

ORIGIN OF WASHINGTON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

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SKIPJACK ISLAND, north of Waldron Island, in the north central part of San Juan County. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, charted two small islands as "Ship Jack Islands." (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 77.) The United States Coast Survey in 1853 noted the contrast in their covering and charted the larger as "Wooded" and the smaller as "Bare" Island. (Captain George Davidson: *Pacific Coast Pilot*, page 558.) Captain Richards, in 1858-1859, restored the original name for the larger island and changed the name of the smaller one to "Penguin Island." (British Admiralty Chart 2689.) The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 6300 retains the "Skipjack" name for the larger island but rejects the name "Penguin" for the other which is now Bare Island. There are several species of fish which go by the common name of "Shipjack", which probably accounts for the origin of this name.

SKILKANTIN, see Stemilt Creek.

SKI-OU or SYUE POINT, at the southeast entrance to Tulalip Bay, in the west central part of Snohomish County. "Skyu" is the Indian word for dead body. In primitive times, the point was the site of an Indian cemetery. The place is often called "Dead Man's Point." (Charles M. Buchanan, of Tulalip, in *Names MSS.* Letter 155.)

SKOHOMISH RIVER, rising in the Olympic mountains and flowing into Hood Canal at Union, in the northwestern part of Mason County, was named "Black Creek" by the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, 1841. (*Narrative*, Volume IV., page 411) This was probably intended as an honor for the trader Black at one of the northern posts. Captain Wilkes wrote: "To Mr. Black the world is indebted for the greater part of the geographical knowledge which has been published of the country west of the Rocky Mountains." (*Narrative*, Volume IV., page 369.) That name did not persist. The present Indian name means "river people", from *kaw*, "fresh water" and *mish*, "people", (Myron Eells in *American Anthropologist* for January, 1892.)

SKOOKUMCHUCK RIVER, in the southern part of Thurston County and the northwestern part of Lewis County, flowing into the Chehalis River near Centralia. In one spelling or another, the name appears on the earliest Territorial maps of Washington. *Skookum*, is a Chehalis Indian word meaning "strong" and *Chuck* is a Chinook Indian word meaning "water". Both words are in the Chinook Jargon and the name as applied means swift river.

SKULL ROCK, in Massacre Bay, West Sound, Orcas Island, in San Juan County. See Massacre Bay.

SKWA-KWE-I, see Port Discovery.

SKYKOMISH RIVER, rises in the Cascade Range and flows through the southern part of Snohomish County. Near Monroe it joins with the Snoqualmie River forming the Snohomish River. The Bureau of American Ethnology says the Indian name comes from *skaikh*, meaning "inland" and *mish*, "people". (*Handbook of American Indians*, Volume II., page 591.) There have been many spellings of the word. Captain George B. McClellan referred to it as "Skywhamish." (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I., chapter 18, page 200.)

SEAL-ATL-ATL-TUL-HU, see Hoodspout.

SLAUGHTER, see Auburn.

SLAUGHTER COUNTY, see Kitsap County.

SLAWNTEHUS RIVER, see Colville River.

SLIP POINT, at Clallam Bay, in the northwestern part of Clallam County. "Very broken-up formation and slides frequently occur." (Postmaster at Clallam Bay in *Names MSS*. Letter 265.)

SLUP-PUKS, an Indian name for the site of Marysville. (Charles M. Buchanan, in *Names MSS*, Letter 155.)

SMALL POX BAY, on the west coast of San Juan Island, "directly across the island from Friday Harbor. Many Indians infected with the disease at Victoria died there. Their bodies were burned with kerosene by American officers in 1860." (E. P. Osbourne, in manuscript in Pacific Marine Station.)

SMALOCHO, see Greenwater River and White River.

SMITH COVE, a part of Seattle Harbor, King County, named in honor of Dr. Henry A. Smith, the pioneer who settled there in 1853.

(Frederic James Grant, *History of Seattle*, page 432.) The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, had called it "Quartermaster Cove". (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 92.)

