Hints and Helps for Washington Pioneer Pursuit Researchers

- Washington Territory was established in 1853. Prior to that time, it was part of the Oregon Territory.
- Be aware of county boundary and name changes between 1857 and 1892.
- **Before beginning your research**, we suggest you check the WSGS Pioneer Index. You may find the Pioneer you're planning to research has already been researched. If you do find the Pioneer in the index, please send an email to Washington State Genealogical Society asking to see the genealogical data associated with the pioneer. If you are a WSGS member, you already have access to the complete Pioneer histories in the Members' Only section. If you're not a member, we encourage you to join so you have full access to all the data. It is only $12.00 per year.
- We suggest you join the free Washington State Genealogy group, at https://groups.io/g/Washington-State-Genealogy to ask questions, offer help, and coordinate with other Pioneer Pursuit researchers.
- The Washington Territorial Censuses were done on odd numbered years, every 2-3 years, beginning in 1857. Not all censuses are available for all years or all counties. Washington Territorial census records are available at Ancestry.com, "Washington, U.S., State and Territorial Censuses, 1857-1892" and at the Washington State Archives in Olympia.
  Adams: 1885, 1887, 1889
  Asotin: 1885, 1887, 1889
  Chehalis (now Grays Harbor County): 1860, 1871, 1885
  Clallam: 1857, 1860, 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887
  Clark: 1860, 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887
  Columbia: 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889
  Cowlitz: 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887
  Douglas: 1885, 1887
  Franklin: 1885, 1887
  Garfield: 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892, 1898
  Island: 1860, 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887
  Jefferson: 1860, 1871, 1875, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891 [wow!]
  King: 1856, 1871, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892
  Kitsap: 1857 (county then called Slaughter), 1860, 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889
  Kittitas: 1885, 1887, 1889
  Klickitat: 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892
  Lewis: 1857, 1860, 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887
  Lincoln: 1885, 1887, 1889
  Mason: 1860 (county then called Sawamish), 1871, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892
  Pacific: 1883, 1885, 1887
  Pierce: 1857, 1871, 1878, 1879, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892
  San Juan: 1885, 1887, 1889
  Skagit: 1885, 1887
  Skamania: 1871, 1885, 1887

Snohomish: 1871, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889
Spokane: 1885, 1887
Stevens: 1871, 1878 (includes Spokane and Lincoln counties), 1885, 1887, 1892
Thurston: 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1892
Wahkiakum: 1871, 1885, 1887
Walla Walla: 1885, 1887, 1892
Whatcom: 1860, 1871, 1885, 1887, 1889
Whitman: 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889
Yakima: 1883, 1885, 1887

- 1890 Special Census of Veterans and Widows is available at Ancestry.com. Has some WA counties.
- Check local genealogical societies, historical societies and museums for local collections of records. Lists of genealogical societies and their holdings can be found here on the WSGS website. Lists of museums and historical societies can also be found on the website.
- Don't forget to look at WA State Archives: www.digitalarchives.wa.gov.
- Citations: You can copy and paste from online sources into your document. Be sure to include the URL. It is acceptable to use citation source writers from your genealogy software program. If you need assistance with doing source citation, check *Evidence Explained,* by Elizabeth Shown Mills, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, MD, 2007 or https://www.evidenceexplained.com/.