

Wash'ton Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Central District Washington

Territory. March 31, 1855. Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report for the month ending March 31, 1855. I have not ben able to visit any of the Indian tribes in the central district, only the "alla "alla tribe. The Indians are all peasiabale and every thing is quiet at present as far as I can hear.

I remain

Your obedient servant

A. J. Bolon

Sub Agent, Central District, Washington
Territory.

Wash'ton Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Walla Walla Valley

April 30th, 1855

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report for the month ending April 30, 1855.

I have been engaged during the month in arranging matters relative to treatys under Mr. J. Doty. Nothing of importance has transpired during the month. The Indians are friendly in general.

I have the honor to remain , your most obedient servant

A. J. Bolon, Sub Agent, Central District,

Washington Territory.

Washtn. Mptch. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Hicks

June 8, 1856

Gov. I.I. Stevens

Com. in chief W.W.

Sir

I will probably be delayed a few days in consequence of the streams being swollen so that I may have ... to ferry them.

I will however move on as rapidly as possibly.

Yours very respectfully

B.F. Shaw

..... W.T. (Scrawl)

P.S. If you can send me an I need one for our
menthats going with me.

June 20th, 1857 , Ponderay river

Mr. Yantis, honored sir: I am sorry to have to inform you that ~~and~~ we the miners of Ponderay gold mines will have to abandon the mines if there is not a stop of intoxicating liquor being brought to the mines. We have learned that you have been appointed Indian agent for this post of Washington territory and we are exceedingly glad to hear that you had got the agency for some of us are personally acquainted with you and we know that you are an honorable man and we know that you have the power to protect all peaceable and law abiding citizens of the United States within the boundary of an Indian territory. Wheas [sic] you reside when we engaged in honorable occupations. We hope that you will give us protection if you do not, we will have to apply to the head quarters of the territory and if we do not get protection from these we will have to abandon the mines and the Indian country or take up arms in our defence and this we do not wish to do.

Respectfully your obident svd.

I am a lover of good order and law

A miner of the
Ponderay River.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville W.T.

November 30, 1861

B.F. Kendall, Esq.

Supt. Indian Affairs for "ash. Terry. Olympia W.T.

Sir:

I relived Major P. Lugenbeel, U.S.A. in command of this post on 18th inst. The departure of Major Lugenbeel leaves this country without an Indian agent and as there are various reasons why that agency and the military authority should be united I take the liberty of suggesting that I receive a special agency from you.

The Indians about here are numerous and peaceably disposed.

I have made issue of provisions to some of them, most needy, and expect to be called on for more.

Should you see fit to forward me an appointment, please send it at same time some office regulations with such other information as will be useful for my guidance.

I am , etc.

James F. Curtis

Major 2nd Infry. Cal [sic] vols
commdy. post.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville, W.T.

April 10, 1862

Sir:

On the 5th inst. I had the honor to receive a letter from B.F. Hendall, esq. Supt. Indian affairs of date, Dec. 23, 1861.

I have now to report that the various ^{Indian} tribes of this vicinity are quiet during the passed month some miners upon the Columbia at its junction with the Pend d'Orielle barely escaped hostilities with a tribe who ranges thereabouts. I succeeded in quieting matters before they had proceeded too far.

I also beg leave to report that a distillery for the manufacture of whiskey has been recently started into operation in the immediate vicinity of the military reserve and that the vile liquor manufactured there is obtained by the Indians and will soon produce serious trouble. I respectfully ask some instructions or authority from the Indian Dept. to abate this nuisance and to close the establishment.

Since the departure of Major P. Lugenbeel, spl. Indian agent and whom I relieved in command of this post, George Montour has been employed as Indian interpreter and has for years previous held the same position--with a salary of fifty dollars p. mo. upon the Indian Dept. I beg to say that he is entitled to have the same pay continued & respectfully refer his case to you. He has rec. no pay since November last.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your Obt. Svt.

James F. Curtis, major 2nd Inf^Cvol.[sic]

comdy post.

To Supt. Indian Affairs,

Washington Territory, Olympia, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville, W.T.

April 25, 1862

Sir:

Referring to my letter of 10 inst. I have the honor to inform you that the distillery therein mentioned had become an intolerable nuisance to the country and was leading to collisions between whites and Indians. I have therefore destroyed all ~~xxx~~ their stock of whiskey (less than 100 gallons) and have removed the machinery so that no more can be manufactured.

Trusting this course may receive your sanction and approval

I am sir

Very Respectfully, your obt. svt.

James F. Curtis,

Major 2nd Infy.

Comdy post/

Supt. Indian Affairs for Washington Territory.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville W.T.

June 30, 1862

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor 2 inst. "ithin a few days I expect to be relieved from the command of this post by Major Rumly (?) and two companies of W.T. vols. and shall then proceed to California ~~xx~~ via Fort Vancouver.

