

DOCUMENTS

Journal of Occurrences at Nisqually in 1870.

[NOTE: W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, provides these transcriptions from the record made by Edward Huggins, last officer of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Nisqually. He became an American citizen and acquired the old fort as a homestead in 1870. He continued the daily record as had been done for the Company. When his son, Tom Huggins, who had inherited the father's papers, was about to move to California, he placed in Mr. Bonney's keeping five good-sized account books. From these the following transcripts have been made.—EDITOR.]

1870.

*Journal of Occurrences at Nisqually (Fort), Pierce County, W. T.,
by Edward Huggins, Commencing May 12, 1870.*

Thursday, May 12th, 1870. Fine but raw cold weather for the season. Employed getting ready goods for sale on Saturday next. Received a communication from the Registrar and Receiver of lands, Olympia, informing me (E. Huggins) that the Government had instructed them to receive (and receipt for) from the P.S. Ag; Cos: Agent, all property real (such as lands and improvements) claimed by said Company; in Washington Territory.

Friday, 13th. Fine. Accompanied by Mr. Munro, went to Olympia, and had an interview with Mesers Clark and Cushman, the Registrar and Receiver of Public lands, in relation to surrender of Companies rights in Wash. Terr; but did not accomplish any thing. Am to go up again on Saturday 21st. Inst:

Saturday, 14th. Rain last night. Stormy and cold all day. Sale of all of Companys property upon this place took place to day, by Auction, and owing to no credit being allowed, every thing went at low figures, the Ram Sheep in particular, which did not realize \$3.00 a head.

Sunday, 15th. Cold and stormy all day. Showers, Rain. Myself and Mr. Munroe employed making up acct. Sales by Auction, for Victoria.

Monday, 16th. Cold (very) and stormy. At 3 A.M. this morning Mr. Munroe and two sons were driven to Steilacoom to meet

Steamer for Victoria, whither he returns having accomplished the object of his visit to this place.— E. Huggins drove to Steilacoom, and collected accts; due by purchasers at sale on Saturday last.—

Tuesday, May 17th., 1870. Raw cold weather—slight showers. Sowed and harrowed in 1½ acre Oats in “Bob’s hollow.” Rogers man—B. Thompson,—butchered the last of the four head of Beef Cattle left here by Mr. G. B. Roberts of Cowlitz; Engaged Northover to go to Tinalquet and bring home an ox left by Mr. Roberts at T. Linklaters on his way over, by reason of the animal lame and unfit to travel.—

Wednesday, 18th. Heavy showers of Rain and very cold-raw weather. E. Huggins and Lagace drove to Steilacoom and brought home Salt. Asho “delving in garden.—

Thursday, 19th. Forenoon; Showery, A’ noon Fine. A’ noon G. Roberts junior arrived with 4 Cows sold to self (E. Huggins) by his Father. Lagace plowing in North Turnip Field. Asho and two women at work in garden.—

Friday, 20th. Fine, Warm, Lagace Hauling firewood with Cart.—“Asho” delving in garden. Two women weeding.

E. H. drove Mrs. H. and children to “Ortons” place. (“Harry Deans”) to view milch Cows offered for Sale.—Northover returned yesterday with ox from Linklater. The poor Animal is in a deplorable condition, and is, apparently unfit for Beef.—

Saturday, 21st. Fine Weather. Early this morning E. Huggins accompanied by C. Lagace” started to Olympia, on business connected with the Surrender of the Companys claims into W. T. but did not accomplish any thing of any moment. Have to go up again on same business on 4th. prox. :—reached home at 6, P.M. G. Roberts son; left for home this morning.

Sunday, 22nd. Fine all day, Evening gloomy and rainy like.

Monday, 23rd., May, 1870. Fine weather. All hands planting Potatoes at head of “Old Fort Lake” in a piece sandy land at times submerged.—Young at work half day.—Fetched (Lagace C.) 15, bush; Potatoes from Gove at 37½c.

Tuesday, 24th. Fine weather. Planted 25 bushels Potatoes at old Fort Lake. Lagace & W. Huggins fetched two Cows & Calves from G. Edwards of Yilmn for \$40.00 each. Traded 7 Beaver & 3 Land Otter from an Indian.

Captain Black here— remained the night.—

Wednesday, 25th.—Gloomy rainy like weather—sprinkling of rain during the afternoon. All hands employed repairing milking Corrals—Gate Posts and Gates;—Black here again this evening—is hunting a Horse which runs in this neighborhood.—

Thursday, 26th. Fine. E. Huggins, Lagace and boys (Willie & Eddie drove to town Young & Northover repairing fences, (Corrals) Asho at Fences—digging post holes—Mrs. Asho shearing Sheep Skins. Steamer at 2 P.M. had not arrived at Steilacoom from Victoria.

Friday, 27th. Fine morning. A'noon about 4 O'Clock commenced *raining very hard*, which *continued* at intervals *all night*. Lagace moving Sheep park from garden to Island (Swamp) and rolling Wheat. Young, Northover and self at Corralls, renewing gates &c—.

