

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 22 - 28, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series III WESTERN WOMEN

Number H ANNIE WRIGHT

Tacoma residents know well the name of Miss Annie Wright because of the girl's seminary on Tacoma Avenue which bears that name. Miss Wright's picture hangs in the stairwell near the front entrance of this beautiful red brick school and the girls who attend there reflect the charm and graciousness of an education designed to acquaint them with the social arts as well as with intellectual studies. Annie Louise Wright was the favorite daughter of Tacoma's early benefactor, Charles B. Wright. The story goes that Mr. Wright, who was a member of the Protestant Episcopal church, asked his friend, Bishop Paddock what he needed in Tacoma. The Bishop promptly answered "an Episcopal Church and a church school for girls and one for boys!" It was in response to this request that St. Luke's Memorial Church, Washington College (which was in existence only a short time), and Annie Wright Seminary was built, largely at the expense of the Wright family. The corner stone for the seminary was laid August 23, 1883 when Annie was 20 years old. The original building was completed and ready to open for its first classes on September 3, 1884. The first year it was the home of 94 girls and 10 teachers. In 1924 the new Annie Wright Seminary was completed, using the funds from the original Wright family endowment. The school now hires a staff of about 60 teachers and housemothers, and has an enrollment of 300 students.

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 29 - May 5, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series III WESTERN WOMEN

Number I BETHENIA OWENS-ADAIR

Bethenia Owens was born in Van Buren County, Missouri, and came overland with per parents in the Applegate wagon train which arrived in Vancouver in the fall of 1843. Her family settled near Astoria, Oregon and Bethenia began a life-long struggle to earn a formal education. She picked berries, did practical nursing, took in washings and ironings and sewed for her neighbors. She was soon qualified as a school teacher and held teaching positions in Clatsop County, Oregon and in Bruceport, in southwestern Washington. At the age of 32 she announced to her friends that she intended to go east to study medicine. There were few people who encouraged her, for women were expected to stay at home, and nonconformity was frowned upon. She persisted in her studies, and in 1880 she graduated from the Eclectic School of Medicine in Philadelphia. She returned immediately to the west coast and was the first fully qualified woman physician on the Pacific Coast. She began her practice in Oregon, was married at the age of 44 to Colonel John Adair, and from then on she hyphenated her name as "Owens-Adair". In 1884 she moved to Yakima and remained there until 1905. She died in Portland in 1926. She had attracted the attention of medical and political circles by advocating the sterilization of habitual criminals, the feeble minded and other so-called defectives. She lived to see laws to that end enacted by the state legislatures, but defeated by later court actions. She was a rebel by nature and strong defender of the rights of women. It was often said of her, "Bethenia thought she could do anything a boy could, and was just as good and maybe a little better".

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 - 29, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VI

Explorers by Sea

Martin d'Aguilar - The first written description of the Oregon Coast appears in the ship's log of the Spanish sailing vessel Tres Reyes, which in 1603 voyaged northward from northern California and in latitude 43⁰ sighted the point of land which then was named Cape Blanco. Pilot of the ship was Antonio Flores, then under the command of Martin d'Aguilar. They continued a short distance farther north where soon they sighted "a rapid and abundant river," which "from the force of the current," they could not enter. What modern river was this? For a long time the "Rio d'Aguilar" appeared on ancient maps. Mariner's maps of the 1770's show the unidentified river, sometimes as the "River of the West," heading far to the east in the "Mountains of Bright Stones." Historians have no certain answer to the identity of Aguilar's River - - and the two Spanish mariners went no further, returning southward to Mexico and relative obscurity.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 6, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VI

Explorers by Sea

Bruno Heceta was the Spanish explorer who, in 1775, set sail in search of the Northwest Passage on an expedition that brought him up the California and Oregon coast. Sometime in 1776 he anchored between the capes of the Columbia and concluded from the currents and eddies that he must be near "the mouth of some great river, or of some passage to another." He also sighted the area of Clatsop Plains, believing it an island. Thereafter, Spanish charts named the river's mouth Heceta Inlet, and the river behind it, the St. Roc. Capt. Robert Gray's entry into the river in 1792 proved its actual existence. Later Heceta Head, near Coos Bay, was named for him.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 7 - 13, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VI
Explorers by Sea

JOHN MEARES was a British sea captain and fur trader, who, following the wars with France and Treaty of Versailles in 1793, resigned from the English Navy, with plans to visit the Northwest Coast of America. With two trading vessels, the Nootka, under Meares, and the Sea Otter, under Capt. Tipping, the two sailed for China, then on to Alaska, and down the American Coast to Prince William Sound. Only the Nootka arrived, giving its name to the harbor that for years was to become the center of early maritime activity on the American West Coast. Here, for several years, he engaged in fur trading. In sailing down the American Coast he missed discovery of the Columbia's mouth, calling it Deception Bay; the north shore promontory he named Cape Disappointment in July 1788. While in China the following year, his fleet of four trading vessels was seized by the Spanish at Nootka Sound. Learning of these facts, Meares sailed for England, arriving in 1790. Here he remained, submitting a memorial for compensation to his government, resulting in the famed Nootka Controversy. He was the author of Voyage to the Northwest Coast of America, 1790.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 14 - 20, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VI
Explorers by Sea

