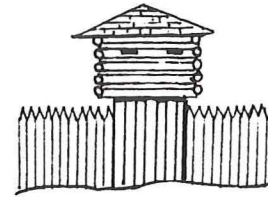


1856- WHAT ELSE WAS HAPPENING?

(within five years before and after 1856)

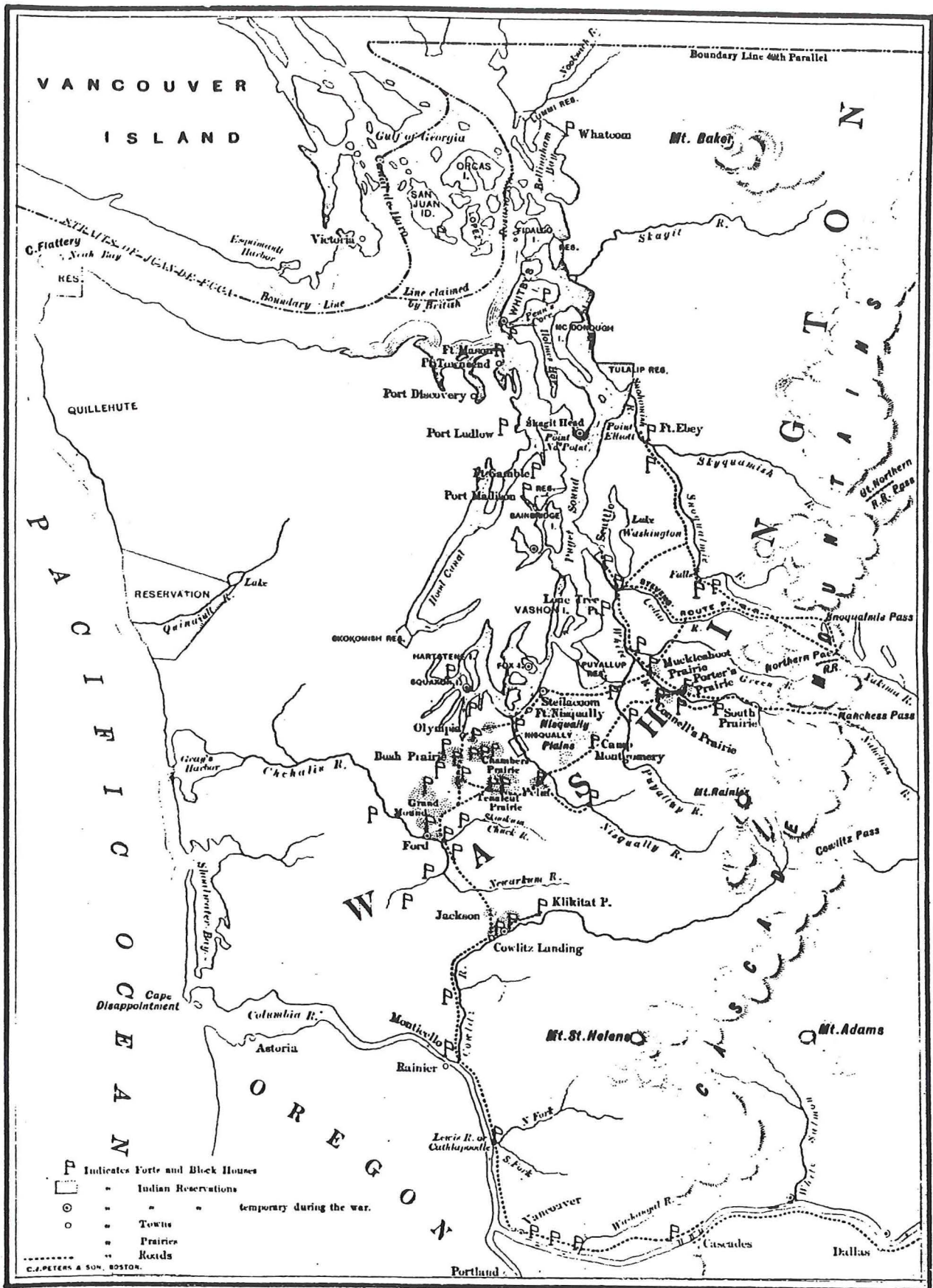


- 1851- (August 29)- First Convention at Cowlitz Landing (Toledo, WA) asks Congress to divide the Oregon Territory at Columbia River, and name northern territory "Columbia."
- 1851- Beginning of Rogue River Indian Wars. Herman Melville publishes the novel Moby Dick.
- 1851- A Customs House is built in Olympia. Daniel Bigelow arrives in Olympia.
- 1852- Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin. Franklin Pierce elected president.
- 1852- (Jan 12)- Thurston County established. (Olympia formerly part of Lewis County.)
- 1852- First flight of a blimp. Inventor is Henry Giffard.
- 1852- (Sept.11)- First newspaper, The Columbian is printed in Olympia.
- 1853- The hypodermic syringe is invented. (Summer) Population of Thurston Co. is 996.
- 1853- (Mar 3)- President signs bill creating Washington Territory, (instead of Columbia).
- 1853- (Spring)- A committee including Edmund Sylvester locates "People's Road" route for immigrants over Naches Pass, as alternate to Columbia River route from Walla Walla.
- 1853- The Crimean War breaks out between Russia and allied forces of France, Turkey and Great Britain. Florence Nightingale gains fame for efforts as nurse during this war.
- 1854- (Feb)-1st territorial legislature held at Parker & Coulter Store on Main St., Olympia.
- 1854- (Dec 24-26)- Medicine Creek Treaty Council held on the Nisqually Delta.
- 1855- YWCA is founded by Emma Roberts in London. Its purpose is to house young nurses returning from the Crimean War.
- 1855- (August)- A new two story schoolhouse is built in Olympia near 6th & Franklin.
- 1855- (Christmas)- First singing of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."
- 1855- (Oct 28)- White River Massacre (near current-day Auburn, WA.).
