

The *Washington Historical Quarterly* extends welcome to the new association and cherishes the hope that the "British Columbia Historical Quarterly" may soon make its appearance.

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*The Oxen at Naches Pass*

In "Van Ogle's Memory of Pioneer Days," which appeared in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for October, 1922, the old pioneer was shown (pages 269-270) to differ with George H. Himes, the eminent historical authority of Oregon, about the famous story of killing oxen at Naches Pass in order to make raw-hide ropes, with which to let the immigrant wagons down what was called "the jumping-off place." Mr. Himes promptly took exception to such criticism of his historical work and painstaking efforts at accuracy as follows:

"I just saw your October *Quarterly* and read Van Ogle's account. A lot of what he gave Miss Judson is an after thought. There was not a single wagon driven down from the summit with a team attached, even one yoke. I began the preparation of my article, as printed in the *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association, 1907*, fully twenty-five years before that, at the request of James Biles, one day when I was his guest at Tumwater.

"'Why, Mr. Biles,' I said, 'I am not the person to write an account of that trip through the Naches Pass. Some one or more of the adults ought to do it. I was nothing but a boy and am not positive about the facts. I remember many of the details of the trip—that is, I think I remember them.' Finally, upon Mr. Biles' insistence, I said 'I will jot down my recollections, make several typed copies of the same, and send one to every adult that can be found that belonged to that party and ask for criticisms.'

"That was the course I pursued and among others that I read my account to in person was Van Ogle in his home in Tacoma. Before that, however, the substance of it was recounted in Van Ogle's cabin one night when I stayed with him when he lived close to the spot on Puyallup River where we crossed in 1853. 'Then again I went over it with him when I stayed all night with him in the Soldiers' Home at Orting. Nelson Sargent, the oldest son of the Sargent family, an adult when he came west to California with his father in 1850, saw my account. All in all, the portions of my paper relating to the trip through the mountains passed the scrutiny of at least twenty adults of our company.

"James Longmire did not see it, as he was away more or less

during the years that the copies of my paper were being passed around from one to another. Finally, I found that he had caused an account to be prepared giving his recollections of the trip through the Cascade Mountains, and, after I saw it, I was amazed to observe the substantial agreement there was in our accounts.

"The account (mine) was read to David Byles when I was a guest at his house, just a few weeks before he was killed by the railroad near Elma. His brother, Charles N. Byles, once in the banking business in Montesano, also read my account. However, he was not an adult when making the trip in 1953.

"Anyway, my account will have to stand for what it is worth on the basis of whatever value there may be in any expression uttered by me. 'So mote it be'."

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*Government Decisions on Names*

The United States Geographic Board has issued a pamphlet containing the decisions arrived at from 1920 to 1922. The following are those bearing on place names in the State of Washington:

BATTLE; butte, about 10 miles west of Spokane, T. 24 N., R. 41 E., Spokane County, Wash. (Not Wright.)

BIG SHEEP; creek, rising in British Columbia, crossing international boundary about long. 117° 56', tributary to Columbia River near Northport, Stevens County, Wash. (Not Sheep, White Sheep, nor Yomelsin.)

LANE; peak, three-pointed (altitude 6,000 feet), in Tatoosh Range, rising one-third mile northwest of Cliff Lake, Mount Rainier National Park, Pierce County, Wash. (In honor of the late Franklin K. Lane, former Secretary of the Department of the Interior.)

LAPOEL; point, southern shore Lake Crescent, Sec. 32, T. 30 N., R. 9 W., Clallam County, Wash. (Not Pancake.)

OHANAPECOSH; hot springs, on the Ohanapecosh River, Sec. 4, T. 14 N., R. 10 E., Rainer National Forest, Lewis County, Wash. (Not Cowlitz.)

RICH; passage, entrance to Port Orchard from Puget Sound, south of Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Wash. (Not Rich's.)

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*Captain Gray in Song*

From Chinook, Washington, there comes a song, all home product, entitled "On the Shores of Baker's Bay," in memory of Cap-