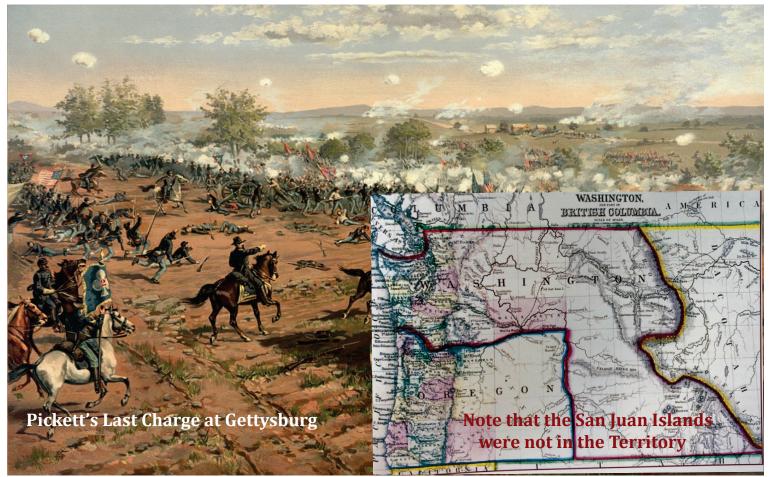
A VIRGINIAN'S MILITARY ROADHistory

One of the most colorful figures in Washington history ended up selling life insurance in New York City, but before that Confederate General George E. Pickett, who graduated last in his class at West Point, walked close by. He served in the Mexican–American War and then in the Washington Territory where he commanded the construction of Fort Bellingham. He also built a frame home that still stands; Pickett House is the oldest house in Bellingham and the oldest house on its original foundation in the Northwest. The streets of Bellingham are named for the states of his troops (Alabama, Iowa, Ohio, etc.). Military Road (Highway 9) 4 miles to your east was out of range of British warship guns. It was on his list of things to complete, but he became distracted 40 miles away.



Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

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Legends & Lessons

Pickett's First Charge - the Pig War There is some controversy that Pickett (and his boss General Harney) maneuvered behind the scenes to provoke a war between the United States and Britain to distract the North allowing the South to seek independence. In 1859 Pickett was dispatched to command the garrison on San Juan Island in response to a dead American pig that had repeatedly broken into an HBC garden. In response to the U.S. mobilization, the British sent a force of 3 warships and 1,000 men. The British commander demanded that Pickett and his men leave. Pickett declined. "Don't be afraid of their big guns," he told his men, "We'll make a Bunker Hill of it." Pickett had set up camp and his battery of cannons near a HBC sheep farm and directly under the cannons of the British warships. Having this error pointed out to him by a brash Henry Robert, an Army engineer (who later published his Robert's Rules of Order), he moved them to high ground where British naval guns could not sight. Both sides used restraint, being unwilling to go to war over a pig. George E. was last, lost, but not least,

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