

# Alonzo Marion Poe: Washington Territory pioneer rescued from obscurity

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*Early photo of Poe. From Howard Buswell Collection #0684 Center for Pacific Northwest Studies Western Washington University Bellingham WA 98225. [Check ownership of original and publication rights].*

Alonzo Marion Poe was a pioneer in the Washington Territory and one of the founders of Olympia. The efforts of a number of people, from Dr Arthur S. Beardsley<sup>ii</sup>, at the University of Washington in the early 1940s, to various residents of Bellingham<sup>iii</sup>, memory of him may easily have been lost.

Poe worked as a civil engineer and assisted others in land surveys, acted as Lewis County's Sheriff, a delegate to Washington Territory convention of 1851, an auditor for Whatcom County, a legislator representing Island County in 1854 a lieutenant with Eaton's rangers defending the Territory in 1855 and public printer for the Territory from 1862.

His life was cut short by illness, probably caused, and certainly made worse, by the hardships of frontier life. Sadly, his children preceded him in death while infants<sup>iv</sup> though one nephew was named after him and family stories of a 'sheriff' in the family persisted. Although his potential was not fully realised, his life is a fascinating glimpse of the times in which he lived.<sup>v</sup>

## Early life and the Oregon Trail to the Territory

Poe was born in Clay County, Missouri, in April 1826. He was the first son of William Romulus and Margaret Po(w)e, who had migrated from Kentucky with their first child. His parents decided to distinguish their children from other Poe families by giving them names starting with 'A': Agnes Royster, Alonzo Marion, Alexander Hamilton and Americus Napoleon. [Do the names suggest about the family's politics?]

According to Sarah Cummins' 1914 *Autobiography*, Poe left Missouri in April 1845 in the employ of her father Mr Lemmon to provide support to the group.<sup>vi</sup> Lemmon was aiming for the Willamette Valley. Cummins includes a few mentions of the nineteen-year-old Poe who seemed comfortable though naive in engaging with Indians. In one incident, he set out to find a missing cow and engaged

‘unconcernedly’ with some Sioux. However, it was apparently the intention of the Indians to take clothing and firearms from Poe and the older Mr Lemmon rescued him with some noisy whip cracking. ‘Poe was cured of his desire to converse with the quick witted marauding Sioux. Although the laugh at his expense was the theme of many a joke among his comrades around the camp fires.’

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Lemmon arrived at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 14 September, 1845. The Oregon Trail ended there as it was not possible to take wagons farther west due to steep cliffs that fell straight into the Columbia River. Until the construction of a bridge in 1846, the only way to reach the Willamette Valley was by rafting down the river. Lemmon’s party split into two with one part driving the 100 head of cattle across the mountains. The headstrong Sarah joined her husband and brother with the cattle. She records that ‘we were to be assisted by one of father’s hired men, the same Marion Poe who had travelled with us from the first day of our journey’.<sup>viii</sup> Most of the Indians they had encountered in the Territory had been friendly but Sarah records one more unfortunate event with Poe. ‘Poe was left to bring the pack horse while we were rounding the stock in the direction of our destination and again he met a band of straggling Indians. As he attempted to talk to them they deliberately led the pack horse into ambush, and half an hour later we returned from the various courses that had called us away and found Poe riding dejectedly along, with nothing to prevent us from starving. We would have returned to The Dalles but the others were already two days’ journey down the river and we were not prepared to replenish the stores. So, it was left us to attempt the mountains without food, except beef.’ Cummins does not record the point at which Poe went his own way but it is likely once the group had settled Poe was free to follow his own course.

Poe settled in Tumwater, in present Thurston County but then in Lewis County, in June 1846 he was elected lieutenant-colonel of the Oregon Rangers in Lewis Co. His 8 votes all came from Newmarket, another name for Tumwater and he was elected sheriff of Lewis Co in 1847.

