

Mr. J.S. Whiting,
4520 Fauntleroy Ave.,
Seattle 5, Wash.

February 28, 1953

Dear friend Whiting:

I have been wondering if you would accept an appointment as a member of our far-flung research committee (Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society.) It isn't as bad as it sounds.

Of course, most of the work of the committee will be done right here in Yakima, but I wish to cover all the area with the best in their field, and your position would add importance to the committee.

We will gather material such as Wilbur letters, documents, Fort Simcoe letters and documents, making copies of them.

We will compile a bibliography of such originals as we can locate and also a card index of actual relics and artifacts pertaining to the fort. Libraries will be checked and a bibliography will be compiled covering Fort Simcoe. Photographs will be "borrowed" and negatives made for the files, and those requested, "restricted" will be retained in the files that way. One of our first, and probably rare meetings, because so much of this work must be done by writing, will be a field day, March 22 at Fort Simcoe. Mr. Bennett, at White Swan and the Tribal Council committeeman will assist in getting out some old timers from the reservation. Committeemen will pair off with them and write down recollections as they tour the ~~land~~ fort. Then these will be transcribed for the files.

Present members include: H. Dean Guie, Miss S.I. Anthon, Mrs. J.J. Bartholet and Dr. "ector Johnston (Methodist minister interested in history and the Wilbur Angle, all of Yakima; Mrs. Thelma Kimmel of Toppenish, who has written newspaper articles about Simcoe and is working on father Wilbur material; Mrs. Guy Travis of Prosser, author of "Umatilla Trail," who has compiled a handbook of the fort; a representative to be named by the Tribal Council; Dr. Kuykendall of Pomeroy; Dr. Griffith of the Dalles and Mrs. Martha Ferguson McKeown, Hood River, author, who has an extensive library and access to Oregon library and other sources.

What we want to do is impress the entire state with the deep research we are undertaking, and by blanketing the entire state, eventually, I believe this will smoke out many things at present unknown. So, I hope you will serve with us, not binding yourself to anything in the way of attending meetings, typewriting long reports etc. but by lending your experience, knowledge where we can trace out material etc. Hope you can let me know soon, because I wish to announce the committee.

Incidentally, I have acquired several items lately you would be interested in: Annual report of Brigadier -General John Gibbon, commanding Dept. of the Columbia, for year 1887. Covers statt, roster of troops; brief reports from the places covered: Boise Barracks, Fort Canby, Fort Klamath, Fort Sherman, Fort Spokane, Fort Townsend, Fort Walla Walla, Vancouver Barracks, etc. Also, report of J. Ross Browne on the late Indian war in Oregon and Washington territories; Report of Capt. H.D. Wallen of his expedition in 1859 from Dalles City to Great Salt Lake and back (with map) etc. My Indian research is also progressing beyond all expectations. (My typist for my mspt. has not yet returned from emergency duty in federal court at Spokane)

Drop me a note when you get time and start keeping your eyes open for material, plz.

Sincerely
Click Relander