

A Journey Through the History of Hop Growing in the Yakima Valley

Steve Carpenter



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

In 2026, about 73% of the US hop crop is grown in the Yakima Valley.

Factors that contribute:

- Rich, volcanic soil.
- Irrigation water from the Cascade mountains.
- Ideal daylength for the initiation of flowering.
- Arid climate that help control aphid, powdery and downy mildew.
- Ability to achieve yield in first year of planting.

Commerical hop growing moves west

1870- Yakima Valley

1865- Puyallup

1865- Oregon

1855- California



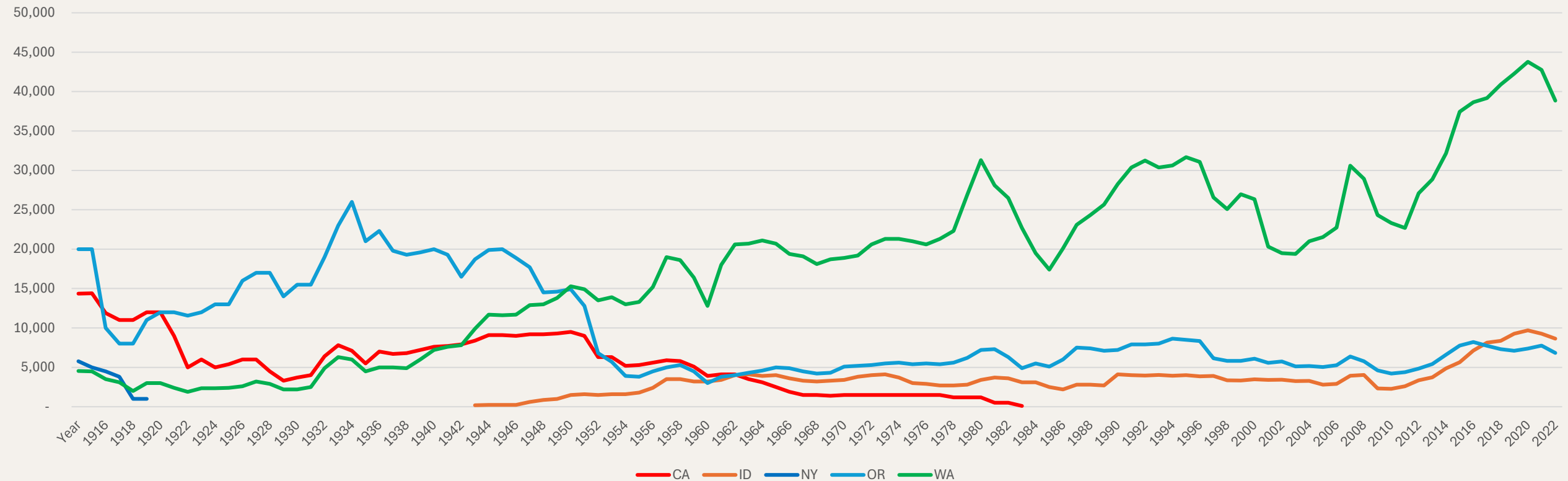
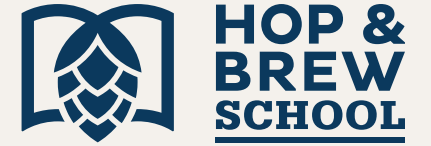
1852- Wisconsin

1840- New York

1820- New England states

Late 1600's Massachusetts

US hop production by state since 1910



Pioneers of Washington's hop culture- Ezra Meeker

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

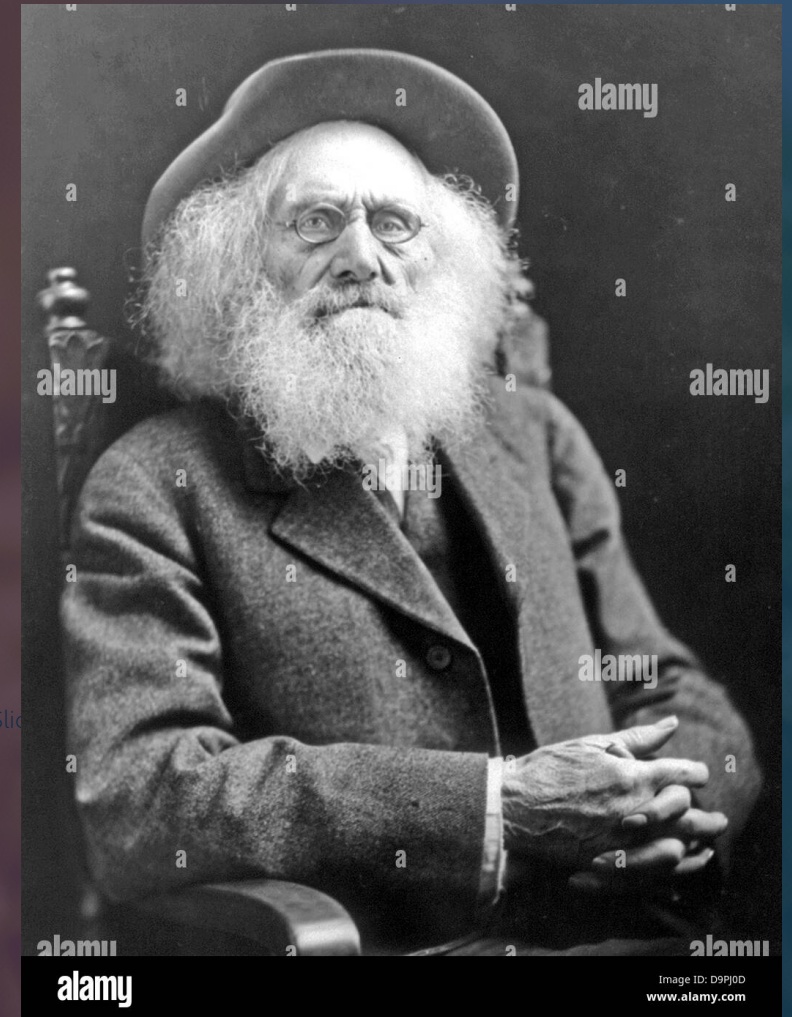
In 1865 Charles Wood furnished Jacob Meeker hop roots.

