

Eastern Washington College of Education

Cheney, Washington

Hargreaves Library

August 10, 1951

Mr. Click Relander
Route 3, Box 149
Yakima, Washington

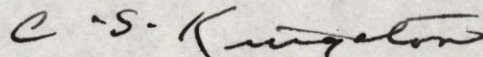
Dear Mr. Relander:

I expect to be here through the week of August
12-18.

I enclose a letter from a friend of mine, Henry
Reimers, who lives in Waitsburg, with some information
about Old Bones. You mentioned him in your first
letter.

With best wishes I remain

Very truly yours,



C. S. Kingston

CSK:nlm

[Enclosure. 10 Aug 51]

Waitsburg, Washington
July 25, 1951
Box 111

Dr. C.S. Kingston,
Eastern Washington College
Cheney, Washington

Dear Mr. Kingston:

I have done some investigating, as I promised, in regard to local people who might have been acquainted with the Indian, "Old Bones". Several people here seem to have known him to some extent. In Waitsburg John White, Hollis Conover, Ralph Lloyd and Pat Estes. At Starbuck the Eaton and Abraham families. At Prescott "Grandma" Fine would be worth an interview. John White and Hollis Conover have pictures of "Old Bones". Mrs. Wes Lloyd, of Waitsburg, could also contribute material of interest. The Pettyjohn family of Prescott were on very intimate terms with Old Bones, and he gave them several presents, including his pipe. I understand the older generation of the family has passed away and all Indian relics they possessed have been given to Whitman College. Hollis Conover tells numerous anecdotes about Bones, including some stories which indicate he was a California Indian, rather than a Palouse.

In a separate package I am sending my copy of the book, "Thirty-six Years in the Rockies". On pages 201-215 is one story of work on the Mullan Road. Pages 223-228 is a yarn with a touch of humor that I got quite a kick out of.

I am also sending my copy of the Lloyd story. Should you care to have a copy prepared for your files I know both Mrs. Lloyd and myself would be pleased to let you keep the manuscript as long as necessary. The story of Hollis Conover would be equally interesting if I could budget sufficient time to complete it.

Very truly yours,

Henry Reimers

Eastern Washington College of Education

Cheney, Washington

Dec. 10, 1951

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Mr. Click Relander
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander,

A few days ago I was reading John Keast Lord's "The Naturalist in British Columbia" and in Vol. 2, page 105 I found the following sentences regarding the Pelouse Indians; "The Pelouse Indians were at one time numerous, predatory, and always at war, but this once-dreaded tribe has dwindled away to a mere remnant.

Those that are left exist, rather than live, by fishing, shooting a few birds and trapping small animals that frequent the plains and streams adjacent to their village on the Pelouse. Their horses too have nearly all been taken from them, and the trails intersecting the hills are about the only records remaining of the herds of mustangs that once scrambled over their rocky slopes. Those of the Pelouse Indians I saw were fine athletic men for savages, but dirty, idle, and greedy to an unusual degree. Their canoes are clumsily dug out, and their lodges are made of rush and bark mats."

This was in 1859 when Lord then attached to the British Boundary Commission was on his way from Walla Walla to Colville. You may

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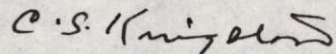
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only Saleeshan Indians.

With best wishes I remain.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. S. Kingston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

C. S. Kingston

ams

Eastern Washington College of Education

Cheney, Washington

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June 3, 1952

Mr. Click Relander
Route 3 Box 149
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

I was greatly interested in your manuscript--in fact I practically read it all through at a single sitting. I certainly think you have something in the book that you have planned.

I read the manuscript over twice. The first time because of the very general interest which grew upon me as I read page after page. The second time I read it with two purposes in mind: First, to make more clear for the ordinary reader some statements and some sentences. Second, to call your attention to errors of fact, or if not errors of fact, possibilities in the way of a different interpretation of some matters.

The restatements are all written between the lines or on the margins. The corrections and reinterpretations will be found in the following paragraph.

WALLULA: You mention the toughs terrorizing the town. I doubt if Wallula had more bad men than did the other towns of the time. The Walla Walla Statesman of the 1860's carried nearly every week a letter from Wallula, and there are few items dealing with crimes and criminals. It was a busy place, and closely connected with Walla Walla in matters of business and travel.

As a newspaper man you know that crime makes news, and the ordinary routine affairs of peaceful life deserve little space in our papers. Well, the stories that come down to us from the early days that have to do with crime get more attention both in the books and in the narratives of pioneers than do the ordinary pursuits of civilian life. There is likely to be more accent on the transgressor than on the ordinary inhabitant.

AINSWORTH: Francis Cook, who published the first paper at Spokane, visited Ainsworth and printed his impressions of the town in July, 1881: "It is a very small place with a great name, disagreeably sandwiched between the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

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AINSWORTH: "This town can boast of a few of the best people, the largest number of bad men and women, and the greatest amount of sin, dust and general disagreeableness, of any place of its size on the coast." It seems to me that our pioneer editors account corroborates your description very closely.

GUADQUIL RAPIDS: This point, 447 miles from the mouth of the Columbia is described as the place where the old road from Colville to Fort Walla Walla crossed the river. But this is not possible, because the Colville road went pretty nearly straight north from the Snake River (mouth of the Palouse) to the Spokane, and crossed it about 22 miles below the site of the city. The Guadquil Rapids are nearly a hundred miles west of the old Colville Military Road.