- 1856- First American kindergarten opens in Watertown, WI. Buchanan elected president.
- 1856- The remains of a prehistoric man are found in the Neander Valley in Germany. He is called "Neanderthal Man."
- 1856- (Jan) Indian attack occurs in Seattle. John Swan plats Swantown in east Olympia.

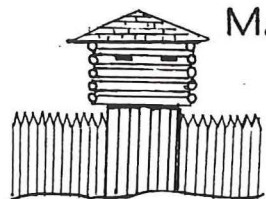
1856-(Oct 30)- THE VOLUNTEER ARMY IS DISBANDED IN OLYMPIA

- 1856- (Nov 21)- Port Gamble Massacre. One of worst Indian War battles west of the Cascades.
- 1857- A temperance group is started in Olympia. An Olympia brass band is organized.
- 1858- Work begins on Central Park in New York City. Minnesota becomes a state.
- 1858- Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute building dedicated in Olympia. *Still stands today!*
- 1858- Great Britain takes over rule of India. Condensed milk patented by Gail Borden.
- 1858- (Feb 19)- Nisqually leader Leschi is hanged near Steilacoom, WA.
- 1859- (Jan 29)- Town of Olympia incorporated. George Barnes first elected pres. of board.
- 1859- (Dec 2)- Abolitionist John Brown is hanged in W. Virginia for leading slave rebellion.
- 1859- Oregon becomes a state. "Pig War" bet. U.S. & Britain over disputed San Juan Islands.
- 1859- (Dec 30)- An attempt by legislators to move capital to Vancouver, WA is halted.
- 1860- Pony Express from Sacramento, CA to St. Joseph, MO (1 yr, until telegraph completed)
- 1860- (Nov 17)- J. Murphy begins career with Olympia's Washington Standard newspaper.
- 1860- Abraham Lincoln elected president.
- 1861- Beginning of the Apache Wars. Kansas becomes state. J. Charlton invents the postcard.
- 1861- Territorial Univ. opens in Seattle. Voters approve Olympia over Vancouver as capital.
- 1861- Tumwater makes unsuccessful attempt to be county seat of Thurston County.
- 1861- (Apr 11)- Ft. Sumter, in Charleston, S. Carolina harbor is fired on. Civil War begins.

*States listed show current-day abbreviations, not territorial abbreviations.

