

## ORIGIN OF WASHINGTON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

[Continued from Volume XIII., Page 224.]

SUMAS, the name of a stream, of mountains and a town, in the northern part of Whatcom County at the international boundary. The name is derived from that of a Cowichan tribe of Indians who lived in that vicinity. (Bureau of American Ethnology, *Handbook of American Indians*, Volume II, page 649.)

SUMNER, a town in the north central part of Pierce County. The town was originally platted by John Francis Kincaid on the old donation land claim of his father, William Kincaid, and named in honor of the American statesman Charles Sumner. John Francis Kincaid, eldest son of William and Nancy J. Wollery Kincaid, was born in Marion County, Missouri, on December 6, 1838. His mother died in 1850 and the father, three brothers, three sisters and he joined a party which crossed the plains in 1853 and came on to Puget Sound over the Naches Pass. (*History of the Pacific Northwest: Oregon and Washington*, Volume II, page 407.) A tradition arose that the name was an honor for Thomas Sumner, father of Mrs. Ezra Meeker, another pioneer of those early days. An inquiry as to the truth of this tradition was sent to Mrs. Eben S. Osborne, granddaughter of Thomas Sumner and she replied on September 22, 1918, that Charles Sumner was the one honored by the town's name. J. A. Costello says that the Indian name for the place is *Sta-hu*. (*The Sivwash*, Seattle, 1895.)

SUN-A-DO, see Olympic Mountains.

SUNDALE, a station on the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway, in the south central part of Klickitat County. The name was selected by L. W. Hill and C. M. Levy, railroad officials. (L. C. Gilman, in *Names MSS*. Letter 590.)

SUN LAKE, see Ozette.

SUNDAY CREEK, a tributary of Green River, near Stampede in the southeastern part of King County. Virgil G. Bogue, locating engineer for the Northern Pacific Railroad, discovered the stream on a Sunday in 1881 and for that reason conferred the name it has since worn.

SUNNYSIDE, a town in the eastern part of Yakima County. Mr. E. F. Blaine writes that the town "was laid out by Walter N. Granger in 1893. Before the establishment of this townsite the big canal, known as the Sunnyside Canal, had been started. As the land under the Sunnyside Canal slopes toward the midday sun, the canal and district were named Sunnyside and Mr. Granger, believing that Sunnyside would be the principal town of the new district, called the town Sunnyside." (In *Names MSS.* Letter 354.) Another version of the origin of the name for the district is given by S. J. Lowe who says that in 1882, he, with Joe Stephenson, Andy McDaniels and one of the Nelsons, went exploring for bunch-grass hay in October, 1882. Lowe says that he, on that trip, conferred the name Sunnyside. On returning, they met J. M. Adams, publisher of the *Signal*, who at that time recorded the new name in his newspaper. (*Yakima Herald*, copied in the *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume XIII, page 120.)

SUNSHINE, a railroad station in the southeastern part of Whitman County, named from a small stream of that name which flows nearby. (Lou E. Wenham, of Pullman, in *Names MSS.* Letter 115.)

SUNSET, in the south central part of King County, named by the Sunset Cooperative Company in 1897. (Joseph T. Paschich, in *Names MSS.* Letter 31.)

SUQUALUS POINT, see Hazel Point.

SUQUAMISH, a town on Port Madison Bay, in the northeastern part of Kitsap County. For a time the place was known as Bartow, in honor of A. A. Bartow who was in charge of the Indian Reservation there. "Suquamish Head" is a name sometimes used for Foulweather Bluff. Suquamish Harbor, on the west side of Hood Canal, opposite Port Gamble, in the northeastern part of Jefferson County, was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography* Volume XIII, Atlas, charts 78 and 84.) The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 6450 gives the name as Squamish Harbor. The Bureau of American Ethnology says the Suquamish, a Salish division of Indians, claimed the lands from Appletree Cove in the north to Gig Harbor in the south and "Seattle, who gave his name to the city, was chief of this tribe and the Dwamish in 1853." (*Handbook of American Indians*, Volume II, page 652.)

**SURVEYORS LAKE**, at the head of Rockdale Creek in the east central part of King County. The name was suggested by The Mountaineers Club who have a lodge in that vicinity. (In *Names MSS.* Letter 580.) The name was approved by the United States Geographical Board. (*Report*, 1890-1920, page 316.)

**SUTTER MOUNTAIN**, in the central part of Skagit County, named in honor of John Sutter, an old time white settler. (Postmaster at Sauk in *Names MSS.* Letter 49.)

