Each year the Northwest and Whitman College Archives has been blessed with gifts from a wide variety of contributors. Each contribution, however large or small, has added strength to our ongoing collection.

Financial aid, manuscripts, rare books, periodicals, and photographs are examples of the support we receive. As our facilities and research capabilities of the collection grow stronger, this common interest joins us in building a valuable archival collection, and our efforts are establishing a research facility of quality and importance.

The archives program is divided into two areas:

First is the Whitman College Archives.

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American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (Northwest & Hawaii materials);
Archival support; Books & Pamphlets; Business Ledgers; Dogwood Press materials (Frank McCaffrey); Equipment (barrowed for special projects); Family Bibles; Financial support; Fort Walla Walla Walla materials; Genealogical materials; Letters (Family & Business);
McFeely materials; Manuscripts; Maps; Microfiche Indexes; Newspapers (Walla Walla City & County); Scrapbooks (Whitman College, Walla Walla City & County); Y.M.C.A. materials (1906 time capsule contents).
Pacific Northwest; Postcards; Prescott High School Missions; Publications (Walla Walla City & County, Regional, Northwest); Purity Market Materials; Railroad materials; Rajneeshpuram (Antelope, Ore.) materials; Sager material; Scrapbooks (Whitman College, Walla Walla City & County, Regional); Bidens; Walla Walla High School materials; Whitman College materials (scrapbooks, photograph albums, publications);
World War II materials; Yearbooks (Whitman College).

1986 Activities
During 1986 I presented 12 talks, reaching some 530 people. Most of the presentations were an expanded version of my Narcissa Whitman presentation, which was given August 15, 1985 near Scotts Bluff, Nebraska (dedication of a highway marker honoring Narcissa Prentiss Whitman). July 25-26 Professor Tom Edwards, Marilyn Sparks,

In November the White Temple Baptist Church (corner of Boyer and Park) was removed. On July 16th, before the interior was disturbed, Terri White (then acting director of Sheehan Gallery) and I photo-documented the church interior. With the exception of the stained-glass windows, the project was done in black and white.

June 1st, in company with National Park Service personnel, local history buffs, and escorted by a Forest Service employee, a vehicle tour of the proposed Whitman trail (1836) over the Blue Mountains was taken. We spent the day taking photographs and discussing the route. This tour was in preparation for a horseback ride over the route (I decided against doing the latter).

Lawrence L. Dodd
Curator/Archivist
Northwest & Whitman College Archives

Penrose Memorial Library, Whitman College

1986 Newsletter
Over the years I have been fortunate in having volunteers who do short term assignments. This assistance is very beneficial to the archival program, and I plan to continue the use of temporary help.

A more formal program was established this year (1986). Nancy Pryor, retired director of the Washington Room, Washington State Library, Olympia, began volunteering two days a week. Her first day was January 28th, and since that time she has been a very faithful volunteer. Nancy has been working with the Dorsley Syng Bakes, papers, from developing a typescript of an 1870's letter press book, to transcribing diaries. Her keen knowledge of local and regional history has been of great help in working with the Baker papers. She also has been of great assistance in helping patrons use the collections.

Our second volunteer is Vance Orchard, retired Walla Walla Union-Bulletin reporter. Over the years Vance has made good use of the archives. Since coming to Walla Walla he has made a very fruitful life of writing, research, and volunteer work for various organizations in Walla Walla. On November 12th Vance began volunteering one day a week at the archives. His skills in compiling a list of all the Senior Citizen articles he has written for the Union-Bulletin since he came to Walla Walla and the knowledge of walla Walla regional history is of great benefit to the archives program and its patrons.

We look forward to a long and productive relationship with our volunteers.

The volunteer program does not replace the student assistants, but it is continuing to assist students to accomplish a number of tasks that are necessary to the archives program. The work with archival collections helps maintain clipping files, assist patrons, and accomplish a number of jobs that confront the archives staff. During 1986 Connie Potyego, Matt Hiefield, Deborah Kafoury, Teresa Carvey, and Vance have been archivally assist the volunteers.

In July of 1985 the archives received sufficient funds to make materials accessible. Reynolds Archives Endowment. The initial gift of $2,000 has increased to $13,700, through the financial support of 42 individuals and two companies. I am very pleased that this first archives endowment honors Ruth S. Reynolds (1902-1985), whose dedication to the collection and preservation of Whitman College, Walla Walla, and Northwest regional history has been of great help in our work. We continue to receive McCaffrey/Dogwood Press materials. Before Mr. McCaffrey passed away we had discussed with him the possibility of designing a bookplate for the Dogwood Press items. We agreed upon the design, and Frank planned to have it printed. Before he could get the project started he died. This year we followed through, and using the on campus printing service, had our design printed.