SMITH CREEK, a small stream flowing into Lake Whatcom in the western part of Whatcom County, named for the pioneer, T. J. Smith, who settled there in 1884. Mr. Smith was the pioneer hardware merchant in what is now Bellingham. (J. D. Custer, of Park, in *Names MSS.* Letter 209.) There are at least three other streams in the State with the same name, in Lewis, Pacific and Skamania Counties.

SMITH ISLAND, at the eastern extremity of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in the west central part of Island County. Its main use is for the location of a powerful and important light and foghorn. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, named it "Blunt's Island," an honor for Midshipman Simon F. Blunt, of the expedition. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 77.) The Spanish Captain Francisco Eliza had named the group "Islas de Bonilla," in honor of Antonio de Bonilla. (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 1557, chart K.) The present name for Smith Island was probably introduced by the Hudson's Bay Company. (J. G. Kohl, in *Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume XII., chapter 15, page 272.) Captain George Davidson, of the United States Coast Survey, found the name in use in 1858 and placed it upon the official charts. (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 1005, pages 429-430.)

SMITH ISLAND, another island by this name is in the mouth of the Snohomish River, between Everett and Marysville. It was named for Dr. Henry A. Smith, who, in 1864, secured 600 acres of land there to carry out one of his ideas that reclaimed tide-lands would be profitable. By a system of dikes he reclaimed 75 acres. (H. K. Hines, *History of Washington*, page 468.)

SMITHFIELD, see Olympia.

SMOKESTACKS, City of, see Everett.

SMYRNA, in the southern part of Grant County, named by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company after the port on the Aegean Sea. (Vice President H. R. Williams, in *Names MSS.* Letter 530.)

SNAG POINT, in the Columbia River, near its mouth, mentioned by that name in Lieutenant Howison's "Report on Oregon, 1846" in the *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Volume XIV., page 17.

SNAKE INDIANS and SNAKE COUNTRY. Early travellers used these terms for the natives and the region where flows the river now known as the Snake River. David Thompson, of the Northwest Company of Montreal, uses the term for the natives in 1811, but he calls the river "Shawpatin." (*Narrative*, Champlain Society edition, pages 492 and 526.) John Work, of the Hudson's Bay Company, mentions the Snake people and Snake Country, in 1825. ("Journal" in *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume V., pages 96, 101, 111.) Peter Skeen Ogden, of the Hudson's Bay Company, mentions the Snake Country in 1826. (*Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Volume XI., page 204.)

SNAKE RIVER, the greatest tributary of the Columbia River, enters that stream between Wallula and Pasco, forming the boundary between Walla Walla and Franklin Counties. Names in wide divergence have been used for the river. On August 21, 1805, Captain William Clark named it Lewis River, in honor of his colleague, Captain Meriwether Lewis. (Elliott Coues, *History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, Volume II., page 528.) This happened at one of the sources now known as Lemhi River, which flows into Snake River. As the travellers later came upon the larger river they called it by the Indian name "Kimooenim." Later they erased that name and restored that of Lewis River which was correctly charted from its junction with the Columbia River. (Elliott Coues, *History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, Volume II., pages 621-622 and 635, and notes.) Gabriel Franchère on April 16, 1814: "Toward the decline of day we passed the river Lewis, in the language of the country, the Sha-ap-tin." (*Franchère's Narrative*, in "Early Western Travels," Volume VI., page 338.) Above, under "Snake Indians," a contemporary, David Thompson, is shown to have spelled it "Shawpatin." On May 29, 1824, Alexander Ross wrote: "The main south branch of the Columbia, the Nez Perces, the main Snake River and Lewis River, are one and the same differently named." ("Journal of Alexander Ross" in the *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Volume XIV., page 381.) Peter

Skeen Ogden, of the Hudson's Bay Company, in July, 1826, mentioned Snake Indians and Snake River. ("Journals" in the *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Volume XI., page 221.) Rev. Gustavus Hines, Missionary, uses "Snake or Lewis River." (*Exploring Expedition to Oregon*, pages 170 and 325.) Elliott Coues, in his *History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, Volume II., pages 621-622, note 58, pleads for the original name, concluding as follows: "The great stream that rises in and about Lake Henry, and empties into the Columbia, is Lewis River, by the clear intent of William Clark, who discovered, described, charted, and named it." See Lewis River.

