

Names

Horse "eaven

James Kinney of this city, who enjoys the distinction of being one of the pioneers of the Yakima valley, says that he named Horse Heaven in 1881.

Formerly it was called the Pedrock Springs country. Mr. Kinney was going down to the valley on occasion of the naming of the country aforementioned and having camped one night below Prosser awoke the next morning to find that his animals had strayed and the tracks led up the mountainside and over into the upland plain, beautiful to behold and there he found the runaway horses cropping the succulent bunchgrass with apparent good relish.

"Surely this is Horse Heaven" quoth Mr. Kinney to himself.

The name sounded appropriate and in spite of some efforts to call it "Columbia Plains," Mr. Kinney's name stuck and thus it is known and that is how the name Horse Heaven happened--
Prosser Falls Bulletin, June, 1902.

Names --Indians

Kittitas

Charles A. Splawn, who is considered an authority on local Indian dialects says that the word Kittitas comes from Kittit meaning white chalk and tash place of existence. He states that at the Manastash ford on the Yakima river below Ellensburg there is a bank of such chalk. The Indians used this for painting themselves and their horses. The name Kittitash came to be applied by the Indians to the entire valley and was later corrupted by the whites to Kittitas..Interstate, 1904.

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Yakima City

Residents of North Yakima will be interested in knowing that there is an active debate in progress among residents of the parent city regarding that parent's name.

Some of the debaters content that it is Yakima City, others that it is Yakima and still others that it is the Town of Yakima.

In the last two elections the ballots has been for the "Town of Yakima.", on the other hand the post office name is just Yakima while old deeds etc. use the two words, Yakima City--
The Yakima Herald, Dec. 18, 1912.

Names

The meaning of the Indian names which have been given to the different sections of the great Yakima country have been somewhat clouded in mystery, but a gentleman, who has given the matter considerable study, furnishes the following definitions:

Cowychee, flower land; Wenas, narrowwaters; Konewock, white dust; Satis, mad waters; Toppenish, stream of the oaks; Kittitas, white cliff; Yakima, succotash garden; Moxee, land of the whirlwind; Tietan, milky waters; Simcoe, waving grass; Ahtanum, daughter of the mountain--Yakima Herald, November 26, 1891.

Names

New Sweden, Idaho does not seem to have been named
amiss. They have a town on upper Snake river called New Sweden.
Hans Hansen is mayor, Peter Peterson clerk and the common council
is composed of Peter Hanson, Hans Peterson, Peter Hans Peterson,
Hans Peter Hansen and Peter Hansen Hans Peterson, No relation..
Caldwell, Idaho Tribune--March, 1896.

Names

The question is often asked why the Northern Pacific pass and tunnel through the Cascade mountains were named Stampede and has never been answered to the satisfaction of the Herald until the other evening when Capt. J.T. Kingsbury, in conversation with a representative of this paper, said that in the fall of 1891 he was encamped with his party of engineers, on this side of the mountains at the point now known as Easton and V.G. Bogue with his party were on the west side of the present Weston.

At that time President Garfield was hovering between life and death and Bogue and Kingsbury, after consultation, decided on naming the pass Garfield, but General Anderson, the chief engineer, coming along and camping with his two assistants on the banks of the lake, situated on the summit, was told of the decision.

Anderson didn't look favorably on the name. He said "Hasn't Garfield suffered enough? You have White's pass, Sheet's pass, etc. Now where are Bogue and Kingsbury passes?"

That evening the mammoth mosquitoes from the lake pounced down on the party and stampeded horses and engineers and from that incident the lake, pass and tunnel received their names—Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. September 27 1889

Names

When the late Matthew Arnold was in this country he took exceptions among other things to the names of our cities. So did Historian Froude. They said we went to the classics and outraged history for cognomens to designate dug-outs and boom towns. Their cultured souls were affected. But they never heard of Tombstone, Ariz.

