

Fort Simcoe.. Ft Na-chess..

When Col. George W. Wright was on his peacemaking expedition he built Fort Na-chess , a field work of earthen gabions, called by the old settlers, the basket fort.

It was located on the south bank of the Naches river eight miles from Yakima and was built in 1856 by Col. Wright, commanding the ninth infantry when he came to the Yakima country to treat with the Indians.

The fort is located on the south bank of the Naches river, eight miles from Yakima ... Its location is the place where the old Indian trail crossed. The trail was used by the Indians as they came up from Celilo on the Columbia.

From Ft Simcoe it swung across the Antanum, Cowiche , the Present Naches Heights and across the Naches river. Here it branched. One trail went west from there to Nisqually and the other crossed the Wenatchee country to Kittitas, Colockum pass and up the Columbia to Okanogan and Colville. This trail was used by 1860 a detachment from the Wilkes expedition in 1841, by Theodore Winthrop, early-day writer in 1853 and by Lt. George B. McClellan in 1853, during a road survey.

Col. Wright camped about four weeks on the Naches river in May and June of 1856.

There were 500 men, exclusive of pack train detachments and they were waiting for the river water to recede.

Col. Wright finally had a trestle bridge constructed across the river and crossed on the morning of June 18 with eight companies , one company of dragoons and one of artillery.

The troops went to the Wenatchee, encamped and then moved on to Kittitas valley and Wenatchee country in a successful campaign, persuading the Indians to make peace

col. Wright in a dispatch from a camp in the Kittitas valley tells of crossing the Natches and refers to Maj. Robert S. Garnett arrivin there on June 13 with two companies and of leaving Lt. Col. Steptoe with three companies to occupy ~~Fort~~ Fort Na-chess.

On July 25, returning to Fort Dalles from the Wenatchee, col. "right wrote: "I halted two days a Fort Na-chess at which place I was visited by a party of Nisqually Indians under old Chief Leschi, who was temporarily living upon the upper waters of the Na-chess.

On August 3, 1856, writing from "Camp on Top-pon-ish creek, Col "right said he abandoned "the camp ont the Na-chess and ordered Col. Steptoe with his command on the Toppenish. About the middle of August he and Maj. Garnett and two companies started to build Fort Simcoe.

Soldiers.

Northwest Forts

Captain Robert Williams went aboard the steamship George Law (New York) sailed to Aspinwall and by railway across Panama to Panama. He embarked on the Pacific mail steamer, the Golden Age and arrived in San Francisco in June.

The steamer Columbia brought recruits to Fort Vancouver June 7, 1855. Recruit Williams was assigned to Co. H, Fourth Infantry, commanded by Henry D. Wallen, under general command of Maj. Gabriel Rains, 4th Infantry.

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...It is respectfully suggested that the post established by Colonel Steptoe (establishment of Col. Steptoe in the Walla Walla valley as of September 19, 1856) be called Fort Walla and that of Major Garnett Fort Simcoe. George Wright Col 9th infantry Ft. Vancouver, Sept 20, 1856.

"Fort Simcoe, Washington Territory. At Mul Mul Spring, in Simcoe Valley, about midway between Topenish and Simcoe/
Established August 8, 1856, Abandoned May 22, 1859

Army register for the U.S.

Major Garnett's post..Sept. 20, 1856

Major Garnett is vigorously pushing forward the erection of quarters and storehouses for his command the ensuing winter.

George Wright, Col 9th infantry Ft
Vancouver, Sept 20, 1856.

Fort Simcoe, established by Major Garnett was a crude post hurriedly built from materials secured nearby. Subsequently a somewhat larger post was erected at this place. Fort Simcoe was abandoned by the war dept. May 22, 1859.

3 p m band concert

21st arm band, CWO Richard H. Zoller, directing.

3:45==8th infantry "Bullets" drill team Sgt. Croft..

4 p m. Indian dances.

