

Altogether in One Place, A novel of kinship, courage, and faith by Jane Kirkpatrick

As I clean out my closets this year, in preparation for the Bazzarnival, I am thinking of the 12 pioneer women in this book who had to painfully sort through all their belongings to cull out what wouldn't fit into the wagons heading west. The main character of this book is Mazy, a young wife who was happy and content on her little farm and not at all willing to head for Oregon with her husband and mother. But eventually she reluctantly heads out with a wagon train on the Oregon Trail, filling the wagon as full as possible with reminders of her Wisconsin home, including a bucket of dirt from her farm.

Mazy is not enjoying the adventure at all but things get worse when a cholera epidemic hits the group and all the men, including her young husband, die. The rest of the book is an amazing story of the struggles of the remaining women and children, who continue heading west in spite of the difficulties they encounter. As they travel and struggle and work together, a strong bond is formed among the women and their faith is strengthened.

This is an amazing and interesting story and one that can serve as a example of the growth of faith through hard times. This is the first in a trilogy and all three books are available in the FPCA library.