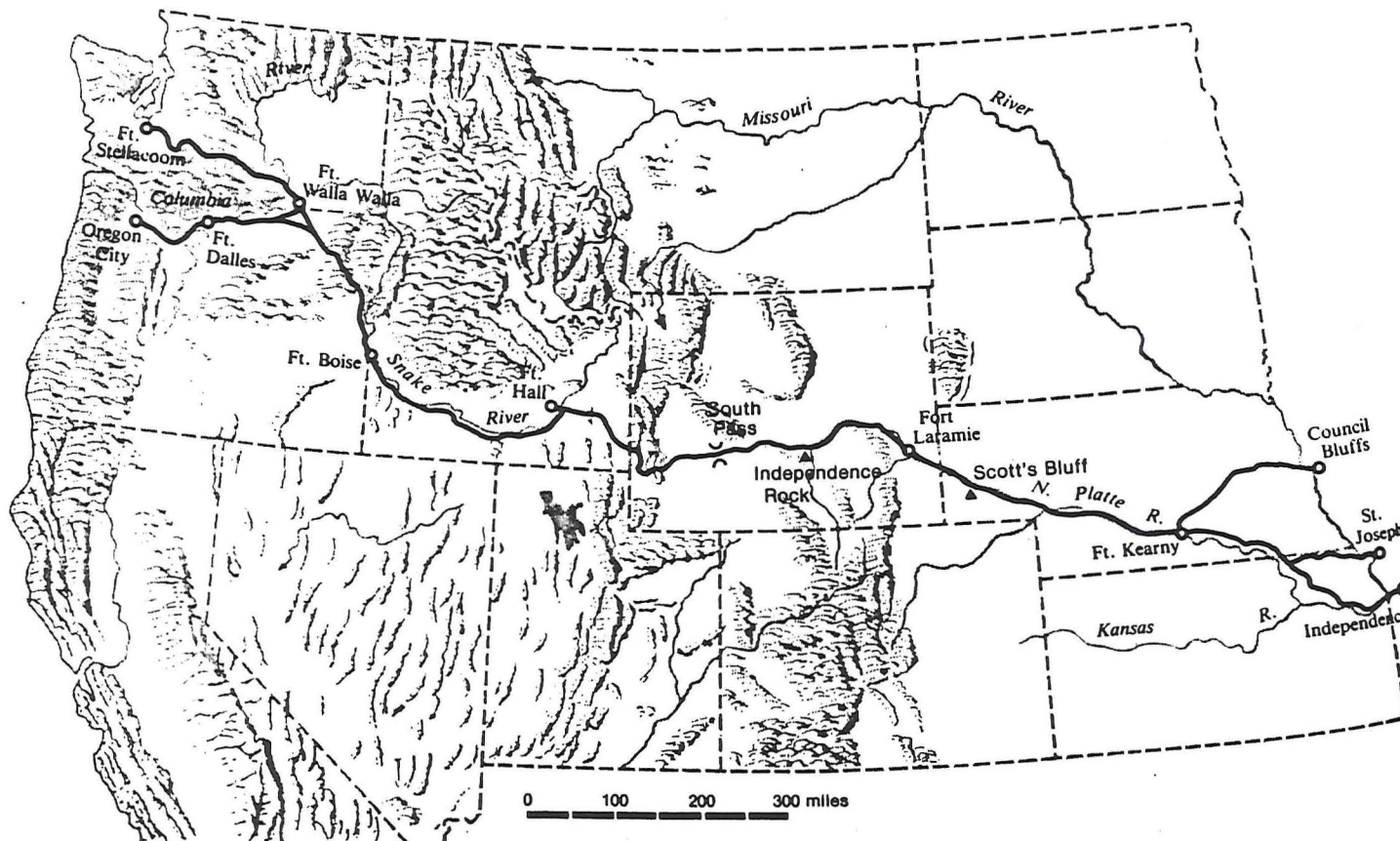


Map of Indian Wars, 1855-1856, on Puget Sound and west of the Cascades

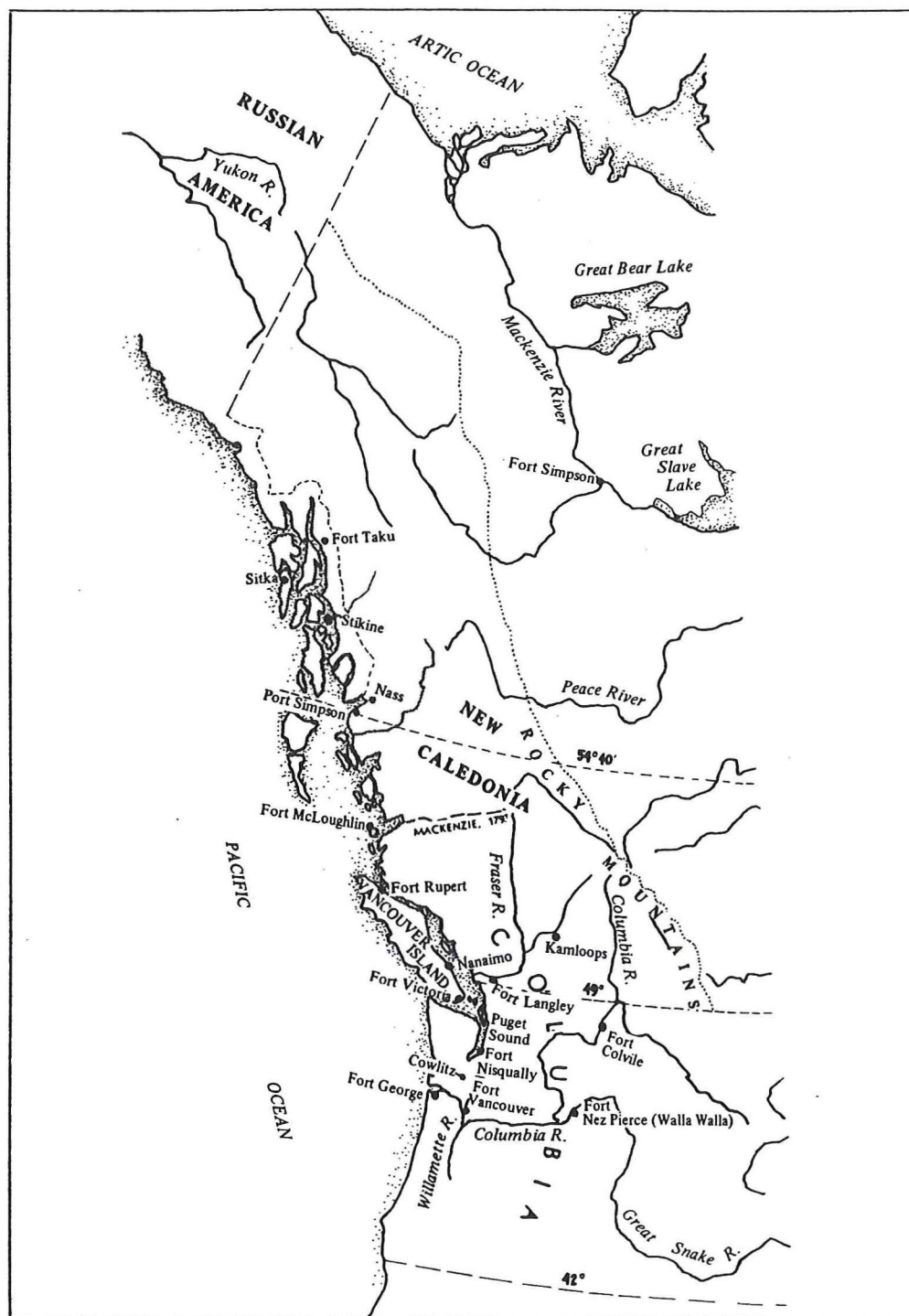


THE OREGON TRAIL

