

A Peek Inside



Images of America SPANAWAY

In 1838, the British Hudson Bay Company set up a cattle ranch on the shore of a haunted lake that local tribes called Spa'nu-we. A hunting trail through the Cascade Mountains crossed at Spa'nu-we with another pathway running to Puget Sound from the sleeping volcano Tu'qobu (Tacoma). Both trails became roads and railways that drew settlers to Spa'nu-we's rich prairie and abundant water. Thus began decades of conflict - often armed - with the evolving town of Spanaway caught in regional and national turmoil.

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The Hudson Bay Company log for September 8, 1833 notes, “[We] now feed our people on Dog’s flesh.”

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Conflict between settlers and Native Americans made roads a military concern.

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To East Coast financiers, corporate moguls, railroad magnates, and distant politicians, Spanaway was simply a resource to exploit.

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The last half of the 19th Century was a time of rapid growth, turbulent times, and business “churn”