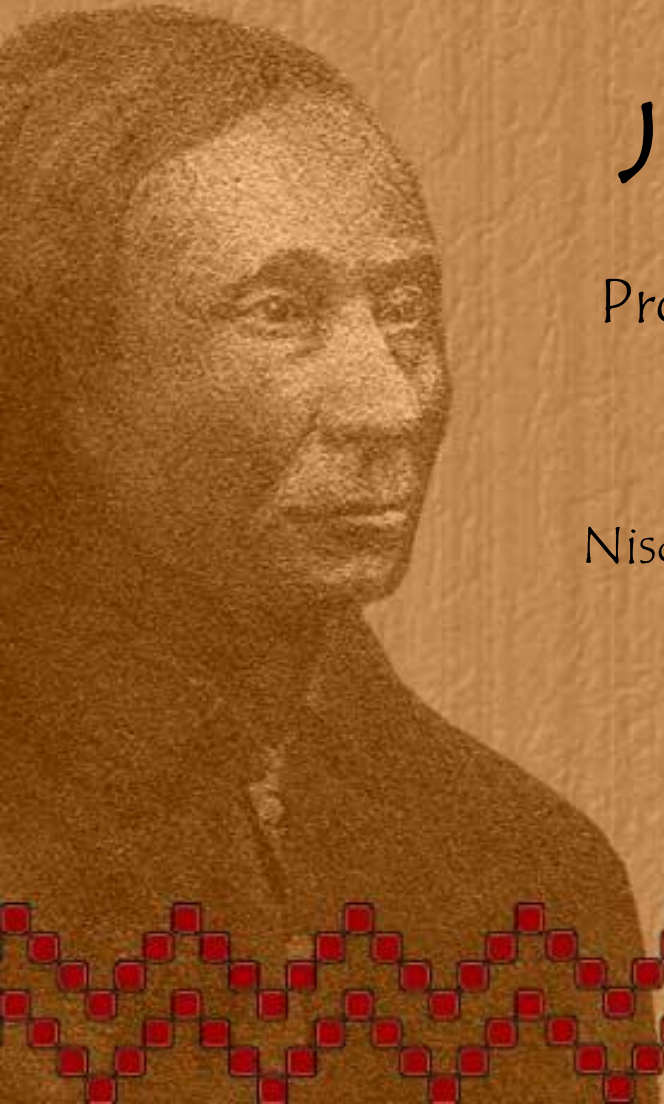


LESCHI:

JUSTICE IN OUR TIME

Produced by the Committee to Exonerate
Chief Leschi,

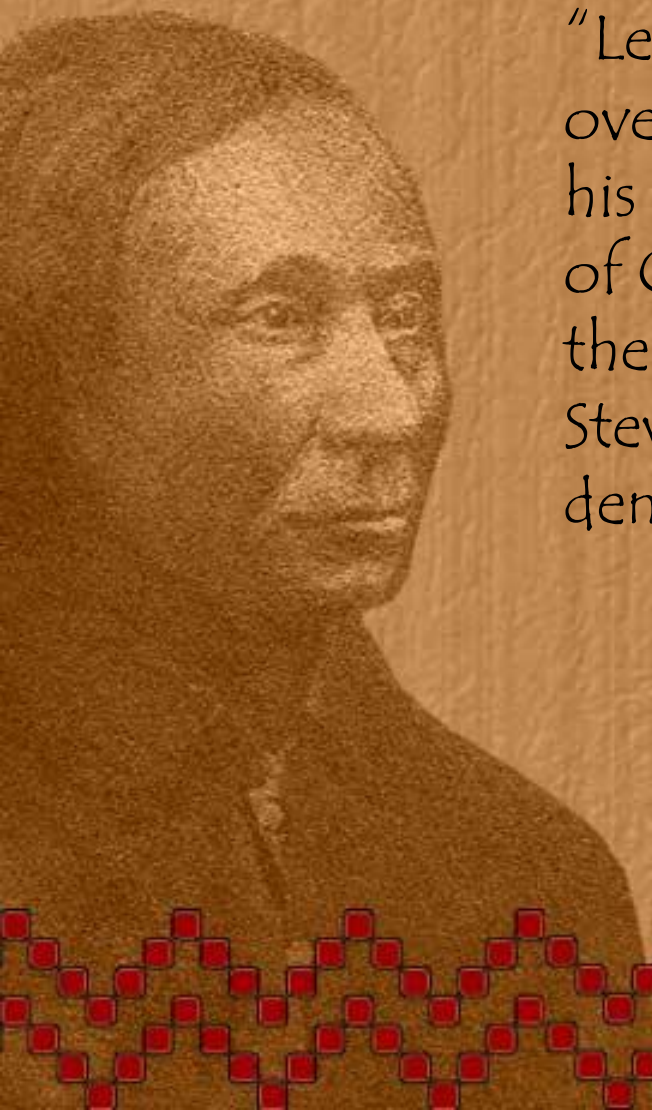
in cooperation with the Leschi Descendants,
Nisqually Tribe and the Washington State Historical
Society



CHIEF LESCHI

"Leschi's people believed that a star rose over the Nisqually Plains on the day of his birth in 1808. But ironically the title of Chief would be bestowed upon him by the first Territorial Governor, Isaac Stevens, who would later unjustly demand his life on the gallows."