That is an American name. The effete east would never have thought of such an appropriation. How did it come by the funeral title?

Mr. C.C. Warner of the Contention mine, Tombstone, agreed to relate how it received its name. Mr. Warner had been in Tombstone almost since its inception and passed through Denver on his return to Canyon City.

They were two brothers, by the name of Al and Ed Schefflien. The Apache Indians were around pretty thick. Finally one day Ed prepared to start out prospecting up the gulch. His brother tried to persuade him to abandon his project, pointing out that the Indians would devour him or that he would get lost in the ravine; but all to no purpose.

Just as he was about to start he told his brother to look after a piece of rock that he had found near their camp.

Yes, I will use it for your tombstone, said Al sadly and away went the more go-ahead brother.

Time passed but there were no tidings of the fool hardy brother. Weeks went and he did not appear. The brother, true to his promise, proceeded to carve in rude letters in the quartz rock an inscription which ran:

Sacred to the Memory of Ed Schefflien. He went prospecting to a new country.

The brother was sorry but he had warned him and he could not help it.

About a week after he had finished his job and put it in front of

Names

Speaking in all seriousness is there not better reason to call the mountain Yakima than Tacoma? Surely it is mainly in the county and most assuredly it would be better to call it Yakima than Rainier-Seattle Telegraph, July, 1893.

Names

The Tacoma Ledger has been giving the origin of the names of the various towns of the state and says Yakima means "White Pebbles."

This will, indeed, be news to many of our citizens as all previous authorities have stated that the Indian word "Yakima" meant succotash garden.--Yakima Herald, Feb. 25, 1897.

Indians

The motto of Washington territory is "Alki". This is a Chinook word meaning by-and-by-or after awhile. The coat of arms in connection with this motto appears r presents a scene of commerce with a city, port of entry and steamers at the wharf. Now that we have got there, so to speak, this work "Alki" which means by-and-by, might be changed to the Chinook word, Alta," which means now or at the present time. Spokane Falls Review--April, 1889.

Eltopia- Names

There is a little town situated up in Franklin county about eighteen or twenty miles north of Pasco on the Northern Pacific railroad called at the present time, Eltopia, but it was not always called so and about the only thing of interest in connection with the place now, so far as we know, is the origin of its name.

The story goes that some time before the Northern Pacific built through that country a party were traveling along and night overtook them in a barren waste of sand, where they found neither wood nor water. But they were compelled to camp, as it was useless for them to travel at night in search of either. The result was that they were moved to name the camp, in true western style, after the most suggestive name that presented itself, and in this instance it happened to be "Hell -to-Pay."

It went by that name until the Northern came along some years later in their characteristic modesty, modified the name to Eltopay, and now the name stands out in bold relief on the maps of the country, "Eltopia."--Goldendale Sentinel, August, 1889.

Visitors of Eastern Washington are always impressed by the beauty of certain French names that have come down from the French Canadians who came in early days in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company and from the Jesuit Missionaries. Among them are Coeur d'Alene, Pend d'Oreille, Nez Perces and Grand Coulee.

Coeur d'Alene, pronounced as if it were spelled Ker Delane, is the name of a beautiful lake, of a mountain range, a tribe of Indians, an Indian reservation and a very rich mining district, all of which are in Idaho. There has been a great deal of discussion as to the exact meaning of the name taken as a whole.

It came, originally no doubt, from the French Canadians. The Hudson's Bay Company had two forts in this country, Colville and Vancouver. Their trappers traveled through here more than a century ago. These trappers were almost wholly French Canadians and very ignorant. They knew the French language more as a tradition than as a correct form of speech. Hence they often misapplied words and got things very badly mixed up. It may have been so in Coeur d'Alene. The French word coeur means heart, while alene means a sharp piece of iron for piercing leather, a shoemaker's awl. By an accommodation it might mean heart of steel. This is the favorite interpretation because it is the most poetical.

