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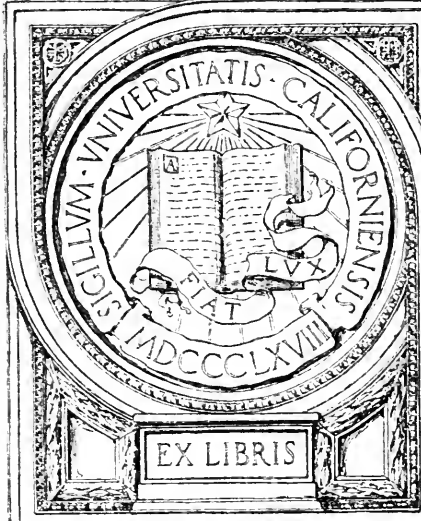
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BEFORE THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE

# Proposal to Change the Name of Mount Rainier



STATEMENT OF CHARLES TALLMADGE CONOVER

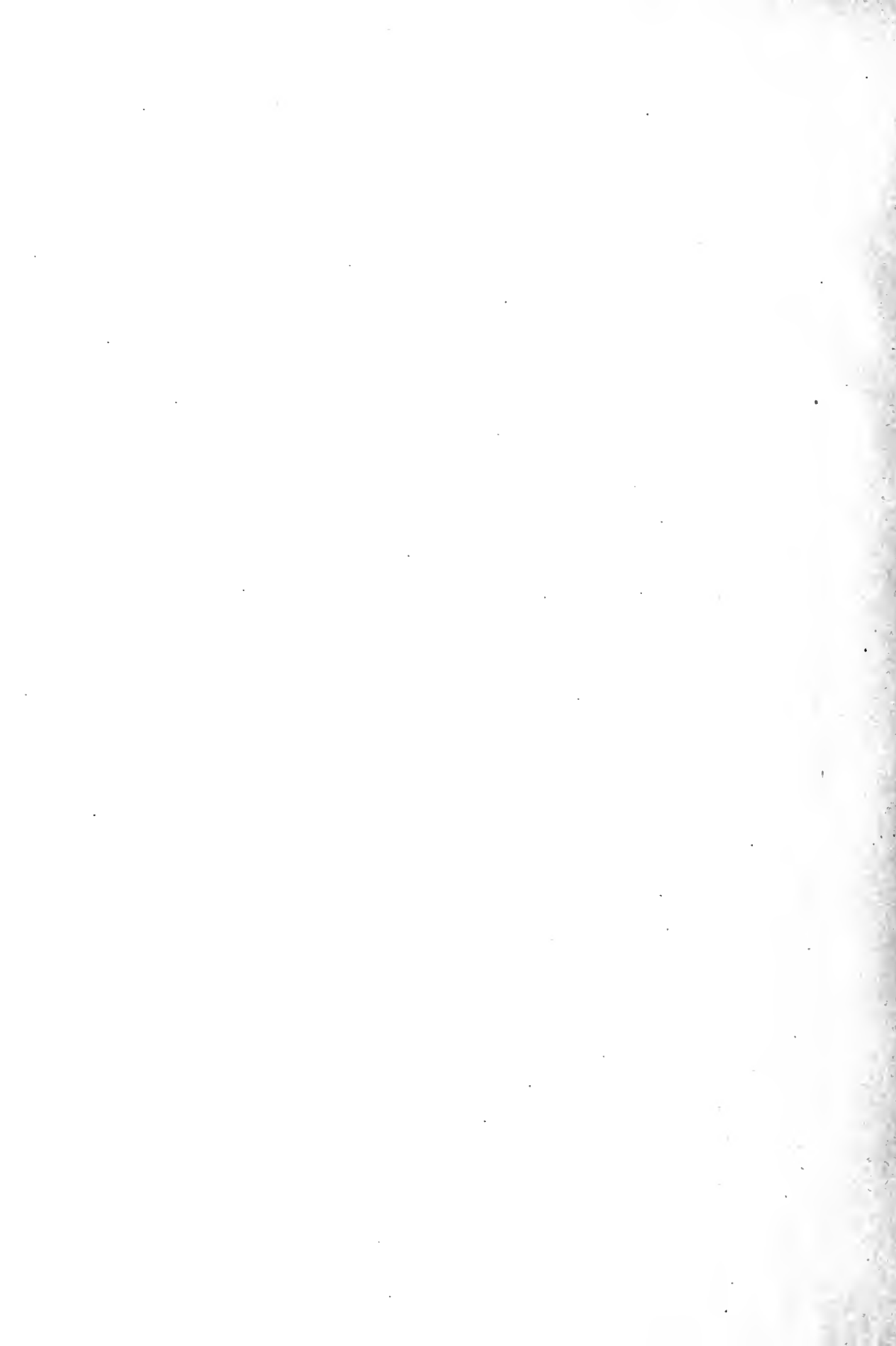
REPRESENTING NUMEROUS CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE PRESENT  
NAME, AND ORAL PRESENTATION BY C. T.  
CONOVER AND VICTOR J. FARRAR

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The Decision



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BEFORE THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE

# Proposal to Change the Name of Mount Rainier



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REPRESENTING NUMEROUS CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE PRESENT  
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The Decision

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This hearing is held in compliance with a joint-memorial of the legislature of the state of Washington petitioning your Honorable Body to substitute for the name Mount Rainier the most appropriate name that you may select after having given a hearing to those who may desire to present evidence. The original joint-memorial which passed the house and was killed in the senate on a point of order as to its form and by ridicule was in these words:

IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. ELLIOTT.

## House Concurrent Resolution No. 8

### STATE OF WASHINGTON

FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

January 15, 1917, read first and second time, ordered printed, and referred to  
Committee on Memorials.

#### RELATING TO CHANGING THE NAME OF MOUNT RAINIER

To the Honorable, the Members of the Geographic Board of the United States. Sirs:

WHEREAS, The name of the great mountain peak of the Cascade range, situate in the State of Washington, is a matter of unending controversy among the citizens thereof, many of whom (and these for the most part among those most closely associated with it) always have refused and still refuse to call it by the official designation Rainier, but insist that a name by which it was known to the aborigines is in every way more appropriate; and

WHEREAS, The reason given by these citizens for said refusal, that the name Rainier was bestowed by the so-called discoverer, Vancouver, an Englishman, to honor a friend of his in the English navy, one Peter Rainier, who never saw the mountain nor had any other association with it whatever such as would entitle him to such honor and distinction, and that, instead, said Rainier at the time of the American Revolution, when we were fighting for liberty, was actively engaged as an enemy against us and was effective in harassing and destroying our ships of commerce, it being a matter of history that he captured and carried away the ship Polly from the American coast—these reasons, set forth in a petition signed by a considerable number of the citizens of this State and submitted to this Legislature seem to us reasonable and to form substantial cause upon which to base this memorial to your honorable body, we therefore respectfully submit these following facts for your consideration, namely:

(1) That the name Rainier is objectionable for the reason here already set forth; and

(2) That it has been a subject of constant criticism by publicists from the country at large and has subjected the citizens of this State to humiliation through reflection upon their taste and patriotism; and

(3) That it is well known to be the custom in this and other coun-

tries to give preference to local and aboriginal names for natural physical objects where euphony permits, and that this custom, dictated by good taste and proper sentiment, is here grossly violated; and

(4) That the aboriginal name for this mountain is euphonic, meaningful and peculiarly appropriate and should be given preference on these merits without regard to the no less peculiarly inappropriate and unfortunate character of the name now officially applied; and

(5) This peak being the most stately and altogether imposing natural monument on this continent, and situate in the State called Washington, should not be given over to the honor of an enemy of our country—one who fought to prevent our securing freedom and independence.

For these reasons we respectfully petition your honorable body to substitute for the name Rainier the most appropriate of the several variations of the aboriginal name, and that you select this name after having given a hearing to those who may desire to present evidence as to what that name is as applied by the various tribes of this region, and who have always looked and still look to the mountain with awe and reverence, as to God.

And we will ever pray.

## NOT THE SENTIMENT OF THE STATE

Throughout the entire campaign which has been waged for more than two years to secure such action by the legislature of Washington, Rainier's nationality and the fact that he had served in some minor capacity in the Revolutionary War was the chief motive urged. Every member of both houses was personally visited weeks and months before the convening of the legislature and pledged, if possible, to vote for such a memorial. The argument advanced was so generally ridiculed throughout the state that it was finally abandoned in the memorial that passed. This ridicule was emphasized by memorials introduced to change the name of Mount Baker to Mount Bellingham, Mount St. Helens to Mount Chehalis, Mount Hood to Mount Portland, Puget Sound to Seattle Sound, etc., various communities apparently desiring to have named for them for advertising purposes the great natural features nearest to them respectively, reciting that they had all been named for men at one time enemies of this country, and British.

Referring to the present hearing and confirmatory of the fact that the movement for a change of name is not expressive of the sentiment of the state, the following extract from the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, April 21, 1917, is quoted:

"Within a few days the United States Geographic Board will consider the proposal to change the name of Mount Rainier, and a movement that received no inconsiderable part of its impetus as a jest will become a decidedly serious matter. The question of changing the name of the mountain has been discussed so long and with so much vehemence

on the part of the good people of Tacoma that the rest of the State until now has ceased to take it seriously.

“When the Tacoma boosters made their drive at the legislature this year many newspapers saw an opportunity to have some interurban fun. Much to the astonishment of the jocular press, the necessary formalities were achieved in the legislature and the Tacoma proposal is about to be given serious consideration.”

After the original memorial had been killed amid a wave of ridicule, the following was substituted and finally passed:

## **Senate Joint Memorial No. 14**

To the Honorable, the Members of the Geographic Board of the United States:

Your memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectively represent that,

WHEREAS, The name of the great mountain peak of the Cascade Range, situate in the State of Washington, is a matter of unending controversy among the citizens thereof, many of whom always have refused and still refuse to call it by the official designation “Rainier”,

WHEREFORE, Your memorialists respectfully petition your honorable body to substitute for the name “Rainier” the most appropriate name that you may select after having given a hearing to those who may desire to present evidence as to what that name should be.

And we will ever pray.

The action of the legislature in passing this memorial in no way represents the sentiment of the State of Washington. The campaign referred to met with no organized opposition because it was not considered possible that this Honorable Board would reverse a judgment rendered more than twenty-six years ago, after a thorough and complete investigation of the subject; and to ask it to do so seemed to the people of the state at large as impertinent as it would be to ask the supreme court of the United States to reverse a judgment previously given.

The people of the state at large had little chance to oppose that memorial. They had no concerted agency to combat the ambitions of the city of Tacoma and had no realization of the fact that the ground had been prepared for such action by the legislature.

### **POLITICAL PRESSURE**

Attention is called to the affidavit of William Bishop, born in the County of Jefferson, State of Washington, the son of a full-blooded Indian mother and he a member of the present House of Representatives of the State of Washington from the County of Jefferson and member for the past ten years, particularly these words:

“That, knowing the facts and circumstances in this matter, he opposed the passage of the joint memorial in the last session of the state legislature and unqualifiedly states that the real sentiment of both houses was opposed to the passage of the memorial asking for the change in this name; that its passage was secured through the powerful influence of the speaker of the house, who was from Tacoma, and the president of the senate, who was from Tacoma. Their influence, through the chairmen of the various committees, whom they had appointed, absolutely controlled. That the passage of said memorial was somewhat facilitated by the argument that Rainier was an Englishman and had been an enemy of this country.”

## **MUCH FORMER EVIDENCE NOT NOW AVAILABLE**

From the time of Vancouver's discovery and naming of Mount Rainier to the present day this mountain has been officially known as Rainier on all charts and publications of the United States Government and of the governments of the civilized world, and by the people of the world, excepting only those of one county in the State of Washington. The judgment of the Geographic Board has likewise been accepted by the entire world outside of the one county referred to. It is impossible at this late date to present any new evidence or anything like the first hand evidence that was available when the previous hearing by th Honorable Board was held more than twenty-six years ago, for the reason that the majority of the pioneers who knew the facts at first hand have passed away. The reason advanced for the change, that the name Rainier honored an Englishman who had been an enemy of this country, we respectfully submit has no bearing whatever.

## **WHAT A CHANGE WOULD LEAD TO**

To carry this to a logical conclusion would necessitate changing the names bestowed by Vancouver on practically all the physical features in the Pacific Northwest and the names of countless numbers of mountains, rivers, cities and natural features throughout the nation, as well as the rechristening of several of the original thirteen colonies. At this time when we are allied with the great British nation in a fight for world freedom, a change of name based on such an argument could not fail to be construed as an unfriendly act and would be a flagrant offense against national honor and good faith. If it were possible to conceive of the National Geographic Board taking such action on such grounds, it would inevitably follow that we should have to replace all historic Spanish names with others for the reason that we have since had a war with Spain, and as we are now in a conflict with Germany, we should likewise be obliged to obliterate all geographic names of German origin, as Bismarek, Berlin, and many others. The matter appears too ridiculous for discussion and was happily omitted from the final memorial, although it was the sole motive urged for the passage of said memorial. We cite the leaflet submitted herewith signed by

seventeen prominent citizens of Tacoma, headed by the mayor, and entitled, "For Justice to the Mountain", particularly this extract:

"That a petition be circulated in Seattle and Tacoma and throughout the state, asking the Geographic Board at Washington to renounce the name Rainier and adopt in its stead one of the various forms of the Indian name \* \* \* for the reason that Rainier, for whom Vancouver named the mountain, was an enemy of our country and fought against us when we were struggling for our liberty, and that to honor him with such a monument—the most majestic single peak on earth—is extremely offensive to the patriotic feeling of a people living in the state called Washington", etc.

It will be noted that the same leaflet goes to the length of quoting a member of this Board as favoring a change of name on the same ground.

Happily the right of Mount Rainier, the most sublime single scenic feature in the United States, to the name of Rainier and no other is conclusive and incontrovertible.

### **RAINIER'S TITLE UNASSAILABLE**

**"The weather was serene and pleasant and the country continued to exhibit between us and the eastern snowy range the same luxurious appearance. At its northern extremity Mount Baker bore by compass N. 22E, the round snowy mountain now forming its southern extremity and which, after my friend, Rear-Admiral Rainier, I distinguished by the name of MOUNT RAINIER, bore N. (S.) 42E."** (Captain George Vancouver: *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Round the World*, London, 1801, Book II, Chapter IV, Page 79, entry of May 8, 1792).

The accepted right of early discoverers in a new country with uncivilized inhabitants, or with no inhabitants, to confer geographic names has never been traversed by geographic authority. Such, in almost verbatim language, is the precept laid down by George Davidson, for many years identified with the United States Coast Survey and author of the *Pacific Coast Pilot* and other monumental geographic works. (George Davidson in *Sierra Club Bulletin*, Jan., 1907, page 89.) This principle is so universally accepted and so generally observed that it is hardly necessary to cite multitudinous examples or apologies for the few exceptions. In Vancouver's application of names he was conforming to the precepts of his day and to his profession. All the names which he bestowed have been retained. Only one, "Rainier", has been questioned.

In his explorations in the northwest country Vancouver was first to reach some parts and second and even third to reach other parts; thus Gray beat him in the race to the River of the West, but Vancouver, recognizing his defeat, followed the time-honored precept and retained the name "Columbia", which Gray gave to this river. Vancouver further honored Gray by naming Gray's Harbor for him, because he (Gray) was first to enter it. Other explorers on the coast at the same time were the Spanish. It has since developed that that nation made extensive surveys and added many names to the geographic features thereof. Unfortunately, due to Spanish indifference, these maps did not appear until the beginning of the nineteenth century. Had they appeared earlier Vancouver would most certainly have incorporated the Spanish nomenclature in his maps.

## **INDIAN NAME HAS NO RIGHT OVER CIVILIZED NAME**

The argument has been repeatedly advanced that the name Rainier should be disposed and the aboriginal name restored. Even if a specific Indian name had been proven, and there are four with titles quite well confirmed, such an assumption has no warrant in fact. An explorer may bestow any name that he may choose, and long usage and official recognition give it a title. The map of the State of Washington discloses hundreds of names of civilized origin replacing aboriginal appellations. Thus the city of Tacoma has its Indian name "Shubballup," but its inhabitants have shown no desire to return to the aboriginal title.

