Pioneer Gives Vivid Picture of Past Days

JAMES KAVANAUGH, FIRST SHERIFF OF WHATCOM COUNTY,
WRITES OF FRONTIER HAPPENINGS AS THEY OCCURRED—HIS DIARY IS BEING PRINTED SERIALLY FOR FIRST TIME BY ANACORTES AMERICAN.

James Kavanaugh, whose diary is being printed serially by the American, was the first United States deputy marshal of the Northwest and was the first sheriff of Whatcom county in territorial days. Whatcom county then consisted of what is now Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan counties. Kavanaugh’s diary covers the progress of events in Skagit and Whatcom counties from 1853 to the time of his death. Since that time, the diary has been guarded painstakingly by his widow, Mrs. James Kavanaugh, who still resides on Fidalgo Island homestead. Mrs. Kavanaugh has an even more interesting history than that of her late husband. She was Princess of the Cowlitz tribe of Indians, born before the coming of the white men. In her youth she was wed to Lieut. Sam Davis, a brother of Jefferson Davis, Lieut. Davis was one of the officers of the army fort at Whatcom in anti-belgium days. He went to Dixie at the outbreak of the war and never returned. A few years later she married James Kavanaugh. Through her courtesy the American is printing for the first time the diary of her late husband.

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FIFTH INSTALLMENT

July 25, 1879.—Mike Sullivan here today. Swapped a yoke of oxen for a horse.

How to make concrete: To one part of water, lime, four of sand mix well before being wet. Then add 4 more parts of coarse gravel. Mix up all to a thin mortar. Throw as many small stones as you can in it in the wall in such a way as the concrete mortar will work in all around them.

E. W. S. in Country Gentleman. From over the corn, June 11, 1879.

August 25, 1887.—For the last week, steady, drizzling rain, destruction of the harvest threatened. Ditches running again.

Sept. 7.—First rain since last May. Longest and most severe drought known in this county.

Sept. 26.—Post at La Conner three dollars for the Farmers, Hunt and Fire, Chicago, also one dollar for the Sun.

Posted letter to Morgan, Kav

Naughna, Canada. Posted letter to Laughlin, Jackson, Miss. I take the Revell from Whatcom.

Jan. 13.—Whatcom county is now divided. We are now in Skagit country.

March 5.—Brought a new stove from La Conner, Sarfield, Francis and self. Price $30.00.

July 9.—Frank Burn died. He was stabbed on the Fourth a.m. above the heart by Sam Thomson. Died, Mrs. Maggie Van Valkenburg: of consumption. Buried on the 9th. August 16th.—Fires on Mr. Cran
dilla’s place.

H. A. March discovers a new spring in a ditch that Gus Johnson and the late Charles March dug.

Jan. 11.—We held a debating society composed of us with F. N. Van Valkenburg as president to meet every Saturday night.

Feb. 4, 1888.—Commenced work on the new road to La Conner, Lance Burdon, Al and Chas. Stevenson and S. J. Kavanaugh.

Feb. 29.—Died at 1:30 p.m., Miss Compton, on the last day of February that comes once in four years. Buried on March 2nd at Mount.

April 23.—Died, at Seattle, Ida, wife of Wm. Sharp, funeral took place on the 26th of April.

June 9.—H. E. Wells, county surveyor, runs the lines around lot 2 and 3 in section 28, township 39.

(The end.)

Drive Sick Headaches Away

Sick headaches, sour gasy stomach, indigestion, biliousness disappear quickly after you take Dr. King’s New Life Pills. They purify the blood and put new life and vigor in the system. Try them and you will be well satisfied. Every pill helps. Every box guaranteed. Price 25c. Recommended by all druggists.
Princess Tui Siolia, daughter of a proud line of Swinomish chieftains, who in the days of his golden youth espoused the heart of a dashing young army officer from West Point, is spending the evening of her life in a humble little home on the shore of Puget Sound. Her name now is not the romantic "Tui Siolia," but she is called Mary and revered by all her neighbors by the filipino name of Mrs. Kavannaugh. She has a telephone in her house, access to collect post cards and subscriptions for a number of farm publications and newspapers. Despite the fact that her age is nearing four score and ten, she is mentally keen and alert, and thanks to the education she received in the Catholic schools established in the wilderness by the pioneers of that faith, converses fluently in the language of the new race which supplanted her own.

