



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

January 2019

FIRST SETTLEMENT IN WASHINGTON - VANCOUVER, USA



First Airship in Vancouver, Washington circa 1905

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Fort Vancouver was established by the British-owned Hudson's Bay Company in 1824 on the north shore of the Columbia River, near the confluence of Oregon's Willamette River. It was the outpost for the Oregon Territory which stretched from California to Alaska, from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains.

Prior to inhabitation by Europeans and Americans, the area we know of today as Vancouver, Washington was inhabited by a variety of Native American tribes, most recently the Chinook and Klickitat tribes with permanent settlements of timber longhouses. The Chinookan and Klickitat names for the area were reportedly *Skit-so-to-ho* and *Ala-si-kas*, respectively, meaning "land of the mud-turtles." William Clark and Meriwether Lewis camped there in 1806 with the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The city of Vancouver was named after Captain George Vancouver (1757–1798) a British officer of the Royal Navy, best known for his 1791 to 1795 expedition, which explored and charted North America's northwestern Pacific Coast regions, including the coasts of contemporary British Columbia, Canada and Alaska, Washington and Oregon. He also explored the Hawaiian Islands and the southwest coast of Australia.

The first permanent European settlement did not occur until 1824, when Fort Vancouver was established as a fur trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. From that time on, the area was settled by both the US and Britain under a "joint occupation" agreement. Joint occupation led to the Oregon boundary dispute and ended on June 15, 1846, with the signing of the Oregon Treaty, which gave the United States full control of the area.

Before 1845, American Henry Williamson laid out a large claim west of the Hudson's Bay Company (including part of the present-day Port of Vancouver), called Vancouver City and properly registered his claim at the U.S. courthouse in Oregon City, before leaving for California.

In 1850, Amos Short traced over the claim of Williamson and named the town Columbia City. It changed to Vancouver in 1855. The first post office was established at Vancouver on January 8, 1850. Later that year, on December 12, 1850, the post office became Columbia City and on January 10, 1855, the post office changed the name back to Vancouver. The City of Vancouver was incorporated on January 23, 1857.