Saturday, 28th. Heavy Squalls—with ditto Rain—during day and night,—Very cold for season, Finished gates and Corrals. Indian Asho & Wife not at work.

Sunday, 29th. Cold with heavy showers.

Monday, 30th. Gloomy and cold but no Rain. Lagace looking for Horses "George & Dandy," but didn't find them. two Indians weeding in garden.—E. Huggins and children drove to Steilacoom and heard a political speaking.

Received a Telegram from Dr. Tolmie telling that he would be up here on the 11th. June to arrange the business of the Surrender.

Tuesday, May 31st, 1870. Fine warm weather.

Lagace looking for "George & Dandy"—unsuccessful.

Northover ploughing Turnip Swamp patch (No. 1)

Asho and wife weeding in garden..

Traded 4 Beaver and 2 Land Otter.—

Wednesday, June 1st, 1870.

Forenoon Gloomy Afternoon, fine. All hands Shearing Sheep. Asho excepted, who is working in garden.

Received letters from Victoria stating that Dr. Tolmie intends coming here by steamer of the 8th. Inst. and himself arranging the matter of the transfer of P.S.Cos. lands to the U.S. Govt:—.

Thursday, 2nd. Gloomy weather, with slight sprinkling of Rain. Finished Sheep Shearing.—

Friday, 3rd. Fine but cold for the season. Lagace and Northover hauling Rails (scattered) to fence in Potato Patch at old Fort Lake. A' noon E. Huggins & Eddie H. rode to town. No Indians at work, to day. —

Saturday, 4th. Fine weather. employed Mr. (Revd.) Sloan to survey Fort Claim, and (according to his work) the conforming to the legal subdivisions, cuts through the middle of the Fort yard, North & South, taking in the dwelling house and leaving out the Store, granary and two small dwelling houses and at East end cuts off one half of Timothy Swamp. All hands assisting at Survey.

Sunday, 5th. Fine warm weather.

Monday, 6th. Fine warm. Election day. No work done. E. Huggins and Lagace drove to town. Lagace remained all night, drinking and making himself generally obnoxious to the sober people of Steilacoom.—

June, 1870.

Tuesday, 7th. Very warm weather. E. Huggins commenced mowing damell, of which we have a great crop. Lagace laid up after drunken Spree. Evening; E. H. drove to Steilacoom to meet Dr. Tolmie who is expected from Victoria.

Wednesday, 8th. Oppressively warm. Mowing and turning Hay. Dr. Tolmie reached here about 2 A.M.—Northover at work.

Thursday, 9th. Very warm. Lagace and Northover mowing, Asho turning Hay.

Friday, 10th. Warm weather. Cutting & Making Hay. Bought 4 fine Cows from Orton for \$160.00.—

Saturday, 11th. Hands cocking Hay. About 6 A.M. Dr. Tolmie accompanied by myself (E.H.) and two eldest boys started for Olympia in Spring Waggon, to arrange with Land Office about Surrender of P.S.A. Cos. lands &c. Nothing accomplished tho, further than Dr. Tolmie is to do the matter in writing from Victoria. Arrived home about 9 P.M. with a few Furs and goods. Dr. Tolmie remained in Olympia, to take the steamer for Victoria on Monday next. Land Office refused to put my notice on file of my having taken this Claim (Fort Claim) as a homestead, on the grounds that the lands formerly claimed by the P.S.A.Co. were unsurveyed.—

Sunday, 12th. Fine all day, with N.West breeze blowing all day; Evening signs of a change. This evening Captain W. Mitchell left for Steilacoom to meet steamer for Victoria.

He leaves this place for some H.B.Co. post, either up North or Frasers River.

Monday, 13th, June, 1870. Cool wind signs of Rain. Lagace &

Northover hauling Hay to Slaughter house shed. Asho and wife cocking do.

Tuesday, 14th. Gloomy all day. Evening about 5 P.M. commenced raining.

Forenoon;—mowing, A'noon finished hauling in Hay. Mrs. Asho weeding in garden.

Wednesday, 15th. Rain last night, Showery to day. Transplanting Turnips in Swamp. Lagace ploughing for do. Took on Indian "Zozea" for the Turnip planting.

Thursday, 16th. Slight shower or two during day; Evening, signs of change to fine weather. All hands at Turnips and finished day by weeding in garden. Sowed peas and corn in garden. Hoed Potatoes in do.

Friday, 17th. Cold this morning with white Frost.

Gloomy and rainy like all day. Sun shine at intervals. All hands at Hay, 4 scythes at work,—viz Northover, Young, Lagace & self (E.H.)

Saturday, 18th. Gloomy, slight sprinkling Rain. All hands at Hay. 4 cutting (including self)—Northover and Young worked only $\frac{1}{2}$ day.

Sunday, 19th. Gloomy with slight showers, but not enough to wet the earth. J. Orr & Wife called.

Monday, 20th. Showers, Hail & Thunder.

Lagace hauling rails to fence in Potatoe patch at Lake (Fort). Asho planting Cabbage in garden assisted by E. H. None other hand at work.