## THE INDIAN WARS

## **History**

The Puget Sound War began over land rights and ended in a cloud of controversy surrounding the hanging of Chief Leschi, who finally chose war to save his Nisqually Tribe's camus fields. The catalyst of the war was the Treaty of Medicine Creek of 1854, negotiated by Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens. The treaty preserved Indigenous fishing rights, but took away prime Nisqually farm lands with their prairies of camus, the "potato" of the American Indigenous. Battles occurred in present-day Tacoma, Seattle, and even as far east as Walla Walla. Leschi was put on trial that resulted in a hung jury; the judge had instructed the jury that killing of combatants during wartime did not constitute murder. On February 19, 1858 Chief Leschi was hanged on gallows near Lake Steilacoom.

Indigenous peoples engaged in the active management and cultivation of Blue Camas. Controlled burning was employed to clear land and improve growing conditions. While plots occurred naturally in the Northwest, Indigenous Peoples would maintain a plot through the planting and harvesting of Camas bulbs, as well as by tilling and weeding. Camas plots were harvested by individuals or kingroups, who were recognized as a particular plot's cultivators or stewards. Stewardship was typically lineage-based, and cultivation rights to a particular plot were fiercely guarded. Multiple generations would often harvest the same plot. Plots have been recorded as possessing physical boundary markers and there were social consequences for



harvesting from a plot that was informally recognized as being maintained by others.

	2 Culture	s uong to war - wno would you bet on?		00 1 1 2 1 60		THE ! HEY A
Skills and Knowledge Languages	20 in Western Washington alone	European Pioneers English as the common language				VAR \ ADDE
Travel	Walking, Canoes	Walking, Canoes, Horses, Wagons, Oxen, Trains, Ships, Mules, Donkeys				1 10 \ 10 23
Animal Husbandry Housing Structures	none Longhouses, tepees, wigwams, Lean-tos	Cows, Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Chickens, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks Cabins, Cottages, 2-story houses, 3-story houses, forts		THE STREET	1 1 1	A WARRING
Carpentry Water & Sentir	bark fastened, burnt end poles	Nails, Screws, Mortise & Tendon, 2-3-4 stories construction		101111	1 1 1	1/ 0.659
Disease	No resistance	Resistance or Immunization: Measles, Mumps, Scarlet Fever, Cholera, Chicken Pox, Cow Pox, Polio		B		U / BOOK I
Communications Universal Writing	Runners, smoke signals	Telegraph lines, Trains, Pony Express, stage coaches  Sine lames Bible universal newspapers, visiting speakers		EN 8 8 8 1		8 / NEW / /
Weapons	Bows, arrows, spears, rocks	Rifles, cannons, revolvers, bombs, warships, war colleges	\	100 1 1 1 1		B BB V
Metallurgy Harnessing Energy	none fire	Iron foundries for plows, tools, weapons use of steam, waterwheels, animals to till land, windmills, batteries		10 1 1 1 1 1	A V	IN MINE A
Food Preparation	Drying and cooking	Canning, drying, baking, use of alcohol, cooking, use of salt	A STATE OF THE STA			1 2000000 1
Health Care	Natural plants only, Shamans	Immunization, hospitals, doctors, nurses, mid-wives, sterile saunas		111111	1 8 1	1 B B B
Clothing Fishing, whaling	Animal skins, reeds Traps, spears, nets	Use of animal wool for textiles from weaving, sewing, croquette, tanneries, shoes and boots iron/steel hooks, traps, spears, nets, ocean going ships		101111		N 1880/ B/
	w St	e guns of the HMS Sateli ere sent to patrol the Gerait and prevent further im the North by the Haid Tlingit.	eorgia . raids			

## **Legends & Lessons**

To suggest the Indians were outgunned is an understatement. There was nothing romantic about the Indian Wars, but they were not the only wars. Territorial Governor Stevens ordered pioneers to build and use blockhouses; some resisted thinking it not necessary. Stevens, who had graduated 1st in his class at Westpoint had them arrested to be tried in a Military



The US Navy steamer Massachusetts was a converted merchantman. She was actively involved in the 1855–1856 Indian War and the 1859 Pig War. She visited Olympia during those conflicts. The cannon pictured here was one of eight she sent ashore to US Army captain George Pickett to arm the redoubt at American Camp against the British in 1859.

Court. Territorial Judge Lander held Stevens in contempt and ordered him arrested. Stevens thought this a good idea and jailed the judge. The judge pardoned himself and promptly placed a huge fine on Stevens. Stevens pardoned himself. Washington DC had Stevens depart (deported) to Congress to serve as the Territory's Delegate and later die, at the Battle of Chantilly.

## **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:

| American Dougness (2) | Balding Bost (7) | Baldin

in Yallin Missian and Culturia (See The Control of Cont