

FREEBORN RESERVE'S LIVING HISTORY FARM

Early settler stories tell of large native settlements; including long houses and large "middens." We intend to build an examples of each. Native Americans would leave shell castings in piles, and over 100 years these mounds would become large, and after thousands of years, they were 1000's of feet long, attaining heights of 20 feet. To the north, in British Columbia, maritime shell midden sites date to at least 10,000 years. In Oregon, similar sites are known to date to 8,000 years ago. This area's 1,000 foot midden was close by Freeborn's sister church, Milltown; both church and midden now long gone.

Old stories tell of Chinese* laborers who were brought in to remove fir stumps (much more difficult than cedar or hemlock) in the area's peat bogs (naturally level and acidic), who then hauled in oyster and clam shells from the Swinomish piles found on the south/top edge of the Skagit River basin plateau. These middens contained Nature's way of making lime that neutralized the soil; ground up, they allowed sweet crops.

We envision recreating both a midden and a Salish long house at this site. How many native people existed before the white man's plague swept their lands cannot be estimated. 237 individuals are now registered as Stillaguamish. It is believed that the mouth of the rivers supported very large Indian populations before the visitation of European diseases, brought here by Russian** and other trappers.

*Chinese Laborers (Entry Cabin, Station 01)

After the building of the transcontinental railroad, it became apparent that Chinese immigration to the West Coast might swamp that of the European. In 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed leading to a "black market" of smuggled Chinese (from Canada arriving by ship into Milltown; still the only immigration law targeted at an ethnic group). Stories tell of these men being off-loading in handcuffs and "purchased."

**Russian Trapper (2nd Heritage Trailer, Station 03)

Crowd sourcing also tells of a Russian trapper's cabin that once stood at the end of the English Grade Road, he was a victim of "ethnic cleansing" after the sale of Alaska (being forced to move from Sitka; Woodburn and Fort Ross also destinations). His skull was believed found (with a bullet hole) in 1934.

FREEBORN RESERVE'S HISTORY PEDESTALS

Pedestals (14 in all) are found on both sides of 300th. With the Farm's 16 Heritage Trailers/Cabins and the Gardens' 16 Kiosks, they combine to provide educational venues, 2 hour outdoor labs (4' at each station, 2' for transit) covering topics rarely taught today in schools. The Reserve honors this area's pioneers, their beliefs and dreams, and the land they settled.

- 1 Earliest Norse Cabin & the Living History Farm
- 600' to the East
- 2 Pilchuck Glass School Auction Centerpieces
- 415' to your right/East
- 3 Old Church, Old School, Old Brothel, Old Lives ...
- 270' to your right/East
- 4 Anne's 1880s Cabin & Rose Garden
- 190 to your right SE
- 5 Stillaguamish Salish Indian Midden
You Are Here Now
- 6 Dreams: Cities of Tatoosh & Pilchuck (Glass School)
- 115' to your left/North

Freeborn Reserve: Pilchuck Learning Centre, Living History Farm, Preschool, Freeborn Church and Cemetery, Ronhoeffer Hall, Sophie's Herbarium and Grotto, and Ronhoeffer Botanical Gardens' visitors enter under Washington's Recreational Use Statute - RCW 4.24.200 & 210 allowing public recreational use including nature study and viewing or enjoying historical archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites on private, 8.5 land. No visitor or admission fees are required.

