

Brian Lamb
C-Span

O-Amr Pres

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Brian:

Re: President Series

Regarding President Pierce 1853-1857 era

During the time of Pres. pierce term, was also the time of the Gov. Isaac Stevens treaties with the Washington State Indians,

Treaties were held at different places in Washington, but the one that was most significant was the Walla Walla Council of June 1855 in the now town of WallaWalla, Washington.

Here many tribes came together, but did not agree on much, especially giving up their own personally owned lands and to move onto someone else's owned land. The Cayuse wouldn't give up the Blue Mtns. and needed more land for their masses of "cayuses!" The Wallawalla Great Chief peupeumoxmox would not sell the Walla Walla Valley, but after Stevens threatened they would walk knee deep in blood, the chief signed saying if they didn't they would have nothing at all. Stevens put ads in the newspapers saying the Indian lands were open to settlement even if treaty had not been ratified. The Indians were not to leave the valley only one year AFTER ratification. The Wallawalla and Cayuse People were much angried by the treaties and they would not give their land without a fight. Peupeumoxmox was to talk to Stevens after he returned from Montana Treaties with Blackfeet. However to make a long story short = The chief closed all roads in and out of the Valley and he wanted all white settlers out. No one was taking the valley. The Oregon Volunteer soldiers were ordered in to take the Valley even before ratification for the white settlement. A nasty 4 day battle called the bloodiest conflict fought in the Northwest opened with the brutal killing of the Great Chief Peupeumoxmox and closed with the butcher of his body. The Indians fought a hard battle, much to the surprise of the soldiers, and only left when they heard a large army was coming from The Dalles.

skirmishes continued to be fought in the valley, also at Spokane plains and Steptoe Butte, until 1858 when the Walla Walla Valley was reopened to white settlement.

A second council with Stevens was held in sept. 1856 but Indians ran him out of Valley and Col. Wright established a Steptoe encampment on Mill Creek. Wright because of Stevens actions against the Indians and the early newspaper ads, said the Treaty was null and void and the Cayuse should return to their valley. Because of Stevens fear and hatred of the Cayuse he did not give them more land for their many cattle and masses of cayuses, but cut their reservation in half and did not give them the Blue Mtns area that they said they would not sign their Treaty without.

Through the decency of one white man the Great Chief •Peupeumoxmox was buried near the cabin he was killed, though his body was never found. He is buried in his homeland.

The Battle of Wallawalla has been placed on the State Registry of Historical places near Lowden, Washington.

President James Buchanan signed the Ratified Treaty in March 1859 and white settlement was opened and the town of Walla Walla began. Steptoe Encampment was moved from the creek to the hill and became the new Fort Walla Walla after the old fort on the Columbia River by Hudson Bay Co. had been burnt by the hostile Indians.

Seattle

Biographer of Peupeumoxmox
Research Historian of Wallawalla and
Cayuse Indians

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Battle of Wallawalla was Dec. 7 - 10, 1855. Chief was killed Dec. 7 around 2 pm.