

Emigration: Fort Boise distances valleys, settlements etc.

War of Rebellion Series 1, Vol L, pt III pg 172-73-74

Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash^r Oct 14, 1862

I am satisfied a post ought to be established at or in the vicinity of Fort Boise next summer .. the whole route from Walla Walla to Fort Boise, 250 miles, is being settled with either farmers or miners

First come is Grande Ronde Valley containing some inviting agricultural land where there is a considerable settlement. Next Powder River on this river the gold mines have attracted many people and a large share of the the emigration this fall. Auburn on Powder River, twenty-five mile west of the emigrant road, contains now 300 houses Next comes the mines on Burnt River and lastly the recently discovered and very inviting gold mines on Boise River. .

Ten years ago the main object in the establishment of a post in that vicinity was the protection of the annual emigration from the Mississippi Valley. Now it is also needed for the protection of the settlements .. the Snake Indians hostile. Made several attacks this season killing several persons, as for instance the emigrants who unfortunately leaving the old road crossed the Snake River above Fort Hall and kept north of that river. About the 9th of August they made an attack on Boise River on a train the captain of which was named Zimmerman. The same party had been attacked on the 9th of July near Soda Springs.

Miners well armed, one party 75, and therefore 100 starting for mines.

As this dept now embraces Utah I recommend that orders be given that a command shall leave Fort Crittenden, Utah Territory about the 15th of June next proceed to some eligible point near the South Pass to intercept the emigrants on road to Salmon Falls on Snake River.

Concurrent garrison at Fort Boise should consist of three companies of infantry and two cavalry, latter for the first winter return

to Fort Walla Walla for subsistence and forage after the first plenty of forage could be grown. Recommend funds needed for qm dept for fiscal year ending 30th of June 1864 to include sufficient for establishment of Fort Boise

William Pickering to Gen Wright, Oct 21, 1862

despite reports etc. careful vigilance providing overland protection etc Judge Hewitt informs me that from the most reliable statements he has received reasons to believe that a larger number of emigrants have been robbed and murdered along the Snake River road during this season than in any previous year.

p 190-

General Wright, in the name and on the behalf of the population of this territory, I want instant and immediate retributive justice done in these cases of brutal murders and robberies (whites and Indians) ..immediately decide. do not delay nor weaken the blow of inflicting punishment by procrastinating the time of action, for ten, nor five nor four, nor three nor two nor one year after..if wait send troops in warm sun shining weather these ~~odddddd~~ vicious murderers "the white and red skinned demons who have been murderously assassinated our own fellow citizens will by that time have safely gotten out of the reach...

Absolutely necessary that troops should be sent on the road up Snake River as far as Fort Boise of farther.. also request authorize an direct Gen B Alvord to establish a military post at Fort Boise...

[I, L, II, p. 192]

Indian abuses.. Talk of Alvord to chiefs of NP assembled at Lapwai agency on 24th of October 1862...

"...you are entitled to this protection by the treaty. You are also doubly entitled to this care and friendship from your long and unwavering fidelity to our people and to our flag. You received with kindness Lewis and Clark sixty years ago when they crossed the Rocky Mountains and wintered on the ~~Clear~~ Clearwater. You were kind to Colonel Bonneville in 1835 and to Fremont in 1843. In 1847 you indignantly rejected the proposition of the Cayuse after the murder of Mr. Whitman to join in a war. In the spring of 1853 I was in command at the Dalles and learned that you again scornfully rejected the messages of the Cayuse asking you to join in a grand combination for a war against the whites. That war did not finally break out until two years later when you refused to join them and aided Governor Stevens in safely reaching Walla Walla from the Blackfoot country. In 1858 under General Wright to do in the Palouse and Coeur d'Alene country some of you fought on our side and we promised accordingly to fight for you against your enemies. You will never have a worse enemy than the whisky sellers and the bad whites who intrude upon you and commit ~~outrages~~ outrages on you and your families

...when encamped near The Dalles in May, 1853 your men were seen to kneel on the ground and say their prayers and worship in truth and sincerity to the great God of Heaven. You won in that way respect and regard. Could I have had my will I would have raised a wall as high as the heavens around you to keep out intruders.