Poe served as a private in Company N 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Oregon Volunteers during the Cayuse War and was later granted 160 acres of land in Thurston County in recognition<sup>ix</sup>. The war was caused in part by the influx of disease and settlers to the region, but the spark for fighting occurred in 1847 when Cayuse Indians killed fourteen people in and around the Whitman Mission near present day Walla Walla. Poe subsequently secured land in Thurston County from John G Larrison who had been granted the land following military service in Illinois.<sup>x</sup>

One record appears to show that in June 1845 when Poe signed a petition to the legislature for the prohibition of liquor. [Check date. Does this say anything of his political views? Note his father was later convicted for selling liquor to the Indians in MO.] Lang (p 61) in the context of a discussion of mixed Indian / White marriages by traders’ records that Poe was regarded as ‘narrow minded’. Politically he was a Whig supporter though this did not prevent friendships / partnerships with Democrats who were in the majority when he arrived until Lincoln’s election as President in 1860. At some stage in the 1850s he joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) No 1 Lodge in Olympia, the oldest lodge in the Territory. The religiously and politically independent fraternal order was founded Baltimore in 1819 and dedicated to ‘visit the sick, relieve the distress, bury the dead and educate the orphans’. While membership was large it was not universal. One friend, William Miller, became a member but another, Isaac Ebey, appears not to have.

## Friendships



Early Olympia settlers (l-r) Isaac Ebey, William Winlock Miller, Alonzo M. Poe, early 1850s Washington State Digital Archives (Image No. AR-07809001-ph004223) sourced from [http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=10087](http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10087) Another version is UW 14329 reprinted in Lang[Check ownership of original and publication rights].

Poe, Isaac Ebey and William Winlock Miller were fast friends who were employed by Simpson P Moses, the Collector of Customs at the Port of Olympia. They also worked together to advance their common interests, which were focussed on the development of a vibrant progressive Territory and State. [How did they meet?]

Colonel Ebey was an early settler in Olympia and homesteaded a farm in Whidbey Island. He was active in politics in the 1850s until his death at the hands of Indians in 1857. In a letter to his parents of 20 February 1850, Ebey outlines his travels between California and the Puget Sound area and gives an account of his 'partner Mr Poe' who had been to California to procure supplies. He mentions that Poe had been delayed by extreme illness which confined him to bed for some time. It is likely that Poe spent much time in Ebey's home perhaps with his brother and this formed a surrogate family. Although Poe was a Whig, the Democrat Ebey was happy to employ his friend as a customs agent. Their association was well known and the *Sacramento Daily Union* of 13 December 1859 reported that Ebey's scalp had been recovered by Captain Dodd of the steamer *Labouchere* for Poe to pass to Ebey's family.

William Winlock Miller, also a Democrat, came from Illinois to Oregon Territory in 1850, and in 1851 was appointed Surveyor of the Port of Nisqually for the new Puget Sound Customs District. Serving in the Indian Wars of 1856-1857, Miller reached the rank of General. He also became a friend and political ally of Governor Isaac Ingalls Stevens. Miller held several offices and was mayor of Olympia. He also supported various railroad and other development programs. He died in Olympia in January, 1876.

Perhaps his closest relationship was with his brother Americus N Poe, some 18 months his junior, and with a similar dark complexion, seems to have joined him in the Territory after 1850 and accompanied and supported his brother consistently from that point. Their youngest brother Alexander moved from Missouri to Upper Lake County in California after their mother died in 1871. Americus was a close neighbour.

## Separate Government

Two Fourth of July orations were delivered in Olympia. The first convention was held at Cowlitz landing, near Toledo, 29 August 1851 and the second at the home of H. D. Huntington, "Uncle Darby", at Monticello, near the mouth of the Cowlitz River, on 25 November 1852.

The twenty-six-year-old Poe was one of twenty-six delegates at the 1851 meeting. The aim of the meeting was to 'take into careful consideration the present particular position of the northern portion of the territory, its wants, the best method of supplying those wants, and the propriety of an early appeal to Congress for a division of the territory'.

The meeting suggested various counties. The borderline for one includes mention of 'Poe's Point' as a geographical marker.<sup>xi</sup> [CHECK, the location of the feature mentioned as this seems to be south west of Olympia and therefore different from the Whatcom Co Poe's Point.]

After each oration, citizens' meetings were held and agitation made for a separate territorial government north of Columbia River. In each case the agitation led to a regularly constituted convention; each convention memorialized Congress on behalf of the object sought to be achieved.

