

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1963

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 1963 SESSION
OF THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

As required by law, the Washington State Historical Society is happy to submit its biennial report to the State Legislature. In this report will be found a record of progress during the past two years; it also emphasizes the importance of giving increased attention to the preservation of the state's historical heritage.

The management of the affairs of the Society is under the direction of officers and a Board of Curators selected from all parts of Washington.

Officers and Curators are as follows:

Officers:

President: Reno Odlin
Vice Pres.: H. J. Deutsch
Vice Pres.: Roe E. Shaub
Treasurer: Robert B. Gordon
Asst. Treas.: Dutton Hayward
Director: Bruce Le Roy

Ex-Officio:

Governor Albert D. Rosellini
State Treasurer, Tom Martin
Secretary of State, Victor A. Meyers

Board of Curators:

Mrs. Eva Anderson, Chelan
Dr. Harold Barto, Ellensburg
Mr. Howard Burnham, Vancouver
Dr. Arthur S. Cory, Chehalis
Rev. W. L. Davis, Spokane
Mr. L. E. Dawley, Olympia
Mrs. Della Gould Emmons, Tacoma
Mrs. E. N. Eisenhower, Tacoma
Dr. Charles M. Gates, Seattle
Mrs. Thomas P. Gose, Walla Walla
Mr. Joshua Green, Sr., Seattle
Mr. Matthew W. Hill, Olympia
Mr. Robert Hitchman, Seattle
Mr. Henry Jukes, Bellingham
Dr. Leon K. Jones, Sequim
Mr. George Long, Tacoma
Mr. John M. McClelland, Jr., Longview
Mr. E. K. Murray, Tacoma
Mr. Click Relander, Yakima
Mrs. Byron D. Scott, Tacoma
Dr. R. Franklin Thompson, Tacoma
Mrs. Pearl Wanamaker, Seattle
Mrs. J. P. Weyerhaeuser, Tacoma
Dr. Robert Whitner, Walla Walla
Mr. Chapin Foster, Director Emeritus

The Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society is composed of members representing all parts of the state. Each Curator has taken an active part in the preservation and dissemination of Washington history.

The Washington State Historical Society was organized in 1891, incorporated a few years later, and in 1903 was created a trustee of the State for certain purposes, by the adoption of S. B. 125, Chapter 177.

STATE LAW CREATING THE SOCIETY A TRUSTEE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

~~An Act relating to the Washington State Historical Society; creating it~~
a Trustee of the State for certain purposes.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That the Washington State Historical Society, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Washington, be and the same is hereby created Trustee of the State for the intent and purposes hereinafter mentioned, viz:

1. That it shall be the duty of the said Society to collect books, maps, charts, papers and materials illustrative of the history of this State, and of its progress and development.

2. To procure from pioneers authentic narrative of their ~~experiences~~ and of incidents relating to the early settlement of this State.

3. To gather data and information concerning the origin, history, language and customs of our Indian tribes.

4. To procure and purchase books, papers and pamphlets for the several departments of its collections, climatic, health and mortuary statistics, and such other books, maps, charts, papers and materials as will facilitate the investigation of the historical, scientific and literary subjects.

5. To bind, shelf, store and safely keep the unbound books, documents, manuscripts, pamphlets and newspaper files now or hereafter to come into its possession.

6. To catalogue the collections of said Society for the convenient reference of persons having occasion to consult same.

7. To prepare biennially for publication a report of its collections and such other matters relating to the work of the society as may be useful to the State and the people thereof.

8. To keep its rooms open at all reasonable hours of business days for the reception of citizens and visitors without charge.

SECTION 2. That the books, maps, charts, relics, memorials, collections and all other property of the Society now owned or hereafter acquired, shall be held by the said Society perpetually in trust for the use of and benefit of the people of the State of Washington.

SECTION 3. That the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Curators of the said Washington State Historical Society, authorized and empowered to vote upon all questions coming before the said Board for its action.

Organized in 1891, the Washington State Historical Society is now in its 72nd year, one of the oldest continuously operating state historical societies in the West. As headquarters in Tacoma is a five-story building erected almost entirely through gifts of interested citizens. The building houses Society offices and a museum of Washington and Northwest history. Visitors from all over the state, the country, and in fact, the world are coming in increasing numbers. Last year, more than 1,000 school and special

educational groups made an annual visit, the museum serving to supplement the teaching of Washington and American history required in the public schools.

