



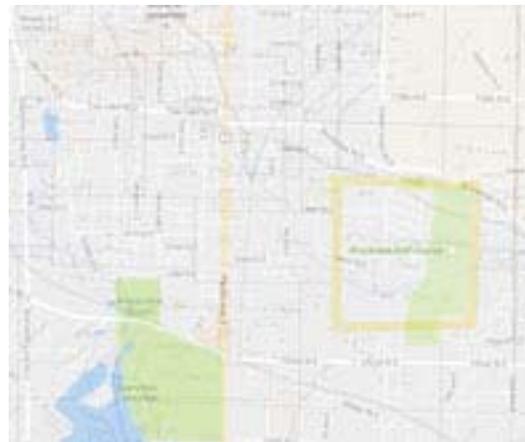
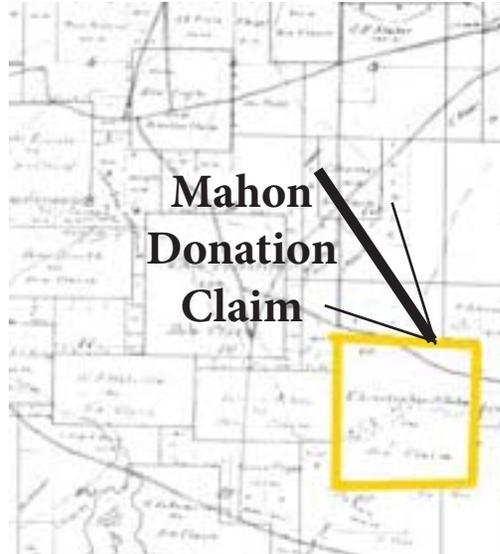
Stone monument at the entrance to Brookdale Golf Course acknowledges the Longmire-Biles encampment.

Why Donation Claims should be important to golfers.

Brookdale GC is part of a DC Having a property intact under one ownership is one of the few ways to assemble the amount of property needed for a golf course. Somebody has had to hold it intact for decades. Every course we play will have it's own history, not the end of the Naches trail but something equally interesting. Maybe it is you who will research the history of your course for us next year. Here is the story of Brookdale, 142 acres, built 1931.

On September 27, 1850, the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 went into effect. The act created a powerful incentive for settlement of the Oregon Territory by offering 320 acres at no charge to qualifying adult U.S. citizens (640 acres to married couples) who occupy their claims for four consecutive years.

Amendments in 1853 and 1854 continue the program, but cut the size of allowable claims by half. The yellow square is the 640 acre Mahon claim. These men and women looking for a home in what was called the Parkland plains wanted farmland or grazing land. They needed water and Clover Creek filled the bill. An early description of Clover Creek said it flowed with abundant salmon and wildlife. Christopher Mahon named this creek due to the clover smell.)



At the fall meeting of TWGA at Red Wind Inn on Monday October 17th, Dorothy Wilhem, contributing writer for the News Tribune, will tell us more about the Mahons while promoting her new book, Tall Trees and Tall Tales, Puget Sound founders, fortunes, follies. Dorothy says, Mrs. Mahon's story is one of my "star" chapters in the book.

The Naches trail is a big story in PNW history. Brookdale Golf Course and the Mahon homestead is the west end of the Naches trail. The Mahon's arrived here by ship, around the horn, in 1849, four years prior to the arrival of the Longmire party. It is believed they originally bivouacked at Nisqually, perhaps in a quasi-military capacity.

When you play Brookdale Golf Course and look north from the clubhouse, you will see the hill



pictured in the 1880 photo. The two on the left are sons of Christopher and Elizabeth. On hole 4, just as the fairway bends to the left you will see on your right on a slight ridge just wide enough for a horse drawn wagon to pass. This is said to be the path of

the settlers. When you play hole seven with the course sheds to the west, the Mahon homestead was probably located between the fruit trees on the high side of the creek. Easily visible behind the green on 13 is a small pioneer cemetery where Christopher and Elizabeth Mahon and others are



buried.
 We hope your golf course experience at Brookdale is henceforth a little more rewarding as you remember this family and one of the earliest homesteads.
 The course was designed by grandson, Chris Mahon.

Pictured here is Joan Mahon Allard, the great granddaughter of these pioneers. She shot a 72 at Brookdale when she was 17 and became women's state champion that same year. She was our TWGA Champion of the year in 1937, 1938, 1942, 1944, 1945.

Brief History of Washington State so to picture the state of wilderness in 1850.

1775: On Destruction Island 3 miles off the coast of Kalalock a spanish ship stopped for fresh water.

Spring 1792: Neah Bay. Spanish navy erected ten buildings but stayed for less than 60 days.

1792: Captain Gray, on a quest for some Massachusetts merchants sighted the Columbia River, then Grays Harbor, then saw the abandoned Neah Bay settlement. Lots of Naval activity from both British and Spanish Ships at this time on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

1792: A British ship, Chatham, ventured 100 miles up the Columbia. That would have put Captain James Baker at present day Vancouver.

1792: Captain Vancouver explored Puget Sound. He passed by New Dungeness, just a couple miles north of The Cedars at Dungeness. They stayed 2 months headquartered off the Southeastern tip of Bainbridge Island, probably 10 miles southwest of Wing Point Golf Course. At this time, both British and Yankee Ships regularly ached at near Ilwako and Nootka Bay on Vancouver Island.

