

## Background:

The outset of the Yakima Indian war, 111 years ago,

The one thing which has survived till it has become a legend, that a mountain howitzer was cached in the Simcoe mountains, south of Fort Simcoe, has been seen there by Indians and still remains, hidden.

This has led detachments of CHAOS (Cannon Hunters Association of Seattle) on investigative searches.

The ~~interviewed~~ interviewed:

Vic Hurley ~~of Yakima~~, holder of a CHAOS card, Yakima search unit, board member, Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society.

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Retired ~~lieutenant~~ naval lieutenant commander, author of five books, editor of ~~many~~ others, University of Washington background, sprinter 00 there, undefeated in 100 and 220 on Pacific Coast.

Doesn't want to destroy any legend but to give to ~~Fort Simcoe~~ the Fort Simcoe an even richer background of history.

The setting:

~~The~~ Indians of the interior had been compelled to sign a treaty by which they 00 retained ~~the Yakima Reservation land~~ now the Yakima Reservation, concluded June 9 at Walla Walla, but or ratified by the U.S. Senate before it was made good miners and others came into the Indian country.

A.J. Bolon, an Indian agent was killed by Indians.

Maj. Granville O. Haller, stationed at ~~the Dalles~~ Ft. Dalles, set out with 102 Fourth Infantry and as he descended to Toppenish Creek, four miles southwest of present Simcoe, Oct. 6, 1855, the soldiers ~~encountered~~ encountered a large force of warriors, and action began. Lt. Gracie threw a few spherical case shot into the brush and alarmed the attackers.

The battle continued three days, the soldiers being forced to retreat toward the Dalles with a loss of 5 killed and 17 wounded, two of the wounded dying later.

On the third day Haller wrote in an official report:

"I learnt here that the howitzer carriage had become unseviceable and could not be pulled further so had been abandoned, but the piece itself was packed and brought up...for six or eight miles the enemy attacked us with great spirit and a running fire was kept up. On the march, the mule carrying the howitzer was much distressed from want of food and its heavy weight, and gave signs of failing. The saddle too turned and it was with great difficulty brought on. Seeing a cluster of bushes near at hand I gave the order to cache it..."

The next summer Col. George Wright, who eventually brought the Indians to terms, mentioned incidentally in a report the recovery of the howitzer. But stories that have persisted ever since that it has been seen by shepherders, cowboys, and Indians,

~~In November~~ On Nov. 16, on expedition into Yakima country commanded by Maj. ~~Gooden~~ Gabriel Rains, Haller wrote of "reaching the field of Oct. 7" and ~~finding~~ "we found the bodies disturbed. The next day" and revisiting the battle field, the remains were found and after collecting the skulls and spinal columns and some bones ~~I returned and~~ (was given) directions to bury them with funeral honors. They were interred just at twilight and Maj. Rains read the burial services when the escort fired three volleys over the graves."

But ~~Haller~~ and the Haller journal is not complete and no reference is made of the cached howitzer, on the return trip to the Dalles.



Now, after extensive research by the archives ~~dept~~ unit of CHAOS and the Fort Mool Mool at Simcoe Restoration Society, we are able to produce evidence sufficient normally to lay at rest the ghost of Major Haller's howitzer.

Haller was left in the Kittitas Valley with a detachment of troops ~~was~~ while Col. Wright went southward with ~~Genl.~~ Maj. Robert Selden Garnett to Simcoe Valley where Garnett began construction of Fort Simcoe, brush huts that first fall

Haller wrote on Aug. 8. "Fathe Pandoza (Pandozy) came early to tell that the Indians who had gone to show where the howitzer was cached returned last night about 11 o'clock and told him that they, after two days ~~search~~ search

Haller wrote, Aug. 4

"Privates Duros and Black returned from Col. Wright's camp on the Hopinish. They had been sent by men on the 1st instant with an infian who had been told where he would find the howitzer which had been cached by one of Kamiaken's men, if we would show him the place we had dropped it, he could show how where it was subsequently carried and buried, and I was anxious to secure it.

"I sent a noe to Col. Steptoe for a mule and the howitzer pack saddle to be loaned me in order to bring it to his fort, but his orders to move prevented it so he sent my note to Lt. Piper and asked him to do it. But the colonel was about to move and Alex McKay ~~knew~~ knew the stream and the place where we found the stick and rag. He kept the Indian with him and directed the men to return to their company. I am sorry men men were not permitted to recover it, it was in my charge when it was lost.

And on Aug. 8, 1856

"Father Pandoza came early to tell that the Indians who had gone to show where the Howitzer was cached returned last night about 11 o'clock and told him that they, after two days search had recovered the howitzer. That Col. Wright and many troops had gone to the Dalles.

