

ERLE HOWELL
3436 - 38th Avenue W.
Seattle 99, Washington

September 27, 1963.

Mr. Chick Relander, City Editor,
The Yakima Republican,
Yakima, Washington.

Dear Mr. Relander:

Our mutual friend, Chapin Foster, has told me that you have some very valuable information regarding The Rev. J. H. Wilber, pioneer Methodist Indian missionary and Indian Agent at Fort Simcoe.

I have been detailed by the Conference Historical Society, of which Chapin is president, to write the history of the Methodist Church in Washington.

I plan to be in Yakima about four o'clock this Wednesday, October 2. Would you be available at that time or a little later? If not I might remain in Yakima over night and see you early Thursday, Oct. 3.

I plan to make other calls in the Yakima area on Thursday and Friday in search of information.

It will not be necessary to reply to this letter, because there isn't time. I am presenting a program at Ellensburg at Noon on Wednesday so that I will need to be on your side of the mountain and will take my chances in finding you at your desk.

Sincerely,
Erle Howell
Erle Howell,

Erle Howell
3436 38th Ave. West
Seattle 99, Washington

June 3, 1966

Mr. Click Relander, City Editor,
THE YAKIMA REPUBLIC
Yakima, Washington

Dear Sir:

Under separate cover, for the Methodist Historical Society, I am sending a complimentary copy of the book, METHODISM IN THE NORTHWEST by Erle Howell, edited by Chapin D. Foster.

It is our hope that you may see fit to review this volume in your paper. For your convenience I am listing here the chapters in which you may find material most pertinent to your area:

Chapters I, III, IV, V. VI. Also Chapter XVIII.

Sincerely,

Erle Howell

Erle Howell

[Methodist Simcoe]

Erle Howell
3436 38th Ave. West
Seattle 99, Washington

November 6, 1963

Mr. Click Relander, City Editor,
The Yakima, Republic,
Yakima, Washington.

Dear Mr. Relander:

Sorry for the delay in writing you. Too many irons in the fire for a retired man.

First let me thank you most heartily for the very fine courtesies you extended me while at Yakima in early October. Thanks also for the wonderful material you made possible for me to have and that which you sent me later.

Again thanks for the fine write-up you gave our cause. I am sending a copy of the article to Chapin. He said he saw a copy that some one had clipped. I did not at first realize that I was to give him one of the copies you sent. I see him weekly at Wesley Gardens where he now resides.

I am copying some of the material you sent and shall return all I have copied in a few days. This includes your address written for the centennial of Fort Simcoe.

You have done a marvelous job of collecting historical material concerning the Yakima Reservation, the life of J. H. Wilbur and of Fort Simcoe, and other Central Washington history. Your wife is in an ideal setting for a study of Northwest History.

It was a joy to meet you and your lovely wife. Give her my warm regards and appreciation for the interest she showed in our project.

You will hear from me again and again.

Sincerely,



Erle Howell

P. S. A. C.: Fairchild, appointed with J. H. Wilbur to Fort Simcoe in 1867 was a Methodist minister, having been received on trial ~~the~~ 1861 ~~year he went there~~. He stayed one year, later served in Oregon and in the Puget Sound area. He was Presiding Elder of the Puget Sound District in 1875. In 1882 he was P. E. of Portland District.

ERLE HOWELL
3436 - 38th Avenue W.
Seattle 99, Washington

November 8, 1963.

Dear Click:

Herewith I am returning some of the material you so graciously entrusted to me. If you do not mind I should like to keep a little longer the material dealing with Jude Kuykendall's recollections of Fort Simcoe and Father J. H. Wilbur. I want to check over it and make notes on items I do not already have of Father Wilbur. Then I shall return them.

Chapin Foster and the Publishing House are crowding me for chapter outlines so that I have little ~~time~~ time for depth reading and research for details. But shall get at this soon.

Again thanks for all you have done.

Sincerely,

Erle
Erle Howell,

[Fort Simco-Wilbur]

Erle Howell
3436 38th Ave. West
Seattle 99, Washington

March 31, 1964

Mr. Click Relander
1212 N. 32nd Ave.
Yakima, Washington 98902

Dear Mr. Relander:

At last I have managed to get all this copied. While I shall not be able to use all of it in my present project, I do not want to lose the chance to get this in condition for my files.

My part-time work at Wesley Gardens Retirement Home has slowed me down this year, but I have managed to get the sixteen chapters outlined and into the hands of our editorial committee at Nashville, Tennessee, along with Chapter I. We have not heard from them yet, but they had seen the original outlines and passed their suggestions along. Chapter II is ready for submission, and I plan to get going on others.

I find that I have more material than I can possibly use, but I like it that way for it gives one a chance for a stronger product.

I do not yet know when I shall get over that way again, but plan to do so as soon as possible. I shall be through at Wesley Gardens by the end of May and be free to move about over the state a little more than now.

I am increasingly grateful to you for your fine cooperation and for the suggestions you have given me. Chapin Foster also shares my gratitude.

When I finish this volume I have a strong desire to make a full study of the life of J. H. Wilbur with a view to writing his biography.

Give my best wishes to Mrs. Relander.

