

Miss Margaret Pettyjohn,
312 S. Division St.,
Walla Walla, Wash.

May 26, 1958

Dear Miss Pettyjohn:

Glad to hear from you, as I presume you are the Miss Pettyjohn I have met at Walla Walla and on connection with some of my state historical work.

I myself have frequently wondered what happened to Mr. Reimers, who was a teacher, and whose "Halfway House by a Trail" which I scanned while in his possession at Waitsburg, as I recall, seemed a fairly competent scholarly work. I presume that the Educational Association, Washington Educational Association, will have a listing of teachers, principals etc. and where they are now located.

I am sure the "Notes" were never published. I do not believe they had sufficient material or "reader interest" in them, but they were exceptionally good, preserving a other fragment of history.

My recollection is that a copy of them were deposited with the library at the Eastern Washington College of Education, as Mr. Reimers compiled them I am sure upon encouragement of the late Dr. Kingston of that college. I encouraged him to deposit a copy with "Whitman."

In my interviews with Mr. Conovers and other old timers, this "local legend" information was substantiated. It all originated from "Chief Bones" who they knew personally.

Asking for source information, documentary, from an Indian is never productive, if you know Indians. They have their "local family legends" of which they are proud and many of them do not stand up upon cross checking with other Indians of the same period.

Those who knew Chief Bones were source that some of Chief Bones possessions, including the star spangled shirt, were given to the museum at "Whitman. Others who knew him insisted it was buried with him. Since he was a "Dreamer" he would have been buried wearing the shirt, or in the case of other "Dreamers" like Puck Hyah Foot, parts of it would have been cut off and sewn onto a new buckskin shirt. I made several inquiries of the museum and was told the material was stored and not classified, etc. and someday they would get it out. So I never had the opportunity of checking on all the material. Someday when it is available I intend to do so, since I believe I could identify what is authentic and not, by manner of sewing, beadwork, the process used in tanning, the skin etc.

I believe Mr. Reimers was working toward a higher degree when he prepared the notes.

During several field trips and parts of entire weeks spent in the Lyons Ferry country, Waitsburg etc. In the process of accumulating material for Drummers and Dreamers I interviewed more than a dozen people. My notes on these interviews are boxed and stored and it would take me a day or more to locate the proper ones. My field trip notes are so extensive, extending over years, and not having the facilities of a librarian etc. I must be content to just preserve them. I think I gathered sufficient material for ten books the size of " " and " " but no publisher would have ever attempted publication of a complete work.

I would write to the library at Cheney (EWCE) and inquire about the notes, or make arrangements to stop there sometime en route to or from Spokane. I would suggest that they look in the Kingston material or rather Kingston collection. Theoretically Whitman Library should have much material, but I've never been able to obtain much there, unless changes have been made. The library is something like my own situation, short handed and intent on preserving material while obtainable rather than cataloging it and having it readily available. Then too, if they have extensive Whitman material, much of it or parts of it of course would tend to destroy the "hitman legend" which they may not wish to do.

The more my research extends into microfilm, the very old letters etc. the less respect I have for Gov. Stevens, Marcus "hitman", etc. I did not at one time, but you'll have to admit that old documents speak for themselves. And the same thing goes for the Catholic fathers. Even Chief Joseph was much of a misrepresented man and I am glad that near me, My Chiefs (McWhorter) makes this very evident and from authentic sources. But Chief Joseph still rolls along as the great war leader.

Hope the first page of this letter will help clarify things or give you some kind of a lead to follow out. The Notes will be worthwhile reading for you, although with any set of notes like that, it takes interviews from corresponding era people, for comparison, to authenticate them.

My regards to my friends in the Walla Walla country

sincerely

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