

History

In 1811 (via the Tonquin) and in 1812 (via the Beaver) Hawaiians were imported to work in Astoria, Oregon. They followed the *Albatross*, which in 1809 made the customary stop at the Hawaiian Islands and brought over 2 dozen men as laborers. Fort Astoria was the first American-owned settlement on the Pacific Coast. The Montreal-based North West Company (“NWC”) bought Fort Astoria (to prevent British takeover during the War of 1812). When the NWC was taken over by the Scot managed Hudson’s Bay Company in 1821, most French Canadians left as trading posts were reduced to avoid redundancy. This left the native Hawaiian Kanaka as the major non-indigenous labor force in the Pacific NW. Hundreds remained with their own village and even their own church with a Kanaka chaplain.



Leaving Paradise - Indigenous Hawaiians in the Pacific Northwest, 1787 - 1898, 2006 Jean Barman and Bruce McIntyre Watson, University of Hawai'i Press
Camp Life. From Henry James Warre, Sketches in North American and the Oregon Territory (London: Dickinson & Co., 1848)

Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant “starts” from Bonnhoefter 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:

[illegible]

AN ACT to prohibit amalgamation and the intermarriage of races.
Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. That hereafter it shall not be lawful within this State for any white person, male or female, to intermarry with any negro, Chinese, or any person having one-fourth or more negro, Chinese or Kanaka blood, or any person having more than one-half Indian blood; and all such marriages or attempted marriages, shall be absolutely null and void.

Sec. 2. If any white person, negro, Chinese, Kanna, or Indian, within the above forbidden degrees, shall knowingly intermarry or attempt the same by procuring a solemnization of marriage, under any of the forms or ceremonies legalized in this State, such person or persons upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary or county jail, not less than three months nor more than one year.

Sec. 3. If any person authorized to license marriages, or to solemnize marriages within this State, shall willingly or knowingly license, marry or attempt to marry, any of the persons above forbidden to marry, such person or persons upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary or county jail, not less than three months nor more than one year, and be fined not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the clerks of the several counties in this State, when applied to for a "license" to marry, to inquire into the facts as to whether either of the parties to such proposed marriage comes within the above forbidden degrees, and for this purpose he may put such applicant on oath, and demand further proof in his discretion; *provided*, such clerk shall not require more than the affidavit of one other disinterested person.

Legends & Lessons

The Oregonian clipping at the left displays an Oregon law adopted October 24, 1866. It bans miscegenation—marriage between members of different racial groups. An earlier law passed in 1862 banned marital unions between whites and persons with a quarter or more of “Negro blood.” The legislation featured here was more explicit with respect to who could not marry whom. It added Chinese and “Kanaka,” or native Hawaiian, to the list of those who could not intermarry with whites.

The 1866 law also banned marriages between whites and Native Americans, albeit with a different criterion. Whereas the law defined anyone who had at least one grandparent who was Chinese, Hawaiian, or black as belonging to those respective racial groups, a person needed to have one or more parents who were Native American to be so classified. Being that unions between pioneer men (starting with French Canadians) and native women were commonplace accounts for the different and more relaxed standards. Question,

When was this 1866 Law repealed?

(See answer at the next pedestal.)