

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 3d 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner: Sir.

543 Snake and Piute Indians arrived yesterday without official notice of their coming in a destitute condition, nearly naked. Something must be done immediately to ~~fix~~ feed and clothe them. Answer by telegram.

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

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Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 6, 1878

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to report the arrival of Captain W.W. Winters 1st cavalry with the Snake prisoners and the Piutes, five hundred and forty three. Seeing ~~to~~ they were on the road to this agency and having no instructions from the Department that it was the design to remove them here, I took my head chief, interpreter and one police man and went out 60 miles to meet them and then for the first time learning from the captain's papers the orders and destination of said Indians they arrived 30 miles below the station on the evening of the 2d. The captain desired to turn them over to me at once, but being wholly unprepared to receive and take care of them I agreed to receive them on the 10th at his camp. I immediately returned home, selecting a place for their temporary location, engaged eight Indians men with their teams to go the next day to the ~~saw~~ steam saw mill and get lumber to build a shelter. The lumber was drawn on the 4th and on the 5th I put men to work building their houses and they completed a house in one day of 150 feet long and 17 feet wide which will give them comfortable quarters during the winter. It affords me pleasure to say the Indians of the

agency did not revolt but took hold with a will to help locate and make them comfortable, hauling the lumber and wood without charge. On the 8th I go down to the camp on Topnish where the 2 companies of soldiers are with 18 or 20 Indian teams and wagons to receive the Indians and move them within six miles of the station where I can exercise a personal supervision over them and if possible open a school. I gave you a telegram sent two days ago some account of their destitute and immediate wants which I doubt not you will take immediate measure to relieve.

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Sagah Winnemucca came in with the soldiers as their interpreter receiving a salary of five hundred dollars per annum. I must keep her for a time at least as interpreter and if I can open a school may use her as a teacher and interpreter. I must feel my way along among the Snakes until I get to know them.

The teamsters and Indian teams that I employ in moving said Indians I shall have to pay about five dollars per team.

As soon as I get them settled my possible plan is to put as many to work as possible, that they may have the double advantage of experience in work and pay for the same.

I am etc.

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Office, Yakima Indian agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 20th 1879

Gen. O.O. Howard, Commander of the Department of the Columbia.

Sir:

I have the honor to request the two companies of cavalry now in camp on the Topnish upon the Yakima agency, W.T. may be ordered to remain on, or about the reservation until the Snakes and Putes become permanently settled on the reservation and until Chief Moses and his people are settled on some agency.

Moses

I deem the presence of the soldiers at this particular time

important as keeping peace between the whites and the Indians.

I am sir, etc.

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Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 24th 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that with the addition of the Snake, Piute and Spokalla Indians that have recently been moved to this agency it became necessary for me to make a purchase of flour. I purchased three tons of sugarwith the privilege of three tons more at Six 50 dollars per bbl. also fifty bbls of P.T. Gervis at the same place. The purchase was made in open market at the cash price and since the purchase was made, flour has advanced one dollar per bbl. I respectfully...

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Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe W.T. Feb 26, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that we are getting out of supplies for our schools, shops, mills and hospital. I am pleased to say we have funds on hand to make purchases to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars. I ask permission to purchase such things as we are under the necessity of having immediately, in open market,

I am sir, etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency,

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 28th 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, Commissioner.

Sir:

I have the honor to ~~isssd~~ submit my report for this month.

