

3701 Commonwealth

Yakima, Wash. 98901

Barbara A. Ratcliff,
6006 60th Place NE,
Marysville, Wash., 98270

March 15

Dear Miss Ratcliff:

Regarding your letter of March 11, and the anecdote, I'm afraid I can't help you much. As you know, from looking over the McWhorter notes, most of them were just that "notes," and as I recall, he spoke sometimes in a "strange" tongue. And a "Catholic" would have NO characteristics of an Indian, unless it were the name and color, least of all a "medicine man." McWhorter and others of the period, without especial background on anthropology, as near as I can determine, referred to families as clans. A score of various families might have lived in that general area and those like McWhorter referred to them as the Ahtanum clan. This was neither true by linguistic stock or family.

As far as the Federal Records Center goes, I do not know how it operates. The government records were called in from various agencies by the government. They were not called in by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, per se and I would think it would be as open as the National Archives, since the records are theoretically on their way there. Some were called into the center at St. Louis or Salt Lake, I forget which it was. But if they wish a letter from the agency, this would mean from the superintendent. So I would write to Supt. William Schlich or Assistant Supt. Farney (that's a family name) Dunn, stating briefly you are doing such and such a study. Personally I don't believe the Yakima Agency has a thing to do with these type of records, but it may be they are doing this because of various claims cases still active. As I recall, Supt. Danny LeCrone sent the records in from the Yakima Agency, letter record books and the such, these being mostly letter record books "pressed copies."

Again, regarding Mann, have you thoroughly examined McWhorter's Discards? A little yellow pamphlet. There is a picture of Mann in it and he is quoted extensively. Much of Mann's ideology regarding the Bureau of Indian Affairs is expressed in his letters, therein, and also, your question about the anecdote may be answered there. It is too "vague" for me. If you are dealing with Mann and have not thoroughly studied the Crime Against the Yakimas and The Discards, look them over again.

A "discarded" headstone, with the name, Louis Mann on it was found not long ago along the Naches River and claimed by the family on the Yakima Reservation. It apparently had been stolen from the old cemetery below Union Gap. I'll look up info. on that when I get a chance and drop you the little information it contains.

Sincerely

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