On Aug. 9 he wrote, ~~advised~~ of letters acknowledging receipt of his report from the Kittitas, and the recovery of the howitzer.

On Aug. 18 he wrote, from the Kittitas, of meeting with Indians, Father Pandosy and "the Indian who showed us the howitzer."

These documented findings are proof enough to us that ~~there~~  
~~is no~~

Haller's mountain howitzer is not still hidden in the Simcoe mountains.

The wreck of the old gun carriage may have been seen by the sheepherders or Indians and mistaken for the gun.

Or, the Hudson's Bay trappers who crossed the Simcoes many years before, before the Yakimas drove them from the ~~country~~ interior, ~~may~~ might have cached some old cannon, but that ~~xxx~~ would ~~be~~ doubtful. Yet the remote possibility is enough to keep members of CHAOS alert



[18705]  
Report of Sec. of War,  
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## The Command Divided

The governor and myself, at this point, held very satisfactory councils with the Indians, and everything proved so peaceful and satisfactory, that I concluded not to take the entire force any farther. I was the more inclined to this from the conformation of the country. An enormous mass of jagged mountains rises up to obstruct the way, and juts down to the edge of the Columbia.

There were old Indian trails over this range and out along the river, but recent earthquakes ~~had~~ had broken up and destroyed them, so that we were forced to cross the Columbia at this point.

### Difficulty of Crossing Mounted Troops over the Columbia

We had never been able to train our American horses that they will swim the rivers with willingness or ease. After much hard work, Colonel Forsyth succeeded in crossing Harris's and Bendire's companies, with the necessary pack-trains, while Major Green was instructed to remain a few days, reconnoiter the Wenatchie with a few to its claim for a new post, and then return with the four companies to resume command of the camp at Kittitass.

### Farther Up the Columbia

We now proceeded up the Columbia, encamping for a short time in the vicinity of Chelan, so as to enable Governor Ferry and myself to cross over and take a look at the Indians and the lake in that vicinity.

A remarkably peaceful old Indian chief, En-e-mo-see-chi, resides here. He became a most friendly interpreter and guide for us ever after.

### Lake Chelan

The lake is some 50 or 60 miles long, apparently not more than 3 miles broad at its widest. It stretches back among the mountains, leaving very little land sufficiently level for habitation along its shores. It emerges into the Columbia through a narrow outlet about a mile in length, with a flow of continuous rapids and occasional falls. The mountains enfironing



The Command divided  
The governor and myself, at this point, held a very satisfactory council across to the Kittitas Camp. As soon as this work had been accomplished with the Indians, and everything proved so peaceful and satisfactory, that he moved his company to Kittitas.

#### Apprehensions at Yakima City

With Governor Ferry I visited Yakima City, where he explained the purposes of the government, and succeeded in allaying the apprehension of the people on the subject of their future protection. The murderers of the Perkins family were already here in the jail, and warrants were out for Smololla and some others supposed to be accessories & after the fact. The indictment against Moses on the same charge was still pending. The majority of the people assured the governor that the settlement proposed would be satisfactory to them, provided the troops were so located as to relieve them from constant danger.

#### The Reconnaissance to Lake Chelan and Vicinity

We proceeded to Kittitas and took the six companies of cavalry for the expedition, leaving Captain Jackson in charge of the camp, with a detail of cavalry and the company of infantry soon to arrive from

Priests' Rapids.

#### Wenatchie

We reached Wenatchie on the 27th of May, in three marches from Kittitas. A range of mountains lies between, and had to be crossed by the way of Cook's canon. The first day out the trails were almost impassable, the pack mules wallowing to their bellies in the mire. We encountered a fearful snow and hail storm, the snow continuing on the ground till the next day. After passing the mountains along the river valley, which is quite narrow, the weather became very warm, and the ground was dry and hard.

#### Council at Miller's Store

Chief Moses and a large number of tribes of Indians, by their chiefs as representatives, met us at Miller's Store, the only place inhabited near the mouth of the Wenatchie.



approves my request to you to accompany me, He thinks it is the best thing possible."

#### Expedition Organized

Under the circumstances, I deemed it best to arrange an expedition which would subservethree purposes: one to relieve the community of anxiety, another to further the wishes of the Interior Department as expressed by Governor Ferry and a third to reconnoiter the whole country in the valley of the Upper Columbia and contiguous thereto, with a view of securing some permanent protection to peaceably-disposed Indians and settlers by the location of a new post.

#### Necessity for a New Post Near the New Reservation

In fact, a new post between the whites and the Indians appears to have been a part of the settlement itself, wherein Chief Moses agreed to give up all his claims south and east of the Columbia, and ~~move~~ move to the enlarged Colville Reservation.