## **NEVER QUESTIONED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Thus, by priority of discovery, and by publicity to the world, Vancouver made good his claim to name the highest peak in the now State of Washington Mount Rainier. That claim has never been questioned by competent authority. All official publications of the United States Government, of international governments, all maps, charts, profiles, etc., of explorers, whether representing official governments or not, have, by the retention of the name Mount Rainier, substantiated Vancouver's claim. Further, in the vast majority of private works, in the conversations, letters, communications, etc., of pioneers and private citizens, and in a vast majority of advertising by legitimate exploiters of the mountain, the claim of Vancouver has been substantiated. From 1792 until 1917, no competent authority has shaken Vancouver's claim.

## **GEOGRAPHER COULD NOT ASSIST THE MOVEMENT**

In support of the inviolability of the title of Mount Rainier we particularly call attention to the Sierra Club Bulletin of San Francisco, January, 1907, pages 87-99 inclusive, embracing a report to the directors of the club by George

Davidson, of the United States Coast Survey, author of the Pacific Coast Pilot and other important geographic works. This is the most thorough and able discussion of the present controversy that probably has ever appeared. It is too long to quote in this paper, but the first and last sentences are most pertinent:

“To the Directors of the Sierra Club, San Francisco, Gentlemen: You have assigned to me the duty of making a report for your consideration upon the subject proposed by Mr. Charles F. Lummis, namely, to assist in having the name of Mount Rainier changed to Mount Tacoma. \* \* \* This examination has extended beyond what we expected to present, yet it seemed desirable not to appeal to any local prejudices, but to lead through good authority to that of the highest governmental decree. And we respectfully submit that in this instance such decree is in conformity with the usage of historians, geographers and government records through more than a century; therefore, we suggest that the Sierra Club can take no action whatever in urging the use of the new name proposed for Mount Rainier.”

We will also quote the following pertinent sentences from the exhaustive and impartial report of Davidson:

“George Vancouver did not ignore Indian names when he could obtain them from the Spaniards and fur traders. \* \* \*

“In Vancouver’s application of names—and he was far from prolific—he was conforming to the precepts of his day and profession. That method has been followed to the present time. It is seen in the latest Antarctic Explorations. \* \* \*

“Vancouver’s names upon this western coast are part of the history of geographical discovery and exploration permanently given to the world in his narrative and charts and have been unchallenged by geographers of all nationalities.”

## OTHER EFFORTS AT NOMENCLATURE

In 1839 Hall J. Kelley, of Boston, Mass., in the interest of the American side of the “Oregon Question”, issued a memoir (in Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Report, No. 101, 25 C., 3S., Serial No. 351, pp. 47-61) in which he urged that the Cascade Mountains be called the Presidents’ Range and that the various peaks therein be named after the ex-presidents of the United States. Kelley put this system of nomenclature into operation upon his own authority. He distributed the presidents’ names from Washington to Jackson on such peaks as he saw fit. He ran out of ex-presidents’ names and, therefore, did not depose Mount Rainier. J. Quinn Thornton, in 1849, carried Kelley’s scheme further and removed Rainier in favor of Harrison (Oregon and California, New York, 1849, Vol. I, p 316). A third exponent extended the list to include Tyler (L. W. Hastings: A New Description of Oregon and California, Cincinnati, 1857, pp 24-26). By that time there appeared some

rivalry and confusion among the Kelley exponents, and Mount Baker sometimes appears as Mount Tyler and at other times as Mount Polk. This system never had official or local usage. One would have to get a book or check-list to keep the names straight. The system was, in fact, only a historical curiosity.

## THE CITY OF TACOMA NAMED

In 1863 Theodore Winthrop, in a posthumous work ("The Canoe and Saddle") referred to Mount Rainier as "Tacoma", without any "Mount." In August, 1868, General McCarver, one of the townsite owners of the present city of Tacoma, employed Charles A. White, an Olympia civil engineer, to survey and map a portion of his land for townsite purposes. In doing this White placed upon the map the words, "Commencement City". The word Commencement was secured from the official name of the bay, a name bestowed by Wilkes in 1841. At the suggestion of Mr. McCarver, who had just read Theodore Winthrop's book, the name was changed to Tacoma.

## RAINIER HISTORICALLY CONFIRMED BY TACOMA

From this time, 1868 until 1883, the name Mount Rainier was used continuously by the people of Tacoma as the name of the mountain. Nobody questioned the right of the mountain to be known as Rainier. On December 15, 1879, the *Tacoma North Pacific Coast* says: "Back of Steilacoom are the gravelly plains, interspersed with beautiful lakes and groves. In the rear ground of this natural park stands majestic Rainier". (Original submitted.)

Under date of January 1, 1880, the same paper prints a poem by Belle W. Cooke, entitled "Mount Tacoma"; also a reprint of an article by Hazard Stevens entitled "The Ascent of Takhoma". In the same issue is this editorial comment:

**"In the poem by Mrs. Cooke and in Hazard Stevens' 'Ascent' of Mount Rainier, which we republish from the 'Atlantic', we have followed the author's spelling. We do not suppose that names so well established as are Puget Sound, Mount Rainier, Straits of Juan de Fuca, can be changed by an author's sentiment or an editor's whim, so we shall continue to apply the name of the old English Rear-Admiral to our mountain and call it Rainier."**

From that time on until the middle of the year 1883 the *North Pacific Coast* continued that policy. The same use of Mount Rainier was made by the *Tacoma Weekly Ledger* and the *Tacoma News*. Attention is respectfully called to articles appearing in the following issues, which are submitted herewith:



In the *North Pacific Coast*, December 15, 1879, is reprinted an article from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, written by R. F. Radebaugh, with this sentence: "The pass is to the south of Mount Rainier about twenty miles and was recently discovered as feasible", etc.

Mr. Radebaugh was the owner and publisher of the *Tacoma Ledger* at the time of the edict of the Northern Pacific Railroad to change the name of the mountain to "Mount Tacoma", and was thereafter one of the most pronounced advocates of the Name "Tacoma". This is stated on personal knowledge, as the writer was on the staff of his paper somewhat later.

*Tacoma News*, November 16, 1882, an article entitled "Approaching Mount Rainier."

*Tacoma Weekly Ledger*, July 7, 1882, item referring to glaciers on Mount Rainier.

*Tacoma Weekly Ledger*, November 17, 1882, quotation from *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* regarding Mount Rainier.

*Tacoma Weekly Ledger*, January 5, 1883, an article regarding the cutting of a new trail to the glaciers on Mount Rainier.

*Tacoma News*, February 22, 1883, an article embracing a description of sunset on Mount Rainier. Also an article descriptive of glacial formations of Mount Rainier by a party of young men.

*Tacoma Weekly Ledger*, February 23, 1883, an article on New Tacoma, referring to the snow-capped summit of Mount Rainier.

*North Pacific Coast*, March 30, 1881, "The loftiest peaks of the Cascade chain are in order of height as follows: Mt. St. Elias in Alaska, 22,000 feet; Mount Rainier in Washington, 18,000 feet", etc.

In most of the above issues appears the following lodge notice: "Rainier Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F., meets on Tuesday evenings at the Masonic Hall. Members in good standing invited."

## EDICT ISSUED TO CHANGE THE NAME

In March, 1883, the *Northwest Magazine*, published in New York by the Northern Pacific Railroad, announced that, "The Indian name Tacoma will hereafter be used in the guide books and other publications of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Oregon Railway & Navigation Co., instead of Rainier, which the English Captain Vancouver gave to this magnificent peak when he explored the waters of Puget Sound in the last century." This was the beginning of the movement to change the name of the mountain.

Immediately thereafter the Tacoma newspapers, which, since the date of their first issues, has been using the name Rainier, began to use the word "Tacoma" when referring to the mountain, and attempted to ridicule all who did not do likewise.

Numerous photographic copies of Tacoma papers are submitted showing their change of policy as to the title of the mountain immediately following the Northern Pacific's edict, "Tacoma" being substituted for Rainier.

Despite the fact that Mount Rainier was by mandate of the Northern Pacific changed to "Mount Tacoma", the Tacoma newspapers occasionally forget to use "Mount Tacoma". As late as July 19, 1884, in the *Tacoma News*, Mount Rainier appears. What confusion this double use of a name created is made clear from a contributed article published in the *Daily Tacoma News* on July 12, 1884: "I went out to Mt. Tacoma—which, by the way, is Mt. Rainier everywhere except in Tacoma—about sixty miles from the city."

*Tacoma News*, July 19, 1884, says: "Hon. James Longmire, of Yelm, has obtained an analysis of Mt. Rainier Medical Springs", etc.

## MOUNTAIN NAMED AFTER THE CITY

We are loath to quote from that mass of inaccurate statement labelled "History of Washington, the Evergreen State, from Early Dawn to Daylight", by Julian Hawthorne (but in fact by C. G. Brewerton), New York, 1893, but even in this work, at page 264, appears this truth, with only one error—that of the orthography of the word Rainier:

"Vancouver, to compliment some British naval officer, whose fame by the way, so far as we are able to discover, is in no wise, save possibly as a casual visitor, in any way connected with the exploration of Puget Sound, called it Regnier. This name afterward corrupted to Rainier, was generally accepted by the early settlers up to the time of the completion of the Northern Pacific to Tacoma; then renaming the mountain after the city, the company called it Mount "Tacoma."

## MOVEMENT FOR A STATE OF TACOMA

Before the name Tacoma was even used unanimously in the city of Tacoma, as a designation for Mount Rainier, this article appeared in the *Yakima Signal*, May, 1884: "The proposition to name our future state Tacoma is strongly opposed by papers throughout the Territory. While all are agreed that the name ought by all means to be changed at time of admission to statehood, it is also generally agreed that to name the state Tacoma would not improve matters much and that some name should be selected which is not now appropriated by any city, and that this name should, if possible, have *some geographical or topographical significance.*" \* \* \* (Italics ours.)

Hon. Cornelius H. Hanford, for twenty-three years judge of the United States District Court in the State of Washington, who has spent his life from earliest infancy in the territory and state and is a recognized authority on pioneer history, says:

“A few months prior to the passage by Congress of the Enabling Act under which the states of Washington, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted into the Union, I attended a convention of citizens of Washington Territory held for the purpose of devising means whereby to obtain admission of Washington Territory into the Union as a state. That convention was held at North Yakima, a city near the geographical center of the territory, and the attendance was fairly representative of all parts of the territory. Tacoma propagandists were there urging the adoption of that name for the state, and the subject was referred to a committee, which made a report strongly adverse to changing the name of the commonwealth, and that report was adopted enthusiastically by the convention.” (See statement by C. H. Hanford.)

## **RAINIER TITLE OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED**

The efforts to substitute “Mount Tacoma” for Mount Rainier were continued with unabated ardor until 1890, when the matter was referred to the United States Board of Geographic Names, which body, after a complete investigation, confirmed the name “Mount Rainier.” This decision removed any existing doubt as to the rightful claim of the title Mount Rainier. This decision was accepted as final by all the world excepting the City of Tacoma, which has ignored the decision and has persisted in using “Mount Tacoma”, thus defying the body whom they now petition.

Even the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, which had been responsible for the entire controversy, yielded to the decision of the Geographic Board and adopted the name Rainier on all its literature, and has continued to do so from 1890 to the present day. In an article in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 13, 1916, the general passenger agent of the Northern Pacific was quoted as saying to a delegation of Tacoma people who had protested against the use of the name Rainier: “Gentlemen, we have carried this farce as far as we are going to for advertising purposes. The name has been officially declared to be Rainier, and that is what we shall call it. You can call it what you please.”

Since Mount Rainier has a perfect title, by what authority then can the name “Mount Tacoma” be substituted therefor? Only by decision of the United States Geographic Board.

The question, then, is, is such a change desirable and advisable?

The genuineness of “Tacoma” as the Indian name of Mount Rainier is entirely without proof, as the following particular facts indicate:

## INDIAN NAME FOR MOUNT RAINIER

Other designations of Indian origin are matters of historical record. In 1833 Dr. William Frasier Tolmie gives the Indian name of the mountain as "Puskehouse". Dr. Tolmie was born in Inverness, Scotland, February 5, 1812, and died on December 8, 1886. He was educated at Glasgow University, where he graduated in August, 1832. He later became a Licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. On September 12, 1832, he accepted a position as surgeon and clerk with the Hudson's Bay Co. and left home for the Columbia River, arriving at Fort Vancouver in 1833. In the service of the Hudson's Bay Company he traveled and resided in all portions of the north-west country. In 1855 he was appointed Chief Factor, and in 1858 had full charge of the British case before the United States tribunal. Dr. Tolmie was known to ethnologists for his contributions to the history of the native races of the west coast, and dated his interest in ethnological matters from his contact with Horatio Hale, who visited the west coast as ethnologist to the United States Exploring Expedition. He afterwards transmitted vocabularies of a number of tribes to Dr. Scouler and to Mr. George Gibbs, some of which were published in contributions to the *North American Ethnologist*. In 1884, in conjunction with Dr. G. M. Dawson, a complete series of short vocabularies of the principal languages met with in the northwest was published by authority of Parliament entitled, "Comparative Vocabularies of the Indian Tribes of British Columbia". Dr. Tolmie, under date of May 26, 1833, records the following in his diary, kept while on a journey from Ft. Vancouver to Ft. Nisqually:

"The prairie now seemed encircled with trees, which arose a bristling serrated wall around, St. Helens bearing east towards high, unenclosed magnificence, and the other mountain, called by the Indians 'Puskehouse' (Rainier) bore E. N. E., at summit divided into rounded eminences, with a narrow, intervening hollow, to form suggesting the vulgar comparison with that of Dunbarton rock for ages has been the highest and most easterly eminence, and has a black, precipitous face, while the remainder is nestled in snow. The ascent seems most practical to the S. E., by which the precipice is avoided."

The close trading connection of the Hudson's Bay Company with the Indians of all tribes makes this the most authoritative testimony in the world.

If any name has a claim to be perpetuated after Rainier, that name is most certainly Puskehouse.

## ANOTHER INDIAN NAME

Other competent authorities have stated that Tacoma was not the Indian name of the mountain, and have advanced other names which are Indian. F.

H. Whitworth came to Washington Territory in the year 1854 and has been a resident of that territory and state ever since, and for a number of years was interpreter for the Superintendency of Indian Affairs for Washington, while C. H. Hale and Mr. Waterman were Superintendents of Indian Affairs during the administrations of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. At that time Mr. Whitworth's father, Rev. George F. Whitworth, was president of the University of Washington, and he was also the founder of the First Presbyterian Church in Seattle. F. H. Whitworth further was instructor in that institution for a number of years. By profession he is a civil engineer, and his duties have given him an intimate acquaintance with the territory and state. Mr. Whitworth states as follows:

"In all that time I have never heard the mountain referred to by them (the Indians) as anything but 'Stiquak' (or 'Tiswauk'), 'Lanier' (R is L on an Indian's tongue), or 'Lalemite' (the mountain). I have never heard the name Tacoma applied to the mountain by any Indian; nor had I ever heard this name applied to the mountain by any white man until after the publication of Theodore Winthrop's *Canoe and Saddle*." (See affidavit of F. H. Whitworth.)

### CONFIRMATION OF TISWAUK

Samuel L. Crawford was a native of Oregon and resided in the Territory and State of Washington from earliest youth. He was a pioneer journalist and until the time of his death last year one of the leading authorities on historical matters in the Pacific Northwest and an ex-president of the Pioneers' Association of Washington. In an interview with him published in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 13, 1916, he recites that in early days in Olympia Peter Stanup and he were employed on the *Olympia Echo*, and were close friends through life; that Stanup was the son of Jonas, a sub-chief of the Puyallup Indians and was doubtless the best educated Indian on Puget Sound. (The *Tacoma Ledger*, Friday, July 7, 1882, submitted herewith, confirms this estimate in these words: "Much interest was added to the occasion by an oration delivered by P. C. Stanup, probably the best educated and most intelligent young Indian on the Pacific Coast".) Mr. Crawford stated that Peter Stanup studied for the Presbyterian ministry, preached for seven years, also studied law and was admitted to the bar. Crawford then says:

"Peter told me long before Tacoma (the city) was really on the map or before the name Rainier had ever been challenged that the Indian name of the mountain was 'Tiswauk,' and that all snow-clad mountain ranges were called 'Tacobed.' The Puyallups were, of course, the nearest tribe to the mountain, living almost in its shadow, and they and visiting tribes called it 'Tiswauk,' Peter said.

