

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Old Map of Fort Vancouver

An important item in the early history of Washington Territory was discovered and announced in the daily papers in July, 1921. Felix Robinson, civil engineer at Vancouver Barracks, was about to be transferred to Camp Lewis. Before leaving, he arranged the papers in his office. In doing so he came upon a pile marked for destruction and noticed an old manuscript map marked: "This is the original plan and notes made by Lieut. Colonel B. L. E. Bonneville, 4th Infy. after his survey of the Military Reservation of Fort Vancouver in 1854. The notes in the left hand margin are in his handwriting. Theodore J. Eckerson, U. S. K. Ordnance, U. S. A. in charge of Vancouver Ordnance Depot."

The old document was rescued. It was called to the attention of Mr. Glenn N. Ranck, President of the Vancouver Historical Society, and his fellow veteran of the Spanish-American War, Mr. J. Grant Hinkle, now Secretary of State for the State of Washington, became interested. The precious old map was reproduced and Mr. Hinkle has sent a copy to the editor of this *Quarterly*.

Across the northeastern portion of the map appears "Ordnance Reserve" and under that inscription is written and signed: "Approved and will be reserved for an Ordnance Depot. John G. Wool, Major General." General Wool, one of the heroes of the Mexican War, was at that time in charge of all troops on the Pacific Coast with headquarters in San Francisco. Later he and Governor Isaac I. Stevens had unpleasant altercations over the Indian wars.

The handwriting of Colonel Bonneville is even more interesting to people in the Pacific Northwest. He was made famous by Washington Irving in the book "Adventures of Captain Bonneville." For a time Great Salt Lake was called "Lake Bonneville." An original document associating Washington history with General Bonneville is certainly well worth preserving. Near the southwestern corner of the map is figured a tree which the notes call "Balm of Gilead." It is evidently the old "Initial Tree," a cottonwood which fell only a few years ago and was cut up for relics.

The west line of the reservation deviates from a true north-and-south direction. Local tradition at Vancouver maintained that it was the result of ignorance of the fact that the compass deviates

to that extent. The tradition was destroyed in the summer of 1901. Professor Edmond S. Meany was then lecturing before the Clarke County Teachers' Institute and was given the privilege of examining the "Detained Papers" stored in headquarters of Vancouver Barracks. There he found and copied an important letter relating to this very survey and map. The letter is dated "Fort Vancouver, W. T., December 31, 1853." It is addressed to "Ogden, Govr. P. S. Chief Factor H. B. Co. Fort Vancouver, W. T." and is signed: "I am sir, very respectfully, your obt. servant, B. L. E. Bonneville, Lt. Col. 4 Infy." For its value with the newly discovered map the letter is here reproduced in full:

"Dear sir:—Some time ago I had the honor to call upon you and inform you that I had received instructions to lay off at this post a military reservation of six hundred and forty acres—taking the flag staff as the point of commencement. I thought it probable that you might have had some suggestions to make in relation to the subject, so far as the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company were concerned, and would have been very happy to have received them.

"As you expressed no wishes in the matter I requested more detailed instructions from the General Commanding the Department of the Pacific particularly as to whether or not the buildings of the H. B. Co. were to be embraced within the limits of the reserve. The General directs me to protect the improvements of the H. B. Co. With a view to do this I shall cause the reserve to be laid off as follows,

"The Eastern and Western boundaries commencing at the river bank, the former about one hundred yards east of the pickets of the H. B. Company's fort, and the latter about the same distance west of the wharf, and running about fifteen degrees east of north so as to pass the flanks of the U. S. barracks at equal distances, and thus continue until six hundred and forty acres shall be embraced within them and the line connecting their northern extremities—the river bank being taken as the southern boundary.

"As it is probable that the northern boundary will not pass more than three hundred yards in rear of the barracks you will see that if we wish to include the barracks we cannot lay off a longer front on the river.—Within the limits of the reserve will be embraced all the buildings of the H. B. Co. most likely to be used by the Government should the buildings and other improvements of the Company ever be sold.

"I will be happy to have you appoint some one in behalf of the H. B. Co. to accompany the surveyors while they are engaged in laying off the reserve.

"As the saw and grist mills of the H. B. Co. five miles above this place are moved by valuable water power and have been much improved I shall recommend that the land on which they are situated be reserved for military purposes."

To comprehend the full meaning of that letter, it should be remembered that the Treaty of 1846, fixing the northern boundary of the United States along the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, also provided that the improvements of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company should be paid for by the United States. The adjustment of the claims dragged on for more than twenty years, during which the two companies occupied their holdings at Fort Vancouver, Fort Nisqually and elsewhere. A treaty for payment was signed in 1863 and the award was finally made on September 10, 1869. That award gave to the Hudson's Bay Company \$450,000 and to the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company \$200,000.

For those interested in securing copies of the old map, it may be added that Secretary of State Hinkle gives the information that the negative for reproductions is in possession of H. W. Arnold, Vancouver, Washington.

Government Charts

The articles on the "Origin of Washington Geographic Names," have received attention from the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The Director of that important Bureau of the Department of Commerce has asked for cooperation in the matter of place names and has extended valuable assistance by forwarding the latest charts to complete the file at the Seattle end of the work.

Mountain Monument

The Mountaineers and The Mazamas have combined to erect a monument at the head of the Sluiskin Falls, on Mazama Ridge, Mount Rainier. The first successful ascent of Mount Rainier was made on August 17, 1870, by General Hazard Stevens and P. B. Van Trump. The Indian guide Sluiskin waited for the climbers at their camp. The falls were named for the Indian. On August 17, 1918,