

## WASHINGTON TERRITORY FIFTY YEARS AGO

In 1863 Washington Territory was ten years old. At its creation in 1853 it included an area of about 100,000 square miles. From its enlargement in 1859 it included 240,000 square miles for four years. Washington and Nebraska were then adjoining territories, meeting at the summits of the Rocky Mountains. Washington was then about as large as Oregon and California combined. In 1863 Idaho was created, when Washington, by the cutting off, was reduced to its present area. This article relates to Washington at that time, before Idaho.

In 1863 William Pickering was Governor of the Territory; L. J. S. Turner, Secretary; John J. McGilvra, United States Attorney; William Huntington, Marshal; David Phillips, Territorial Treasurer; Rodolph M. Walker, Auditor; Alonzo M. Poe, Printer, and Thomas Taylor, Librarian.

Christopher C. Hewitt was Chief Justice and James E. Wyche and Ethelbert P. Oliphant Associate Justices. Each justice had a district in which he conducted the judicial business. The First District included the counties of Missoula, Idaho, Nez Perce, Shoshone, Spokane and Walla Walla, with sessions of court at Walla Walla, Judge Oliphant presiding. The Second District included Klickitat, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties, with terms of court at Vancouver, Judge Wyche presiding. The Third District included Chehalis, Lewis, Thurston, Mason, Pierce, King, Kitsap, Island, Snohomish, Jefferson, Clallam and Whatcom Counties, with court at Olympia, Judge Hewitt presiding. Sessions of court were held twice a year, in the spring and fall, though at different times in each district, for the convenience of attorneys and others. Though Olympia was the only place in the Third District named, court had been held many times at Port Townsend, Seattle and Steilacoom. Once a year the three judges met at Olympia and held a term of the Supreme Court, when they passed upon cases appealed from the District Courts. It was not satisfactory to litigants and lawyers to have the judge who had decided against them in the lower court again participate in the court above, and some years later a fourth judge was added, and he who had tried the case below was excluded from its determination above.

Indian affairs in the Territory were under Calvin H. Hale, Superintendent, assisted by George F. Whitworth, Chief Clerk. The Yakima reservation had A. A. Bancroft for agent; the Flathead reservation, Charles Hutchins; the Makah, Henry A. Webster; the Tulalip, Samuel D. Howe;

the Skwaksin, E. Baker; the Nez Perce, J. W. Anderson; the Skokomish, F. C. Purdy; the Puyallup and others, Alfred R. Eder. In addition to the agents there were usually on the reservations other white men as farmers, teachers, blacksmiths and doctors.

William H. Wallace was delegate in Congress during the two years ending in March, and Geo. E. Cole during the two years following.

The Territorial Militia consisted solely of officers, J. M. Moore being Brigadier General; George Gallagher, Adjutant General; Richard Lane, Quartermaster General, and E. A. Willson, Commissary General. About twenty years afterwards the first company was organized, equipped and armed.

Victor Smith was Collector of Customs for the District of Puget Sound, with office in Port Townsend at first, but later in Port Angeles.

United States land affairs were managed by Anson G. Henry, Surveyor General, aided by Edward Giddings and Alex C. Smith, his subordinates, and by Arthur A. Denny as Register and Joseph Cushman as Receiver of the Olympia Land Office, and Joseph M. Fletcher as Register and Samuel W. Brown as Receiver of the Vancouver Land Office.

United States military affairs were under the direction of Gen. Benjamin Alvord, with headquarters at Fort Vancouver, and other garrisons at San Juan, Steilacoom, Walla Walla and Colville. The regular army troops at this time were all in service in the Eastern states, a regiment of Washington Territory Volunteers under Colonel Steinberger replacing them in the garrisons named.

The Federal Government was represented on Puget Sound by the revenue cutter Shubrick and the steamer Massachusetts. In addition to these branches of service there were six lighthouses, at Admiralty Head, Blunt's Island, Port Angeles, Tatoosh Island, Cape Shoalwater and Cape Disappointment.

