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3 December 1968

MEMO TO: Board of Curators
Washington State Historical Society

FROM: Bruce Le Roy

SUBJECT: Nominations to Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C.

At the Board of Curators Meeting on November 30, 1968, I was directed to reproduce four biographical briefs on the leading candidates for nomination by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Statuary Hall.

These briefs were placed on the record at the Board Meeting when Chairman John McClelland reported for the committee.

Will you please study the briefs and then vote your preference on the enclosed slip. The numerical order in which you vote (1-2-3-4) indicates the priority you would place on the names in nomination.

If you do not wish to second the nomination of any of the four, please indicate that. Include comments if you desire.

BL/am

P.S. This is a sample of our new updated stationery. Let us know how much you can use and we will be glad to send it.

MEEKER

EZRA MEEKER1830 - 1928

These earlier years with a variety of odd jobs from sawing wood to delivering newspapers. When the family moved to Indiana in 1839 and settled on a farm, Meeker found that life in the open air agreed with him, and from that time on he wanted nothing more than to be a farmer. One of the pictures taken on Ezra Meeker's first Oregon Trail expedition of 1906-08 shows him standing in front of his family's ancestral home near Elizabeth, New Jersey, with about forty members of the Meeker clan. When he announced this intention to Eliza Jane Sumner, a young lady from a neighboring farm whom he had known for some time, she was not slow to respond. The old homestead, the bearded pioneer with his oxen yoked to the reconstructed prairie schooner surrounded by the generations of Meekers is a particularly apt portrayal of the historical sense that motivated Meeker's activities during the latter part of his life.

His research revealed that the Meeker family had originally come from England in 1637 and was instrumental in the founding of the town near which the old home still stands. During the Revolution the family furnished more than a score of fighters for independence. Shortly thereafter Meeker's grandfather settled in Butler County, Ohio, where Ezra was born near Huntsville on December 29, 1830.

From an early age he was possessed of a restless disposition and could not be made to stay in school. His formal education was limited to six months which was supplemented over the years by reading the literature of the day, especially the New York Tribune, where he claimed to have picked up whatever literary style he had.

His parents set an example of industriousness from which Meeker learned early in life to endure long hours of hard labor. Later he could boast of never having spent a day sick in bed during the fifty-eight years he was married. What is more, he always loved his work and looked upon it, no matter how humble it was, as filling an honored place in life. There was much suffering both mental and physical and hundreds died, but Meeker did not remember seeing anyone turn back.

MEEKER

These earlier years were filled with a variety of odd jobs from sawing wood to delivering newspapers. When the family moved to Indiana in 1839 and settled on a farm, Meeker found that life in the open air agreed with him, and from that time on he wanted nothing more than to be a farmer. When he announced this intention to Eliza Jane Summer, a young lady from a neighboring farm whom he had known for some time, she was not slow to respond. She had the same ambition, but it would have to be on land of their own. Two bargains, one implied in the other, were sealed at that moment. The two were married on May 13, 1851, and in October of that year they started for Iowa to find their own farm.

One bitterly cold winter was enough to make the couple decide they did not like the Iowa climate. They had already heard of the land available in the Oregon country as a consequence of the boundary settlement reached by the United States and Great Britain. Stories had reached them of the wonderful climate and the rich soil. It was only a matter of waiting until their first-born son was old enough to stand the journey before the Meeker family could start across the plains in 1852.

From April to October the party of nine men, three women and a baby had neither a roof over its head nor beds to sleep on. They endured the monotony of the plains, treacherous mountain passes, hazardous river crossing, thieving Indians, wild animals and the ravages of cholera. This small band, although it had kept to itself, was not alone for it formed only a part of what was almost a continuous stream of wagons. At times they traveled two and even three abreast, often contesting bitterly for the right of way. There was much suffering both mental and physical and hundreds died, but Meeker did not remember seeing anyone turn back.

MEEKER

The 350 miles from the lower crossing of the Snake River to The Dalles was probably the hardest part of the journey. Many were so weakened from continuous hardships and lack of proper diet that they could barely struggle along. Eliza Jane's cooking had provided a little more variety than was enjoyed by many and Ezra, though twenty pounds lighter by now, still had the vitality of youth in his favor. At The Dalles they loaded their few possessions onto a scow and floated down the Columbia to the Cascades, where they boarded a steamer for Portland.

