



## EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

# William Henry Jackson

### Biography

- Born 1843, Keeseville, New York
- Died 1942, New York, New York
- Married: Mary "Mollie" Greer; Emilie Painter
- Photographer, artist, mapmaker, author

### Achievements

- Civil War veteran
- Photographer in U.S. Geological Survey teams led by Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, 1870s
- Official photographer, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893
- Official photographer, World's Transportation Commission, 1894-1896
- Detroit Publishing Company, 1897-1924
- Research Secretary, Oregon Trail Memorial Association, 1929-1942

The prolific artwork and photography of William Henry Jackson captured the imagination of a nation, helping bring to life in picture and paint landmarks of the American West.

Jackson grew up in Troy, New York, and Rutland, Vermont, and joined the 12th Vermont Infantry during the Civil War, drawing sketches of camp life.

In 1866 he joined a wagon train headed to Salt Lake City, working as a bullwhacker. Returning to Omaha, Nebraska, he became a photographer of Indians in the area, and was commissioned by the Union Pacific to record scenery along railroad routes. Between 1870 and 1878, he participated in the Hayden survey, exploring throughout the West and capturing some of the first images of Yellowstone and the Rockies, including Old Faithful and the Grand Tetons.

He wrote two autobiographies, *The Pioneer Photographer* (1929) and *Time Exposure* (1940). In 1929 he became the Research Secretary of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association (OTMA). He created paintings and trail maps for OTMA and participated in the association's dedications of trail monuments. OTMA's successor, the American Pioneer Trails Association, donated funds to the National Park Service to create the William Henry Jackson Wing at Scotts Bluff National Monument, the largest single collection of his paintings. Jackson is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.