

Fort Simcoe

..Antanum...northward. (Old trail.)

General Reports of the survey of the Cascades. Gen. Report of Capt. George B. McClellan, corps of engineers in command of the western division. Olympia W.T. February 25, 1853, Vol. 1 Railway surveys.

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The country is rough and mountainous on the left of the trail, south of Mount Adams; but none of the spurs come down to it until we have crossed the Nikepun, about four miles beyond the Hoolhoolse, where a pretty high range runs to the southeast.

From Chequoss the country is heavily timbered up to the branch of the Klikatat. From that river to the Hoolhoolse there is open pine forest free from underbrush and covered with fine bunch grass.

From Hoolhoolse the trail goes south of east for nine miles to Tahk plains. The Nikepun a rapid mountain stream is crossed three miles from Hoolhoolse. The latter is a branch of it. The Nikepun is thirty five feet wide and three deep, bottom rocky. Thus far the trail is over very level country covered with fine timber of small growth and bunch-grass--no underbrush. The remainder of the distance to Tahk plain is over this range which is more heavily timbered and the trail crosses two small branches of the Nikepun leading in this range. The first ascent is long and abrupt; the rest is broken and rolling. The timber on the last two miles is more open.

A range of high hills borders Tahk plain on the east, spurs of which put down to it but the range between the Nikepun and this plain is the last which connects with the main range.

On the west it is limited by high hills which come down from Mount Adams. This plain is ten miles long and from one to three miles wide. There is a marshy lake a mile and a half long, in it and a branch of the Wah-wuk-chik leading from it and running to the northeast. This plain is low and wet in many places and gives evidence of being partially, if not entirely, under water during the wet season.



From Tahk the trail bears northeast for thirty-seven miles to the Sahpenis, a branch of the Yakima.

For twelve miles the trail lies over Tahk plain and a slightly undulating country but not hilly. A little loose lava rock is occasionally found on the surface.

Here the Wah-wuk-chic crosses the trail. The Wah-wuk-chic has no valley and is reached by an abrupt descent. The river is about seventy feet wide at the ford and two and a half feet deep, bottom sandy, current rapid, rough rapids just above and below the crossing. A spur from the Cascades comes down along the northern side of the river and intersects the range of hills running north and south on the east of Tahk plain. For two miles from the Wah-wuk-chic the country is rough and broken and ascents over two abrupt hills to a high undulating table land beyond. The divide or highest point of this table land is about fifteen miles from the Wah-wuk-chic where occur some very large boulders of basalt.

From this ridge to the Sahpenis the country is more rough and broken and an abrupt and deep ravine runs along the left of the trail in which is a branch or fork of the Sahpenis coming in from the southwest. The other fork comes in from the northwest through a similar ravine. Two small brooks are crossed between Wah-wuk-chic and the dividing ridge. This ridge or range runs off to the northeast along the right of the trail. Leaving the Sahpenis at the forks, the trail runs back along from the main stream and bears northeast over a basaltic broken spur until it reaches the Sahpenis by a gradual descent seven miles beyond. ~~There is~~ There is a great deal of loose angular lava on this spur; the timber becomes more scattering and scrubby and ceases three miles beyond the forks; this is the eastern limit of the pine timber. The Sahpenis runs on the left of the trail gradually approaching it in a basaltic canon with almost perpendicular sides.

The basalt in these walls is columnar. A range of high bleak hills (the



continuation of the divide) is on the right of the trail and about two miles from it. For the last five miles the country is rough, broken, God-forsaken and desolate.

Off to the southeast it presents the same dreary, desolate appearance. From Wah-wuk-chic river to the forks of the Sahpenis the country is covered with open pine woods, timber large, and no underbrush; fine grass grows in the woods throughout the distance. The Sahpenis is thirty-five feet wide and two feet deep, ford good; this river has no valley at or above the ford, but the basaltic spur ceases on the left bank half a mile below, and the valley widens out into a low, sandy gravelly plateau several miles wide.

