

ORIGIN OF WASHINGTON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

[Continued from Volume XI., page 293.]

OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS, along the western border of the State, sometimes called the Coast Range. In reality they occupy a large part of what is known as the Olympic Peninsula lying between Gray's Harbor, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Pacific Ocean and Hood Canal. The mass of mountains has no general axis and it is therefore hardly proper to use the word "Range" as part of the name. The large group of picturesque and glacier-torn peaks received its proper name through a century of evolution. See the discussion of Mount Olympus for the source of that name in 1788. The evolution began with Captain George Vancouver, who in 1792, wrote these two descriptions: "The shores of the harbour [New Dungeness] were of a moderate height; its western side bounded at no very great distance by a ridge of high craggy mountains covered with snow, were, as I conceived, connected with the mountain we took for Mount Olympus." Later, while at anchor opposite the site of the present City of Seattle, he wrote: "The ridge of mountains on which Mount Olympus is situated, whose rugged summits were seen no less fancifully towering over the forest than those on the eastern side, bounded to a considerable extent our western horizon; on these however, not one conspicuous eminence arose, nor could we now distinguish that which on the sea coast appeared to be centrally situated, and forming an elegant bi-forked mountain." (*Voyage of Discovery*, second edition, Volume II., pages 64 and 121.) The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, used "Mount Olympus Range" and "Olympic Range." (*Narrative*, Volume IV., page 410, and *Hydrography*, Volume XXIII., page 304.) In 1853, Theodore Winthrop wrote: "* * * the noble group of the Olympian Mountains become visible,—a grand family of vigorous growth, worthy more perfect knowledge." (*The Canoe and the Saddle*, John H. Williams Edition, pages 23-24.) Later, on page 278, he declares that the Victoria Indians called the Olympian Mountains "S'ngaz-anelf." J. A. Costello says the Duwamish Indians used the name "Sun-a-do." (*The Siwash*, Seattle, 1895.) J. G. Kohl, in his work on *Hydrography*, 1855, says the mountains "may be called the Mount Olympus Range." (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume XII., Part I., pages 261-262.) The map by the Surveyor General of Washington

Territory, 1857, shows "Olympic Range." Captain George Davidson, of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, uses the name "Olympus Range." (*Pacific Coast Pilot*, pages 587, 629, 635.) On page 629, he also uses "Olympus Mountains." Professor Henry Landes uses the name Olympic Mountains. (*A Geographic Dictionary of Washington*, 1917, pages 215-216). Most of these mountains are within the Olympic National Forest, proclaimed on March 2, 1907, embracing 1,594,560 acres. Within this Forest there was proclaimed on March 2, 1909, the Mount Olympus National Monument, embracing 608,640 acres.

OMAK, a town near the central part of Okanogan County, named for a lake about eight miles east of the town. It is claimed that the Indian word "Omache" means great medicine, referring to the supposed curative qualities of those waters. (Postmaster at Omak, in *Names MSS.* Letter 568).

O'NEAL ISLAND, off the northeast shore of San Juan Island, in San Juan County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, after a hero in the American navy. (Volume XXIII., *Hydrography*, Atlas, chart 77.

ONTARIO ROADS, a former name for the waterway between San Juan and Lopez Islands, now included in Griffin Bay and part of San Juan Channel, in San Juan County. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, had named the present Lopez Island "Chauncy's Island" in honor of Captain Isaac Chauncey of the American Navy. To intensify the honor the adjacent waterway was named "Ontario Roads" because Captain Chauncey had command on the eastern lake of that name during the War of 1812.

O-OO-QUAH, see Mount Chatham.

ORAPHUM CREEK, in Stevens County. It was named for an Indian chief whose people still live on the Colville Reservation. (Mrs. Anna J. Thompson, of Fruitland, in *Names MSS.* Letter 128).

