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

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Collection Overview

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

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7209, George Gibbs Papers

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.

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

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