A second stream, the Simkwee, comes into this valley from the northwest and unites with the Sahpenis four miles below forming the Pises river. The distance between these streams along the trail is three miles. The intermediate country is filled with arroyos and has the appearance of being swept over in the wet season. Its soil is very sandy and gravelly; wild sage and wild rye grow upon it. A little cotton-wood and maple grow in the valley of the Simkwee and some wide-spreading and scrubby white-oak along the banks of the Sahpenis.

The Simkwee is twenty-five feet wide and eighteen inches or two feet deep, current rapid--ford good.

From the crossing of the Simkwee the trail runs nearly north for eight miles to the Indian station, crossing a spur running to the east. This spur and the one before reaching the Sahpenis are the first of a series of radiating spurs which run off to the east from the main range of the Cascade mountains, between them and separating the branches of the Yakima. These spurs or ranges proceed to the eastward far beyond the trail and fall off and lose themselves in the wide, worthless sage barrens along the Columbia river.

This is a high, barren and basaltic spur, the slope towards Simkwee and the summit being perfectly covered with sharp, angular



fragments of loose, broken lava of all sizes, rendering travel hard upon animals.

The slope towards the <sup>A</sup>tahnam is more earthy; ascent and descent abrupt. The <sup>A</sup>tahnam is rapid, forty feet wide and two and a half deep.

The <sup>A</sup>tahnam has a valley of one quarter to half a mile wide at the ford but the river is very crooked and cuts it up by its transverse crossings into small, worthless patches. There are columnar basaltic walls on each side of it about thirty feet high with high, rutted, earthy and sandy hills piled on top of them. From the ford the trail bears to the east through the valley for three miles to the <sup>A</sup>tahnam mission.

Up to this point the valley is similar to that described at the ford; but below it is the basaltic walls cease as the valley widens out. Thence the trail runs nearly north for about 37 miles to Ketetas on the Yakima, crossing the Kwiwichess, ~~Nahchess~~ Nahchess, Wenass and Entinum at intervals of seven, ten and twenty-seven miles respectively. Between the mission and the Kwiwichess there is a high spur almost destitute of vegetation and covered with immense fields of small broken lava; ascent and descent pretty abrupt.

Between the mission and the Kwiwichess there is a high spur almost destitute of vegetation and covered with immense fields of small broken lava. The Kwiwichess is a small brook from 1- to 15 feet wide its forks a quarter of a mile above the ford. Its valley is a sort of basin surrounded and terminated by the mountain on the west and about three miles from the trail, and widening towards the east until it reaches the Yakima. ....continue over to the Natches and Wenass.



## Okinakane

General Reports of the survey of the Cascades. Gen. Rpt. of Captl George B. McClellan, corps of engineers, in command of the western division. Olympia, W.T., February 25, 1853. Vol 1. Railway Surveys.

..On the 27th of September we reached Fort Okinakane and encamped on the Okinakane river, about one and a half miles from the fort and not far above the site of the Astor's old trading-house.

The fort consists of three log buildings surrounded by a stockade in the form of a square with block-houses at the extremities of one diagonal. But little business is now transacted here. It is in charge of Mr. Lafleur, the "garrison" consisting of two Kanakas. The post is situated on the river bank, and on the edge of the plain between the Okinakane and the Columbia. Neither grass, nor bushes nor trees are to be found at the fort--nothing but bare sand and gravel; it is evidently located with a view to the convenience of passing boats and with no reference to the comfort of its unfortunate occupants.

Accompanying Mr. Lafleur to the summit of the mountain behind the fort I obtained a good view of the Cascade range. The mountains come down to the Columbia and Okinakane, crossing the latter and all rough and sharp.

Mr. Lafleur informed me that there was no pass between Mt. Baker and the Hudson's Bay company's trail from Okinakane to Langely. This our subsequent examination verified.

