

Excerpt from *The Early Exploration* written by George Vancouver while anchored off Restoration Point (opposite Alki Point) in Admiralty Inlet:

About noon, we passed an inlet on the larboard or eastern shore, which seemed to stretch far to the northward;¹ but, as it was out of the line of our intended pursuit of keeping the continental shore on board, I continued our course up the main inlet, which now extended as far as, from the deck, the eye could reach, though, from the masthead, intervening land appeared, beyond which another high round mountain covered with snow was discovered, apparently situated several leagues to the south of mount Rainier, and bearing by compass S. 22 E.² This I considered as a further extension of the eastern snowy range; but the intermediate mountains, connecting it with mount Rainier, were not sufficiently high to be seen at that distance. Having advanced about 8 leagues from our last night's station, we arrived off a projecting point of land,³ not formed by a low sandy spit, but rising abruptly in a low cliff about ten or twelve feet from the water side. Its surface was a beautiful meadow, covered with luxuriant herbage; on its western extreme, bordering on the woods, was an Indian village,⁴ consisting of temporary habitations, from whence several of the natives assembled to view the ship as we passed [p. 260] by; but none of them ventured off, though several of their canoes were seen on the beach. Here the inlet divided into two extensive branches, one taking a south-eastwardly, the other a south-western direction.⁵ Near this place was our appointed rendezvous with the *Chatham*; and under a small island to the

¹ Possession Sound

² **MOUNT ST. HELENS** as reflected on his chart was named after Alleyne Fitzherbert, the Baron St. Helens who at the time was the British ambassador to Spain.

³ Restoration Point.

⁴ The Suquamish tribe under Chief Schweabe. His son, ultimately Chief Seattle, then about seven, lived in this village.

⁵ The continuation of Admiralty Inlet along the eastern shore of Vashon Island and Colvos Passage respectively.

SW of us,⁶ appeared an eligible spot, in which, with security, we might wait her arrival; but, on approaching it, we found the depth of water no where less than 60 fathoms, within a cable's length of the shore. This obliged us to turn up towards the village point, where we found a commodious roadstead; and about seven o'clock in the evening, anchored about a mile from the shore in 38 fathoms water, black sand and muddy bottom.⁷ The village point bore by compass N. 4 E., the nearest opposite shore⁸ of the main inlet N. 52 E. about a league distant; and the direction of its southern extent S. E.; the above island, lying before the branch leading to the south-westward, bore from S. 36 E. to south, about a half a league distant; and the appearance of a small inlet, or cove, west, about the same distance. We had no sooner anchored than a canoe in which were two men, paddled round the ship. We attempted to induce them, but they were not to be prevailed upon, to enter the vessel; and, having satisfied their curiosity, they hastily returned to the shore. Before the evening closed in, I proceeded to acquire some information respecting the small opening to the westward. It was nearly dark before I reached the shore, which seemed to form a small cove about half a mile in width, encircled by compact shores, with a cluster of rocks above water, nearly in its center,⁹ and little worthy of further notice. On my return on board, I directed that a party, under the command of Lieutenant Puget and Mr. Whidbey, should, in the launch and cutter, proceed, with a supply of provisions for a week, to the examination of that branch of the inlet leading to the south-westward; keeping always the starboard or continental shore on board; which was accordingly carried into execution, at four o'clock the next morning.

⁶ Blake Island.

⁷ Approximately half way between Restoration Point and Blake Island.

⁸ Alki Point.

⁹ Orchard Rocks, the opening was Rich Passage.