#### The Expedition Starts

On the 4th of May Governor Ferry and myself started northward. The Umatilla chiefs went to their homes. Chief Moses and his nephew accompanied us as far as Priests' Rapids. Here we allowed him to visit his people near Moses' Lake, under promise to meet us on a certain day near the mouth of the Wenatchee River.

For the expedition, Lieut. Col. Forsyth, 1st Cav, took Harris' and Bendire's companies from Fort Walla Walla and proceeded via Priests' Rapids, to join the four companies already mentioned at Kittitas. The latter were under the command of Maj. John Green, of the 1st Cav.

#### Temporary Camp at Priests' Rapids

During the absence of its officers, Lieutenant Eltonhead has been commanding Captain Burton's company, of the 21st Inf. He was first assigned to guard the temporary depot at Priests' Rapids, and open the new road



taking in the whole, the declaration excluding a portion because it was already given to the North Pacific Railroad Company. The officials of that company, however, agreed to restore the portion north and east of Lake Chelan, as it would never be used by the company. At any rate, the map from the Indian office and the affidavit of Captain Boyle as to the actual agreement between Moses and the Secretary of the Interior do promise to set apart the entire tract from the Okanagon River to Lake Chelan.

Governor Ferry Requests the Department Commander and Troops to Accompany Him in Locating the Moses Indians.

In view of the perplexities of the situation, Governor Ferry, of Washington Territory, sent me the following dispatch: Olympia, April 26, 1879.

General Howard:

Secretary Schurz directs me to communicate with General Howard at once to prepare for the removal of Moses unbound to the enlarged Colville Reservation. Secretary evidently thinks that a military force is necessary for the protection of Moses when he returns and while he is en route to the new reservation. I will go with Moses to Yakima, and if necessary, to the new reservation and may want a military escort, say from Goldendale, for his protection. Will you go also?

FERRY, Governor.

To this dispatch I replied as follows:

Vancouver Barracks, April 26, 1879.

Governor Ferry, Olympia:

I will have the necessary force ready at Wallula, and will go with you if you desire it. Can go better from Wallula than through Goldendale. The force at Fort Simcoe has already gone on to Ellensburg.

HOWARD,

Commanding Department

I subsequently received a letter from him dated April 30, to the same purport, in which he says: "The Secretary of the Interior strongly



## Threats Made Against the Umatilla Indians

There were a few disturbances occasioned by some kind of organization among the whites when a purpose was declared to kill Indians found off the reservation and disarm these within its limits.

A small guard Sent to Umatilla Agency and an Officer Detailed to Accompany the Indian Delegation

There was also quite extensive robbing, quite large bands of Indian horses being seized and driven off. Captain Boyle, of the Twenty-first Infantry, who once had acted as Indian agent for the Umatillas, was detailed to accompany the delegation; Lieutenant Farrow, of the Twenty-first Infantry, with a few men, was sent to the agency to keep the peace. These several measures kept everything quiet.

### Indian Delegation Returns--Results

The chiefs returned. The settlement accomplished had, as a result, a good influence in establishing a more permanent peace.

The Reservation for Moses' Indians and Others on the Upper Columbia

The Colville Reservation lies between the Columbia and Okanagon Rivers, thought the Colville Indians proper have never gone upon the reserve; though a few tribes, nominally under the same agency, are on or near the reservation. Moses declared to me that he would be satisfied with the same territory, and if it could be extended to the Methow River he believed that he could get all the Indians who seemed to have made common cause with him go upon it; so I understood him before setting out for Washington.

### Discrepancy Between the Map of the Reservation and the Declaration

On his return he showed a map and a declaration setting apart for him and his people, ~~xxxx~~ and such other Indians as should choose to go with him, a territory called "Moses Reservation." It extends from the Colville Reserve to Lake Chelan.

There was a disagreement between the map and declaration-- the map



early in the spring, placing the camp in the Kittitas valley, near the headwaters of the Yakima River.

#### Umatilla Murderers Arrested and Tried by the Civil Authorities

It will be remembered that I recommended that a few leaders of the Piutes and Bannocks, the principal ones being already killed, be surrendered to the civil authorities for punishment. This was really done in Umatilla County, Oregon. Several were tried for murder, found guilty, and executed.

I made simply such disposition of the troops as would prevent an outbreak. The middle of last November all the companies detained in the vicinity of the Umatilla Reservation were sent to the posts where they belonged. Near the time of the execution two companies proceeded from Fort Walla Walla to the neighborhood of Pendleton, where the execution took place, remained a few days, and then returned.

#### Umatilla Chiefs Ordered to Washington

In consequence of the divisions among the Umatillas, ~~some~~ some having been friendly and helping, while others were hostile and engaged in war and murder during the Bannock outbreak, it was thought best by the Interior Department to send the chiefs to Washington for consultation. Agent Cornoyer, of the Umatilla Agency, was to take this delegation.