Cecelia Carpenter,
Leschi: Last Chief of
the Nisquallies, 7

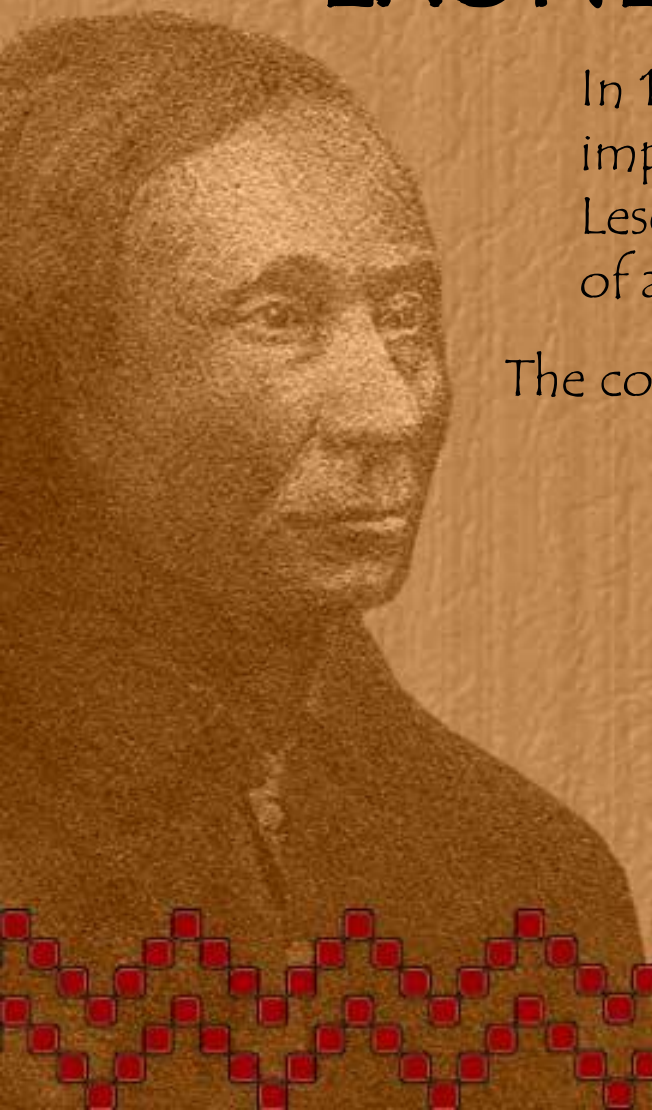


GOALS OF THE COMMITTEE TO EXONERATE CHIEF LESCHI

In 1858 the Territory of Washington falsely imprisoned and wrongfully executed Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Tribe for the murder of a member of the militia.

The committee seeks redress in the following manner:

- the exoneration of Chief Leschi;
- a correction of the historical record and,
- an apology from the State of Washington to the people of Chief Leschi.



LESCHI, THE MAN

Leschi was known as a man of great intelligence with superb oratorical abilities. His wisdom was often sought by his tribesmen to settle disagreements. His father was Nisqually and his mother Yakima. This mixed heritage provided him with a tall agile body and strong heavy shoulders. It was said that his most distinguishing feature was his alert, penetrating eyes.

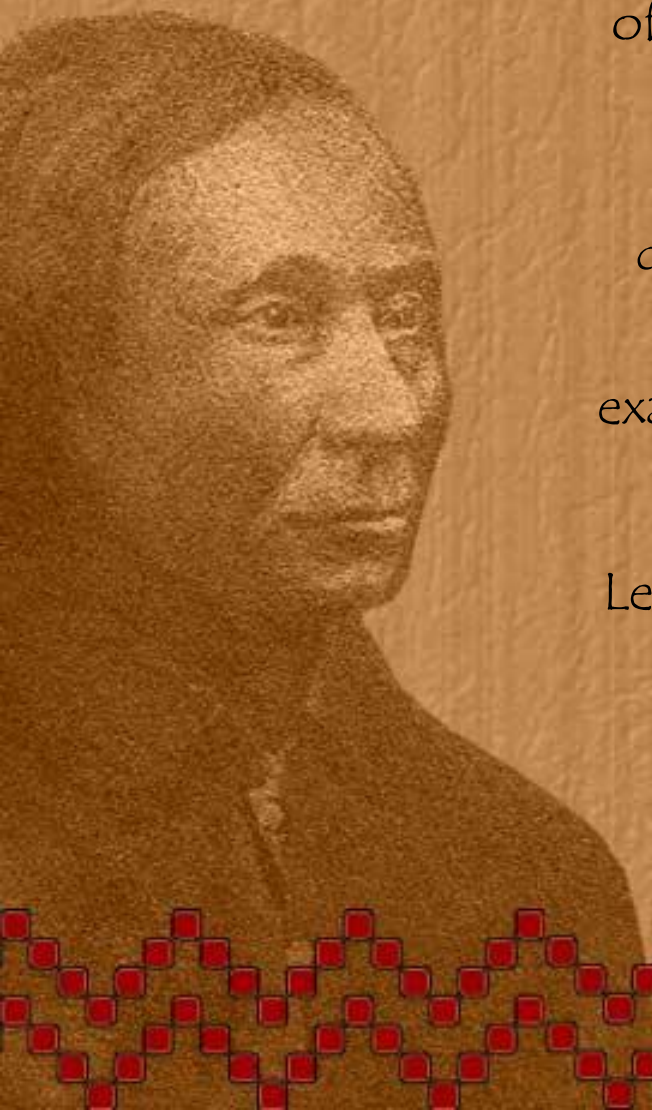
*Cecelia Carpenter,
Leschi: Last Chief of
the Nisquallies, 7
(paraphrase)*



LESCHI, THE MAN

The Nisquallies, who only appointed a chief in times of crisis, elected Leschi as one of the participants in the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty. They hoped the treaties would resolve the pressures developing from white encroachment into tribal territory, but the Medicine Creek Council exacerbated the situation by drastically reducing the tribe's resources and land base.