The Society assists in the organization and development of local and county historical societies in 34 localities in Washington State. Several of these county historical societies have received national awards for outstanding achievement. Most recent of these were Fort Vancouver Historical Society and Chelan County Historical Society.

The Washington State Historical Society has sponsored and coordinated a number of important observances for the State. Acting under a mandate from the 1961 Legislature, the Society has carried through in the past two years the Boundary Survey Centennial and the Civil War Centennial. These activities have been carried out in cooperation with Canada and the other states involved.

The Library of the Society contains large collections of source material on the history and development of the Pacific Northwest. Visited by increasing numbers of students and professional scholars, the Washington State Historical Society is now recognized as a center of historical research of national importance.

An active publications program is under way, drawing upon the more important collections of the Society. Two such projects have been published in the past year.

Despite a greatly increased work-load, the full-time staff of the Society numbers 7 people--the same number as performed Society functions 23 years ago. The total program of the Society is at least four times greater in scope than it was two decades ago. The following spells out major aspects of this expansion.

INCREASED In 1955, the attendance averaged 65,000 annual visitors. The
ATTENDANCE total number of visitors to the Museum in 1962 was in excess
of 250,000 people. Of course, 1962 was the year of Century 21. But the
preceding year was correspondingly heavy, and 1963 bids fair to reach a
figure of nearly 200,000. These visitors come from every county in Washing-
ton State, every state in the Union, and many foreign countries. The U. S.
Department of State continues to bring distinguished foreign visitors. Inter-
national publicity, such as attended the discovery of the papers of General
James F. Smith, former Governor-General of the Philippines, has brought
visitors from all over the world.

More than 1,000 school and special educational groups visited the Museum
in the past year. Exhibits related to every phase of Washington history were
available for guided tours, examination and study. From the days of 18th
century exploration, through the periods of early fur trade, overland cross-
ings and the pioneering of agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, to present
day industry, special exhibits are available. These exhibits, some of them
frequently changed, are supplemented by a fine reference library and special
programs arranged for the public.

RESEARCH As a nationally recognized center for regional historical
CENTER research, the Library and collections of the Washington State
Historical Society are attracting increasing numbers of students and scholars.
The collections of original source material on the history of Washington, the
Pacific Northwest and America have been growing at an astounding rate. Whereas
the great research collections of the East are built by purchase, the Washing-
ton State Historical Society collections are being augmented through gifts

solicited by the staff. Outstanding additions of the past two years include the already mentioned papers of General James F. Smith, with at least 20,000 items on the part played by Washington and California militia in the Philippine Insurrection; the diaries, letters and journals of Francis Marion Streamer, Indian War scout for General O. O. Howard, which contain a massive reconstruction of life in territorial eastern Washington; books, pictures and maps from the library of General Stephen Watts Kearny, who commanded the great expedition of "The Army of the West"; Hudson's Bay Company manuscripts discovered in England; original manuscripts by President John F. Kennedy and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as well as manuscripts, letters and speeches of more than half the Presidents of the United States, from the S. H. Perkins and other collections; additional manuscripts, rare books, pamphlets and pictures added to the Ralph Chaplin Labor History Collection; manuscripts on Civil War history; the papers of Nesmith Ankeny, pioneer Dayton banker and historian; the Howard Hanson papers; the Patrick Gass Collection--he was the carpenter on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Such gifts come from all over Washington State. There were many more, but this listing indicates the incalculable value of the recent acquisitions to our Library.

In addition to manuscripts, maps and pictures, the Library has received several collections of rare and useful historical books. The Kibbe, Perkins and Landis Collections, previously reported, have been enhanced by the accession of the Jesse Jones books, the Ralph Metcalfe books, from Laura Drum Post, and others.

A significant addition has been the expanding microfilm collection. In this way, thousands of items of Washington history are being added from the archives of great American and European institutions. The most recent of these was the microfilming (in Chicago) of thousands of letters written by

early missionaries to this region. These supplement the already fine collections represented by the papers of Henry Brewer and Edwin Eells, early Northwest missionaries.

