

Place Name Origins and Meanings in South Puget Sound Nisqually to Hammersley Inlet

Name	Meaning/Origin	Original Language	Alternate Names	Sources	Notes
Allyn	for Judge Frank Allyn of Tacoma, 1889	English		1	
Annas Bay	unknown	English, by Wilkes expedition 1841	Anna's Bay	1,3,4	
Belfair	for place mentioned in a book	English, by Mrs. Murray, postmistress 19414-1925	Clifton	1	
bəscətxwəd	place that has bears	Whulshootseed	Stitchas, B l s-tcə'txûd, Bus-chut-whud, Olympia, sfēcās	1,4	
Boston Harbor	unknown	English, by C.D. Hillman, real estate agent		1	
Bucoda	amalgamation of Buckley, Coulter, David	English/American	Seatco	1	
Budd inlet	named for Thomas A Budd	English, by Wilkes		1	
Bus-chut-whud	place that has bears	Whulshootseed	Stitchas, bəscətxwəd, Olympia, sfēcās	1,4	
Bush Prairie	named for George Bush, settler	English		1	
Columbia River	named for ship <i>Columbia Rediviva</i>	English, by Capt. Gray		1	
Cushman Lake	named for Orrington Cushman	English		1	
Danas Passage	names for James Dwight Dana	English, by Wilkes		1	
Deception Pass	describes deceptive appearance of waterway	English, by Vancouver	Deception Passage	1,2 (p 186)	
Deschutes	the chute (water cataracts)	French, by way of English	SpEkwa'L, TE'm-wata, Tumwater	4, 5	
dxʷsqʷaliʔ	place of hay	Whulshootseed	see Nisqually	4	
Dyes Inlet	named for W.W. Dyes	English, by Wilkes		1	
El Cerro de Sta Rosalia	Mountain of St. Rosalia	Spanish	Mt. Olympus	1	
Eld Inlet	named for Eld	English, by Wilkes		1	
Evergreen State	nickname for Washington	English, by Charles T. Conover, real estate promoter		1	

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Grand Mound	named for largest of Mima mounds	English		1	"The town is located near the largest of the mounds, a 125-foot-high hillock covered with trees, hence the name." Phillips locates this in "Mound Prairie"
Grapeview	named for the views of vineyards	English		1	
Hammersley Inlet	names for George W. Hammersley	English, by Wilkes		1	
Hartstene Island	named for Lt. Henry J. Hartstene	English, by Wilkes	Hartstein, Hartstine, Harstine, Harstene	1	
Henderson Inlet	named for James Henderson	English, by Wilkes		1	
Hood Canal	named for Lord Samuel Hood	English, by Vancouver		1,2 (p 138 footnote)	
Isle of Grapes	extensive viniculture starting in 1878	English	Stretch Island	1	
Kamilche	possibly "valley"	Whulshootseed	qəbətčʔ	1,4	
Lacey	for lawyer of Isaac Woods	English	Woodland	1	
Littlerock	for rock that was used to mount up	English		1	
Mason County	named for Charles H. Mason, first secretary of state	English	Sawamish	1	
Mount Rainier	named for child of Huguenots	English via French	Tahoma	1	
Mt. Olympus	home of the the gods	Greek	El Cerro de Sta Rosalia	1	
Nisqually	people of the grass lands	Whulshootseed	sqwalia'bsh/dxʷsqʷaliʔ	1,3,4	
Oakland Bay	named for abundant Garry Oaks	English	Tsita'owi	1,4	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
Olympia	named for Olympic Mountains	English, Greek by Isaac N. Ebey	Stitchas, B l s-tcɛ'txûd (bəscətxʷəd), stəčas		
Peales Passage	named for T.R. Peale	English, by Wilkes		1	

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Pickering Passage	named for Charles Pickering	English, by Wilkes		1	
Pierce County	names for Franklin Pierce, president	English		1	
Point No Point	named for optical illusion	English, by Wilkes		1	
Priest Point (Olympia)	named for Missionary site	English	Ts!ulyad (meaning unknown)	4, 6	
Puget Sound	named for Peter Puget	English, by Vancouver	Whulge	1,3	
qəbətčʔ	meaning unknown	Whulshootseed	Kamilche	1,4	
Sawamish	meaning unknown	Whulshootseed	Mason County	1	
scəgʷaličū	towards the water	Whulshootseed	Sequalitchew	4	
Seatco	“devil”	Chinook ?	Bucoda	1	
Sequalitchew	extensive sand banks by the water	Whulshootseed	scəgʷaličū, Signalitchew	3,4	
Shelton	named for David Shelton	English		1	
Signalitchew	Anglicized form of scəgʷaličū	English, Whulshootseed	Sequalitchew	3,4	
SpEkwa'L	possibly cascade	Whulshootseed	Deschutes, TE'm-wata, Tumwater	4	
squallyabsch	people of the grass country	Whulshootseed	see Nisqually, sqwalia'bsh	3	
Squaxin	uncertain, the tribe is named for the island rather than the island for the tribe	English via Whulshootseed	xʷəcilc	1,4	
sqwalia'bsh	People of the “tops of wild carrots”	Whulshootseed	see Nisqually, squallyabsch	4	“absh/abs” means “people”
stəčas	place that has bears	Whulshootseed	Stitchas, bəscətxʷəd, Olympia	1,4	
Steh-chass	rock	Chehalis	stəčas, stitchas	7	
Stitchas	place that has bears	Whulshootseed	Olympia, bəscətxʷəd, stəčas	1,4	
Strait of Juan de Fuca	named for putative first European to see it	English via Spanish, by Barclay and Meares		1	
Stretch Island	named for Samuel Stretch	English by Wilkes	Isle of Grapes	1	
Tahoma	mountain with snow on top	Coast Salish	Mt. Rainier	1	
Tanglewilde	fanciful name for subdivision	English by Alvin H. Thompson, builder		1	
TE'm-wata	waterfall	Chinook ?	Deschutes, SpEkwa'L, Tumwater	4	

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Tenino	either from a railroad survey station (10-9-0) or a Chinook word for "fork"	English or Chinook Jargon		1	
Thurston County	named for Samuel R. Thurston, first delegate to Congress	English		1	
Totten Inlet	named for member of Wilkes crew	English, by Wilkes		1	
Tsita'owi	meaning unknown	Whulshootseed	Oakland Bay	4	
Tumwater			Deschutes, TE'm-wata, SpEkwa'L	4, 5	
Washington State	for first president	English		1	
Whulge	Salt Water	Whulshootseed	Puget Sound	1, 3	
x <sup>w</sup> əlč	Salt Water	Whulshootseed	Puget Sound	4,7	
x <sup>w</sup> əcilc	possibly sharp edge	Whulshootseed	Squaxin	4	
Yelm	possibly "heat rising from the earth"	Whulshootseed	Chelm	1	

Source ID	Title	Author/Editor
1	Washington State Place Names	James W. Phillips
2	The Early Exploration of Inland Washington Waters	Richard W. Blumenthal
3	Fort Nisqually	Cecilia S. Carpenter
4	Puget Sound Geography	T.T. Waterman/Vi Hilbert
5	Past Reflections	Drew W. Crooks
6	Olympia's Forgotten Pioneers	David Nicandri
7	lecture 18 May 2009	ʔəsweli Zalmai Zahir

notes: Translations of indigenous names in Phillips' book are often inaccurate.  
Waterman and his later editors sometimes disagree on meaning.

appendix was amended slightly to reflect new information on 22 May 2009, after the paper was turned in on 11 May.

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