The information received here confirmed me in my previous intention to examine the Methow river, for they told me there was a good foot trail leading up the valley and over to the sound.

Leaving the most fatigued animals and many of our loads to the care of Mr. Lafleur we left the camp on the morning of the 28th. On the 30th we encamped upon the Twist, the south fork of the Methow.



Fort Okinakane...General reports of the survey of the Cascades  
Gen. Report of Capt. George B. McClellan, corps of engineers in  
command of the western division. Olympia W.T. Feb. 25, 1853, Vol 1, Railway  
surveys.

..A trail was run between the mouth of the Okinakane and the  
forks of the Methow in a direct line. The country is high, rolling and  
broken and terraced near the Columbia.

This trail crosses the small stream which comes in above the Methow.  
Beyond it to the forks the country is well timbered. There are rough,  
broken rapids in the Columbia at the mouth of the Methow--Ross Rapids.  
There is a terraced sandy plateau wedge-shaped between the Okinakane  
and Columbia. It is three miles wide and seven miles long.

A low range of basaltic hills limits it on the east and runs  
nearly north until it ends in an abrupt bluff on the Okinakane.

The other sides are limited by the Okinakane and Columbia rivers.  
The soil is almost worthless. A long strip of plateau, similar in character,  
is found on the right bank of the Okinakane.

Fort Okinakane is on the tongue between the Columbia and  
Okinakane rivers near the former and two miles from the mouth of the latter.  
The site of Astor's old fort is very near the junction of these two  
streams.

Hence the trail follows up the banks of the Okinakane crossing  
from one bank to the other for eighty seven miles to the lakes  
beyond the forty-ninth parallel.



Palouse country/      Mystery lake..Rock Lake.

Railroad surveys, Vol 1, page 216.

This distance (from Spokane to the mouth of the Palouse) is 76 miles...

The district is basaltic and broken and is covered with innumerable small lakes. These lakes appear to occupy the craters of extinct volcanoes, and are fissures formed by the bursting of lava bubbles on cooling. The water in them is fresh and supplies the Peluse and its branches.

These lakes are of all sizes, Silkatku is the largest in the vicinity of the trail. It is five miles long and varies from one half to a mile in width. It is drained by the Stkahp a branch of the Peluse.

The main Peluse also rises in this region of lakes, to the east of the trail. I have no actual observations of the extent of this lake country to the east and west

The Cherahna runs in a basaltic dalle or trough for most of its length the last part of it before its junction with the Peluse being in a canon of columnar basalt.

The Peluse is first crossed quarter of a mile below the mouth of the Cherahna and the trail then passes over the hills leaving the river some distance on the right and comes down to it again three and a half miles from its mouth.

Leaving the Saptin (Snake) the trail passes over the range between the river and the Touchet bearing to the west of south; thence in same direction for nineteen miles to the old Presbyterian mission on the Wallah-Wallah river, twenty miles above its mouth.

2 Legends..

Railway surveys Vol 1, Page 411.

George Gibbs, rpt. to Capt. McClellan, Olympia, Washington Territory, March 4, 1854.

Ow-hai.....on striking the Columbia after passing the mountains, between the Yakima country and the Pisuouse, Ow-Hai pointed out to us one of the lions of the country in the shape of two columns of sandstone standing together but apart from the bluff which was of similar material.

The e he told us were Ahn-cotte, or in the language of the fairy tales, "once upon a time" two women of the race of Ahlpt Ahlicum who lived here and were very bad, ~~to~~ being in the habit of killing those who passed by, the Indians begged the Great Spirit to destroy them, and He granting their ~~power~~ prayer, sent an enormous bird which picked out their brains and then turned them into stone. In proof of which the narrator pointed out a hole in the top of one of the columns from which a boulder had fallen, as the aperture broken by the bird in extracting his meal.

