passed he became less confident that their conversion would be speedy or lasting.

While Whitman worked with the Indians there were common and pressing problems confronting all three mission stations, Waiilatpu, Lapwai, and Tshimakain. Since the missionaries were people of intense conviction and strong will, it is understandable that there were clashes of personality and disputes over the conduct of missionary work. These differences were patched up, but not before letters of criticism had been sent to Boston. As a result, the American Board of Foreign Missions ordered the abandonment of Waiilatpu and Lapwai, the recall of Spalding, and the concentration of the remaining missionaries at Tshimakain. When these orders arrived it was decided that Whitman should go East to inform the Board that relations among the missionaries had recently improved and that the order should be withdrawn. In company with A. L. Lovejoy, he proceeded to Fort Hall, rode over what is now southwestern Wyoming, made a daring crossing of the Colorado River in the month of December, and finally arrived in Washington, D. C., in March 1843.

Here Whitman had conferences with one or more high officers of the government but exactly what was said is still shrouded in mystery. As far as can

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be determined from written evidence, Whitman's remarks had no influence on actual government policy. Nevertheless the trip to Washington shows his deep concern for the future of the Pacific Northwest.

From the national capital Whitman journeyed to Boston, where he made such a favorable impression on the Mission Board that they reversed their previous action and authorized the continuance of the work at Waiilatpu and Lapwai.

On his return trip Whitman assisted the "Great Emigration" of 1843, the first large movement of settlers to the northwest. Reports of the rich soil, meadows, and timberland of the lower Columbia valley had excited large numbers of Americans and "Oregon fever" ran high. Preliminary to making the journey to the far West, approximately 1,000 people assembled a few miles west of Independence, Missouri. Here Whitman joined them in the spring of 1843, and thereafter did yeoman service for the travelers.

He helped persuade the settlers to proceed with wagons rather than on horseback. On the journey this experienced westerner helped them cross the South Fork of the Platte River, and, good doctor that he was, treated the sick and took time out to deliver a baby on the prairie.

Upon arrival at Fort Hall the question of proceeding farther by wagon again arose and again Whitman was able to persuade the leaders to continue with the wagons. The emigration of 1843, of which Whitman was an important part, established the Oregon Trail by proving that wagons could be

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taken all the way to the lower Columbia river valley. The succeeding years saw American settlers move in such numbers to the Oregon territory that they became an important factor, perhaps the most important factor, in securing the territory for the United States.

After assisting the "Great Emigration" Whitman continued to be identified with settlement of the Oregon country. At a time when many easterners still believed that the West must remain forever an arid waste, Whitman saw that settlements could flourish and that the Eastern Oregon country could be a great sheep grazing area.

At the time, a subtle change of emphasis took place in his theory of missionary work. While Whitman remained a devout missionary, his later letters show more concern with the material and practical problems of establishing a frontier post than with purely spiritual work.

Whitman was aware of the powerful westward surge of American settlers and became convinced that in the long run the West would belong to the white man. The Indians, it is true, were making advances in the arts of civilization, but they had not obeyed the Biblical command to multiply and replenish the earth. They ought not to stand in the way of those who wanted to do so. Under these conditions Whitman thought it to be his task to help direct natural tendencies toward a good end.

Accordingly, Whitman sold food and supplies to the emigrants at reasonable prices, cared for the sick, and provided temporary living quarters for those who could not forge ahead. Whitman be-

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came well known, and Waiilatpu was, for a time, an important stopping place on the trip to the lower Columbia. This activity, however, excited the fear and anger of some of the Indians.

The fears of the Indians were further increased by the alarming number of deaths that were taking place throughout the Walla Walla valley. The benighted health practices of the Indians, their dependence on native doctors, and their lack of immunity to such diseases as measles all helped to bring about the belief that Marcus Whitman was allowing his patients to die or perhaps actually bringing about their death. If these things were true, then the American doctor ought to be killed, just as a native medicine man would be killed if he failed to produce a cure.

While the mission population and the Indian lodges were nursing the sick and bewailing the dead, a conspiracy was formed to kill Marcus Whitman and destroy the mission. Whitman had been warned of danger but courageously stayed at his post. On the morning of November 29, 1847, despite the presence of many Indians and an indefinite sense of peril, the tasks of the mission were performed as usual. Shortly after lunch Chief Tilaukait and Tomahas came to the door of the mission and asked for medicine. Whitman began conversing with Tilaukait, but Tomahas came up behind him and felled him with a blow on the head. Thus began the Whitman Massacre. There was no escaping from the guns and hatchets of the Indians, who were determined to destroy the mission once and for all. Before the day was over, Marcus Whit-

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man had died of his wounds and Mrs. Whitman and seven others had been killed. Murders in the next few days brought the total of fatalities to thirteen.

Thus ended the life of Marcus Whitman, doctor, intrepid traveler, missionary, farmer, and idealistic imperialist. The zeal, tenacity, and whole-hearted devotion with which he did his work and followed the call of duty as he heard it deserve to be commemorated by the people of the State of Washington.

RONALD V. SIRES  
ROBERT G. COMEGYS

#### IN TRIBUTE AND RECOGNITION

There has been no other couple like the Whitmans in American history—no wooing more strange, no wedding more extraordinary, no marriage more proof against stress and storm, no union of purpose and effort more perfect, no failure more pathetic, no ending more terrible and no immortality more sublime than theirs. Forces they did not control or understand brought their lives together in a noble enterprise that failed; forces they did not control or understand brought their lives to a dire and agonizing close. Yet so great did they live, so magnificently did they labor and serve, that those forces they set in motion will forever enrich the civilization they help to plant on the western slopes of the Continental Divide.

—DR. CHESTER C. MAXEY, *President of Whitman College*,  
in an address prepared for and delivered to the  
American Newcomen Society in Spokane, June 9,  
1950.

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The greatness of any individual is measured as much, if not more, in the recognition of history and the influence of that individual in the years after death as in the deeds of an active lifetime.

Certainly that has been true of Dr. Marcus Whitman. The contributions he made to the Pacific Northwest which brought him the designation of the Washington State Legislature for a place in the nation's "Hall of Fame" were, in a sense, as great after his massacre as before.

The inspiration which came to his good friend the Reverend Cushing Eells led to the founding of Whitman Seminary and it in turn became Whitman College, for which the years have produced an outstanding record of academic achievement.