**SWADHUMS CREEK**, a small stream at East Twenty-fourth Street or Puyallup Avenue, Tacoma, Pierce County. The Indians who originally lived on its banks were known as *Swadhums* or "Plains-people". From them came the name. (Article by Henry Scade, an educated Indian, in the *Tacoma News* for June 30, 1916, copy in *Names MSS.* Letter 567.)

**SWALLALAHOOOST**, an Indian name for Saddle Mountain. (Rev. Gustavus Hines, *Exploring Expedition to Oregon*, page 320.) He gives an Indian legend of the mountain to the effect that one of their mighty chiefs, "who, after death, assumed the form of a monstrous eagle, and taking wing, flew to the top of this mountain, and subsequently became the creator of the lightning and the thunder."

**SWANTOWN**, now a portion of Olympia, Thurston County, named for John M. Swan, who settled there in 1850. (H. H. Bancroft, *Works*, Volume XXXI, page 18.)

**SWAUK CREEK**, this small stream also gave its name to a mining district in the north central part of Kittitas County. The name is evidently of Indian origin for it first appears, with other Indian names, for places, in the report of J. K. Duncan, topographer with Captain George B. McClellan in 1854. There the name is spelled "Schwock." (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I, chapter xviii, page 210.)

**SWINOMISH SLOUGH**, a waterway between Skagit Bay and Padilla Bay in the western part of Skagit County. On its east bank is the town of La Conner which was one time called Swinomish. Opposite the town is the Swinomish Indian Reservation. The name comes from that of a branch of the Skagit tribe of Indians.

**SWOFFORD**, a town in the central part of Lewis County, named in honor of T. F. Swofford, who settled in the valley in 1887 and

had the postoffice established in 1890. He was postmaster there for several years and later moved to Mossy Rock. (T. M. Hill, in *Names MSS.* Letter 99.)

SYLOPASH POINT, a large sandspit at the mouth of the Dosewallips River, in the eastern part of Jefferson County, so named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography* Volume XXIII, Atlas, chart 78.) In 1847, Captain Henry Kellett extended the name to apply to the Dosewallips River. (British Admiralty Chart 1911.) The name has not persisted.

SYLVAN, a town on Fox Island, in the northwestern part of Pierce County. It was named in 1888 by Mrs. C. J. Miller, who called it Sylvan Glen. When the postoffice was established in 1891, the name was cut down to Sylvan. (Postmaster in *Names MSS.* Letter 556.)

TABOOK POINT, on the western shore of Toandos Peninsula, Dabob Bay, in the eastern part of Jefferson County. The name was first charted by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 78.)

TACOMA, principal city of Pierce County, on Commencement Bay, now known as Tacoma Harbor. The name is said to be of Indian origin, but its source and meaning have been the subjects of much debate and disputation. Of all those who have written on the subject, the best authority is undoubtedly Thomas W. Prosch. A pioneer newspaper man with a bent toward history, he had the advantage accompanying such training. Furthermore, on September 12, 1877, he was married to Miss Virginia McCarver, whose father, General Morton Matthew McCarver, reputed founder of the City of Tacoma, had been dead only two years at the time of his daughter's wedding. Mr. Prosch had thus entered upon access to family traditions and records. In 1906 and 1909, Mr. Prosch wrote and published two books—*McCarver and Tacoma*, and *The Conkling-Prosch Family*—in which he tells with clearness and frankness how General McCarver founded and named Tacoma and how a contention over the naming arose at the very beginning. He shows the first settler of Tacoma to have been Nicholas Delin, who arrived in 1852 and began a small water-power sawmill. Peter Judson and family, members of the famous party of immigrants who crossed the Naches Pass in 1853, were the next to settle on the bay. There were others who found employment in and around the mill. When