On the 2d of the month Captain Winters of the 1st Cavalry arrived with the Snake and Piute Indians on the lower part of the reservation, wishing me to take immediate charge of them. I received them on the 10th and moved them within six miles of the station where I have been on taking care of them, issuing daily rations. On the night of the 10th we had a very heavy fall of snow and it continued for 36 hours and covered the valley with about three feet of snow. The providing for the cattle and horses of the agency with the Indians above named took all the men I... p. 122 lay under construction. The snow lasted two weeks and then went off rapidly raising the ^{eighteen} streams of the agency higher than I have known them in ~~nineteen~~ years. By putting men at the water mills and cutting a channel above the dams so as to let a flood of water out of the streams we saved the dams and mills. Our bridges were washed away and great danger was done to our roads. With constant effort we saved our stock. I had laid up straw for three years and gave the Indians who were not provided with pay, free access to the straw stacks which saved their stock with but little loss. The two companies of cavalry that brought in the Snake and Piute Indians are here at the station. I requested Gen. O.O. Howard to order them kept on, or about the reservation until the Snake & Piute Indians with Chief Moses people and the Shosholla bands were permanently settled upon the agency. This order has been given. page 123

After receiving your telegram to send Moses to Washington with Agent Conroyer from the Unatilla agency, I allowed Moses to return to his people with a promise that he would be back in thirty days

and sooner if I sent for him to go to Washington. He seemed pleased to go and I think will keep his promise and bring his people to this agency. This he has most faithfully promised to do and I was persuaded I could not get him and his people here without allowing him this privilege. I shall send out my interpreter and one of my reliable men in two days to have him return and then I shall know whether he keeps good faith or whether there is trouble in having him and his people settle according to promise.

The water is subsiding--the snow is gone through the valley--the ground in some places is getting dry enough to plow new lands and our Indian men are making fence and some of them plowing

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the work of this agency is going fine, as well as could be expected with the pressure we have had with snow and water.

I remain, Sir, etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency.
 Ft. Simcoe, W.T. March 5, 1879
 Gen. O.O. Howard,
 Brigadier Gen. Comdg. Dept.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter of Feb. 26th relating to the preamer leader Oites and the Indian prisoners claiming that a mistake had been made in selecting the selection of the bad Indians. I have no information in regard to the bad, and but little in reference to the good in the past. I have consulted Capt. Winters and he informs me that he sees no reason to change his mind from what he explained to you when at the Dalles when the prisoners were turned over to you.

I am sir, etc.

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Office Yakima Indian Agency
 Ft. Simcoe, W.T. March 7th 1879
 Capt. John Smith, U.S. Indian Agent.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter with you one you recd from Gen. O.O. Howard. Gen request that Hey-ha-ny and Walsack may be permitted to return to the Warm Springs Agency. I have no objections and you may take your own course in getting them there.

I am sir,

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe, Wash Ter. March 7, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

I have the honor to ask the approval of Rufus Butler, temporarily employed in wagon shop at \$600 per annum from Jan. 1, 1879 also Thomas McKay temporarily employed in butchering and issuing to Piutes and Snakes, recently brought onto the reservation, salary \$600 from Feb. 10, 1879.

I am your obdt. servant

James H. Wilbur,

U.S. Ind. Agent.

Office Yakima Indian Agency,

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. March 7, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to request permission to purchase from one to two hundred bushels of potatoes for Ind. The addition of Indians added to this agency makes our seed short for planting. The potatoes would cost about one dollar per bushel and if purchased in season for planting the purchase must be made in open market, I am etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. March 8, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to call your attention to a letter I wrote Feb. 6th in which I stated that Sarah Winnemucca came in with the soldiers who brought the Snakes and Piute prisoners as interpreter receiving a salary of five hundred dollars per annum and that I must keep her for a time until I became acquainted with the Snakes. I request she may be appointed interpreter at a salary of five hundred dollars per annum, services beginning Feb. 10th 1879. Please do me the favor of answering immediately.

Wilbur Letters.

Repository: Agency, Toppenish.

p. 135 1879-80 volume.

Typed by:

Click Relander 3/3/53

Subject: Sarah Winnemucca¹
Piutes

Office, Yakima Indian Agency,
Fort Simcoe, W.T., March 18, 1879.

