

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73      Roll 7, microcopy 2

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs,  
Salem Oregon, November 2, 1858

Sir:

When at Fort Vancouver I had a conversation with General Harney in relation to sending troops to Colville this fall. The Gen'l had not at that time determined upon the subject.

In the event that troops are to be sent there the present season I desire to send an agent of this department with them and have to request that you will do me the favor to appraise me as to the time the troops will probably march.

The agent whom I design sending to Colville is not at present assigned to duty and will not be assigned a district until I am advised relative to the Colville expedition.

Respectful y etc.

J.W. Newsmith,

Supt. Ind. Affairs, O. W. T.

Capt. A. Pleasanton,

AAA Genl' U.S.A.

Fort Vancouver, W.T.

Dalles Oregon Oct. 23, 1858

Sir:

In view of the fact that the geographical position of your agency naturally brings you in contact with great numbers of poor and destitute Indians belonging to Washington Territory and there being no agent belonging to that Territory in your neighborhood, to relieve the wants of such destitute persons I have deemed it proper to herewith place in your hands the sum of two thousand dollars from the appropriations for defraying the expenses of the removal and subsistence of the Indians in Washington Territory to the Reservations, thereon, aiding them in procuring their own subsistence, purchase of provisions and presents and compensation of laborers and other employees for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1859.

This sum you are directed to disburse exclusively for the benefit of such destitute Indians belonging to Washington Territory as shall during the coming winter ~~be~~ visit your agency. You will also make small presents to the chiefs of the Washington Territory tribes visiting the Dalles as you may think proper.

For this sum you will render separate abstracts in your accounts under the proper head of appropriations and forward a copy of this letter with each set of your account.

Very respectfully etc.

J.W. Nesmith, Supt.

O and W T

A.P. Dennison,

Indian Agent

Dalles, O.T.



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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs  
Salem, Oregon May 10, 1859

Dear Sir

Herewith I enclose to you a copy of a letter received from the Department by last mail notifying me that you have been appointed superintendent of Indian Affairs for Washington and Oregon Territories. While it would afford me great pleasure to be relieved from the toil ... and responsibility of the office at once, I have to suggest that owing to the accumulation of business and complicated matters growing out of the transactions of the present quarter as well as the necessity of to communicate with the Assistant Treasury (sic) of the United States at San Francisco that you would delay qualifying until the 1st day of next month by which time I can adjust my accounts and be ready to turn over the office with the business completed up to that time.

If my suggestions meet your approval I shall be pleased to hear from you by return of the bearer.

I am sir etc.

Edward Geary Esq.

J.W. Nesmith, supt. Ind. Affairs.

Linn County, Oregon.

ABSTRACT: Only apparent pertinent citations, including NONE of the material appended in typescript.

pp. 1-32--Appointment of agents dealing with Umpqua etc. Letter regarding Siletz and Indians frequenting Salem area.

pp 37-38--Estimates of Oregon and Washington, 1959, requested.

pp. 41-43 Report of conditions on Klamath and recommendation for removal of Klamath and Modocks.

p. 48 Flathead and Upper Pend d'Orielle treaty of 15 July, 1855, ratified. Census quoted from Stevens.

pp. 58-59 Comments and reference to transmittal of Capt. Wallen's trip from the Dalles to Salt Lake, tribes and Indian character. Snakes and attack on Warm Springs Reservation.

p. 73 Capt. Black in command at Fort Dalles, March 3rd 1860.

p. 76 Mill partially erected on Siletz Reservation, Geary-Newcomb, sub Ind. Agent, Siletz, March 5, 1860.

p. 90-113 Annual report, Geary to Comm. Greenwood. (few excerpts taken therefrom only) but report contains much on reservation policy, including lengthy report on policy opinions.

pp. 107-8 Census, Umpqua bands and chiefs.

pp. 122-22 Preparation for visit by Supt. to Harney Lake to "confer and treat" with the Snake Indians.

pp 124-25- Preparations for military operations into Snake Country to relieve fears on part of tribes of Middle Oregon, also Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatillas from raids and war by Snakes.

pp. 142-48-Geary to Daniel Stewart at Salt Umatilla, Sept 4 1860, regarding freight from mouth of Umatilla to agency, also cattle.