There was no newspaper north of the Columbia during the Cowlitz convention of 1851. On 8 July 1852, several people came together (including Moses) to "donate the several sums of money ...for the purpose of establishing a Newspaper at some prominent point on Puget's Sound, to be called the 'Columbian', such that sums of money to be due and payable ---- issuing of the first number of said Newspapers and we have hereby authorized and appointed Alonzo M. Poe to receive and collect the said several sums of money: the said Newspaper to be neutral in politics and religion, and devoted to the interests of Northern Oregon." On 11 September 1852, *The Columbian* appeared in Olympia and in that issue of the first newspaper published north of the Columbia River, Daniel R. Bigelow's 1852 Fourth of July oration was printed in full.

*The Columbian* was largely financed by Whigs but run by Democrats after 1852. It was published for the express purpose of creating an independent territory just weeks before the second convention. Poe, Ebey, Miller and several others were the papers first agents, enthusiastically promoting both the paper and separation from Oregon.

1852 saw the beginning of organised government on Puget Sound. Thurston County came into existence on 12 January 1852 being formed from part of Lewis County. In accordance with the act creating the new county an election was held in June 1852, and Poe was elected County Clerk.

A special term of the district court for the third district of Oregon was convened at Olympia on 29 January 1852, with Justice Strong presiding. This was the first session of court held at Olympia and only one other was held there while it was a part of Oregon. Poe was United States marshal. He is also regarded as the founding sheriff of in Lewis County holding office from 1846-1948.

## Resident of Whatcom

Poe was admitted to the bar in 1852 and in the same year he moved to Bellingham Bay as one of the first Europeans in the area. The first Donation Land Claims (DLC) were made in 1853. John Thomas

claimed 160 acres lying east and south of the cove later to be called "Harris Bay," including the area known as "Dead Man's Point" at its Southwestern tip. This point has also been known as: "Graveyard Point," "Point Bennett," "Poe's Point," "Commercial Point" and "Post Point". James Morrison and Morris O'Connor also claimed 160 acres. Poe claimed 320 acres lying along the shore of Bellingham Bay south of the Thomas claim and built a dwelling near the shore about one-half mile south of the Point.<sup>xii</sup> Single, unmarried settlers arriving in the Washington Territory prior to 1 December 1850 could claim 320 acres and those arriving after that date were only entitled to claim half that.

On 31 October 1853, some six weeks after settling on the site, Poe completed the first DLC for 303.25 acres in what is now Whatcom County.<sup>xiii</sup> He was issued a patent (after his death) granting him 303 acres including Dead Man's Point. In 1871, Dan Harris (John Thomas' successor) was issued a patent granting him 146 acres that did not include Dead Man's Point but added 34 acres at the southeast corner of the tract for which he had originally filed. In order to gain deep-water access, Dan Harris later purchased a plot of 43 acres just west of his claim that included Dead Man's Point from early Seattle developer, A. A. Denny. Alonzo quit claimed almost all of his claim to Americus on 26 October 1858 and Denny paid Americus Poe \$375 for almost all of Poe's claim on 5 May 1870. The Point itself was later levelled in stages to expand the shipyard to the west.<sup>xiv</sup>

Poe became instrumental in the formation of Whatcom County on 9 March 1854 serving as its first auditor. The County itself was created out of Island County by the Washington Territorial Legislature in recognition of the rapid settlement which had taken place. It originally included present day San Juan and Skagit Counties. Trained as a civil engineer, Poe drew up the plans for the original town of Whatcom in 1858. He divided his time between Whatcom County and Thurston County, holding a number of responsible positions until 1862.

The *Daily Alta California*, Volume 4, Number 342, 31 December 1853 records the following item: "**Bloody Affray** — A stabbing affray occurred at Bellingham Bay, in which A. Poe was mortally wounded, and a Mr Brown killed by some Indians." We don't know if Poe had the opportunity to respond, as Mark Twain did some 44 years later to suggestions of his demise with 'The report of my death was an exaggeration'. However, it is likely that his injuries, which were presumably severe, may have continued to cause problems.

