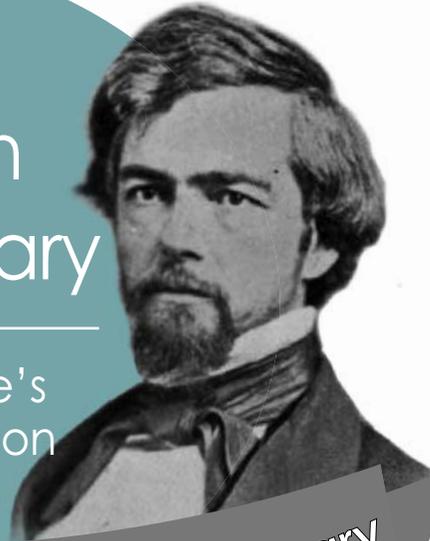


Washington Territorial Library

Celebrating the state's
oldest cultural institution



1853-2013

160th Anniversary

Washington State Library
Olympia, Washington
October 15, 2013



(Left to right) Washington State Librarian Rand Simmons, Secretary of State Kim Wyman and Governor Jay Inslee in the Library of the Governor's Mansion celebrating the 160th Anniversary of the establishment of the Washington Territorial Library.

Photo: Brian Zylstra, October 9, 2013

Washington Territorial Library: Celebrating the State's oldest cultural institution, 1853-2013.

Printed in conjunction with an Open House celebrating the Washington Territorial Library's 160th Anniversary, October 15, 2013.

Compiled largely from postings to the Washington State Library's blog, blogs.sos.wa.gov/library/index.php/category/wsl-160/

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Foreword

From its beginnings as the Washington Territorial Library in 1853, the Washington State Library (WSL) has played a major role preserving and providing public access to books, maps, collections, and other vital information about Washington's history and government.

For the past 160 years, the State Library has lived up to its mission and purpose, which is to "collect, preserve and make accessible to Washingtonians materials on the government, history, culture, and natural resources of the state." In addition, the State Library has led the way in coordinating services and helping secure federal or private funding to benefit other libraries throughout Washington. Literally, the benefits of your Washington State Library are felt throughout the state, and on the Internet!

Back in the 1850s, Congress understood the importance of having a library for the Washington Territory. In fact, when Congress in 1853 passed the Organic Act, creating the Washington Territory, it included a section specifically creating a territorial library.

Congress had the wisdom to provide ample funding for the new library. And Isaac Stevens, Washington's first Territorial Governor, used that money well, buying books, maps, globes, and other items. The \$5,000 appropriation back then would amount to more than \$135,000 today! That appropriation was key to making the Territorial Library a worthy and valuable institution to serve Washingtonians for generations to come.

After Stevens made the initial purchases, he had the 2,000 books placed on the *Invincible* that left New York and sailed around the tip of South America before stopping in San Francisco. When the *Tarquinius*, the vessel carrying the books and other items from California, finally reached Olympia, it meant more than the arrival of some books. It marked the arrival of Washington's oldest cultural institution, one that still plays an important role today.

As Washington's Secretary of State, I'm proud that our State Library is a central part of our office. I applaud State Librarian Rand Simmons and all of the State Library staff and volunteers for their tremendous work on behalf of the people of Washington.

Congratulations to the Washington State Library on this special anniversary. Here's to many more years of service!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Wynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Territorial Collection

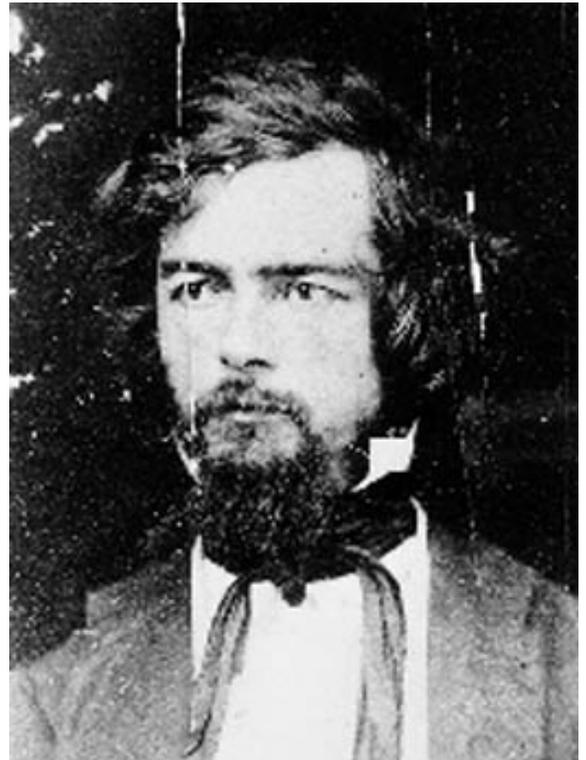
The Voyage of the “Unknown Steamer”

160 years! And our flame continues to illuminate the world around us.

The Washington State Library is celebrating its 160th birthday in 2013. Why is this an important number? First, no other public cultural or educational institution in Washington can make this claim. And second, not only are we still here but WSL staff continue to provide excellent access to the information needs of the people and libraries of The Evergreen State. And third, our story is the story of Washington Territory and State. We were here from the very start and have evolved with the times, consistently reflecting the history taking place around us.

So as we kick off a series of blog posts covering this event, let us go back to the *Organic Act of 1853*, which created Washington Territory and included:

SEC. 17. And be it further enacted, That the sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended, by and under the direction of the Governor of Washington, in the purchase of a library, to be kept at the seat of government for the use of the Governor, legislative assembly, Judges of the Supreme Court, secretary, marshal, and Attorney of said Territory, and such other persons, and under such regulations, as shall be prescribed by law.



Governor Isaac Stevens



Millard Fillmore

The name of President Millard Fillmore usually evokes a snicker, but he was actually an important figure in our history since it was his signature that created Washington Territory. And yet, from what I can find, not one single political or geographic area is named in his honor here in Washington.

When Isaac Stevens was appointed the first territorial governor, among the many tasks he was charged with included the selection of the library. As [the Washington State Library's] website states, "... Stevens purchased books from H. Bailliere and C.B. Norton and Company of New York City; collected archival documents from all the states of the union; acquired the still unpublished Wilkes Expedition charts, having them printed by George F. Lewis of Philadelphia; and made arrangements for the casing and portage of these materials through vendors in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. The first 2,000 books travelled by an unknown steamer."

There's more, but I'll stop at the "unknown steamer" mention in order to present the first of many historical mysteries in the WSL story as we enlist the help of you readers and historians out there to participate in enriching our narrative.

The couple thousand or so volumes of the original Territorial Collection were loaded on the East Coast and made the journey around the tip of South America to San Francisco, where they changed ships. The brig *Tarquinia*, with the literary cargo, left the Bay Area and arrived in Olympia on October 23, 1853, a month before Stevens himself arrived via an overland route.

WSL librarian Hazel Mills back in the 1950s was the first to really start digging into the identity of the first ship, but the name of the craft has continually eluded researchers. We do have data on the second ship, the *Tarquinia*. It was built in Perth Amboy, N.J., in 1844, a 90-ft. long, two-mast square-rigger and at the time of the library transfer was skippered by William Robertson (1809-1888), a native of Norfolk, Virginia, who later became the first lighthouse keeper on Whidbey Island. I find it fitting that the ship's captain who delivered the first library collection to Washington later became someone who provided illumination for safe passage.

The *Tarquinia* was under consideration, as it turned out needlessly, by Olympia residents as a place of refuge during the conflicts with the Native Americans in 1856. Later that same year, the ship went down in the Sea of Okhotsk while stuck in ice.



William Robertson

WSL still holds 400 titles (800 volumes) of the original Territorial Collection, as well as two globes that made the journey in 1853. Other additional Territorial volumes followed the State Law Library when it split from the State Library a little over a century ago. So, hopefully, I have presented a worthy

research challenge to you marine historians out there. Anyone who can provide evidence of the name of the first ship would be giving WSL a great 160th birthday present!

Invincible!

Last week we asked if any *Between the Lines* readers could help us in identifying the first of two ships that brought the Territorial Library collection from New York to San Francisco in 1853. The story of the second ship, the *Tarquinia*, which delivered the books in the final leg of the journey, is well known, but the first ship has been a mystery to us.

Until now.

Rich Edwards, a retired WSL Program Manager for Technical Services and now serving as the Historian for the South Thurston County Historical Society, dove into the mystery and surfaced with the identity of the ship, the *Invincible*! Considering the history of WSL, that's a very fitting name for the clipper that carried the embryonic library around the Horn.

The ship left New York on May 21, 1853, and arrived in San Francisco 110 days later.

According to Rich:

"I have undertaken this research and believe I have found an answer for you. Happy Birthday!

