

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 19

Portland, Oregon, August 1st, 1870

Col. S. Ross, U.S.A.

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

When I saw you a month since, you (in answer to an inquiry I then made) told me there was money in your hands to pay me for services I had rendered as Agent upon the Yakama Indian Agency. Will you be kind enough to make some arrangement so I can receive such pay, sending forward the needed vouchers for me to sign with a deposit of the money at one of the banks in this city.

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent, W.T.

Yakama Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. August 31/70

Sir:

In making my annual report I have the honor to state that I have been employed at this agency as carpenter since Feb. 1st, 1870. Since that time I have attended to all the wants of the Indians in my branch of duty, making tables and other articles of furniture for them, giving instructions in house building and repairing such articles as come in need of the same.

The picket fence at the agency, destroyed by fire last year has been renovated as well as the houses occupied by employes, to some extent. Considerable repairs are needed yet on the latter to make them habitable for the winter.

When it became necessary to attend to other work such as acting as superintendent of farming during the persons absence and particularly of late when considerable help was needed to gather in the harvest, I have done so.

During the time I have been employed the money value of work done by me ~~for~~ per month has averaged from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars as per my monthly labor report.

I am sir, very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

H.D. Merwin, carpenter

1st Lt. James M. Smith, U.S.A.

Indian Agent, W.T.

Olympia, W.T.

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Statistics of Education etc. at the Yakama Indian Agency in 1870
Tribes: [Listed separately, but not separately by population in space
provided therefore]

Yakama, Paluse, Pisquiose. Winatshapam, Klikatat, Linqut, Klinkuit,
Kow-was-say-ee, Si-ay-uas, Kin-pah, Ish-ham, Thyiks, Oche-chotes,
Ah-milt-pah, Se-ap-cat.

Male 700, female 900, children 900, total 2,400.

Worth of individual property \$85,000 (sic)

Schools 1, Fort Simcoe.

Number of scholars 10 [~~Not~~ under male no mark made under female]

Number of teachers male 2

Religion: Catholics in 1848. Protestants in 1867.

Contributions: Nothing from anybody.

Number of missionaries, their names and denomination:

Th. Pearne (Indian)

Geo. Waters (Indian)

Methodists

Note--The tribes enumerated are those which are parties to the treaty.
The population is based on the number drawing annuity goods to which may
be added some two or three hundred Indians scattered outside of the
reservation, and which never have come in.

I certify on honor that the above statement is correct.

James M. Smith

1st Lieut. U.S.A. and Indian
Agent.

(Statistical return of farming fellows on roll, showing same lineup
for tribes,

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[Excerpts]

Statistical return of farming at the Yakima Indian Agency 1870.

Size of Reservation acres: 512,999

Acres cultivated by Indians 1,500.

Acres cultivated by government ---.

[Value and amount given of wheat, corn potatoes, turnips, oats,, hay, etc.

Horses 4,000, valued at \$40,000.

Cattle 800, valued at \$16,000.

~~Sheep 40, valued at \$200.~~

Fish sold:

60 barrels, valued at \$300.

Fish (? sold) value \$600.

Certified, James M. Smith, 1st Lt. U.S.A. Indian Agent W.T.

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Salem, Oregon, Dec. 10th, 1870

Gen. T.J. McKenny, Supt. Indian Affairs W.T.

Dear Sir:

I have received a telegram from New York justifying me in accepting the agency at Yakama. I will arrange my affairs as soon as I can and proceed to the agency. It seems to me that it is reasonable and right that my expenses be paid from this place, and that my pay begin as soon as possible. You know how the agency is left, and that there may be some delay in entering upon the duties in consequence of Lieut. Smith's being away.

Please give me a bill of instructions, how to proceed, if I do not find the property to correspond with the papers. I desire to start in right and then I can keep with right with the accounts. Please write immediately.

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, W.T.

P.S. Please do not say anything about my going for the present. JHW.

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[Telegram] Salem, 14 70, Oly 14 70 T.J McKenny. Get instructions in relation to Yakima Agency. We leave Monday. James H. Wilbur 1.00. . Endorsement: Jas. H. Wilbur, Salem, Ogn. Dec. 14, 1870. No. 21 Informing Supt . that he started soon and asking for instructions. Recd. Dec. 14, 1870.