A large number of buildings were erected in California in the 1850s (after the San Francisco fire) and lumber became scarce. Word of dense stands of Douglas fir brought California miners Roeder and Peabody north, to Bellingham Bay. An impressive and strategically located waterfall, referred to by the Lummi Indians as What-Coom, meaning noisy, rumbling water provided Roeder and Peabody an ideal lumber mill site, and a name for the area's first permanent town.

Poe was appointed auditor and was a member of the legislature for Whatcom Co in the 1854/5 session. At about this time John W Lysle constable for Ma-Mo-Sea precinct and his wife stayed with Poe in his cabin at Poe's Point, while their cabin on the 'Lysle Donation Claim' was being built.

Poe took up the Fairhaven site for a farm because he felt the Whatcom miners were not sufficiently peaceable and orderly but his home was fired upon by unfriendly Indians in 1854.

From 20 October 1855 to 21 January 1856, Poe served as a lieutenant in Captain Charles H. Eaton's company of mounted volunteer rangers based in Thurston in the Indian War.<sup>xv</sup> They were organised

by proclamation to act as a guard for the settlements and to watch the passes through the mountains.

Further evidence of his profession as a civil engineer appeared in the *Alta California* on 10 July 1858 as a map of the 'new gold regions' was published 'compiled from the latest and most reliable surreys and explorations, by Poe, 'Civic Engineer at Whatcom...'. Poe had surveyed the first trail to the Fraser River.

Poe then returned to Olympia, where he remained until 1862. While in Olympia he ran the following advertisement about twice a month through 1861 in the *Washington Standard* which gives a glimpse into the problem of the backlog of paperwork relating to the donation claims. This example is from 18 May 1861.

**Notice to Donation Claimants  
OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY.**

**M**ORE than Fourteen Hundred Donation Papers, (Notifications and Final Proofs,) are now lying in the pigeon-holes of the Register's Office, upon which certificates can be issued as soon as FULL and COMPLETE COPIES ARE MADE. To do the whole of that work would require the constant labor of the Register from two to three years, provided that he had no other duties to perform. But when it is known that two-thirds of his time is occupied with conflicting donations and pre-emption cases, persons having donation papers in the office may well look to the future for their certificates and Patents. Believing that many would prefer having their donations completed now, rather than wait for the indefinite "course of human events," and being well acquainted with the business, I am prepared to make out papers and procure Certificates for claimants in all parts of the Territory. I will also attend to the preparation and filing of declaratory statements and final proofs for pre-emptions, and drawing maps of claims and Townships, from the original surveys, for those desiring them. For preparing the papers and procuring a certificate for a donation claim, where there is no conflict, my charge is five dollars. For preparing and filing declaratory statements and paying the government fee, three dollars. For Township maps, five dollars, and claim maps one dollar each. In all cases the fee must come in advance.

Persons having bought land, acquired under the Donation Law, cannot be too careful to see Certificates are issued.

A. M. POE.  
Nov. 24, 1860. [3:11] Olympia, W. T.

### Poe's donation land grant in Whatcom

Poe initial donation grant of land in Whatcom was for 303 acres in sections 2 and 11. [Find then add details] In 1858, Alonzo Poe donated a portion of his claim on Bellingham Bay to his brother, Americus Poe, who seems not to have sought his own land. Dan Harris, founder of the town of Fairhaven, purchased the 43 acres adjacent to his own property from Americus Poe. However, through an error in title, this property was also included in a sale to A.A. Denny of Seattle during that same year. It wasn't until 1870 that Harris was finally able to gain title to these 43 acres and add them to his holdings which then became part of the town of Fairhaven. <sup>xvi</sup>

Over the years, there have been several names attached to the point of the property originally claimed by Alonzo Poe. Poe referred to this point of land as Commercial Point. Dead Man's Point was a subsequent name, so-called due to the discovery by early settlers of Spanish relics and skeletons in this area. Another theory refers to the death and decapitation of two men in 1857 who

were posted as sentries at this location watching for an Indian raiding party but imbibing too much whiskey and falling asleep instead.

