

A Journey Through the History of Hop Growing in America

—
Steve Carpenter



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

HOPS 101-THE SEX LIFE OF HOPS

- Hops are dioecious.



← Male

Female →



HOPS 101-THE MAJOR PESTS OF HOPS

Critters



Two spotted mites

Warm weather pest which causes dehydration of leaf and cone.



Aphids

Cool weather pest which causes leaf damage and sooty mold in hop cones.

Diseases



Powdery mildew

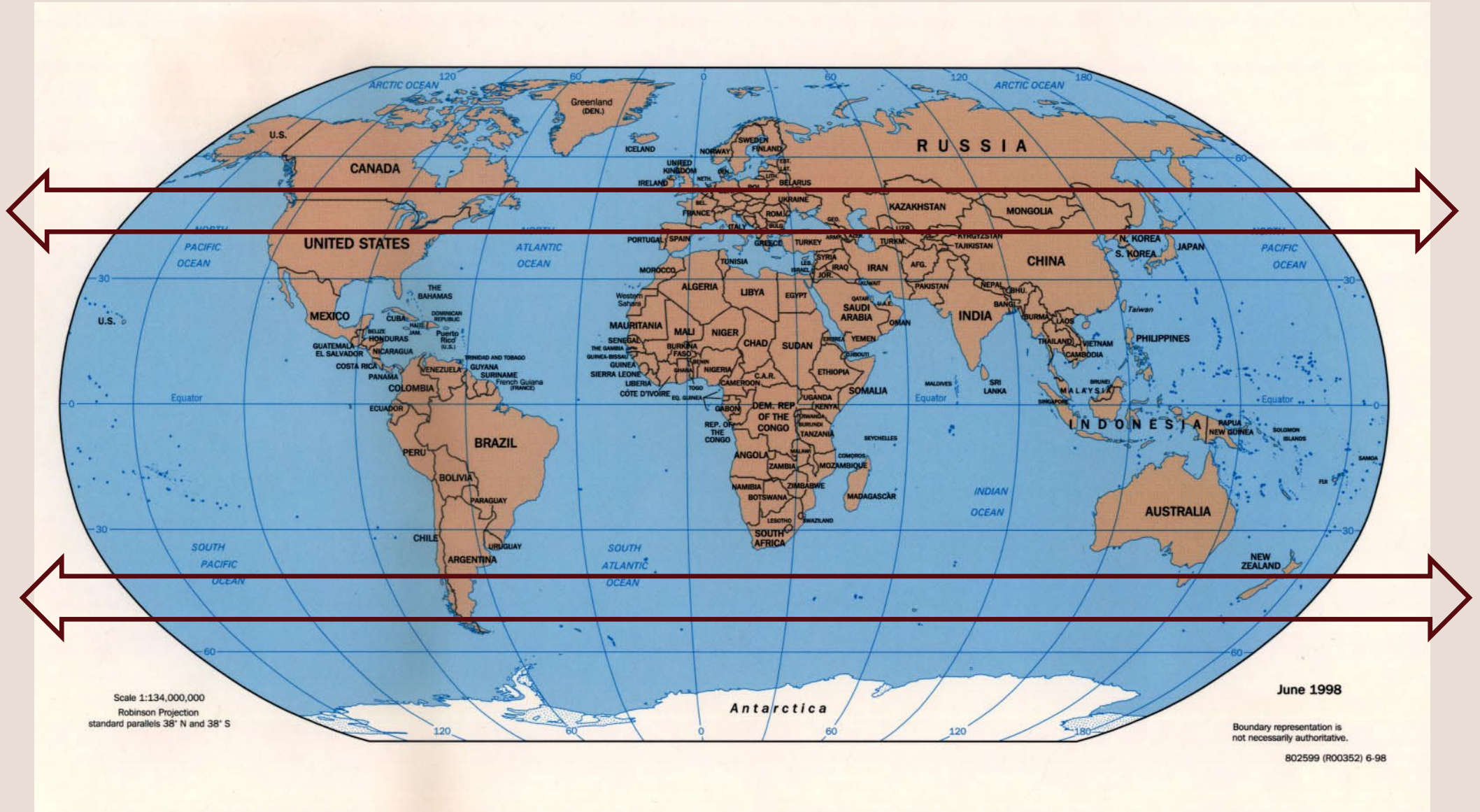
Spreads rapidly in cool and wet weather causing damage to leaf and cone.



