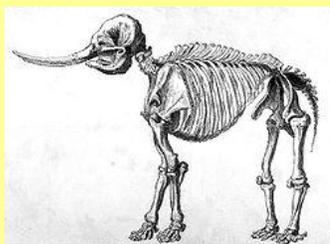


A Diary of the History of Sequim, its settlement and the first One Hundred Years of Incorporation

The First People and Exploration:

The first Paleo-Indians migrated south onto the Peninsula across the ice bridge from Eurasia following and hunting the Mega fauna, known to us as “Manis’ Mastodon” at the end of the last Ice Age. These early inhabitants of



the North Olympic Peninsula are documented having been here nearly 17,000 years ago.

Skeleton Mastodon

Some archeologists believe the Coast Salish were descended from these early people and developed their culture further north (in what is today British Columbia). Exploring for new hunting and fishing grounds, they likely paddled south many millennia ago after the last of the Fraser Glacier receded and the cedar trees had grown tall and massive.

By the early 1700’s the Coast Salish, forefathers of the Nəxʷsə́áy’əm (pronounced “nux s’klallam”), the “Strong People,” today’s S’Klallam



S’Klallam Leaders

people, had well-populated the entire south shore of the Strait as well as the Puget Sound/Hood Canal basin. Their descendants are the sovereign Tribes who are our neighbors today.

In addition to hunting in the mountains and harvesting and fishing in the salt and fresh waters of the area, the S’Klallams maintained the Sequim prairie by burning it back each year to create habitat for berries and other edible plants and new grass to feed the deer and elk they hunted: they were the areas first “Organic” farmers! Further, “Sequim” in the S’Klallam language literally means “A place to shoot/hunt.” Their culture also relied heavily on the red cedar tree, which provided wood for shelter and canoes as well as bark for clothing and blankets. Other foods and medicines were seasonally gathered from the land including roots, mosses, and variety of plants. Even river rocks were used for boiling water, cooking, and sweat lodge.

While these native settlements were developing, the Asians and Europeans were on the move – curious and greedy for the discovery of new lands. It is possible the very first non-native visitor to the Peninsula was a



Hwui Shan Junks

Chinese explorer named Hwui Shan around 500 AD. A thousand years later, Sir Francis Drake is reported to have been the first European to discover the Strait. (It is unclear whether Juan de Fuca, whose name is given to the Strait, was ever actually here or had only written about it from other records.)



In 1792, the explorations of Capt. Manuel Quimper lead to the first non-native contact with

S'Klallam Village

the S'Klallam People in what is now Dungeness Bay (the village Ste Tee Thlum). Later that year Capt. Vancouver visits the area and names it New Dungeness. Ultimately, the explorations by the American team Lewis and Clark in 1805 set the course



Dungeness Settlement

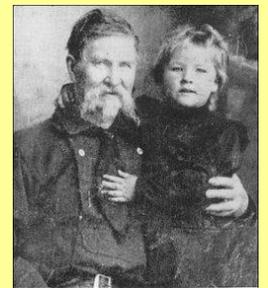
for settlement of the region.

The first non-native settlers to the North Olympic Peninsula arrived in the early 1850s and settle at New Dungeness, on the west side of the Dungeness River. A pier is built out into the tidal flats and a small town begins to rise

up. In 1857 the New Dungeness Lighthouse begins operations. Its first fulltime keeper was Henry H. Blake (1837–1871), who kept the light for 10 years. Eventually this settlement moves across the river and becomes known as Dungeness and in 1890–91 build a new pier to deeper water nearly a mile long to serve the growing trade between the other settlements in the region.

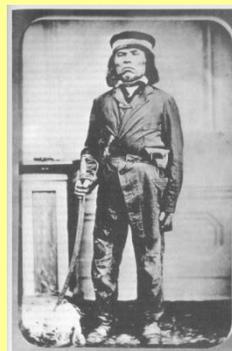
The Jamestown S'Klallam People

Early explorer, trapper, trader and bon vivant William “Blanket Bill” Jarman traveled among and lived in harmony with the Indian tribes scattered in villages along the shores of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Bill married an Indian girl “Alice” and spent his last



Blanket Bill

30 years among the tribes. However Bill (and a few others like him) was the exception in the early days of settlement of the region; for most white homesteaders carving a “land



Chief Chetzamoka

claim” out on the Sequim–Dungeness prairie the Indians were seen as an impediment. Under pressure from the settlers to remove the Indians and allow wide– spread settlement, the federal

government stepped in. In 1855 the S'Klallam

leaders signed a treaty with the federal government with the understanding that they would retain the reserved right to hunt, fish and gather in their “usual and accustomed” grounds that they ceded to the federal government “for as long as the sun will rise and the rivers shall flow.” Yet over time, the settlers forced the S’Klallam to move off of their traditional land at Dungeness, out to the Dungeness Spit. The S’Klallam people looked for ways to preserve their lifestyle, identity and culture.