the Indian war broke out in 1855, the white people left the bay and Mr. Delin sold his mill to J. L. Perkins, he to Milas Galliher, the last owner being Frank Spinning. For several years prior to 1864, the south side of the bay was deserted. On Christmas day of 1864, Job Carr settled there. His family are often counted the first settlers of Tacoma. In 1868, General McCarver arrived looking for a townsite that would serve as the terminus of the proposed Northern Pacific Railroad. He bought most of Job Carr's claim and acquired other lands. He had financial associates in Portland. The first plat of the proposed town bore the name "Commencement City," a name derived from that of the bay. This plat was not filed of record. On Friday, September 11, 1868, Philip Ritz arrived at the McCarver home. He was gathering information for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and had heard of General McCarver's proposal to build a town. He wanted to suggest a name. He was enthusiastic about the book *The Canoe and the Saddle*, by Theodore Winthrop, in which it was said the Indians knew Mount Rainier by the name of Tacoma. He was eloquent in advocating that name for the town. Mr. Prosch says sleep was banished from the McCarver home that night and Saturday morning found the family still talking over the new name. (*McCarver and Tacoma*, page 164.) The associates in Portland accepted General McCarver's suggestion that the new name be put upon the plat instead of "Commencement City" and the naming was accomplished. Mr. Prosch says: "The Indian name for the land taken by the Carrs was Chebaulip. None of the citizens heeded that, and as the Indians themselves had little regard for their own names, and were always willing to adopt those of the whites instead, Chebaulip was passed and forgotten." (*McCarver and Tacoma*, pages 162-163.) A later and more extended publication is *Tacoma, Its History and Its Builders, A Half Century of Activity*, by Herbert Hunt, published in Chicago in 1916. Mr. Hunt devotes pages 134 to 141 to a discussion of the name. It does not differ materially in results from the record of Thomas W. Prosch. However, he says (page 135): "That it was favorably received may be assumed from the fact that Anthony Carr, M. M. McCarver, John W. Ackerson and C. P. Ferry each has claimed the honor of applying it to 'Chebaulip'." The author examines each of the claims carefully and also calls attention to the facts that a hotel in Olympia and a lodge of Good Templars had each been known by the name Tacoma some months before it was applied to the new town. These two names probably emanated from the same book by Theo-

dore Winthrop. In 1908, Benjamin C. Harvey, of Tacoma, collected much material on the name which was published in Tacoma in 1914. (*Washington State Historical Society Publications, 1907-1914, Volume II.*, pages 440-464.) His work was in the interest of changing the name of Mount Rainier to "Mount Tacoma." Of course many references are there made to the origin and meaning of the word. One of the published letters is from Dr. Charles M. Buchanan, for many years in charge of the Tulalip Indian Reservation. He was the greatest authority yet developed on the Indian languages and dialects of Puget Sound. In one of his letters to Mr. Harvey, he says Tacoma is not at all a local word but an Algonkin word meaning "near to heaven," and he calls attention to many uses of the word in various forms east of the Rocky Mountains. There are many meanings given for the word, "such as "nourishing breast," "mother of waters," "frozen waters." Several writers, in the correspondence referred to, suggest that Mr. Winthrop probably heard the Indians use the Chinook Jargon word *T'kope* meaning "white." (Shaw's *The Chinook Jargon*, page 27.) Mr. Buchanan thinks it quite likely as the explosive pronunciation of *T'kopt* by the Indian would somewhat resemble the white man's pronunciation of Tacoma.

TACOOTCHE-TE SSE, see Columbia.

TACOUTCHE, see Columbia.

TAFTSONVILLE, formerly a settlement near San De Fuca, Whidbey Island, named in honor of Martin and Christian Taftson who settled there in 1851. The place was charted by Surveyor General James Tilton, in 1859, but modern maps omit the name.

TAHK PRAIRIE, see Camas Prairie.

TAHOMA, see Mount Rainier.

TAHUYEH CREEK, flowing into Hood Canal, in the northeastern part of Mason County, got its name from two Indian words—"ta" meaning that, and "ho-i" meaning done. Some surmise that the Indians referred to something notable done there long ago. (Myron Eells in *American Anthropologist* for January, 1892.)

TAKHOMA, see Mount Rainier.

TALA POINT, at the entrance to Port Ludow, in the northeastern part of Jefferson County. It was first charted by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography, Volume XXIII.*, Atlas, chart 78.)

TALUAPTEA, see Pillar Rock.

TAMPICO, a village in the central part of Yakima County, probably named by A. D. Elgin, a pioneer settler, after a town in Oregon where he had lived. (John H. Lynch, in *Names MSS.* Letter 302.)

TANEUM CREEK, a tributary of the Yakima River in the central part of Kittitas County, first charted as Ptehnum, by McClellan in 1853. (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I., pages 377-389, and Map 3.)

TANNUM LAKE, see Bumping Lake.

TANWAX, a lake and a creek flowing from it as a northern tributary of the Nisqually River in the south central part of Pierce County. Both were charted as "Tanwux" by the Surveyor General in 1857, the same officer changing the names to Tanwax in 1859. (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Numbers 877 and 1026.)

