

History

Italian Americans are the 4th largest European American immigrant group (behind English, Irish and German). 5.5 million Italians immigrated to the United States from 1820 to 2004, but in 1870 there were fewer than 25,000 Italian immigrants in America, many of them Northern Italian refugees from the wars that accompanied the struggle for Italian unification and independence from foreign rule that ended in 1871. Most Italians began their new lives as manual laborers in western mining camps and farms reflecting skills learned in Northern Italy. And, of course, many were attracted to the California Gold Rush that spilled over into the Pacific Northwest.



Ethnobotanical Gardens

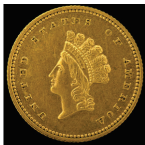
Native plant “starts” from Bonnhoefter Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

Wealth, Gold & Money

Russian Skins




American Gold



Washington had 183 issuing charter banks in 92 different towns. There are ~4,000 Washington national currency bank notes known. East Stanwood had its own banknote! (Hometown notes ended in the 1930s.)

American Greenback

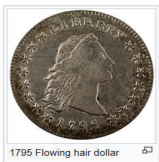


Image of one dollar "Greenback", first issued in 1862 

Chinook Tusk Shells



American Silver



1795 Flowing hair dollar

East Stanwood Banknote



Lot 19157. East Stanwood, WA - \$5 1929 Ty. 2 The NB of East Stanwood Ch. # 13439 A very scarce note from the only bank to issue in this Snohomish County community. Track & Price has recorded only one appearance at public sale of any of the seven known examples since 2001, with that coming when we sold an...

Starting price: 1.050,00 USD

Legends & Lessons

Read The Big Burn by Tim Egan; here is an interviewer's comments:

I was impressed with how you were able to cover so many topics and yet keep the story cohesive. Just the Italian immigrants could have been a story. That's funny because I went to the little village on the French-Italian border in the Alps, where these guys were from, and there's this cemetery plot that worships these young Italians who moved to the American West and gave it all up for the national forest system.

Pioneers here tell of panning for gold with the "Stream Warden," a prospector who staked out a small creek - first typically Italian, later Chinese.

They were searching for wealth. Before the Civil War, the only money issued by the U.S. were gold and silver coins, only coins were legal tender; that is, payment in that form had to be accepted. Paper currency in the form of bank notes was issued by private banks; the notes redeemable for U.S. currency at the bank's office (in East Stanwood). Greenbacks were the US's 1st paper currency (printed with green on the back), issued by the U.S. during the Civil War.

<https://www.independent.com/2014/02/27/interview-author-tim-egart/>

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