

Feb. 13, 1956

Dear Al:

I have been in quite an upheaval recently, so please pardon the delay in returning your Fort Simcoe material pertaining to a sign.

I think as you, that the sketch, as presented, is sufficient.

As to "hostilities" that is true enough but the Indians always contend they were defending their homes. Here are a few more notes for your supporting evidence. They check out with Dean Guie's dates.

Major Robert Selden Garnett with companies F and G (instead of G and F) in August. Companies C and I joined in September, making it a four-company post.

It was established August 8, 1856 in compliance with general orders No. 10 from Hqrs. Northern District, Dept. of the Pacific of August 6, 1856, issued by Colonel George Wright, 9th Infantry in special orders on instructions from Hqrs Dept. of the Pacific.

Its purpose as a military post, was to control the Indians and prevent white forces, such as Washington Volunteers, from running off Indian cattle and horses. (as well as to keep settlers from seizing lands)

Captain James J. Archer of 9th Infantry, writing from Fort Simcoe to Headquarters, Department of Oregon on April 18, 1859 said: "I have this day turned over all buildings to R.H. Lansdale."

Post Returns for May, 1859 "Post evacuated May 22, 1859"

Agency was moved to Toppenish in 1923. (Your wording until 1924 is technically correct)

You are partially right about Skloom...he regarded the Simcoe country as his home. During the early agency era he maintained his "cabin" near there. He died there, Feb. 1, 1861. (Century Centennial booklet, source, microfilm letters of agent.)

For historical evaluation on "Indian background" I should think that the Yakima Chiefs, ~~Spencer~~ during the agency period, Spencer, then White Swan (both Klickitats) and then the Rev. Stwire G. Waters, also a Klickitat. He died in 1923, would be the ones to mention, plus the fact that Kamiakin never came onto the reservation. When he refused to do so, Spencer was named the first chief, later White Swan and then Waters.

As you no doubt know, the governor recently accepted an invitation to attend the dedication. The annual date for the society's meeting has been set for March 12, and I understand lines are out for a speaker.

Elsewhere in the news, our weather finally moderated today after a long, wearisome period, but there's still six or eight inches of snow on the ground.

My experiences of the last couple of weeks would fill a couple of books. I'll tell you about them some day. So, until then, personal regards



[Enclosure. 13 Feb 56]

From Post Returns - <sup>Sept</sup> August, 1856.

"This post has been established (Aug. 8, 1856) in compliance with general orders No. 10 from Hqrs. Northern District, Dept of the Pacific, of Aug. 6, 1856, issued by Col. George Wright, 9th Infantry.. in special orders ... of instructions from the Hqrs., Dept of Pacific."

-----

Companies F and G in August. Companies C and I joined in September. A four-company post.

----

Agency moved to Toppenish in 1923.

----

Post Returns for <sup>May</sup> April, 1859 - "Post evacuated May 22, 1859."

---

Purpose as military post -- to control Indians and to prevent white forces, such as Washington Volunteers, from running off Indian cattle and horses.

---

Archer at Ft. Vancouver, April 24, '59 - "Gen. Harney has determined to abandon Ft. Simcoe.."

Archer from Ahtanum Creek, May 29 - "I think I mentioned that Fort Simcoe has been turned over to the Indian Department. Yesterday I sent off the troops, Cos. C and I in advance while I remained to close up the affairs of the post..."