TARLIT CREEK, a name used in 1853, for a waterway near Baker Bay, in the southwestern part of Pacific County, probably the Baker Slough of present maps. (James G. Swan, *Northwest Coast*, pages 243-244.)

TATOOSH ISLAND, off Cape Flattery, in the northwestern part of Clallam County, named by the British Captain John Meares in July, 1788, for the "Chief Tatoche" by whom he was welcomed. Evidently the Spanish Captain Quimper tried to honor the same Indian with a different spelling of the name when he charted "Isla de Tutusi." (J. G. Kohl, "Hydrography," in *Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume XII., Part I., chapter xv.) The United States Government maintains an important lighthouse and weather bureau station on the island.

TATSOLO POINT, on Puget Sound, east of Anderson Island, in the west central part of Pierce County, first charted by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 79.)

TATUGH, on the east side of Blake Island in the west central part of Kitsap County. It was named by Captain George Davidson, for the United States Coast Survey in 1858, who wrote: "The eastern point of Blake Island is low and pebly, and called by the natives Tatugh." (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 1005, page 448.)

TAUNTON, a town in the southwestern part of Adams County, named by railroad officials after a town in Massachusetts. (H. R. Williams, vice-president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, in *Names MSS.* Letter 589.)

TAYLOR, a town in the central part of King County, founded by the Denny Clay Company in 1893 and named by the Oregon Improvement Company. (Sam Galloway, in *Names MSS.* Letter 536.)

TAYLORS BAY, in the northwestern part of Pierce County, "named after old man Taylor, who came to this coast as a sailor on an English ship and settled by this bay. (E. Shellgun, Postmaster at Longbranch, in *Names MSS.* Letter 103.)

TCHANNON RIVER, see Tucannon River.

TCHIL-AE-CUM, see Steilacoom.

TCHINOM POINT, see Chinom Point.

TEANAWAY RIVER, a tributary of the Yakima River in the north central part of Kittitas County, first mentioned in 1853 as "Yannoise River" by J. K. Duncan, topographer with Captain McClellan. (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I., page 210.)

TEEKALET, see Port Gamble.

TEE-NAT-PAN-UP, an Indian name applied to part of Palouse River.

TEHNAM CREEK, see Taneum Creek.

TE-HOTO-NIM-ME, see Pine Creek.

TEKIU POINT, on the east shore of Hood Canal, in the southwestern part of Kitsap County, was first charted by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 78.)

TEKOA, a town in the northeastern part of Whitman County, has a name taken from the Bible. In 1906, at the request of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, there was prepared a list of place names in Washington supposed to be of Indian origin. The list was published in the *Seattle Times* on October 6, 1906, and in 1907 it was again published in a book, *Sketches of Washingtonians*, pages 5-12. In 1908, the list was issued as a pamphlet by the Hyatt-



Fowells School. In all these printings the name of Tekoa was given as an Indian word, the information being originally gathered from Tomeo, an Indian of Nespelem, who was sincere in his belief that it was a Palouse Indian word. Arthur M. Johnson, of the Science Department of the Colfax High School, wrote a kindly letter saying an error had been made, and that the village had been named by a woman pioneer who took the word from the Bible. In 1913, Rev. Frederick Tonge, of Davenport, called attention to the fact that the word appears several times in the Old Testament. In the Hebrew, the word means "firm" or "settlement." In a city of Judah, by the name of Tekoa, six miles from Bethlehem and twelve miles from Jerusalem, there lived the Prophet Amos and also the wise woman who interceded with David. (II. Samuel XIV: 2-20.)

TELFORD, a town in the central part of Lincoln County, named on July 4, 1909, for M. A. Telford, a prosperous rancher in that vicinity. The railroad tried to change the name to "Fellows" when the road was being constructed. (A. Y. Smith, in *Names MSS.* Letters 399 and 453.)

TENALQUOT PRAIRIE, in Thurston County. The *Nisqually Journal*, for March 13, 1849, says: "Sent two Ox tumbrills to Tenalquot with provisions." (Reproduced in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for July, 1919, page 206.)

TENAS ILLIHEE ISLAND, west of Puget Island in the Columbia River, in the southern part of Wahkiakum County, charted by that name on the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 6152. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, charted it as "Katalamet Island." (*Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., Atlas, chart 70.) The Chinook Jargon words *Tenas Illihee* mean "little place" or "little home."