

RELEASE WEEK OF FEB. 26

THIS WEEK IN  
WASHINGTON HISTORY

Compiled by  
Washington State  
Historical Society.

The name of the state of Washington might have been different had there not been a last minute rush to get the bill passed and signed by President Fillmore before his term expired. The memorial adopted at Monticello (near Longview) petitioned Congress to create the "Territory of Columbia", but the name was changed in the House to honor the "Father of his Country". Stephen A. Douglas later submitted an amendment in the Senate to make the name "Washingtonia". Because it was desirable to get the bill passed before the end of the session, Douglas withdrew the amendment and on March 2, 1853, Washington Territory was created.

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RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 4

THIS WEEK IN  
WASHINGTON HISTORY

Compiled by

Washington State  
Historical Society

A momentous period in the history of the Northwest was inaugurated when the March 1833 issue of the Methodist Magazine, Christian Advocate and Journal, published the story of four Indians from the Flathead nation who had made a two thousand mile trip to St. Louis to ask their Great White Father, General William Clark, to send "Black Robes" to teach them about the white man's God. That was the clarion call for the Protestant missionary epoch which brought to the Oregon country such men as Jason and Daniel Lee, Marcus Whitman, H. H. Spalding, Cushing Eels, Elkanah Walker, Cyrus Shepard, Elijah White and hosts of others.

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RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 11.

THIS WEEK IN  
WASHINGTON HISTORY

Compiled by

Washington State  
Historical Society

March 12 marks the anniversary of the death in 1820 of the Scotch explorer Alexander McKenzie, whose long treks overland from Canada brought him first to the Arctic Ocean and another time to the Pacific at the mouth of the Bella Coola River. In the one instance he demonstrated that there was no serviceable Northwest Passage, in the other he believed he had established valid claim to the whole vast region west to the Pacific. There is little doubt that it did have a direct bearing on the British attitude toward the questions involved many years later in the phrase "Fifty-four Forty or Fight".

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RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 18.

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*   Washington State              *  
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The Northwest continues to celebrate the Sesqui-Centennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. It was just 150 years ago, March 23, 1806, that these first white men to cross overland from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean began their long return journey from Fort Clatsop to St. Louis. Their winter at the mouth of the Columbia had given them time to organize diaries and notes and to prepare field specimens for President Jefferson. For that far-sighted statesman, the return of the expedition was to climax a quarter century of dreams and schemes to have these western lands explored by Americans.

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RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 25.

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It was March 29, 1778 when Captain James Cook sighted shore and later entered Nootka Sound where he remained a month. Although his long stay did not give him much more information than the Spaniards had learned on earlier voyages, the results of his observations were made known to the world, and Cook and England were given the honors of discovery of the Northwest Coast. Moreover, by the happy chance of having taken a few furs with him to Siberia and China, he originated the fur-trade which was to become the incentive for most English and American expeditions.

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NOTE: We hope you like this "Washington History" series, after trying it for a month, and that you'll use it another month. It is our plan to send out releases for two months at one time. If you find it impossible to use the series, we'd appreciate a note to that effect. Of course, if you see how the series can be improved, we'd appreciate your suggestions.

#5 - MFMc 2/1/56

CHAPIN D. FOSTER, Director,  
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
TACOMA

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 1.

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* WASHINGTON HISTORY               *
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April 3 is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Wilkes in the year 1798. Few will remember it, though as the leader of the U. S. Exploring Expedition during the years 1838 to 1842 he was to leave his imprint on the geography of the Northwest and Puget Sound in particular. His own name is not to be found, but those of his men mark Elliott Bay, Bainbridge, Harstene, Waldron, and Maury Islands; Dana's, Hale's Agate, Colvos, and Pickering Passage; Case's, Hammersley's, Totten, Eld, Budd, Sinclair, and Dye's Inlets. In addition, he surveyed and named many other equally familiar points in the Sound.

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RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 8.

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April 12, 1811, Capt. Jonathan Thorn began work on Fort Astoria, not far from the mouth of the Columbia river. He was in command of a ship sent to deliver men and supplies in advance of another Astor party which was travelling overland along the Lewis and Clark route under the leadership of Wilson Price Hunt. From this beginning, John Jacob Astor planned to control the fur trade by establishing posts in the interior, sending ships annually to the Astoria headquarters with supplies and to pick up furs for the China trade. Before the Astor dream failed, Capt. Thorn and his crew lost their lives in a gruesome massacre on the coast of Vancouver Island.

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RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 15.

