

DOCUMENTS

Journal of Occurrences at Nisqually House, 1833

INTRODUCTION

Fort Nisqually was the first permanent settlement of white men on Puget Sound. Fort Vancouver had been headquarters since 1825 and Fort Langley was founded near the mouth of the Fraser river in 1827. Fort Nisqually was, therefore, a station which served to link these two together. While the primary object of the Hudson's Bay Company was to collect furs, nevertheless, the great needs of their own trappers, and the needs of Russian America (Alaska), and the Hawaiian Islands and other places for foodstuffs, caused that Company to seriously think of entering into an agricultural form of enterprise. But certain of the directors were not in favor of having the Company branch out into other lines, so a subsidiary company, the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, was formed in 1838 for the purpose of taking advantage of the agricultural opportunities of the Pacific. This company was financed and officered by members of the Hudson's Bay Company. From that time Fort Nisqually became more an agricultural enterprise than a fur-trading post.

The Treaty of 1846, by which the United States received the sovereignty of the country to the south of the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, promised the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company that their possessions in that section would be respected. The antagonism of incoming settlers who coveted the fine lands aggravated the situation. Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, as Superintendent of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, remained in charge until 1859, when he removed to Victoria, and Edward Huggins, a clerk, was left as custodian at Nisqually. The American Civil War delayed a settlement, although Secretary of State Seward and Lord Lyons completed an arbitration treaty in 1863. Under the terms of that treaty a decision was reached in 1869 by which the United States paid the Hudson's Bay Company \$450,000 and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company \$200,000 for their possessory rights below the forty-ninth parallel. The chattels of the companies were sold, and Mr. Huggins, becoming an American citizen, took over the site at Nisqually as his homestead which he sold to the Du Pont Powder Company about ten years ago.

A daily record of occurrences was kept during all these years, but at the time of the adjudication of the companies' claims certain portions were taken to Victoria to be used as legal evidence. Such records as

have remained are now being reproduced in the Quarterly, and will throw much light upon the early history of this section of the country. Not alone will historians be interested. The journals contain much illuminating material for the naturalist, agriculturist, and meteorologist.

It is a matter of regret that the journals in many places are badly damaged, which makes their reconstruction difficult and sometimes impossible. Those portions which have so suffered are enclosed in brackets, and interpolations, wherever possible, are included, also in brackets. In this way the original journals, now in my possession, will be reproduced as faithfully as can be done from their present condition.

CLARENCE B. BAGLEY.

[May 30th, 1833—Interpolation by Edward Huggins.]

[Fort Nisqually, Puget Sound, North West Coast of America. In 1833, jointly claimed by Great Britain and the United States. In 1846, ceded to the United States by joint treaty of 1846.—Interpolation by Edward Huggins.]

May—

[1833—Interpolation by Huggins.]

30th—Thursday—Arrived here this afternoon from the Columbia with 4 men—4 oxen—& 4 horses, after a journey of 14 [days] expecting to have found the Schooner Vancouver l[ying here]. She sailed the afternoon of the same day we start[ed with] trading—Goods—provisions—potatoes—Seed—[&c bound] for Nusqualley¹ Bay Where we now have [determined] should everything come up to expectation, [to locate our] establishment. While on a trading [expedition down] Sound last Spring with 8 or 9 men, I app[lied about] 12 days of our time to the erecting of a sto[re-house 15 feet] by 20 & left & Wm. Ouvrie² & two other ha[nds under him in] charge of a few Blankets—a couple kegs po[tatoes &c] small garden seeds when I returned to the Col[umbia on the] 20th of April—This is all the semblance of [settlement] there is at this moment; but little as it is [it possesses an] advantage over all the other settlements we have [made] on the Coast.—Mr. Yale³—in consequence of a note to that effect sent him from home by Indians six weeks ago, forwarded the other day 4 men out of the 13 left with him at Fort

¹ Nisqually, a river and a bay which takes the name of the Nisqually, a Salish tribe of Indians which resided chiefly on the Nisqually river.

² William Ouvrie, a servant.

³ James Munax Yale had seen service in New Caledonia, and had accompanied Governor Simpson down the Fraser river to Fort Langley at the time of its establishment. He had been placed in charge of Fort Langley in October, 1829, by Archibald McDonald. Mr. Yale is best remembered in connection with his romance with the dusky daughter of a Haitlin Indian chief. Shortly after his arrival at Fort Langley he bought their maiden as a wife, but she proved in his eyes to be unchaste, having a husband then living. He promptly divorced her but she would not be divorced and after many tribulations won over her lord.

Langley⁴—middle of February—which now makes our total number at Nusqually House 11 hands.—I have also this moment with me Doctor William Tolmie⁵, a young Gentleman lately arrived from England as Surgeon for the Company & is bound for the Northern Estate in the Vancouver, but did me the pleasure of his Company across land with us this far.

31st Friday—No account of Capt. Ryan & the Vancouver—a very unlucky Circumstance—no Goods for the Traders—no provisions for the people, & above all the Season is getting late for the Seed.—Our [page

⁴ Fort Langley. The union of the Northwest Company with the Hudson's Bay Company, under the title of the latter, was effected in 1821, at which time the principal post in this section of the country was Fort George (Astoria). For the purpose of expanding the interests of the Company Governor George Simpson made a visit to Fort George in the fall of 1824. He organized the District of the Columbia, placing Dr. John McLaughlin in charge as Chief Factor, perfected the arrangements for the transfer of affairs from Fort George to the newly selected site, Fort Vancouver, and ordered an expedition to be sent northward from Fort George to explore the Fraser river for the purpose of selecting the site for a new post and to connect the Puget Sound waters with the Caledonia posts on the Thompson river. The proposed expedition left Fort George Thursday, November 18, 1824, under the command of James McMillan. It made its way by canoe and portage from the Columbia river to Grays Harbor via Baker's Bay and Willapa Harbor; thence up the Chehalis river to the Black river, up that stream to its source, Black Lake, then by portage to Eld Inlet, and finally by Puget Sound to the Fraser river. After a brief examination of the river the party returned, but when reaching the Chehalis river divided into two groups, one going by the route whence it had come, the other making overland to the Cowlitz river and down that stream to the Columbia. Fort Vancouver was built during the years 1824-25 and Fort George was abandoned. On the 27th of June, 1827, the same commander, James McMillan, assisted by the Cadboro, set out on a second expedition for the purpose of founding a new fort on the Fraser river. The overland party made its way up the Cowlitz river, then by portage to Puget Sound, and thence to Port Orchard, where by agreement it was to meet the Cadboro which had come around by sea. The site for the fort was selected on the 29th of June, 1827, on the left bank of the river, some 30 miles from the Gulf of Georgia. On October 10, 1827, Governor Simpson arrived at the site, having come down the Fraser river. McMillan, the commander of the expedition and of the new post, accompanied the Governor to Fort Vancouver, and appointed Archibald McDonald in his stead. See Journal of John Work for November and December, 1824, edited by T. C. Elliott (In Washington Historical Quarterly, July, 1912); also, H. H. Bancroft, History of the Northwest Coast, Vol. II., Ch. 21.

