

In his report to secretary of War Gen. Nelson A. Miles commanding, department of the Columbia says:

"As the construction of the Pacific railway and other routes of travel has made a very great change in the means of communication in this northwest country, rendering it possible now to move troops and supplies in days the same distance that but a short time ago would ~~be~~ have occupied weeks. In view of this I would as far as practicable discontinue small and ineffective posts and concentrate the troops in larger garrisons where they will have the advantage of instruction drill and discipline and will be maintained at much less expense. Forts Walla Walla, Spokane and Coeur d'Alene have been made the principal posts of this department where troops are stationed for immediate use in the sections of country most liable to Indian hostility while Vancouver Barracks serves all purposes for the station of a strong reserve force for the entire department Washington Farmer, Dec. 6, 1884.

Boise. (Old Fort Boise)

In 1835 the Hudson's Bay Company built a long, low trading post at junction of Boise and Snake Rivers and called it Fort Boise. It was not because British or U.S. troops ever were stationed there.

In 1853 the Union Jack was lowered and the Stars and Stripes unfurled.

The present army post sprang into being in 1863. For several years it retained the old name, Fort Boise when the war department rechristened it ~~Fort~~ Boise Barracks.

Lt. Kerr Riggs, 14th Cavalry was detailed by Gen. Greely, just before he retired from command of the department of the Columbia to write the history of Boise Barracks.

During the ~~controversy~~ controversy between the United States and Great Britain over the boundary line between the Northwest part of the United States and Canada, the Hudson's Bay company had almost complete control over fur trade in the Northwest.

In 1834 a rival company was organized in Boston under the name, Columbia River Fish and Trading Company (Fish or Fur??? note)

The operations were managed by Nathaniel Wyeth who had led an expedition into the Northwest in 1833. In June, 1834 was established a permanent trading post at Fort Hall on the east bank of the Snake a few miles west of the present site of Pocatello.

In order to counteract the influence of the post the Hudson's Bay company (probably early in 1835) Built a rival post on the Snake at the mouth of the Boise river.

The name Boise had been given to the river and mountains, suggested by the wooded (French Boise) nature of the country.

It was not a fort but a miserable enclosure 100 feet square built of poles and a few shacks were built of the same material. Wyeth's company was not successful and was forced to sell all property, including Fort Hall, to the Hudson's Bay Company.

The original structure at Fort Boise fell down in 1847. It was rebuilt of adobes and partially destroyed by the rise of the Snake in 1853.

Profits fell off in the business. It was only partially repaired. It was wholly abandoned in 1854 after the Indian massacre (Whitman) of that year.

General orders No. 6, headquarters of the Army in 1860 directed that a military post of two companies of infantry be established in the vicinity of Old Fort Boise.

Two officers, Maj. Enoch Steen and Capt. A.J. Smith, first Dragoons, were directed to examine the Southern Idaho country to select a site for the post but the Civil War intervened and the plan was abandoned.

Gold having been discovered in Idaho there was a stampede of prospectors and miners in 1862. In the later year they drifted into Boise Basin and located rich mines.

The emigrant trail from the east to Washington and Oregon was the route over which they drew upon for supplies. But to reach the trail they had to cross the Boise mountains. So it was soon apparent that a military post near the Boise river would be of value in protecting miners and emigrants of the Boise basin against the Snake, Shoshone, Bannock and Malheur Indians of the Snake River country.

Accordingly early in '63 instructions went out to establish a military post near Fort Boise, again issued by the War Department and promulgated by special order 33, District of Oregon.

Pursuant to the order Maj. Pinkney Lugenbeel, Ninth U.S. Infantry with Cos. D.F.G and H, 1st Washington Territory infantry and a detachment of the First Oregon Cavalry encamped near the present site of Boise Barracks, June 28, 1863.

After going through the Boise basin and up and down the Boise river in search of a suitable location, the expedition had been met by John Hailey who was running a train of saddle horses on the Emigrant trail.

The present site was chosen as the location for the post.

On July 6, 1863, the erection of quarters for troops begun.

The post was first called Camp Boise but the name was soon changed to Fort Boise.

As soon as the people of the basin heard of it they realized the advantage of locating a town under its protection. It would get its supplies from Portland by the emigrant train and be sure of lucrative trade with the miners of the basin, 30 miles away.