SNAKE ROCK, at Port Ludlow, in the northeastern part of Jefferson County, was charted and named by the United States Coast Survey in 1856. (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 888, chart 54.)

SNAKELAND POINT, see Watsak Point.

SNA-NUL-KWO, see Port Ludlow.

S'NGAZANELF, see Olympic Mountains.

SNOHOMISH, name of a city, county, river, and tribe of Indians. The name was first applied to the Indians. Rev. Myron Eells says the word refers to "a style of union among them." (*American Anthropologist*, for January, 1892.) Dr. Charles M. Buchanan, for many years Indian Agent at Tulalip, says: "I have never met an Indian who could give a meaning to the word Snohomish, though I have made twenty-one years of inquiry." He says the tribe was dominant in the region about the present City of Everett and he has a theory, though no Indian has ever corroborated it. In the native language the word is *Sdoh-doh-hohbsh*. In the same language *Sdohbsh* means man. "Might not the word be the plural form signifying 'the men, the warriors, the braves.' They dominated their confederation, you know." (In *Names MSS.* Letters 141 and 155.) The word has been variously spelled. On December 9, 1824, John Work, of the Hudson's Bay Company, wrote it "Sinnahamis." ("Journal," in *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume III., page 213.) The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, charted the river as "Tuxpam River." (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 67.) In 1847, Captain Henry Kellett charted the river as "Sinahomis River."

(British Admiralty Chart 1911.) The same spelling was used by the United States Coast Survey in 1854. (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 784, chart 51.) The present spelling was adopted by the Surveyor General of Washington Territory in 1857. (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 877.) Snohomish City was founded by E. C. Ferguson and E. F. Cady about 1860. (H. H. Bancroft, *Works*, Volume XXXI., page 367.)

SNOQUALMIE, the name of a tribe of Indians, of a river, a pass through the Cascade Range, and a sawmill town near the beautiful falls, also of the same name, in King and Snohomish Counties. On most of the earlier maps the spelling was "Snoqualmoo." The river joins with the Skykomish River near Monroe, forming the Snohomish River. The white men have softened the native word *Sdoh-kwahlb-bhuh*; which refers to the legend that their people came from the moon. *Sdoh-kwahlb* means moon. (Charles M. Buchanan, Indian Agent at Tulalip, in *Names MSS.* Letter 155.) Colonel J. Patton Anderson visited the falls in July, 1852. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Floyd Jones, of the United States Infantry. Only one white man had visited them before that. (James G. Swan, *Northwest Coast*, page 395.)

SNOWSHOE FALLS, the highest falls in Denny Creek, near Snoqualmie Pass, in the east central part of King County. The elevation of the crest of the falls is about 3600 feet above the sea. The name was recommended to the United States Geographic Board on June 15, 1916 by the Trustees of The Mountaineers. (In *Names MSS.* Letter 580.)

SOAP LAKE, a body of water and a town in Grand Coulee, in the north central part of Grant County. "The water is very soapy." (N. Okerberg, in *Names MSS.* Letter 223.)

SOH-GWAHBT, see Joe Hill's Bay.

SOINETKWU, see Kettle Falls.

SOL DUC, a river in the south western part of Clallam County, and hot-springs at which was developed a resort with hotel and postoffice. On early maps it was counted a part of Quillayute River. (Map by the Surveyor General of Washington Territory, 1857, in *United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 877.)

More recently the hot-springs are called Sol Duc and the river Soleduck. (Henry Landes, *A Geographic Dictionary of Washington*, page 260.) The river is shown to be a branch, which, with the Bogachiel, forms the Quillayute River. The Sol Duc Hot Springs Company say the Indians were first to locate the springs and that the name means "magic waters." (In *Names MSS.* Letter 452.)