In 1862, Dan Harris donated four acres of this land for a cemetery, at which time this property became known as Graveyard Point. In the following years, the graves were moved to the new Bayview Cemetery, and Pacific American Fisheries then excavated much of this land for industrial expansion.

### **The *Overland Press* and appointment as public printer**

In 1861, Poe conceived an “ingenious innovation”. He was Olympia correspondent for the *Press of Victoria*, British Columbia. While waiting for the weekly mail boat at Olympia, Poe printed local news to be inserted as a supplement in the Canadian journal. The supplement quickly won a large Canadian subscription list and soon afterward Poe printed a briefly successful local edition called the *Overland Press*. Later the paper was renamed *Pacific Tribune*. It is often called the earliest Territorial journal to show such enterprise, but the *Pugent Sound Daily* at Seattle a year earlier had lasted 81 days.

The legislature of 1861 created a school district of Olympia as evidence of the area’s growth. Poe took special interest in the development of the project.

In January 1862, Poe was elected as public printer for the Territory. This was a lucrative position and could have been the beginning of a more secure and prosperous future in the territory, however it would prove short-lived elevation.

### **Ill health prompts move to California**

The following notice appeared in the *Overland Press* on Monday 25 August 1862.

“A M Poe Esq left last Saturday for California to recover if possible his failing health. He has been a long and respectable resident of this territory, but like many others, unfortunate in a financial way --. We trust he will recuperate in the climate of California and return to excite our smiles by his genial wit and philosophic indifference. He was a member of the second Council of this territory – and for three years discharged his duties honestly and creditably. He leaves behind him many friends and no enemies he wished to be otherwise.”

His marriage was report on 14 February 1863 in the *Washington Standard*, though his wife’s name is not mentioned.

CAUGHT AT LAST! — We see by last California papers that an old friend, Alonzo M. Poe, former editor of the *Overland Press* has committed - *Matrimony!* We hope in due course of time to settle that dispute as to that "efficient engineering." *Vide Press* of March last. <sup>xvii</sup>

Roth records (I: 132) that the bride was Miss Emma Hartson and the event took place in Napa, California, in ‘about 1862’. Emma was part of Judge Chancellor Hartson’s household though she

could not have been his daughter as Roth believed<sup>xviii</sup>. There is a transcription of a marriage record for A.M. Poe to Emma M. Hartson on 19 January 1863. The marriage was performed by Rev. P. L. Haynes, and took place at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Napa City, where the Hartson family worshipped.<sup>xix</sup>

We have two glimpses of Poe's activities in California at this time. The *Washington Standard* of 21 November 1863 reported that Poe had been appointed enrolling officer in Napa County under the conscription act. A tax return of July 1864 shows him to be operating a real estate office and a news ("intelligence") office.

But Poe's health was not recovered in the relative comfort of California: perhaps the cumulative effects of his earlier illness, the hardships of frontier life and his apparently near-fatal attack of 1853. His death only two months short of his fortieth birthday and soon after the death of his only child, is recorded in the *Washington Standard* of Saturday 17 February 1866:

**"Death of Hon. A. M. Poe** - A private letter [probably from his brother] brings the melancholy intelligence of the death at Napa City on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, of inflammation of the lungs, of Hon. A M Poe, formerly of this place, and so long and favourably known to most of our citizens. Mr Poe was one of our oldest residents of the Territory, having come to the Sound in 1849<sup>xx</sup>, and during a continuous residence of over thirteen years, filled many positions of trust, in all of which he was alike distinguished for honor and integrity. Among the prominent positions held by the deceased, we may mention those of member of Assembly, Public Printer, and Publisher and Editor of the *Overland Press*. His genial good nature and whole-souled generosity has endeared him to all with whom he came into contact, and his virtues will long be remembered by his many friends. Peace to his ashes!"

His brother Americus advised the Land Office later in 1866 that Alonzo's wife had gone to the eastern states. It seems that she may later have returned but nothing is known of her circumstances or death.<sup>xxi</sup> Americus settled in the adjacent Lake County, California, by 1872 and later married. Alonzo's youngest brother Alexander remained in Missouri until after his mother's death in 1871 when he joined his brother in Lake County bringing his mother-in-law with him. Alexander named his first son after Alonzo in 1857 and his second son after Americus in 1860, perhaps anticipating that his brothers would have no children of their own.