Daily Alta California, 26 September 1853, Page 2, column 5, Consignee Notices:

Consignees of the following goods, per ship Invincible, from New York, are hereby notified that if not called for on or before Monday, the 26th inst, sufficient of the same will be sold to pay freight and charges.

Thirty-two cases books, marked Gen. J.J. Stevens, Olympia, Washington Territory, shipped by C.B. Norton, consigned to Major R.P. Hammond.

Alsop & Co.

The same entry appears in the 24-25 September 1853 newspaper.

In the 12 September 1853 newspaper, there is this announcement:

Ship Invincible, from New York will commence discharging this day, Saturday, Sept 10th at Cunningham's wharf. Consignees are requested to call at our office, pay freight, and



Captain H.W. Johnson of the *Invincible*

receive orders or their goods. All merchandise left on the wharf after 5 o'clock P M, will be stored at the expense and risk of the owners thereof. Alsop & Co.

The same entry appears in the 23 September 1853 newspaper.

The Maritime Heritage Virtual Archives has an entry:

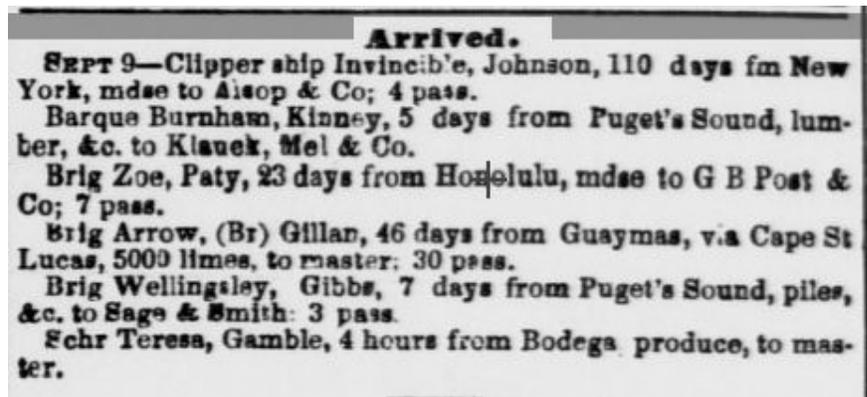
Invincible - 1853 May 21 – September 9 - Sailed from New York to San Francisco in 110 days.

The Daily Alta California for September 10, 1853, page 2, column 5, section "Shipping Intelligence":

Sept 9—Clipper ship *Invincible*, Johnson, 110 days fm New York, mdse to Alsop & Co; 4 pass.

This confirms the ship left New York May 21st.

There is also a notice in the Daily Alta California on 17 August 1853, page 2, column 4, section "Spoken":



Daily Alta California – Arrivals Notice, September 10, 1853

June 1, lat 29 13, long 39 56, ship *Invincible*, from New York, (May 21).

And here is a brief history: The *Invincible* was designed by William H. Webb (1816-1899) and built in his prolific New York shipyard in 1851. The 221 ft. clipper was owned by J.W. Phillips, and others, of New York and commanded by Captain H.W. Johnson for several years. Built for speed she was an ideal vessel for trade conducted with China at that time. She was lost by fire in New York Harbor in 1867. (Arthur Hamilton Clark *The Clipper Ship Era: An Epitome of Famous American and British Clipper Ships, Their Owners, Builders, Commanders, and Crews, 1843-1869, New York and London 1910*)."

Thank you, Rich! Looks like our 160 celebration is off to a great start!

Territorial Collection Trivia

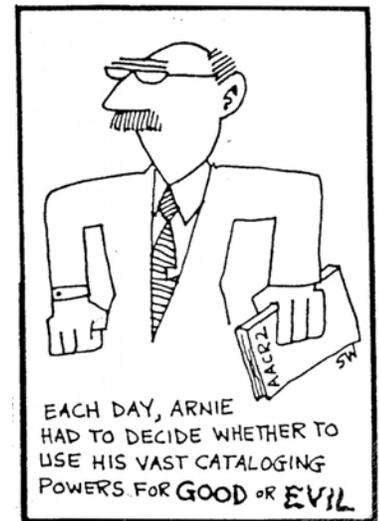
In the summer of 2002 I was given an assignment that turned out to be a career highlight for me as a cataloger to use my vast powers for Good. The task was to make the Washington State Library Territorial Collection the subject of a recon project, i.e., adding the 400+ titles (800+ volumes) to the online catalog. Providing bibliographic access to the oldest library collection in Washington State doesn't happen every day.

The list of titles can be found in one group by using the WSL catalog online author search: Washington State Library Territorial Collection.

In the course of handling these books, I looked them over and added a ton of local notes to the bibliographic records. As we celebrate the 160th anniversary of this collection, I'd like to share a few of the more interesting bits of trivia I unearthed in the course of cataloging.

Tales of a grandfather: being stories taken from Scottish history humbly inscribed to Hugh Littlejohn, Esq. Boston: S.H. Parker & B.B. Mussey & Co.; New York: J.S. Redfield; C.S. Francis & Co.; Philadelphia: Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co.; Cincinnati: H.W. Derby & Co., 1852. Library ed.: from the last revised ed. containing the author's final corrections, notes, & c.

This work by Sir Walter Scott is one of the few pieces of fiction in the collection. Here's the local note I added: "WSL copy saved from a WWII paper drive by WSL cataloger, Jeannette Rutledge: 'During the first Victory book drive Miss Rutledge was examining books donated for the campaign and she recognized among this literary 'scrap' one of the Waverley novels bearing the book plate of the territorial library. She restored it to the collection ...'—From, 'State Library's books date from 1542 to 1944' by Lucile M'Donald, Seattle times, Aug. 13, 1944"

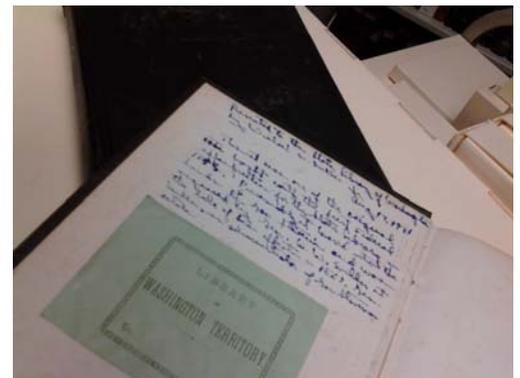


Oregon missions and travels over the Rocky mountains, in 1845-46 by P.J. de Smet. New-York: E. Dunigan, 1847.

Signed by Pierre-Jean de Smet himself: "WSL Territorial Library copy inscribed on 1st prelim. p.: Presented to Colonel Michel, Superintendent of Indian affairs, with profound respect and esteem, P.J. De Smet, S.J. ... May 11th 1849."

Historical sketch of the second war between the United States of America, and Great Britain, declared by act of Congress, the 18th of June, 1812, and concluded by peace, the 15th of February, 1815, by Charles J. Ingersoll ... Philadelphia, Lea and Blanchard, 1845-49.

Northwest book collector and historian Winlock William Miller Jr. (1906-1939) presented, er, returned, several books from the Territorial Collection shortly after his graduation from Yale Law School. Here's the note on the record for the above title: "WSL copy of v. 1 has inscription, p. [2] of cover: Presented to the State Library of Washington by Winlock W. Miller Jr. Aug. 19, 1931. This set was one of the original sets bought with the first Federal appropriation for the State Library in 1853. Presumably it passed into the hands of Gov. Stevens and was acquired by Gen. W.W. Miller at the sale of his effects in 1863. Gen. Miller was administrator of Gov. Stevens estate."



The history of the restoration of monarchy in France by Alphonse de Lamartine. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1851-53.

Somewhere, back in time, an anonymous poet left their cryptic mark: "WSL copy of v. 2 has inscribed in back lining p.: In sleep there is a sense no man has felt."

Washington State Law Library

[Not all of the surviving books of the original Territorial Collection reside in the Washington State Library. A good portion of them went with the Washington State Law Library when it split from the Washington State Library. The current State Law Librarian, Kay Newman, tells the story]:



The Territorial Library originated March 2, 1853, when Congress passed the Organic Act of the Territory of Washington. Section 17 provided \$5,000 to be spent by the Governor of the new Territory to purchase a library. On March 17, 1853, Congress confirmed Isaac Ingalls Stevens as Governor of the Washington Territory.