On the site where the Whitmans labored, and fell, there is now the Whitman National Monument, an historic shrine maintained by the federal government and for which extensive plans have been made for development when conditions permit.

The temporary museum, the grave and monument, and the hallowed grounds of the mission site are annually visited by thousands who pay their respects to the pioneer physician, missionary, agriculturist, explorer and patriot, and his wife and the others who aided them in their work.

A national forest, a county, two grade schools, a hotel and other buildings, too, bear the Whitman name as continued evidence that what Whitman did for his country is remembered by those who have come to share in the fruits of his labors.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

It is to the perpetuation of such recognition of Dr. Marcus Whitman, his wife Narcissa, and the other great pioneers of the Pacific Northwest that the Marcus Whitman Foundation is dedicated.

## Of Historic Renown

In the dramatic history of the colonization and development of the Pacific Northwest, few individuals have a record of achievement as extensive or as significant as that of Dr. Marcus Whitman.

In achieving a record that made him "Illustrious for [his] historic renown," Dr. Whitman's urge to action and adventure resulted in a dynamic career in the period from 1834 to 1847 that makes "The Story of Marcus Whitman" a colorful and dramatic chapter in Western history.

### IT IS THE STORY OF . . .

. . . *an active and ambitious man* who was the first graduate doctor of a medical school to practice west of the Rocky Mountains.

. . . *a strong and stalwart man* who with Mrs. Whitman established the first American home on the Pacific Coast. They were the parents of the first American white girl born west of the Rocky Mountains.

. . . *a determined and adventurous man* who made one of the great rides of American history when he went 4,000 miles in the middle of winter from Wailatu to Washington, D. C., and Boston to

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plead for his mission and to tell the story of the greatness and potentialities of the Oregon territory.

. . . a versatile and aggressive man who brought the first wagon over the Rocky Mountains and who in 1843, provided the leadership and guidance for the first great wagon train to come to the Oregon territory.

. . . a fearless and compassionate man who was massacred by an Indian's tomahawk while he was giving medical aid to those whom he came to befriend.

. . . a dogmatic and religious man who stubbornly tried but fell short in his objective of being a missionary to the Indians and to bring them to a realization of the white man's God.

Marcus Whitman was no ordinary man, but he was instead a man of personality and varied human characteristics. While not totally successful as a missionary to the Indians, he succeeded in so many other of his efforts as physician, agriculturist, explorer, and patriot, that he shares fully with other illustrious citizens of the nation the respect and admiration of those who appreciate outstanding service to God and country.

"The Story of Marcus Whitman" is indeed the story of a distinguished and important American.

## Marcus Whitman Foundation, Inc.

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(Washington State Business and Professional Women's Club)

Proposed Enactment to be Presented to the Washington State Legislature Relative to Designation of Dr. Marcus Whitman and Narcissa Prentiss Whitman as Deceased Famous Residents of the State of Washington of Historic Renown, Whose Combined Statue Should Be Erected in the Hall of Fame (Statuary Hall) in the National Capitol at Washington, D. C.

Principal sponsors, Washington State Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

*CHAPTER 110. An Act designating Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, illustrious martyr missionaries, as deceased residents of Washington State of great historic renown whose combined statue shall be erected in the Hall of Fame (Statuary Hall) in the National Capitol, at the City of Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, providing for the erection of such statue and making an appropriation therefor.*

*Whereas, by Act of Congress, each State is invited to provide and to present to Congress for erection in the old Hall of the House of Representatives, now generally known as the Hall of Fame or as Statuary Hall, in the National Capitol, in Washington, District of Columbia, marble or bronze statues of two of its deceased residents, of historic renown, whom the State shall determine to be worthy of such national commendation; and*

*Whereas, Washington heretofore has placed no such statue in the Hall of Fame; and*

*Whereas, Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, martyred missionaries, rendered most distinguished and heroic services to the Nation, and par-*



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ticularly to the Territory, which now is the State of Washington;

Now, *Therefore*, the people of the State of Washington, represented in its State Legislature, comprised of the House of Representatives and State Senate, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, are hereby designated as deceased residents of the State of Washington of historic renown, worthy of the national commendation of having their combined statue in the old Hall of the House of Representatives, now generally known as the Hall of Fame or as Statuary Hall, in the National Capitol, to commemorate their fame and historic services as Washingtonians and as great Americans.

SECTION 2. The chairman of the Washington State Development Committee of the State Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs shall be included on the committee to have said statue so placed and erected.

SECTION 3. That \$15,000.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is, hereby appropriated to pay for said statue.

SECTION 4. That this Act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of this the 31st Session of the Washington State Legislature after signing of the same by the presiding officer of each of the two Houses of the State Legislature in open session.

## The Sculptor

Sculptor Avard Fairbanks, who designed the Marcus Whitman statue, is dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Utah. Dr. Fairbanks has studied or been on the faculty at the University of Oregon, Yale University, the University of Washington, and the University of Michigan. He has studied in Paris and did creative sculpture in Florence on a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Prompted by action of the Washington State Business and Professional Women's clubs, the State Legislature passed a bill in the 1949 session designating Dr. Marcus Whitman as the first official representative of the State in Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C.

The Legislature made no appropriation, but provided for the appointment of a commission to select a sculptor, approve a statute and design, and raise the necessary funds. Gov. Arthur B. Langlie appointed a twelve-person commission and the Marcus Whitman Foundation came into being.

The commission selected the statue design submitted by Dr. Avard Fairbanks. Since there are no photographs of Dr. Whitman, the artist's design of this distinguished figure is remarkable.

## STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

The presentation of the Marcus Whitman statue is one of the official events of the Washington Territorial Centennial.

The Whitman National Monument at Waiilatpu, six miles from Walla Walla, is where the Whitman mission was located. It is one of the West's great historic shrines and with Whitman College aids in perpetuating the nobler traditions of "The Whitman Story."

## Sculpture Study of Marcus Whitman

### LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

In order to consummate the life of a great character in one position, I have made Dr. Marcus Whitman *looking forward* throughout his many struggles and sacrifices.

Among his first forward strides was that of looking to his profession in the hopes of becoming a doctor. (Having a doctorate degree in the field of Anatomy, I know the time and study required in this field. One *must* look forward.)

He looks forward to the West and its developments. He contemplates the Time and Distance which his plans will require, and he meets the challenge of the vast empire before him.