During these early years of non-native settlement, the “Strong People” – were learning to adapt to the new lifestyle forced upon them.



"Jake" Hall

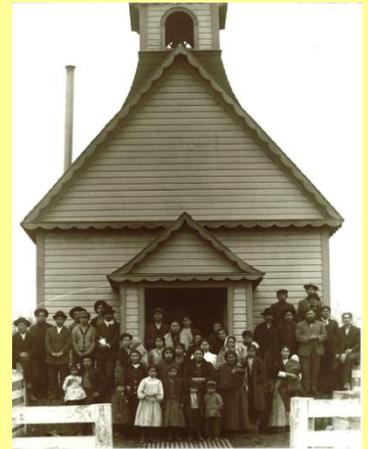
In 1874, under the leadership of Lord James Balch the S’Klallam people living in the Dungeness area decided that, in order to survive, they would have to adopt a new value

system that included property ownership. They pooled \$500 in gold coins and purchased the 210 acres along the Strait, now called Jamestown. Many S’Klallams joined the local work force as farmers and dairymen. Others continued to practice their traditional hunting and fishing, using these goods for trade with

the local settlers. The S’Klallam were also instrumental in the early days of the Sequim Town Site, helping the settlers deliver their goods to the surrounding settlements in their canoes and bringing back the supplies necessary to survive.

Throughout the late 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, the S’Klallam people withstood the racism of local citizens who often treated the darkest-skinned among them as second class citizens. They also weathered many political struggles with federal, state, and local governments which, at times, recognized them as a sovereign people

(as promised in the Treaty of Point No Point) but more often did not – instead choosing to refuse them any treaty rights. Still, the S’Klallam people raised families, worshipped,



Shaker Church

contributed to the local economy and sent their children to Sequim schools.



Charles Fitzgerald

Jamestown S’Klallam member Charles Fitzgerald Sr.

(1871–1940) was just one example of an S’Klallam Indian who contributed to the development of Sequim in many ways. He not only ran the family farm and mill on land that is located at what is now the corner of Old Olympic Highway and Evans Road, he also built the first “business house” in the new town of Sequim. It served as the post office and as a grocery store. From 1929 until his death, he managed the Dungeness–Sequim Cooperative Creamery. His obituary states, “Mr. Fitzgerald was one of the largest property holders in the East End. Beside the original homestead, in recent years he had purchased the Woods farm at Dungeness, and the original Thornton government donation claim at Old Dungeness....” Another contribution by Fitzgerald, and two other men named Myers, was a contract with the County in 1913 (represented by Commissioners Hansen, Lotzgesell and Clark) to build a road from Dungeness to the “new” town of Sequim.

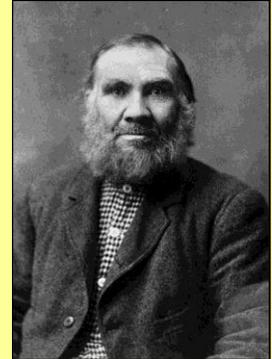
Sequim Happens

Through those early days of growth in Dungeness, the whole valley was slowly and steadily being settled. The town site of Sequim was about to rise rapidly from the arid plain and become the center of all the new enterprise:

John Donnell held the first Donation Claim of 320 acres after leaving Dungeness because it

was too crowded. He builds his home near today’s intersection of Priest and Hendrickson Roads.

Soon after others came: John Bell and John Brown leave Dungeness and come to the town site in 1854; Bell takes a 160 acre claim at the southeast of today’s main intersection of



Sequim Avenue and Washington Street; Brown takes the 160 acres to the northeast; Matthew Flemming claims the southwest corner, and



William Webster takes the northwest corner.

Figure 1 Webster's "Post Office"

becomes the first postmaster and builds the first structure to serve as the post office.

In 1878 this post office and then in 1879 a school building are the first two “buildings” in Sequim (Before there was Sequim, there was Seguin; Seguin, according to postal records, was the name of the “surrounding area” for which the first post office was named in 1879).