Subsequently, he wrote to executives of the states and territories, asking for suggestions of books for the new Territorial Library. Books were purchased and donated; and by February 1854, the Territorial Library was housed near the corner

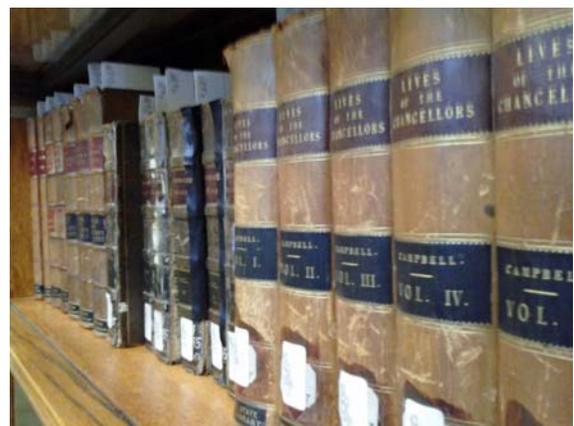
of 4th and Main (now Capitol Avenue).

The State received land in 1891 to provide a place for the Capitol Building. The Legislature did not appropriate funds until 1911; but after \$350,000 was provided, work began on the Temple of Justice. In 1913 the Supreme Court and the law library moved into the Temple of Justice, although the building was not actually finished until 1920.

In 1921, approximately 1,200 law books were transferred from the Territorial Collection to the State Law Library's collection. These books were placed in the general collection, and some of the items were transferred to an off-site storage facility.

In 2004, Renee Corcoran discovered books in the law library's general collection which she believed were part of the original Territorial Collection. She spoke with the State Library and made trips to Archives to copy microfilm with the original shipping lists from items sent around the Cape to the Washington Territory.

From these lists, library staff began to comb through items at offsite storage and the general collection looking for books on the shipping lists. Copies were checked for book plates, and Renee began steaming off bookplates which said "State Library" if those items were on the shipping lists. Frequently, we found that the State Library bookplates had covered the Territorial Collection bookplates.



The library staff continued to go through the collection, cataloging everything that was part of the Territorial Collection. Currently, the State Law Library holds over 600 verified volumes from the original Territorial Collection.

Locations of the Territorial Library

Oh, the places you'll go! (Part 1)

As the Washington State Library nears its 160th anniversary, the staff here have been reflecting on the movement, growth, and development of the Library's collections and services from the Territorial up through this modern era—and the impact these factors have had on life of Washingtonians.

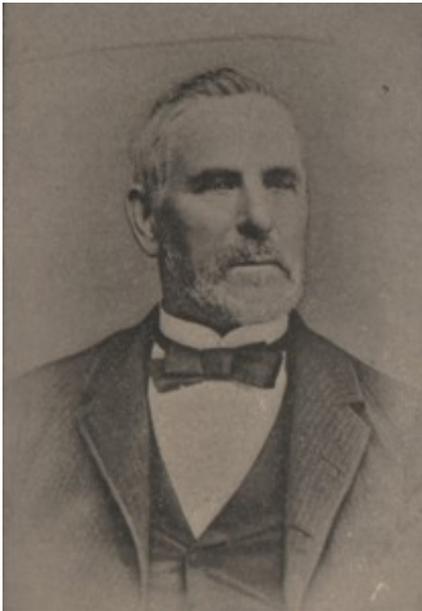
Introduction: Purchase and Delivery

The original books, maps, globes, and miscellaneous materials that made up the original Washington Territorial Library collection were secured using funds appropriated out of the *Organic Act of March 2, 1853*. This act was signed by President Millard Fillmore and provided \$5,000 to the newly appointed Territorial Governor, Isaac I. Stevens, for purchases towards the library. Adjusting for inflation, this amount is approximately equivalent to \$135,950 in the year 2012. With these funds Stevens purchased books from H. Bailliere and C.B. Norton and Company of New York City; collected archival documents from all the states of the union and made arrangements for the casing and portage of these materials through vendors in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C.

The first 2,000 books left New York City on May 21, 1853 on the clipper *Invincible*. The ship traveled around the Horn of South America to San Francisco, where the books were held briefly by the Port of San Francisco. The collection then traversed the waters from San Francisco to Olympia, arriving October 23, 1853 on the brig *Tarquinia* packed in "Massachusetts steamer trunks." Since the day that brig touched shore, the Territorial Library moved quite a few times around Olympia.



1853: G.A. Barnes' Warehouse



George A. Barnes, c.1891

The first books arrived on Sunday, October 23, 1853, and were stored in an Olympia warehouse owned by George A. Barnes. G.A. Barnes was an eminent pioneer in the city's history, a member of Olympia's first Board of Trustees, and the proprietor of its first general mercantile. Barnes also established Barnes' Hook & Ladder Brigade, the first volunteer fire department, around that same time. Alongside his many other achievements he established Olympia's first bank, G.A. Barnes & Company, in 1884 [Jones, 337] and served a one-year stint as mayor of Olympia in 1880.

While we are not entirely certain of the exact location of Barnes' warehouse, sources [Rathbun, pg.17] have placed his mercantile at the west end of what was then called 1st Street (now Thurston Avenue), near Percival Landing on the Olympia waterfront. It is likely that the warehouse was close or next to this mercantile. The books were stored at this warehouse until the arrival of newly appointed Territorial Governor Isaac I. Stevens on Friday the 25th of November. If we are correct in our placement of the location, there is a hotel of modern construction in its place today.

Circa November 1853 – November 1854: Oblate Mission's Buildings

Sometime shortly following Stevens' arrival, the materials were moved – likely to one of the two one-room, one-story buildings on the west side of Main Street between 2nd and 3rd avenues. These buildings, measuring 16 feet by 20 feet, had been rented by Governor Stevens for \$900 a year from a missionary of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a monastic Catholic order. One of these buildings was used by the Railroad Commission as it compiled its survey reports for the proposed route for the Northern Pacific Railroad. The other was used by the Stevens family upon their arrival in Washington [Nicandri, pg. 64.]



1860s Olympia WT – looking East across Budd Inlet. Bridge is 4th Ave. (Image courtesy of Bigelow House)

The first report of Stevens' Territorial Librarian appointee, Benjamin Freeman Kendall—appointed February 28, 1854, and elected by the House of Representatives on April 17, 1854—enumerated 2,130 books (the remaining purchase had arrived) and documents, including the two globes.

Father Ricard is best known for his establishment in June 1848 of Saint Joseph's mission on the east side of Budd Inlet. That land is now preserved as Priest Point State Park. [Ibid, pg. 8] Sensing an Olympia growth boom, Father Tempier of Marseilles had Ricard purchase four lots for the downtown buildings in 1852 or 1853. These lots were the former site of the cabin belonging to Levi Lathrop Smith, Olympia's co-founder and a tragic figure in Washington territorial history. Ricard did so, and placed the lots in the name of another member of the order, Brother George Blanchet, so as not to appear too land-hungry following his Priest Point purchase. The Oblate's downtown buildings are long-gone and now the block is home to the Olympia Center, "a public facility open to all members of the community actively participating in programs or meetings."



Father Pascal Ricard b.05-16-1805, d.01-09-1862

Oh, the places you'll go! (Part 2)

Circa November 1854: B.F. Kendall's Building

In November of 1854, the library was relocated to a small wood-frame building on Fourth and Main Street. Territorial Librarian B.F. Kendall had the structure built specifically to hold the library materials, the law insisting that it be housed "as convenient as possible to the house occupied by the legislative assembly." [1854 Laws, pg. 415.]

"The legislators, holding a proprietary attitude toward the library, bridled at Kendall's action; they fully expected the Territorial Library to be located under the same roof as themselves..." explains former State Librarian Maryan Reynolds in her history of the State Library, *The Dynamics of Change*.

In truth, the legislature had not had a building built specific to its needs up to this point. It met for its first session starting on February 27th, 1854, at the Gold Bar Restaurant on Second and Main in downtown Olympia [Newell History, pg.36] and then moved during the time of the Indian uprising to the Olympia Masonic Temple on Eighth and Main, meeting there from 1855 to 1856. [Stevenson, pg. 146.] The building was still unfinished at the outbreak of the Indian Wars.

This demand for clarity over the location of the library stands to emphasize the collection's value as a tool of both the government and its people. We are not sure as to when this building stopped being used as the library, but we place it at 1856, when a hastily constructed territorial Capitol Building was completed. The image we have of the two-story structure is apparently not representative of the building as it stood from late 1856-1863. The cupola, veranda, and overall finished look of the site were added in 1875 (W.T. Jackson, PNQ, 36:3 pg. 262).

At some point, Kendall's original Fourth and Main building was demolished and replaced with the McKenny Building (built in 1889), which also acted as a home for the collection from 1891 to 1901.

1856-1875: Territorial Legislative Building

According to local historian George Blankenship, the library collection was shifted to the Old Territorial Legislative Building upon completion of its construction. [MS 37, "Paper read at the



Territorial Legislative Building, circa 1890s.
Image courtesy of WA State Digital Archives.