Downy mildew

Early season, cool weather disease which stunts early growth in the bine.

HOPS 101-DISTRIBUTION OF HOPS



Hops and beer in Colonial America

The Dutch established the first brewery in New Amsterdam in 1633.

Even though wild hops grew in early America, the Dutch influenced government:

- Prohibited taverns and innkeepers from producing beer
- Required breweries to import hops from Europe

Massachusetts colonists were a bit more enterprising:

- Promoted beer making as a healthier alternative to ardent spirits
- Allowed taverns and innkeepers to produce beer.

By the late 1600's, breweries in Boston created a demand for American hops and cultivation began.

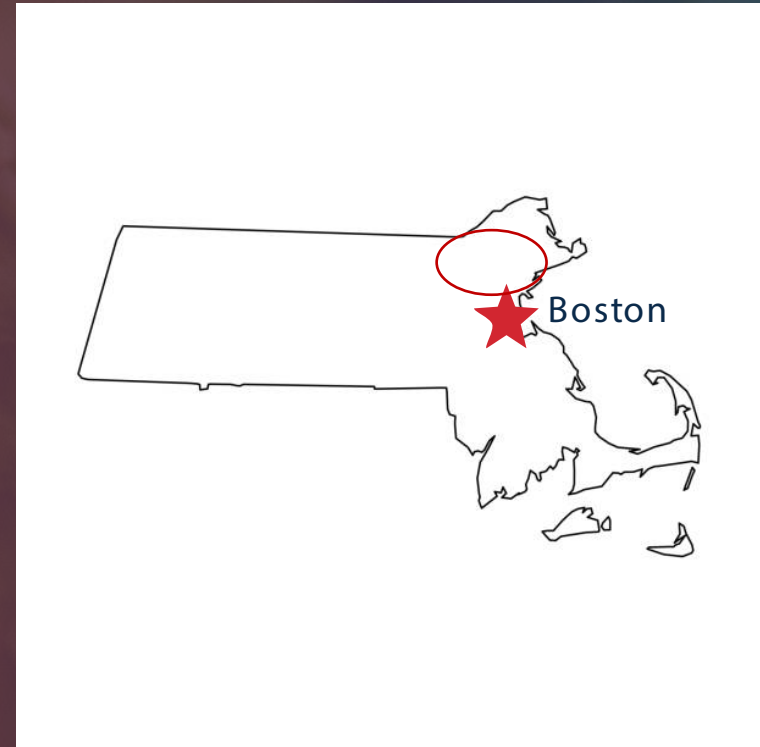
The first commercial hop center of America was Massachusetts

Wilmington was known as “Hop Town”

In 1780 there was about 30,000 pounds produced in Massachusetts

By 1800 hops were exported from Massachusetts to France and Germany.

In 1806 the Commonwealth mandated all hops be inspected and graded.



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As demand for hops increased, hop growing expanded northward.

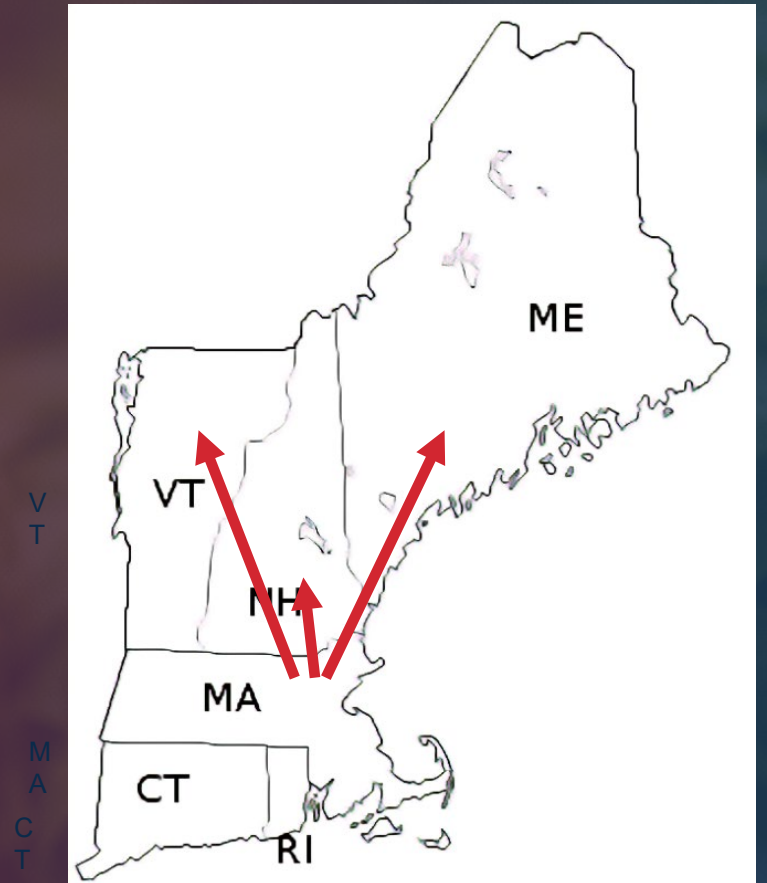
In early 1800's, English crop failures _____ fueled demand in northern states.