On the evening of October 1, 1852, Meeker carried his wife, whose strength had finally given out, into a lodging house in the unprepossessing town of Portland which seemed to be nothing but stumps and mud. The combined capital of Ezra and his brother Oliver amounted to about three dollars. It was imperative for them to find some way of supplementing this as soon as possible. Ezra soon found work unloading a ship while Oliver set off down the river to find other opportunities.

From these humble beginnings Ezra Meeker was to become one of the richest and most influential men in the state. There were hard years still ahead as well as many heartaches - the death of his mother and younger brother while crossing the plains in 1854, the loss at sea of brother Oliver in 1861 and finally the death of his father in 1869. By this time Meeker had already shown a flair for promotion and developed the sharp eye necessary to spot possibilities for profit.

To start with the two brothers operated a boarding house in St. Helens briefly before staking a claim and building their first cabin in what is now Kalama. Hearing that a new territory was about to be formed north of the Columbia, the family decided to relocate somewhere on Puget

MEEKER

Sound where they would be close to the center of affairs. Accordingly the two brothers set out in the summer of 1853 on an exploring trip that took them from Olympia to Port Townsend. During the ensuing years the Meekers operated a general store in Steilacoom and worked farms on McNeil Island and near present-day Fern Hill, both of which were abandoned due to adverse growing and marketing conditions. During this time Ezra guided a large party, including members of his family, over the Naches Pass and served on the jury at the trial of Leschi after the Indian Wars of 1855-56. He voted for acquittal and always stoutly maintained that the chief was innocent.

On the trip up the Sound in 1853 the Indians had guided the brothers into the Bay now known as Commencement, where they were struck by the beauty of the landscape and filled with awe at the sight of the Mountain. They had been discouraged from settling there at that time by the seemingly impenetrable forest, but after the many vicissitudes of these intervening years Meeker, with his wife and four children, came back to the Puyallup Valley to stay in 1862.

In 1865, almost by accident, Meeker was plunged into a venture that made and lost him a fortune. Not only that, but it was to focus the attention of the agricultural world on the Puyallup Valley and bring millions of dollars into the Pacific Northwest.

John, another of the Meeker brothers, had picked up about three pecks of hop roots from Charles Wood of Olympia. He intended to take them to his father Jacob, who had taken a claim near the present site of Sumner. Before going there, however, he decided to drop in on Ezra, who took a few

MEEKER

of the roots for himself. The conditions in the Valley seemed to be especially propitious for the growing of hops. When the Meekers harvested their crop and sold it for \$150, a new industry was born in the state.

For the following twenty-six years Meeker expanded his holdings constantly until he had 500 acres under cultivation plus an interest in most of the hops being grown in the area. The high point came in 1882, a disastrous year on the world hop market for all but the Puyallup Valley. Crops had failed almost everywhere else and Meeker practically cornered the market, selling 100,000 pounds for an average of seventy cents a pound.

It was at this point that Meeker sought additional outlets abroad. For five winters he traveled to London to deal in the hop market, where he was soon doing a business totaling half a million dollars a year.

Such great prosperity could not last. Beginning around 1885 a plague of hop lice struck all over the Pacific Northwest, destroying the quality of the hops. Meeker had advanced thousands of dollars on the crops of his neighbors for which he received nothing in return, and his own crop was sold at a ruinous loss.

After the hop business had quit him, as he put it, Meeker entered into other activities. He had platted the town of Puyallup in 1877 and refused the honor of having it named Meekerville. He could not refuse the honor of being its first mayor, however, when the town was incorporated in 1890. With this went interests in building, railroads, and a variety of civic affairs as well as the continual promotion of the Pacific Northwest wherever he went.

MEEKER

At this point the story can be picked up by the papers in the collection at the Washington State Historical Society. They have been arranged so as to make it easy to follow the various major undertakings Meeker was engaged in. Explanatory comments have been added to give an idea of what is included in each group. For further details, the books listed in the bibliography can be consulted.

