

Roll 12

Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs

Register of Letters Received Sept 30, 1848-January 14, 1873.

Letters Received, Sept. 30, 1848-December 25, 1852. The National Archives, 1844.

Introductory Note

At the beginning of this roll is reproduced a register of letters received by the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1848-47; by its successor, the Oregon and Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1857-1861; and by the reestablished Oregon Superintendency, 1861-1873. The register is contained in two volumes with the following backstrip titles: "Register/and /Index" and "Records/Oregon/ Superintendency." The first extends from the beginning of the superintendency in 1848, through Marcy 1866, and the second from that date to the end of the Superintendency in 1873. Each volume contains registers of both incoming and outgoing letters. The register of letters received occupies pages 2-230 of the first volume and pages 1-83 of the second. The register of letters sent, occupying other parts of the volumes, is filmed on Roll 2 of this microcopy. The register of letters received is arranged in chronological order, usually according to date of receipt.

As indicated in the introduction of Roll 2 the registers were begun in the Superintendent's Office long after 1848. Occasional omissions and other errors occur, and the brief statements of the subjects of letters are not always adequate.

...Letters relating exclusively to Indian Affairs in Washington Territory during the period of the Oregon and Washington Superintendency were filed separately and are not included in this microcopy. Since the letters of the Oregon Superintendency and a part of those of the Oregon and Washington Superintendency were filed and registered as a single unbroken group from 1848 to 1873, it is assumed for editorial ~~purposes~~ conveniences that the whole body of the letters thus registered may be described as records of the Oregon Superintendency.

The unbound letters received were given numbers, usually in red ink, corresponding to the numbers assigned to them in the register. The numbers for each year were continued to the end of the year, the first letter received in the next year being numbered 1. Most of the letters bear on the back a statement indicating the writer, the subject, the date of writing and the date of receipt...

...These records are among those of the Department of the Interior in the National Archives. The following is suggested as an appropriate method of citing an entry in the register: Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Register 1; 50, or Oregon SIA, Register 1: 50. A particular unbound letter may be cited by year and number as follows: Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Letters Received 1850, no. 10 or Oregon SIA, Letters Received, 1850, no. 10.

Oregon Superintendency Indian Affairs, 1848-73

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Scanning report, exclusive of typescripts, but not a complete "index."

It will be noted that this volume is not paginated, but that location is found by inserted tabs at the bottom of each letter, the letters being arranged by years and then chronological. The first number represents the year, the second the letter number.

Index Book A page 6.

1848 no. 5, letter of transmittal re. census.

1849 no. 8, letter from Newark, ("ash. now) re attacks by Indians at Nesqually.

Book A p. 1, 1849 No. 13, Ind. in confinement charged with murder of Wallace and re. the trial of same (Nesqually)

1849 no. 22, The Rogue R. murderers.

1849 no. 24, Schoolcraft re. transmittal of statistical and historical forms, 2 copies inquire respecting historical, present condition and failure or prospect of the Indian tribes of the U.S.; 12 copies, ancient sites of Indian occupancy in America 1/2 quire census forms; 12 copies census forms, 12 do comparative vocabulary of Ind. languages.

1850 no. 2-Tabular stat of tribes of the Second Sub agency (Sound and coast, Cape Flattery, Hood's Canal.)

1850 No. 5- Figures scribbled on ~~pink~~ plain paper unlabeled, tribes, main band of warriors, lists Wyampan 130, Yachmaws 1,500, Pischoose 350, Rogue River 700 to 800, Snakes 2,000, "alla "allas 1,000, Deschutes 300, Wiscopam 200, etc. total 13,000. "Lane's number of Indians."

1850 no. 6, McBean, Jan. 20, reporting killing of two of the murderers and escape of others of Dr. "hitman .

1850 no. 9-Letter from Nez Perce regarding "hitman murderers and Cayuse.

1850 no. 10, Gibbs to Dept. Interior regarding recommendations for reservation in present SW Wash and NW Oreg. for Clatsops, Tillamooks, Chinooks,

and "Calams" and others.

1850, no. 19-Instructions to Anson Dart, re. mission claim.

1850 no. 33-Unsafe to travel south of the Umpqua River because of unfriendly and treacherous Indians.

1850 no. 35- Spalding gives description in tribes, history of etc. in Willamette Valley.

