

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

St. Helens, Feb. 15th, 1856

I.I. Stevens, Gov., supt. of Indian Affairs, W.T.

Dear Sir:

With this I send my accounts, although not made out in the regular form I trust they will answer the purpose until I receive the blanks which Mr. A.J. Cain has promised to send.

I hope you will be able to send the amount due at an early day as I am in great want of it for you will remember that the settlement made in April, 1855 was in great part by due bill 291.64 so that the receipts for the last year has been very small.

Indian matters here are in a bad fix. One was killed two days ago by a friendly Indian and I am in daily expectation that others will be. Some have made open threats against the whites. I have sent for them if I can get them I shall take them to Van Couver and if they do not come in they will be shot by the settlers. The house and property of whites was burned last night, as is supposed by the hostiles. I have desired Fields to keep the Indians at Van Couver for the present for if they come here some of them will be killed. I have made many enquiries and am now satisfied that ~~few~~ but few can be trusted.

There is no doubt in my mind that some of them who are now concealed (sic) in the hills have been and are now in communication with the hostile Indians and you must not be surprised to hear of trouble when the weather becomes warmer.

I shall take the liberty of acting as agent for this district in case of emergency unless instructed otherwise.

Yours truly W.H. Tappan,  
Sub.Agt. for the Nez Perces.

M..howlity (?) is in charge of Col. Wright has the liberty of the grounds but is obliged to report himself once a day

R.



Wash'tn Suptcy.

Roll 21

Coeur d'Alene Mission,

24 January, 1856

Mr. William Craig, Dear Sir:

By your favor of the 10 Jan. I was released from a great perplexity about the Indians and Americans. A thing in particular gave me great satisfaction, ~~xxx~~ is the security of Gov. Stevens to the Cayuses accompanied by you, and by 100 Nez Perces. I wonder at the blindness of the Indians of the lower country to put themselves before their own destruction without considering the improbability and the impossibility of facing a full American power. With regard to the feelings of the Indians here for the present they are very quiet and in the same disposition when Gov. Stevens passed, what will hereafterwards it is very hard to conjecture because you well know how quiet are the Indians to change in their wills. Mr. Montoux may give to you better account upon that because ~~the xxxxxx~~ he lives now with the greater party of the Coeur d'Alene and Spokans near Antoine Plants and also because being a half breed the Indians will not have any difficulty to open the secrecy of their own hearts. But, my dear Mr. Craig, with you know my opinion about the state of our country and it seems to me too much improbable that our Indians should remain in their own way inactive having before them the example of the neighboring tribes for many seasons. 1st Because their sympathies naturally with the red people and the evil of the other nations, becomes communicated to this people 2nd, Because for the natural suspicion of the Indians they think that after the subjugation of the neighboring tribes, the white people will turn the present friendship into open hostility when strengthened by victory, 3rd, Because the mines of gold at Colville will allow too many Americans this spring, and they will come armed proportionately to meet danger, and consequently for the suspicions of both parties, the least occasion will be the beginning of massacre and war, 4 Because Gov. Stevens with his determination of coming this spring for the treaty and with

competent force will give body to the false suppositions of the Indians that he came for deceiving and killing the Indians, and I shall not be astonished if his arrival is the signal of hostility.

Excuse the many faults of language because I am not acquainted with the same.

With great regard

I am your obdt' Servant.

Signed: Anthony Ravalli

To Mr. William Craig

Spec. Agent. Nez Perces.



Washington Suptcy Microcopy 5, roll 21 letters from agts. and employees of suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1858

Rec'd March 15th/55

Lapwai Feby. 18, 1854

Isaac I. Stevens

Gov. Wash. Terry.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter dated Nov. 24 but a few days since, and my time has been so much taken up in preparing to start below that I shall not be able to give you as full a statement as I might have done if I had had more leisure.

As to the number of the Nez Perce Indians; I think they will number about two thousand which are divided into about ten small bands, which inhabit the country of Snake river Salmon River and Clearwater. They live by hunting, fishing and cultivating the soil, they trade generally with the Hudson's Bay Co. and at the Dalles. As to the number of their animals it is impossible to give a correct statement

(2) they have a great number of horses and some cattle.

The general character of the country is rough, but ~~with~~ well adapted to stock raising, the soil of the small valleys is fertile. I should suppose that the best localities for reservations, would be the country of Snake River.

