

TRIBAL HISTORIES OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

DAVID G. LEWIS

Hook

From oral history to written word, learn about the history of Oregon through the stories of the Indigenous peoples of the Willamette Valley.

Description

The Willamette Valley is rich with history—its riverbanks, forests, and mountains home to the tribes of Kalapuya, Chinook, Molalla, and more for thousands of years. This history has been largely unrecorded, incomplete, poorly researched, or partially told. In these stories, enriched by photographs and maps, Oregon Indigenous historian David G. Lewis combines years of researching historical documents and collecting oral stories, highlighting Native perspectives about the history of the Willamette Valley as they experienced it.

The timeline spans the first years of contact between settlers and tribes, the takeover of tribal lands and creation of reservations by the US Federal Government, and the assimilation efforts of boarding schools. Lewis shows the resiliency of Native peoples in the face of colonization.

Undoing the erasure of these stories reveals the fuller picture of the colonization and changes experienced by the Native peoples of the Willamette Valley absent from other contemporary histories of Oregon.

Author Bio

David G. Lewis, PhD and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, is a recognized researcher, scholar, writer, and assistant professor of anthropology and Indigenous studies at Oregon State University. His publications include "Willamette Valley Treaties," "A History of Native Peoples of the Eugene, Cascades & Coast Region," and others. For more than twenty years, Lewis has been passionate about studying the original histories of the people of Oregon and California and has an extensive record of collaborative projects with regional scholars, tribes, local governments, and communities. Lewis's research specializes in the history of Kalapuyans and other Western Oregon tribes, which he explores through journal essays and on his blog The Quartux Journal. He currently resides in Chemeketa, now Salem, Oregon, with his wife, Donna, and two sons, Saghaley and Inatyé.



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BISAC Categories/Codes:

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HIS036110 HISTORY /
United States / State & Local /
Pacific Northwest (OR, WA)

SOC021000 SOCIAL
SCIENCE / Ethnic Studies /
American / Native American
Studies

HIS052000 HISTORY /
Historical Geography

HIS049000 HISTORY / Essays

Marketing and Publicity Highlights:

- ◊ Author interviews and book discussions with radio outlets and podcasts such as OPB, Portland Radio Project, *Native Opinion*, *Unrooted* (The Indigenous Foundation's podcast), *Let's Talk Native*, and NPR's *Throughline*.
- ◊ Partnerships with local Indigenous groups including the Native American Student & Community Center at PSU, OSU's programs, and Native American Youth & Family Center.
- ◊ Blurb from relevant authors and scholars writing about the histories and experiences of Indigenous peoples in the US.
- ◊ Reviews and inclusion in book lists from national and regional outlets for Native American Heritage Month (November 2023, which is the month the book is released).
- ◊ Author appearances at Oregon State University, Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center, Oregon Historical Society, and Five Oaks Museum.

Key Selling Points:

- ◊ **Author's expertise in anthropology and ethnography.** David G. Lewis has taught in Oregon State University's School of Language, Culture, and Society for the last decade. In addition to being a member, he worked for eight years for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde where his roles included Tribal Historian/Cultural Archives and Exhibits Manager and Cultural Resources Department Manager. Readers will come to rely on his expertise for their own research and development.
- ◊ **A decade of extensive research.** This book is the compilation of a decade of work by the author analyzing historical documents and compiling community knowledge and oral stories. Readers will gain access to a wealth of insight about Oregon's history, some of which has never been compiled together before.
- ◊ **Focus on Native perspectives.** This book highlights voices traditionally excluded from the discussion of Oregon's history. Readers interested in more fully understanding the history of Oregon will appreciate hearing from these voices.
- ◊ **Author's personal Native perspective.** The academic and historical content is balanced with the author's own experiences. David G. Lewis is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. He is a descendant of the Santiam, Chinook, Molalla, and Takelma peoples of Western Oregon. This book is an #ownvoices title.
- ◊ **Accompanying teacher's guide supports anti-bias instructional planning.** Educators will have access to the teacher's guide with lessons, activities, and discussions designed to complement the social justice learning outcomes set by national standards.
- ◊ **Supports local authors.** The literary community who prioritize supporting PNW writers will appreciate that this book is written by a local author regarding regional Native stories.
- ◊ **Engage readers with visual elements.** The included visual elements such as maps, copies of primary documents, and historical photos will help the reader deeply and thoughtfully engage with the book.

Audience

- ◊ The primary audience consists of people of Indigenous descent, particularly from the Pacific Northwest, who are interested in learning more specifics about the history of the removal of Native Americans from their lands in the American West. The secondary audience consists of adult readers of nonfiction and history who are in education or generally interested in learning about the decolonization of American history. This book talks about a part of history that is often ignored in education, and it will be an important source for anyone who wants to learn this information on their own and those that want to use this book as a knowledgeable source to teach from.

Comparative Titles

- ◊ *We Are The Land: A History of Native California*, Damon B. Akins & William J. Bauer Jr., 2022, University of California Press, 9780520280502, \$24.95, 1432 RTD
- ◊ *Unsettled Ground: The Whitman Massacre and Its Shifting Legacy In the American West*, Cassandra Tate, 2020, Sasquatch Books, 9781632172501, \$24.95, 2714 RTD
- ◊ *Murder at the Mission: A Frontier Killing, Its Legacy of Lies, and the Taking of the American West*, Blaine Harden, 2021, Penguin Group USA (Viking), 9780525561668, \$30.00, 2836 RTD
- ◊ *At the Hearth of the Crossed Races: A French-Indian Community In the Nineteenth-Century Oregon, 1812-1859*, Melinda Marie Jette, 2015, Oregon State University Press, 9780870715976, \$22.95, 283 RTD

About Ooligan Press

Ooligan Press is an award-winning not-for-profit general trade press with national distribution. Founded in 2001, Ooligan Press is affiliated with Portland State University and staffed by students pursuing master's degrees in an apprenticeship program under the guidance of publishing professionals. Graduate students gain unique hands-on experience as they lead the publishing process, from acquiring manuscripts and designing covers to marketing and selling books. Located in the Pacific Northwest—a region recognized for its unique and innovative sensibilities—Ooligan Press aspires to publish works that reflect the diverse stories and experiences of everyone who calls this corner of America their home.

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