1805 Lewis & Clark reached the Long Beach Peninsula then crossed the Columbia and wintered in Astoria, Or.

1811: David Thompson, geographer and explorer employed by North West Company, a British Firm canoed from the Okanogan River in Canada to the Columbia then to Astoria. The same year David Stuart of the Astor Company left Astoria and canoed up the Columbia River establishing a trading post just east of Brewster. This post is about 10 miles west of Gamble Sands Golf Course.

1812: Fort Spokane founded as post for the Pacific Fur Company.

1825: Fort Vancouver Built, Colville post founded.

1825: Hudson Bay Company started farming 640 acres near Toledo. Harvests used for consumption and export. They established farms on Parkland prairie but no mention is made as to when this happened. The Mahon homestead originally ranched Hudson Bay cattle.

1832: Fort Nisqually built.

1833: Fort Nisqually warehouses were built and later abandoned and two new warehouses built on Sequelitchew Creek. This creek runs on the north sides of holes 5 and 6 at the Home Course. From the cart path, behind hole 2, it seems like we are miles from the sound but the shoreline may be as little as 350 feet away.

1838: Whitman Mission founded just a few miles from Wine Valley Golf Course just west of Walla Walla.

1841: Wilkes Expedition charted the Chehalis River, Grays Harbor, the Columbia, Okanogan, Colville and Walla Walla.

1844: Oregon Provisional Government enacted Oregon Homestead Act and the wagon trains started.

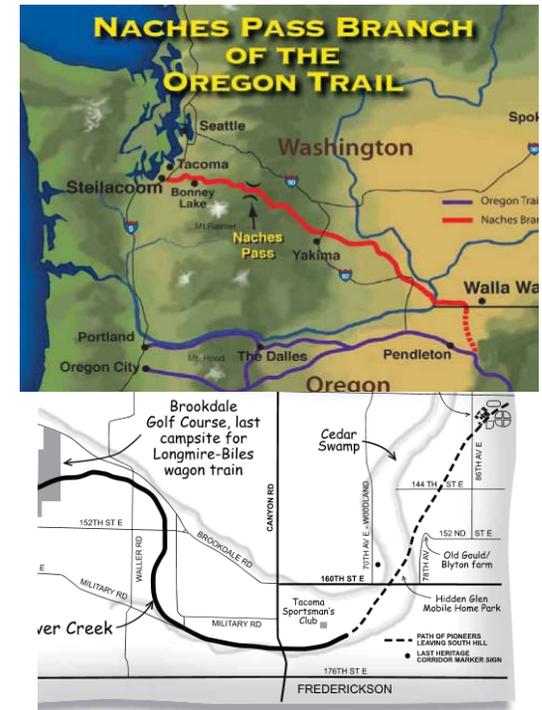
1846: Lumber mill at Tumwater became water powered.

1846: Christopher Mahon arrives. One historical notation said the Hudson Bay Company was raising cattle on the Mayon Donation Claim at the time Christopher selected it. See page 3 for updates.

1847: November, 29th. Date of the Whitman Massacre.

1848: Gold Discovered in California.

1852: Pierce County formed from Thurston county and late the next year, 1853, the first wagon train succeeds in crossing rugged Naches Pass through the Cascade Mountains. The train of more than 30 wagons includes James and Virinda Longmire and their children who have traveled with several other families from their home in Indiana to settle in Western Washington. At the same time settlers were arriving from the south on foot and canoe and wagon.; also by ship from the straits of Juan de Fuca and the Pacific Ocean.



Obituary:

Joan Mary Mahon Allard Born August 12, 1918 to Christopher F and Mary (Dudley) Mahon in Seattle, WA, she passed away May 5th, 2008, having lived 89 good years. Spending her early years around Green Lake, her family moved to Brookdale Golf Course in Parkland, WA where, at 14 years old, she took up the game of golf. She became an award winning golfer including Women's State Champion at 17 and holds several course records. After graduating from Lincoln High School, she met and married her husband, Robert H. Allard in 1939. They had two boys, Robert Peter and Roger Lee. She was a member of Bethany Open Bible Church for many years. Joan was an accomplished artist whose paintings adorn the walls of many golf course club houses, banks, and homes around the Pacific Northwest.

The following is from a report found on the web about Clover Creek: Joan "remembers coming down to the farm and being around the creek and especially remembers during the summertime her father catching large messes of trout about 12 inches long. They always had plenty of trout to eat after a trip to Parkland. Her father managed the Brookdale Golf Course that was built in 1930 and her mother ran the restaurant in the clubhouse that was built in 1932. She remembers in 1933 and 1934 steelhead coming up by the clubhouse (January or February). She remembers that the North Fork would dry up by late June, especially around 1932.

The golf course was all hops between the 1st

and the 18th holes." Note from Mary Ryan 10/2016: No mention of when the Mahon DC was planted in hops. This was from an interview with Joan. Hops failed because of an infestation at the turn of the 19th century and most of the farmers planted other crops. Joan may have seen the golf course in hops and she may have been reporting what had been the case at one time.

Contents of an email from Dorothy Wilhelm, speaker, columnist and television personality. October 21, 2016:

I saw Karen Vialle today and she told me that the family records show that Christopher came here with the army on a troop ship, but then turned around, immediately on the empty ship and went back out to get her. She did indeed make her living as a laundress for the troops and she didn't like it. She particularly didn't like doing laundry for the officers.

Karen Vialle is the great great great granddaughter of Elizabeth and Christopher Mahon and former mayor of Tacoma and current head of the Tacoma School Board.