pp. 159-62 Letter of instruction to new sub agent re: treaty and money. Also cattle. Also cattle distribution for a short time to tribe in common and then to heads of families (policy) Religious culture of Indians countenanced. Geary to George H. Abbott, sub Ind. Agent, Umatilla.



pp. 178-79 Letters of transmittal goods to Middle Oregon and Umatilla Reservations for annuity distribution in conformance with section 6 of revised regulations.

p. 187 Letter of transmittal of findings of board of appraisers re: land claims and improvements within boundaries of Tulalip Agency W.T.

pp. 189-93 Appointment of employes on Umatilla and Warm Springs reservation, scattering letters throughout this section of microcopy.

pp. 193-95 Details of massacre by Snakes on immigrants (29 killed) list of immigrants.

pp. 201-05 Deficiency bill estimate, schedule of agency, removal costs etc. Funds including those of "Yakama" Amount required for adjusting difficulties, preventing outbreaks, maintaining peace among tribes of Oregon \$12,000 and Washington \$12,000.

p. 211 Ref to authorization by Congress to prepare rules and regulations governing Indian Service.

p. 256, Geary to Wright: Continuation of military force at Warm Springs res. needed because of Snakes.

pp. 267-69 Regarding discovery of gold on Nez Perce reservation, attempts of Agent and military to stem rush of miners; "Nez Perce a noble race" --- Geary to Comm. Dole, April 25, 1861.

Microcopy of Records of the Oregon Superintendency  
of Indian Affairs, 1848-1873

Roll 8

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Contents: Index; copies of letters sent by Superintendent Edward  
R. Geary to the close of his tenure of office.

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Office Supt. Indian Affairs,  
Portland, Oregon, Sept. 20th-59

Sir:

On my return from San Francisco I found your interesting letter of this ult. on my file. I am happy to acknowledge my indebtedness to you for its interesting details and express the hope that you will find leisure for frequently communicating to this office such information respecting the various Indian~~xy~~<sup>B</sup> Bands, their condition and prospects along the line of your operations as you may conceive to be important to ~~the office~~ their welfare and conducive to the effective administration of the affairs of the Indian service and the peace and development of the country.

Accept my high appreciation of the important work in which you are engaged and most favorable regards,

I am etc.

Edward R. Geary,  
Supt. Indian Affairs

Lieut John Mullen (sic)  
U.S.A.

*See Mullen's Report*

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Office Superintendent Indian Affairs

Portland, Oregon, Oct. 10, 1859

General:

I enclose herewith a copy of a communication from A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent in charge of the Eastern District Oregon in regard to the continuance of the small military guard at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation sometime ago placed there by your orders.

Believing the reasons urged by Mr. Dennison valid and the practicability of inducing the Indians to return to the Reservation dependent on the presence of a small military force at that point, I respectfully request that the troops be not withdrawn.

With high regards I am sir

etc

Edward G. Geary, 100 Supt. Ind. Affairs

to Bvt. Maj. General Harney

Comdng Military Department



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Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Portland Ore. Oct. 22nd, 1859

Sir:

An official note of the 15th inst. informs me that Genl. Harney declines acceding to the request to continue amilitary guard at the Warm Springs Reservation after the 6th ...? I shall again lay the case before the general hoping that a more extended view of the facts may lead him to a different determination.

Meanwhile I trust you will in no way directly or indirectly encourage any expedition of a hostile character on the part of the reservation Indians into the Snake Country as such a course is calculated only to disturb the quiet of the country and jeopardize the safety of the whites on the frontier as well as foment feelings of deadly hate among the Indians themselves wholly subservice to the peaceful and humane policy of our government toward the original race.

I am etc.

Edward R. Geary

Supt. of Indian Affairs

To A.P. Dennison

Indian Agent for Oregon.

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Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Portland, Oregon, Nov. 7, 1859

Sir:

You are authorized and instructed by this office to proceed without delay to the Dalles to relieve Agent A.P. Dennison and enter temporarily on the charge of the Eastern District of this superintendency.

You will receive from Agent Dennison all the public moneys and property in his hands and invoices of property in triplicate and will therefor execute to him triplicate receipts.