"In later years, when the controversy about the name of the mountain had arisen, Peter advised me that there was nothing to the claim that the Indian name of the mountain was Tacoma; that Tacoma is not an

Indian name and that no Indian could pronounce it. No one ever heard the name applied to the mountain until the Northern Pacific Railroad entered Tacoma in 1873, except the few who had read Winthrop's 'Canoe and Saddle.' \* \* \* I am fond of Indian nomenclature, and to settle the controversy would agree to what I have no doubt is the old Indian name, 'Tiswauk.' (See affidavit of C. T. Conover and the manuscript biography of S. L. Crawford.)

## AND STILL ANOTHER INDIAN NAME

Puskehouse, Stiquak and Tiswauk have still another rival for the right to the Indian title, as note the following from the Washington State Historical Society publications, volume II, page 444:

"Bellingham, Wash., March 31, 1908.

"Benjamin L. Harvey, Esq., 2612 N. Puget Sound Ave, Tacoma, Wash.

"DEAR SIR: Since I wrote you the other day I have talked with Father Boulet, the missionary I mentioned, who has spent the greater part of his lifetime among the various tribes of Indians on Puget Sound. As I told you his version of the matter of names applied to the mountains along the coast, I should regard as authentic. He tells me the word 'Ta-ho-ma' does not mean 'the great mountain', but 'White Rock'; that it was the Indian name for Mount Baker, and was applied to this mountain exclusively. The name applied to the mountain southeast of Tacoma by the Puyallup Indians was 'Tu-ah-ku', the meaning of which I have forgotten, if indeed it was given to me. The discussion of the ancient Indian lore is beginning to interest me, and I shall take occasion to ascertain the meaning of this last word when next I meet the old missionary.

"Yours very truly,

"ROSS WELCH, Secretary."

In the same volume, page 458, is a letter from the late Thomas W. Prosch, founder of the *Pacific Tribune* in Tacoma, and until his death a leading authority on historical matters in Washington. This extract from said letter is to some extent confirmatory of the Welch letter:

"\* \* \* \* \* It is new to me that Baker was Tahoma, and probably is or will be to other citizens. That Rainier was Tuahku among the Indians has at least partial confirmation in one quarter. Myron Eells, one of the best informed and most conscientious of our writers upon such subjects, in an article published in the *American Anthropologist* for January, 1892, said:

"'A very intelligent Puyallup Indian, whose reservation is near the foot of the mountain, told me that it means "the mountain", being pronounced by his people "Takoha", but that this was not the name by which the Indians originally called it, as their name was "Tuwaku" or "Twah-wauk."'"

This letter was addressed to Benjamin L. Harvey, Tacoma, and was dated September 18, 1908.

## TACOMA NOT A GENUINE INDIAN WORD OF PUGET SOUND

Dr. Charles Milton Buchanan, for twenty-five years superintendent at the Tulalip Indian Reservation, Tulalip, Wash., conceded by Prof. Edmond S. Meany, professor of history of the University of Washington, to be the best living authority on Indian languages and who is the author of many ethnological works, in a letter to Benj. L. Harvey, Tacoma, Wash., under date of April 17, 1908, writes:

"I do not believe that the word 'Tacoma' is known to any of the native tribes of the Puget Sound region as, generically, a genuine Indian word of this region. I have commonly believed it to be (even before I knew of the claims of the city of Tacoma, Washington) an Indian word of Algonquian origin, and by the Algonquian stock applied to objects of unusual altitude, or, as some of them express it, 'almost up to the sky' or 'almost up to heaven'. You will find that Tacoma, Washington, is very, very far indeed from being either the first or the only possessor of the right to and use of this name. You will find a Tacoma in Florida, and in Virginia, as well as in Washington. You will find a Tacoma in Nevada, and a Tekome in Nebraska—you will even find a Tacoma in Mexico. In this connection it is to be recalled that Indian orthography is far from being absolute, since few, if any, Indian tongues are written tongues *per se*, and such spelling as exists is the effort (more often faulty than otherwise) of the white man to express (in his way) an Indian word. It will therefore readily occur to you that the word Tacoma is very far from having any particular or peculiar local significance so far as this vicinity or state may be concerned.

"The Puyallup Indians and the Tulalip Indians both speak dialectic variants of the Niskwalli linguistic root stock, which is in turn a variant of the Salishan stock. What the Puyallup word for Tacoma is, or for Mt. Rainier is, I do not know. I have long been unable to ascertain that the Tulalip Indians have ever had any special word for Rainier, other than to speak of it as the 'mountain' or 'the mountain'. Their word for mountain is 'sbah-det'. Their word for the place where Tacoma (the city of Tacoma) stands was 'Shu-bal-lup' (accent the second syllable), which means, literally, a dry place, such as one might find under a tree. With few exceptions the word 'Tacoma' and its variant forms and spellings will be found either in Algonquian territory (past or present) or somewhat adjacent thereto—or carried from either. Winthrop was born in, lived in, and died in territory subject to such conditions.

"The Government official who wrote you that the word 'Tacoma' meant 'Great Mountain' probably had in mind the Algonquian meaning of the word referred to above, as such would be a legitimate application and use of the word apparently.

"I have also heard, on good authority (by this I mean Indian authority, since it is on a subject concerning which an intelligent Indian would probably be a better authority than even an intelligent white man) that some of the tribes north of us (allied to the Clallams and the Lummis) used the word 'Tah-hoh-mah' (or a very similar word) for Mount Baker,

and that it was so used for Mount Baker exclusively. This corroborates the statement of the Reverend Father Boulet, and also practically corroborates the statement of your aforesaid U. S. Government official.

"I have heard the Reverend Father Hylebos, of Tacoma, Washington, state that the word 'Tacoma' referred to the mountain 'Rainier' and that it consisted of 'Tah-hoh-mah', meaning 'the frozen water' (snow). The allusion is obvious. I do not agree with the Father, however.

## WINTHROP FIRST TO USE TACOMA

"My own opinion is that Winthrop was the first to actually use the written word 'Tacoma' with a local application, and that in so doing he probably confused the better known Algonquian word with the word used exclusively for Mount Baker—or else that he knowingly and deliberately created fiction rather than chronicled fact." (See copies of correspondence herewith, verified by Dr. Buchanan.)

In the Washington State Historical Society publications, Vol. II, page 454, is a letter from Dr. Charles M. Buchanan, superintendent of the Tulalip Indian Agency, to Benjamin L. Harvey, of Tacoma, from which this extract is taken:

"About the middle of page 23 is a very amusing explanation claiming that 'Tacoma' is derived from 'ta' (the) 'ko' (water) and 'ma' (to scatter like snow). I heard Rev. Father Hylebos make this same statement in August, 1906. Now 'ta' in Indian is not an article, but a demonstrative pronoun indicating an object particularly pointed out. 'Ko' is used by the Indians to indicate drinking water—that is, water that is palatable. I can give a fanciful explanation just as romantic as the above—far more plausible—and just as untrue. Bear in mind that the Indian word for 'father' is 'ban', or 'bad', and remember also that 'b' and 'm' and 'p' are synonymous and interchangeable. What is the matter with 'tah' (that) 'koh' (water) and 'man', or 'mad' (father)—'that father of drinking water' (remember that the glaciers of the mountain feed the fresh-water streams radiating from the mountain)? Isn't it plausible? But it is all made out of whole cloth, and is purely imaginary."

"McCarver and Tacoma", by Thomas W. Prosch, General McCarver's son-in-law, page 166, says:

The only living participants connected with the bestowal of the name (*i. e.* Tacoma), are Samuel Hadlock and James Steel. A letter is then given from Hadlock, dated January 30, 1905, from which the following extract is made:

"Just before starting for Portland, General McCarver got Mr. Ackerson, myself, and Starr together, and asked how we would like the name Tacoma for the town. I had no objection to the name. \* \* \* That was the first time I had heard the name Tacoma, and I believed General McCarver to have been the author of it."



## “TACOMA” UNHEARD OF BEFORE WINTHROP’S VISIT

The following are extracts from a letter from Thomas W. Prosch to Benjamin L. Harvey, of Tacoma, under date of September 11, 1908, from the Washington State Historical Society publications, page 457:

“I would be glad to gratify you in the matter of the word or name Tacoma if I were able, but I am afraid it is impossible for me to do so.

“My first knowledge of the word came in 1866, when I had been a resident of Steilacoom eight years and when it was adopted as the name of a Good Templar Lodge in Olympia. I feel quite sure that prior to that time Tacoma had never appeared in any Washington Territory publication and I feel equally sure that it never appeared in print anywhere until the coming of Theodore Winthrop’s ‘Canoe and Saddle’ in 1862. I have not been able to find it in any of the written letters, diaries, narratives, or the prints of the Territory or Nation. None of the early representatives of the British or American Governments—Vancouver, Lewis and Clarke, Wilkes, Elijah White, Fremont *et al.*—seem to have heard of it, though it was directly in their line, and so also may be said of the first missionaries, the Hudson Bay men, the Governor Stevens expedition, the settlers of fifty and sixty years ago, no one, so far as I have learned, wrote the word, put it in type, or otherwise used it before Winthrop. I do not mean to say with Meeker, that Winthrop coined the word. He may have heard it, or something like it, among the Indians, and he used it in his ‘Canoe and Saddle’ book. Winthrop was a stranger, a mere passer-through, and it must have been difficult for him to communicate intelligently with the savages about him. If you don’t think so, try it on with an Indian, even now, who cannot speak the English, which was the case with the Indians generally in his day. He also wrote his book several years afterward, and then with the help of a Chinook jargon dictionary. I only mean to say that the word was not in use on Puget Sound before 1866, and that after it came to us but few of us for a number of years knew its alleged meaning. The knowledge was spread rapidly, however, after the name Tacoma was given to the town on Commencement Bay by General McCarver.”

NOTE:—Mr. Prosch was General McCarver’s son-in-law.

Aside from the “Tiswauk” or “Stiquak” of F. H. Whitworth, Indian William, Samuel L. Crawford and Peter C. Stanup, and the “Puskehouse” of William Fraser Tolmie, and Tu-ah-ku, of Father Boulet, there is an entire absence of any knowledge of any Indian names for Mt. Rainier, and an absolute denial of an Indian name on the part of many competent authorities.

### DENIAL OF A SPECIFIC INDIAN NAME

D. T. Denny was one of the original settlers of the City of Seattle, locating there in 1851. He was a man of great probity, high intelligence, and became the close friend of the Indians. He became conversant with their language talked to them in their native tongue and was recognized as their devoted friend. He interpreted for them in cases of necessity. In a letter to the Seattle

*Post-Intelligencer*, dated December 4, 1902, he says: "Coming to the country when young, I readily learned the Chinook jargon and in process of time learned to understand and speak the native Indian language common on Puget Sound. I have made careful inquiries of the Indians in regard to their name for Mount Rainier and I have found that their name was Tacobed, which really means 'Snow Mountain', and I understand that the name Tacobed applies to any mountain perpetually covered by snow. For instance, Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier or Mt. Baker would be designated as Tacobed." (See photographic copy.)

Mrs. Louisa Boren Denny, widow of said David T. Denny and since deceased, was interviewed by C. T. Conover and said interview was published in the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* March 13, 1916, in these words: "What do they want to change the name of the mountain for? They might as well change the name of the Sound, which was also named for a Britisher. No, I never heard the name Tacoma until comparatively recent years. In the early days I used to talk with the Indians a great deal, and I am sure that if they had called the mountain Tacoma I should have known it. They gave the name Tacobed to Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier, and all ranges of snow mountains in the vicinity. I know distinctly that Chief Sealth, who was one of the most intelligent Indians, always used the white man's name, Rainier, and in the early days we never knew any other name. I never knew of any Indian name for any specific mountain." (See affidavit of C. T. Conover.)

David Graham, aged 81 years, testified that he had resided continuously in the Puget Sound country since 1857, that in the early days he was a school teacher and was engaged in vocations that took him about the country a great deal, especially in Pierce and Thurston counties, and that never did he hear the mountain called anything but Rainier; that in his judgment there is no more justification for the use of the word Tacoma in this connection than there was for the attempt to name the State of Washington Tacoma when it was admitted to statehood. Mr. Graham is a high type of the pioneer, and no man in the State of Washington has a better reputation for integrity and character. (See his affidavit.)

L. W. Bonney, elder brother of the Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, testified that he is the son of Sherwood S. Bonney, who settled in Pierce County, in which the city of Tacoma is located, in 1853, and that the greater portion of his life has been lived in sight of Mt. Rainier; that he never heard the mountain called by any other name than Rainier by either Indians or whites until about 1878, or until the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's terminus was located at Tacoma. (See his affidavit.)

Cornelius H. Hanford, for twenty-three years judge of the United States

District Court in the State of Washington, and an eminent historical authority, says:

"I have lived in the territory and state of Washington since the year 1854, and so far as I have any knowledge the mountain was known by no other name than Rainier prior to the time of the location of the Northern Pacific terminus on Commencement Bay in 1873; except that in Theodore Winthrop's book, 'The Canoe and the Saddle', that writer originated the name 'Tacoma.'

"If an Indian ever gave that word or any word having a similarity of sound he probably meant to say 'Tacopec Butte', 'Tacopec' being a word of the Chinook jargon which means white and butte means hill or mountain. The designation white hill would probably be given by any Indian in lieu of a particular name for any snow-covered mountain." (See statement of Cornelius H. Hanford.)

## **TACOMA NOT AN INDIAN WORD OF THE NORTHWEST**

William Bishop, one of the largest dairy ranchers and breeders of blooded stock in the State of Washington, testifies as follows:

"That he is fifty-five years of age, was born and has lived his life in Jefferson county, state of Washington; that his mother was a full-blooded Indian of the Snohomish tribe; that he is especially familiar with matters of Indian history, and is and has been for a period of ten years a member of the house of representatives of the state of Washington from the County of Jefferson.

"That there never has been a specific Indian name for Mount Rainier; that all the Puget Sound Indians called Mount Olympus, Mount Baker, Mount St. Helens, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, and all the high snow peaks, 'Tahoma', meaning high mountain. The Nisqually and Klickitat Indians, having a more guttural pronunciation, used the word 'Tacobet' for all high peaks, the difference being purely a matter of pronunciation.

"That the word 'Tacoma' is not a word in any Indian language of the Pacific northwest, and that no Puget Sound Indian could pronounce the word 'Tacoma'." (See his affidavit.)

## **GENERAL KAUTZ, WHO MADE FIRST ASCENT USES NAME RAINIER**

Brigadier General A. V. Kautz, who was stationed at Fort Steilacoom in the fifties, made the first successful ascent of Rainier in 1857. In his account of the ascent in the *Overland Monthly*, May, 1875, he says:

"I was at that time a first lieutenant, young, and fond of visiting unexplored sections of the country, and possessed of a very prevailing passion for going to the tops of high places. My quarters fronted Mount Rainier, which is about 60 miles nearly east of Fort Steilacoom in an air line. On a clear day it does not look more than 10 miles off and looms up against the eastern sky white as the snow with which it is covered, with a perfectly clear middle outline, except at the top, which is slightly

rounded and broken. It is a grand and inspiring view and I had expressed so often my determination to make the ascent that my fellow-officers became incredulous and gave to all improbable and doubtful events a date of occurrence when I should ascend Mount Rainier."

He mentions no other name for the mountain than Rainier throughout the narrative. In honor of General Kautz's achievement one of the great glaciers on the mountain's side was named Kautz glacier.

## **MOUNTAIN RENAMED AFTER THE CITY**

Ellwood Evans, an eminent Tacoma lawyer and historian, possessor of one of the greatest historical collections in the Northwest, and who died in Tacoma many years ago, states in his *History of the Pacific Northwest*, Portland, 1889, II, p. 153:

"By the latter appellation (Rainier) it was known to all the early settlers up to the time of the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Tacoma. The railroad company then renamed the mountain after the city, claiming that to be the original word designating its title. The truth of the matter is, however, that the Puyallup Indians inhabiting the region, called all snowy peaks by the same name—Tak-ho-ma—the meaning of which, according to the translation, is 'the breast that feeds': meaning to convey the idea that from the eternal snows come the perennial water of the rivers flowing into the Sound."

