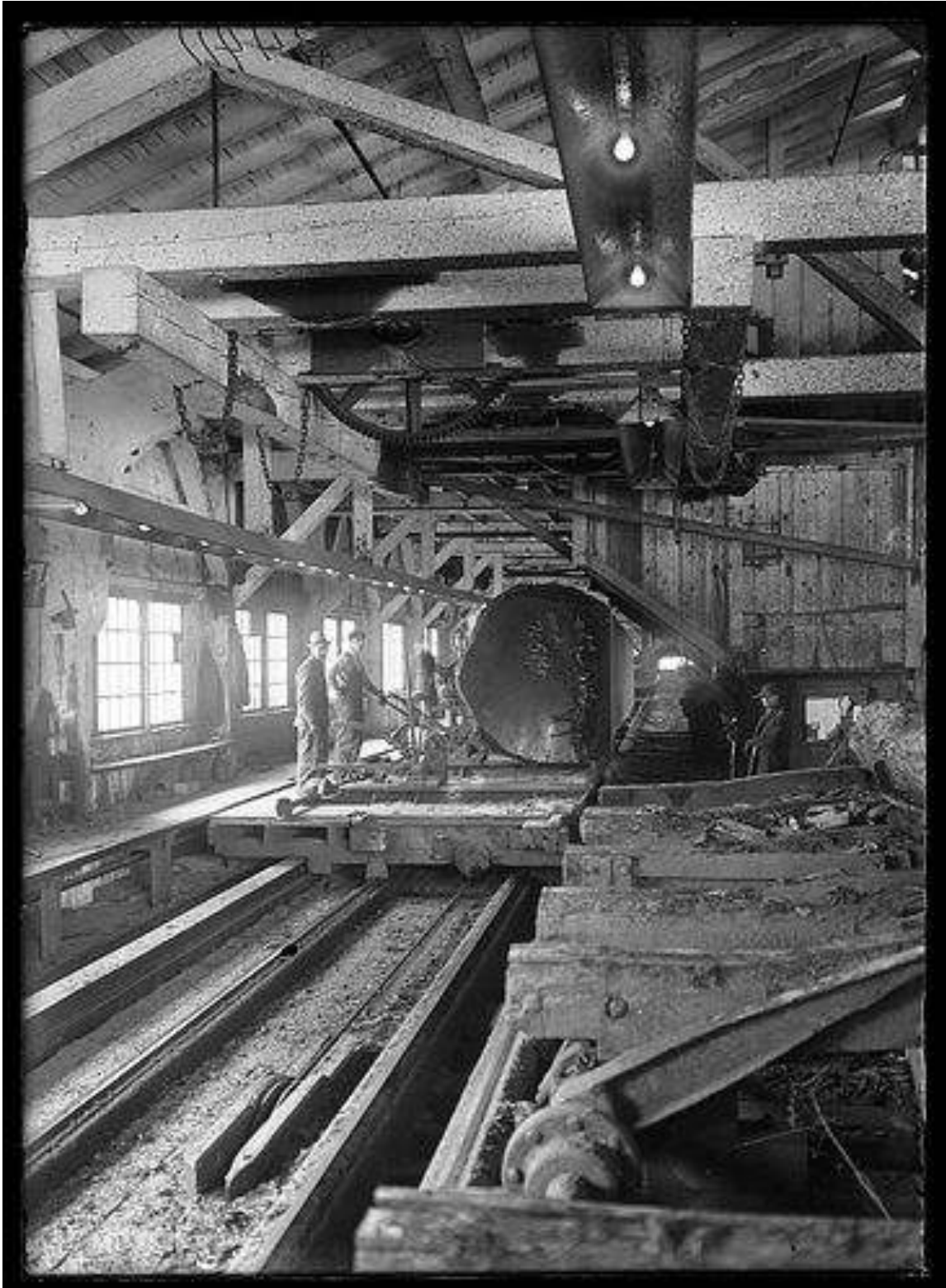
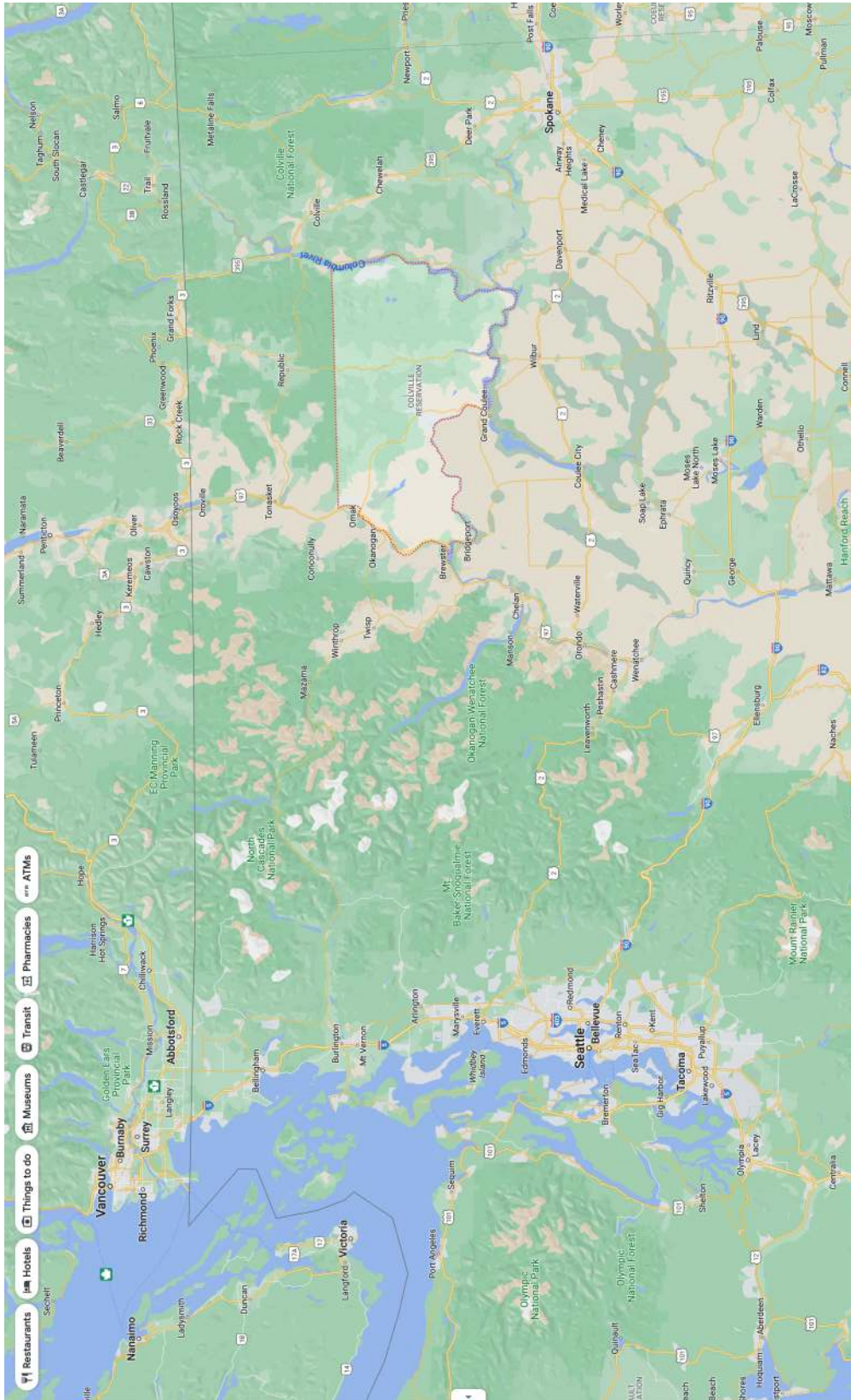


In Search of IRA WARD (1816-1902), the Pioneer Lumber Miller
TUMWATER, Washington, USA.