The absence of Agent Dennison will provably not extend beyond three months. While in charge of his district I wish you, if deemed safe, to reside at the Warm Spring Reservation and use all peaceful means for restoring amicable relations between the Snake Indians and those of the Reservation--and prevent all hostile forays in either direction. If possible to confer with the Snakes and endeavor to convince them of the folly of persisting in their hostile and predatory course and that the United States will most certainly punish them for their attacks on the Indians placed on our reservations and in amity with us, as promptly as if the offence was directly against our white citizens. Could you induce them to adopt the peace policy and restore the women and children captured from the reservation it will have the happiest effect on the Reserve Indians who could thus be readily induced to return to the reservation. But unless freed from their too just apprehensions of slaughter and robbery by their treacherous neighbors we can scarcely in good faith ask their return.

You will improve all opportunities to discover the state of feeling towards both whites and Indians on the part of the Snakes and to fathom their plans for the future and fully advise this office thereon, at the earliest possible moment. This will be important to make



enable the proper authorities to determine the amount of military protection that may be required

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You will also ascertain from time to time the conditions of the Cayuses, Walla Walla Indians who are within the eastern district.

As your care of this district is only temporary you will as far as may be in accordance with the foregoing instructions carry out the measures of Agent Dennison. You will be careful to keep this office posted on all important occurrences within your agency..

Yours etc.

Edward R. Geary

Supt. Indian Affairs

G.H. Abbott esq.

Sub Ind. Agent.



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Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Ore.

Jany 12, 1860

Sir: In the absence of Supt. Geary from this office on a trip up the Willamette Valley it becomes my unpleasant duty to inform you that the U.S. Mail Steamer Northerner on her trip from San Francisco to this place was wrecked on the 5th inst. off Cape Mendocino.

A portion of the U.S. mail, that washed ashore after the steamer went to pieces, was saved and was conveyed to this place by the steamer, Columbia, which arrived here this morning.

I have to advice you that by the Steamer Columbia two letters from you were received at this office viz one of Dec<sup>2</sup> ~~ulxxx~~ acknowledging receipt of letter from this office of 25th October enclosing Quarterly Report of Agent Simmons and one of Dec. 3rd acknowledging receipt of a letter from this office dated 11th October enclosing ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ statement of property destroyed by the Snake Indians. If therefore other letters from you for this office were forwarded by the steamer which sailed from New York on the 5th of December they have failed to reach their destination, it is reasonable to conclude that they have been lost.

Very respectfully etc.

Quincy Brooks,

Secty to Supt.

Hon W.B. Greenwood,  
Commissioner Ind. Affairs.  
Washington City.



Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland,  
Ore. Feb. ?? 1860

Sir: Your report of the 26th ultimo conveying important information in regard to the "Warm Springs" reservation and the cause of this hostile aggressions of the Snake Indians at that place as well as the present precarious state of affairs there, and the embarrassments in the way of securing military protection has been received at this office.

I will make the condition of affairs at the "Warm Springs" reservation the subject of a communication this day to the commanding general and urge the interposition of the military arm promptly for protection of that point.

Until the military aid is granted I trust you will not abandon the reservation only in the last emergency. I will at the earliest practicable moment visit the Snake Country with a proper military escort if obtainable p 66

and endeavor to bring these Indians to an amicable ... ? Should their claim to this territory including the "Warm Springs" reservation prove correct it is both equitable and politic to make them a proper and satisfactory compensation therefor. If safe and practicable ~~such~~ seek an interview with Porquita (?) or some other influential chief among them and inform them that it is by no means the intention of the Great Father to take any part of their country without paying them a just compensation. Also that if they persist in their hostile aggressions on the Indians and whites on the reservation they will certainly be most severely punished and that it will be very greatly to their interests to heed our friendly counsels and no longer resort to arms which can only lead to their destruction

very etc.

Edward R. Geary

Supt. Ind. Affairs

. H. Abbott esq.  
. Ind. Agent (to)



Portland, Oregon, Feb. ?? 1860

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that a communication from Sub Agent Abbott in temporary charge of the Warm Spring Reservation and residing thereon assures me that another attack of the Snake Indians at that point is impending and I am satisfied that at the earliest practicable moment of this opening spring a foray will be made and the reservation again desolated unless prevented by the timely interposition of a military force. Such an event is greatly to be deprecated as calculated to extensively embarrass our relations with the Indians and disturb the quiet of the sparse settlements in that direction.

