

Wishram--Place Names. Indians.

..Henry J. Bibble, In Oregon Quarterly, Vol 27. 1926.

Purpose to show true location of ancient ~~the~~ Indian village commonly referred to as Wishram, situated somewhere on that broken stretch of the Columbia beginning at the Falls of Celilo and ending at rapids a few miles above the city of The Dalles.

First white men to visit it: Lewis and Clark.

The name of Great Falls or The falls used by most subsequent travelers; later it was sometimes termed Les Chutes; today it is Celilo Falls.

The Little Narrows was subsequently called the Short

Narrows, sometimes Les Petites Dalles or the Little Dalles; today they are known as Ten Mile Rapids.

The Long Narrows were later called the Dalles, sometimes the Great Dalles; today they are Five Mile rapids.

The Dalles Celilo canal, built at great expense ~~to~~ by U.S. government passes around ~~the~~ ^{these} obstructions to the navigation of the river. the U.S. engineers in charge of this work named Five and Ten Mile Rapids from their distance from the boat landing at the city of The Dalles..

Lewis and Clark map, opposite the Great Falls and Little Narrows, villages of mat lodges of the Nezeshers are shown. At the head of the Long Narrows the name of a different tribe appears, the Schuletes and they live in wooden houses sunk partly underground.

(Oct 24, 1805 entry)

..the present Indian village of Spedis is directly southwest of this Mound; the village of the ~~Grand~~ Schelutes must have been directly northeast of it.

On return in 1806--April 16..Lewis speaks of it as the Skillute village on the long narrows..and Clark says..this village is moved about 300 yards below the spot where it stood ~~last~~ last

falls. This would put the ^Echelute village of 1806 exactly on the site of the present day Spedis.

David Thompson next..camped t h e r e July 11, 1811
two miles below where the river turns southwesterly and where he began his portage. Puts it at head of Long Narrows..300 families camped there.

Alexander Ross next..August 4, 1811. The main camp of the Indians is situated at the head of the narrows and may contain during the salmon season 3000 souls or more; but the constant inhabitants of the place do not exceed 100 persons and are called Wy-am-pams; the rest are all foreigners from different tribes-- the long narrows, therefore, is the great emporium or mart of the Columbia.

It might be possible to assume that Wy-am-pams was simply a misspelling of Wismram and the writer is ~~now~~ almost inclined to this belief..

Next- Mr. Hunt of Astor company, 31st of January 1812.

Ross Cox, ~~in~~ ^a Adventures on Columbia--July 12, 1812..Camped near a village of the ^Eneeshurs.

Gabriel Franchere..April 1814--"On the 12th we arrived at a rapid called the Dalles.." (this is the first time the writer has found the term Dalles used for Long Narrows..

now comes series of travelers..highly intelligent men:

David Douglas, Townsend, Nuttall, Wyeth and they have nothing to say pertinent to question;

Douglas--August ~~25~~ 27, 1826--"the Dalles were at least from five hundred to seven hundred persons."

Wyeth--Oct 24, 1832--We are now camped at the Great Dalles. The Indians are thieves but not dangerous.

Farnham--1839-

Sir George Simpson--An Overland Journey around the World

Report of U.S. Exploring Expedition, Wilkes: map dated 1841..

Mentioned in Irving's Astoria.. This is situated on the left bank of the river and its proper name is Niculuita; Wishram being the name of the old chief, long since dead. There are now in the village about forty good lodges..

Map shows Niculuita or Wisham on the right or Washington side.

Paul Kane--Wanderings of an Artist: July 8, 1847--The Indians who reside and congregate about the Chutes for the purpose of fishing are called the Skeen tribe.

2.. While Lewis and Clark were resting at Rock Fort alongside present city of The Dalles they were visited by the chiefs of the tribes on the river:

(Clark, Oct 27, 1805) We took a vocabulary of the languages of those two chiefs which are very different notwithstanding they are situated within six miles of each others. Those at the great falls call themselves E-nee-shur and is understood above and those at the Great Narrows E-che-lute and is understood below. Indians at the Falls lived in mat lodges.. those at Long Narrows in wooden houses.