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Fort Simcoe, W.T. Jan 11th 1871

Gen. T.J. McKenny,

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor of informing you that I arrived here on the morning of the 6th, Mr. S. Nelson, F.C. Prasp and our wives. We had been detained two weeks in consequence of the Columbia River being frozen. When I arrived I found the Supt. of teaching in charge of the reservation. I immediately entered upon my duties as agent and have been and am now engaged in getting things in order to be formally turned over which will be done as soon as the papers can be made up and the property seen. In looking at this state of funds and the accounting statistics of this station I deemed it duty to request five of the employes to resign which was done within a few days after I arrived. The names of those that have resigned are as follows:

Dr. J.O. Clarke, W.S. Hays, E.R. Welch, B.F. Dozier, Isiah Hamilton and Henry D. Merwin. These persons have resigned and all except one have left the service. In view of this state of the funds I think it best for the time being at least to do what is done mostly with Indian labor. Then as no school is in operation I think in the course of a few days I will gather up some of the school boys and put them into the harness shop and finish up harness that have been cut out. I see the necessity of using funds to the best advantage in order that we may give a fair account of work done with funds expended. Finding there is not funds on hand to pay the liabilities of the 4th quarter and not having a dollar on hand to do business with, you will readily see my need of funds, and I doubt not meet my wants according to the best of your ability.

Funds deposited to my credit with Messrs Ladd and Tilton, Bankers,

Portland, Oregon, will be easy of access.

Being pressed with many things I hve not time to make a full report of money needed, and a particular state of the reservation, when I have the property and moneys turned over I will then give you items more fully.

I remain your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur,

U.S. Indian Agent, W.T.

"ash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 19

Private

Port Simcoe W.T. Jan 12, 1871

Gen. T.J. McKenny

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

On leaving this reservation W.S. Hays esq. took a letter from me to you in which I stated that no charges had been preferred against him-this was true, but the reputation Mr. Hays bears here as a business man & a profitable worker, is not quite up to the standard. Fearing what I had written might in some way mislead you in employing him I thought it my duty to leave the impression on your mind as it was made upon mine after ~~arriving~~ coming into this agency.

Hoping to do this service a good in writing the above I remain

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur.

Office Yakama Ind. Agency, Jan. 19th, 1871

Gen. T. J. McKenny

Supt. Ind. Affairs, W.T.

Sir:

Enclosed please find an estimate of the money needed to carry on the services on this agency for the present year in accordance with the Treaty. When I arrived here I did not find the Indian school in operation. The man who stands as Supt. of instruction has been and needs still to be engaged in making up his papers of this office. To do this office writing and other work that a clerk ~~would~~ should assist in, is quite enough for one man. For the Supt. of instruction to do this office work prevents his doing for the children of this school, ~~what~~ what must be done to make that department prosper. The teacher should faithfully instruct six hours per day and before and after school. The supt. should take charge of the children making their work turn to good account in preparing wood, work in shops and on the school farms and gardens. To have a proper man for this office would make the school department a success. I am unwilling to organize a school here on a plan simply to use school funds. Fallen humanity may be assisted in standing erect [among the Indians, ~~Crossed out~~] but it must be done by taking the Indian children from the camps and instructing them in those things pertaining to industry God and heaven. We should have for this agency a clerk. One thousand dollars per annum would ~~XXXXXX~~ secure the services needed in the office. I ask your recommendation to the department to secure such service.

The Indians are all most universally destitute of seed to put into the ground the coming spring. Very little fall grain has been sown. They should have seed furnished to some extent or one year from now they will be destitute as I find them this winter. Please do what

you can to give us beneficial funds for ~~xxxx~~ said purposes.

I have to request you to secure the appointment of P.C. Prasp as blacksmith in the place of B.F. Dozier who has resigned.- services of Prasp to commence on the 9th day of Jan. 1871 at a salary of one thousand dollars per annum.

Also Dr. S. Nelson in place of Dr. Clarke who has resigned. Please let Dr. Nelson's services begin Jan. 11th 1871 at a salary of twelve hundred dollars per annum.

Other places that are now vacant here I propose to leave for the time being until I can know the outcome of funds and the way is better for bringing in families. I am not fully instructed in regard to the "Head Chief" of this nation. Joe Stwire was properly elected by the people and recognized here and at Washington as the Head Chief and was paid as such until some time after Lieut. Smith took charge. Without any just reason he was turned aside, and the money appropriated to pay "Head Chief" has been used for other purposes. I have to request that he may be recognized as Head Chief and paid his back salary.

You will see from ~~thxx~~ the report I made ten days ago I have reduced the expenses of the reservation near one half since I came in. I expect to make some more changes when the proper time comes. I mean to be prudent and bring to my aid the experience of past years in dismissing and recommending men for this service.