Map of Colville Reservation



INTRODUCTION

by John Graham Ward (1936 - Living)

In the course of building our WARD FAMILY TREE over the last 4-years, I met a young man from Enumclaw, King County, Washington State, USA whose Family History proves to be connected to mine through IRA WARD (1816-1902), a Vermont-born Lumber Miller and descendant of the Protestant WARDS of Yorkshire, England who joined the PILGRIM MIGRATION to "New England" in the 1630s.

This young man is 39-year old TWO HAWKS YOUNG, a Fashion Set Designer & Photographer who goes by the name "T.H.Young" and has strong family connections with the Nisqually Indian Tribe from the COLVILLE RESERVATION in North Central Washington.

The attached 39-page Book presents the story of the growth of the City of TUMWATER and the clash of the indigenous Nisqually Tribe with the arriving European Settlers attempting to create NEW ENGLAND in their "NEW WORLD". In the sub-plot to this story is the creation of the IRA WARD & SMITH HAYS SAWMILL in Tumwater and simultaneously the evolution of the complex Country we call the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

History will judge whether the evolution of the USA was a success or whether the adage holds true that "Power Corrupts and Absolute Power Corrupts, Absolutely." The Jury is out, and the Verdict is awaited...

Those who do not learn History are doomed to repeat it.
(George Santayana, Philosopher)

Visit the WARD FAMILY WEBSITE - <https://wardfamily.blog>

Tumwater — A Thumbnail History

By Linda Holden Givens.

The CITY OF TUMWATER in Thurston County, Washington State, USA is located at the Falls of the Deschutes River where it cascades into Budd Inlet at the southern end of Puget Sound. Olympia, the State Capital, adjoins Tumwater on the north.

Originally known as NEW MARKET, the Community that became TUMWATER was the first American Settlement north of the Columbia River, founded in the Fall of 1845 by Michael Troutman Simmons (1814-1867) and George Bush (1790 -1863). With Mills driven by the water power of the DESCHUTES RIVER FALLS, the Settlement entered into a period of Industrial and Economic Development from the 1850s through the 1870s.

Tumwater Falls, where the Deschutes River enters Budd Inlet, was a ceremonial and sacred site of the Steh-Chass people, ancestors of today's Squaxin Island Tribe, who lived in the area for thousands of years.

[Upper Tumwater Falls, ca. 1885](#) Courtesy Washington State Historical Society



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The POST OFFICE opened in 1863, taking the name TUMWATER, and the CITY OF TUMWATER was incorporated on November 25, 1869. Over the years, other sources of power replaced water power and Tumwater was overtaken by other industrial areas and by the growing State Capital next door. But it retained significant industry, in particular the Olympia Brewing Company, through most of the 20th Century. By the 2020s, Tumwater's population had topped 26,000.

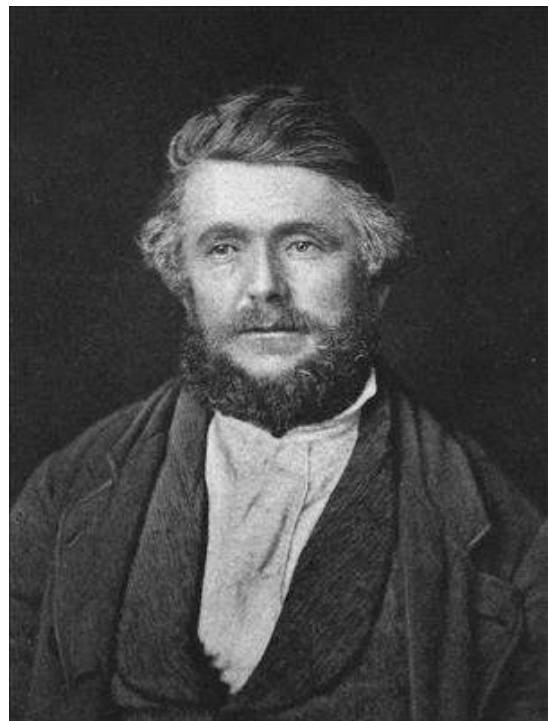
Their Village on BUDD INLET below the Falls, and the River itself, were both named Steh-Chass. The Steh-Chass fished and gathered seafood on Budd Inlet and nearby waterways and the area was a gathering place for the Steh-Chass and nearby related tribes, including the Squaxin, Nisqually, Chehalis, Duwamish, and Squamish.

American Settlers Reach Puget Sound

Starting in early May 1844, non-Native Settlers GEORGE BUSH, an African-American, and his trusted young friend MICHAEL SIMMONS led a party of 31 men, women, and children in six Conestoga wagon trains from St. Joseph, Missouri, west on the Oregon Trail.



George Bush



Michael Simmons

■ GEORGE BUSH provided and supplied the six Conestoga wagons.



Typical Conestoga wagon used by Settlers in the 1800s.

The other members of the party, a combination of friends and family members, included:

- ISABELLA BUSH (circa. 1809-1866),
- ELIZABETH KINDRED SIMMONS (1820-1891)
- JAMES BENTON MCALLISTER Jr. (1812-1855)
- CHARLOTTE MARTHA MCALLISTER (1818-1865)
- DAVID KINDRED (1788-1873)
- TABITHA KINDRED (1791-1872)
- GABRIEL JONES (1799-1885)
- KEZIAH BISHOP JONES (1798-1868)
- SAMUEL B. CROCKETT (1819-1903)
- REUBEN CROWDER (1829-1900), and
- JESSE FERGUSON (1824-1900).

GEORGE BUSH, already a successful and prosperous Rancher and Businessman in Missouri, was prepared financially and equipped with enough supplies, wagons, and oxen to take care of his entire family for several years after he reached his destination. Others in the party were not as well-equipped for the journey West. He generously shared his well-planned supplies with those who needed assistance.

The BUSH-SIMMONS party arrived at The Dalles on the Columbia River in December 1844.

“The Dalles” is one of the oldest permanently occupied places in Oregon, significant to Native people for over 10,000-years and to Euro-American settlers since the 1830s.

The City, the largest in Wasco County, is located on a bend of the Columbia River at the east end of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. As the centre of navigation on the Mid-Columbia River, The Dalles is the County Seat and was known as the Gateway to the Inland Empire, a jumping-off spot for Pioneers, Soldiers, Gold Miners, and Adventurers.

For more than 10,000 years before Euro-Americans arrived in the Pacific Northwest, Native people gathered on the banks of the Columbia River to fish and trade. During the Summer and Fall fish seasons, the population of the area swelled dramatically as people from other bands gathered there for trade and interaction.