When Meeker died on December 3, 1928, shortly before his 98th birthday, it was as the result of pneumonia contracted while a guest of Henry Ford, who was having a car designed in which Meeker intended to drive over the Oregon Trail once more. Thus ended the life of the man who, perhaps more than anyone else, typified the rugged pioneer spirit that had battled against great odds to establish civilization in the Pacific Northwest. It would be a fitting tribute if he were to become the state's second representative in Statuary Hall.

half-way between Russell's JAMES GILCHRIST SWAN the Palux River. Soon the

Indians were bringing him enough oysters so that he was doing a thriving

Swan was born at Medford, Massachusetts, January 11, 1818, the son of Captain Samuel and Margaret (Tufts) Swan. Young Swan received his

early education in the common school of Medford and also at a small academy

at that place. At the age of 15 he moved to Boston where, in the capacity of clerk, he became connected with the establishment of a ship-chandler.

Being of a studious nature he also studied admiralty law.

After an apprenticeship of six years with the ship-chandler he

engaged in that business until 1849. In 1841 he married Mathilda W. Loring

of Boston. To them were born two children, Charles H., who became a prominent engineer, and a daughter, Ellen Matilda.

In 1849 the lure of the California gold fields called to him and, although prosperous as a ship-chandler, he sold his business, left his family behind and boarded a ship which took him to San Francisco in 1850.

Soon after his arrival Swan bought an interest in a river steamboat on which he acted as purser. During this time he met a Clallam Indian chief, Chetzamakha, who had come down from Puget Sound. Upon leaving he urged Swan to visit him at his home on the Olympic Peninsula.

It took a second invitation, this one from Captain Charles J. W. Russell of Shoalwater Bay, to get Swan to go north. On November 20, 1852, he boarded the brig Oriental which entered the Bay after a stormy trip of more than a week.

Russell was engaged in supplying oysters for the San Francisco trade. When Swan found how abundant the oysters were in the shallow waters

he decided to go into the business for himself. He settled a spot about

SWAN

half-way between Russell's home and the mouth of the Palux River. Soon the Indians were bringing him enough oysters so that he was doing a thriving business. In order to widen his business connections he returned to San Francisco in 1854.

Soon after his return from California Swan was appointed customs collector for the district along the coast extending from Shoalwater Bay to Cape Flattery. His principal duties were to guard the coast against Russian and Hudson's Bay Company smuggling operations among the Indians of that stretch of land.

In late February of 1855 Swan was among those invited by Territorial Governor Stevens to meet near the mouth of the Chehalis River for the purpose of treating with the Coast Indians. The Indians of the many tribes were to be placed on one reservation to which they strongly objected. They preferred that each tribe should have its own reservation. Swan thought this was reasonable, but the governor refused to consider it.

At the request of Governor Stevens, Swan joined him again, this time as private secretary, when Stevens was appointed first Congressional Delegate from Washington Territory in 1856. It was during this time that he published the book entitled The Northwest Coast: Three Years Residence in Washington Territory. Also at this time he formed an association with the Smithsonian Institution which later led to the position of collaborator which he held for over 30 years.

Swan returned to Washington Territory in the autumn of 1858 and settled at Port Townsend where he spent most of the remaining 40 years of his life.

SWAN

Having become greatly interested in ethnology, Swan, in 1860, became connected with a trading post at Neah Bay. Two years later he was appointed teacher of the Makah Indian Reservation, a position which he held for four years. By his intimate contact with the Indians he gathered much information which he used as the basis for a number of articles.

After teaching the Indians Swan returned to Port Townsend and engaged in the practice of admiralty law. In 1871 he was elected probate judge of Jefferson County and continued in that office for seven years. It was said of Swan that he had more influence with the Indians than any other man from the Columbia River to Alaska. During this time he was sent on seven occasions to Alaska to procure articles of Indian manufacture for the government. Most of these are now on display at the National Museum.

In later years Swan was first agent for the U. S. Fish Commission, Hawaiian consul for Puget Sound and Puget Sound Pilot Commissioner. His advice was sought during the time of the Bering Sea Controversy when the United States, England and Russia met to settle their difficulties regarding the seal fisheries in that area.