Farnham, 1839: At the Dalles is the upper village of the Chinooks. At the Shutes five miles above is the lower village of the Wallawallas. One of the missionaries Mr. Lee learns the Chinook language and the other Mr. Perkins, the Wallawalla.

Edward Sapir: Collected myths: Wishram texts:

The greater part are speakers of Shap^atin dialects; the minority, Wishram, more properly Wicxam Indians, their own name for themselves is Ilaxluit, speak that dialect of Upper Chinookan; they occupied the northern bank of the Columbia about the Dalles.

P 36 footnote At-at-a's furnace was located on a small island, near

the falls and only a short distance up from the main village of Wishram or Nixluidix.

Nixluidix ^{across} ~~across~~ and up above five miles from the present town of The Dalles was the chief village of the ^Wishram, Itxluit (I am a ^Wishram) is probably the Echeloot of Lewis and Clarke.

^Lprobably that Wishram was not name of a village but the name of a tribe.

^Lhe Wasco Indians formerly occupied the southern shores of the Columbia region in the Dalles and formed with the closely related Wishram, more properly Wicxam or Ilaxliut on the northern shore of the river, the most easterly members of the Chinookan stock.

Wasco was the chief village of the Wascos. It was situated a few miles above the Dalles opposite Nixluidix, the main village of the Wishrams.

In regard to the pronunciation of ^Wishram or ^Wisham which Sapir writes "icxam, something will now be said. Sapir explains the Indian sounds arbitrarily represented by letters of our alphabet: "C like sh in English ship x-like ch in German ach but pronounced farther farther back.

..Mr. J.T. ^Rorick, old settlers in Spedis region, Living at the Dalles: "I first saw Spedis in 1892 It was then known as Tum-water but the Indians ~~inferred~~ ^{Colwash} in referring to its legendary or historically used the name ^Wisram. My information is based on conversation with Bill ^{Colwash} ~~Colwash~~ who claimed to be a lineal descendant of a long line of chiefs--chiefs ^{FROM} ~~from~~ a time "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary" and Wishram has been their abiding place.

"The name Spedis was given to it when the SP and S Rwy had completed their line and established a sidetrack there about 1906 and was in honor of ^Bill Spedis, a very old and likeable Indian patriarch.

A.H. ^{Curtis} ~~Curtis~~, deceased, located on that side in 1852

..where Colwashes and their tribe had resided from ^{the} time immemorial and being one of the best localities on the Columbia for spearing and dipnetting salmon, neighboring tribes, even from remote distances, would come annually for the June and September runs.

"When I first came to that section in 1892 there were probably 150 inhabitants of the village, also possibly 100 at Upper Tum-Water at Celilo Falls.

Rank. Feb 8, 1928--Indians told me much.. Chief Speedus, hereditary chief of the Wisham Indians, Wisham Sam and other Wisham Indians told me that the ancient Wisham trading town was situated adjoining the little railroad station known as Spedis. Grandmother of Chief Speedus incorporated, she being Princess Shaw-naw-way, the aged queen.

..another feature of interest in this neighborhood is the abundance of pictures incised in the faces of the cliffs (petroglyphs) or painted on them (pictographs). The former are most abundant. at high water channel of the river about three fourths of a mile above Spedis has so many of these Petroglyphs that Mr. Strong, W.D, who with W. Egbert Schenck, students of anthropology at U of Calif. investigated) christened it Petroglyph canyon.

The largest of these is a face about six feet in diameter on a smooth pillar of the cliff immediately above Spedis. It is incised in the rock, and hence a petroglyph but it also shows traces of former coloring.

The Indians call it 'sa-gig-la'-lal and give a meaning of the name something like this: "She who ~~is~~ watches you as you go by."

..Seems to be that Wishram, Wisham, Niculuita and Spedis .. village of the Echelutes, were all one and the same and that this village was located on the Washington shore of the Columbia at the head of the Long Narrows on Five Mile Rapids. ...