ORCAS ISLAND, in San Juan County. The Spanish chart by Galliano and Valdez, 1792, included this island in the vaguely outlined "Isla y Archipelago de Sn. Juan." (Reproduced in *United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 1557, chart L.) The year before, the Spanish Captain Francisco Eliza had charted Griffin Bay, or "Ontario Roads" as "Boca de Horcasitas," after a Spanish vessel by that name, from which at times the "H" was omitted. It was also a part of the long name of the Viceroy in Mexico, Senor Don Juan Vicente de Guemes Pacheco y Padilla Orcasitees y Agu-

ayo Conde de Revilla Gigedo, which was distributed to geographic features by Captain Eliza. See, for example, Guemes Island. The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, gave the name "Hull's Island" after Commodore Isaac Hull who commanded the United State frigate *Constitution* and captured the English vessel *Guerriere*. To emphasize the honor bestowed Captain Wilkes named Mount Constitution and called East Sound "Ironsides Inlet" after the frigate's pet name and West Sound he called "Guerriere Bay," after the vessel captured. All these names have disappeared except that of Mount Constitution. Captain Kellett, of the British Navy, in 1847, restored many Spanish names, including the name of Orcas Island, which used only part of the original and had not been applied to the island by the Spaniards. Captain Kellett's choice of name was retained on the British Admiralty chart Number 1917 and has been used on all charts since.

ORCHARD PRAIRIE, in Spokane County. In May, 1879, Thomas T. Howard Doak and H. Dart of Minnesota arrived on the site and planted fruit trees. (*History of Spokane County*, page 282).

ORCHARD'S RIVER, a small tributary of the Columbia River east of Gray's Bay, named by Lieutenant W. R. Broughton in 1792 in honor of H. M. Orchard, clerk of the *Discovery*. (*Vancouver's Voyage of Discovery*, second edition, Volume III., page 95).

OREGON, name of the region from which have been organized the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming. The origin of the name has been much discussed. It is generally believed to have been originated by Jonathan Carver. He was first to use it and applied it to a supposed river of the west. His famous *Three Years Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America* began in 1766. The book was later published in London. Soon thereafter the name found its way into literature, being applied to the supposed river, which, when discovered in 1792, was named Columbia, and also to the country through which the river flowed. Fortunately the beautiful name has been retained by an important part of the original area.

ORIENT, a town on the Columbia River in the northeastern part of Ferry County, named after a mine of the same name two and one half miles from the town. It was so named by Alexander Ireland in 1901. (Nellie J. Harvey in *Names MSS.* Letter 517).

ORILLIA, a town southeast of Seattle in the western part of King County, named by Malcolm McDougall in 1887, after his former home town in Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada. (J. D. Cameron, in

Names MSS. Letter 68.) The Canadian town got its name from the Spanish word *Orilla*, meaning "lesser shore," doubtless from the fact that Orillia faces the smaller lake Conchiching while Oro faces the larger lake Simcoe. This information was obtained from Sir Mortimer Durand while he was British Ambassador at Madrid. The name was probably taken to Canada by one of the British officers who served in the Peninsula and who came to Canada with Sir John Colobonne. (C. H. Hale, of Orillia, Canada, in *Names MSS.* Letter 525.)

ORIN, a postoffice in the central part of Stevens County, named for Orin S. Winslow. (Postmaster at Orin, in *Names MSS.* Letter 90.)

ORO BAY, on the southeastern shore of Anderson Island, in the west central part of Pierce County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (Volume XXIII., *Hydrography*, Atlas, chart 79.) In 1846, Captain Inskip sought to change the name to Rodd Bay. (*British Admiralty Chart* 1947). This was intended as an honor for John Rashleigh Rodd, First Lieutenant on the *Fisgard* under Captain John A. Duntze.

ORONDO, a town on the Columbia River in the western part of Douglas County, named by J. B. Smith about 1886 after the supposed superintendent of the ancient Lake Superior copper mines. Orondo's people are thought to have been the ancestors of the mound builders "from Lake Superior to the Isthmus where their Atlantis joined America." (J. B. Smith, in *Names MSS.* Letter 352).