A rush of miners across the mountain followed, a townsite of 10 blocks was laid out in August at a distance of one-half mile south of the post. By the end of 1863 Boise City was a flourishing town of 600

During 1864 quarters and other buildings of stone sufficient to accommodate two companies were erected. On April 5, 1879, by Gen. Orders.

No. 2, district of the Pacific, the name of the post was changed to Boise Barracks and has been continuous from that to date (1908)

Upon establishment of the post in 1863 Maj. Lugenbeel caused to be surveyed for use of the post four reservations, viz:

Hay reserve 503 acres.

Post reserve 640 acres.

Wood reserve 343 acres

Sawmill reserve 532 acres. These were held by military occupancy until April 9, 1873, when by executive order the post reserve contained 638 acres, set apart for military purposes. Boundary was announced in general order No. 10, department of the Columbia, 1873 and by executive order, Sept. 18, 1874, the hay reserve contained 587.55 acres was set apart for use of the public. Boundary in general order No. 29, 26, Dept. of Columbia, ¹⁸⁷⁴ 1874, wood and sawmill reserve held only by military occupancy, were relinquished Sept. 19, 1874 and under declaration of the Secretary of War the military reserves in Washington, Idaho and Oregon were ordered not to exceed 640 acres in extent. The hay reserve was relinquished to the Interior Dept.

April 19, 1884, leaving the post reserve still under the control of the War Department.

The reserve now contains 636.35 acres. Jurisdiction was ceded to the United States by an act of state legislature, Feb. 7, 1891, reserving however to the state for jurisdiction for the ~~executed~~ process of civil or criminal, lawfully issued by the courts of the state.

By deed dated May 24, 1904, Peter Donna and wife conveyed to the U.S. their water rights to the water system.

1864-during this year the post was garrisoned by Washington and Oregon volunteers under Col Maury (strength not determined) They completed the permanent quarters for two companies of Infantry with officers quarters, storehouse, etc. They had usual garrison duties, Indian Expeditions. On July 30 Col. Maury sent a detachment of 25 ~~xxx~~cavalry and 25 infantry under Lt. Chas. Hobart to Fort Hall to scour the country for hostiles. Maury led a detachment to the Owyhee on the same mission. Both returned without encountering Indians.

On October 10, Gov. Caleb Lyon of Idaho made a treaty at Fort Boise with Snake and Shoshone (250 under Chief Tam Tomeco) Indians gave up their claim to strip of land 100 miles wide from source of the Boise River to its mouth.

Nov. 10 Adj. office and store building near commissary was burned (incidental) all post records destroyed. Col. Maury left next day to the detachment of First Oregon Cavalry for Vancouver where they were to be mustered out of service.

1865

From the beginning of this year until March the garrison consisted of companies D.G. and I, First Washington Territory Infantry, about 90 men under Capt. F. Seidenstriker.

March 3, Co. D left for Vancouver to be mustered out of service.

March 27 Cos. G and I were consolidated into Co. I

On April 19, 1880 Maj. John M. Drake, First Oregon Cavalry arrived and took command. During this time detachments were frequently sent to protect settlers from Indians.

June 17 the garrison was reinforced by companies B and G, First Oregon Infantry and A, B and D and E, First Oregon Cavalry. The command then consisted of about 350 men under Maj. Drake.

Four camps were established at different points, 40 to 200 miles from Fort Boise. By district orders these camps with the post constituted the sub-district of Boise with headquarters at Fort Boise.

June 19, Lt. Charles Hobart in command of Cos. A B and D, afterwards consolidated into Co. D, first Oregon Cavalry, left the post to camp on Jorden (sic) (Jordan) creek and protect settlers of ~~s00~~ Surprise, too weak to pursue further, returned, established Camp Lyon on the North Fork of Jordan Creek, 25 miles from Ruby City where he was attacked July 7 at 2 a.m. by band of 200 Indians. His detachment consisted of 54 men. One party of Indians ~~above~~ drove in the outposts while another stampeded the herd. All rode off on captured horses. He gave chase and came up at daylight, attacking at once. The fight lasted four hours. The Indians lost 24 killed and wounded and fled.

Other camps were established as follows:

Lt. Curry, Co. E, 1st Oregon Cavalry and Co. B, 1st Ore. Infantry, established Camp Reed on Rock Creek, 40 miles from X Salmon Falls.