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\*Beardsley, A. Dr (University of Washington Law Librarian), letter and papers 1941 relating to Poe kindly sent to me by the Gallagher Law Library

Beardsley, A. Dr assisted initially by Superior Court Judge Donald A. McDonald, drafted a manuscript (2,428 pages) titled "The Bench and Bar of Washington: The first Fifty Years, 1849-1900. The worth the manuscript has been acknowledged but the work has not been published. Professor Charles H. Sheldon had commenced an editing process for this manuscript in the late 1990 [check if this project was completed]

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\*Thacker, Ralph W. *Dan Harris Stakes his claim*, Bellingham, Washington, 2008, Expanded March 30, 2012 < <http://dan-harris.info/stakes1.html>>

Thurston Co tax list 1852, Doc 14182, Microfilm 24, Reel 80 (Oregon Provisional Territorial Records)

Possible others;

\* <http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/newspapers/newspapers.aspx>

\* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac\\_N.\\_Ebey#Ebey.27s\\_scalp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_N._Ebey#Ebey.27s_scalp)

"The best material that can provide a wider view of Poe [other] than I included in my biography of William Winlock Miller is in the archival collections at the Univ. of Washington in Seattle. There are

several collections that have material bearing on Poe's life; there is also material at the Beinecke Library in Yale University in Connecticut. In addition, Poe appears in Washington Territory papers that are archived in Olympia, Washington. He also appears in newspaper articles, mostly in the Pioneer & Democrat (Olympia) during the 1850s and 1860s." William L. Lang email to the author of 21 April 2016

**Photo credits:**

Collection: Buswell (Howard E.) papers and photographs

Web Image: [first page of article]

ID Number: 684

Description: Alonzo M. Poe, one of the first leading citizens of Bellingham.

Place: Washington State-Whatcom County-Bellingham

Era: 1850-1860

Photographer: Unknown

# of Prints: 1    Print Condition: Poor

Restrictions: None

Collection: Jeffcott (Percival R.) Papers

Web Image: [Click here for image](#)

ID Number: 171

Description: Caption #1: "Poe's Point or Graveyard Point or Deadman's Point or Commercial Point, Fairhaven." Caption #2: "March 29, 1964. Deadman's Point. Poe's Point. McKenzie Avenue cut through to beach." (This photo was NOT taken in 1964. This photo is more likely 1894. It predates the University. Jb).

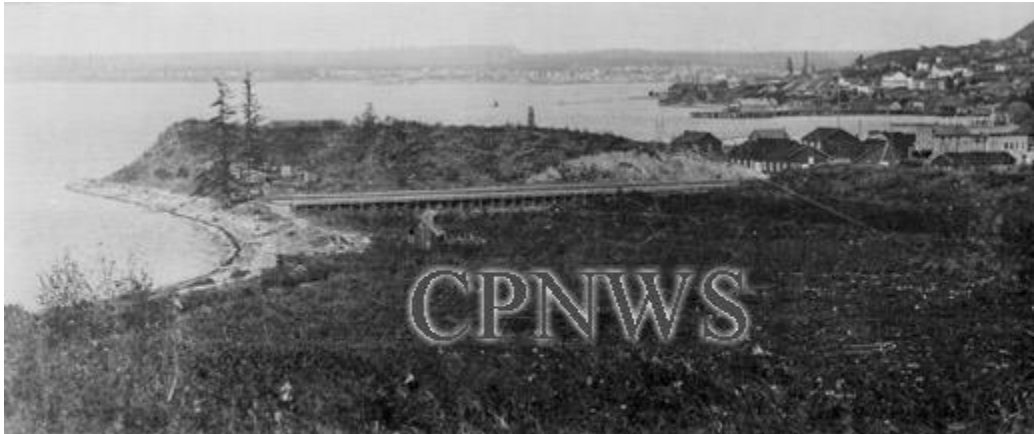
Place: Washington State-Whatcom County-Bellingham

Era: 1880-1900

Photographer: Unknown

# of Prints: 2    Print Condition: Good

Restrictions: None



P.R. Jeffcott Collection #0171  
Center for Pacific Northwest Studies  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Collection: Jeffcott (Percival R.) Papers

Web Image: No Web Image Available

ID Number: 658

Description: Caption: "Alonso M. Poe, first engineer to arrive at Whatcom. He improved the Indian Trail to the Fraser River. Platted town of Whatcom, 1858."