As to the disposition of the Indians in regard to treaty arrangements as it is a question which I have never asked, and a subject which I have not heard them speak of among themselves, I cannot answer, but I know to be friendly disposed to the whites and especially to the American Government.

I shall be very happy to give any further information which you may wish.

Yours Very Respcty. William Craig.

Agency was transferred to the Idaho Superintendency of Indian Affairs June 24, 1863.

Two letters from Agent Cain are among the numbered letters received by the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs and are entered in the register of those letters as follows: No. 127 (July 7, 1860), "transmitting notice prohibiting miners and others from entering upon or in any wise occupying any portion of the Reservation at Lewiston," and Number 130 (July 18, 1861)," advising of the difficulty in collecting the Indians for council."

Since the letters reproduced on this roll are not numbered, they may be cited by writer and date, accompanied by some indication of the administrative unit to which the writer belonged. The following form is suggested: National Archives , Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Letters Received (Umatilla), J.M. Kirkpatrick to Superintendent, October 21, 1861.

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Letters from the Nez Perce Agency, January 24, 1856-May 15, 1864.



File Microopies of Records in the National Archives: No. 5,  
Roll 21.

Records of the "ashington Superintendency of Indian Affairs,  
1853-1874. Letters from Employees Assigned to the Nez Perce and Umatilla  
Agencies. January 24, 1856-May 15, 1864. The National Archives, "ashington,  
1945.

#### Introductory

On this roll are reproduced the letters received by the  
Superintendents of Indian Affairs for "ashington Territory or Oregon and  
Washington from officials and other employees of the Nez Perce Agency  
and the Umatilla Agency, January 24, 1856-May 15, 1864. The officials  
from whom letters are present at the following:

William H. Tappan, subagent Nez Perce Agency (February 15-May 22,  
1856)

William Craig, subagent, Nez Perce Agency (January 30, 1856-  
December 30, 1858).

Andrew J. Cain, Agent, Nez Perce Agency (February 12, 1859-July 25,  
1861)

Charles Hutchins, Agent, Nez Perce Agency (August 15, 1861-August 16,  
1862)

~~William~~ J.M. Kirkpatrick, Special Agent, Umatilla Agency (October 21,  
1861)

William H. Barnhart, Agent, Umatilla Agency (November 19, 1861 -  
May 23, 1862)

John W. Anderson, Subagent, (August 16, 1862, June 30, 1863); May 15,  
1864.)

The Umatilla Agency, , originally established in the Oregon  
Superintendency was ordered to be returned to it in instructions from  
the Commissioner of Indian Affairs dated May 22, 1862. The Nez Perce

Copy

Notice

Is hereby given that no person but those in the employ of the Ind. Dept. have a right to go upon, until a public highway is established by the U.S. Government or travel across the Nez Perce<sup>r</sup> reservation.

Information has been received that an armed force is determined to go upon said reservation to seek for gold in defiance of previous public notices given/

I hereby warn all persons to not go upon the said reservation as the Indians are already hostile in their feelings from delays on the part of the government to fulfill treaty stipulations--and any attempt to intrude upon them will cause immediate hostilities and any attempt in defiance of this notice will require an abandonment of the said reservation by myself as the civil authority and the same will be turned over to the military authorities for the better preservation of the peace and the execution of the laws of the United States.

A.J. Cain, Ind. Agt. W.T.

Ind. Agt.s Office,  
Walla Walla, Valley  
Nov. 12th, 1860.



Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, <sup>Vol</sup> 21

Indian Agents Office

Walla Walla Valley,

September [ink blotch] 1860

Sir:

I herewith submit my annual reports. This agency embraces the same tribes that were originally placed in my charge.

Last fall I transferred the Spokans to Major Lugenbeel and relieved him of the Coeur d'Alenes to promote the efficiency of the service as these tribes would then each be nearer their respective agent.

I have therefore in my immediate care the Cayuse, Walla Walla, Palouse, Nez Percés and Coeur d'Alene tribes.

#### Cayuse

This tribe is yet residing in this valley where they have cultivated their usual garden spots. .... their attention is however j...devoted to the care of their horses and cattle. But owing to the rapid increase of white settlers, daily conflicts occur in regard to their respective rights and all my energies have been taxed to preserve friendly relations.

These Indians are included in the treaty establishing the Umatilla Reservation and it is actually necessary that some speedy disposition be made of them--- They would much prefer to go to the Nez Percé Reservation as they have intermarried, speak the same language and have been mostly absorbed by that tribe.