Leschi was known for his friendship and kindness to many early settlers, but nevertheless, the unfair treaty set the stage for an uprising, and Leschi became the central, tragic figure.



WASHINGTON TERRITORY



On March 2, 1853, the United States Congress officially declares Washington Territory separate from Oregon Territory.



GOVERNOR ISSAC STEVENS



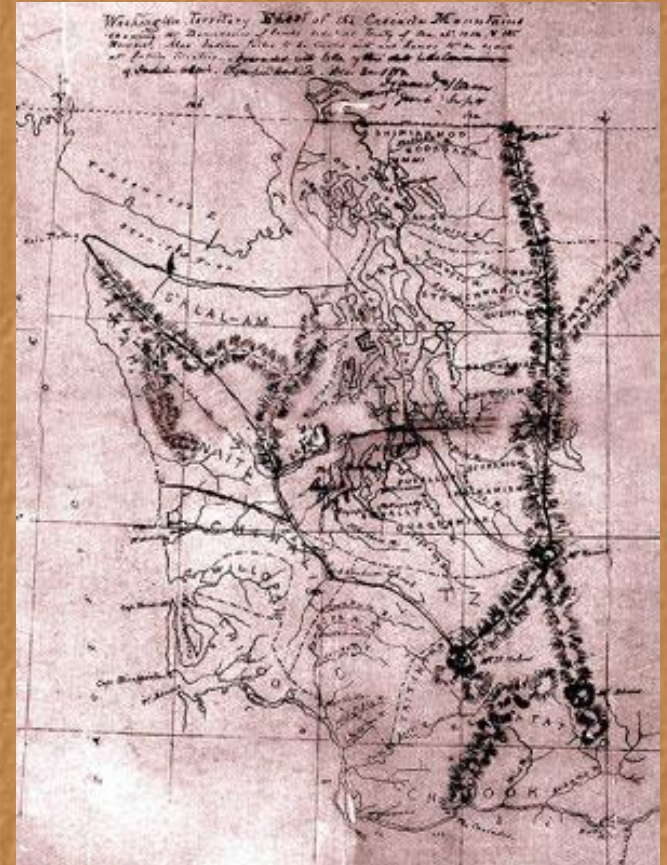
President Franklin
Pierce appoints Isaac
Stevens
Territorial Governor
of Washington



MEDICINE CREEK TREATY, 1854

The Nisqually, Squaxin and Puyallup tribes had roamed a vast area extending from Mt. Rainer to Mt. St. Helens, to the rivers and inlets of Puget Sound.

Following the Medicine Creek Treaty, their territory had been reduced to just six square miles.



MEDICINE CREEK TREATY SITE



The treaty is explained to the Nisquallies, Puyallups, Squaxins and other tribal bands present in Chinook jargon.



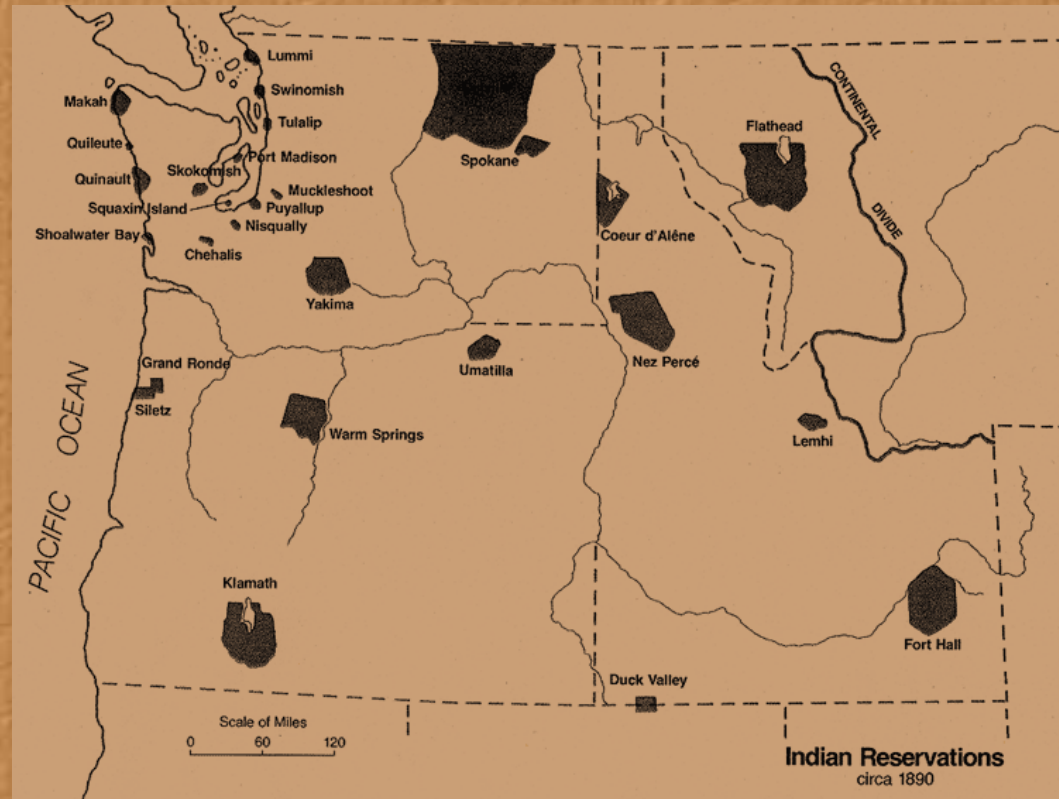
TREATY COMMISSION CREATED



Stevens sets up a Treaty Commission and divides western Washington into five treaty districts.



