

March 23, 1956

Mr. Robert Hitchman,
611 13th North, Seattle.

Dear Bob:

Knowing that you are up on the publication situation, I thought I'd drop a line about a manuscript.

I am hopeful of course that the University of Oklahoma Press might be in a situation to do something on it.

This is the Simcoe material that Dean Guie has worked on for so long. He has it wrapped up now, but you know how the situation goes with vanity publications.

It concerns the military era of Fort Simcoe and gives a fine background of the Virginians and others, carrying them through into the Civil War with their various widespread connections. It will run, I should say, around 50,000 words and there's a good selection of rare photographs.

Dean, as you may know, is the most exacting writer with whom I'm familiar and he does a good job of writing.

You know that Simcoe's Centennial comes up August 12, that there will be a steady area sale for the book around here for years, because nothing to that extent has ever been done on Simcoe, nor will anything else be done that treats it so accurately and thoroughly, without years of research. Besides that, I should think it would have a widespread appeal in Civil War circles. Dean feels much as I do about vanity houses. However, he'd be tempted to turn it out here at the Republic, but there's the problem of distribution.

I believe that there would be no doubt that local interests connected with Fort Simcoe would tie into an advance order, if there was a chance of getting the book out by August, and other forces would devote extensive promotion to the publication. But it is certainly far more than a "local interest" matter.

Dean hasn't asked me to do anything about this, but I don't think he realizes that the publication business has changed since his earlier issued material on Yellowstone, Indian Legends of the Yakimas etc.

If you have any particular thoughts as to someone who would give it a quick look-see for possibilities, bearing out what I have said, I'm sure they would be interested. I know what he will bump into when he starts making connections--long delays, publication costs etc.

Meanwhile I'm looking forward to seeing you at Tacoma, providing the big snow melt doesn't come on about then and keep me on my job here at home.

Sincere Regards

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