



## Reference Series #1146

### Milton Sublette's Expedition To Payette Lake In September-October 1832, And Joseph Lafayette Meek's Exploration North From There To Salmon River During That Trip

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**B**y 1832, most Snake country beaver streams had been depleted as beaver areas by systematic competitive trapping. Milton Sublette, on that account, took a party of mountain men (based from Saint Louis) to a number of places that previously had been identified as largely barren of beaver colonies. His route included a tour from lower Boise and Payette Valley areas along Snake River, where he camped with Nathaniel Wyeth's expedition near later Fort Boise, September 18, 1832, to Long Valley and Payette Lake. While he was stationed there, four of his trappers (including Joe Meek and Antoine Godin) set out northward to investigate Salmon River possibilities. They went to later Burgdorf, French Creek, and Allison Creek, which they ascended to a point not far from Florence. More than four decades later, Joe Meek (who became one of Oregon's most prominent early leaders) still remembered that trip, which he publicized in a biographical volume prepared by Francis Fuller Victor, who soon emerged as a highly competent Pacific Northwest historian.