

# YOUR Treaty

The first day of the Great Council  
at Camp Stevens  
May 29, 1953

## PROCEEDINGS AT THE COUNCIL HELD AT CAMP STEVENS

### WALLA WALLA VALLEY, ON THE 29TH DAY OF MAY 1855

Gov. Stevens, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Washington Territory, and Gen'l Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon Territory, with the following named chiefs, delegates and head men present at the Council, and representing their respective tribes and bands of Indians as below stated,

For the Nes Perses: Lawyer, Joseph, U-u-suns-mal-o-can, James, Timothy, Red Wolfe, Spotted Eagle, Three Feathers, Jason, Jacobs, Cow-pook, Is-coh-tim, Kay-kay-map, Tu-por-lan-its-a-kum, Billy, Toh-teh-mol-e-wot, The Snipe, Bald Eagle, and others.

For the Cayuses: The Young Chief, Stosolmo, Comaspilo, and others.

For the Walla Wallas: Pee-o-pee-mox-~~amox~~.

For the Yakamas: Cam-i-ah-kun, Ow-hi, Skloom, Kow-was-say ie, Si-ry-was, Skin-pay.

For the Palouses: Kah-lat-toose.

For the Spokanes: Garry.

For the Pispuose and Methows:

For the Cak-kin-a-kanos.

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On May 29th at 2:02 p.m. the Council opened. Present: the commissioners, officers of Treaties, the Indian agents, and some fifty citizens.

Besides the Indian chiefs already mentioned and some others, about 1800 Indians, Nes Perses, Cayuses, Walla Wallas, Yakamas, Dalles Indians, and others on the Columbia above were assembled.

After the pipe had been smoked sometime, Gov. Stevens said:

My Children: Before entering upon the council we must have good and faithful interpreters. We want men who will state truly and exactly all that is said; we want men that you know to be good men; men that you can trust; we want no others.

We propose as interpreters for the Nes Perses, William Craig, this man, (pointing to Mr. Craig) who has lived with you, also McDauphin and Delaware Jim.

For the Cayuses Mr. Posbrom and Mr. Olney.

For the Walla Wallas and Yakamas, John Whitford.

Thus for each language we propose to have two and three interpreters. Now I ask you, do you want others added to the number? Are you satisfied with these men? If you have any others you wish to propose, speak out, for we wish you to be satisfied.

Stackus, a Cayuse said: We know of no others whom we would wish. There may be some words hard for them to make us understand, but we think the arrangement good as it is.

Gov. Stevens said: When you cannot understand what we say to you, stop us and we will repeat it.

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Each interpreter will now be sworn to be a faithful interpreter.

Gov. Stevens then administered to the interpreters the following oath.  
You solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that you will well and truly interpret to the best of your ability what may be said by the Commissioners for the United States holding this council on the one part; and the chiefs and head men of the tribes and bands of Indians here present on the other part. So help you God.

Gov. Stevens then said: My children, the interpreters here have each taken a solemn oath in the presence of Almighty God, to be true and faithful interpreters. I will now read the form of the oath (and it was read as above).

Gov. Stevens continued: My children; I have much to say to you; my brother here Gen'l Palmer will have much to say to you. We want you to listen and be comfortable at the same time. We want clear skies, we want the ground to be dry. We will meet tomorrow with a clear sun and the day before us. Then we will open the whole subject, and will see if our hearts and your hearts will not come together.

We have met as friends today, tomorrow we will meet as friends and then enter upon our business. I therefore adjourn the council till 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow. The weather is rainy and bad, tomorrow we hope the skies will be clear and you will be able to be present. Should it rain tomorrow we will meet when it clears up.

One word on another point, you have come here by our invitation and are our guests. I have entered, and so has my friend here Gen'l Palmer, many an Indian lodge, and they always gave us to eat and drink. We therefore have brought provisions which we offer to you as a friend to a guest; and we therefore trust you will all feel free to receive the provisions we have brought to furnish you with as our guests.

I propose to the Walla Wallas, Cayuses, and Yakamas that you take two oxen, drive to your camp and slaughter for yourselves.

Young Chief replied: We have plenty of cattle, they are close to our camp. We have already killed three and have plenty of provisions.

Gov. Stevens said: We are much pleased to hear you are so well provided for, but we have plenty of provisions and you are welcome to them.

Young Chief replied: We have plenty at present. We do not throw away your offer. If we want any we will come to you.