Olympia Public Library, 1932-11-08." The building was built in 1856 on 12 acres donated by Edmund Sylvester. The new Legislative Building was described by historian Gordon Newell as a "wooden two-story structure that stood between where the present Legislative and Insurance Commissioner buildings now stand." The frame building, as described by Acting Governor Charles Mason, measured 40 feet by 68 feet, and was two stories high. The first floor held the House of Representatives and two small committee rooms. The second floor held two additional committee rooms, the Council chamber, and a room for the Territorial Library.

Again, the library was at the center of controversy—a much larger one than Kendall's decision to locate it on 4th Avenue. Maryan Reynolds again explains:

"A sizable number of legislators sought to move the territorial capital from Olympia to Vancouver. Their first step was to pass a law requiring Territorial Librarian J.C. Head to move his office and the library to Vancouver between June 2 and August 1. Another law mandated a popular vote on the issue during July, which the legislators were certain would favor their cause. But Acting Governor McGill refused to permit the move, and the district court refused to require J.C. Head to show cause as to why he should not move the library."

The building was hastily built and was never really in an ideal state following its occupancy. Reports of the era described it as a "sad picture of melancholy dinginess" [Ex. Doc. 144, 43rd Congress, 2nd Sess.] and according to Ezra L. Smith in his letter entitled, "Estimate of the current expenses of the Legislative Assembly and Secretary's Office of the Territory of Washington for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1870," the building was "in a sad state of repair" with worn out furniture; "faded, soiled, and ragged carpets," and a rotting wooden block foundation that had caused the building to slope toward one end. As described in 1874 by Henry J. Struve, Territory Secretary, the territorial Capitol Building was "left in an entirely unfinished condition" following its construction. He continues: "The walls of the main chambers, committee rooms, library, entrance halls, & c., have never been lathed, plastered, or painted, and a portion of the same were and remain to this day, covered with rough, unplanned boards with a coat of common whitewash." Alongside this description, Struve requests the Secretary of the Interior approve \$5,274.75 toward needed repairs and upgrades to the building, which the Secretary of the Interior affirms in a return correspondence, dated April 2, 1875. The repairs were completed by year's end.

An interesting side note: Territorial Librarian John Paul Judson, a 24-year-old law student at the time of his appointment, actually lived in the Legislative Building during his year-long tenure. He did this on practical grounds, claiming it was the best way to gain access to the resources he needed to support his education.

Oh, the places you'll go! (Part 3)

Circa 1875-1877: Tacoma Hall

On July 1, 1875, the collection was disrupted again, having been moved to "Tacoma Hall," a two-story structure located at Fourth Avenue and Columbia Street in Olympia. This was done as a temporary move due to repairs that were needed at the original Capitol Building. Built by Charles Williams in 1861 and originally dubbed the Olympia Building, it was purchased by Captain D.B. Finch, owner and commander of the mail steamer that delivered between Olympia and Victoria. He donated this building in 1869 for the use of the Good Templars of Olympia, a Masonic fraternal order that advocated abstinence and temperance. Finch also donated a large number of books that would appeal to public reading demands and reserved a portion of the building for use as the first free lending library for the city of Olympia around August of 1868.



Tacoma Hall (front & center), circa 1869.

Tacoma Hall was the site of several historic events, including the first meeting site of the Territorial Supreme Court. It was also the location where Susan B. Anthony spoke on her visit to Olympia on October 17 of 1871 to speak for women's suffrage and the site of the first Washington Women's Suffrage Association Convention in 1871. Part of the building was also the first free reading room or library in the city. The Women's Christian Temperance Union also met here.

This building was known by many names over the course of its life: Olympia Building, Tacoma Hall, Tacoma Lodge, and Knights of the Good Templars Hall. For some period in time, the Territorial Library Collection must have also been housed there. In 1875 the Territorial Legislature ordered by joint resolution that Territorial Librarian Frederick S. Holmes relocate the library from Tacoma Hall to the original Capitol Building, which stood on the Capitol Campus near the present-day Legislative Building. Holmes refused to execute this order.

The original Tacoma Hall is no longer. The building was replaced with another building in 1902. This new building then burned down and was subsequently replaced by the Barnes Building (also known as Knights of Pythias Building and Goodfellows Hall), which was built in 1911 and is still standing today.

1877-1891: Territorial Legislative Building

The Legislature ordered the library's relocation—again by joint resolution—in 1877. Speaker of the House Elwood Evans was the author of the resolution and given that he had recently assumed the post of Territorial Librarian following Holmes' vacating of the office, it was finally relocated to the old territorial Capitol Building.



Inauguration of Governor Ferry, 1889.
Image courtesy of WA State Digital Archives.

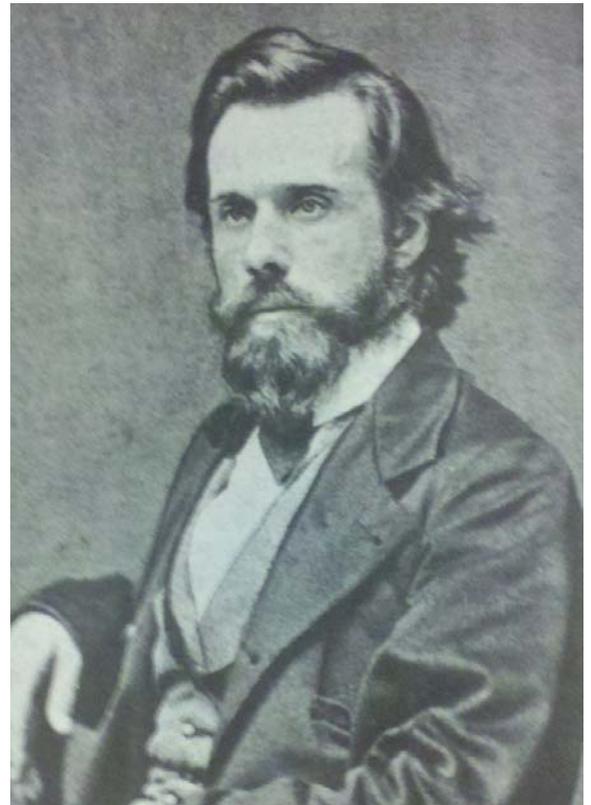
During the library's second occupancy of the old Legislative Building, it witnessed the appointment of Eliza Newell, the first woman to hold the office of Territorial Librarian and at the same time served as the residence of our 15th Territorial Governor, William A. Newell. The collection also became the State Library upon our admittance into the union on November 11, 1889. In 1890 the Legislature authorized preparation for the first official catalog of the library's holdings. It was prepared by Philip D. Moore, the first official State Librarian, and published in 1891. At that time Moore cataloged the law collection as separate from the general collection.

Both collections remained at the building until a move to the McKenny Building in 1891. The building served its original purpose until 1901 when the Legislature purchased the building that originally was built for use as the Thurston County Courthouse. The Library relocated from the McKenny block to the new building from the Old Thurston Courthouse in 1901 and the Legislature moved in upon completing renovations in 1905. The Territorial Legislative Building was destroyed in 1911 to make way for the new Legislative Building designed by architects Walter Wilder and Harry White, and the new Capitol Campus, as envisioned by landscape design firm Olmstead Brothers.

Profiles of Territorial Librarians

Benjamin (Bion) Freeman Kendall, 1853–1857

Born in October 1827 in Bethel, Maine. Fresh out of Bowdoin College in 1852, Kendall found employment as a government clerk in the Survey Land Office in Washington, D.C. He served as an aide (along with future Territorial Librarian Elwood Evans) on the 1853 Isaac Stevens survey team when the first Territorial Governor made his way to Olympia. Governor Stevens had arranged for the selection of the Territorial Library prior to his departure, and the books arrived by ship in October 1853. The Governor made it to Olympia in November, and Kendall a month later. As Louise Morrison wrote, "Governor Stevens' first message to the Legislature implied that he considered Kendall the librarian," but he wasn't officially elected to the post by the Legislature until April 17, 1854. In that election he defeated attorney Frank Clark on vote of 17-9.



Bion Freeman Kendall, 1853 – 1857

On his qualifications and legacy as Librarian, Maryan Reynolds writes, "Kendall's political activity and connections were his primary qualifications for the post. Kendall immediately built a small facility at Fourth and Main Streets (now Capitol Way) to house the library. The legislators, holding a proprietary attitude toward the library, bridled at Kendall's action; they fully expected the Territorial Library to be located under the same roof as themselves ..." In his reports to the Legislature, Kendall also provided a listing of the Library's holdings, the first version of the catalog. He was also appointed as Chief Clerk of the House, February 27, 1854, and was admitted to the bar later that year. In April 1855 his short and meteoric rise found him in the office of acting U.S. District Attorney, and he was elected Prosecuting Attorney for the 2nd District in 1856. Although he eventually became "bitterly opposed" to Governor Stevens, he successfully prosecuted Leschi in his second trial held in Olympia, going against defense attorney Frank Clark.