In the 1880’s Dr. “Crazy” Callen comes to town and settles at what is today the intersection of

North Sequim Avenue and Old Olympic Highway but in 1880 was known then as "Callen's Corner." Folks called him Crazy Callen because of his talk of irrigating the arid valley east of the Dungeness River – all the land around the emerging town of Sequim. In 1896 the first irrigation ditch opens and Dr. Crazy Callen doesn't seem so crazy after all; irrigation changes the Sequim prairie forever

By the 1890s, while farming is exploding with the new network of irrigation ditches, others are starting to build the town. William Horner



builds the first grocery store and then comes the Farmers/GAR

/VFW Hall (the VFW today). The Farmer's Alliance and Lyceum League are established at this same time and the Farmer's Hall was the center of Sequim's social, cultural and economic life.

Soon other businesses, churches, and cultural establishments spring up. By 1900 there is an Opera House, the Sequim Trading Post and much of the original homestead claims are short platted into building lots and homes



spring up. The village is then on the path towards incorporation, but it always takes one

individual to make things really happen; enter Joseph Keeler.

Keeler arrives in Sequim in 1903 and becomes Sequim's first "mover and shaker." He builds the first switchboard and telephone exchange; his wife begins the first eatery in Huff's grocery; Joe also opens the first saloon – The



Corners Saloon

Corners Saloon at the main intersection in town.

He also builds the first sawmill near

where the Sequim Avenue by-pass over pass is today. He cuts all the lumber for Sequim's first hotel,



The Hotel Sinclair

The Sinclair, which, of course, Joe was building. Keeler has a bet that his new hotel will be the first building to have electricity, and when power is slow in coming from Port Angeles and the new Elwha Dam, he buys a generator to light up the hotel. Soon he is

selling electricity to other nearby businesses and so begins the Sequim Light & Power Company. He does the same with water – building a large water tower across the street to serve the hotel and eventually others. Both these utilities eventually are sold to the Town of Sequim and become the beginning of Sequim Public Utilities.

Joe Keeler was more than an enterprising business man; he was an ardent community supporter. He was instrumental in the early May Days celebrations; he brought rodeos to town to entertain the folks (probably made a few bucks too) and managed Sequim's regionally renowned Baseball Team– *The Olympics*. Joe would hire men to work at the Sinclair Hotel who were ringers for the team. He supported the team's traveling all around the region to compete, usually winning.



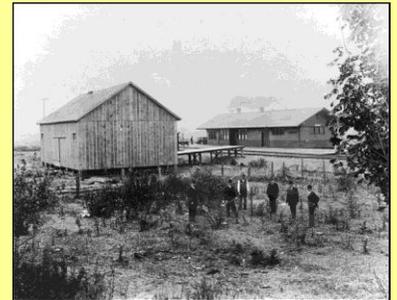
The "Olympics" Baseball Team

Over the years he tries his hand at sheep and cattle farming, other retail businesses, and generally enjoys success at whatever he puts his mind to. His entrepreneurial spirit is contagious and drives the prosperity of the growing town. Joe also

Joe's entrepreneurial spirit is unrelenting

serves the public formally: he becomes a Clallam County Commissioner, serves a term in the State Senate and is instrumental in getting Deer Park opened.

Prior to the incorporation of the town in 1913, Joe's enterprising spirit is in good company: drug stores, shoe stores, shingle manufacturers, a newspaper and press, paint and hardware stores, and a movie theater all arrive. The first movie theater was built next to the Yoakum



Drilling for Oil

Apartments adjacent to the city hall (This is now part of the property where our future new city hall and public safety building will be developed). In 1912 the population of Sequim was 600 and the chief industries were dairy farming, tree fruit, small fruit and grass products, hay, potatoes and other produce.

In 1913 the city leaders decide to pursue incorporation and on the 19th of July, 79 villagers sign a petition to incorporate. On October 14, 1913, an election is held and by 90 to 66 votes (58%), the measure passes. Sequim files papers on October 31, 1913 and is officially an incorporated town in Washington State. The town is 440 acres, about one mile north-south and three quarters

of a mile east-west, centered about the crossroads of today's Sequim Avenue and Washington Street.

Soon after incorporation, the town sees railroad service arrive to the peninsula and the first railroad trestle built in 1913. The first Sequim High School Class graduates in 1915,

and the Women's Club circulates the first collection of



"library" books. The first airplane to come to town in 1914 and someone tries to drill for oil. In 1914 the first Town Hall is built and is dedicated on April 25th of that year.



Jilson White is the new town's first Mayor and local government quickly begins to take shape, building the new municipal corporation. Ordinances for taxing, impounding and public

safety are some of the first early acts of the new town council. With the coming of the horseless carriage, speed limits are imposed – 15 mph for cars and *8 mph for horses!*

The first fire department is started in 1914 – all volunteer, establishing a tradition that is

still vital today. In 1915 passenger rail service begins between Sequim and Port Angeles. By



WW I Soldiers

marketing center for the Olympic Peninsula.

