

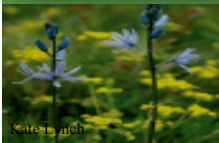


DuPont Museum

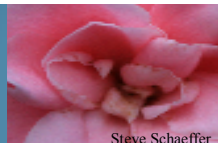
DUPONT

Welcoming for 5,000 Years

Visit the DuPont Museum at: 207 Barksdale Avenue
DuPontMuseum.com
253-964-2399



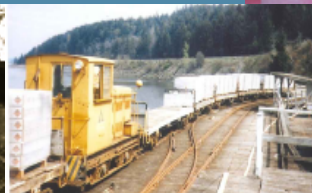
Steve Schaeffer



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1843 Fort Nisqually



DuPont has a rich and diverse cultural heritage spanning over 5,000 years. For thousands of years, the DuPont area plains and Puget Sound provided food and home for the Sequalitchew-Nisqually Indians. They left their imprint on these lands only to be discovered hundreds of years later. Carbon dating of shells at a local midden site shows human life thriving here 5,700 years ago.

DuPont is the home of the first European settlement in Puget Sound. In 1792 land now known as DuPont was first seen by British Captain George Vancouver as he and his party explored Puget Sound. In 1832 Hudson Bay Company's Archibald McDonald cooperated with the Indians to build a storehouse at the mouth of Sequalitchew Creek. Shortly thereafter, the Hudson Bay Company established its first fur trading post in Puget Sound at the 1833 Fort Nisqually site. This brought together Native Americans, Hawaiian, British, Scottish, French Canadians, and Americans living, working and trading in relative peace.

In 1839 the Nisqually Methodist Episcopal Mission was established bringing the first U.S. citizens into the region including the first school teacher, Chloe Clark. In 1843 Lt. Charles Wilkes arrived in DuPont. The Wilkes U.S. Exploring Expedition set up an observatory on the bluff above the mouth of Sequalitchew Creek to survey, map and chart the waters of Puget Sound.

These two groups of explorers held the first Fourth of July celebration west of the Missouri River. In 1843 Fort Nisqually was relocated to the flat plains near the banks of Sequalitchew Creek. In 1869 the United States government purchased the Fort Nisqually site and auctioned it to American settlers.

The turn of the century brought soldiers and dynamite into DuPont. In 1904 the first joint Army-National Guard training exercises on the west coast were held at a massive encampment near Sequalitchew Creek. In 1906 the E.I. DuPont deNemours Company purchased nearly five miles of land for manufacturing black powder and high explosives. The DuPont Company began operating in 1909 as the first industrial plant in the Pacific Northwest. This little company town had its own school district, newspaper, post office, church, school, a butcher shop, hotel, club house and 100 homes.

Moving cases of dynamite over pot-holed roads wasn't very safe. To avoid this potentially explosive problem, the Company built a narrow gauge railroad to safely transport the dynamite. The railroad went down the north slope of Sequalitchew Creek canyon out to Puget Sound. Dynamite manufactured in DuPont helped build the Panama Canal and helped supply munitions for both World Wars.

In the 1930s Fort Nisqually buildings were moved to present day Point Defiance in Tacoma. Today, black locust trees are all that remain on the site.

Photos courtesy of DuPont Museum



Every August the DuPont Historical Society and Museum with the Nisqually Tribe hold an annual Fort Nisqually Celebration & Salmon Bake on the site —COME JOIN US

Visitor Information:
1408 Palisade Blvd.
253-576-0696
www.visitdupont.com