⁵ William Fraser Tolmie was born in Iverness, Scotland, and educated as a naturalist which included medicine. Botany was his special study. Under the patronage of Sir William Hooker, the famous naturalist, he secured, in 1832, an appointment with the Hudson's Bay Company and in company with another appointee, a Mr. Gairdner, also a naturalist, set sail from London, aboard the Ganymede, and arrived off Cape Disappointment April 30, 1833. Here he received orders from Dr. McLaughlin to repair to Milbank Sound to assist in the founding of Fort McLaughlin. The accident to Pierre Charles, related in this journal, interfered with this plan, and it was not until November that he was able to report there. In 1834 he was surgeon with an expedition under Ogden on the Stikkeen river, then served at Fort Simpson; finally going to Milbank Sound where he remained until February, 1836, when he took up his abode as surgeon and trader at Fort Vancouver, remaining until 1840, when he was granted a year's leave of absence. The year 1841 he seems to have spent in organizing agricultural establishments in the Willamette valley. In 1841 he returned to England where he remained until 1843, attending to the agricultural interests of the company. During these years he had acquired a knowledge of Spanish, having in mind an appointment to the post at Yerba Buena, but upon his return was given the superintendency of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company at Nisqually, where he remained until 1859, moving to Victoria, but still managing affairs for both the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company at Nisqually.

See Journal of William Fraser Tolmie (in Washington Historical Quarterly, July 1912) for an account of his stay at Fort Vancouver previous to his trip to Nisqually.

2—Interpolation by Huggins] people have been put upon various little jobs about the place—the principal one is the building of a small house on the edge of the plain above the high bank which lines the whole of these shores, & must be at least half a mile from the Trading house & Naval depot below—a farm house on the site I speak of is indispensable on account of the live Stock and many other Considerations—

June—

[1st Satur]day—Weather very clear & dry for the last 15 days [&] from the little wind we have had on shore that [the vessel] has met with little more along the Coast— The [grass] here appears exceedingly scorched at present

[Sunday, June 2nd, 1833—Interpolation by Huggins.]

2nd Sunday—In the way of living, the resources of the country [are very] scanty in this part of it—the animal hunters [are] both lazy & selfish however we much encourage [them] with an occasional load of Ammunition—The [fishery] they annually work upon with the line and hook in the Bay & at a Barrier they have a short distance up the River, is not yet in any quantity arrived—we have had however one good fish from them this morning.—

[June—Interpolation by Huggins.]

3d Monday—Indians come about to see us, but that is all; no kind of trade going on—

[June—Interpolation by Huggins.]

4th Tuesday—No Ship Every thing else going on as quietly & smoothly as could be wished—Mr. Tolmie and myself took a ride round the vicinity of the place for the space of 5 or 6 miles—the country looks pleasing enough to the eye, but the plains as I formerly pronounced them are very dry & Steril & especially so at this Season of the year—

[June—Interpolation by Huggins.]

5th Wednesday—Self and friend again to-day set out [June, 1833, page 3—Interpolation by Huggins] in a small canoe with a couple of hands to examine the extensive flats & low ground on both sides the mouth of the Nusqualley river expecting to hear something of Ryan by the time we returned from rumours brought us last night that Big Guns were heard not far off, but are disappointed; & now that the House above is ready for the covering & the provision entirely di[minated I] propose setting out in the morning with a canoe [&] 6 men to see if any tidings can be got of [the ship] between this & point Partridge⁶—The Coo[per James], Rindale⁷, who in a bad state of health]arrived from[

⁶ Point Partridge, so named by Vancouver, June 6, 1792, in honor of the Partridge family, into which his brother John Vancouver, had married.

⁷ James Rindale, evidently a servant, although a man of learning, as he could write the note concerning Pierre Charles's accident.

Fort Langley the other day, takes charge [of inside] things here, & P. Charles⁸ besides trying to [kill game] for themselves, will conduct the work going [out with] the rest of the men.

6th Thursday—Left the house in forenoon accompanied [by Dr.] Tolmie and to point Orchard without obtaining any [word] of our absent friends.

7th Friday—After strolling round and over the Orchard⁹ [a] part of the morning we pushed on towards Hood's Canal against a smart breeze which must be favorable for the Vessel if within the Straights.

8th Saturday—Having understood last night that Chihalucum¹⁰ the Soquamus Chief was in this vicinity after returning [to]day from a visit to Port Townsend for news about the expected Vessel, we after Breakfast bent our course up the Canal for a Short distance & picked him up—Says there was no appearance of her within the Sts. yesterday morning when he left Protection Island¹¹—Encamped [on the] west shore opposite Whidby's Island & now feed our people on Dog's flesh which they are not at all sorry for having in lieu of grain & [pease] The natives take a few salmon here.

⁸ Pierre Charles. A well known employe of the Hudson's Bay Company. Although only a servant he was considered a very valuable man for he could turn his hand at anything. His greatest role was that of hunter and guide. In the McMillan expedition (already quoted) he kept the party supplied with game. In 1841 Wilkes, of the United States Exploring Expedition, visited Nisqually, and secured Pierre Charles, then living on the Cowlitz, retired, to guide the Johnson party over the Cascade Mountains.