Her life began before the coming of the pale face nation to the great Northwest and her experiences have left her with a deep sense of history, seen in the making of Whidbey and Skagit counties.

The Kavannaghs first settled on Pidgoal and Loomis islands, Capt. Haggard, later famed as a confederate general in the Civil War and later, General Davis, a brother of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy, were sent to the Northwest to command the government troops. It was here that Lott Davis was drowned by the beauty of little Tui Siolia and made her wife. For a few brief, happy years she lived with her husband at the whaling post near the present site of Bellingham. Then the war clouds began to gather over the nation and the young North- erner left for Dixie to defend his native land and never saw little Tui Siolia again. Later she married James Kavannaugh, who was the first United States marshal in the Northwest, who was a school teacher and after the Annexation of the territory of Washington was the first sheriff elected for what county. He died about thirty years ago leaving in addition to his wife, two sons, both of whom are still living and middle aged sons of Mrs. Kavannaugh's most highly prized possessions is the diary kept by her husband during the early days of the Northwest. The record is very historical and shows that Mr. Kavannaugh was a poet and scholar.

Tui Siolia was born on Pidgoal Island about eighty-five years ago. She was the daughter of Bill-Wilson, chief of the Pidgoals and Gush-Cabin, a daughter of a tribe living at what is now Coupe.

Her grandfather on her maternal side was a chief of the Swinomish Indians and her grandmother was from Vancouver Island.

Mrs. Kavannaugh decries the first white man that came to Lummi Island. A battle followed in which four of the white men were killed.

About that time, she saw the young officer, Davis, and primly arose to lend fire to the drowsy maiden's heart. She thought it was the danger of being neglected that had pained her in her youth. But little did she realize that in the course of her alliance, a processing chief, was already in love with her daughter's heart. Leading the troops which fought the battle of Pidgoal Island, the young officer, "Indian will never kill such other any more." Student, she saw her constant companion follow him about the land and gain wisdom and grins visaged freemasons and Tui Siolia left her troops to fight her husband's battles. The army officer, with servants, attention and doting, such as she never had dreamed of in the days of old.

[Continued on page two.]
American Prints For First Time Diary of James Kavanaugh, First Sheriff of Whatcom County Who Intermingles Annals of Pioneer History With Latest News From the Civil War

Below is given the first installment of the diary of James Kavanaugh, the first deputy United States marshal for the Northwest and the first sheriff of Whatcom county. It must be remembered that Whatcom county then consisted of not only the present territory of Whatcom county but what is now Skagit and San Juan counties. San Juan islands at the time Sheriff Kavanaugh started his diary were claimed by both the United States and Great Britain later being awarded to the United States by the German emperor. The controversy was submitted...
OLD SETTLE TELLSTORY OF OTHER DAYS

(Continued from page 1.)

have surrendered with a great many graves and monuments of war bells, July 29, 1863. — V. V. Whatever cowboy; a quiet, peaceful hero of the big era. On this day the town of Vienna was burnt down. It was burnt down by an unknown person. On August 1, 1863, Messrs. Finch and Bell were left the Lummis reservation today with a strong escort of Indians in order to claim up the murder of Mr. Russell. August 14—Jubilee. Returned from San Juan as all the people were buildings the town of Vienna. July 25, 1863. — J. C. Finney, a story of the same

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March 19, 1894—Received one fowl
upholstery material in.

Saturday, June 28, 1913—Returned
from Port Townsend.

July 24—Commenced making her
insignia, the badge for W. H. B.

August 5—Was sent for by W. H. B.,
plunged and stung.

August 26—Took charge of Willy
Darmier who had joined an Indian
of the 24th ult. at Whidbey Island.

July 29—Took his place in the
United States court in Port Townsend.

September 23—Arrived at his
house in the city.

October 23—Left the house and
got home about 5 p.m.

November 3—Willed William
Gowen to appear in front of

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(Continued on page 1.)

