

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

March 27, 1954

Mrs. G.G. Wallace,  
309 N.W. 1st Avenue,  
Visalia, Calif.

Dear Goldie:

Thanks for your letter and the information you sent concerning General Robert Selden Garnett. Mr. Guie still works at the office, and is more interested than ever in this subject--a subject in which I am also interested in, in my capacity as chairman of the research committee for the Fort Simcoe restoration.

I made a copy of the material and turned it over to Dean, but am getting rather disgusted with some of the response. I dig up much for him and he turns over little, if any, to me. Of course I believe he intends to write some time on the subject. I turned over some 200 pages of Archer letters (a captain and later Civil War General too) who was stationed at Simcoe when Garnett was there, and who later commanded the post. His letters contain numerous references to Gen. Garnett.)

I have completed a manuscript and I believe it will be published, that contains some three or four chapters about Fort Simcoe, Garnett, Archer, etc. But that is not to be announced yet. I don't believe Dean will have the endurance that such a project as he has in mind entails. It has taken me some four years of hard work to turn Drummers and Dreamers. Anyway, Dean and I get along fine. He comes to my place, procures an occasional film (microfilm, which I transcribe on my viewer) But, I believe that by having all material in the Simcoe files, it will eventually be available to someone, and can thereby be preserved. Collected by one individual, he keeps on putting off writing and in time it dies with him or reverts to a hidden archive in some library or university, where no one has access to it but an occasional professor, who also thinks he will do something with it some day and keeps it quiet, and then he dies, and so on and on, until nothing is ever done.

I have typed out dozens of letters written by Gen. Garnett while stationed in the Northwest, and at Fort Simcoe, also many from the east, before he came out, but there are many more to be rounded up.

One of the projects that is now occupying us, and needs clarifying is that of the disposition of his wife and baby son.

This is the situation: Gen. Garnett constructed Fort Simcoe in the Yakima Valley in 1856. In 1857 he went to New York and married Mariana Nelson, daughter of George S. Nelson. She and her baby son, Arthur, died in September, 1858, a day before he returned from an Indian campaign north of Fort Simcoe.

Yet there are no records showing that the bodies were taken east.

He took leave of absence and went to New York.

In the New York Herald, December 1, 1858 and Nov. 29, appears items of the arrival of the Mail Steamship Illinois arriving with the bodies of wife and son. Announcement also of funeral at Church of All Souls, Fourth Avenue and 21st (today, Wednesday) remains to be taken to Greenwood.

The church records however and Greenwood cemetery records show no record of burial or funeral services. There is a Garnett monument at Greenwood, yet no record there of the burial of his wife and baby. He may have taken them home to Virginia. Yet there is nothing on record there.

The actual location of the graves has never been determined.

Mrs. Frederick Swanstrom of Seattle, who has some connection with the family, spent some time in New York, Washington, researching, and has concluded that the two were buried at Fort Simcoe.

It's just one of those things we have to keep digging on.

And, we need all the connections with various members of the family we can get, to obtain negatives of any relatives, such as Mrs. Garnett herself, other negatives of Garnett when he was younger and older than those we have obtained from the National Archives, concerning one period in the Civil War.

I know it is a difficult task, but don't fail to make a record. Oldie, when you feel like it, of these various relatives you have contacted in the past, so if you can't follow up, someone else can. The pictures are especially needed, and fill in material, always. I wish I were in Visalia so I could show you how many hundreds of pages of material we have dug up. It is stupendous. And we must continue on with it, until we have exhausted all resources.

Lorraine joins me in sending regards. Hope you are feeling better and that things in Visalia are coming along, good as can be expected.

Our spring is slow coming, but it seems to be here, finally. Our winter was mild.

I shall keep you posted on our progress, and let me know if there is anyone I could communicate with in search of additional pictures, copies of letters, etc.

One of these days we will establish archives at Fort Simcoe, which is a state park and over a period of 10 years will cost \$200,000 to develop. And, all this material will be preserved there, for the good and benefit of everyone.

Sincere regards

Click