

PUYALLUP INDIAN RESERVATION*

During the years 1818 to 1846, this Northwest territory, known as the "Oregon Country" was held under joint occupancy treaty by the United States and Great Britain. In the latter year a division was made, whereby the United States was given control of seven degrees of latitude, from 42° (the North boundary of California) to 49° North, except in the northeastern part of what is now known as the State of Washington, there a deflection towards the South was made in order to give to Great Britain all of Vancouver Island. The vagueness of the language used in making that southerly turn, came near plunging the two Anglo-Saxon nations into war; that, however, is a long story and not applicable in today's consideration. Having thus acquired control of this vast territory, the United States Government was anxious to have it occupied by American citizens as rapidly as possible, and to expedite this, the Government enacted, during the year 1850, what is now known as the Oregon Donation Land Law, whereby they proposed to give to citizens of the United States, who would settle thereon large tracts of land. This law did stimulate immigration into the Oregon Country. The seat of Government for Oregon, was located in the Willamette Valley, South of the great Columbia River. Settlers north of the river felt that their needs received scant consideration, so they petitioned Congress to create a new Territory. The petition received favorable consideration and Washington Territory was created during the Spring of 1853. Isaac I. Stevens was named Governor. During the Summer of 1853, Stevens came overland from Washington, D.C., to Olympia, Washington, arriving November 25, 1853; he at once issued a proclamation calling an election to be held for members to a Territorial Legislature. In due time the Legislators assembled and the Governor delivered his first message. Briefly reviewing the great natural resources of the Territory, its commercial advantages, with its unrivaled harbors, and location to control in due time the trade of the Orient, he stressed before the Legislators the incongruity of the Donation Land Law as touching the aboriginal people, and dwelt on the importance of extinguishing the Indian title to lands. He asked for a leave of absence, from the Territory, that he might visit Washington, D.C.

*During the dedication of a monument on the Puyallup Indian Reservation during May, 1928, Mr. W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, read a brief historical paper which is here reproduced.—EDITOR.

and arrange for making Indian Treaties. He left Olympia March 26, 1854, and arrived in New York during the month of May, having made the trip by the Isthmus of Panama. His views and recommendations in regard to treating with the Indians and buying their lands were adopted and he was appointed the commissioner to make such treaties. He returned to Olympia in November, and Christmas time, 1854, found him and his associates on the banks of Medicine Creek in consultation with some 650 Indians of Nisqually, Squaxon and Puyallup tribes. On December 26, the treaty was signed by Governor Stevens on behalf of the United States, by sixty-two Indians, Chiefs and head-men of the tribes named, in the presence of nineteen white witnesses, who also signed the paper.

Article 1 of the treaty, provided that the Indians convey to the United States all of their interest to the lands occupied by them—described as commencing at Pully Point, about mid-way between Commencement and Elliott Bays; thence south-easterly between the Puyallup and White Rivers to the summit of the Cascade Mountains, thence southerly along the summit of said range to a point opposite the source of Skookum Chuck Creek to the coal mines, thence northwesterly to the summit of the Black Hills, northerly to the upper forks of the Satsop River, thence northeasterly through Wilkes Portage to Point Southworth and around the foot of Vashon Island to the place of beginning.

Article 2 of the treaty, provided that three described tracts of land included in the above noted district, be reserved for the use of the Indians as their homes. One of these tracts was Squaxon Island, of which more will be noted later.

Article 4 provided that, in consideration of the above cession, the United States agreed to pay to the named tribes \$32,500.00 in stipulated annual payments; also the sum of \$3,200.00 to enable the Indians to remove and settle upon the reservations and begin cultivating their lands.

In Article 6 of the treaty it was provided that if the welfare of the Indians should be promoted by transferring them to other lands than those first allotted, such removals might be made upon payment for any improvements which the Indians may have already made. This provision proved to be a wise one.

After Governor Stevens returned from his treaty making trip over the Territory, he learned that the reservations outlined for both the Nisqually and Puyallup tribes were entirely inadequate for their needs. He petitioned the President for transfer of loca-

tion and largely increased acreage for both of these tribes. In this transfer the Puyallup tribe received 29,000 acres instead of 1280 acres first allotted and a very much more favorable location.

In Article 10, the United States agreed to establish an agricultural and industrial school, to be free to the children of said tribes for a period of twenty years,—furthermore they would provide and equip a smithy shop, a carpenter shop, employ a blacksmith, carpenter, farmer for the term of 20 years to instruct the Indians in their respective occupations; further the United States agreed to employ a physician to reside at the central agency, who would furnish medicine and advice for the sick. The expense of the school, employes, and medical attendance were to be defrayed by the United States and not deducted from annuities.

In conversation with General Hazard Stevens, son of Governor Stevens, some years ago relative to the Squaxon Island reservation, he stated that his father's intention was that the island should be the correct place for the school. The records in Washington, D.C., show that Quincy A. Brooks was the first teacher employed by the Government, and that he attempted to organize the school on the Island, but was not able to induce any attendance.

According to the records, Brooks was employed for some time as clerk in the Superintendent's office at Olympia, and arrangements were made to open the school on the Puyallup Reservation, beginning about 1860. From that date on many names appear as teachers: Adam Wiley, Wm. Devine, Frances Barlow, Mary (an Indian) disciplinarian and school matron, Frank Spinning, with Annie Stewart as assistant; L. F. Thompson, Flora J. Thompson, assistant; Rev. Geo. W. Sloan, Rebecca Sloan, assistant; after the name of the latter appears notation,—“Appt. dec.”—We know that Mrs. Sloan died in the service. C. H. Spinning became resident Doctor July 1, 1862, and continued as such until September 1, 1869. He was employed again in later years. Ciril Ward was Farmer, his term of service beginning May 31, 1862. Many of the employes began service in the spring of 1862. O. F. Boutnell, Blacksmith; William Billings, Carpenter; W. L. Hayes, Farmer (at Nesqually); John Flett, Blacksmith, 1864-1869; A. W. Stewart, Carpenter, January 1, 1865-1869.

The curriculum of the school embraced domestic science and manual training, not exactly under those terms, but the same in effect. Most of the girls took quite readily to their part, but much of the manual training was considered squaws' work by the boys.

Their fathers for many generations past had not belittled themselves with such occupations, and some coercion was necessary in their behalf. During the year 1869, many of the employes were changed, old ones going out, new names appearing on the payroll; Jack Chicaman, an Indian, came on the roll at the salary of \$25.00 per month and continued for some time.

W. P. BONNEY.