A short distance beyond he turned a little off the trail to point out to us another curiosity. It was a perpendicular rock on the face of which were carved sundry figures most of them intended for men. They were slightly sunk into the sandstone and colored, some black, others red and traces of paint remained more or less distinctly on all of them.

These also according to their report, were the work of the ancient race, but from the soft nature of the rock and the freshness of some of the paint, they probably were not of extreme antiquity.

Nothing could, in this connexion, be ascertained from the Indians whether they had any traditions of their own migration from another country...



## Mission of St Mary's

### Cattle..

Railway surveys, Vol 1, Page 415. George Giggs, report to Capt. McClellan, Olympia, March 4, 1854.

The Selish proper or Flatheads inhabit St Mary's or the Flathead valley and the neighborhood of the lake of the same name.

Mr. John Owen, who occupies the site of the old Jesuit mission of St Mary's as a trading post says that there remain of these but sixty five lodges of about five to the lodge, giving a total of three hundred and twenty-five, a number considerably exceeding Dr. Dart's estimate which is but two hundred and ten.

The tribe was once a very powerful one but has been diminished by the attacks of the Blackfeet who enter their country through the mountain passes or meet them in their hunts upon the eastern side.

Their custom is to make two hunts annually across the mountains--one in April for the bulls from which they return in June and July and another after about a month's recruit to kill cows which have by that time become fat.

They are not rich in horses but still have many good ones though frequently they are robbed by their enemies, the Blackfeet. They get no salmon but live altogether by the hunt and do not manifest any disposition to agricultural pursuits or fixed residences. They have no canoes but in ferrying streams use their lodge skins which are drawn up into an oval form by cords and stretched on a few twigs. These they tow with horses, riding sometimes three abreast.

Their country is admirably adapted for grazing and they possess about one thousand head of American cattle which were introduced by the worthy and zealous Father Desmet.

The mission of St Mary's was abandoned in 1850 the habits of the Flatheads leaving the missionaries unprotected and proving an obstacle to effectual labor. They have at the station a village of



log houses but notwithstanding generally prefer their own lodges.  
Their great chief is Kwi-kwi-kal-sih or Victor



Hudson's Bay.. Forts Vancouver, Wallah-Wallah, Colville,  
Fort Okinakane, Fort Kontamie...etc.

Railway surveys, Vol 1, Page 419, George Gibbs, Report to Capt.  
McClellan, Olympia March 4, 1854.

As the relation of the Hudson's Bay company to the Indian tribes  
as well as to the citizens of the territory is a matter of some  
importance, a statement of their establishments is herewith  
submitted.

The principal is Fort Vancouver on the Columbia river which is  
the parent establishment whence the others are supplied with goods.  
The post is enclosed by a stockade of two hundred by one hundred and  
seventy five yards, twelve feet in height and is defended by  
bastions on the northwest and southwest angles mounted with cannon.

Within are the governor's house, two smaller buildings used  
by clerks, a range of dwellings for families and five large two-story  
ward-houses besides offices.

Without, there is another large store-house, at present hired by  
the United States. These are built of square logs framed together. At  
some little distance there is also a village of fifty or sixty  
cabins occupied by servants, Kanakas and Indians and a saloon  
house on the bank of the river.

The buildings are old and considerably decayed, only the repairs  
necessary to keep them in tenable order having been expended.

There are present two chief factors at this post, Messrs.

Peter Skene Ogden and Donald MacTavish, with a considerable number of  
clerks and other employes.

The company's land claim at Fort Vancouver embraces several tracts  
first the plain on which the fort and United States barracks are  
situated with a small one behind it, making together a tract of about  
four miles square. About one thousand acres are enclosed or under



cultivation; attached to which there are sheds, stabling and a small dwelling for a farmer. Adjoining this to the eastward is another tract known as the Mill claim, two and a half by three quarter miles square on which is a saw-mill having tolerable water power but subject to stoppage during freshets. Besides the above they claim two other small prairies behind the first mentioned which are respectively a half and one mile square.

