

TREATY CENTENNIAL

1855-1955

THE YAKIMAS

DEDICATED TO

THE TREATY CHIEFS AND
YAKIMAS YET UNBORN



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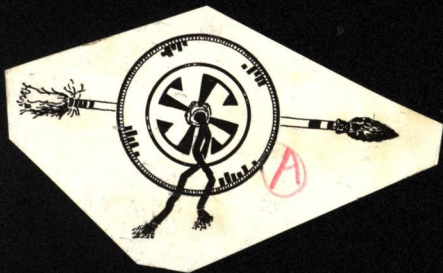
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BIRTH AND GROWTH OF A RESERVATION

Creation of the ~~Yakima~~ Reservation brought together fourteen tribes and bands, in some instances of different linguistic stock, compelling them to follow economic pursuits that were alien to ~~the~~ their tradition and to adapt themselves to unfamiliar value systems. ~~Little has ever been~~

Three years before the agency was ^{BORN} ~~set up~~ at Fort Simcoe, the slow process of gathering the scattered, leaderless people was commenced.

When F. Robie was local agent at The Dalles on August 30, 1856, he wrote to Governor Stevens that Captain Frederick Dent, brother-in-law of Ulysses S. Grant was working on a wagon road from The Dalles to Fort Simcoe and that Major Robert Selden Garnett was "getting on well with his improvements," ~~the construction of (Fort Simcoe). Indians were being~~
The gathering place was ~~the White Salmon Agency~~
removed from Vancouver to the White Salmon Agency.
at white Salmon on the Columbia River.

there
There were 900 at ~~White Salmon~~, 1,200 at the Cascades and The Dalles, and 1,200 in the Simcoe Valley, ^{which} ~~it~~ was called ~~Sink-Simkwee~~ ^{by the Yakimas,} a place name for a saddle in the hills northeast of the ~~fort, and the site~~ ^{Army post. Fort.}
~~of the proposed White Swan Reservoir Dam.~~ The daily subsistence ~~needs of~~
~~the people~~ amounted to 1,500 pounds of flour and one beef.

Kamiakin

Because ~~he~~ would not come upon the reservation ~~through fear of~~
~~retribution~~, the Yakima^s were ~~cast~~ adrift and their ~~early~~ guidance ~~in~~

too often was entrusted to ~~notoriously~~ inefficient agents.

The first regular agent, ^{Dr.} R.H. Lansdale came from Olympia when that town had only a few houses and where he was a justice of the peace and a doctor. ^{He wrote to} ~~Writing to~~ Superintendent Edward R. Geary in December, 1859, ~~he revealed~~ that "Kamiakin is much needed. I know of no one who is adapted to supply his place."

James C. Geer, ~~who~~ was living in the Simcoe Valley in August, 1857, ~~was~~ acting in ^{an} ~~the~~ unofficial capacity as local agent. Bonner & Co. had a license to trade near Fort Simcoe, established a trading post a mile away contrary to the wishes of Major Garnett who ordered the building torn down. The traders were later allowed to locate a quarter of a mile from the fort ~~where they remained~~ while soldiers were posted ~~on guard~~ to see that ~~they~~ troops did not patronize the place.

The Army was responsible for feeding and clothing those in the Simcoe Valley, ~~and~~ Local agents at The Dalles, Cascades and White Salmon cared for the people there as best they could. ^{Civil} ~~the~~ war had upset the ^{traditional} ~~usual~~ ~~market~~ food quests which took the people to different areas, ^{and} ~~there~~ ^{hunger and want overshadowed the confused people} ~~was much hunger and want~~ ~~and the subsistence was never up to standard.~~

By regulation, subsistence amounted to a pound of fresh meat daily or three-fourths of a pound of salt pork, three fourths of a quart of corn or

bran ~~flour~~ meal or one pound of wheat flour, for each person, and four quarts of salt for each one-hundred persons.

^{IN} As early as 1852 Captain Jordan, an Army officer stationed at Fort Dalles ~~with the 4th Infantry~~ had fenced ~~in~~ land north of the river. The same year E.S. Joslyn located near present Bingen, built a home, set out an orchard and cultivated land. ^{which} ~~It was this property that~~ became the White Salmon Agency.

Joslyn left during the war but returned, demanded the property and lived there until 1874. ^{His return} ~~His demands~~ caused the government to look for another location and Fort Simcoe was selected.

^{IN 1859} ~~the same year that~~ the territorial legislature formed "Clickitat" County and located the county seat at Rockland across from The Dalles at present Dallesport, ~~1855~~ - Lansdale was instructed to ^{remove} ~~break up~~ the White Salmon Agency ~~and remove it~~ to Fort Simcoe. He wrote to J.W. Nesmith,

superintendent of Indian Affairs at Salem, Oregon, May 16, 1859:

^{of the 9th Infantry,}
"Captain Archer (James J. Archer of Maryland, later General Archer of the Confederacy), ~~of the 9th Infantry~~ in command of this post, Simcoe, has been ordered by General Harney and as arranged by the general and yourself, turned over all public buildings at this place." (There were twenty-one, valued at \$30,000).