1851 no. 2- Census table of Clatsop tribe, listing individual's names together with specific residence or "customary" such as Col. River on So. side etc., 18 half breeds, 54 full bloods, eight slaves.

Do. of Chinook tribe, on Col. River below the mouth of the Cowlitz, individuals, places named such as Wah-kia-kum, Pillar Rock, Oak Point, Chinook Pt. etc. where specific individuals lived; 36 half breeds, 99 whole bloods, 36 slaves.

1851 no. 4-Act of Congress to adjust and settle with people of Oregon for cost of defending selves against Cayuse in 1847-48, \$100,000, approved Feb. 14, 1851.

1851 no. 15-Desire of trader to deal with Wamapam, Columbia River, Deschutes, Yakamas, Cayuses, Nez Percés and Clickitat tribes at place occupied by the said tribes, viz the Dalles.

1851, no. 33-Council held with Cayuse, 27 June 1851.

Government does not intend to buy any land east of the Cascades but leave Indians in possession.

1851 no. 53- H.H. Spalding's report, Aug. 25th, 1851.

1851 No. 40-E. Wampole, Uvilla Sept. 22, 1851 statements and particulars of depredations committed by the Snakes or Dannoeks.

1851 no. 60-Gen. Hitchcock, Benecia, military expedition ordered to Port Orford, Oct. 17, 1851.

1852 no. 28- Elkanah Walker to replace Wampole.

1852 no. 26-45 Depredations and Indian troubles with whites over land, whiskey, etc.

1852 no. 76-ⁿ~~R~~eporting difficulties with Indians at Big Bend, out of
Port Orford.

Sir:

I transmit to you form for a census of the Indian tribes of Oregon which I will thank you to have filled up by the several agents under your jurisdiction and returned to this office at the earliest practicable period. These forms have been prepared under an act of Congress of the 3rd of March, 1847. They embrace perhaps a larger number of points of information than it might have seemed advisable to adopt if the Indians of Oregon alone had been contemplated in the returns. But such a scrutiny was necessary in order to judge of the advances of civilization of the most forward tribes as the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws etc. In preparing the returns for more hunters or roving bands who are without cattle or agriculture, such as the tribes of the Columbia Valley are represented to be, a number of the columns of items will appear superfluous. It is essential in these cases however that a dot or dash should be used that the deficiency of negative

His Excellency the governor of Oregon Territory and ex officio supt Ind. Affrs.
[at bottom of page]

may rest on the authority of the agent or other officer filling the blanks

The Indian population of Oregon has been very variously estimated here by persons who have had considerable means of personal observation. The same disagreement as to tribes and numbers has been found to exist in the published accounts of travelers and explorers, which is probably owing in part to inexactitudi (sic) in the geographical area at the respective eras of computation or to errors in the actual location of some of the higher northern or northeastern bands.

Another cause of the great disparity of population between estimates of the earliest and the latest dates is to be found in the great depopulation which has occurred from epidemics or other calamities--over estimates of the Indian population on our frontiers appear to have been generally made in the first advance of our settlements. I will thank you to guard as much

as possible against these several causes of error, and to direct the agents employed to include only tribes who are actually known to reside between the parallels of 42 degrees and 49 degrees N. latitude.

The whole subject is important to the future legislation of Congress and the policy of the Department respecting the Indians of Oregon and I have the honor to press it on your early attention.

Very respectfully

W. Mioilt (?) [Medill]

War Department August 31st, 1848, Indian Affairs relative to taking Census. W. Medill. Received Nov. 30, 1848.

1849- No. 2 Oregon City March 7, 1849, to His Excellency Gov. Lane

Sir: The liberality of your noble character and the beneficent intentions with which your excellency is animated for the welfare of this country encourages me to confide in the protection of your excellency in behalf of the Indians of the Rocky Mountains amongst whom our Society has with the approbation and by the authority of the government of the United States founded several missions since 1842, with the intent of civilizing that so interesting a portion of Upper Oregon.

From the very origin of our establishment we have always been under the necessity of furnishing our Indians with arms and ammunition, these being the only means of recompensating their labors and of procuring a livelihood both for themselves and for the missionaries. It was only last year that they ceased to enjoy this advantage of primary importance. Your excellency is well aware of the war in which the whites were engaged in with the Cayuse tribe last year, on account of the horrible massacre of Dr. Whitman and others.