Hon E.A. H---?(commissioner)

Commissioner:

I have the honor to call your attention to a letter I wrote Feb. 6 in which I stated that Sarah Winnemucca came in with the soldiers who brought the Snake Piute prisoners as interpreter, receiving a salary of \$500 per annum and that I must keep her a time until I become acquainted with the Snakes.

I request she may be appointed interpreter at a salary of \$500 per annum--services beginning February 10, 1879. Please do me the favor to inform me immediately.

I am, Your

Obedient Servant

James Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent

IN: WENNA (FOLF SIMCOE

ATIPAL JEFFERS

Wilbur Letters

Repository: Agency, Toppenish

p. 147 1879-80 volume

Researcher and

Typist

Click Relander 3/3/53

Subject: Snowhala

Office, Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, March 15, 1879.

Gen. O.O. Howard commander
Department of the ~~Admitted~~ Columbia

(ft. vancouver)

Sir:

I sent out by Captain Winters one of the Snowhala Indians to be taken to Vancouver. He has been all winter sowing seeds of discord among the Indians urging them not to remain on the reservation. I want him kept while Moses is gone to Washington. His name is Ha-ah-Saousin (Saousin not to definite) and then we can determine what disposition is to be made of him.

I am sir, your obedient
servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. March 24, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, sir:

I have the honor herewith to submit an estimate for supplies for the Indians recently brought to this agency from the Malheur agency and turned over to me on the 10th day of February 1879. They were turned over in the most destitute condition of any Indians I have ever known in this or any other country. Some of them are literally naked. I have made up the estimate from the time they were turned over 10th of Feb. to the first day of July the things asked are ~~indian~~ needed today to make them anyway comfortable and to wait to advertise, purchase, ship and transport said supplies to this agency would leave them in this destitute condition to the end of this fiscal year p 155

I ask permission to purchase said supplies in open market and request said permission may be given me at once by telegram.

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. March 28, 1879

Captain John Smith, U.S. Indian Agent.

Sir:

Two of your Indians from Warm Springs Agency have just come here to the office and informed me there is trouble with High-ne-a^h and Skimiah. High-ne-ah had the choice of living upon this agency. It seems to me there is no need of trouble. When you requested him to come to your agency and I gave my consent and it was satisfactory to him and the agent. I had no objection.

I think he should be allowed to come here with his wife and family.

Yours truly, James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Wilbur Letters

Repository: Agency, Toppenish

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Researcher and typist:

Click Relander 3/3/53

Subject Piutes

Office Yakima Agency

March 31, 1879

Gen. O.O. Howard

Commander, Dept of Columbia

Sir:

I have the honor on the 20th of Feb. to request you to order the two companies of cavalry then in camp on the Toppenish to remain on or about the reservation until the Snake and Piute Indians became permanently settled and until Chief Moses and his people were settled upon said agency.

The inclemency of the weather rendered the companies in camp very uncomfortable. The command has moved with my consent to the station and here remained during the inclement season.

The snow is gone, the weather is warm and the ground is becoming dry so the command need be quiet comfortable in camp as here at the station and if moved would especially accommodate our service as I want the places occupied by the soldiers for the employes of the agency. Will you please give us the room at your earliest convenience.

I am sir, your obedient
servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Port Simcoe, W.T. March 31 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report of the month of March, 1879. Up to the middle of the month the snow and high water prevented us working. Since that time I have had the Department teams and many of the Indians with their teams plowing and hay mowing. We have put in for the Department 35 acres of wheat, 20 acres of oats and 37 acres of barley.