## **INDIANS TAKE CUE FROM WHITES**

Ezra Meeker settled in the environs of the present city of Tacoma, in 1853, and from earliest days has been the firm friend and confidant of the Indians. He conversed with them in the native language, and in defense of one of their chiefs wrote a five hundred and fifty page volume entitled, "Pioneer Reminiscences of Puget Sound, or the Tragedy of Leschi." On page 179 he says:

"We have a like curious phenomenon in the case of Winthrop first writing the word Tacoma in September, 1853. None of the old settlers had heard that name, either through the Indians or otherwise, until after the publication of Winthrop's work ten years later, 'The Canoe and the Saddle', when it became common knowledge and was locally applied in Olympia as early as 1866, said to have been suggested by Edward Giddings of that place.

"However, as Winthrop distinctly claims to have obtained the word from the Indians, the fact was accepted by the reading public, and the Indians soon took their cue from their white neighbors.

"It is an interesting coincidence that almost within a stone's throw of where Winthrop coined the name, that we find it applied to the locality that has grown to be the great city of Tacoma."

Supporting the theory of Ezra Meeker, that Tacoma was a word incor-

porated into the Indian language from the whites, is a letter from Dr. Charles M. Buchanan, Superintendent of the Tulalip Indian Agency, to Benjamin L. Harvey, dated April 22, 1908 (Proceedings of Washington State Historical Society, page 449), from which this extract is taken:

“When I stated to you that I did not know the Puyallup Indian word for the mountain Rainier, I had in mind the word ‘Ta-ko-bid’, or ‘Tah-koh-buh’, (as some pronounce it), but I have never considered that a genuine Indian word, but merely the Indian attempt to say the word ‘Tacoma.’ Several very intelligent Indians (some of the most intelligent and reliable I have ever known) agree with me in the belief that it is merely an Indian attempt to say a word that they have heard the whites use, and this appears to confirm Meeker.”

Thomas W. Prosch, in a letter to Benjamin L. Harvey, dated September 18, 1908, Washington State Historical Society Publications, Vol. 11, page 459, along the same line says:

“\* \* \* At any rate, the Indians were always ready to adopt for themselves the personal names given them by the whites, and even more freely gave up their local names for the names substituted by the white men.”

Rolland H. Denny, aged sixty-five years, was born on Puget Sound and is the son of one of the earliest settlers in Western Washington. He is a man of high character and a leader in all important movements in the state. He testifies that he never heard the name “Tacoma” until the town of Tacoma was established; that the word “Tacobed” was applied by the Indians to all high mountains, but that he is firmly convinced that Tacoma is not a word of the Indian language and was coined by Theodore Winthrop. (See affidavit of Rolland H. Denny.)

Edward L. Terry, treasurer of the City of Seattle, was born 54 years ago in said city, and is the son of one of the pioneers and founders of that place; he had never heard the word “Tacoma”, either as applied to the mountain or otherwise by Indians or whites until after the Northern Pacific Railroad Company made its terminus at the present city of Tacoma, and is positive that no student of the University of Washington had ever heard the name in any connection prior to that time. (See affidavit of Edward L. Terry.)

## LEGEND BY WINTHROP

Harvey W. Scott, late editor of the Portland *Oregonian*, was recognized as the ablest editor on the Pacific Coast, with historical knowledge not surpassed by anyone in his time. He spent his early years in Washington Territory. In the *Oregonian* in an article reprinted in the *Tacoma Daily News* of April 1, 1884, he says:

“To the imagination of Theodore Winthrop the word ‘Tacoma’, or at

least its perpetuation, is due. The story about Mount Rainier which he dressed up as a legend, calling it 'Tacoma', has given a name to an important and growing town and may give the name to a state', etc. (See photographic copy.)

### **"NOTHING LESS THAN A SACRILEGE"**

"The Rise and Progress of an American State", by Clinton A. Snowden, of Tacoma, Vol. 4, page 251, says:

"The newspapers and people of Oregon joined this opposition. The attempt to change the ancient name of the majestic mountain was declared to be nothing less than a sacrilege. It was simply a scheme of a lot of real estate boomers and speculators to turn a great world landmark into an advertisement, to reduce sublimity itself to the level of a sign-board. The name 'Tacoma' was nothing but the invention of a dreamer, a brilliant dreamer, doubtless, but a dreamer nevertheless. It had never been the Indian name of the mountain. The Indians had no names for mountains or other landmarks distinguishing one from another. To them a mountain was a mountain, and a river was a river, and that's all there was to it. A primrose by a river's brim a yellow primrose was to and nothing more.

"The newspapers of Tacoma—of which there were two—and the people of the town stood sturdily for the change and made such a fight for it as they were able. The two papers were issued only weekly as yet, but in time, as the town grew and prospered and when daily editions appeared, the battle raged hotly. The Indians were appealed to for evidence on both sides, and, after their custom, generally furnished something that was satisfactory to both. Edward Huggins, last of the Hudson's Bay factors, who had lived for thirty years among them, declared that he had never heard them speak of the mountain by any other name than 'La monte', which was the Chinook name for it. But Mrs. Huggins, who was a daughter of John Work and had been born on the coast, had been told by old Schlousin, or Schlouskin, that the mountain's name was Tachkoma, 'but he couldn't give any further information as to why it was so named other than that anything or everything in the shape of a mountain or large mound covered with snow was named Tachkoma or Tacobah.' (See Edward Huggins' Mss. for this quotation from Mrs. Huggins.) They also pronounced it Tahoma or Tacobet, according to their several peculiarities of dialect."

Thomas W. Prosch, publisher of the pioneer newspaper of Tacoma, *The Pacific Tribune*, and son-in-law of General M. F. McCarver, the founder and namer of Tacoma, says in his biography entitled, "McCarver and Tacoma", page 164:

"It is only historically fair to say that these names (which Winthrop bestowed, including Tacoma), were unknown to the white people until after the publication of this book ('Canoe and Saddle'), and unknown in our own territory until 1886."

In the *Atlantic Monthly* for November, 1876, was an article by General

Hazard Stevens, son of Isaac I. Stevens, the first Governor of the Territory of Washington, descriptive of his ascent in 1870 of Mount Rainier.

Referring to Vancouver's exploration of the North Pacific country he says:

"When Vancouver, in 1792, penetrated the Straits of Fuca and explored the unknown waters of the Mediterranean of the Pacific, wherever he sailed, from the Gulf of Georgia to the farthest inlet of Puget Sound, he beheld the lofty snow-clad barrier range of the Cascades, stretching North and South, and bounding the Eastern horizon. Towering at twice the altitude of all others, at intervals of 100 miles, there loomed up above the range three majestic, snowy peaks.

" 'Like giants stand  
To sentinel enchanted land.'

"In the matter-of-fact spirit of a British sailor of his time, he named these sublime monuments of nature in honor of three lords of English Admiralty—Hood, Rainier, and Baker. Of these Rainier is the central, situated about half way between the Columbia River and the line of British Columbia, and is by far the loftiest and largest", etc., etc.

### **STEVENS SAYS TAKHOMA IS A GENERIC TERM**

Stevens then refers to the name "Takhoma" and in a foot-note says:

Tak-homa or Ta-homa among the Yakimas, Klickitats, Puyallups, Nisquallys, and allied tribes of Indians is the generic term for mountain, used precisely as we used the word 'Mount', as Takhoma Wynatchie, or Mount Wynatchie. But they all designate Rainier simply as Takhoma, or the Mountain, just as the mountain men used to call it the 'Old He'." (See reproduction in "Mount Rainier: A Record of Explorations", edited by Edmond S. Meany, Professor of History in the University of Washington, p. 95, and also photographic copy of the original herewith).

Thus on the authority of General Stevens Takhoma is not a specific name applied to any particular mountain exclusively, but is a generic term equivalent in the English language to the word "Mount" and applicable to all snow peaks.

### **CLINCHING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

From the Washington State Historical Society Publications, pages 440-441, we quote the following conclusive and disinterested letter of George Otis Smith, director of the United States Geological Survey:

"Washington, D. C., February 28, 1908.

"*Mr. Benjamin L. Harvey, Tacoma, Washington.*

"SIR: In reply to your letter of February 15:

"You will understand that, being a resident of neither Seattle nor

Tacoma, I have no personal interest in continuing the present discussion concerning the name of America's noblest mountain. I wish, however, to direct your attention to certain facts which influence me in the position I have taken. *First, let me call your notice to the fact that you find no trouble in using the name of Captain Puget, although your pen stumbles over the name of Admiral Rainier. As I understand it, both were Englishmen with the same prejudices and much the same training. Nor would I expect you to object to the name given to the sister volcano in Whatcom County, namely, Mount Baker.* This by way of introduction to the real argument I wish to submit to you, which I believe is rather new and possibly not even in the repertoire of the average Seattle boomer.

"In 1901 I was in charge of the investigation of the Northwestern boundary of the United States and of your State between Osoyoos Lake and Puget Sound and in the course of this investigation I made use of the old boundary map, which had not been published, but of which I had secured photographs from the State Department. On those old maps, which antedated much of the settlement of your State, the prominent geographic features—rivers, lakes, and mountains—were given both the English names and the old Indian names, in many cases only the Indian names, since the country was then comparatively unknown to white men. Now the interesting fact is that Mount Baker was given not only this English name, but the old Indian name as well of Ta-ho-ma. In other words, the Indians applied this name, which as you know, signifies The Great Mountain, not only to the mountain which so beautifully looms up above your own city, but also to the mountain somewhat similar in general appearance, in the northern part of your State and very likely to others of the volcanic cones in Washington. The fact is that the Siwash would speak of the largest mountain in his immediate vicinity as 'the mountain' just as the Tacoma man will today refer to 'the mountain,' meaning Mount Rainier, whereas in the vicinity of the Nooksack you will hear the ranchman designating Mount Baker as 'the mountain.' The name Ta-ho-ma or Tacoma, as applied to a mountain, thus having no distinctive value, it was necessarily abandoned and the more distinctive names of Baker and Rainier have been applied to the mountains that are so well worth naming.

"As a member of an organization devoted to exact geographic work, I am compelled to stand for the authoritative name of Rainier, which is supported by the Board of Geographic Names, which in turn bears the stamps of approval of President Roosevelt, to whom your letter refers in this connection.

"Very respectfully,

"GEORGE OTIS SMITH, *Director.*"

(Italics ours.)

## GENERIC TERMS OFTEN TAKEN FOR SPECIFIC TERMS

In an article entitled "Indian Myths of the Northwest", in the proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for October, 1915, William D. Lyman, professor of history of Whitman College, says:

"One confusing condition that often arises with Indian names and



stories is that some Indians use a word generically and others use the same word specifically. For instance, the native name for Mount Adams, commonly known as 'Pahton,' and Mount Rainier or Tacoma, better spelled 'Tahkoma,' as sounded by the Indians, really mean any high mountains. A Wasco Indian once told me that his tribe called Mountain Hood 'Pah-ton,' meaning the 'big mountain,' but that the Indians on the other side of the Columbia River applied the same name to Adams.

"A very intelligent Puyallup Indian told me that the name of the 'Great White Mountain' was 'Tahkoma,' with accent and prolonged sound on the second syllable, but that any snow peak was the same with the second syllable not so prolonged, according to the height or distance of the peak. Mount St. Helens was also 'Tahkoma,' but with the 'ho' not so prolonged."

## TESTIMONY OF A LIVING HISTORIAN

Clarence B. Bagley, President of the University of Washington State Historical Society, is a man whose interests and pleasure, outside of his ordinary duties, have been the study and compilation of matters relating to early Pacific Northwest history. Attention is directed to his signed statement in the following words:

"In 1852 the writer came across the plains to Old Oregon, with his parents, and since then has lived in sight of Mount Rainier.

"In 1866 he went into the office of the Surveyor General of Washington at Olympia as clerk, and was advanced to Assistant Draftsman. Captain James S. Lawson, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, used that office one winter in making up his notes, charts, etc., and the writer was in the room when he announced the result of his triangulations and measurements of the height of Mount Rainier, as being 14,444 feet, a continuing fraction.

"In 1868 the writer engaged in the newspaper business and continued in it for about twenty years. Since 1890 he has devoted a great deal of his time to the collecting and preservation of books, newspapers, manuscripts, pamphlets, etc., pertaining to the history of the Pacific Northwest, and during that period has done a large amount of writing in regard to it.

"He has been familiar with every phase of the controversies regarding the several proposed names of Mount Rainier and of 'Who Named Tacoma?'

"Until the appearance of Winthrop's book 'Canoe and Saddle,' Mount Rainier was the only name in use in newspaper and more serious literature. After its appearance here (i. e., 'Canoe and Saddle') a lodge of Good Templars in Olympia was named 'Tacoma' and soon afterwards a hotel in the same town was given that name. In 1868 a sawmilling town on Commencement Bay was named Tacoma, and in 1873, when the Northern Pacific Railroad Company located its Western terminal on Puget Sound, it called its embryo town 'New Tacoma.' During the next ten years, or until 1883, the use of Mount Rainier was universal, colloquially, and in the press, though occasionally some fugitive verse or work of fiction used the word Tacoma in connection with the mountain.

"That year, between February and May, the newspapers of the City

of Tacoma, began applying the name Tacoma to the mountain, following the suggestion or order emanating from the office of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in St. Paul.

"The demand for the change of the name has always come from the officers of that company and the people of Tacoma. It has never been actuated by a desire to perpetuate the original Indian names of this region, but the one word has been singled out as a means of advertising a particular city.

"The writer has talked with one hundred or more of the true pioneers of Western Washington who came here in the 50's or prior to that time, and every one of them has told him that he or she had never heard the name Tacoma applied to Mount Rainier until after the appearance here of 'Canoe and Saddle.'"

## WINTHROP CONCEDES TACOMA TO BE A GENERIC TERM

We have shown that every competent historical authority available concedes that Takhoma, Tacobet, Tacobed, Dacobed, Tacope and all the variations of this word as understood from the difficult Indian pronunciation, is a generic term applied to all snow-capped mountains, except such as question the authenticity of the word as of genuine Indian origin.

It has also been shown beyond any reasonable doubt that the word Tacoma was originated by Theodore Winthrop, and that he first applied it to Mount Rainier. It is therefore important to know the exact terms in which he did so. In "The Canoe and the Saddle", by Theodore Winthrop, published by John W. Lovell Co. of New York, page 44, appears these words:

"Of all the peaks from California to Frazer's River, this one before me was royalist. Mount Regnier, Christians have dubbed it, in stupid nomenclature perpetuating the name of somebody or nobody. More melodiously the Siwashes call it Tacoma, *a generic term also applied to all snow peaks.*" (Italics ours.)

Winthrop was, of course, only a bird of passage. He traveled from Port Townsend to Nisqually by canoe, and thence over the Cascades towards the East on horseback. If he is actually the authority for the name Tacoma, and it appears beyond all peradventure that he is, he completely annihilates all claim that it was the Indian name of the mountain by the statement that it was "a generic name also applied to all snow peaks", which exactly agrees, with reasonable allowance for pronunciation, with the early pioneers and leading historical works herein quoted. Winthrop may easily have made "Tacoma" out of the sputtering, guttural Indian pronunciation of "Tacobed" or "Tacobet." The authenticity, however, of the latter word supported by historical record and the testimony of the pioneers understanding the native tongue is, of course, unassailable, as against the interpretation of Winthrop.

One is inclined to believe that the application of the name Tacoma to the mountain was rather a flight of poetical fancy on the part of Winthrop, for in his intimate letters to his mother during his voyage through the Pacific Northwest he invariably uses the historical name Rainier, as:

“Over the trees that belted the river, nearer than ever, rose graceful St. Helens, and now first clearly seen, the immense bulk of Rainier, the most massive of all—grand, grand, above the plains!”

And, “Had a jolly time, splendid sheet of water with islands and nooks of bays. Mount Rainier hung up in the air.” (See life and poems of Theodore Winthrop, edited by his sister, 1884, pages 156 and 157, and photographic copies of the same herewith.)