⁹ Orchard, meaning, of course, Port Orchard, which was named by Vancouver, May 23, 1792, in honor of H. M. Orchard, clerk on the Discovery. Point Orchard is not a Vancouver name, but without doubt takes its name from the port. It is here applied for the first time, and is located on the mainland a mile or so to the southwest of the southern extremity of Bainbridge Island. Hood Canal was also named by Vancouver on Sunday, May 13, 1792, in honor of Lord Hood. Mount Hood was a further honor for him.

¹⁰ Chihalucum. This is the first historical record known of the familiar chief or headsman, Steilacoom. The term Chilacoom first appears in the Journal of John Work for November and December, 1824 (Reproduced in the Washington Historical Quarterly, July, 1912. Edited by T. C. Elliott). The entry for Friday, December 24, reads: " * * * Embarked a little after 4 o'clock in the morning and encamped at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at Sinoughtons, our guides' village which is called Chilacoom." The Steilacoomamish were a band of Salish which dwelt on Steilacoom creek. They are usually considered as members of the Nisqually tribe.

The early settlers about Steilacoom were of the impression that Steilacoom creek derived its name from a chief Steilacoom who presided over the Steilacoomamish, a band of Salish closely related to the Nisqually. Dr. Tolmie, the narrator of this journal, places Chihalucum at the head of the Soquamis (Soquamish or Suquamish, a Salish tribe which inhabited the west shore of Puget Sound from Appletree cove to Gig harbor). When the first settlers came to this region Chief Seattle, after whom the city of Seattle was named, was chief of both the Suquamish and the Duwamish.

¹¹ Protection Island is at the entrance to Port Discovery. It was named by Vancouver in May, 1792, because it was so situated as to afford protection to the port from both winds and a possible enemy. Port Townsend was also named by Vancouver about this same time in honor of the Marquis of Townshend, as was Whidbey Island in honor of Joseph Whidbey of Vancouver's party.

[Page 4, June, 1833—Interpolation by Huggins.]

9th Sunday—Rose Camp about the usual time & made for Point Partridge—we soon had the satisfaction to learn beyond doubt that the Schooner was close by & another hour's paddling brought us in full view of her standing in a few miles ahead of us—Captain Ryan says they had nothing but calms ever since they crossed the Columbia Bar—The Indians about the Sts. came out to him with a good many skins in their usual way to trade; but found his Three Beaver Tariff too high & would not close a bargain—With [aid of a] light breeze and the help of the afternoon flood [came] to point Ryan¹²—the extreme end of this, same Ryan's [point] to Puget Sound with the Original Schooner Vancouver¹³ [] years ago—A good many Indians about of course.

[10th Monday]—Weighed anchor early—breeze hardly perceptible; still we finely glided along thro the narrow [part] of the Sound & before the flood tide was done had [the] good fortune to bring our ship to anchor at 11 o'clock [at night] within a mile of the house—This good luck however was not without a reverse elsewhere—intimation of which was conveyed to us about 8 o'clock by the following note from James Rindale “As Pierre Charles came down from the plain today to work at the store, he unfortunately cut his foot very much with the axe, & is fainting—I am afraid his life is in danger—he wishes me to send for the doctor as soon as possible as we cannot & know not what to do for him” The Dr. with our six men was instantly into the canoe & I am in hopes his prompt attendance and experience will be the means of saving the poor man's life.— I understand that no latter than Saturday he killed us Three very fine Elk and a Ch—no small service when people are in want & when there are but few others about you that can do it; I am extremely sorry for his case, as the Indians who came down with the note say that it is a dreadful cut

[June, 1833.—page 5—Interpolation by Huggins.]

11th Tuesday—At an early hour the anchor was up, and all hands on shore to tow the Vessel up along a very fine gravelly beach—In half an hour's time she was up, and snugly laid within a few paces of the Store door—No time was lost in removing the Boards so as to get at the

¹² Point Ryan. This is evidently Point Defiance, near the present city of Tacoma, and a very familiar landmark to all who pass from Admiralty Inlet to Puget Sound proper. It commands the northern entrance to the Narrows and received its present name, Point Defiance, from Wilkes of the United States Exploring Expedition, 1841, who thought that the point, if fortified, could bid defiance to all the navies of the world.

¹³ The manuscript at this place is badly damaged, which is unfortunate, as the writer is about to throw considerable light upon a previous expedition to the Sound. There were at least two ships by the name of Vancouver. A schooner of 150 tons burden was built at Fort Vancouver and wrecked in the spring of 1834 in the Charlotte Islands by Captain Duncan, who ran her aground. A bark, Vancouver, was lost on the Columbia bar in 1848.

potatoes s[eed, etc.] I am sorry to say that that part of the Cargoe pres[ented] a discouraging appearance: with the exception of th[at part] near the surface for a Short distance & a few [among the] stores below all are literally a heap of mi[] [I] picked out the best to perhaps something [] the rest of course threw overboard.—

Pierre Ch[arles' wound] is a very serious one—the Axe, its full length, [cut through the] upper part of the left foot from the instep to [the toes] and nearly half of the edge passed thro the [middle part] This being a cut of no ordinary description I [am sure this] will be the means of obliging me to interfere with [Dr.] McLaughlins instructions and intentions respecting th[e plans] of Dr. Tolmie for the present & especially as [Dr. Tolmie] himself conceives the case a very critical one—he had much difficulty this morning in checking the hemorhag[e] when he examined the wound.—

12th Wednesday—Our store this evening is covered—all the Goods landed & under lock & key—the potatoes are cutting and some of them in the ground, and better still a good few Beaver on the beach ready to enter the trading shop.

[June, 1833—Interpolation by Huggins.]