By the early 1930s, bonds are being passed to expand utility services, the first sewer system is built and Sequim has already experienced its first crimes. More ordinances are passed to prohibit concealed weapons, close pool halls, prohibit gambling/swindling and provide a structure for paying fines.

Through this time and up to WWII, Sequim's industry is essentially agricultural and growth remains vigorous (In the run up to the war, the Sequim High School athletic field becomes the

Olympic Peninsula HQ for troops). Sequim's landmark grain elevator, the tallest building in the area, was built in



1945 (and operated until 1977) to accommodate grain production. It was part of

this time it is clear that Sequim is the undisputed agriculture

the Clallam Co–Op and still bears a faint sign to that effect.

After the Second World War, things begin to change for Sequim. Farm land is quickly being annexed into the city; from 1948 to 1966, 200 acres are added to the city, and in the next eight years after that another 370 acres is added. After the war the nation was prosperous and folks were on the move; the “retirement” migration to Sequim had already begun, although quietly at first–by 1968 the population had grown to 1,400. In 1966 an article in a nationally syndicated column is written touting Sequim as an ideal retirement spot – within the first week after publication of this article there are over 3,000 inquiries to the Chamber of Commerce offices and it is the dawn of a new era for Sequim.

In 1968, in response to the rapid growth, the first Planning Commission is formed; its mission – to plan land use for the city and within a one mile radius beyond the city limits. In 1972 the first City Comprehensive Plan is adopted.

During this time of transition, we see other notable hallmarks of city development: in 1968 the first compacting garbage truck is bought (no more flatbed garbage collecting in the wind!), the Bank of Sequim opens (on the corner where the current Bank of America Park is located), First Federal Bank opens its first

branch in 1972, and the same year Peoples Bank opens on the old Sinclair/Green House Hotel corner where US Bank resides today. Around this same time the Town Caucus is abolished in favor of Council and Mayor General Elections.

Also in 1972, the Senior Citizen organization is formed and the old Town Hall is used for their headquarters. In 1973 the current city hall offices are built and house the Clerk’s Office, the Council Chambers, the Police Station and a radio communications center. (This was possible because the Council had the foresight to purchase the land 15 years earlier.) This is also the time during which local water and sewer fell under state scrutiny. Water sources shifted from being pulled directly out of the Dungeness River to establishing deep wells, caissons and infiltration trenches.

In 1973 the citizens vote to change from “Town of Sequim” to “City of Sequim” and the council changes from a five–member to a seven–member body. At this time, unlike today, the City Clerk and Attorney were also elected. The city also adopts its first Uniform Building Codes and this is the period when much of the current, older city center landscape is built: Boardwalk Square, Creamery Square, the first “super market” (the D&L Grocery today) and Bandits Pizza (now HWY 101 Diner). Also at this time city’s first

significant park is developed jointly by the city and the Lion's Club on property acquired from the Blake family and named in honor of (Mrs.) Carrie Blake.

In 1974, the city buys the old 7th Day Adventist Church site adjacent to city hall and builds the Sequim Community Center (where the Transit Center is today); the Senior Center organization incorporates and takes up residency in the new community center and also provides scheduling services for the facility; Sequim youth move into the old town hall vacated by the seniors, and the police now have a staff of five (Chief, Sergeant and 3 patrol officers, plus a reserve officer and a radio crew).

Since the 1970s, the retirement movement to Sequim has shaped the economy significantly, but more recently we have seen a resurgence of agriculture (in response to a national growing interest in locally grown, fresh and organic food). Beginning in the late 1970s,



the Fifth Avenue retirement center is built in town, Sunland and Dungeness

Golf and Country Clubs are developed in the valley outside the city, Nash's Organic Farms is started, the first lavender farmers start a

festival to help support growth in their emerging industry, and the Washington's oldest continuing community festival – the Sequim Irrigation Festival – continues to celebrate the resource that made Sequim grow.