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Just 150 years ago this week the explorers Lewis and Clark were struggling against odds to solve two major problems of transportation. Some of the party were alternately making way by boat and then by portage through the many rapids and cascades in the area below The Dalles and ~~Celilo~~ <sup>Little</sup> Falls. Sometimes they camped on the south side of the river, sometimes on the north in what is now Klickitat county. Others of the party were trying with small success to buy horses for the journey overland to the headwaters of the Missouri. Bartering with the Indians along this part of the river was unusually difficult and required great patience and skill.

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RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 22.

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The first geographic name given by Capt. George Vancouver to any part of what is now the state of Washington was Point Grenville (near present Moclips) on April 28, 1792. That same night, quite unaware of having passed up the entrance to the great river which he knew Capt. Robert Gray was sure existed, Vancouver wrote in his journal: "The several large rivers and capacious inlets that have been described as discharging their contents into the Pacific . . . were reduced to brooks not sufficient for our vessels to navigate, or to bays inapplicable as harbors for refitting." Exactly two weeks later Gray discovered and named the mighty Columbia.

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RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 29.

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Capt. George Vancouver's curiosity, which he said was "much excited to explore the promised expansive Mediterranean Ocean" was destined to be satisfied April 29, 1792. It was then that his ships Chatham and Discovery entered the straits named for Juan de Fuca, the mysterious Greek who was said to have spent twenty days on this inland sea exactly 200 years earlier, in 1592. Dropping anchor in a bay which reminded them of the British Channel, the Vancouver party called it New Dungeness, and the same evening named the "very high, conspicuous, craggy mountain" in the distance Mt. Baker, in honor of the third lieutenant who had first sighted it.

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NOTE: This ends the first two months of "This Week in Washington History". It's our plan to continue the series, sending out releases for two months at one time. We hope you're finding the stories valuable. We hope you will continue using the series but if you don't plan to stay with it, a note will save us some money and you the trouble of opening another envelope. Suggestions for improving the series will be appreciated.

#10  
MFMc  
2/1/56

CHAPIN D. FOSTER, Director  
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
TACOMA

RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 31 - APRIL 6:

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Word of the creation of Washington Territory had not reached Olympia when "The Columbian" editorialized in its April 2, 1853, issue: "One year ago, some five vessels did all the business of the Sound; now, twice that number can be seen at almost any time, on Budd's Inlet ... One year ago there was no minister of the gospel, or any religious services in Olympia. Now, we have a stationed minister among us, divine services regularly every Sabbath ... The accession to the number of our young ladies is considerable. The matrimonial prospects of our bachelors are not now so hopeless, but have increased at least fifty per cent. A corresponding improvement has occurred in every department of our industrial, social, moral, and political progress..."

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#58  
3/6/57  
MFMc



RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 7 - 13:

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The first missionaries to the Puget Sound country arrived at Fort Nisqually April 10, 1839. Mr. Kitson's entry in his journal for that day reads: "This evening the Rev. (David) Leslie and Brother (William) Willson arrived with an intention of making this place a small missionary establishment for converting the Indians around". The following day he "showed them a spot of ground north of the small river, for building a house for the mission", and the next he "took a ride out near the Poolapa (Puyallup) River with the two gentlemen strangers. They were delighted with the country". Delighted though they may have been, the mission itself did not get into operation for a year, though Mr. Willson did stay long enough to complete the mission house.

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#59  
3/6/57  
MFMc

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 14 - 20:

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Last year the Sisters of Charity of Providence celebrated the 100th anniversary of their arrival in Washington. At the request of Bishop A. M. A. Blanchet, the sisters had come to Vancouver, landing there December 8th, 1856. School was opened April 15, 1857, in the unpretentious building sixteen by twenty-four feet, with seven pupils enrolled the first day. Sister Joseph of the Sacred Heart was the foundress of the order in Washington. Having learned the art of building by helping her father who was a noted architect in Montreal, Mother Joseph was able to draw the plans and superintend all the details of construction of many buildings for her order, among them Providence Academy in Vancouver.

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#60  
3/6/57  
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RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 21 - 27:

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In this day of rapid communication it seems incredible that it was at least six weeks before the news of the "divorce" from Oregon reached Olympia. The following brief news item in the April 23, 1853, issue of "The Columbian" reported the Olympia celebration of the event: "In pursuance of our proclamation of the 16th inst., one hundred guns were fired on the 25th, by the 'Olympia Light Artillery' in honor of our new territory and its glorious name -- WASHINGTON. Simultaneous with the firing of the first gun, a new and beautiful star spangled banner ascended to the top of our liberty pole, and its folds being shaken out, it waved gracefully aloft, and kissed in gladness the morning air. It waves there still".