13th Thursday—The ploughman with his Oxen fairly at work on the potatoes at an early hour this morning—they are simply ploughed in under the green sod in a chosen piece of ground, & I have no doubt done so at an earlier season over good seed—the work [would] give satisfaction—After Breakfast commenced trade upon nearly the usual Tariff, giving our Customers however to understand that the Blanket ought to cost them TWO Be[aver] & that it will absolutely do so in a couple of months—They [page 6—June, 1833—Interpolation by Huggins] will therefore have no excuse when they come in again, for saying that they, as Traders among the Beaver killers paid a Blkt for each skin themselves—We have got about 90 skins from them, principally for Woollens. Guns they don't bid high for & I am as well pleased—for Traps they apply, but will not come up to the Three Skins, consequently they go without The few articles of clothing brought for them are not exposed to view at all, as every one now is a Chief & expects to be [treated] & rewarded like the best of his neighbors without [any re]ference to the quantity of Beaver—Indeed there is few [men] of them now that can lay claim to any marked distinction [of this] kind¹⁴, so many of them being ambitious of bringing in [the] skins themselves; and I foresee it will particularly be to the [advantage of] this Establishment when a couple of

¹⁴The position of chief was never a very exalted one among the Puget Sound Indians. This may have been due to the fact that there was less inter-tribal warfare on the Sound than in other parts of the country. Chiefs are developed in times of warfare.

Indians can with [ease] run in on one tide & back the next if so inclined—

[14th Sun] day—Ship getting in Ballast & water—To day it was [neces]sary to come to a decision respecting the professional attendance of Dr. Tolmie, and from the dangerous state of his patient there can be no hesitation on the subject—His Baggage is therefore landed and he remains here for the summer—This circumstance authorizes me to keep at Nusqualley all the Goods & Stores intended for the place, without, as was intended, reshipping any of them for Fort Langley by way of security from the few hands that would be at the place after I left for the Columbia—A good deal of stir about the little establishment this afternoon, canoes arriving by sea—dosens of horses & riders by land—two ploughs at work on an endless plain & a ship riding at anchor before the camp is a scene I venture to say not very common in the Indian country far less at a new Settlement.—Trade upwards of 80 skins of which one of my Clalam¹⁵ customers in Spring—old Quinquastin—gave about one half—The riders are from the vicinity of Mount Renier¹⁶ & seem under the sway of a very fine looking Indian called "Aucha"—[June, 1833—page 7—Interpolation by Huggins] A light breeze of fair wind for the Schooner sprung up in the evening & I hope Ryan will be under weigh with her tomorrow

15th Saturday—The crew of the Vancouver at work on shore early this morning after firewood & spars—Much about the same time we commenced business with Aucha—himself & followers had not above 10 skins—one half of which [they] traded for ammunition at the rate of 15 per Beaver. Wrote to Mr. C. F. Finlayson¹⁷ & also addressed a few [lines] to Mr. Yale with the people's private orders, which [is all] that is on board the Vancouver for Fort Langlay [except] a few trifling stores. It may at same time [be noted] that what is landed here is not much—say [bale of] Blankets—a piece of Duffle¹⁸—three of Strands¹⁹—Baize²⁰—10 Traps—10 Guns—Ammu: & Tobacco—[and a little] Grain and Stores for the use of a Gentleman—[About] Midday I slipped on board myself & handed [Ryan the] papers—At 2 he was under full sail for po[int Ryan] where, if practicable he will receive the Langley

¹⁵ Clalam, Clallam or Klalum ("strong people") were a Salish tribe inhabiting the southern shores of the Straits of Juan de Fuca from Port Discovery to the Hoko river. A few bands of Clallam once inhabited portions of the Vancouver Island and San Juan archipelago.

¹⁶ Mount Rainier, oftimes spelled Renier and Regnier, was named by Vancouver in May, 1792, in honor of Rear Admiral Peter Rainier.

¹⁷ C. F. Finlayson, not to be confused with Duncan Finlayson or Rod-erick Finlayson of later experience on the Columbia river.

¹⁸ Duffle, a woolen fabric, unclassified in the United States; as made in Austria a heavy-weight kersey.—Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary.

¹⁹ Strands—Ropes or cords.

²⁰ Baize—A single-colored napped woollen fabric formerly used for clothing, but now coarsely woven and used for table-covers, curtains, etc.—Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary.

[man] Annanuskun; One of our men here has taken [passage] with him, & immediately on touching there will proceed with timely notice to Mr. Yale.—This man is forward[ed] as Cooper in the room of Rindale, as considerable work in that way is likely to be going on curing salmon—

16th Sunday—Trade about 50 skins this morning again from a few Indians who hung about after the Vessel sailed, and this I apprehend will be the bulk of our trade for the present—The Natives are rather disappointed in the few good things landed from a ship which they Conceived was to spread over them all a profusion of every thing—Rum, Bread & Molasses in their Eyes is a great disideratum—& the total absence of clothing, hats and feathers for the Chiefs is to them an unaccountable omission—Perhaps some of them [will] with a few skins follow the Schooner to Fort Langley—[June, 1833—page 8—Interpolation by Huggins] at all events it is more than likely that those of them about Whidbey's Island who have not been here at all, will wait until her return trusting to something more than they have heretofore seen given—Pierre Charles very uneasy these two last days—Got another salmon from the miserable Indians who are too lazy to exert themselves much though a state of starvation themselves—there is fish now in the Bay and I dare say Stake nets²¹ might in time to come be a successful way of taking them. Fortunately had a good deal of rain today tho it did [not] penetrate far into the ground.

[17th] Monday—We still pick up a few skins & of those [ob]tained today three of them were for a Trap—The [weather] since her departure has been very favorable for the Vessel & has probably got to the mouth of the River [by to-] day—All our potatoes now in the ground & have [com]menced ploughing a small patch for a try at with [a] couple bushel of pease notwithstanding the lateness of the season—We have also turned up a little ground with the plough for transplanting cabbages left here in the Spring.—The 2 kegs potatoes brought across the portage at same time were so horribly ill planted after [our] departure that I cannot say much of them—the carrots, Radishes—turnips &c look better—We have now 4 or 5 hands preparing wood for lodgings for our people

18th Tuesday—Had not above 10 skins today—Weather still soft and so far favorable for the ground—Have got our pease sown & harrowed, & now we have a little corn under way—The Oxen that for some time gave us much trouble in keeping them at hand now begin to get more reconciled to their state of banishment.

[June, 1833—page 9—Interpolation by Huggins.]

