

Anderson Island
October 28, '77

Dear Murray and Rosa:

Thanks for yours of Oct. 6 and for your effort. Thanks much. Now, I have another commission for you, that has to do with the history of Anderson Island. A friend sent tear sheets from COINS Magazine with a story about old coins that included a paragraph about Leander Wallace, for whom the Island was briefly named. Bessie's birth certificate reads "Wallace's Island." This article states that Leander Wallace, who was murdered at Ft. Nisqually in 1848, lived on Anderson Island and made shingles which he sold all over the world for various foreign coins, shipping them under various charters. Subsequent to his murder, some of his friends named the Island for him, not knowing that Wilkes had already named it in 1841.

I wrote the author of the Coin article, who lives in Portland, a Dudley L. McClure, to ask his source. He answered promptly, listing Meany's history, which I have of course checked, Wash. PLACE NAMES, Bancroft's OREGON, WASH. PIONEER ASSOC. TRANSACTIONS, and Meany's ORIGIN OF WASH. GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, all of which I can check. But he also says that Dr. Tolmie made a report on the whole murder story to the Hudson's Bay Co. I know you have prowled among Hudson's Bay archives. Do you suppose there would be something available there that I could not find here? ...

You see, when Bessie's father came to the Island in 1881 he found a small house on the Southeast that had not been built by either of the two settlers, Christensen or Eckenstam, who had preceded him in 1870 and 1877. Nor did they know anything about it. Bessie's father and mother, Bengt and Anna Johnson, lived in the house until they built at Johnson's Landing. Nor could we ever find out who had built the house above Oro Bay in which the first school was held. Though we did not think it was nearly so old. However, the first school was held in that one in 1882. We were inclined to think it was built by Nathaniel Orr of Steilacoom, who was mentioned in the Luark Diaries written in 1854. But you see Wallace would have lived here a good while before that.

McClure did give me the name of a granddaughter of Leander Wallace's brother, who was living in Cowlitz county in 1968. I plan to try to find out if she is still living. He says she wrote an article for the Cowlitz County Quarterly then, and that it was published under the title, "Cabin on the Cowlitz." This is a fun game.

I dropped a note to Lane yesterday to wish her a happy birthday. My sister's birthday is the same day, so I always remember. I also ordered a subscription to Argus.

Love and all good wishes,

Hazel + Earle

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