SOLOOSA, see Plymouth.

SOOES RIVER, see Waatch River.

SOPUN INLET, a name given by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, to designate the inlet leading from South Bay (Grays Harbor) to the Elk River. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 75.)

SOQUAMIS BAY, see Port Madison.

SOUTH BAY, see Henderson Inlet, for which it is sometimes used as a local name. There is another bay of the same name in Grays Harbor.

SOUTH BEND, county seat of Pacific County. The Willapa River takes a bend to the south in what is now the city. A sawmill was located there as early as 1860 and in 1890 the South Bend Land Company was organized with George U. Holcomb, L. M. Eklund and P. W. Swett as the prime movers. Since then the growth has been steady. (F. A. Hazeltine, in *Names MSS.* Letter 91.)

SOUTH BLUFF, see Birch Point.

SOUTH EAST ISLAND, see Colville Island.

SOUTH PRAIRIE CREEK, a branch of Carbon River, in the northern part of Pierce County. See Carbon River.

SPA-KWATL, see Tumwater.

SPANAWAY, a lake and town about ten miles south of Tacoma, in the north central part of Pierce County. A probable origin of the name is found in the Hudson's Bay Company's Nisqually Journal of Occurrences, entry for April 26, 1849: "Two plows sent to Spanuch and one to Muck." (In *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume X., page 211.) Clara G. Lindsly says the name is of Indian origin, "but when or the meaning of the word is unknown to

anyone I have found." (In *Names MSS.* Letter 254.) In the biography of Andrew J. Frost is the statement that in 1854 the lake was known as Bushelier Lake. (H. K. Hines, *History of Washington*, page 502.)

SPANGLE, the name of a creek and a town in the south central part of Spokane County. Both were named after William Spangle, a veteran of the Civil War who took up a squatter's claim on the land in 1872. When the Government survey was completed he took a soldier's claim to the acres and on June 3 1886, located the town-site. (Julian Hawthorne, *History of Washington*, Volume II., page 626.)

SPAR POINT, on the north shore of Grays Harbor, five miles east of Neds Rock, chartered by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 75.)

SPEDIS, a town in the southwestern part of Klickitat County, named for an Indian chief of that name. (L. C. Gilman, in *Names MSS.* Letter 590.)

SPEEBIDAH, a geographical term among the Indians, for a natural needle of rock projecting from a bluff, northwest of Tulauip, on the Port Susan shore of the Tulalip Indian Reservation. *Bee-dah* means "child" and *Speebidah*, the diminutive form, means "little child." (Charles M. Buchanan, in *Names MSS.* Letter 155.)

SPERGEON CREEK, a tributary of the Deschutes River in the north central part of Thurston County, named for a pioneer who took up a claim along the creek. (H. B. McElroy, in *Names MSS.* Letter 46.)

SPIEDEN ISLAND, in the west central part of San Juan County, named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, in honor of William Spieden, Purser of the *Peacock*, one of the vessels of the expedition. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 77.) In 1858-1859, the British Captain Richards extended the use of the name by charting Spieden Bluff on the west cape of the island and Spieden Channel, the waterway between Spieden and San Juan Islands: (British Admiralty Chart 2689.) Both names are retained on the American charts.

SPILLEI, see Spilyeh.

SPILLNIN, see Nespelem.

SPILYEH CREEK, a tributary of Lewis River, five miles below the town of Yale, in the southeastern part of Cowlitz County. It was named for an Indian chief of that name. The word means "coyote." (Anna Griffiths, of Yale, in *Names MSS.* Letter 243.) In the itinerary of Captain George B. McClellan, 1853, the creek is mentioned with its present name. (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I., pages 377-389.) The Indians of that vicinity had many legends of "Speelyai" (coyote) the great Indian god. (Dr. G. P. Kuykendall, in *History of the Pacific Northwest: Oregon and Washington*, Volume II., pages 64-66.)

SPIPEN RIVER, see Naches.

SPIRIT LAKE, see Lange.