Over the past several years individuals and foundations have financially supported various aspects of the archives program. The progress we have made in several areas is directly related to this support. Collecting is only part of the task; preservation, adequate housing, and making materials accessible also require financial aid. With this continued support and the increasing growth of the archives program and its patrons.

In July we had the honor of assisting eight Japanese scholars (two teams of four each) who had been awarded a research grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education, to conduct "A Comprehensive Research on Japanese Education Documents under the Occupation of the Allied Powers in the United States". Their purpose for visiting the Northwest and Whitman College Archives was to research the files of Dr. Walter Crosby Bells (a grandson of Cushing Bells), initially only one team was to visit us, but when both teams met in Pullman the scholars that had visited Whitman informed the second team that they had to see the Bells material, and the second team made a special trip to Walla Walla just for this purpose.

The importance of this collection is that from 1942-1945 Whitman College President Joel E. Ferris worked for the Japanese government as advisor on higher education for the Japanese Ministry of Education. As a result of his experiences in the Far East and elsewhere, Dr. Ferris was extremely interested in regional history. He wrote a number of articles on various subjects, and his work appeared in popular and scholarly journals, and in newspapers.

Matt and Deborah have continued on and are presently engaged in several projects.
The Rev. Samuel Parker (1779-1855)

(Author of JOURNAL OF AN EXPLORING TOUR BEYOND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. 1838)

1836 was the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman in the Walla Walla Valley. In recognition of this historical event I have chosen the following:

A letter written (Sept. 18, 1883) to the Rev. Myron Eells from Samuel J. Parker, son of the Rev. Samuel Parker.

In 1835 Dr. Marcus Whitman and Rev. Samuel Parker traveled from the east coast to the Fur Traders' Rendezvous, west of the Continental Divide. Here the two men decided Parker would continue west and explore for sites where the Divide. Here the two men decided Parker would return east for reinforcements.

In 1883 the Rev. Myron Eells published a story about the Rev. Samuel Parker in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. After reading his article, Samuel J. Parker wrote to Eells relating his impression of the article written about his father. First you will read the letter Parker wrote (original in the Northwest archives), and then the newspaper article Eells wrote (from the Seattle scrapbook collection in the archives).

Ithaca Tompkins Co. N.Y.
Sept 18th 1883

Rev Mr. Bells, Dear Sir: Your article in the Seattle Weekly Post Intelligencer on Rev Samuel Parker — my father — is an excellent one. But few sentences are such as I would not use. It is the most unexceptionable - an article I have read on the subject of him that I have ever seen; and does much credit for fairness, truth and dignified defence, and statement of one to which Oregon owes so much. It is a pity that he could not have lived to see the wonderful "Oregon," he saw so miserably destitute, when he saw it.

A few typographical errors need correction as not Miss Sears but H. Sears is sometimes written. Apulia is not in New Jersey but is in Onondaga Co New York, and a few others. But for these you are not responsible.

I suggest that you give in another article the facts and proof of who were sent by the Nez Perces to St Louis in 1831 with Meriwether Lewis, and the results of that mission, and missionaries, as that has been disputed.

Sometime ago I received a line suggesting that Intelligencer on Rev Samuel Parker — my father — is an excellent one. But few sentences are such as I would not use. It is the most unexceptionable - an article I have read on the subject of him that I have ever seen; and does much credit for fairness, truth and dignified defence, and statement of one to which Oregon owes so much. It is a pity that he could not have lived to see the wonderful "Oregon," he saw so miserably destitute, when he saw it.

By the way does our mutual friend of Tacoma drink, be is so sinful now, and uncertain that I fear he has that habit. Certainly he has not a Christian experience or hope.

I am as I said, dissatisfied with William H. Gray. His book lies on my table now. His first chapter to page 96 has but few indiscretions but the rest of it is without judgment, and false often of the missionaries. I would like to know the real history of the man; as a missionary, as a man since. He in no place in his book speaks as a Christian man, evenly implication. So I conclude he must have abandoned all religion, and be a more money maker, and a man who spites all the missionaries as he has my father.

I send a fuller copy of my "Oregon" manuscript to Bancroft of San Francisco, Fuller, and with some corrections. Mainly the ones you obtained at Tacoma. I will try and keep you informed of anything of interest.

I may find in the letters of next winter.

The history, beginning with my father, and thence through Dr Whitman, his father and others, many events that are of direct use, and has taken such shape, that none one can change it. It is a marvelous "Oregon," he saw so miserably destitute, when he saw it.

Yours etc.

S. J. Parker

REV. SAMUEL PARKER.

[By Rev. M. Eells.]

There were pioneers to this coast, and there were pioneers; these homeowners first, by wagon, on horseback, and there were pioneers of pioneers. Among these latter was the subject of this sketch, who explored the way for the heroes and heroines of 1836 and 1838.