_____ In 1820, 18,000 lbs. were grown in Maine and Portland became an export hub.

By 1850, New Hampshire grew 260,000 lbs. of hops.

Vermont hop production peaked in 1865.

By 1836, Massachusetts peaked at 280,000 lbs and declined rapidly afterwards due to soil depletion and a grading scandal.



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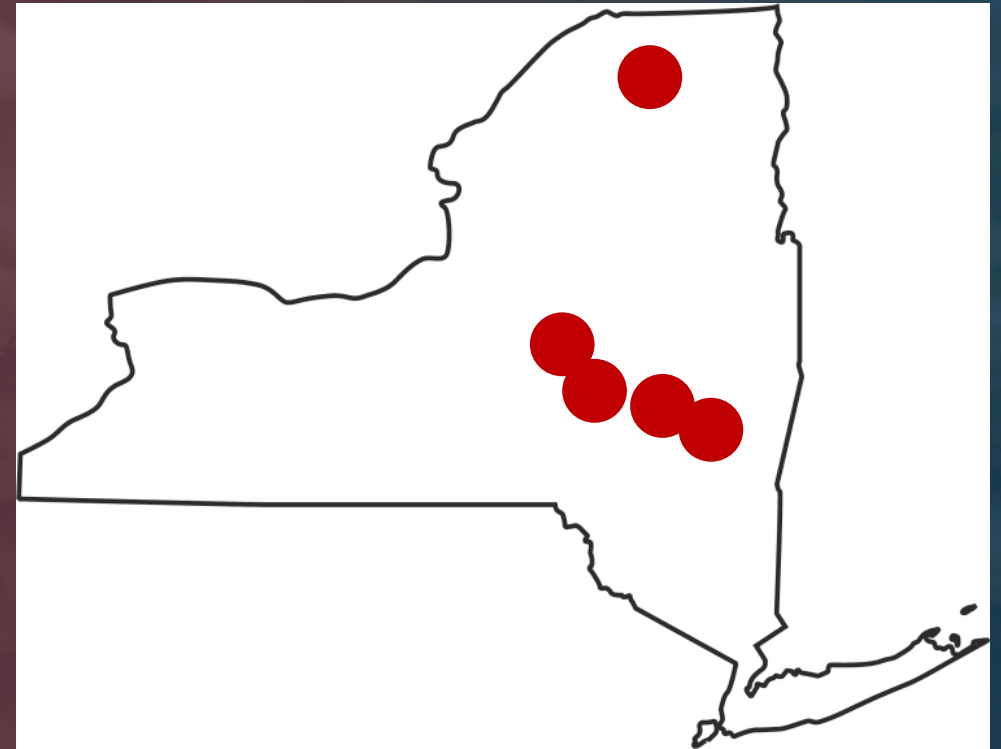
By 1840, New York became the new hop center of America .

Experienced Massachusetts and English growers moved into upstate NY where yields were superior.

Cooperstown and Waterville in central upstate NY became early growing regions.

Eventually hops were grown near the Canadian border near Constable, NY.

By 1880, NY was producing 21 million pounds or 80% of the US crop.



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Brief competition from Wisconsin and then the hop center moves west.

Hop growing in Wisconsin was relatively shortlived (1852-1880)

Wisconsin production peaked in 1868 to about 5 million lbs and by 1880 had dropped to less than 2 million.

New York's decline was caused by powdery mildew, aphid, increased competition from Oregon and California and in 1920, Prohibition.



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Between 1915 and 1922 California was the hop center of the US

In 1855 Daniel and Wilson Flint from NH planted hops near Sacramento and became known as “The Pioneer Hop Grower.”

