

“POOR LITTLE TRUNK, I AM SORRY TO LEAVE THEE...”

By NARCISSA
WHITMAN

From a letter to her sister
Harriet
August, 1836

Friday eve. - Dear
Harriet, the little trunk
you gave me has come
with me so far, and now I
must leave it here alone.
Poor little trunk, I am
sorry to leave thee; thou
must abide here alone,
and no more by thy
presence remind me of
my dear Harriet. Twenty

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miles below the falls on Snake River this shall be thy place of rest. Farewell, little trunk, I thank thee for thy faithful services, and that I have been cheered by thy presence so long. Thus we scatter as we go along. The hills are so steep and rocky that husband thought it best to lighten the wagon as much as possible and take nothing but the wheels, leaving the box with my trunk. I regret leaving anything that came from home, especially that trunk, but it is best. It would have been better for me not to have attempted to bring any baggage whatever, only what was necessary to use on the way. It costs so much labor, besides the expense of animals. If I were to make the journey again I would make quite different preparations. To pack and unpack so many times, and cross so many streams where the packs frequently get wet, requires no small amount of labor, besides the injury of the articles. Our books, what few we have, have been wet several times. In going from Elmira to Williamsport this trunk fell into the creek and wet all my books, and Richard's, too, several times. The sleigh box came off and all of us came near a wetting likewise. The custom of the country is to possess nothing, and then you will lose nothing while traveling. Farewell for the present.

Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and Henry and Eliza Spaulding were missionaries sent to convert the Cavuse Indians. In the process. they would pioneer the route soon to be known as the Oregon Trail.