## **NO CHANGE WARRANTED EXCEPT ON GROUNDS THAT CARRY CONVICTION**

A change of name of a prominent geographical feature should only be made by competent authority for clear and well defined reasons in the interests of historical accuracy or public policy. Changes are confusing at best and should not be based upon trifling grounds or irrelevant pretexts. The question is not “What name shall be given to an unnamed object.” The mountain has now a name conferred on it by its discoverer in accordance with age-old custom, a name since universally applied to it by geographers, followed with only limited exception by popular usage and officially confirmed by this Board.

## **A CHANGE WOULD MAKE CONFUSION WORSE CONFOUNDED**

It would be inadvisable to substitute Tacoma for Rainier because of the endless confusion which would result from such action. It is impossible in a paper of this length to submit all citations to Mount Rainier in the enormous body of Americana, now embraced in our libraries. Especial attention is called to the following partial categories:

Up to the year 1863, when Theodore Winthrop’s book entitled “The Canoe and The Saddle” made its appearance, no work, public or private, cites any name for Mount Rainier save the one given by Captain Vancouver. The exceptions to the above by three private writers who preferred Mount Harrison, have already been noted.

In all public documents of the civilized world up to the present day, in all public maps, charts, scientific works, and in government literature, no name save that of Mount Rainier has been used. One exception only is noted: Mr. Emmons in one article preferred the name Tacoma, but spelled it differently.

In all the works of explorers, navigators, and scientists, notably Wilkes, Fremont, Stevens, Davidson, Alden, Kellett, Inskip, and Richards, no other designation except Mount Rainier is used. In by far the greater portion of all private literature Mount Rainier is sanctioned by usage. Special attention is called to the index by Poole, the present Readers' Guide. Further, in the official publications of Western mountaineer societies, especially the Sierra Club of California, the Mazamas of Oregon, and the Mountaineers of Washington, the designation Mount Rainier is used exclusively. In all the official literature of railroads and steamboat companies which send thousands of people to the Mount Rainier National Park, no name other than Mount Rainier appears as the title of this mountain.

Mention is especially made of the literature of Mount Rainier National Park, distributed by the United States Government.

It is scarcely necessary to comment upon the great confusion and duplication which would ensue were a second name substituted for Mount Rainier. Already enough confusion has been brought about by the persistence of advocates of the word Tacoma. As an illustration of this we cite Poole's Index. In that work the vast majority of articles appear under Rainier—a few under Tacoma. Unless the reader is familiar with the controversy (and few persons outside of Puget Sound region are familiar with it), he will look under Rainier in the index, and thus miss the articles which are cited under Tacoma. Further some articles are not listed under Tacoma, but under some form of the word Tacoma, as Takhoma.

### **RAINIER, 46; TACOMA, 1**

Bibliography of Washington Geology and Geography, issued by the State of Washington, Olympia, 1913, cites 47 publications on Mount Rainier, many of them by the Alpine, Mazama, Mountaineer, and Sierra clubs. In 46 cases the mountain is called Rainier, and in one case Tacoma. The use of the two names respectively is in very much the same proportion throughout the State of Washington. Aside from historical accuracy and every ethical consideration, which is easier—to change the habit of 46 persons or of one?

### **A CHANGE WOULD CAUSE MONETARY LOSS**

To substitute the name Tacoma for the name Rainier would not be advisable because it would result in an unjustifiable financial loss of "good will" to the legitimate advertisers of the mountain and Mount Rainier National Park.

We suggest incidentally the loss and embarrassment to the United States Government, and particularly the fact that for many years the government

has expended large sums of money in the preparation and distribution of maps and literature in an effort to educate the public to the fullest possible appreciation of the scenic, scientific and health-giving value of this park; and that upon this park it has spent immense sums to make its attractions available. This constitutes a public good will which could scarcely be appraised in money. To change the name of the mountain and consequently of the park would be virtually to destroy in the minds of the people of the world the existence of such a park, and thousands of dollars would have to be expended in educating the people of the United States and Europe to the appreciation of the park under a new name. Every private corporation knows the value of an established name, and the name or trade-mark is often the chief asset of important business concerns.

Greater loss and one even more burdensome would result to private individuals who have been the chief actors in bringing about a sentiment which resulted in the creation of the Rainier National Park. For many years all railroads entering the Puget Sound region, have spent money liberally in advertising the mountain and the park with a view to securing tourist travel. If a change of name were now made much of this work would have to be done over. Likewise, many authors have issued books upon the mountain and in good faith have put out their work under the official name of Mount Rainier. Attention is called to a recent work by Professor Edmond S. Meany, entitled "Mount Rainier: A Record of Exploration." A large edition has already been disposed of, eight hundred copies of which are now in Eastern libraries. A second edition has just come from off the press, and will be in the market shortly. Much money has been expended by the publishers in exploiting this book under its official title.

## **A CHANGE WOULD NOT SETTLE THE CONTROVERSY**

It would not be advisable to substitute Tacoma for Rainier because such action would not settle the controversy. It would renew and intensify it. The controversy has its strong side and its weak side. Very few persons who are free from local or personal interest in the matter question that the strength of the matter is with Rainier. The citizens of the city of Tacoma desire that the name Tacoma be substituted for the name Rainier, while nine-tenths of the remainder of the state desire that the name Rainier be retained. The only controversy is that of the city of Tacoma against the rest of the world and the United States Geographic Board. The substitution of Tacoma for Rainier would make confusion worse confounded an hundred fold. If the action of this Board twenty-six years ago supported by all the historical precedents did not terminate the controversy, can it be hoped that its action, if taken now in opposition to all precedents, will set the matter at rest?

## MR. WALL SUGGESTS A VERY REAL FACT

S. W. Wall, the head of the Tacoma movement, in these words in the Seattle *Argus* of March 17, 1917, expresses a very definite fact:

“\* \* \* And there is just one reason, it seems to me, why it [Tacoma] may not be adopted, and that is that the board may fear it would not be accepted by all the citizens of the State and the confusion we seek to be rid of continued.”

As already stated, the confusion now existing from Tacoma's refusal to conform to the decision of the Board of Geographic Names and designate the mountain by its official title, would certainly be immensely increased by an attempt to make the entire civilized world, outside of Tacoma, call the mountain by the name of that city, after a century and a quarter of usage of the name Rainier.

## NEWSPAPER EXPRESSIONS

This is very clearly expressed in a leading editorial in the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*, the most important morning newspaper in the State of Washington, under date of April 21, 1917:

“The pros and cons of the controversy, historical and otherwise, are so numerous as to be beyond newspaper space. Putting them all aside, there still remains one indisputable fact that should convince the Geographic Board of the futility of any change.

“For years the official name of the mountain has been Mount Rainier. There has been no question as to that. The existence of official sanction has never been questioned. Yet the people of Tacoma have never used the name Rainier, and they have maintained their antipathy to such designation so consistently that railroads and other corporations using the mountain for advertising purposes always felt compelled to include the name Mount Tacoma in their printing.

“It is, of course, possible to decree that henceforth the name of the mountain shall be Mount Tacoma, or Mount Somethingelse. But no decree can make people use the name. It will still be Mount Rainier in speech and in the written word. The action of the Geographic Board, should it order a change, would be merely to take away official sanction from Rainier, without any possibility of changing the habit of speech of the people of Washington. And certainly it will have infinitely less effect on the custom of the world at large. Mount Rainier it will always be.”

The following is an extract from the leading editorial of the Seattle *Times*, the chief afternoon daily of the Pacific Northwest, in its issue of February 10, 1917:

“LET IT REMAIN ‘MOUNT RAINIER’”

\*\* \* \* King County and this city gave abundant evidence of their friendship for Pierce County when they ‘went down the line’ in support

of the army post scheme in Pierce County—the biggest thing that has happened for Tacoma in its history. Seattle, of its own volition, announced that it was prepared, if necessary to assure the success of the plan, to ask that Fort Lawton be abandoned as an army post and turned into a municipal park. Tacoma could ask for no more convincing proof of this city's disinterested friendship.

"Tacoma always has taken the question of the mountain's name altogether too seriously for its own good. It has fretted itself into a state of mind where it regards the majestic height as a private asset of the City of Destiny, forgetting that every other community in the state and, particularly, in Western Washington, has a certain very definite interest in this most beautiful of all American peaks.

"Tacoma has no better claim to the mountain than has Seattle. In fact, if there is to be a contest precipitated over its name, Seattle may elect to 'get into the game' itself. Certainly, 'Seattle' is just as good Indian as 'Tacoma,' is just as dignified and is not spelled in forty different ways by contending enthusiasts.

"Furthermore, if Tacoma can change Rainier's name at this session of the Legislature, why will it not be possible for Seattle to change 'Mount Tacoma's' name to 'Mount Seattle' at the next? In fact, there is no apparent reason why this absurd contest should not be kept up indefinitely, to the mingled amusement and amazement of an astonished country.

"There is absolutely no justification for Tacoma's attempt to steal the mountain for advertising purposes. The Legislature should be acquainted at once with Seattle's disapproval of the proposition. Certainly, if the state solons indorse the change desired by Tacoma, they should, with equal reason, vote to change all the other distinctive designations in this state whenever requested to do so by self advertising municipalities or real estate boomers."

The Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* said editorially, April 3, 1916:

"Seattle is exceedingly busy just now in trying to meet the opportunities so fortunately thrust upon it and to acquit itself creditably of its new responsibilities. In this situation, with its coat off and sleeves rolled up and every hour calling for action, Seattle is invited to lay aside its work and undertake an enquiry as to what name the Indians of Puget Sound used in referring to what is now known as Mount Rainier.

"Various citizens of Tacoma feel that it would be a grand advertisement to have the great mountain bear the name of their city and they are seeking this change like a Chamber of Commerce Committee might seek a new industry or a new railroad and for the same reasons. \* \* \* Tacoma should get down to the business of city building and take advantage of its opportunities for material advancement now so liberally offered. There is nothing in this name campaign and it can only mean the waste of valuable time and effort in a triviality. \* \* \* Tacoma should put her shoulder to the wheel and push in the direction of some practical constructive purpose."

It is to be remembered that the controversy is not solely between the people of Tacoma and the United States Geographic Board. Further, for over twenty-six years (from 1890 to 1917), the champions of the name Tacoma

have ignored the decision of the United States Board of Geographic Names. Is there any guarantee that, if the name Tacoma were made the official designation by the United States Geographic Board, it would be accepted by those who believe (on grounds that this Board must recognize as just), that Rainier is the only name historically correct? We seriously question whether any compromise name, such as Puskehouse, Tiswauk, Lincoln or Whitman, would be accepted by those who have asked for a change. They will stick to Tacoma.

A bad example has been set by the advocates of the name Tacoma, and, if one bad example can bring about a desired end, a second endeavor of like character is quite likely to follow. Thus, in the near future, the United States Geographic Board, if it reverses its decision of 1890, will be called upon to reverse a reversal and return to the previous decision, which is historically supported.

This is a larger question than that of any community or of the nation—it is international in its interest and in its effect. Is it probable that foreign geographers will agree to the innovation of a new name at this late day, involving a change in all their maps, charts and records?

No community, however, proximate, has a claim over and above any other community in the United States, however distant. It would be as pertinent for a city in the State of Florida to rechristen the mountain as for any community in the State of Washington.

## IN CONCLUSION

Therefore, since the name of Mount Rainier has a perfect title in history, and since the genuineness of the name Tacoma has not been established, and since no widespread or national request for a change has been made, and since the change to the name Tacoma, or any other name, would result in confusion and financial loss, and since a change to the name Tacoma would not end the controversy, it is urged that no change be made from the name of Mount Rainier.

All this is most respectfully submitted by one whose first home in Washington territory was in Tacoma, whose oldest friends in the state are there, and who himself called the mountain Tacoma until convinced by research that no historical warrant existed for the name.

All authorities cited herein are submitted in the original or in the form of photographic copies.

CHARLES TALLMADGE CONOVER,

*Representing numerous citizens of the State of Washington.*

Seattle, April 24, 1917.



## REMARKS BY C. T. CONOVER

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the United States Geographic Board:

This is a peculiar malady that you are called upon to consider and slow to yield to treatment. It has been before you before more than twenty-six years ago and is back again now in spite of your diagnosis and treatment at that time. I know it well. It has been classified by a well-known historian as "Tacomacitis". I have lived in Tacoma and I have had it. In other words, Tacoma was my first home on the coast and I believed that Tacoma was the aboriginal name of the mountain and that Rainier was a rank usurper until research convinced me of the error. The peculiar thing is that a cure is impossible while one lives in Tacoma.

"Convince a man against his will,  
He'll hold the same opinion still."

I have a friend in Tacoma, a highly intelligent woman, with whom I was recently discussing the mountain's name. Incidentally, I quoted a paragraph from the book of Ezra Meeker. She replied, "But they say he didn't say it". Now, whether or not he said it, his book was the best evidence, but she relied upon this indefinite statement rather than find out from Mr. Meeker's book itself, whether or not Mr. Meeker testified as I said he did. This attitude, I am forced to say, I have always found to be one of the pronounced and peculiar symptoms of the disease. While this malady seems peculiarly virulent at the present moment, I can assure this Honorable Board that this is its final manifestation, just as a tree erupts an unprecedented mass of blossom the year before it dies.

In the days of my residence in Tacoma thirty years ago, Tacomacitis was quite a new malady, with all the vigor of youth. In those days George Francis Train, the eccentric publicist, was sort of a patron saint of Tacoma, under the patronage of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, and I well remember the wierd copy he used to send us of the Tacoma *Ledger* from New York, every other line written in blue pencil and alternate lines in red. The only gem from his pen that I now recall is this touching sentiment:

"Tacoma! Tacoma!! Aroma! Aroma!!  
"Seattle! Seattle!! Death Rattle! Death Rattle!!"

It all seems quite crazy looking back upon it, but he was considered in Tacoma a very great poet indeed, so great that he was sent around the world on a spectacular trip against time for advertising purposes, promulgating his touching "Aroma Death Rattle" sentiments *en route*. Mr. Wall went as his private secretary and wrote a book on the experience. It is quite natural that he, in this day, should be leading Tacoma's forces and he himself at the front bearing the heat and brunt of battle.

I will acknowledge that we have been taken very much by surprise by the complete change of front of the Tacoma campaign since we reached Washington. For years we have been hearing out in Washington that Rainier was an Englishman and that he had been an enemy of this country and that, in consequence, Mt. Rainier must be renamed Tacoma. We never heard anything about the offence to our good taste and patriotism because Mt. Baker, Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens or Puget Sound were named for Englishmen who had been enemies of this country in just the same way—it was all poor old Peter Rainier. Mr. Wall conducted a weekly paper in Tacoma, called *What's Doing*, and the only thing that was doing was the spreading of this doctrine. Mr. Wall went up and down the state, waving the bloody shirt and personally visited every member of both houses of the legislature, and pledged them, wherever possible, just as one would in a political campaign, to vote for a memorial to this Honorable Body to make a change of name. Most of these politicians knew but little about the merits of the matter and perhaps cared less. Here is a sample of Mr. Wall's literature which has been spread broadcast, an extract from a leaflet entitled "Justice to the Mountain":

"That a petition be circulated in Seattle and Tacoma and throughout the state asking the Geographic Board at Washington to renounce the name Rainier and adopt in its stead one of the various forms of the Indian name \* \* \* for the reason that Rainier, for whom Vancouver named the mountain, was an enemy of our country and fought against us when we were struggling for our liberty, and that to honor him with such a monument—the most majestic single peak on earth—is extremely offensive to the patriotic feeling of a people living in the State called Washington."

You would be surprised at the persistent and spectacular features this campaign has assumed. Just last evening I received from my son at Harvard this editorial from the staid old Boston *Transcript* of April 28, 1917:

(Here Mr. Conover quoted from an editorial of the Boston *Transcript* accusing the Geographic Board of cowardice in straddling the Mt. Rainier issue and adopting the hyphenated term "Rainier-Tacoma," and containing a variety of equally inaccurate historical statements and ending with a plea for "justice to the mountain" in typical Tacoma style.)

Chairman Braid: But this Board never straddled this issue or gave official sanction to the hyphenated name.

Mr. Conover: I am well aware of that, but that statement is no more false than every other statement in this clipping.

Finally the legislature met and a joint memorial was introduced asking this Honorable Board to make a change in the name of Mt. Rainier to the aboriginal name, setting out in detail Rainier's English birth and service in the British Navy, and that to have a mountain named for him was a source

of constant humiliation to the people of the state and a reflection on their taste and patriotism, etc., etc. We submit a copy of the resolution, and include it also in our printed statement.