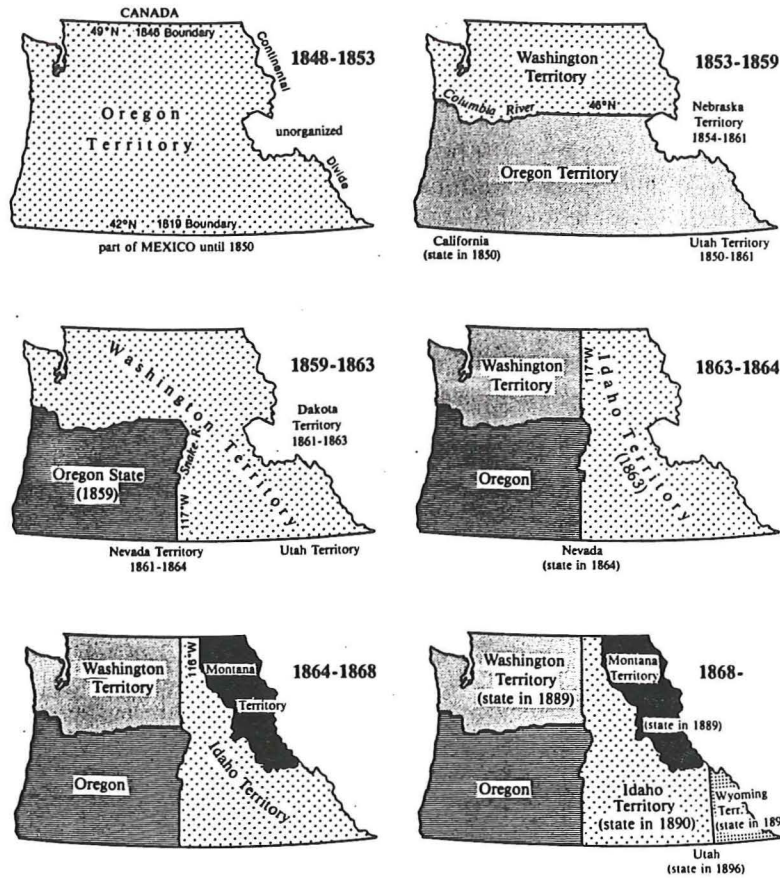
The Bush/Simmons Wagon Train began May 1, 1844 near St. Joseph, MO. They arrived at Fort Vancouver (near Oregon City) in December, 1844.



HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY FUR TRADING FORTS ON THE WEST COAST CIRCA 1850

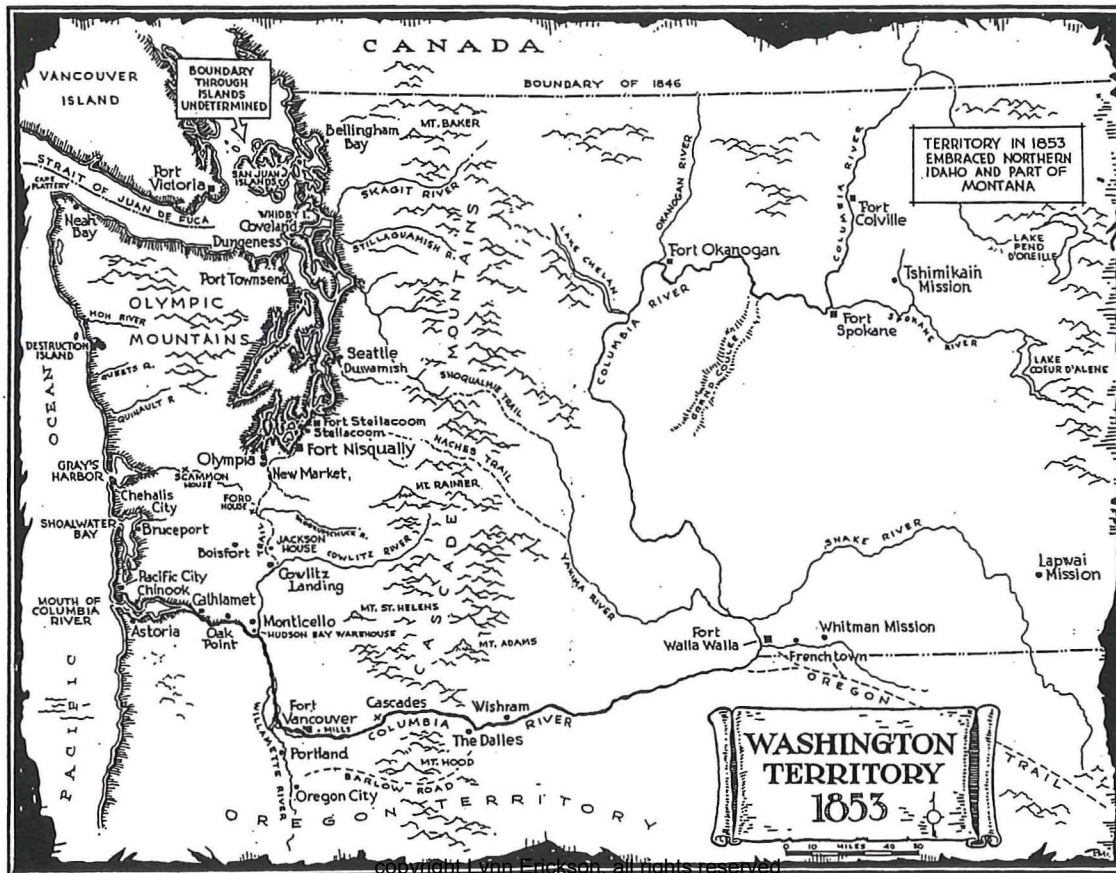


FROM TERRITORY TO STATEHOOD



Maps courtesy of Gordon Dobbs, The American Northwest, A History of Oregon and Washington
 Reprinted by permission of Harlan Davidson, Inc. Copyright 1986. Source: #98 page 93

A PARTIAL MAP OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY IN 1853



Courtesy of Lucile McDonald, Washington's Yesterdays
 (Portland, OR; Binford & Mort, 1953) #60 page 99.

A PLEA FOR BETTER EDUCATION IN THE TERRITORY

"...Hence these people who tell us our territory is too young to have good schools, and to try to imitate the States, are, as we think, mistaken. There is no reason why we may not proceed as enthusiastically and successfully, as far as our means and population will enable us to go, as older communities might do. I know of men who talk of going to the States to educate their children, who will not send to any kind of a school here. They make the mistake common to mankind, of always looking forward to the accomplishment of some great thing, while they undervalue and neglect opportunities of the passing hour...Washington Territory may wait for population, it may wait for the clearing of its forests, it may wait for the whistle of the locomotive, it may wait for the commerce of Asia, but the children of the Territory now growing up cannot wait for their education. They must get it as they grow up or never get it at all. And most of them must get it in the Territory. Hence we want to get up and keep up an interest in this subject. Let us call meetings and think about it, and speak about it, and write about it, and act about it, until the national educational spirit pervades our Territory. Our educational standing is yet in a plastic state, capable of being molded to the will of the people. The shape and symmetry given it will, judging from past history, have a lasting influence upon our future. The early settlers are generally the master workmen, who lay out the work for future generations to build. As the trains of thought and habits of life formed by the boy generally make the man, so the founders of states have generally given direction to those states for generations to come..."