It is very sad to find that the discovery of gold found and the consequent rush of miners to this country should have brought such a mass of the very worst white men in contact with you and thus impeded your improvement.

Better if all the gold found there were sunk in the ocean than that such injustice should be done you. In this unfortunate and unlooked for state of affairs the best the Government can do for you is to provide as it has for the making of a new treaty, so as to compensate you so far as possible for the unauthorized occupation of the gold mines by our people. It is true that no amount of money can compensate you for your injured feelings. But the making of this treaty is not given to me. It is in other hands

...believe not the deceitful words of the cunning and slanderous men who say that this great Government has lost its power. The very reverse is true. Never was the Government so mighty and terrible in its power. Never did it have so many rifles or so many soldiers. It has a million of brave and gallant warriors in the field. In the very midst of such a war it makes a beginning, as I have said, of a Pacific railroad. Owing to the delays interposed by the southern states that measure was never before started.

The Northern people have all the country from here to Texas including California, Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska and Kansas--nearly all to the Mississippi river. You are under a great, a good, a rich and a generous government, and never did we have more noble, patient and faithful allies than the Nez Perces. It takes fire to temper steel. temptation is the test and trial of virtue. The Nez Perce lodge will stand rain and storm and hail and hurricane, it is then well pitched; it is then firmly secured to the earth....it required all this severe and harassing treatment by the gold diggers to show how true and honest a Nez Perce can be. Such fidelity shall always have my praise. We wish to return for it not only to be fair, not only to be just but to be also kind and as generous as possible to you.

Wm J. Alvord. Brigadier-General Commanding district..

secession

[p. 196]
War of Rebellion, Series L, Vol L, pt 11

San Francisco, Oct 27, 1862 (To Gen L. Thomas)

I have served on the Pacific Coast for ten years...my duties have called me to nearly every section of this great country.. During this long period I have had ample opportunity of judging of the character of the people and the value of the Union of these remote possessions of the United States

Previous to War with Mexico little was known of the country..

It was not alone from the States of our Union that the people came; every quarter of the globe as well as the isles of the ocean contributed to swell our number...It will thus be seen that the country was overrun and occupied by people bringing with them and retaining all their home prejudices and ill calculated to establish a colony of loyal citizens eager to promote the prosperity of the country.

Time and contact have done much to harmonize and smooth down the discordant elements of this incongruous population, yet the outbreak of a formidable rebellion in our land had a tendency to revive those sectional sympathies and attachments which have prompted men to glory in the fact not that they are Americans but that they are from such or such a state, to which their paramount allegiance is due

Happily the number of men who thus ignore the authority of the Federal Government and declare their fealty to the State from which they came is small compared with that of the men who are Americans, and who love the Union and are willing to risk their all for its preservation. Such was the character and such the division of sentiments on this coast when I assumed command of the department. I saw at once that to overcome all these threatening difficulties it was necessary to be watchful, vigilant and firm; not create unnecessary alarm in the public mind by hasty, ill-advised acts, but to pursue the even tenor of my way regardless of personal consequences, and feeling

assured that such a course could not fail to secure the respect of political parties of every complexion and ultimately redound to the honor of our Government and country. If what little I have done has contributed to ~~to~~ in the smallest degree ~~to~~ in preserving ~~to~~ intact our glorious union and maintaining unsullied our flag, I shall feel more than repaid. It affords me high satisfaction to inform the General in Chief that during all the period of my command in this department I have received the most cordial approval and assistance from the Governors and State officers as well as from the ~~most~~ most prominent citizens. G. Wright, Brigadier-General, U.S. Army Commanding.

War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol I, 2 pts, part II, Wash, D.C. 1897

(Visalia)

p. 198.

0000

Camp Babbitt

Near Visalia, Tulare County, Cal. Oct. 31, 1862

General Orders

No. 13

1-This camp is hereby named and shall hereafter be known and called
Camp Babbitt in honor of Lieut. Col. E.B. Babbitt, deputy
quartermaster general, U.S. Army, Department of the Pacific.