NANITO YAKWA:

Nencha t'koosh kawsa
Nencha t'koosh kawsa

(Continued on page 2.)
January 1, 1865.—Brought home number to build boat.

January 21.—Held inquest on the body of Matthew Hall, who shot himself accidentally at Seminole and on the 22d occurred the first fall of snow this winter.

February 28.—Fell of snow last night; bitter cold—heavy frost.

March 1.—Chilled this winter; snow about all day.

March 2.—At night my ink is still frozen; cannot thaw it out. This ink was frozen but it thawed out easily.

March 3.—Considerable snow fell last night. Receipt for curing meat.

To one gallon of water take 1/4 lb. of salt, 1/2 lb. sugar, 1/2 oz. of potash. In this ratio the pickles may be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it in a tub to cool and when cold throw it over your beef or pork to remain the usual time, say four or five weeks. The meat must be well covered with pickle and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered salt. If all goes well, there will be found in salt and sugar. If this receipt is properly tried, it will never be done and is one that surpasses it if so good.

March 6.—Six inches of snow fell last night and this morning—very cold.

March 7.—Extremely heavy frosts last night—strong winds this morning and one of the coldest ever experienced.

March 8.—Fell again; have seen no severer frosts in this country during my experience. At night it is now snowing beautifully. Spring is at least this year.

March 9.—Morning, fell about 3 inches of snow last night; it snows now; snowed all day.

March 10.—Thaw and rain—heavy.

March 16.—First telegraph operator comes.

March 19.—This morning ground covered with snow; snows steadily till noon, but reasonably fine days for this month.

March 20.—New tax bill. On all incomes exceeding $500 a tax of five per cent; on all over $500 a tax of ten per cent. The tax for $100 is fixed at ten dollars a thousand without regard to price or quality. A tax of 40 cents a pound on all smoking tobacco.

June 8.—Planted potatoes and tobacco.

June 9.—Planted tobacco.

June 16.—It is raining this morning and has rained every day for at least a week past. Summoned John Payne for juror to attend district court next September.

July 1, 1865.—Summoned R. K. Beal for grand and James Mathews for petit jurors for September term next July.

July 12.—A daughter born this morning at 7 o'clock.

July 31.—Opened and closed probate court.

August 11, 1865.—Received a letter from Hon. George H. Williams, U. S. Marshal at Washington in relation to San Juan. Received a warrant for arrest of David Anderson and Mac Alpine of the Skagit river.

August 17.—Served this warrant by arresting the parties above named.

August 19.—They had a hearing—committed for trial.

August 21.—Took them home in my boat. He gave bonds.

August 23.—My daughter died, five weeks five days old.

September 5, 1865.—Received of St. Clair & Moody for tuning table irons, 1 set, $3.00.

September 15.—We have a regular mail here at last; the steamer Libby comes weekly.

October 16, 1865.—Removed to Perry's island.

November 20.—Hauled up our boat for the winter.

March 7, 1866.—Planted 74 wild cherry trees along the beach.

April 9, 1866.—Rain all last night. Rain all this day and yesterday—pouring.

April 9, 1866.—Rain all last night. Rain all this day and yesterday—pouring.

March 9.—It is raining today and has been for several days past as well as blowing with little intermission. It must now necessarily be a late spring.

April 10, 1866.—Rode to the Roman Catholic clergyman at Jackson, Miss., in order to gain some information of my relatives.

December 16, 1865.—Rode to the Roman Catholic clergyman at Jackson, Miss., in order to gain some information of my relatives.

December 22.—Johnson "Pig Pen" and Nelson attempted to rob windows at Unionville.

December 25, 1866.—Christmas day. (Gloria in Excelsis Deo) M. T. Tows and family came here yesterday; also a vessel with the new jump.

December 31, 12 o'clock.—The last hour of the present year has expired. The signal gun has announced it. God be blessed and praised for his goodness and mercy to us and may it be his Divine will and pleasure to send us a happy New Year. The weather is delightful. No snow and very little frost.
Note. Third installment printed March 20, 1913—not in Anacortes American nor Anacortes Museum archives. This copy copied from Washington State Archives, NW Branch, Bellingham.