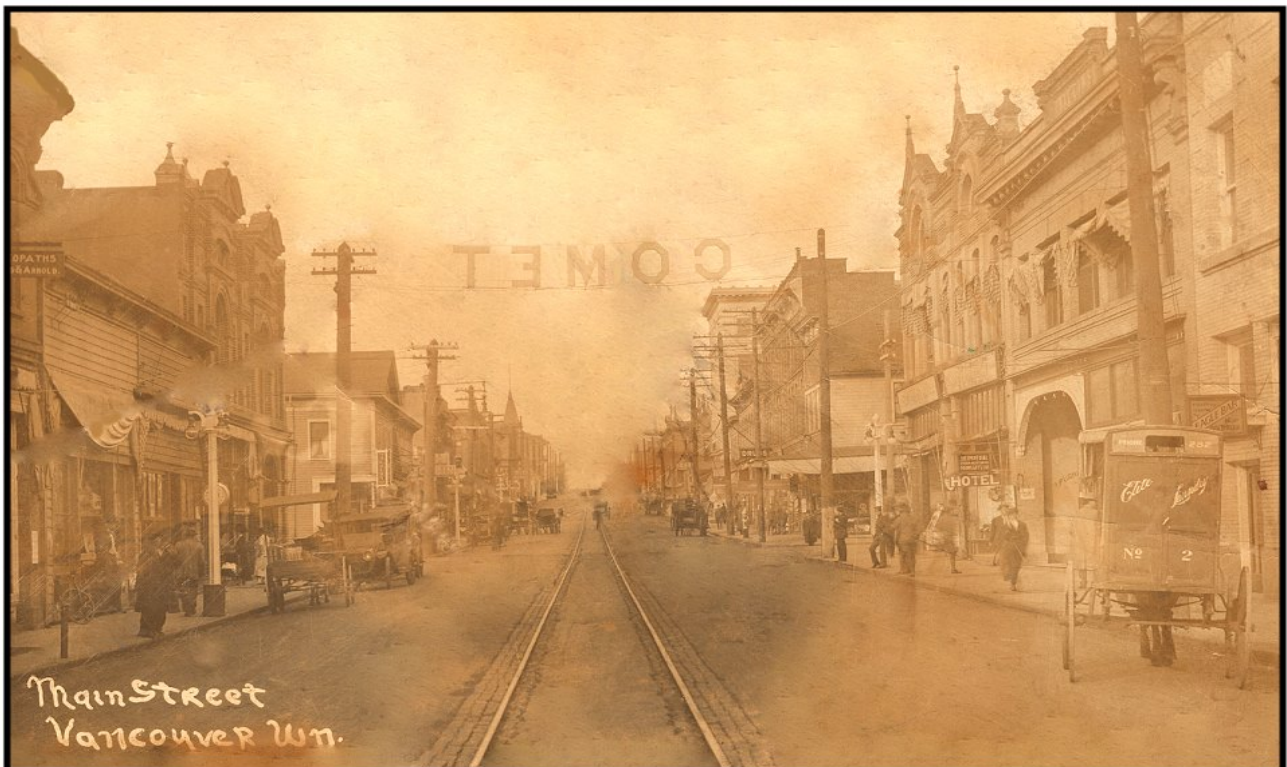


One of the first ferries began operating between Portland and Vancouver in 1846.



586 CLUB HOUSE, VANCOUVER BARRACKS, WASH. GEN GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS.

U.S. Army Captain (and future President) Ulysses S. Grant was quartermaster at what was then known as Columbia Barracks for 15 months beginning in September 1852. Soon after leaving Vancouver, he resigned from the army and did not serve again until the outbreak of the American Civil War. Other notable generals to have served in Vancouver include George B. McClellan, Philip Sheridan, Oliver O. Howard and 1953 Nobel Peace Prize recipient George Marshall.



After the Lewis & Clark Exposition in 1905, Vancouver saw a tremendous amount of growth.



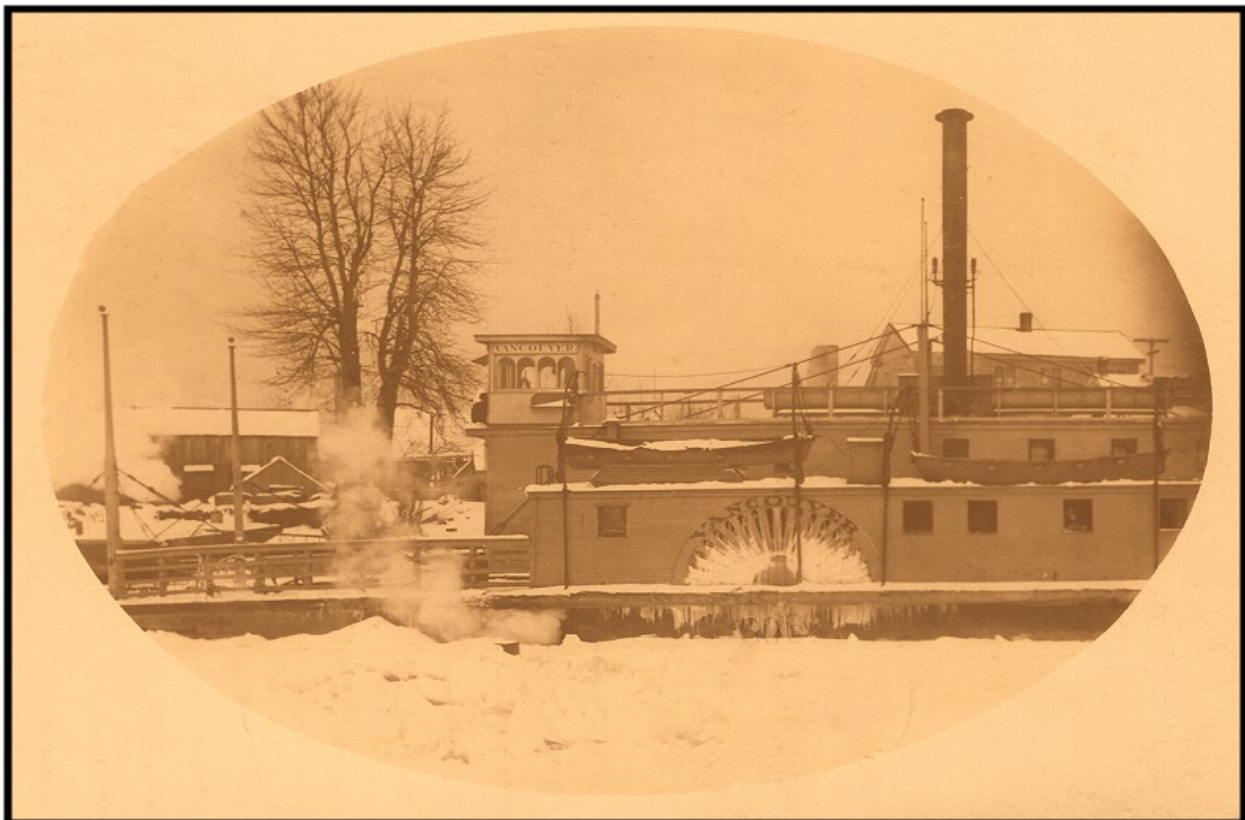
A wagon load of firewood slabs by the Northern Pacific Depot which opened in 1908.