In his left hand he holds the saddlebags which show that much of his activity was carried on traveling by horseback. His saddlebags contained medicines, instruments, also seeds for the soil, and other requisites.

His costume is that of the frontier.

His vigorous attitude is that of a dynamic personality.

His features are those of an intellectual person.

**STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN**

His trimmed beard reflects the refinement and taste of a man of culture.

His eyes evidence the character of vision and farsightedness.

His position and his characterization all portray his often repeated statement:

**"MY PLANS REQUIRE TIME AND DISTANCE."**

**THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND**

**THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF**

**DR. MARCUS WHITMAN**

*Pioneer Medical Missionary "Of Historic Renown"*

**IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL**

*Washington, D. C.*

**ON FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1953**

*At 2 p. m.*



*A feature of the Washington Territorial Centennial*



## Program for Unveiling Ceremony

ROTUNDA OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 22, 1953

2:00 P. M.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES . . . . . CONGRESSMAN HAL HOLMES  
CONCERT . . . . . U. S. MARINE BAND  
PRESENTATION OF COLORS . . . . . COLOR GUARD, USMC  
OCCASION—REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS . . . . . MR. HOLMES  
INVOCATION . . . . . DR. EDWARD L. R. ELSON  
Pastor, National Presbyterian Church, Washington  
"LO, A VOICE TO HEAVEN SOUNDING" (Boettlensky)  
U. S. ARMY BAND CHORUS  
CAPTAIN SAMUEL LINDGREN, Conductor  
GREETINGS—EXPLANATION OF STATUE PROJECT  
Mrs. GOLDIE REBERG  
Chairman, Washington State Marcus Whitman Statue Commission  
INTRODUCTION OF SCULPTOR . . . . . MR. HOLMES  
UNVEILING OF STATUE . . . . . THE TWO MARCUS WHITMANS  
(Father and son, relatives of Marcus Whitman)  
PLACING OF RHODODENDRON WREATH AT BASE  
Mrs. VIRGINIA WHITMAN CRANDALL  
(a relative)  
PLACING OF WREATH . . . . . NEW YORK STATE REPRESENTATIVES

During unveiling and placing of wreaths, the Lord's Prayer  
will be sung by Sgt. Lindsay Bergen, tenor soloist, U. S. Army

## STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

DEDICATION ADDRESS . . . . . HONORABLE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS  
Associate Justice, U. S. Supreme Court  
IN MEMORIAM—THE MISSIONARY FAREWELL SONG  
U. S. ARMY BAND CHORUS  
(Sung by Narcissa Whitman on her wedding day)  
PRESENTATION OF STATUE . . . . . for GOVERNOR ARTHUR B. LANGLEY,  
ALFRED McVAY, Secretary, Marcus Whitman Foundation, Inc.  
ACCEPTANCE . . . . . SENATOR WILLIAM A. FURBER  
Chairman, Joint Committee on Library  
INTRODUCTION OF—  
THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HON. RICHARD M. NIXON  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, HON. DOUGLAS MCKAY  
AND OTHER NOTABLE PERSONS . . . . . MR. HOLMES  
BENEDICTION . . . . . REV. HERMANN N. MORSE, General Secretary,  
Board of National Missions, New York  
THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER . . . . . U. S. ARMY BAND CHORUS

The Exercises for the Unveiling  
of the  
Statue of Dr. Marcus Whitman

HELD IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE NATIONAL CAPITOL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1953

The exercises for the unveiling of the statue of Dr. Marcus Whitman, were held in the Rotunda of the National Capitol, May 22, 1953.

Music was provided by the United States Marine Band and the United States Army Band and soloists. The unveiling was by two Marcus Whitmans, father and son, relatives of Dr. Whitman. The son was a student at Whitman College at the time of the unveiling. Mrs. Virginia Whitman Crandall, a relative, placed a wreath at the base of the statue.

Master of ceremonies was Congressman Hal Holmes of the Fourth Congressional District, State of Washington.

## Introductory Remarks by Honorable Hal Holmes

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**  
This is a significant occasion in the history of the State of Washington. It is a distinct honor to have been requested to preside today at the unveiling of the statue of Marcus Whitman.

We all have a sense of pride and appreciation for the recognition that has come to this man. Doctor, missionary, pioneer, he played a most prominent part in the dramatic history of the colonization of the Pacific Northwest. Few individuals have had as dynamic a career, or have left as illustrious a record as that of Marcus Whitman whom we are honoring.

Whitman College, located in Walla Walla, Wash., one of the fine liberal arts colleges of the United States, is a continuing memorial to his achievements. Many alumni of Whitman College are in the audience.

Each State is entitled to two statues in Statuary Hall. This is the first statue to be placed there by the State of Washington. The choice is made by the State legislatures. The Legislature of the State of Washington recognized the historic renown that has come to be associated with Marcus Whitman.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

The Governor appointed a 12-person commission. The Marcus Whitman Foundation was formed. The result of the work of this organization and action by the State legislature has brought us to this date, May 22, 1953, which places in the Hall of Fame of the United States Capitol a statue of Marcus Whitman, done by one of America's outstanding sculptors, Dr. Avarð Fairbanks, dean of the College of Fine Arts of the University of Utah.

Before introducing some prominent and distinguished guests that we have here today, I would like to read a telegram that just arrived from the State of Washington:

On behalf of the State Capitol Historical Association of the State of Washington, we send to those gathered for the unveiling of the statue of the great pioneer missionary, Marcus Whitman, congratulations in this final step, for their united effort, to the Business and Professional Women's Club and their chairman, Mrs. Goldie Rehberg; to the Marcus Whitman Foundation, Inc.; the schoolchildren of the State of Washington; as well as the sculptor, Avarð Fairbanks; the citizens who, in cooperation with the Marcus Whitman Foundation, contributed to the statewide accomplishment so completely concluded to the satisfaction of all. We join in the universal congratulations and acclaim for the representation of our State of Washington in Statuary Hall in the National Capitol, feeling this fittingly bestows upon Dr. Marcus Whitman and according him merited culminating distinction among the other great figures of American history.

—Mrs. RICHARD BURFORD, *Curator, State Capitol Library Association and Member of the Marcus Whitman Commission of the State of Washington, Olympia, Wash.*

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Honorable Douglas McKay, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Walter Williams, Under Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Raymond Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury; Honorable Harry P. Cain, former Senator from Washington and presently of the Washington-Alaska Society; Senator Henry M. Jackson; Honorable Vernon W. Blodgett, New York Assemblyman, representing Governor Dewey of the State of New York; Honorable Carl M. McCobb, Member of the Joint Committees on Libraries, State of Iowa; Honorable Ken Regan of Texas, Member of the Library Committee.