The Territorial Legislature in 1863 consisted of nine councilmen elected for three years, and thirty Representatives elected for one year. It convened at Olympia in December, and was in session sixty days. In 1862-3 the membership of the two bodies was:

Council—Ralph Bledsoe, Idaho and Nez Perce Counties; Frank Clark, Pierce and Mason; Hiram Cochran, Clark; Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Pacific; Paul K. Hubbs, Jefferson and Clallam; O. B. McFadden, Thurston, Lewis and Chehalis; Benjamin F. Shaw, Island, Snohomish and Whatcom; John A. Simms, Skamania, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Spokane; John Webster, King and Kitsap.

House Representatives—A. B. Andrews, Shoshone County; John D. Bagley, Clallam and Jefferson; L. F. Blake, Missoula; Albert Briggs,

Jefferson; Charles P. Campfield, Spokane; Henry M. Chase, Walla Walla; Wm. Denniston, Nez Perce; Charles Eagan, Pierce; J. L. Ferguson, Klickitat and Skamania; Thomas J. Flethcer, Clark; Joseph Foster, King; Morris H. Frost, Island and Snohomish; Miles S. Griswold, Pacific; Paul K. Hubbs, Jr., Whatcom; Thomas Hunt, Thurston; James Huntington, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum; James Longmire, Thurston; William McLain, Thurston; N. Northrop, Walla Walla; James Orr, Shoshone; E. W. Perrin, Chehalis and Mason; J. D. Potter, Clark; Antonio B. Rabbeson, Pierce; Wm. Ranke, Clark; Thomas M. Reed, Idaho; S. J. Slater, Shoshone; S. D. Smith, Walla Walla; Benjamin R. Stone, Kitsap; James Urquhart, Lewis; Walter T. Weed, Kitsap.

In the Territory then were seventy-one postoffices. Seattle was the only postoffice in King County, and Steilacoom, Franklin and Spanaway the only offices in Pierce. Spokane had not secured its first office. In what are now the three leading counties of the state were then but four offices, where at present are several hundred offices and postoffice stations.

There were in 1863 but six newspapers in the Territory, all small weeklies. The *Golden Age* was published at Lewiston by Kenyon & Co., the *Washington Statesman* at Walla Walla, by Northrop & Rees; the *Northwest* at Port Townsend, by John F. Damon; the *Puget Sound Herald*, at Steilacoom, by Charles Prosch; the *Overland Press*, at Olympia, by A. M. Poe, and the *Washington Standard* at Olympia, by John Miller Murphy.

There were twenty-four counties then in the Territory. The population numbered about twelve thousand in 1860, and had increased in number to perhaps twenty thousand in the early part of 1863, the discoveries of gold in what is now Idaho having attracted thousands of men to that portion of the then Territory of Washington. The votes cast in all the Territory in the summer of 1861 aggregated 3,509, and the assessment of all the property amounted to \$6,800,003. In 1863 the election and assessment covered only that part of the Territory, but little more than one-third in square miles, included within our present State limits. Not long after that time Idaho contained as many inhabitants, perhaps, as Washington.

The Federal Government levied a tax in 1863 against Washington Territory amounting to \$8,415.65, which in turn was apportioned by the Territory among the different counties. The Territorial revenue was exceedingly small during the first years, the actual cash received into the Treasury to the end of 1863, a period of ten years, amounting to only \$20,334.78, and even that petty amount was reduced to \$16,459.41

by the government tax and the receiving and disbursing fees allowed the Treasurer in lieu of a salary.

The following statements will give in brief the various counties of the Territory fifty years ago:

Chahalis—Montesano, county seat; other towns and postoffices, Elma, Cedarville, Satsop, Chehalis and Union. P. F. Luark was Probate Judge; J. A. Karr, Auditor; William Valentine, Sheriff; Samuel Benn, Treasurer; Jacob Johnson, Assessor; Geo. W. Butler, Coroner; James Gleason, School Superintendent; Reuben Redman, John Brady and Alfred Hills, Commissioners.