Now, in spite of this long continued propaganda, the state had not taken it seriously—in fact, had paid no attention to it and had not dignified it by opposition. The idea of asking this Board to decide a question it had already decided appeared too ridiculous for serious attention. The resolution, however, aroused a general ripple of ridicule throughout the state. Joint memorials were introduced to change the names of several natural features to the names of cities nearest them respectively, each in the language of the Tacoma memorial as to the nationality and services of Baker, Hood, St. Helens and Puget and the offence to good taste and patriotism, and each, in addition, frankly recited that the respective communities sought to have the changes made for advertising purposes. Thus Bellingham asked for Mt. Baker, Chehalis for Mt. St. Helens, Portland for Mt. Hood, Seattle for Puget Sound, etc.

The Tacoma memorial was passed in the House but died in the Senate. Thereupon a new joint memorial was introduced and although the campaign for years had been that of the bloody shirt, all reference to this sanguinary garment was omitted in the new memorial, whose sole cause of action was that of confusion from the present multiplicity of names, a confusion due entirely to Tacoma's refusal to recognize a previous decision of this Board.

Finally, the state at large began to take notice. On February 10, 1917, the leading editorial of the *Seattle Times* read in part as follows:

"Tacoma always has taken the question of the mountain's name altogether too seriously for its own good. It has fretted itself into a state of mind where it regards the majestic height as a private asset of the City of Destiny, forgetting that every other community in the State, and particularly in western Washington, has a certain very definite interest in this most beautiful of all American peaks.

"Tacoma has no better claim to the mountain than has Seattle. In fact, if there is to be a contest precipitated over its name, Seattle may elect to get into the game itself. Certainly 'Seattle' is just as good Indian as 'Tacoma,' is just as dignified, and is not spelled in forty different ways by contending enthusiasts.

"Furthermore, if Tacoma can change Rainier's name at this session of the legislature, why will it not be possible for Seattle to change 'Mt. Tacoma's' name to 'Mt. Seattle' at the next? In fact, there is no apparent reason why this absurd contest should not be kept up indefinitely to the mingled amusement and amazement of an astonished country \* \* \* Certainly if the State solons endorse the change desired by Tacoma, they should, with equal reason, vote to change all the other distinctive designations in this State whenever requested to do so by self-advertising municipalities or real estate boomers."

However, the memorial went through, although it was a perversion of the

sentiment of the state and of the legislature itself. Why and how it went through is best expressed in the words of William Bishop, a member of the legislature for ten years, one of the leading business men of the state, the son of a full-blooded Indian mother, whose interest in the matter was due to his knowledge of the facts and his interest in historical accuracy. I will quote from his affidavit:

“That knowing the facts and circumstances in this matter he opposed the passage of the joint memorial in the last session of the State Legislature and unqualifiedly states that the real sentiment of both houses was opposed to the passage of the memorial, asking for the change in this name; that its passage was secured through the powerful influence of the Speaker of the House, who was from Tacoma, and the President of the Senate, who was from Tacoma. Their influence, through the chairmen of the various committees whom they had appointed, absolutely controlled. That the passage of said memorial was somewhat facilitated by the argument that Rainier was an Englishman and had been an enemy of this country.”

During the session of the legislature, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* had an editorial on the subject that was apparently an attempt to be facetious, but which was interpreted as an indorsement of the proposed change. That this was not its intention is evidenced by this extract from an editorial in the *Post-Intelligencer*, April 21, 1917, just a few days ago:

“The pros and cons of the controversy, historical and otherwise, are so numerous as to be beyond newspaper space. Putting them all aside, there still remains one indisputable fact that should convince the Geographic Board of the futility of any change.

“For years the official name of the mountain has been Mount Rainier. There has been no question as to that. The existence of official sanction has never been questioned. Yet the people of Tacoma have never used the name Rainier, and they have maintained their antipathy to such designation so consistently that railroads and other corporations using the mountain for advertising purposes have always felt compelled to include the name ‘Mount Tacoma’ in their printing.

“It is, of course, possible to decree that henceforth the name of the mountain shall be Mount Tacoma or Mount Somethingelse. But no decree can make the people use the name. It will still be Mount Rainier in speech and in the written word. The action of the Geographic Board, should it order a change, would be merely to take away official sanction from Rainier without any possibility of changing the habit of speech of the people of Washington. And certainly, it will have infinitely less effect on the custom of the world at large. Mount Rainier it will always be.”

I will also read an extract from the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* of April 3, 1916:

“Seattle is exceedingly busy just now in trying to meet the opportunities so fortunately thrust upon it and to acquit itself creditably of its new responsibilities. In this situation, with its coat off and sleeves

rolled up and every hour calling for action. Seattle is invited to lay aside its work and undertake an inquiry as to what name the Indians of Puget Sound used in referring to what is now known as Mount Rainier.

"Various citizens of Tacoma feel that it would be a grand advertisement to have the great mountain bear the name of their city, and they are seeking this change like a Chamber of Commerce committee might seek a new industry or a new railroad, and for the same reason. \* \* \* Tacoma should get down to the business of city-building and take advantage of its opportunity for material advancement now so liberally offered. There is nothing in this name campaign, and it can only mean the waste of valuable time and effort in a triviality. \* \* \* Tacoma should put her shoulder to the wheel and push in the direction of some practical constructive purpose."

In passing, I want to say that the alleged patriotic ground upon which the campaign for this hearing was based, is not sincere and I cannot puncture it in any words quite as neat as those addressed to Benjamin L. Harvey, of Tacoma, more than nine years ago by George Otis Smith, Director of the United States Geological Survey, which letter is quoted in full in our brief, and is, incidentally, an impartial and unanswerable argument as to the validity of Rainier's title. This is the extract from Director Smith's letter:

"First let me call your notice to the fact that you find no trouble in using the name of Captain Puget, although your pen stumbles over the name of Admiral Rainier. As I understand it, both were Englishmen, with the same prejudices and much the same training. Nor would I expect you to object to the name given to the sister volcano in Whatcom County, namely, Mount Baker."

I consider personally that the patriotic argument advanced as the chief cause for desiring this change is unworthy of Tacoma, and now that we are allied with the great British nation in a contest for world freedom and for civilization itself, it cannot but be construed by our Anglo-Saxon brethren, either across the water or across the Canadian line, almost within the shadow of this great mountain, as an unfriendly act. I think it is most deplorable that such an issue should have been raised, and I am frank to say that I feel a sense of personal outrage from the propagation of such sentiments as an expression of the State of Washington.

We are here to present to this Honorable Board an orderly array of incontrovertible facts for the purpose of settling this matter once more and, we believe, for all time. We shall show that the name "Rainier" has a perfect title and is the only name possible under historic precedent.

That it was universally recognized as the name of the mountain until the Northern Pacific Railroad issued its famous mandate changing the name to Tacoma.

That even after said mandate Tacoma newspapers continued occasionally

to call the mountain "Rainier" because they found it difficult to make the change.

That this action of the Northern Pacific Railroad created such confusion that the United States Board of Geographic Names made a complete investigation and confirmed the name "Rainier". That thereafter even the railroad company adopted the name "Rainier" and only the city of Tacoma refused to abide by the decision of this Board, and now asks for a reversal of that judgment *because of its own obduracy, and for no other reason.*

That the word "Tacoma" was the invention of Theodore Winthrop, although a word resembling it was probably a generic term applied to all snow peaks, and we will show from Winthrop's own writings that he acknowledged the word to be a generic term, completely annulling the claim that it was the specific name for Mt. Rainier.

The case on the facts will be presented by Mr. Victor J. Farrar, Research Assistant of the University of Washington, in the Department of History, the man who, in my opinion, knows the facts, without bias or prejudice, better than any other living person. He has only been in Washington three years, fresh from an Eastern university, and during that time has done nothing but delve in obscure points in Pacific Northwest history.

We were extremely fortunate in the fact that Mr. Farrar had secured a leave of absence from the university and was on the point of coming East to visit his mother before enlisting in his country's service, and that from his professional interest he consented to present the purely historical side of this matter. I have the pleasure of introducing Mr. Farrar, of the University of Washington.

(Before Mr. Farrar could proceed, Congressman Johnson denied his right to testify because he was a member of the faculty of the University of Washington, and in every way sought to prevent the witness from testifying. Mr. Farrar stated that he had not surrendered his citizenship; that he was East on a leave of absence and had no interest in the matter whatever aside from that of historical truth. Mr. Conover asked Mr. Johnson if he were not on the Federal payroll and whether he felt that that fact disqualified him from appearing at the present hearing. Mr. Farrar was allowed to proceed, but was again subjected to a violent interruption during his remarks by Congressman Johnson, who demanded to know from what source the various works of reference which Mr. Farrar submitted had been secured. Mr. Farrar explained that he owned some, that Mr. Conover owned some, C. B. Bagley owned some, and that one belonged to the University of Washington library. This statement brought out a demand from Mr. Johnson to know when the University of Washington library book had been taken out, but as that was not considered a relevant point Mr. Farrar was again allowed to proceed.)

## HISTORICAL STATEMENT BY VICTOR J. FARRAR

GENTLEMEN: The Senate Joint Memorial passed by the legislature of the state of Washington in February, 1917, petitions your honorable body "to substitute for the name 'Rainier' the most appropriate name that you may select after having given a hearing to those who may desire to present evidence as to what that name should be".

Of course everybody present understands that the delegation from Tacoma wishes to have the name 'Rainier' removed and the name 'Tacoma' substituted. In my present argument I shall endeavor to do two things: First, to show that the name Rainier has a perfect title, and second, to show that if your Honorable Body wishes to substitute a name therefor that the name "Tacoma" from a historical standpoint is not the proper name to substitute.

First, as to the title of Mount Rainier. Some persons have contended that Captain George Vancouver had no right to name this mountain. If there is any doubt among the members of this Honorable Body as to the right of Vancouver to name this mountain I wish to call attention to an article by Mr. George Davidson entitled "The Name 'Mount Rainier'" in Sierra Club Bulletin, No. 35, January, 1907, pp. 87, and following. In this article Mr. Davidson in almost verbatim language says.

The accepted right of the discoverer in a new country with uncivilized inhabitants, or with no inhabitants to apply geographic names, has never been traversed by competent authority.

Now that accepted right of the explorer needs very little argument. It is the same right under which Wilkes, Fremont, Stevens, Davidson, Alden, Kellett, Inskip and Richards labored. In accordance with that right Vancouver named the highest mountain in the now state of Washington, and in his journal of May 8, 1792, he records:

"The weather was serene and pleasant, and the country continued to exhibit, between us and the eastern snowy range, the same luxurious appearance. At its northern extremity, Mount Baker bore by compass N. 22 E.; the round snowy mountain, now forming its southern extremity, and which, after my friend Rear Admiral Rainier, I distinguished by the name of MOUNT RAINIER, bore S. 42 E."

Judge Wickersham has contended that Vancouver was not the discoverer of this mountain although he admits the right of the discoverer to name the mountain. I hold that Vancouver was the first person to discover the mountain since I find that the Spanish in their records announce no discovery of it nor is it set down on their charts. Judge Wickersham may infer that since the Spanish were on the coast prior to Vancouver they must needs have seen the mountain. He is entitled to his own opinion but this does not constitute

a discovery. As a matter of fact, the Spanish explorations did not extend further south in Puget Sound than about the middle of Whidbey Island.

Further, other persons have contended that Vancouver was not free to choose names; that he ignored the Indian name of the mountain which he had no right to do. I find no precedent for such a contention. No Indian name has priority over a civilized name. Were such a contention valid most of the civilized names would disappear or, rather would never have appeared. Even the site of the city of Tacoma has its Indian name (Shuhballup), but there has never been a desire on the part of that city to go back to the aboriginal name. Only Rainier is questioned.

That Vancouver had the right to name the mountain is well attested by the fact that since 1792 no geographer of any nationality has ever challenged the name.

Despite the fact that Mount Rainier was officially recognized throughout the world certain individuals from various motives have endeavored at one time or other to substitute another name, and in these efforts the Tacoma people were not first.

In 1839, Hall J. Kelley, of Boston, Mass., in the interest of the American side of the "Oregon Question," issued a memoir (in Report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Report No. 101, 25 C., 3 S., Serial No. 351, pp. 47-61) in which he urged that the Cascade Mountains be called the Presidents' Range and that the various peaks therein be named after the ex-presidents of the United States. Kelley put this system of nomenclature into operation upon his own authority. He distributed the presidents' names from Washington to Jackson on such peaks as he saw fit. He ran out of ex-presidents' names and, therefore, did not depose Mount Rainier. J. Quinn Thornton, in 1849 (*Oregon and California*, New York, 1849, Vol. 1, p. 316), carried Kelley's scheme further and removed Rainier in favor of Harrison. A third exponent extended the list to include Tyler (L. W. Hastings, *A New Description of Oregon and California*, Cincinnati, 1857, pp. 24-26). By that time there appeared some rivalry and confusion among the Kelley exponents, and Mount Baker sometimes appears as Mount Tyler and at other times as Mount Polk. This system never had official or extensive local usage. One had to get a book or check-list to keep the names straight. The system was, in fact, only a historical curiosity.

Thus ended the first effort to change the name of Mount Rainier.

In the spring of 1853 Theodore Winthrop, a graduate of Harvard University, came to Fort Vancouver. He was in the employ of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and was then on leave of absence. After a tour about Puget Sound Winthrop decided to return to the Columbia River via the Cascade Mountains, and on the 22d day of August, 1853, secured at Fort Nisqually



an Indian guide and three horses, crossed the mountains through the Naches Pass north of Mount Rainier, reached his destination, returned home and the Sound witnessed his presence no more. He was killed in the Civil War and in 1862 his family published his work, entitled "The Canoe and the Saddle." In a chapter called "Tacoma and the Indian Legend of Hamitchou," Winthrop introduced the word "Tacoma" in these words:

"Of all the peaks from California to Frazer's River, this one before me was royalist. Mount Regnier, Christians have dubbed it, in stupid nomenclature perpetuating the name of somebody or nobody. More melodiously the Siwashes call it Tacoma—a generic term also applied to all snow peaks."

This was the first appearance of the word "Tacoma." It was a poetical appearance even on Winthrop's part for in his letters to his mother, he uses the official name of Mount Rainier. Thus, in a letter dated Fort Nisqually, Puget Sound, July 23d, 1853, appear these excerpts:

"\* \* \* Over the trees that belted the river, nearer than ever arose graceful St. Helen's, and now first clearly seen, the immense bulk of Rainier, the most massive of all—grand, grand above the plain!"  
\* \* \* "Had a jolly time—splendid sheet of water with islands and nooks of bays. Mount Rainier hung up in the air."

Winthrop's book made its appearance on the Sound some three years after publication, but the name "Tacoma" for a great many years afterwards was not known to the great body of pioneers. It is said to have been first locally applied to a hotel and a lodge of Good Templars in Olympia.

In 1868, Morton M. McCarver, a pioneer town-builder, founder of Burlington, Iowa, Linnton, Oregon, and Sacramento, California, came to Puget Sound with the idea of founding a city on the site of the proposed Northern Pacific Railroad terminus. In the spring of that year McCarver repaired to Olympia where he secured a land-office map of the territory of Washington, and after some deliberation decided that the most likely site of the proposed terminus would be Commencement Bay opposite the Snoqualmie Pass. Acting upon this idea he went to Commencement Bay, became acquainted with Job Carr, who was proving up on a land claim, and the latter agreed to sell. McCarver subsequently located his town-site on this claim. He was not connected with the Northern Pacific Railroad, although the selection of his town as the terminus of the railroad was the all important consideration. He did all in his power to interest the Northern Pacific Railroad in his town and his efforts were successful. At this time McCarver's new town had no name. He subsequently selected the name of "Tacoma." Regarding that event, I wish to quote from a book entitled "McCarver and Tacoma," by Thomas W. Prosch, son-in-law of Mr. McCarver, and editor of the first newspaper published in Tacoma:

“On Friday, the 11th of September, 1868, Mr. Philip Ritz landed at Steilacoom from the steamer George S. Wright. \* \* \* He was then on a trip acquiring information for use in the interest of the Northern Pacific Railroad. He wanted to see the site of the contemplated new Puget Sound town, and he also wanted to suggest a name for it. He rode over the reservation, and from there went by canoe to the house of the McCarvers, and later spent the night at Job Carr’s. That evening and the next morning he talked with all the eloquence in him the name Tacoma. He told of a recently issued book called ‘The Canoe and the Saddle,’ which he had just read. It was, he said, written by one Theodore Winthrop, who had been on the Sound fifteen years before, and who, on the 22d day of August, 1853, crossed the harbor then in front of them. \* \* \* Mr. Ritz’s presentation was convincing to the wife and daughters of General McCarver.”

