

**THE BULLETIN OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON,  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY, SERIES III,  
NO. 2, DECEMBER, 1903: CHIEF  
SEALTH, HISTORY SERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649247226

The bulletin of the university of washington, the state university, series III, No. 2, december, 1903: Chief Sealth, history series by Frank Carlson

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ISSUED QUARTERLY

SERIES III.

NUMBER 2.

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HISTORY SERIES.

CHIEF SEALTH

BY FRANK CARLSON, A. B.

A THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

Pioneer Printing Company,  Seattle, Washington, 1905.

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X

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, 1908

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Prof. Leonard S. Stearns  
Seattle  
(Charles Elliott Perkins Mem. C. 11)



## PREFACE.

The aim and object of this thesis is to present a complete and accurate report of the life and achievement of Sealth, chief of the Duwamish, Suquamish, Samahmish, Skopahmish, Stakahmish and Sktahmish tribes. The work was assigned to me for especial research by Professor Edmond S. Meany in the Department of History. After taking a preliminary survey of the field, it was decided to continue the work and supplement the material bearing upon the subject by personally interviewing those few who yet survive and remember the chief.

The literature consulted was found in the libraries of the City of Seattle and the University of Washington, and some valuable information obtained from the files of The Seattle Daily Times, The Seattle Telegraph, and The Post-Intelligencer. This, together with several interviews with the early settlers, letters from various persons, and personal talks with the Indians of the Port Madison Reservation constitutes my authority.

I am especially indebted for valuable assistance in this work to Professor Edmond S. Meany; officers and attendants of the libraries mentioned; Mrs. D. S. Maynard; D. T. Denny, Clarence B. Bagley; Rev. M. Eells, of Twana; A. L. Bjorkstan, Professor A. A. Bartow, in charge of the Port Madison Reservation; Mrs. C. J. Thompson, a great-granddaughter of Sealth; and Judge Charley Keokuk, a resident of the reservation.

Seattle, Washington, June, 1903.

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## INTRODUCTION.

### CHIEF SEALTH.

That "Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war," is truly demonstrated by the career of this untutored child of the forest who was able to sway the minds of the savage tribes by his oratory, rather than by the terror of war.

"He was the greatest friend of the Whites on this side of the continent." This has been emphatically repeated again and again by Mrs. D. S. Maynard, who enjoyed the friendship of the old Chief and has an intimate knowledge of the early Indians. She was with her husband, Dr. D. S. Maynard, who was sub-agent of the Port Madison Indian Reservation for nearly two years, 1855-1856; and she gained much information through her brother, Colonel M. T. Simmons, who was general agent.

D. T. Denny, who arrived at Alki Point in 1851, gave me this statement: "I was favorably impressed with the appearance of Sealth as a man of more than ordinary ability both physically and mentally. He could be heard a distance of half a mile when he addressed his people, and he seemed to control them by his powerful intellect."

But Samuel F. Coombs says of the chief: "The first time I ever saw Sealth was in the summer of 1860, shortly after my arrival, at a council of chiefs in Seattle. At that time there was an unusually large number of Indians in town, over one thousand being congregated on the sandy beach. Most of the Indians were standing around or talking in groups or listening to the deliberations of the council of about twenty of the oldest Indians seated in a circle on the ground. The chief figure was a venerable looking old native, who was apparently acting as judge, as all who spoke addressed themselves to him. I learned, from an intelligent looking Indian who could speak English, that the old judge was Chief Sealth.

"With this young man as interpreter, I interviewed several of the oldest natives as to how Sealth became head chief of so