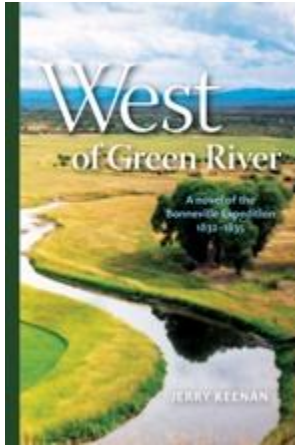


Book Club Discussion Guide

West of Green River: a novel of the Bonneville Expedition 1832-1835 by Jerry Keenan.



Was Benjamin L. E. Bonneville, captain of the U.S. Army, granted a two-year leave to try his hand as a fur trader in the Rocky Mountain West? Or did his superiors have ulterior motives, tasking Bonneville to spy on the British in the Pacific Northwest? The Bonneville expedition began in Missouri and made its way to the Oregon country, territory at the time shared through mutual agreement by the U.S. and Great Britain. Yet the British presence there caused grave concerns about the geographic boundaries of our nation. This fictional account of the Bonneville expedition brings to life the difficult trek facing Bonneville and his men in their encounters with Native Americans and their struggles against the harsh elements on their westward journey to Oregon.

Discussion Questions

On the face of it, Captain Bonneville's orders simply called for him to report on what he observed in the Oregon Country; was there anything more to it than that?

Given that Capt. Bonneville sent a letter to Gen. Macomb through one of his lieutenants, requesting an extension of his leave for legitimate reasons, why was that request not honored? We know for certain that Gen. Macomb did receive the letter and read it.