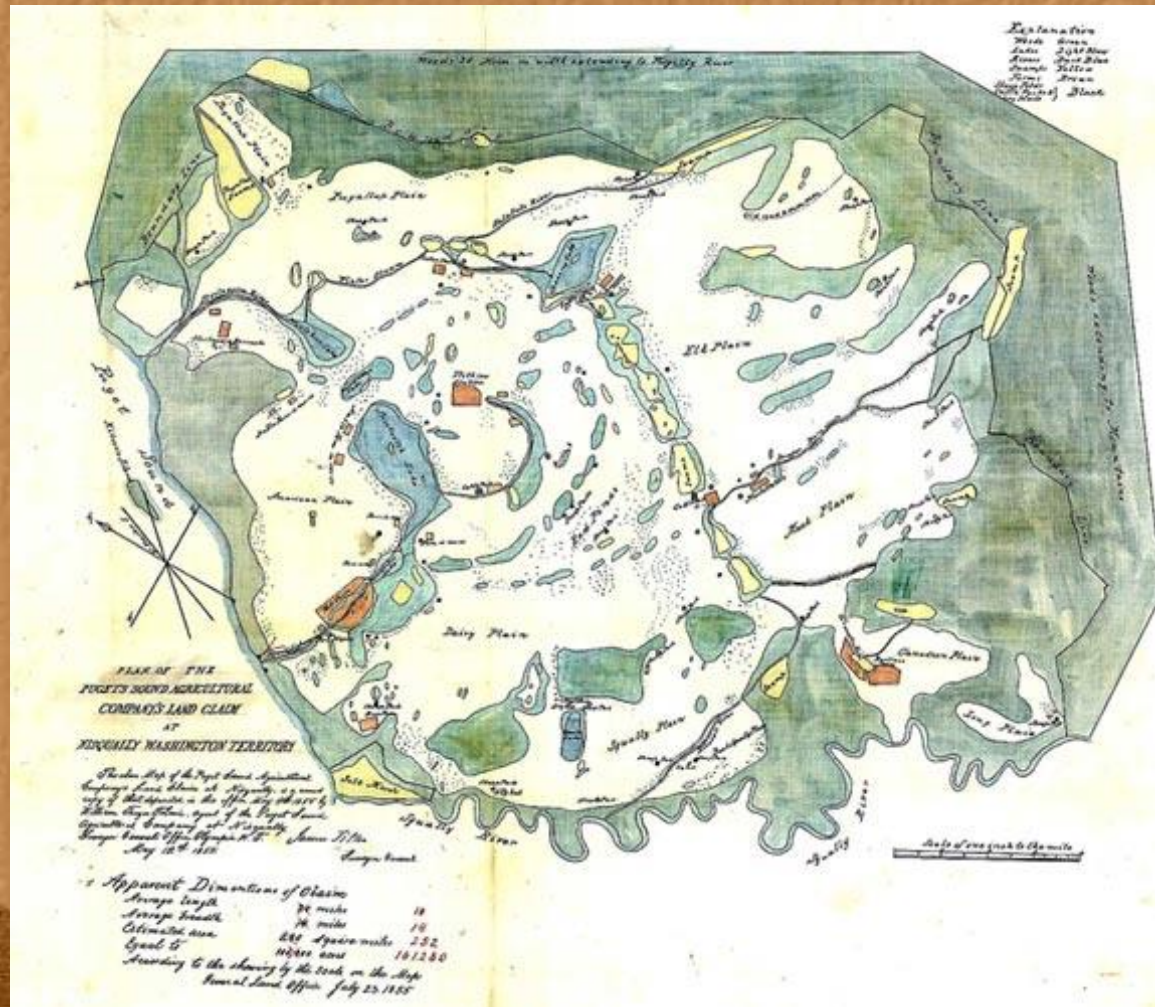
TREATY COMMISSION RESERVATIONS



The locations of the Reservations are determined at the discretion of the Treaty Commission



NISQUALLY TERRITORY, 1855



WASHINGTON MILITIA

Stevens, fearing the Indians will resist the treaty, secures Territorial Legislative approval for a volunteer militia.



ORDERS OF ARREST



Eaton's Rangers, a detachment of the volunteer militia, were ordered to arrest Leschi and his brother Quiemuth, who then fled northeast toward White River.



HOSTILE INDIANS



After hearing of armed conflicts with the Indians, Stevens promised to provide blockhouses to protect the settlers, and to eradicate the "hostile Indians."

Leschi's order to make war on the troops, not the settlers is stringently obeyed.