Still there is no known reason why such an appellation should have been applied by the French voyageurs, for the Indians they named Coeur d'Alenes were even as late as 1844 when Father De Smet came among them, a poor miserable half-clad half-starved tribe that were a perpetual prey to fiercer and stronger bands of savages. It is doubtful if the true meaning of the name will ever be made clear, though it is one of the most musical in the whole range of language, and this accounts for its popularity.

Pend d'Oreille, pronounced Pon Doray, is the name of one of the

Railroads. (Names)

Sucker lake improvement club didn't put up much argument at its initial meeting nearly 50 years ago when one of its realistic members suggested:

Our first order of business should be to get a new name for the lake.

An alternate name then in use was Mud but that wasn't considered any better.

Finally they decided on Hauser, the nearest station on the main line of the Northern Pacific railroad which had reached that point from the west in 1881. The station was established in 1884.

Hauser became a place of some importance on ~~1880~~ when the Spokane Falls & Idaho railroad picked it in 1886 as the junction for a line to Coeur d'Alene connecting with ferries which ran to another railroad into the mining district around Wardner and Wallace.

It was named for Samuel T. Hauser, governor of Montana in 1885 who was president of Rocky Fork Coal company and the Missoula & Bitterroot railroad a Northern Pacific subsidiary. Thus it will be noted that the lake was named after the station rather than the other way around as happened in most Inland Empire communities.

Hauser lake is only 25 miles from the center of Spokane...
Spokesman Review May 13, 1951.

Names

Buffalo Bill Cody has abandoned his wild west shows and takes to journalism. He is located at Cody, Wyoming, whither the great Burlington system is heading and presumably has its backing in booming the town named for him. The Burlington is coming--Yakima Herald, Oct. 26, 1899.

Tacoma has dropped the word "North" from Yakima avenue as no longer distinctive. Spokane has eliminated the useless word "Falls" in the city's name and is now striving to leave out the word "North" from a part of the city.

This city should make an effort to lose the "North" portion of the its cognomen, for it no longer represents anything and leaves in the mind of strangers a weakened impression of our importance in relation to the whole county--Yakima Herald, Nov. 9, 1899.

Names

The postoffice department has decreed that Monte Cristo and Castle Rock shall be written Montecristo and Castlerock .

This will cause some alarm in North Yakima and South Bend which Mr. Wilson may decide to call Northyakima and Southbend. It could also happen to Portangeles--Seattle, August, 1895.

Historical

Names

The names of towns, villages, rivers mountains, lakes and bays of the country are often an excellent record of its history.

So far there has not yet appeared any history of Puget Sound and some time will probably elapse before the muse inspires an author to become the Herodotus of the Mediterranean of northwestern America.

Meanwhile however there is the record of the names of the localities which though mostly overlooked by those busy with acquisition of wealth and absorbed in adoration of the almighty dollar, speaks eloquently of those who pause to think and who let their thoughts wander backward.

Probably the first mariner of European birth who sighted, as far as we know, the waters of Puget Sound was a Greek sailor in the service of the Spanish viceroy of Mexico. His vessel sailed along the waters in the north of the sound about 400 years ago. The brave pilot has been dead for centuries, the rule of the Spanish in Mexico is over and the English speaking race has conquered almost the whole North American continent.

The name of the plucky Greek still lives in the name of the straits, though which he sailed. Even to this day the waters are called the straits of Juan de Fuca.

Three centuries elapsed after Juan de Fuca's adventurous voyage before the first white explorer entered the Sound itself. This navigator was a lieutenant of Vancouver's who sent him from his central station at Restoration point to explore the inlet on May 10, 1792; the historical fact is again recorded by the name of the waters which in honor of Lieut. Peter Puget was called Puget Sound.