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.



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

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.



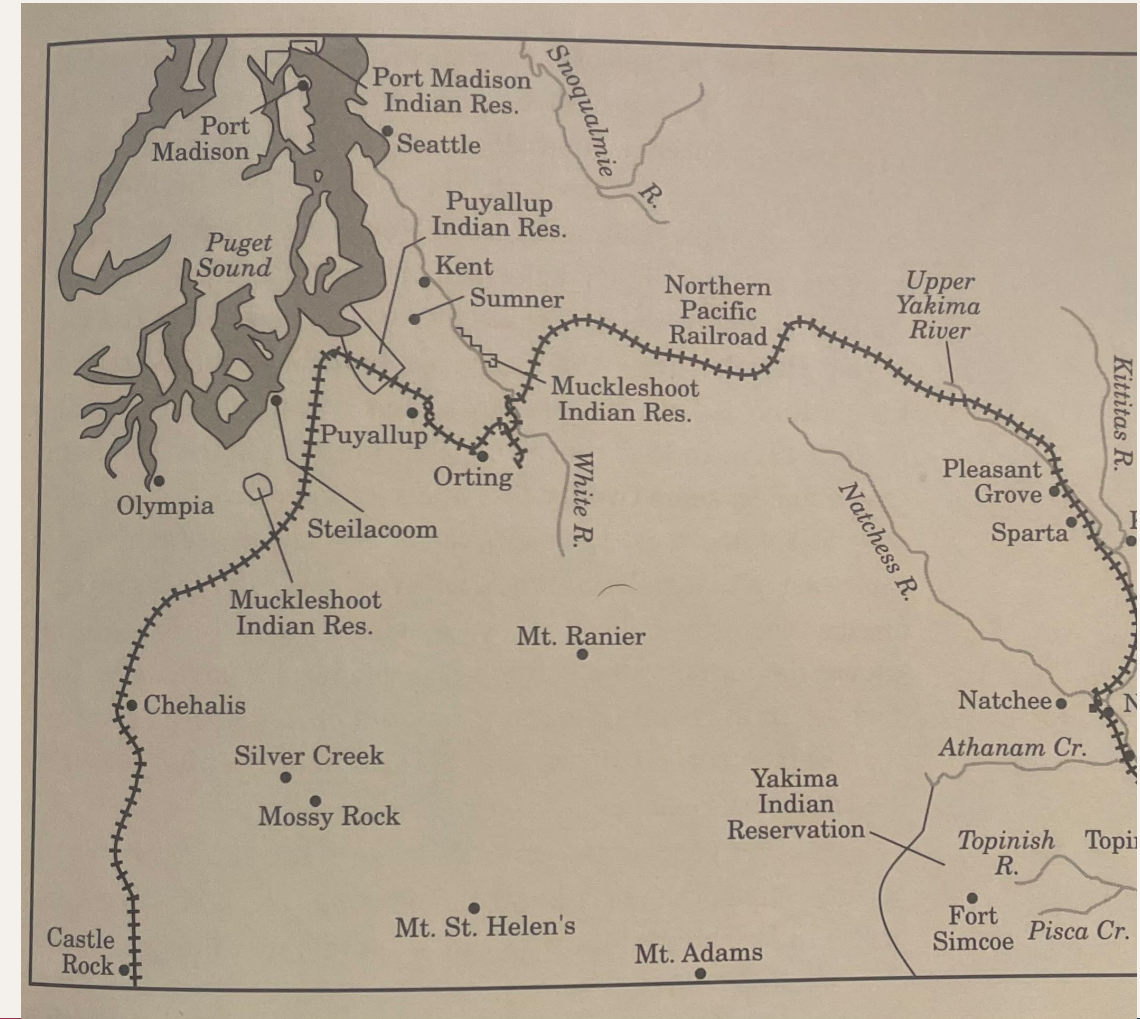
**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

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.