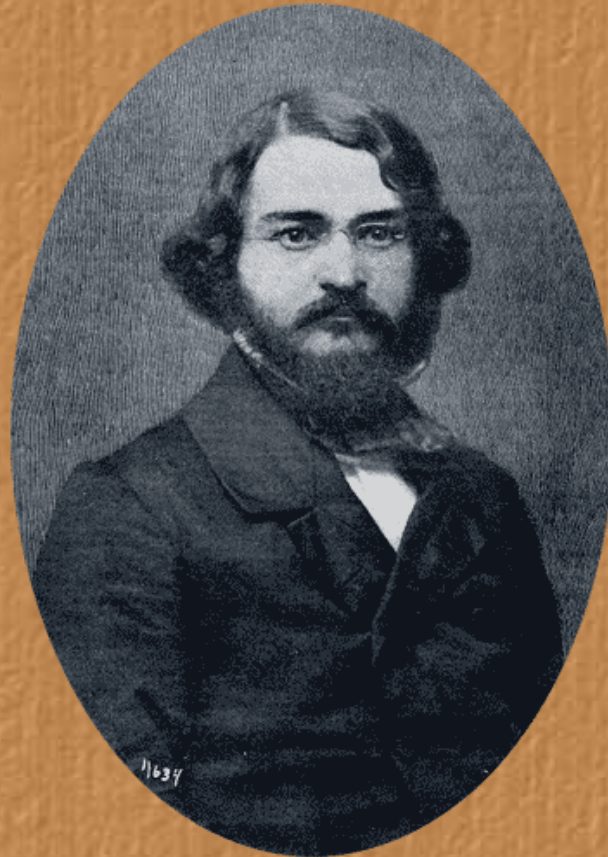
CONNELL'S PRAIRIE



Chief Leschi was accused by Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens of the murder of Col. A. B. Moses at Connell's Prairie. Leschi claimed he was not in the area at that time.



CHARLES MASON: ACTING GOVERNOR



Early in 1855, Leschi meets with the Acting Governor, Charles Mason, and tells him that the Nisquallies want peace



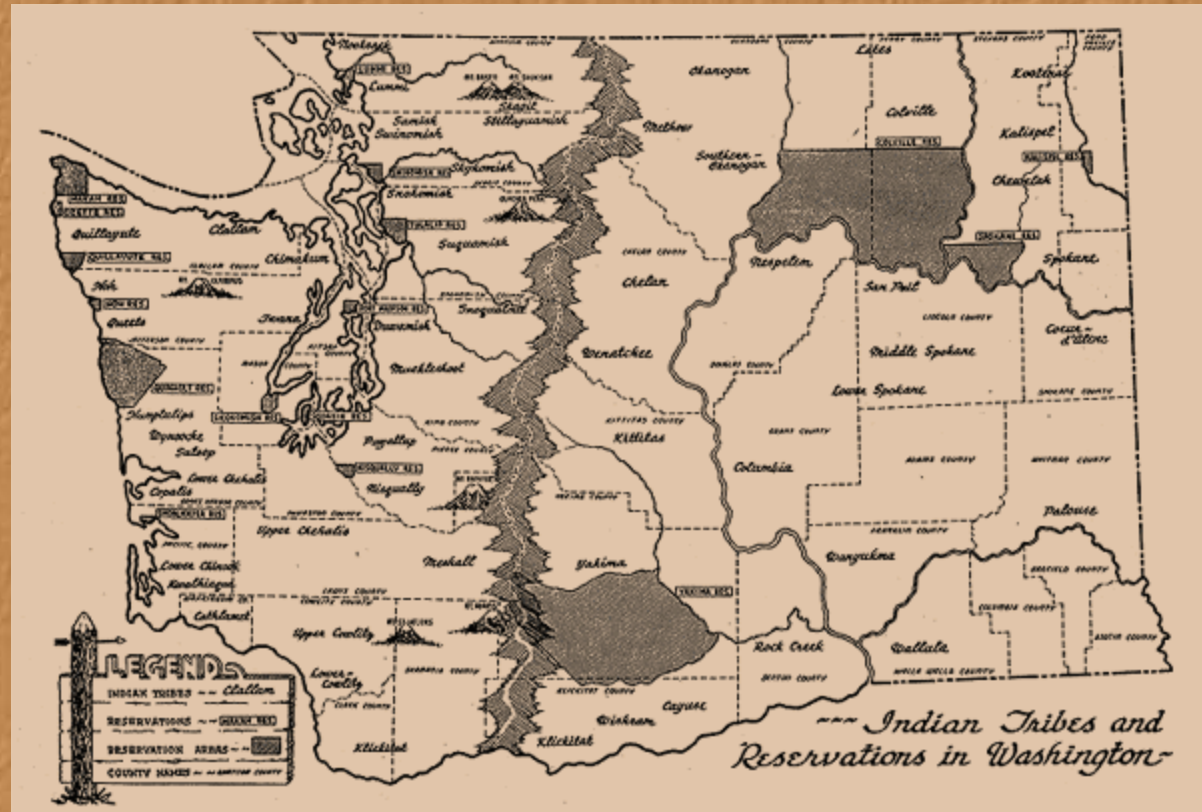
A PRESIDENTIAL REPRIMAND



Stevens' actions
result in a
Congressional
investigation and
reprimand from
President
Franklin Pierce