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, English explorer and navigator, was born in Marton, Yorkshire in 1728. He joined the Navy in 1755, and in four years was master of a ship. Sent to the American East Coast, he made charts of Newfoundland and Labrador Coasts, and of the St. Lawrence River. In 1768, he sailed to the South Pacific, making coastal surveys of New Zealand and Australia. He next attempted an expedition into the Antarctic. In 1776, he headed a third expedition to the Pacific and discovered the Sandwich Islands. On the morning of March 7, 1778, aboard the Resolution - he sighted the Oregon Coast at Yaquina Bay, at a point he called Cape Foulweather. He sailed north to Nootka Sound. After this survey of the West Coast, he sailed to the Sandwich Islands for the winter. Here, he was killed by natives, February 14, 1779.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 21 - 27, 1962

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VI
Explorers by Sea

CAPTAIN ROBERT GRAY, discoverer of the Columbia River, was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island, in 1755. He was active in naval service during the Revolutionary War, and went to sea early in life. In 1787-88, with Capt. John Kendrick in command of the ship Columbia, and himself in the sloop Lady Washington, both Boston-owned, he was navigating along the Northwest Coast of America, exploring and seeking furs. In 1789-90, the Columbia, now under Gray's command, carried the American flag around the world. Gray's great achievement, however, was discovery of the "River of West," May 11, 1792, which he named for the Columbia, giving the United States first claim to the Oregon Country. Therafter, he operated as a merchant trader for himself and Boston merchants. He married Martha Atkins in 1794. They had five children. He died at sea in the year 1806.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 28, November 3

PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VI
Explorers by Sea

CAPT. GEORGE VANCOUVER, navigator and British explorer, was born in 1757 at King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, the son of John Jasper Vancouver. At the age of 15 he enlisted in the British Navy and sailed with Captain James Cook on the latter's second and third voyages, 1772-74, 1776-80. In 1788, he performed his first official survey under Commander Alan Gardner, sailing into West Indies waters. In 1791, he was in command of the expedition to survey the Northwest Coast of America. Striking the American Coast on April 18, 1792, he sighted along the shore but missed the mouth of the Columbia River and Grays Harbor; a few weeks afterward, he was informed of their existence by Captain Robert Gray, who had entered both. Aboard the Discovery, he entered and explored Puget Sound. He visited the region again in 1793 and 1794, giving many place names to the area. He died at Petersham, Richmond, England in 1798.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 - 17

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VII
Men of the Civil War

Philip H. Sheridan, soldier and Indian fighter was born in Albany, New York, March 6th, 1831. He came to the Northwest in 1855 as second lieutenant of the 4th U. S. Infantry, under the command of Capt. R. S. Williamson. He took part in the ill-starred Rains Expedition during the Yakima Indian Wars, while stationed at Fort Vancouver, 1855-56. In March 1856 he defeated the Indians in a skirmish at Cascade Locks, but narrowly escaped death when a bullet grazed his nose, killing a soldier beside him. He was in command at Fort Yamhill from April to July of 1856 and at Fort Hoskins the following year. He acted as mediator in Indian disputes, being generally considered kind and humane in his treatment of the Indians. He returned East to take an active part in the Union Army in the Civil War, and it is for his service during that war that he has become famous in American History. He died on August 5, 1888.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18 - 24

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VII

Men of the Civil War

ULYSSES S. GRANT, Civil War General and President of the United States, was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, and, following graduation from West Point Academy, 1843, entered Pacific Northwest history as a first lieutenant, when he came to Fort Vancouver in September 1852 with the 4th U. S. Infantry. For a year or more he was stationed in Washington Territory, and as there were no Indian troubles to cope with he had an abundance of leisure time. He cultivated potatoes and oats, both of which were drowned out by floods, and he engaged in various speculations, all of which ended in financial failures. Dissatisfied with army camp life, he resigned his commission on July 31, 1854 and was not active again until the beginning of the Civil War. Because of his fame as Commanding General in that war, he was elected to two terms as President, 1869-1877. After retirement from public office he re-visited many of the places associated with his young life, including the Northwest. He dedicated his remaining years to compiling his personal memoirs. Grant died on July 23, 1885.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VII

Men of the Civil War

GEORGE EDWARD PICKETT was born in Richmond, Virginia, June 28, 1828.