Daniel Bigelow

An address to the Second Educational Association
Printed in The Weekly Echo Jan. 7, 1869.



Bigelow Family Collection

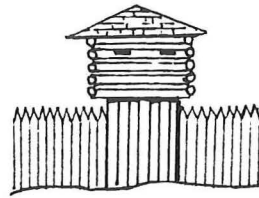
ANN ELIZABETH BIGELOW
THE TEACHER



Bigelow Family Collection

DANIEL BIGELOW
THE SPOKESMAN

1856- FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS



- 1) Downtown Olympia- Start at Sylvester Park (1850), walk down to 4th where the stockade was and then hike the original shoreline.
- 2) The Borst Blockhouse, at Fort Borst Park, in Centralia, Washington. (This is the nearest Indian War blockhouse to Olympia. It was built in 1856 by the government.) Also visit the Borst Home and one room schoolhouse (360)-330-7688 for tours and open houses.
- 3) Fort Nisqually-Established in 1833 near Dupont, and later moved to Point Defiance in Tacoma. See 1841. Many special events are offered. (253)-591-5339
- 4) Fort Steilacoom-Restored officer's quarters etc. on the grounds of Western State Hospital. Check for special event times. (253)-582-7527. Also Steilacoom Museum, walking tour and Orr Home could be included in this day. (253)-584-4133
- 5) The Bigelow House in Olympia (Built circa 1856) Call for appointment (360)-753-1215
- 6) The Crosby House in Tumwater (Built circa 1858). The Henderson House Museum, Crosby House and Tumwater Falls could make a full day field trip. (360)-754-4163
- 7) The Squaxin Island Museum, Library and Research Center, at Kamilche near Shelton. (360)-432-3851. This facility opened to the public Nov. 26, 2002.
- 8) The Nisqually Tribal Center, She Na Num Drive, near Yelm. (360)-456-5221
- 9) Priest Point Park (St. Joseph Catholic Mission established there from 1848-1860.) Over 300 acres to enjoy. Call Olympia Parks (360)-753-8380.
- 10) The State Capital Museum in Olympia (360)-753-2580, Henderson House Museum in Tumwater (360)-754-4163, Lacey Museum (360)-438-0209, Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma (888)-591-5339, and the Museum of History and Industry (MOHI) in Seattle near the U of W, (206)-324-1126, are all excellent field trip choices.