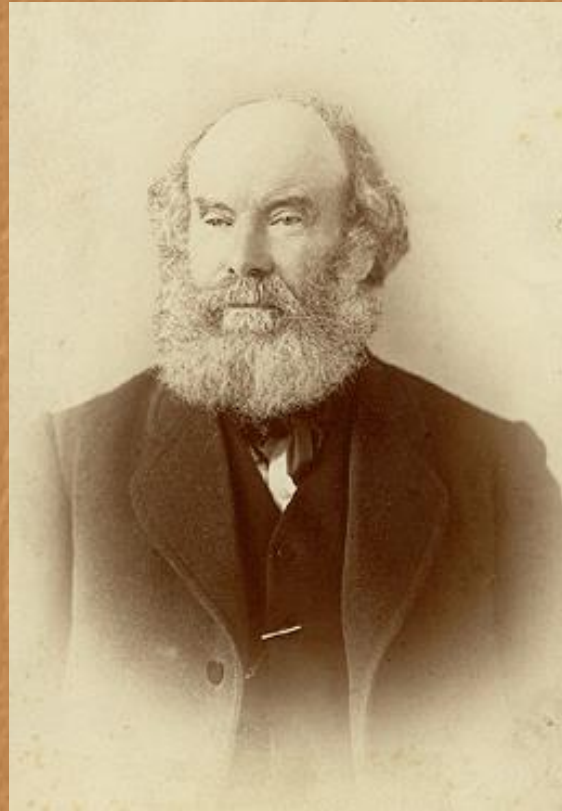
NEW TREATY AGREEMENT



Under pressure from the President, Stevens agrees to change the location of the Puyallup and Nisqually Reservations



DR. WILLIAM F. TOLMIE



Under the new treaty agreement
Leschi will now make peace.

*"Knowing there was a price on his head,
Leschi went to his trusted friend Dr.
Tolmie who later wrote: "In October,
Leschi came,...he desired to acquaint the
Americans, that if they needed that
assurance (to keep the peace), he would
cut off his right hand in proof of his
intentions never to fight them again."*

Cecelia Carpenter,
Leschi: Last Chief of
the Nisquallies, 37-38



LESCHI IMPRISONED

Stevens refuses to negotiate with Leschi. Stevens considers him a criminal and intends to charge him with the murder of A. B. Moses.



On November 13, 1856 Leschi is captured and imprisoned at Fort Steilacoom

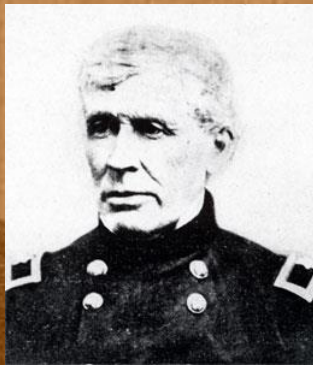


TRIAL POSITION: US ARMY

The killing occurred as an act of war, so neither side could or should be held responsible. The Army viewed Leschi as a prisoner of war.

Gen. John Wool, Commander,
US Army Pacific Division

"It is evident that Stevens, in persisting in demanding the surrender of Leschi and others for trial, is dictated by a vindictive spirit, caused by his recent attempts to renew the war in Walla Walla County.



Col. George Wright, Commander of
Federal Forces, East of the Cascades

*Our hands are [also] stained with innocent blood,
and the perpetrators are free... Let impartial justice
be meted out to both parties...*



TRIAL POSITION: KEY WITNESS

- The key witness Rabbeson, knew Leschi by sight only, not by name
- Distance from victim at time of shooting is unclear – conflicting testimony
- Smoke from guns obscured view
- Leschi not identified as the man who fired the fatal shot



MARTIAL LAW DECLARED



April 3, 1856,
Stevens declares
Martial Law,
relieving the civil
courts of their
jurisdiction, and
suspending the
civil practice of
trial by jury.