It was only at this eventful crisis that the Legislature passed a law forbidding all traffic of ammunition with the Indians. This law although dictated by the prudence of the times still gives reason to fear on account of its generality as it equally regards all Indians, the hostile as well as the friendly, whilst it deprives the latter of an article of imperative necessity. The Indians of the Rocky Mountains cannot sufficiently provide for themselves by their agriculture, although they have already made great proficiency herein. They have not even any supply of salmon which is the ordinary diet of Indians on the borders of the Columbia and other waters. Hunting therefore being their only dependence for subsistence to refuse them powder is consequently to starve them. Moreover every one knows that the Indians are no means disinterested in their doings. Nothing for nothing seems to be their maxim and to induce them to do something it suffers to proffer a little powder as a premium for their labour because

with powder alone they can procure for themselves venison for their diet during the winter and the skins of beasts for their clothing. Those who have lived in the Indian country will assure your excellency that powder is to the Indian what money is to us in this providential country.

Besides who can be so hard hearted as to abandon the Flat Head Indians who have always distinguished themselves for their friendly attachment towards the whites as Clarke testifies when first he visited them, who I say so hard hearted as to abandon those poor and faithful Indians to the attacks of the cruel Blackfeet, the terror of the Rocky Mountains, who incessantly rove about anxious awaiting an opportunity to destroy them, so that the Flathead, whilst industriously engaged in ~~reap~~ reaping his harvest is obliged to have his gun near him and always in readiness against any sudden attack from the marauding Blackfeet, yet these blacket, enemies of humanity, can always be abundantly furnished with ammunition from the American and English trappers from the other side of the mountains.

Your excellency is sufficiently clarsighted to understand how impolitic this law is on account of its generality because in punishing our enemies it also punishes our friends, not through any intent of benefitting them but to exasperate their feelings against us. Your excellency's human disposition fills me with confidence that some modification will be made in this law which deprives the well disposed Indians of their means of subsistence as well as of defence against their enemies.

With this confident assurance I have the honour to subscribex myself with the greatest respect your excellency's humble and obedient servant.

Me (Very much of a scrawl, looks like

Auolly †

Ag nt for the Catholic Mission at the Rocky Mountains

(From the Agent of the Catholic Mission, March 7, 1849) to Joseph Lane, governor of Oregon Territory.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 12, Microcopy 2

1849- Enclosure to No. 6

Nesqually, April 31st, 1849

To The Board of Management Hudson's Bay Co., Fort Vancouver, Gentlemen:

I am sorry to inform you that an affray took place here about two hours ago with a large party of Stewhamish and Snoqualmish in which a young American named Wallace was shot dead. One Indian was killed to my knowledge.

The circumstances that led to this unfortunate event were as follows:

About noon a long file of Indians were descried coming along the plain on the north side of Sequallitch creek and immediately the women and children of the working Indians made with all haste for the establishment. Soon after the strangers arrived about 100 in number and made for Lahallets lodge where they had some dispute to settle. They afterwards clustered around the water gate of the fort and tried to force an entrance which was only granted to the chief. Having him inside I went to visit Mr. Forrest professional when the Indians made another attempt on the gate which was guarded by two men. Shots were then interchanged and Mr. Wallace who was unfortunately outside fell a Mr. Lewis who stood near Wallace was grazed by a ball which perforated his vest and slightly wounded by another in the arm. The hostile Indians on being fired at from the bastion immediately fled out of gunshot range.

The Snoqualmish and Sheyhamish Indians have for some time past been very saucy and presumptuous both at this place and the different American settlements in the neighborhood and it is highly necessary that measures should be taken to keep them in order.

Since the affray the Snoqualimish chief Pattakynim has sent to know how my heart was and I have replied that the matter did not rest with me now but with the "great chief" to the southwest. I would endeavor to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty and that the steps taken by the authorities would depend greatly on the future conduct of the tribe implicated.

Mrs. Simmons and Lewis were with me when the inquiry and reply were made.

I have the honor to be, gentleman, your very obt. servant

Signed; Wm. F. Tolmie

1850- No. 1

Number of Nez Perces or Sahaptain Indians

Lowest band on Snake River, 23 men, 20 women, and children.