Archer, writing from Fort Simcoe to Headquarters, Department of Oregon,

April 18, 1859, said: "I have this day turned over all public buildings ~~at this post~~ to R.H. Lansdale." ^{Archer} ~~He~~ and some of the troops marched ^{OFF} ~~away~~ to join the Northwest Boundary Survey and other ^S ~~troops~~ were ordered to Fort Dalles, leaving a detachment of fifteen to guard the military stores ~~at~~ ~~at Simcoe.~~

Lansdale removed to the agency, June 2, and ~~lost no time in setting up~~ the agency. ~~He~~ wrote to Geary: "I have also commenced farming operations, purchased crops of grain growing in the field, ["] ~~and put in the ground for~~ ~~the use of the troops."~~

By ~~the next~~ spring the employees were feeding and taking care of stock, procuring rails for fencing and preparing an orchard and gardens.

Three hundred trees, mostly apple, were set out ^{ON} the old parade ground, and men were ~~put to~~ ^{to sow} plowing ~~for sowing~~ grain. Lansdale said that "the wheat sown last fall has proved a total failure because of alkali in the soil or lack of rain."

Geary ^{Contracted} ~~completed arrangements~~ with James Knox of Linn County, Oregon, on May 29, 1860, to purchase 100 ^{head} ~~head~~ of cattle, paying \$10 a head for yearling heifers and \$17 for two year olds. Then he bought an additional fifty cows and calves and five bulls, re-introducing livestock into the Yakima Valley. Kamiakin, as early as 1836, ~~brought~~ acquired cattle

from the Hudson's Bay Company at Vancouver and developed herds ~~but these~~ ^{that were} ~~had been~~ ^{or} scattered ~~and~~ killed during the war.

When the salmon run ^{sarged up} ~~started in~~ the Columbia, George H. Abbott, sub-Indian Agent at The Dalles was directed to help lay in a supply for ^{winter} use and to purchase a ton or two of salt and fifty barrels for curing and packing the fish.

A saw mill was under construction, \$9,000 having been appropriated to build it and a proposed flouring mill.

^{And then} Lansdale, who had brought in 147 Klickitat Indians from Lewis River Valley, ^{was suddenly suspended} ~~when he came to the reservation~~ ^{was one of the early-day agents who was} ~~suspended~~ because of "serious charges." The following report can be found in the files:

"Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C., 1861, reports serious charges have been brought against Agent R.H. Lansdale, now in charge of Fort Simcoe Agency, during the month of November and December last year which induced Edward R. Geary to suspend that officer ~~from~~ ~~exercise of his office~~ until an investigation could be made regarding said charges and ordered C.M. Walker, inspector of Indian Affairs in the Territory to proceed to Fort Simcoe and relieve Mr. Lansdale which he did, arriving at Simcoe on January 3, 1861."

~~That is what the record shows.~~ In reality there was a confusion

territorial ⁶ ^{their} ~~and~~ ^{jurisdiction} ~~actions~~.
over authority of ~~higher~~ officials. Moreover, payment for employees
did not come through ^{regularly} ~~as efficiently~~ as in later years and some of the
~~workmen, who~~ had gone two and three years without salary ~~and were~~

~~complaining. They subsisted on themselves and families on stores freighted~~
~~in from Rockland.~~

Lansdale, on January 4, 1861, acknowledged that W.B. Gosnell was
appointed sub-agent. ^{He} ~~Gosnell, stationed on the coast,~~ ^{from his post on the coast} was transferred to
^{Serve} ~~serve~~ temporarily in the emergency.

Gosnell renewed a contract with J.R. Stark and John W. Allen to cut
100,000 feet of pine saw logs "within four miles of the saw mill, at a cost
of three dollars per thousand feet."

^{he} ~~Gosnell,~~ In a report to Geary on January 26, 1861 ~~left that~~ told how
~~he left the Dalles January 1, arrived at Simcoe and succeeded Lansdale on~~
^{he had} ~~the fifth.~~ He visited the mill and found the dam unfinished. When he
inspected the beef cattle they were unfit for slaughter, weighing only
175 pounds each.

~~He reported that~~ ^B Besides the employes, 120 Indians were being fed.

There were 21 yoke of work oxen of which Lansdale claimed nine but they
were "old and ~~xx~~ worn out." There ~~xxx~~ were 21 head of horses and seven
mules of which four were being used to haul logs ~~to the mill.~~

The 355 head of sheep and 50 lambs were in good condition and Robert Rantoul, the herder was "an excellent man."

Gosnell wrote:

"The ~~farmlands~~ farms seem to have been awfully neglected. There is not a grain of fallow wheat in the ground, ~~only about 25 acres reported plowed and no other preparations whatever for next spring's farming. The whole~~ supply of hay on hand is only about 472 tons.