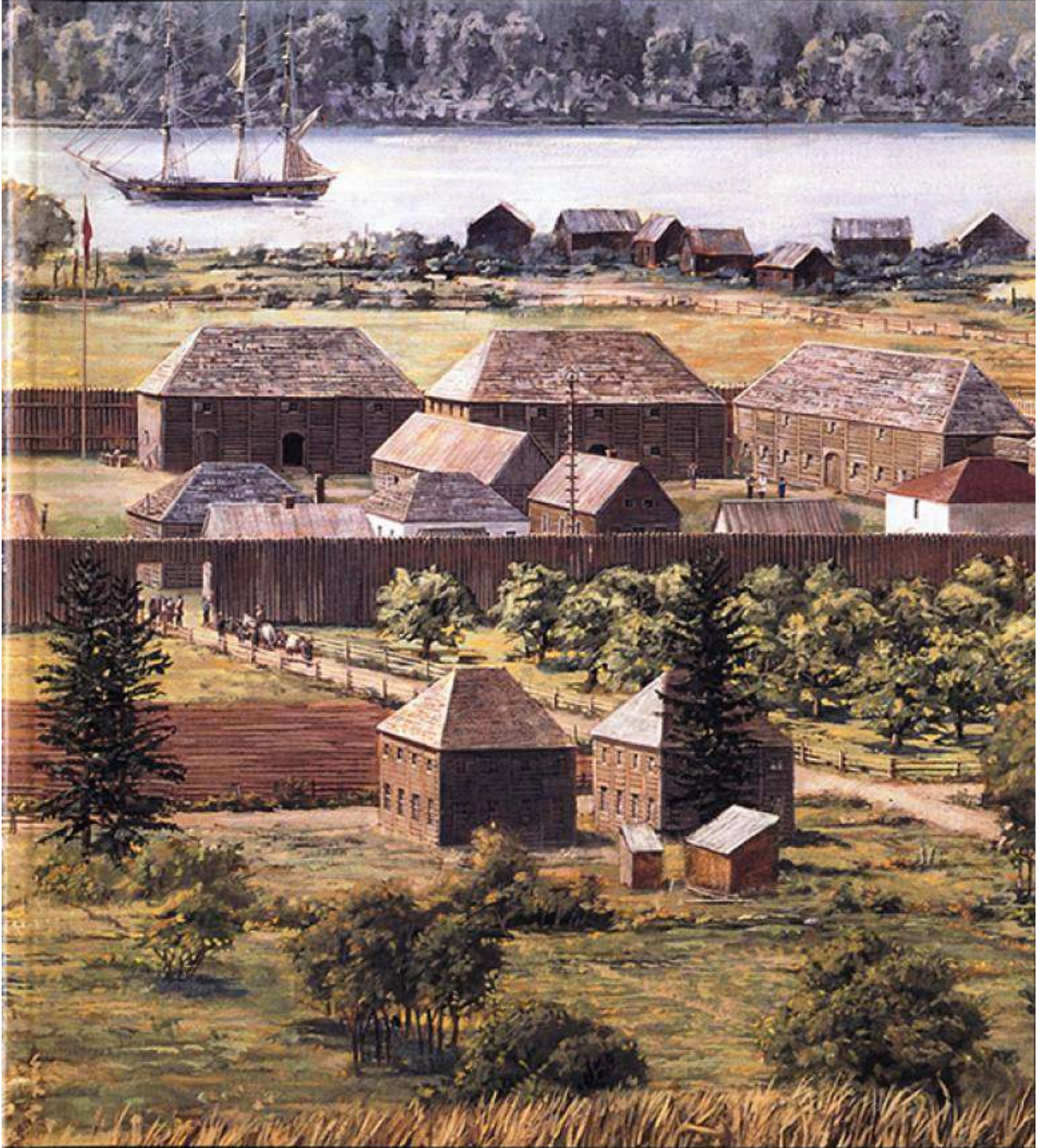
While traveling west, the party learned that Oregon Territory had passed Racial Exclusion Laws that June, forbidding African-Americans from settling in the Territory. PETER HARDEMAN BURNETT (1807-1895), a former Slave-Owner who came west from Missouri, promoted this Law requiring all African-Americans, whether considered free or enslaved, to leave Oregon, and if they refused, to be whipped in public every 6-months until they left.

The discriminatory Law became known as "PETER BURNETT'S LASH LAW".

MICHAEL SIMMONS, not wanting to separate from his African-American friend GEORGE BUSH, or the other members of the Wagon-Train party, supported Bush in his decision on how to handle this new Law. Bush's choices were to go south into CALIFORNIA (then still part of MEXICO) or north of COLUMBIA RIVER. BUSH decided to head NORTH, out of reach of the LASH LAW.

The party spent the winter of 1844-1845 in what is now Clark County at the Hudson's Bay Company's FORT VANCOUVER. From there, they made their way to PUGET SOUND, arriving in the Fall of 1845.

Fort Vancouver



Official National Park Handbook

Writing in 1916, JOHN EDWIN AYER (1855-1932) said:

"The little party ... proceeded to take possession of such tracts of land as took their fancy covering what is now the Town of TUMWATER and back along the west side of the little DesChutes River and out on the Prairie which begins about a mile south of the landing and extends down about three miles to a rise of ground not far from the river. Upon this commanding site George Bush pitched his last camp and there his family have lived to the present time and the Prairie of some five square miles extent has always been known as Bush Prairie".

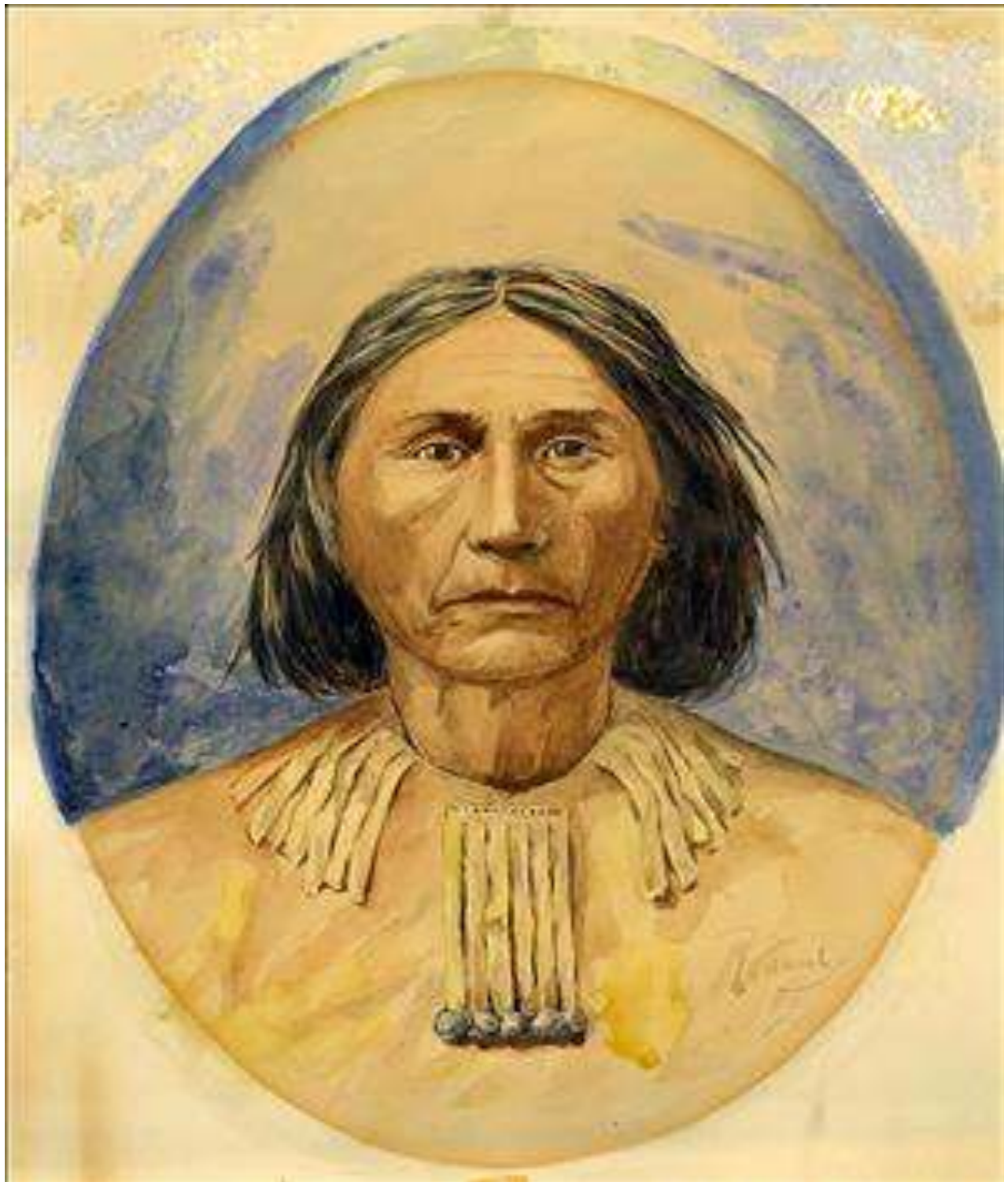
New Settlement, New Market, New Industry