19th Wednesday—Two or three of our neighbors again in with

²¹The use of stake nets in the fishing industry at the present time takes the form of huge traps. In this the journal seems prophetic.

about 40 very fine Beaver—all for Blankets—A couple of men today putting up a barrier along the little river, as an obstruction against the passing of Oxen & horses—another of them harrowing the potatoe ground—four about the new building and Ouvrie and Rindale making the Beaver up into packs of 50 ea:—In the evening had a visit from some of the portage Indians—One of them lately from Chinook says that the Ganymede²² [crossed] the Bar for the Coast 12 days ago, & that there is plenty [of salmon] in the Columbia & Willamette rivers—Pierre [has been] easy for the last two days.—

20th Thursday—Trade about 25 skins—one half [of which] is from the bucks from the Southward, for which [they] got if anything less than we usually give [to the] Indians—With this day I mean for the present [to close] my share of the business at Nusqualley [for] the 20th. I was by appointment with Mr. McLaughlin [to have] been at Fort Vancouver²³; but unwilling to leave [this] place until most of the skins were got in, & the pri[ncipal] part of the work got over, I prolonged my stay [for] a few days—it could not well be otherwise owing to the late arrival of the schooner—Pierre now is also in a more favorable state—On my departure Doctor Tolmie takes charge assisted by James Rindale, J. B. Ouvrie & 4 other effective men agreeable to my letter of this date to him—Gilbert Powers²⁴ & 2 Islanders²⁵ accompany me to the Columbia with the furs now amounting to about 380 skins—

Arch'd McDonald C. T.²⁶

21st Friday—Trade 2 beaver—a party with some skins have arrived this evening from the Payallipaw River [Mr.] Macdonald departed after breakfast it was settled that [at] the beginning of Sepr a man should be dispatched to Fort Van [June, 1833—page 10—Interpolation by Huggins] to report the state of things here. Gave Chi-

²² Dr. Tolmie had just come to Vancouver on the Ganymede. See note 5, ante. Chinook was a village and point on Baker Bay, Columbia river. The Portage Indians may be either Chehalis or Cowlitz, or both.

²³ The exact date of the founding of Fort Vancouver is not known. Astoria had been founded by an American company, but was sold to the Northwest Company, a British concern, shortly after the declaration of war between the United States and Great Britain in 1812. In 1821 the Northwest Company merged with the Hudson's Bay Company, another British company, under the title of the latter, and this left the fur enterprise of the northwest in practical possession of one company. In 1824 Governor Simpson came down the Fraser river to Astoria, or as it was then called, Fort George, and planned the organization of the district of the Columbia. As Fort George was not advantageously situated, a new site was selected near Point Vancouver, and a post built some time during 1824. Gradually the effects of the company were removed to Fort Vancouver, which became the headquarters of the district of the Columbia in the spring of 1825, with Dr. McLoughlin as Chief Factor.

²⁴ Gilbert Powers, a servant.

²⁵ The employment of Sandwich or Hawaiian Islanders was common practice. The men were oftimes spoken of as Kanakas.

²⁶ It was customary for a clerk or other subordinate to keep the journal and copy such records and correspondence as was required. Dr. Tolmie had done such work for Dr. McLoughlin just prior to his trip to Nisqually. He is now keeping the journal for Archibald McDonald and signs the latter's name to the journal as a matter of course.

Journal of Occurrences at Nisqually House

halucum the Soquamis Chief a capot & pair of trowsers as a reward for his services & general good conduct—Told him to visit the Klalams and invite the chiefs hither to trade their skins, which he promised to undertake

22nd Saturday—Trade 15 skins in all from the Payallipas and some petty Indians from the neighborhood of House One of the horses amissing since last night, and a fruitless search has been made for him. Have put the store into some degree of order —

[23rd] Sunday—An Indian from near the Shoots,²⁷ with 8 skins offered 5 for a gun this morning, and returned frequently during the day, endeavoring to come to terms

[24th] Monday—Trade 12 beaver of which the Indian mentioned yesterday gave 9 for woollens. He was more importunate for presents than any others, but was dealt with in the usual manner—

25th Tuesday—No Trade—The oxen continuing their daily wandering and requiring the almost constant attendance of a man. the experiment was tried yesterday of yoking them together while feeding & proved an effectual preventative to their crossing the Coe²⁸ altho' somewhat objectionable in other respects. No accounts of the horse, the suspected thief being still absent

26th Wednesday—Trade 10 skins chiefly from a party of Klalams of little note. Horse brought back today

27th Thursday—Trade 19 skins from the Portage Indians—Mr. Chief Trader Heron²⁹ arrived from the Columbia to assume the charge at this establishment [Mr. Chief Trader "Heron" arrived from Fort Vancouver to take charge of Nisqually 27th June, 1833.—Note by Huggins on margin of page.]

[July, 1833—page 11—Interpolation by Huggins.]
patches³⁰ from Fort Vancouver, dated the 6th [current]

11th Thursday—Trade 13 beaver from a Sannahomish³¹ hunter, he offered two skins for a trap—The men employed in clearing a square of 40 feet, at the summit of the bank, on which a temporary fort is to be erected

12th Friday—Trade a few otter skins from Nusqualley Indians—

²⁷ Shoots. The Deschutes river, which empties into Budd Inlet at Olympia. Any stream which had falls was apt to receive this name. The falls of the Deschutes are at Tumwater, a few miles above Olympia.

²⁸ Coe. The stream referred to is Sequallichew creek.

²⁹ Chief Trader Francis Heron. It is evident from the quotation marks and underscoring of the name in the marginal note by Huggins that he wished to call especial attention to the name.

³⁰ That portion of the journal from Friday, June 27, to Wednesday, July 10, is missing in the manuscript. The pages have not been torn out, but were apparently not included when the journal was bound by Mr. Huggins.

³¹ Sannahomish or Snohomish, a Salish tribe formerly residing on the southern end of Whidbey Island and on the mainland about the Snohomish river.