Realizing he was not making any friends in Olympia, he visited Washington, D.C., in early 1861 to lobby for a new post, and was actually present when Fort Sumter was attacked. He served as a spy at the bequest of General Scott, gathering intelligence for the Union government during a swing through the Southern states. As a reward, Kendall was appointed Washington Territory Superintendent of Indian Affairs for a while. One writer has observed that "Kendall, though an eloquent orator, able, energetic and industrious, was noted for his unyielding opinions, bitter and juvenile prejudices, high-handed contempt for the views of others and his indiscreet utterances." He was

called Bezaleel Freeman Kendall by his political opponents. His editorship of the Olympia newspaper, *Overland Press*, gave him ample opportunity to expand the number of his enemies, and one of them shot and killed him in his business office in January 1863. Frank Clark, who had been defeated by Kendall for the post of librarian and was also bested by him at the Leschi trial, was the defense attorney for the man charged with Bion's murder. The accused man fled, never to be seen again. Some historians have suggested it was Clark's firearm that was used as the murder weapon and the killer was merely an instrument of broad conspiracy.

Contemporary accounts of Kendall's murder can be found in the WSL newspapers on microfilm collection or on our digital historic newspapers (sos.wa.gov/history/newspapers.aspx) site—the Puget Sound Herald of Steilacoom covered the story.

Henry R. Crosbie, 1857

Born circa 1825, Pennsylvanian "Harry" Crosbie was elected to the first three territorial legislative sessions (1854-1855) as a member of the House representing Clark County (then known as Clarke County), where he had been District Court Clerk. In his capacity as a House member he was also on the first Commission on Education. In the 2nd Session he served as Speaker of the House. He was "replaced" in the 3rd Session.



Henry R. Crosbie

Crosbie held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during the 1855-1856 Indian War, and at one point served as a scout for Governor Stevens to investigate rumors of gold discoveries in the Colville area. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination to Congress in 1856. Also in that year he was made the Washington Territory's U.S. Attorney. Crosbie may have been a member of Leschi's legal defense team in the first trial of the Nisqually leader.

In January 1857 the Legislature appointed him to the newly combined office of Territorial Auditor and Librarian for one year at a salary of \$325. Shortly after his stint as Auditor/Librarian, Crosbie was made a Justice of the Peace in Whatcom County (as well as Coroner, according to one source) and was an instrumental American legal presence during the San Juan Islands Pig War of 1859. Historians have recognized Judge Crosbie as being a level-headed figure in the U.S./British boundary controversy. He was assigned to the Utah Territory Supreme Court in August 1860. As late as 1894 he was still filing financial claims with Congress regarding his personal expenses for the Pig War episode.

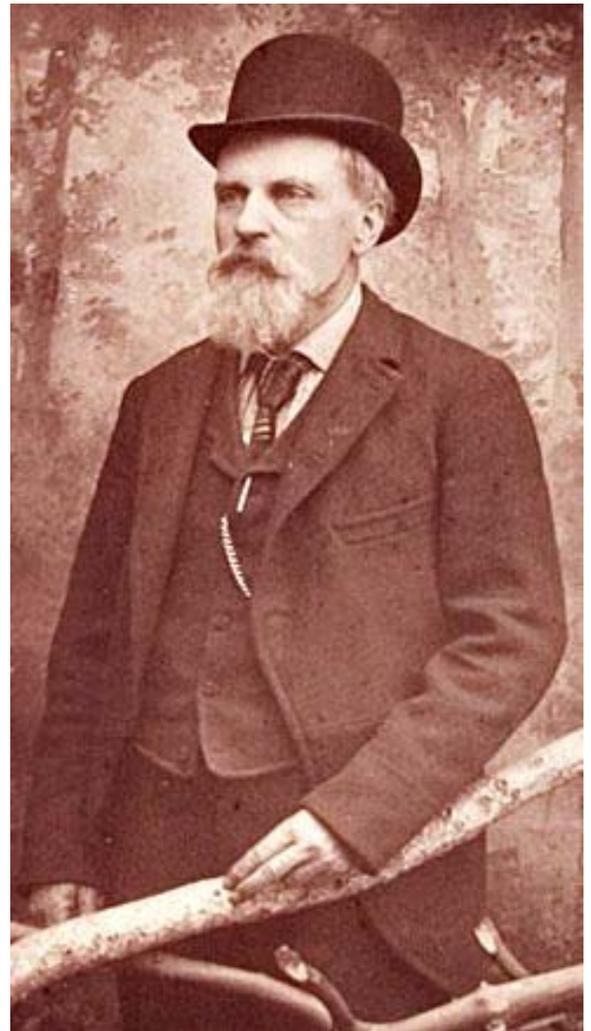
Urban East Hicks, 1858

Urban Hicks, the man with the paradoxical name, was born May 14, 1828, in Missouri where he learned the printing trade in the towns of Paris and Hannibal. Coming to Oregon Territory in 1851 as part of the Ruddell Party, he lived in several places before settling in Olympia. Hicks held a variety of local offices, including County Clerk and Assessor, and served with distinction during the Indian War of 1855-1856, rising to the rank of Captain. He was charged with erecting blockhouses for the protection of the settlers during the hostilities. Hicks was a school teacher in what is now Lacey 1856-1857, appointed as Librarian/Auditor 1858, and later as simply Auditor 1865-1867. During his first term, according to Briahna Taylor, the Library was not Captain Hicks' primary concern:

"Financially, Hicks' tenure as auditor was burdened by a territorial debt from the Indian War. Under the federal Organic Act, counties served as the collector of local and federal taxes. Of those taxes remitted to the federal government, Congress appropriated funds to the territory to finance territorial government operations. But counties faced challenges collecting all taxes owed, thus reducing revenues submitted to the federal government and ultimately allocations to the territory. Hicks faced mounting territorial debt."

In between his terms as Auditor he published the *Vancouver Telegraph*, 1861-1862. He returned to Olympia and produced the *Washington Democrat*, 1864-1865. His editorials bought about accusations from Republicans that he was a Copperhead. Even so, he was sworn in as Territorial Quartermaster General in 1865. After the Civil War he continued to be on the move and working in the newspaper business up and down the Pacific Coast. In later years he lived on Orcas Island and eventually became a resident of the Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, where he died in March 1905. The family name lives on geographically through Hicks Lake in Thurston County.

More information can be found in the work *Pioneer Reminiscences of Urban E. Hicks*.



Urban Hicks

Andrew Jackson Moses, 1859

Called “a family of rascals” by one historian, the Moses brothers (Simpson, A.B., and Andrew, a native of South Carolina) along with Elwood Evans, came from Ohio to Olympia 1851 via the Nicaragua route. Simpson had been appointed the Collector and Andrew became a merchant on Main Street (Capitol Way). He had the instincts of an information professional when he ran this notice in the February 5, 1853, issue of the *Columbian*:

Notice: From and after this date I will keep a register of names of all persons arriving in our new Territory, and I simply suggest to those now here to place their names upon the same book in order hereafter when any person desiring to know the place of residence of any relative or friend who may be living in this section of Oregon, they may know where to find them, and at the same time shall be ready to facilitate transportation to those who may desire going down the Sound. Andrew J. Moses, Main Street, Olympia.

When Governor Stevens arrived in Olympia, he compiled a roster of prominent locals who, in the words of historian Kent D. Richards, “might provide information or services or who exercised power and influence among their peers.” Andrew was among the 30 or so names in the list. He served as a sergeant in the Indian War. It was for the alleged involvement in the death of his brother, A.B. Moses, that Leschi was executed. In 1859 Andrew defeated his father-in-law, James Clark Head, 22-11 in the legislative vote selecting a new Auditor/Librarian.

In addition to holding two territorial posts, he was also the U.S. District Court Clerk in 1859. Moses was involved in forming the Alert Hook and Ladder Company, Olympia's first firefighting group. Andrew was admitted to the bar in 1865 and acted as a Justice of the Peace. Vanishing from the Olympia scene after his divorce in 1870, he surfaced in Portland. The May 11, 1872, issue of the *Washington Standard* reported Moses had been arrested for forgery. He was still living in Portland, working as an attorney and providing entertaining newspaper copy through his exploits, as late as the 1890s. Andrew Jackson Moses died in Roseburg, Oregon, on April 3, 1897, and was buried in Portland.

James Clark Head, 1860–1861, 1863, 1865

(Head served three nonconsecutive terms as Territorial Librarian.)