By order: George S. Evans, Lieut. Col. Second Cavalry California
Volunteers, Comdg.

Indian abuses, Series 1, Vol I, pt 11 p 199

Northern District of California, San Francisco, Office of
Indian Affairs, Nov 1, 1862

Hon William P. Dole, commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir: Have just returned from a tour of Nome Lackee and Round
Valley Indian Reservations, and on inquiry found the statements communicated
to you in my letter of the 15th of October to be correct.

The crops of this year have been nearly all destroyed by the hogs and
cattle of the settlers in Round Valley, and the Indians that
had left the valley by the persuasions and threats of the settlers, and
whom I had stopped at Nome Lackee Reservation, I have temporarily
provided for on the Sac River where they can fish and collect some
acorns, which, with an occasional supply of coarse flour and beef, which
I have procured, will suffice until I can safely return them to the
reservation in Round Valley, which cannot be done until the settlers are
removed, that we may in security plant and grow our future crops. The
Indians thus stopped on the Sac River number about 400.

They were ordered and advised by the settlers to return to their old
homes in the mountains, and I had been notified if they did thus return the
miners would immediately exterminate them; hence without any money to
purchase, I was compelled to engage a temporary supply, contrary to
instructions, in which I was ordered not to incur any debts etc. This
I was compelled to do or disgrace the service by allowing them to go
off and be massacred by white people. I would be pleased
to know whether such an emergency I am allowed any discretionary power,
or whether to follow the strict letter of instructions.

George M. Hanson

Superintending Agent etc Northern District of California.

Indian abuses

Series 1, Vol L, pt 11 p 205

Headquarters, Fort Bragg, Nov. 4, 1862

First Lieut and Adjt John Hanna Jr. Second California Volunteer

Infantry, act asst adjt . gen Humboldt mil. district Fort Humboldt.

Sir: Report ,on investigation. The present number of Indians now

on the reservation is about 200 to 300, consisting of old men,

women and children, mostly sick or diseased. I am informed there were

400 or 500 about six months ago. Since then the young men capable of work

have straggled off through the country, induced to leave by the

encouragement given them from neighboring farmers to work in

digging potatoes etc at 50 cents per diem. The licentiousness of the female

cause the young men of the command to be continually under medical

treatment, otherwise those Indians are inoffensive and peaceable. On the

Noyo River adjoining the headquarters of the reservation is the Noyo

steam saw mills which give employment to sixty men who are fully capable

of protecting themselves and the establishment.

The reservation improvements appear dilapidated and the fences

broken and out of order. There are some potatoes and oats and barley

under cultivation but at present the few Indians that are here appear

to live upon fish, mussels and such breadstuff as they get by begging

and their women's prostitution. If the Indians cannot be induced to

remain on the reserve their behavior will I fear that the

presence of a military post will not have the desired effect. The

brigadier-general, taking into consideration the expense of Government

attending p 206 the existence of a military post here and the apparent

uselessness of its position may please to cause it to be abandoned.

Wm. E. Hull, Captain Second Infantry Second California

Volunteers Commanding Post.

Nez Perce..Secession etc.

Series 1, Vol L, Pt 11, pg 206-2-7-8

Vancouver, Nov 4, 1862

Return to post after visiting Nez Perce Reservation..

I have been compelled to establish a military post on the Lapwai, three miles above its mouth where the Nez Perce Agency is established, and twelve miles from Lewiston, Wash Ter. which is at the confluence of Clearwater and Snake Rivers. I have left there Maj J.S. Rinearson in command of two companies--one, Captain Matthews' company F of First Oregon Cavalry and the other, Captain Knox's E of First Washington Territory Infantry. You had said ~~no posts should be established~~ that I have no more posts should be established without authority but I found that the natives demanded it now.

