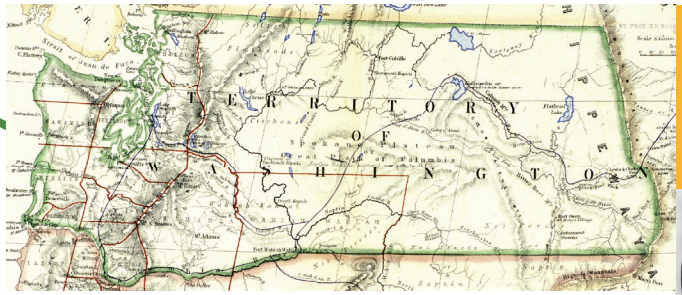
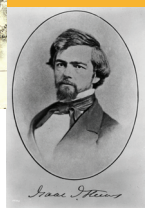
Brand Registration in Washington State

1853



Washington Territory is organized with Isaac Stevens as its first governor.



1855

County auditors given duty to record marks or brands used on horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. Only recorded brands or marks considered lawful. No two residents allowed to use the same mark or brand.

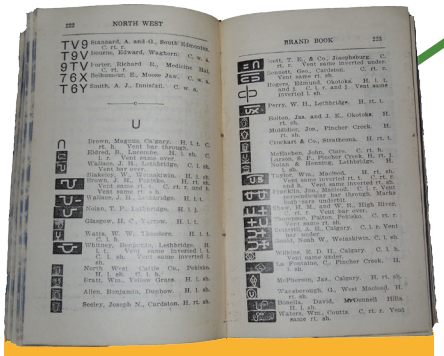
1868

All livestock owners in most eastern Washington counties now required to record a mark or brand and to brand or mark their livestock. Auditors entitled to charge $.50 for a recording.

1875

Requirement to brand all livestock in parts of eastern Washington removed from law.

1880s



Various efforts made from now thru the 1930s to publish lists of brands and brand holders. (Photo: The Calgary Herald's *North West Brand Book*, 5th edition, April 1900)

1891

Requirement for most livestock owners in eastern Washington to record a brand is eliminated.

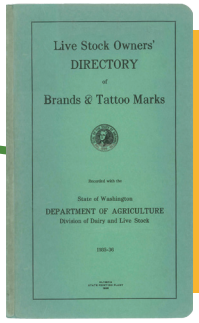
1913

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is created with J.H. Perkins as its first Director.

1935

Duty to record livestock brands shifts from county auditors to WSDA. Long time employee Dora Criddle takes on recording duties that continue until she retires in the 1950s. As of Sept. 1, it is unlawful to brand any livestock in Washington with a brand not recorded with the Department of Agriculture. The recording fee is $3 for a five-year period. Director required to publish the *Washington State Brand Book.*

1936

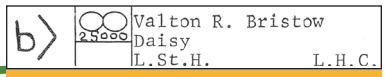


There are 1,888 brands listed in the first book of brands printed by WSDA in 1936.

1937

To combat the increasing frequency of cattle rustling, laws passed requiring Certificates of Permit, record keeping, and licensing of livestock dealers and slaughterers and authorizing the first state brand inspection services at public stockyards.

1968



WSDA registers its 25,000th cattle brand. Of the 25,000 brands registered over the first 33 years of the program, 15,209 are still actively used.

1974

Recording period shortened from five years to two years. Brand recording and renewal fees set at $25.

2003

Brand recording period extended to four years, fees increased to $120. Renewal notice sent for 7,434 brands.

2012

The 24th brand renewal is completed by WSDA. More than 5,300 brands recorded and published in *Washington State Brand Book WSDA Centennial Edition,* which is available for the first time in electronic format on CD-ROM.

2013

WSDA celebrates 100 years of serving Washington agriculture and the public.

WSDA 100 YEARS