Another view of the wagon at the NP Depot with the Vancouver streetcar which is headed north. The Vancouver to Orchards and Sifton streetcar line opened September 26, 1908. The Vancouver Depot is still in use for Amtrak trains.



The Vancouver to Orchards and Sifton line ran from downtown Vancouver north, then east to the small communities of Orchards and Sifton. This view at the car barn in Sifton is from 1911. The line was discontinued in 1926.



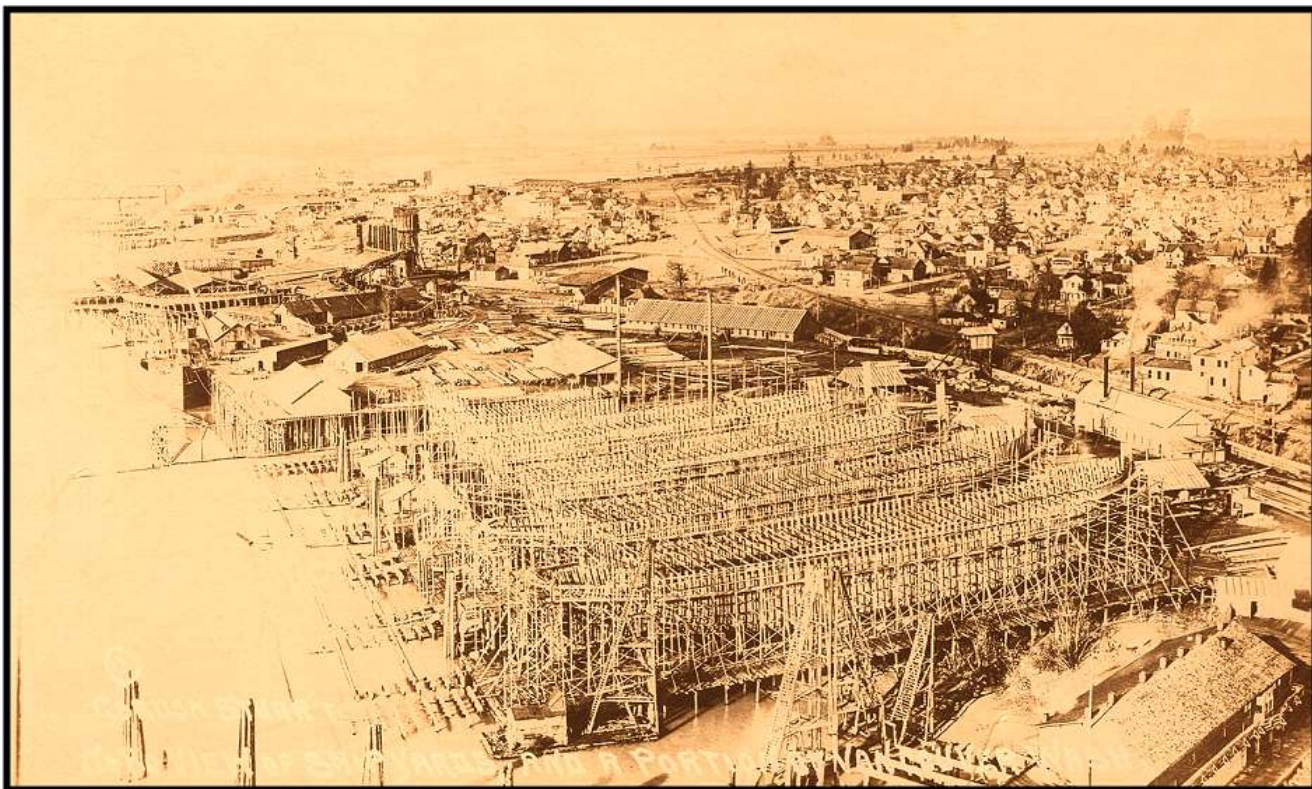
In 1909, the Columbia River froze over and the Vancouver Ferry became stuck in the ice.



Main Street looking north from 2nd Street circa 1911.



Vancouver was separated from Oregon until the Interstate Bridge opened in 1917. Soon thereafter, the ferries ceased to operate; streetcar service was inaugurated between Portland and Vancouver.



Vancouver had three shipyards which produced ships for World War I. The new Interstate Bridge can be seen in the upper left. Photo from 1918, copyright Gordon Stuart.



Vancouver became the end point for two ultra-long flights from Moscow, USSR, over the North Pole. The first of these flights was performed by Valery Chkalov in 1937 on a Tupolev ANT-25RD airplane.

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