

Miss Beth Chambers,  
1537 Lincoln Ave.,  
Sunnyside, Wash

May 11, 1956

Dear Miss Chambers:

Sorry that I just didn't have time to check out sooner on Peopeomoxmox, the Walla Walla Chief, but took time tonight to type out what I could from what I consider to be very good source.

My old informants, like the "anapums of Priest Rapids, tell me that his name meant Yellow Bird, and they said it was a special kind of yellow bird, a little wild canary. You will notice it is spelled different ways, but the Indians, one and all, pronounce it with a distinct "O" sound and later-day writers spell it Peopeomoxmox.

You will note too that here you have a double use of a word, like "alla Walla (repetition) which was a peculiarity of the Walla Walla language.

The parenthetical remarks are my own. You will note too that in the Treaty History "The Yakimas" which I edited and wrote several sections for the Yakimas, and which should be in your library, there is a reference to "ears being pickled in alcohol" as to how low whites had sunk in their civilization. Perhaps this is where you got your idea for the report. If your library does not have a copy, let me know to whom I should mail a copy and I will buy one from the store here or the tribe and send it to you, for school library use.

Hopethis rxxx isn't getting in too late for your report. I was tied up finishing a five week long project which kept me busy at night of indexing my book Drummers and Dreamers and reading the page proofs sent by the publisher.

I took down some notes to give an earlier background of why Peopeomoxmox might have felt as he did, distrustful of the whites.

Let me know how you come out on your report.

Sincerely

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