I shall leave the Indians of this country from the northern boundary line to Snake river and between the Rocky Mts. and the Cascades in a quiet and contented condition. Many of them express a desire to see their new superintendent and to have a talk.

By a communication rec. from your predecessor, B.F. Kendall, supt. I was requested to give my personal attention to any matters here pertaining to your department which I have carefully done for the passed eight months, and the Indian Dept. has been at no expense that I am aware of excepting the salary of an interpreter (Geo. Montour) [later letters conform to one spelling and very clearly, Montour , in contrast to former rather difficult to transcribe writing]

Since the departure of Major Lugenbeel, U.S.A. in Nov. last on various occasions it has been policy to make trifling presents to visiting Indians beyond the issues of flour and beef which I am allowed as commdy officer to issue from my commissary stores; as no fund existed to meet these demands, I have advanced it myself--the total amount thus disbursed is about three hundred dollars (300*

I cannot perhaps properly make any claim upon your Dept. for my services rendered but the trouble that I have been at since 17 Nov. last has not been inconsiderable and the duties not unimportant. I believe you will concede with me that I am entitld to some remuneration.

I respectfully call your attention sir, to this matter and would like to hear from you upon the subject. I shall be at Fort Vancouver soon after receipt of this. James F. Curtis, major, commanding Ft. Colville to .H. Hale.esq. subt. Indian Affairs, Olympia.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Nov. 12, 1862

Sir:

I rec. yours of Oct. I found an interpreter at the post on my arrival who has been here for several years. He is very much in want of money. The merchants here do not consider the vouchers which they have been in the habit of issuing here of any value. Can you not send me some funds in some shape so I can pay an interpreter.

Previous to receiving your letter Gen. Alvord had instructed me not to interfere with the liquor trade amongst the whites.

The Indians are very quiet and friendly in this section. Am in hopes I shall be able to keep them so.

Respectfully

L.H. Rumrill

Major commanding

to C.H. Hale,

Indian Agt. [sic]

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Dec 4 62

Mr. Calvin H. Hale,

Dr. Sir:

It has been the custom for the Indian Department to pay the surgeon at this post. There is much for him to do among the Indians. Our surgeon wishes to know whether he may expect the same remuneration others here had. My interpreter is very needy. Am obliged to clothe him out of my own funds. Can you not send me a check on SG(?) for a few hundred dollars. I have issued vouchers from the first of June but the merchants here consider them merely vouchers and I do not see how I shall be able to retain an interpreter unless I have funds.

Respectfully yours

C.H. Rumrill, maj. com.

To Calvin H. Hale,

Supt. Indian Affairs,

Olympia.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Oct. 4, 1863

Mr. C.H. Hale, Sir:

Yours containing check & Greenbacks was duly received. You state the amount for the interpreter is for the 2nd qr. which is doubtless a mistake. It is the first money received for him this year. You could not have intended it for the 2nd qr as the vouchers were made out at the rate of \$1,000 per year which you state you can not pay. I have forwarded vouchers for 2nd and 3rd qr. I trust you will remit the amt. as soon as convenient. The interpreter has a family and has but little beside his salary to rely upon

Respectfully etc.

C.H. Rumrill, major, w.t. vols.

To C.H. Hale

Supt. Ind. Affairs.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Jan. 13, 1863

Mr. Hale, dear sir:

My interpreter has not had any pay for the three last quarters of /83. He is a very valuable man to me but he can not live on air and I can not afford to feed him out of my pocket much longer.

The Indians are unusually poor this winter. A late frost last spring cut off their usual supply of berries. They are all quiet and friendly here. I flog one for stealing occasionally. Please send me some funds.

Respectfully

C.H. Rumrill

maj.

Com post

To C.H. Hale

Supt. Ind. Affs.

Washt'n Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T. Feby 26, 1863

Dear Sir:

I am informed by Major Rugrill that you wish a report of the diseases that require my services in references to the Indians. I will endeavor to give you a short sketch of their maladies etc. Besides being troubled with diseases endemic [sic] to all countries they have scorfela, consumption, opthalmic diseases of all kinds-gonorrhea, syphlis, rheumatism etc. I have plenty of calls from them. They have more faith in the white man's medicine than their own. You are probably aware that next to an Indian agent and commanding officer the doctor takes rank. Hoping that the few words I have written may meet your approbation, I am,

Very respectfully, your obt. servant

S. Whittmore

Ast. Surg. 1st infy. W.T.

Fort Colville

Hon: C.H. Hale,

Supt. Indian Affairs, W.T.

Fort Colville, W.T., June 8th 1865

Sir:

Your letters of May 12 and 15 reached here a few days since but being absent at the time I was unable to reply by return mail.

The salary vouchers have been signed and are enclosed herewith.

As my baggage containing all my papers has been left behind at Walla Walla I am unable to furnish the amount charged Lindsley for goods but the amount of goods issued to him will be found on Mo. papers of the first fractional quarter/65 and as a list of prices made from memory will be enclosed intoo this, you w ll be able to arrive at something near the amount.