Hoping I may ~~xx~~ so manage the affairs of the reservation as to secure your continued approbation and the approval of the wise and good of the nation, I remain, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent W.T.

Bond

Know all men by these presents that we Egbert French of White Bluffs , Stevens Co. W.T., Daniel M. French and John V. Booth both of Balles City, Wasco county, Oregon are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America in the sum of five thousand dollars, lawful money of the United States, for the appointment of which will and truly to be made, so bind ourselves and each of us, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated this first day of April, one thousand, eight hundred and seventy one.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent at Fort Simcoe, Washington Ter. has granted to said Egbert French of White Bluffs , Stephinson (sic) Co. W.T. a license dated first of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventy one, to trade for one year with the Yakama nation of Indians at the following described place within the boundaries of the country ~~described by said tribe~~ occupied by said tribe, viz: Fort Simcoe, Wash, Ter.

Now if the said Edgar French (sic) ~~sax~~ so licensed shall faithfully conform to and observe all the laws and regulations made, or which shall be made for the government 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. Edgert French , Daniel M. French, John Booth. Signed and sealed in the presence of Henry J.W. ???

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Office Yakama Ind. Agency W.T.

Fort Simcoe W.T. July 12th, 1871

Gen. T.J. McKenny, Supt. Ind. Affairs, W.T.

Dear Sir

Your letter of June 30th containing a copy of one from Supt. Meachum of the Oregon superintendence complaining of the "presence of Indians" in Yamhill county belonging to this agency is received.

Supt. Meachum states that the Indians were "gathered up five years ago by Supt. Huntington and Sent up to this Agency, and that less than two months after they were back again by permission of Agent "ilbur."

Some things in the above communication are true but most false. That Supt. Huntington gathered up Indians and started them to this Agency and that a few of them came here is true, but that Agent Wilbur permitted them to return in two months is not true. Most of the Indians now complained of were here upon this reservation when I turned it over to Supt. J.M. Smith and when I returned to the duties of this agency the Indians of which Supt. Meachum speaks and a great number more who belong to this reserve, were scattered to the four winds.

I am ready to gather up all the Indians belonging here when you so direct and instruct me in regard to meeting the expense, ~~but~~ that must arise in said work. I have always extended myself to the utmost to gather and keep the Indians belonging here in conformity with the treaty made.

I remain your obidient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent, W.T.

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General T.J. McKonny

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

I am requested to say that an Indian by the name of Skemiah now living on the Columbia thinks of visiting you. He is one of the "Dreammers."

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Rec. July 19, 1871

Wash'tn Suptcy. Roll No. 19 No. 5

Yakima Indian Agency W.T.

Fort Simcoe Aug. 20, 1871

Gen. T.J. McKenny, Sir:

By this mail I send our monthly papers which
I trust you will find right.

Commissioner Brunot and party have been paying us a visit
and giving us an inspection. I trust we shall pass muster. I hope
you may have them at the Sound. I think they are the right stripe
for ~~the~~ the position they occupy.

Yours Truly

James H. Wilbur,

U.S. Ind. Agent, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Toll 19

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent, Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report for the month of Sept., 1871.

I have sawed for the Indians 700 feet of lumber and ground for the Indians two hundred and ninety six bushels of grain.

I have ground for the whites during the month three hundred and sixty bushels of wheat and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ received fifty two bushels of wheat as toll.

I have also ground for the department during the month sixty four bushels of wheat.

During the month the grist mill has been repaired & I have worked several days on that all of which is respectfully submitted.

Jas. W. Henderson

Miller and sawyer

Yakima Indian Agency, W.T.

October 1st, 1871

Rev. J.H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report for the month of Sept., 1871

I have with the farm laborers in Department Service, made two trips to the Dalles, one with a four horse team and one with a two horse team.

Halled (sic) lumber ~~with~~ and flour from the mill to the Agency. Dug and walled a well, halled the stone for the same.

Got up Department cattle marked and branded all young stock that was not branded. Drove all the cattle to winter range. Halled timber and bridged the Topnish.

Repaired the road leading to the Dall for a distance of eleven miles.

Done the butchering and taking care of stock and teams about the Agency.

J.B. Dickerson

Supt. of Farming.

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Office Yakama Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe W.T. Oct. 26th 1871

Gen. T.J. McKenny

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to suggest in relation to annuity goods that the season is so far spent that with any considerable delay in having the goods at Dalles City, Oregon, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to get them in. The snow is beginning to fall on the mountains and the wagon road will not be passable longer than the 15th of November.