When I assumed command of the District of Oregon on 7th of July last there were about 15,000 people mostly gold miners on the NP reservation in defiance of the express provisions of the treaty with that tribe which was ratified by the Senate 29th of April 1859. The treaty was made 11th of June, 1855 and not ratified until the above date on account of the revolt of other Indian tribes with whom treaties were made at the same time. As the NP never shared in said revolt, but on the contrary opposed it and assisted our troops, to suppress it, it was very hard that they had to wait four years before their treaty was ratified. Even now at the end of seven years I can find but few evidences of a fulfillment of the treaty. Lawyer has never received but six months of his salary as head chief and the house promised with which he was to be provided has but just been commenced. Few of the annuities ever reached them.

Their whole history, from their earliest contact with the Americans has been signalized by their fidelity to the white race, especially to us, the other tribes having rather called themselves "King George Indians" before the boundary line was run.

...they learn the whites are clamorous to get possession as well (besides gold) of their farming and grazing as of the gold mining regions.

Vile rebel sympathizers, of the lowest class of gamblers, outlaws and land pirates, such as always haunt an Indian frontier, have infested the reservation and instilled poisonous words into their ears such as representing that the power of the Government was gone etc. I doubt not that a few such vagabonds have sought to hatch a revolt. The signal was to have been any great reverse at the East, as the capture of Washington or Baltimore. The object was nothing but plunder, pillage and robbery in the midst of the disorder.

An illegitimate son of Pe-pe-mox-mox by a Ne Perce woman, Onanah (man named Wet-too-lawpin) was surrendered by Lawyer to Major Rinearson. He is accused of the murder of Mr. Titus, a citizen of Orofino.

On the 24th I met the Indian chiefs, thirty in number in a grand council composed of Lawyer, Joseph, Big Thunder, and all principal chiefs except Eagle of the Light who has never participated in any of the treaties. A brother of Looking Glass was there.

One of the Indians belonged to the band of Big Thunder, who is a leader of the party in opposition to Chief Lawyer, and a rival candidate for head chieftainship. He and the chiefs in his interest sought an interview with me at Camp Lapwai on the 27th ultimo. He said he wanted more time to investigate the question of the guilt of the accused. When satisfied of the guilt he would surrender him, as required in the treaty. Doctor Newell, Mr. Craig and Mrs. W.H. Rector, the later

3
superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon, concurred in advising me to give him more time as he asked. He went on to profess that he was for peace that this murder, if it was committed, was the act of a mere boy and no indication of (p 209) presage of war. The above ...

One of the accused, a half walla walla, can find sufficient cause for his deed in the killing of his father, Pe-pe-mox-mox by the whites in 1856. The other, if guilty, remains the only full blooded Nez Perce who ever killed a white man...it is a miracle with all the causes of conflict on that reservation for the last two years.

Of the interest centering in Lewiston you can form some idea when I state that half a million dollars for freights have been paid at that place during the last year. I have called the new post Fort Lapwai. Gen Alvord etc.

(from Sacramento, November 8, 1862)

p 210-211 Wright to Gen Thomas..The public sentiment in this country remains unchanged and it is believed that the precautions already taken will effectually suppress any attempt of the disaffected (211) to throw this State into the vortex of rebellion. I have frequent personal interviews with the Governor of this State and I am happy to state that he is watchful and vigilant, doing all that is possible for the preservation of this country from the horrors of a civil war

We have frequent reports of organizations in the remote interior districts of the State for resistance, but such reports, have upon investigation, been found highly exaggerated; that many organizations hostile to the Government exist I have no doubt, but they are principally confined to the localities where the sympathizers with the rebels are in the majority.

I have thus far been no farther from San Francisco than this city. In the present condition of our affairs I beg leave to ask that authority may

given me to remove temporarily my headquarters to such positions as may be deemed necessary.

During the past few months I have been suffering with the asthma, the only affliction I ever had, and this only in San Francisco. Anywhere removed from the coast I am perfectly well. I find this city, which is the seat of government and the residence of the Governor very convenient for the transaction of the business of the department; besides being but a few hours from San Francisco, the mails from the East reach me here a day sooner. Under these circumstances I respectfully request authority be granted to remove my adjutant-general's office to Sacramento at least during the session of the legislature, as well as a general authority to visit any post or section of the country where my presence may be beneficial to the interests of the Government.