And our Congressional delegation: Congressman Thor Tollefson, of the Sixth District of the State of Washington; Congressman Russell Mack, of the Third District of the State of Washington; Congressman Don Magnuson, Congressman at Large of the State of Washington; Honorable Tom Pelly, First District of the State of Washington; Honorable Walter Horan, Fifth District of the State of Washington. Sitting down in the front row here and graciously coming to our services in the dedication of this statue here, a prominent citizen from the State of Rhode Island and long-time chairman of the Library Committee, Senator Green of Rhode Island.

We will now have the presentation of colors by the Color Guard of the United States Marine Corps, Lieutenant Harold commanding.



#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

The invocation will be given by Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, minister of the National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer of mankind, in whose sovereign will is the destiny of men and nations, we thank Thee for this good land which Thou has given us for an heritage. We bless Thee for our natural resources, for our human resources, and for our freedom under Thy sovereignty. We thank Thee for pioneers of old, heroes of our Christian faith and divinity of a nation who, with stout heart and clear mind and indomitable faith carried the gospel of the church and the culture of the Nation to the vast reaches of this continent. We render unto Thee our thanks and praise for Thy servant, Marcus Whitman, his Christian character, his devoted service, his steadfast purpose, and for his martyr's death. As we here dedicate this monument we beseech Thee to make us worthy of the heritage which he and all his comrades have reposed in us that in this day we may be great enough and good enough and strong enough for all the responsibilities which in Thy providence have been placed in our hands. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mr. HOLMES. We will introduce to you Senator Purtell, chairman of the Library Committee of the United States Senate and from the great State of Connecticut.

We shall now have a selection by the United States Army Band Chorus, Capt. Samuel Loboda conducting.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

##### LO, A VOICE TO HEAVEN SOUNDING

Lo, a voice to heaven sounding,  
Praising everlastingly,  
As the voice of many waters,  
God, the Father, praising ever joyfully.  
We, too, sing, we sing exultingly;  
We, too, sing now who love Thee;  
We sing to Thee this holy day.  
Amen.

To the Lord, our God, everlasting in glory,  
Lift up your hearts! Rejoice in Him!  
Rejoice in God, rejoice in God!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Mr. HOLMES. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Judge Alger Fee of Oregon, who is chairman of the Board of Overseers of Whitman College. I think I see Senator Watkins of the State of Utah to my left and there is Senator Hunt of Wyoming here and Senator Bennett of Utah.

We are happy indeed to have you all here. The handling of any project of this kind takes a tremendous lot of work and planning. We have here with us today a distinguished citizen of the State of Washington and the city of Walla Walla, who is chairman of the Washington State Marcus Whitman Statue Commission. She likewise is an outstanding member of the Business and Professional Women's Organization of the State of Washington and has given untold amount of time and service, energy and direction for the work necessary in making this ceremony possible and the statue in Statuary Hall of Marcus Whitman a reality. It

STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce Mrs. Goldie Rehberg, chairman of the Washington State Marcus Whitman Statue Commission.

REMARKS BY MRS. GOLDIE REHBERG

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN HAL HOLMES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND OUR DEAR FRIENDS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND MARCUS WHITMAN: This is indeed an historic and memorable day for the Pacific Northwest, especially Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, all of whom have benefited from Marcus Whitman's vision and accomplishments.

There is an old saying that "No future is secure where the past is forgotten." Today Washington is honoring Marcus Whitman by placing a statue of him in our National Capitol for all the world to see and know of his great sacrifices.

During World War II, Thelma Wyrich of the Grand Coulee Business and Professional Women's Club was a member of the Women's Army Corps, stationed here in Washington, D. C. In going through Statuary Hall she realized that Washington State was not represented. She wrote home to her club that we, as business and professional women, should do something about it and see that Washington State was represented in this great Statuary Hall.

The idea was presented to our State Federation Board. They accepted the idea and put it into action as a major project. A call went out to all the

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

clubs in the State to submit a name of someone who had had something to do with the history of Washington State.

During State convention in 1948 in Aberdeen, Wash., the names of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, as a combination, were the ones chosen by the Business and Professional Women's Club as our first representative in Statuary Hall. At that time I was appointed to arrange for a bill to be presented to our State legislature of 1949 recommending Marcus and Narcissa Prentiss Whitman as our State's first statue. Due to laws governing Statuary Hall, combination of such a statue could not be allowed and our legislature chose Marcus Whitman. No appropriation having been made by the legislature all moneys were raised by public subscription.

On February 18, 1836, Marcus Whitman and Narcissa Prentiss joined their lives in marriage to bring the Bible to an unknown and heathen land. For 11 years, through their indomitable spirit and devotion, they labored with the Indians, teaching them the letters and in what better form of living that they would accept, lending aid to immigrants who came their way, until they were massacred in 1847.

So much of the good and the true and the beautiful was woven into the characters of the Whitmans that when their human bodies were destroyed the true spiritual atmosphere of their Divine Being and inspiration lives on. They died as patriots in the service of their country. They died as martyrs in the service of their Lord. Their influence remains to strengthen and inspire. In this sense Marcus and Narcissa Whitman still live and serve

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

where their story is known. It is great to know that the Bible was the inspiration which led to the opening up of this beautiful State of ours and where the Bible preceded, the American flag followed and established its purpose.

I wish to express deep gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the people of the State of Washington, to those here who have given their valuable time and efforts to make this a memorable occasion. As State chairman I particularly want to thank Hal Holmes, our own Congressman; Mr. Justice Douglas, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; Lieutenant Colonel Santelmann of the United States Marine Band; the Color Guard of the United States Marine Corps; and to the United States Army Band Chorus, Capt. Samuel Loboda; and the Business and Professional Women of the State of Washington; to the Statue Commission and others for their support in this great undertaking.