The business at this post has changed with the condition of the country since the treaty and is now almost entirely mercantile and carried on with the settlers. American Oregon never was, strictly speaking, a fur country and the fall in the value of beaver has annihilated what trade it once afforded. Comparatively a small amount of Indian goods are now imported, but that description of merchandise being sent to the posts in their own territory by way of Victoria. That trade with Indians is carried on here is the ordinary retail trade of country stores and for cash. The amount of their general business may be gathered from their imports during 1853. These consisted of one cargo of assorted American goods from New York and another valued at about 19,000 pounds from London paying duties to the amount of nearly \$24,000.

A considerable portion of these were sold on commission at Portland, Oregon City and other places in the Willamette valley.

Theon Wallah Wallah.

The next post above Vancouver is Fort Wallah-Wallah on the Columbia river below the entrance of the Snake. There are here three or four one story adobe buildings with offices enclosed by a wall of the same material some thirty-five yards on each side having a bastion at one angle. It is almost utterly valueless except as a station where horses can be kept for the trains. There is, indeed, some trade with the neighboring Indians, chiefly in cash, but not enough to warrant its maintenance, except for the above purpose.

The fort is in very indifferent repair, and the country in the immediate vicinity is desert of drifting sand. Some eighteen or twenty miles up the Wallah-Wallah river is a so-called farm on which two small buildings, a dwelling house and dairy. There was formerly a dam for irrigation but it is broken down. They have here some twenty acres cultivated in different spots; the principal object is grazing. The force here consists of Mr. Pambrun, chief clerk, one interpreter, two traders and six men, Canadians and Indians.

Fort Colville, upon the Columbia, above Kettle falls, is next in importance to Vancouver, though far inferior to it in extent.

It is situated on the second terrace at some distance back from the river, the lower one being flooded in part during freshets.

The buildings consist of a dwelling, three or four store-houses, and some smaller ones used as a blacksmith's shop, etc., all of one story and built of square logs.

The whole was once surrounded by a stockade, forming a square of about seventy yards on each side. This had been removed, except on the north where it encloses a narrow yard containing offices. One bastion remains. About thirty yards in the rear of this square are the cattle-yard, hay-sheds etc. enclosing a space of forty by sixty yards, roughly fenced in and the sheds covered with bark. On the left of the front are seven huts occupied by the lower employes of the company; they are of rude construction and much decayed. On the right of the square in the rear, at a distance of a few hundred yards, are three more buildings used for storing produce.

Besides the principal establishments there is a cattle-post, about nine miles distant on the stream laid down as the Slawntehus and a grist mill of one pair of stones three miles off on the same stream. The latter is said to be in pretty good order and the water to serve all the year round. Here formerly, the flour m~~o~~o~~o~~o for the norther posts was



ground from whea raised on the company's farm. The farm was once pretty extensive but only a small portion is cultivated at present.

Fort Colville was once the post of a chief factor, the highest officer in charge of a station, and here the annual accounts of the whole country were consolidated previous to transmission across the mountains.

The present force consists only of Mr. McDonald, chief clerk, a trader and about twenty Canadians and Iroquois Indians. In former years goods were sent through this post to those north of the line but the route is now abandoned. The amount of furs collected here is not large and comes chiefly from the upper Columbia. They are principally beaver, weaver, muskrat, marten and fox skins. The beaver is not considered to be worth in London more than its cost when laid down there.

About fifteen Canadians are settled on claims in this neighborhood, chiefly on the Slawntehus. They are former servants of the company whose term has expired and who intend to be naturalized.