A QUICK LOOK-

- 1) The Old Snag, which is the site of the Medicine Creek Council can be seen on the west side of I-5 in the Nisqually Delta. Unfortunately there is no established footpath to the site. (Also see Nisqually Wildlife Refuge- 1841 field trip suggestions)
- 2) If you're in downtown Olympia, you can drive by the Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute. It is the oldest public-use building still standing. It was built in 1858. The institute is divided into two blue apartment buildings at the SW corner of Adams and Union. (The next oldest public building downtown is the Barnes Bank on Capitol Way from 1869.)
- 3) The Pioneer Cemetery on Ruddell Road in Lacey.

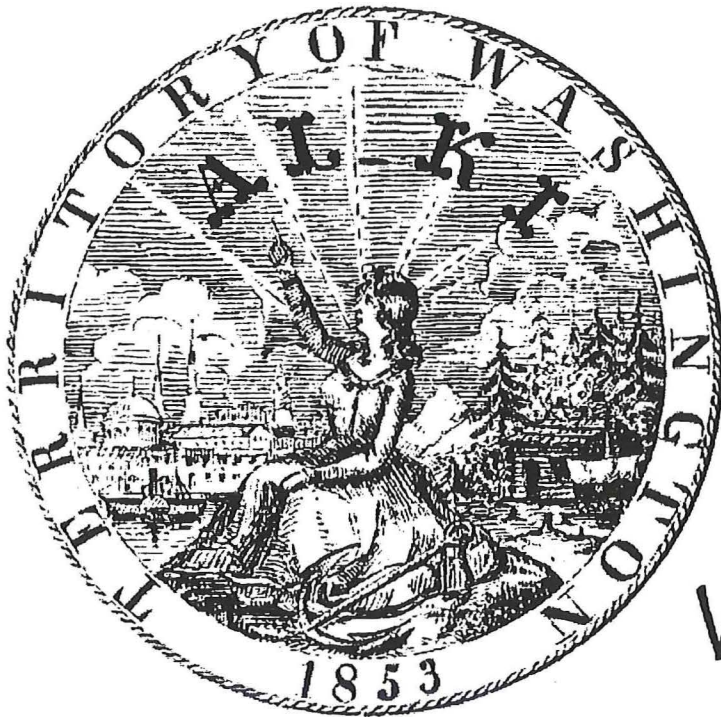
POEMS FROM THE PIONEERS

"Afar their crystal summits rise
Like gems against the sunset skies;
While far below the shadowy mist,
In waves of pearl and amethyst,
Round somber fir and stately pine
It's dewey, jeweled fingers twine,
Olympia's gods might view with grace,
Nor scorn so fair a dwelling place."

Written and delivered by Colonel I.N. Ebey
in the spring of 1850
during the dedication of the town of Olympia.

"And now that I'm used to the climate,
I think that if man ever found
A spot to live easy and happy
That Eden is on Puget Sound."

