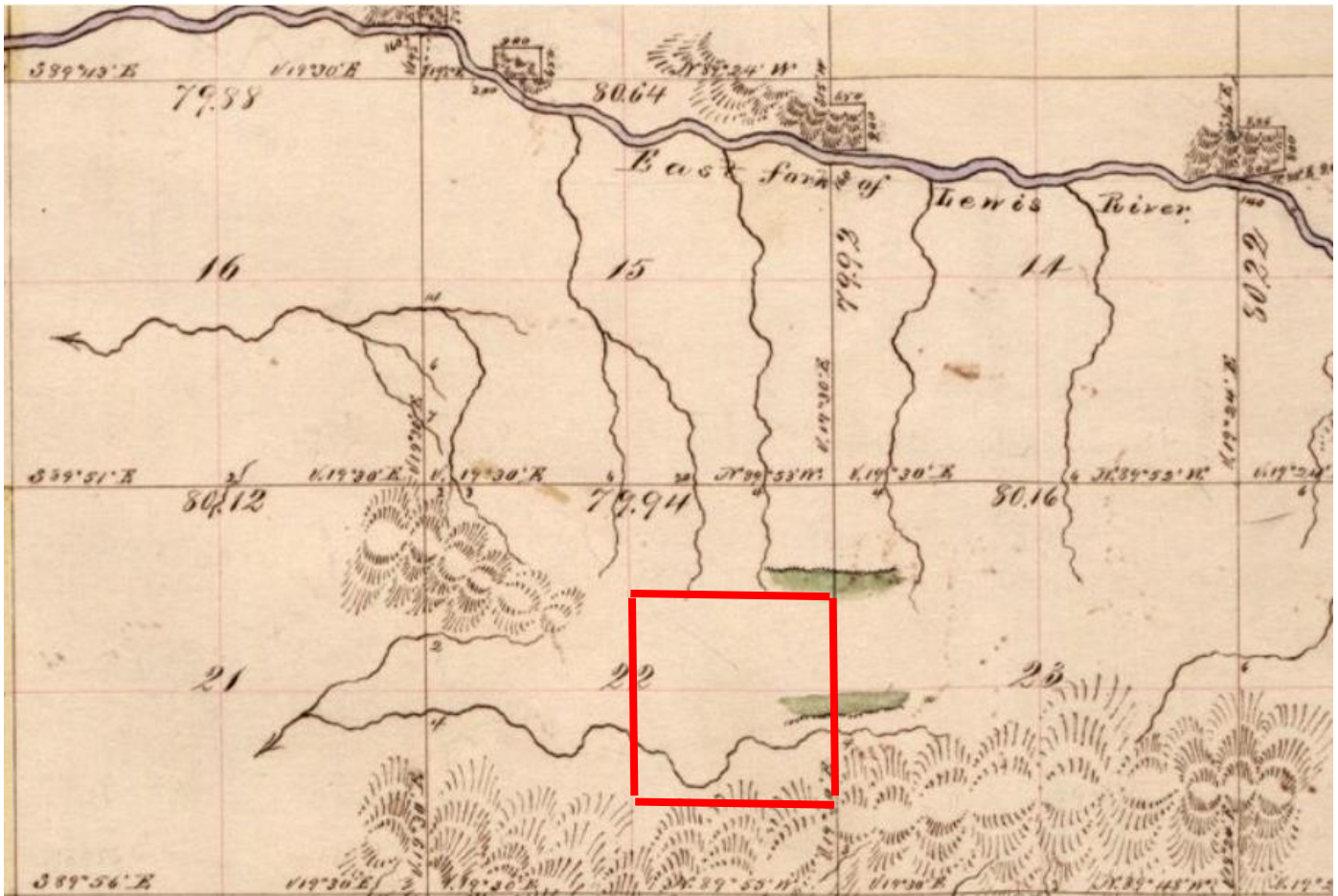


Bells Mountain (AKA Bell Mountain)

The following is the 1871 Washington Territory map outlining Bell's future property



According to the book "Place Names of Washington" by Robert Hitchman the name Bells Mountain was named for "a low mountain 19 miles northeast of Vancouver, 6 miles east of Battleground, central Clark County. It was named for a man who homesteaded at the foot of this mountain in 1880." The following is more information about John S. Bell.

John S. Bell was born in October 1843 in Indiana. He married Amanda C. Battles (1844-1928) in Iowa. The 1870 Federal Census listed him in Iowa and his occupation as a carpenter. The 1880 Federal Census reported John S. Bell was in Iowa and listed his occupation as a Miller.

On June 27, 1882, John S. Bell purchased two 15 acres tracts in the Salmon Creek area.

The following article is from the Vancouver Independent on June 22, 1882:

Mr. John Bell, late of Iowa, last week purchased the Palmer mill and water power on Salmon creek, including 15 acres of land. He will this season put in new machinery for flouring.

In the 1885 Washington Territorial Census listed John Bell as a Miller.