Capt. A.J. Borland with detachment of Cos. G, 1st Ore. Infantry and I, first Washington Territory, established Camp Alvord at Farewell Bend on the Snake River. Capt. Ephriam Palmer with detachment of Co. B, first Oregon Infantry, established Camp Wallace at Camas Prairie.

There was continual trouble with Indians in the vicinity of these camps and considerable fighting on a small scale but there was no fighting near the post.

As enlistments of volunteers expired they were sent to Vancouver

and mustered out and the remaining companies were consolidated.

On Oct. 31 Companies B and H, 14th U.S. infantry, arrived at the post under command of Capt. J.H. ^{Walker} ~~Walker~~ who took command --up to this time no regular troops had been stationed at Fort Boise.

On December 28, Pvt. Thomas E. Shea, Co. B, First Oregon Infantry was killed at the post while attempting to escape.

1866

On February 12 Capt. Walker started with a detachment of 30 men to punish Indians in Malheur. The company marched up between the Owyhee and Malheur rivers. On the 23rd while filing down hill where four canyons meet the advance guard came suddenly on a camp of 20 Indians and opened fire. The Indians fled to a shelf of rock and returned the fire. All the Indians except three were killed. Troops lost 1 killed and 1 wounded. The expedition returned to the post on March 9.

On March 2 by a general order, department of The Columbia, the district of Boise was organized from what had been the sub district. The district camps, ^{include} Lander, Alvord, Lyon and Reed with Fort Boise as headquarters.

In June Maj. L.H. Marshall, 14th infantry who had been in command of the district since March led an expedition of 85 into Owyhee ^{was} attacked several hundred near eight forks of the Owyhee and defeated ~~00000~~ with the loss of 1 man killed, returned to Boise to await reinforcements.

The Indians grew bolder and made dispatch of heavy reinforcements sent from Vancouver necessary. By December the garrison consisted of companies A, B C D and E, 14th infantry and F H and M First Cavalry. The post was garrisoned by Companies H 14th and First Cavalry. The district was commanded by Brevt Maj. Gen. George Crook, Lt. Col. 23rd regiment.

1867

General Crook who commanded the district was seldom at headquarters. In January with a command of troops from Camps Smith and Alvord reinforced by citizen volunteers he came upon a camp of 100 Indians at ~~Boose~~ base of Stein's mountain. The command approached quietly under cover of darkness and charged the camp at daybreak. Sixty Indians were killed, thirty prisoners taken. The American loss was 1 volunteer killed and one wounded.

The Indian uprising was general through southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon and made necessary the establishment of additional camps. By general order, Pacific Division dated August 16 the district of Boise was ~~divided into~~ divided into districts, the districts of the Lakes and the district of Owhyee. Fort Boise was made headquarters of the later district with Brevt Maj. Gen. W.L. Elliot, Lt. Col.

First Cavalry, in command. The garrison of the post for this year was Co. ~~ZxxHxx22xx~~ H, 23rd Infantry, formerly Company H, 14th Infantry.; the whole year; Co. F, First Cavalry, January 1 to June 10 when ~~united~~ it was sent to Camp C.F. Smith, Oreg.; Company D, Eighth Cavalry Nov 3 to end of year.

1868-77

By beginning of this period Boise City had a population of 2,000 farming was profitable. During July, 1877, most of the troops comprising the Nez Perce expedition ~~were~~ concentrated at Fort Boise. Company A, 21st Infantry which constituted the regular garrison took part in the expedition, leaving only 13 men to garrison the post, July to October. On their return Company G, First Cavalry was added. Except for this expedition, there was nothing to break the ~~monotonous~~ monotony.

1878

For the years ^Dannock Indians from Fort Hall accustomed to camp during the summer months to the Camas Prairie, 50 miles Northeast of Boise. Either through misunderstanding or misinterpretation of treaty

or through a typographical error, they claimed the Camas Prairie. So long as the whites did not want the land there was no friction. But in 78 parties of whites went there to graze their herds.

In May a band of 200 Bannocks under Chief Buffalo Horn murdered several. Company officer of the post was notified and Company G, 1st Cavalry, 60 men under Capt. ~~Ex~~ R.F. Bernard, set out for Camas Prairie. (In 1869 all the Indians in the vicinity of Boise were removed to the Fort Hall reservation. This lessened the military importance of the post and by district orders, dated April 19, 1869, the district of Owyhee was discontinued.)