A great island in the north of the Sound is called Whidby's island. It is the largest island of these waters and was once inhabited by the

Satchets, whose villages were among the beautiful pastures and meadows that are so characteristic of the island. The Spaniards Quimper and Elisa passed it without paying much attention to it but Vancouver's officer, Whidby, explored its coasts from one end to the other during the months of May and June, 1792, the name of which the island has retained until today, bearing witness of the event.

Fidalgo island received its name from the canal de Fidalgo which was baptized thus in 1791 by Vancouver in honor of a well known Spanish officer of that name.

The highest mountain on the island is named Mount Erie, in honor of Commodore Perry of the United States, the hero of Lake Erie.

Deception pass which separates the two islands above named, also records an interesting historical fact. The entrance to this passage was first observed by the Spanish explorers, Quimper and Elisa; afterwards it was explored by Vancouver's officer, Whidby, who not thinking it possible for large vessels, called it Deception passage which name it has retained although Mr. Ringgold in the ship Porpoise 1841, sailed through it and proved the name a misnomer.

Port Townsend, or as it should be called, Port Townshend, received its name from Vancouver in honor of the Marquis of Townshend, one of the lords of the English admiralty who signed the navigator's instructions.

Port Ludlow was named after Mr. Ludlow, a well known United States naval officer of the war of 1813, who received his death wound on board the ship Chesapeake. Vancouver had not explored this port and Wilkes in 1841 who was the first to survey, gave the name mentioned to the harbor.

Hood's canal was discovered and explored in its primeval parts in a boat expedition from the 10th of May to the 14th, 1792 and named in honor of Lord Hood, another lord of the British admiralty.

Port Gamble is a small basin on the east near the entrance of Hood's

canal and was named by Mr. Wilkes in honor of Mr. Gamble another United States naval officer in 1813.

The name of Vashon island dates further back. It was discovered by Vancouver and named after his friend, Capt. Vashon of the English navy.

Bainbridge island was named by Mr. Wilkes, after an officer under whom he had served.

Fort Madison was entirely overlooked by Vancouver and was probably named by Lieutenant Ringgold who explored it.

Dye's inlet was named after one of the officers of the Wilkes exploration party.

Admiralty inlet itself is a translation of Canal del Almerantzago, a name given to it by the Spanish explorers.

In the south of Puget Sound Budd's inlet, Eld's inlet, Totten's inlet, Case's inlet, Hartstein's inlet and several other inlets were named by Wilkes after officers of his squadron.

Camano island, east of Whidby island, received its appellation from the Bocas de Caamano, a name given by the Spaniard, Elise to the Admiralty inlet entrance.

Cypress island was also named by Vancouver on account of the many cypress trees found there.

Bellingham bay was named by Vancouver but the explorer in his journal does not give any reason for that name.

Duwamish river and bay were surveyed by Lieutenant James Alden of the coast survey and named after the natives of that region; the name of Elliott is of more recent origin.

Port Orchard was discovered on May 24, 1792 by Mr. Orchard, one of Vancouver's officers and named in honor of him.

Blake island received its appellation by Mr. Wilkes in honor of Capt. Blake.

The above are a few instances given in order to show that the nomenclature

of Puget Sound is the history of Puget Sound and a complete investigation of the plain names will teach the student more of the past of the region than the perusal of lengthy volumes for in reading up the lives and adventures of those whose names survive today he will become acquainted with details of those times in which the explorers lived that would never be obtained in the day records of historical volumes, but which are charms of biographies--Yakima Herald, August 28, 1890.

Names-Indians

At the suggestion of a student of Indian language, Seattle has named her new cemetery "ashelli, the land of the hereafter.

An envious Tacomite wishing to know how it will look to translate English into Indian, "The land of the hereafter was helli." The Washington Farmer, Feb. 7, 1885.

Names

Clarke County

- Olympia, Dec 1 (AP).....

..^A bill changing the spelling
of Clarke county in accordance with the spelling of the name
of the explorer, William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition
in whose honor the county was named, was approved by the house....
The Yakima Daily Republic, December 1, 1925.