OROVILLE, a town in the north central part of Okanogan County. The town's beginning was in placer mines, for which reason the Spanish word *oro*, for gold, was selected at the name. In 1892, when establishing a postoffice, the Postoffice Department asked that "ville" be added to avoid confusion with Oso another postoffice in the same State. (Frank M. Dallam, in *Names MSS.* Letter 362.)

Oso, a town in the north central part of Snohomish County. The original name for the postoffice in 1889 was "Allen," an honor for John B. Allen, then Delegate to Congress and later United States Senator. Soon a town appeared in Mason County with the name of Allyn, which caused the people of "Allen" to choose a new name.

OSOYOOS LAKE, a large lake through which the Okanogan River flows at the international boundary. It is from the Calispel Indian word *sooyos*, meaning "the narrows". Rev. Myron Eells says: "When it came to naming the lake, an Irishman who was present

suggested that O be prefixed in honor of his country, which was done." (*American Anthropologist*, January 1892). Probably the first use of the name was by J. K. Duncan, topographer, in 1853. (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume I., page 214).

OSTRANDER, a town and creek in the central part of Cowlitz County, both named in honor of Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander, who homesteaded there. He was a famous pioneer physician who later moved to Olympia where he died on February 7, 1902. (Mrs. George E. Blankenship: *Tillicum Tales of Thurston County*, pages 226-228). In May, 1916, Justice of the Peace S. W. Holmes wrote from Ostrander (*Names MSS.* Letter 392) that the honor was for Abel Ostrander, which is probably a mistake as to the first name.

OSTRICH BAY, a southern arm of Dye Inlet, in the central part of Kitsap County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841, on account of the original outline resembling an ostrich. (Volume XXIII., *Hydrography*, Atlas, chart 88). It is sometimes called Oyster Bay.

OTHELLO, a town in the western part of Adams County, named by H. R. Williams, Vice-President of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, after the Shakespearian play. (H. R. Williams, in *Names MSS.* Letter 530). "From names given to adjoining towns and stations—Corfu, Smyrna and Jericho,—it seems probable that the misdemeanor was committed by a student and Shakespeare and the Bible." (G. W. Ogden, in *Names MSS.* Letter 385).

O'TOOLE CREEK, a small tributary of the Skagit River, in the central part of Skagit County, named in honor of W. D. O'Toole who located iron mines there in 1885. (Postmaster at Birdsvew, in *Names MSS.* Letter 130).

OTSO POINT, at the north end of Anderson Island, in the west central part of Pierce County. The name was given by the Wilkes Expedition, 1841. (Volume XXIII., *Hydrography*, Atlas, chart 79).

OVERLOOK, a station in the central part of Spokane County, formerly known as Wins. The new name was selected because one at that place can overlook the Marshall Valley. (Postmaster at Marshall, in *Names MSS.* Letter 166).

OYSTER BAY, a name sometimes applied to Ostrich Bay, Kitsap County. From 1880 to 1890 the settlers could gather there all the oysters they needed. "The writer kept his home at Chico constantly supplied." (W. B. Seymore, in *Names MSS.* Letter 3.)

OYSTERVILLE, a town on the west shore of Willapa Bay, in the west central part of Pacific County, formerly the county seat. Isaac Alonzo Clark and R. H. Espey settled there in the summer of 1854, Mr. Clark taking up a donation land claim adjacent to a large bed of native oysters. He platted and named the town of Oysterville. (Julian Hawthorne: *History of Washington*, Volume II., pages 530-533).

OWEN POINT, see Yoman Point.

OWHAP LAKE, AND CREEK, see Ohop.

OWL CREEK, a small tributary of the Columbia River, in the southwestern part of Cowlitz County. In 1853 it was mapped as "Minter River." (*Pacific Railroad Reports*, Volume XI., Part II., chart 3).

