

Excerpt from *Charles Wilkes* written by Charles Wilkes on Port Townsend:

[Journal p. 58] 6 May. An extremely fine day. At 10.30 got under weigh and beat out of Port Discovery and rounded the Point called by Vancouver Point Wilson and went in and anchored. Roads in 10 fathoms water sandy bottom. this is a beautiful Bay and has a long level beach with a Pond of Freshwater backing it and a run into the Bay where vessels may be supplied—the Point a low sandy one called **HUDSON'S POINT** is bold to and may be passed about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in 10 fathoms from our anchorage Mount Baker shows over Hudson Point—a large Fleet might anchor and maneuver here, there is a Bluff that joins the beach abreast the ship the top of which slopes to the water and is a beautiful lawn here and there with groups of trees and to the N^d and W^d a fine copse of pine trees-upwards of 1000 acres all ready for the plough. The soil is a lighter sandy loam [] exceedingly productive. the grass was several inches high & covered with flowers & wild strawberry plants in blossoms. we anchored at 5.30 having had very light winds The distance from our anchorage in Discovery Port is not over 10 miles I think. At night made preparations for the survey of it.

[p. 302] Port Townsend is a fine sheet of water, three miles and a quarter [p. 303] in length, by one mile and three quarters in width. Opposite to our anchorage is an extensive table-land, free from wood, and which would afford a good site for a town.

The bay is free from dangers and is well protected from the quarters whence stormy winds blow. It has anchorage of a convenient depth; and there is abundance of fresh water to be had.

In the afternoon, we landed and examined the table-land. The next day we were engaged in surveying the bay, which we commenced at an early hour. Our base was measured on a straight and level beach, nearly a mile in length, upon the north shore. At the extreme west end of the bay, we found a lodge or two of Indians. In each of these, there were apparently three or four families; and they had a patch of potatoes growing.

The soil in this place is a light sandy loam, and appears to be very productive: it was covered with wild flowers, and strawberry plants in blossom.

From this point, Mount Baker is distinctly seen to the northeast, and forms a fine sight when its conical peak is illuminated by the setting sun.

Excerpt from *Charles Wilkes* written by George Sinclair on Elliott Bay:

There is a large Bay nearly opposite to Port Orchard into the head of which a small river discharges itself. I was sent to examine this Bay & found it much too extensive to pull round it in one day. I however saw enough of it to convince us that it is not of much importance, the water being very deep in the outer part & shoaling very suddenly to three miles from the back of it at which distance a mud bank commences & fills the whole back of the Bay. This bank also forms the penetration of the fresh & salt water the line being distinct by marked by a strong rif as well as by a change in the color of the water.

Excerpt from *Charles Wilkes* written by George Sinclair on Deception Pass:

Got underway about 8 AM & with a light wind from the SSE & on the last of the flood tide, passed thro Deception Passage without the least difficulty. By half past nine we were snug at anchor under Deception Island with broad Pacific once more open to us.

Altho Vancouver says that this passage cannot be used & we have used it, yet he is not so far out in his suppositions as would at first appear, but few vessels would venture thro for it is really frightful to look at the passage, when the Tide is at its strength, yet as I have before said, at a proper time of Tide, there is no real danger.

The country around is desolate & dreary in the extreme being composed bleak & rugged rocks with scant growth of tall Pine Trees, which seem to take root in the very rock itself, for the soil is only a few inches deep & I could not plant a signal Pole without propping and securing its heel with stones.