The blank vouchers forwarded shall be used as directed but it will I fear be impossible to get the signature of all to whom disbursements were made on the trip up owing to their remotness from this point.

I feel the need of a horse, saddle and bridle badly as no travelling can be done without. A suitable horse and rigging costs here from \$150 to \$175 coin.

I trust that funds will be forwarded for the purpose as I am compelled to hire whatever my duties compel me travel and the funds turned over by you have been expended in reaching here, fitting up quarters and traveling about since my arrival.

I am at present very busily engaged in collecting information as to the numbers and condition of the Indians within this district who are at present widely scattered. In a few weeks however most of them will be assembled at the different fisheries along the Columbia and Spokane when I shall visit them and endeavor to obtain an accurate census.

Owing to our proximity to the boundary line it is exceedingly difficult to discriminate between the British Indians and our own as

they frequently travel to and from residing on either side.

The same difficulty also exists with regard to the Indians of Idaho Territory.

Very respectfully etc.

G.A. Paige

In charge Colvilles

W.H. Waterman esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll. No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

July 10th, 1865

Sir:

Yours of the 17 ult reached me on the ~~30th~~ 3d inst.

In accordance with your instructions I have discontinued the services of the interpreter at this place. I would however respectfully represent that the services of an competent interpreter in the control and management of these Indians are indispensable.

Few if any of the Indians outside of Colville Valley can speak Chinook and complaints of trespass and bad treatment on the part of miners and others passing through their country continue to be brought in almost daily. ~~Witherxixix~~ Within the past five days I have been compelled on several occasions to ~~beddd~~ beg the services of the late interpreter to investigate complaints brought to me from a distance of fifty miles.

If retrenchment be the object I would most respectfully suggest that the physician's services be dispensed with and the interpreter retained as large delegations from tribes living at a distance are constantly coming in to confer with me on business of importance.

I enclose herewith a letter from Capt. McLawn (?) commanding the post in reference to the necessity of an interpreter.

Having an ex officer[or official] Indian agent before my arrival transacted considerable business with the Indians, Capt.

McLawn's judgment in this matter may be considered reliable.

I beg to object to the reappointment of Harry Shuttewith to the position. Had your instructions to dismiss him not have been received I should have done so myself and appointed another in his place .

He has for some time kept an Indian woman and I am reliably informed

has been in the habit of furnishing women to those formerly belonging to this post.

A more suitable person for the position could easily be found.

Trusting that the above suggestions may meet with your approval,
I am, very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

G.A. Paige, in charge Colville and Spokane
Indians

W.H. Waterman, Esq. Supt. Ind. Affrs. Olympia, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. 000 Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, July 10/65

Sir:

Your letter of 8th inst is at hand.

In reply I will say that I think that it is a matter of impossibility to act as Indian Agent at this post and discharge all the duties properly without the aid of an interpreter.

In case that either the physician or interpreter must be discharged I think that the interests of the government should be better served by retaining the interpreter. But both are absolutely necessary. at this post.

I am sir, very respectfully

Your obt. svt.

F .. McCown [appears fairly legible]

Capt. Comd. post

G.A. Paige, esq.

In charge of Colville and Spokane Indians.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Road No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

Sept. 4th, 1865

Sir:

I have to report that a quantity of Ind. Dept. goods consisting of blankets and ~~prizes~~ funds, to the amount of about five hundred dollars was stolen from the store house at this post some weeks ago.

The robbery occurred while I was absent on duty and was effected by means of false keys. All or nearly all of this property has recently been recovered and one of the offenders, a soldier, is now confined in the guard house awaiting trial by court martial.

A citizen who was also implicated effected his escape into British Columbia before a warrant could be served, for the recovery of this property. I am indebted to the exertions of Mr. Robert Lamphere, the efficient sheriff of this county who becoming aware of the robbery some days before my return was employed by me to assist in ferritting the matter with a view to recover the property.

Mr. Lamphere was employed in the business more than three weeks and his bill for his services is \$100 in coin or its equivalent which under the circumstances I deem reasonable.

The goods at the time of the robbery were in one of the government store houses where they had been stored nearly a year and were supposed to be perfectly secure. I mention this lest it be supposed that the robbery was the result of carelessness.

I trust that Mr. Lamphere will be paid the amount as had it not been for him the property would likely never been recovered .

Enclosed will be found affidavits of Capt McCown and myself touching the robbery, also vouchers signed by Mr. Lamphere who requests

that the money may be forwarded to me at this place.

In order to guard against a recurrence of this act I have made the property as secure as my limited means will allow.

Respectfully,

Your Obt. Servt.

G.A. Paige, in charge of Indians
Fort Colville, W.T.

W.H. Waterman Esq.

Supt. Ind. Affrs.

W.T.