This was the first American settlement established on PUGET SOUND, population 31,000. Simmons named the settlement **NEW MARKET**.

In a radius of 6-miles at the head of BUDD'S INLET, most of the new Settlers established land claims. Due to discriminatory laws, GEORGE BUSH could not claim the land at Bush Prairie that his family settled on. Bush was able to keep his land by virtue of a special exemption that was granted to him, but did not apply to other African-Americans.

JAMES MCALLISTER and his family did not stay in Tumwater long. LESCHI, a leader of the nearby NISQUALLY TRIBE, befriended McAllister and helped him find a homestead in the Nisqually Valley some 10-miles east.

LESCHI (1808-1858) and his half-brother, **QUIEMUTH** (circa. 1798-1856), were respected members of the NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE of South Puget Sound. In 1854 they were appointed by Washington Territory's first Governor, ISAAC STEVENS (1818-1862), to represent their Tribe during Treaty talks near Medicine Creek in north Thurston County.



LESCHI (from an Oil Painting)

Son, Brother, Husband, and Father.

■ Native American Oral Traditions preserve their Cultural Beliefs.

Hope Cecelia Svinth Carpenter (1924-2010), an American Historian and an enrolled MEMBER of the NISQUALLY TRIBE, opens her biography of Chief LESCHI citing such a belief:

"Leschi was born to be a Leader. His people believe that the star that rose over the Nisqually Plains on the day of his birth in 1808 predestined him to become someday a War Chief on behalf of his people".



Hope Carpenter (1924–2010) was the first historian to write in detail about the NISQUALLY people. As a Tacoma, Washington schoolteacher and enrolled Member of the Nisqually tribe, when Carpenter discovered that her students' history books provided an inaccurate relation of the history of native people, she began researching and writing the Tribe's history to set the record straight. Relying upon only primary sources and original documents, which took her to distant archival repositories such as the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C., and London, England to locate original materials, she authored some 23 books.

Hope Carpenter's expertise in writing and disseminating the history of the NISQUALLY people as a record of and supplement to their rich traditional oral history earned her the Office of NISQUALLY TRIBAL HISTORIAN, Chief Consultant on Indian History for the permanent exhibit of the WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, and Curator of the Society's *Remembering Medicine Creek* exhibit at the Washington State History Museum.

- **LESCHI'S** birth name is unrecorded. By tradition, Nisqually boys could pick their own names at an appropriate age. There is only guesswork about why Leschi chose the name he did. It is not translatable, and he may simply have liked the sound of it.
- It is generally accepted that LESCHI was born in early January 1808 at **BASHELABESH**, a Prairie Village near where the MASHEL RIVER joins the NISQUALLY RIVER, about 25-miles upstream from its mouth. His father, **YA-NAT-CO** (circa. 1775-1856), was prosperous, his wealth represented by a large herd of horses.
- LESCHI'S Mother, **CONUZITA** (circa. 1790-1874), is often identified as a Member of the Klickitat Tribe, but most sources say that **WE-OW-WICHT**, a Yakama Chief, was her Father. Thus the Yakama tribe's war chief, OWHI (1800-1858), was her brother, and KAMIAKIN (ca. 1800-1877), who succeeded WE-OW-WICHT as the Yakama Chief, was her nephew. They and OWHI'S son, QUALCHAN (d. 1858) would be allied with **LESCHI** in the coming war. Only KAMIAKIN would survive it.
- LESCHI'S half-brother, **QUIEMUTH** (circa. 1798-1856), was about 10 years older. Growing up, they were inseparable. Leschi also had a sister, whose name is unrecorded. She was married to **STAHI** (1820-xxxx), a close friend and wartime comrade of Leschi and Quiemuth.

- LESCHI had 3-Wives, but the dates of the unions are not recorded and several names are given.
 - His first wife was **TYEE MARY (or SARA) LESCHI** (1799-1872), and the union was childless.
 - He later took a second wife, **MARY (or ANNIE) LESCHI STILLMAN** (1815-1915), a member of the Squaxin Tribe who married a white man after Leschi's death. She and Leschi had two daughters, **KALAKALA "JENNIE" LESCHI** (1836-1880) and **SARAH LESCHI** (1842-1897).
- KALAKALA and a White Settler, CHARLES H. EATON (1818-1876), lived together for many years in a relationship that produced 5-children. They may have married, although no record exists.
- Leschi's third wife, **MARY**, was born in 1839 and must have been in her early to mid-teens at the time of the marriage. She died in 1924, outliving her husband by nearly 70-years.

Leschi's People

The Nisqually Indians' homeland was the watershed of the Nisqually River, ranging from the saltwater shores of South Puget Sound east to Mount Rainier. The Tribe had prospered there for thousands of years, but decimated by diseases brought by outsiders, it numbered no more than a few hundred by the mid-1850s. Those living nearest Puget Sound relied on fishing for their primary livelihood, while those in the upriver foothills and prairies were more reliant on hunting, and later, farming. Both groups supplemented their diets by gathering camas roots, berries, and other edibles.

The Tribe spoke LUSHOOTSEED (**now extinct**) and lived in a dozen or so Villages along the banks of the Nisqually River and its tributaries. Organized in extended-family groups, they resided in large cedar-plank dwellings during winter and in temporary shelters while hunting, fishing, or gathering during the warmer months. Each village had a headman, but there was often no broader governance; the last tribal-wide Nisqually chief was LAGHLET, who died in 1849 and was not replaced.

The **NISQUALLY** tribe were polygamous, with men often having two or more wives. Marriage between Nisquallies and the nearby **PUYALLUPS**, and from east of the Cascades the **YAKAMA** and **KLICKITAT**, was not uncommon. Neither notably aggressive nor particularly adept at combat, they would flee when they could, and fight only when they must. Their most daunting enemies were fierce **HAIDA** raiders who came by sea from British Columbia to slaughter and enslave. As did most Northwest tribes, the Nisquallies also kept slaves, some captured during battle, most purchased from other tribes.