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#61  
3/6/57  
MFMc

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 1957:

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Daily journals such as those kept at Fort Nisqually reveal human interest stories as well as items of historical significance. Here is the record for April 29, 1839: "This afternoon Miss Helen McDonald and Miss Margaret Riedout Orriber were both baptized by Mr. Demers (Roman Catholic priest) and after, the latter was married to her old husband, Joseph Pin. At seven o'clock, Miss Helen McDonald was married to William Kittson without much ceremony, the latter being a Protestant and the former a Roman Catholic. The rites were performed in a civil manner. Witnesses Mr. William Halder Willson a brother of the Missionary Society and Joseph Pin." A year later, again at Fort Nisqually, this same witness Willson and Miss Clark, a missionary teacher, were the first American couple to be married in present Washington state.

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#62  
3/21/57  
MFMc



RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 5 - 11, 1957:

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"Discontent, Mother of Progress" was first issued in Home, Washington, May 11, 1898. It was the weekly mouthpiece of the Mutual Home Colony Association located about twenty miles "up sound" from Tacoma, at Joe's Bay on the Olympic Peninsula and one of the unorthodox colonies of that era of which author Murray Morgan has written "... it is generally agreed that in all the wilds, and perhaps in all the world, there was really no place like Home..." In the words of the local editor it was "a community of free spirits who came into the woods to escape the polluted atmosphere of ... conventional society" though outsiders were less charitable and one typical editorial referred to it as "a festering nest of poisonous anarchists".

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#63  
3/21/57  
MFMc

RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 12 - 18, 1957:

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The name "Longview" was selected for Long-Bell's planned city on the Columbia at a meeting convened May 16, 1922, at R. A. Long's huge Kansas farm, "Longview". Months later, after the new town had been nationally publicized, and application made for a post office, authorities pointed out that another "Long View" was already on the Washington map, up river in Benton County. Eventually, company lawyers induced the railroad to change the name of its flagstop to "Barger" and the three families living within a radius of a mile and a half agreed to ask the Post Office department to make the change. In return for the favor, the Long-Bell company generously paid \$25 for a covered platform to keep the mail bag dry.

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#64  
3/21/57  
MFMc



RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 19 - 25, 1957:

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*      THIS WEEK IN                 *
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First issue of the Spokane Falls Review, predecessor of the Spokesman Review, is dated May 19, 1883. Spokane Falls was then (according to one historian) but "a small, crude, pioneer trading post", but Editor Frank M. Dallam had faith in its destiny as "the chief metropolis not only of eastern Washington, but of that vast territory, now being rapidly peopled, known and suggestively spoken of as the 'Inland Empire', an immense region of unlimited resources and possibilities that will in later years give subsistence and support to millions of human beings". The editor also announced in this first issue that in order to cover the vast area, he desired "to secure a live correspondent in every settlement or post in eastern Washington and northern Idaho".

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#65  
3/21/57  
MFMc



RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 26 - JUNE 1, 1957:

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There had been much fanfare over the driving of the "last spike" in Montana in 1883, but it was not until the completion of the road over the Cascades, with eight miles of hazardous switchbacks, June 1, 1887, that the Northern Pacific reached tidewater over its own lines. Even this was only a temporary expedient while the second longest tunnel in the United States was being rushed through under the engineering skill of Virgil P. Bogue. Pressure on the construction crews caused men to quit and "stampede" down the trail to such an extent that, when the company wanted to name the pass and tunnel in honor of the engineer, he insisted that it be called "Stampede Pass", though he considered it his greatest piece of engineering.

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#66  
3/21/57  
MFMc

RELEASE WEEK OF JULY 6 - 12, 1958:

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\* THIS WEEK IN \*  
\* WASHINGTON HISTORY\*  
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\* Compiled by \*  
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\* Washington State \*  
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The recently appointed United States marshal of the new territory of Washington, J. Patton Anderson, arrived with his family at Olympia July 6, 1853, and proceeded immediately to take the census. The questions to be asked the people included: 1 - Name, age, sex and occupation of each person in the house on July 5, 1853; the number who attended school within the year; the persons over 20 years of age who cannot read or write; the number married during the year; and the value of each man's real estate. 2 - The number of acres of land, cleared and not cleared; the number of bushels of wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, potatoes, peas and beans raised within the year; the number of head of cattle, horses, mules, hogs, etc., on the place within the last year. 3 - The name, age, sex, place of birth, the date of death, their disease and the number of days they were ill for every person who died within the last year. Other questions were in relation to the schools and churches. The Puget Sound area had been completed by the end of the month and the territory by fall with a total of 3,965 persons, 1,782 being voters. By profession, James Patton Anderson was a lawyer; became a Colonel during the Mexican war; elected to congress from Washington Territory in 1855; and appointed its governor in 1857, for which he did not qualify, remaining in the east.

#124  
6/19/58  
MFMc