On behalf of the Commission, also, I wish to express our appreciation to the sculptor, Dr. Avard Fairbanks who has given us such a splendid impression of Marcus Whitman as he represented a pioneer for the Pacific Northwest. I wish to express my deep appreciation and thanks to Al McVay, Secretary of the Marcus Whitman Foundation, and also to the present Presbyterian and Congregational Foreign Mission Boards who I believe are present. We certainly do thank each and every one of you from the various States who have come here to help make this a wonderful and memorable occasion.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

Mr. HOLMES. We have with us the one who created this fine statue. Distinguished artist and sculptor, having done a great many fine pieces of work in this country, studied extensively in this country and abroad. It is with a great deal of satisfaction and a profound pleasure that I introduce to you Dr. Avard Fairbanks, dean of the College of Fine Arts of the University of Utah. Dr. Fairbanks,

#### Remarks of Dr. Avard Fairbanks

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FELLOW AMERICANS:**

I am very happy also to say that I am a graduate of the University of Washington, having received my Master of Fine Arts degree from that institution.

Being an American who loves his country and those attributes that have made her great, I can say my heart and soul have been part of the creation of this study in sculpture. I have also exercised the skill of my training and providentially given talents in its production and if, to our people and those not of our Nation who might be here, yet who admire our ideals as it conveys the heroic efforts and the courage and the exploits of this great character Marcus Whitman, it will prove to be the success that was hoped by those who have been diligent in the honor of this worthy individual.

Mr. HOLMES. We will now have the unveiling of the statue by the two Marcus Whitmans, father and son, distantly related cousins of Marcus Whitman.

Remarks by  
Honorable Harry P. Cain

(DURING THE UNVEILING)

The time for which you at home and here in your Nation's Capitol in Washington, D. C., have long waited has come. The statue of Marcus Whitman is to be unveiled in the Rotunda of the Capitol of the United States—the unveiling of the statue by father and son, Marcus Whitmans of the 10th and 11th generations of the family of that Marcus Whitman whose accomplishments we honor so significantly. The son, Marcus Whitman, who aided his father in the unveiling, is presently a senior in Walla Walla at Whitman College.

The eyes of confidence and respect and reverence, too, I hope that every citizen in the State of Washington and throughout the country will have an opportunity in due time to see for themselves what Dr. Fairbanks has done in bringing Marcus Whitman in such bold relief as though he were, in fact, right here among us today.

It is, I think, not by way of being disrespectful but by way of comparing, quite fitting and proper to say, Statuary Hall in your Nation's Capitol which includes those famous men from many States of the

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

Union possesses not one famous replica and memory of the past which is as bold and strong, inspiring and refreshing, as is this statue of Marcus Whitman. He didn't have very much by way of clothes and food and shelter, but he had an awful lot of what he had. He lived and died unfearing. It is good to have Marcus Whitman here to give future encouragement and inspiration and faith to those who follow him in these days in your Government in Washington, D. C.

At the moment a very attractive lady has approached the statue and the applause you hear has come when she was placing a rhododendron wreath (Washington State's flower) at the base of the statue. Her name is Mrs. Virginia Whitman Crandall, a relative in the long line of those who claim Marcus Whitman as a friend and blood relation.

Now coming to the statue for the purpose of placing another wreath is a young man. His name also is Marcus Whitman. His age is 22. He comes from Rushville in the State of New York where, on September 4, 1802, Marcus Whitman, whose statue is with us now, was born. I had an opportunity before the unveiling and before the dedication began to chat with this young man. And now, as he stands across from him, his eyes are looking at the head and the eyes and the heart of Marcus Whitman, as they stand so boldly some 6 or 7 feet above him. That is the great reaction and impression I take from the ceremony this afternoon, speaking for all of you, that we have someone who we can look up to.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

One who has been a pioneer of the people can help encourage others to become pioneers for the future in our present.

Hymn sung by Sgt. Lindsey Bergen, soloist of the United States Army Band Chorus:

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy Will be done  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day  
Our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the Kingdom,  
And the Glory,  
And the Power,  
For ever, . . . Amen.

Mr. HOLMES. I am happy indeed to present to you today a distinguished alumnus of Whitman College, nationally known and internationally known, and who has, as one of his great interests in life, the interest and welfare of mankind, not only in this country, but the world over—the honorable William O. Douglas, associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, will give you the dedication address.

I present Justice Douglas.

Address by

Honorable William O. Douglas

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

We are here by the invitation of the Congress which authorized the President to invite each State to furnish not more than two statues "of deceased persons who have been citizens" of the State and who are "illustrious for their historic renown or from distinguished civic or military services" and who the State determines is "worthy of this national commemoration."

We are also here by authorization of the State of Washington whose legislature in 1949 designated Dr. Marcus Whitman, "a deceased resident of national renown," who is worthy of having his statue in this Hall of Fame.

We are indebted to the Marcus Whitman Foundation, a nonprofit corporation of which Governor Arthur B. Langlie is the honorary chairman, Mrs. Goldie Rehberg the chairman, and Alfred McVay the secretary, for making the arrangements to acquire this bronze statue. We express our gratitude to the Foundation and to the large group of citizens who contributed the funds that made possible its acquisition.

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

We honor the artist—Dr. Avarad Fairbanks, dean of the College of Fine Arts, University of Utah—who caught the spirit of this man Whitman—the man who made famous the words, "My plans require time and distance." The Bible is in his right hand, a scroll and saddlebags in his left. He is looking to the west where horizons fall away almost endlessly. He is thinking of a fertile land where homes are about to be built and souls saved, and a rich frontier to be won for America.

Whitman, though not a minister, was a missionary carrying the Word to a new and little-known region. He is the *seventh* missionary honored in Statuary Hall. Whitman was preeminently a physician and surgeon, the first to practice his profession in the Pacific Northwest, the *fourth* to be honored in Statuary Hall. He studied medicine at the Fairfield Medical School, made the rounds as an apprentice with an experienced doctor in Rushville, N. Y., and qualified to practice medicine in New York State in the year 1826. His New York medical experience fitted him for the rigors of the Pacific Northwest. For his New York calls were all made on horseback, one saddlebag containing medicines, the other surgical instruments.

It was Whitman's skill as physician and surgeon which first brought him prestige and influence in the Oregon Territory. And tragically it was his role as doctor that led to his death.

On his first exploratory trip west in 1835 he went as far as Wyoming and while there he got the reputation as the "Good Doctor." Before a great assembly on the banks of the Green River he op-

#### STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

erated on the back of the famous Jim Bridger and removed an arrowhead which Bridger had acquired in a fight with Blackfoot Indians. He found cholera among the hunters and trappers and walked fearlessly among the sick, ministering to their needs. And when in 1836 Marcus Whitman and his fair-haired, blue-eyed bride, Narcissa Prentiss, founded the mission at Waiilatpu—"the place of rye grass"—he answered every call of the distressed and sick, no matter the distance, the time of day, or his own weariness.

