

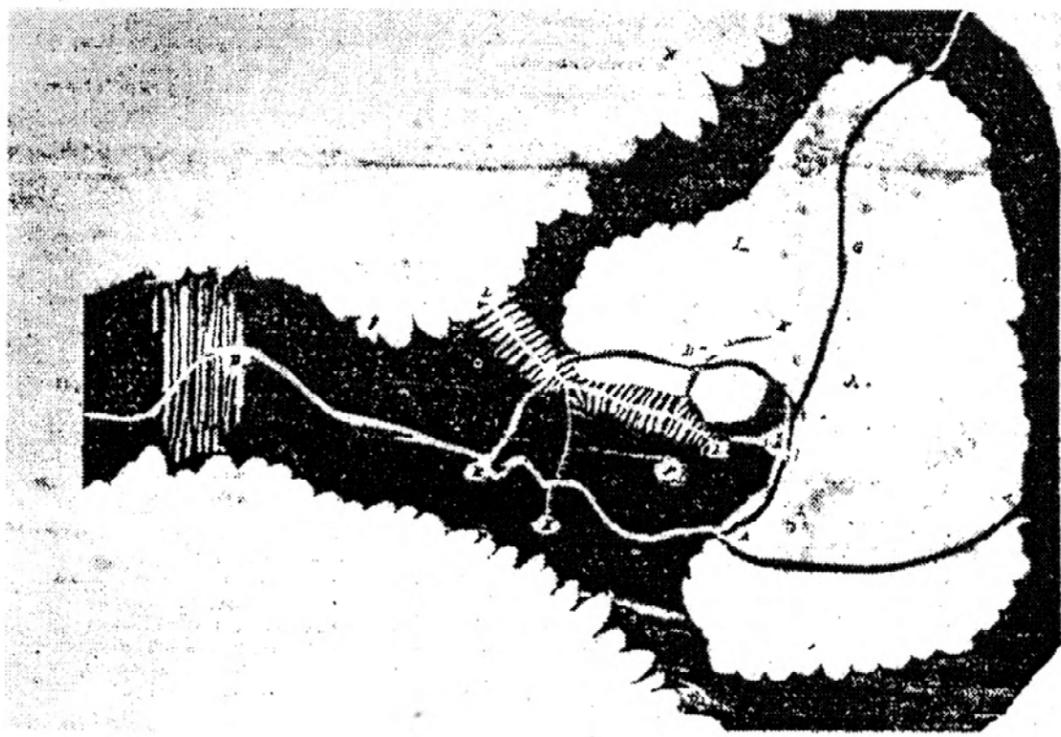
TRUTH TELLER.

DEVOTED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF TRUTH, AND SUPPRESSION OF HUMBUG.

EDITED BY ANN ONYMOUS

Steilacoom, W. T., February 3, 1858.

VOL. NO. 000.



Plan of Tenalcut or Connell's Prairie,
Surveyed by Lieut. Kautz, Dr. Tolmie,
& W. Tidd

- A Point where Leschi was left by the express party.
- B Swamp where Moses was shot.
- C Military Road. Route pursued by express party; distance 68 chains.
- D Route supposed to have been taken by Leschi; distance 104 1/2 chains.
- E Junction of the two roads; distance 33 and 49 1/2 chains. From C to swamp 85 chains.
- F Dense forest; much undergrowth and fallen timber.
- G Trail to Muckleshute
- H Connell's house.
- I Williamson's house.
- J. Block-house.
- K. Springs.
- L. Swamp and ravine. M. north.

The express party came upon the trail from the east. Met Leschi and other Indians at A, left there and rode rapidly to B, where they were fired upon, and Moses was mortally wounded. Rabbeson testified that he saw Leschi at both places. None of the others of the party saw him. There were six others besides Rabbeson. This occurred on the 30th of Oct. 1855.

A Card.

I believe it to be the duty of every honorable man who knows that a wrong has been done to any individual or set of individuals, not to keep silent, but to throw in his contribution to the cause of justice, and the exposure of error. I do not wish to be understood, however, as at all addressing that part of the community who only float up to the surface like scum, in times of public excitement, and are only heard in turbulent harangues and vile denunciations. With such I have no affinities; but there are gentlemen in Washington Territory, whose esteem I value highly, and whose friendship I am proud of; and to them I would say, that the grounds on which the resolutions of the late meetings, at Steilacoom and Olympia, condemnatory of the officers of the army, as having endeavored to defeat the execution of the law in the case of Leschi are based, I know to be as imaginary as they are unjust. To charge such men as Col. Casey, Lieut. Kautz, and Lieut. McKibbin, with disgraceful acts, is to place a stain on human nature itself, a blot on all worth and honor. My own name has not been mentioned in

the proceedings of the different meetings, but as I can not hold a middle course where my brother officers are assailed unjustly, I shall feel proud, if in future proceedings, my name may be mentioned with theirs. [name illegible]

A Card.

The virtuous indignation of the people of Thurston and Pierce appears to have been thoroughly aroused against the officers of the army stationed at Fort Steilacoom, with but one signalized exception. Although not having been particularly mentioned so far, in any of the mass meetings, except to have been the subject of billingsgate and vituperation from one or more of that class of valiant individuals who never have been known to express such opinions face to face with the persons mentioned in their vulgar tirade; still, I cannot in justice to myself, and in accordance with my position as executive officer on the 22d January, 1858, allow any impression or assertion, that my action was actuated by the same sense of duty as that of my brother officers, to pass unobserved.