Leschi in Peacetime

Little is known of LESCHI'S life up until the mid-1850s. When young, he and QUIEMUTH enjoyed a degree of respect based on the wealth and reputation of their father. As adults they lived with their families near MUCK CREEK, northwest of their birthplace. They farmed, hunted, and raised a growing herd of horses, which brought them prosperity and respect on their own merit. Leschi's reputation for sagacity was such that he was often asked to arbitrate Tribal Disputes.

However, neither he nor Quiemuth were anointed or recognized as Chiefs until the titles were thrust upon in them in 1854 by ISAAC STEVENS, Washington Territory's first GOVERNOR and SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, soon to be the Nemesis of both.

Leschi in Wartime

Outraged by the inadequate reservation imposed by the Treaty, LESCHI took up arms and became the leading Chief of a fighting force comprising members of several Puget Sound Tribes. Outgunned and outmanned, in the Spring of 1856 Leschi and his remaining followers retreated to the Kittitas Valley. But he had become the primary focus for the vengeance of GOVERNOR STEVENS, and upon returning west in late 1856 Leschi was betrayed, arrested, and charged with the murder of a volunteer militiaman.

After two trials and a convoluted and error-filled legal odyssey, Leschi was convicted, and on February 19, 1858, was hanged at STEILACOOM, Pierce County, Washington on the coast of Puget Sound.

However, the PUGET SOUND WAR had not been fought in vain; in January 1857 larger and more appropriate reservations were approved for the region's tribes.

Nearly 150 years later, on December 10, 2004, a special Historical Court, consisting of 7-present and former Justices of the State Supreme Court, exonerated Chief Leschi of the charge of murder, because he and Moses were both legal combatants in a War.

Traditional NISQUALLY PLANK HOMES







The World Changes

By the first decade of the 19th. Century, a few non-Native Trappers and Traders, mostly **FRENCH CANADIANS**, were passing through Nisqually Territory without incident.

In 1833 the British **HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY** built a Trading Station, **FORT NISQUALLY**, near today's DuPont, the first permanent European Settlement on Puget Sound.

In 1838 HBC established the **PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL COMPANY** on a 180-square-mile swath of NISQUALLY land, pasturing livestock and planting wheat where the Tribe had long gathered food. Nonetheless, the Company maintained amicable relations with the Nisquallies, employing some, trading with many, **sanctioning marriage between white men and Native women**, and strictly prohibiting the sale of liquor to Tribal people.

The 1846 OREGON TREATY set the boundary between AMERICA and BRITISH IMPERIAL CANADA at the 49th-Parallel, but allowed **HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY** to continue its operations south of that line for an indeterminate period of time.

Issues and an End

By 1847, American Settlers arriving into Puget Sound were encroaching onto the Company's lands. Despite specific clauses of the Oregon Treaty of 1846 guaranteeing both HBC's and PSAC's lands, the establishment of the border at the 49th parallel spelled the end to both Companies' operations in Washington and Oregon. HBC's strategy was to notify squatters of their trespass but not to pursue any harsher means; in Chief Factor James Douglas' words "to warn off all new comers, in a pleasant way, and keep always on the right side of the law."

Settlement by the British also had limited success. Of the 23 families from Red River that started the journey to Nisqually, only 13 arrived, and most of them did not stay long. HBC had tried to promote settlement in undesirable areas, and reserved all the best lands for PSAC. The British Settlers were constrained by policies that favoured HBC over the Settler.

In 1850 the DONATION LAND CLAIM ACT offered free land in Oregon Territory, which brought a flood of new American Settlers to the Northwest. Most showed little deference to the ownership claims of HBC, much less those of the region's indigenous Indian Tribes. The HBC operations slowly withered, but **FORT NISQUALLY** would remain an HBC operation until 1869.

The Native peoples would have no such grace period; in 1851 their fate was sealed when the American Congress created the RESERVATION SYSTEM with passage of the INDIAN APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

In 1855, the Scottish surgeon and botanist, WILLIAM FRASER TOLMIE (1812-1866) became CHIEF FACTOR at Fort Nisqually but he soon realized that the Hudson Bay Company and British interests were losing ground in the new Washington Territory. In 1859 he transferred to Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island where he continued to work for the HBC until 1871. He served in the British Columbia Legislative Assembly and was a strong proponent for Canadian confederation.

The Americans viewed Dr. TOLMIE'S harmonious relations with the Indigenous groups, especially prior to the arrival of Settlers, as complicity. Running the HBC business, particularly at a profit, became more and more difficult. Tax assessors of the new Washington Territorial Legislature set high levies on the PSAC lands, not only to generate revenue, but perhaps also to encourage the British Settlers to leave. COWLITZ was abandoned in 1855, and NISQUALLY was given up in 1869, after PSAC was awarded \$200,000 for its properties south of the 49th. Parallel.

In 1855, War broke out in the area between Indigenous groups and Americans.

Pacific Northwest

A number of wars occurred in the wake of the **OREGON TREATY OF 1846** and the creation of OREGON TERRITORY and WASHINGTON TERRITORY. Among the causes of conflict were a sudden immigration to the region and a series of gold rushes throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Whitman massacre of 1847 triggered the CAYUSE WAR, which led to fighting from the Cascade Range to the Rocky Mountains. The Cayuse were defeated in 1855, but the conflict had expanded and continued as the YAKIMA WAR (1855–1858).

Washington Territory Governor ISAAC STEVENS tried to compel Indian tribes to sign treaties ceding land and establishing Reservations. The YAKAMA signed one of the treaties negotiated during the Walla Walla Council of 1855, establishing the YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION, but Stevens' attempts served mainly to intensify hostilities. Gold discoveries near **FORT COLVILLE** resulted in many miners crossing Yakama lands via Naches Pass, and conflicts rapidly escalated into violence.

It took several years for the U.S. Army to defeat the Yakama, during which time war spread to the PUGET SOUND region west of the Cascades. The PUGET SOUND WAR of 1855–1856 was triggered in part by the YAKIMA WAR and in part by the use of intimidation to compel tribes to sign Land Concession Treaties.

The **TREATY OF MEDICINE CREEK** of 1855 established an unrealistically small Reservation on poor land for the NISQUALLY and PUYALLUP Tribes. Violence broke out in the White River Valley, along the route to Naches Pass and connecting Nisqually and Yakama lands.

The PUGET SOUND WAR is often remembered in connection with the BATTLE OF SEATTLE (1856) and the execution of **NISQUALLY CHIEF LESCHI**, a central figure of the war.

■ In 1858, the fighting spread on the east side of the Cascades.

This Second Phase of the YAKIMA WAR is known as the COEUR D'ALENE WAR. The Yakama, Palouse, Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene tribes were defeated at the **BATTLE OF FOUR LAKES** in late 1858.

In southwest Oregon, tensions and skirmishes escalated between American Settlers and the Rogue River peoples into the **ROGUE RIVER WARS of 1855–1856**. The California Gold Rush helped fuel a large increase in the number of people traveling south through the Rogue River Valley. Gold discoveries continued to trigger violent conflict between Prospectors and Indians.

Beginning in 1858, the FRASER CANYON GOLD RUSH in British Columbia drew large numbers of miners, many from Washington, Oregon, and California, culminating in the FRASER CANYON WAR. This conflict occurred in the Colony of BRITISH COLUMBIA, but the militias involved were formed mostly of Americans.

Shortly after the Fraser Canyon War the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, including areas that are now part of the United States and Canada, from Washington to Alaska, suffered major population loss, cultural devastation, and loss of sovereignty due to the 1862 Pacific Northwest smallpox epidemic.