The tide of emigration swelled, bringing hundreds of people through Waiilatpu. They brought with them not only their supplies and their dreams but their ailments as well, including measles and dysentery. These Americans had acquired through the centuries a high degree of resistance to such endemic diseases. But the Indians lacked that immunity. While the emigrants recovered quickly, the Indians died in large numbers. The Cayuse therefore concluded that the "Good Doctor" made good medicine for his own people, bad medicine for their own. By their reckoning the tribe would soon be decimated. And so they decided Whitman should die. On November 29, 1847, he was tomahawked from behind while he was ministering to an Indian. The lovely Narcissa was quickly murdered—and 11 more men. Marcus Whitman, the first doctor in the vast Pacific Northwest, died a martyr to the medical profession.

He and Narcissa were also martyrs to two other causes: to the Christian cause they served under the auspices of the American Board of Commis-



sioners for Foreign Missions, and to the United States of America.

Whitman's contribution to the westward expansion of empire was no fable. He and his wife left St. Louis in May 1836, resolved to take the first wagon across the Rockies. They crossed the plains and the mountains in safety and reached the Columbia River in good health. It would be too much to claim that the Whitmans made America conscious of the Pacific. America already had that awareness. The 30 years since the return of Lewis and Clark had made the Pacific Northwest exciting to easterners, important to the Nation. But the Whitman wagon train of 1836 did one thing that stirred the imagination of every family in the United States: It proved that the Pacific Northwest was within the reach of anyone who could ride a horse or sit in a wagon bed. He showed that women and children, as well as men, could go in safety where only adventurers, trappers, and explorers had gone before. So it was that Marcus and Narcissa Whitman touched off that great migration of the 1840's.

They also showed the great potential of this new, unclaimed land. It was not a wilderness where men would starve. It was a region where families could be raised, where communities could flourish. At Waiilatpu (located near the present city of Walla Walla), the Whitmans had an enterprising farm, a thriving sawmill, a busy flour mill, a fine granary, and a noisy blacksmith shop. They brought west a threshing machine and a corn shelter. They had cattle, horses, and sheep. Wheat

stood high, potatoes were huge, corn was tall, melons were sweet, livestock was fat. The land was so fertile, the climate so good that the poorest settler could grow rich in no time. That was the prospectus Whitman wrote about the West. Emigrants who stopped at Waiilatpu saw with their eyes that the facts were true. This was the promised land. They passed the word along and thousands in the East responded to the call. And so it was that the example of the Whitmans brought thousands into the region beyond the old frontier. The British held the strategic posts in this new frontier; but the Americans began to take over the land. Thus the American claim to the land south of the 49th parallel grew in dignity and strength.

Whitman's famous ride over the Rockies in the winter of 1842-43 served the same cause, although it was not inspired by the threat of British claims. Rather, the American Board in 1842 ordered the mission at Waiilatpu closed; and it was to get that order rescinded that Whitman headed east on horseback on October 3, 1842. October 3 to March 3 is a long time to be on a horse in any winter. It is especially long when one must camp in the snow and cold almost every night. But that was Whitman's ordeal on his ride to St. Louis. This dynamic man of boundless energy and his horse survived the blizzards and freezing nights of that winter ride along a trail that led through Boise and Pocatello, Idaho; White Rock, Utah; Santa Fe, N. Mex.; and Kansas City, Mo. How they did it, we do not know. They achieved the impossible. Whitman's buffalo coat, fur hat, and heavy beard were part of his

protection. But beneath was an indomitable will. The dream of empire for America was part of the drive. But above that was the dream he and Narcissa had of a home and a mission in this the last frontier—and a life of service to their fellow men.

After reaching St. Louis, Whitman hastened on to Washington, D. C., next to New York, and finally to Boston to present his plea to the American Board. In Washington, D. C., he talked with members of the Cabinet—John C. Spencer, Secretary of the Treasury, and James M. Porter, Secretary of War—and in New York he saw Horace Greeley. Some think that Whitman saved the old Oregon Territory from being obtained by the British. That claim is probably too extravagant. But there can be little doubt that Whitman left with his friends in Washington, D. C., New York, and Boston ideas of the importance of the Pacific Northwest and of the role it should play in the manifest destiny of the Nation. In Boston he got the American Board to reverse its decision to close Waiilatpu.

Whitman was back in St. Louis in May 1843, promoting the great emigration of that year. He was foremost in that trek. It was his courageous management that got the emigrants through. Some counseled that cattle and wagons be left at Pocatello. But Whitman protested, and his view prevailed. The men, women, and children arrived safely at Waiilatpu and points west.

The westward movement was now on. Manifest destiny was in the making. "Fifty-four Forty or Fight" was the campaign slogan of James K. Polk

in 1844. The year 1846 became a year of important decision for America. For we obtained that year by treaty with Britain the country south of the 49th parallel. This extension of empire was a complex of many forces. But Whitman played an important role in showing the average family that this new frontier was within their reach.

A living monument to Marcus Whitman was established in 1859 by another great missionary, Cushing Eells. Eells founded Whitman College, an institution dedicated in the manner of Marcus and Narcissa to the service of mankind.

It is fitting that Marcus Whitman should represent the State of Washington in this Hall of Fame. In a few short years he set in motion forces that increased the spiritual as well as the material inheritance of America. He not only showed us a new empire; he also helped us build a high national character. He had the courage and devotion to face the risks and dangers of the frontier of his day—not for profit, not for glory, but for service to his fellow men and to his country.

In another century, Americans young and old who pass through this Hall will remember the example of the Whitmans, and, remembering, will find the confidence to face their own frontier which for them may present perplexities and risks as great as any the God-fearing Whitmans knew. And so it is that the deeds and devotion of the Whitmans will through the years fill the hearts of our people with pride and teach them that courage and devotion can overcome even the impossible.

STATUE OF MARCUS WHITMAN

Mr. HOLMES. In a moment now we will have the Whitman Song which was sung by Narcissa Prentiss Whitman on her wedding day.

Yes, my native land, I love thee;  
All thy scenes, I love them well;  
Friends, connections, happy country!  
Can I bid you all farewell,  
Can I leave you,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell?