#### Walla Walla

Of this tribe about ~~five~~ fifty are visiting at their old location on the Columbia River and their recognized chief (Homily). The balance of this tribe has been led away by "Wats-hel" (regarded as hostile) who is claiming to be their chief and are residing on the Columbia River near Priest Rapids. This tribe belongs to the ~~the~~ Umatilla reservation but I apprehend it will be difficult to ever collect them there as



they have become so demoralized by the effects of whisky that their wrong and vagabond propensities will always predominate. They possess but few horses and but-few [lined out] ~~cmxx~~ no cattle and rely almost entirely on their fisheries for their livelihood.

#### Palouse

This tribe is included in the Yackama treaty but are yet remaining on Snake River. In fact the most of the tribe have intermarried and are now living and claim their homes on the Nez Perce reservation.

This tribe was formerly quite hostile in their feelings but have during the past year ~~xxxxxx~~ conducted themselves in such a manner that entitles them to consideration at the hands of the government. They are very poor, have but few horses and cattle and rely upon fish and their gardens for subsistence.

#### Nez Perces

This is the most powerful and influential tribe this side of the Rocky Mountains. They have always as a tribe maintained peaceful relations with the government and have and do yet exercise a salutary influence over their neighboring tribes by their example; they are disposed to be industrious and with proper encouragement the younger portion of the tribe may attain that degree of civilization contemplated by the Indian policy heretofore inaugurated.

They own a great many horses and cattle and have been in a habit for years of cultivating the soil to a small extent. Last spring I assisted them in their farming operations [lined out...and the results have been very satisfactory] to the extent of my ability as an ... of the final fulfillment of treaty stipulations. And the results have been very satisfactory indeed; besides raising all sorts of vegetables they have saved for winter use about 2,500 bushels of wheat and between three and four bushels of corn.

This tribe numbers about four thousand souls and are on the



increase rather than decrease as with all the other tribes in the country as their wealth and good standing induces many of the better disposed of other tribes to come and live and claim their homes with them.

They have always been divided into two parties, the treaty or peace party and the anti-treaty or war party. The latter have however never been directly consumed (?) in hostilities but have given encouragement to other tribes so engaged. As I have before reported, last year I succeeded with ~~great~~ much difficulty in satisfying the minds of this party in regard to the treaty, at the time and met them in council to announce its confirmation.

Since that time I have succeeded in gaining their confidence and by promises that government would ~~not~~ neglect them, have succeeded in ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ controlling them peacefully.

This tribe is scattered in small bands over the large extent of country embraced in their reservation and each individual or head of a family has his own garden which he cultivates himself.

I have encouraged them in the condition as it is the most important initiation step in learning them to labor for their own maintenance. These Indians are decidedly an agricultural people; they want farms and shops and but a portion of the money appropriated for them will be required to secure this desired end; by promises to this effect made these Indians I have induced all who reside off the reservation to return on to it of their own accord as soon as their crops are secure without any additional expense to the government. To secure permanent peaceful relations with these Indians they must be made to feel that they have houses and interests to protect which would ensure their hearty cooperation. in protecting ~~their~~ the peace of the country.

The anti-treaty party have been opposed to this policy as they have been in the habit for years of going to the Buffalo country to winter



where they take their stock and this roaming propensity cannot be broken up except by locating them on permanent farms. It is for that reason that I refused to make a requisition and stated that the policy of contracting for cattle for them before they were located was prejudicial to the interest of the Indians as ~~well as~~ well as the government. They are much dissatisfied with the delay in fulfilling their treaty stipulations and any ... attention is now directed to satisfying them in regard to their disappointments.

They hold the balance of power with the other Indians of this interior country and it is a matter of paramount importance that they should not feel neglected or wronged.

#### Coeur d'Alenes

This tribe is peaceful and quiet. The mission established in their country has been of considerable service to ... in instructing and inducing them to engage in agricultural pursuits.

The present time is a very critical period in our Indian relations and the <sup>peace</sup> ~~service~~ of the country depend on the efficiency of the Indian service.

I have no apprehension of their being any attempt made by parties to hunt gold on the Nez Perce reservation. The action I took in this matter gave great satisfaction to the Indians. The public mind was a good deal agitated about the matter at the time but ~~this~~ the instructions subsequently received from you with the instructions of the Com. of Indian affairs satisfied all that I was doing no more than executing U.S. Law.

