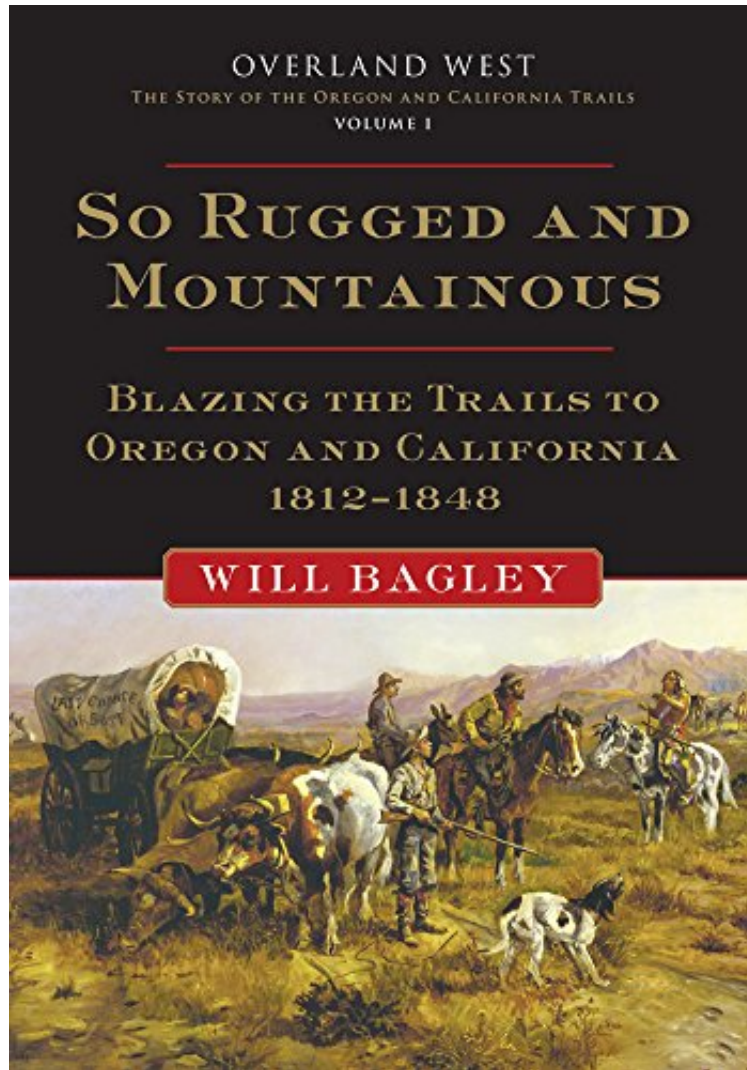


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Will Bagley

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The story of Americas westward migration is a powerful blend of fact and fable. Over the course of three decades, almost a million eager fortune-hunters, pioneers, and visionaries transformed the face of a continent and displaced its previous inhabitants. The people who made the long and perilous journey over the Oregon and California trails drove this swift and astonishing change. In this magisterial volume, Will Bagley tells why and how this massive emigration began. While many previous authors have told parts of this story, Bagley has recast it in its entirety for modern readers. Drawing on research he conducted for the National Park Services Long Distance Trails Office, he has woven a wealth of primary sources—personal letters and journals, government documents, newspaper reports, and folk accounts—into a compelling narrative that reinterprets the first years of overland migration. Illustrated with photographs and historical maps, *So Rugged and Mountainous* is the first of a projected four-volume history, *Overland West: The Story of the Oregon and California Trails*. This sweeping series describes how the Road across the Plains transformed the American West and became an enduring part of its legacy. And by showing that overland emigration would not have been possible without the cooperation of Native peoples and tribes, it places American Indians at the center of trail history, not on its margins.

. . . beautifully written prose . . . blends the latest scholarly interpretations with an endless array of primary sources . . . comprehensive, factually reliable, and supremely analytical. --Michael L. Tate, *Choice Magazine*, December 2010
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About the Author
Will Bagley is an independent historian who has written about overland emigration, frontier violence, railroads, mining, and the Mormons. Bagley has published extensively over the years and is the author and editor of many books, articles, and reviews in professional journals. Bagley is the series editor of Arthur H. Clark Company's documentary history series, *KINGDOM IN THE WEST: The Mormons and the American Frontier*. Bagley has been a Wallace Stegner Centennial Fellow at the University of Utah and the Archibald Hannah, Jr. Fellow in American History at Yale University's Beinecke Library. *Blood of the Prophets: Brigham Young and the Massacre at Mountain Meadows* has won numerous awards including a Spur Award from Western Writers of America, the Bancroft History Prize from the Denver Public Library, Westerners International Best Book, and the Western History Association Caughey Book Prize for the most distinguished book on the history of the American West. *So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812-1848* is the first of four volumes of *Overland West: The Story of the Oregon and California Trails Series*.