

tonly, deliberately and cold-bloodedly shot to death. It was inexcusable, unmitigated, unprovoked murder. It was Indian protest against white settlements on Puget Sound. Its first direct consequence was the establishment of a military post at Fort Steilacoom.

The Snoqualmie nation was at that time the most numerous and most Indian of the tribes upon this great inland sea. Patykinum (our people knew him in the war days of 1855-6 as Patkanum), his brothers, cousins and other young men had grown restless of the authority of the older chiefs. The Selish races occupied the territory between the Columbia River and Rocky Mountains. Of the most western tribes of that race those living at Isle de Pierre and White Bluffs (called by the Yakimas the "Winatshapam") had for their chief Queita-la-han, better known now as Moses. He becoming troublesome of latter days has been duly rewarded under our Indian policy with a reservation, embracing about a ninth part of the whole Territory. In 1848 his father, Skutaleoosim, visited Fort Nisqually, accompanied by a Tomanawos Indian. Journeying thither that chief wantonly shot a Yakima youth at Kittitas. Returning homeward, Skutaleoosim hired a crew of Nisqually Indians to convey him and his companion to Snoqualmie Falls. A white man named Washington Hall accompanied. In the meantime the Yakimas, to avenge the murder of their youth, had hired a party of the Snoqualmies to kill Skutaleoosim and his companion. The canoe was waylaid at several points, but the Snoqualmie assassins failed in their purpose. Arrived at the falls, the chief and his companion fled to the woods and escaped. Descending the river on the home-bound trip, the Nisqually crew were mercilessly plundered and poor Hall was subjected to untold annoyances. This produced a rupture of the peaceful relations between the Nisquallies and Snoqualmies. Peace was, however, restored by intermarriage of Wyamooch, son of the Nisqually chief (Lahalet), and Why-it, a Snoqualmie daughter of the royal household. Agreeably to Indian custom, such marriage occasioned frequent trips of the Snoqualmies to see their relatives, who dwelt in the vicinity of Fort Nisqually. On one of such trips, on the bay which fronts this city, a Snoqualmie party captured an Indian boy of the Des Shutes tribe, who lived in the vicinity of Olympia. In their grief, occasioned by the enslavement of their youth, the Olympia Indians sought the good offices of Sahalim, an old and faithful Nisqually Indian employé of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. Upon his credit was advanced the requisite number of blankets with which to ransom the captive from Snoqualmie slavery.

How grand these two successes of Patykinum and his malevolent relatives appeared in his eyes, in the eyes of his tribe! They emboldened him for further predatory excursions, for further freebooting.

Secretly before, but avowedly after the Whitman massacre (November 29, 1847), the Indians of Northern Oregon (now Washington Territory) had generally become impressed with the desire to exterminate the white settlers—i. e., Americans. This is proven by warnings given by friendly natives and the intimidation and expulsion of solitary settlers from their homes.

Prior to the Whitman massacre Owhi and Kamiakim, the great chiefs of the Upper and Lower Yakima nations, while on a visit to Fort Nisqually, had observed to Dr. Tolmie that the Hudson's Bay Company posts, with their white employes, were a great convenience to the natives; but that the influx of whites (American immigrants), who had for several years been passing the Dalles, en route to Oregon, had excited the alarm and was the constant theme of hostile conversation among the interior tribes. The erection, in 1848, at Fort Nisqually of a stockade

and block house had also been the subject of angry criticism by the visiting northern tribes. So insolent and defiant had been their conduct that upon one afternoon, for over an hour, the officers and men of the post had guns pointed through the loopholes at a number of Skywamish Indians, who, with their weapons ready for assault, had posted themselves under cover of adjacent stumps and trees.

