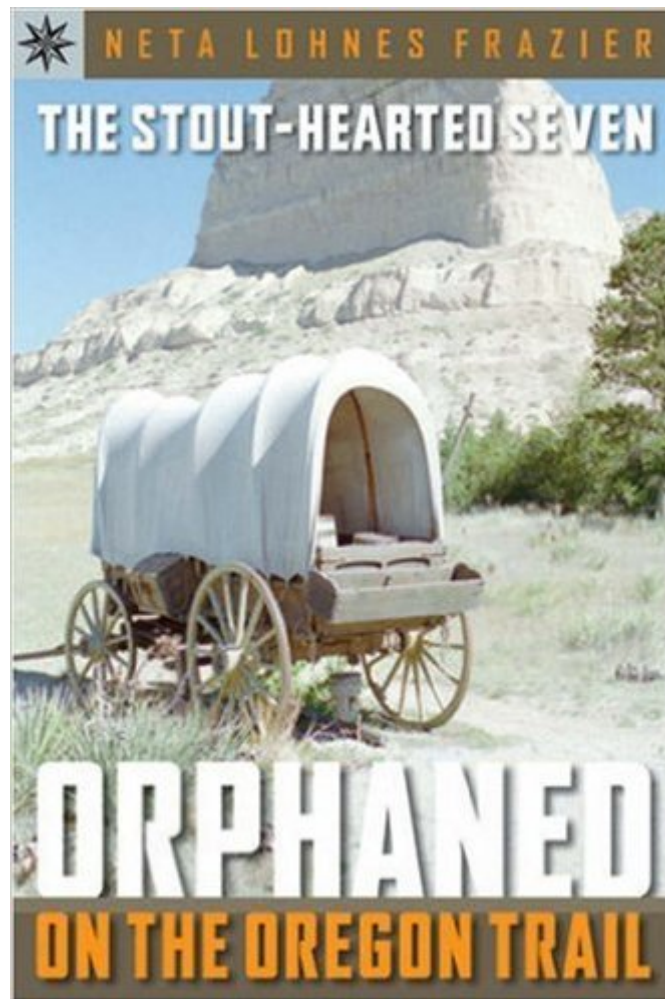


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# Sterling Point Books®: The Stout-Hearted Seven: Orphaned On The Oregon Trail



## Synopsis

Based on a true story originally written by one of the survivors, Neta Lohnes Frazier's account of seven children traveling westward still has the power to astonish. In the 1840s, the Sager family set off on the Oregon Trail, a dangerous and adventure-filled journey. Tragedy struck when both the mother and father succumbed to fever, orphaning the youngsters—one just a newborn. The entire wagon train adopted them, until they arrived at the Whitman Mission in Oregon. There, the Sagers settled into an ordinary life—until the day of an Indian massacre. The bravery of the Stouthearted Seven will amaze today's young readers.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Series: Sterling Point Books®

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Sterling; Updated Ed edition (August 28, 2006)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1402736179

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #118,676 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Teens >

Biographies > Historical #63 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century  
#92 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my 8-year old son and I to read together because we are both interested in the Oregon Trail. The story is all the more interesting and emotional because it's based on the true story of seven kids who lose both parents as they move west as part of a wagon train. The trials and tribulations of the family and their adoptive parents brings history alive in a way children can relate to, albeit with sadness and tragedy involved. Some very emotional children might have a hard time with the deaths and killing in the story, but the characters' ability to survive it is a great lesson in human resiliency and courage. The fates of the children are included at the end of the book, so the

reader's attachment to them is fulfilled by learning of their lives after the story ends.

I grew up playing the original Oregon Trail, and then as an adult acquired Oregon Trail 2 to play. I love the game, and so I am familiar with much of the trail, but this book had new information even for me. This is the true story of the Sager family who set out west in 1844. Both parents died on the trip, leaving their seven children orphaned. The wagon train banded together to get the children to the Whitman Mission where they were adopted by the Whitman family. My knowledge of the Whitman mission was that it was near the end of the trail, out of the way, and you only go there if you have money and are desperate for supplies. And that's accurate, but I learned a lot more as a result of this book, including the eventual end of the mission. This was an enjoyable and informative book for me and my two older children, ages 8 and 6.5. This book contains all the basic information about the Oregon Trail for those who might not be familiar with all the details. The story carried us right along with good characterization and a compelling story. My only peeve is that several times I noticed typos where the wrong word was used like "the" for "then," something spell-check can't take care of. It needed closer editing, but the story was too good for these occasional mistakes to pull the book below 4.5 stars, which I'll round up to 5.

I am typing this for my 9 year old daughter "It was a great book and it made me laugh and cry in different parts. I recommend it to anybody who likes adventure stories and exciting stories about westward expansion."

My maiden name is Sayger and my GGGGGG Uncle is the character in this book who takes his family on the Oregon Trail. I read it to my mother (92) and she loved it. Great story, very moving and for me, a real eye opening experience into the history of my family.

I am a fourth grade teacher in Oregon. We live 35 min away from Walla Walla, WA which is the sight of the original Whitman mission. We take our fourth graders there every year for a field trip after reading the book. This is the closest to the actual story of the books that have been written. The movie Seven Alone is supposedly about the Sagers but varies greatly from the book. The children enjoy the book even though it has sadness and hardship. It gives them a picture of what it was really like for those who came here to Oregon before us.

It has been a while since I have read this book, but I still remember most of it clearly. When I was

eight, (5 years ago), my teacher assigned this book for our class to read. I was a rather emotional child, and have strong memories about how much I disliked the depressing story. For some children, this story of bravery may be both astonishing and interesting. However, I remember feeling disturbed, hopeless and emotional after my teacher would read parts of it to us. My peers and I would discuss our dislike for the book quite often while reading it, and I don't have any memory of anyone in my class enjoying reading it. At that time, it was just another horribly depressing story that I had no interest in. That being said, I'm sure many more mature or older children would like it. Now that I just recently turned 13, I may browse through it again, and this time I'll appreciate this interesting story of bravery. Basically, know your child or the person whom you will be sharing this book with before reading or giving it to them. I, myself, wouldn't read this book to anyone under age 10, but I'm sure it depends on the child. After reading other reviews here, it is clear that there are many younger children who still enjoy it. I think all depends on the child's maturity.

The history of the Oregon Trail is filled with death and destruction and many tales told in the twist of the tongue, some not true at all others brought forth as a fable with little substance of truth. As a historian on Eastern Oregon and Westward Migration much that has been told about the trip and what happened at the Whitman all too often is told in the venue of half truths. This book, "Orphaned on the Oregon Trail" will add to any dedicated reader more of the experience of coming west and of the Whitman Mission and its purpose and insight into those that arrived there almost at the point of starvation, children 2 to 16 years of age, no parents, cared for by the wagon train families headed West. This book is a good read for all ages and I enjoyed it from start to finish and have now passed it on to my grandchildren. The text is shallow in the events of what happened at the Whitman Mission but the intent was to tell the story of the 7 children orphaned on the trail West. To gain a fuller understanding of the Whitman tragedy I suggest reading the five Volume series, "Thunder Over the Ochoco's" and Frontier Genocide of the Native People.

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