Clallam—Port Angeles, county seat. Before this time the town was sometimes called Cherbourg. It became the port of entry for Puget Sound in the latter part of 1862. John Martin was Sheriff; William King, Auditor; D. F. Brownfield, Probate Judge; James Doty, Coroner; Thomas Abernethy, C. H. Black and ——— Clifford, Commissioners. E. H. McAlmond was Postmaster; J. J. Banan, physician; D. F. Brownfield and C. M. Bradshaw, attorneys, and G. B. Johnson and Bradshaw Howell, merchants.

Clark—Vancouver, county seat; other towns, Pekin and Washougal. A. J. Laurence, Probate Judge; S. A. Hern, Auditor; J. Aird, Sheriff; John Brazee, Assessor; J. D. Biles, Treasurer; B. Covington, School Superintendent; G. W. Hart, Sol Strong and Wm. H. Dillon, Commissioners. In Vancouver were Providence School, conducted by the Catholic Sisters, and Vancouver Academy, by J. B. Brouillet; stores conducted by Hiram Cochran, Thomas H. Smith, Crawford & Slocum, M. Miller, Haas & Wise, J. Raiser, John Hexter and G. W. Vaughan; J. B. Cole, Anthony Heger and J. W. Nepe, physicians; J. O. Raynor, J. Dougherty, John McCarty, Charles Tiernay, J. B. A. Brouillet and A. M. A. Blanchet clergymen; Columbia Lancaster, W. G. Langford, A. J. Lawrence, R. E. Lockwood, J. D. Potter, Jules Puiste and Henry G. Struve, attorneys.

Cowlitz—Monticello, county seat; other towns, Oak Point and Castle Rock. B. Taffey, Sheriff; James Young, Auditor; V. M. Wallace, Treasurer; B. F. Smith, Assessor; P. W. Crawford, Surveyor; C. A. Thatcher, School Superintendent; A. S. Abernethy, W. A. L. McCorkle and J. S. Bennett, Commissioners; N. Ostrander, physician; Hays & Young, merchants; Royal C. Smith, H. Jackson and A. S. Abernethy, postmasters.

Idaho—Florence, county seat. J. J. Sandefer, Sheriff; Jeff Perkins, Auditor. Florence was a mining town of interest, supposed at that time to have a population of 3,000, located 650 miles from Olympia.

The name of the county was given to it by the Washington Legislature in 1861, and two years later was given by Congress to the new Territory. It is said to mean "star;" also "Gem of the Mountains."

Island—Coupeville, county seat; Oak Harbor, another town. John Robertson was a merchant; W. S. Ebey, S. D. Howe and R. C. Hill, attorneys; J. C. Kellogg and M. L. Mounts, physicians; Geo. F. Whitworth, clergyman, and Caleb Miller postmaster of Oak Harbor.

Jefferson—Port Townsend, county seat. Port Ludlow and Port Discovery were other towns. Albert Briggs was Probate Judge; H. L. Tibbals, Sheriff; E. S. Fowler, Treasurer; J. J. H. Van Bokkelen, Auditor; T. M. Hammond, Coroner; R. S. Robinson, F. W. Pettygrove and J. F. Tukey, Commissioners; E. S. Dyer, James Seavey and James Woodman, Justices of the Peace. In the county were stores kept by Amos, Phinney & Co., J. J. H. Van Bokkelen, L. B. Hastings, A. F. Learned, Stork & Co., J. F. Blumberg, J. E. Loughton & Co., and D. C. H. Rothschild; B. C. Lippincott was the only clergyman; Louis Kuhn, Samuel McCurdy and P. M. O'Brien were physicians, and B. F. Dennison, Seucius Garfield and Paul K. Hubbs, attorneys. Port Townsend was an incorporated town, with a Board of Trustees, consisting of E. S. Fowler, Henry L. Tibbals, A. A. Plummer, Joseph Layton and J. J. H. Van Bokkelen.

