

ORIGIN OF WASHINGTON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

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FROST ISLAND, a small island between Blakely and Lopez Islands in San Juan County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, in honor of John Frost, boatswain of the *Porpoise*, in the Wilkes squadron.

FROSTY CREEK, a tributary of the Sanpoil River, near Aeneas, Okanogan County. The name is descriptive. (Charles Clark of Aeneas, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 288.)

FRUITLAND, a town on the Columbia River, in Stevens County. A. L. Washburn and Mr. Price took up preëmption claims there in 1880. It was called at first "Price's Valley." J. N. Allison joined them and their orchards thrived. One day Mrs. Allison placed an apple on the table and declared the region ought to be called Fruitland Valley. The idea prevailed, and when a postoffice was established by M. C. Peltier, in 1887, three names were sent in and Fruitland was selected. (Mrs. Anna J. Thompson, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 128.)

FUCA, see Neah Bay.

FUCAS PILLAR, near Tatoosh Island, at Cape Flattery, at the northwestern corner of Clallam County. The rock is first spoken of in what is now often called the "Myth of Juan de Fuca" and first published in *Samuel Purchas His Pilgrims*, 1624. Many efforts were made to identify the pillar among the rocks at that place. Captain Meares saw such a rock on June 29, 1788, and called it "Pinnacle Rock." Captain Vancouver, 1792, denied the existence of the rock and later recorded one near the mainland after passing Tatoosh Island. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, published a drawing of "De Fuca's Pillar" in the *Narrative*, Volume IV, page 496. George Davidson, in the *United States Coast Survey Report* for 1858, page 412, says that from the top of Tatoosh Island he saw a leaning rocky column, seventy-five feet high, to the southeastward and close under the face of the cape. Dean Henry Landes, State Geologist of Washington, locates Fuca's Pillar as a rocky islet near the beach, about one mile south of Cape Flattery, with an elevation of 140 feet. (*A Geographical Dictionary of Washington*, Bulletin No. 17, of the Washington Geological Survey, page 142.)

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GAMBLE, see Port Gamble.

GAMLER'S RIVER, see Coppei.

GARDE STATION, see Tukwila, King County.

GARDINA, in Walla Walla County. It was platted by the Walla Walla Irrigation Company. (*Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*, page 167.)

GARDNER, an old settlement on the north side of the Toutle River at its junction with the Cowlitz. (Map of the Surveyor-General of Washington Territory, 1857.)

GARFIELD COUNTY, authorized by the Legislature of Washington Territory on November 29, 1881, and named in honor of President James A. Garfield. Eastern Washington newspapermen disputed over the honor of having suggested the name chosen for the county. (*Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*, page 510.)

GARRISON BAY, at the north end of San Juan Island, in San Juan County. The name arose from the establishment of the British garrison nearby prior to the arbitration of the San Juan boundary dispute.

GASTON BAY, see Bellingham.

GATE, a town in Thurston County. It was formerly called Gate City from the fact that the Black Hills run close to Black River at this place, and the Chehalis River on the south draws the valley to its narrowest point. Beyond the valley widens toward the Grays Harbor country, and the little city was looked upon as the gateway to that region. Hopes were held that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company would build great shops there instead of at South Tacoma. In the panic of 1893 Gate City's boom collapsed. (G. J. Gaisell, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 441.)

GEDNEY ISLAND, between the city of Everett and Whidbey Island, in Island County. It is often called Hat Island on account of its shape. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. A dozen or more years later Captain Wilkes told J. G. Kohl that he had named the island after a friend. The rosters of his squadron show no man by that name. It is possible that the friend honored was the inventor, Jonathan Haight Gedney, of New York, who lived an eventful life from 1798 to 1886. Dr. Charles M. Buchanan, of Tulalip, says (in *Names MSS.*, Letter 155) that the Indian name for the island is *Chuh-chuh-sul-lay*.

GEE CREEK, a tributary of the Columbia River at Ridgefield, Clarke County, named in honor of an old donation land claim settler by the name of Gee. (J. W. Blackburn of Ridgefield, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 127.)

GEESE ISLETS, several small islands off the southeast coast of Lopez Island, San Juan County. The group thus named includes Long Island, Whale Rocks, Mummy Rocks and Buck Island. The name of Geese Islets was given by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841.