PUBLICATIONS The second in the Pacific Northwest Historical Pamphlet Series has just been published. Copies of Surveying the 49th Parallel, edited by Washington historian Herman J. Deutsch, were distributed to members of the Legislature. This report, a summary of the British-American Survey of the boundary between Canada and the United States, fulfills a requirement by the 1961 Legislature.

A book, H. M. Chittenden: A Western Epic, compiled and edited by Bruce Le Roy, was published last year. Based upon the letters, diaries and reports of the historian of the fur trade (who was also the engineer who designed the Port of Seattle, laid out Yellowstone National Park, and designed the Cascade Tunnel as early as 1911) the book has received national recognition. The Chittenden Papers are in Society collections, the gift of his sons and daughter.

A number of books and pamphlets are in progress. The publications program of the Washington State Historical Society is paid for out of the local funds of the Society.

STATE AND The 1961 Legislature required that the Washington State Historical
NATIONAL Society serve as coordinator of the 100th Anniversary of the
CELEBRATIONS American-Canadian Boundary Survey, and the national Civil War
Centennial. No funds were provided for the purpose. Despite this handicap,
a statewide observance of the Boundary Survey Centennial was organized with

an international observance held at Point Roberts on July 30, 1961. High state and federal officials from Canada and the United States took part. The Civil War Centennial, which will run to 1965, has been coordinated with other states and this state has been represented (at no cost to Washington) at major national observances. Special programs, publicity and exhibits for the public and schools, have been prepared by the state historical society with 34 county and local historical societies cooperating.

PACIFIC The Society serves as permanent sponsor for the annual Pacific
NORTHWEST Northwest History Conference, now in its 16th year. Amateur
HISTORY and professional historians, teachers and students, come to-
CONFERENCE gether for three days of conferences and programs devoted to
stimulating interest in regional history. They come from all northwestern
states, western Canada and Alaska. In April 1963, the Conference will be
held in Tacoma. Its theme will be "The Ethnohistory of the Pacific North-
west"--a study of the contributions of the many ethnic groups which helped
to settle and develop this region. Speakers of national standing will con-
tribute. Many of the papers of the Conference, as in past years, will be
published in the historical journals of the western states. The Council on
Regional Research meets with the Conference annually. Other organizations,
such as the American Studies Association, meet with the Conference from time
to time.

VOLUNTEER The program of the Washington State Historical Society benefits
SERVICES greatly from the services of a large number of dedicated vol-
unteers. Such organizations as the Rockhounds of America, the Early American
Glass Clubs, the Tacoma Geneological Society, the Tacoma Garden Clubs, the

Junior League and the Sister City Committee have assisted greatly with certain projects and programs. Girl Scouts help with sorting and labeling.

In addition, several individuals give volunteer assistance to Society projects. Several ladies aid in transcribing historical manuscripts. One lady in Los Angeles is assisting the Library by compiling indexes to reference works! Without all this fine help it would be impossible to keep our heads above water, let alone achieve the progress that has been made in the last few years.

GIFTS The Building Fund of the Society is being increased toward the
AND day when a new wing for the Museum can be constructed. For
BEQUESTS this fund the Society received the \$50,000 bequest of S. H.
Perkins, and in the past year, a \$35,000 bequest from Mrs. Louise Clark,
former Tacoman who lived in California.

The Colonel Beverly Coiners, of San Antonio, Texas, gave sufficient funds to aid in building a Historic Guns and Uniforms exhibit. This exhibit, unique in the United States, traces U. S. military history from the Revolutionary War to the Space Age. For a special Spring show of "Early Art of the Pacific Northwest", a Tacoma sponsor is underwriting a special catalogue which will be a permanent record of this fine collection--another first for the Northwest.

PAY US We extend a sincere invitation to all the members of the
A VISIT 1963 Legislature to visit the Museum and headquarters of
the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma. Bring your families--
it is their Museum and Society, too. We will be proud to show you what a

fine contribution is being made to the people and the prestige of Washington State.

With your understanding and support this work will go forward to even greater goals in building public appreciation for what went into laying the foundations of this State and this Republic. Ours is a great story. It deserves to be told.

Bruce Le Roy
Director
Washington State Historical Society