

Click Relander,
3701 Commonwealth,
Yakima Wash. 98901

Mrs. N.D. Schwisow,
Rt. 1, box 298
Sunnyside, Wash. 98944

Dear Mrs. Schwisow:

In regard to your inquiry about the Shakers, there are several references in Relander-Drummers and Dreamers, Caxton Printers, 1958, p 50, 149, 152, 162 and 167. First are mere references, p 167...The Shakers entered the Yakima country (reservation) about 1886. They were called Shapupulema (Blowers) by the Wanapums (River People) a clan of Yakima linguistic stock (Shahaptan linguistic stock) because of the Shaker custom of waving hands gently in front of a stranger's face and blowing on him instead of shaking hands. This was done to blow away any badness the stranger might possess.

It has long been the belief that the Shaker religion originated on Puget Sound (Mud Bay, near Olympia) without doubt that is true. It is also true that a form of Shakerism existed around Cle Elum in the Kittitas ~~Cumukixxx~~ Valley in Central Washington before 1880, prior to the time it was born as a faith on the coast....
p. 168...Although Shakers had held curing meetings on the Yakima Reservation, especially around Fort Simcoe and White Swan, the first church east of the Cascades was not organized until August, 1899.

Captain Thomas Simpson, a hereditary chief from the mid-Columbia, called a council in his home and sixty Indians met and formed a Shaker Church. The organization followed a healing meeting when ten cases of illness were cured, Captain Simpson said, by the power of prayer..."

The book by H.G. Barnett, in the bibliography many references to the Shakers, but most are in historical publications and would be difficult to obtain. The best or rather one of the earliest books was the Bureau of Ethnology, part 2, Wash. D.C., 1895x 1896.

This is commonly called, Mooney, James: The Ghost Dance Religion. It contains a chapter on the Shakers at Mud Bay. I don't know whether the library could obtain it on exchange loan or not.

But if your son will refer to Barnett's bibliography, he will find many citations, but few in book form. One which might be obtained on library loan is Gunther, Erna The Shaker Religion of the Northwest.

I hope the above is of some little assistance, but with Barnett and a chance at getting the Mooney Report and Mr. Gunther's book it will give him something to go to work on. I know the magazines listed in the Barnett book will be difficult to obtain outside of a place like the U of W or WSU library.

Sincerely

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