The CHILCOTIN WAR of 1864 occurred near the end of the Smallpox Epidemic when a road from the Gold Fields to the coast was being built through Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) Territory without permission. At the time, and still today, First Nations such as the Tsilhqot'in say the Colonial Government deliberately spread Smallpox with the aim of ending indigenous sovereignty and indigenous rights in British Columbia. Workers on the road-building project threatened the Tsilhqot'in with smallpox.

The Chilcotin War of 1864 ended with the hanging of six Tsilhqot'in Chiefs.

In 2014, BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER, CHRISTY CLARK formally exonerated the executed Chiefs and apologized for these acts by the British, acknowledging that "there is an indication that Smallpox was spread intentionally."

The discovery of gold in Idaho and Oregon in the 1860s led to similar conflicts which culminated in the BEAR RIVER MASSACRE in 1863 and SNAKE WAR from 1864 to 1868

The Bear River Massacre

- Early in the morning of January 29, 1863 Connor and his men went to the edge of a bluff overlooking the Bear River where the Shoshone had made their winter camp.
- Connor placed his artillery on the bluff, and had his infantry cross the river to the Shoshone camp. The Shoshone were still fast asleep.

Development of NEW MARKET in 1845.

At the time, most of the NEW MARKET area was heavily forested. Since it was late in the year that Autumn of 1845 to plant anything, the Settlers depended upon the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S nearby FORT NISQUALLY to provide much of what they needed. They also learned to utilize the DESCHUTES RIVER and the natural resources in the area.

In the winter of 1846-1847, George Bush, Michael Simmons, Kindred and others built a GRIST MILL at the falls on the Deschutes River to grind flour for the settlement. The building was made of logs and the mill stones shaped from granite. The Settlers were able to enjoy bread from their wheat. With this Mill and those that followed, TUMWATER, still known as NEW MARKET, became the first Industrial Site in what is now the STATE OF WASHINGTON.

On August 20, 1847, Ferguson, Simmons, and Jones met with Edmund Sylvester -- who had recently settled on a claim on Budd Inlet then known as Smithfield where he would soon establish the Town of OLYMPIA -- and others including B. Frank Shaw, A. D. Carnefix, and Antonio Rabbeson, to discuss building a sawmill. In the winter of 1847, construction began at the falls of the Deschutes River. The Mill was completed in March 1848 and named PUGET SOUND MILLING COMPANY.



Property of MSCUA, University of Washington Libraries. Photo Coll 516

The birth of the Grist and Saw Mills was the beginning of NEW MARKET'S economic foundation and promising future. Communication between New Market and Smithfield (Olympia) was initially by canoe on the water. In August 1847, a trail between the two settlements was cut out of the forest.

In June 1848, the CATHOLIC MISSION of ST. JOSEPH was established by Reverend Pascal Ricard on BUDD INLET beyond Smithfield. That same year, MICHAEL SIMMONS opened a store at the Mission site. The STEH-CHASS were among the regular customers. The stock consisted of sugar, coffee, flour, beans, fabric, clothing, and trinkets. In the spring of 1848, the PUGET SOUND LUMBER COMPANY was formed by SIMMONS, BUSH, and others.

The Company Mill was built in the fall and winter of 1848 at the Lower Falls in New Market.

The STEH-CHASS people lived in a permanent Village at the base of Tumwater Falls for thousands of years. The Steh-chass Village was a permanent settlement – property and food were stored there. They lived in gabled cedar plank homes of rectangular, slightly slanted sides of cedar posts and planks. In the mid-1850's there were three cedar plank homes there.

A Community of up to 8-families lived in each with bed-platforms along the walls. The Village was a ceremonial site, a sacred site, where at least 5-tribes: the NISQUALLY, SQUAXIN, CHEHALIS, SUQUAMISH and DUWAMISH, gathered for Ceremonies, Feasts, Potlatches and to harvest and preserve salmon, clams, mussels, whelms, and moon-snails, as well as crabs, barnacles, Chinese slippers, oysters and cockles, by drying, smoking or baking in rock-lined underground ovens.

Layers of seashells recorded many Centuries of habitation More Development, Treaties, and War

CLANRICK CROSBY (1814-1879), born in Massachusetts, was a Seaman and Commander of the brig *Grecian*. The ship was family-owned and sailed around Cape Horn to California in 1849. Crosby did not come to NEW MARKET as others did along the Oregon Trail -- from California he sailed north on to Puget Sound.

MICHAEL SIMMONS, who could not read nor write, sold his NEW MARKET land claim to CLANRICK CROSBY.

The 640-land claim included the STEH-CHASS VILLAGE site, a two-story house, the Grist Mill and Sawmill, and an upright saw. CLANRICK CROSBY took another 640-land claim that encompassed both sides of the Falls.

This move allowed him to become a major part of the industrial and economic development of New Market (soon to be TUMWATER).

MICHAEL SIMMONS moved to nearby fast-growing OLYMPIA, invested in Shipping, and was appointed OLYMPIA POSTMASTER in 1850. That same year, CROSBY sailed home to NEW ENGLAND and returned in April on the *Grecian* with 24 family members.

As the early NEW MARKET Settlers established themselves over the next two decades they engaged in an increasing variety of Economic activity, including Timber, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Transportation. BUSH PRAIRIE also flourished, producing large crops of Wheat, Rye, Oats, Potatoes, Hops, Wool, and Butter. The Bush family and their neighbours planted Trees, Fruit, Flowers, and a variety of Vegetables, and raised Livestock.

Sometime in 1851, MICHAEL SIMMONS filed a complaint against CLANRICK CROSBY over the purchase of his land claim, asserting Crosby would not pay off the balance due for the purchase. ELIZABETH SIMMONS published Notices in the local newspaper warning readers not to buy or do business with Crosby regarding the disputed land.

- On January 12, 1852, THURSTON COUNTY was created. That Summer, IRA WARD (1816-1903), NELSON BARNES, and SMITH HAYS started another Sawmill in a small structure at the Upper Falls in New Market, known as the WARD & HAYS SAWMILL.
- In April 1853, CLANRICK CROSBY was ordered to pay MICHAEL SIMMONS the remainder of the Balance, with Interest.
- Later in 1853, CLANRICK CROSBY established a General Merchandise Store named CLANRICK CROSBY & COMPANY.
- Also in 1853, James Biles (1812-1888), his wife, and their 7-children arrived in TUMWATER from Kentucky.
- On March 2, 1853, WASHINGTON TERRITORY was created. That Fall, ISAAC STEVENS (1818-1862), was appointed Governor of the new Territory, named OLYMPIA, which had surpassed New Market in size, as the Territorial Capital.

As Settlement increased, with Newcomers occupying more and more land, the Government wanted to confine Native Americans to Reservations to make more room for new Settlers, and worked to get Indian leaders to sign Treaties requiring their people to move to Reservations.

These actions triggered the INDIAN WAR OF 1855-1856. Some of the first NEW MARKET Settlers were involved in the Treaty-making and subsequent conflicts:

- MICHAEL SIMMONS was appointed as INDIAN AGENT by GOVERNOR STEVENS.
- JAMES MCALLISTER volunteered to join the Eaton Rangers, a Militia Unit intended to fight so-called hostile Indians. McAllister became one of the first casualties, killed on October 27, 1855. Fort McAllister at South Prairie in Pierce County was named for James McAllister.
- Blockhouses, stockades, and forts were built around the region to provide protection for Settlers. GEORGE BUSH constructed a fort on their homestead.
- JESSE FERGUSON built a blockhouse on his land claim, and fighting west of the Cascades ended in 1856.