Yes, I hasten from you gladly,  
From the scenes I loved so well—  
Far away, ye billows, bear me;  
Lovely native land, farewell!  
Pleased I leave thee,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell.

In the desert let me labor;  
On the mountains let me tell  
How he died—the blessed Saviour—  
To redeem a world from hell!  
Let me hasten  
Far in heathen lands to dwell.

Bear me on, thou restless ocean;  
Let the winds my canvas swell—  
Heaves my heart with warm emotion,  
While I go far hence to dwell.  
Glad I bid thee,  
Native land—Farewell—Farewell.

Mr. HOLMES. For the presentation of the statue Governor Arthur B. Langlie of the State of Washington was unable to be here and he sent a very able and distinguished representative to take his place on your program for the presentation of the statue. Mr. Alfred McVay of the city of Walla Walla, manager of the Chamber of Commerce of that city, sec-

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retary of the Marcus Whitman Foundation, has played a very vital part in working out this program and working over the past 4 or 5 years in making the presentation of this statue to the United States Government in Statuary Hall a reality. It is with pleasure and profound sincerity that I present to you Mr. Al McVay of Walla Walla who will represent Governor Langlie. At the time of the presentation I will again bring to your attention and introduce to you again Senator William Purtell of Connecticut, chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, who will receive and accept the statue.

## Remarks of Alfred McVay

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FRIENDS: It is a personal pleasure, of course, to represent the Governor of the State of Washington and present to you, Senator Purcell, his statement on behalf of the citizens of our State, addressed to you in your capacity as chairman of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library.

DEAN SENATOR PURCELL: It is with both joy and humility that I, as Governor of the State of Washington, on this day present to the Government of the United States of America in behalf of the people of the State of Washington the statue of the patriot of the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Marcus Whitman. One hundred and ten years ago a stalwart pioneer medical missionary led a wagon train of more than 1,000 emigrants across the plains, the first to break a wagon trail over the Rockies. Dr. Whitman encouraged them on through the wilderness, insisting they continue when some would have turned back, a decision which was the turning point in the history of western migration. Finally they reached their destination beyond the Blue Mountains of Washington.

He sustained the spirit of his following and gave them courage to stay together, to build a home, a church, a school, having a center of industry. It was in this evidenced devotion to God and giving to his fellow men that Dr. Whitman died a martyr—a story which has embellished the pages of history with its tragic sacrifices and its courage. America honors itself by honoring him. It is

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a privilege, therefore, for the citizens of Washington during this Territorial Centennial to offer to the people of the United States this visible monument to one who lived humbly and died nobly in pursuit of happiness and freedom for his fellow men.

—ARTHUR B. LANGLEY,  
*Governor of the State of Washington*

## Remarks by Senator William A. Purtell

I know you will convey to the Governor the thanks of the committee in the presentation of this piece of statuary to us.

Friends, as chairman of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, it is indeed a pleasure to accept this statue of Marcus Whitman on behalf of all the people of the United States.

It has been said here with this gift the State of Washington adds the first of its great to the 75 works already placed by her sister States in this, the Capitol of our Union.

Thus Marcus Whitman joins missionaries as Serra, Marquette, such pioneers as Austin, Rice, Houston, Morton, and Sequoya. And near him in Statuary Hall are others of his religious zeal: Roger Williams, Muhlenberg, Brigham Young, and Frances E. Willard. He will find company here in the Capitol with men of vision, who always held their contemporaries: Gorrie, McDougal, and Crawford Long.

This piece of statuary represents even more than the great pioneer medical missionary, Dr. Marcus Whitman. It is another symbol of growing and expanding chronology now taking place here in

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Statuary Hall, and more and more as our great western sisters come forward with such men as he will we in this Nation mark greater deserved tribute to those whose pioneering opened the territory west and beyond the Mississippi.

In no other place and with no better perspective today than here in Statuary Hall, in the shadow cast by the stone and bronze images of those great, is the country's vigorous history better represented.

States such as mine, Connecticut, which was one of the original colonies, have gone back to Revolutionary and colonial days to find inspiration for their great men. In honoring Roger Sherman and Jonathan Trumbull Connecticut turned across one century to another in order that it might show its pride in its great and give them their place among the other great of the Union.

Much in the same manner did our sister Southern States return to give their tribute to those quiet men who took their cause to the green battlefields of the Civil War. By the time of that struggle, I might say, there were other men who had begun the dangerous exploration necessary to open up the great West and in doing so to round out this Nation and in doing so to make it the greatest nation in the world.

These were the men who were to give a new meaning to a new part of this country's history—a history which, in fact, has not yet fully been told.

Few of these men standing here today, taking their proper place with others within Statuary Hall, placed there by Kansas, Texas, South Dakota, Ne-

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braska, Arizona, California, and Oklahoma. Other statues will come, we know, from Western States not yet represented. And in time in Statuary Hall the West will take rank with the South, the Ohio Territory, and old colonies and other quarters of this country in having given in bronze and marble that evidence of their pride in their pioneers, in their States, and in this Union of States.

And so, sir, I am happy that the State of Washington has seen fit to make Marcus Whitman a member of this noble, growing family.

For Congress we accept his memory and his bronze likeness in order that his fame and that of his State shall be added here in this hall to our traditions and to our history. His likeness adds luster to his components in this setting of our great Nation.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HOLMES. Thank you, Mr. McVay, and thank you very much, Senator Purtell.

If you will bear with me just a moment, the Vice President of the United States is about to appear.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice President of the United States.

Salute of band to the Vice President of the United States.

## Remarks of Vice President Nixon of the United States

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I know from seeing the program I have in front of me that you have been here a long time. And I know, too, that you have had an opportunity of hearing a number of speakers, particularly the opportunity to hear the distinguished citizen of the State of Washington, Justice Douglas, in the dedication address. I want you to know I would like to have been here for the entire ceremony, but as some of you may have noted I was escorting the Vice President of India through the room and, since he was a guest of the United States Senate today at a luncheon, I had other duties that made it necessary for me to arrive here late.

I do want you to know, however, all of us in Washington, and I think I speak now for not only the Senate but for the House and for those of us who reside in this city—that all of us are deeply grateful to the people of the State of Washington for placing this statue in the Nation's Capitol.

