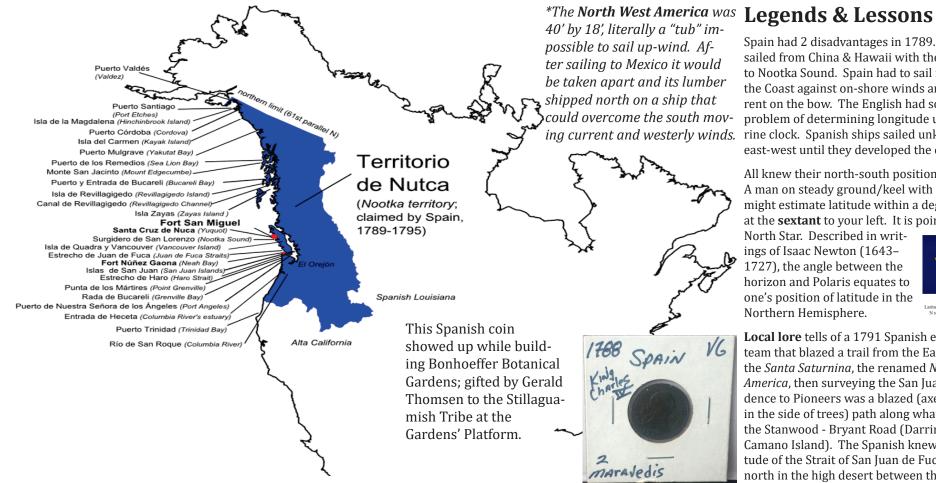
SPANISH EXPLORERS

History

In 1789 a Spanish galleon, looking for Russians from the Aleutians and the French from China, sailed into Nootka Sound to find ships flying English, American,



and Portuguese flags, including the 1st ship built in the NW, the schooner North West America.* Being a warship (and Spain controlled the Coast down to the tip of South America), they took prisoners (never to return the schooner, a full size replica sits in our Lake Nootka). In short order they built cabins, a fort, and sailed captured ships to San Blas, Mexico. Later, England and Spain signed (3) Nootka Accords and the Spanish tore down the fort, departing for the 42nd parallel (OR & CA border). Who, might one ask, actually did the work?



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:

Spain had 2 disadvantages in 1789. Others sailed from China & Hawaii with the currents to Nootka Sound. Spain had to sail north along the Coast against on-shore winds and a current on the bow. The English had solved the problem of determining longitude using a marine clock. Spanish ships sailed unknowingly east-west until they developed the capability.

All knew their north-south position of latitude. A man on steady ground/keel with a keen eye might estimate latitude within a degree. Look at the **sextant** to your left. It is pointed at the

North Star. Described in writings of Isaac Newton (1643-1727), the angle between the horizon and Polaris equates to one's position of latitude in the Northern Hemisphere.



de and longitude of Alaska is 54° 40

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Local lore tells of a 1791 Spanish exploration team that blazed a trail from the East to meet the Santa Saturnina, the renamed North West America, then surveying the San Juans. Evidence to Pioneers was a blazed (axe gashes in the side of trees) path along what is now the Stanwood - Bryant Road (Darrington to Camano Island). The Spanish knew the latitude of the Strait of San Juan de Fuca; walking north in the high desert between the Cascades and Rockies, the exploration team reportedly turned west at 48.25°N. Spain considered this land theirs (a claim that later allowed the United States to gain title to the San Juan Islands).