On October 14, 1859, James Biles and H. K. Carter opened the TUMWATER TANNERY, servicing Tumwater and Olympia residents. They sold leather goods of all types. Biles later became the sole owner. He renamed the firm J. B. Biles & Co. in 1862 and continued in business for 15 or 20 years.

In 1860 the TUMWATER LONG BRIDGE across the Deschutes River became the first bridge to connect Tumwater and Olympia. That same year NATHANIEL CROSBY (1835-1885), who had emigrated with his uncle CLANRICK CROSBY and other family members and had recently married Cordelia Jane Smith (1839-1902), completed building a home for his new bride.

The one-and-a-half story, wood-framed classic revival cottage, known as the CROSBY HOUSE, still stands in Tumwater.

On January 5, 1863, NATHANIEL CROSBY was appointed Postmaster for the Town, whose name was changed from New Market to TUMWATER.

(In the Chinook Jargon trade language, Tumwater or "Tumwata" meant "strong water" or "waterfall").

Economic Change and the Early Church

Building in Thurston County was increasing dramatically. The Mills in Tumwater could barely keep up with the demand. CLANRICK CROSBY and his wife PHOEBE LOUISE CROSBY (1815-1871) plotted the Town of Tumwater on October 14, 1869. The Town was incorporated by an Act of the Territorial Legislature approved on November 25, 1869.

In 1870, WILLIAM H. HORTON and several partners established WASHINGTON WATER PIPE AND MANUFACTURING (formerly the Horton Water Pipe Factory). The Factory produced wooden water pipes. The Company was converted to a Mill in 1880. GEORGE



Deschutes Estuary at Tumwater, 1890. Courtesy Washington State Historical Society.

GELBACH established a Grist Mill known as **RED MILL** in 1870 along the Middle Falls on the west bank of the Deschutes. It operated until 1890 when it was sold to the **OLYMPIA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY**.

Most of the small Communities in early **WASHINGTON TERRITORY** could not afford a Church building or a full-time Pastor. Sharing a circuit-riding Preacher with neighbouring Communities seem to be the answer.

The first Church building in Tumwater was a Union Church (used by numerous Congregations) built in 1872 on the hill above what was then (long before construction of Interstate 5) Downtown Tumwater. **JAMES BILES, NELSON BARNES, CLANRICK CROSBY** and other Community Leaders were involved in building that first Church Building, which became known as **TUMWATER METHODIST CHURCH**.

The first Pastor was REVEREND HERBERT PATTERSON, who once served with ABRAHAM LINCOLN in the Illinois Legislature. Another Pastor, W. I. COOPER, reputedly traveled 1,000 miles on horseback. Biles for years was Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1885, Reverend EBENEZER HOPKINS arrived and remained at the Church for years. By 1896, the Reverend T. B. FORD conducted services at the Church.

Over decades, the Church has been used by Unitarians, Quakers, and other faiths, as well as a Labor Union. The original bell in the Church was removed in 1968. The building, now home to SAINT JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, still stands in TUMWATER at the corner of B Street SW and S 2nd Avenue overlooking I-5.

Anticipation of the arrival of transcontinental rail lines connecting Washington to the rest of the Country hit fever pitch in Puget Sound in the early 1870s. The NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY'S line north from the Columbia River was completed in late 1873, but it made Tacoma its terminus, bypassing Tumwater and Olympia. Tumwater and Olympia needed a railroad connection and, in 1878, a 15.5 mile narrow-gauge railroad track was completed from Olympia south through Tumwater to the main rail line at Tenino.



St. James Anglican Church, formerly Tumwater Methodist Church (1872)

During the 1870s, the Deschutes River and the power it supplied to local Mills was more than important to Tumwater, it had become embedded in the Town's culture and heritage and essential to its Industrial Development. The high point of water power was the mid-1870s, with a significant proportion of manufacturing on Puget Sound done in Tumwater in part because of the water power and navigation facilities. A decade later in 1885 there were still sawmills, flour mills, factories, and a tannery all powered by the waterfalls. But use of water power was gradually decreasing as businesses switched to other types of power. Many industries built along the Deschutes River would eventually vanish.

On November 11, 1889, Washington became the 42nd State in the Union. In 1890, the OLYMPIA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY built a generator facility at the Middle Falls of the Deschutes River in Tumwater. Streetcars were becoming a popular form of transport and, on July 21, 1892, the Company inaugurated Electric-Streetcar Service along a 4-mile track between Olympia and Tumwater. Over the years the route expanded. On December 1, 1933, the Streetcar stopped running and the rails were subsequently removed.

"It's the Water"

The 1890s saw the development of power sources in other areas beyond Tumwater Falls. Newer plants and Mills elsewhere around Puget Sound replaced water-powered Mills, such as those in Tumwater. Sawmills in the area declined, since forests around Tumwater were depleted. OLYMPIA, now the State Capital, was overshadowing Tumwater in size and importance.

Tumwater was becoming a suburb of Olympia, but it also became known for a new industry -- Beer Brewing.

In 1895, Leopold F. SCHMIDT (1846-1914), a German immigrant who operated a brewery in Montana, decided to transfer his brewery business to TUMWATER. The decision came after Schmidt was introduced to the pure water of artesian springs in Tumwater while visiting the new State Capitol building in Olympia. After drinking the artesian water, he purchased the Biles and Carter Tannery building and obtained Water Rights to the springs.

On October 4, 1896, the first beer, OLYMPIA PALE EXPORT, was sold.

In the Spring of 1896, Schmidt started work on the Brewery at Tumwater. By October 1, he had built several wooden structures and piers to house the operations. The CAPITOL BREWING COMPANY was formed.

The Company, soon renamed **OLYMPIA BREWING COMPANY**, grew to world-class stature. The slogan "It's the Water" explained the taste of the beer. In 1906, Schmidt replaced the original brewery buildings with an imposing six-story brick building that would go on to become a significant landmark in Tumwater known as the Old Brewhouse.

SCHMIDT died in September 1914, and **PROHIBITION**, which took effect in Washington in 1916, closed down brewing in the State. The OLYMPIA BREWING COMPANY was nearly wrecked by Prohibition. It continued producing fruit juices, jam, and jellies but the products were not a success, and the business closed in 1921. After prohibition ended in 1933 the Company resumed Brewing, building a new Plant at the Upper Falls of the Deschutes River. Opened on January 14, 1934, it was operated by Olympia Brewing until 1983 when it was sold to **PABST BREWING COMPANY**. Pabst closed the facility in 2003.



