

meaning - *Samana - Runaway - black bear*

Yakima, one of the most extensively used geographic names in the state, is applied to a county, city, river, valley, pass in the Cascade range, Indian tribe and Indian reservation. It was first applied to a river which Lewis and Clark, 1805-6 called the Tapteal Also Eyakama. John H. Lynch of Yakima quotes the pioneer Jack Splawn as authority for "Lake water" as the meaning of Yakima. Henry Gannett says the word means Black Bear. The Bureau of American Ethnology says the word means runaway and that the native name for the tribe was Waptailmim, meaning people of the narrow river. (Handbook of American Indians Vol II Pages 985-984. David Thompson of the Northwest Company of Montreal referred to the Indians on July 8, 1811 as Skaemena. Alexander Ross, in first Settlers on the Oregon... Vol VII, Page 141, Eyakema.

The Wilkes Expedition, Vol IV Page 428 refers to river by the name as now spelled. The same is true of the railroad explorers 1853, Vol 1, Pages 377-389. ..In Framing the treaty of June 9, 1855, Gov. Isaac I. Stevens referred to the river and tribe as Yakima.

(Charles J. Kappler, Indian Affairs, Vol II, Treaties Pages 698-702)

Yakima county was established by an act of the territorial legislature approved January 21, 1865. Yakima City was incorporated Dec 1, 1883, twelve months later, 400 inhabitants, surveyors of NP laid out town of North Yakima..moved winter and spring 1884-85. By act of state legislature, approved Jan. 30, 1917, and to go into effect Jan. 1, 1918, the city was permitted to drop the word North from its name. The same legislature also changed the name of the owner town of Yakima to Union Gap.

Yellepit, a town in the southeastern part of Benton county was named for a great chief of the Walla Walla Indians who was favorably mentioned by Lewis and Clark who gave him one of the famous Jefferson medals . The chief was praised by other early travelers.

Yellowhawk creek in Walla Walla county was named for a
Cayuse Indian chief whose name was Petumromusmus meaning yellow hawk
or eagle. (Myron Wells in American Anthropologist for January 1892.)

Zillah--^A town in the east central part of Yakima county
was named by Walter N. Granger in honor of Miss Z^Allah Oakes,
daughter of T. F. Oakes, then president of the Northern Pacific
Railroad company (Postmaster of Z^Allah in names mSS Letter 494) (Meany)

White Salmon river, a tributary of the Columbia River in the southeastern part of Klickitat county. The stream has many small tributaries, one of which flows from a glacier on Mount Adams known as White Salmon Glacier. Lewis and Clark in 1805 called the stream Canoe Creek on account of the number of Indians in canoes fishing in the stream...in 1872 or thereabouts a postoffice was established near Bingen and called after the river, White Salmon. About 1886 that office was moved to the present town of White Salmon. Albert J. Thompson has given an account "Memories of White Salmon and Its Pioneers in Washington Historical Quarterly Vol XIV Pages 106-120.

White Swan a town on the Yakima Indian reservation Yakima county was named for White Swan who was a famous chief of the Yakima tribe for sixty years. The town is on the site of his home. Mr. A.C. Coburn started the first store there about a year after the chief's death in August 21, 1907. Postmaster at White Swan in Names MSS Letter 544.) A special dispatch to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer dated at North Yakima January 13, 1910 tells about the driving of stakes and laying out of the townsite of White Swan (Meany)

Whitlow, a town in the southeastern part of Whitman county was
named for M.W. Whitlow who built the warehouse and whose farm was
nearby. (Lou E. Wenham of Pullman in Names m SS Letter 115) Meany

Whitman, a small settlement and railroad station near the scene of the Indian massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman and his missionary colony in the south central part of Walla Walla County. The station was named for the missionary (Postmaster in Name) SS Letter 182. (Meany)

Whitman county was organized by act of the Territorial Legislature
approved Nov. 29, 1871 and named in honor of the missionary, Dr. Marcus
Whitman. (Meany)

Wilbur, a town in the northwestern part of Lincoln county was named for its founder, Samuel Wilbur Condit in 1887. The town was incorporated in 1889. While out hunting Mr. Condit mistook a settler's poultry and shot a fat gander. Ever after he was known as Wild Goose Bill. He owned much land and livestock and traded with Indians and miners. Before he platted and named Wilbur his trading place was known as Goosetown (R.J. Reeves in Names SS Letter 251 (Meany))

~~Whitman~~ Wilcox, a town in the southern part of Whitman county was
named for Robert Wilcox, the first postmaster about 1886.

(C.M. Williams in names mSS Letter 87 (Meany))

Wahattus, a mountain in Grant county six miles north of Wahluke is the highest point in the Saddle Mountains ~~200~~ 2,696 feet elevation its name according to Indian authority meaning Lookout Place (F.C. Koppan of Wahluke in Names MSS Letter 110)Meany*

Wahkiacus, a railroad station in the west central part of Klickitat county, was named for Dallie Wahkiacus, an old Indian woman who had an allotment of land there and who was quite a local character. L.C. Gilman in Names MSS Letter 590. (Meany)

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Wahluk (sic) a town on the Columbia river in the southern part of Grant county, has an Indian name. The name of Wahluke was found here when the white men first came. The present day Indians say it was here always. It seems to mean a watering place. It is just at the beginning of White Bluffs and is the last place where the herds can get down to the water for several miles (F.C. Koppen in Names MSS Letter 110)

Wahnoowisha river, Kittitas county--See Big Creek.

Wah-wuk-chic river--see Klickitat river.

Wailatpu, site of the famous Whitman Mission near the present city of Walla Walla, was named for the Indian word meaning "place of rye grass. H.H. Bancroft works, Vol XXIX Page 118, note 14. (Meany)

Wainape, see Wenatchee river. (Heany)

Waitsburg, a town in the east central part of Walla Walla county was named in honor of Sylvester M. Wait who built a mill there in 1864. The place was known as Wait's Mill. A teacher, William N. Smith, postoffice was secured in 1866 and at the suggestion of the school teacher, William N. Smith, it was called Delta. In 1868 the people voted to change it to Waitsburg and the postoffice department accepted the change. (Illustrated History of Southeastern Wash Pages- 154-156) Meany