J.C. Head was born in Washington County, Kentucky, in 1810. His family apparently lived in Illinois before their arrival in Olympia, August 18, 1853. A carpenter by trade, Head was also made a Justice of the Peace and, in 1856, presided over the case of the accused murderer of Leschi's brother, Quiemuth. Bion Kendall was the attorney for the defense, Elwood Evans the prosecutor. His first term as Librarian was the last time the office was combined with the duties of Auditor. Both of his roles were eventful in 1860-1861. Briahna Taylor wrote on his Auditor half:

“J.C. Head's tenure was highlighted by the Civil War and a tight financial condition. While earlier debts faced during Hicks' tenure had been paid, financial troubles for the territory lingered. Congress faced the mounting costs of the Civil War and reduced the territory's

appropriations. This affected the entire territory, including legislators who were not given funds to travel between Olympia and their hometowns for the session. Some had to procure loans to finance their travel and stay in the territorial capitol."

If that wasn't enough, legislators sued J.C. Head the Librarian for refusing to move the collection to Vancouver, proving the importance of a library as a foundation for government. Maryan Reynolds explains the 1861 coup attempt:

"A sizable number of legislators sought to move the territorial capital from Olympia to Vancouver. Their first step was to pass a law requiring Territorial Librarian J.C. Head to move his office and the library to Vancouver between June 2 and August 1. Another law mandated a popular vote on the issue during July, which the legislators were certain would favor their cause. But Acting Governor McGill refused to permit the move, and the district court refused to require J.C. Head to show cause as to why he should not move the library."

Head's refusal to budge quite probably saved Olympia's status as the capitol.

Thomas Taylor, 1862

Although no oath of office record exists today, Taylor was apparently Librarian in 1862. The March 29, 1862 issue of the *Washington Standard* includes this notice: "All persons having books belonging to the Territorial Library will please return at once, or the by-laws will be put in force. Thos. Taylor, Ter. Librarian." He quite probably was the same aged Thomas Taylor who was born October 17, 1793, (some sources say 1791) in Frederick County, Virginia, and came out to Oregon in the early 1850s from Morgan County, Illinois. In 1861 he served as a member of the House in the 9th Session. For a while he lived in the Grand Mound area and then in Elma. He was a long-time and active preacher, remaining in amazingly good health during his senior years. Taylor died in Elma on May 14, 1886.



Thomas Taylor, 1862

John Paul Judson, 1864

Born May 6, 1840, in Cologne, Prussia, J.P. Judson's family came to Illinois in 1845. In October 1853 they made their way to Pierce County. According to Bancroft, "He earned the money in mining on the Fraser River with which he paid for two years' schooling in Vancouver." The young Judson was appointed Territorial Librarian while still a law student and literally lived in the Library "to have more ready access to the law books than at his command," so wrote John Miller Murphy. He also worked as Chief Clerk in the House in 1864. For a brief time he was a school teacher until he earned his law degree in 1867 and went into private practice.

After living in Port Townsend, he returned to Olympia in order to assume the office of Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction, a post he held from 1873 to 1880. His legacy was overhauling Washington's educational system. As Dryden explains:

The School Law of 1877 was an important milestone because it marked the end of the pioneer period in education. Responsibility for it can be attributed to John P. Judson, Washington Territory's ... superintendent of public instruction. This law created a Territorial Board of Education with specified duties, and it also provided for county boards of education. One section dealt with certification of teachers, qualifications, and examinations.



John Paul Judson

Writer Angie Burt Bowden echoes, "His term was one of the most important in territorial history, because of its length—he served six years—because of the growth in professional spirit and usefulness through the county and territorial institutes; and because of the initiation of the Board of Education." In 1876 he was the Democratic candidate for Territorial Delegate to Congress and lost by a mere 73 votes. In 1877 he also held the office of Olympia Mayor. After his Superintendent term was completed, Judson moved to Tacoma and became a Regent for the University of Washington. His final years were spent in Spokane and then Colville, where he died in April 1910.

Samuel Nelson Woodruff, 1866

[Woodruff] was born March 6, 1829, in Ohio. His journal during the 1852 overland trip to Olympia is now in the University of Washington's collection. He married Samantha Packwood in February 1854 and set himself up as a farmer. Woodruff was listed as "Town Marshall" in a July 1864 edition of the *Pacific Tribune*, an early territorial paper out of Olympia. His year-long term as Territorial Librarian was not completed. It would appear Woodruff resigned his office, moved back to his native state, and was divorced by Samantha—in that order. He remarried in January 1869, and died January 18, 1896, in New Lyme, Ohio.

Henry Lensen Chapman, 1866

Woodruff's term was apparently completed by his brother-in-law, H.L. Chapman, although no record of an oath of office exists. Henry was born July 26, 1831, in Ohio. He was a member of Woodruff's party on the Oregon Trail in 1852. Chapman operated a flour and feed store and warehouse on Olympia's Main Street wharf. Prior to his September 1, 1866, appointment as Territorial Librarian by Governor Pickering, he was a Justice of the Peace. In 1870-1871 he is listed as an employee in the office of the Surveyor-General of Washington Territory. Chapman and his family moved to Oakland, California, in 1877, where he died January 20, 1902.

Levi Shelton, 1867-1869

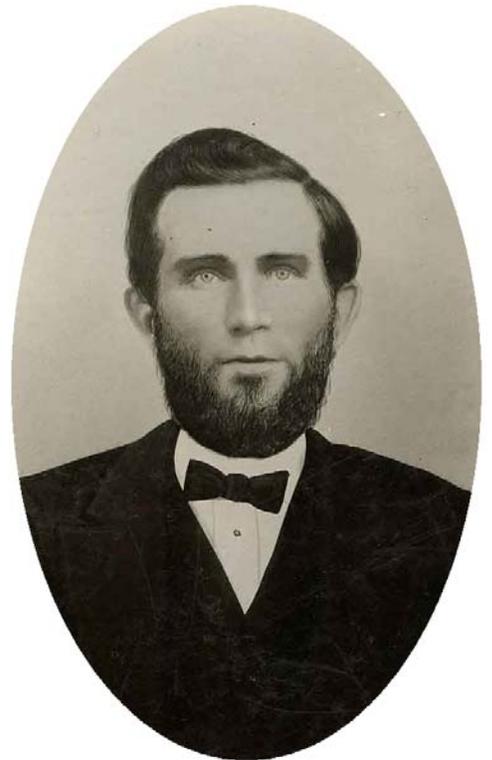
The first of the biennial appointments for the job, being Territorial Librarian was just one of the many posts held by Shelton. He was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina, in 1817 and lived in Missouri by the 1840s. Arriving in Washington Territory August 7, 1852, he quickly dove into public life. An active Democrat, Shelton was elected to the Thurston County Commission in 1854, and served as a member of the Territorial House during the 7th Session in 1859. He was elected as an Olympia Trustee (City Council) in 1870 and served as the Council (Senate) Sergeant of Arms in 1873. After he retired from farming he became a saloon keeper. Shelton died in Olympia in August 1878.

Jeremiah D. Mabie, 1869-1870

Upstate New York native Mabie was born circa 1828. He was raised in Illinois, and came to Olympia with his father and brother in the 1850s. Mabie's occupation is listed as "Speculator" in the 1870 census, but he was apparently counted in his final days. He died three quarters of the way into his term as Territorial Librarian, June 15, 1870 of consumption, aged 39.

Sylvester Hill Mann, 1870

[Sylvester Hill Mann] was born May 6, 1817, in upstate New York. Raised in Pennsylvania, Mann was a soldier in a volunteer unit during the Civil War in 1862-1863. His occupation as a Methodist minister took him all over the Pacific Northwest. The Mann family arrived in Oregon's Willamette River Valley via the Isthmus route in 1864. By 1870, Reverend Mann was sent to Olympia, where he found himself appointed to fill out the Territorial Librarian term of the late Mr. Mabie. He took the oath of office June 21, 1870. As the June 20 issue of the Daily Pacific Tribune reported: "The decease of J.D. Mabie having left this office vacant, Acting Governor Scott has appointed Reverend S.H. Mann to fill it until the next Legislature convenes. We heartily approve of this appointment, though it is questionable whether the new incumbent will be able to fill it for the unexpired term, as the next Methodist Conference will probably assign him to another field." There was no "probably" about it. They did. To Seattle. By August 1, his son, C.B. Mann, was taking the oath of office as his replacement. The roughly five weeks of Reverend Mann's term might be a record for brevity in the office. He was sent to Seattle in 1870-1872, Steilacoom 1872-1874, and finally to Brownsville, Oregon in 1874. He died there March 15, 1876. Considered "somewhat retiring," his poor health was attributed to his involvement in the Civil War.



Sylvester Hill Mann

Champion B. Mann, 1870



Champion B. Mann

Longtime Olympia political fixture C.B. Mann was born November 2, 1844, in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Mann attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and graduated from Portland Business College before arriving in Olympia in March 1870.