Gen'l Palmer (to the interpreter): Say to the Yakamas: You have come a long ways. You may not have provisions. If you want any we have them and you are welcome.

Young Chief said: Can-i-ah-kun is supplied at our camp.

Gov. Stevens said: There will be no more said today unless you wish to say something.

Young Chief said: We have nothing to say today; the weather is bad, rainy. We do not throw away your offer; when we are done talking you will know our hearts. We will talk slow not all in one day. No snow falls at this season of the year. There will be time for you to go anywhere you wish.

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The council then broke up and nearly all the Indians returned to their camps.

Pee-o-pee-mox-a-mox and Cam-i-ah-kun dined with the Commissioners and remained in their tent sometime smoking in a friendly manner.

Timothy, a Nes Perses chief acted as crier for his nation and he will also record in their language the full proceedings each day of the council and this will be preserved among the archives of the nation and handed down to future generations.

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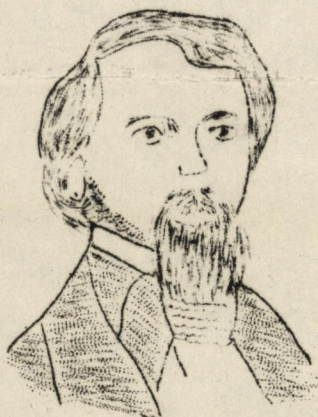


# The first Article of the TREATY

Articles of agreement and convention made and concluded at the treaty ground, Camp Stevens, Walla-Walla valley, this ninth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, by and between Isaac I. Stevens, governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for the Territory of Washington, on the part of the United States, and the undersigned head chief, chiefs, headmen and delegates of the Yakama, Palouse, Pisquouse, Wenatshapam, Klikatat, Klinquit, Kow-was-say-ee, Li-ay-was, Skin-pah, Wish-ham, Shyiks, Oche-chotes, Kah-milt-pah, and Se-ap-cat, confederated tribes and bands of Indians, occupying lands hereinafter bounded and described and lying in Washington Territory, who for the purposes of this treaty are to be considered as one nation, under the name of "Yakama," with Kamaiakun as its head chief, on behalf of and acting for said tribes and bands, and being duly authorized thereto by them.

Article 1. The aforesaid confederated tribes and bands of Indians hereby cede, relinquish, and convey to the United States all their right, title, and interest in and to the lands and country occupied and claimed by them, and bounded and described as follows, to wit:

Commencing at Mount Ranier, thence northerly along the main ridge of the Cascade mountains to the point where the northern tributaries of Lake Che-lan and the southern tributaries of the Methow river have their rise; thence southeasterly on the divide between the waters of Lake Che-lan and the Methow river to the Columbia river; thence, crossing the Columbia on a true east course, to a point whose longitude is one hundred and nineteen degrees and ten minutes, ( $119^{\circ} 10'$ ), which two latter lines separate the above confederated tribes and bands from the Oakinakane tribe of Indians; thence in a true south course to the forty-seventh ( $47^{\circ}$ ) parallel to the main Palouse river, which two latter lines of boundary separate the above confederated tribes and bands from the Spokans; thence down the Palouse river to its junction with the Moh-hah-ne-she, or southern tributary of the same; thence, in a southerly direction, to the Snake river, at the mouth of the Tucannon river, separating the above confederated tribes from the Nez Perce tribe of Indians; thence down the Snake river to its junction with the Columbia river; thence up the Columbia river to the "White banks," below the Priest's rapids; thence westerly to a lake called "La Lac;" thence southerly to a point on the Yakama river called Toh-mah-luke; thence, in a southwesterly direction, to the Columbia river, at the western extremity of the "Big island," between the mouths of the Umatilla river and Butler creek; all which latter boundaries separate the above confederated tribes and bands from the Walla-Walla, Cayuse, and Umatilla tribes and bands of Indians; thence down the Columbia river to midway between the mouths of White Salmon and Wind rivers; thence along the divide between said rivers to the main ridge of the Cascade mountains; and thence along said ridge to the place of beginning.



ISAAC I. STEVENS.

Soldier  
ENGINEER.  
STATESMAN

first Governor of Washington Territory





*Treaty Council at Walla Walla*  
*1853*

Richard Douglas  
c/o Co. Welfare Dept.  
121 So. 2nd. St.  
Yakima, Washington