By 1865, Dealers/importers opined that NY hops were superior.

By 1867, California grew 425,000 lbs. Sonoma, Sacramento, Yuba County became early hop growing regions.

The long growing season allowed the hops to fully mature.



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The hop center of the US was Oregon from 1905-1915 and from 1922-1943

The cultivation of hops in Oregon began in 1867 and grew rapidly along — the Willamette River.

Early attempts by William Wells and Adam Weisner (from Wisconsin) were unsuccessful in 1865 1867.

Alexander Seavey, a pioneer merchant of Lane Co. had 100 acres in production by 1890.

By 1900 there were four major growing regions: Eugene, Salem, Independence, and Grant's Pass.



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Pioneers of Washington's hop culture- Ezra Meeker

Ezra Meeker is credited with introducing and promoting the hop industry in Washington state.

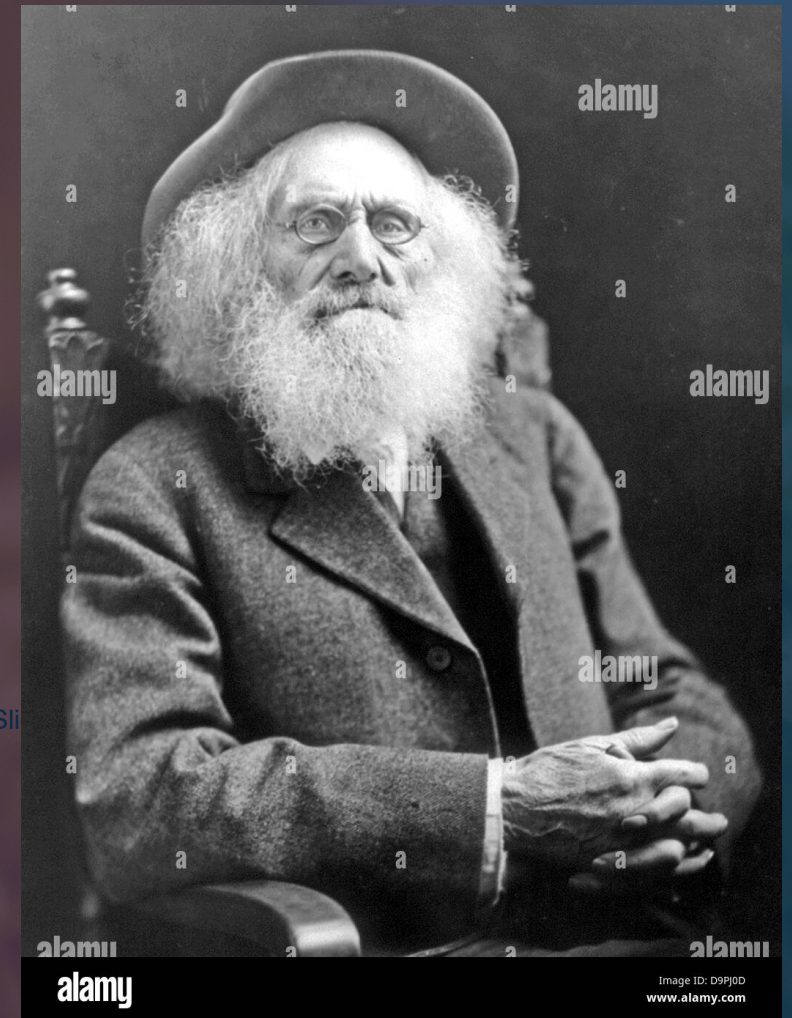
In 1865 Charles Wood furnished Jacob Meeker hop roots.

In 1882, there was a crop failure in England.

In 1883, Meeker began exporting hops to England and production expanded north into King Co.

By 1891, Meeker had 500 acres of hops.

In 1892, a severe infestation of hop aphid wiped out the Puyallup, Kent, and King County hops.



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Pioneers of Washington's hop culture- Herman Klaber

Herman Klaber was a grower near Chehalis and a hop broker headquartered in Tacoma.

Klabe was born in San Francisco and moved to Puyallup in 1893 where he bought hops.

In 1897, he moved to Tacoma where he brokered hops, sold cigars, and was an insurance agent.

In 1906, he established a hop farm near Chehalis.

In 1912, he was returning from a hop sales trip in London and never made it home.