Swan continued to be active until the end. It was on the 19th of May, 1900, that he had a stroke of apoplexy and after lying unconscious for 11 hours, he passed on. He was a proud member of the Improved Order of Red Men, and his funeral, in deference to his oft-expressed wish, was held May 21, 1900 under the auspices of that organization.

From Washington State Historical Society

ISAAC I. STEVENS, FIRST GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY

The bill creating Washington Territory was signed by President Millard Fillmore on March 2, 1853, just two days before his term of office expired. President Franklin Pierce, who assumed the duties of his office on March 4, 1853, selected the first officers of the new territory. For the important office of governor he appointed Isaac I. Stevens.

Isaac Ingalls Stevens, soldier and administrator, was descended from several generations of patriots, being seventh in direct descent from John Stevens, who founded Andover, Massachusetts in 1641. He was born at Andover, March 25, 1818. When fifteen years of age he entered Phillips Academy, completing the work in a year and four months. Through the influence of an uncle he entered West Point, July, 1835, and four years later graduated with distinguished honors at the head of his class.

As lieutenant of engineers he assisted in building Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, and in 1841 was placed also in charge of Fairhaven Battery at New Bedford. The same year, two years after his graduation, he married Margaret Hazard of Newport. Throughout the Mexican war he served on General Scott's staff, participating in all important engagements until the capture of Mexico City when he was severely wounded. While still on crutches, Major Stevens took up his work again in Maine and New Hampshire. In September, 1849 he became assistant in charge of the United States Coast survey office in Washington, D. C., and there continued on duty until March, 1853, when he accepted his appointment as governor of the Territory of Washington. He was also to be ex-officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the West.

About the time Governor Stevens was appointed, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for the survey of railroad routes to the Pacific. Governor Stevens sought and obtained the position as Superintendent of the northern route. He organized the survey into three sections; one party to go from St. Paul to Ft. Colville, a second, from St. Louis to Ft. Union, and a third from Puget Sound to Ft. Colville. The surveying parties traversed a zone 2000 miles long and from 200 to 400 miles in width, exploring nine passes through the Rockies and all "impossible" passes through the Cascades, fully demonstrating the practicability of a railroad across the continent.

Governor Stevens arrived in Olympia November 25, 1853. On November 28, he issued a proclamation calling for the election of a legislature to convene at Olympia on February 27, 1854. In his message he stressed the need for a deep and broad foundation for the future of the commonwealth, for roads, schools, and for treaties with the Indians for the purpose of securing land titles for the settlers. Then, leaving Charles H. Mason as Acting Governor, he returned to Washington, D. C., to urge the publication of his report of the surveys, to secure appropriations for the making of Indian

treaties and to obtain better mail facilities throughout the Territory. The Reports of the Surveys were published by authority of Congress and are yet a mine of useful information.

Governor Stevens, accompanied by his family, returned to Olympia in late November. His belief in the future greatness of his Territory is demonstrated in his review of its resources in his message to the legislature:

"Our remoteness from the seat of the general government has operated prejudicially to our interests. Our territory seems almost a terra incognita at home, yet it is situated on the great highway of the road of nations, and has the most magnificent and capacious harbors and roadsteads either on the Atlantic or Pacific shore. Its coal, its fisheries, its lumber, its gold, its extensive and rich grazing lands, its genial climate, its manufacturing advantages, and its soil, which yields the most generous returns to labor, present a combination of advantages second to no state or territory of our common country. West of the Cascade mountains, we have nearly as large an amount of rich arable land as in the state of New York--land which requires labor, it is true, to yield returns from its bosom, for our magnificent forests, a great source of our wealth, have first to be cleared away. The Walla Walla valley, situated mostly in the territory of Washington, surpasses in extent, advantages, climate and soil, that of the great Salt Lake, and can subsist a much larger population. West of the Bitter Root mountains, for a hundred miles in breadth, the soil is not only good, but equal to that of the western prairies. The landscape in June a carpet of flowers, the streams lined with pine, and the country well watered. The remainder of the interior is not only all of it good grazing country, well adapted to the growing of wool, as well as the raising of stock, but large tracts included in the Yakima purchase, are unsurpassed for roots and cereals.Nearly the whole intervening country (between Walla Walla and Puget Sound) is adapted to settlement, either on the part of farmers or stock raisers. There is no serious scarcity of water or fuel. Timber and building stone is either to be found almost the entire distance, or can be brought to a practicable vicinity by navigable waters. Nature has pointed out the route as one over which commerce must pass--along which settlements must spring up."

