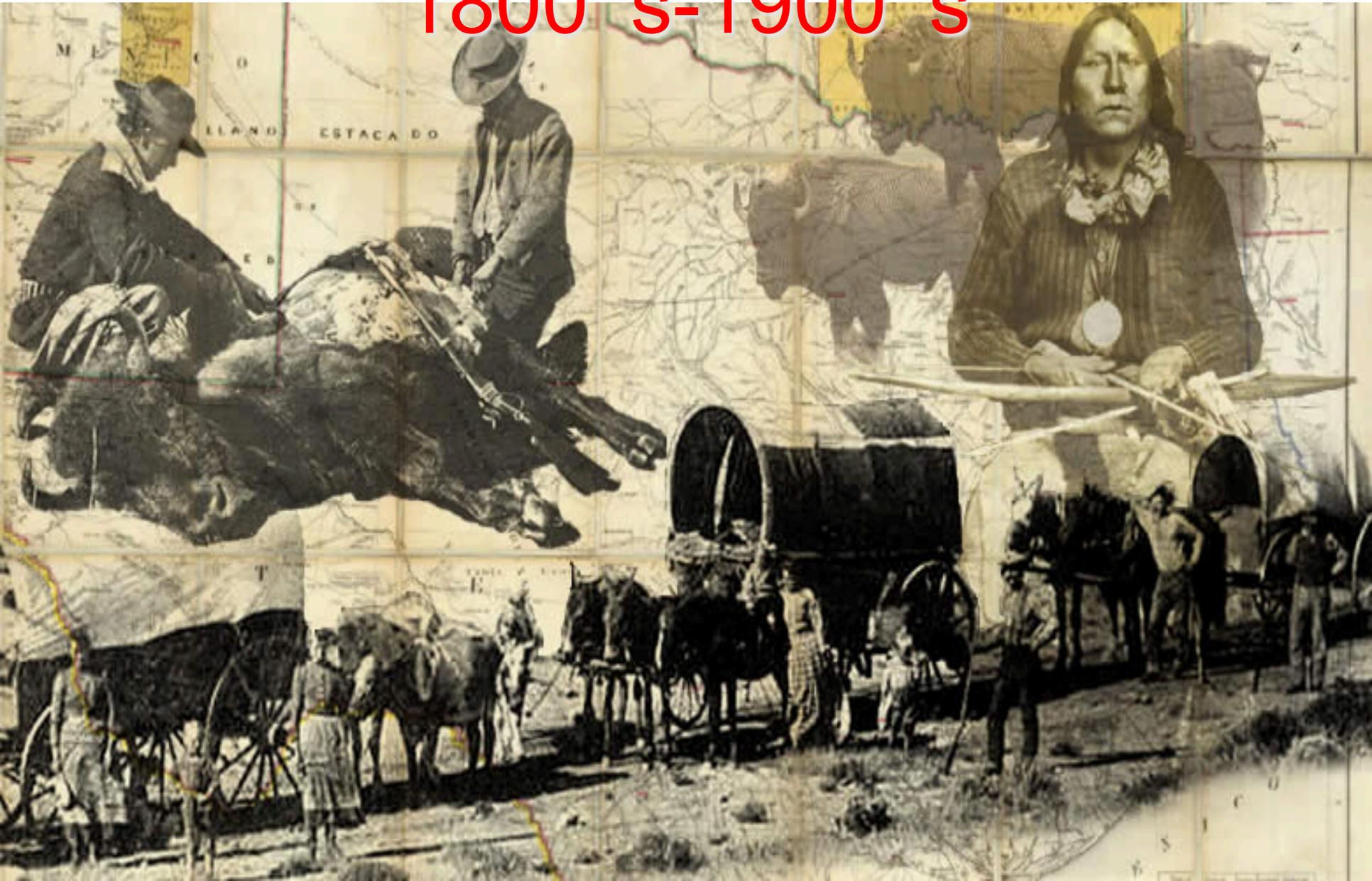


Pioneers Settling the West 1800's-1900's



Settlement of Utah

- After the explorations of the Spanish and the Fur Traders, pioneers from the east headed west
 - **Pioneer**: The first people to enter or settle a region
- The **Bidwell-Bartleson party** was the first pioneer group to pass through Utah on their way to California

Lewis and Clark

- Captains **Meriwether Lewis** and **William Clark** were sent in 1804 by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the possible expansion of the US to the west.
- The **Corps of Discovery** (as the expedition was called) lasted from 1804-1806 and gave the US government a better understanding of the land to the west
- It also promoted commerce or trade in the west which prompted many to decide on moving there