The pease and maize sowed about the middle of June are now over an inch above the surface of the ground. The potatoes have not appeared as yet

13th Saturday—Mr. Heron surveyed the swamp [where] the cattle feed, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the border. About twelve acres of meadow found in two detach[ments] of nearly equal size

14th Sunday—The man from Ft. Vancouver set [out on] his return, accompanied by Billy a Sand[wich] Islander. Chihalicum & a party of Soquamis arrived this afternoon & are to trade tomorrow

15th Monday—A spot on the border of Plain where the Nusqualley path emerges from the wood, being found on Saturday, superior in the points of convenience of & proximity to water, to the intended site of Fort, was today chosen in preference, and the men employed in erecting a temporary store, while a large party of Indians carried up the goods—this evening the work is nearly completed

16 Tuesday—Everything removed to Plain before breakfast & the store & dwelling house is finished. Trade 30 beaver from the Soquamish & some Payallipas

[July, 1833—page 12—Interpolation by Huggins.]

17th Wednesday—Trade a few beaver and some excellent leather from the Nuamish³² tribe, who inhabit the opposite shores of Sound—Fire has today consumed all the herbage on plain for an extent of several miles

18th Thursday—Trade 21 Beaver from another party of Sinamish a Checheilis³³ Chief, and the Sannahomish trader who undertook on the 1st Current to deliver Mr H's letter at Fort Langley, but now says that he gave it to a Skalatchet chief. Ouvrie [Ri]ndale & Peter Tahl³⁴ set out for Fort Langley, the two latter are to remain there

19th Friday—Nothing particular

20th Sat—Several arrivals this evening & the Katchet³⁵ Chief Nietlam has got upwards of twenty skins himself—Our stock of marketable goods is nearly expended & is insufficient to meet the demands of the traders present

21st Sunday—No skins traded today—the indians having been informed last night that we intend in future not to trade on Sunday

22nd Monday—Trade about 50 skins—The blue duffle which hitherto was unsaleable has nearly all been disposed of

³² Nuamish. The Duwamish, a small Salish band originally inhabiting the country about Seattle and the Duwamish river. Chief Seattle later held sway over this, as well as the Suquamish tribe across the Sound.

³⁴ Peter Tahl, a servant.

³⁵ The Skagit (Skalitchet, Skalatchet, Scaadchet, Katchet) was a Salish tribe which formerly lived at the mouth of the Skagit river and on Whidbey Island.

23rd Tuesday—Trade 2 beaver—The Indian carried away his two best skins there being nothing in the Store to tempt him to barter—

[July, 1833—page 13—Interpolation by Huggins]

24th Wednesday—A party of Klalums with beaver arrived this evening. Have induced them to remain till tomorrow in case Vivet may arrive with trading goods.

25th Thursday—The Klalums departed this afternoon, after trading their small furs—They say that the principal men of their tribe do not intend visiting us until the ship comes, when [they] are to trade freely.

26th Friday—Nothing particular

27th Saturday—Last night another band of Kl[alums] and this morning two canoes of Thuanoks³⁶ [arrived] in all about 40 men. They have bartered [skins] & leather but no large beaver.

28th Sunday—Nothing particular

29th Monday—Trade 8 large beaver for Duffle & capots, a considerable quantity of large skins has been carried away

30th Tuesday—Accounts received of "Vivets"³⁷ arrival at the Chute [Tumwater near Olympia—Interpolation by Huggins] & a canoe dispatched for the Goods—Two indians sent to advertise the tribes along the coast of the approach of goods

31st Wednesday—Vivet appeared at a late hour last night and today 300 blankets besides other articles were received into the store—Preparing the furs for packing by dusting them Trade 5 beaver

August [1833—page 18—Interpolation by Huggins]

Thursday 1st—Trade 6 beaver—Ouvrie arrived this evening with a supply of Carpenter's Tools from Fort Langley—He was accompanied by a party of Sannahomish who had delivered to Mr Yale Mr Heron's letter of the 1st Ult. Annawasknow & Louis Sakarata an Iroquois³⁸ also came

Friday 2nd—Furs amounting to 457 skins beaver & otter packed today—Trade 20 beaver from the Sannahomish.

Saturday 3rd—Vivet detained till the afternoon the arrival [of] Indians being expected. Wm. Brown³⁹ has accompanied [Viv]et being sent to Vancouver for some milch cows. In the evening large bands of Indians appeared.—Soqua[mi]sh, Sinnamish, Thuanook, & Poyallipa about 300 in num[ber,] old & young

³⁶Twana, a Salish tribe living along both sides of Hood Canal.

³⁷Louis Vivet, a servant. He was a member of the McMillan party (previously mentioned) which went from Fort George to the Fraser river.

³⁸Iroquois. The employment of Iroquois Indians was very common with the Hudson's Bay Company. These Indians inhabit the regions about Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario, and are well known in colonial history through the part played by the Five Nations. Both of these men had been with the McMillan party to the Fraser river.

³⁹William Brown, a servant. He later is seriously injured.

Sunday 4th—Indians employed in bring the wood composing the two houses at beach & that styled the Farm house, to our present station which they nearly completed

Monday 5—Trade 40 skins from the Soquamish & Sinnamish—The latter have not yet disposed of all their furs

Tuesday 6—8 skins from the Sinnamish—Early in the day some Claaset⁴⁰ Indians arrived from the straits of Juan De Fuca, but postponed trading till tomorrow In the afternoon the Checheilis, formerly here. Two men employed in sawing the piquets—The same number in squaring posts for a dwelling house, and one in cutting hay. Pierre Charles now superintends the work being now able to walk with the aid of crutches

August, 1833—[page 15—Interpolation by Huggins]

Wednesday 7—Trade 157 beaver & a sea otter, nearly all from the Claaset Indians to whom we were more liberal than usual in regard of presents, to induce their speedy return, as there is ground for the belief that the whole of their stock has not been disposed of

Thursday 8—Some Klalum arrived and were traded with this afternoon, they did not produce many skins.

Friday 9—Nothing particular

Saturday 10—A few Sannahomish arrived to [day and bar]tered a few beaver—Our stock of goods is [now] much reduced.

