Marker Name: William Fraser Tolmie

Marker Location: At the entrance/parking area for Tolmie State Park, on entry drive. The kiosk on which the marker is located is on the main road as it turns into the parking area.

Inscription: Dr. William Fraser Tolmie (1812-1866) spent 16 years with the Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Nisqually as physician, surgeon, botanist, and fur trader. Dr. Tolmie made careful study of the languages of the Northwest people. This proved useful in both trading and in his medical work among the Indians. During the Indian Wars of 1855-56 his ability to communicate directly with the Indians was of help in bringing about the peace.

He was the first to attempt the ascent of Mount Rainier and made observations of plants, animals and glaciers. Dr Tolmie wrote of the Nisqually area: “When tired of the shady wood you could emerge into the boundless prairie to which any nobleman’s park cannot be compared either in size, beauty or magnificence.”

Installed By: Washington State Parks

Condition: Good.

Visibility: Good, if you are walking past it. However, many will drive on by into other areas of the park, without noticing it.

Parking/Pulloff: Yes.