He was assigned to the position of Territorial Librarian and served from August 1 to November 6, 1870. C.B. initially held the occupation of school teacher in Oregon and was chosen school district principal in Olympia at the same time he was Territorial Librarian.

A Republican, Mann held a variety of public offices: City Treasurer, County Treasurer, County Commissioner, and Olympia Mayor (1894-1895).

Later in life he was active in gathering historical and biographical data on the pioneers of Thurston County. In a sad coincidence, although in different states, Mann and his only son, Claude, died almost simultaneously on October 19, 1929.

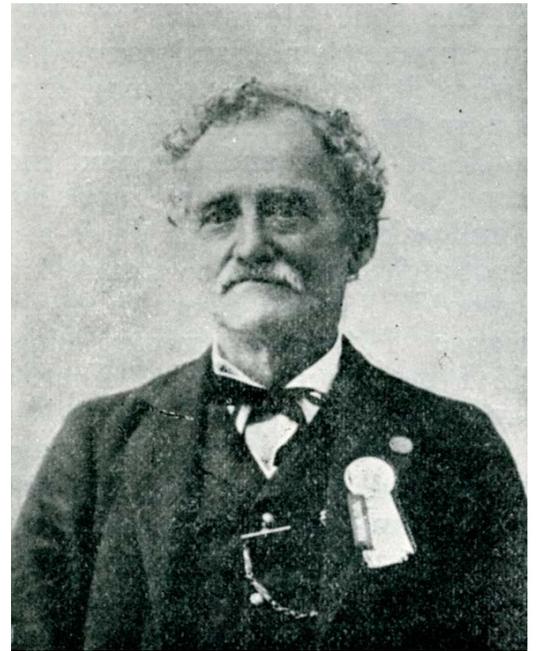
Mann was also the topic of an earlier post, "Digging Up History."

Isaac Van Dorsey Mossman, 1870-1873

"We doubt not," said the *Daily Pacific Tribune*, "that Mr. Mossman will make an efficient and faithful librarian" when the fourth Territorial Librarian for the year 1870 was named. He was born August 8, 1830, in Centerville, Indiana. Mossman arrived in Oregon City October 20, 1853, as part of the Miller Party. Isaac took part in the 1855-1856 Indian War, holding the rank of Corporal and fighting in the Columbia Gorge and east of the Cascades theater where he was wounded in 1856. For the next few years he held a series of odd jobs in Oregon and Washington, including running a pony express business in the Walla Walla area.

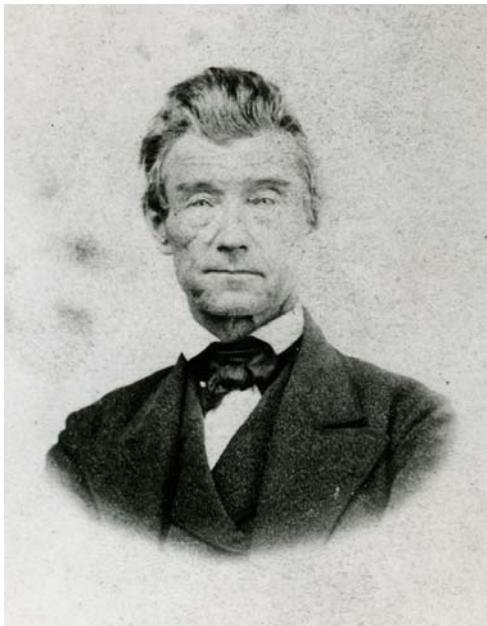
He came to Olympia in 1867 and found employment with the city's Street Superintendent and was appointed Territorial Librarian by the Governor November 7, 1870. While still in office of Librarian, he was elected Thurston County Coroner in 1872 and Olympia Marshall in 1873. In 1877 he worked as a Sergeant of Arms in the Legislature. By 1879 his poor health forced him to retire from public life, and he made a living by light work and running a used furniture store. Mossman left Olympia for Oakland, California, in 1890 and eventually moved to Portland late in life. He died October 11, 1912, in a Roseburg, Oregon, soldiers' home.

Mossman's autobiographical work, *A Pony Expressman's Recollections*, is part of the WSL collection. In this role you could say he was an early promoter of rapid information delivery.



Isaac Mossman

Benjamin Franklin Yantis, 1873-1875



Benjamin Yantis

Born March 19, 1807, in Garrard County, Kentucky, B.F. Yantis emigrated to Missouri in 1835, where he became the Superior Court Judge of Saline County. In 1850 (some sources say 1852) he was part of an overland party to the Oregon Country that was an ordeal even by pioneering standards. His wife was included among the several deaths in the group. Judge Yantis ran a stage line to and from points south of Olympia, and in this capacity was frequently the first member of the community to greet new settlers to the town. He was the father-in-law of the previously mentioned Indian War casualty A.B. Moses.

In 1854 he was a member of the 1st session of the Territorial Council (Senate). In the later 1850s Yantis was active in Eastern Washington as part of the "Colville Gold Rush" and even participated in early Idaho Territorial legislative politics. He was also Captain of the civilian militia group, the "Spokane Invincibles" during the Indian War. Returning to Olympia, he served in the 1862 10th Session of the House, and the 1873 4th Biennial Session of the House. Also in 1873 he was the last Territorial Librarian elected by Legislature. Yantis listed his occupation as "W.T. Librarian" in the 1875 census. Yantis's grandson, George Blankenship, recalled in a 1932 speech:

"My grandfather possessing sufficient political influence to procure the position, which he did not want, turned the office over to me to assist me in procuring what I laughingly refer to as my education, and then proceeded to wash his hands of the matter."

The Judge died in February 1879. The Yantis name has been part of Thurston County political history for well over a century. WSL has a copy of *Psalms and Hymns Adapted to Social, Private and Public Worship in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America* (1843) inscribed by B.F. Yantis in several places.

Frederick S. Holmes, 1875-1877

[Frederick S. Holmes] was born May 8, 1849, in Chicago and spent his early years in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Holmes arrived in Olympia November 9, 1853, with his parents, Samuel and Mary. Only 25 years of age, he was the first Territorial Librarian to be appointed directly by the Governor. According to Maryan Reynolds in *The Dynamics of Change*:

When Yantis vacated the position of librarian in 1875, members of the bar campaigned for Governor Elisha P. Ferry to reappoint Mossman to the post. Ferry, however, nominated Josiah H. Munson. The Legislative Council rejected Ferry's candidate— a singular occurrence in Washington's history. Ferry then nominated Frederick S. Holmes, who was approved by the council and served until 1877. When Holmes resigned, he cited the pressure of personal business, but wrote, "I have arranged with my successor to take charge after tomorrow."



Holmes' headstone in Odd Fellows Memorial Park, Tumwater

Apparently some deal had been made with House Speaker Elwood Evans or the post was filled by some unknown acting-Librarian, as Reynolds adds:

In 1875, the legislature passed a joint resolution instructing Holmes to move the library from Tacoma Hall in downtown Olympia to its old quarters in the capitol building. Holmes apparently ignored the order, for the 1877 session again required the librarian to move the library back to the capitol within five days. Because Holmes was no longer librarian at the time of this order, Elwood Evans, the Speaker of the House who had signed the order, took over the post and obeyed what he had instructed himself to do.

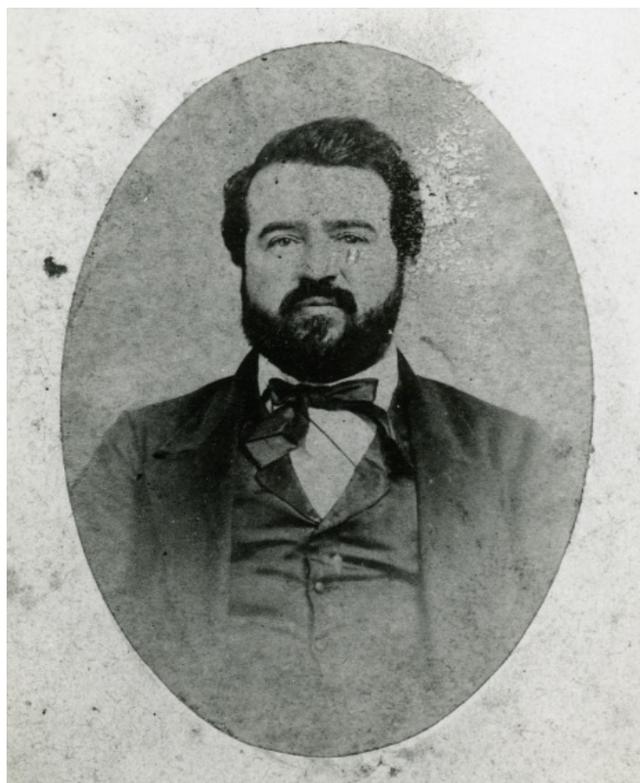
Holmes worked as a bookkeeper and printer for the *Washington Standard* and later the *Olympia Transcript*. He tried his hand at the hardware and grocery businesses and eventually ran a fruit farm just northeast of Olympia. He died in April 1916.