After the name “Tacoma” was applied to the town few persons on the Sound for years afterwards knew its origin, or if they did, questioned the right of the mountain to be known as Rainier. In fact, from 1868 until 1883, practically nobody inside or outside of the city of Tacoma used any other designation for the mountain than Mount Rainier. I wish especially to refer you to the files of newspapers published in the city of Tacoma during these years. I have recently examined papers in the possession of Mr. Clarence B. Bagley, of Seattle, and I find an almost unanimous use of the designation Mount Rainier therein. As to this usage I wish to call the attention of this honorable body to the following issues:

On December 15, 1879, the *Tacoma North Pacific Coast* says: “Back of Steilacoom are the gravelly plains, interspersed with beautiful lakes and groves. In the rear ground of this natural park stands majestic Rainier.”

In the *North Pacific Coast*, December 15, 1879, is reprinted an article from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, written by R. F. Radebaugh, with this sentence: “The pass is to the south of Mount Rainier about twenty miles and was recently discovered as feasible,” etc.

Under date of January 1, 1880, the same paper prints a poem by Belle W. Cooke, entitled “Mount Tacoma;” also a reprint of an article by Hazard Stevens, entitled “The Ascent of Takhoma.” In the same issue is this editorial comment:

“In the poem by Mrs. Cooke and in Hazard Stevens’ ‘Ascent’ of Mount Rainier, which we republish from the ‘Atlantic,’ we have followed the author’s spelling. We do not suppose that names so well established as are Puget Sound, Mount Rainier, Straits of Juan de Fuca, can be changed by an author’s sentiment or an editor’s whim, so we shall continue to apply the name of the old English Rear-Admiral to our mountain and call it Rainier.”

In the *North Pacific Coast* of March 30, 1881, appear these words: “The

loftiest peaks of the Cascade chain are in order of height as follows: Mount St. Elias in Alaska, 22,000 feet; Mount Rainier in Washington, 18,000 feet," etc.

In the *Tacoma Weekly Ledger* of July 7, 1882, is an item referring to glaciers on Mount Rainier.

In the *Tacoma News* of November 16, 1882, is an article entitled "Approaching Mount Rainier."

In the *Tacoma Weekly Ledger* of November 17, 1882, is a quotation from the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* regarding Mount Rainier.

In the *Tacoma Weekly Ledger* of January 5, 1883, is an article regarding the cutting of a new trail to the glaciers on Mount Rainier.

In the *Tacoma News* of February 22, 1883, is an article embracing a description of sunset on Mount Rainier. also an article descriptive of glacial formations of Mount Rainier.

In the *Tacoma Weekly Ledger* of February 23, 1883, is an article on New Tacoma, referring to the snow-capped summit of Mount Rainier.

In most of the above issues appears the following lodge notice: "Rainier Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F., meets on Tuesday evenings at the Masonic Hall. Members in good standing invited."

It seems probable that the people of Tacoma would have gone on using the name Mount Rainier had not an event caused them to change to "Mount Tacoma." In March, 1883, the *Northwest Magazine*, published in New York under the auspices of the Northern Pacific Railroad, announced that:

"The Indian name Tacoma will hereafter be used in the guide books and other publications of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Oregon Railway & Navigation Co., instead of Rainier, which the English Captain Vancouver gave to this magnificent peak when he explored the waters of Puget Sound in the last century."

From this event dates this present controversy.

Following this mandate the people of Tacoma commenced a campaign to depose the name Rainier and to substitute the name "Tacoma."

Clinton A. Snowden, in his *History of Washington*, Vol. IV, p. 250, traces the beginnings of this controversy in these words:

"The *Tacoma Ledger* quoted the above announcement in a brief editorial, when the magazine reached the coast some weeks later, and added that "The name Rainier never had any appropriateness, for it was adopted as a compliment to an English admiral, who never saw the mountain. If the newspapers in Oregon and Washington will join in the effort to restore

the musical and significant Indian title, the change can be fully accomplished in a few years.'

"However this suggestion might have been regarded under other circumstances, it was not approved by the newspapers referred to. Those of Seattle received it with derision, and most of the others in the territory outside of Tacoma, with more or less vigorous disapproval. \* \* \*

"The newspapers and people of Oregon joined this opposition. The attempt to change the ancient name of the majestic mountain was declared to be nothing less than sacrilege."

As to the ill-feeling and confusion which was resulting I wish to call to the attention of this honorable body the following issues:

The Tacoma *Daily News* under date of May 16, 1884, reprinted an article from the Seattle *Post* containing these words: "It [The Tacoma *Daily News*] is continually, in the language and writings of others, changing Rainier into Tacoma," etc.

The Tacoma *Daily News*, under date of July 12, 1884, in a contributed article said: "I went out to Mount Tacoma—which by the way, is Mount Rainier everywhere except in Tacoma—about sixty miles from the city."

The Tacoma *Daily News*, under date of July 21, 1884, in another contributed article, said: "To the right appears the Cascade Mountains and the hoary peaks of Mount Tacoma, 14,444 feet high, or Rainier, as you must call it in Seattle."

The "Tacoma" propaganda knew no bounds. It was not limited by the mountain or the city. It happened that the territory of Washington was ready to come into the union as a state and as there had always been more or less confusion between Washington State and Washington, D. C., many persons thought a change of name on the part of the proposed state advisable. The people of Tacoma went so far as to advocate the name "Tacoma" for the future state. On this subject the Yakima *Signal*, under date of May 22, 1884, published the following article:

"The proposition to name our future state Tacoma is strongly opposed by papers throughout the Territory. While all are agreed that the name ought by all means to be changed at the time of admission to statehood, it is also generally agreed that to name the state Tacoma would not improve matters much and that some name should be selected which is not now appropriated by any city, and that this name should, if possible, have some geographic or topographical significance."

The "Tacoma State" propaganda made considerable headway as the following, from Cornelius H. Hanford, ex-Justice of the United States District Court in the State of Washington, will show:

"A few months prior to the passage by Congress of the Enabling Act under which the states of Washington, Montana, North Dakota and

South Dakota were admitted into the Union, I attended a convention of citizens of Washington Territory held for the purpose of devising means whereby to obtain admission of Washington Territory into the Union as a state. That convention was held at North Yakima, a city near the geographical center of the territory, and the attendance was fairly representative of all parts of the territory. Tacoma propagandists were there urging the adoption of that name for the state, and the subject was referred to a committee which made a report strongly adverse to changing the name of the commonwealth, and that report was adopted enthusiastically by the convention."

The "Tacoma State" propaganda was lost but the "Mount Tacoma" propaganda continued unabated and was finally referred to the United States authorities for adjudication. On the 4th of September, 1890, President Harrison issued an executive order for the organization of the United States Board of Geographic Names, composed of the following men:

Professor Thos C. Mendenhall, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Chairman.

Andrew H. Allen, Department of State.

Captain Henry L. Howison, Lighthouse Board, Treasury department.

Captain Thomas Tuttle, Engineer Corps, War Department.

Lieutenant Richardson Clover, Hydrographic Office, Navy Department.

Pierson H. Bristow, Postoffice Department.

Otis T. Mason, Smithsonian Institution.

Herbert G. Ogden, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey

Henry Gannett, United States Geological Survey

Marcus Baker, United States Geological Survey.

This board decided unanimously in favor of the name Mount Rainier. I shall read herewith a portion of a letter from Lieutenant (now Rear Admiral) Richardson Clover, a member of the board, to the Hon. John F. Miller, M. C., under date of May 1, 1917:

I was one of the original members of the Geographic Board appointed nearly a quarter of a century ago. I was the secretary of the board and one of the three of the executive committee. The founders of the Northern Pacific Railroad had made and were giving away a fine map of the North country and having settled *then* that their road should terminate at Tacoma appropriated Mt. Rainier, which looks so beautiful from that place, and changed on their map the name to Mt. Tacoma and it was rapidly becoming fixed with the new population who naturally were using the free railroad map. The Geographic Board in the course of its work took these names under consideration and without a dissenting vote

reaffirmed the name Rainier given it by Vancouver when he first saw the mountain.

Whatever may be said for or against the name Mount Rainier, the decision of this board was final. I have always regarded that decision as I would a decision of a supreme court.

It is, of course, quite possible for this honorable body to make an arbitrary decision and to substitute some name for the name Mount Rainier. I wish to introduce certain evidence to show that from the historical standpoint the name "Tacoma" is not the best name to be substituted. I shall introduce evidence to show that there are other names of Indian origin for Mount Rainier; that the genuineness of the name "Tacoma" as an Indian word has been questioned by competent authorities; that the name "Tacoma" at best is not a specific name but a generic term; and finally that many authorities believe the word "Tacoma" to be a white man's word which has crept into the Indian's language.

Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, clerk and surgeon in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, in his journal under date of May 31, 1833, records the Indian name of Mount Rainier as "Puskehouse," in these words:

"The prairie now seemed encircled with trees, which arose a bristling serrated wall around, St. Helens bearing east towards high, unenclosed magnificence and the other mountain, called by the Indians 'Puskehouse' (Rainier) bore E. N. E. at summit divided into rounded eminences, with a narrow, intervening hollow, to form suggesting the vulgar comparison with that of Dunbarton rock has for ages been the highest and most easterly eminence, and has a black precipitous face, while the remainder is nestled in snow."

This name, introduced by a disinterested party, twenty years before settlement seriously began, thirty years before the appearance of Winthrop's "Canoe and the Saddle," and fifty years before the controversy, demands serious consideration from all persons who are urging the restoration of the true Indian name.

Peter C. Stanup, son of Jonas Stanup, sub-Chief of the Puyallup Indians, quoted in the autobiography of the late Samuel L. Crawford, on page 37, gives the Indian name of the mountain as "Tiswauk," in these words:

\* \* \* "Certain tribes of Indians, including the Puyallup Indians, in speaking of any high range of mountains called them Takhoman, but each mountain has its separate name, and the Indian name for Rainier is Tiswauk."

Mr. F. H. Whitworth, interpreter for the Superintendency of Indian Affairs for Washington under Hale and Waterman, confirms the Indian name "Tiswauk" in these words:

"In all that time I have never heard the mountain referred to by them (the Indians) as anything but 'Stiquak' (or 'Tiswauk'), 'Lainier' (R is L on an Indian's tongue), or 'Lalemite' (the mountain). I have never heard the name Tacoma applied to the mountain by any Indian; nor had I ever heard this name applied to the mountain by any white man until after the publication of Theodore Winthrop's 'Canoe and Saddle'."

Father Boulet, a missionary who has spent the greater part of his lifetime among the various tribes of Indians on Puget Sound, gives the Indian name as "Tu-ah-ku." I refer to a letter published in the State Historical Society of Washington, Publications, Vol. II, p. 444. Mr. Ross, speaking for Father Boulet, says:

"He tells me the word 'Ta-ho-ma' does not mean the great mountain but 'White Rock'; that it was the Indian name for Mt. Baker, and was applied to this mountain exclusively. The name applied to the mountain southeast of Tacoma by the Puyallup Indians as 'Ta-ah-ku.'

The name "Tu-ah-ku" is confirmed by Myron Eells in the American Anthropologist for January, 1892, in these words:

"A very intelligent Puyallup Indian, whose reservation is near the foot of the mountain, told me that it (Tacoma) means 'the mountain', being pronounced by his people 'Takoba', but that this was not the name by which the Indians originally called it, as their name was 'Tuwakhu' or 'Twahwauk.'"

Thus we have "Puskehouse," "Tiswauk" and "Tuahku" given as the true Indian names of Mount Rainier by independent, competent and trustworthy authorities.

Again, many authorities deny the genuineness of the word "Tacoma" as the Indian designation for Mount Rainier.

David Graham, a resident of the Puget Sound Country since 1857, states:

"In the early days I was a school teacher and was engaged in vocations that took me about the country a great deal, especially in Pierce and Thurston counties, and never did I hear the mountain called anything but Rainier; in my judgment there is no more justification for the use of the word Tacoma in this connection than there was for the attempt to name the state of Washington Tacoma when it was admitted to statehood."

Mr. L. W. Bonney, son of Sherwood F. Bonney, a pioneer of 1853 near Tacoma, says:

"I never heard the mountain called by any other name than Rainier by either Indians or whites until about 1878, or until the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's terminus was located at Tacoma."

Judge Cornelius H. Hanford, of the United States District Court for Washington and a resident of the territory and state since boyhood, states:

“If an Indian ever gave that word or any word having a similarity of sound he probably meant to say ‘Tacope Butte’, Tacope being a word of the Chinook jargon which means white, and butte means hill or mountain. The designation white hill would probably be given by any Indian in lieu of a particular name for any snow-covered mountain.”

Hon. Clarence B. Bagley, president of the Washington State University Historical Society and a pioneer of 1852, states:

“Until the appearance of Winthrop’s book, ‘Canoe and Saddle’, Mount Rainier was the only name in use in newspaper and more serious literature. \* \* \* I have talked with one hundred or more of the true pioneers of Western Washington who came here in the ‘fifties or prior to that time, and every one of them has told me that he or she had never heard the name Tacoma applied to Mount Rainier until after the appearance here of ‘Canoe and Saddle.’”

Mr. Thomas W. Prosch, son-in-law of Gen. McCarver, in the Washington State Historical Society Publications, Vol. II, p. 458, writes:

“I have not been able to find it (Tacoma) in any of the written letters, records, diaries, narratives, or the prints of the territory or the nation. None of the early representatives of the British or American governments—Vancouver, Lewis and Clarke, Wilkes, Elijah White, Fremont, *et al.*—seem to have heard of it, though it was directly in their line, and so also may be said of the first missionaries, the Hudson Bay men, the Governor Stevens expedition, the settlers of fifty and sixty years ago, no one, so far as I have learned, wrote the word, put it in type, or otherwise used it before Winthrop. I do not mean to say with Meeker, that Winthrop coined the word. He may have heard it, or something like it, among the Indians, and he used it in his ‘Canoe and Saddle’ book. Winthrop was a stranger, a mere passer-through, and it must have been difficult for him to communicate intelligently with the savages about him. If you don’t think so, try it on with an Indian, even now, who cannot speak the English, which was the case with the Indians generally in his day. He also wrote his book several years afterwards, and then with the help of a Chinook jargon dictionary. I only mean to say that the word was not in use on Puget Sound before 1866, and that after it came to us but few of us for a number of years, knew its alleged meaning. The knowledge was spread rapidly, however, after the name Tacoma was given to the town on Commencement Bay by General McCarver.”

Edward Huggins, last of the Hudson Bay Company’s traders at Fort Nisqually, in Snowden’s History of Washington, Vol. IV, p. 252, declared he “had never heard them speak of the mountain by any other name than *le monte*, which was the Chinook name for it.”

The late Harvey W. Scott, veteran editor of the Portland *Oregonian*, in an article reprinted in the Tacoma *Daily News* under date of April 1, 1884, said:

“To the imagination of Theodore Winthrop the word ‘Tacoma’, or at



least its perpetuation, is due. The story about Mount Rainier which he dressed up as a legend, calling it 'Tacoma', has given a name to an important and growing town and may give the name to a state", etc.

Dr. Charles Milton Buchanan, for twenty-five years superintendent of the Tulalip Indian Reservation, Tulalip, Washington, in a letter to Mr. Benjamin L. Harvey, Tacoma, Washington, under date of April 17, 1908, denies Tacoma to be an Indian word, as follows:

"I do not believe that the word 'Tacoma' is known to any of the native tribes of the Puget Sound region as, generically, a genuine Indian word of this region.\* \* \*

"The Tulalip Indians and the Puyallup Indians both speak dialectic variants of the Niskwalli linguistic root stock, which is in turn a variant of the Salishan stock. What the Puyallup word for Tacoma is, or for Mt. Rainier is, I do not know. I have been unable to ascertain that the Tulalip Indians have ever had any special word for Rainier, other than to speak of it as the 'mountain' or 'the mountain'. Their word for mountain is 'sbah-det.'