Place: Washington State-Whatcom County-Bellingham

Era: 1840-1860

Photographer: Unknown

# of Prints: 2    Print Condition: Poor

Restrictions: None

## **Chronology**

April - 1826 birth in Clinton County, Missouri. Second child and first of three sons for William Romulus and Margaret Po(w)e

April 1845 – Poe leaves Missouri on the Oregon Trail employed with the Lemmon-Walden group.

September 1845 – The group arrives in the territory.

19 December 1845 – Lewis County created as Vancouver County changing its name to Lewis in 1849.

1846 – Poe settled in Tumwater which had been dubbed Newmarket by the original settler Colonel Michael T Simmons in October 1855

1847 - Elected sheriff of Lewis County

1847 – 1855 - Private in Company N 1st Regiment of the Oregon Volunteers during the Cayuse War.

14 August 1848 – 59 – Oregon Territory, some of which became Oregon State.

1851 – Part of volunteer militia to Victoria to rescue sailors captured by the Haida in the Queen Charlotte Islands

1851 – Shown in census of Lewis County

June 1851 – Poe is County Clerk, Lewis County

4 July 1851 – Secretary of preliminary meeting to form Washington Territory from Oregon.

29 August 1851 - One of twenty-six delegates at a meeting at Cowlitz Landing to 'take into careful consideration the present particular position of the northern portion of the territory, its wants, the best method of supplying those wants, and the propriety of an early appeal to Congress for a division of the territory'.

12 January 1852 – Thurston County created out of Lewis County

7 February 1852 - At a public hearing in Olympia, composed of the citizens of Thurston county and the passengers and crew of the late sloop Georgianna, recently returned from Queen Charlotte's Island, Col. M.T. Simmons in the Chair, D. R. Bigelow and A. M. Poe secretaries. Draft resolutions, included some from Ebey were made. Simpson Moses was the initial instigator.

June 1852 – Elected Clerk of Thurston County

1852 – Appointed Deputy US Marshall

September 1852 - Initial publisher of the *Columbian*

22 December 1852 – Island County and Pierce County created out of Thurston County

2 March 1853 – 11 November 1859 – Washington Territory. Isaac Stevens first governor made Olympia the capital.

July 1853 [check] – Secretary of meeting to form Washington Territory

17 September 1853 – Settled in Bellingham

October 1853 - Donation claim for 303.25 acres in Bellingham, Whatcom County (Island County).

1853 – Admitted to the Bar as a lawyer [Where is the record?]

February 1854 – State legislature’s first meeting

9 March 1854 - Whatcom County created out of Island County. Poe appointed public notary in Thurston County

1854/5 – Elected to the territorial legislature representing Whatcom County

1854 – Appointed Auditor for Whatcom County

1855 – Lieutenant in Eaton’s Rangers during the Indian Wars in Thurston County. W W Miler was appointed sergeant and served as Eaton’s quartermaster

1857 - Captain Ebey killed by Indian party

1858 – Poe platted Whatcom town and quitclaims most of his land in Bellingham to brother Americus

4 June 1860 – Census shows him living in Thurston Co as ‘Artist’ land ownerships indicated.

5 November 1860 – Lincoln elected US President

July 1861 – Founding editor of *Overland Press* and its proprietor until 11 August 1862

6 January 1862 – Elected Public Printer for Washington Territory by the Legislative Assembly

11 August 1862 - *Overland Press* becomes a weekly and Poe assigns all interests to B J Kendall

Saturday 23 August 1862 – Leaves for California to recover his health

19 January 1863 – marries Miss Emma Hartson

21 November 1863 - Appointed enrolling officer in Napa County CA under the *Conscription Act*

January 1864 – birth of daughter Emma Agnes

July 1864 – Tax return shows him operating a news office and a real estate office.

