

Feb. 10, 1953

Mrs. Guy M. Travis,  
Box 574,  
Prosser, Washington.

Dear Mrs. Travis:

I told you I would write you again when matters developed concerning Fort Simcoe. They are still developing.

The research committee for Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration committee, of which I am chairman, is slowly being organized as we can locate competent and sincere persons, interested in dying into certain jobs and helping see them through.

So far those who have accepted positions on the committee include:

Dean H. Guie of Yakima; Dr. Recter Johnson, Yakima; Mr. Bennett of White Swan and Mrs. Thelma Kimmel of Toppenish.

I don't know whether you would be interested in serving or not, devoting some of your talents to researching, but if you would, we would be most happy to have you do so.

I have asked the Indian tribal council to name one or two Indians to the committee which may spread out as far as The Dalles and elsewhere. I believe that by placing one person or more throughout key places in the valley, we can make all contacts necessary from the local level.

The duties of the committee will be to gather material to preserve by writing in complete files, gather pictures so that negatives can be made from which uniform pictures can be printed, also for the files; obtain lists of bibliographies from all major libraries and local libraries of all references to Fort Simcoe, Father James H. Wilbur and others connected with Fort Simcoe; keep gather material for a card index on artifacts and relics pertaining to Fort Simcoe so that when a museum is built there as the plans call for, we will have a long list of items that could possibly come into the museum through gift or loan; interview persons connected with all phases of the various stages of Fort Simcoe's life and prepare them for the files; etc. etc.



So you see, it will be no small order and will entail a division of work and assignments with persons following special fields.

I believe I neglected to mention that Mrs. J.J. Bartholet of Yakima has also agreed to serve. For instance, she would be especially good at preparing material regarding the period when she was stationed there; Dr. Rector Johnson, who has some historial background knows the proper places to secure material on Rev. Wilbur; Mrs. Kimmel has extensive background for research. Incidentally she has been gathering Fort Simcoe material for some time and it might be wise for you to contact her if you have certain things in mind pertaining to writing. I believe this: there's plenty there, as I have previously maintained, for several stories to be written. It all depends upon the approach. No doubt you have already contacted her or know her.

I believe ~~one~~ one of the first meetings of the committee would be a "field day" on some Sunday at Fort Simcoe when the weather is "sure." We would pair off with some old-timers, like the Olneys, and tour the grounds, gathering from them first hand their recollections; these to be prepared for files.

I believe it will be eventually necessary to have the help of someone here in Yakima for typing notes, etc. I believe something like that can be worked out with the junior college.

But, regardless of whether you care to ~~work~~ serve with us or not, because of your other plans, please feel free to call on us when we get better organized for an on-the-spot inspection of material in the public files. And, don't forget, I have much material that you are welcome to scan. It's just too extensive to pick anything definite until you have something definite. Pictures will be one of the things we will have to concentrate on. There are plenty around. It's just a matter of getting them rounded up for copying.

Sincerely

Cliff Relander

Route 3, box 146  
Yakima, Wash.