King—Seattle, county seat. Samuel F. Coombs was Auditor; Thomas S. Russell, Sheriff; David T. Denny, Treasurer; Edwin Richardson, Surveyor; A. P. Delin, Coroner; H. P. O'Bryant, Wm. P. Smith and Henry L. Yesler, Commissioners; L. B. Andrews, S. W. Russell and James Valentine, Justices of the Peace. King was then one of the small counties of the Territory, far behind Thurston, Clark, Pierce and several others. S. F. Coombs was postmaster of Seattle, and about that time the White River office was created and David A. Neely made postmaster thereof. Daniel Bagley was the only clergyman, and D. S. Maynard the only lawyer; Henry A. Smith, Josiah Settle and D. S. Maynard were physicians; while the merchants were Yesler, Denny & Co., Williamson & Greenfield, Dexter Horton, Charles Plummer, S. B. Hinds, Kellogg Brothers and S. F. Coombs.

Kitsap—Port Madison, county seat; other towns, Port Orchard, Seabeck and Teekalet. Hiram Burnett was Probate Judge; John Webster, Auditor; Henry B. Manchester, Sheriff; Andrew B. Young, Treasurer; W. R. Temple, W. B. Sinclair and S. W. Hovey, Commissioners; H. Spaulding, Justice of the Peace, and John Webster, William Renton, Marshall Blinn and S. W. Hovey, postmasters. At each of the four places was a sawmill and store.

Klickitat—Rockland, county seat. The county was new, partially organized and of small population and importance. The main feature of it was the Yakima Indian Reservation, of which A. A. Bancroft was agent in charge, with J. H. Wilbur, clergyman, as assistant.

Lewis—Claquato, county seat; other places, Boisfort, Cowlitz, Grand Prairie, Highland, Newaukum and Skookum Chuck. T. M. Pearson was Probate Judge; Javan Hale, Sheriff; J. L. Decker, Treasurer; John H. Harwood, Auditor; G. W. Buchanan, School Superintendent; L. L. Gates, J. C. Davis and S. S. Ford, Commissioners; John J. Browning, Thomas W. Newland, Louis L. Dubeau, George Drew, John R. Jackson, Obadiah B. McFadden and Charles Van Wormer, postmasters. Claquato and Grand Prairie each had a saw mill and a flour mill. At Claquato were two lawyers—James McIlroy and Timothy R. Winston—and one clergyman, J. S. Douglass.

Mason—Until about the time covered by this review this county was known as Sawamish. The new name was from one of the first and most popular of Territorial officers, then dead, however. Oakland was the county seat. Arcada and Skokomish were the other places. William O. McFarland was Sheriff; Joseph H. Nusiner, Auditor; Wm. F. O'Harver, Treasurer; Edward Miller and F. C. Purdy, Commissioners; William Champ, David C. Forbes and Alexander Dillman, Justices of the Peace; E. C. Lord, A. M. Collins and E. A. Willson, postmasters. S. Hancock was an attorney, and Dr. Pegget, a physician; Swindal & Bros. and E. A. Willson & Co., merchants.

Missoula—This county, now in Montana, was not fully organized before its cutting off from Washington. It was represented in the Legislature by Councilman J. M. Moore of Pierce City, and by Representative L. F. Blake of Fort Owen. The county seat bore the triple-worded name of Hell Gate Ronde. It was 760 miles from Olympia.

