



Smithsonian Institution Archives

George Gibbs Papers, circa 1850-1853, 1857-1862

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a>
<b>Title:</b>	George Gibbs Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	Record Unit 7209
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1850-1853, 1857-1862
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 cu. ft. (1 half document box)
<b>Creator::</b>	Gibbs, George, 1815-1873
<b>Language:</b>	Language of Materials: English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7209, George Gibbs Papers

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## Historical Note

George Gibbs (1815-1873) was an ethnologist and expert on the language and culture of the Indians of the Pacific Northwest. A graduate of Harvard University, Gibbs moved west during the gold rush of 1848 and eventually secured the position of Collector of the Port of Astoria, Oregon Territory. From 1853 to 1855, he was a geologist and ethnologist on the Pacific Railroad Survey of the 47th and 49th parallels under the command of Isaac Stevens. In 1857, Gibbs joined the Northwest Boundary Survey and served as geologist and interpreter until 1862. The last decade of his life was spent in Washington, D.C., where he undertook studies of Indian languages under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution.

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## Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

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## Descriptive Entry

This collection consists primarily of journals kept by Gibbs while in Oregon Territory, 1850-1853, and on the Northwest Boundary Survey, 1857-1862. The journals contain zoological and ethnological observations, accounts of collections made, and Indian vocabulary. Also included are notes on the forest growth of Washington Territory, circa 1860.

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Anthropology  
Natural history

Types of Materials:

Field notes

Names:

Gibbs, George, 1815-1873  
Harvard University  
Northwest Boundary Survey, 1857-1861  
Pacific Railroad Survey of the 47th and 49th Parallels  
Stevens, Isaac I.

## Container Listing

### Box 1

- Box 1 of 1                      Folder 1 Journal, Astoria, Oregon Territory, 1850-1853  
[Image\(s\): Journal, Astoria, Oregon Territory, 1850-1853](#)
- Box 1 of 1                      Folder 2 Journal, Northwest Boundary Survey, 1857-1862  
[Image\(s\): Journal, Northwest Boundary Survey, 1857-1862](#)
- Box 1 of 1                      Folder 3 Notes on Forest Growth in Washington Territory, circa 1860  
[Image\(s\): Notes on Forest Growth in Washington Territory, circa 1860](#)