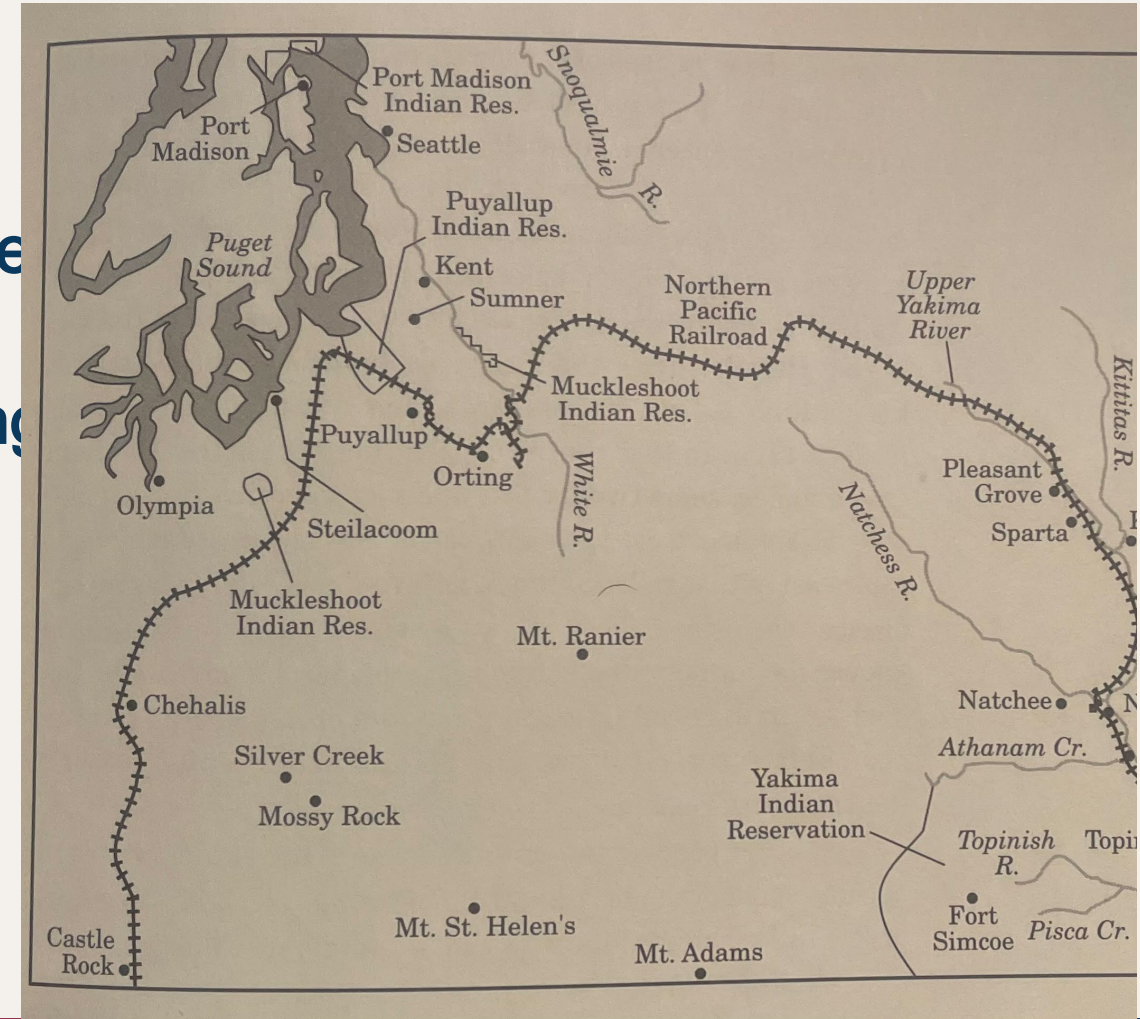
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The Northern Pacific Railroad

Meeker petitioned the railroad to include Puyallup.

The NP railroad connected the emerging Washington hop growing areas.

The NP railroad would also eventually provide transportation for hop pickers, shipping of hops, and the influx of hop growers into Washington state.