Before the close of the second legislature, which met in December, 1854, the Governor called for a number of treaty councils, and during the year 1854-55 made treaties with 22,000 out of the 25,000 Indians of the territory, extinguishing the title to more than 100,000 square miles of land. In these councils he sought to make clear to the

Indians the meaning of the treaties: that thousands of acres would be provided, and they would be able to keep their fishing rights and the use of much pasture land. In all, treaties were made with sixty-eight tribes of the Territory.

Also, in October, 1855, Governor Stevens negotiated a treaty of friendship with the Blackfoot Indians on the upper Missouri, and between them and a great host of hunting tribes of Washington and Oregon. Tribes that had been enemies for centuries met together relying upon Governor Stevens' protection, and a peace was made which has lasted to this day.

During his absence the unfriendly Indians of his territory broke out in open warfare and massacred many settlers forcing the survivors to seek refuge in fortified places. Stevens hastened back, crossing the Rocky Mountains in winter, and reached Olympia the first of January, 1856, to the great joy of the settlers. Unfortunately the Indians had not understood the treaties, especially in the matter of transfer of lands. How could they sell their Great Mother Earth? Besides, since gold had been discovered at Colville, white men had crossed the reservations to hunt and fish without asking consent, which was against the terms of the treaty.

Governor Stevens called out a thousand volunteers, encouraged the settlers to return to the farms, which in fear they had abandoned to live in blockhouses. He placed all the friendly and doubtful Indians on the Islands in Puget Sound, fed and clothed them, and waged two campaigns against the hostiles with such vigor that before the year ended the Indians were thoroughly subdued. He issued scrip to pay his troops; impressed supplies, also wagons and teams when necessary, and maintained a strict discipline. He removed half-breed and white Indian sympathizers from their homes on the frontier to the towns, where they could not communicate with the Indians, and when the Chief Justice issued a writ of habeas corpus for the release of these men, Governor Stevens proclaimed martial law, arrested the chief justice and kept him prisoner until the end of the war. He prohibited cruelty toward the captured Indians, and only a few cases of unauthorized killings of Indians by white men occurred.

In July, 1857, Governor Stevens was elected delegate to Congress, where he vindicated his action in the Indian war, justified his Indian policy, saw his treaties confirmed, the payment of the war scrip assumed by Congress, and also obtained many large appropriations for developing his Territory.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he was commissioned colonel of the seventy-ninth Highlanders, New York Volunteers, the first military regiment of the State to volunteer for the three years of the war. He served in the defense of Washington City, was placed in command of a division to take part in the advance on Charleston, later sailed with his division to Newport News, where it was

From Washington State Historical Society
Isaac I. Stevens

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incorporated with Burnside's troops as the ninth corps forming the first division. He participated in the actions on Stone River, at Secessionville, and in the second battle of Bull Run. His courage, daring and leadership won for him promotions and advancement. On ⁶ July 4, 1862 he became Major-General.

It was while leading a charge at the battle of Chantilly that General Stevens was killed--almost at the moment of victory. He is buried at Newport, Rhode Island, where on an imposing monument is inscribed these words:

"In memory of Major-General Isaac Ingalls Stevens, born in Andover, Massachusetts, March 25, 1818, who gave to the service of his country a quick and comprehensive mind, a warm and generous heart, a firm will and a strong arm, and who fell while rallying his command, with the flag of the republic in his dying grasp, at the battle of Chantilly, Virginia, September 1, 1862."