Shortly before the shooting of Wallace rumors had reached the fort that the Snoqualmies were coming in force to redress alleged cruel treatment of Why-it, the Snoqualmie wife of the young Nisqually chief. Dr. Tolmie treated such pretext as a mere cloak for a marauding expedition of Snoqualmies. Sheep shearing had gathered numbers of extra hands, chiefly Snohomish, who were occupying mat lodges close to the fort, besides unemployed stragglers. On Tuesday, May 1, 1849, about noon, numbers of Indian women and children fled in great alarm from their lodges and sought refuge within the fort. A Snoqualmie war party, led by Patykinum, approached from the southwestern end of the American Plain. Dr. Tolmie having posted a party of Kanakas in the northwest bastion, went out to meet them. The Doctor accrediting their motives as free from hostility to the fort, but as an intimidating visit to the Nisquallies, furnished the Indians the usual tobacco to smoke, enjoined moderate conduct and good behavior, and induced Patykinum to return with him to the fort, closing the gate after their entrance. The journals kept at Fort Nisqually by the Hudson's Bay Company officials thus detail the incidents which followed:

The gate nearest to the mat lodges was guarded by a white man and an Indian servant. While Dr. Tolmie was engaged in attending a patient he heard a single shot fired, speedily followed by two or three others. He hastily rushed to the bastion, whence a volley was being discharged at a number of retreating Indians, who had made a stand and found cover behind the sheep-washing dam of the Sequimitchew Creek. Through a loophole bodies of an Indian and white man were discernible at a few yards distance from the North gate, where the firing had commenced. He hastened thither and found poor Wallace breathing his last with a full charge of shot in the pit of his stomach. The dying man was immediately carried inside the fort. The dead Indian was a young Skywamish who had accompanied the Snoqualmies. A thoughtless act of the Indian sentry posted at the Water gate firing into the air had occasioned a general rush of the Snohomish, who had been cool observers of all that had passed outside. Walter Ross, the clerk, came to the gate armed, and seeing Kusum, a Snoqualmie, pointing at him with his gun, fired but missed him. Kusum then fired at Wallace. With Lewis, an American friend (a new-comer), he had been quietly observing proceedings outside, fearing nothing, as the Snoqualmies well knew they did not belong to the fort. They had visited the fort on business. Wallace was a shingle maker, and while waiting for lunch was thus wantonly shot. Another grating his left arm. Quallawot, as soon as the firing began, shot through the pickets and wounded Tassas, an Indian, in the muscles of the shoulder, which soon after occasioned his death. The Snoqualmies, as they retreated to the beach, killed two Indian ponies, and then hastily departed in their canoes. At the commencement of the shooting Patykinum, guided by Wyamooch, had escaped from the fort—a fortunate occurrence, as upon his rejoining his party the retreat at once commenced. The Snohomish immediately communicated the names of four other Indians besides Kusum and Quallawot who had made the hostile demonstration at the Water gate. One of these Snohomish informers was Nywultukum, afterwards known about Olympia as "The Priest," father-in-law of Joachim Thibault, the white sentry at the Water gate, and he it was who shot the Skywamish. When Dr. Tolmie stooped to raise poor Wallace, and the Snoqualmies leveled their guns to kill that old and revered friend, "The Priest" pushed aside those guns, exclaiming "Enough mischief has been already done." Four names of the Snoqualmie party were given by the Snohomish informers to Dr. Tolmie. These, together with Kusum and Quallawot, were afterwards tried for the murder of Wallace.

Upon the visit of Hon. J. Quinn Thornton, United States Sub-Indian Agent for Oregon Territory, to Fort Nisqually, Dr. Tolmie recommended the offering of so many blankets for the delivery of the six alleged murderers, and such delivery was the result of his zealous labors and his influence with the Indians. He says:

I greatly desired that the innocent should not suffer and the guilty escape. All had to be surrendered or no pay. The degree of guilt and punishment were to be ascertained and decided by the Court. To Captain B. H. Hill, in command of the Steilacoom Barracks, the accused were to surrender themselves.

Hon. J. Quinn Thornton thus officially reports his agency in the matter to Governor Joseph Lane (Oregon's first, our then Territorial Governor):

On the 7th ult. I arrived at Fort Nisqually. I immediately proceeded to investigate the facts connected with the killing of Mr. Wallace. I sent messengers to Patykinum, head chief of the Snoqualmie tribe. I advised him to arrest the offenders and deliver them over to Captain B. H. Hill, and as an inducement offered him eighty blankets as a reward if this was done in three weeks. I authorized Captain Hill, of the First Artillery, to double the reward, and to offer it in my name as sub-agent if the murderers were not delivered up in three weeks.