Dr. Marcus Whitman did a great work for this coast; so great that it has been thought proper to give him a county and a college in our Territory, and erect a monument of stone at his home at Yarmouth, on Cape Cod, where the old family homestead still stands on the river. The subject of this sketch began his career in 1810 when he was a fresh young missionary, and as far as where Buffalo now stands, and preaching to little clusters of people, in log and other cabins, through the winter and spring. Returning to his native State he went to Andover Theological Seminary, and graduated with the first class from that institution, in 1815. After teaching a year in Brattleboro, Vermont, he began the study of theology with Rev. Theophilus Packard, of Groton, New York, and at the end of a year was licensed to preach, partly because of his pecuniary straits, for his parents were not rich.

After this he immediately went west on a home missionary tour to Steuben county, New York, and New Jersey, where he saw very little of missions, preaching almost daily at the calling of tin horns or hallooing calls to little clusters of people, in log and other cabins, through the winter and spring. Returning to his native State he went to Andover Theological Seminary, and graduated with the first class from that college in 1820, immediately after that he was commissioned by the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society and again went West, traveling as far as where Buffalo now stands, and preaching in dozens of places, really preparing himself for his work, to Oregon. In 1821 he received a call to Danby, N.Y., where November 12th, he was installed, and installed again soon after he went to Ashfield, where he was married to Miss N. Sears, to whom he was engaged, though she was diabetic. As an exception to his health, she was unable to return with him that winter he left her, and in the spring attempted to go with him, but died on the way at Richfield Springs. On December 11, 1815, he was again married to Miss Jerusha Lord, of Groton, New York, who was the mother of his three children—Mrs. Jerusha VanKirk and Dr. S. J. Parker, both now of Ithaca, N.Y., and Rev. H. W. Parker, Professor in the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and now Professor of Natural Sciences in Grinnell College, Iowa.

Rev. Samuel Parker remained at Danby about fifteen years, after which for a time he became the financial agent of Auburn Theological Seminary, New York. The money he collected was very essential to the existence of that institution, and he was thought to have been successful in its collection. About 1830 he removed from the home he had built at Ithaca [sic] and became pastor at Apulia, New Jersey, where he remained two and a half years, where he had moved to Yarmouth, on Cape Cod, where the old family homestead still stands on the river.

favorable influence of the climate on the health of his wife.

About the time he was at Middlefield the five Nez Perce and other Indians who went to St. Louis in search of the white man's God and bible reached the ranch, part of the way to the public in the early part of 1833. Mr. Parker saw that these matters were more important than other things and eventually led him to offer himself to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to go to Oregon, and undertake the work. It became a personal matter to him, more so than other missions, and offer of the kind ever made. It is true that the Methodist Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions has since invested in the same object, and sent out Rev. Jason Lee and others, who started a short time before Mr. Parker, and the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, one year before he did, but Mr. Lee did not offer himself first to the board; the board called him. On the other hand Mr. Parker, before he undertook the work, and made the following offer, which was accepted as probably the first one made for this coast:

MIDDLEFIELD, MASS., April 10, 1833.

Respectfully regarding and Dear Brethren--The whole world evidently presents a field white for the harvest, and the heathen themselves are crying Christians for their negligence in obeying the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." From my first entering the ministry I have had, I think, some of the missionary-minded to take hold of me, as the new settlements of the West. Since I saw the communication concerning what was stated under the head of 'Missionary Literature from the West' and addressed myself, "Am I doing my duty with reference to those who are perishing without the Gospel?" And I have taken the same matter under prayerful consideration, and have come to the conclusion to offer myself to go into the Rocky Mountain region and preach the Gospel among the Flathead Indians or some other tribe. My views are to take one or two others with me, or go alone if best, and open the way. I can do this in the field; if any go with me, to establish them where, in Divine Providence, it may appear there is the greatest promise of doing good; to take the traders' route across the Rocky Mountains, and after a few years to go beyond the Rocky Mountains and explore the route across the Rocky Mountains, and after a few years to go beyond the Rocky Mountains and explore the route across the Rocky Mountains.

In the meantime he left Middlefield and returned to Ithaca, where I have a house. As to funds, I think many of my friends would make special efforts to contribute towards this mission, and furnish the men and the means, under the direction of the work. But so much time had been occupied in making preparations for their journey. While there, the board of directors of the New York Mission took upon itself the responsibility of the Oregon mission. Mr. Parker accompanied her husband across the lake.

The missionaries however arrived at St. Louis too late for the caravan of the American Fur Company, which in that year it was unsafe to proceed, or Mr. Parker would have been among the party. Stages drove into the park in front, a company of some forty got in and were driven about two miles. The women and children got out and [sic] was said, and the Cayuga lake steamer Tellico was running as fast as possible. This was the Oregon mission, Mrs. Parker accompanying her husband across the lake.