Communication with the outside world was by daily mail stage to Kelton, Utah, the trip requiring two or three days travel with occasional delays during the winter.

Communication with department headquarters was by stage to Umatilla, on the Columbia and thence by Water and Railroad to Portland.

The water supply was obtained from Cottonwood Creek. During part of the year when it was rendered turbid by mines above, a well~~60~~ was used and water was delivered by water wagon.

Food--Regular garrison ~~and~~ provisions, supplemented by the post garden and milk. Food prices in the vicinity were exorbitant. Until 1872 game of all kinds was abundant.

Boise, Idaho Statesman, May 12, 1908. (Idaho Daily Statesman
correct name of newspaper)

Coins
Ft Vancouver.

San Francisco, Aug 1. Lt. O.A. Kelly hopped off at
12:45 o'clock this afternoon on a return flight to Vancouver,
Wash. taking with him 250 half dollars struck in commemoration of
the founding of Fort Vancouver, 100 years ago.
Yakima Daily Republic, August 1, 1925.

When Col. George W. Wright was on his peacemaking expedition he built Fort Na-chess, a field work of earth and gabions, called by the old settlers, the basket fort.

It was located on the south bank of the Naches river eight miles from Yakima and was built in 1856 by Col. Wright, commanding the ninth infantry when he came to the Yakima country to treat with the Indians.

The fort is located on the south bank of the Naches river, eight miles from Yakima...Its location is the place where the old Indian trail crossed. The trail was used by the Indians as they came up from Celilo on the Columbia.

From Ft. Simcoe it swung across the Ahtanum, Cowiche, the Present Naches Heights and across the Naches river. There it branched. One trail went west from there to Nisqually and the other crossed the Wenas country to Kittitas, Colockum pass and up the Columbia to Okanogan and Colville. This trail was used by a detachment from the Wilkes expedition in 1841, by Theodore Winthrop, early-day writer in 1853 and by Lt. George B. McClellan in 1853, during a road survey.

Col. Wright camped about four weeks on the Naches river in May and June of 1856.

There were 500 men, exclusive of pack train detachments and they were waiting for the water to recede.

Col. Wright finally had a trestle bridge constructed across the river and crossed on the morning of June 18 with eight companies, one company of dragoons and one of artillery.

The troops went to the Wenass, encamped and then moved on to Kittitas valley and Wenatchee country in a successful campaign, persuading the Indians to make peace.

Col. Wright in a dispatch from a camp in the Kittitas valley tells of crossing the Natches and refers to Maj. Robert S. Garnett arriving there on June 13 with two

companies and of leaving Lt. Col. Steptoe with three companies to occupy Fort Na-chess.

On July 25, returning to Fort Dalles from the Wenatchee, Col. Wright wrote: "I halted two days at Fort Na-chess at which place I was visited by a party of Nisqually Indians under old Chief Leschi, who was temporarily living upon the upper waters of the Na-chess.

On August 3, 1856, writing from "Camp on Top-pon-ish creek," Col. Wright said he abandoned "the camp on the Na-chess and ordered Col. Steptoe with his command on the Toppenish." About the middle of August he and Maj. Garnett and two companies started to build Fort Simcoe.

*Yakima Republic -
(undated clip) -1950*

OLD FORT ON NACHES BUILT AT INDIAN TRAIL CROSSING

Fort Naches, to be marked as an historical site under authorization of the state parks and recreation commission advisory board, was a "field work of earth and gabions." Settlers called it the "basket fort."

It is located on the south bank of the Naches river eight miles from Yakima and was built in 1856 by Col. George W. Wright, commanding the Ninth infantry when he came to the Yakima country to treat with the Yakimas or bring them to terms.

Walter J. Purdin, Yakima member of the commission who presented the plea for the marker, said it will be located near the PP&L Co. plant across the river from the actual site.

Its location is the place where the old Indian trail crossed. The trail was used by the Indians as they came up from Celilo on the Columbia.