Our school has opened with thirty two children and we could gather in many more if we had means to cloth them. I think one thousand dollars of the money might be laid out in the purchase of cloth for the clothing the girls and boys of the schools and turn to better account for the nation than any other expenditure I can suggest. Should you deem it best, these things could be purchased near here by the Agent to meet the wants of the children perhaps better than elsewhere. This however I leave to your wisdom.

I think material to make twenty sets of team harness, including buckles, rings, hames, collars & siather (?) also bridle leather for 4 doz bridles & the trimmings etc and the remainder to be laid out in good blankets.

Whatever you may deem best in the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ selection of articles above suggested, or others your wisdom may deem better, will ~~be~~ strictly be acquiesced in and put to the best use by your humble servant.

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 19

Office Yakama Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. Dec. 14th 1871

Gen. T.J. McKenny

Supt. Ind. Affairs, W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to request the appointment of ~~Thasimaxx~~ Thomas B. Maxwell, supt. of teaching, in the place of L.S. Dyar, who resigned on the 13th of Nov. 1871. Mr. Maxwell's services to commence on the 1st of December, 1871 at a salary of one thousand dollars per annum.

Yours Truly

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent
W.T.

P.S. Mr. Dyar has been appointed agent at Grand Round Agency, Oregon

J.H.W.

Wash'tn. Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 19

Yakima Indian Agency W.T. (Letter head)

Fort Simcoe Jan. 14, 1874

Capt. Marshall Blinn

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to report the registration
of F.P. Olney, Dec. 31st, 1873

George Waters " "

Dominick "

Benson "

Jim Logy "

Jim "

Joseph Eneas E

J.W. Prisby Nov. 13th "

Your letter containing instructions from the Hon Commissioner
was received by last mail. The mail is not regular at this office
and there is always one week's delay after receiving, before answer can
be sent. Yours Truly James H. Wilbur. U.S. Indian Agent W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 19

Yakima Indian Agency W.T.

Fort Simcoe W.T. Feb. 3, 1874

Captain Marshall Blinn

Supt. Indian Affairs W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to communicate to you the fact that certain parties around the border of the reservation are committing trespass upon the agency, by cutting & hauling timber from the agency to fence their land and furnish themselves with fuel. I have protested against it, and find that a class of them, seem above all law in the matter, and I ask particular instruction in reference to it. Also, some parties are turning in stock without permission, and without giving any compensation. Evidence in relation to the former and latter could be had that would not leave a doubt. Shall I prosecute said parties? And if so, can I secure council and pay for such council? Out of what fund must I pay? Unless there are measures taken to check the lawlessness we suffer great damage and shall ere long have difficulty between the whites and Indians. I trust I may be favored with an early answer.

Yours Truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 19

Yakima Indian Agency W.T.

Fort Simcoe April 8, 1874

Gen. R.H. Milroy

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter charging Spencer with stealing George's wife and taking her to Montecello and causing George trouble, and expense. I have had Spencer at the office and he gives a different version. He says an Indian by the name of Elo-nal-lac living in the Cowlitz went to Nisqualla and took said woman to Montecello, that George followed him from Nisqualla to Monticello found the woman and Elo-kal-lac and Elo-kal-lac gave George a horse to settle the difficulty. That George gambled ~~with~~ the Indians at Monticello and won and took away four of their horses that he Spencer had nothing to do with said woman and is accused wrongfully. Spencer wants you should see that George returns the 4 horses he won by gambling at that time. He got the horses as I understand from an Indian by the name of Paddy. I think it right to require him to return said horses. Spencer says if George persists in lying about this matter as he has to you he will come to Olympia at your office and meet George and wife with the Indians who know the whole history. So I shall not force any payment of Georges expenses until I have better evidence of Spencer's guilt. Please make inquiry and report and between us we will make the matter right.

Yours truly, James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5 roll 19

Yakima Indian Agency W.T.

Fort Simcoe April 18th 1874

Gen. R.H. Milroy

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the ~~report~~ receipt. of your letter requesting me to furnish you the townships of land upon the Yakama Reservation that should be ~~rexxxxxx~~ surveyed.

I have no data by which I can tell the range or townships which have been ~~xxx~~ and ~~xxxxxx~~ which should be surveyed. If I had a chart or plat I could point out but without such help I am unable to give the desired information.

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Ind. Agent W.T.