5-4:30 Flag day by Yakima Elks Lodge 318 boy scouts Troop 8

5 p m @ retreating

Sponsoring orga. Association of U.S. Army and Military Affairs

Committee Yaki a c of C (Todd Smith) chairman of

Orgs. Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society

B and P Order of Elks

Boy Scouts

Yakima Indians

First Battalion 8th Infy 4th Infantry Division

6006=5 U.S. Army garrison, Yakima Firing Center

Express thanks Wash State Parks and Rec Dept.

Cannon-- loud speaker, four man crew lowering flag--

dress Sun tan uniform = helmets

Fort Denton, Montana

See West Shore, 1887, pp 748-756 (With lithograph)

Historical account, trading post, steamers on the Missouri, etc.

Fort Boise..

(For mining and toughs story, Indian massacre etc.

see-- West Shore, 1887, page 685.

Forts of The State of Washington....J.S. Whiting.

(A new edition of this book that was published in wrappers in 1946 is to be issued about December 20.)

Fort Na-Chess (Page 73)

"Headquarters Northern District

Dept. of the Pacific

Camp on the Yakima River

W.T. Kittitas Valley. June 20, 1856

".....I left Brevet Lt. Col. Steptoe with three companies of the 9th ...to occupy Fort Na-Chess. This is an important point as a depot....

G. Wright

Colonel

Report of Secretary of War

Fort Naches substantially consisted of one large rectangular structure constructed with small logs. The building was near the river bank. To the west and north were a series of half sunken defense positions. Fort Na-Chess occupied a very picturesque position.

Forts of The State of Washington · J. S. Whiting

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Vancouver--In 1824 the Hudson's Bay company moved its trading post from Astoria to this location and named it Vancouver in May, 1825.

In 1825 a new fort was erected where the Pearson Army airport now lies but this was evacuated to the Americans after the treaty of 1846 confirmed the Oregon region to the United States.

In 1848 this fort was made a part of the United States military system and garrisoned. In that same year a town site was platted as Vancouver City but this soon was changed to Columbia City. In 1855 a legislative order restored the original name. In 1852 the fort had been named Columbia Barracks and it was not until 1879 that the change to Vancouver Barracks was made-- The American Philatelist Oct 1949, Vol. 63 No. 1.

Sheridan. Archer

Fort Yamhill

Sheridan built fort Yamhill in 1856. The house Sheridan lived in , 1855 to 1861 was moved to Dayton park later. It was built in the gorge of Casper Creek, half a mile from Present Butler.

A stone marker was placed at Butler, ~~modoc~~

It was built in 1856 by Sheridan.

As a second lieutenant Sheridan helped survey and lay out the first railroad route in Oregon in 1855. The route was via Klamath Lake and Deschutes.

He was trained to ride a horse in Oregon. He was an infantryman at West Point.

April 25, 1856 he was relieved from duty by Lt. William Hazen on the Grand Ronde Indian reservation which went under the general name of the Coast Reservation because it skirted the Pacific some distance North of Yaquina bay which included Zilez valley.

The Coquilles, Modocs, Klamaths and remnants of Chinooks were placed there, numbering probably 4,000 and there was a scattered 1,500 located at Grande Ronde under Agent John F. Miller.

Sheridan continued the work of construction as laid out by Lt. Hazen. Capt. D.A. Russell of the Fourth Infantry took command of Fort Yamhill in July and Sheridan went to Siletz .???

On May , 1857, he returned to Yamhill to rejoin his company and duties were police patrol.

Upon approach of the Civil War Lt. Sheridan again in command at Yamhill until he should be relieved by Captain James J. Archer of Ninth Infantry. Distrusting Archer's loyalty he continued in command until September 1, 1861 when Capt. Philip Owen of the Ninth arrived and gave the lieutenant his release.

In September 1861 Sheridan was made captain of the 15th U.S. Infantry under Gen. W.T. Sherman and upon his release went east.