The Indians from the Malheur agency that were brought here as prisoners last Feb. have been put to work grubbing out the brush and have cleared at least 30 acres of land which has been plowed and seeded in wheat for them. At first they manifested an unfriendly attitude to work p 161

I told them if they did not work I should not give them rations. After discussing the matter for 24 hours, they decided to work. There was a general fair delivery from their camp. Old and Young, the head men and women with their children were in the field ^{doing} the work I assigned them. Some were driving teams. Some holding plow, some grubbing and others picking up and ~~carrying~~ ^{carrying} off the brush. I have had of them, from one to two hundred head in the field at the same time. To make them thrifty in their work and to make work honorable I have been in the field with them every day for the last fifteen days. When their wheat is sown I shall put them to clearing and for corn and potatoes if the season is good. I hope with the help we are giving them and the constant supervision over them to raise enough for their subsistence with the exception of their beef which the department can supply from the natural ^{increase} of our stock. I have arranged to open a school ~~in the~~ about six miles from the ~~reservation~~ ^{reservation} station where I design to use

Sarah Winnemucky who is interpreter for us to them and to use her in a two-fold capacity, interpreter and teacher. She is quite well educated and with George Waters in the school room with her I think we can make a success.

The farming interest among the Indians of the agency is above anything we have had in the past. The Indians of this agency have learned that land cultivated is a great deal more productive than digging roots and going on the chase or going to their fisheries. I am by every possible influence I can command endeavoring upon them putting them to cultivate the soil.

The school and shops are quite as thrifty as in the past p 162

The Indians from Rock Creek on the Columbia river who have recently moved to the agency are farming. Some of the Smohalla band are putting in a crop.

The mark to which I am working is to get all the Indians of the agency self supporting. I believe with a steady hand and a little help in giving them a start with seed, tools and stock that in three years they may be made to take care of themselves.

Woodchuck There are no signs of war on the North side of the Columbia and if the whites can be kept from breaking out I think we shall have a summer of quite.

I am sir etc.

Office Yakima Ind Agency, Fort Simcoe Wash. Ter. Mch. 31, 1879

Hon B.A. Hayt, com is a lover: Sir:

I have the honor to request the authority be granted for the payment of the following named persons the amounts annexed to their names for plowing and seeding, said payment to be made out of the "Civilization Fund."

Sam \$15; Dave Wattamet, \$21; Charles Scumit, \$21; Polix \$18; John Sampson \$27; Peter Reuben \$9; Andrew \$18; Shepherd \$24; Steven \$27; Wilbur Spencer \$9; Topenish George \$8 p 166 Mantuse \$6; Hehenqh's brother, \$3; Albert \$39; Tenasha \$6; William Olney \$21; Watson \$15; Honor James \$6; Charley Blinn \$9; Heheniah \$27; John Lumly \$9.

The service was rendered imperative by the arrival of new bands of Indians for whose subsistence next year it was necessary to provide.

Very respectfully your obedient servant etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. April 9, 1879

Capt. J.A. Ainsworth, Portland, Ore.

There were 3 boxes of medical supplies shipped us from San Francisco per Str. Idaho on the 20th of Dec. 1878 and consigned to Peter Nelson, Dalles, Oregon. There has nothing been heard of them since the shipment.

Please make inquiry for the goods and if in Portland, please forward.

Very respectfully, etc.

Office Yakima Ind. Agency, Ft. Simcoe, Wash. T, No. 31, 1879

Hon E.A. Mayt, commissioner:

I hereby request authority for the payment to the following named per the amounts annexed to their names for transportation of Piutes and for hauling wood, lumber etc. said payments to be made on the "Civilization Fund."

Charley 4 1/2 days at \$3, \$15.

Hoptowit 6 days at \$3 \$18

Edward 6 days at \$3, \$18; Homer James 3 days at \$3, \$9;

Peor, 3 days at \$3 \$9; Joe Stwire 3 days at \$3 9; Pack with

?? \$5, \$5; Thomas Cree 6 days at \$3; Peter Klickitat 3 days at

\$3; Yesnowit 3 days at \$3; Jno Lantry 3 days at \$3; Billy Antanum 2 days at \$3; Chillons 3 days at \$3 p 169

Stick Joe 2 days at \$3; George Boone 4 hours 2 days at \$5;

Jim Sattas 1 1/2 days at \$3; Dewy Sattas 1 1/2 days at \$3; Abraham

2 days at \$3; Peter Reuben 2 days at \$3; Charley Mann 2 days at \$3;

Tom 3 days at \$3; Little Henry 2 days at \$3; Snelling Peter 2 days at 3; Sam 1 1/2 days at \$3.