He served in the Mexican War, receiving the brevet of first lieutenant for gallant service at Contreras and Churubusco, and then the brevet of lieutenant for distinguished service at Chapultepec. In 1859 his name became an important one in Washington history. On July 27th of that year, without warning to British authorities, he landed his company of men on San Juan Island, at that time the center of a boundary dispute between the United States and Great Britain. He occupied the island under the orders of General W. S. Harney, and immediately set about establishing a military post under the laws of the United States. As a result the United States came very close to war with Great Britain. Cool thinking on both sides of the dispute and quick diplomatic discussion avoided bloodshed, and temporary joint occupation of the island was established. The conflict was resolved in 1871 by arbitration. Pickett continued to serve the army in the West until 1861. At that time he was appointed a Colonel in the Confederate army and fought for the Confederacy until the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. He settled in Richmond where he died in 1875.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 2 - 8

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VII

Men of the Civil War

GRANVILLE O. HALLER was a professional military man. He served in the Seminole and the Mexican wars before he was ordered to the Pacific Coast in 1852. In 1853 he was commissioned a Major and sent to The Dalles, Oregon. Later he was ordered to Idaho to chastise Indian murderers of the Ward family. He protected emigrants in Idaho and Eastern Oregon in 1854-55. Following the murder of A. J. Bolen, Indian agent to the Yakima Indians in Washington on Sept. 23, 1855, Major Haller was sent to Fort Simcoe. When he reached there in October he was surrounded by Yakimas and Klickitats and forced to retreat. He served in the Civil War from 1861 to 1863. He was charged with disloyal conduct, was dismissed from the army, but later was vindicated and restored to active service with the rank of Colonel. He died on May 2, 1897.

RELEASE DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 9 - 15

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VII

Men of the Civil War

WILLIAM PICKERING, fifth Territorial Governor of Washington, served during the tragic years of the Civil War. He was a close personal and political friend of Abraham Lincoln and a logical appointment for governor of the young territory. At the start of the war, Pickering was called upon to provide one regiment of militia to replace the regular troops being withdrawn from the Territory. Because of the chaotic and financial condition of the Territory, following the Indian War, he was unable to recruit sufficient volunteers in Washington, but succeeded in securing the rest of the regiment in California. This regiment replaced regular troops at Fort Steilacoom, Vancouver, Dalles, Walla Walla, and several other posts freeing those soldiers for active service in the Northern army. During his four years in office, 1862-66 Pickering distinguished himself as one of the most able of the territorial governors.

Series VIII

Artists

Paul Kane

One of the earliest and most famous artists of the Northwest was Paul Kane. He was born in Ireland in 1810, but spent his early boyhood and most of his adult life in Toronto, Canada. Among his companions were the Indian inhabitants whose customs held a strong fascination for him. Even as a youth he employed his artistic talent by drawing quick sketches of native life. But as he grew into manhood and chose art as a career, economic necessity forced him to wander over much of Canada and eastern United States painting portraits of local dignitaries. His interests, however, remained with the Indians. In 1841 he gained an opportunity to study in Paris, and afterwards to study in many of the great European art centers. The training he received during these years influenced the style of his later works. In 1845 he returned to Canada and with the support of several patrons he traveled through the Pacific Northwest, going as far south as Oregon City. He made several hundred drawings concerned with aboriginal life. After his return to Toronto he established a studio and spent the remainder of his life completing his field sketches. His work reveals such an accurate observation of facial type, details of costume, geological structure, and technical excellence that he has won a prominent position in the history of Pacific Coast art.

Release during week of December 23-29:

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VIII

Artists

Gustavus Sohon

Gustavus Sohon was born in Tilsit, Germany, December 10, 1825. When he came to America at the age of 17, to avoid compulsory service in the Prussian Army, he spoke English, French and German fluently. Whether Sohon ever had any formal instruction in art is not known. At the age of 26 he enlisted in the United States Army and in 1852 he was stationed at Fort Dalles on the Columbia River in Oregon Territory. It was at this time that Isaac I. Stevens was conducting a survey to ascertain the most practicable route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, and he requested a detail of men to establish a depot of provisions at the Flathead Indian village of St. Mary's west of the Rockies. Sohon was one of the enlisted men assigned to duty with this party. Later he accompanied Lt. John Mullan on extensive explorations of the intermountain region from Fort Hall to the Kootenay River and he made a series of excellent landscape sketches depicting the character of the country traversed, important landmarks, and views of the party on the march which were valuable as a record of the explorations. In the spring and early summer of 1855 Sohon drew the remarkable series of pencil portraits from life of the chiefs and headmen of the Flathead and Pend d'Oreille tribes. He also rendered valuable service as a map maker and barometrical observer. Governor Stevens referred to him as a "very intelligent, faithful, and appreciative man... has shown great taste as an artist...as well as facility in speaking with the Indians."