OZETTE, the name of a lake and a town on its shores, a creek, an island and an Indian Reservation, all near the Pacific Ocean, in the western part of Clallam County. The name is mentioned in the treaty by Governor Isaac I. Stevens with the Makahs, January 31, 1855. In an address at Port Townsend in 1887, Judge James G. Swan said: "There is a lake five or six miles inland from Hozett village at Flattery Rocks, which is marked on the coast survey charts 'Lake of the Sun.' The Makah name is *Ka'houk*, meaning a large body of fresh water, or simply lake. The sun part is imagination." (*Transactions of the Washington Pioneer Association*, 1883-1889, pages 100-101).

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PACIFIC CITY, founded about 1848 on Baker Bay near the mouth of the Columbia River by Dr. Elijah White. Many dupes were victimized in that early attempt at booming western town lots. Captain George Davidson, of the United States Coast Survey, reported in 1858: "Two or three houses on the shore of the bay, and a saw-mill, are all that remain of the settlement once designated as 'Pacific City.'" (*United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 1005, page 400.) In 1915, F. A. Hazeltine, of South Bend, wrote: "There are no vestiges left of the original Pacific City. It has all gone back to nature and there are trees growing on it over a foot in diameter, which have grown since the townsite was abandoned." (*Names MSS.* Letter 91). Other "Pacific Cities" have been started in the State since that first failure.

PACIFIC COUNTY, named for its ocean boundary. While Washington was still a part of Oregon Territory, this county was created by an act of the legislature dated February 4, 1851.

PACIFIC OCEAN, western boundary of the State. Crossing the Isthmus of Panama in September, 1513, Vasco Nunez de Balboa discovered the ocean which he called "Mar del Sur" or "Sea of the South." In November, 1520, Fernando Magellan, also under the Spanish flag, sailed through the straits which have since borne his name. On sailing into the great sea, he found it calm and bestowed the name of Pacific Ocean. Both names were used for many years. The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803-1806 used these names: "Entrance of the Columbia River into the Great South Sea or Pacific Ocean" and again, "the Great Western Ocean, I can't say Pacific, as since I have seen it, it has been the reverse." (*Journals of Lewis and Clark*, Thwaites edition, Volume III., pages 235 and 262).

PACKWOOD, name of a lake and formerly of a pass through the Cascades, in the east central part of Lewis County. They were honors for William Packwood, a Virginian, who was a pioneer and explorer in Oregon and Washington. He arrived in Oregon in 1844 and three years later settled on Nisqually Flats. Much of his explorations were done in the mountains. (H. K. Hines: *History of Washington*, pages 889-890, and *Olympia Pioneer and Democrat*, April 19, 1861.)

PADILLA, a town and bay in the west central part of Skagit County. It was named "Seno de Padilla," in 1791, by Captain Francisco Eliza from another part of the Mexican Viceroy's long name. See the items under Guemes and Orcas. (Chark K. in *United States Public Documents*, Serial Number 1557.) Captain Henry Kellett in 1847, changed the name to Padilla Bay. (*British Admiralty Chart*, Number 1911.) That name has remained.

PAGE, a town in the southern part of Franklin County, named for Dan Page, an old resident there. (Peter Klundt, Postmaster, in *Names MSS.* Letter 27.) There is a station on the Northern Pacific Railway, near Eagle Gorge, King County, by the same name. It was so named for the Page Lumber Company. (Page Lumber Company, in *Names MSS.* Letter 56.)

PAGE CREEK, a small tributary of the Snake River, in the northern part of Asotin County, named for the man who in 1871 took up the first land claim there. "It goes by the name of Cornner Gulch now. No water in it." (Cliff M. Wilson, of Silcott, in *Names MSS.* Letter 240.)

PAHA, a town in the central part of Adams County. There is a large spring there and Paha is supposed to be an Indian word

meaning "big water." (Postmaster at Paha, in *Names MSS.* Letter 365.)

PAIA ISLAND, see Burke Island.

PALAT CREEK, see Patit Creek.

PALISADE, a station on the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, in the north central part of Whitman County, so named "because it is located on a formation similar to the renowned Palisades of the Hudson." (H. R. Williams, in *Names MSS.* Letter 589.)