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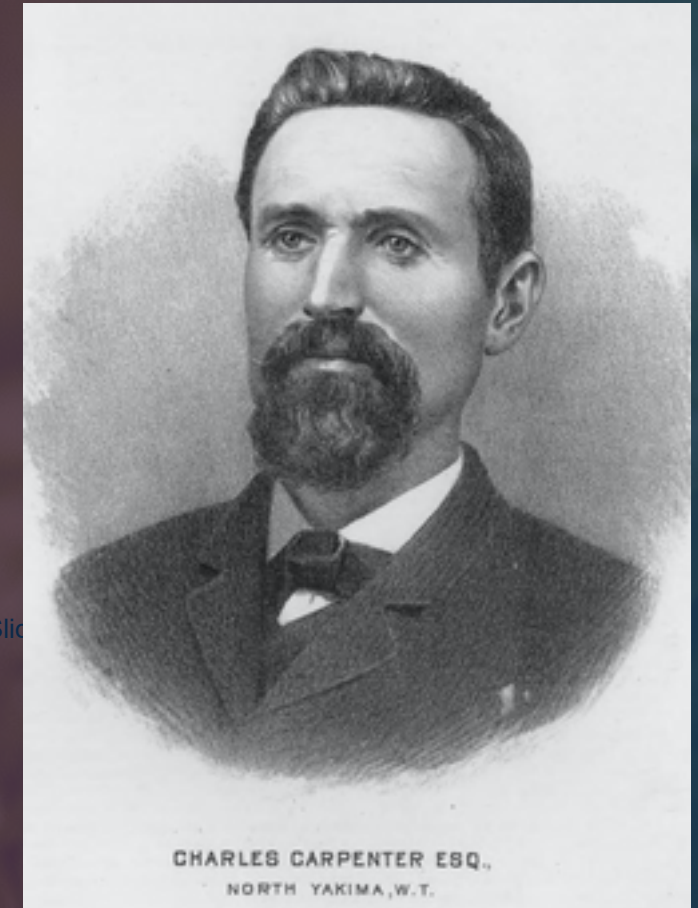
Pioneers of Washington's hop culture- Charles Carpenter

Charles Carpenter planted the first hops in the Yakima Valley after settling in Ahtanum in 1868.

Carpenter was born in Vermont and grew up near Constable NY on a hop farm.

He went to San Francisco in 1859 with his brothers looking for education and opportunity. In 1864, he ventured to the Cariboo gold mines in British Columbia.

He planted hops from roots obtained from his family's farm in New York.



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Charles Carpenter's farm was known as "Wildwood"

Wildwood circa 1885

Original Carpenter cabin built in
1868.



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Pioneers of Washington's hop culture- Moses Sampson Whitefoot

Moses Sampson Whitefoot was the first hop grower on the Yakama Reservation.

He planted hops in the Medicine Valley, near White Swan in 1903.

He obtained the hop roots from early hop growers in the Ahtanum/Tampico area for work in lieu of cash.

He grew hops until 1936 and was known for his quality.



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The Moxee Company

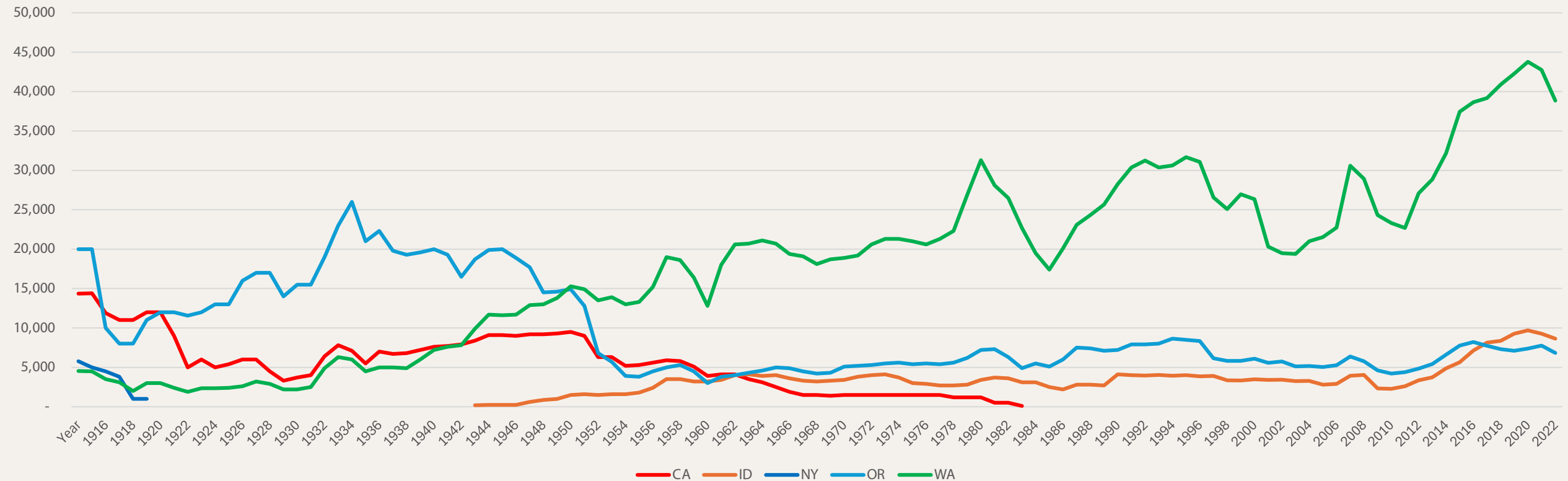
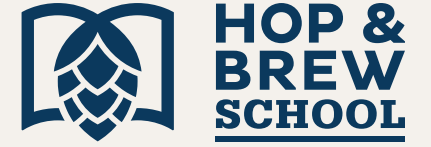