Sincerely,

Erle Howell
Erle Howell

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Erle Howell
3436 - 38th Avenue West
Seattle, Wash. 98199

August 27, 1964

PROJECT —
A History of
Northwest
Methodism

Historian:
Erle Howell,
Seattle

Editor:
Chapin D. Foster,
Des Moines

Mr. Click Relander, City Editor
Yakima Republic
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

As you probably have been informed, I was at the office one afternoon last week and asked for you. As I was there after your shift ended you were naturally not there. We tried several times to reach you, but receiving no reply went on to Sunnyside and Grandview, Walla Walla, and points east and north. I would have written to tell you I was coming, but interruptions made time of my arrival there uncertain.

I was not so much seeking information, because you have already made available for me information which with that already at hand, is more than I can use in the proposed volume on Northwest History as it related to J. H. Wilbur.

The thing I particularly wanted to see you about was to keep my promise to see you when I came back, and to thank you for what you already have done. One chapter will deal with the missions among the Indians of the Northwest, and I have found the two little books you let me have very helpful. I am going to make use of some of that material, and you will be credited for what I use from you.

I revisited Simcoe and White Swan and attempted to see Mrs. Kemmel at Toppenish, but she was not at home. She will send me some material a little later, according to her husband.

I shall need some information regarding volume of business done and timber sales brought to date for 1964, such as that you gave in your book for 1954, but I shall write the Yakima Agency for that.

Again I thank you and your wife for your kindness to me last fall.

Sincerely,

Erle Howell

Erle Howell

P. S. When I have the Chapter on Men of Forest and Plains about ready for the printer, I should like to send you a carbon copy. Would you find time to check it for accuracy in fact and names? If so, Chapin Foster and I would appreciate it very much.

EH

Erle Howell
3436 38th Ave. West
Seattle 99, Washington

[Miscellaneous to be filed]

July 21, 1965

Mr. Click Relander, City Editor,
Yakima Republican,
Yakima, Washington.

Dear Friend Click:

Last December I had a copy of this chapter ready to submit to your scrutiny. I loaned it, with other chapters, to Bishop Everett W. Palmer. He in turn sent it to Dr. R. Franklin Thompson of University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, and to this day I have not seen it again.

This was ready some weeks ago, but I have been busy on the appendices of the book and did not get it off to you.

I am enclosing a copy of the explanatory notes applying to this chapter, so you can see what credits I have given. I have made use of some of your material and have given you credit. I hope this is satisfactory to you.

While I dislike to punish you by requesting you to read the chapter, I am anxious to have your suggestions in case I have erred anywhere.

We hope to get the typesetting under way soon after August first, but have been delayed in the project because of slowness of the Methodist Churches in the state to meet their quotas of sales. The Conference Historical Society is publishing the book, and the Methodist Publishing House at Nashville is to print it for us. We must have 3,000 cash orders before we authorize the printers to set type. We have in excess of 2,000 now and the pastors have said they will get the others for us soon.

Give my personal regards to Mrs. Relander and remember I am grateful for all the help you have given.

Sincerely,

Erle

Erle Howell.

Erle Howell
3436 38th Ave. West
Seattle 99, Washington

August 24, 1965

Mr. Click Relander,
3701 Commonwealth Road,
Yakima, Washington.

My Dear Friend, Click:

Thanks for your letter and the check that came a few minutes ago. I am forwarding the check to Chapin Foster, at Wesley Gardens. He has a person there who keeps the books.

Chapin and I met with the Bishop and his cabinet Thursday and we decided to send the manuscript in and get work started on it. We ought to know soon how long it will take to complete the publication.

Thanks for the thorough job you did on the chapter on the work among the Indians. You did more work on it than I dared hope you could spare time for, but I appreciate greatly the work you did.

Concerning the statement that Wilbur had usurped the authority of the resident agent, I found that in the published reports of the Department of Indian Affairs for that time. I took that statement to mean that the writer thought Wilbur was making decisions which should have been made by the agent. Dr. R. H. Landsdale, then agent, was a Methodist and probably shared Wilbur's feelings in the matter. Wilbur was an overshadowing personality and probably did dominate the agent.

Our report to the cabinet and the Bishop Thursday showed almost 2700 sales and guarantees by churches. The Cabinet felt we should have 4,000 published on the theory that many persons will purchase volumes they can see who would not buy on the strength of a promise. The extra thousand will cost much less per book than the first three thousand. So we may proceed. We had hoped to get the book out by Christmas, but feel that it is too late for that now.

Again thanks for all your help. Hope the book will prove worthy of all the time you gave to it in my behalf.

Sincerely,

Erle Howell
Erle Howell

Erle Howell
3436 38th Ave. West
Seattle 99, Washington

September 17, 1966

Mr. Click Relander, City Editor,
The Yakima Republic
Yakima, Washington 98901

Dear Friend Click:

Thanks for the write-up of our book, METHODISM IN THE NORTHWEST. I admit that the book is not perfect, but it contains information not to be found anywhere else under one cover.

I shall always remember that I am indebted to you for your kindness and helpfulness in research.

I am aware of some errors and there may be more which I have no way to check but all in all I am quite satisfied with general results. It required three hard years of research and writing, but I am glad I did it.

Chapin did not last to see the book in print, but he put in many hard days of promotion and advise to me.

The last of the pre-publication orders was filled June 1, and on June 6 I came down with what the doctors diagnosed as pericarditis which kept me in the hospital from June 11, to July 10, and at home without communication with friends for another four weeks. Since that time I have been taking things easy at home. Feeling pretty well now, but still have a good piece to go.

Please note that we did not move to Wesley Gardens, Des Moines, but still reside in our home in Seattle.

Again thanks for your helpfulness and give my best wishes to your wife.

Sincerely,

Erle

Erle Howell