"I have also heard, on good authority (by this I mean Indian authority, since it is on a subject concerning which an intelligent Indian would probably be a better authority than even an intelligent white man) that some of the tribes north of us (allied to the Clallams and the Lummis) used the word 'Tah-hoh-mah' (or a very similar word) for Mount Baker, and that it was so used for Mount Baker exclusively. This corroborates the statement of the Reverend Father Boulet. \* \* \*\*

I shall now proceed to produce evidence to show that the word "Tacoma" is not the specific name for Mount Rainier, but at best only a generic term.

Mr. David T. Denny, one of the founders of the City of Seattle, in the *Post-Intelligencer* of December 4, 1902, states:

"I have made careful inquiries of the Indians in regard to their name for Mt. Rainier and I have found that their name was Tacobed, which really means 'Snow Mountain', and I understand that the name Tacobed applied to any mountain perpetually covered by snow. For instance, Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier or Mt. Baker would be designated as Tacobed."

Mrs. Louisa Boren Denny, his wife, says:

"I never heard the name Tacoma until comparatively recent years. In the early days I used to talk with the Indians a great deal and I am sure that if they had called the mountain Tacoma I should have known it. They gave the name Tacobed to Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier and all ranges of snow mountains in the vicinity. I know distinctly that Chief Sealth, who was one of the most intelligent Indians, always used the white man's name Rainier and in the early days we never knew any other name. I never knew of any Indian name for any specific mountain."

Hon. William Bishop, the son of a white father and an Indian mother

of the Snohomish tribe, a rich stock rancher and a member of the legislature for ten years, states:

“There never has been a specific Indian name for Mt. Rainier; all the Puget Sound Indians called Mt. Olympus, Mt. Baker, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, and all the high snow peaks ‘Tahoma’, meaning high mountain. The Nisqually and Klickitat Indians, having a more guttural pronunciation, used the word Tacobet for all high peaks, the difference being purely a matter of pronunciation.

“Tacoma is not an Indian word of the Pacific Northwest and no Puget Sound Indian could pronounce the word.”

The late Elwood Evans, an eminent Tacoma lawyer and historian, the possessor of one of the greatest historical collections on the Northwest, and the author of a two-volume work entitled, “History of Oregon and Washington”, published in Portland, 1889, in volume II, on page 155, says:

“By the latter appellation (Rainier) it was known to all the early settlers up to the time of the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Tacoma. The railroad company then renamed the mountain after the city, claiming that to be the original name designating its title. The truth of the matter is, however, that the Puyallup Indians inhabiting the region, called all snowy peaks by the same name—Tak-ho-ma—the meaning of which, according to the translation, is ‘the breast that feeds’; meaning to convey the idea that from the eternal snows come the perennial water of the rivers flowing into the Sound.”

Mrs. Edward Huggins, wife of Edward Huggins, quoted in Snowden, page 252, stated that Old Schlousin, or Schlouskin, said that the mountain’s name was Tachkoma, “but that he couldn’t give any further information as to why it was so named other than that anything or everything in the shape of a mountain or large mound covered with snow was named Tach-koma, or Tacobah.”

Professor William B. Lyman, professor of history in Whitman College, in a paper published in the proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society entitled “Indian Myths of the Northwest”, for October, 1915, said:

“One confusing condition that often arises with Indian names and stories is that some Indians use a word generically and others use the same word specifically. For instance, the native name for Mount Adams, commonly known as ‘Pahton’, and Mount Rainier or Tacoma, better spelled Tahkoma as sounded by the Indians, really mean any high mountain. A Wasco Indian once told me that his tribe called Mount Hood ‘Pahton’, meaning the ‘big mountain’, but that the Indians on the other side of the Columbia River applied the same name to Adams.

“A very intelligent Puyallup Indian told me that the name of the ‘Great White Mountain’ was Tahkoma, with accent and prolonged sound on the second syllable, but that any snow peak was the same with the second syllable not so prolonged, according to the height or distance

of the peak. Mount St. Helens was also Takhoma, but with the 'ho' not so prolonged."

Gen. Hazard Stevens in his article, "The Ascent of Takhoma", published in the *Atlantic Monthly*, for November, 1876, says:

"Tak-homa or Tahoma among the Yakimas, Klickitats, Puyallups, Nisquallys, and allied tribes of Indians is the generic term for mountain, used precisely as we used the word 'Mount', as Takhoma Wynatchie, or Mount Wynatchie."

Mr. George Otis Smith, Director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., in a letter directed to Mr. Benjamin L. Harvey, February 28, 1908, and published in the publications of the Washington State Historical Society, Vol. II, p. 440, says:

"In 1901, I was in charge of the investigation of the Northwestern boundary of the United States and of your state between Osoyoos Lake and Puget Sound and in the course of this investigation I made use of the old boundary map, which had not been published, but of which I had secured photographs from the State Department. On those old maps, which antedated much of the settlement of your state, the prominent geographic features—rivers, lakes, and mountains—were given both the English names and the old Indian names, in many cases only the Indian names, since the country was then comparatively unknown to white men. Now the interesting fact is that Mount Baker was given not only this English name, but the old Indian name as well of Ta-ho-ma. In other words, the Indians applied this name, which, as you know, signifies 'The Great Mountain', not only to the mountain which so beautifully looms up above your own city, but also the mountain somewhat similar in general appearance, in the northern part of your state and very likely to others of the volcanic cones in Washington. The fact is that the Siwash would speak of the largest mountain in his immediate vicinity as 'The Mount', just as the Tacoma man will today refer to 'the mountain', meaning Mount Rainier, whereas in the vicinity of the Nooksak you will hear the ranchman designating Mount Baker as 'the mountain.' The name Ta-ho-ma or Tacoma, as applied to a mountain, thus having no distinctive value, it was necessarily abandoned and the more distinctive names of Baker and Rainier have been applied to the mountains that are so well worth naming.

"As a member of an organization devoted to exact geographic work, I am compelled to stand for the authoritative name of Rainier, which is supported by the Board of Geographic Names, which in turn bears the stamp of approval of President Roosevelt, to whom your letter refers, in this connection."

In the "Canoe and Saddle", by Theodore Winthrop, are these words:

"Of all the peaks from California to Frazer's River, this one before me was royalist. Mount Regnier, Christians have dubbed it, in stupid nomenclature perpetuating the name of somebody or nobody. More melodiously the Siwashes call it Tacoma, a generic term also applied to all snow peaks."

Thus the author of the word Tacoma acknowledges it to be a generic term, completely destroying the claim that it was the specific name for Rainier.

I could quote many more authorities to show that the word "Tacoma" was only a generic term. In short, I have never heard anyone who was in favor of the word "Tacoma" deny that it was but a generic term. Many of the letters included in the Hon. James Wickersham's paper entitled "Is It Mt. Tacoma or Rainier", published in the Tacoma Academy of Science Bulletin for 1983, concede "Tacoma" to be a generic term.

And lastly, many authorities do not consider the word "Tacoma" a genuine Indian word but rather an Indian's attempt to pronounce a white man's word. It is not unusual for foreign words to creep into a language. In fact, this is precisely the way in which the English language has been built up.

Ezra Meeker, a pioneer of 1853, in early days the largest employer of Indian labor on Puget Sound, a firm friend of the Indians, in a book entitled "The Tragedy of Leschi", on page 179, says:

"We have a like curious phenomenon in the case of Winthrop first writing the word Tacoma, in September, 1853. None of the old settlers had heard that name, either through the Indians or otherwise, until after the publication of Winthrop's work ten years later, 'The Canoe and The Saddle', when it became common knowledge and was locally applied in Olympia as early as 1866, said to have been suggested by Edward Giddings of that place.

"However, as Winthrop distinctly claimed to have obtained the word from the Indians, the fact was accepted by the reading public, and the Indians soon took their cue from their white neighbors."

Thomas Milton Buchanan, superintendent of the Tulalip Indian Reservation, in the Washington State Historical Society Publications, Vol. II, p. 449, states:

"When I stated that I did not know the Puyallup 'Indian' word for the mountain 'Rainier' I had in mind the word 'Ta-ko-bid' (or Tah-koh-buh', as some pronounce it), but I have never considered that a genuine Indian word but merely the Indian attempt to say the word 'Tacoma'. Several very intelligent Indians (some of the most intelligent and reliable I have ever known) agree with me in the belief that it is merely an Indian attempt to say a word that they have heard the whites use, and this appears to corroborate Meeker. If Winthrop's legend was true it is singular that Meeker (who was in the vicinity before Winthrop, who has known the Indians most of his life, and who was their intimate, *confidante*, and friend, and who could himself converse with the Indians direct without the mediation of an interpreter) never heard it and could never obtain any history of it in more than forty years of life among the same Indians." Mr. Thomas W. Prosch in the same work, on page 459, says:

"I do not entirely agree with some writers that the Indians were possessed of so many names, or such enduring and expressive ones. I

could give a dozen different meanings for Tacoma, Tahoma or Takobat, reported by these writers, not one of which possibly was founded upon truth, and the absolute truth concerning which will certainly never be known. At any rate the Indians were always ready to adopt for themselves the personal names given them by the whites, and even more freely gave up their local names for the names substituted by the white men. They always seemed to have little or no interest in old things—in their old men and women, their old names, their old personal goods, their old homes—any and everything they had they were ready to change, to abandon, to sell, to give up in one way or another, when called upon so to do or it was to their advantage.”

These authorities believe that the word “Tacoma” or some form of it, came into the Indian language through the medium of the white man. It is not extraordinary that George Gibbs should have included it in his paper published in Contributions to North American Ethnology, Vol. I, 1877. The word had ample time to get into the Indian language by 1873, which was the date of Gibbs’ death. Judge Wickersham has repeatedly referred to George Gibbs and his work and he has always insisted upon connecting it with the year 1853, stating that Gibbs then secured the word. It is historically unfair to date George Gibbs’ work from 1853 when it was published in 1877. The Judge may infer what he pleases but the fact remains that no person ever introduced the word “Tacoma” prior to Winthrop.

This concludes my argument. I have endeavored to show first, that Rainier has a perfect title, and second, that the word “Tacoma” from the historical standpoint is not the proper word to be substituted for Rainier if a substitution were to be made. If this Honorable Body should substitute the word “Tacoma” I should regard such action as most arbitrary.

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## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Conover then concluded the case for Rainier as follows:

I feel that the gentleman who sits across the table from me has helped to make our task easy and that many words will not be necessary. I believe the gentleman is Congressman Johnson, although I do not know him and this is the first time I have seen him. I said in my opening remarks that one of the characteristics of this Tacoma obsession, as far as the name of the mountain is concerned, is that I have always found that Tacoma, while believing itself sincere, wishes to know only the evidence that bears out its side of the controversy. In other words, that Tacoma does not want to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I did not know that they would come here and acknowledge this fact before this Honorable Board, but it could not have been done more convincingly than was done by Congressman Johnson.

This young man, Mr. Farrar, is a student of history. It is his vocation, his pleasure, his relaxation, and to it he gives a mind peculiarly qualified for such study. He came before this Board to tell the facts from a historical standpoint, and the fact that we produced a man to tell those facts, a man without bias or prejudice or anything on earth but knowledge, has produced a scene in this room, which, while disgraceful and offensive to the dignity of this Board, is of real value as indicating to this Board the inherent insincerity of the movement for a change of name.

Judge Wickersham has had considerable to say about Indian testimony and has quoted Matthew Seattle, the alleged descendant of old Chief Seattle. I wish to read to you from the Washington State Historical Society Publications, Vol. II, page 449, this statement over the signature of Charles M. Buchanan, Superintendent of the Tulalip Indian Reservation, the greatest authority on Indian matters in the Northwest:

"I knew Matthew Seattle quite well, and I knew his father, John, who yet lives. There is not a drop of blood of old Chief Se-at-tlh in the veins of either John or Matthew. They had absolutely no right to the name "Seattle" though it was quite a common trick among Indians to adopt the name of another Indian who had become well known. As a matter of fact, John and Matthew did not belong to the same tribe as Se-at-tlh—the latter lived, died and was buried (1866) upon one of the reservations under my jurisdiction on the Port Madison Indian Reservation of this Agency."

I will also quote from a letter from Thomas W. Prosch, historian and journalist, now deceased, page 459, same volume:

"I am not filled with faith concerning the reliability of information derived from the Indians. Capt. George Vancouver, while off the present City of Tacoma, struck the keynote of their character when he said, 'The little respect which most Indians bear to truth and their readiness to assert what they think is most agreeable for the moment or to answer their own particular wishes and inclinations induced me to place little dependence on this information, although they could have no motive for deceiving us.'"

Mr. Prosch continues:

"Veneration was small in them for the truth as well as for other things. Forty years ago no white man on Puget Sound could be convicted on Indian testimony. I feel quite sure that the faith in alleged Indian names, in meanings, legends and traditions is much greater among the people who have come to Washington during the last thirty years than it is among those who came here during the thirty years before."

It seems needless to argue to this Board the disastrous results that would follow a change in this name. This is not a local matter but concerns the civilized world upon whose maps, charts and publications of all sorts Mt.

Rainier has been the official name for all time. The Government has expended large sums in exploiting the scientific, scenic and health-giving features of Rainier National Park. Mt. Tacoma in Mt. Rainier National Park would be an anomaly, and, as I understand it, the name of the park could only be changed by act of Congress.

Up to this time Rainier prevails throughout the civilized world as the name of this mountain, except in the city of Tacoma. Which is easier to change, the custom of the world or of one community? If, furthermore, there is nothing final about a decision by this Honorable Board and its decisions of years ago can be reversed, undoubtedly efforts will be made in the future to secure other reversals of said reversals. And if it should be decided by this Honorable Board to change the name to "Tacoma" there is no question in my mind that it will be called upon to change most of the names bestowed by Vancouver in the Pacific Northwest, through movements instigated by ambitious communities in their several and respective localities. But in the words of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, such change by the Geographic Board would not make Rainier anything but Rainier in the written or spoken language of the world at large.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for your patience and courtesy throughout this hearing.

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Short and effective arguments in favor of retaining the historic name of Rainier were also made by Rear Admiral Richardson Clover, a member and secretary of the United States Geographic Board when the Board unanimously confirmed the name Rainier more than twenty-six years ago, Hon. John F. Miller, William Pitt Trimble and Professor Charles V. Piper, of the Department of Agriculture. Unfortunately reports of these addresses are not available for this record.

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## The Decision

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### Geographic Board Again Confirms Name "Rainier"

Washington, May 28, 1917.

Mr. C. T. Conover,  
702 Central Building,  
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the petition expressed in Senate Joint Memorial No. 14 of the Legislature of the State of Washington, the United States Geo-

graphic Board held a public meeting on May 2, 1917, to receive evidence and hear arguments for and against changing the name of Mt. Rainier in the State of Washington.

At a special meeting held May 11, the evidence presented on May 2, together with other data collected, were carefully considered and, after discussion, the United States Geographic Board declined to reconsider its former action establishing the name Rainier for the mountain.

The name Mount Rainier, given by Vancouver in 1792, fixed by a century of world usage, was confirmed by action of the United States Board on Geographic Names in 1890.

For a hundred years the name of Mount Rainier has been used wherever the mountain has been mentioned in the histories, geographies, books on travel and exploration, scientific publications, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and atlases of many nations—by the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Russia, Spain, and even Arabia. In recent years a few dictionaries and encyclopedias have added the word Tacoma, usually in parenthesis, following the name Mount Rainier, but general usage is overwhelmingly in favor of Rainier.

The mountain is within a national park and Congress has decided the name of the park to be Mount Rainier National Park. The mountain is also located in a forest reserve, known as the Rainier National Forest. It would appear, therefore, that the name Rainier is well established, both by an executive order and by act of Congress.

No geographic feature in any part of the world can claim a name more firmly fixed by right of discovery, by priority, and by universal usage for more than a century. So far as known, no attempt has ever been made by any people in any part of the world to change a name so firmly established.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. S. SLOANE,

Secretary.













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