The management of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes during the past year has given me a great deal of care and anxiety and I am more than ever impressed with the correctness of my recommendations last winter that the former should be placed on the Nez Perce reservation as they have affiliations with that tribe whilst they have none

with the Walla Wallas and Umatillas. The few that remain to be removed and the remainder of a once haughty and powerful tribe who still claim that the whites are the aggressors and whilst they profess a desire to be friendly they wish to be removed as far as possible from the white settlements; which is but a natural desire from the difficulties they have experienced whilst preserving their stock whilst living with the whites.

The Walla Wallas have a strong affiliation with the Yacamas and to place them on their reserve would be the only means of accomplishing anything with them.

The Palouses who are included in the Yackama Reservation should be allowed to go to the Nez Perce Reservation., as they have not only intermarried and speak the same language but have been almost entirely absorbed by that tribe.

Since the making of the "Treaties" of 1855 all of these Indians except the Nez Perces, from war, famine and disease, have been on the decrease and have lost so many of their tribal characteristics that the reasons for their locations as made by the treaties does not now exist.

Tribes	No. of Souls	Census	
		No. of Horses.	No. of Cattle
Cayuse	400	1,000	300
Walla Walla	800	500	none
Palouse	400	300	50
Nez Perce	4,000	10,000	2,000
Coeur d'Alene	600	1,000	100

In regard to the Indians in charge of Major Lugenbeel his report to you will give you more reliable information than I can furnish. I have the honor etc. A.J. Cain, Ind. Agent W.T. to E.R. Geary, Supt, Ind. Affairs, Portland, Oregon.



Microcopy 5, roll 21..

Indian Agents Office, Walla Walla Valley

September (blotch) 1860

Sir:

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The anti-treaty party have been opposed to this policy as they have been in the habit for years of going to the Buffalo country to winter where they take their stock and this roaming propensity cannot be broken up except by locating them on permanent farms. It is for that reason that I refused to make a requisition and stated that the policy of contracting for cattle for them before they were located was prejudicial to the interest of the Indians as well as the government...



..Since the making of the treaties in 1855, all of these Indians except the Nez Perce; from war, famine and disease, have been on the decrease and have lost so many of their tribal characteristics that the reasons for their location as made by the treaties does not now exist.

## Census

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..A.J. Cain, Ind. Agt W.T., to Hon E.R. Geary, supt. Ind. Affairs, Portland, Oregon.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Roll 21.

Walla Walla Valley

5 Jan., 1857

His excellency, Gov. I.I. Stevens:

There is nothing of importance in this valley. The snow is deep and the weather cold. The Indians appear to be in their country. They are not moving about.

With the exception of Looking Glass and some two others that are at this place now, the Looking Glass called to see me but it appeared he was not on any business of importance. As he did not tell his business. He since has had a talk with Col. Steptoe, but I cannot say what it ~~wax~~ amounted to as I did not hear. Col. Steptoe gave him and Stickers an order for provisions.

I understand Five Crows, the Young Chief, taking, and some 25 men are wintering at Fort Boise. Kamiakin is on the Palouse.

Tilka-weias and Ka-ka-mas are on Snake River. There are some 40 or 50 lodges in the Nez Perce country. Campespello the son of the Walla Walla chief are on Snake river above the mouth of Salmon River. They say they are all coming to see Col. Wright in the spring as he asked them to do. I think there is no chance for wagons to come here this winter. The snow is very deep in the Nez Perce country. I fear much for my stock as the Indians have taken some of the best of them. They are there now starving and I cannot go or send after them as the snow is very bad.

I have written to Higgins to send up a small pack train. The military are almost out of supplies.

Your most. obdt. servant

William Craig

Sub. Ind. Agent W.T.



Wash'tn supty. No. 5, roll 21

Walla Walla Valley, Dec. 19, 1856

His Excellency, Gov. Isaac I. Stevens: Sir:

The latest news from the Nez Perces country was Richard. He said Camaspello the son of the Walla Walla chief is in Joseph's country with about half of ~~xxx~~ their people.

Kamiakin and Quitta-ma are at Lapwai. I understand that Col. Steptoe heard from Stock<sup>Whitley</sup> that the Cayuses and Kam-iakin went there to get all the stock that had been taken by the Nez Perces and that they are killing cattle belonging to the people that went with you to the Dalles.

