

Abstract (partial of of apparent pertinent information) Typescript not included:

1-4-Regular accounts, Umatilla and other Oregon agencies.

19-24-Letters and circulars from Dept. to agents.

28-36-Abstracts, vouchers, concerning bills of Gov. Stevens' expressman at The Dalles.

42-Cost of building Klamath agency.

50-Raid by Snakes on Warm Spring, people terrorized, those there had been contented.

53-~~Yamahas~~ Roseburg, reg. confining Indians on reservation.

Ref. to Samson, the chief, and treaty with Palmer at Winchester, list of petitioners and reference to war of 1855, conditions then and subsequent.

55-Snake raids, 4 Warm Spring Indians killed, 2 Snake chiefs captured, including "Palanie."

57-Mix to Nesmith regarding ratification of treaties to numerous tribes including Yakima, March 17, 1859.

65-1859, from ~~Adad~~ Rochester endorsing a circular and schedule for the purpose of obtaining the system of relationship existing among the tribes of this superintendency (From L. Morgan) Schedule printed follows, sets up degree of relationship, in the language, vowel sounds, family descent schedule, a quite complete although not ethnologically correct chart pattern. This consists of 7 or more pages, questions such as in how many tribes is the nation divided, give the name of each tribe in Indian and English, marriages etc. etc.

Form of this nature covering Yakima reservation would be of extreme value. Form was sent by Lewis H. Morgan of Rochester, Monroe Co., N.Y. and if he is not on record in Smithsonian etc. it might be that someone carrying on this work to such an extent would have left considerable material covering west in some Rochester or vicinity repository.

80-House resolution re. claims resulting from war in Oregon and

No (?) - Search and death of whites, massacred at headquarters of "Bute" Creek.

120-125 - Regarding depredations on "Warm Springs, letters for help, Army letters etc. This microcopy extremely rich in "Warm Springs raid letters, sufficient to cover a thorough historical study of that period.

Snakes, Klamath Lake, Modocs, 5,000, 8,000, 3,000.

130-135 - Statement of articles stolen and destroyed by Snake Inds. in attack on "Warm Springs Reserve, Aug 6, 1859.

183 C.H. Mott, lengthy report on claims and conditions pertaining mostly to Oregon tribes (appears to be very good policy material. ) Also relates to recommendations for division of the superintendency; regards claims against the Indian Service in Oregon for year ending June 30, 1858, amounting to \$215,092; covers Grande Ronde, Umpqua, Eastern district, contains tabular docket of claims (5 double pps.) Audited by Mott With several enclosures.

Unregistered: Selitz expenses, transmittals, letters of etc;

179: Letters from Jacksonville reg. Ind. murderers of Ledford party.



File Microcopies of Records in the National Archives : No. 2

Roll 17

Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs

Letters Received

January 3--December 30, 1859

The National Archives Washington: 1944

On this roll are microfilmed the unbound letters received by the Oregon and Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, January 3, December 30, 1859. The letters are numbered, approximately in order of receipt from 1 to 262. The numbers correspond to those under which the letters are entered in the register microfilmed on Roll 12

...A particular registered letter may be most conveniently cited by year and number as in the following form: National Archives, Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, letters received 1859, no. 22. Unregistered letters may be cited by date as follows: National Archives, Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1859, unnumbered letter received, dated May 4.

The Superintendency may be briefly designated as the Oregon SIA.

In strict accuracy all citations for 1859 should refer to the Oregon and Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs; but as explained in introduction to Roll 12, good reasons seem to exist for ignoring this distinction.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 17, No. 2 Letter 5

Santa Rosa, Dec. 17, 1855

Col. Nesmith, Indian Agent for Oregon South

Dear Sir:

As you are aware of the outbreak of the Indians in Oregon in the fall of 1855 after they had been treated with by U.S. government and that they damaged me by destroying my property to the amt. of \$3867.40 while I was residing on Cow Creek in Douglass County Oregon.

And that I had a spoilation bill proved up before I.N. Smith notary public by the following witnesses: Carie Minatt and Henry Quinne Priced in advance with government prices.

I wish you to write to me and let me know what has been done with the mater.

Respectfully

Elisha C. Bray



Walla Walla W.T. Jan 12, 1859

Col. Nesmith:

Sir: Having been advised by my friends to inform you of my business at this place and how I have been humbuged by the military officers at this post. Some time in March, 1855 we obtained permission from Col. Steptoe to build and erect a billiard saloon and ten pin alleys at this place when we immediately shipped to this place all the material necessary to carry on our proposed business, owing to the mining excitement on north last summer we were unable to build for every person had left the country. So this last fall we commenced our building when we were ordered to desist any further operations. Consequently I left the valley 35 hundred dollars looser. On arriving at the Dalles it was rumored that Walla Walla valley was thrown open to settlement. I immediately went down and told Genl Arney my situation. He told me to return here and go on with my proposed business, also told me not to ~~sell~~ sell whiskey to an Indian or a soldier if he was drunk. I asked him to give it to me in writing when he told me it was not necessary that orders No. 3 directs the encouragement of settlers in the valley. On such assurance I shipped to this place about 500 gallons of whiskey on its arrival here I commenced the sale of it to the citizens of this valley. After being open a few hours Major Grier called on me and told me to give it to the sutler or he would confiscate it. Consequently I closed my business and now remain here in statu co.