I therefore respectfully press this subject on your consideration and request that a small military com and at least equal to that stationed there last fall be sent to that point immediately. The safety of the sub agent and employees, the protection of valuable public property and of the friendly Indians confiding their lives to our assurances of safety warrant and demand, in my judgment, the precaution of military interposition to prevent a catastrophe that recent experiences proves may occur soon and suddenly in that quarter.

I would here beg leave to ... my impression as to the real source of the inveterate hostility of the Snake Indians towards those placed on the reservation. It arises mainly from the fact that by some strange oversight this reservation secured to the Wascoes and other bands by treaty lies within the limits of the territory not only claimed by the Snakes themselves but admitted by the Indians, ~~part~~ parties to the treaty, to belong to them. The snakes claim that the whites had no right to give to their ancient enemies their favorite hunting grounds without consulting and compensating them, the true and original owners, therefor.

In order to reconcile the difficulty it is my intention as early as



practicable in the spring to endeavor to meet the Snake Indians in Council and affect some arrangement which will satisfy and quiet them.

In order to effect this desirable result your cooperation would be essential and I would suggest to your consideration a suitable military demonstration in their country as early as practicable in the spring in connection with the proposed peace mission from this office.

I remain etc.

Edward R. Geary,

Supt. of Indian Affairs

to: Brig. Gen. W.S. Harney

U.S.A. Commdy. Dept. of Oregon.

Office Supt. Indian Affairs,

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Sir: In the absence of the Supt. Indian Affairs, <sup>Portland, Oregon, Feb. 8th, 1860</sup> now on a visit to the Nez Perce country I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt at this office of your letter of 7th instant in reference to authoring the commander at Fort Dalles to send a detachment to the Warm Springs Agency.

I have this day notified Sug<sup>A</sup> Agent Abbott in charge of that reservation of your act on in the matter and will call the attention of the Superintendent to your letter immediately upon his return

Very respectfully etc

Quincy A Brooks, Secty to  
supt.

To Brig. Gen. Harney, U.S. A

Commanding Dept of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, W.T.

Office Indian Affairs (Supt)

Portland, Oregon Sept. 1, 1859

..The plan of boarding the children instructed at the industrial schools seems to be the only measure promising success, amongst the Indians tribes west of the Cascade mountains and this remarks applies with nearly equal force to the Indians to be located at Simcoe and the Warm Springs on the east side of the mountains.

With regard to the educational provisions of the treaties with the other Indians east of the Cascade Mountains, as they are but little contaminated with the degrading vices so deplorably extensive among those before referred to, I believe that the schools of better character provided for should as early as practicable be carried into vigorous operation and so located as to give 97

the fullest facilities to the parents to send their children

The boarding house system should however be regarded as inseparable from the industrial schools.

The labors of the missionaries, protestant and Catholic, have had a salutary influence on many of the Indian Tribes of the interior by which they have required a knowledge and appreciation of many of the arts and usages of civilization and not a few of the more enlightened strongly desire the education of their children and look forward to the establishment of the contemplated schools with much interest. In regard to the schools I have to say, as of those west of the mountains, their success and utility rests mainly on a .... embracing the .... and practice of the pure and elevated maxims of christianity.....

p/ 100 The Yakima agency has been removed to Fort Simcoe which has been abandoned as a military post and the buildings and p 101



the buildings and improvements turned over to the Indian Department. This is a valuable acquisition and will save a considerable amount of expenditure in the execution of the treaty stipulations with the Indians then to be collected.

The report of the agent and his subordinates in the district of Puget Sound....are detailed and instructive and evince an energetic administration.

The recommendation that the annuity provided in the treaty of Mead Medicine Creek be increased from \$2,000 to \$6,000 is forwarded on the valid reason that the Indians embraced in that treaty are nearly threefold as numerous as was supposed when the negotiations occurred, their number being not less than fourteen hundred souls. I therefore concur in the request for its augmentation...

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Yours etc. Edward R. Geary

supt of Ind. Affairs

to Hon A.B. Greenwood, commissioner, Washington City D.C.