

### **On what part of the Oregon-California Trail were emigrants most at risk from Indians?**

Of the emigrants who were killed by Indians, about 90% were killed west of South Pass, mostly along the Snake and Humboldt Rivers or on the Applegate Trail to the southern end of the Willamette Valley.

[John Unruh, Jr. *The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-60*, p. 185.]

### **Were any white wagon train emigrants ever massacred by Indians?**

"... John Unruh identifies only four pre-Civil War trail massacres which have sufficient historical documentation to substantiate them as being clearly attributable to Indians. These were the Bloody Point massacre of 1852 at Tule Lake, California; the Ward Party massacre near Fort Boise on the Snake River in 1854; the Holloway Party massacre on the Humboldt River in 1857; and the Otter-Van Orman Party massacre near Salmon Falls on the Snake River in 1860."

[Thomas H. Hunt, "Anatomy of a Massacre: Bloody Point, 1852" *Overland Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 3/1989.]

### **How many emigrants were killed by Indians and vice versa?**

For the time period 1840-1860, very tentative figures, which are probably low, indicate that 362 emigrants were killed by Indians and 426 Indians were killed by emigrants.

[John Unruh, Jr. *The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-60*, p. 185. See Unruh's footnote # 52 on page 457 for a description of the qualifying factors which entered into his calculation.]

### **Many emigrant diaries note the sighting of buffalo. Does anyone know just how many bison actually did exist before whites penetrated the American west?**

Not exactly! You have your choice of estimates. Francis Haines says there were about 40 million head occupying almost half of the North American Continent. Charles M. Robinson indicates that some estimates run as high as sixty million and E. Adamson Hoebel and Ernest Wallace report estimates of at least 100 million.

[Francis Haines, *The Buffalo: The Story of American Bison and Their Hunters from Prehistoric Times to the Present*, p. 3] [Charles M. Robinson III, *The Buffalo Hunters*, p. xiii] [Ernest Wallace and E. Adamson Hoebel, *The Comanches: Lords of the South Plains*, p. 55.]