Col. the question now arises among the citizens of this valley has the sutler of the army (turn over) any rights in violation of the military and civil law to keep a train of waggons constantly on the road between Dalles and this place loaded with spirituous liquors through an Indian country as they say and as you may say also then use the military reservation as the sole market for sale of the

above where it can be obtained by the whole community at the modest prices of from 8 to 12 dollars per gallon.

The fact of it is that this Major Grier is interested so much in the suttler's welfare that he will not tolerate any stile of business that would injure his trade in the least. Col there are great many privileges given some of those camp followers that I am informed that you would not allow if under your visar. Such as tolerating a party to pack through the Yakema country 200 gallons of whisky last fall.

Now sir in view of the above facts you will be so ~~xx~~ kind as to instruct me in what I should do and oblige, yours

Respectfully

B.F. McCormack

J

W.R. Terry

P.S. A Gawer in Portland told me if Grier, Heath and Allen had any right to sell liquor I had the same

W.J.T.



Office Indian Agent, Dalles, Jany 17, 1859

Sir:

I left here for the Warm Spring Agency Dec. 12 and returned to this place on the 15 inst. I had a very cold severe time crossing the mountains but found it pleasant at the reservation.

The Indians generally appear happy and well contented. The deer are quite ~~plenty~~ plenty in the vicinity of the reserve They have killed during the fall and winter a large number hunting keeps them out of idleness and mischief and the game they kill helps very much to subsist them, I made them some presents of flour and clothing the first of this month, they will need but little more until spring. While I was there all the Indians upon the reserve collected together and at my request held a general election which I think will result in much good. They elected one man head chief of all the Indians upon the reservation. The man they elected you will probably recollect He was out with Major Haller in the Yakima country. His name is Cass Killer. He is a good Indian and gives general satisfaction. Their mode of voting was viva voce and nearly every Indian upon the reserve took part. The chief is elected for four years. There was two candidates, Cass Killer and Mark. Cass Keller received about two thirds of all votes.

Everything is going well at the agency/ Dr. Fitch is in charge. I have two men employed getting out rails and making fence. While at the agency I made a short trip into the Snake country and met about one hundred and fifty of the Wah Push Pel band of Snake Indians, they seemed much pleased to see me, treated me very kindly and the chief, We-ah-we-ah and eight of his headmen came to the agency and I made them a few presents. I think this band of Snakes would be very glad to treat with the Govt. for their lands. They are almost entirely destitute of provisions and nearly naked. Respectfully A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 17, Microcopy 2, Letter 15

Office Indian Agent,

Dalles, Jan y 16, 1859

Sir:

Your letter of instructions dated Nov. 24, 1858 has been received and carefully considered. They will be promptly complied with should circumstances occur that require me to act. At the time I wrote you for instructions there had been many complaints of settlements being made in the Indian country under General Order No. 3 issued by General Harney. Since I received your instructions there has been no complaints owing no doubt to the cold unfavorable weather. In a conversation with Col. Wright commanding at Fort Dalles he informed me that the order would be strictly obeyed until it was revoked and that he could not furnish me any assistance to remove persons who had or might settle in the Indian country. If any more complaints are made to me by Indians of persons settling upon their lands I shall make a requisition upon Col. Wright to have them removed and will inform you of the result.

Respectfully etc.

A. P. Dennison, Indian Agent.

To Genl. J. W. Nesmith,  
Supt. Indian Affairs.



Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 17, Microcopy 2, Letter 25

Head Qrs. Dept. of California

San Francisco, Feb. 1, 1859

Sir:

Your letter of Dec. 27, 1858 addressed to Brig. Genl Harney in reference to the establishment of a military post near Klamath Lake in Southern Oregon has been by him referred to Brig. Genl. Clarke.

The general directs me to say that at the moment of receiving that letter and the resolutions enclosed he was in the act of sending all his disposable forces to the Colorado River to suppress Indian hostilities; this work accomplished he will take all the means in his power to give security to the northern portion of his Department to meet the wishes of the citizens.

I am etc.

W.W. Mackall

to J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. Indian Affairs, Oregon and Washington Territories.

Head Quarters Department of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, W.T. April 13, 1859

Sir:

The General commanding instructs me to inform you in view of your sending an Indian agent to Colville as mentioned in your communication of the 2nd of November last, that early in June next two companies of infantry will be established in the vicinity of Colville for the protection of the depot of the North West Boundary Commission.

Two other companies of Infantry will be with the commission as escort while running the boundary line.