PALISADES, a town on the Great Northern Railway, in the southern part of Douglas County. The name has reference to the sharp pointed basaltic rocks so characteristically a part of the walls of Moses Coulee, and was bestowed in 1906 by George A. Virtue of Seattle. The same region at the mouth of Douglas Canyon was formerly known as Beulah Land. (Irving B. Vestal, in *Names MSS.* Letter 80.)

PALIX RIVER, see Palux River.

PALMER, a lake and mountain in the north central part of Okanogan County, named for Y. A. Palmer, an early stockman in Okanogan County. (Postmaster at Loomis, in *Names MSS.* Letter 264.) The same name is used for a railway junction and a mountain in King County, and for a creek and lake in Snohomish County but the origins of those names have not been ascertained.

PALOUSE, name of a city in the east central part of Whitman County, of a river, falls, rapids, and of a tribe of Indians. It is applied also to a large area of wheat lands in the Southeastern portion of the State. The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803-1806, first of white men to visit the region, named the stream "Drewyer's River," after George Drewyer, one of the party. They also gave the name of the tribe of Indians as "Pallatpallah." (*Lewis and Clark Journals*, Coues Edition, Volume II., page 630, III., 1070.) The Bureau of American Ethnology publishes a fairly extensive list of names used for the tribe. (*Handbook of American Indians*, Volume II., page 195.) Canadian members of the Astoria party in 1812 used the name "Pavion" for the river and "Pallatpalla" for the tribe. (Washington Irving: *Astoria* page 328 and 330.) John Work of the Hudson's Bay Company in October, 1825, used the name "Flag River." (*Journal*, edited by T. C. Elliott, in *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Volume V., page 88.) In July, 1826, David Douglas, the botanist, called the tribe "Peluspa." (*Journal* 1823-1827, page 200.) Alexander Ross used the name

"Pavilion River" (*Oregon Settlers*, in Early Western Travels Series, Volume VII., page 208.) The Wilkes Expedition, 1841, refers to the "Peluse River" and adds: "The falls upon this river are of some note and are called Aputapat, and they will hereafter be an object of interest to travellers in this country." (*Narrative*, Volume IV., page 466.) One "hereafter" thus mentioned was embraced by W. P. Breeding in 1875 when he "erected a flouring mill and made other improvements, at the same time laying off the town of Palouse City on his land at the falls of Palouse River." (H. H. Bancroft: *Works* Volume XXIX., page 571, note.) On June 11, 1855, Governor Isaac I. Stevens, in the Nez Perce treaty used the name Palouse River. In discussing the name, N. W. Durham says: "For a grassy expanse the French have the word *pelouse*; and, a century ago, when French-Canadian voyageurs of the fur companies beheld in springtime the wild tumult of bunchgrass hills north of Snake River, they called it the *Pelouse* country—the grass lands:" (*Spokane and the Inland Empire*, page 629.)

PALUX RIVER, flowing into Willapa Bay in the northwestern part of Pacific County. The name is often spelled "Palix." In the Chehalis language the word means "slough covered with trees" and the name was applied to a division of the Chinook tribe. (*Handbook of American Indians*, Volume II., page 195.) In 1857, James G. Swan wrote: "The Palux Indians, on the Copa-lux on Palux River." (*Northwest Coast*, page 211.)

PANAMA REEF, see Boulder Reef.

PANDORA, a station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway in the northeastern part of Whitman County. It was named "after Pandora's Box." (H. R. Williams, in *Names MSS.* Letter 589.)

PANDORA REEF, a small reef about three miles east of Green Point near Port Angeles, in the northeastern part of Clallam County. The name appears on the *British Admiralty Chart* 2689, Richards 1858-1859, was in honor of the British survey vessel of that name, working with Captain Kellett in 1847-1849.

PANTHER CREEK, a branch of Wind River, in the south central part of Skamania County. "Mr. B. Tillotson saw a panther on a log over the creek. Called it Panther Creek." (Postmaster at Carson, in *Names MSS.* Letter 324.)