

Lesson #38 U.S. History

Mountain men

Mountain Men open the west following Native American trails

First Wave of Mountain Men 1800 to 1812

Zebulon Pike

Lewis and Clark

Elements for trapping and Trade:

River

Mountain Men

Native Americans

Trading Post

John Colter released from Lewis and Clark expedition to go back upriver with Forest Hancock and Joseph Dixon. Forest and Dixon faded into history. As Colter came back down river he ran into a fellow Lewis and Clark's member John Potts in 1809. As they went back upriver, they are met by a party of Blackfeet who killed Potts and chopped him into pieces. Then allow Colter to run for his life. It took weeks for him to travel some 200 miles. Ended by Blackfoot hostility

Second Wave 1820-1840

River

Mountain Men

Rendezvous

John Jacob Astor

Kit Carson

Jedediah Smith – killed by Comanche's in 1831

Jim Beckwourth – mulatto

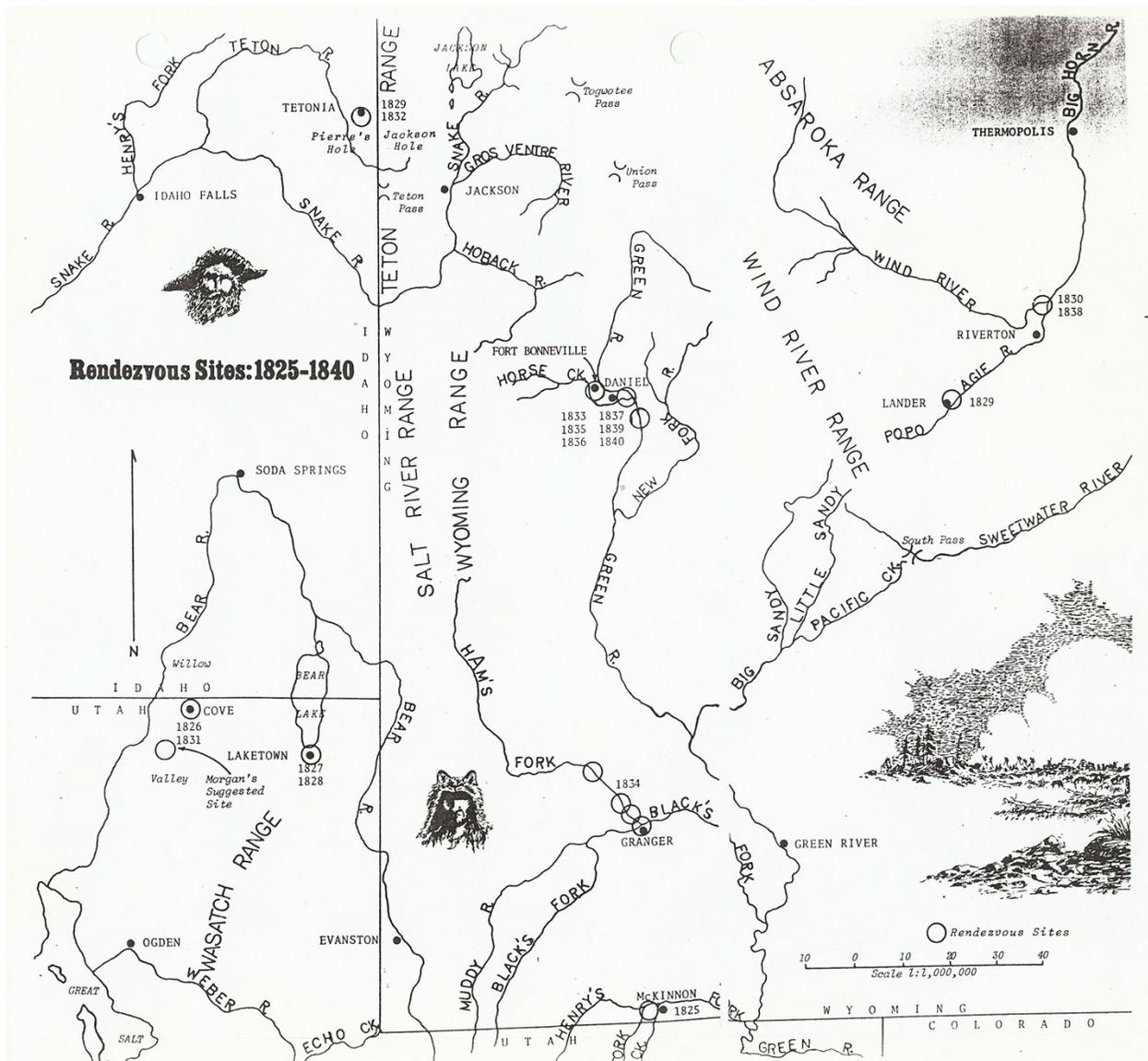
John Charles Fremont

Hugo Glass was mauled by a Grizzly bear and was left to die with John S. Fitzgerald and a young man called Bridges who were to bury Glass when he died. A war party came by and the two men took Hugo's weapon and pack and left him to die. Glass did not die and fixed his wounds and broken bones. Then walked back to civilization to find the two men. Hugo forgave Bridges because of his age. Fitzgerald had joined the Army when Hugo founded him. He told Fitzgerald not to leave the Army or he would die. The Officer made Fitzgerald return Hugo's rifle.

The same year that Hugo was mauled by a Grizzly Bear Jedediah Smith was mauled by a Grizzly. Smith head was in the Bears mouth and an ear was off. When it was over Jedediah went to the bear reached in its mouth and retrieved the ear and sewed it back on his head. Pictures of Jedediah have his hair covering that ear.

Rendezvous were gatherings of Native Americans, Mountain Men and Traders up from Saint Lewis with trade goods and distilled spirits. Few mountain men became rich. Those that did became traders.

Smallpox hit the Blackfoot nation and their power in the area began to decline. At one meeting a group of Blackfeet were chased off by the Mountain Men and other tribes who hated the Blackfeet. On return a Blackfoot woman was discovered with her child and the Natives jump off their horses and chopped her and the child to death. The Mountain men were shocked and asked why the natives said she was Blackfoot.



Mountain Men maps of the trails west and made friendly relationships

Mountain men at the Rendezvous paid high prices for liquor and other entertainments. Most left camp poor.

Bever Pelts lost in the hat industry to the silk hats.