Elwood Evans, 1877-1879

It is difficult to get away from Elwood Evans while reading about the political history of Washington Territory. Born in Philadelphia December 29, 1828, he was appointed a Deputy Collector of Customs under Simpson P. Moses and arrived in Olympia with the Moses brothers in 1851. Admitted to the bar shortly after setting up shop, he became one of the Territory's earliest lawyers. His initial stay in Washington Territory was brief. In late 1852 he went to Washington, D.C., to campaign for the creation of a territory separate from Oregon. Evans served as an aide to Governor Stevens during the overland expedition to Washington Territory in 1853, a party that included Bion Kendall. He served as the Chief Clerk of the House during the 1st Session (1854) and was later elected to fill an unexpired term of a House member. At the same time he filled the role of Thurston County School Superintendent.

An active member of the Whig Party, he led his colleagues into the newly formed Republican Party by the end of the 1850s. Although Evans and Kendall became political enemies, they were united in their hostility to Governor Stevens and his declaration of martial law. In January 1859 he was instrumental in the incorporation of Olympia and was elected the President (Mayor) 1859-1861. Although Evans lobbied hard for an appointment to the office of Governor, he was never successful; yet he was frequently in a position to be Acting-Governor. He was made Territorial Secretary during the Lincoln Administration and assumed the right to select a public printer, awarding the post to Olympian T.H. McElroy who, according to Robert Ficken, was "the public face in a printing business partly owned by Evans." He was no friend of Bion Kendall, and some historians have tried to implicate Evans as guilty by association in a murder conspiracy.

In 1868 he once again served as Chief Clerk in the House, and made valuable contributions in compiling the Code of 1869. He was elected to the House in the mid-1870s, rising to the office of Speaker. He apparently took over the office of Territorial Librarian simply to move the facility to the Capitol Campus. It was during this time he seriously started compiling his history of the region. As Norman Clark observed, "Among the most literate of the territorial barristers, his experiences left him with an intense interest in the drama of those early years, and he had already presented manuscripts to the most enterprising historian of the West, H.H. Bancroft of San Francisco." After he completed his Librarian term, he moved to Tacoma. In 1881 he compiled, along with fellow past Librarian John Paul Judson, the Laws of Washington Territory. He was elected as a member of the First Session of the Washington State House. Evans died in The City of Destiny on January 28, 1898.



Elwood Evans

Walter W. Newlin, 1879-1880

Born in Pennsylvania circa 1841, Newlin was living and working in Olympia as early as 1870 as a lawyer. Appointed Territorial Librarian in August 1879 by Governor Ferry, his tenure was brief but eventful. With Newlin, we see the first glimmer of the kind of librarian we recognize in modern times. His October 1, 1879, report laments the lack of a catalog and the poor facilities. He brought in new shelving since books were stacked out in the halls. Walter solicited donations from members of the legal community and government agencies in an effort to upgrade the collection. He also published a bound catalog of the Library's holdings in 1880, with this preface:

To the Profession: Having no reliable data to go upon, the Librarian found great difficulty in distinguishing missing books from those which were never in the library, and marked as missing those where doubt existed. Those having missing books in their possession are earnestly requested to return the same, and information regarding any of them will be thankfully received.

By May 1880 he had been selected as the Register of the Land Office in Vancouver. His subsequent career took him to Walla Walla and King County. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney for King, Snohomish and Kitsap counties in 1888. He was accused of dismissing serious gambling indictments against brothers Frank and Charles Clancy during September of 1889, but was exonerated by a committee of the Washington State Bar Association. Walter Newlin died November 28, 1889, while visiting his mother in Denver, Colorado.

James Peyre Ferry, 1880-1881

The son of Governor Ferry, born April 26, 1853, in Illinois, was no stranger to Olympia politics. Although it might be tempting to say his appointment to fill out the term of Newlin was the result of nepotism, he took the oath of office on May 19, 1880, which means he was probably named by the incoming Governor, William A. Newell. Ferry worked in the newspaper trade as a printer and compositor. He never married and always lived with family members. He died November 23, 1914, in Seattle.

Eliza Des Saure Newell, 1882-1887

The longest-serving Territorial Librarian was born in 1853 in New Jersey. In 1882 her father, the eccentric William Augustus Newell, was the Governor. Governor Newell had appointed his daughter Eleanor as his personal secretary. He appointed his other daughter, Eliza, to the post of Territorial Librarian. The Governor's nepotism forced the Legislature to change the Territorial laws regarding women in office. Maryan Reynolds picks up the story:

In 1881, Governor William A. Newell submitted his daughter's name for Territorial Librarian. The legislature responded by passing a bill establishing that 'Any person male or female over the age of twenty-one years shall be eligible to the office of Territorial Librarian and the word 'he' whenever contained in this act shall be construed to mean 'he' and 'she.'

Eliza Newell, Washington's first female Territorial Librarian, began her tenure on the first Monday in January 1882. Governor Watson C. Squire, Governor Newell's successor, reappointed her to the post in 1884. Eliza Newell had a wonderful way of wording when it came to official business. In her 1887 report to the Legislature she stated her need for a larger budget with this:

"The appropriation for incidentals is too small for the necessary expenses of the Library, which requires postoffice box, stationary, stamps, wrapping paper, twine, light, fuel, and expressage and portorage to be paid frequently for books to be sent to the Library. The shelves of the main Library are filled to dense packing, also those of the annex. The necessity for additional room is manifest to any observer, and I trust that suitable provision will be made to overcome the inconvenience to which the Library is now subjected, and to make provision for the large increase which may properly be expected. The Library now contains ten thousand volumes."



Eliza Des Saure Newell

It seems Governor Newell, famous for being eternally financially hard pressed, used the Library as his residence. According to historian Gordon Newell (apparently no relation):

"Previous governors had been accustomed to rent office space for themselves in downtown Olympia, but the always financially embarrassed Newell took over the territorial library rooms in the capitol building to save that expense. When his daughter was out he frequently ambled from his inner sanctum to check out books for clients of the library, a charming example of territorial informality..."

At the end of her term, Eliza married Judge Mason Irwin. She died an untimely death on December 16, 1891.

Eleanor (Ellen) Sharp Stevenson, 1888-1890

She was the last Territorial Librarian and by default became the first State Librarian when Washington attained statehood on November 11, 1889. Born in July 1848 in Logan County, Kentucky, she surfaced as a teacher in Olympia in 1882. In 1884 she was apparently teaching in Mason County. By 1886 Ellen was employed as a clerk for the Legislature and in that brief window of time (1883-1888) when women could vote in Washington (before legal challenges shut down the right), she ran unsuccessfully as a candidate from the radical People's Party for the office of Thurston County School Superintendent. She was appointed by Governor Eugene Semple to the office of Territorial Librarian. In her 1888 report Ellen wrote:

There has been an allowance of \$50 a year for the expenses of the Library. There may have been a time when this sum was sufficient, based on the business transacted by the office, yet, in the two years just passed, it has restricted the business of this office in every department—limiting the correspondence, the shipping and receiving. It has made of the Librarian both porter and janitor, and necessitated working in cold rooms without fire.



Eleanor Sharp Stevenson

Given the popularity of the current Washington State Library's massive collection of newspapers (on microfilm, hardcopy, and online), Stevenson was prophetic when she wrote, "Newspapers contain the history of the days' proceedings and will grow in value with the years." By 1897 she was living in Spokane where she ran a boarding house. Ellen appears to have lived in Spokane until at least 1915.



Librarians, historians and Secretary of State Kim Wyman gather on the waterfront near where the first shipment of the Washington Territorial Library arrived.

(Left to right) Andrew Poultridge, DOT Library; Steve Willis, Washington State Library (WSL); Jan Walsh, Retired Washington State Librarian; Holly Paxon, Timberland Regional Library; Julie Nurse, Washington State University (WSU) Energy Program Library; Kim Wyman, Secretary of State; Cheryl Heywood, Director, Timberland Regional Library; Scot Harrison, Dean, St. Martin's University Library; Nancy Zussy Allen, Retired Washington State Librarian; Anne Whitney, WSU Energy Program Library; Rand Simmons, Washington State Librarian; Kristy Coomes, Retired WSL; Andrea Heisel, Associate Dean, The Evergreen State College Library; Shanna Stevenson, Washington State Historical Society; Sean Lanksbury, WSL.

Photo: Brian Zylstra, October 10, 2013