3 May 1865 – ‘Baby’ Poe dies in Napa CA

1 August 1865 – death of daughter Agnes in San Francisco CA

29 January 1866 - Poe dies in Napa, California of ‘inflammation of the lungs’ [Any probate records?]

1853? – Acquired land in Thurston County [check]

1870 – Land passes to his brother Americus who advises that Alonzo’s wife and “returned to the east”.

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<sup>i</sup> Leon Lyell is a writer based in Melbourne Australia and direct descendant of Alonzo's nephew also named Alonzo Marion Poe after his uncle.

<sup>ii</sup> Dr Arthur S. Beardsley was appointed as the first director of the University of Washington Law Library in 1922 and served in this post through 1944. Among his many accomplishments as director was building the library's collection from 20,000 to 100,000 volumes – notably including Chinese, Japanese, and Russian materials - making the Law Library the tenth largest in the country at the time. He was the author of many books, including one of the first legal research textbooks, *Legal Bibliography and the Use of Law Books* (1937). Feeling strongly that lawyers could not be good library administrators without formal library training, in 1939 he established the law librarianship program at the University of Washington.

<sup>iii</sup> In particular Ralph Thacker and Brian Griffith who have gather much useful information and urged local authorities to include reference to 'Poe's Point' in the park currently known as Post Point.

<sup>iv</sup> His daughter is named and another 'Baby Poe' died on a different date, see further towards the end of this test.

<sup>v</sup> There are sufficient primary and secondary materials to inform a longer account of his life. A patient examination is likely to reveal more detail of his activities and connections.

<sup>vi</sup> Cummins, Sarah J., *Autobiography and Reminiscences*, La Grande printing Company, La Grande, Oregon, 1914

<sup>vii</sup> *Ibid* p 32

<sup>viii</sup> *Ibid* p 46

<sup>ix</sup> Poe passed this to Patrick Fowler, see warrant no 71021 signed off 5 May 1866

<sup>x</sup> The record was only signed off on 20 January 1870, well after Poe's death.

<sup>xi</sup> See Edmond S. Meany, 'The Cowlitz Convention: Inception of Washington Territory', *The Washington Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Jan., 1922), pp. 3-19, University of Washington, p 11. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40473582>

<sup>xii</sup> Thacker, R W, Draft of 'Fairhaven's Natural and Historic Context' < <https://www.cob.org/documents/planning/neighborhoods/2010-docket-materials/fairhaven-np/public%20comments/2012--1-30-thacker.pdf> > accessed 28 April 2016

<sup>xiii</sup> See Thacker, Ralph W. *Dan Harris Stakes his claim*, Bellingham, Washington, 2008, Expanded March 30, 2012 < <http://dan-harris.info/stakes1.html> >

<sup>xiv</sup> Thacker 'Draft' *op cit* pp 8-9

<sup>xv</sup> *The official history of the Washington National Guard Volume 2, Washington Territorial Militia in the Indian Wars of 1855-56*, Page 87 [http://mil.wa.gov/uploads/pdf/history/fields\\_vol\\_ii.pdf](http://mil.wa.gov/uploads/pdf/history/fields_vol_ii.pdf)

<sup>xvi</sup> For further details of the complex land transactions see Ralph W. Thacker 2008 *op cit*

<sup>xvii</sup> *Washington Standard*, 14 Feb. 1863. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84022770/1863-02-14/ed-1/seq-2/>>

<sup>xviii</sup> Beardsley attempted without success to identify this lady, though she does show up as living with Hartson in the census of 1860. Other claims persist that Poe married Sally Burnette are a case of mistaken identity as she was married to Francis Marion Poe a different person, but coincidentally related to Poe through common Brown ancestors on his mother's side.

<sup>xix</sup> Held by Napa Valley Genealogical Society, these reflect County Records.

<sup>xx</sup> Perhaps a transposition error as he had certainly arrived in the territory in 1845.

<sup>xxi</sup> The Napa Valley Genealogical Society has an 'autograph book' which includes the signature 'Emma Poe' which is believed to date from 'the late 1800s'. Email to me of 29 December 2016.