Sunday 11—Nothing particular

Monday 12—Nothing particular

Tuesday 13—Ouvrie dispatched to Watskatch Watskalatchew [the] Sannahomish chief to induce him to convey a le[tter] from Mr. Heron to Fort Langley. Six hundred bundles of hay stacked in the Marsh

Wednesday 14—Ouvrie returned early this morning having last night encountered Captain Ryan in the Schooner Cadboro'⁴¹ at the Poyalip Bay. The vessel arrived here about 2 P. M. & brings favorable accounts of the trade at the northern establishments. There has been no opposition on the coast hitherto, nor is it now expected. Capt. R. says

⁴⁰Claaset, or Makah ("strong people"), a tribe of Wakashan stock, closely related to the Nootka Indians, which inhabited the country about Cape Flattery.

⁴¹The schooner Cadboro was perhaps the most interesting vessel ever in the service in this part of the world. She was built at Rye in 1824, and served until 1862, by which time every member of the party which had come out in her, save one, had died. She was 56 feet long, 17 wide, and was of 72 tons burden. She arrived at Fort Vancouver in the spring of 1827 under the command of her master John Pearson Sawn. Here Sawn relinquished her to Lieut. Emilius Simpson and under him she participated in the founding of Fort Langley. In June, 1831, Sinclair became captain, and in 1833 William Ryan, followed by Brotchie in 1835, James Scarborough in 1838, James Sangster in 1848, and J. L. Sinclair in 1854. She participated in the Fraser river gold rush, and in 1860 was sold into the lumber business and finally ended her career in Port Angeles where she ran ashore in a gale.

that Mr. C. F. Finlayson started for Vancouver some weeks ago in the Ganymede

Thursday 15—Taking advantage of the ship's being here Mr. Heron informed the Indians present that in future our tariff should be Two beaver skins for a 2½ pt. Blanket

August, 1833—[page 16—Interpolation by Huggins]

Friday 16—This evening Mr. Heron embarked in the Cadborough, taking along with him the furs (328 skins) is to set out tomorrow morning for Whidbey's Island to survey a spot there spoken of as very suitable for an establishment. He is accompanied by Pierre Charles, Ouvrie & Annawaskum who are to return here when the survey is completed. Instructions are left with me to examine any public dispatches which may arrive & thereafter forward them to Mr. Heron—As Mr. Finlayson has probably ere now arrived we have since Wednesday been waiting for the fulfillment of his promise of sending instructions from Depot made to Capt: Ryan at [Vancouver]

[Satu]rday 17—The Cadborough sailed at an early hour this morning—Her coming has not caused any concourse of Indians here, a sign that beaver is scarce amongst those in the habit of trading with us.

Sunday 18—Bourgeau⁴² dispatched after the oxen who again show an inclination to return to Fort Vancouver

Monday 19—No trade The men are employed in mortising and laying the pickets

Tuesday 20—Bourgeau returned this morning having found the cattle near the Grand Prairie⁴³

Wednesday 21—A party Scaadchet arrived but would not trade at the Two Beaver Tariff

August, 1833 [page 17—Interpolation by Huggins]

Thursday 22—Another band of Scaadchet arrived but on being informed of the Tariff they immediately departed

Friday 23—A hay stack of about 800 bundles formed in the Marsh the men have now finished the mortizing &c of pickets for 150 feet

Saturday 24—The men are today engaged in [repair]ing the boat.

Sunday 25—Nothing particular

Monday 26—Mr. Heron returned in a ca[noe] today having dispatched the Cadboro' to F[ort Langley] & brought the furs back He

⁴² Bourgeau. This is probably Alexis Aubuchou, a servant, a member of the McMillan party to the Fraser river in 1824. See *Journal of John Work*, November and December, 1824, previously quoted.

⁴³ Grand Prairie, near Tenino. The cattle must have strayed a distance of 25 miles.

has found an extensive & fertile plain [on Whid]bey's Island⁴⁴ The repair of boat is co[mpleted]

Thursday 27—The cutting of pickets & squaring [timber] for a house are again commenced. P. Ch[arles] superintends the work & is now able to assist [in] squaring. Some Payallip arrived with beav[er] but declined trading

Wednesday 28—Some beaver brought by a Soquamish Chief but could not be obtained⁴⁵—The men employed as yesterday

Thursday 29th—The duties of the place as yesterday. Dr. Tolmie at his own desire set out on a botanizing excursion towards Mount Renier accompanied by a few Indians whom he⁴⁶ employs for the purpose—A few Indians arrived partly for the purpose of trading, but nothing was accomplished in that way with them the raised tariff being the sticknig point

Augt. 1833 [page 18—Interpolation by Huggins]

Friday 30th—The men employed preparing wood for a dwelling house and arranging fort pickets—Beaver were again offered for sale, at one skin per blanket which of course prevented a bargain taking place, as I am firm to the new prices of two beaver per Blanket—

Saturday 31st—The men occupied as yesterday—

[September, 1833—Interpolation by Huggins]

[Sund]ay 1st—Many Indians on the ground—

[Mon]day 2nd—The men resumed work as last week—Some Indians arrived and others left which is a daily occurrence

[Tues]day 3rd—Put all hands to work at erecting a store of 30 by 20—No trade—

Wednesday 4th—Duties of the place as yesterday

Thursday 5th—The men employed much the same as yesterday, the only difference being that two of them were part of the day stacking hay, which was cut in the early part of last week—Doctor Tolmie returned safe after collecting a variety of plants⁴⁷—

⁴⁴ Mr. Heron had in mind the establishment of a trading post better situated than Nisqually. The site here indicated is that portion of Whidbey's Island near Ebey's Landing and Fort Casey. The soil at Ebey's Landing is as rich as any in the world, and being prairie land, required no clearing. Near Fort Casey is Crockett's Lake, an added attraction. H. H. Bancroft is of the opinion that if the Hudson's Bay Company had founded a post on Whidbey Island, this island and San Juan Archipelago might be British territory today.

⁴⁵ Following the word "obtained" the handwriting changes. Dr. Tolmie has left on an excursion and the entries are probably by Mr. Heron, the chief trader. It must be kept in mind that Dr. Tolmie is but a surgeon and has little rank in the company. He is performing the duties of a clerk in keeping the journal. While at Fort Vancouver Dr. McLaughlin had employed him part of the time in copying correspondence to be forwarded to London.

