

It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Edward Allen Fitzhenry (1868- 1937

By Jerry C. Olson

WA PLS 54. Born in Illinois, Edward graduated from high school in Bloomington in 1886, attended Illinois Wesleyan for a year, and then the University of Illinois at Urbana. After school he worked for the Lake Erie and Western RR for two years, and then came west to work for the UPRR, before moving to Port Angeles as a civil engineer in 1889 for the Port Angeles Eastern RR.



Figure 3. Edward Allen Fitzhenry (Clallam County Genealogical Society, 980.133.10d, Photo taken in Bloomington, Ill.)

He married there in 1891, but his wife died two years later, 2 days after the birth of their first child, and he remarried in 1898.

Edward surveyed Contract 417 just South of Lake Crescent in 1894, and Contract 461 of 4

townships between the Queets and the Hoh in 1895, both with no inspection. Contract 507 in 1896 included a township just South



Figure 1. Phyllis Fitzhenry, daughter of Edward Allen Fitzhenry. (b. 1902) (Clallam County Genealogical Society, 980.133.10c)

of Port Angeles. Contract 584 with 6 townships was surveyed in 1903. Two were just South of Port Angeles, one was South of Pe Ell, two were at Wynoochee Lake, and one was South of Neah Bay. All were on the Olympic Peninsula, and were partially inspected by M. P. McCoy with no problems. His last

Contract took him off the Peninsula with a township just Northwest of Leavenworth,



Figure 2. Mount Fitzhenry. (Photo Courtesy of Olympic National Park)

and another on the Columbia River upstream from Bridgeport.

The San Francisco Call reported that in 1896 when Edward was returning from an assignment, a tree fell on his horse, smashing the pommel, breaking the horse's neck, and catapulting him in the air. He was unhurt. Edward was County Surveyor of Clallam County 1892-1896, County Clerk 1900-02 and 1904-08, and County Engineer 1908-1912. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1912 in Baltimore. His brother was a U. S. Congressman from Illinois in 1912, and helped Woodrow Wilson get elected. President Wilson appointed Edward Washington Surveyor General in 1913, a position he held until 1921. He is the namesake of Mt. Fitzhenry in the Olympics on the upper Elwah. He was Deputy State Land Commissioner in 1937 at his death, and had served in that position since 1933 when A. C. Martin was elected. He died in Tacoma

