

Click Relander,
3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Father W.N. Bischoff, S.J.,
Villa St. Rose,
Portland, Ore.

Dear Father Bill:

I've run through most of my material in a search for Thomas Kelly, an "old Indian fighter," but so far without any clue to pursue further.

I've yet to contact a couple of sources, including H. Dean Guile to see if he might have encountered this individual. As you no doubt know, the Yale catalogue lists someone, I don't believe it was that name and I believe it was an officer (Coe) but Dean and I never really pursued this, knowing how tough it was for a "non-Yale" man to "gain access."

It's a since they didn't have rest homes etc. around here in 1903 and not for some time later, and if Mr. Kelly was in late life in dire straights, I may find some record of him on old county farm records. Walter Purdin died last week, but his mind was failing so much in the last few months it was useless to get him to recollect. I've a couple of other old timers however to contact, failing to find reference to him in my files of typed material from old papers etc. And I suspect you've already checked the index of the Washington Historical Quarterly. They had several accounts, by others, of Indian fighters. Anyway I'll keep trying a little more.

You might be interested to know I spent today down in the John Day country with several old men of the tribe, who used to fish there, to spot old fishing sites etc., took some pictures of rock runs, built along the shores to "nudge" salmon close to the reefs so they could be dipnetted; picked up quite a few stories and about 45 or 50 previously unknown, except to the Indians, place names. It was a kind of tribal deal and I was asked to go along. Glad to get your address. Hurriedly

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Feb. 12

Father W.N. Bischoff, S.J.,
Villa St. Rose,
Portland, Ore.
597 North Dekum,
Portland, Oregon, 97217

Dear Father Bill:

Checked with Mrs. Lalu Carpenter (formerly connected with the Splawns, who works at Shaw and Sons, regarding your character, Thomas Kelly.

She said that by coincidence someone had inquired about him, and the only thing she could find there, with no date, since records were not kept that way in those days, was that he was died and was buried in the fall of 1903. (or at least a Thomas Kelly died and was buried) But no disposition of burials is contained in the old record book. She seemed to think that Bob Lince, a local researcher at Selah had some knowledge. So I drove to Selah and talked to Bob who had never encountered that name among old timers there, and was sure, positive, that none by that name is buried in cemeteries in that area which he has canvassed.

I had only some time to check files of 1903 papers here, and encountered nothing and don't know when I will have time for a careful check. But since I did not pick this up when I was checking them years ago and have it in my files, already, has some significance.

As for Les Shaw, as you know he and others like Walter Purdin and those who could help are dead. But I am keeping my eye open for others whose life might have put them in contact with your Thomas Kelly.

Lalua did not think anything productive could be obtained from any burial record books. I suspected it might have been an inquiry from you to her which brought the name to mind, but maybe not.

Sincerely

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