Hai-kai -mash band on Snake River, total number 65

Next band above, total number 50.

Next band above, 29 men, 26 women, and children

Band on Clear Water opposite mission, 17 men, 20 women, 7 boys, 8 girls.

Upper Clear Water Band 11 men, 13 women, 9 boys, 3 girls.

Red Wolf's band , 64 men, 71 women, 22 boys , 18 girls.

Josephs band, total number 425

James Band, 20 men, 27 women, 9 boys, 11 girls.

Flint Necklace's band total number 137

Wah-as-tush-ti's band(Or Call Bear) band ,34 men, 68 women,and children.

Upper Nez Perces 139 men, 255 women and children.

Three Feathers band 15 (written over 13) men 60 (written over 38 women and children.

total number Nez Perces 1797

Paloose Indians (Speak the Walla Walla language) 60 men, 62 women,

32 boys, 27 girls, 191

1850- No. 4

From the chiefs and council of the Nez Percés to his
excellency Governor Lane

Governor:

Although far from you we take your hand and wish to see you, governor,
very much. We are your good friends and we want to know you. What time
are you coming up. At what place will you be that we can meet you? Ellis
our head chief is dead, as you know, and we want to meet you to choose
another. Our people are all scattered over our lands and we want to
know when you when can come so that we may call them together. We are all
however of the same heart and want to see you much.

This is all we have to speak. When we heard that you taken the murderers
& killed them we were glad. This is all we have to speak.

Your friends.

Richard Takahooatis

U.U. Alt alt who sault

U.U. Sin mulkin

Yoom tom a li kin

Bakut tash

Tip ya la na ti nam in

Hach has tom al we at

Superintendency Oregon Indian Affairs 1848-73 Roll 12, Microcopy 2
1850- No. 7

Walla Walla 7th February '50

Joseph Lane, Esq, governor

Sir: I beg once more to address you a few lines in regard to the murderers which I presume will not prove uninteresting.

The murderers whom we supposed to be far are near the Cayuse Camp starvation prevented them making their escape & forced some of them to surrender to the Young Chief. I had a visit from him recently and he told me that he fully expects to decoy the whole of them into his camp for the purpose of giving them up to be punished. His own nephew, (Moathy) among them rest whom he does not consider himself to be a murderer. Hai not Raymond spoken to the Indians as he did it's possible that the murderers would have been killed some time ago. I am certainly of opinion that p 2 that if such be your intention to send a force hither, no time should be lost in doing so else they may possibly escape. Notwithstanding I have cautioned the Young Chief against the possibility of doing so, and to see that while in his custody they do not molest any one. He was also desirous I should appraise you sir that two of the murderers (Clough Nash & Brother) are the Nez Perces own people say Looking Glass ' relatives. He is determined to have nothing else to do with the Nez Perces and will manage the murderers alone, for he says he is tired of asking them of assistance in main (?)

With much respect

etc.

William W. McBean

William McBean, Fort Walla Walla, Feb. 7, 1850, received Feb. 28, 1850

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 12 Microcopy 2
1850-- No. 8

Oregon City, January 25th, 1850

To His Excellency Joseph Lane, Governor of Oregon

Sir: I hear just now that you are about leaving this country for the United States. As I am concerned in the Indian Catholic Mission business I beg leave to inquire respectfully from you who shall be the person interested with the conduct of Indian affairs in your absence -- "What are the views of the government relative to the Cayuse affairs; is it expected that it will take a long time for their full settlement? What would be also the views of the government relative to the immediate going of the Catholic Missionaries among the Cayuses and their settling among them; would the government be opposed to it? Would he prefer that they should wait until the full settlement of the Indian difficulties?

(No signature)

Endorsement- From J.B.A. Brouillet, Jany. 25, 1850

Received same day

Proposing certain questions to the supt. and requesting an answer thereon

1850-No. ~~12~~ 16

Dalles of Columbia, July 30, 1850

Sir:

I am in possession of positive information that the man by the name of Olney who has a hand at this point has contrary to law brought liquor up to this point and is selling the same to Indians and soldiers. I am aware of the power vested in the commanding officer of a military post which I assure you will be exercised in good faith and ~~xxxxxx~~ not having any jail or safe place for keeping such a culprit till he may be brought to justice have taken this opportunity of informing you as Indian agent that you may direct the U.S. Marshall to proceed to this point when the offender shall be taken and turned over to him without delay being the proper officer to take him into custody and bring him before the proper tribunal for trial. If possible send M...k up at the earliest time possible when he should arrive there will be the time to proceed and send him immediately down to Oregon City as it will be impossible perhaps to keep him here if taken in custody. You the of such procedure and I hope will coincide with me in the measure as not only being best advisable altogether expedient for the good of the Indians and for the .. of Indians regulating such matters in the Indian country. Murk can come up with all his documents and report to me and take him into custody in safety.