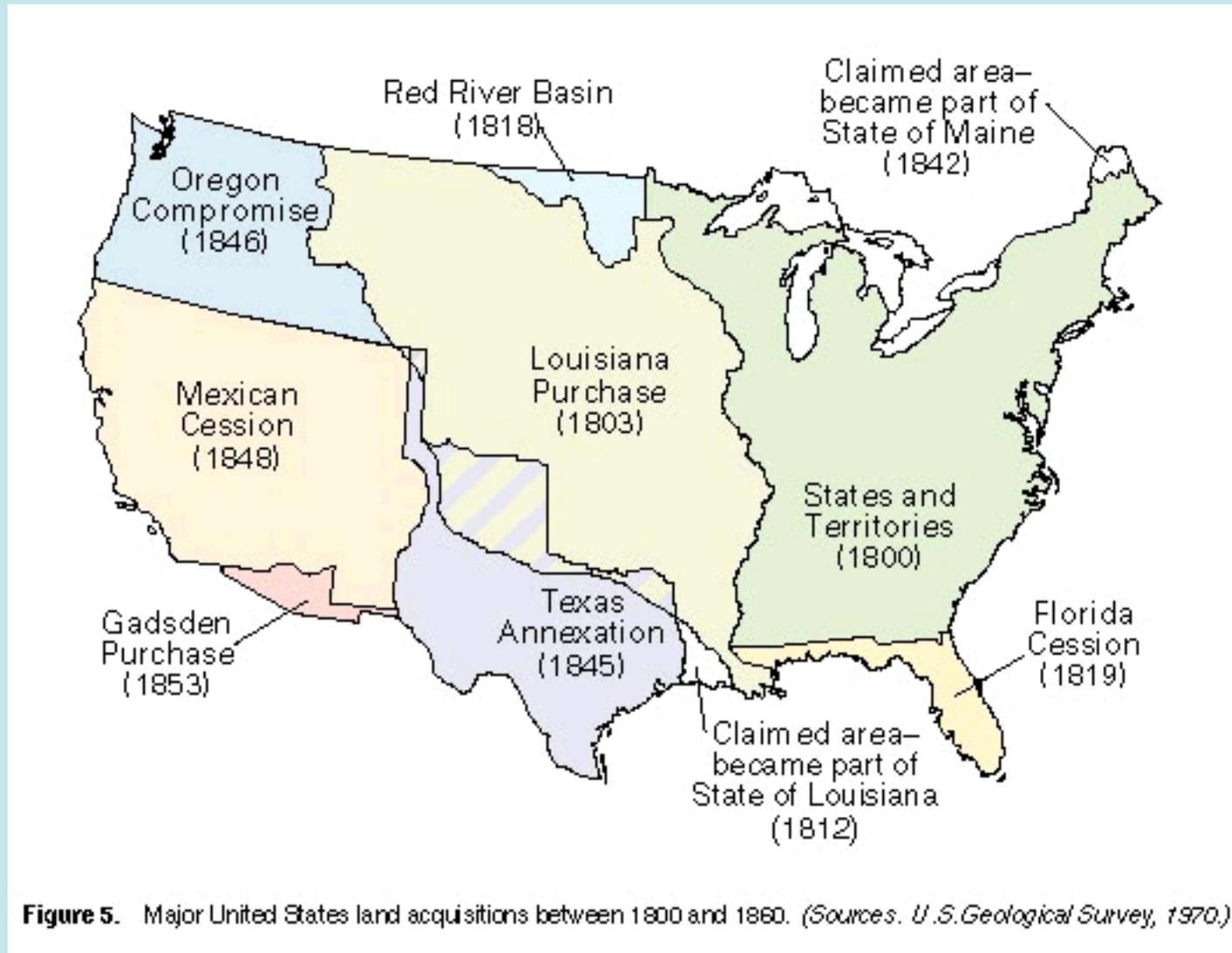
John C. Fremont

- Led several expeditions through Utah
- Mapped much of the area and named “The Great Basin”
- Accurately wrote about Utah’s land, altitude, plant life, Native populations etc.
- His explorations arguably did more to encourage settlement in Utah than any other before him



“Utah is a garden spot, fertile and well watered”

U.S. Land Acquired in the 1800s



The Lure of the West

- *Why did Americans continually move west during the early years of settlement?*
 - **Opportunities for wealth:**
 - Furs = Wealth, Land = Wealth,
 - **Homestead Act:** Offered 160 acres of land in exchange for living on and improving it for 5 years
 - **The Gold Rush!** Gold found at **Sutter's Mill** California in 1848
 - **Independence and Freedom**
 - Mormon Pioneers escaping persecution
 - **Exodusters:** Former African American slaves migrating away from the South
 - Outlaws looking for Refuge

Manifest Destiny

- Americans believed that God gave them the right to move west and control all the land from sea to shining sea.