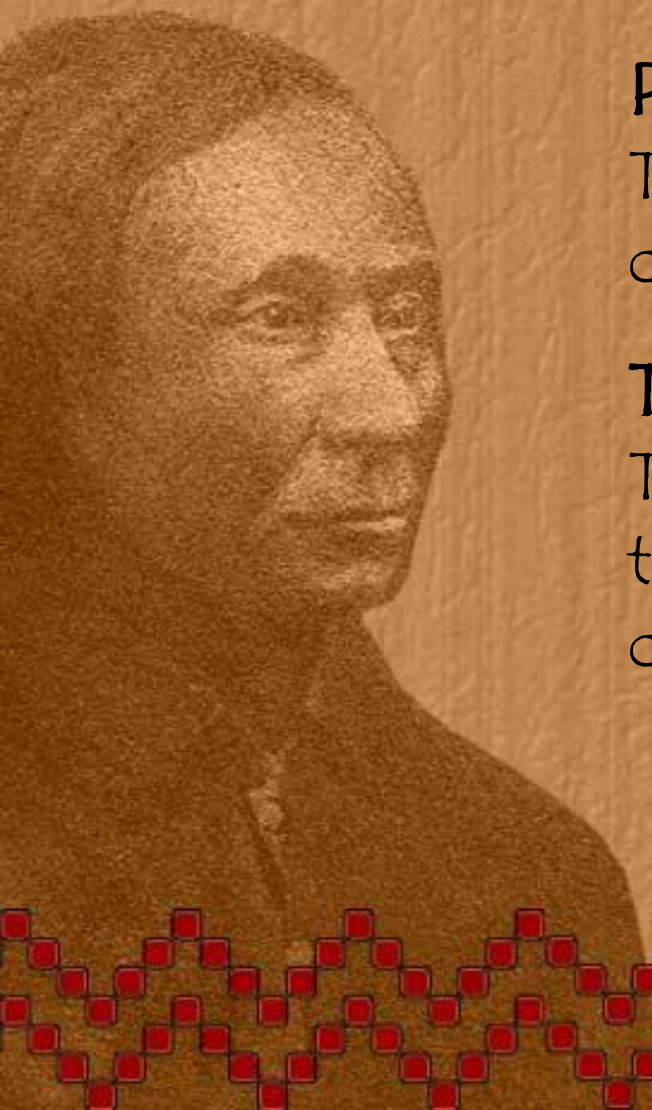
NEW JURY, NEW INSTRUCTIONS

Pierce County

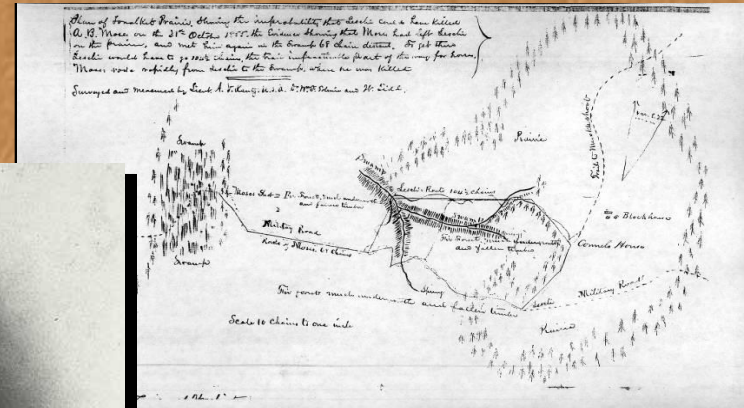
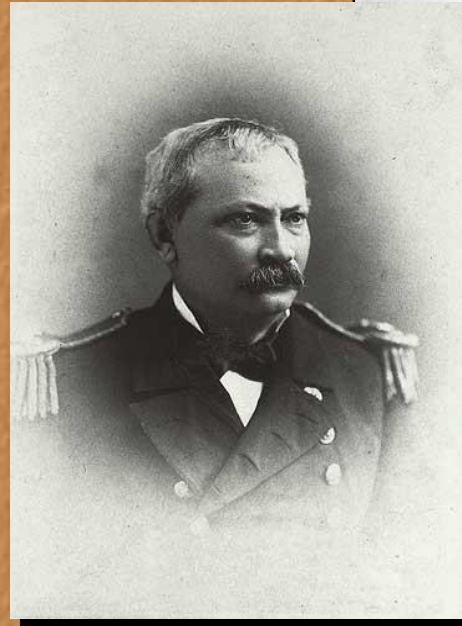
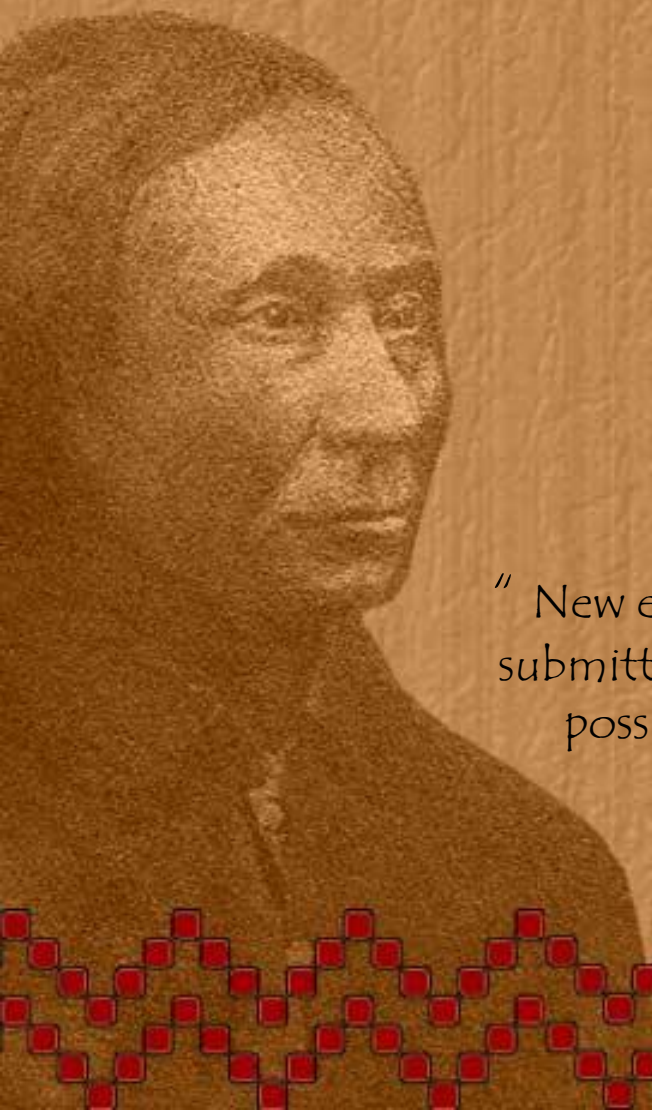
The jury in the first trial is instructed to consider the Act of War circumstance.

Thurston County

The jury in the second trial is **not** told to consider the Act of War circumstance.