GEORGE CREEK, a branch of Asotin Creek in Asotin County. In early days when white settlers were few, Indian George trapped and fished on that creek, which gave rise to its name. (James Buchan of Jerry, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 366.)

GEORGETOWN, now a part of Seattle, King County. The land owner was Julius Horton, who in 1890 platted the town and named it in honor of his son, George M. Horton. (H. K. Hines, *Illustrated History of Washington*, pages 295 and 751.)

GEORGIA STRAIT, a broad strait north of the San Juan Archipelago and separating Vancouver Island from the mainland. The Spanish explorer Eliza, 1791, named the waterway "Gran Canal de Nuestra Señora del Rosario la Marinera." The English Captain Vancouver, 1792, apparently did not know of the Spanish name, so he charted it "Gulf of Georgia," from which it has come to be Georgia Strait. Vancouver had called the country "New Georgia" in honor of George III of England. Extending the name to the gulf or strait intensified the honor intended for his king.

GERTRUDE, a postoffice on the northern shore of McNeil Island, Pierce County. The name is undoubtedly obtained from the adjacent small island, though slightly different in spelling.

GERTRUDIS ISLAND, a small island off the northeast shore of McNeil Island, Pierce County. The name first appears on the British Admiralty Chart 1947, Inskip, 1846. The name appears with this spelling on the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 6460, dated 1911.

GETCHELL, a town east of Marysville in Snohomish County, platted by L. W. Getchell about 1894, his name being given to the town. (Julian Hawthorne, *History of Washington*, Volume I, pages 437-438.)

GETTYSBURG, a town on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in Clallam County. It was named about 1897 after Bob Getty, a lumberman or logger. (C. C. Dirkes, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 309.)

GIBRALTAR, see Dewey.

GIBSON POINT, the south cape of Fox Island, in Pierce County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, in honor of James H. Gibson, coxswain in one of the crews. The name is often charted as "Point Gibson." In 1846, Inskip wrote the name of "Patterson Point" at this place, intending the honor for Lieutenant George Y. Patterson of the *Fisgard*, the British vessel on this station. The older name of Gibson Point has remained on recent charts.

GIFFORD, a town on the Columbia River, in Stevens County. It was named for James O. Gifford, a pioneer of 1890. (Postmaster at Gifford, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 106.)

GIG HARBOR, a small harbor and town opposite Point Defiance, Pierce County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, saying "has a sufficient depth of water for small vessels." (*Hydrography*, page 319.)

GILMAN, King County, see Issaquah.

GILMAN PARK, see Ballard, King County.

GILMER, a creek and postoffice in Klickitat County. The creek is a tributary of the White Salmon River. The name is an honor for George W. Gilmer, a pioneer who served as postmaster at Gilmer for thirty-seven years. (Emil C. Iven and George W. Gilmer, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 528.)

GLACIER, a town in the northern part of Whatcom County. It was named for a large glacier on the nearby Mount Baker. (Lucy S. Drake of Glacier, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 142.)

GLENAPON, see Lindberg, Lewis County.

GLENCOVE, a town in Pierce County. It was first known as Balch's Cove after a man named Balch, who logged there in early days. Why or when the name was changed has not been learned. (Cora M. Smyth of Elgin, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 176.)

GLENDALE, Snohomish County, see Trafton.

GLENDALE, a town on Cultus Bay, Whidbey Island, in Island County. It was named in 1907 by Mrs. E. M. Peck on account of the beauty of the place. (Edward F. Peterson in *Names MSS.*, Letter 423.)

GLENOMA, a town in Lewis County. do not know the exact date of the establishment of the postoffice at Glenoma. I was asked to send them a name suitable for that particular location. I chose Glen, 'a valley,' and oma, an old Hebrew word meaning 'a measure of grain.' A liberal translation is 'fruitful valley.'" (Mrs. Beverly W. Coiner of Tacoma, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 576.)

GLENWOOD, a town in Klickitat County, evidently named because it is in a small valley surrounded by forests. There is another locality using the same name in Whitman County, between Elberton and Colfax. It is a glen in the woods but has no postoffice, the mail going on Route 1 from Elberton. (W. B. Peoples of Elberton, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 214.)

GOAT CREEK, Okanogan County, see Mazama.

GOAT PEAK, south of Easton in Kittitas County. It was named because goats abound there. (A. W. Johnson, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 496.)