Nez Perce—Lewiston, county seat, also first capital of Idaho Territory. The county got its name from the Nez Perce Indians, which, by the way, was not the name of the Indians at all, but a name given to them for a fancied reason by French Canadians about a hundred years ago. C. E. Irvine was auditor; Sanford Owen, sheriff; J. B. Beeker, coroner; Whitfield Kirtley, David Reese and James Hayes, commissioners; Henry P. Sweetzer, D. J. Warner and T. M. Pomeroy, Justices of the Peace. Gilmore Hays and G. B. Stone were attorneys; Doctors Betts, Carpenter, Kelley and Orendorff, physicians; and McTeeny & Terry, F. H. Simmons, Daggett & Dakin, Ross, Dempster & Co., James O'Neill, Fitch & Co., R. Bailey, Bettman & Hellman, Kaufman & Rosenthal, Mayer & Co., J. D. Thompson, Joseph Levenson, Crawford, Slocum &

Co., D. & J. Isaacs, A. Goldsmith, and Baldwin Bros., were merchants.

Pacific—Oysterville, county seat; other places, Bruceport, Pacific City and Willapa. John Briscoe was Probate Judge; Henry K. Stevens, Auditor; G. W. Warren, Sheriff; Valentine S. Riddell, Treasurer; James H. Whitcomb, Assessor; H. S. Gile, Surveyor; G. H. Brown, coroner; Henry S. Gile, School Superintendent; T. M. Adams, George W. Wilson and Isaac Whealdon, Commissioners; F. C. Davis, Henry Blissett, J. E. Pickernell and Solomon Dodge, Justices of the Peace; Isaac A. Clark, Charles Barstow, Isaac Whealdon and Job Bullard, postmasters. John Riddell, Mark Winant, Henry K. Stevens, V. S. Riddell and Crel-lius & Co. were merchants.

Pierce—Steilacoom, county seat; other places were Spanaway and Franklin, the latter now known as Sumner. James P. Stewart was Probate Judge; James M. Bachelder, Auditor; Egbert H. Tucker, Sheriff; Josiah H. Munson, Treasurer; Daniel Collins, Coroner; William H. Wood, School Superintendent; Charles Bitting, A. F. Byrd and William M. Kincaid, Commissioners; A. B. Rabbeson, Hugh Pattison, W. W. Sherman and Nicholas Hall, Justices of the Peace; Erastus A. Light, John Carson and Christopher Mahan, postmasters. Frank Clark was an attorney; B. S. Olds and J. B. Webber, physicians; Daniel Kendig, George W. Sloan and Father Varey, clergymen; E. A. Light, J. P. Moorey, J. H. Munson, Philip Keach, George Gallagher, H. G. Williamson, S. McCan & Co., Pincus & Packscher and Charles Eisenbeis, merchants. J. L. Perkins had a sawmill at Puyallup bay, now Tacoma, and Balch & Webber at Nisqually bay; John V. Meeker had a soap factory at Steilacoom; A. F. Byrd and Thomas M. Chambers each had both saw and flour mills near Steilacoom. The present hospital for the insane was then the Fort Steilacoom military garrison.

Shoshone—Pierce City, county seat; Oro Fino was another place. Legally created by the Washington Legislature in December of 1862, it was not organized and officered until after the creation by Congress of Idaho in March 1863. It was, however, represented in the Washington Legislature, and had a term of the District Court under Judge Oliphant.

Skamania—Cascades, county seat. Henry Shepard was an attorney, George W. Johnson, a physician; Bradford & Co., merchants, and Isaac H. Bush, postmaster.

Snohomish—Mukilteo, county seat. Sabin Woods was Sheriff; Franklin Buck, Coroner; John Harvey, Henry McClurg and P. H. Elwell, Commissioners; Morris H. Frost and E. C. Ferguson, Justices of the Peace, and J. D. Fowler, postmaster. Frost & Fowler and E. H. Thompson were merchants.

Spokane—Pinckney City, county seat, 610 miles from Olympia. The county was not yet organized. Bloch, Miller & Co., Olmstead & Co., and Ferguson & Co. were traders or merchants in the county. Its Legislative Councilman lived in Walla Walla, and Representative in Pinckney City, long distances from any portion of the present Spokane county.