Before 1887 John Bell and his family moved to the property on the west slopes of Bell Mountain. The 1887 Washington Territorial Census John Bell is listed as a farmer.

The following is a 1888 Map of Clarke County Washington Territory. Bell's property is outlined at an elevation of 1300'



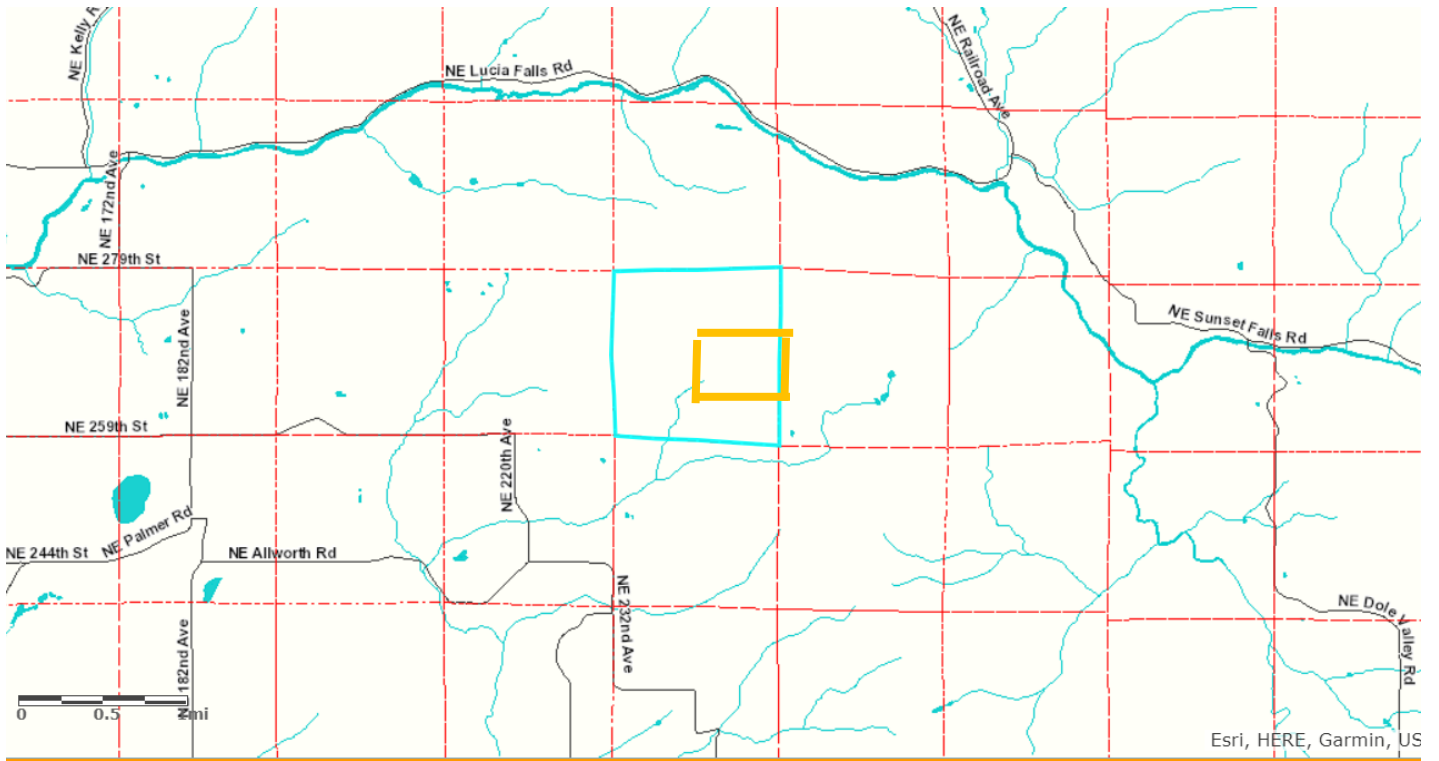
Congress passed the Homestead Act of 1862, which provided 160 acres of federal land to anyone who agreed to farm the land. The law required a three-step procedure: file an application, improve the land, and file for the patent (deed). The occupant had to reside on the land for five years and show evidence of having made improvements. The process had to be complete within seven years. On December 5, 1890, John S Bell filed the patent and received the deed to the property for 160 acres.

The Vancouver Independent printed an article on May 22, 1897, stating the Clarke County Commissioners awarded two contracts to John S. Bell, one for \$197 to build "the Salmon Creek bridge." The other for \$97 to build "the Lackamas bridge."

John S. Bell remained on the property for about 20 years. He sold it on June 9, 1906, to C. L. Fox for \$1,200.

John S. Bell died February 26, 1911.

The current Bells Mountain Trail is on the east side of the mountain and does not cross over John S. Bell's land. The following is the current Clark County GIS map and Bell's original land claim is outlined in orange. The property is owned by the Department of Natural Resources and a conservation organization called Remember Land.



The following is an undated topo map of the area. Bell's property is outlined in orange.

