

## John B. Anderson



John was a teenager in 1880 when he crossed the Pacific with his family and other Swedish immigrants on a mail steamship, the main mode for transportation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Andersons, like 27 million others in that fifty year era of

immigration, came to the U.S. looking for a better life, and eventually took up residence on Bainbridge Island. Leaving an established government to become a pioneer was a challenge for John, who, like most worked in one of the abundant timber mills of the Northwest.

Wanting to further his horizons at 32 years of age, John sought out to become County Clerk and was elected as in 1893. The original Kitsap County Courthouse was located on the north end of the island in Port Madison. This would have been a much easier commute for John, but as luck would have it the county seat moved to Sidney (Port Orchard) the year before he was elected. So jumping on a boat each morning became a way of life for John while serving as County Clerk. He must have had waves of teenage memories of yesteryear quite often while sailing to Sidney aboard the steamboat Reliance from Bainbridge Island. Traveling via the Mosquito Fleet was a practical way of commuting in that era as many roads were loose dirt and still being constructed.

Being an administrator came naturally for John as his Father, Andrew was the first postmaster of nearby Brownsville. John also served as the postmaster of Brownsville where it was necessary for postmasters to make daily trips through the woods with mail brought in from Seattle by the steamer Delta. Brownsville's post office was discontinued in 1912 when rural routes were established.

John's ambition never ceased and he became a well-known fixture around Olympia while serving for the House of Representatives. He was elected nine times from 1915 through 1933.

Special thanks to:

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John Anderson

# House of Representatives.



- 19 -

- 15 -

## State of Washington.

*Jeffrey*