

Erastus Light Remembrance

1862.

Steilacoom postmaster Erastus Light set out with a party of six men to find their fortunes in the Salmon River mines in Idaho. In writing of the event Mr. Light recorded: "In due time we arrived at Florence, in the Salmon river mines, and after many trials and hardships we started out prospecting and kept it up for two weeks. When passing one mine we inquired the name and was told that it was "Root, Hog or Die," and thought the place well named. I had tired of prospecting and concluded to buy something that was already found. I accordingly bought a digging, kept it about ten days and sold it for more than I had paid for it, purchased a pony and started home via The Dalles and Columbia River....I arrived there with about as much money as I had taken with me when I started, and was out only about three month's time, but learned a good many things about mines and miners."

Erastus Light, "Early Times in Pierce County.– Tacoma Sunday Ledger, June 19,1893.