Thurston—Olympia, county seat; other places, Baker's, Beaver, Coal Bank, Yelm, and Tumwater. Rudolph M. Walker was Probate Judge; Andrew W. Moore, Auditor; Robert W. Moxlie, Sheriff; Samuel W. Percival, Treasurer; R. M. Walker, School Superintendent; George W. Miller and George W. French, Commissioners; Daniel R. Bigelow, James C. Head, Stephen Guthrie, Nathaniel Crosby, George W. Miller, Levi Shelton and Isaac Perry, Justices of the Peace; Samuel Williams, C. B. Baker, C. P. Judson, Stephen Hodgden and Frederick Wagner, postmasters. Olympia Board of Trustees consisted of George A. Barnes, Joseph Cushman, William G. Dunlap, James Tilton and Charles E. Williams, with Richard Lane for Clerk and R. W. Moxlie for Marshal. Nehemiah Doane, Richard J. Evans and A. C. Fairchild were clergymen in 1863; O. Rowland, U. G. Warbass, G. K. Willard and Rufus Willard, physicians; Butler P. Anderson, Elwood Evans, B. F. Kendall, Edward Lander, Henry M. McGill and John J. McGilvra, attorneys; C. Crosby & Co., G. K. Willard & Son, H. A. Judson, D. Phillips & Son, Lightner & Frankel, Bettman Brothers, S. W. Percival and Charles E. Williams, merchants.

Wahkiakum—Cathlamet, county seat. James Birnie was postmaster, and James Birnie & Co. kept a store. Hiram Cochran of Vancouver and James Huntington of Monticello represented Wahkiakum in the Legislature.

Walla Walla—Walla Walla, county seat, with an estimated population of 1,000, was the largest town within our State limits, and it so remained until 1881. James Galbreath was Auditor; James Buckley, Sheriff; H. Howard, Treasurer; W. W. Johnson, Surveyor; W. B. Kelley, Coroner; J. F. Wood, School Superintendent; Stephen Maxon, Wm. H. Patten and John Sheets, Commissioners; Edward E. Kelly, postmaster. Walla Walla was one of the three towns with municipal governments, Olympia and Port Townsend being the other two. Walla Walla's officers were E. B. Whitman, Mayor; W. P. Horton, Recorder; G. H. Porter, Marshal; Edward Nugent, Attorney; H. Howard, Treasurer; L. W. Greenwell, Assessor. Among the people were John Fleim, clergyman; D. H. Danforth, J. H. Harris, J. L. McKinney, and Edward Sheil, physicians; Otis L. Bridges, A. J. Cain, J. M. Chenoweth, W. A. George, Edward Nugent and John G. Sparks, attorneys; J. M. Vansyckle



& Co., Keyger & Reese, Baldwin & Whitman, Wm. H. Mastin, Brooks & Cranston, Brown & Dusenberg, Brand & Haas, A. Mayer & Co., R. Jacobs, J. S. McIteeny, Brown & Co., Henry Howard and D. S. Baker, merchants.

Whatcom—Whatcom, county seat. Whatcom then included all of what is now San Juan and Skagit counties. H. C. Barkhousen was Probate Judge, and also Auditor; James Kavanugh, Sheriff; Mm. Moody, Treasurer; John A. Tennant, M. T. Haeus and M. H. Offutt, Commissioners; R. B. Boyd, Justice of the Peace, and C. E. Richards, postmaster of Whatcom, and E. T. Hamblet, Justice of the Peace, and Isaac C. Higgins, postmaster of San Juan. Moody & Sinclair and C. E. Richards were merchants.

The information contained in the foregoing article concerning Washington Territory and its counties and towns fifty years ago was obtained chiefly—almost entirely—from “Bancroft’s Handbook Almanac for the Pacific States, 1863.” From other sources the compiler knows that it is generally correct, but he also knows and regrets that it is not uniformly complete. Compared with conditions and things of the present day, Washington has made immense progress during the half century that has elapsed since the record here given was first published, a progress apparent to all without further and fuller statement. Very few, probably not more than a dozen or two, of all those whose names are given as citizens in 1863 are among our people in 1913.

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