From Fort Simcoe it swung across the Ahtanum, Cowiche, the present Naches Heights and across the Naches river. There it branched out. One trail went west and there to Nisqually and the other crossed the Wenas country to Kittitas, Colockum pass and up the Columbia to Okanogan and Colville. This trail was used by a detachment from the Wilkes expedition in 1841, by Theodore Winthrop, early-day writer, in 1853 and by Lt. George B. McClellan, in 1853, during a road survey.

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Col. Wright finally had a trestle bridge constructed across the river "by great labor" and crossed on the morning of June 18 with eight companies--one company of dragoons and one of artillery.

The troops went to the "Wenass", encamped and then moved on to Kittitas valley and Wenatchee country in a successful campaign to round up various large bands of

Indians and persuade them to make peace.

Col. Wright, in a dispatch from camp in the Kittitas valley, tells of crossing the Naches and refers to Maj. Robert S. Garnett's arrival there in June 13 with two companies and of leaving Lt. Col. Steptoe with three companies to occupy "Fort Na-chess."

Purdin found that on August 3, 1856, writing from "Camp on Toppon-ish Creek," Col. Wright said he abandoned "the camp on the Na-chess" and ordered Col. Steptoe with his command to the Toppenish. About the middle of August he and Maj. Garnett and two companies started to build Fort Simcoe.

"Fort Na-chess," said Purdin, "was one of importance in that summer and until the starting of Fort Simcoe was the military strong point in the Yakima country because of its location at the main Indian trail which led from California to Canada.

"A portion of the old trail, which was used by the Wilkes expedition, Winthrop and Lt. McClellan still is clearly visible where the trail angles down a slope of Naches Heights toward the river bottom.

"While Col. Wright made his headquarters there, he interviewed many Indians on the hostilities the preceding year."

The Yakiman said that Mrs. Claude Smith, a Pioneer Daughter who resides a short distance from the site of Fort Na-chess, explains that the term "basket fort" well described the construction . . . Large basket affairs were made of woven willows and filled with rocks. The baskets were piled high to form the fort.

Mrs. Smith has a number of mule shoes that were plowed up in the meadows surrounding the old camp.

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PIONEERS MEET TO MARK FORT'S SITE

Wallace Wiley Gives Recollections of Crude Fort Built Under Col. Wright

Naches, Oct. 16--(Special to the Republic)--All but forgotten save by a handful of early settlers of this region, the location of a rude dirt fort built by Col. George Wright's soldiers in the summer of 1856, where an ancient Indian trail led down to the Naches river, was marked for posterity yesterday by the Yakima County Historical society.

With simple, appropriate ceremony that paid tribute to the valor of the regulars and the volunteers who campaigned against the wild tribes before the settlers came, a four-foot high concrete shaft, bearing a bronze plaque, was dedicated on the site about a quarter-mile above Eschbach park.

Mrs. Wallace Wiley, whose father, Judge Isaac Wingard of Walla Walla, was a member of the Oregon volunteers and took part in the building of the earthworks, unveiled the monument to the applause of more than 100 spectators.

Wallace Wiley, who clearly remembered the appearance of the defensive post, which consisted of willow baskets filled with earth and rifle pits that still may be seen, related its brief but important history.

The basket-fort, Wiley said, strategically placed beside the pre-historic Indian trail that formed an aboriginal international highway from the Okanogan in Canada to sunny Mexico, served as a temporary base of operations for Col. Wright through the summer of '56 when he conducted a campaign of pacification in the Yakima country.

It was there, at the basket-fort, that Wright parleyed with Chief Owhi of the Yakimans and other red leaders, who were so awed by the display of military force that they agreed not to fight any more. At the conclusion of his peacemaking march, Wright abandoned the river fort and directed Maj. Robert Seldon Garnett to establish

Fort Simcoe.

"The soldiers," Wiley said, "improved the Indian trail from The Dalles to the basket-fort, making it into a wagon road. Today it is almost obliterated."

Others who spoke at the dedication, which followed a potluck dinner, were R. W. Scott, vice president of the society; the Rev. H. E. Tudor of Naches city, and Mrs. E. Woodcock. Mrs. Scott had charge of the program.

More than \$30 was collected to defray the expense of the monument.

--newspaper clipping

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Congress provided pensions for those who participated in Indian wars.
3,010 survivors of Indian wars in Oregon and Washington of which 1,871
participants and 2,991 were widows. May - 1900