



EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Kenneth L. Holmes

Kenneth Holmes was Editor of the widely-acclaimed *Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1890*, an eleven-volume series first published between 1983 and 1993.

Holmes grew up in southern California and received a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Redlands. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees in divinity he became a Baptist minister in Idaho.

His interest in history led him to Oregon where he became a dean at Linfield College and studied for his doctorate in history at the University of Oregon. He later became a Professor of History and department chair. He left in 1967 to join the faculty of Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University) where he taught courses on the Pacific Northwest and European History until his retirement in 1979.

Many of the diaries and letters in the *Covered Wagon Women* series were previously unpublished. Holmes conducted many years of research in archives and private collections to find and compile them for publication.

Holmes was also a biographer of Ewing Young, a fur trapper and trader, originally from Tennessee, who became a prominent early settler in the Willamette Valley. *Ewing Young: Master Trapper* was published in 1967. He also wrote biographies for the *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade* series edited by LeRoy R. Hafen.

He was coauthor of *Historical Atlas of Early Oregon*, editor of *Linfield's Hundred Years*, and wrote "Pages from the Past," a syndicated newspaper column in the Northwest, as well as numerous articles for scholarly publications.

Biography

- Born: 1915, Montreal, Quebec
- Died: 1995, Monmouth, Oregon
- Married Inez Rawlings, 1941

Achievements

- Baptist minister, university professor, historian and author
- Editor of *Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1890, 11 vols*