The Lawyer has returned home and I have not heard what has been done but I doubt if he has got the ~~land~~ to drive them out of ~~his~~ ~~cd0d0dy~~ country. As myself and Col. Steptoe told ~~tm~~ them they must do. I think different from Col. "right, I think things are as far or farther from being settled than last spring. You will see by returns that we furnished the Indians that went to the Dalles thisfall and has paid for express services that were accrued at the Council.

I have not been able to get an express to the Spokane. There are no Nez Perce here. The snow is about 8 inches deep and the weather very cold.

I cannot say what time I will be able to send an express for Colville. I have in accordance with Col. Steptoe's views advised all of the friendly Indians to come to this valley if they cannot keep the hostiles out of their country.

Your most Obbt. servant.

William Craig

Sub Agent Wash Ferry.

a camp of five lodges on this side of the Snake river a few miles below the mouth of Red Wolf creek, but the Indians having been informed of our movement just before his arrival, few (?) of them made their escape among which was the head Cayuse Chief. He succeeded in taking four men and a number of women prisoners and capturing a number of horses which are now on their way to this place. On the arrival of the prisoners they will have a hearing. The following are the names of the officers of the company which I mustered into the service of Washington Territory as volunteers to serve for six months or until the war shall be clear. 1-Henri M. Chase, captain; V.M. Lafondain, 1st Lieut. Louis Chaboin 2nd lieut; W. Craig, 3rd lieut. If approved you will confer a great favor by forwarding their commissions. I am anxiously expecting a letter from you.

Yours Respecty.

William Craig

Lt. Col. Regt. W.T. M. Vols.

N.B.-I organized the above company for the express purpose of keeping the hostile Indians out of this country, having no doubt but you would approve of it. I found it impossible to keep them out in any other way, it has already accomplished a great deal.

W. Craig.



Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Headquarters Co. I 1regt. W.T. Vols.

Lapwai, March 23rd, 1856

Isaac I. Stevens, Gov and Commander in chief, Sir:

On my return to the Nez Perce country I discharged the Nez Perce Volunteers according to your orders and for some time after that the chiefs had trouble in keeping the war party out of this country.. About the time Col. Cornelius was about to move after them I found it necessary to organize a company of volunteers at this place of settlers and Nez Perce Indians for the purpose of keeping them out of the country and since the company was organized they have been very busy. When the Red Wolf came back from below, he said he had orders from Supt. Palmer and Agent Olney to move the friendly Cayuses into this country, which he done and from that time there has been a regular communication kept up between their camp and that of the war party. On the 11 March I heard that a Pelouse Indian by name Ume-taquitat had come into the Nez Perce camp at the forks of Clear Water and Snake River. I immediately ordered Capt. Chase to the place for the purpose of giving him a trial after examining him (said Pelouse Indian Ume-taquitat according to his own confession and the testimony of several witnesses, he was found guilty of murder and also as acting as a spy for the war party. As the penalty in war cases is death, he was condemned to be hung by the neck until dead, which sentence was approved by ~~me~~ me and executed on the prisoner Ume Tquitat at the hour of 4 p.m March 12, 1856. When ~~He~~ Unu (sic) howlish returned from below he came to the camp of the friendly Cayuses and from there sent for some of the war party, he says he had orders to do so from several officers of the army at Vancouver; on ~~being~~ ~~hearing~~ ~~of~~ ~~this~~ ~~I~~ ~~ordered~~ ~~Capt.~~ ~~Chase~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~camp~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~friendly~~ ~~Cayuses~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~arresting~~ ~~any~~ ~~hostile~~ ~~Indians~~ ~~which~~ ~~he~~ ~~might~~ ~~find~~ ~~there~~, and if finding any to give them a trial and punish them according to the nature of their offenses. He found

Office Nez Perce Ind. Agency

Jan. 2nd, 1863

Sir:

Between thirty and forty chiefs of the Nez Perce tribe assembled at the agency to spend Christmas, some of the remained until after New Years. Amongst other matters they had under consideration the best time for holding a council in the spring, and finally agreed upon the 10th of May as you had suggested. I think it would be well for the commissioner to make arrangements to meet them at that time. They will be done planting by that time. Should the council be held later in the season it would interfere with them in the cultivation of their crops. They look forward with great interest to the council. They say they have been deeply wronged by the whites, but they hope the commissioners will do them justice at last.

There will be, I think, at least three thousand Indians present at the council... the women as well as the men will expect some sort of presents

Very respectfully, your obt. servant

J.W. Anderson

Sub Ind. Agent, W.T.

C.H. Hale, esq.,

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Olympia, W.T.