⁴⁶ "Whom he employs * * * " In the manuscript the word "he" is underscored to call attention to the fact that the Indians are paid from Dr. Tolmie's pocketbook and not by the establishment.

⁴⁷ Dr. Tolmie has now returned and his handwriting in the journal is resumed.

Friday 6—One Blanket disposed of at the new price to the Portage Chief Sennatea, who has been hanging on for some days back

Saturday 7—No trade—Beaver offered by a portage indian at the tariff of 3 for 2 blankets

September, 1833 [page 19—Interpolation by Huggins]

Sunday 8—Some more beaver offered by Sennatea but not coming to terms he has left the skins with us till his return from the Portage

Monday 9—One man employed in mowing rushes to be used in thatching houses if no better covering arrives—The rest of the men are either completing the store or erecting their own dwelling houses which was today commenced by two of them

Tuesday 9⁴⁸—Six beaver traded, at the new tariff from [] our horse keeper on the Cowlitz P[rairie]⁴⁹ He has brought the six horses here [which were] in poor condition—The men employed as yesterday

Wednesday 10⁵⁰—Two men engaged in flooring [the store] with squared logs & the remaining f[our] [occu]pied with the dwelling house. H[eron is taking an] inventory of the goods & Provisions on [hand]

Thursday 12—Indians employed to bring us clay, fr[om] a neighboring island, for the construction of chimnies

Friday 13—Two men sent to the Nusqualley R to split cedar into boards for roofing houses, they were accompanied by some Indians & conducted by Ouvrie Rest of men occupied as on Wednesday.

Saturday 14—Men employed in same manner as yesterday Those employed in splitting cedar have discovered wood more at hand than the River

September, 1833 [page 20—Interpolation by Huggins]

Sunday 15—Nothing of note

Monday 16—Two men employed in splitting cedar & Ouvrie assisted by an Indian in bringing hither the boards already made. Four men erecting the gables of the store.

Tuesday 17—Three men engaged with store three in squaring logs for Mr Heron's dwelling house & Ouvrie with an Indian in getting home the boards split yesterday Two Indians arrived with a few beaver but departed again without offering to trade

Wednesday 18—Men employed as yesterday The store is now

⁴⁸An error in dating. Corrected, the manuscript should read Tuesday 10.

⁴⁹The Cowlitz Farm of the Hudson's Bay Company was begun about 1849. In 1837 Simon Plomondeau, one of the worn out servants of the Company, was settled upon the Cowlitz Prairie by Dr. McLoughlin as a farmer. Two years later the company surveyed some four thousand acres of the Cowlitz Prairie land and commenced farming on a large scale. The Company were using this land at this early date.

⁵⁰An error in dating. Corrected, the manuscript should read Wednesday 11.

roofed & a chimney has been commenced in the apartment intended for a bedroom. Ouvrie assisted by 3 Indians occupied in splitting cedar Three others have been supplied with two axes for the same purpose The Cadboro' has been seen at dusk about 5 miles distant

Thursday 19—The Cadboro' arrived early; her cargo for this place was landed by noon & has been carried hither by Indians who were regaled with rum and molasses at the conclusion of their labors

Friday [20]—Work continued as on Tuesday except that Anaswakum has taken the duty of Ouvrie who was busy at home. The furs amounting to 353 lge. skins & 76 small were shipped on board the Cadboro' & Captain Ryan received directions to proceed forthwith to Fort Vancouver

September, 1833 [page 21—Interpolation by Huggins]

Saturday 21—Before breakfast men occupied as yesterday; for the rest of the day they were all at work completing bedroom & shop & removing goods &c to latter & I have tonight taken up my abode in the former The Cadboro' sailed this morning.

Sunday 22—Some of the Challouina⁵¹ Indians arrived

Monday 23—A few beaver bartered for traps the price of which Mr Heron has lowered from 3 to 2 skins. Mr. H. set out early this morning for the [Chutes on] his way to Vancouver & I have dispatched 5 [men] to join him at the former place, in charge [of Bour]geau who is sent to bring back the [] Mr H. is accompanied by Ouvrie & Louis [who goes] no further than the Chute & is to return in ch[arge of the] canoe. Pierre Charles has been making a cou[nter for] the store & the remaining men have [commenced] the demolition of former Store & dw[ellings] the boards comprising which are now [to be used for] other purposes

Tuesday 24—Louis & Bourgeau both returned Pierre [is making] a window frame the others squaring logs except Wasaisen who resumed the cedar splitting

Wednesday 25—Work going on as yesterday. A Scadchet chief, who has already been here since the change of tariff appeared at dusk

Thursday 26—The Scadchet Saghomadum brought his skins to the trading shop, but after a long debate regarding the tariff departed without trading Pierre making shelves in the store & poles on [which] to

⁵¹ Challouina or Halloweena are recorded by John Work in his journal for November and December, 1824 (previously mentioned). The expedition is now on the Black river making its way from the Chehalis river to Eld Inlet. Here they meet Indians and under date of December 1, Work narrates: "Since we have been here several of the Halloweena Indians from the neighboring village have visited us. Their mode of life, manners, language, etc., differ little from the Chihailis, indeed, they may be considered as a detached part of that tribe." Wilkes, of the United States Exploring Expedition, 1841, describes them as the Sachal Indians. I. I. Stevens (Pac. Ry. Reports) mentions them as the Squaiatl.

suspend the dried salmon rec'd. from Ft Langley the other men employed as on Tuesday

September, 1833 [page 22—Interpolation by Huggins]

Friday 27—Saghomadun on his second visit to the shop today traded 8 large beaver at the new tariff—Fine cotton shirts are readily disposed of for a beaver, but the printed are never asked for, altho' placed in a conspicuous situation of Store

Saturday 28—Pensilkimum a Sinamish hunter offered skins at former tariff. Work proceeding as on Thursday. A sufficiency of boards to roof the people's dwelling house has now been prepared & the oxen have this afternoon been engaged in getting them home

[Sund]ay 29—A few Otter skins bartered by the Sinamish chief this evening

[Monda]y 30—Work resumed as on Saturday except that Pierre has been employed in roofing the people's house—The Sinamish departed in the forenoon