I beg of you let there be no delay.

Truly yours

Maj. Tucker, U.S.A.

General I. Lane,

Oregon City

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1850 No. 18

Telegram

Morse Telegraph, the Magnetic Telegraph Company

Washington, August 12, 1850, to Anson Dart

To be left at office.

Instructions for the commission to ~~xxxxx~~ treat with the Oregon Indians
will be sent to your address by tomorrow evening's mail.

L Lea

20/108

Comr long

1850 No. 32

McKenzie Fork, Nov. 15, 1850

To Dr. Anson Dart, Superintendent of Ind. Affairs, Oregon, Oregon City

My Dear Sir: I have to day most agreeable to notice the Indians frequenting the Umpqua and the regions lying between the Umpqua & Cascade Range & the country of the upper Wallemett. They are very few in No. and miserably degraded. I find but two languages as yet, viz: The Molalle & the Calappoya, the ~~former~~ former a dialect of the old Cayuse and the Molelle, the descendants of that tribe retaining their features most strikingly.

Of this fact I was apprised more than 15 years ago when we first located our missionaries among the Cayuse. The Cayuse informed me that a band had left them some three years before and crossed the Cascade Mountains and that the Molalles were their descendents. They are much more intelligent and active than the Calapooyas.

....

H.H. Spalding, Agt S.W. O.T.

1850 No. 32 H.H. Spalding, sub Ind. Agent dated Nov. 18, 1850

received Nov. 2d 1850

Reporting on the history statistics etc of certain Indian tribes in the Upper Country. Will try to arrest the murderer of Newton. Will go south with the first party going out that way.

Suptcy. Oregon, Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 12, Microcopy 2
1851 No. 24

To Hon. Anson Dart, Superintendent Indian Affairs in
Oregon

Sir: Understanding that you are about to establish an Indian Agency
upon the Umatilla Valley this spring I beg leave to request a license to
trade with the Indians at that point.

It is my intention to take only such articles as may be useful and
necessary for the Indians and I will conform to the regulations of your
department and render such aid as may be in my power in enforcing them.

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servt

A.F. ~~Ridd~~ ~~Rogers~~ Royce

Oregon City, May 1 1851

1851 No. 26

Columbia Barracks, Oregon, April 29, 1851

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant received at this place and in reply have to say that circumstances beyond my control will prevent me from complying with your request in regard to the escort of troops.

There are four posts to be kept up in the Territory and there will be after the departure of the Rifle Regt. but two companies remaining. In regard to tents etc. Capt. Ingalls will furnish them with pleasure.

Very respectfully etc.

S. Hathaway, bvt. maj. U.S. Army
to Anson Dart, supt. of Indian Affairs Oregon Territory.

1851 No. 35

Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Oregon Territory

4th June, 1851

Know all men by these presents that we Nathan Olney and William Craig are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America in the sum of two thousand dollars lawful money of the United State for the payment of which will and truly to be made we bind ourselves and each of us our heirs executors and administrators jointly and severally jointly by these presents sealed and our seals and dated this fourth day of June one thousand eight hundred and fifty one . The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas Anson Dart, superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon Territory, hath granted to the said Nathan Olney a license dated 4th June , 1851 to trade for one year with the Wascopam, DeChutes, Walla Walla and Klickitat tribes of Indians at the following described place within the boundaries of the country occupied by the said tribes, viz: At the Dalles of the Columbia if the said Nathan Olney so licensed shall faithfully conform to and observe all the laws and regulations made or which shall be made for the government of trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes and in no respect violate the same and shall trade at the aforesaid place and no other and shall in all respects act conformally with the license granted to him, then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

Nathan Olney, William Craig.

Witnessed: Theo. Wygant

A.A. Skinner