#### Chief Moses Added to the Delegation

To this was added Chief Moses and a number of his tribe. After the delegation was prepared to leave this department for the East, two requisitions were made upon me—one to send an officer with the Indians to Washington, and the other to place an officer and small force at the Umatilla Agency during the absence of the chiefs; the former to give confidence to Moses and some other Indians that they would have a safe journey and return, and the latter to aid the acting Indian agent in preserving the peace.



### Prisoners at Vancouver to be sent to Yakima

In consequence of their good conduct since they have been here the government has determined to send these prisoners also to Yakima, whither they will be escorted in a few days by sufficient guard.

### The Removal from Fort Harney to Yakima Agency

The removal of some 600 prisoners, composed of men, women, and children, over the mountain roads, in winter, from Harney to Simcoe, was a difficult and trying operation, and very costly. Capt. W. H. Winters, 1st Cav., who had charge of the work, exercised the greatest care. By short marches and the use of abundant transportation, he succeeded in taking them through with an escort of two companies of cavalry, with but small loss of life, two adults, who were already ill, and three children perishing on the journey. He made the transfer to Agent Wilbur, at Fort Simcoe, February 10, 1879.

### Indians of the Upper Columbia

During the fall and early part of the winter the Indians of the Upper Columbia that have never been connected with any reservation, or who have wandered away from different agencies and become nomadic, became involved in troubles with the white people of Yakima county and vicinity. The details are already known to you and need not be repeated here.

### Arrest of Chief Moses and Others (p 150)

They resulted in the capture of the principal chief of these Indians, usually called Chief Moses. He was held as prisoner for some time at Yakima City and Fort Simcoe. Some few of the Indians came upon the reservation, but the majority showed symptoms of increased restlessness and hostility.

### Requisition for Troops for Yakima Reservation

The threatenings resulting on the part of the whites and Indians, and also a formal requisition of Agent Wilbur for the presence of troops, determined me to retain the two escort companies temporarily in the Yakima valley, and add to them two more from Fort Walla Walla. This was done



Captain Boyle, Twenty-first Infantry, Sent After Them

Captain Boyle, Twenty-first Infantry, was sent with his company to capture this band and bring the principal men to his post at Vancouver. He did this work admirably.

Brings Hiackeney and Other Chiefs to Vancouver.

He set out November 21 and returned the 25th, bringing Hiackeney and seven men.

Sends the Rest of the Band to Warm Springs Agency

He sent Lieutenant Shofner, Twenty-first Infantry, with a small escort, to take the rest of the band to the Warm Springs Indian Agency. The Indian prisoners were kept at Vancouver Barracks till the arrival of the other prisoners of war from Harney, when they were sent to the Yakima Agency and transferred to Agent Wilbur.

Removal of the Bannock and Piute Prisoners from Fort Harney

The 28th of November I received telegraphic instructions to remove the Bannock and Piute prisoners (then under guard at Fort Harney) a distance of about 350 miles to the Yakima Reservation. I was to detain from them as prisoners a number of the worst.

The winter was already upon us before the execution of the order could be accomplished.

Escape of Prisoners from Fort Harney

Just before its receipt several of these prisoners escaped from Harney; the troops were sent in pursuit both in this department and in the Department of California, and they were finally captured—a part near Fort Bidwell and a part near the Klamath Agency. These Indians were sent to the headquarters via Klamath. Those selected from Harney for detention and these from Klamath, captured, I have kept at Vancouver Barracks constantly employed at hard labor.



STEPTOE WRIGHT -

By 1856 the whirling ~~ward~~ Indian wars were beginning to emesh the people east of the Columbia.

Lt. Col. E.J. Steptoe ~~went to~~ coming from the Natches country in the Yakima with three companies of men built Fort Walla Walla ~~which had been previously the establishment of the Hudson's Bay company at the mouth of the Walla Walla river. It was made of mud. But by now the Indians were confident of the intentions of the whites..to wipe them out. Steptoe, writing from Fort Walla Walla on April 17, 1858 told of increasing excitement among the Pelouse, Spokan and Spokane Indians and said an expedition to the north was advisable. He further reported that forty persons at Colville had petitioned for troops because of Indian hostilities. Two men were killed near the Palouse river and on their way to Colville and Steptoe said an Indian gave him the names of the~~



guns

Captain of Ordnance Kress, Vancouver Arsenal to Governor E.P.  
Ferry, Olympia, July 1, 1870, ~~the~~ telegram in Secretary of State  
archives, Olympia, Indian War commister "...have issued arms and  
ammunition to Yakima, Klickitat and Stevens counties. Six hundred  
rifles, thirty thousand cartridges.