The Trek West

Pioneers had two options in heading West

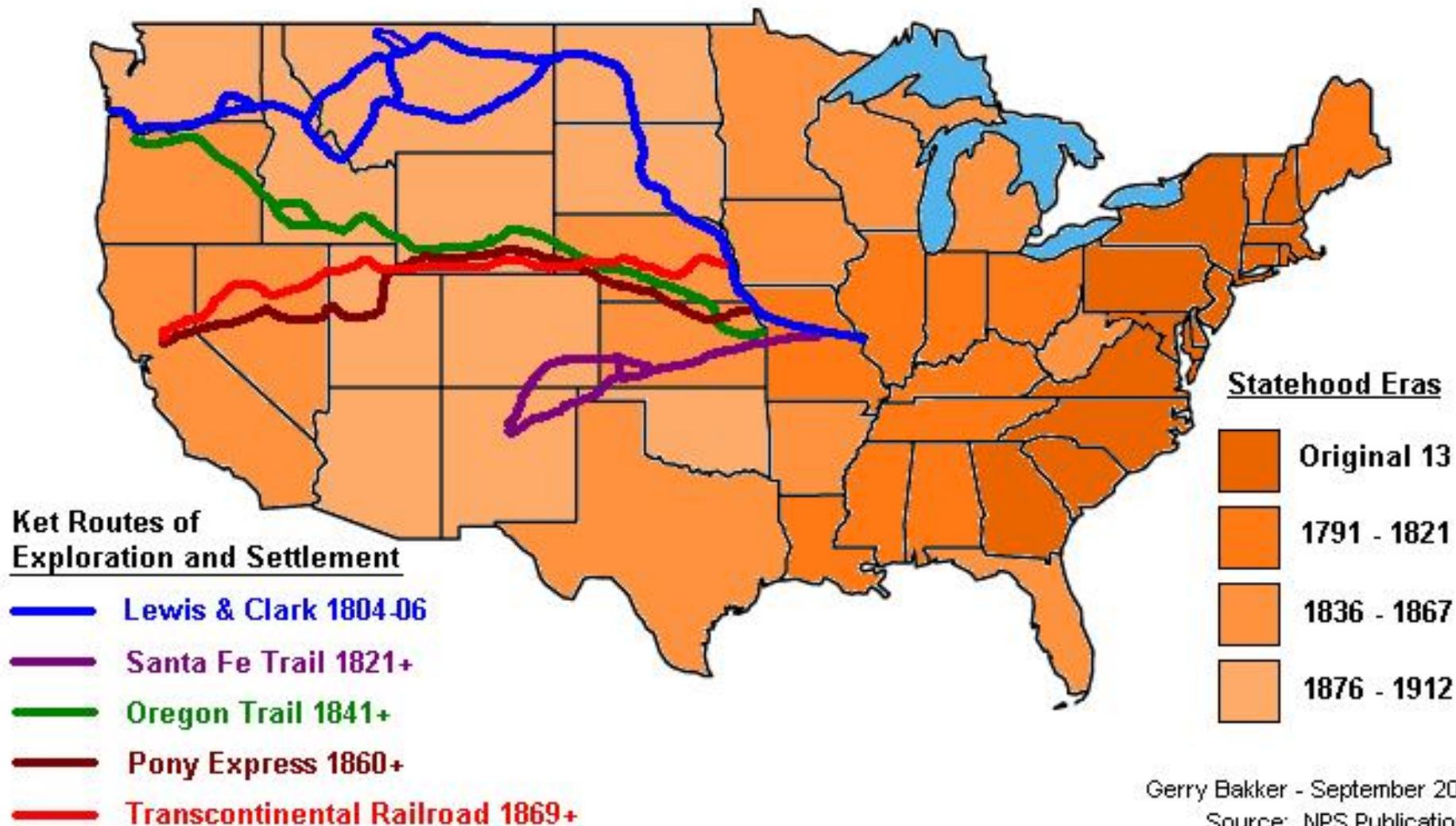
By Sea:

- Typically took about 6 months to go down around South America and back up to California

By Land:

- It took **Lewis and Clark** 6 month to blaze a trail from Ohio to the Pacific
- Most pioneers used the **Oregon Trail** to head west which took 4-6 months depending on conditions
- **The Pony Express** could make the trip in 10 days!!!

Westward Expansion of the United States



Gerry Bakker - September 2001
Source: NPS Publications

Other Trails branched off of the Oregon Trail



California Trail: The most common route for Pioneers heading to California

Hastings Cutoff: A supposed short cut to California that ended up taking longer

The Donner-Reed Party

The ill fated pioneer group who face tragedy on the trek to California

Reports of Cannibalism in the Sierra Nevada Mountains