STATEMENT CONCERNING CHIEF JOSEPH

TO: Mr. John McClelland, Jr.
Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee
on Nominees for Statuary Hall

The Character of Chief Joseph

Chief Joseph has been referred to as "one of the most romantic and important figures in the history of the Pacific Northwest" (1)

Professor Drury further stated, "The conflict in which Joseph was forced to engage against the whites, known as the Nez Perce War of 1877, was the last important contest between the Indians and the United States Army. . . . Joseph, it has been stated, conducted the most scientific campaign against the United States Army ever generated by an Indian He was called the 'Red Napoleon of the West,' and his march toward Canada has been likened to Xenophons's March of the Ten Thousand. Few men in world's history have fought for the cause of liberty as long as this Nez Perce Chief. For thirty three years - from 1871 until 1904 - Chief Joseph carried the burdens of his people and used every resource to win what he believed to be justice for his tribe. He tried every kind of peaceful means to gain his ends. Like Ghandi, he pursued a policy of non-cooperation, and when this failed, he unwillingly sought recourse to arms.

"The valiant efforts unparalleled in the military annals of America, gained for him an immortal place among the heroes of the West. . . .

"His character fulfilled the fondest desires of novelists who would depict the 'noble red man.' Colonel G. O. Shields, who knew Chief Joseph, rated Joseph as 'easily the peer of Red Cloud in courage and daring, of Logan or Tecumseh or John Grass in oratory; of Spotted Tail in craftiness, of Crazy Horse or Gale in strategy and generalship in battle; of Quannah Parker in statesmanship and diplomacy. He combined within himself all of these attributes in a degree that made him greater than them all." (2)

(1) Clifford M. Drury, in his Foreword to War Chief Joseph authored by Helen Addison Howard, Caxton Printers, 1941 Edition.

(2) Colonel G. O. Shields in "Blanket Indians of the Northwest," Page 90.

General Oliver O. Howard, referred to Chief Joseph as possessed of "leadership . . . indeed remarkable."

Colonel Nelson A. Miles, another Indian fighter, wrote, "Chief Joseph was the highest type of Indian I have ever known." (3)

Judge C. C. Goodwin penned the following eulogy concerning Chief Joseph: "No son of the Northwest will ever be braver than he, more true to his native land than he; more self-controlled under terrible dangers than was he. . ." (4)

His Life

Chief Joseph was probably born in 1840, the son of Chief Tu-eka-kas (Old Joseph), the leader of the Nez Perce Indians. He probably was born in the Wallowa Valley in what is now Oregon.

When a boy, Chief Joseph and his brother, Alokut, attended Christian religious services after Chief Joseph's father, Tu-eka-kas and Chief Timothy were converted by Reverend Henry Spalding. Reverend Spalding baptized Old Chief Joseph and probably also his son, the younger Chief Joseph, when he was five years of age, conferring upon him the name of his father, Joseph.

In March, 1948, 250 Indians, led by Old Chief Joseph (Tu-eka-kas) attended a council conducted under the American flag at Wailatpu, near Walla Walla, Washington. Old Chief Joseph carried a new testament in his hands as a proof of his good faith toward the Americans. It is probable that young Chief Joseph was also present at this council, although he then would have been only 8 years of age.

Young Joseph received a good education in the school of Reverend Spalding at Lapwai, Idaho. Concerning his training, young Joseph later said, in stating his creed: "Our fathers gave us many laws, which they had learned from their fathers. These laws were good. They told us to treat all men as they treat us; that we should never be the first to break a bargain; that it was a disgrace to tell a lie; that we should speak only the truth; that it was a sin for one man to take from another his wife, or his property without paying for it. We were taught to believe that the Great Spirit sees and hears everything, that he

(3) Colonel Nelson A. Miles, "Serving the Republic," page 181.

(4) Howard and McGrath, "War Chief Joseph", Page 17, (Caxton Printers, Ltd. 1941 Edition).

never forgets; that hereafter he will give every man a spirit home, according to his desert; if he was a good man he will have a good home; if he was a bad man, he will have a bad home. This I believe and all my people believe the same."

The mother of young Chief Joseph was Arenoth, the first wife of old Chief Joseph. Later old Chief Joseph married Walla Walla Woman, a member of the Cayuse tribe.

The Nez Perce tribe journeyed back and forth through Southeastern Washington all through the years, including the period during which pioneers came West along the Oregon trail. This clearly identifies Chief Joseph and his family with what is now the State of Washington.