Release Week of December 30 - January 5:

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VIII

Artists

Henry J. Warre

Two British army officers, Lieutenants Henry J. Warre and M. Vavasour, of the British Royal Marines, visited the Oregon Country in 1845. Their mission was to move overland from Canada down to the Columbia River, and there to obtain a general knowledge of the capabilities of the Oregon Territory from a military point of view, in order that the British government might be able to act immediately in defense of their land rights, should those rights be infringed upon by hostile aggression or encroachment by the United States. It was while on this expedition, of some five months, that Henry Warre recorded in painter's colors, impressive scenes of the country through which this journey was made. On their return to London, the two delivered their report to their superiors, but the treaty settlement of 1846 rendered it of minor service. In 1846 Warre published A Sketch of the Journey Across the Continent of North America from Canada to the Oregon Country and Pacific Ocean, containing reproductions of his watercolors. These originals are among the best of early western art.

Release Week of January 6 - 12.

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VIII

Artists

John Mix Stanley

Although there is no record of how John M. Stanley obtained his art training, we know that he was painting Indian life in Illinois in 1838 and 1839. From 1843 to 1846 he painted native life throughout the Southwest, and in 1846 he exhibited 85 canvasses at Cincinnati and Louisville. That year he joined a trading expedition to New Mexico, proceeded on to California and northward to Oregon in July of 1847. Here he painted Indians at the Willamette Falls and Clackamas River, then toured the upper Columbia country, visiting the Cayuses, Nez Perces, Spokanes, Okanogans and Palouses. When within a few miles of the Whitman Mission at Waiilatpu he learned of the murder of Marcus Whitman, his wife and mission helpers November 29, 1847. Stanley escaped to Fort Walla Walla and went down the Columbia River with other refugees under the care of Peter Skene Ogden. In 1853 he joined the U. S. Pacific railroad survey under Isaac I. Stevens and made numerous sketches and paintings for that survey. In 1868-69 he prepared some chapters on Indian life, but the book he projected was never completed. His work was probably the best of the Oregon frontier period. He died in Detroit on April 10, 1872.

Release Week of January 13-19:

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VIII

Artists

James Everett Stuart

Stuart came to California in 1869 with his parents, crossing the Isthmus of Panama and continuing by ship to San Francisco. He studied there under Raymond D. Yelland, Tom Hill, Virgil Williams, and William Keith. He returned to the East and maintained a studio in New York for a short time and painted in Chicago for about fifteen years. In the early 1880's he had a studio in Ashland, Oregon. In 1885 and for several years following, he was listed as an artist in the Portland Directory. By 1890 he was painting in Alaska; and his Alaskan, Western and New England landscapes were exhibited widely. His paintings were occasionally used by Pacific Monthly and also West Shore. They are exhibited now in many museums and private collections. Stuart's work has a clearly identifiable style by which his paintings can be easily recognized. He was a prolific painter and a large number of his canvases can still be found, as well as many sketches covering the Western scene from Alaska to California. He died in San Francisco in 1941 at the age of 89.

Release Week of January 20-26:

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VIII

Artists

James Gilchrist Swan

James Swan is unquestionably one of the most important men in the early history of Washington Territory. Talented and versatile, he played a vital part in the business and political life of the times. He was born in Medford, Mass., on January 11, 1818, went to Boston at the age of 15 and was apprenticed to a ship chandler. In 1849 he moved to San Francisco and bought an interest in a river steamboat, and was at the same time engaged in the ship-fitting business. By 1852 the boat had been destroyed by fire so Swan sold his business, went North and took up a land claim on Shoalwater Bay and became interested in the oyster business. It was at this time that he began to make a pictorial record of the things he saw around him. He made careful drawings of flowers, fish, trees, and scenic views. He also studied the Indian languages and published a dictionary of several dialects. In 1857 Harper Brothers published his account of pioneer life in Pacific County, and he was widely regarded as an authority on the Northwest. He lived to see the territory become a state, and Governor Isaac I. Stevens said of him that he "knew more about Washington than any man alive."

Release Week of January 27 - February 2:

PEOPLE WHO MADE WASHINGTON HISTORY

Series VIII

Artists

James Alden

James Alden was born in Portland, Maine in 1810. He entered the navy as a midshipman in 1828, was promoted to lieutenant February 25, 1841. From 1838 until 1842 he was a member of the Wilkes exploring expedition which made a tour of the world. The Wilkes expedition was the first scientific survey party ever outfitted by the United States. From 1848 until 1860 he was attached to the United States-Canada Boundary survey, and it was during those years that he made his sketches of the Pacific Northwest. In the winter of 1855 he took an active part in the Indian war in Puget Sound. His last years were spent in San Francisco, California, where he died February 6, 1877.