The present arrangements of the general anticipate the withdrawal of the garrison from Fort Simcoe. The quarters are good and the position may be considered suitable for an agency of your department.

Should you think favorably of the proposition the general will cause the headquarters at Fort Simcoe to be turned over to the agent you may name to him upon condition they are relinquished again to the troops in case they are required to occupy them again, or to such conditions as the war department may prescribe.

Your agent can take possession by the 15th of May next at which time it is expedient for the troops to leave.

I am sir, very respectfully

Your ob't servant

A. Pleasanton, Capt. 2nd Dragoons,  
Assistant Adjutant.

J. V. Newsmith, esq. Supt. of Indian Affairs, Salem, Oregon.



Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 17, Microcopy 2, Letter 54

Headquarters Department of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, W.T., April 18, 1859

Sir:

The general commanding instructs me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant and in reply to inform you that the commanding officer at Fort Simcoe will be instructed to turn the buildings at that place over to Indian Agent R.H. Lansdale by the 15th day of May next.

I am etc.

A. Pleasanton Captain 2nd Dragoons  
etc.

J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. of Indian Affairs O and W.

Salem, Oregon.

Portland May 17, 1859

Dear Sir:

Having learned that you have been appointed Indian agent for Washington and Oregon I take this early opportunity of soliciting some employment under you, I have been farming for the past four years and leading a very lonely life, having buried my wife the first year. I have just this day closed the eyes of the only inmate of my dwelling, an orphan half breed boy who has lived with me since my wife's death, so that I am anxious to get away from such harmful reminiscences. Should you have it in your power to give me employment I need hardly say it will be very gratefully accepted. I have offered my farm for sale but there are no purchasers. Please let me hear from you at this place at your earliest convenience. I presume you will be able to recollect me as it has been some 3 or 4 years since I have seen you, As I write with a severe headache and suffering from want of rest this is not a fair sample specimen of my writing.

Yours respectfully

James McKown



Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 17, Microcopy 2 Letter No. 207.

Head Quarters Department of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, W.T. October 15, 1859

Sir:

Your communication of the 10th instant enclosing one from Indian Agent Dennison requesting a military guard to be kept at the Warm Spring Reservation has been rec'd by the General Commanding.

I am instructed to state in reply the general has been officially informed by Captain Wallen that Agent Dennison told him he (Dennison) intended sending out in a few days a party of the reservation Indians on a foray against the Snakes.

The General commanding believes it was the conduct of Dr. Fitch, last spring in attacking the Snakes with a party of the reservation Indians that excited the Snakes into the subsequent attack upon the agency in which both the Indians and the government were reported to have suffered severely. A continuation of such conduct at this time by Agent Dennison will lead ultimately to a border war between the whites and the Indians and will be of the greatest detriment to the advancement prosperity and permanency of the settlement to the east of the Cascade Mountains.

The general commanding is satisfied that a proper course of conduct on the part of the employees of the Indian Department at the Warm Spring Agency will have a better effect in preserving the peace of the country than the presence of a small military guard at that point. He therefore declines according to the recommendation of Agent Dennison that a detachment of troops be permanently retained at his agency.

I am etc. A Pleasanton

Captain 2nd Dragoons

Assist. Adjutant.

Edward R. Geary, esq.

Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 17, microcopy 2, No. 248

[1859, No. 248. The enclosure mentioned in this document is filed as No. 9 in 1860]

Head Quarters Department of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, W.T. December 12, 1859

Sir:

The general commanding desires me to transmit the enclosed communication from Captain Wallen of the Army agreeably to his wishes.

The information obtained by Captain Wallen concerning the various Indian tribes of the interior of Oregon is extremely interesting and valuable but the general does not concur with the captain in his conclusions of the propriety of placing the Indians upon reservations in the localities he describes.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your obt etc.

A. P. A. Pleasonton

Captain 2nd Dragoons A. Assit. Adjutant Genl

Edward R. Geary Esq.

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

for Oregon and Washington Territory

Portland, Oregon.



Fort Simcoe W.T. 15 March, 1859

Dear Sir:

I beg to suggest to you the necessity of having an Indian agent in this vicinity.

There are in this and its neighboring valleys upwards of 700 Indians as destute I am sure as any others in the Territory. They are, I believe, all anxious to farm and only want seeds, implements and some little instruction.

During the last two years the post has been obliged to supply them with large quantities of provisions which would not have been necessary had they been furnished with the means of farming.

Both this spring and last they have had to send to White Salmon for seed potatoes etc. at a season when the whole route was covered with deep snow and when their horses were too poor and weak to pack to advantage.

I am told that last spring many of ~~them~~ their horses died in the attempts to pack over the route.

I know that this year some of the Indians who are anxious to farm are afraid to risk their animals.

If there was an agent on the spot all these things would doubtless be supplied in proper season and a fair distribution of them would be made amongst the Indians/

Respectfully etc.

J.J. Archer, Capt. 9 Infy  
Commd. post.