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It is impossible to say now whether Dr. Whitman and Miss Prentiss, who afterwards became his wife, offered themselves for this mission, were in the impression of Dr. S.J. Parker, son of Rev. S. Parker, from whom most of the foregoing information has been derived, that Mr. Clark, Mr. Prentiss, of Amity, Alleghany County; the other a Miss McCoy, of Cuba, offers herself. Also one Miss Ruff has been mentioned, also a Mr. Clark and Rev. Samuel May, brother to Mrs. Powell. Ever affectionately,

SAMUEL PARKER

The fall and winter being spent in this manner, the 4th of March, 1835, he again started, but with no public demonstrations from the church at Ithaca. This seemed to indicate that the mission was under their care. At St. Louis he met Dr. Whitman, of Wheeler, Stenben County, New York, and a Miss C. Smith, and Mr. Prentiss, of Amity, Alleghany County; the other a Miss McCoy, of Cuba, offers herself. Also one Miss Ruff has been mentioned, also a Mr. Clark and Rev. Samuel May, brother to Mrs. Powell. Ever affectionately,

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SAMUEL PARKER
The warm weather, intemperate habits of the men and their manner of living, evidently aggravated the cold, and three men, and perhaps as many others rarely recovered. Dr. Whitman's medical skill was now precisely what was needed, and with Mr. McLaughlin to help him, he was able to save them, and he was largely successful. It was plainly acknowledged and frankly acknowledged that, but for his practice, the men would have dispersed, and the caravan would have failed of going to its destination. This assistance, however, did not turn enemies into friends--enemies, who were so full of hatred because of this Sabbath example that, their manner of living, evidently aggravated the disease so that three men died and several were otherwise injured. The warm weather, intemperate habits of the men and their manner of living, evidently aggravated the cold, and three men, and perhaps as many others rarely recovered. Dr. Whitman's medical skill was now precisely what was needed, and with Mr. McLaughlin to help him, he was able to save them, and he was largely successful. It was plainly acknowledged and frankly acknowledged that, but for his practice, the men would have dispersed, and the caravan would have failed of going to its destination. This assistance, however, did not turn enemies into friends--enemies, who were so full of hatred because of this Sabbath example that,

Mr. Parker accepted Dr. McLaughlin's invitation and embarked on the Nez Perce. He was exceedingly careful in his preparation, and having no Christian friend near, no pillow but his portmanteau, and not much opportunity to stop and sleep, he remained at this place but two days, and then left for Fort Walla Walla, where Mr. Pambrun, then in charge, gave him a cordial welcome. He had great joy on entering the habitation of civilized man. It was truly pleasant again to sit at a table with people. He wrote to Dr. John McLaughlin received him with kindness, and invited him to remain during the winter. Five years later, Dr. Whitman returned, over the battle-grounds of Indians, and also after the Nez Perces had cut off eight months without bread and scarcely any vegetables, to an old man, fifty-six years of age, brought up to them by the Lord be done. After a time, however, he returned enemies into friends--enemies, who were so full of hatred because of this Sabbath example that,

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both in its geographical and geological information; first discovered coal in the Black Hills, and the observations on these points, says the New Yorker of 1838, are richly worth twice the cost of the volume. He described the fur companies, collected short vocabularies of the Nez Perces [sic], Klickitat, Calapooya and Chinook languages, devoted one chapter to meteorology, keeping an account of the thermometer three times a day while at Vancouver, spoke of a Willamette falls canal, of railroads in Oregon, and in his edition of 1838, first publicly announced the practicability of a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He ever kept interested in the country and its political status. In 1839 he addressed Hon. Caleb Cushing, then a representative at Washington, on the subject of Oregon as a Territory of value to the United States, in danger of being lost, and Mr. Cushing requested him to prepare a memorial on the subject, and when Dr. Whitman went East in 1842-3 to warn our Government of British designs, he counselled with his aged fellow missionary on the subject.

After his return he visited New England, the Middle States and Canada, lecturing on Oregon and supplying various pulpits until December, 1849, when he was stricken with paralysis while temporarily supplying the pulpit at Volney, N.Y. This rendered his left side nearly useless. He managed by driving with one hand, to reach the home of his son-in-law, sixteen miles distant, where he lay, unable to swallow, fed by a tube for nearly three months, when he was taken home in a sleigh, on a feather bed. In the course of two years he recovered as far as such paralysis is ever recovered from, and had fair health until his death, of congestive inflammation of the lungs, March 21st, 1866, at the age of nearly eighty-seven years.

--Seattle Post-Intelligencer
August 23, 1883