G Wright

(Was to be buried later at Sacramento)

Indian abuses Series 1, Vol L, Pt 11, p 219

San Francisco, Nov. 11, 1862 to Wright

Another letter from Round Valley, no troops have yet come and no news of them. David Jordan has come into the valley with six or eight 00 barrels of whiskey and I know we will have trouble as long as it lasts. There was a Peter McWilliams started out of the valley last Monday with a little Indian child, about four years old. Hearing of it I got out a writ for him and started a constable after him. who caught him at the McCord camp and brought him and the child back; had a trial and was acquitted. He proved by Mr. Wiff he got the child by consent of its parents; Wiff done the talking (interpreted I suppose) Settlers have held a meeting and got up a remonstrance to General Wright against declaring martial law in the valley or against their removal, setting forth their loyalty and good intentions.

George Haddon M

Hanson, Supt etc.

"To send troops in pursuit of any particular party of Indians in this country would be as futile as it would be to send a two horse stage in pursuit of a locomotive " p 221

Martial law declared by Gen Wright in Round Valley.. Hanson, George M., says he has directed supervisor to let settlers remain and not make a requisition for their removal until spring or until the weather is favorable... Dec 10, 1862.

Dec 12, 1862

W.D. Douglas, captain Second Infantry California Volunteers, commanding reports arrival at Round Valley

fortifications

"War of rebellion, Series I, Vol I, Pp. II, p 259

Ordnance Office, War Department, Washington, December 22, 1862

Brig Gen B. Alvord Fort Vancouver, Wash t er.

Sir Your letters in relation to the navy ordnance for armament at the mouth of the Columbia River have received the attention of this , and the Engineers, as also of the War Department.

After full consideration of the subject, in connection with our present means of providing armament, and of the want of it in other positions requiring more immediate attention, it has been suggested to , and approved by, the War Department, to supply a portion of that you mention, viz, two 15 inch guns, twenty-three 10 inch and five 8-inch columbiads and fifteen Parrott 200 pounders with proper ammunition etc. as soon as possible , consistently with other imperative requirements.

Jas. W. Ripley , Brigadier-General, Chief of Ordnance.

emigration...navigation-- "War of Rebellion" Series 1, Vol I pt II
 San Francisco Dec 23, 1862

Brig Gen L. Thoma adjutant General U.S. Army Wash D.C.

I have already forwarded estimates and asked for ~~added~~ authorization authority to establish a military post at or near Fort Boise, on the Snake River. The great necessity for a strong garrison in that quarter is daily becoming more apparent. It is in the very heart of the mining districts of the north, and on the route by which the east emigration from the East approaches that country, a strong military force can afford protection to all against those wandering bands of Indians which infest that section and maintain peace between the races.

I suspended the further organization of the regiment of 260 Ore on cavalry on the completion of the sixth company. It is now deemed important that the regiment should be completed, and I have directed Brigadier-General Alvord to call out six more companies and organize the regiment in accordance with General Orders No. 126 current series.

Inclosed a slip from a paper published at Lewiston, Wash Ter, relative to the navigation of Snake River and the probability that steamers will be able to ascend as far as Boise or Salmon Falls..

G Wright

..In our issue of October 24 we alluded to the navigation of Snake River and furnished the outlines of the explorers who were sent up to Boise to examine the river. Through the kindness of Captain Ankeney we are able to give a much more extended account of the trip.

The party consisted of three reliable men, Charles Clifford, Clifford Murray and Joseph Denver, and started from Lewiston under the auspices

of Captain Ankeney on the 20th of ~~Second~~ September. They followed the meanderings of Snake to the mouth of the Grande Ronde, and found the distance to be twenty-seven miles due south. It is an open river with no obstructions. From Grande Ronde ~~they~~ they proceeded to intersect the old emigrant road, and reached it at or near its crossing of Powder River; a short distance farther on diverged toward Snake River, and followed it up to Boise. For several miles the river runs through deep canons or mountain gorges and has the appearance of being very deep, and shows by the banks that during certain seasons of the year it rises to the height of sixty feet. The party met several Indians, but none that were unfriendly. A great similarity exists in the whole country between Fort Boise and Lewiston, as does between Lewiston and where Snake empties into the Columbia. Sometimes bold, rocky sides, then beautiful rolling table-lands, some of the most beautiful farming land in the world; deep rich, dark loam, well watered and well timbered, with gold in all the ravines and gulches for the miner, and soil to provide him with the necessities of life.