**Leopold Schmidt
Memorial**



**Old Brewhouse (Olympia Brewing Company, 1906), Deschutes River, Tumwater.
Photo by Colleen E. O'Connor, ca. 1860 Courtesy Washington State Historical Society**

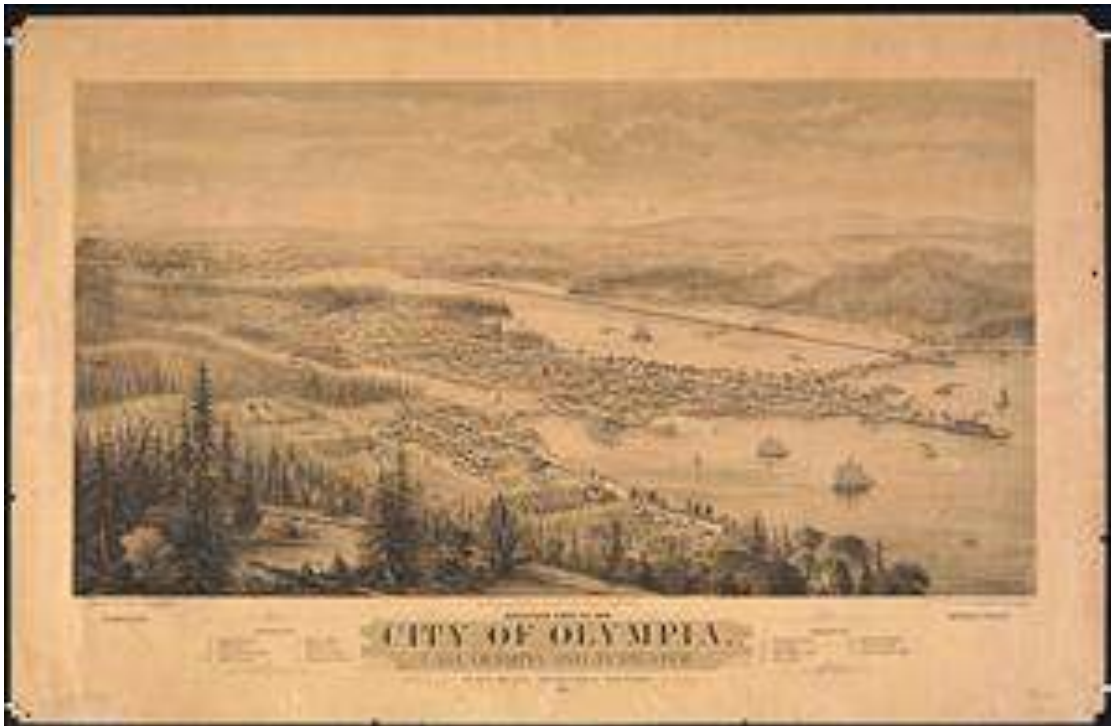
In April 2016, the Old Brewhouse was donated to the City of Tumwater to preserve and restore the facility. In 2017, repairs began to prevent further deterioration.

On November 25, 2019, the City of Tumwater held a SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION to mark the 150th Anniversary of its Incorporation. The celebration included a variety of projects and events focusing on the Community's History.

By 2021, TUMWATER'S official estimated population had topped 26,000. The Community continues to Plan for the Future while preserving its Past, from being the oldest permanent American Settlement on Puget Sound to being home to a nationally known Brewery and much more.



Upper Tumwater Falls, circa 1885. Courtesy Washington State Historical Society





Tumwater, Thurston (Tumwater Long Bridge and Deschutes River in foreground)



Middle Tumwater Falls, ca. 1920s



Lower Tumwater Falls, late 1800s
Middle Tumwater Falls, ca. 1920s



Olympia Brewing Company, 1909

Highway Construction and Historic Preservation

On July 12, 1916, a large granite monument to what Press coverage referred to as "the Simmons Party" was unveiled by a host of descendants, friends, and officials, honouring the first American Settlers on Puget Sound, who arrived in the Fall of 1845 at Tumwater ("PIONEERS DO HONOR ..."). The names of the original 31 men, women, and children were listed on a bronze tablet on the monument. It stands above the Deschutes River near where MICHAEL SIMMONS made his camp in 1845.

By 1921, Pacific Highway (later Highway 99) was built and paved through Tumwater and Olympia. The route originally went along Tumwater's main street, across the Boston Street Bridge over the Deschutes, and up Custer Way, then turned left on Cleveland and made its way through downtown Olympia. Due to increased traffic, the highway was rerouted to bypass downtown Tumwater. During the 1930s, the only major industry in Town was the OLYMPIA BREWING COMPANY.



Streetcar Station, Custer Way Bridge, Tumwater, Thurston 1916

In 1941, the SCHMIDT family and descendants of the CROSBY family purchased the **CROSBY HOUSE** built in 1860 by Nathaniel Crosby. In 1947, the house was donated to the DAUGHTERS OF THE PIONEERS, Chapter 4. The chapter gave the house to the City of Tumwater in 1981, but continues to operate it. The first occupants of the home, Nathaniel and Cordelia Crosby, had two sons. The second, Harry Lowe Crosby (1870-1950), born after the family moved to OLYMPIA, was the father of renowned singer, actor HARRY LILLIS aka "**BING**" CROSBY (1903-1977), born in Tacoma and raised in Spokane.



Phil Harris, Bob Littler, and **Bing Crosby**, Seattle, July 1956

On February 10, 1942, Selma Mary Lee "Sally" Eke (1914-1995) became the first woman to serve as Justice of the Peace in TUMWATER when she was appointed to complete the term of her husband, Arthur Carl Eke (1896-1961), who resigned and joined the naval reserve during World War II. Sally Eke was elected to the justice of the peace position in November 1942, and the following year, while still serving in that office, also became the first woman Police Officer for the City of Olympia.



Crosby House (1860), Tumwater, 2022



Tumwater School, ca. 1900 Courtesy Washington State Historical Society



[Crosby and Irving Store, Tumwater, ca. 1865](#)

In 1955, construction of Interstate 5 began through the area. On December 12, 1958, the new interstate opened. Cut through central Tumwater, it split the City in half. Many homes and commercial buildings were demolished to make way for the freeway. Following construction of Interstate 5, opportunities opened up for new land development.

The Tyee Motor Inn opened in Tumwater in June 1958. Legislators from Olympia used the Inn for Conventions and Banquets. The motel had expanded significantly by 1970, but during the 1970s it suffered multiple fires. The motor inn never recovered. It was torn down in October 1999, and a Fred Meyer store was later opened on its former site.

The first woman elected to the Tumwater City Council was Marion Argo (1898-1969), who won election in March 1960 and served two years. In 1962, Tumwater Falls Park opened along the Falls of the Deschutes River. Land for the 15-acre park was donated by the Olympia Brewing Company and the Park was developed by the Olympia Tumwater Foundation. The nonprofit organization continues to own and maintain the Park, now named Brewery Park at Tumwater Falls, which is open to the public without charge. By the end of the 1960s three Lumber Mills, descendants of the early Settlers' Water-Powered Sawmills, closed.



[Mayor Debbie Sullivan, Independence Day Parade, Tumwater, July 4, 2022](#)

In 1978, the TUMWATER HISTORIC DISTRICT was designated, encompassing land on both sides of the falls of the Deschutes River at the heart of historic Tumwater and including the OLD BREWHOUSE, the CROSBY HOUSE, and other historic structures.

During the 1980s, the HENDERSON HOUSE MUSEUM was created in one of those structures, a restored home that was originally owned by William Naumann, a German brewmaster who worked at the OLYMPIA BREWING COMPANY in the early 1900s. The building's name was later changed to the BREWMASTER'S HOUSE in honor of Naumann.

State Agencies and Local Planning

Given its proximity to the State Capital, over the years TUMWATER became home to Offices of many State Agencies. The WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS established its headquarters there in 1981. Other agencies with locations in Tumwater include the OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER, the DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, and the WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY.

In 1988, TUMWATER, OLYMPIA, and the nearby CITY OF LACEY together agreed to develop a Joint Plan for Urban Growth in the area. A Comprehensive Plan was adopted and amended over the years.

The three Cities and THURSTON COUNTY also joined together in a partnership they named the **LOTT Cleanwater Alliance** to handle SEWAGE and WASTEWATER TREATMENT for their growing urban areas.