It is a reminder of a wonderful period in America's history—the period of frontiers. Marcus Whitman went across the prairies, went out into what was then the Oregon Territory, the Territory



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of California, all the territory that we westerners know and love, and went, not as a conqueror, but as, in the case of Marcus Whitman, missionaries, as men and women of good will. I think they set a great example for all of us today in the Nation, that America and Americans have in the world. And I hope the spirit of Marcus Whitman represented, that spirit would be one which will pervade this Capitol somehow so that those of us in the Senate and House might reflect that same spirit in our handling of the grave problems that confront America today.

We are happy that you could be here and I am honored and privileged to have had an opportunity to participate briefly in this ceremony in this way.

Mr. HOLMES. We will have Dr. Elson, who gave the invocation, pronounce the benediction.

Receive the benediction of the Lord.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
And be gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you;  
And give you peace this day and ever more.  
Amen.

Our national anthem—the United States Army Band and Chorus. The audience was asked to join in singing.

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OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous  
fight,

O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:  
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh, long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,  
That the havoc of war, and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution!  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and wild war's desolation;  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!





*Marcus Whitman, Rushville, N. Y.; Marguerite Whitman-Garvin; Dr. Aard Fairbanks; Mrs. Goldie Rehberg; Virginia Whitman Grandall; Marcus Whitman, Jr.; Marcus Whitman, Sr., of Darwin, California.*

## Tributes

This date, May 22, 1953, will ever be a memorable one in the State of Washington. On this date a statue of the "Good Doctor," Marcus Whitman, is to be unveiled, in Washington, D. C.

Marcus Whitman, the pioneer of pioneers, was the first to visualize the potential greatness of the Northwest.

As a missionary, a doctor, a farmer, and a teacher, he faced dangers and hardships that called for the strongest faith, courage, and fortitude to carry out his plans.

He worked patiently and hopefully to establish a home, a church, a school, and a center of industry. His work among the Indians was outstanding and for a number of years they responded and much was accomplished in helping them.

Marcus Whitman chose a most fitting location, in the beautiful Walla Walla Valley, in which to carry on his mission. With the Blue Mountains in easy reach, plenty of water and rich soil, the possibilities were boundless for beginning a new civilization on the frontier.

For several years the little mission thrived and newcomers in their covered wagons, found a haven of rest with the Whitmans. Then came the massacre, but not the end.

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Cushing Eells, the "St. Paul" of the Pacific Northwest, and his wife founded Whitman College and it is a living monument to the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Whitman.

As the sun sets in a blaze of glory and its rays rise and soar into the vastness of the heavens above, it is symbolic of the widespread influence of the martyred Marcus Whitman and his noble wife.

His plans "called for time and distance." And his vision became a reality that he never knew.

—ELOISE THOMAS,  
*Past State President of  
The Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington*

BORN SEPT. 4, 1802, RUSHVILLE, NEW YORK  
MARRIED NOVEMBER 29, 1847, WAILLATPU

The name "Whitman" in Washington is synonymous with all that stands for Christian faith, spiritual purpose and unfaltering courage. He saw in the West a great new frontier, he brought the first wagon train over the Rockies, he fought to keep the young settlement together, and finally gave his life in this adventure, a story which has emblazoned the pages of our history books with its tragedy, its sacrifice and its courage. This year is Washington's Territorial Centennial, and we feel no more fitting tribute could be paid to all of our pioneers than this one we offer to one of their greatest leaders.

—ARTHUR B. LANGLEY, *Governor*

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. . . to no other individual are the emigrants of 1843 so much indebted for the successful conclusion of their journey as to Dr. Whitman.

—JESSE APPELGATE,  
*Captain of the Cow Column,  
The Great Migration of 1843*

(The Great Migration began at Springfield, Missouri, May 22, 1843)

Dr. Marcus Whitman and his lovely, devoted wife, Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, exemplify the highest and best in American manhood and womanhood. One in ideals, purpose and spirit, they carried Gospel light and hope together across our continent. Beyond the Blue Mountains, they established a home, a church, a school, a center of industry, the four great institutions on which our civilization is founded. With hearts ever open to those in need and hands always ready to help, they radiated goodness. They were true Christians, keeping their eyes on the stars, yet never losing the human touch. They fell as martyrs and they live forever in the hearts of all who value sterling character, builded only through service and ennobling sacrifice.

—HOWARD R. DRIGGS,  
*American Pioneer Trails Association*

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America rejoices in the Christian character and magnificent service of Dr. Marcus Whitman. His daring, superb faith and his patience under difficul-

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ties reflect a notable chapter in the early life of America. Let us hope that many doctors as well as laymen will follow in the footsteps of this devoted servant of God and of humanity.

—REV. HUGH IVAN EVANS, D. D.

The monuments we erect, the commemorative exercises we hold, and the relics we carefully preserve give testimony to the depth of our affection for the Whitmans. More enduring than monuments of stone are the memories cherished by all who delight in stories of courage, of adventure, and of high idealism. The greatest guarantee that we have of the imperishable fame of the Whitmans is the simple fact that so much of the good and the true and the beautiful was woven into their characters. They died as Christian martyrs in the service of their Lord, and they died as patriots in the services of their country. Though their spirits have been called from this world, their influence remains to strengthen and inspire. In this sense Marcus and Narcissa Whitman still live and serve whenever their story is known.

—CLIFFORD MERRILL DRURY

There has been no other couple like the Whitmans in American history—no wooing more strange, no wedding more extraordinary, no marriage more proof against stress and storm, no union of purpose and effort more perfect, no failure more

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pathetic, no ending more terrible, and no immortality more sublime than theirs. So greatly did they live, so magnificently did they labor and serve, that forces they set in motion will forever enrich the civilization they helped to plant on the western slopes of the Continental Divide.

—DR. CHESTER C. MAXEY, *President of Whitman College*

Dr. Marcus Whitman was one of the outstanding characters of the Old Oregon Country. His physical and moral courage was of the highest standing. The establishment of his Mission and his labors with White and Red men alike called for vision, courage, hardship, and sacrifice. The Whitmans died at their post of duty, like soldiers in battle, but they did not die in vain, for their memory lives in the pages of history, and in the hearts of every loyal American citizen and lover of courage.

—WALTER MEACHAM, *Old Oregon Trail, Inc.*

A noble pioneer we judge him to be, a man fitting to be chief in rearing a moral empire among the wild men of the wilderness . . .

—HORACE GREELY