GOAT ROCKS, remarkable peaks in the Cascade Range about twenty miles north of Mount Adams. Named on account of the number of mountain goats seen there in early days.

GOBAR RIVER, see Coweman River.

GODFREY, a town in Stevens County, named in 1909 after Godfrey Brothers, who had a sawmill there. (W. O. Lee of Evans, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 139.)

GOLD BAR, a town on the Skykomish River in Snohomish County. The region was named by prospectors in 1869. The town by the same name was platted on September 18, 1900, by the Gold Bar Improvement Company. (Postmaster of Gold Bar, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 566.)

GOLD MOUNTAIN, east of Darrington in Snohomish County. It was named by Charles Burns because he thought the mountain was full of minerals. (Charles E. Moore of Darrington, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 193.)

GOLDEN, a former town in Okanogan County, named after a gold mine since deserted. (W. J. Yard of Loomis, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 264.)

GOLDENDALE, county seat of Klickitat County. It was named in honor of John J. Golden, who homesteaded the land on which the townsite was located in 1872. (L. C. Gilman, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 590.)

GOLDSBORO LAKE, see Mineral Lake.

GOODEL, a former pioneer settlement on Scatter Creek, near Grand Mound in Thurston County.

GOODMAN CREEK, a small creek emptying into the Pacific Ocean, western Jefferson County. It was named for a man working on the township survey in 1890. (Isaac Anderson of Hoh, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 157.)

GOODNOW, a railroad station in Klickitat County. It was formerly called Harbin but was changed, ostensibly to agree with the postoffice Goodnoe Hills, to Goodnow. (L. C. Gilman, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 590.)

GOODWIN, see Ward, Stevens County.

GOOSE ISLAND, near Cattle Point on the southeastern end of San Juan Island, San Juan County. It first appears on the British Admiralty Chart 2840, Richards, 1858-1860.

GOOSE POINT, an old settlement on Willapa Harbor, Pacific County. Flocks of geese made the east side of the point a favorite feeding and resting place. (L. L. Bush, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 97.)

GORDON ISLAND, a small island, was charted by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, as northeast of Waldron Island, in San Juan County. George Davidson of the United States Coast Survey, 1853, denied the existence of such an island, and subsequent charts have omitted the island and its name.

GORDON LAKE, see American Lake.

GORDON POINT, near Steilacoom in Pierce County. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, charted it as "Qulam Point." The British Admiralty Chart 1947, Inskip, 1846, is the first to show the point with its present name. Captain R. M. Inskip thus sought to honor George Thomas Gordon, commander of Her Majesty's steam sloop *Cormorant*, the first steam naval vessel on this station, 1846-1850. See also *Cormorant Passage*. E. E. Bair of the Iron Springs Hotel, nearby, declared on April 7, 1917, that the local name had long been "Salter's Point," from the fact that Captain John Salter had once owned the land there. (Victor J. Farrar, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 340.)

GOSSIP ISLANDS, small islands just south of Stuart Island in San Juan County. The name appears on the British Admiralty Chart 2840, Richards, 1858-1860, but does not appear on the charts of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

GOULD CITY, in Garfield County. It was platted on February 17, 1891, by George R. McPherson and T. E. Griffith. (*History of South-eastern Washington*, page 547.) The "City" does not appear in recent issues of the *United States Postal Guide*.

GOURD ISLAND, see Patos Island.

GOVAN, a town in Lincoln County, named for one of the engineers of the Washington Central (now Northern Pacific) Railroad. (C. G. Barnet, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 169.)

GRAN CANAL DE NUESTRA DEL ROSARIO LA MARINERA, see Georgia Strait and Rosario Strait. The longer name for those waters was placed on the Spanish chart by Eliza in 1791.

GRAND COULEE, beginning near the Columbia River in the north-eastern portion of Douglas County and extending for more than twenty miles southwestward, enters Grant County. It has been suggested that perhaps it was a former bed of the Columbia River. John Work, of the Hudson's Bay Company, mentioned it as "Grand Coolley" on July 24, 1825. (T. C. Elliott, in *Washington Historical Quarterly*, April, 1914, page 100.) David Douglas, the botanist, made an entry in his journal August 21, 1826, in which he said the voyageurs called "this wonderful specimen of nature" by the name of Grand Coulee. (*Journal of David Douglas*, 1823-1827, page 208.) It is called "Grande Coulee" in the journal of the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography*, page 67.) Lieutenant Arnold used the present name and described the geographic feature in 1853. *Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I, page 110.)