The services were rendered necessary from the fact that the Piutes were, in midwinter, turned over to me at the Government ranch on the Topnish 25 miles below the agency at a place where it was impossible to feed them and where no shelter could be provided and where wood was very scarce. They were transported to the school farm near the agency to which place wood and lumber had to be hauled to make provision for their comfort. It is perhaps needless to state that the services rendered were absolutely necessary in order to prevent suffering.

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur etc.

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T.

April 11, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

I have the honor to make requisition for
the following described envelopes to be used at this office under
the act abolishing the use of official postage stamps

250 number 9 x 4 in.

250 number 8 x 3 1-2

50 11 x 4 or 4 1-2 in .

respectfully etc.

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Office Yakima Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. April 10, 1879

James Steel, esq.

Cash' 1st Natl. Bank, Portland, Ore.

Sir:

Your statement of my disbursing account for March is at
hand and found to agree with the records at this office.

Respectfully

James H. Wilbur, etc.

Office Yakima Agency, Ft. Simcoe March 31, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

I have the honor to report that the amount of miscellaneous money received by me during the 1st qr. of 1879 is \$1,214.60.

respectfully etc.

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Office Yakima Agency, Ft. Simcoe, Wash. Ter April 1st 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

I have the honor to ask the approval of the purchase of the following list of seeds for the season's use

2 5 oz. onion seed \$2.50

3 5/8 carrot seed \$6.35

2 pounds long dark blood beet \$2.50

2 pounds cabbage seed \$2.50

\$19.85

postage 1.68

\$21.53

Respectfully, your obedient servant etc.

Washington D.C. Sept. 20, 1878

Hon. W. W. Hutton? 2nd comptroller, sir:
Office Yakima Indian Agency

It has been my honor to inform you that during the month of July last that I have the honor to inform you that I have opened a school at the Yakima Indian Agency, Washington Territory, were received by them that there was in your office ~~about~~ ^{about} sixty-four thousand dollars of my accounts that were spent and that said bondsmen would have an opportunity of getting such amount by attending to it immediately without a suit being brought against them. The school was opened on the 1st day of April with 35 scholars. Not as yet a boarding school as we have not the accommodations. This information being given them caused great uneasiness with them and caused me to make over to them all the property I had in the world to secure them in 1879. Please approve his appointment and let his services begin April 1st at said salary. Now as the accounts under those bonds have been settled and the settlement shows that everything is clear on said books I ask you in justice to me and my bondsmen to give me a written statement of my settlement that I may bear it back to my home to wipe out the impression that was made upon the public mind that I was a defaulter to the said amount.

I remain, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent W.T.

Washington D.C. Sept. 20, 1878

Hon W.W. Upton? 2nd comptroller, sir:

I have the honor to inform you that during the month of July last that J.B. Congle, William Connell, H.J. Waldrom, Moody, Wilson and Hoge (names difficult) who were on my official bonds for the faithful performance of my duties as Indian agent at the Yakima Indian Agency, Washington Territory, were received by them that there was in your office ~~thirty~~-sixty-four thousand dollars of my accounts that were spent and that said bondsmen would have an opportunity of getting such amount by attending to it immediately without a suit being brought against them.

This information being given them caused great uneasiness with them and caused me to make over to them all the property I had in the world, to secure them as far as I could. Now as the accounts under those bonds have been settled and the settlement shows that everything is clear on said books I ask you in justice to me and my bondsmen to give me a written statement of my settlement that I may bear it back to my home to wipe out the impression that was made upon the public mind that I was a defaulter to the said amount.

I remain, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent W.T.