Later, when Chief Joseph retired at Nespelem, Washington, he once said: "All the Nez Perces made friends with Lewis and Clarke, and agreed to let them pass through their country and never to make war on white men."

When Chief Looking Glass was killed, Chief Joseph honored his memory by taking to wife the two widows of Looking Glass. They lived with Chief Joseph at Nepelem on the Colville Reservation in Washington. Chief Joseph once said: "When you can get the last word with an echo, you may have the last word with your wife."

Chief Joseph had nine children; at least one of these children is buried at Nespelem.

Chief Joseph became the leader of the Nez Perce tribe in 1871 when Tu-eka-kas, his father, died. However, young Chief Joseph had acted as virtual Chief of the tribe for many years prior to the death of his father.

Chief Joseph, with Chief White Bird and other Indian leaders, attended Indian councils representing the Nez Perce tribe and negotiated with Major General O. O. Howard and other military leaders representing the United States before the Indians were relegated to reservations.

General Nelson A. Miles, in a report to the Secretary of War, said: "The Nez Perces are the boldest men and best marksmen of any Indians I have ever encountered, and Chief Joseph is a man of more sagacity and intelligence than any Indian I have ever met; he counseled against the war, and against the usual cruelties practiced by Indians, and is far more humane than such Indians as Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull." (5)

(5) General Miles, in Report of Secretary of War, 1877 Volume, at Page 529.

Chief Joseph lived on the Colville Indian Reservation at Nespelem from 1885 until his death in the summer of 1904.

A bas-relief plaque of Chief Joseph was placed in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City in his honor following his death.

Buffalo Bill invited Chief Joseph to New York to the dedication of President Grant's Tomb there in 1897.

Shortly before his death, Chief Joseph attended ceremonies at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania with General O. O. Howard and General Nelson W. Miles. In toasting Chief Joseph, General Howard referred to him as "The greatest Indian warrior I ever fought with." Joseph responded, ". . . I have no grievance against any of the white people, General Howard, or anyone. If General Howard dies first, of course, I will be sorry. I understand and I know that learning of books is a nice thing, and I have some children here in school from my tribe that are trying to learn something, and I am thankful to know there are some of my children here struggling to learn the white man's ways and his books. I repeat again, I have no enmity against anybody. I want to be friends to everybody. I wish my children would learn more and more every day, so that they can mingle with the white people and do business with them as well as anybody else. I shall try to get Indians to send their children to school." (6)

~~Z~~ Chief Joseph later sought to have the Wallowa Valley set aside as a reservation for the Nes Perce Indians and went to Washington, D.C. to confer with President Theodore Roosevelt on this matter. While in the East, he went to New York and saw an Indian exhibit at Madison Square Garden.

Upon the invitation of James J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railroad, Chief Joseph went to Seattle where a civic meeting was held to honor him and Chief Red Thunder, a nephew of Chief Joseph. They were introduced by Professor Meany, head of the History Department of the University of Washington. On the following day, Chief Joseph made a brief talk before the students of the University of Washington and met members of the faculty there.

A monument was placed at the grave of Chief Joseph at Nespelem, Washington following his death, September 21, 1904. On the monument is his Indian name "Hin-mah-too-yak-lat-kekt", meaning "Thunder Rolling in the Mountains." The monument at Nespelem

(6) Wood, "Lives of Famous Indians," Page 525.

to Chief Joseph was erected under auspices of the Washington University Historical Society. Professor Edward Meany delivered the dedication address.

Eliza Spalding Warren, daughter of Reverend H. H. Spalding, one of Chief Joseph's boyhood teachers, said of Chief Joseph, ". . . his name will . . . take a place in history with those of Decumseh, Brant, Black Hawk, Pontiac and Sitting Bull; and by many he is considered the greatest of all the Indian warriors." (7)

CONCLUSION

Chief Joseph is clearly identified with the history of the State of Washington. The placing of his statute in Statuary Hall, the Capitol, Washington, D. C. will be a most appropriate dedication of a great historic figure to represent this State in the Nation's capitol, along side Marcus Whitman, a famous medical missionary of the Indians.

C.S.

(7) Elizabeth Spalding Warren, Memoirs of the West, Page 142.