After their arrival at Fort Boise they proceeded to construct a boom more properly a raft to navigate the river with. In a few days they were rested and prepared, having taken the precaution to lash their provisions on the raft, bid adieu to Fort Boise and came dashing, foaming down the wild tortuous Snake.

The first canon of note was twelve miles in length and here the banks gave indication of the water rising sixty to seventy feet. After this came an open space of eight miles, in which you could observe for a long distance the glorious open country.

The next canon or gorge was fourteen miles in length and penetrated the two ridges of the Blue Mountains. The course seemed to

be north showin that Snake River runs north and south.

After passing this caon there came an opensp ce, and alternately changing, bu with no perceptible difference About sixty miles brought them down to the mouth of Salmon, making as they reckon iside of 100 miles fro Fort Boise to Salmon.

p 261

From Salmon to Lewiston is iside of forty miles, so that the entire distance fro this city to Fort Boise is only 135 miles. They found nothing in the ri e to i pede navigation whatever and pronounced it feasable at any season of the year unls it be by ice.

The exa mination has resul ed in establishing the fact that Snake isnavigable forsteamers, and will be much safer to travel than the river is from Lewiston to the mouth of Snake. This is equally gradityinfg to the ojector of th scheme as it isto he citizens of Lewiston and the country at large.

A newroute isnowopened for st am, th results of wOch which cannot be foretold. We will penetrate Nevada and Utah territories by steam, as it is well known that it is only ninety miles from Fort Boise to Salmon Falls on Snake River. Trade will then be opened SOO Salmon Falls is w thin 250 miles of Salt Lake City. Those who have risked their fortune and a periled their lives are justly entitled to the gratitude of the people, and ~~and so on and so on~~ a rich reward shall be their portion. But a few more suns will rise and s t before the shrill whistle of the steamer will r verberate along the banks of this noble river, and itsed o will be heard forages yet to come through the ravines, gorges, canons and on the mountain tops of our golden land, as a symbol of ambition, perservance and goaheadativeness. More anon.

Indian abuses

Vol 1, Series Series 1, pt II p 290 261-262-263

investigation at Round Valley..proven by oath of employes, charges of killing Indians on reservation etc. unsubstantiated. Indians left because of fear of starvation.

Question: Who to blame, agents or settlers, for wild state of Indian affairs (disorderly state of)

There were a party of 23 Indians killed last August by twenty or more of the settlers, within a mile of the supervisor's house and about 100 yards of his son's house, yet neither the supervisor nor the son could tell the names of any of the party that killed the Indians. a band (wild) Wylackees..

Supervisor shot at because he took two squaws away from Lamb and Ward

"I will here state that the mismanagement of Indian affairs in this valley has brought the government to discredit, so much so that the settlers of the valley will not sell a pound of provisions to the Indian Department without the cash in hand

Headquarters Fort Wright, Dec 23, 1862 to Lieut Col R.C. Drum
from C.D. Douglas Captain, Second Infantry California Volunteers,
Commanding.

[I, L, II]

p 484-485

Fort Vancouver, June 14, 1862

to Headquarters, Pacific

...they cede nine tenths of the old reservation leaving to the tribe the arable lands (about 1,300 square miles) in the vicinity of the Lapwai Agency. The establishment of the military post at Fort Lapwai last October has in a very material sense paved the way for the conclusion of this treaty. The close contact with the whites, which must still remain, will render very difficult and onerous the protection of the tribe from the hordes of miners who will have a right of transit through their country. This delicate duty will devolve on Maj. S. Traux, First Oregon Cavalry, the new commanding officer at Fort Lapwai. The council of six companies of troops at Fort Lapwai during the council (p 485) was very salutary.