INDIANS IN THE: I believe that the tendency has been to exaggerate the number that fought Steptoe at
STEPTOE BATTLE Rosalia, and also, the number that fought Wright at Four Lakes and Spokane Plains.

In 1857 Governor Stevens reported to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on the Indian population of the various tribes in the Northwest. He estimated the Spokanes had 1100, the Coeur d'Alenes had 450, and the Palouses had 600. This would give a total population of, or at least an estimated population of 2150. I think they could not raise nearly a thousand warriors from the three confederated tribes. I know that there were some Yakima Indians and probably a few from other sources, but I would guess that the highest possible number would not have been greater than six or seven hundred.

HORSES KILLED: If all the 800 horses killed were the property of the Palouse chief, Til-Co-ax, the Spokane Indians would have escaped the destruction of their own bands of ponies. But for years afterwards there were Spokane Indians who explained their poverty by telling how Wright had killed all their horses. It is probable that the Spokanes did not have as many as the Palouse Indians, but they certainly had some, and these represented an important asset to them.

BEALL THE: It was not Bell, but Beall, who executed certain
HANGMAN captive Indians taken by Col. Wright. Beall is

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BEALL THE: said to be the final survivor of Wright's
HANGMAN expeditionary force.

A WHEAT FIELD

FIVE MILES LONG: I understand that this wheat field was north of the Snake River, and I doubt very much if the statement represents the actual conditions of that time and place. The date given is 1869, but in the census of 1870 the total population of white people north of the Snake River in the wheat belt was about 120. These people were more interested in personal subsistence than in raising large quantities of grain for which at that time there was very little market.

LYONS FERRY: This was the first ferry on the river, and the territorial legislature granted ferry rights to Edward L. Massey in 1858. Between the time that Massey received the grant and the acquisition of the property by Lyons there were a number of successive owners of the property. Best known of these, the McWhirk Brothers.

I hope that these few notes may be of some assistance to you. You have my very best wishes for the successful publication of your book. I know that it contains a great deal of worthwhile information which you have gathered, and which, if you had not gathered, would have been entirely lost. I want to thank you for the good wishes which you extended to me in your recent letter of May 25. I cordially reciprocate your expressions of good will.

Most sincerely yours,

C. S. Kingston

C. S. Kingston

CSK:ams

Eastern Washington College of Education

Cheney, Washington

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June 3, 1952

Dear Mr. Relander:

After I wrote this letter I remembered the interview which W. P. Winans had with Kamiakin, and I was not sure that you had ever seen it so I am sending it to you in the nature of a postscript. The date of the interview is not given in the Winans manuscript, which has never been printed.

"....I was instructed by Col. Samuel Ross, superintendent of Indian Affairs, in November, 1870, to find Kamiakan, the ex-chief of the Yakimas, and endeavor to have him accept 20 bales or 600 blankets, his due under the treaty made in 1855 by Gen. I. I. Stevens. Having received the blankets and learning his location, I went with my interpreter to Rock Lake where Kamiakan with his immediate family then lived. I found his camp in the morning just after he had had his bath. I was invited into his lodge, and there stated the wishes of the United States Government to make good its promises and live up to the treaty as made by Gen. Stevens and as an evidence of it I had at his door a four horse load of blankets that I wished to deliver to him. He listened silently to all I had to say, and when he saw I had completed my statement he arose, standing erect, with his left arm extended, pointing with his right hand to the ragged sleeve of his grey woolen shirt, said: "See, I am a poor man, but too rich to receive anything from the United States." No persuasion on my part to influence him to change his mind had any effect.

Kamiakan felt and believed that he had been deceived and wronged by the United States, deserted by his own people, and wished no favors from either. About two years after this the settlers crowded around his camp, and although he had resided at Rock Lake for years, the filings on the land by the white men finally deprived him even of a camping place, on land the home of his father. He believing himself wronged by the United States, deserted by his people, robbed of his home by the settlers, died a few years afterward on the Palouse River, a broken-hearted man.

The blankets that were intended for him were hauled to Colville, and during the following winter were distributed to the destitute Indians by order of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

I closed out my business in Colville in 1873, moving to Walla Walla in the spring of 1874, where I have since resided."

Eastern Washington College of Education

Cheney, Washington

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July 14, 1952

Mr. Click Relander
Route 3, Box 146
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

I received the little book by McWhorter, titled "Tragedy of the Wahk-Shum," I know this is a collector's item, and I appreciate the kindness, both of you, and of Mr. Virgil McWhorter. It contains extremely interesting material.

We will be looking for the posthumous "Hear Me Oh My Chiefs," as the library has a standing order with the Caxton people for their books as they come from the press.

I think I would like to read the first and final chapters of "Drummers And Dreamers." I know these chapters will be interesting, and if I should run across anything which seems to me to deserve to be called to your attention, I will make the necessary notation.

Your projected work on geographic place names is a much needed field of research in this state. The Meany book is inadequate, and there are numerous errors, and a great number of omissions. Our neighbor state of Oregon has been fortunate in having McArthur, who has given so many years to compiling his "Oregon Geographic Names."

With best wishes for a pleasant vacation, I remain.

Very sincerely yours,

C. S. Kingston
C. S. Kingston

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