

Document: Washington Hall Affidavit, November 4, 1851

The 1851 Lower Chinook Treaty negotiated with Anson Dart promised that the settler and land speculator, Washington Hall, would be removed. Hall, who had moved onto the principal summer settlement of the Chinook people at the salmon fishing grounds east of what is now (2011) Fort Columbia, had begun to sell property before Indian title was extinguished. He also fenced off the fresh water access and sold whiskey.

Article 2 of the treaty included the following statement: "The said Lower Band of Chinook Indians reserve the privilege to occupy the ground they now occupy . . . No white man shall interfere with their rights, and it is hereby agreed that a white man by the name of Washington Hall shall be removed from the land above ceded. The reservations in this article shall continue during the lives of the Indians who sign this treaty." The treaty was never ratified and Hall continued to sell plots of Chinook land. The affidavit that follows was sworn in November 1851, four months after the treaty was signed on August 9, 1851.

Sworn to before me
CJ
(Trinchard?)
Clerk of
County

Territory of Oregon
Clatsop County

I Washington Hall do solemnly swear that I emigrated to Oregon Territory in the year of 1845 and took possession of a claim of land situate on the north bank of the Columbia river at Chenook Point Pacific County in the month of October (11th?) 1849, said claim being described in an affidavit accompanying the same and have held the said claim agreeably to the organic law and the donation act of the United States, and that I am the said Washington Hall spoken of in the before mentioned affidavit as being dispossessed of the land claim aforesaid mentioned by the late treaty with the lower band of the Chenook Indians.

Washington
Hall

Personally appeared Mr. (Mrs.?) (Emmgille?) and made oath that the said Washington Hall did take and has occupied the claim as above mentioned since the fall of 1849.

This 4th day of Nov. (illegible), 1851

Sworn to
before me
CJ
(Trinchard?)
Clerk of
County