Established in 1886 by Gardiner Hubbard, Charles Bell, William Ker, and James Stuart.

Mission was to experiment with various crops and livestock and to lure settlers to Moxee

Hops were very successful and many French Canadian families settled in the area in the early 1900's.

US hop production by state since 1910



Significant dates in hop history since Prohibition was repealed in 1933

Federal Marketing Orders from 1938-1944, 1949-1952, and 1966-1986.

In 1979, a law making it legal to brew at home took effect.

In 1984, the DOJ on behalf of a few hop growers brought an anti-trust suit against the hop dealers.

In 1986, Anheuser-Busch filed a complaint alleging dealers violated anti-trust laws.

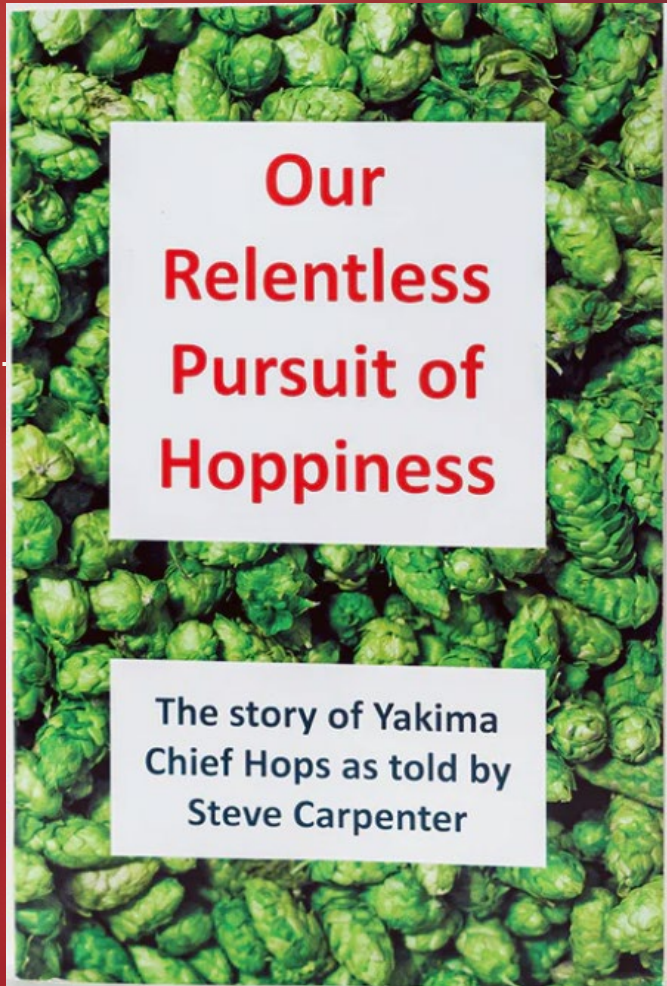
In 1988, Anheuser-Busch initiated a direct purchase program with hop growers.

In 1989, the precursor of Yakima Chief Hops was established in Sunnyside.

In 2000, lawsuits over hop varieties culminated in a settlement which included the formation of Hop Breeding Company.

In 2014, Hopunion CBS and Yakima Chief merged to form what would become Yakima Chief Hops.

Signed copies available for purchase in the merch store!



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THANK YOU!



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