2-20-1913

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Jan. 1 1957—Like a summer day, not a flake of snow yet this winter.

Jan. 16, 1957—Jim Victoria (ago Jack Pain was drowned today in attempting to steal the sluice above Allen's house on his way to look after the telegraph lines but body not found.

Jan. 19—Body found.

Feb. 7—Rued Negieker Johnson today for stealing stove and attempting to steal windows from Richardson's house. Trial postponed five days. I am since the first of the month trying to repair my boat at Whatcom, but it either rains, snows or blows every day and every night.

Feb. 12—Washington Territory vs Fred Johnson, alias The Ragpicker was today cleared through bare-faced perjury by Michael Aikens.
assisted by George Watt. The whole plot being previously prepared and arranged by John G. Meagher, pettyfogger for the accused—an unprincipled fellow—an infidel.

May 9—Returned today March and self from Utsalady, where we sold our oil; had a hard trip of it, head North winds.

May 5—Received a letter from Rev. P. Huber of Jackson, Miss., giving an account of my sister and others.

May 7—Andrew Harrison of Whidbey died and was buried on this Fidalgo Island a few days ago, near the grave of old man Russell, June (May) 6, 1887.

May 23—No brandt to day. Finished planting potatoes. Going to take a hunt.

June 6—Returns from election so far heard from; Barrington beats Eldridge in the Council district by 29 votes; Roeder beats March for Legislature.

June 8—Barnewall beats Compton for County Commissioner; Wilson beats myself for Probate Judge by 4 votes; Monks Monks is beaten by Coroner by Cagey.

June 12—Got back from Whidbey, oldest day in June I ever experienced.

June 16—Posted a letter to Rev. Mr. Huber, Jackson, Miss.

July 4—First day on the road.

July 7—Just learned today that (E.) Eldridge whipped Dan Harris, alias "Dirty Dan" with a load of smuggled goods from Victoria. Can't say that I am sorry for his trouble; and also that "Shepherd" is in the chain gang at Victoria for stealing a net, also that Paul K. Hulse has been driven from the San Juan Islands.

July 8—Dominick Penden killed in the coal mine. About the same time Dirty Dan stole $50 from Billy Nichols for which he was put in jail, and finding no one to go his bonds, he will have to remain there until the meeting of the District Court.

July 16—We go to the Swinomish Flat today to cut hay. Rained a good spell last night; very moist so far.

July 20—It has been raining and blowing for the last 6 or 10 days, hay on the Swinomish Flat, with apparently as much success as might be expected in January.

Aug. 3—Seahome, got here this morning in my own boat with (F. T.) Lane.

Aug. 4—I worked today in the coal chutes, Sunday though it be. Dirty Dan is bailed out of prison by John Davis and Capt Roeder. He is blow-and sweeping around and drinking in a most shameless manner. He is a hardened thief.

Aug. 6—Seahome, I have worked two days and a half in the chute cleaning coal. Mr Hayward came in on the Steamer "Fidalg" last night and went away this evening.

Aug. 12—Saw on Wednesday last of July on Swinomish Flat, a brilliant meteor coming from the southeast and running in a northeast direction.

Sept. 13—A man named Watson and another man were burned in the coal mine today by gas and the explosion of two kegs of blasting powder.

Sept. 16—Watson died this morning.

Sept. 22—A grand ball in the engine room of the B. N. Coal Co. last night.

It was a very successful affair. Sam Brown gave "Dirty Dan" Harris a beating before last night. I treated him for doing it.

Oct. 12—Received a letter from my sister.

Oct. 20—I answered said letter.

Nov. 16—Left Seahome at 12 o'clock and arrived here, Fidalgo Island, on Monday evening the 10th, there being a dead calm and extremely foggy.

Nov. 20—The pig I bought yesterday has broken out of its pen and cleared out.

Dec. 14—Put up my kitchen building yesterday, but cannot finish it for want of nails and lumber.

Dec. 20— Went to Utsalady, sold vegetables and bought lumber to finish building my kitchen. Got back Sunday, 29th.

Dec. 26—Posted a letter to my sister.
Jan. 21, 1862 -- Making shingles for my kitchen. Carolina gone to Utica.