GRAND DALLES, a town in Klickitat County, on the Columbia River, opposite The Dalles, Oregon. See The Dalles.

GRAND JUNCTION, in Asotin County. See Jerry.

GRAND MOUND, a town in Thurston County, receiving its name from the peculiar mounds, baffling to geologists, which gave the name to Mound Prairie.

GRAND RAPIDS. This name and "Great Rapid" were used by early travelers for what are now known as Cascades, in the Columbia River. The same name is now used for rapids in the Columbia River about two and one-half miles below the mouth of the Colville River in Ferry and Stevens Counties. The name is descriptive.

GRANDE RONDE, an ellipse-shaped valley surrounded by mountains in the northeastern part of Oregon. The river flowing out of the valley bears the same name and empties into the Snake River after passing through the southern part of Asotin County. The name is of French Canadian origin, and means "Great Round," referring to the shape of the valley.

GRANDVIEW, a town in Yakima County. In 1906, F. L. Pittman and Elza Dean, members of the townsite company, were searching for a name. While standing on the bank of an irrigating ditch, looking at the distant snow mountains, Adams and Rainier, Mr. Pittman remarked: "What a grand view!" and Mr. Dean replied: "That's the name." (Chapen D. Foster, editor of *Grandview Herald*, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 527.)

GRANDY CREEK, a tributary of the Skagit River, in Skagit County, named for John Grandy, who located there in 1878. A large fish hatchery is maintained there by the United States government. (Postmaster, Birdsvew, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 130.)

GRANGE CITY, a town in Columbia County. During the Granger movement of 1875, Colonel George. Hunter canvassed among the Grangers, and with the money raised he built a warehouse in the spring of 1876. From this arose the name of Grange City. (*Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*, pages 376-377.)

GRANGER, a town in the east-central part of Yakima County, established in 1902 and named in honor of Walter N. Granger. (Clinton A. Snowden, *History of Washington*, Volume V, page 256.)

GRANITE FALLS, a town in Snohomish County, named from the falls in the Stillaguamish River, where the bed of the stream and walls of the canyon are of granite. (Frank Niles, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 350.) Early traders among the Indians called the place "Portage." William M. Turner and F. P. Kistner settled there in 1884 and the railroad put in its appearance in 1889. On August 4, 1891, the townsite was recorded, the promoters being S. W. Holland and

T. K. Robe. (*History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties*, pages 364-366.)

GRANITE LAKE, in Spokane County, named by W. F. Bassett. (H. S. Bassett, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 327.)

GRANITE POINT, a local name and camping place on Loon Lake in Stevens County. (Evan Morgan, Loon Lake, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 109.)

GRANT, a postoffice on the west bank of Pickering Pass, Mason County. Miss Mary Grant, school teacher, became postmistress when the office was established and named for her in 1900. Though the office has been twice moved to the northward the same name has been retained. (Clara M. Strong, postmistress, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 207.)

GRANT COUNTY, created by state law approved on February 24, 1909. The name was given in honor of President Ulysses S. Grant.

GRANT ORCHARDS, a postoffice in the central part of Grant County. The name came from the town being in the principal fruit district of the county. (Postmaster of Grant Orchards, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 448.)

GRASS BAY, see Grays Bay.

GRAVEL, see Longview, Benton County.

GRAY, a town on the Colville River, in Stevens County. It was named for William Gray, who at the time owned the 700-acre timothy hay ranch at that place. (Postmaster at Gray, in *Names MSS.*, Letter 430.)

GRAYS BAY, an embayment on the north bank of the lower Columbia River, in the southwestern corner of Wahkiakum County. Lewis and Clark called it "Shallow Nitch." (*Journal*, Thwaites Edition, Volume III, page 211.) The map in David Thompson's *Narrative* shows it as "Grass Bay," evidently a typographical error. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, charted it as "Kutzule Bay." The name now used is an honor for Captain Robert Gray, who discovered and named the Columbia River in 1792. It was given by Lieutenant W. R. Broughton of the Vancouver Expedition of that same year, 1792.

[To be continued]