

When the idea of a military road crossing the Snohomish River floated away with their cigar smoke, the Steilacoom investors of a ferry crossing backed out, except for Emory C. Ferguson, who decided to go ahead with the plan on his own. He was a young carpenter from New York State who landed in Steilacoom after going bust looking

for gold in Canada. He built himself a one-room house in Steilacoom, disassembled it, and shipped the parts north in the spring of 1859. Heil Barnes, who was holding Ferguson's claim, re-assembled the house on a site overlooking the river, close to where it stands today. Ferguson arrived the following spring with enough supplies to stock a store.