The orders given to me by the commanding officer, (Col. Casey) were, to deliver the prisoner, Leschi, to the sheriff upon presentation of the proper warrant; no such authority was presented, from the fact of the sheriff having been arrested, which came to my knowledge about 12 1/2 P. M. As to the suspicion that Col. Casey had arrested the sheriff and confined him in the guard house, I think the cross-questioning by the Secretary of the Territory, of myself, should have been sufficient.

It has been suggested, I understand, by some far-sighted "wise acres" that the "Officer of the day" secreted himself for the purpose of avoiding the process of delivering the prisoner to the sheriff. Supposing this absurd suspicion to be true; it was certainly well-known to any sensible individual, and there were certain persons present who are quite conversant with military customs, that the prisoner would have been quite as promptly delivered up to the proper authorities, upon application to the

commanding officer, as he would have been to the "Officer of the day."

My object in presenting this card to the public, is to publish the fact that I have acted as all officers of this post have done, (*who have been annihilated by effigies and terrible resolutions, to send them out of the country and deprive them of their commissions.*) feel as they do, perfectly conscious of having done right.

ARTHUR SHAAF.
2d Lieut. 4th Infantry, U. S. A.

To the Citizens of Washington Territory:

Considering the unpleasant situation in which I have been placed by the action of a public meeting held at Steilacoom on the 2d of January, and by a series of resolutions passed by a meeting held at Olympia on the 26th January, I have thought proper, in this manner, to address the public.

The proceedings of both the meetings alluded to, which were formed and carried through by men laboring under a wild frenzy of excitement, contain nothing more than hasty assertions—natural, and becoming those who act without reflection—controlled by misguided passion.

I consider myself, under the above circumstances, justified in making a plain and unequivocal denial of having had any knowledge whatever, of the intention of my arrest previous to the time the writ was served upon me by the deputy United States Marshal.

My own conscience assures me, that as an officer of Justice, I have done nothing that was not in consonance with prudence, and in strict conformity with that respect which should be shown to the law by every good and honest citizen.

When those who have taken part in the passing resolutions, rash and ungenerous in their nature, produce argument or proof in place of assertions, I am prepared to meet them on any and every point—confident that I shall be able to show to the world that I have committed no act unworthy myself as a man, or my duty as a public officer.

GEORGE WILLIAMS,
Sheriff Pierce County

Had a plain statement of Facts and a smaller exercise of imagination, been made by the parties who drew up the resolutions adopted by the recent meetings at Steilacoom and Olympia, relative to the case of Leschi, there would have existed no necessity for the undersigned to vindicate himself from the false charges made against his conduct as U. S. Commissioner. In times of popular excitement, much injustice is apt to be done to individuals, and although a cooler temper will undoubtedly ensue, and many regrets be made by those who are most savage in their demonstrations; still, the undersigned thinks that he has not the right altogether, to remain quiet; but that he owes a duty to himself, his friends and to society, to state plain and honest Truth.

On the morning of the 22d of January, an affidavit was made before me by an Indian, to the effect, that Mr. Williams, who resides near Fort Steilacoom, had on a certain occasion sold a quantity of whisky to an Indian. As I am the U. S. Commissioner it was my duty to immediately issue a warrant for the arrest of said Williams, which I accordingly did. It was served upon him by Mr. Kautz, a citizen of this Territory, whom I appointed acting U. S. Marshal. At any other time than the 22d of January, Mr. Williams might have been arrested for selling liquor to Indians without a single shriek on the part of the public, or a solitary howl from the crowd that went to Fort Steilacoom to see Leschi hanged. But on this day justice was to be set aside; a man charged with the misdemeanor of selling liquor to Indians was to escape without punishment, because forsooth, that man happened to be a sheriff—an officer, who according to the law books of the Olympian and Steilacoom reformers, can only be arrested on certain days of the year. If I know my duty at all, I always endeavor to do it well and promptly, and in issuing a warrant for the immediate arrest of Mr. Williams, was simply carrying out what I was sworn to do in my official capacity.

But the cry is that there was a plot—a secret caucus it is said, was held, (nobody knows where,) by a set of persons, (nobody knows who,) to do something, (nobody knows what) which would result in saving Leschi from the gallows. Now, if there was a plot I certainly am the victim, and if the carrying out of the law, in the case of Leschi was prevented, it certainly is the fault of the law itself, which does not ordain that sheriffs cannot be arrested for selling liquor to Indians. The shallowness of reasoning, and the vividness of imagination brought to bear in blaming me for exercising for a legitimate purpose, the powers vested in me by the law, are truly extraordinary. It was a matter of indifference to me whether Leschi was hanged or no, and I leave it to my friends to declare whether I ever expressed an opinion about the propriety of hanging him. It is sometimes the lot of honorable men who do their duty to be abused, and I cannot expect to be free from the common chances of life; but I do enter my protest against being included in any plot. I know that the good sense of the community will finally uphold my official acts, whatever their results may be. My motto in life has always been to do my duty and leave the consequences to take care of themselves.

J. M. BACHELDER,
U. S. Commissioner 2d Jud. Dist.