Pioneers of Washington's hop culture- Charles Carpenter

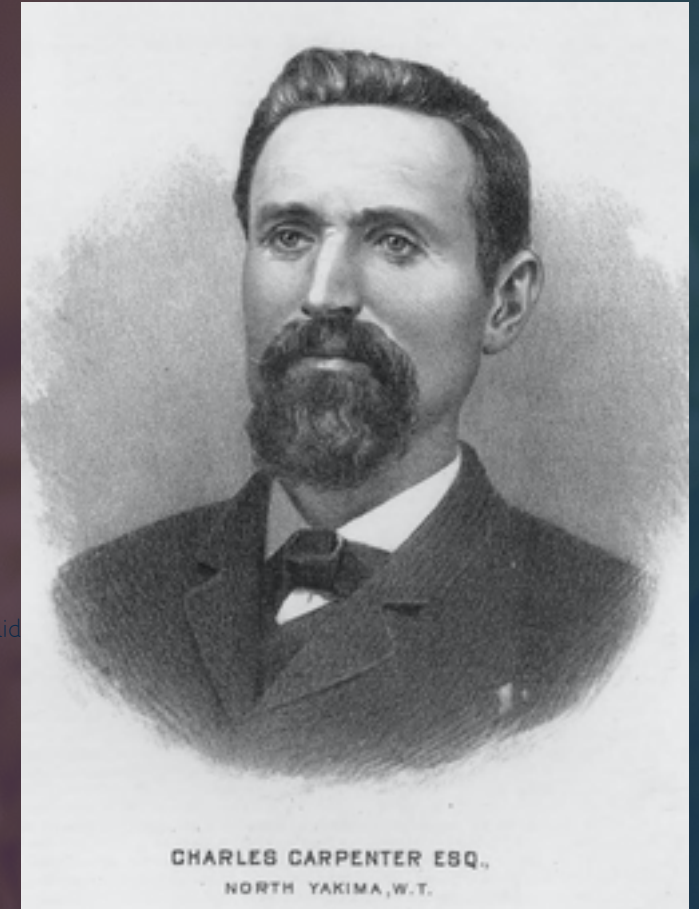
Charles Carpenter planted the first hops in the Yakima Valley after settling in Ahtanum in 1868.

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.



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

Charles Carpenter's farm was known as "Wildwood"

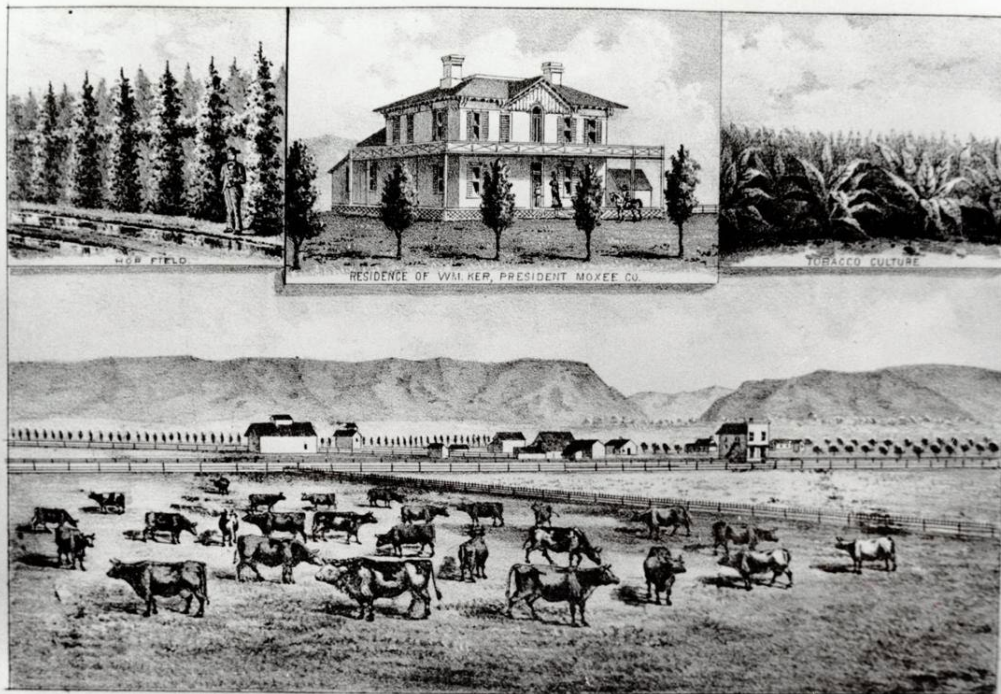
Wildwood circa 1885

Original Carpenter cabin built in 1868.



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

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.



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

Many of the Moxee pioneer families still grow hops today in the Yakima Valley.



Among the early pioneers in the Moxee Valley were the Gamache, Riel, Sauve, Charron, Desmarais, Brulotte, Champoux, and Belaire families.

Photo on the left shows an early hop baler. Lower left is Wilfred Riel and upper right is Charles Gamache.

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.



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**

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.



THANK YOU!



**HOP &
BREW
SCHOOL**