



1877

Oregon State Library

Orville C. Pratt (1819-1891)

Orville C. Pratt left New York and arrived in Oregon in 1848. He was an Associate Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court from 1849 to 1853. In 1851 Pratt issued a dissenting opinion which agreed with Democrats that Salem should be designated the Territorial capital. The Republicans (Whigs), including the Territorial Governor, John Gaines, claimed Oregon City as the Territorial capital. Pratt presided over the trial of five Cayuse that were found guilty in the Whitman Massacre. He moved to San Francisco in 1853.

Letters to Bush from 1851 to 1887

Pratt writes Bush about the courts in Linn and Marion Counties and his meeting with Jesse Applegate regarding federal authority in the Oregon Territory. He helped promote the *Oregon Statesman's* readership and supported Bush's campaign for Territorial Printer. Pratt writes about the removal of Deady from office and inappropriate content in the *Oregonian* newspaper. In 1854 he wrote a letter of introduction for Bush when he traveled to Washington, D.C. Pratt commented on failure of the 1858 Senate to pass the bill for Oregon statehood and how people are flooding out of California for the northern gold rush.