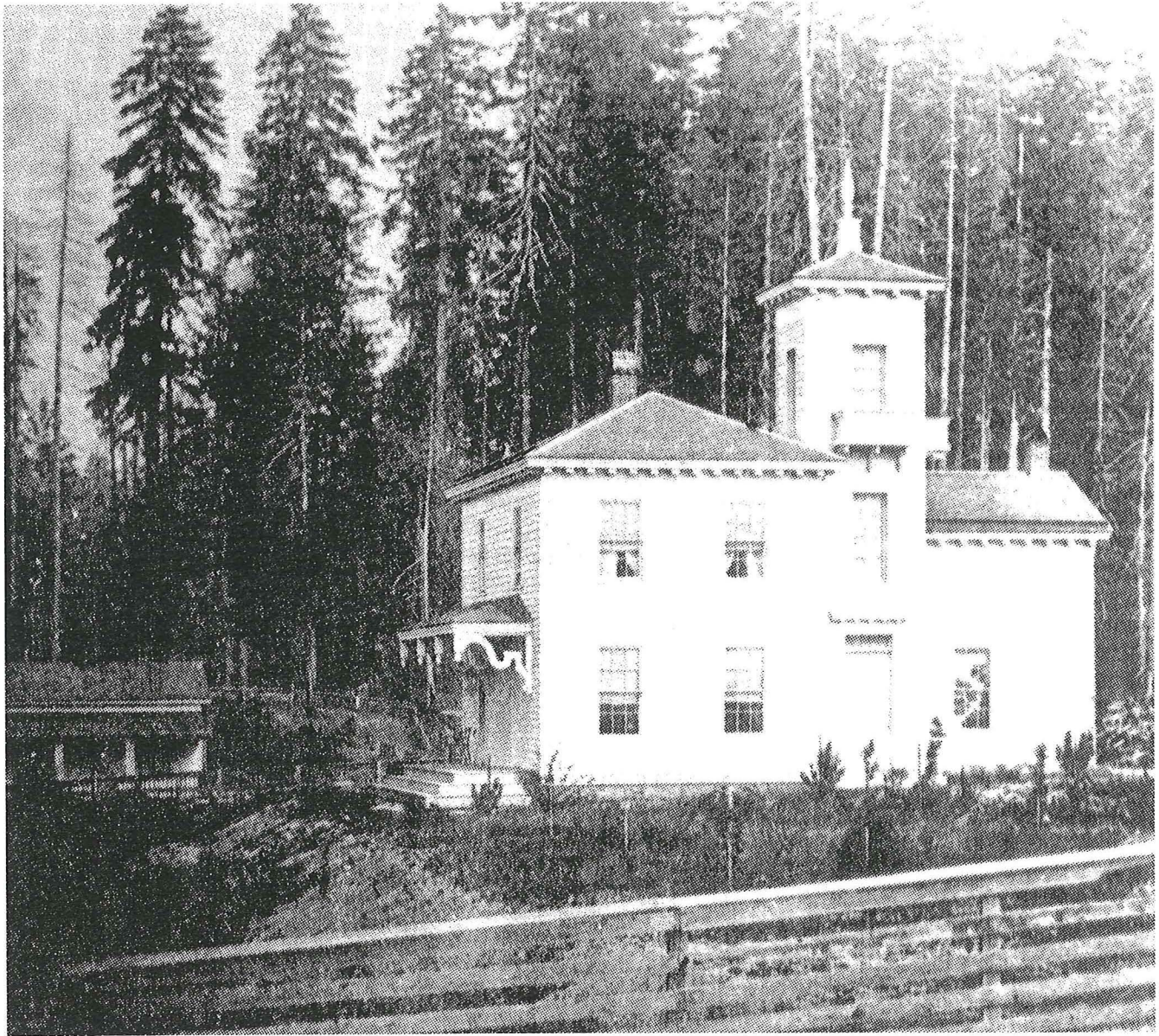
From "The Old Settler" by Francis Henry



The Seal of Washington Territory

"The territorial seal that was adopted had on one side a log cabin and an emigrant wagon, with a fir forest in the background; on the other a sheet of water traversed by a steamer and sailing vessel; a city in prospective, the goddess of hope, and an anchor in the center, the figure pointing above to the significant Chinook word 'Alki', meaning by and by, but interpreted by us, in our enthusiastic anticipations 'very soon'."

Phoebe Goodell Judson
from A Pioneer's Search for an Ideal Home



Courtesy Washington State Historical Society, State Capital Museum Collection

**FORMER OLYMPIA LANDMARK
HOME OF EDMUND, CLARA AND MAY SYLVESTER**

Built: late in 1856

Style: Italianate

Location: on 8th Avenue between Washington St. & Capitol Way
(When the home was built, Sylvester's lot was the entire block
between Washington, Main, 7th and 8th)

Moved: Feb. 1961 (to Olympia's Eastside)

Burned: Dec. 1961

Razed: May 1962

Today (in 2005) the site is the Key Bank parking lot.