Feb. 1 -- Most remarkable January has passed since I have been in this territory. It was a month of little exception of clear cold-head, frosty weather — such as I was about to set my D.T. J. 7 (Dear Old January) as it should always be.

Feb. 7 -- My dog caught a deer just as I was about to set my market for the same purpose.

Feb. 18 -- Third on building a skiff.

Mar. 10 -- Mrs. and Mrs. (Henry) Wender and child called in and stopped a while this evening.

Mar. 20 -- Died this morning in the telegraph office. Squawish Slough (Laconia), Eugene Jasper, operator. Got a letter from my sister today.

Apr. 20 -- Made a wheelbarrow.

Apr. 28 -- Returned from Whatcom, sold 931 lbs. of potatoes, one cent per pound. Indians enacting herring very fast at Poe's Point.

May 1 -- Planted 20 plants of tobacco, planted sugar cane seed.

May 10 -- No breeze today.

May 15 -- Planted 20 tomato plants, finished planting 246 tobacco plants, 79 hills of common corn, some sweet corn.

June 2 -- Commanched digging cellar for Monks and finished it on the 7th.

June 10 -- Caught a fawn this evening and gave it to March.

June 11 -- Worked for March, clearing.

June 15 -- Wet morning, very showery, dark cold rains. Mosquitoes are savage intolerable. Never found them troublesome about my place before this.

June 22 -- Posted a letter to my sister.

July 4 -- Haymaking on Squawish Plate with March. It blew all day and light nearly all day.

July 14 -- Out hug, left 24 lbs. of pork, 7 acres by W. R. S. (Wyoming). James Boardman, ex-president of the United States; died at his residence in Pennsylvania on June 1, in the 77th year of his age. His parent were natives of New England, Ireland. Condensed from Tribune.

Aug. 2 -- (20) Night got home first load of hay.

Aug. 4 -- Put the hay in my new barn.

Aug. 14 -- Came home from Whatcom with part of limber for water wheels.

Aug. 19 -- Cutting ditch and shoveling preparing to get water.

Aug. 22 -- I do not remember to send my report at present, but a drop of rain since the second of July, and very slight there.

Aug. 25 -- Cutting my wheat. Memorandum, Volcanic Magazine Journal for July 1861: 

12 portraits of the most distinguished prelates and priests in America. Must send for it.

Aug. 27 -- Out my tobacco.

Sept. 1 -- Got in the water this evening from the springs.

Sept. 12 -- Sold at the store Shakes, 660 of potatoes, a quantity of sacking, 600 pounds of onions, 50 pounds of peas, amounting in all to $16.40. Went over to Samish Slough, got some 40 salmon from the Indians.

Sept. 22 -- Came back from taking S. Allen's two steers and sell at Whatcom. I find Unionville coal works, houses etc., all laid in ashes. Whatcom and Soc-hom were saved by force of numbers, and by great exertion. The whole country finds is afire. Such a continuation of fires, the oldest inhabitants had not seen before. Sent a bill by March to Whatcom to U. S. Marshall for 10 dollars due now three years.

Oct. 14 -- Started this evening to the grind mill with wheat. Got 7 bushels.

Oct. 21 -- Returned from the grind mill at Penn's Cove. Got 7 bushels.

Oct. 29 -- Made Kildridge buried today. Accidentally shot himself.

Nov. 2 -- commenced working for Monks to pay for 2 cows I bought from him.
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April 4, 1859.—Shot a bison of mine today in mistake for a deer. Sold the beef next day at Whatcom: 19 cents per pound, $2.70.

July 23.—Contest court of election today held at the house of James Combs, Pilaug Island. Edward Elberry, judge; Henry Hatter, sheriff. Case of Morgan and Meyers vs. James Combs. The latter was declared the winner.

October 27.—Received a letter from Friendie concerning the many years he spent in the desert.

November 5, 1859.—Last day of the year 1859.

January 22, 1857.—Oscar Olsen tells me that the Indians of the Nicola Valley have not come down this year.

June 6, 1857.—Sent two boxes of preserves to Whidbey Island by steamer. The preserves were made last winter. I write the records with ink made from the juice of the peony.