LT. AUGUST KAUTZ

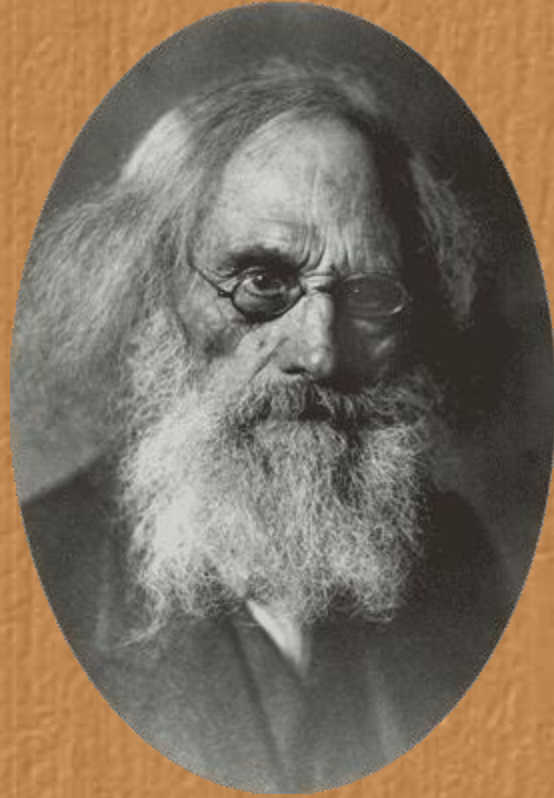


“ New evidence was presented when Lieutenant August Kautz submitted measurements to prove that Leschi could not have possibly been seen in the Indian camp and then almost immediately a mile down the trail.”

This evidence was not accepted.



A HUNG JURY



Trial results in a hung jury and Leschi is found guilty. Ezra Meeker is one of the jurors, and his is one of two "not guilty" votes.



LESCHI WAITS...



Leschi was originally sentenced to hang on June 10, 1857. However, due to the appeal this date was rescheduled for Jan 22, 1858.



LESCHI'S EXECUTION



Site of Leschi's hanging

With the U.S. Army's refusal to hang Leschi at FT. Steilacoom, Stevens directs the construction of a scaffold a mile east of Fort Steilacoom where the execution of Leschi is held.



THE RECORD IS CHANGED

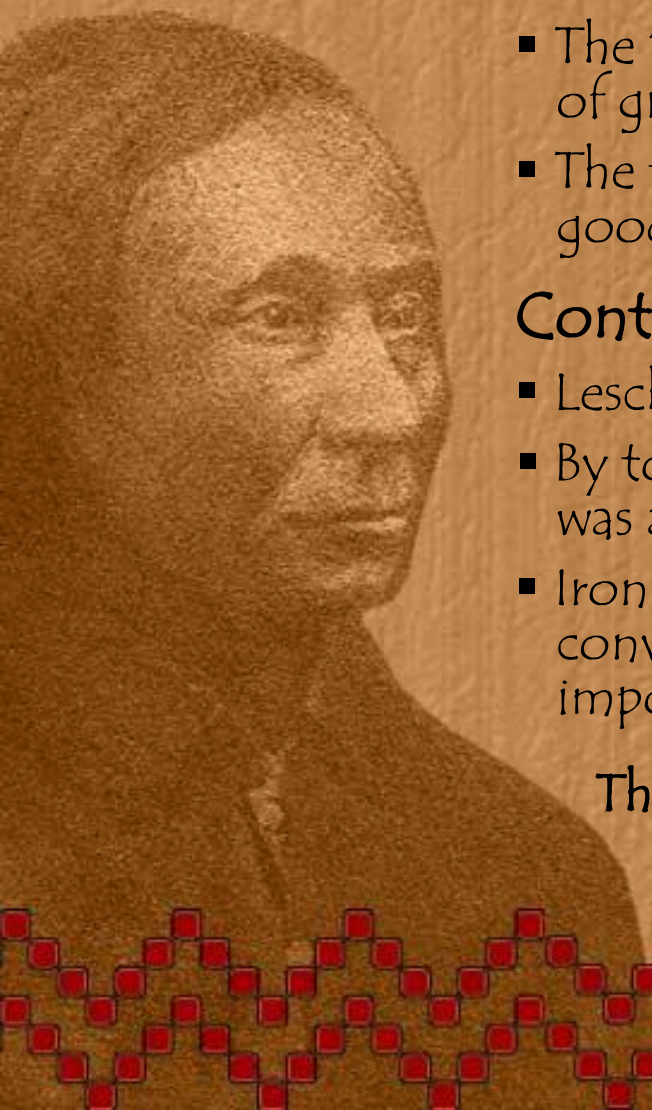
Historical Perspective:

- Killing of Col. Moses occurred during a time of war.
- The 1850s, when Leschi was convicted, was a time of great racism and prejudice against the Indian people.
- The treaty was unfair, and Leschi was merely acting in good faith for his people.

Contemporary Perspective:

- Leschi's people are still impacted by this tragedy today.
- By today's legal standards, Leschi's conviction and execution was an appalling example of injustice.
- Ironically, Leschi's name, alone among the ranks of convicted and executed murderers, is used to name important public places throughout the Puget Sound.

The Exoneration of Leschi took place Dec, 10th 2004,
146 years after he was hung.



LESCHI REMEMBERED



Leschi is remembered today as an honored Chief wrongly accused. There are a number of public places and monuments honoring him as great leader of the Nisqually Tribe, including Leschi Community and Park (Seattle, WA), a number of schools, and the monument in Lakewood (WA).



END