~~"The potatoes were entirely unfit for seed and at least 100 bushels will have to be bought for that purpose."~~

He recommended that 200 hoes and six plows be purchased ^{because} ~~as~~ only "four plows are on hand."

The school ~~was~~ in operation that year for the first time, was under "the superintendency of the ^{Rev.} ~~Rev.~~ James H. Wilbur assisted by Mr. Wright and lady, ~~the former acting as teacher and the latter as matron.~~

"There are now fifteen boys and three girls in daily attendance."

On June 1 Charles R. Hutchins ~~was named~~ special agent, writing to Geary reported; "I have this day relieved Gosnell. Goods stored ~~at~~ at Rockland can be teamed to this post at contract of \$40 per ton. About 14 Indians are at work now for the government. The wages paid them is \$30 per month and rations."

~~And~~ ^Before the end of the month, lumber was ready for the flouring mill which H.W. Shipley was to erect. The sawmill on Simcoe Creek was in "constant operation."

The government was seriously attempting to comply with treaty promises.

B.F. Snelling was superintendent of farming. One of the farms contained 200 acres of "good soil and has a crop of hay and 32 1/2 acres of oats." ~~Peas, wheat, and potatoes, smaller acreages of Peas, wheat & potato~~ ¹
~~a 1/2 of peas, 7 of barley, 7 1/2 of wheat and 5 of potatoes and is~~
^{were}
~~being enclosed by a board fence.~~

"Another farm selected on a branch of Simcoe Creek, five miles distant, consists of 300 acres but impregnation of alkali renders it useless.

"There are three gardens in the immediate vicinity of the agency ~~consisting~~ containing ~~eight~~ about eight acres which are planted with corn, oats, barley, potatoes and other vegetables."

The next agent, Ashley H. Bancroft, was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln. Bancroft was a brother of George Bancroft, a historian, United States Minister to Prussia in 1867 and father of Hubert ~~Howe~~
 Bancroft whose histories of the Pacific Coast and Mexico have never been equalled. Yet the agent, Bancroft proved a failure ~~at Fort Simcoe.~~

He too, and because of Civil War conditions, and his employees, ^{also} went for extended periods without pay and ^{were compelled} ~~if they ate, had~~ to subsist themselves

from the storehouse.

Leaders of the different tribes or bands were disturbed. They reported that annuities were ~~growing less and less~~ ^{dwindling}, and by the second year ~~of~~ Bancroft's administration had become so small that they were not worth making the trip to secure. ~~In fact,~~ ^M many refused to go after their goods, believing that the Great White Father ~~in Washington~~ must be angry with them and meant to do them harm or he would not have sent a man such as Bancroft to look after them.

The Rev. Wilbur ~~who was superintendent of teaching~~ ^{high} was held in respect by the Indians and they confided in him ~~regarding their feelings for~~ Bancroft. ^W Wilbur tried to reason with Bancroft ~~and this finally resulted in~~ ^{but} his dismissal. ~~He~~ was discharged ~~on October 10 by B. F. Kendall, superintendent of Indian Affairs for Washington Territory,~~ and in a letter two days later asked permission to remain "without expense ~~to the government~~" as teacher ^{but} ~~of the Indians.~~ ^{There} ~~His appointment had been made by the Oregon~~ ^{was a} ~~Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, but~~ ~~granted~~ his request was denied. ~~So he went back to Oregon for a time but could not forget the~~ ~~Lakima need.~~

Bancroft also discharged the agency physician, Dr. S.H. Roberts on the grounds that "he attempted to incite the Indians against their

agent ¹¹ ~~by stating to them that so long as he (the agent) remained here, there would be no money sent to the reservation."~~

~~Records show that~~ On January 13, 1862, Bancroft issued annuities to 1,458 men, women and children. (Under the treaty, at least 3,500 were entitled to food and goods ~~indicating how the people were still widely scattered~~).

~~Bancroft reported:~~

"On first coming together there was a very general disposition ~~manifest~~ ~~manifest~~ not to receive the goods. Many said that they were not consulted on the Treaty for the land and would not give it up and take pay ~~for it~~, but upon convincing them that the land was sold, they ~~concluded to~~ receive ^{d/} the goods. Owing to the deep snow many, ~~who are entitled to~~ ~~annuities~~ could not come for them. I have retained a portion of the goods for distribution ~~in~~ in the spring."

~~Meanwhile there were reports of Secessionist activities around the Reservation and military men were sent to investigate, keeping their activities secret from the agent, much to his discomfort.~~

Bancroft complained to C.H. Hale, superintendent of Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T., on November 1, 1862: "The numbers ^{Now} ~~now~~ ~~in~~ far exceed that of the previous distribution, ^{so} ~~use that~~ The last ~~invasion of~~ goods would not afford one blanket to a family."