Below Fort Colville is Fort Okinakane, situated on a level plain on the right bank of the Columbia, a little above the mouth of the Okinakane river and not far from the site of one of Mr. Astor's posts. The fort consists of three small houses enclosed with a stockade. There were formerly some outbuildings but they have been suffered to decay. There is no appearance of business here and no goods on hand. One trader, a Canadian, was the only white man on the ground when we visited it. A few furs only are taken and the post probably

does not pay its expenses. It was once of consequence as a stopping place for the bateaux passing to and from Fort Colville but is now kept

up apparently for form's sake. We learned that the price of such furs as were taken here was for a black fox skin, a quarter of a yard of red cloth or a red cocktail plume; for marten or red fox, ten charges of

powder and ball; for beaver, otter or bea , skins, thirty charges.

Fort Kontamie upon the great bend of the Flatbow river is not far from the Flathead lake is an inferior post, in charge of a Canadian as trader and postmaster with one Canadian and a half-breed under him.

The above constitutes all of the posts situated in the country east of the Cascades and north of 46 degrees. It may be worth while to include the rest of those in American territory.

There are in Oregon and east of the mountains only two, Fort Hall, on the head of the Snake river and Fort Boisse upon the same, nearly opposite the mouth of the Owy-hee. The latter is merely a stopping place occupied by a trader and a few Kanakas. The former is a more important one from its opportunities to trade with emigrants and with the Salt lake. Of the present condition of this I am not informed; but it is only a third-rate post.

West of the Cascades in Oregon remain the principal Fort Umpqua on the Umpqua river. This was destroyed by fire two or three years since; but to what extent since rebuilt, I do not know. The rest consist of a house and granary at Champoes on the Willamette; one acre of ground below the falls of Oregon City, purchased from an American, a farmer; 640 acres on Souvie's island at the mouth of the Willamette; with a house, dairy and garden--the buildings about six years old. The old buildings at Astoria are of no value whatever.

In Washington Territory, west of the Cascades, there are first and the only one of importance Fort Nisqually on the lands of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. It is situated at some distance from the water on a high, undulating prairie and is a cluster of small buildings of no great value, within a stockade. The trade here is principally with the settlers. Besides this there is a granary and about five acres of land two miles above the mouth of the Cowlitz river; a tract of land on Cape Disappointment occupied by an old servant and a small store



and lot of ground at Chinook.

With the exception of Fort Vancouver it is believed that none of posts are worth maintaining for any other purpose than that of holding the property till a sale can be effected. The condition of the whole country is completely changed since they were established and the company are now little else than general merchants. At all points of present importance they meet with the usual competition from our citizens and whenever it will pay and repay the enterprise, the same competition will follow them elsewhere. The relations of the company to the Indians are necessarily far less intimate than they have been, though not less friendly; but even the more distant tribes now frequent the towns, attracted partly by novelty and partly by the opportunities afforded for earning money by labor. Most of them comprehend fully that the sceptre has departed from Judah and that our own people possess the country.

...The white servants of the company, as their time expires, settle here and become naturalized. Some of the officers, are also already citizens and others will follow their example. Very few will ever leave the country.

..The missions also require notice in connexion with Indian relations.

The Presbyterians formerly had stations among the Cayuse at Waiatpu on the Wallah-Wallah river under the superintendence of Dr.

Whitman; among the Spokanes at Chemakane, upon a branch of the Spokane river under Messrs Walker and Eels; among the Nez Percés at Lapwai, near the mouth of the Kooskooskia under Mr. Spalding and at Kamiah on its headwaters under Mr. Smith. The last was maintained but a short time and all of them have been abandoned since Dr. Whitman's murder.

The Methodists also once had a mission at the Dalles.

The only missions now among the eastern tribes are those of the Jesuits and Oblats. There are, of the former, two priests at Fort Colville, two among the Pend d'Oreilles, and two among the Coeur d'Alenes. Of the latter there is one at Wailappu and two on the Yakima. The mission of St Mary's among the flatheads was given up in 1851 on account of the Blackfeet incursions. The Yakima mission is not fixed, but transitory, having two regular stations, one occupied in winter, the other in the summer.