

Kamiakin: Steamboats etc.

From W.P. Winans, Stevens county, Washington

From historical notes prepared by W.P. Winans

The first steamboat for the upper Columbia was built where the town of Marcus now stands by Capt. Lew White. Miss Christian McDonald and Miss Mary L. Brown driving the first nails.

It was launched Nov 18, 1865 its officers: Capt White, Purser Wesley Briggs, Mate A.C. Pingstone, Engineer Wash Eldridge. Made its first trip about April 1866. It was named the Forty-Nine in commemoration of its route from Kettle Falls north across the 49th parallel to the head of navigation.

Gold: ~~Discovered~~ Roads and Ferries.

From W.P. Winans notes.

Before the organization of the county government, gold was discovered on the Pend O'Reille river by Joe Morrell in 1854, and in 1855, the news being scattered abroad caused quite a number of miners, packers and traders to come into the valley, among them Francis Wolff who in 1856 brought the first merchandise wagons into the valley. He started from The Dalles, going via Walla Walla valley crossing Snake river at the mouth of the Palouse, by lashing canoes together. After driving across the country he crossed the Spokane the same way, then via Walker's prairie into the valley making the wagon tracks that Major Lougenbiel followed in 1859 when he came to establish the military post.

..In 1859 and 1860 J.R. Bates operated the ferry at the government crossing on the Spokane river. He sold out to W. J. Terry and William Nixon and on September 20, 1860, James Monaghan was employed to take charge of it, he at that time being 20 years. The legislature on January 11, 1861 granted them a ~~charter~~ charter to build the first bridge in 1865 and ~~also~~ at this crossing. The bridge afterwards was called Lapray's bridge. Joseph Lapray purchasing it about 1876.

The first bridge built on the Spokane river was above the Mullan road crossing in 1864 by Tim Lee, Joe Herring and Ned Jordan. The high water in the spring of 1865 took it out and it was rebuilt by the same parties that year.

The Kootenai mines were discovered in the fall of 1863 and to ascertain if a practical route could be had by water D.H. Ferguson and Co. in the spring of 1864 brought a canoe employed three men, Dick Fry, Adam Boy and Old Piene as guide and provisioned them for six months and sent them to find a route to the

mines. They went up the Columbia river to its headwaters, portaged the canoe three fourths of a mile to the Kootenai river, thence down that to the mouth of Wild Horse creek where the Walla Walla trail crossed the river. They used the canoe as a ferry boat to cross the miners from the south en route to the mines.

About 100 miners wintered, 1864-65 at Marcus and in the spring of 1865 started up the C. M. O. Columbia river and prospected the streams emptying into it and discovered the French creek or Big Bend mines in the fall of 1865.

To enable the people of Colville to reach the Kootenai trail with the products of the valley it was necessary to make a road from Cottonwood creek a few miles south of Shewelah to Peone Prairie a distance of about 60 miles through the timber. The temple volunteered the labor and the merchants and myself donated the provisions. The people by the dozen worked there during the summer and fall of 1867 and completed the road so that it has been used ever since.

720 437

Indians.

Umatillas..

Autobiography of Francis Wolff.

Stationed at the Dalles ~~was~~ army man. In 1853 he was one of the command sent to meet Gov. Stevens at Fort Benton and returned as far as the bitter root. which was made headquarters for fifteen months for scouting parties looking for a route for a railroad was commanded by Captain Mullan. The camp was named Stevens..

War of 1855.. Kamiackan commenced war. Haller defeated..

In spring of 1855 in partnership with H.P. Isaacs merchandizing at The Dalles, remained there six months, during mining excitement started for the Pen O'reille mines. Met miners returning on the Umatilla where in September I stopped at Fort Henryetta.

Four men employed got on the horses and in night and went to The Dalles because of war. Stayed with goods, traded one day for thirty horses which were let out of the corral during that night and they returned to their range in the mountains.

I locked up my store, went after them, gone two days and when back goods gone.

Traced the stolen goods to one branch of the Umatillas.

Winnum Snute the head chief was my friend and wherever I could find an Indian with my goods he would compel them to give them up. I then gave them to Winnum Snute's people who had no hand in the stealing. About that time Indian Agent Olney came along gathering up the settlers by order of Gov Curry of Oregon and I was glad to get out of the country, having lost all my goods, wagons, oxen etc valued at about \$4,000.

When we reached the Dalles I found Capt. Hummason organizing a company of volunteers which I gladly joined and next day as on my return for the seat of war at Walla Walla and was in the three day's fight near Whitman's station, had my horse shot and had a talk with Winnum Snute. I was in this service 122 days..

I, in the spring of 1857 with 18 miners who I had fitted out and with some goods I started for Frazier river. I sold the goods and with what had been collected for goods sent the previous year took out \$5,000 in gold dust for goods sent the previous year....going to The Dalles and purchasing more goods from J.O. H.P. Isaacs.

In spring of 1856 returned to The Dalles, was discharged, sold house to Major Loughenbeel for \$1,100 and put that with \$2,000 more in goods with Vic Trevett as partner, bought the goods of H.P. Isaacs and started with them by ox teams for Colville. This was the first time goods were carried to Colville by wagons. The winter of 1856-57 I stopped about five miles north of the present town of Colville but in the spring of 1857 moved to the John Wynn ranch on which the town of Colville is now located. I had miners and Indian supplies and goods and was in direct competition with the Hudson Bay Co and as they claimed and exercised exclusive control of the trade they claimed I was trespassing on their territory and forbade me from building or trading thereon and I believe encouraged the Indians to steal from and otherwise annoy me. This continued until the United States Fort was established.

..I went to Walla Walla in July 1858 joined the McLaughlin party bound for Frazier River and as an account of its experiences etc... On reaching the Frazier Mines I traded off what goods the Indians had not stolen and started for Yale for more and learning there was war between the miners and Indians we joined the volunteers and helped clean out the Indians, seeing at one place in a cave 16 mutilated dead miners. (Dated June 24th, 1909) From Winans account.