Today and the Future:

Our community's future economic prosperity is mutually interdependent on the successes of our neighbors and partners. Today, through persistence and

determination, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has become



First JKT Community Center

one of our area's most important economic driving forces. Under the leadership of W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chair since 1977, the many S'Klallam leaders who have worked on Tribal Council and tribal committees, and the tribal staff who have worked on the Tribe's behalf for the past 30 years, the Tribe has become a highly collaborative, well-respected partner in dozens of programs. As the Tribe succeeds in the areas of economic development, health care, natural resources, cultural preservation and the arts, the City of Sequim's vitality is increased. The Tribe is now the second largest employer in Clallam County with

approximately 600 employees who work for the Tribe directly or one of the Tribally-owned enterprises. The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe is one of the largest contributors to county revenue through employee taxes and supporting local vendor businesses. The Tribe also preserves, promotes, and perpetuates its cultural identity through educating youth; maintain traditional events and functions, and participating in annual canoe journeys with other neighboring Tribes.

Battelle Memorial and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory also represent exciting and new economic opportunity. PNNL is at the center of the research and development of tidal based energy solutions and other related technologies and promises to open doors for new business and manufacturing opportunities. Also, The Olympic Medical Center continues to expand its presence in Sequim and is a major employer of family wage jobs.

Along with a strong entrepreneurial heritage, a vast and diverse resource in our retirees, the vision of our major employers and partners, we also continue to strengthen our arts and cultural assets; restaurants, museums, galleries, and a vibrant downtown shopping district all contribute to attracting new businesses, talent and residents to our community.

Today Sequim has become the center on the North Olympic Peninsula for the locally grown, fresh food movement, agro-tourism and wine production. The city is also a major stop for regional travelers in pursuit of new culinary experiences, an ecotourism destination, the gateway to the Olympic wilderness and offers a wide range of water-based recreational opportunities. This place we call home continues to attract people and to inspire all who comes to visit, to stay, and to be a part of our exceptional community.

Presently, there are 14 properties that are on the National Register of Historic Places in the vicinity of Sequim:

1. New Dungeness Light Station
2. McAlmond House
3. Dungeness School
4. Joseph and Elizabeth Eberle Farm
5. Port Williams
6. Jack Frost Farm
7. Sequim Town Hall
8. Sequim Opera House
9. Gierin Farmstead
10. Jackson Brothers Barn
11. Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower
12. Bagley Lake Farm Tunnel
13. Emery Farmstead
14. Blue Mountain School

About this telling of Sequim's history:

The style of writing occasionally has mixed verb tenses in different paragraphs; this is not entirely intentional, however as the summary evolved from so many different sources, each using a different verb tense in relating activities from the past the author has decided to leave this inconsistency as a character of the work—part “diary” part historical reference.

This work is not meant to be an authoritative history. Facts were checked when possible however much of the reference material consulted was transcribed aural history; memories of those who had lived through the times described or stories they remembered hearing their parents or grandparents tell retold decades after the actual events. Some of the material is history formally reconstructed, some of it likely from sources like the stories noted above.

There is also, obviously, a great many more individuals who helped make the town in the early years and throughout Sequim's history and notable events that were not included. Following is a list of resources and references that were used in the writing for those interested in doing more reading about Sequim or research on pioneers and their families, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe or other related topics.

Organizations:

Museum and Arts Center:

www.macsequim.org/research-services.html

The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe “House of Seven Generations” Digital Collections:

www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org

Books/Miscellaneous material:

SEQUIM PIONEER FAMILY HISTORIES FROM:

1850 – W.W.II/Museum and Arts Center, Sequim, Washington, 2000

SEQUIM PIONEER FAMILY HISTORIES FROM:

1850 – 1962/Museum and Arts Center, Sequim, Washington, 2000

DUNGENESS: THE LURE OF A RIVER/Sequim Bicentennial History Book Committee/Museum and Arts Center, Sequim, Washington

THE SEVEN BROTHERS OF THE HOUSE OF STE-
TEE-THLUM/Mary Ann Lambert, 1961/Museum and Arts Center, Sequim, Washington

SHARING OUR MEMORIES/Jamestown S’Klallam Elders, 2001 /Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Blyn, Washington

THIRTY YEARS AND TIME IMMEMORIAL:
COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE OFFICAL FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE
JAMESTOWN S’KLALLAM TRIBE 1981 –
2011/2011, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Blyn, Washington

JAMESTOWN S’KLALLAM TRIBE HISTORY FOR
SEQUIM CENTENNIAL(White Paper prepared by Betty Oppenheimer, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Publications Specialist, 2011, Blyn, Washington

Internet Sources:

<http://www.newspaperarchive.com/port-angeles-evening-news/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Pacific_Northwest_Coast

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleo-Indians>

<http://www.skagitriverjournal.com/WA/OlyPen/Indians1-SKlallamChemakumJarman.html>

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8555

http://sequimgazette.com/guest-opinion/article.exm/2010-08-25_klallam_language_reveals_origins_of_local_names

For more research on the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe contact:

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